

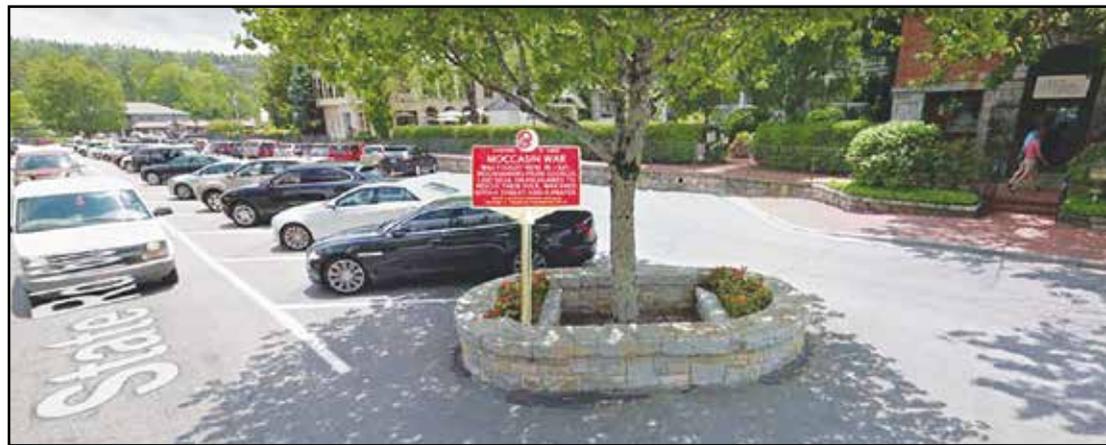
Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 1

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

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019



This is an artist's rendition of how the "legend" sign would look at the beginning of the 4th Street block.

Highlands' Moccasin War to live on

Highlands consummate historian Ran Shaffner always has the preservation and promotion of Highlands and its history in mind.

At the December Town Board meeting, he introduced the Legends and Lore Program which was launched in 2015 in New York State. The program promotes cultural tourism and commemorates legends and folklore as part of cultural heritage.

Everyone is familiar with the highway markers designating historical aspects of an area – Highlands has three – but the Legends and Lore Program is relatively new and is just now being expanded nationwide, with North Carolina, the second state to get involved, said Shaffner.

He asked the board to give permission by letter for the Highlands Historical Society to pursue inclusion in the program to com-

memorate the Moccasin War which took place in Highlands in 1885.

A red sign, 18 inches by 30 inches and about four feet off the ground would pinpoint the place the war took place – in the center of Main Street at the 4th and Main intersection – with a sign that will read: The Moccasin War was fought here in 1885. Moonshiners from Georgia laid siege on Highlands to rescue their folk. War ends with a threat and a prayer.

And the legend according to Shaffner?

"In 1885 when Highlands was 10 years old, it was dry. Georgia was wet. People who founded Highlands 10 years earlier, were sober, God-fearing people, from New England and were concerned about their youth in town who were being corrupted by bootleggers coming over the Georgia border selling them white lightning.

"It isn't that Highlands didn't already have stills in the area, Highlands was ripe with stills, but the difference was 'this is local, that's not'.

"So, the town fathers decided they wanted some protection for their youth, so they got a U.S. revenueur to come. He went down to Georgia and crossed the border and when he got there, he arrested two youths, Abram Henson and Bob Billingsley and brought them back up and jailed them in Highlands Inn across the street from The Central House (now Madison's Restaurant). The people in the Moccasin Township got wind of this and decided to declare war on Highlands.

"They raised an army of 18 volunteers led by four Billingsley brothers and included some of the Anderson boys and they marched

•See **MOCCASIN** page 6

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2018 Year-in-Review

Real Estate sales were up, sales tax revenues were up, visitors to Highlands hit new high while visiting year-round, second home owners staying longer. To jog your memory and to keep track of what happened it's all here beginning with January, 2018.

JANUARY

- Upswing in Real Estate market meant revived market in Highlands.
- Mission Health and BCB-SNC reach agreement. Mission

stays in network.

• Adeline Reed, daughter of Kimberly and Robert Reed of Highlands is first baby born in 2018 at Harris Regional Hospital.

• County is concerned about illegal dumping at area recycling centers.

• Citizens petition the town to do something about bears and garbage.

• Three Democrats vye for Rep. Mark Meadows' seat.

•See **YEAR IN REVIEW** page 8

Hospice House Fnd. of WNC hits 80% of its fundraising goal

With the help of two highly respected North Carolina organizations, Hospice House Foundation of WNC reaches nearly 80% of its \$4.9 million Campaign goal and is confidently planning to "break ground" later this month on a 6-bed hospice inpatient facility on Maple Street in Frank-

lin, NC. SECU Hospice House, named such in recognition of the State Employees' Credit Union intention to invest \$1 million in this important regional project, will serve hospice patients from the six far western counties of NC and northeast GA.

•See **HOSPICE** page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

What's your plan for you...for 2019?

The first of the year is a time for reflection of looking back and looking ahead. As I reflect, I am reminded of two pieces of music that my wife shared with me this past year. I embraced them as songs of attitude and action.

They were recorded by old rock stars who, despite their age, continue the creative journey of producing music. The songs are relatively new. Being 70, I classify something new if it falls within the last 15 years. I view one as a sermon of sorts and one as a hymn.

The sermon is Ringo Starr's 2017 hit, Standing Still. It begins with an existential rumination that when "you wake up, you have to make up your mind what you are gonna do." The lyrics go on to state that you can't just sit there and do nothing because you're the only one who can live your life.

Starr's song includes the refrain, "it don't mean nothing if you don't do nothing, you're just standing still." Many of us have the New Year's resolution to get moving, and Ringo proclaims we can't just stand there at the bottom of the hill. He



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

urges us to put one foot forward, "get moving and grooving to the universe." At the end of the song Ringo says, like a charismatic preacher delivering an exclamation to an inspiring sermon, "listen to me brothers and sisters."

At this point some may wonder if Highlands' mayor has gone crazy. What does this tune have to do with Highlands? My response, everything. I see so many of our citizens involved

in community endeavors where they are not standing still. They do things every day that are meaningful to them, to others and to the community. Listen to Ringo's song if you need motivation for the new year. Our grandchildren dance to it on our kitchen floor!

The song that I love, a brilliantly crafted hymn, is Neal Young's When God Made Me. He first sang it at the 2005 Farm Aid Benefit Concert. Its lyrics remind me that all human beings were made in the image of God, and none of us are superior to others.

Young's beautifully simple song rhetorically asks, "What was God thinking when he made us?" There are a range of questions within the lyrics. Young asks if God was thinking about my country when he created me? The color of my skin? My religion and the way I worship him? Was every living thing made in his image, or just me? Young goes on to ask, did God plan only for believers or for those who just have faith? Did he envision all the wars fought in his name? Did God say there was only one way to be close to him? And did he give us the gift of love so we can say who are chosen?

He ends the song with the profound question, "Did he give me the gift of compassion to help my fellow man, when God made me?" There is a wonderful video of Young performing the song on the internet.

