

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 48

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: [HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com) Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019

## Committee suggests requiring registration of short-term rentals

It may not be what some people want to hear, but it looks like the only protection the town and residents have against the

short-term rental industry is a registration requirement or possibly protection under a Home Owners Association.

About 20 people turned out for the Land Use Committee meeting Wednesday, Nov. 20 to

• See **RENTALS** page 20

## Medicaid Managed Care a no go

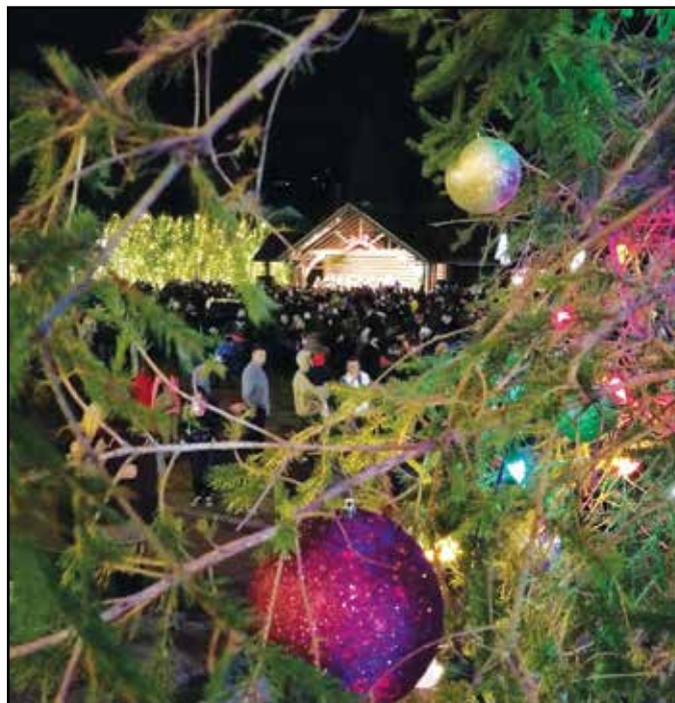
*DHHS suspends Managed Care Program*

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today announced that because the NC General Assembly did not take needed action, managed care implementation and open enrollment for NC Medicaid must be suspended. The General Assembly adjourned last week without providing required new spending and program authority for the transition to managed care. Managed care will not go live on Feb. 1, 2020.

With managed care suspended, NC Medicaid will continue to operate under the current fee-for-service model administered by the department. Nothing will change for Medicaid beneficiaries; they will get health services as they do today. Behavioral health services will continue to be provided by Local Management Entities/

• See **MEDICAID** page 22

## Annual Town Lighting is set for Sat., Nov. 30 in K-H Park



The Annual Town Lighting in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street is at 6 p.m. Sat., Nov. 30 with Silly Ridge Roundup performing. Cookies, hot chocolate and glow stick necklaces will be given out. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to hear Christmas wishes and pose for photos from 7-9 p.m.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

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## Highlands Town Board gets look at HF&R department new plans

By Brian O'Shea

At the Town Board's November meeting last Thursday, Highlands Board of Commissioners were given a brief breakdown of the new Highlands Fire & Rescue facility planned across from the Highlands Post Office at 149 Franklin Road.

Plans for the new 2-story facility include barracks, a large bay to house HFR's emergency vehicles, office, IT room, and a firepole on the approx. 2.5-acre property.

Jane Woodruff sold the land (two parcels) to the town for \$1.5 million instead of the \$3.7 million listing price.

An increase in the fire tax from one cent per \$100 valuation to three cents will bring in the money needed to buy the property and build the building. Even with the two-cent increase, Highlands still has the lowest fire tax in the county.

Mayor Pat Taylor said this project is just one of several that shows Ms. Woodruff's love and support for Highlands.

The town will borrow \$5.5 million for the purchase of the property and the construction of the new complex.

The loan will be with BB&T for a 15-year term and be paid by the fire tax.

HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhart said state requirements dictated what a new fire station complex needed in terms of land.

"In order for the fire department to get full credit for training through the ISO system, the state requires the training facility to be on 2+ acres," he said.

Thursday night Chief Gearhart presented the plans to the Board instead of Randy Baker of Pinnacle Architecture, who was unable to attend the meeting.

• See **HF&R** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Being Thankful in Highlands

**M**y mother thought Thanksgiving was the most important holiday of the year, and she believed this holiday allowed families to gather and pay tribute to the Divine Creator who gave us all the blessings in life. She would always tell her children that they could host all the other holidays, but just give her Thanksgiving.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

At our house once again this year, Sallie and I will honor that tradition with a family gathering of almost 30 family members. Like all the families and friends in Highlands and across the country, we will take time to give thanks for all that we have. We all embrace that giving thanks begins with a simple appreciation of life itself. For me, it is mindful gratitude for the ability to think, feel and love one another because we have that divine spark within us; that we also have the gift, the wonder, the miracle of life and consciousness. What a tremendous blessing for all.

In recent Thanksgivings this happens to me every time. I have the honor of saying a few words to our family gathering before the blessing and dinner. It's an honor for me in that my late father-in-law, Buck Trott, use to do the same. I look out over the assembled family and see the very old, like me, the folks in the middle, and the very young. Before my little homily, I tell myself to get it together and

hold my composure. "You're the mayor, you have to speak in public, even under some pressure, all the time. You can sail through this, don't embarrass yourself in front of your family." But I do it every time, in the middle of what I'm saying I will begin to tear up, choke on my words, as I try to communicate how we as a family should take time to be thankful for the love we have for one another. I suspect, I'm not the only person in our wonderful community that will experience a similar situation. I hope everyone will have a joyous and thankful holiday.

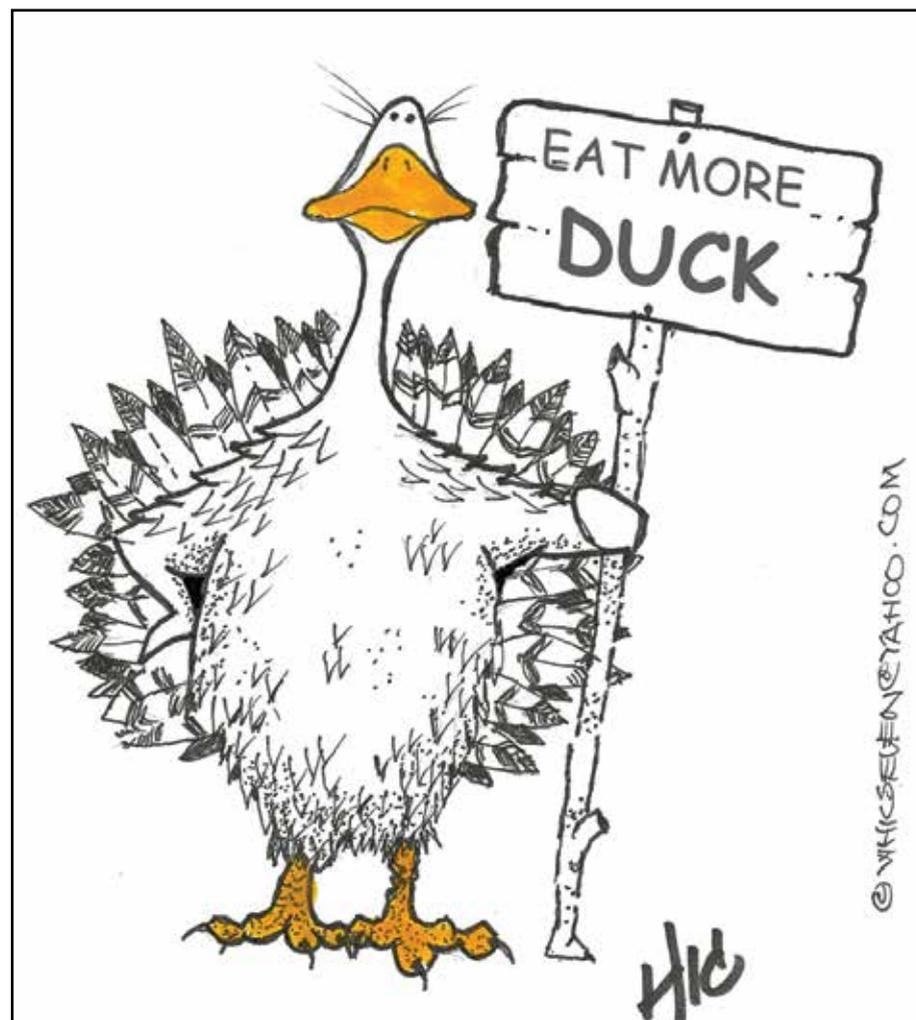
As a town we have a lot to be thankful for also. At last week's board meeting the auditors reported we have a strong financial position, which is also reflective of a strong local economy.

