A look back at the year that was ... 2019

It feels like the years go by faster and faster and if this past year is any indication, Highlands isn't slowing down any time soon. New restaurants, new businesses, upgrades to facilities including the Performing Arts Center, K-H Founders Park, the Civic Center, the Rec Park grounds, new faces at the police department and at Town Hall all point to the vibrant life of Highlands.

Here's a snapshot of Highlands 2019 Year-in-Review as covered in Highlands Newspaper.

January
Highlands’ Moccasin War

MC Community Foundation awards more than $18,000

The board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation recently announced $18,980 in local grant awards from its community grantmaking fund, according to Lisa Leatherman, board president.

This year the board granted:
• $2,500 to the Highlands Community Child Development Center for instructional supplies for teachers and students;
• $1,500 to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for Kids in Nature 2020;
• $2,500 to the International Friendship Center for general operating support;
• $1,000 to the Macon County Humane Society/Appalachian Animal Rescue Center for spay/neuter for low income residents of Macon County;

Highlands celebrates ‘Wreaths Across America’

Across the nation “Wreaths Across America” is celebrated in 2,100 locations across the country at sea and abroad coordinating with the December wreath-laying ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery.

Highlands’ event on Saturday, Dec. 14 – organized by Phil Potts – set a goal of 550 wreaths with which to adorn veteran graves in Highlands Memorial Park – the goal was exceeded by 50 wreaths. Though wreaths adorn gravesites in December, WAA’s mission to “Remember, Honor and Teach” is carried out throughout the year. Veterans Day is recognized in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve America’s freedoms.

Happy Holidays! Many thanks to our clients and friends for making Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty the leader in sales in Highlands for the sixth year in a row per the Highlands/Cashiers MLS with over $125 million in sales in 2019.

SECU Hospice House in Franklin is fueling the local economy

Construction of SECU Hospice House in Franklin, an initiative of Hospice House Foundation of WNC (HHFWNC), is 35% complete, reflecting roughly $1 million in expenditures, primarily in Macon County.

According to a spokesperson with Western Builders of Sylva, nearly half of their construction crew for the Hospice House project, and weekly payroll for such, is from Macon County.

John Barbee, Treasurer of Hospice House Foundation of WNC, reported that an analysis of the major sub-contractors employed by Western Builders for the Hospice House project were most-likely based in Macon County.

Barbee further observed that 10 new FTE jobs will be created by SECU Hospice House in Franklin, representing approximately a $700,000 annual budget flowing into the County. It is anticipated that construction of SECU Hospice House will be complete during summer, 2020 with operations commencing shortly thereafter.

HHFWNC has raised $4 million, 89% of its $4.5 million Campaign goal for SECU Hospice House. Several recent grants contributed to this fundraising progress:
• $25,000 – Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation
• $5,000 – The Church of the Good Shepherd (Cashiers)
• $5,000 - Percy B. Ferebee Endowment
• $3,000 – North Carolina Community Foundation (Jackson and Graham Counties)
• $2,500 – Mountain Findings (Highlands)

Additionally, HHFWNC received a grant from the Philip L. Van Every Foundation. The reception area in SECU Hospice House will be named, The Philip L. Van Every Foundation Foyer in recognition of this Foundation’s major investment in SECU Hospice House.

— Submitted
The Plateau’s Position

Mayor on Duty

Wish list for 2020

Last week I began sharing a list of budget priorities that I see for the coming year. The Town Board members will also have their priorities. In the next five months we will go through a process of coming to agreement on a new budget for FYI 2020/21.

I believe there will be a consensus among board members that we need to continue the momentum of paving town streets in 2020. The town spent over a half million dollars in paving roads this past year. There are still many roads that need to be paved. I hope this road paving initiative will continue, and I doubt taxpayers will take us to task for spending money on good roads.

Over the last five years needed improvements have been made to what was then our aging recreation facilities. Improvements were made by raising property taxes by 1.5 cent per $100 of property valuation. The county also made a substantial contribution to these upgrades and continues to support recreation here on the plateau. The tax has a sunset provision for this coming year. I will propose that we continue the sunset tax but redirect it toward road improvements.

That redirection would mean that for a period of years, the town would always have about $275,000 earmarked annually for road paving. That base sum could be increased annually to address specific road paving needs. While $275,000 may sound like a lot, to really make progress more funds would be needed. For example, the upcoming paving of the remainder of Cullasaja Drive could easily approach that figure.

Another item on my list is to complete the sidewalk on US 64 across from the ball field and to address the water drainage problem near the proposed sidewalk. There is a natural spring that causes water to run onto and down US 64 at the curve just before Foreman Road. It forms dangerous black ice in the winter. It will take time, funds and engineering to develop a plan that diverts the water into our stormwater system, but it is much needed.

Another project I would like to see completed is to improve the intersection on NC 28 at South and Satulah streets. The intersection is a confusing conglomeration of yield and stop signs. Lamar Nix, our town engineer, believes there is a design that can simplify and thereby improve the intersection. DOT has already said it would be willing to work with the town in improving the intersection. Almost all of the work would involve the improvements of the two town streets, South and Satulah. Again, this project will require time, planning and town funding.

Finally, working with the Highlands Chamber, downtown merchants and local residents, I believe it is time to review the status of the downtown business area and how improvements can be made. A lesson learned from 2018 tree issues is that any changes and plans will have to come from a broad range of stakeholders.

Happy New Year to all.

