

# Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 4, Number 50

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006

- On-going**
- Santa Claus in Town Square every Saturday through Christmas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mon. & Wed. Bring your mat. \$7 per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.
  - FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687.
  - Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
  - Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.
  - Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Fri. and Sat. from 4:30-6:30.
- Dec. 15 - Friday**
- First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra *Jesus, Our Treasure* at 7 p.m. It's free.
  - At Cyprus Restaurant, singer/songwriter Zorki playing acoustic guitar with Todd Mueller on percussion Singing original songs and classic covers by Peter Gabriel, Paul Simon, Traffic. 9:30-12:30 p.m.
  - At Highlands United Methodist Church a live Nativity WITH CAMELS and Christmas Open House from 5-7 p.m.
- Dec. 16 - Saturday**
- At Cyrano's Book Shop, a signing from 1-3 p.m. Carl Smith's "Louisiana Burn."
  - The Prince House, the Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse will be open 1-4 p.m. Tickets are \$10.
- Dec. 17 - Sunday**
- "Christmas Oratorio" presented by six of the Episcopal Church's soloists and conducted by Fletcher Wolfe, Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. The concert is free.
  - "Lessons in Carols" at the 11 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church with the Chancel Choir. The choir is directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins on the organ.
  - First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, "Jesus, Our Treasure" at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - Monday**
- MC Commission public hearing and meeting on moratorium on high-rises at noon at the courthouse.
- Dec. 19 - Tuesday**
- Barbara Ehrenreich's book, *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of The American Dream*. Coordinator: Fia Scheyer, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.
- Dec. 20, Wednesday**
- At Highlands United Methodist Church-wide caroling will be on at 5:30 p.m. Youth and Seekers (4th and 5th graders) will meet at 5 p.m. for supper and will have their Christmas parties after caroling.
- Dec. 21, Thursday**
- Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Gallery On 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. \$10 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. Please RSVP at 526-5841.

## Board didn't rule on RiverWalk request

RiverWalk development was on the agenda for the Dec. 11 Planning Board, but the board tabled the request for its opinion on the presentation.

"I move that we table our decision on this request until RiverWalk pays the fines assessed

by the town and is in compliance with all environmental issues," said Planning Board member Mitch Gurganus. "Our time is valuable and until RiverWalk is in compliance with regulations and the law we shouldn't waste our time."

Though other board members agreed, RiverWalk Project Manager Henry Lyngos said he objected to the accusation that the erosion problems weren't being addressed and wanted it in the record that the board refused

• See RIVERWALK page 10

## Auditor says county finances in good shape

As far as fiscal matters are concerned, Macon County has a clean bill of health.

At the Dec. 4 Macon County Commission meeting, the county auditor from Martin Starnes of Hickory, N.C., said the county has a "clean report."

"There were no findings or costs questioned, nor any material internal control weakness identified," he said. "The staff was also very cooperative."

Macon County's fund balance - the difference between assets and liabilities which can be segregated into reserved and unreserved amounts.

In 2005 the total fund balance was \$15,750,929; in 2006 it grew to \$16,174,644.

The Reserved Fund Balance is the portion of the fund balance not appropriated for expenditure or that are legally segregated for a specific future use. "Money in the Reserved Fund basically has strings attached to it," said the auditor.

In 2005 the Reserved Fund was \$2,681,181; in 2006 it fell to \$2,473,215.

• See AUDITOR page 13

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
57-35°F	55-34°F	54-33°F

## Santa's in town hearing wishes



On Saturday, Dec. 9, children enjoyed breakfast with Santa at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Santa heard each child's wish list and took note. Above is Jack Hardin, 5. Santa is also at Town Square every Saturday through Christmas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photo by Elizabeth Gordon

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## Board hears about two new projects

At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Appearance Commission heard plans for two projects previously turned down by the Town Board - a climate-controlled storage facility and a residential complex.

When Bucky Meredith's original "state-of-the-art, indoor-access only, climate-controlled, self-storage facility" behind Wright Square was turned down by the Town Board some months ago, he set his sights on property in the ETJ area across from Flat Mountain Road south of Goodyear Tire and Auto.

Highlands Storage Village will be a four-building facility on 3.8 acres zoned B5. One building will be a 600 sq. ft. Highlands cabin-type office and the other three will be 15,000 sq. ft. metal storage buildings.

The project will be phased in - with phase one including the of-

• See PROJECTS page 11

## DWQ policy to affect town sewer policy

A policy change by the Department of Water Quality (DWQ) means pending changes to the town's sewer policy.

At the Dec. 6 Town Board meeting, Town Engineer, Lamar Nix, informed the board of the policy change which mandates that pressure lines and pump stations at residents' homes be owned and maintained by a legal entity.

"This just applies to pressure mains, not gravity lines," said Nix.

"But what this means is the town or a homeowners' association must be designated the legal owner of the system and the recipient of the required permit through the Department of Water Quality."

In the past, the town owned, maintained and operated the pressure lines but the homeowner was responsible for the individual grinder pump and pump station.

Grinder pumps and pump stations are necessary when sewage has to be pumped up to meet

the town lines versus a gravity system where sewage naturally flows down to the sewer lines.

Owners of two recent developments - Sequoyah Point and Sequoyah Woods - had to form a homeowners' association before DWQ granted the permit to construct their sewer systems.

"Ultimately the town's sewer policy will have to be amended to reflect the ownership of grinder stations at each home and thus be

• See SEWER page 10

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### Follow the money



Kim Lewicki  
Publisher

“The Forum,” the newsletter of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, recently released its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual School Finance Study which compiled figures comparing how each of the state’s 100 counties funds its public schools.

Though Macon County ranks fourth in the state in adjusted property values and its ability to pay per student, it ranks 96 out of 100 in relative effort to pay; 43<sup>rd</sup> in supplemental funding, and 21<sup>st</sup> in actual effort.

In John Dorman’s editorial, entitled “North Carolina’s Rich and Poor Gap Widens,” characteristics of under-funded schools include fewer course offerings, fewer advanced placement classes, fewer foreign language electives and less technology. Advanced Placement classes are a very recent addition to Highlands School and a few more course offerings have been offered this year, particularly in the physical education arena, but basically Dorman’s description of an under-funded school describes Highlands School.

Parents are consistently told Highlands School is too small to support more course offerings, more advanced placement courses, and more language electives. Evidently, extra classes can’t be justified due to the student/teacher ratio. But given the enormous boost Highlands’ real estate gives the county coffers each year and the boost it’s bound to give following the upcoming revaluation, maybe the student/teacher ratio at Highlands School should be overlooked.