We are making very good progress in the building of a new fire station that will help protect the township for decades to come. Our broadband network should be completed later in the coming year. We saw the sale of the hospital to HCA this year with a condition that it will remain open and operational for at least a decade. There is new leadership at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce that will bring new initiatives and changes. The town will have changes in December as a new Town Board is sworn in.

So, I am thankful for what has been accomplished in the community. Nevertheless, improvement can always be made and challenges lie ahead.

See you at Founders Park, Saturday at 6pm for the town lighting.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 28-Nov	Fri, 29-Nov	Sat, 30-Nov	Sun, 1-Dec
 58°F 39°F	 60°F 40°F	 58°F 35°F	 45°F 27°F
Partly sunny	Some sun, then turning cloudy	Times of clouds and sun	A couple of morning showers
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 60° Low: 26°	High: 63° Low: 41°	High: 60° Low: 42°	High: 40° Low: 20°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

[www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

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

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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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.

**We couldn't wait to wish you a**

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Thanksgiving*

May the Thanksgiving holiday bring you good things in abundance  
that stay with you all year long!



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**NEW ON MARKET:** The entry, living room, and sun porch of this home combine the best features of a cozy Highlands cottage with an original granite fireplace, high ceilings, and golf course views. The owner's bedroom is ensuite with den, private deck overlooking the golf course, bath with double vanity, jetted soaking tub, steam shower, walk-in closets, heated slate floor and heated towel rack. There is a separate bedroom/bath den area with its own heat pump and water heater. OWNER/BROKER

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**MLS# 91376 | Offered for \$1,050,000**

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** With handsome wood floors throughout the common areas, a stone fireplace, and vaulted ceilings, this home has a terrific floorplan. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite countertops, 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. A huge end-to-end covered deck provides ample space for outdoor living.

**MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$950,000**

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** The living room of this pristine home boasts a stone fireplace and wood floors and opens to an expansive screened porch. The kitchen keeps the conversation flowing with high island seating. The master suite has "his and her" closets, "his and her" vanities, high-end fixtures in the bath, and it opens to the deck. The lower level has an office area with a view, two lovely guest suites plus a large family room with wet bar and bookcase/wet bar built-ins.

**MLS# 91259 | Offered for \$849,000**



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# LETTERS

## Thoughts on articles in last week's paper

Dear Editor,

I write to comment on two matters featured in your November 21, 2019 edition.

A letter writer complained that your newspaper caused "confusion and misunderstanding" about the town election held on November 5th, in part by declaring the three winners to be Brian Stiehler, Marc Hehn, and John Dotson. Since the three winners were indeed Brian Stiehler, Marc Hehn, and John Dotson, it seems any confusion was actually only in the writer's mind.

Elsewhere in her rather prolix letter, much is made of how difficult it is to complete the vote count, apparently thinking that her "15 years" experience somehow adds to the credibility of this claim. The three winners of the election received a total of 356 votes. There are innumerable high schools across our nation whose student council presidents were elected by far more votes than this and whose victories were able to be declared the very same day as their supporters voted.

Then we have the Mayor of this metropolis expressing in his welcome weekly column his "thanks" to the Chamber of Commerce "for presenting the Town of Highlands the Del Roberts Award" for supporting the Chamber's various events over the year. This is rather embarrassing since one would ordinarily expect the Town to support the Chamber as a matter of course. No award need be given by the Chamber to the Town for the Town supporting the Chamber. In the absence of such support, perhaps the leadership of one or both of these entities should change.

Since our illustrious House of Representatives in Washington has seen fit to redefine bribery to its liking, one cannot be certain if the word applies here. But the obsequious, self-congratulating backslapping is unbecoming and does nothing to add to the reputation of Del Roberts, whoever he is or was.

**Brian L. Buckley**  
Highlands

## Article is lacking in information

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed by the article on the front page (no less) of your November 21 issue which claimed that "HCA's for profit status saved H-C Hospital." This headline was based on a number of statements which were either not clarified or not substantiated in the body of the article.

The writer says that as a result of HCA's purchase of the Highlands Cashiers Hospital local residents are poised to save "millions of dollars and protect what few medical options the Highlands community has."

Why will we be saving millions? How and from where do these savings come? Are we just to accept this statement at face value without any explanation or corroborating details? And as far as protect our medical options, where does the fact that HCA is moving Robyn Restrepo to Franklin and is not replacing Drs. Duncan or Thomas play into the equation?

The article goes on to say that "Had HCA not bought the not-for-profit system Mission Health, and transitioned it to the for-profit company, HCA" the Highlands Cashiers hospital could be facing shutdown.

Why does it stand any better a chance under HCA than it did under Mission? I'm not fully versed on the details of the agreement under which HCA bought Mission, but I, for one, am under no illusion that HCA won't seek a loophole under which it can close our hospital at its earliest convenience if it can. After all, it is a for profit health system.

Then, in the second to last paragraph, the writer states that "Harris Regional Hospital

• See **LETTERS** page 10

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# •HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

## Ongoing

- Movies at the Playhouse Fri & Sat 1, 4, 7; Sun. 1 & 4; Tues-Thursday 1, 4, 7.
- Ice Skating at K-H Founders Park – Thurs., 1-8p; Fri. & Sat 1-10p; Sund. 1-5p. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- The Bascom is open Friday - Monday 10am-5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail



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- At the Highlands Recreation Dept. pool. Public Swim Monday-Thursday 11a-7p Friday and Saturday 11a-6p and Sunday 1-6p.

• Fibber Magee's Clothing Thrift Store on Laurel Street is open Tues.-Friday 10a to 4p and on Saturday from 10a to 2p.

## First Mondays

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

## Mondays

- At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30pm.

## Mon.-Wed.

- Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

## 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 Kristy Lewis at 526-3376.

## Mon. & Fri.

- Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:15-10:15 a.m.. All levels welcome.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

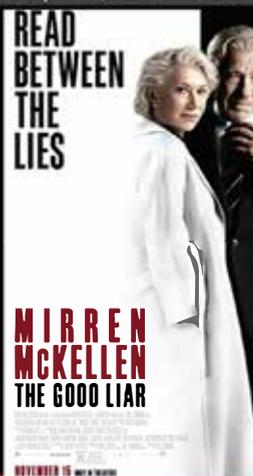
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## Mon., Wed., Thurs.