...AWARDS continued from page 1

- $1,500 to Macon TRACS for TROT: Therapeutic Riding Over Trails;
  - $500 to the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society for bringing the Bartram Trail to downtown Franklin, for maps and signage;
  - $2,500 to Pisgah Legal Services for the Plateau Poverty Law Initiative;
  - $1,000 to Prevent Blindness North Carolina for Star Pupils Macon County;
  - $2,500 to REACH of Macon County for the Rural Victim Advocacy Crisis Textline Initiative;
  - $980 to The Bascom for the Community Education and Outreach Initiative;
  - $2,500 to the Vecinos, Inc. Farmworker Health Program for farmworker prescription glasses and medication support.

Leatherman thanked the community for its continued support of the Macon County Community Foundation. “We are proud to support these nonprofit programs that are so vital to the community,” she said. “We are grateful to the many generous individuals and organizations that have supported our work to inspire philanthropy across our community.”

- For further information, contact NCCF Community Leadership Officer Colby Martin at (828) 358-0030 or cmartin@nccommunityfoundation.org or visit the NCCF website at nccommunityfoundation.org.
HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Walk to shops, dining, and The Bascom from this adorable 2-story, in-town Highlands cottage on scenic Mill Creek. Lots of light from multiple windows and brightly painted. Open floor plan with corner stone fire-place and deck access. Generously sized kitchen with breakfast bar, garden tub in master bath. Large family room with plenty of room for all downstairs with walk out access to yard. Single car garage. Gentle outdoor area right next to Mill Creek.

MLS# 91432 | Offered for $549,000

BUCKBERRY FALLS Just 3 miles from downtown Highlands, this home is not to be missed! Featuring 3BR/3BA, this cottage offers a year round view of Shortoff Mtn from the generous living spaces and partially covered deck. It features a recently renovated kitchen, wood-burning fireplace, generator, two living rooms, hardwood floors, encapsulation, a new roof (2018) and attractive, low maintenance landscaping with garden. The master suite features “his and hers” bathrooms.

MLS# 91527 | Offered for $499,500

CHESTNUT COVE Fully furnished and ready to enjoy, this 3BR/3BA condo at Highlands Falls CC has easy access with only one step into the main level and plenty of parking right in front. The side deck has been enclosed and made into a dining room surrounded by glass on three sides. The great room has cathedral ceilings with a high transom window and a wood-burning fireplace. The master is large and has an office alcove. Club amenities available with membership.

MLS# 92243 | Offered for $499,000

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Well maintained mountain home close to town, 3BR and 2 BA on main level with upper level loft. Huge downstairs with the additional guest area, a full bathroom, and 2 family rooms. There is a large open deck off main level with a lower level covered deck. Great landscaping as well as wonderful back yard with rope swing. Only a couple minute walk to community Apple Lake for canoeing and fishing where the home has deeded access.

MLS# 91530 | Offered for $487,000
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from 5:30p
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HS Interact Club attends Rotary of Highlands

On December 11, the Rotary Club of Highlands presented $100 to each teacher at Highlands School. The money can be used for classroom materials not furnished by the school or for any purpose that helps the teachers enrich the education of their students. Pictured are Rotary members Keith Crawford, Chris Wilkes and Hank Ross are teachers Brian Aulisio, Stephanie Smathers and Maci LeQuire.

Rotary gifts teachers at Highlands School

The Rotary Club of Highlands has sponsored the Interact Club at Highlands School for many years. Several current members of this year’s Interact Club attended the Rotary Club of Highlands meeting on Tuesday, December 10. They are shown with Interact advisor Christine Murphy, Sherry Holt, President of the Rotary Club of Highlands.
Bolivian foster youth graduate from high school top of their class

Two foster home young men graduated from their six-year high school this past week. Alfredo Aguilar and Juan Carlos, who graduated top in their class, similar to our valedictorian, carried his schools banner in the graduation procession. Quite an honor in Bolivia.

These two young men have spent most of their youth in the Foster Home John Baumrucker, a project of the Highlands Bolivian Mission. Both are university bound, the cost of which will be born by the mission and the funds have been earned by the boys by making pens that were sold here at the Farmers Market and at the Bascom.

There graduation culminates years of hard work made available by being in the foster home as opposed to living on the streets of Montero where they were abandoned. They have an opportunity to become successful members of society and able to earn a good living and raise a family of quality. Much of this success is due to the board of directors of the mission in both Highlands and in Bolivia. The chairwoman of the mission in Montero, Luz Marina Landivar, has been the most important person in this success. She has worked tirelessly to encourage the boys to excellence.

H-2B visa changes cause labor shortage in Highlands.

...2019 continued from page 1

- Town Board discusses wishes and needs.
- Town Board gives Highlands PD authority to pick up nuisance dogs.
- Highlands Aerial Park ad Ugly Dog Pub noted during BizWeek.
- Wild Easter weather doesn't dampen spirits.

May
- Highlands School Golf Team takes first place in Smoky Mountain Conference.
- Highlanders nabbed in Operation JAWbreaker in 2018 are heading to trial.
- VA Hospital nurse Rawlins awarded $25,000 for VR therapy research.
- AHEC secures funding for HS 5th Grade iPads.
- First Citizens Bank and Entegra announce merger.
- Hannah Holt and Drew Chalker are named King and Queen at Junior/Senior Prom.
- County proposes 1.59 cent tax hike for 2019-20.
- Newly formed HC Health Foundation accepts grant requests.
- Brian O'Shea is named Highlands School ‘Fan of the Year’
- Town hires Assistant Planning Director Michael Mathis.
- Highlands School Class of 2019 graduates.
- Community turns out for Memorial Day tribute in front of Police Station.