The state has strict guidelines as to ratio when the teacher is paid from state coffers, but the county could offer funding to augment course offerings at Highlands School, in particular. If it did, Highlands School wouldn’t fall into the category of an under-funded school when based on tax revenues from property values, it is a major contributor to the

•See FORUM page 3

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



### LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • LETTERS •

### Anti-regulatory extremist nominated to regulatory agency

Dear Editor,

President Bush has named Susan Dudley to head the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Ms Dudley has been working for a think-tank -Mercatus Center that is heavily funded by regulated industries and right wing foundations that oppose any new regulations protecting our health and safety.

She argues that smog is good for you and that poor asthmatic children should just be kept indoors during peak ozone periods and that there is no need to protect workers in mines and other hazardous work sites. She advocates regulatory sunsets on even such proven protections as a ban on lead in gasoline. She could become the Czar of all things regulatory including clean air, safe drinking water, privacy and worker protections.

There are 100 organizations opposing the nomination and Senator Susan Collins refuses to bring her nomination to a vote. However it is possible for the president to appoint her during the December recess.

Please contact the president and ask him NOT to do this and let your senators know that you do not want this extremist in such an important position!

For more information contact Public Citizen at [www.citizen.org/dudley](http://www.citizen.org/dudley)

Edna Foster, Highlands

•See LETTERS page 7

## • THANKS •

We would like to thank all of those who donated money, and raffle prizes to Highlands Enviro-Green Group to help raise money for the Adopt an Acre Program part of Nature Conservancy).

We raised over \$1,800, in less than three months, but we couldn’t have done it without the community wide support. We would like recognize the following supporters: for raffle prize donations: Bucks Coffee Café, Kilwins, Cyranos, Cospers Flowers, Shiraz Oriental Rugs, Annawear, Extreme Threads, Taylor Pottery, Mr. Simeon Hickman, Quick Mart Texaco Gas Station and Wit’s End.

Thanks also to: PTO, Mountain Top Rotary, Highlands Rotary Club, Debbie Grossman and Highlands School.

Rachel Power, Sara Vanderbilt, Krystal Cutshaw and Chase Jenkins  
Highlands Enviro-Green Group

• MILESTONES •

## Gordon earns Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

The New Century Scholars program is participating in the President's Student Service Awards through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Middle school students who perform at least 100 hours of service within a 12-month period are eligible to receive the Gold Award from the President of the United States, the Silver Award with 75-99 hours, and the Bronze Award with 50-74 hours of volunteer service. High school students criteria for Gold are 250+ hours, Silver 175-249 hours, and Bronze 100-174 hours.

Congratulations to ten New Century Scholars who achieved the President's Volunteer Service Award for the 2004-2005 school year!

Gold: Beau Bishop, Michelle Day, Brandon Higdon, Nicole Jennings, Victoria Myers, Nicole Williams, Caitlin Wolf

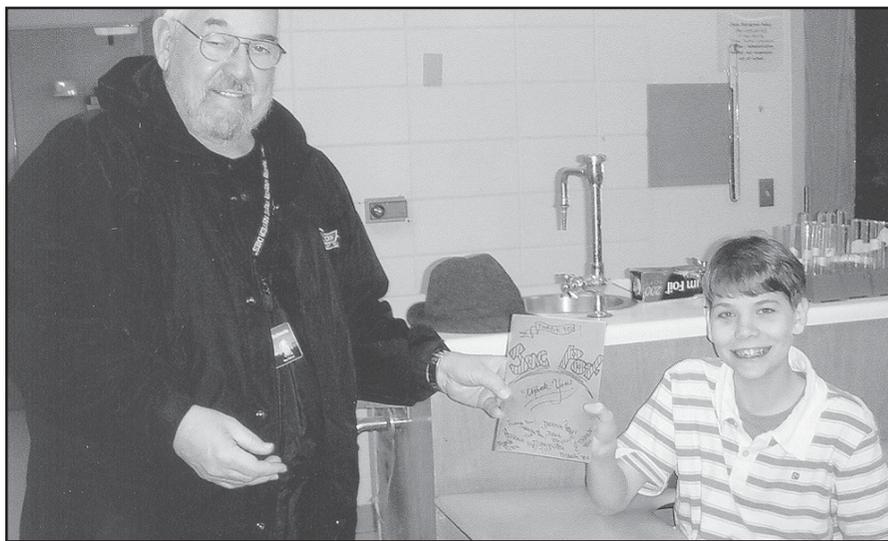
Silver: William Davis, Carol Norris

Bronze: Amber Blackburn, Tyler Cook, Rebecca Dills, Elizabeth Gordon, Chelsie Jenkins, Jennifer Richter, Samantha Roberts.



Eighth-grader, New Century Scholar Elizabeth Gordon.

## 'Jackpot' learns of appreciation



Dr. Jack Philpot accepts an "Appreciation Christmas Card" from Chase Jenkins on behalf of the physics class. Jack has been duty driver on the school bus day trips for several years, taking science students safely to Duke's World of Atomic Energy in Salem, S.C., and Jackson Papermill in Sylva, N.C. Philpot says he is pleased to be with the students and believes from the looks of things, "we don't have to worry about the success of our future generation."

Photo by Pete Sargeant

## ... FORUM continued from page 2

county's ranking of fourth richest in the state.

"The numbers tell the story," said Dorman. "There are \$1.4 million of assessed real estate value behind every public school student in our top 10 counties. Local real estate taxes are the primary source of revenue used by

counties to fund local schools," he said.

In the ranking of "Adjusted Property Valuations per Student," Macon County ranks fourth on 100-county list. That ranking is based on 2004-2005 figures and the last revaluation of 2003 based on \$0.36 rate. The adjusted tax base is \$5,572,174,261 with an adjusted

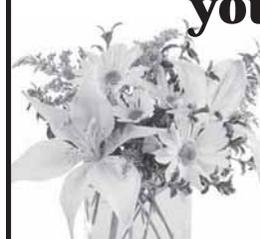
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7,400 sq. ft. on 1.4 acres. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces. In Highlands Point.



## Reduced to \$479,000

Tucked away in charming Highland Hills, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath is ready for occupancy after an extensive remodel. New front and back porches, wood floors, stone fireplace and garage. Offered at \$479,000 from \$499,000. Must see to appreciate!

## On Apple Lake!

5 lots - 2.16 acres. Plus, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at \$1.2 million.



## Three lots:

- Lovely Lot in Webbmont. Close to Town. \$139,900.
- 4+ acres at Norton Ridge. 5 bed septic, well in. Ready to go! \$425,000.
- Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. \$179,000.

property tax base per student of \$1,352,469. There are 4,120 students in the county.