Now showing at The  
 Highlands Playhouse

Friday 11/29 - Thursday 12/5



Friday & Saturday at 1, 4 & 7pm  
 Sunday at 1 & 4pm  
 No movies on Monday  
 Tues, Wed & Thurs at 1, 4 & 7pm  
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- Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am - 1pm

## Tuesdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets Tuesday, at 3pm in the downstairs boardroom at The Bascom Writers at all levels of proficiency are welcome. For additional information, contact Bud Katz, 828-526-3190 or budandlynn@me.com.

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

## 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.

• Highlands Area Indivisible Group meets at 5 pm in the Meeting Room at the back of the Hudson Library.

## Tuesday and Thursdays

• At the Rec Park, Dance2Fit with Tori Schmitt at 7:30am.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

## Wednesdays

• At Community Bible Church, 5-5:30p - Dinner - Free (Donations Appreciated) 5:45-7p - G.R.O.W. Get Real on Wednesdays - Classes offered on money management, addiction, discovering your spiritual gifts and personality type, studying the bible, evangelism, parenting, marriage, grief, and more. All are welcome! Visit [www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com).

• Power Flow Yoga with Nalicia Allio a certified Yoga Instructor 12-1pm and 6:30-7:30pm.

## 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.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107, Cashiers. For meeting times in Cashiers go to website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or call (828) 349-4357.

- Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

## Thursdays

• At the Nature Center. Free. Exploration Hike 2:30pm. Visit forests, streams, and other spots across our campus, experiencing unique habitats and honing your observation skills.

• Storytime at Hudson Library, 10:40 am. Open to the public

- NAMI Support Group for individuals deal-

# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

ing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15pm at First United Methodist Church Outreach Center on West Main Street in Franklin Call Donita (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 Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474.

• Highlands Town Board meeting at 7p in the Community Building on US 64 east and Poplar Street.

## 4th 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.

**Fri. & Sat., Nov. 29-30**

• The 32nd Annual 'Hard Candy Christmas "Arts and Crafts Show" Mountain Christmas Tradition is coming the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29-30. Hours are 10-5 each day. The Western Carolina University Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, NC is the location and features original art and crafts at great prices. 100 local and regional artisans will be selling their handwork.

## Fri., Nov. 29

• Maureen McGovern to perform at PAC at 8 p.m. Tickets are available online at [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or [highlandspacperformingarts.com](http://highlandspacperformingarts.com) or by calling 828.526.9047.

## Sat., Nov. 30

• Annual Town Lighting in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street at 6 p.m. with Silly Ridge Roundup performing. Cookies, hot chocolate and glow stick necklaces will be given out.

• Santa in K-H Park on Pine Street 7-9 p.m.

## Sat. Dec. 7

• Annual Old Towne Christmas Parade 11a to noon on Main Street Highlands.

## Maureen McGovern to perform at PAC, Friday, Nov. 29

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present, live in concert the legendary Maureen McGovern on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 29 at 8pm.

Maureen McGovern is elegantly sophisticated one moment, powerfully gutsy the next and always transcendently pitch perfect.

She is a superstar with a lifetime of music that spans Broadway, Grammy nominations and an Oscar-winning international #1 gold record, The Morning After from The Poseidon Adventure.

Other hits include, Can You Read



My Mind from Superman, the Oscar-winning We May Never Love Like This Again from The Towering Inferno.

She also starred in the films Airplane! And Airplane II: The Sequel and Joseph: King of Dreams with Ben Affleck.

Her Broadway credits include the Pirates of Penzance, Three

Penny Opera with Sting, and Little Women, among others. The multi-Grammy nominee is known as The Stradivarius Voice. Tickets are available online at [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or [highlandspacperformingarts.com](http://highlandspacperformingarts.com) or by calling 828.526.9047. Happy thanksgiving

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Where Dreams Become Reality and Memories are Made

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Whether walking down our thriving Main Street or hiking one of our many trails, or attending a performance there is an energy and vibrancy to our amazing town. We are reminded of this almost daily by both visitors and residents alike as they share in the wonder of this, our hidden jewel. You see, we are all connected here, whether we come from near or far because we are all drawn to its magic and its sense of community that lifts our spirits and joins our hearts.

### At the Center of this place, OUR PLACE....

...lies the HIGHLANDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (HPAC), a collection of sight, sound, light and joy. For over 20 years, this has been the magnet for both performers and audiences to gather together to sing and dance, inspire and applaud, perform and be amazed. And while its past has been so rewarding to us all, it is its future that will delight on an even grander, approachable and *downable* scale.

### A State-of-the-Art theater complex...

...of three theaters is coming. With the centerpiece of this marvelous testimony to the unified spirit of Highlands being the beautiful 350-seat theater, the plans of which have been drawn, the land acquired, and construction begun. Much of the funding has been acquired and now we invite the community to help complete the goal and enable all of us to reach our dreams.

### Join Us.....

...by personally sponsoring one or more of our 350 seats in our new Main Theater, you will not only be part of history but even more importantly a part of our future. Your \$1,000 donation can be in honor of a loved one, a friend, or other important person in your life. It can be made as a one-time gift or over a one- or two-year period. As a sponsor you will be recognized with a named plaque and a donor reception will be held where we will applaud each and every one of you for your involvement and support.

### Our Affiliates

Performing Arts Center  
Highlands Cashiers Players  
The Highlands Playhouse  
Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

### Our Entertainment

Movie Theater  
Bel Canto  
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Donations online:

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[www.highlandspacperformingarts.com](http://www.highlandspacperformingarts.com)

or by calling:

828.526.9047



828-482-1609 • 330 Main Street, Highlands

## The Spice Girls' .... Thanksgiving Sides Ideas

With the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving preparations upon us, the ladies of The Spice and Tea Exchange know the struggle to balance the comfort of family favorites while keeping things new and exciting. With this in mind, here are a few of our favorite seasonings to add zing to your holiday table.

### Geared up Gravy

Use our Ultimate Umami spice blend to add a deeper, earthier flavor to your family's favorite gravy recipe.

### Switch the Salt

Add a touch of elegance to any potato recipe by replacing the salt content with our Black Truffle Sea salt. Similarly, our Celery Seasoning Sea Salt will add a light but distinct flavor to your favorite stuffing or dressing recipe.

### Green Bean Casserole's New Best Friend

The fried onion rings atop the casserole are a must, but lend them a helping hand with our Onion Obsession Spice Blend; paired, these two guarantee an empty dish.

### Cozy Sweet Potatoes

Whether baked, in a pie, or in a casserole, sweet potatoes are a staple at every holiday table. Add our Autumn Harvest Spice Blend to compliment their flavor and bring out the warm tones of this favorite.

Happy Thanksgiving, from your Spice Girls on Main Street!

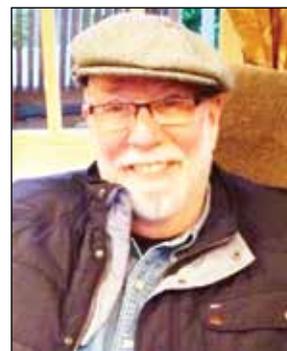
OPEN 7 DAYS

Mon-Thurs: • 10:30a to 5:30p  
Fri-Sat: 10a to 6p • Sun: 11a-5:30p



# • WORD MATTER •

## A Call to Service



Bud Katz

I believe one of the single worst decisions our country has ever made was, in 1973, to eliminate the draft. That decision, to me, seemed to dampen what before was an almost innate sense of duty or responsibility on the part of young Americans.

I know our leaders lied to us, repeatedly, regarding the misguided, Vietnam “conflict” in which we sent nearly 60,000 young, mostly poor, American men to die, and many times more than that to be physically maimed and psychologically damaged.