June
- Bank Robber from SC found in Highlands.
- Speed limits set to decrease in town.
- Fire taxes set to increase to fund upgrades.
- Blue Zones discussed for WNC and Highlands.
- County agrees to raise taxes to fund school needs.
- Legend Marker for Moccasin war is planted.
- County and towns get AirBnB room tax proceeds of $178,000.
- Woodruff donates property to Fire Department's new campus.
- A green link between Highlands and Cashiers being discussed.
- Highlands decreases property taxes due to high real.
- “Buddy Holly kicks off season at Highlands Playhouse.

July
- Capital campaign kicks off at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.
- Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins retires after 29 years.
- See 2019 page 7
• Hospital CEO Jackie Medland steps down.
• JAWbreaker drug ring trials are ongoing.
• Town stops trash collection at Rec Park.
• HCA Healthcare gets approval for new Angel Medical Center in Franklin.
• Highlands School Teacher of the Year and Support Person of the Year names, Math teacher Gia Billingsley and Administrative assistant/bookkeeper Annette Jenkins.
• AHEC funds Smart Boards for HS Middle School.
• Citizens discuss lack of area healthcare.

**August**
• Fire temporarily shuts down Playhouse.
• Chamber proposes “lighting up” downtown.
• McHan named Chamber of Commerce Executive director of Tourism and Marketing.
• Room Tax proceeds are at all-time high in Highlands.
• Lighting up Main Street is put on hold.
• HC Health Foundation awards $1 million+
• 5k-10k raises $20,000 for Highlands School.
• Free breakfast to continue at Highlands School.
• County gives Performing Art Center $60,000.
• New teachers announced at Highlands School - Sherrie Kings, Stephanie McConnell, Caleb Brown and Stephanie Cook.
• 19-wheeler are officially in NC DOT crosshairs.
• Thief jailed for 70 months for Gold n’ Clipper robbery in 2015.
• Highlands School starts for 2019-20 year.

**September**
• Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty donates money to teachers at Highlands School and Summit Charter.
• Historical sign to be set at Prince House.
• Lawmakers begin tackling VRBO/AirBnB issues.
• Local lawmakers fighting opioid crisis.
• Maps to be redrawn for state 2020 elections.
• Highlands MS girls take first at cross-country meet.
• Senator Davis not seeking reelection.

• County funds fast-track broadband for Highlands, Scaly and Otto.
• Highlands Hurricanes finish strong at 2019 Junior Olympics.
• Short-term rentals in Highlands.
• Highlands School again exceeds expectation.

**October**
• Seven Town Board candidates lineup for 2019 election. Dotson, Hehn, McCall, Pierson, Rogers, Ross and Stiehler.
• JAWbreaker accomplices still racking up charges.
• Summit Charter School student expelled for alleged threat against school.
• Paoletti charity for Hospice House raises $60,000.
• Purchase of adjacent property means Zachary Park to expand.
• First ever undefeated MS Volleyball wins conference.
• Highlander Ran Shaffner named 2019 Historian of the Year.
• Bob Jones invitational proceeds to outfit EMS ambulances.
• HFP officer Tim Fish retires after 30 years.
• Scholarship Golf Tournaments bring $19,000. First-place winners are Vance Wood, Gary Drake, Steve Snead-Smith and Ed Locke.
• Upgrades continue at HBS’s Nature Center.
• Halloween is moved to Friday, Nov. 1 due to weather.

**November**
• Dotson, Hehn and Stiehler win three open seats on Town Board.
• Plans for PAC grounds on campus revealed.
• Providers now required for Medicaid recipients.
• The Highlands Food and Wine festival kicks off by honoring the late Chef Louis Osteen with a scholarship in his name.
• Highlands U8 Soccer Team is Macon County champs.
• Candidates Dotson, Hehn and Stiehler officially win Highlands election.
• Pearle Lambert turns 100!
• Land Use Committee suggests requiring registration of short-term rentals ahead of state legislation.
• Highlands Town Board gets first look at new plans for the HF&R department.
• DHHS suspends Medicaid Managed Care Program.
• Annual Town Lighting kicks off the...
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### Highlands Township (continued from Dec. 26)

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**The Dry Sink**

Thank you for a fantastic 2019 and we look forward to seeing you in 2020! Happy New Year!
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The African Children’s Choir returns to CBC on January 24

The African Children’s Choir will perform Friday at the Community Bible Church at 6:30 p.m. highlighting their new program “Just As I Am.” The children melts the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles, beautiful voices and lively African songs and dances. The program features well-loved children’s songs, traditional Spirituals and Gospel favorites. Concerts are free and open to all. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development programs. No tickets. Donations appreciated.
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**THE SUMMER HOUSE**

**Christmas Sale!!**

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**BED & BATH 20 - 30% OFF**

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I find it hard to imagine, but the Royal Parents had dogs in their lives before me. I knew about Tinker the Wonder Dog because she was still here when I arrived, but all these other dogs were news to me.

Mum is a grand storyteller and she started by regaling me with tales of her childhood dogs. When she was a little girl living in an apartment house in New York City, the only dog she had for a friend was her neighbor’s cocker spaniel. Mum came home from kindergarten, stayed with the white-haired neighbor, ate her afterschool snack, and played with the pup until her mom got home from work.

“Why didn’t you ask for your own dog, Mum?” I ruffed.

“I didn’t need one; I had an imaginary cocker spaniel named Annabel,” she replied. I couldn’t help rolling my eyes at that. In Mum’s mind, she played with Annabel and brushed her and snuggled with her. The story everyone remembers is Mum admonishing her uncle not to sit in a chair because Annabel was sleeping in it. Mum says Annabel looked like Lady from “Lady and the Tramp,” one of her favorite Disney movies.