Listening to Starr's sermonette inspires me to personal action, and Young's hymn to strive for humility and commitment to others. Both songs give me hope we will start the year with movement to actions guided by respect and concern for one another, and that Highlands will continue to be a caring, compassionate community.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands community turns out to support elementary school ravaged by Hurricane Michael



Bryson's Truck being loaded with 35 teacher boxes, 320 student backpacks, and other donated items by Mike Bryson, Lee Zoellner, Jodie Zoellner, and Kristy Lewis

The school supply donations both for students and teachers of Potter Street Elementary School in Bainbridge, GA. were collected from the Highlands community and recently delivered to the school..

Bryson's Food Store donated its box truck so the backpacks full of school supplies and bins full of teacher supplies. could be delivered to the school on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.



Jodie Zoellner passes out backpacks to Potter Street Elementary students in Bainbridge, GA.

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Whiteside Mountain and HFCC waterfall views in Big Bear Pen. The kitchen features beautiful English cabinetry and granite counters with a large pantry. A spacious master suite on the main has his/her walk-in closets, dual cedar closets, as well as an area for a nursery or office. Master bath features dual vanities, with custom cabinets with granite counters. 1BR/1BA guest house.

MLS# 89150 | Offered for \$1,198,500



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Located in the Satulah Mountain Historic Dis-trict, this lovely home is in excellent condition with open floor plan, 3BR/3.5BA and a bonus room used as a 4th BR. Ten foot ceilings on the main level and vaulted ceilings throughout the upper level. Complete privacy with a beautiful water fea-ture with waterfalls and a pond. Master suite and laundry on main level.

MLS# 88996 | Offered for \$1,190,000 | OWNER/BROKER

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CORRIDOR This wonderful cottage was renovated and sits up high on the land to maximize the mountain views. Vaulted, beamed wood ceiling, gleaming hardwood floors, and floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace in the living room. The living room opens to a spacious screened porch and a step down outside fireplace deck. The kitchen is renovated and boasts SS appliances, granite, and a copper sink. Additional 1BR guest house with a large great room.

MLS# 89583 | Offered for \$1,095,000

HIGHLANDS CC If privacy and views are what you're looking for, you can not miss this incredible property. This cottage style home has three levels. The main level features the kitchen, living room with fireplace, dining room, master bedroom and bath along with a huge screened porch "living room" and additional porch areas. The lower level has a second living room with fireplace, second deck area, and two guest bedrooms. Satulah Mountain and long range mountain views.

MLS# 89665 | Offered for \$1,049,000



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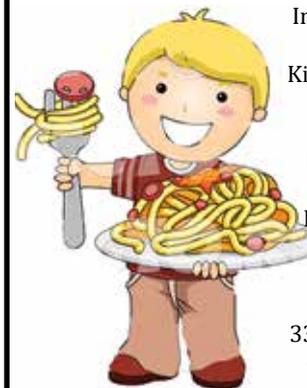
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reserve your spot.



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floor plan. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite counters and SS appliances. The large master suite opens to the covered deck and features lots of windows. The lower level boasts three bedrooms plus a family room with wet bar. Offered beautifully furnished.

MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$995,000



TRILLIUM LINKS Thoughtfully designed, this custom home was perfectly positioned to take full advantage of the fabulous Lake Glenville views. Each of the bedrooms and great rooms have French doors which seamlessly bring the outdoors in. The two large covered decks (on each level) add an extra 1,200 square feet of outdoor living space that can be used in any weather. Deeded Lake Glenville access.

MLS# 88144 | Offered for \$930,000

HIGH MEADOWS A wall of windows in the living room allows natural light and native scenery to become a centerpiece in the room along with a stone wood-burning fireplace. The floor plan is open yet each space is individually defined. The well-appointed kitchen is roomy enough for multiple cooks. Off of the dining area you'll find a study with a second fireplace and a lovely sun room, both flanked with lots of windows to enjoy the beautiful backdrop of forest and creek.

MLS# 89209 | Offered for \$899,000

COLD SPRINGS This contemporary 4 bedroom and 5.5 bath retreat was de-signed by the architect/owner to take advantage of the wonderful lake front property. Separating the kitchen from the living room is a fabulous floor to ceiling native stone fireplace. Accessed from either side of the fireplace, the light-filled living room opens out to the covered deck with its expansive views. The master bedroom also opens onto the deck. There are also two guest bedrooms on the main floor.

MLS# 89307 | Offered for \$895,000



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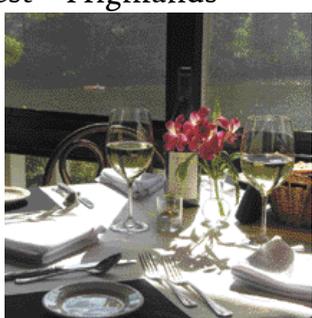
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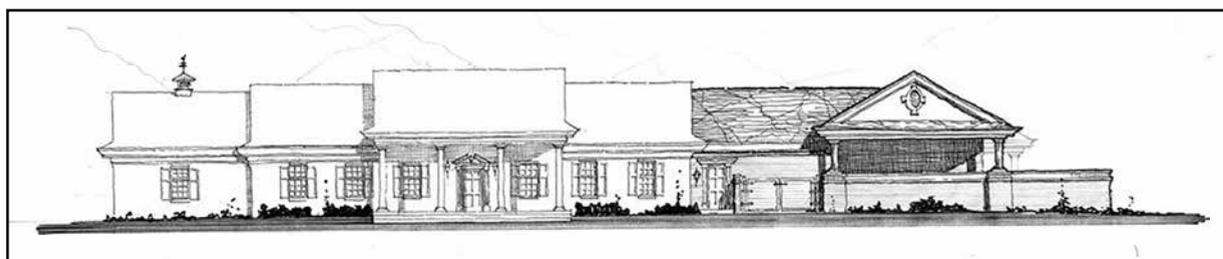
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...HOSPICE continued from page 1



Architect rendition of the Hospice House.

HHFWNC received a \$100,000 grant in support of construction from The Cannon Foundation. Additionally, HHFWNC received a \$15,000 "People in Need" grant funded through the Janirve Legacy Fund and Joseph B. Poplewell Family Endowment Fund of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina subsidizing the oversight of the construction project. CFWNC distributed over \$18 million last fiscal year, money enabling good work in many communities within their 18-county western NC focus area.

...MOCCASIN continued from page 1

on Highlands and bivouaced in the Central House and laid siege on the town.

"For three days shots were fired back and forth across the street. Mayor Bascom declared martial law. At the end of the third day, Tom Ford climbed up on to the roof of the Highlands Inn. When he saw Tom Ramey peak out from behind the Central House, he shot and killed him. Hostilities stopped. The Billingsley boys and the Andersons took their

Michele Alderson, President of HHFWNC, expressed her heartfelt thank you to both foundations, as well as to others whose support has been very important to the progress of the Campaign. Ms. Alderson added that Four Seasons Compassion for Life will operate SECU Hospice House once construction is complete in roughly one year.