I know our involvement in Vietnam was sold to us as necessary to stem the spread of communism, and that if Vietnam were allowed to fall, dominoes – countries – would continue to fall until the whole of southeast Asia was under communist domination.

I also know that our Vietnam experience undermined, perhaps permanently, any trust we might have had in our elected leaders. We were lied to by at least eight congresses and at least five presidents, of both parties.

I believe, as a nation, we have yet to recover from that awful experience. That said ...

I believe a federal law should be enacted requiring every young, able-bodied, sound-minded American to give at least two years of service to his/her country, state or county. In exchange for this service, to be provided between a person's sixteenth and twenty-sixth birthdays, individuals would receive some minimal compensation, educational credit, real-world, on-the-job training, or a federal income tax exemption, deduction, or credit upon successful completion of his/her obligation. In the case of military service, compensation would be provided under existing Department of Defense guidelines.

I believe this can include active military, national guard or reserve service, plus civilian service in publicly supported healthcare or long-term care facilities, national or state parks, forests and preserves, publicly operated en-

vironmental or recycling facilities, schools, criminal justice programs and facilities, public sector funded infrastructure construction, and recognized local, state and national non-profit service organizations.

I believe up to 75% of the non-military service applications can be performed within literally every city or county in America, allowing participants to live at home during their commitment. I believe even disabled Americans can participate and would benefit from serving his or her country or community.

I believe the individual participant will benefit on at least two levels. First, by performing the service itself, the individual will be imbued with a sense of giving, even though he/she will be minimally compen-

sated in some appropriate manner. Second, there's the tangible experience he/she receives, which could result in entry and advancement in his/her chosen career.

I believe society would benefit on several levels. First, the entities impacted by the service, both military and non-military, would be able to plan for future projects secure that there would be human resources available to execute and complete these projects. Second, participants would have two additional years beyond mid-adolescence to obtain the confidence and experience necessary to compete for job and career opportunities in an increasingly competitive employment environment.

Third, since much of this service could impact otherwise disadvantaged urban and rural communities, I believe society could see significant reductions in poverty-related crime, drug use and abuse, and domestic violence and abuse. Fourth, I believe many service sector jobs currently provided by undocumented immigrants (in health care, publicly funded construction and low-paying public works, etc.) could be transferred to national and community service program participants, serving as a disincentive to illegal immigration.

## ..LETTERS continued from page 7

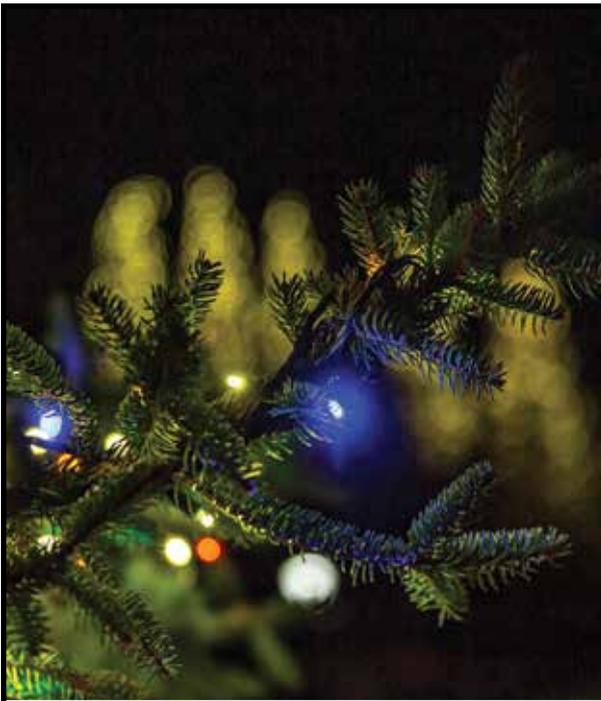
is bracing for the uncertainty and the very real possibility of severe implications due to the lack of action by Congress.”

Won't they both be just as detrimentally affected by the lack of funding resulting from North Carolina's refusal to expand Medicaid and Congress' elimination of the requirement that everyone have health insurance? Why is HCA somehow magically shielded from these “severe implications “ by virtue of being a for profit health system? Again, some explanation for why that statement is true would have been helpful.

Finally, it would have been useful if we had been told what kind of “solution” Rep. Mark Meadows has been trying to find for the situation. Again, some detail about options or alternatives that are being pursued would be both illuminating and reassuring. A general statement that he's “working with his colleagues” leaves me feeling rather uneasy that any concrete efforts or plans are actually being explored.

This article sounded as if it had been ghost written by an HCA employee or else crucial, explanatory sections of the article were inexplicably left out. Perhaps a follow up article which helps us better understand why we should be congratulating ourselves for finding a “white knight” savior in HCA is in order?

Maria Chasins  
Cashiers, NC



## Trim Our Town

Downtown Highlands

Nov 30 - Dec 24

People's Choice Award

Vote to win a free night at The Park on Main Hotel!

November 30

Highlands Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Kelsey-Hutchinson Park  
6 PM FREE



## Santa in the Park

Kelsey-Hutchinson Park

Nov 30: 7 - 9pm  
Dec 7: 12 - 4pm  
Dec 14 & 21: 11am - 4pm

Breakfast with Santa  
Highlands Methodist Church  
Dec 14: 9 - 10am

Photo Booth Nov 30 - Jan 1



## Ice Skating

Kelsey-Hutchinson Park

Hours of Operation:

(weather permitting)  
Nov 7 - March 20  
Thurs: 1 - 8pm  
Fri & Sat: 1 - 10pm  
Sun: 1 - 5pm

\$5 | Includes Skates



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# • CATSPEAK •

## Cats, authors, and readers

It surprises me that there are people out there in the world who aren't cat lovers. I mean, what's up with that? I find it acceptable to be both a cat lover and a dog lover, but don't understand those who aren't "ailurophiles." That's my

new word for the week.

Doesn't it just flow off your tongue . . . eye -LOOR-uh-fyl? It means cat lover. When I hear it, I picture a cat stretching and rolling. The word for dog lovers, on the other hand, is Cynophilists. I'm not sure why it's capitalized and ailurophile isn't—seems like some kind of discrimination to me. Regardless, I find that dog word to be harsh. It simply does not roll off the tongue.

Mum taught me this new word after



receiving it in her Word A Day email, and the email also contained more lovely cat news. I especially love this quote:

"It's said in publishing that no cat book ever loses money. Maybe it's true: bibliophiles tend to be ailurophiles, and both are tenacious

breeds."

Emily Toth; Meow mix; Women's Review of Books (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Jul 1, 1995.

In that Mum is working on a mystery with a talking cat as a character, I think the book is bound for the bestseller list. Of course, in future, I think Mum should give careful consideration to working with me to produce a Princess Puddin' book—just me, no mystery involved. After all, Lord Banjo pretty much had his first book all to himself. I and Tinker, his predecessor, each contributed one small story, but the rest was all Milord.

Mum probably thinks I'll be appeased because of this new book she's writing. Never mind that; I believe I deserve my own book, where I'm the star. If Grumpy Cat can be a star, surely I, who am paws down much better looking, can be one too.

Still not convinced this Princess is deserving? Consider what renowned authors have had to say about cats. Charles Dickens asked, "What greater gift than the love of a cat?"

And Mark Twain was even more effusive: "I simply can't resist a cat, particularly a purring one. They are the cleanest, cunningest, and most intelligent things I know, outside of the girl you love, of course." I'm sure my Dad would wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Twain.

As if that weren't enough, Twain went on to compare cats to dogs: "If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow; but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much." Mr. Twain was such a wise man.