Now, I can’t see how an imaginary dog can be as good as the real thing, but I bet having a dog as an imaginary friend is what makes Mum so good at understanding me. When I get writer’s block, she’s amazingly adept at helping me figure out what I want to say. Mum really gets me.

She didn’t have a real dog until her family moved from the city to Long Island. There, they had a big house and a fenced backyard, perfect for a dog. That first dog was named Pudgy. Mum and her sister picked that name because as a pup, the boy was, well, pudgy. He lost his baby fat but didn’t grow very big. Mum remembers him as muscular little thing who was quite talented at digging holes beneath the redwood fence to visit the Doberman Pinscher in the yard behind theirs. She thinks Franz, the Doberman, helped with the digging.

After refilling the hole too many times, the families gave up and let the “kids” visit each other whenever they wanted. Mum says the two looked like Mutt and Jeff, whoever they are, as they ran and frolicked, dug up bushes and grass and ensured that nothing much grew in either backyard. All that digging may have been the reason Pudgy went to live with an aunt when Mum’s family moved South.

For a while, Mum and her sisters had cats until their dad came home one day with Bonnie Blue. “We had no business with an 80 pound blue-eyed Weimaraner in our small house,” Mum recalls, “and Bonnie Blue ended up going to a farm after she tore the stuffing out of Daddy’s recliner. That was the last straw.”

Later, Mum’s parents had Odette the poodle and then another cute munchkin dog named Noelle. When Mum left home, she only had cats until she married my Dad. From then on, they had a blended family of four-legged children. And, nowadays, they’re lucky enough to have me and Puddin’ as their boon companions. What more could the Royal Parents ask for?

• Lord Banjo lives in Georgia with his Mum, Kathy Manos Penn. Find similar stories in his book, “Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch,” available at Mountain Paws in Highlands, Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Contact him at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

**Biz/Org News**

Highlands Chamber of Commerce student art contest winners

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce sponsors a student art contest each Christmas season. This year there were 92 entries from Highlands School and Summit Charter School (Grades 1 – 12). Three winners were selected by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Tree Lighting Committee from the 1st – 5th Grade; 1st – 12th Grade and 6th – 12th Grade.

The winning artwork was used for the Christmas Calendar Poster, the Christmas Sweatshirt, and the Songbook Program for Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year’s winners were for the Poster, Skylar Felshaw, 2nd Grade; for the Sweatshirt, Sayla Roman, 12th Grade and for the Songbook, Emily Briggs, 9th Grade.

The three winners received $100 from the Chamber. All contest participants received a certificate for a free ice cream cone at Kilwin’s. All artwork entries were displayed at the Highlands Recreation Center during the month of December.

Above, Skylar Felshaw, 2nd Grade for the poster; right, Emily Briggs, 9th grade for the songbook artwork.
Next month, Greta Thunberg will turn 17. Who, you ask? Greta Thunberg is, right now, and at once, both the most admired and most vilified environmental activist in the world. Loved and hated, cheered and disrespected, all at the same time.

The venom being spewed at this child is pathetic. Kill the messenger, in 3-D, living color and surround-sound. Seriously.

In late September, while we were enjoying a spectacular Friday morning, this plain talking Swedish teenager with Asperger’s Syndrome squared off with world leaders in New York and told them all to stop bloviating and do something about saving the planet all 7+ billion of us have no choice but to occupy.

This tiny citizen of typically soft-spoken, highly educated Sweden, educated herself on the science associated with global climate change and came to the elegant conclusion that we, the Earth’s adults, have condemned her generation and those which will follow to a planet less livable, with fewer plant and animal species, featuring warmer summers and colder winters, warmer, ever-rising oceans, dirtier air and drinking water, skyrocketing prices for groceries, dairy products, beef, pork, fish, fowl and Frito’s; not exactly a wonderful place.

At one time there was disagreement about how bad climate change was, and would become, and about what role human beings had in screwing things up for our children, grandchildren, etc., etc.

There is no longer much disagreement; climate change is here. It’s going to be here, and it will impact more and more of us more profoundly as the decades fly by. The evidence is quite alarming. We currently reside in a post-truth, post-fact world, but here are just a few FACTS:

Fact: Our oceans are rising. Fact: Our oceans are warming. Fact: Our polar glaciers are melting. Fact: Our planet’s forests are burning, including that big one in South America, the Amazon, that serves as the planet’s lungs. Fact: Our coastal cities, where most earthlings live, are going to harvest the wind and water generated by flooding from those rising oceans, along with bigger and more frequent storms fueled by those warmer waters.

Greta Thunberg is doing what our unenlightened leaders should have been doing for the past 40 years, when climate scientists began warning us about this phenomenon they first called global warming. They were right, of course, but people poo-pooed the notion whenever they experienced a cold day. Every time it snowed, some genius somewhere uttered words to the effect of, “Well, so much for global warming.” These folks mistook weather for climate and confused their microscopic corner of the world with the WHOLE world.

For the record, the difference between weather and climate is time. Weather is conditions of the atmosphere over a short period of time. Climate is how the atmosphere behaves over relatively longer periods of time.

Our world has actually been warming since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, when the first of what has ballooned to, today, over 10,000,000 factories began belching God-knows-what into our planet’s our air supply.

Today, 7 billion souls drive 1.2 billion motor vehicles, operate 570 million farms, with 1.5 billion head of cattle, and 1.2 billion head of sheep. They pump who knows how much carbon, methane gas, pesticide and herbicide into our diminishing drinking water supply and the once clean air we must breathe.