To learn more about this important regional initiative, contact HHFWNC's President, Michele Alderson, at 828-524-6375.

dead compatriot back to Georgia leaving a note saying "We are going to give our compatriot his last rites and we will return to fight to the bitter end."

"This struck fear in the heart of the Highlanders. Mayor Bascom recruited people from as far away as Whiteside Cove, Cashiers Valley and in Hambourg, which is now under Lake Glenville, and they prepared to defend themselves.

"In the meantime, the Billingsley brothers and the Andersons realized they didn't need to go to Highlands and risk their lives. The only road into Highlands was the Walhalla Road (NC 28 south) which went through the Moccasin Township. They sent word that they were going to blockade the road and shoot anyone who came by.

"No one dared to break the blockade. After a month went by, the larders grew empty and supplies were needed from the outside world. They tried to figure out how they were going to survive.

"Cliff Lovin was a civil war veteran and was known for his courage. He volunteered to go and break the blockade. He hitched up his horses, got into his wagon, put his rifle across his knees and headed for the Georgia border.

"Just as he was rounding Pine Mountain, he saw four Billingsley brothers walk toward him single file each carrying a Winchester rifle. He knew that they believed making moonshining was their right and their right in which to indulge. He also knew they wanted to avenge the death of their compatriot Tom Ramey.

"Likewise, the Billingsley brothers also knew Lovin was a Civil War veteran. They were aware of his prowess and knew he would not back down. So the two sides started coming toward each other.

"Now, Lovin wasn't a religious person. He didn't really believe in the efficacy of prayer but he decided this was a good time to try.

"As the Billingsleys came toward him – not being a religious man but being rather agnostic, he wanted to cover all his bases. So, he prayed ... 'O Lord, if there is a lord, please save my soul, if I have a soul, from going to hell, if there is a hell.'

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•See MOCCASIN page 12

• WORD MATTER •

On Being Prepared

I had occasion recently to spend a week at Highlands Cashiers Hospital (HCH). The outstanding healthcare professionals there helped me get rid of a nasty infection. I am immensely grateful but that's not the reason for this missive.

While I was a patient I was informed HCH would be participating in a drill to help staff, along with police, fire, EMS and other first responders, to be prepared in case of a major emergency that included the hospital, the campus and/or the people inside the facility. The flyer that arrived with my breakfast contained the following:

EXERCISE IN PROGRESS.

A training exercise is in progress and may include "mock" victims and family members.

You may see ambulances or a gathering of people.

THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE AND NOT A REAL EMERGENCY.

While my appetite wasn't curtailed by the thought of whatever scenario my fertile imagination could conjure up, I did pause to consider what something like this could look like. A natural disaster? A hostage situation? A person with a gun, or guns, or multiple persons with multiple guns? A fire? An earthquake? Any of the above? All of the above?

I have to admit, I'm glad the leadership at Mission-HCH tipped off those of us wearing only gowns and hospital socks. I'd taken to walking the hallway, accompanied, mostly, by the wheeled appliance containing my intravenously administered antibiotics. I would have been upset had I encountered police with weapons drawn, firefighters in full firefighting regalia, victims, even "mock victims," without having first been alerted to the fact that it was a training exercise.

When I gave it more thought, I should not have been surprised such a drill was taking place. I called the missus to let her know not to come over to the hospital until someone sounded the "all clear" signal. I wouldn't have wanted her, or anyone for that matter, to drive onto the HCH campus and see an array of law enforcement vehicles and officers, ambulances and EMTs, fire engines and fire fighters all engaged



Bud Katz

in activities that could be very scary to people who'd not been alerted that a training exercise was taking place.

It seemed like only an hour or two had passed when my morning nurse told me the exercise was over. I hadn't heard or seen a thing. The exercise, I was later told, occurred at places away from where patient rooms were located.

As a self-proclaimed "news nerd" I'm aware of many potential calamities that could cause hospital staff and first responders to jump into action, often without notice and preparation. While something like this in the real world isn't scripted, it's actually comforting that institutions, like hospitals, public assembly facilities, schools, airports, even houses of worship, consider the possibilities and attempt to prepare people if, when or how to act in order to keep others safe and limit, to the extent possible, harm to innocent individuals.

It's also disheartening that this is an unfortunate aspect of life today in the United States and around the world. Things happen, people go off the rails, or take potentially deadly actions against others for little or no discernable reason. It's good, therefore, without scaring the daylights out of ordinary people, that some of us take the time and make the effort to be as prepared as possible for situations in which ordinary people can, and sometimes do, find themselves.

I remember long ago those "duck and cover" drills school children were subjected to during the Cold War. As if our little desks would protect us from the effects of a nuclear weapon. But we also participated in drills to help us get out in case of a fire, and we were constantly taught at school how to avoid getting hit by a vehicle by crossing at crosswalks and traffic lights instead of simply dashing into traffic in the middle of the street.

We hear it a lot: if it saves one life it's worth it. So, in that spirit, let me thank the folks at Mission HCH for teaching staff how to work with first responders to mitigate the effects of whatever kind of event constitutes an emergency. And thanks to all the first responders who run in while the rest of us are running out.

I guess the scouts had it right: it's good to always be prepared.

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...YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 1

- Planning Board gets first looks a changes to come at Vavance, the new High Dive and the Park on Main Restaurant.
- Citizens to help name new-est canine officer.
- The 2018 flu outbreak was worse than the Swine flue epidemic of 2009.
- Competition heats up as candidates work for votes.
- HB90 heads to the governor's desk. Puts brakes on HB13's

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unfunded mandates decreasing K-2 class sizes for 2018-19 school year.

- Principals submit wish lists to Board of Ed. Highlands asks for stage lighting and new front entrance.
- NC families earn nearly \$97MM from Airbnb in 2017, up 88% from 2016.
- Highlands residents, Domenic Rabuffo and ex-wife Mae jailed for fraud schemes.
- Lady Highlanders are named LSM Tournament Champs.
- Sheriff's Office and school system take swift action against two verbal threats made at schools in Franklin.

MARCH

- County suspends its grading licensing program.
- Customers to foot the bill for Duke's coal ash cleanup.
- Harris Regional Hospital is poised to offer services in H-C area this year.
- Citizens name new canine officer Xena.
- MC School System steps up security; Highlands to get new

front entrance.

- Commissioners consider closing Sunset Trail to vehicles.
- Unleashed dogs cause amendment to animal ordinance.
- Sheriffs and superintendents weigh in on arming volunteers in schools.
- Discussions begins concerning consequences of Mission/HCA merger.
- USFS tree removal at Cliffside Lake/park due to fires in 2016 causes alarm.
- Commissioners say vehicles can travel Sunset trail at their own peril. The town will no longer maintain it.

APRIL

- Students' well-being and school safety on front burner for BOE.
- MC Sheriff's Office asks Hispanic community to help solve murder.
- JT Fields and Don Reynolds sell Mountain Fresh Grocery to husband-wife team, Jennifer and Steve Snead-Smith.
- New Christmas Tree is planted in K-H Founders park.
- Mission CEOs stand by HCA merger.
- Citizens clean the by-ways of Highlands.