Do you remember T. S. Eliot's book "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats?" Probably not, but I bet you've heard of the musical "Cats." And let's not forget Ernest Hemingway's six-toed cat Snowball. Today her descendants still roam the Hemingway House in Key West.

Enough said; authors, cats, and readers go together. Surely that means there's a book in Puddin' Penn's future—a hugely popular book, of course.

• Princess Puddin' Penn resides in Georgia with her dad, her mom Kathy Manos Penn, and her canine brother Lord Banjo. Please send comments, compliments, and questions to [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com). She appears in "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch," a book that can be found on Amazon, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, and at Mountain Paws.

  
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Christmas with   
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# THE SUMMER HOUSE

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Now through December 7th

**SUNDAY,  
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Last Sunday  
Open until 5pm  
10am to 5pm

*Tent Sale:*

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*Promotional exclusions apply; please see store associates for details.*

Highlands, NC  
394 MAIN ST.

Asheville, NC  
4 SWAN STREET

## • OBITUARY •

### Gavin James Bryan Johnson

Gavin James Bryan Johnson, 21 of Franklin, NC passed away November 20, 2019. He was born in Jackson County, NC July 24, 1998 to Samuel Johnson and Michelle Provençal. Gavin had a love of fishing and playing video games. He had a big heart and would do anything for anyone. He loved hanging out and talking with people of the older generation.

Gavin is survived by his parents, Sam Johnson and Holly Henry of Franklin, NC; Parents, Michelle Provençal and Michelle Bailey of Donalds, SC. Two sisters, Rylee Johnson and Bryce Henry. Paternal grandparents, JC Johnson (Penny) and Frankie Beck (Butch); maternal grandparents, Joyce Hendrickson (Robert). Gavin leaves behind his lifelong friend Joshua Henry and his fishing bud-



dies, Jared, Christopher and George. Many aunts, uncles and cousins. Gavin is preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Roland Rogers.

Gavin leaves a void in our hearts that can never be filled but the memories we have will forever be cherished. Gavin has given life to 6 other people through Organ Donation.

A Celebration of Life for Gavin will be held at 1pm Saturday December 7, 2019 at Lake Glenville Public Beach. The family request that everyone wear your favorite casual outfit in loving memory of Gavin.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Johnson family. Online condolences can be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

Open Thanksgiving!

## Black Friday Starts Now!

Pre-black Friday sale going on now

20-60% off  
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\*Some Exclusions Apply

November 28 - 30

20% off  
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## DUTCHMANS WAREHOUSE HUGE SALE!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY ~ 11AM - 4PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HIGHLANDS PLAZA LOWER LEVEL #28

HIGHLANDS, NC ~ 828 526-8864



# Shop Local this Weekend & Remember to Give Thanks!



*It's never too early to plan for*  
**THE HOLIDAYS!**

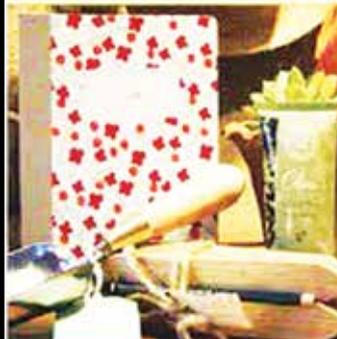


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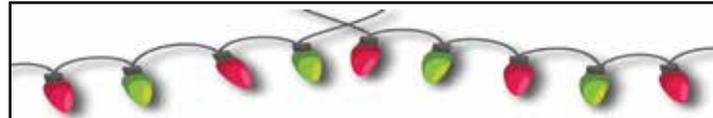


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FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY  
11AM - 4PM

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Andrea is one of the top 25 Real Estate Brokers in 2018.

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is the top selling firm in Highlands since 2013 as per HCMLS Navica.

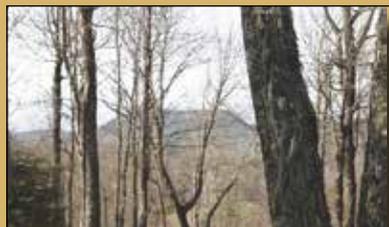
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## View lots in Cowee Ridge Subdivision



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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## What Matters Most...

As the year comes to a rushing end and Thanksgiving is upon us, I always reflect on life's lessons in my many years and the things for which I'm truly thankful.

When 9/11 occurred, and changed the world forever, I felt compelled to put my thoughts on paper and wrote a book titled: "911 Things Money Can't Buy...What Matters Most in Life." I went to the core of my soul and visit that place frequently, allowing me to appreciate things and look at life differently.

I am thankful, as a little girl, to have grown up on a country dirt road where I only wore shoes to school and church every Sunday. My view was a forest and I learned to climb trees – with my skinny little legs – and the strong tree limbs were my friends. I loved the animals that called the woods their home and it taught me to appreciate the beauty of nature. I am thankful that I had a mother who insisted that people, whose skin color was different than ours, come in our front door. This taught me that everyone should be treated the same and that has carried over into my adult years. I am thankful that I grew up in a family that struggled financially as this taught me that it doesn't matter how much money you have the greatest gift is love



**Pat Allen**  
**Broker-in-charge**  
**Cell: 828-200-9179**  
[pat@patallenrealtygroup.com](mailto:pat@patallenrealtygroup.com)  
**Office: 828-526-8784**

around the table.

I am thankful that I learned as a teenager that my brother – who was 10 years older – was gay. I watched my mother cry, seeing her son being berated by haters, knowing what a sensitive and caring man he was. He spent his life helping people in need and taking care of stray dogs and cats. This taught me that gay people are genuine and loving and deserve the same opportunities and happiness that we have. This is not a lifestyle choice they make – it's made for them.

My brother's last Thanksgiving was spent cooking for a homeless man and taking food to him where he was living under a bridge. I am thankful I was holding my brother's hand when he passed away two years ago and knew the pain he had incurred throughout his life.

I am thankful that the father of my children was a kind man and good father and finally understood that I needed to move on with my life, having married too young. I am thankful that three years later I met my sweet husband of 33 years who taught me what real love is and was a great stepfather. I am thankful that I was with him when his life ended unexpectedly in my car. I was able to hold him in my arms one last time and tell him how much I loved him.

I am thankful to have a daughter who is beautiful inside and out. Having been an occupational therapist at all three Mayo Clinic's, her compassion for others is felt by all who meet her. Her love for animals is so very strong that she literally will not hurt a mouse. She has bought safe cages and has trapped seven field mice in one of our seller's home. She goes over in the mornings to check her traps and then takes her little "captures" to a wooded area and sets them free so they can live. She would rather do this than have poison and sticky traps set by exterminators!

I am thankful to have a sensitive and caring son who was determined to earn his PhD and did so in London where he now teaches at the university there.

I am thankful that I have great friends and have learned the difference in those

• See **INVESTING** page 20



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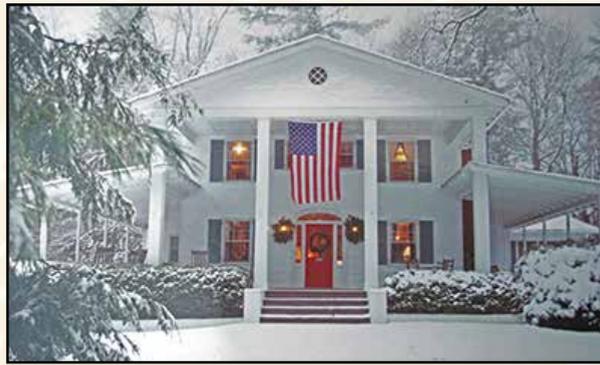
# Great Investment Opportunities!