"Actual Effort" reflects the actual dollar effort of communities to fund schools, without taking into account property wealth.

Here Macon County ranks 21 out of 100 up from last year's ranking of 26.

There are no supplemental school taxes, the six-year capital outlay average is \$4,862,113; the six-year capital debt service average is \$2,563,162; total current spending is \$5,788,280 with capital outlay per student at \$1,180; the debt service per student is \$622, and current spending per student \$1,405.

•See FORUM page 10

## Why Not Knit has Sunday knit-ins

An ongoing Sunday evening knit-in to benefit the International Friendship Center of Highlands. Join us to make hats and scarves for children and adults in need of warm clothing. Knit-ins will be held from 5-7 p.m.

We will offer a selection of sale-priced yarn for your convenience or you may bring your own. Patterns will be provided.

Give us a call and let us know you're coming by. We'll put the coffee on! Call 828-787-1972.

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### Welcome to our little nuthouse

Dateline: Palm Beach, Fl.

It was a grand idea. Even the li'l missus approved and she is the only sane person left out of the whole bunch of us. Because of scheduling, no one could get here for Christmas but there was a small window during the first week of December where everyone could come. TA DA, we will do fellowship, presents, gossiping and gorging that week and leave Christmas strictly for the birth of Jesus Christ. You see, I told you it was a grand plan.

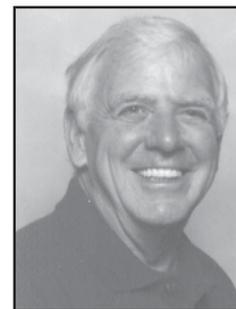
Our children and their rug rats were coming from as far away as Dubai (don't ask), D.C., Auburn, Wellington and other weird places around the globe. It was too good to pass up. I was getting excited, especially when I learned my daughter-in-law would joyfully cook for 17 1/2 people. She's a very sick pup who was born with a spoon in her hand, not in her mouth.

The first to arrive was the Dubai bunch bearing gifts of toy camels that belched weird sounds, frankincense, myrrh and bullet proof burquas. Two days later the D.C. crew arrived and my daughter announced one kid had a cold....or maybe it was a virus....or maybe it was whooping cough....or maybe pneumonia. Would you believe bubonic plague?

The next day another kid crashed and then another. There wasn't a brat in the house under the age of six with a body temperature less than 102 degrees. They were all whining in unison. So my son-in-law and I locked ourselves in the garage to discuss Iraq and drink beer. Life got better, at least for awhile. Then he got called back to the Pentagon and left me to drink and grieve alone. I hate sitting in the garage alone.

The next morning, stepping over toys and opened luggage with clothes hanging out, I made my way through the maze of bed gear and sleeping humans looking for the sports section of the morning paper. Finally, I spotted it, partially hidden under the blowup mattress stretched out across the living room floor. I lifted a corner, tumbling sleeping kids to the center. How many humans are in that bed, for crying out loud?

Relief poured over me as I scanned the sports section looking for the Dolphins' game. I would be relieved of duties for a solid three hours. To top it off, I own the best headset money can buy. It would drown out snuffle plagued



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged! email:

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

kids, constant coughing, "honey, I need help" sounds and other intrusions that might ruin my game.

So Sunday afternoon at 4:03 p.m. I slid the headset over my ears and eliminated the entire world from my being. There was just me, the commercials and the game. Life was good.

Shortly after half-time I noticed a commotion in the kitchen but didn't bother as there was always a commotion somewhere in the house. But moments later what did distract me

from my game was the little missus escorting two fully garbed firefighters, carrying hazardous material kits, pass my couch and into the kitchen.

It took everything in my being to keep watching the game. Finally I succumbed, pulling the head gear from my ears. "Don't anyone move and don't touch anything. The fumes can kill you," someone said. "Everything that it touched is contaminated and must be thrown out" blurted another. "Check the bottoms of your shoes," said another. Of course, none of this was coming from the firefighters but from my family.

Since the Dolphins were getting trounced anyway, I decided this was much more entertaining. Gesturing to the little missus, I gave her my best bewildered look. "Your granddaughter bit the thermometer in half and mercury is everywhere." "Sooooo, I used to play with mercury when I was a kid," I shot back. "And why is there an 80-foot haz-mat fire truck and half the neighborhood in our front yard?" I was ignored.

Then it hit me. This had to be the work of my kid, a haz/mat firefighter himself. I watched with interest as the men went to work decontaminating the area. (I am not making this up.) The little missus cringed as they poured a black substance all over her kitchen. They threw out our tablecloth and everything on it, putting it all in zip lock bags.

Once outside I asked a firefighter "Was it as dangerous as everyone said?" He smiled, "Nah, but we needed the practice. I suggest you not play with mercury anymore. Once it settles in your liver, it's there forever. So you probably have mercury there left over from your childhood. I shot back, "Once I croak, my liver will be on display at the Smithsonian Institute. Mercury will give it a nice touch."

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• **RADICAL MIDDLE** •

**The war on women, part 2**

Clarifying note:

In my column on justifications for war, I implied that our war against the Nazis didn't qualify as a just war.

Several people wrote to object to such an idiotic statement. My point was that the war with Germany didn't qualify by the usual criteria for a just war. The United States declared war on Germany after being attacked by Japan, not by Germany. Certainly I think it was a just war in many alternate and important ways.

A couple of columns back, I described the shocking number of abuses committed against women in the Muslim world, and asked the troubling question: Is it possible to maintain a non-judgmental and tolerant attitude to people who commit these brutalities? My explicit answer was "No." I think the only way to deal with nation-states that condone such behavior is to "speak softly and carry a big stick," to quote Teddy Roosevelt.

By this I mean we can be quietly critical without destroying our diplomatic contact, as we should have done with Iran and North Korea and Cuba. Nothing was gained by rupturing relations with these regimes, and much might have been gained by not doing so. No one can be sure of this, but there is a chance, however small, to intervene in some of these acts of brutality.

When horrific acts committed by individuals are at stake, like "honor killings" or stoning of women, we can publicize, frequently criticize and oppose these primitive practices until the collective judgment of other nations is also brought to bear and cannot be ignored. These criticisms are best expressed, I think, by private organizations and NGOs, and not by governments, which tend to elicit a reaction from other nations which tend to be somewhat touchy about "interference" in their internal matters.