We can’t stop it all at once. Sixteen-year-old Greta Thunberg knows this. Al Gore knew it when he released his both admired and reviled An Inconvenient Truth presentation in 2006. It was admired because it was both alarming and true. It was reviled because it was real, but unwelcome news for the environmental plunderers here, as well as the other western democracies, along with Russia, China, Brazil, India, and all the other polluting countries wrestling with how to feed 7 billion souls, and fill tanks in 1.2 billion cars and trucks.

If you’re indignant at these words, join the club. None of us like being inconvenienced by the truth about what we’re doing. Please don’t kill this messenger.

We can’t reverse all the effects of all the damage we’ve already done, but we can slow things down and possibly leave our children and grandkids with a better planet on which to live.

One thing we should do is start listening to little Greta Thunberg, Al Gore, and the other voices asking us, pleading with us, once and for all, to clean up both our act and our precious planet.

2019 has been another great year for Landmark Realty Group and the firm is ending the year with a major announcement; six additional brokers are joining the luxury real estate group on December 13.

“Landmark is solidifying its already strong team of over 30 brokers across the Plateau with the addition of Debby and Dick Hattler, David E. Jones, Barbara Fisher, Leckie Rives and TK Heatley,” said Carol Wilson, General Manager of Landmark Realty Group.

All six brokers are currently active in Cashiers. Each of them will represent clients all over the Plateau, and several are very familiar faces in the surrounding communities.

“I am delighted to welcome these brokers to the Landmark family,” added Wilson.

Landmark Realty Group is a boutique real estate firm that opened its doors in January 2004 right here in Cashiers—15 years ago. Since then, Landmark has grown to three offices in Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties, and expanded its reach to include vacation rentals in 2012.

Debby Hattler

Through their joint company, Debby and husband Richard successfully developed a business that marketed and sold U.S. real estate to foreign investors. Debby and her husband started coming to the Highlands/Cashiers area in 1969, 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. In 2007, Debby bought the company and also started a new firm, Hattler Properties, LLC. Debby continues to be active in the community, serving as past president of Highlands/Cashiers Board of Realtors and the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce. She is also a founding board member of the Jackson County Tourist Development Authority where she served as Treasurer. Debby will be joining Landmark’s Cashiers office.

Dick Hattler

Dick Hattler was born and raised in the Republic of Panama and is fluent in Spanish. In the 1990s Dick went back to his real estate career roots with a real estate investment firm with offices in Miami and Geneva, Switzerland, selling investment real estate with a specialization in credit triple net leased investments throughout the U.S.

Dick and Debby decided to make the move to the Highlands/Cashiers area where they had been spending their summers for years. Dick’s parents were founding members of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, so they felt they had roots here. Eager to stay involved in real estate, Dick and Debby have been leaders in the local real estate community and are excited to join Landmark’s Cashiers office.

David E. Jones

David is a native of Waycross, GA. He came to North Carolina to manage the High Hampton Inn in 2006, and starting in 2012 he was general manager for four seasons at Trillium Links and Lake Club. In 2008, David was president of the Southern Innkeepers Association. David is married to Nora McChesney of Atlanta and between them, they have 6 children and 13 grandchildren. In his free time, David assists with the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic as a Tooth Fairy (you may recognize him from the Highlands 2019 Christmas parade). He is also active with the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. David will be joining Landmark’s Cashiers office.

Barbara R. Fisher

Barbara is a native of Transylvania County and a lifetime resident of Lake Toxaway. In 2003, as a cancer survivor, Barbara decided it was time to pursue her dream of becoming a broker, which has given her the opportunity to work at some of the longest-standing firms in the area alongside top producing agents. As a lifetime resident, Barbara has made many connections in her hometown which has led to great friendships and working relationships. Barbara lives with her husband Donny on the Fisher Family Farm. They have three children, and 10 grandchildren (3 of which are identical triplets). When she’s not working, she enjoys spending time with her family; attending bluegrass music festivals with her husband, who plays in a bluegrass band. She also loves antiquing, crafting, and gardening. Barbara will be working out of Landmark’s Burlingame office.

Leckie Rives

Leckie Rives joined the Landmark Burlingame office and brings with him
### TRANSFERS continued from page 11

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### UNDER CONTRACT

**Wildcat Cliffs CC**

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.

5 bedroom, 5 bath home with a view and end-of-the-road privacy. Completely furnished. Offered for $1,150,000 Contact Andrea Gabbard 828-200-6742.

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**Furnished. Offered for**

**Wildcat Cliffs CC**

- 7550050512 123 CHESTNUT CV
- 7550050409 146 LAURELWOOD DR LOT 23 LAURELWOOD
- 7550041979 243 CHESTNUT COVE CHESTNUT COVE 8875 BUCK CREEK RD S R. 1538 “WASCO, AMANDA M.” 9/4/2019 166000.00
- 7550050035 223 CHESTNUT CV CHESTNUT COVE 68 “BLEICH, DANIEL W.” 5/28/2019 217000.00
- 7550050112 213 CHESTNUT CV UNIT 5B CHESTNUT COVE “CAMPBELL, GERALD J.” 5/9/2019 217000.00
- 7550050514 105 CHESTNUT COVE UNIT 1C CHESTNUT COVE “OSBORN, JULIE A.” 6/10/2019 205000.00
- 7550051179 261 CHESTNUT CV UNIT 10A CHESTNUT COVE “HERN, LAWRENCE R.” 6/7/2019 350000.00
- 7550066058 94 FALLS CT LOT 8