• Valedictorian Emma Claire Barrette and Maxwell Baker Renfro and Madison Reese Lloyd are announced.

• One-Stop Early Voting begins. Citizens are urged to use it or lose it.

MAY

- Operation JAWbreaker snares Macon County and GA drug dealers. Highlanders are in the initial roundup.
- Incumbent Jim Tate and John Shearl face off in primary for District 1 MC Commission seat.
- Seniors Max Renfrom and Madison Lloyd are named King and Queen at the 2018 Highlands School Prom.
- Meadows and Price to face off in November election.
- Highlands Skate Park at the Rec Park officially opens.
- Hit lists and suicide pact has school system and law enforce-

ment on alert.

• Students pick math teacher Gina Billingsley as Fan of the Year for the 3rd time.

• Passport to Nature Hiking program, in collaboration with The Greenway, The Bascom and the town -- begins.

• County budget falls short for schools.

• Alternate trail route to Satulah Mountain summit is now open.

• Bear family begin to make the rounds.

• 325 combat-grade first-aid kits are allocated Macon County schools.

• Bear duo seen trekking in and around Mirror Lake.

• Town's 2018-'19 budget of \$18,327,370 passes easily.

• Amendments to town ordinance deal with impoundment draining and boat docks.

JUNE

• Highway marker #3 to honor Dr. Lapham.

• TV show searches for paranormal activity at Highlands Inn.

• Area croquet clubs are on the rise.

• The Performing Arts Center garners \$10 million in donations to fund expansion of complex.

• Baptist Church and Brewpub on Franklin Road get SUPs.

• Community gathers to get "4 Paws" -- a seizure alert dog for Eliza Leyland.

• Addiction, no insurance, is driving NC children into foster care.

• Town conveys ownership of PAC building and property to PAC Inc.

JULY

• Brush Face Trail is now a 1.3 mile loop.

• Playhouse's first production of the season "Guys and Dolls," kicks off.

• Town looks to simplify SUP process.

• Sheriff, EMS sacrifice to fund COLA for county.

• Holbrooks names new

Taylor Barnes Spa & Salon

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Above
Highlands
Decorating
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Taylor Barnes Spa

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We Are Celebrating Our Three Year Anniversary!!!

The Posh Paws Team would like to thank the Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire, Glenville, Scaly Mountain, Dillard, Franklin, and surrounding communities for their continued support! It has truly been our honor to have been trusted with the welfare and beautification of your fur kids up on the mountain. We look forward to many more years of caring for your beloved furry family members!

Winter Special through Decembers

10% OFF All Dog Toys!!!

...YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 8

Assistant Principal at Highlands School.

- Diane McPhail and Jeanie MacLeod travel to help those stranded at the border.

- July 2019 tax bills to reflect new reval.

- First ever father-daughter officers at Highlands PD.

- Mission Health unveils new mega foundation.

AUGUST

- Highlands Planning Director Andrew Bowen leaves. Search begins for replacement.

- Highlands Fire & Rescue celebrates 65 years.

- Highlands Playhouse celebrates 80 years.

- HB 514 could use local taxes to fund public schools.

- Public comment is sought for USFS Southside project

- Orphaned cubs from 2017 are now living in the wild again.

- Mission Health promises \$15 million to HC Hospital Foundation.

- Dr. Patti Wheeler recog-

nized for 30 years of service.

- Highlands Fire & Rescue saves man bitten by rattler.

- Visitor spending on the rise in Highlands and Macon County.

- New storywalk installed at The Bascom.

- Seven new teachers/staff welcomed at Highlands School.

SEPTEMBER

- HCA and Mission strike a deal. Final word to come from NC Attorney General.

- NCDOT gets mixed reactions to proposed NC 106 modernization.

- Security at Highlands School is ramped up.

- Peggy Crosby Center protects rare trees on campus.

- Failing wall begin rebuilt at Highlands Playhouse.

- Hurricane Florence dodges Highlands but is a refuge for those escaping path.

- Town Board disusses tractor-trailers on US 64 Gorge Road.

- Main Street to be repaved starting April 1. Commissioners discuss "beautifying" Main Street in some way prior to paving.

- NCDOT's NC 106 project is dead.

- Highlands School continues to exceed expectation.

OCTOBER

- Community input sought on beautifying Main Street.

- Questions linger about what to do about the bears.

- Four candidates run for Macon County Board of Commission in November election.

- Mayor Taylor sends AG Stein his HCA/Mission concerns.

- Town Board continues discussion on Main Street aesthetics and bear problem.

- Manny Martineze, Carlos Santana, Nester Santana and Carlos Diaz, are first-place winners of the Townn of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament.

NOVEMBER

- Both Highlands School cheerleading squads medal in competition.

- County wide lunch choice created by Highlands School staff.

- Security at main entry up-

graded at Highlands School.

- Local, state-wide and federal incumbents keep their seats.

- Highlands teams are 1st and 2nd plae MC Soccer Club Champs.

- Businesses give Highlands Food & Wine Festival mixed reviews.

- Business owner turn out to hear and discuss proposed Main Street Plant.

- Community helps police nab Biological Station B&E suspects.

- Highlands turns out for Jackson Hall' battle with cancer fundraiser.

- Dr. Plauche retires from H-C Hospital.

- Compromise reached for Main Street.

- Cross topper compromise reached for Town Tree. Allowed for this year only.

- Highlands 3rd highway marker goes up near Historical Village. Dr. Lapham remembered.

DECEMBER

- NC State troopers target commercial vehicles along the Gorge Road.

- Street name "Paul Walden Road" to remain.

- Jake Billingsley and Abby Olvera named King and Queen at Highlands School Homecoming Dance.

- Winter Storm Diego wrought mayhem in Highlands.

- Literacy Council to get a new home.

- Highlands looking at becoming a Blue Zones town.

- Change from tree compromise causes uproar at Town Board meeting.

- Town needs LGC OK for \$4.6M loan for fiber hwy.

- Do cougars still rome these parts?

- RE transactions for 2018 listed.

- Death of Jeremy Robinson still under investigation.

- Property revaluation notifications to be sent to property owners in January, 2019. Bills to be sent out in July.

Experts in

LET'S GO AGAIN

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

2018 Real Estate Wrap: Radiantly Positive!!

By all accounts, the 2018 real estate year on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau was positively stellar with overall volume up 33% and unit sales up 13%, according to the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service.



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby's
International Realty
828-526-4104

is that buyers want smaller but extremely high-quality homes in superior locations with walk to town access or inside country club communities. The following is the summary of sales in country clubs in 2018 which is stronger than the preceding ten years:

See chart to right.

The outlook for 2019 is equally as promising with 62 properties pending (listing volume \$55,650,950) and 89 properties in due diligence (listing volume \$53,408,938).

In every instance, the local market has made a good recovery. Predictions by some observers to the contrary, there does not appear to be any bubble in sight, as new homes are not being built fast enough to meet the demand. On the other hand, some economists are opining that the stock market volatility signals a recession which will make buyers concerned about the future of the economy. My opinion is that as the world gets a bit crazier and there is more global uncertainty and unpredictably, more people appreciate how special the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau is with its natural beauty, lack of crime, plethora of cultural activities, world-class shopping and the abundance of a genuinely kind and optimistic population.