When the brutality is government-sponsored, like the genocides committed by the Turks against Armenians (1915), the Nazis against Jews and others, and currently, by the Sudanese Muslim-led government against Christians and Black citizens of all religions, it is incumbent upon all civilized nations to exert every option against the perpetrator, including,



**Dr. Alex Redmountain**  
Feedback is encouraged!

email:  
redmountain8@msn.com

if necessary, violent intervention. All this, of course, would be made much easier if we had an international organization that was less liable to de facto or de jure vetoes by individual nation-states.

I don't want to leave the impression that the war on women is strictly a Muslim problem. In many African non-Muslim countries, honor killings, genital mutilation, and other primitive practices contribute to the deaths of thousands. In sub-Saharan Africa, the AIDs epidemic, spread by prostitutes to men and then to their

wives or other women, has killed millions.

In Southeast Asia, a similar epidemic is spreading, exaggerated by under-age prostitution and sexual slavery. These girls, some as young as 12, are sold by their destitute parents to pimps and madams, and often are infected by AIDs early on.

Throughout the Americas, including, believe it or not, the United States, the sexual exploitation of girls is not uncommon. Runaways are often lured into prostitution and then beaten, abused, and sometimes disposed of when they are no longer desirable or stop making money for their pimps.

The war on women is facilitated by their relative physical frailty and dependence, but the real culprit is a series of cultural practices invented and practiced by men, which rationalize the brutality against women. Some are religious and some are based on secular mores, but most customs degrade women and elevate men.

Feminists of the sixties and seventies were called shrill, divisive, and man-haters, but the reality is that every group fighting against injustice has had to tolerate character assassination. Martin Luther King was a "communist," war protesters are "dupes" and "traitors," gays seeking equal rights are "perverts."

Minorities have always had to struggle themselves to gain their objectives. Even though an entire generation of young women seems to have retreated from the trenches, it's only a matter of time before their revolution, like others that preceded it, gets its second (or third or fourth) wind.

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wine bar and small plates

## Christmas Showhouse drawing crowds



More than 100 visitors and residents have enjoyed a walk into the past at the Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Show House. Due to popular demand, the Highlands Historical Society Board has decided to extend the Open House dates. The Prince House will be open Saturday, Dec. 16 & Dec. 23, Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Saturday Dec. 30 from 1 to 4 pm. The photo is of visitors in the kitchen. Tickets are \$10. For information call 787-1050.



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## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### Does 'color' cloud our judgement?

**T**ry to think of Iraqis as human beings. Imagine Iranians and Koreans as our equals before God. Keep in mind that our Declaration of Independence which declared that all men created equal was written by a slave owner.

We fret about nearly 3,000 killed in the September 11th attacks, as we should, even as our military losses in Iraq approach that number. We are able to largely ignore the thousands of Iraqis who have died as a result of the invasion, directly from our bombs and indirectly as a result of the violence our invasion unleashed. Why don't Iraqis count? Because their skin is darker than ours, because of their Muslim faith, because they speak Arabic, because they are dying in an effort to build a better Iraq, or because they are not Americans? Probably all of the above. Iraqi civilians are dying at a rate of about 100 each day, a number that would leave Highlands a ghost town in two weeks. It would take about a year to eliminate the population of Macon County.

There was a time in our history when a black man counted as 3/5ths of a white. A former partner of mine, a German named Bernie, weary of mention of the Holocaust, said, "Jews, Jews. All I ever hear is Jews." But he pronounced it "Chews" as in "Chews, Chews, All I ever hear is Chews." Bernie went on to rewrite history while consuming an entire bowl of sweet black cherries

"Six million Chews," he scoffed. "It could not have been more than four million," he whined. The revised number seemed acceptable to Bernie, and one which he felt was below the threshold that merited further discussion or condemnation. Our shocked silence along with the cheerier seemed to settle him.

Our military forces did not coin the phrase, "Kill 'em all. Let God sort 'em out." but they have embraced the concept and made it their own, whether in unpublicized forays into Central America or the atrocities committed by the notorious Tiger Force of Viet Nam. Today embedded reporters and stricter rules of engagement have reduced atrocities without altering the fact that we don't mind killing brown guys. We have referred to our enemies as Japs, slants, gooks, dinks, rag heads, and a term which



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is  
encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

encompasses all of the above, "LBG." LBG stands for "little brown guy" and killing all the LBGs and letting God sort 'em out has been accepted, at least by the guys on the ground.

The problem is that many Americans, to a greater or lesser degree regard foreigners, especially those shades darker than ourselves, as inferior. That was true even when we were the foreigners, Europeans, a few generations removed from the homeland, killed native Americans in our relentless drive westward.

We killed for land. We killed for gold. We killed with advanced technology as we kill now with superior technology. We killed the "savage," the LBG of 19th century America.

It is so easy to kill some inferior being, easier to kill a fly than a bird, easier to kill a frog than a deer, easier to kill an animal than a human, easier to accept collateral damage with the victim is yellow, brown or black, when he worships differently or speaks a strange tongue. We are fond of saying that the Arabs have no respect for human life and the carnage of the streets of Baghdad seems to lend weight to that argument. Our actions suggest that we are not so different. I'm still trying to figure out the difference between an IED and a cluster bomb, other than that the unexploded cute little bomblets become toys for the village children.

I have said before, and I say again, there are many heroic Americans in our military, along with some bad apples. I am talking not only about our armed forces but about a national attitude which is reflected in our military, who are the folks who execute our foreign policy. You may disagree. You may think me un American, but try to remember the last time we killed a white guy. Ask why you don't grieve for Afghans and Iraqis as you mourned Brits following 2005 train bombings in London or Aussies after the 2002 terrorist attacks in Bali. The answer, I suspect is not just that the Australians and British are our allies but that they are so much like us.

Ours is a fine mind set to take to war, although it makes choosing armed conflict a little too easy, but it is not an attitude that lends itself to nation building. Building a nation requires teamwork, partnership, respect and equality.

## • THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

### It's never too soon to consider the future

If you thought the recently concluded off-term election set new lows in smarmy activity better strap yourselves in, because the mother of all nasty campaigns has received the green flag.

Already, two or three Dem's have announced their intentions, and several more have formed an "exploratory committee" (code for "will enough people give us money to make it worthwhile.")

I'd say it's about time we got back into campaign mode since it's only about 700 days until THE ELECTION. Our friends at Quinnipiac University, the name that cannot be pronounced, took a poll after the last election (boohoo) and came out with results which you probably didn't see but were very interesting.

The poll asked a large sample how they felt about 20 prominent politicians with 100 being kissy-kissy and zero being "I hate your lousy guts."

The bad news is no one got over 65 — the good news is no one got lower than 39.