* See INVESTING page 15
4 REVISI
55139149 LAKE OSSEROGA LOT 3 REVISI
55145288 WILDWOOD DR LOT 34 WILDWOOD MTN “TRETIA
55145567 578 WILDWOOD DR LOT 35 WILDWOOD MTN “DNB INVESTMENTS, LLC” 5/17/2019
551607831 462 BIRCHWOOD DR UNIT 12C BIRCHES WCC CONDO PC 7491 “JOINER, DONNIE GALE” 10/28/2019 6535000.00
551610083 88 CATAMOUNT TRL LOT 81 CULLASAJA CLUB “CAREY, TIM” 8/29/2019 5000000.00
551616100 LAKE CT LOT 13A CULLASAJA CLUB “RHODES, WILLIE RANDY” 6/14/2019 2200000.00
551626794 66 HEMLOCK LN LOT 28 SEC B WCCC “RHODES, RICHARD S.” 10/24/2019 2300000.00
551630215 23 STREAMSIDE LN LOT 2 REVISED LAKE OSSEROGA “LEVINE, DAVID” 6/21/2019 8850000.00
551635016 211 COUNTRY CLUB DR LOT 68 SEC E WILD CAT CLIFFS “QUIRK, ELIZABETH WIGHT” 10/17/2019 4050000.00
551636428 128 COUNTRY CLUB DR LOT Q SEC A WILD CAT CLIFFS PC 8405 “SCR PROPERTIES 2, LLC” 6/21/2019 4800000.00
551644494 5162 CASHIERS RD LOTS 56 & 57 WILDWOOD “ALVAREZ, EDUARDO TTEE” 10/1/2019 0.00
551664493 851 COWEE RIDGE RD TRACT 6 COWEE MTN SUB “PAULK, JOSEPH L.” 9/12/2019 848000.00
551701527 83 OAK PT LOT 109 SEC G WILD CAT CLIFFS “NAGEL, BRENT C.” 6/25/2019 0.00
551703983 193 OAK PT LOT 106 SEC G WILD CAT CLIFFS “193 OAK POINT, LLC” 4/9/2019 0.00
551707044 60 TILLMAN TRAIL LOT 20 BLK B WILD CAT RIDGE “HENDRY, KAREN TTEE” 3/12/2019 0.00
551710672 408 LAKE VILLAS WAY LOT 6 LAKE VILLAS CULLASAJA CLUB “SHERMAN, MELVYN COTRUSTEE” 2/6/2019 0.00
551713133 214 OAK PT LOT 102 SEC G WILD CAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB “PURDUM, ARLENE M. TTEE” 10/10/2019 0.00
551714240 OAK PT WEST 1/2 OF LOT 103 BLK G WILD CAT CLIFFS “PURDUM, ARLENE M. TTEE” 10/10/2019 0.00
551718601 398 AZALEA LN LOT 214 REV SEC M WCC PC 10428 “REMBERT, JUDITH C TR” 3/9/2019 0.00
551724404 494 COUNTRY CLUB DR LOT 36 SEC C WILD CAT CLIFFS “JOHNSON, ASHLEY G.” 7/9/2019 1230000.00
551729374 602 COUNTRY CLUB DR LOT 40 SEC C WILD CAT CLIFFS “LANGFORD, CAROL B.” 7/8/2019 3500000.00
551730653 104 MOUNTAIN ASH LN LOT 9 SEC A WILD CAT CLIFFS “FABACHER, ROBERT J.” 11/1/2019 3775000.00
551734308 170 MOUNTAIN ASH LN LOT 5 SEC A WILD CAT CLIFFS “MC GARRY, W. SCOTT” 8/6/2019 604000.00
551760260 67 COWEE RIDGE RD LOT 3 COWEE MOUNTAIN “OSTEEN, ARCHIE D.” 9/26/2019 475000.00
551804748 2164 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 121 SEC H WILD CAT CLIFFS “CATHCART, WILLIAM S. TR” 2/14/2019 660000.00
551805857 2188 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 122 & SMT TRIANGULAR TR SEC H WCCC “GALLAGHER, DAVID W. TTEE” 7/1/2019 600000.00
551903544 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 10 SEC A WILD CAT RIDGE “COLE, RICHARD P.” 2/14/2019 65000.00
551904213 2389 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 7 & PT LOT 30 SEC B WILD CAT RIDGE SUBD “BENTON, DEE ANN C.” 4/30/2019 585000.00
551906896 2470 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 138 WILD CAT CLIFFS COUNTRY CLUB “AINSWORTH, CHARLES R.” 11/12/2019 415000.00
551936413 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN BRIDGFORTH, MARGARET WICHLIFE FORT TR” 10/28/2019 0.00
551947350 COWEE GAP LN PORTION OF LOT 3 IN MACON CO “POLLOCK, PENNY S. TR” 3/19/2019 0.00
551947452 39 BEAR SHADOW RDG PORTION OF LOT 2 IN MACON CO PC 8277 “POLLOCK, PENNY S. TR” 3/19/2019 0.00
561001847 MAGNOLIA DR LOT 146 SEC J WILD CAT CLIFFS “DEUSSING, GEORGE A.” 11/22/2019 675000.00
561010074 61 MAPLE LN LOT 144 SEC J WILD CAT CLIFFS “DEUSSING, GEORGE A.” 11/22/2019 675000.00
561011624 31 PINE PT LOT B WCCC & PORTION LT 5 WCC PC 10121 “MILTON, ROSEMARY S. TR” 3/29/2019 0.00