## Scudder's Galleries

FIRST time offered...Scudder's Galleries and Auction House! Fabulous Main Street frontage in the heart of downtown Highlands! Large showrooms for retail, 3 apartments, loading dock, offices, storage and upper decks for overlooking Main Street! The possibilities are endless and the owner is offering 50% owner financing! There is a lease in place for a jewelry store that is separate from the main building.

**Offered for \$5,700,000. MLS 92496.**



## Colonial Pines Inn

FIRST time listed! A charming bed and breakfast that the owners ran for 36 years...so charming and meticulously maintained. A large bedroom on the main floor offers a view of Satulah Mountain and upstairs 3 large bedrooms -one being a suite with 2 baths. An owners quarters on the main floor offers privacy with a large bedroom, large closet and bath -leads to a private den. Downstairs offers another bedroom and bath and laundry.

**Offered for \$1,400,000. MLS 92495.**



## Scaly Mountain Business Center

Your very own shopping strip complete with a post office, real estate office, landscape architect office with bedroom, 2 apartments, a four bedroom house and pond! Leases in place and can be increased. Only 8 miles from downtown Highlands. Open an antique shop or whatever your heart desires! Redo the house and collect the rent! Investors delight! 100% occupied!

**Offered for \$650,000. MLS 92494.**



The long and gated driveway leads to a lovely home framed with beautiful flora that beckons you to come inside and explore luxurious mountain living. The soaring ceilings are framed with a stone fireplace and loft overlooking the grand living area. An oversized master suite has French doors leading to a large deck for entertaining and his and her baths are a real plus! A chef's kitchen with granite and custom cabinets is bright and sunny with natural light. Enjoy the best of the best!

**Offered for \$1,250,000. MLS 91067.**



Luxury living at its best in downtown Highlands! This three bedroom condo features hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, Viking kitchen with large granite island, luxury master bedroom with lavish bath and huge master closet encouraging summer and fall living or YEAR round living! Lots of green space and a common area fire pit for gathering with friends on chilly evenings or for morning coffee.

**Offered for \$865,000. MLS 92493.**



Enjoy true mountain cabin lifestyle and getaway in Mirror Lake less than 2 miles to downtown Highlands. Well maintained & tastefully renovated throughout with a newly expanded Trex deck, this renovated cabin showcases warm wood accents throughout & features two bedrooms & beautifully tiled baths on the main level with a huge deep bonus room with closet, den & full bath on the upper loft area level.

**Offered for \$410,000. MLS 91895.**



**Julie Osborn,**  
SFR, SRES, MBA  
Broker



*Pat Allen*  
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## ...INVESTING continued from page 18

who were put in my life to be a blessing or a lesson. We all go through pain and need to share with others at various times in our lives. Some remain friends for life, but others move on to find someone who better suits their needs. Sometimes it hurts but later we learn to understand the reason we enter into and out of each other's lives.

I am thankful to live in what I refer to as my little "Hallmark Town." Such great and compassionate people, beautiful scenery as its backdrop, wonderful restaurants and fabulous wine dinners, the best boutiques, and sidewalks filled with water bowls for your dogs, church steeples that beckon you, and culture-filled activities that allow creativity to flourish.

And lastly, I am so thankful for my brokers at Pat Allen Realty Group. They are professionals and their honesty, integrity and willingness to go the extra mile to help their clients, whether buyers or

sellers makes me proud that they are part of my team. We share our life experiences and are there for each other to help in every way. I am truly blessed with the best!

All of us at Pat Allen Realty Group wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving filled with what matters most.

• *Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is certified in Resort and Second Home Properties. She chooses to remain an independent firm and her firm was recently selected to become a member of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World®. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau. Visit her on the web at [patallenrealtygroup.com](http://patallenrealtygroup.com), call 828-526-8784 (office), or 828-200-9179 (cell). Her office is conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road.*



**WE'RE LOCAL  
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## ...RENTALS from page 1

hear what commissioners John Dotson and Donnie Calloway and Town Manger Josh Ward, Asst. Planning Director Michael Mathis and Town Clerk Gibby Shaheen would discuss concerning the issue.

Since there are state laws already on the books allowing short-term rentals, they can't be prohibited, but if the town moves quickly, it can at least require owners of short-term rentals to annually register them at Town Hall.

Registering short-term rental properties would give the town the information it needs to contact the owner if the police are called regarding noise or activity taking place at the home.

There is a huge short-term rental lobby, and so far, it has gotten much of what it wants which is mainly protection against prohibition, requiring a business license and requiring registration

• See RENTALS page 23

# Official Drop-Off Destination for Highlands Food Pantry Through December 24, 2019



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Bee Gleeson, Broker Associate  
404-307-1415

## Two musical events at First Presbyterian Church after the parade



Everyone is cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing at Highlands First Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Saturday, December 7 after the Highlands Christmas Parade. Stell Huie will be the song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas Carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your Christmas tradition.

Later that afternoon at 4pm, the award-winning Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will present a concert. The group is based at Western Carolina University.

Since its founding in 1993, the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet has entertained audiences in nine countries on three continents in venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Shostakovich Philharmonic Hall. This concert of holiday favorites is sure to delight.

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

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## ...HF&R continued from page 1

The plans for the new facility are not finalized. Gearhart said the plans presented to the board are approximately the fourth rendition and more tweaks will be made.

Gearhart answered commissioners' questions regarding communications, exhaust systems, bay doors, an elevator, and future training.

Still under consideration is using the new facility's bay as a training area, including anchors on the ceiling for rappelling and rope training. Commissioner Eric Pierson said being able to train indoors would be a big benefit.

"It's easier to set up training indoors than it is to get everyone together outdoors," said Pierson. "Plus, being able to train indoors lets them train in inclement

weather."

Gearhart also said HF&R could get by without installing a firepole because the second floor of the facility is not a public area. However, after visiting other fire departments in the area, he said department chiefs would take the liability of having a firepole over having firefighters run downstairs after waking up at 3 a.m. for a call.

Commissioners asked if an elevator was necessary considering the cost, but Gearhart said building the facility with the option of installing an elevator in the future is advisable.

Gearhart said once all the tweaks have been made the project will be put out for bid.

## ...MEDICAID continued from page 1

Managed Care Organizations. All health providers enrolled in Medicaid are still part of the program and will continue to bill the state through NCTracks.

Open enrollment had begun for part of the state in July and launched statewide in October. The Medicaid Managed Care Call Center (833-870-5500) will stay open through Dec. 13, 2019 to answer questions but will no longer enroll beneficiaries in a health plan. Beneficiaries can continue to contact the Medicaid Contact Center (888-245-0179). Notices will be sent to beneficiaries informing them to continue accessing health services as they do now, rather than through new health plans.

The suspension of work and the wind-down process will begin tomorrow. Once suspended, managed care cannot easily or quickly be restarted. The department will not decide on a new go-live date until it has program authority within a budget that protects the health and safety of North Carolinians and supports the department's ability to provide critical oversight and accountability of managed care.

Both the conference and transformation mini budgets passed during this year's legislative session and vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper left the department vulnerable to an unprecedented cut that would have had a crippling effect on its ability to provide services that protect people's health and safety and moved the department out of Raleigh to Granville County. In addition, neither expanded Medicaid so that hard-working North Carolinians could afford access to health coverage.

### Background

In 2015, the NC General Assembly enacted legislation directing DHHS to transition Medicaid and NC Health Choice from fee-for-service to managed care. Under managed care, the state contracts with insurance companies, which are paid a predetermined set rate per person to provide all services. The department was on track to go live Feb. 1, 2020. New funding and program authority was required from the General Assembly to meet this timeline.