The extreme winner and loser were no surprise, Rudy being the winner by a large margin, Kerry was the loser (how appropriate a term) just beating out Harry Reid. While I've not heard of Rudy's presidential intentions, there is a lot of pressure on him to do so. On the other hand, I don't think Ms. Heinz Kerry, or whatever she calls herself these days has told Johnny if he's running or not.

Now, the number two person, Barack Obama (or Osama Obama as Teddy Kennedy chooses to call him) presents a more interesting study. While 41 per cent of those queried admitted to not knowing enough about him to rate him, 60 per cent of those who did seemed favorably disposed. It occurred to me I knew nothing but the obvious about him.

I looked him up in Wikipedia and learned he smoked marijuana (he admitted to inhaling) and tried cocaine as a teenager (he said he was confused). Well, if confusion is an excuse, I should be an addict. His drug use and almost two years in the Senate would seem to qualify him as presidential timber. As to his presidential intentions, he said he committed to announcing on the Food Network. At least he's got a sense of



Don Swanson  
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dswanson@dnet.net

humor.

McCain and Rice followed at 3rd & 4th, John Edwards nudged out Hillary for 8<sup>th</sup>, and Al Gore edged W for 14<sup>th</sup>. How the mighty have fallen.

Now, granted, this is way too far in advance and really not to the point, but if popularity means anything in a presidential race, there may be indicators here. Gov. Vilsack of Iowa wasn't even on the list,

but he has announced, and before you put him on your discard pile, I remind you of two insignificant, unknown small-state Gov's who ended up haunting the White House, Carter and Clinton. Never say never.

Based on recent performance, I'm not certain it makes a whole lot of difference who is elected to what anymore. I thought the recent election results would have caused the sun to stop shining and the earth to stop turning.

While we haven't yet felt the total impact of the travesty which occurred, preliminary indications are that concern over the 2008 election will restrain the Dem leadership from doing anything too damaging.

Frankly, while the alternative is frightening, I'm not all that sorry to see the current Republican leadership (or lack thereof) put out to pasture. I don't remember a more wishy-washy group of muddle-headed politicians who, when they did something right (the economy, for example), they had no PR expertise to capitalize on their success.

Hopefully, they will spend the next two years finding a next generation Newt or Dick Armey, someone with fresh ideas and the ability to successfully promote them, get elected and change the nature of the get-elected-at-any-cost bunch of tin-horn phonies currently populating the halls of Congress. If not, the Dems may be in for another 40 year run. I'm glad I'm old.

#### Note:

Last week, in Swanson's column, he spoke of the "safety of 300 million." During publication, a dollar sign was mistakenly put in front of the 300, changing souls to dollars.

## Local bear honored for participation in Christmas parade

Highlands resident Blackberry Bear has been honored with a Judges Choice Award by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce for his participation in the 2006 Highlands Christmas Parade. The bear shot video of the crowds from the back of the Star-Pony Electronics Radio Shack pickup truck.

Blackberry Bear is the host of Time Capsule Video's "Visitor Information Program" which airs on Northland Cable Television's Channel 14.

Blackberry was quick to express his gratitude. "Gosh folks, I'm so honored I don't know what to say. This is the first time I've ever won anything! I'd like to say thanks to the Highlands Chamber of Commerce for the award, to Chuck and Thea for giving me a lift, to Katie Brugger for letting me be on her

TV show, to Mama and Papa Bear for raising me so good, and to all my many fans who watch the show on Channel 14."

"This really means a lot to me because as you can see I'm a western brown bear and even though I moved here 18 years ago, a lot of the native black bears don't consider me a "local." Receiving this award makes me feel like I'm really starting to be accepted. I love it in Highlands. It's beautiful and the blackberries are the best I've ever tasted!"



Blackberry Bear

Asked about future plans, Blackberry replied, "We bears don't usually plan that far ahead. Right now I'm just looking forward to a long hibernation and a big blackberry season next year. Merry Christmas, folks!"

## ... LETTERS continued from page 2 An inauspicious beginning

Dear Editor,

Charlie Leatherman was elected Chairman at the first meeting of the new county commission on December 7, 2006. Mr. Leatherman then spoke of changes he saw coming in the next few years. As reported in the press, he said "change is upon us but we need to keep our traditional values." He further stated that people who were born in the county feel differently about the county as a "place" than those who have moved here. "For those of us who were born here, our appreciation for Macon County may be likened to the appreciation one has for a home versus a house. The same activity takes place in both of those, but they have a different meaning due to the passion attached to them," he said. "It's about the appreciation versus the value. We have to be sensitive to that."

A number of "newcomers," myself included, were offended by these remarks. It sounds to me like Mr. Leatherman thinks "newcomers" have different values than "locals." Apparently we do not appreciate the place we are living. We do not possess the "passion" for the "houses" we live in. By these remarks Mr. Leatherman showed his disdain for newcomers." And in case you are wondering, in the eyes of locals you are considered a newcomer if you were not born here.

Thousands of people have moved here over the last few years. They have come from all walks of life. Mainly these are retired people, many of whom have donated their time and expertise volunteering at the hospitals, the sheriff's department, churches, thrift shops, schools (to teach kids how to read) and many other charitable activities. And they have opened their checkbooks to those less fortunate. These are people who felt the need to give something back to a nation that provided them with so much.

Also, younger people have moved here. They have started businesses, provided jobs for others, and have become respected members of the community. And all the new people have built or purchased "houses." In so doing they have created a basic and dependable industry for people who would otherwise not be able to find work in Macon County, since Chicago Rawhide, Rabun Apparel, Belden Manufacturing and others have closed their doors. Come to think of it Mr. Leatherman, all the newcomers may be a plus instead of a minus.

Would people come to this beautiful spot, stay here and work for its improvement if they did not love the place? Wouldn't it be better to stow the anti newcomer rhetoric, especially to those who might consider bringing new businesses to the area — something we need? Rather than driving a wedge between locals and newcomers, might we not hang out the welcome sign on 441 North and South? It is in the best interest of all to make this happen.

— Bob Lavery, Franklin

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## • FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

### Last week's wrap-up

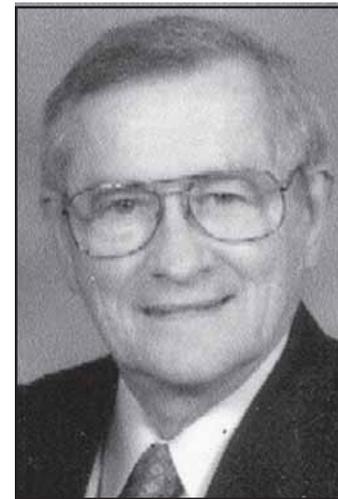
**F**irst of all, let me congratulate the Chamber of Commerce not only in their very democratic process in choosing a new president but also in the individual they have chosen.