A definite trend that I see

We're not going to forecast real estate sales figures, nor really do we wish to make hard forecasts with regard to the impact of the historic tax cuts enacted in late December. Let's just say we are optimistic that the current market fundamentals will not decline in the coming year, pending disasters, catastrophes, or Acts of God we cannot predict.

In summary, sales are up, prices are up, inventory continues to shrink, and the future of the real estate on the Plateau shines bright and strong.

• *Jody and her husband, Wood, Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with three locations on the Plateau. As the top-producing firm in Highlands for the last five years and the top producing office on the entire MLS for 2018 based on sales from the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service, their team of over 30 experienced brokers are eager to help you with your real estate needs. Call 828.526.4104 to learn how they can make your dreams come true!*

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty merges with Hattler Properties

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is pleased to announce the merger with Hattler Properties of Lake Glenville. Debby and Dick Hattler, owners of Hattler Properties, chose Sotheby's International Realty as the

international brand that can leverage the global reach of the Sotheby's Auction House to assist their sophisticated buyers and sellers.

"Debby and Dick Hattler are outstanding brokers with remark-

• **See MERGES page 13**

2018 TOTAL HOME & LOT SALES (AS OF 12/13/2018)				
CLUB	# OF HOMES SOLD	TOTAL SALES VOLUME	AVG. PRICE	MEDIAN
Cullasaja Club	24	\$30,018,325	\$1,250,764	\$987,500
Old Edwards Club	6	\$10,359,323	\$1,726,554	\$1,605,662
Highlands CC	8	\$7,650,000	\$956,250	\$897,500
Highlands Falls CC	21	\$11,416,528	\$543,644	\$480,000
Chattooga Club	5	\$5,677,000	\$1,135,400	\$1,200,000
Wade Hampton	11	\$18,697,500	\$1,699,773	\$1,412,500
Wildcat Cliffs CC	7	\$4,742,000	\$677,429	\$720,000
Mountaintop	9	\$17,116,220	\$1,901,802	\$1,750,000

CLUB	# OF LOTS SOLD	TOTAL SALES VOLUME	AVG. PRICE	MEDIAN
Cullasaja Club	2	\$568,000	\$284,000	\$284,000
Old Edwards Club	1	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$395,000
Highlands CC	1	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Highlands Falls CC	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Chattooga Club	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Wade Hampton	3	\$652,500	\$217,500	\$300,000
Wildcat Cliffs CC	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Mountaintop	9	\$3,622,400	\$402,489	\$295,000

Harris Regional Hospital welcomes Todd Davis, MD Family Care

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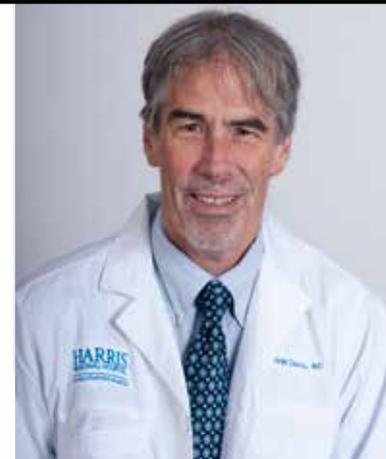
Appointments may be made by calling 828-631-8800

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A Duke LifePoint Hospital

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse: Fri. & Sat.: 1, 4 & 7pm; Sun.: 1 & 4pm; Mon. & Tues.: 1, 4 & 7pm

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:15 p.m.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am -1pm

Tuesdays

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

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, For more information, call 828-526-3190.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room

(1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywn.com. or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wed. - Sat.

• At Highlands Inn on Main Street held in the dining room, Afternoon Tea 2-4:30pm. Royal Tea: \$45; Classic Tea: \$35. Call 828-526-9380 for more information.

First 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.

Wed. & Fri.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

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, Video Con-

ference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

Saturdays

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

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

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

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Through Dec 30

• At The Bascom, interweaving Southern Baskets. The art of basketry, including examples of Native American works and fine art baskets.

• Sat., Dec. 22

• Gift Wrapping Station fundraiser planned for Shop with a Cop from 10a to 2p at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on the Georgia Road. All the bows and wrapping paper you need for the holidays will be provided and Santa's elves will be ready to wrap your Christmas presents. The event is free and donations will be accepted with all donations going to Shop with a Cop. Santa will also

be stopping by and will be taking pictures for a donation to Shop with a Cop.

Sat., Jan. 5

• At PAC, Allelujah by Alan Bennett at 1 p.m. Live via Satellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 12

• At PAC, Cilea's Adriana LeCoureur, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 19

• At PAC, Antony & Cleopatra by Shakespeare, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sat., Jan. 26

• At PAC, The Tragedy of King Richard II by Shakespeare. at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

...MOCCASIN continued from page 6

"But the Billingsleys kept coming. So, he tried another prayer he heard in church a long, long time ago ... 'O Lord for what we are about to receive, let us be truly thankful.' But they kept coming, so he tried one last prayer ... 'O Lord, if you're not going to help me at least don't help the Billingsley boys either.'

"At this point... and this is the 'legend' part, as the Billingsleys walked to the boundary line and he came to the boundary line, they silently passed by and disappeared into the forest and the war ended.

"Lovin traveled down to Walhalla, got the supplies and came back. When asked why it happened that way, his response was, I don't know if it was the threat or the prayer that did it."

"In the end, two things are sure. One, the war ended. Two, moonshining did not. In these isolated areas, moonshining will continue as long as one Appalachian Mountain remains to curve against the moonlit sky. I think this is worth commemorating," said Shaffner.

Clearly more than a legend, the event was written up in numerous newspapers of the day including the front page of the New York Times, the Harrisburg Telegraph, the Asheville Weekly, and others.

The Legends and Lore Program is funded by the Pomeroy Foundation. With no cost to the town, commissioners agreed to send a letter in support of the project.

—Kim Lewicki

Live via Satellite
Saturday, January 5
1pm

National
Theatre
Live
of
London



Allelujah

by Allen Bennett

All Students: No Charge



Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

...MERGES continued from page 11

able experience and stellar reputations. We are thrilled that they will represent the Sotheby's International Realty brand in the Lake Glenville, Cashiers, Sapphire and Lake Toxaway areas," said Jody and Wood Lovell, owners of Highlands Sotheby's International Realty.

Deborah Hattler comes from South Florida where she and her husband Richard raised their five children. Debby attended the University of Florida and began coming to the Highlands/Cashiers plateau as a part-time resident over 40 years ago. Her early career covered the areas of corporate travel and in 1975 Debby began her career in real estate investments, brokerage

and management.

Dick has a deep background of real estate investment and banking. Debby and her husband started coming to the Highlands Cashiers area in 1966 and in 1989 they decided to build their home in Cashiers. In 2004 the family moved permanently to the area where Debby assumed the responsibility for managing the rental program for Mountain Lake Rentals and bought it in 2007 which she recently sold to Landmark Realty. Debby and Dick Hattler started Hattler Properties in 2007 representing clients with enthusiasm and care.