**Flats Township (Scaly Mountain)**

- 7408117273 39 CREEKSIDE COVE N EQUITY TRUST COMPANY CUSTODIAN 11/21/2019 140000.00
- 7408126495 57 CREEKSIDE COVE N MCDANIEL, LARRY R. TTEE 6/26/2019 0.00
- 7408127507 79 CREEKSIDE COVE N CK BENNETT FAMILY 6/18/2019 110000.00
- 7408143787 ON HWY 106 PHEL, GEORGE EDMUND JR 8/14/2019 0.00
- 7408159239 ON HWY 106 PHEL, GEORGE EDMUND JR 7/19/2019 180000.00
- 7408222653 HWY 106 OLD MUD CREEK, LLC 5/17/2019 225000.00
- 7408239808 41 HIGH HOLLY RD JIMNI, INC. 6/27/2019 0.00
- 7408248479 114 HIGH HOLLY RD JIMNI, INC. 11/15/2019 365000.00
- 7408396722 194 TATER HILL DR MALCOLM, JOHN GTR 9/17/2019 0.00
- 7408520885 22 HIGH MEADOW DR BANNON, GEORGETTEE 5/8/2019 0.00
- 7408531166 OFF HWY 106 BANNON, GEORGETTEE 5/9/2018 0.00
- 7408531573 HIGH MEADOW DR BELFI, MATT 4/12/2019 685000.00
- 7408534772 HIGH MEADOW DR ST JOHN, RICHARD LAWRENCE 8/29/2019 850000.00
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- 7408698005 OFF 106 LAPP, JOHN 11/17/2019 120000.00
- 7408762955 HWY 106 FOWLER, JOHN W. COTRUSTEE 1/17/2019 0.00
- 7408766916 ON HWY 106 & 1627 FOWLER, JOHN W. COTRUSTEE 1/17/2019 0.00
- 7408770071 8746 DILLARD RD FOWLER, JOHN W. COTRUSTEE 1/17/2019 0.00
- 7408771097 8716 DILLARD RD FOWLER, JOHN W. COTRUSTEE 1/17/2019 0.00

*See TRANSFERS page 16*
### TRANSFERS continued from page 15

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### Business/Organization News

On Tuesday, December 17, the Rotary Club of Highlands sponsored the Highlands Community Supper held every Tuesday at the Community Building. The photo shows Rotary members with a family prior to the meal.
Pat Allen Realty Group to open 2nd office at WCCCC entrance

Pat Allen, owner and Broker-in-Charge, of Pat Allen Realty Group, is pleased to announce the opening of their second office.

Pat Allen Realty Group was chosen to be the on-site firm at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The office will be located at the entrance of Wildcat Cliffs, just before the gates, on Highway 64 East. “We are delighted to represent Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with all the great amenities they offer, including championship golf, croquet for beginners and enthusiasts, a wonderful workout facility including a lap pool, a chef who never disappoints, and social events that rival none”, says Pat.

Julie Osborn will be the Broker-in-Charge, and brokers will rotate on-site representation. The office will serve the Highlands and Cashiers plateau and will cover listings both inside and outside the club. Pat’s brokers will represent buyers looking all over the plateau. “I love this club, says Pat, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity. We invite all of you to stop by and visit with us,” The transition will take place in mid-January.

You may reach Pat and her team at 828-526-8784 or visit them on the web at patallenrealty-group.com. Offices now located at 295 Dillard Road and 5121 Cashiers Road.
C hristmas 2019 is in the record books. History will confirm it. Our credit cards will remind us! Likewise, what we may call The First Christmas is also in the record books. Biblical, as well as secular, history documents it.

Jesus Christ was really born. He really was and is the Son of God. He is the Savior of the world. However, the remarkable and salient difference between the First Christmas and Christmas 2019 is that the first one was predicted. The second one wasn’t. To be sure, the word “Christmas” appears nowhere in Scripture. But, “Christ” does. “Christ” (and the Hebrew Messiah) means “Anointed One.”

In the Old Testament the anointing of God signaled the choice and enabling upon someone representing Him. So, Prophets, Priests and Kings were anointed in their separate offices and callings. However, no single person ever held, or was anointed for, all three offices until Jesus Christ! He is the Christ! He was chosen and enabled by God to fulfill the functions of all three offices.

This Christ-Messiah was prophesied-predicted hundreds of times in the Old Testament. The Prophet, Micah, even predicted where He would be born (Micah 5:2).

In light of these things, I now want to appeal to your sense of logic and reason. Since His first coming was so accurately and precisely foretold and then fulfilled, would we not conclude, and even anticipate, the same for His Second coming? His Second coming (yet future) is as certain as His first coming (now past).

There’s more than five hundred verses throughout the Bible which affirm the Lord’s return. It is estimated that one out of every twenty-five verses in the New Testament refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Again, there will be a salient difference. At His first coming most of the world slept on. Very few even knew about His birth at Bethlehem. However, at His Second Coming the entire world will know! Some will be terrified. Others will rejoice.

The Bible teaches that those who are born again (John 3:1-21) will be taken to heaven. The remaining population on earth will face a terrible time of judgement. The Bible calls this time The Tribulation. I hope, dear one, that you are born again. I hope you’re ready for this absolutely certain, yet future event. You may be born again by confessing and repenting of your sins and asking Jesus Christ to be your Savior. No one knows you better. No one loves you more than Jesus.

Christmas 2020 may or may not come. No one but Heaven knows. But the return of Jesus Christ will absolutely happen.

And indeed, that return, may even be in 2020.
I’m not one for making New Year’s resolutions. Sure, there were all those years when I resolved not to gain the usual five pounds I put on every winter. That never worked. The good news is I managed to take the pounds off in the spring, though that challenge seems to get harder every year.

I've worked out regularly for 10 years now, so I don't need a resolution about exercise. Yes, I could resolve to walk more frequently, but I know it won't happen. Instead, I’m going to pat myself on the back for regularly visiting the MJCCA to work out.

Maybe I should simply resolve to continue doing what I’ve been doing—resolve not to take anything for granted. It’s all too easy for things to fall by the wayside. For example, I try to write every day, but it takes an effort to pick back up after I return from vacation. In that spirit, here are the things I’ll continue in the new year.