Bob Kielyka, who owns The Christmas Tree shop on the hill, has been an outstanding member of this community full time for the past several years and has been visiting Highlands for many years before that. Ever since moving to Highlands, Bob has been deeply involved in doing all he can to improve life in Highlands. He has always been positive in his attitude even in difficult times and a joy to work with. We are very fortunate to have a man of his caliber amongst us and managing the Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations go to Bob Kielyka.

The annual Christmas music program performed by the ecumenical Highlands Community Christmas Chorale once again have outdone themselves in giving the people of Highlands an outstanding performance, this time sponsored by the Lady of our Mountain Catholic Church and performed at the Community Bible Church. The Chorale, directed this year so wonderfully by Mary Beth Brodie, is always one of the highlights of the Christmas season in Highlands. This group, some sixty strong, put on a memorable concert honoring the birth of Jesus this year.

Last week the Town Board of Commissioners levied one of the largest fines ever given by the town on the River Walk developers. . . \$400,000. The Board had been talking to them for many months in trying to insist they get their act together and solve the chaotic problem of breakdown of stormwater controls. They had made promises which we had believed but were broken over this period of time and we had no choice but to deny any settlement agreement at this time and levy the fine we did.

We heard and saw pictures of evidence which proved substantial harm had been done to the environment along with evidence that a large sum of money would be necessary to remedy and rectify the harm done. The board room was packed with people and many of these local citizens spoke out. We will also be going through the process of seeking a stabilization Bond in case the town needs to get involved in eventually taking responsibility for the cleanup of this mess. We would very much like to see this project completed successfully by the developers so this will not be necessary but we must protect the interest of the Town in seeking



Mayor Don Mullen

this Bond. However, compliance by the developers henceforth is absolutely essential or fines will continue.

I have completed the appointments of the Affordable Housing Task Force which Mary Ann Sloan will chair. Mary Ann has had the most experience of anyone in the area by directing the Macon County Program for Progress for many years. The Task Force's charge will be to investigate the possibilities, examine possible sites, look into how others have done it, and report back to the

Planning Board and the Town Board their findings. Their work will begin in January and hopefully completed in three to six months. Joining Ms. Sloan on the committee will be Ginger Slaughter, Bill Nellis, Dick Lawrence, Christy Kelly, Jill Montana, Pat Boyd and Lee Hodges.

I continue to get questions about the status of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital as if I had some kind of control over what occurs there. I am simply one board member. As has been reported in the press releases from the hospital, many positive strides have been made in the hospital regarding management, governance, and the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment.

Qualified physicians and surgeons are being continuously interviewed and are showing interest in our area. The current board is an outstanding hardworking leadership board with much experience in hospital affairs, both from business and medical points of view, and the Foundation board and Board of Directors of the hospital are now on the same wave length and working extremely well together to solve our problems. The new Executive Director of the Foundation, hired several months ago, is already making a strong positive impact on the community.

After a very difficult year, we are beginning to make good progress. Many experts have said the most complicated business in the world is the hospital business. Something even smart, capable business persons outside the medical environment sometimes simply do not understand.

Dr. Patti Wheeler is now back on the active staff of the hospital, Dr. Toby Lindsay will be full time in Cashiers in January, and both will be admitting patients to the hospital. It will take only one or two more doctors for us to finally be once again in the black. I encourage everyone to support this fine little hospital, for without both the people's and the doctor's support the hospital will continue to struggle.

## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### Presents on the Tree?

By Darlene Melcher

**G**rowing up, I have always preferred the classic and romantic sounding Christmas carols. One of my favorites has been "I'll Be Home for Christmas" released by RCA records. As much as I have always loved this song, I haven't always understood the lyrics:

I'll be home for Christmas,  
You can plan on me.  
Please have snow and mistletoe  
and presents on the tree!

The line that always gets me is "and presents on the tree!" I don't know about you, but we always put our presents under our tree. Who puts presents on the tree anyway? Well, I watched a wonderful movie last weekend that put this all together with the true focus of this wonderful time of the year.

In between making fudge for a party and doing some shopping, my husband and I stopped to catch a matinee. We were curious to see how the producers and actors would portray the biblical story of "The Nativity". I immediately sympathized with the people of Israel as they toiled and struggled to live under the heavy oppression of a Roman king, Herod. Many of us can feel the same way they felt; like we are just working to make ends meet only to feel frustrated by some sort of injustice. Always on their minds and on their lips was the hope of their awaited Messiah, the one to save them.

The climax of the movie (I'm not revealing anything new if you have read the book) was no doubt the moment that a young Joseph held in his hands the beautiful, small (and a little slimy) baby called Jesus. Jesus, whose name literally means God the Rescuer, was also called, by the angel who proclaimed His birth, Immanuel: God with us.

Have you ever hoped and longed for something, not knowing when you would receive the anticipated prize only to be overjoyed when you finally received it? That kind of joy and elation spilled from Joseph's face and into my heart as I watched not only the miracle of new life, but the answer to his long awaited desire.

Oh the love of God that He would put aside His glory to come help us. Most of us won't even leave the comfort of our own couch to get a drink of water for our own spouse (I'm guilty here), yet we see a God who longs for us so much that He sends a part of Himself into a stinky, dirty manger to bring light into our world, joy into our hearts and hope for our souls.

How strange I felt as I watched that precious, soft baby knowing that His hands would be brutally pierced through and hung on a cross on my behalf and your behalf. He died the death we deserved to die so that we can live the life He deserves to live.

And then the answer of my previous question hit me. Who puts presents on a tree? The King of the Universe, the heavenly Father, whose love for us caused Him to sacrifice His Son whom He dearly loved, that's who!

In using my imagination, I think if God were to rewrite the above mentioned song it might sound something like this:

I'll come down for Christmas  
You can plan on Me.  
Wrapped in flesh, whose blood gives life  
Is My Present on the tree.

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY 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.  
Upcoming Events:  
Oct. 22: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "New Image" from Alto, Ga.  
Oct. 29: 10 a.m., 5th Sunday Singing & Dinner featuring "Promised Land."  
Nov. 26: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "The Marks Men."

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia  
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

### CHRIST CHURCH

(Anglican)

The Rev. Thomas "Tommy" Allen • 526-2320  
Sunday: Holy Communion: 2 p.m.  
(Community Bible Church)  
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon  
Wednesday:

Mens Bible Study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church  
All are Welcome!