– Submitted

# New Year's Eve CELEBRATION

December 31 • 8 pm - 1 am

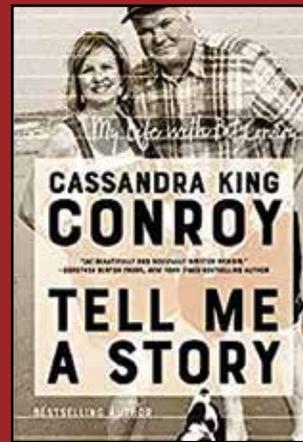
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## ...RENTALS continued from page 20

with a building inspection department.

Town Manager Josh Ward said he and staff have researched the issue across the state and beyond and the issues are pretty much the same.

Owners of homes in residential neighborhoods resent the fact that strangers are moving in and out of houses thereby changing the nature of the neighborhoods and potentially decreasing property values.

Lila and Slocum Howland, who live on the Bowery, have been very vocal about short-term rentals which they say have invaded their neighborhood.

“Don’t citizens have any say? We bought into a residential area, we pay taxes and we have no say?” asked Lila.

However, owners of residential property who rent their homes out on a short-term basis also pay property taxes just like those who don’t rent out their homes and Ward said he hasn’t seen any proof of property values decreasing due to the practice.

Realtors in the area see the issue differently; in fact, they suggest short-term rental homes increase property values.

They say in many cases, people are buying homes that have been sitting on the market for a long time – perhaps the home needs work or it has been sitting in a family trust. They say often these homes are being fixed up which means the owners are spending their money in the community and providing jobs, and, the home’s value increases because it has been updated. In addition, when they go to sell it, owners can often demand a higher price because the home has income-producing history.

For decades, the idea of being able to live in Highlands partially and earn income by renting a home has been a very attractive scenario. Short-term rentals also enable people to enjoy Highlands even if they can’t afford a home here.

There is also the argument that short-term renters shop and dine in Highlands which adds to its economic viability.

During the legislative short session coming up in April, representatives are expected to amend the law on the books to make it even less strict; that is more in favor of the short-term rental industry.

Ward believes a registration requirement as a zoning matter won’t be prohibited and expects it to be grandfathered if in April the law is amended further in favor of short-term rentals.

To navigate the situation, the town solicited the help of AirBnB which Ward said wants “a level playing field.”

“AirBnB representatives were very cooperative and put us in contact with the southeastern policy division of AirBnB

who recommended that if we proceed with an ordinance requiring registration, we use the Nags Head model,” said Ward.

As said by Commissioner Donnie Caloway much of issues outlined in the Nags

Head documentation are already covered by the town’s ordinances – with non-compliances being complaint-driven.

“A lot of stuff in here is covered in our ordinances, except for the short-term rental

registration. So maybe we should require everyone to register at Town Hall,” he said.

The committee tossed around requiring a registration fee of \$25 annually and

• See RENTALS page 27

# Happy Thanksgiving One and All from....

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Summit Charter School gets grant from Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation to fund school nurse

Summit Charter School, a tuition-free K-10 public charter school in the Cashiers-Highlands plateau, today announces it has received a grant from the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation to fund a full-time school nurse for one year. Zandra Wingfield has fulfilled the full-time position and started on October 16. This is the first time the school has had the funding capacity to hire a nursing position. Summit strives to graduate students who are academically prepared, engaged in the community, healthy, and strong in character.

"We are extremely grateful for the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation's generous support of our whole-child focus at Summit," says Kurt Pusch, head of school. "For the first time in our school's history, Summit is able to staff a full-time school nurse to directly serve student and staff wellness



Zandra Wingfield

on our campus. We believe that as a community school, being able to provide this level of care on campus is an important service to our families, students, and staff, resulting in long-term benefits to our students' growth and development. This would not be possible without the generous support of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation."

Zandra Wingfield graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is a Registered Nurse. During her time at the University of Florida, she received the UF College of Nursing Alumni Council Book Award, the UF College of Nursing MSC Patriot Award, and the LT Fouke UF Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Leadership Award. Her previous work experience includes roles at the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at UF Health, Bayada Home Health, Lifepoints Corp, and Highlands Family Medicine. She is married to Eric Wingfield and has a three-year-old son named Samuel who attends Cashiers Valley Preschool.

"I feel tremendously honored and grateful to be joining the Summit Family! In the four years that my family and I have lived in the area, we have grown to love the unique bond that our small community shares and cannot imagine living anywhere else," explains Zandra Wingfield, Summit's new school nurse. "It is a huge blessing

to work with an incredible team of people who truly love and care for these students, all while getting to continue pursuing my passion for pediatric nursing in this beautiful town we call home. I have been welcomed with open arms, had some laughs and sweet moments with students so far, and love hearing and watching the vision of Summit's leadership and staff come to life on a daily basis. I'm very excited to grow in my role as Summit's school nurse, and to play a small part intending to and watching these future leaders grow up to bring change to our world!"

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a school nurse has a crucial role in the seamless provision of comprehensive health services to children and youth. Not only do school nurses have the expertise to provide proper care, they help keep children in class and allow faculty to focus on their core missions. A 2014 Kaiser Health study determined that without a school nurse on campus, teachers spend 26 minutes a day each on health-related matters. With a school nurse around, that number drops to six minutes a day.

"A child's health is an invariably important factor in their learning," continues Pusch. "Providing a school nurse for our Summit students will improve student access to health professionals, student attendance, and the overall well-being of our student body."

Robin Tindall, executive director and CEO of the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, says, "Our Foundation is pleased to support Summit Charter School's commitment to nurturing the health of its student body. This initiative directly aligns with our focus areas of improving access to healthcare and support for education. We wholeheartedly congratulate them on putting our grant funds to use in fulfilling this important need."

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- Pedicures

# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## The Bascom welcomes new board members

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts is pleased to announce the addition of six new members to its Board of Directors. Volunteers are a valued part of The Bascom family and it is with the most sincere appreciation that the organization thanks members of the community who lend their time, talents, and leadership to direct The Bascom's future.

Board Chair Bill Reeves said, "We are extremely fortunate to have attracted six new outstanding directors from the greater Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. Each new director offers unique talents and experiences from professional pursuits and prior board

experiences. Planned rotation and the orderly addition of new board directors is invigorating for any organization. The Bascom is well positioned for continued success as a vital visual arts center for the region."

The newest members of The Bascom's Board of Directors are Myron Mall of Memphis, TN and Highlands, NC; Tim Hughes of Charleston, SC and Highlands, NC; Sandy Killion of Birmingham, AL and Highlands, NC; Kathy Young of Atlanta, GA and Cashiers, NC; Heath Massey of Highlands, NC; and Ann Wroblewski of Charleston, SC and Cashiers, NC.

With gratitude, The Bascom would also like to thank our retiring board members, including past Board Chair Mike Campbell, past Board Treasurer Mark Quick, and members Bill Mathews, Irv Welling and Bill Broyles. During their leadership, they were an instrumental part of The Bascom's success and The Bascom's 2019 Strategic Planning Initiative, which was awarded pro bono by The DeVos Institute of Arts Management.

The 2020 year surely looks to be an exciting year for The Bascom, due in large part to its collective leadership, both past and present.



New Board Members from left: Myron Mall, Sandy Killion, Tim Hughes, Kathy Young, and Heath Massey. Not Pictured: Ann Wroblewski



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Thanksgiving Prayers



Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor  
Highlands United Methodist Church

She folds her hands in prayerful pose with dimpled smile and wiggling toes and prays a simple, thankful prayer with nary a doubt that God is there.

Holding his walker so he won't fall shuffling to the cafeteria hall and with his rest home friends today again he'll take their hands, and pray.