Write: Whether I’m editing or starting from scratch, writing daily is a must. I write for two weekly papers, different columns for each. I was already pleasantly busy, and then I took on a new challenge. This year, I wrote my first cozy mystery and plan to complete the first draft of book two by early January. I expect book one to come out no later than February, and I hope to write a third in 2020 in what I’m calling my Dickens & Christie Mysteries. Hint: Dickens is a dog, and Christie is a cat. I’ll leave it to you to figure out for whom they’re named.

Work out: I see a weekly session with my trainer as a necessity. I had to find a new gym and new trainer in 2019, and I’ve been delighted with Amir at the MJCCA. Many thanks to the Crier reader who recommended him. I miss my workout partner of 10+ years, but we manage to meet for lunch or coffee from time to time.

Happily, I also reconnected with Mary Sue, another friend with whom I took yoga class until our instructor retired two years ago. Because we’re both eligible for Silver Sneakers, and I knew she worked out at the MJCCA, I got in touch. Now we’re attending yoga classes and the occasional Pilates class together. Knowing we’re counting on each other to show up keeps us going.

Connect with friends: Make time for lunch and travel with girlfriends. I’m fortunate to have friends from all walks of life—high school, college, my teaching days, and my corporate days. Add to those longtime friends the ones I’ve met in the Dunwoody community through yoga, writing, and my column, and I’m a lucky girl.

Read: It’s simple. Read at least two books a week, maybe more. Of course, if I hadn’t taken up writing mysteries, I’d have more time to devote to this pastime. Lately, I’ve gotten so caught up in my writing that I often go upstairs to my office in the evening to write instead of to bed with a book. Whereas reading was once my only passion, I’ve now added writing.

Carpe Diem: Make the most of every day. Enjoy day-to-day life with my husband and take pleasure in the simple things in life. Whether we’re eating a home-cooked meal, dining out, seeing a movie or a play, watching our favorite shows on television, or chuckling at the pets—we have much to be thankful for.

Perhaps the overarching resolution is to wake up every day saying “Life is good.” The rest will follow.

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 Paws. Contact her at inkpenn19@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.

...2019 continued from page 7

holiday season Sat., Nov. 30 in K-H Park. December
• Mayor Taylor a receives AG Stein’s “Dogwood Award,” for fighting for healthcare in Highlands and working to make sure the Hospital Corporation of America fits the bill.
• Dept. of Justice decrees that a new bank must occupy Entegra’s building in Highlands once it merges with First Citizens.
• The “Olde Mountains Christmas Parade” was Saturday, Dec. 7
• Less than a year in planning and commercial-grade bear-resistant toters replace dumpsters in business district.
• Tom Neal is named CEO and CNO of HC Hospital.
• Dillion Schmitt and Jeslyn Head were crowned King and Queen at the annual Highlands School Homecoming Dance the evening of Dec. 7.
• New Commissioners, Dotson, Stiehler and Hahn are sworn into office.
• Art and Angela Williams offer to fund renovations to the pool house to the tune of $232,127.50.
• Kevin O’Donnell with NOVA Energy Consultants, Inc., who is the liaison between the town and Duke Power, said Duke Power will be raising rates.
• Highlands kids ‘Shop with a Cop’ for Christmas with Highlands cops!
• Highlands celebrates “Wreaths Across America” on Dec. 14.
• District 11 Rep. Meadows announces retirement; eyes position in Trump’s cabinet.
• Primary ballot will be full in March.
OLD EDWARDS INN and Spa

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME ON-SITE GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT PROFESSIONAL NEEDED TO JOIN MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP IN HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA. At least two years of print layout and design required. Keen eye for design, detail-oriented and proficiency in formatting for scannable content are a must. Experience in CRM, email marketing, website updating and/or social media is a plus. Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Full benefits. Possible subsidized housing. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions.

FULL-TIME TEMPORARY MARKETING POSITION. OEI is seeking a marketing professional and graphic designer experienced in page layout and ad creation for both print and digital to fill a six-month position between approximately March 1 and September 31, 2020. At least two years of professional layout and design required. This position designs billboards, newspaper and magazine ads, digital ads and more for a high-end luxury brand. Some experience in website updating—or ability to learn—required (content management, not coding). Must have high integrity, sense of humor, consistently positive nature, interpersonal skills and work well as part of a close team. Position is 100% onsite in Highlands, NC, no exceptions. There is a possibility that this position could become permanent. Please provide cover letter, resume and samples. References will be required.

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...LANDMARK continued from page 13

his transactional experience as an investment banker with the McLean Group, LLC and three smaller firms. Leckie is a detail-oriented leader with exceptional analytical abilities, sound business judgment and multiple industry experience. He trained for his NC real estate brokers license at Cumbie and Trull school of real estate in Asheville, NC. He completed his post-licensing course work in October 201, and is now a full broker.

TK Heatley

TK and his wife Susan moved to the Cashiers plateau in 2019 from Miami, Fl. where they have lived since the 1960s. TK has been a full-time residential Realtor for the last 11 years at a leading south Florida brokerage. In addition to his North Carolina real estate license TK has his South Carolina real estate license at Blackstream Christie’s in Greenville, SC where his son is a Realtor. TK is excited to be joining Landmark’s Burlingame office.

About Landmark

We are coaches, mentors, hikers, fundraisers, relief workers and stewards of the lakes and land. We sit on professional association boards, school boards, and are animal rescue volunteers. We are husbands, wives, parents, neighbors and friends. Above all, we are nice people. We are the brokers and staff of Landmark Realty Group.

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