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);

5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sunday: 8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist-Rite 1; 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Childrens Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Monday: 4 p.m. - Womens cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Womens Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m – Choir

Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;  
School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.;  
Choir – 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;  
Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers  
Wednesdays: Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7  
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: noon – Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 –  
Childrens choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult  
Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies;  
7:15 – Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 – Womens Bible Study (nursery)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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 Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769

Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

## Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree

Bells in honor of living friends and loved ones, stars in memory of deceased friends or loved ones, will be placed on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree in the hospital lobby. Bells or stars are \$10. Complete the form below and mail to: Attn: Tree of Lights, P.O. Box 742, Highlands, NC, 28741. Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary.

Proceeds go toward scholarships for qualifying candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital's team for a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: In Honor of    -    In Memory of  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send Acknowledgments to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## .. SEWER continued from page 1

responsible for all maintenance and replacements. The cost of this will likely be passed on to the homeowner," he said.

The town's sewer collection system consists of two pump stations, 7.09 miles of gravity lines and 7.09 miles of pressure/force main for a total of 14.19 miles of line.

Pipe material varies from ductile iron pipe, PVC, and V-Clay pipe. The oldest pipe in the system is the V-Clay, most of which has been replaced, said Nix.

There are 246 pre-cast concrete and brick manholes in the system and three old stack-rock manholes which DWQ has asked be left in service "for historical purposes," said Nix. "They are in great condition."

There are 855 sewer customers on the system - 506 residential and 349 commercial. Expansions to the system are currently underway by three developers of subdivisions - Gates of Highlands, RiverWalk and Satulah Park.

The Poplar Street Sewer Expansion project was the most recent municipal project completed by the town. Budgeted for 2007 is the Harris Lake project.

Only residents or businesses within the town limits or areas annexed by the town can hook onto town sewer.

Sewer Connection Fees are \$2,500 per single family dwelling, \$2,500 per dwelling unit for multifamily dwellings, \$3,500 for a single business, \$3,500 per business in a multiple business, \$3,000 initial and \$500 per each room for hotels, motels and tourist homes, \$5,000 initial fee and \$100 per seat for restaurants and one-half the sin-

gle dwelling unit connection fee for assisted living units.

Sewer connection fees outside the corporate limits of Highlands are 200% of the corresponding connection fee inside the corporate limits.

Sewer rates are 80% of water rate at each unit.

In November 2002, W.K. Dickson Engineering Company completed an Inflow/Infiltration (I&I) study of the town's system. The purpose of the study was to find areas of inflow or infiltration and repair them. "The water/sewer departments made all the repairs that were within their abilities," said Nix. "The remaining repairs will be addressed through the development of the Harris Lake project."

Repairs made to the system as a result of the I&I study have reduced the amount of storm water collected by the system. "I recommend an I&I study be done every 10 years," said Nix. "They are a great maintenance tool and ultimately reduces the number of I&I problems in our system."

Twice a year the system is cleaned which also reduces the number of sewer system overflows, said Nix.

The most recent sewer system overflow incident occurred in August 2006 when an act of vandalism in a manhole behind the old jail caused the system to back up.

The Public Works Committee will be meeting with Nix and officials with the Department of Water Quality to discuss ramifications of the new pressure sewer policy.

- Kim Lewicki

## ... FORUM continued from page 3

For "Actual Effort with Supplemental Funding," Macon County ranks 43 out of 100 up from last year's ranking of 49. Macon County doesn't qualify for low wealth funding, or small county funding nor is there a "school tax" for Macon County.

The "Ability to Pay" measures a county's per student fiscal capacity to support public schools. It is a combined measure of revenue that could be generated at the state average tax rate of \$0.597, based on 2004-05 property valuations per student, adjusted to reflect current market prices, and to account for differences in income levels and the value of non-property tax revenues. Each county's mandated social service payments were also subtracted from total adjusted revenues.

Again, Macon County ranked fourth out of the state's 100 counties in its "Ability to Pay," down from last year's ranking of 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the state average property tax revenue of \$0.597, the revenue per student would be \$7,950 instead of the current \$1,405.

In the "Relative Effort" category - the measure comparing "Actual Effort" and "Ability to Pay" - Macon County ranks 96 out of the state's 100 counties despite its ability ranking of number four.

At last week's Macon County Commission meeting, Chairman Charlie

Leatherman said "Macon County is going to face more changes in the next five years than it's faced in the past 25. This board will face some of the most difficult situations and circumstances and face the hardest choices than ever before. But the people have put us here to do what's best for Macon County. The difficulty comes in separating that from self-interest."

Clearly, he was referring to growth, zoning and planning issues but as a school teacher, it's likely he had the county's public schools in mind as well. He also said children were the county's greatest resource and change and growth in the school system are issues the board has to meet head-on.

"I know there are people who have moved here and are retired who may be reluctant to be a part of Macon County's growth, but we have to do the right thing for our kids and teachers."

For several years, and because of rising property valuations, the county has maintained a "revenue neutral" approach to its tax rate. Commissioners said it's too early to know if that approach will be taken this next fiscal year. Given the issues the county is facing, maybe change is in the wind.

To see the Public School Forum of North Carolina's annual report online go to [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org).

## ... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

to hear his request.

The board ultimately agreed to hear his presentation but not to rule on it.

Lyngos' request centered around roadway setback variances and driveway allowances.

Highlands subdivision ordinance for cluster developments requires a 100-ft. setback from non-subdivision streets - Lyngos was looking for a variance on Cullasaja Drive. He said the area along Cullasaja Drive where the setback is imposed is relatively flat and therefore less environmentally sensitive.

"By locating structures and homes in this less environmentally sensitive area, we can preserve the more sensitive topographically significant areas and this development can achieve the desired ends of developing a "conservation subdivision," he said.

With the setback waived, more houses could be put in the Cullasaja Drive area eliminating them from other areas, "so we can save some trees," he said. He said the back of the homes would be viewed from Cullasaja Drive.

Homeowners at the meeting whose properties abut the development said they opposed the idea because they didn't want to look out at the backs of houses.

Lyngos also requested permission for several houses to share driveways. But, the town ordinance says a driveway linking two houses must be considered a subdivision

road and built to subdivision road specifications in width and with a 40-ft. setback.

Lyngos said if one driveway was allowed for more than one house in a few areas on the property, trees could be saved. "Otherwise I'm going to have to clear cut these areas to make the houses fit."

Planning Board member Doug Campbell said "the problem is there are too many houses on too small of an area."