She cradles her newborn tight to her chest and though she is tired and sure needs some rest her heart is so full, there is so much to say overwhelmed by pure love, she weeps as she prays.

A slave of addiction for 22 years oft riddled with doubt and long-plagued by fears but somebody's been praying for him, praying hard and now they are mailing a handwritten card.

There's somebody now, somebody somewhere whose speaking the words of a deep heartfelt prayer maybe innocent and cute like the prayers of a child or the most high church prayers you can hear prayed for miles.

Whatever the case, circumstances or words if we pray with pure heart, surely we will be heard so with joy, hope and gratitude, let's faithfully pray and give glory to God, this Thanksgiving Day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor  
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### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

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### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary  
Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High  
School; 10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship  
Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

Wed.: Choir: 6p

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9814

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell  
rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

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.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

## ...RENTALS continued from page 23

that homes be registered by April 1. Like in Nags Head, failure to register within 30 days, would result in a civil penalty \$100 with a \$50 penalty per day until the property is registered.

The Howlands likened short-term rentals to Bed and Breakfasts and Tourist Homes and asked how they were different than short-term rentals.

Ward said in Highlands BnBs and Tourist Homes are regulated by zoning districts – they are only allowed in R2 – and they are controlled by the state. Short-term rentals are allowed in all Highlands residential and commercial districts.

“Tourist Homes and Bed and Breakfasts are totally separate according to our attorney,” said Ward. “Tourist Homes and BnBs are regulated like a motel. Plus, only up to four rooms can be rented, meals must be provided, and the owner/operator has to live on the premises.”

Realtor Pat Allen suggested a community’s HOA could add a layer of protection to homeowners who feel overrun by short-

term renters in their neighborhoods but the Howlands and others in the room said the terms of their HOAs, which usually run for 30-40 years, had run out.

As in Nags Head, the committee agreed a short-term rental could be a partial home or whole home and as per Highlands ordinance, two parking spaces per whole dwelling unit is required or three if it’s a partial home rental.

Rosemary Stiefel suggested the town was allowing businesses in residential zones by allowing short-term rentals.

“Is renting not a business?” she asked. “They collect taxes, money changes hands, so that means these enterprises in R1 districts are a business.”

Ward said that renting short-term in the R1 zone is specific and likened it to renting a home year-round. “Rentals are viewed differently than a retail office space and people who rent out their homes long-term don’t have to pay sales or room tax. Only short-term rentals under 30 days are required to pay the room tax.”

Ward warned that several people at the state level said in April rules will be adopted that will preclude any prohibiting of short-term rentals.

“Legally, if we tried to prohibit them at this point, we wouldn’t be grandfathered. Nor can we legally limit the number of short-term rentals allowed in an area. The only thing we can do is require registration because we wouldn’t be prohibiting it,” he said.

Ward and the commissioners said public comment will be solicited at the Town Board meeting prior to any decision or adoption of a registration ordinance, but legally, there isn’t much the town can do to prohibit short-term rentals.

The Land Use Committee will present the Town Board with its recommendations and if the Town Board agrees to the registration ordinance, it could go into effect Jan. 1, 2020.

– Kim Lewicki

## From Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart:

Please remember to get your chimney cleaned before using your fireplaces this year.

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## ‘Operation Zero Tolerance’ nabs 20; 3 on the run

On November 20th, 2019, in a county wide operation targeting many who have been involved in the sales and/or distribution of narcotics and absconding fugitives, officers with the Macon County Sheriff’s Office, NC DPS Probation, NC State Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security conducted searches of residences, traffic stops and executed search and arrest warrants resulting in the arrest of 20 individuals within Macon County for narcotics related offenses and/or outstanding warrants.

In addition to these 20 suspects, three others are being sought and continue to be

listed as “Wanted Fugitives.”

Arrested were James Homer Taylor, Megan Thomas, Rita Lynn Webb, Crystal Ledbetter, Ian Thomas Spies, Ryan Finn, Rita Morgan, Byron Blue, Travis Zepeda, Dustin Hathcock, Ashley Vasallo, Sheldon Bateman, Cameron Lee Holland, Melissa Sue Heard, Donald Justus, George Bell, Kaz Heaton, Kelly Walker, Melissa Barnes.

Kaitlin Fitzgibbons:  
(CAPTURED) 11-21-2019

Felony Escape from Custody. Fitzgibbons was Immediately transported to Central Prison to begin her active sentence of

four months. Upon her release from DOC she will be transported back to Macon County to face multiple pending charges including escape.

At the conclusion of “Operation Zero Tolerance,” numerous individuals have been entered as “Wanted Fugitives.” Anyone with knowledge of the location of any of these below listed suspects whereabouts are encouraged to call 911 and provide additional information.

Those are, Reyna Garcilita, Jeremy Sanders, Shawn Casey.

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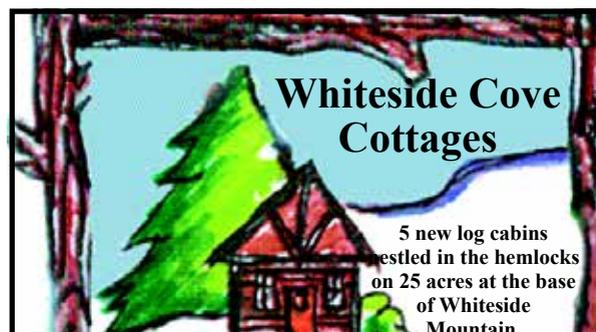
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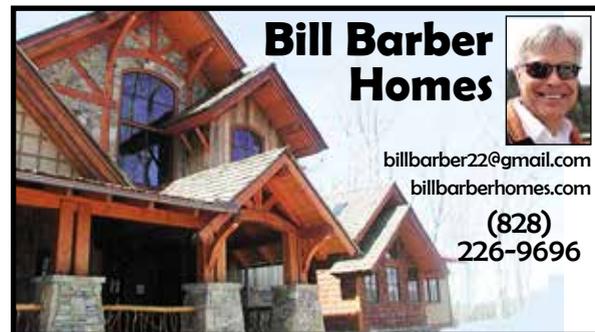
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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Oct. 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### **Oct. 25**

• At 10 a.m., officers received a report of a female being stalked and harassed with text messages.

### **Nov. 10**

• At 5:27 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east at Sherwood Forest.

• At 7:02 p.m., officers received a report of a person communicating threats and a hit & run and failure to stop in front of the Ugly Dog Pub on S. 4th Street. Nov. 16

### **Nov. 16**

• At 5:40 p.m., officers received a report of a larceny of trash can from a property on Sagee Drive.

### **Nov. 12**

• At 4:10 p.m., officers received a report of destruction and damage to property when two men fighting at the Farmers Market pushed one into the front passenger side door causing a dent

### **Nov. 17**

• At 11:04 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on

US 64.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Nov. 7.**

• At 3:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street,

• At 9:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Morewood Circle,

### **Nov. 8**

• At 3:27 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers at a residence on Hidden Grouse Lane.

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

### **Nov. 10**

• At 1:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west,

• At 11:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 2:56 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Sky Valley FD.

• At 7:53 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 8:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Highgate Road,

### **Nov. 11**

• At 8:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on

Jessamine Lane.

• At 10:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire at a residence on Billy Cabin Road.

• At 11:46 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

### **Nov. 12**

• At 8:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Pine Point Road.

• At 3:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• At 5:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hillcrest Drive.

### **Nov. 13**

• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hillcrest Drive.

### **Nov. 14**

• At 1:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

### **Nov. 15**

• At 1:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Road.

• At 1:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherrywood Dr.

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