Dedicated to philanthropy, they both find time to give back to the community.

Debby is the past President of the Highlands Cashiers board of realtors and board member and treasurer of the Jackson County Tourist Development Authority. She is also involved in numerous local civic and community activities. Dick is Treasurer of the Cashiers Historical Society.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty thanks all of its clients and friends for another record breaking year with sales over 100 million dollars. The Highlands office is the top selling office on the entire MLS this year. With a bolstered team in Cashiers, 2019 promises to be more exciting and productive to the team of over 30 brokers and their clients.

The Bascom announces new board members

At The Bascom's November Board meeting, The Board of Directors announced that they are welcoming new members for 2019 and recognized the dedication of members whose terms are ending this year.

The new Bascom Board Members are Bob Gross of Highlands, Sue Ratliff of Birmingham, AL and Highlands, Bill

Reeves of Atlanta, GA and Highlands, Janet Robbins of Memphis, TN and Highlands, and Ansley Tolleson of Highlands. The retiring Board members are Lee Bowman and Robert Tucker.

Officers for 2019 are Chair Mike Campbell, Vice-Chair Claude Sullivan, Treasurer Mark Quick and Secretary Jo Hill.

Mike Campbell, returning Board Chair,

thanked those who had served on the board and welcomed the new members saying, "We are operating with a balanced budget and have raised the funds needed to pay off the debt." He added, "We have been on our campus for 10 years now, and the board and staff are committed to setting an exciting course for the next 10 years."

CLE announces Board of Directors for 2019

At the heart of any successful nonprofit is a board who is willing to bring their passion and unique gifts to work together to help accomplish the mission and goals of the organization.

The Center for Life Enrichment is looking forward to a great year with our board as we work to share our mission of offering continuing education to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

Serving on a nonprofit board can be a rewarding experience, but it

is also time-intensive and demanding. The Center for Life Enrichment would like to thank the current and past Board of Directors for their time and service and introduce the 2019 Board of Directors.

The 2019 Center for Life Enrichment Board of Directors is as follows: President, Ed Mawyer, Vice President, Al Pearson, Treasurer, Lee Garrett, Fredericka Flynt, Jill Granger, Bill Hoffman, Thorton Jordan, Duane

Meeter, Bill McMillan, Judith Moore, Lyle Nichols, Davis Pickelsimer, Chuck Ringbakk, Sallie Taylor, Donna Woods. Advisory Committee, Hal Lewis and Brian Railsback.

To become a member of CLE visit www.clehighlands.com or call 828-526-8811. We have lots of wonderful programs and trips planned for 2019. Catalogs will be ready the beginning of March.

Rotarians serve it up for the community

On Tuesday, December 18, the Rotary Club of Highlands sponsored the Highlands community supper. The photo shows Rotary members ready to serve a large crowd that gathered for food and fellowship.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Creativity thrives at The Bascom



The children from The Gordon Center were creating snowflakes and learning about Emperor Penguins while at The Bascom during the snowy wintery week. The children from The Gordon Center come to The Bascom as part of The Bascom's Outreach Program. They really are a lively group of young artists and they love coming to The Bascom!

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• INK PENN •

Thinking of friends as we enter the New Year

Within days of each other, two articles expressing the same sentiment caught my attention. Their point stayed with me and continued to surface throughout the Holiday season. The message I took away was twofold: Loneliness is on the rise in our society, and we shouldn't lose touch with our friends.

The first article was a WSJ review of Ben Sasse's book "Them: Why We Hate Each Other—and How to Heal." I steer clear of books about politics, but the review painted Sasse's book as more about how our family and friend connections have deteriorated rather than about our differences.

Sasse notes, "In the mid-2000s, one-quarter of Americans said they had no one with whom to talk about things that matter. That was triple the percentage from the 1980s."

How many people do we know who would count themselves in that contingent? Never mind the reasons posited as to why this may be the case. Consider instead that the reviewer dubbed this situation a "loneliness epidemic."

Next was Lewis J. Walker's column "Social interaction, love, intimacy, and retirement." Walker is a financial planner and speaks from the perspective of planning for retirement. His point? So many of us worry about running out of money when perhaps "Running out of friends, loved ones, and people you enjoy and who enjoy you may be a bigger threat."

Both authors spoke of the many Americans who have been diagnosed with depression or say they are depressed. Sasse wonders whether people are truly depressed or simply lonely while Walker notes that sadness can stem from loneliness. Regardless of the causes, they both agree loneliness is an issue and that friends and loved ones with whom to interact are critical to a healthy life, be it in retirement or earlier in life.

I've always counted myself fortunate



Kathy Manos Penn

to have two sets of long-time friends with whom I can share pretty much anything. The first was formed when I taught school early in my career. I only taught for four years, but the close friendships I formed still exist. We five occasionally go weeks or even months without talking to each other, but when we do catch up, nothing has changed. Texts and emails help us to keep up with each other,

especially in a city like Atlanta, where getting together is a bear.

The second group grew out of the years when I facilitated leadership training. We gals traveled together, often in pairs, to conduct four-day classes in B&Bs and hotels across the country. When we weren't providing the training, we were being trained or sitting in meetings together. We just clicked. Through all life's changes and ups and downs, we've managed to stay connected and occasionally meet up for a long weekend.

I know I could pick up the phone and call any one of these friends out of the blue, and they'd be there for me. Whether it was a request to talk something over by phone or to take the next plane to see me, they'd be there.

I wholeheartedly agree that friends are essential to health and happiness, and I'd be heartbroken to lose touch with any of mine. As John Leonard said so well, "It takes a long time to grow an old friend." My New Year's resolution, then, is to work even harder to stay connected with my friends, old and new. Here's to a happy, healthy New Year for us all.

• *Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Pans. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.*

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO WINTER MENU 2018

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

NC Community Foundation reaches \$270 million in assets and \$145 million in grants

The North Carolina Community Foundation reached more than \$270 million in assets and more than \$145 million in cumulative grantmaking during its milestone 30th year, according to Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF CEO and president.

As of fiscal year-end, NCCF received \$22 million in gifts and awarded more than \$15 million in grants to nonprofits across the state on behalf of generous fundholders, local affiliate foundations and giving circles. Our donors opened a record 70 new funds this year and raised more than \$1.5 million to support long-term recovery and meet unmet needs in response to Hurricane Florence.

NCCF's largest grantmaking area for the fiscal year was more than \$3.7 million benefitting the environment and animals, closely followed by more than \$3.6 million supporting education. NCCF also granted more than \$1.4 million for public and societal benefit and more than \$1.3 million

for the arts, culture and humanities. NCCF also awards many scholarships, supporting 357 students with nearly \$800,000 in aid this year.

The NCCF administers donor advised, agency, scholarship and many more funds held by generous individuals, families, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and many more organizations across the state. The Foundation also supports community grantmaking programs through a network of local affiliate foundations throughout North Carolina.

"We are so proud of the year we've had and could not be more grateful to every donor who made it possible," said Tolle Whiteside. "The North Carolina Community Foundation is able to have a tremendous impact and continue building permanent charitable assets across our state thanks to the investments made by the generous philanthropists who hold funds with NCCF."

• LETTER •

Thanks to the community and the Food Pantry Christmas Lunch three non-profits got needed funding

Dear Editor,

A big holiday thank you goes out to all who braved the rain and attended the third annual Food Pantries Christmas lunch after the Highlands parade on Dec. 1.

Cheered by a dry and warm refuge, the crowd fill Jones Hall at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation with enthusiasm and conviviality as they opened their lunch boxes and chowed down.

A total of \$5,437 was raised at the event, which was divided between the Highlands Food Pantry, affiliated with the International Friendship Center, and the Highlands Emergency Council Food Pantry. Each received \$2,718.50.

The money raised at the Food Pantries Christmas provides a substantial portion of the annual budgets for these charities, enabling them to buy food for their

shelves and freezers, which in turn is available to those in need.

We would also like to thank our food and drink donors: Dennis Wilson and his Bar B Que Crew for the delicious barbecue, Mountain Fresh for beans and potato salad, Ingles of Cashiers for canned drinks and Heath Massey for bottled water.

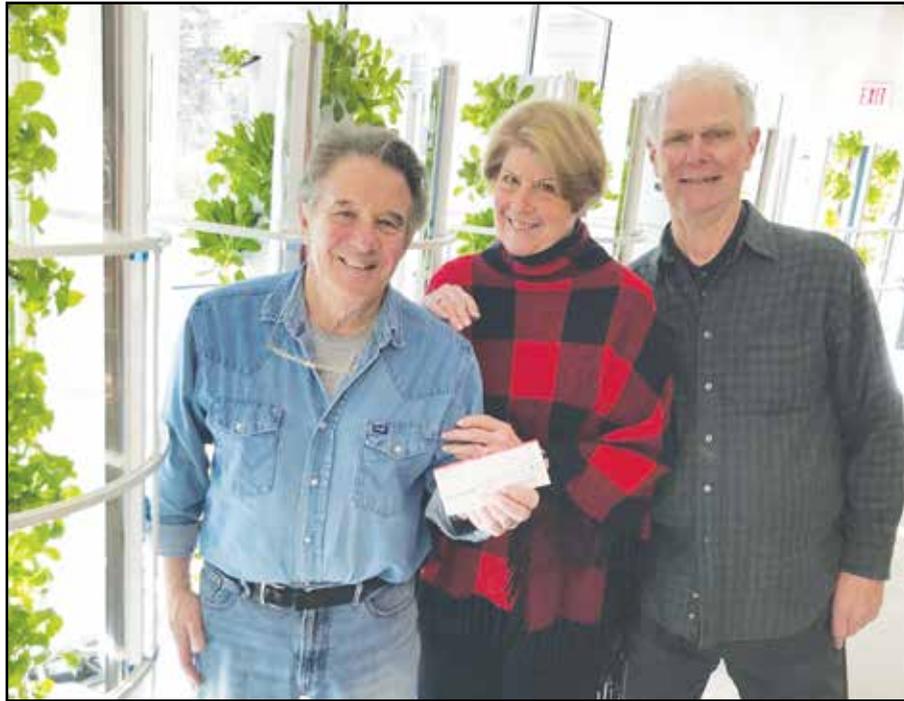
And a special thanks to our sponsors: David Moore and Darren Whatley (\$500), Sotheby's Highlands Realty (\$500) and an anonymous donor (\$400).

And not to be forgotten are the two dozen or so volunteers who worked hard to put on this benefit event. Thank you all!

Bill Lee
 Outreach Committee
 Episcopal Church of the
 Incarnation

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Empty Bowls fundraisers does it again!



From left, Marty Rosenfield, Director of the Highlands Food Pantry with Jane Jerry Chair of the 2018 Empty Bowls event and Dick Grier, president of the International Friendship Center accepting a check for the proceeds of the 2018 Empty Bowls Benefit. This community event raised \$2,718.50 for the Pantry, which is a program of the Friendship Center located at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Mission to hold RN Open House

Are you a registered nurse with less than one year of experience? Or will you graduate from a nursing program by May 2019? Mission Health invites you to learn more about our New Graduate RN Residency Program at an Open House on Monday, January 14 from 4:30- 6:30 p.m.

The event will be hosted at Mission Health's Cancer Center at 21 Hospital Drive in Asheville. The program is open to any new nurses in the community, as well as current Mission Health team members. You'll learn about opportunities in many practice areas across Mission Health and talk with nursing managers and directors. You'll even be able to begin the application process for the program.

The New Graduate RN Residency Program offers year-long, full-time (or part-time in some areas) paid nursing positions. These give new nurses the opportunity to grow in their nursing practice and gain clinical experience across a variety of settings in a supportive environment that includes mentoring, professional development and peer support. Areas of specialty may include Medical-Surgical Adult Care,

Progressive Care/Stepdown, Behavioral Health, Emergency Department, ICU/Critical Care, Maternal/Newborn/NICU, Surgical Services, Pediatrics and/or Staffing Pool.

The program is offered at multiple locations throughout Mission Health, including several of our regional hospitals in western North Carolina.

Qualified applicants must be a graduating new nurse or have less than one year of experience as a registered nurse. In addition, applicants must have graduated from a program accredited by the National League of Nursing Accredited Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and must have a North Carolina RN license by the date of employment. Five references, including at least two from clinical instructors or supervisors, are required. Successful applicants must make a one-year commitment to the program.

For more information, contact Kathy Smith, MSN, RN, ONC, RN Residency Program Coordinator at Kathy.Smith@msj.org or 828-213-5875.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The message of the cross was in the mission of the manger

Dr. Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
Highlands



The mission of the manger was the cross of Christ. Couched between the manger of our Lord's coming and the tomb of His resurrection is the cross of His supreme sacrifice for the sins of humankind. Without the cross, the manger becomes a quaint story of a baby called Jesus and His coming to bring "peace on earth goodwill to man."

In its secularized presentation of today, it is nothing more than a story about our aspirations for a better day joined by angels, shepherds and wise men around a creche. Without the cross, the manger loses its ultimate message – He was born to bring hope, peace, love and joy through His death on the cross for sin. Without Christ's death of the cross, peace is impossible – understood as peace with God and peace from God in our hearts and minds. The Scriptures are abundantly clear – He came to die in our place. He came to redeem us from our sins. He was born in a manger to die on a cross.

The cross is vain and tragic without the resurrection. The absence of the resurrection is a declaration of a failed mission that began in the manger.

Our Lord's life and message has no meaning and no import without a living Savior who accomplished victory over sin, death and the grave through His death on the cross. We are left without hope if our Savior is still in the grave. Yet, the cross is the crux of our story as Christians. It is our most meaningful symbol to declare the story of redemption. We wear it around our necks, we place it over our graves, we hang it in our churches and display it outside in our church lawns, we exalt it above our steeples, and we display it in our holy days of Christmas and Easter.

It is the apex of all that it means to be a Christian. We don't worship the Cross, but worship the Messenger of God, the Son of God, Immanuel who died on the cross for us. The message began in a manger and culminated in an empty tomb. But the message of cross is the centerpiece of our faith. The manger is not enough. The empty tomb is not enough. The cross gives meaning to the whole story.

Sadly, the message of the Cross in the mission of the manger is made void by secularized messages and images that would distract or weaken its message of redemption. They would keep it hidden in the manger for fear of political correctness (I Cor. 1:17). It is "foolishness" to many, an embarrassment to some. But for me it is the "power of God" (I Cor. 1:18). It is the basis of the Christian faith,

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

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John 3:16

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Motoring Festival voted best in the nation

Held every year, the second weekend in June, the Highlands Motoring Festival is entering its 12th year. Every year the Festival brings many people to town, for a four-day Festival, showcasing the mountain town and classic cars. People come from coast to coast to spend the extended weekend in Highlands, enjoying what the town has to offer, and viewing very rare or unusual cars, during their time.

The festival committee is now working on the 2019 Highlands Motoring Festival

which will be held on June 6-9, 2019. New alliances with other classic car groups will bring many important classics to Highlands for the first time. In addition to eight judged classes for pre-1990 cars, there will be three special classes. The 2019 featured marque will be “the Cars of Carroll Shelby”. A special interest class has been created for pre-WWII orphan cars or brands which no longer exist. And last year’s popular special interest class of “Vintage Race Cars” is back with new entries.

Rotary Students of the month



At its November 27 meeting, the Rotary Club of Highlands honored the Highlands School Students for the Month for November. Pictured with club President Jerry Moore and school Counselor, Nicole Lui are elementary school winner, Kailyn Taylor, high school winner, Angel Tapia Valerio and middle school winner, Finneas Garner.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

the good news that transcends rational explanations and offends sensibilities. But nevertheless, the Cross of Christ invites you to come beyond your skepticism and cynicism and receive the mission of the One who came in a manger and receive His message of salvation through His death and resurrection. We were warned that this Cross would create enemies because its message opposes a lifestyle. Some would prefer, “Jesus is safer in the manger. Leave Him there. On the cross He condemns my sinfulness and the need of a Savior (Eph. 2:11-17; Phil. 3:18-21). In the manger I am

warmed by the presence of God with us – Immanuel. But on the cross, I witness the Son of God who died for my sins (Jn. 3:16).” In this New Year remember that in the manger He came and will come again – we call it Christmas. In the empty tomb He declares that He is alive forevermore, and because He lives, we can live if we believe – we call it Easter (though I like Resurrection Day better). But at the heart of it all is the Cross. It is the message of all our holy days as followers of Christ – “take up your cross and follow me.”



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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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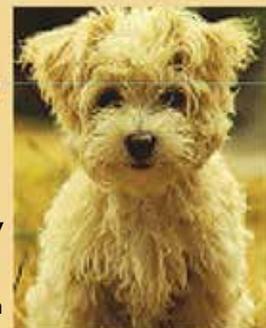
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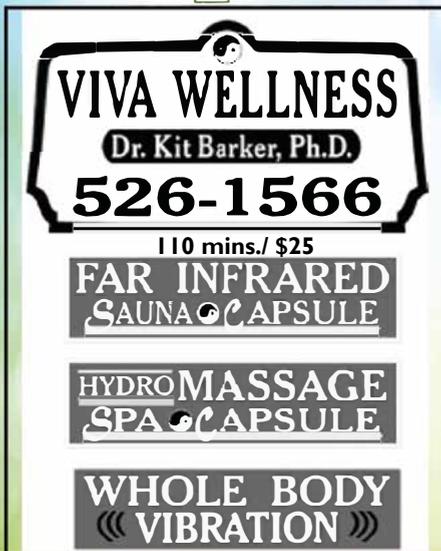
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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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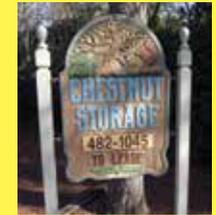
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Dec. 1, 2018. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 1
• At 1:30 p.m., officers received a report of pipes in 423 N. 4th Street being cut.

Dec. 6
• At 8:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

• At 5:08 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west between Holt Raul roads.

Dec. 7
• At 11 a.m., officers received a report of a door mat worth \$120 being taken from the Ugly Dog Public House.

• At noon, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

Dec. 8
• At 6:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Dec. 10
At 9:49 p.m., officers received a report of vandalism to property at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where an interior door valued at \$100 was damaged.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 27, 2018.

Nov. 27
• At 4:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Nov. 29
• At 8:32 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Bowery Road.

• At 8:55 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke on Buck Creek and Shortoff roads.

Nov. 30
• At 9:48 p.m., the dept. investigated an electrical problem at a location on N. 4th Street.

Dec. 2
• At 11:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 7:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual assistance to the Scaly FD.

Dec. 4
• At 10:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Upper Divide Road.

Dec. 5
• At 8:38 a.m., the dept. participated in a drill at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

• At 8:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on N. Big Bear Pen Road.

Dec. 6
• At 9:35 a.m., the dept. provided mutual assistance to the Cashiers FD. It was cancelled enroute.

• At 2:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Dec. 8
• At 12:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 5:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 6:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Dec. 9

• At 6:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire caused by a downed power line on Buck Creek Road.

• At 8:13 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Worley Road.

• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a location on Main Street.

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed power line on Azalea Woods Dr.

• At 2:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed power line and possible fire on Walhalla and Cook roads.

• At 8:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed power line and possible fire on US 64 east.

Dec. 10
• At 3:35 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Oak Street.

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

Dec. 11
• At 8:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive East.

• At 5:28 p.m., the dept. investigated smoke on East Over Drive.

Dec. 13
• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road.

• At 2:21 p.m. the dept. provided public assistance on Joe Pye Trail.

Dec. 16
• At 7:27 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid on US 64 east.

Dec. 17
• At 5:35 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid on US 64 east.

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

NC Community Foundation reaches \$270 million in assets and \$145 million in grants

The North Carolina Community Foundation reached more than \$270 million in assets and more than \$145 million in cumulative grantmaking during its milestone 30th year, according to Jennifer Tolle Whiteside, NCCF CEO and president.

As of fiscal year-end, NCCF received \$22 million in gifts and awarded more than \$15 million in grants to nonprofits across the state on behalf of generous fundholders, local affiliate foundations and giving circles. Our donors opened a record 70 new funds

this year and raised more than \$1.5 million to support long-term recovery and meet unmet needs in response to Hurricane Florence.

NCCF's largest grantmaking area for the fiscal year was more than \$3.7 million benefitting the environment and animals, closely followed by more than \$3.6 million supporting education. NCCF also granted more than \$1.4 million for public and societal benefit and more than \$1.3 million for the arts, culture and humanities. NCCF also awards many scholarships,

supporting 357 students with nearly \$800,000 in aid this year.

The NCCF administers donor advised, agency, scholarship and many more funds held by generous individuals, families, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and many more organizations across the state. The Foundation also supports community grantmaking programs through a network of local affiliate foundations throughout North Carolina.

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