Members of the board said they were sympathetic to alterations made by developers to adhere to the 40-ft. right-of-way setback for lightly used roads, like driveways connecting homes because of the greenspace that is sacrificed.

Lyngos also thought that as long as all setbacks were adhered to both between houses and from streets, he could rearrange houses on the plat at will. The board was quick to correct him. "You have to have an approved subdivision plan with house and road placement defined and if it changes you have to return for approval," said Town Planner Larry Gantenbein.

Vice Chair Ginger Slaughter asked if "as a gift to the town" RiverWalk would remove structures from the plat as has been done in the past by Old Edwards Inn & Spa. "In the spirit of the holiday season it would be a nice thing to do," she said.

Lyngos said he'd ask the owners to consider the request.

- Kim Lewicki

## ... PROJECTS continued from page 1

fice in front of the complex adjacent to the only entrance and one 15,000 sq. ft. building.

Architect Paul Schmitt said the concept of the development is to focus on the view of the cabin, screening the storage buildings behind it "leaving considerable natural landscape material in tack."

The group is currently working with the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association on bio-retention ponds to capture and filter water from the buildings roofs.

Deep earth-tones of dark green and tan will be used to camouflage the buildings so they blend in with the natural landscape and buffer.

Though the Appearance Commission complemented the look of the project, Meredith learned that metal buildings aren't allowed in town or in the ETJ area. "They can be metal, but must be clad in something else so you can't see it," said Town Planner Larry Gantenbein.

The commission OK'd the project requiring that the three metal buildings be clad in Hardi-plank or something similar. Vice Chairman Thomas Craig also had a word of advice.

"In the court of public opinion, buffering this as much as possible will be the winning ticket," he said. "Everything you can do to screen this from the roadway would be good."

A 20-foot buffer from U.S. 64 is required of new projects in the ETJ area. Schmitt and Meredith said they are working very hard to preserve as much foliage for buffering both from the road and within the project itself.

\*\*\*

When the Town Board rejected Old Edwards Inn & Spa's request for R2 conditional zoning for a residential community on its Satulah East parcel on U.S. 64, new plans were drawn up.

At the Dec. 11 Appearance Commission meeting, members approved plans for The Shops at Satulah Village East to be built on the front B4 portion of the 4.22 acres across from the ballpark.

Two buildings are planned, one 4,850 sq. ft with apartments above and the other 2,000 sq. ft with one apartment above. As required per the town ordinance, the larger building will have 36 parking spots, the other, 12.

The appearance of the buildings will look much like OEI's structures on Church and Fourth streets including brick, rock, slate-type shingles and earthy colors.

Instead of using the heavy cobble rock,

## Fuel assistance sign-up next week

The fuel assistant sign-up with the Highlands Emergency Council is the week of Dec. 18-21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the office on Poplar Street in Highlands.

Proof of income is necessary before assistance can be granted.

however, architect Craig Orange with Pesterfield Engineering, said stacked-stone would be used instead. "We want the project to be similar and of the same general style as the downtown projects which will maintain the "community" look but be a bit different." He said the buildings will harmonize with what OEI has already built but will include common subtle threads.

Craig and others were glad to hear that. "OEI should be commended for going above and beyond what the town has asked it to do on its property but I would like to see something a bit different but equal in quality," said member Craig.

He also asked Orange if he would consider putting the majority of the parking in the back of each building, rather than in the front as drawn, so paving isn't the focus as seen from the street.

Members said it was too bad so much of the property had to be eaten up by parking. "You're eating up more ground for parking and driveways than for the structures themselves," said Ginger Slaughter.

Town requirements are two spaces per apartment and four spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. of retail space.

Town Planner Larry Gantenbein said the Planning Board is going to look at parking requirements when they get a chance. "The trick will be to reduce parking requirements but not allow developers to put that footage back into the footprint of the building. That would be self-defeating," he said.

On Oct. 18, the Town Board turned down OEI's request to rezone the split-zoned tract R2 conditional for a residential community. Plans were for 17 two-story, single-family detached cottages. Twelve homeowners of the abutting Pinecrest subdivision signed a petition in favor of the project because they said they'd rather have a residential community next to their neighborhood than a commercial office complex.

- Kim Lewicki

## Flu shots at Health Dept.

The Macon County Public Health Center is providing flu shots for adults and children at the facility on Lakeside Drive in Franklin.

Shots will be administered Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-3:30 p.m.

No appointments are necessary. The cost is \$25.

Individuals who would like the health department to file with insurance, Medicare or Medicaid should bring their cards.

Free vaccines are still available for high-risk children ages 6 to 59 months, those with certain medical conditions and pregnant women. For more information call 349-2081.

## • OBITUARY •

### Anna Yasin

Anna Yasin, age 95, of Highlands, NC died Monday, December 11, 2006 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Grodno, Belarus, the daughter of the late David and Lucille Onsevich Huminsky. She was married to the late Peter Yasin. She was retired from the grocery store business. Mrs. Yasin had become a master creator of beaded flowers and was of the Russian Orthodox faith.

She is survived by her daughter, Betty Ann Chesna of Otto, N.C. and her son Thomas Peter Yasin of Gaylord, MI. Three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, December 13 at 4 p.m. in the Church of the Incarnation with Father Brian Sullivan officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Charity of one's choice. Bryant Funeral Home wss in charge of arrangements.



*Join Us As We Prepare for the  
Birth of Our Savior at*

## Highlands United Methodist Church

*Friday, Dec. 15:*

*Live Nativity and Open House*

*5:00-7:00 p.m.*

*Carols and Refreshments*

*Sunday, Dec. 17:*

*Chancel Choir Lessons & Carols*

*During the 11:00 worship service; Nursery Provided*

*Wednesday, Dec. 20:*

*Children's Program at 6:15 p.m.*

*Supper served at 5:30 p.m. (reservations needed)*

*Sunday, Dec. 24:*

*Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.*

*Family-Oriented Service Candlelight and  
Communion*

**315 Main Street**

**526-3376**

# Highlands basketball fun to watch the season – Boys and girls on the winning side

## Boys record is 8-2

**O**n Saturday, Dec. 9, the boys played a non-league game against Rabun County.

It was a tough game and ended up being a loss for Highlands at 66 to 63 Rabun County.

Highlands record is 7 wins 2 losses, so far.

Highlands beat Rabun County by 4 points in the first quarter, and tied them in the third and fourth quarter for a very tight game.

Highlands had 16 assists, 12 turnovers, 6 steals, 3 blocked shots, 19 fouls, 24 points in paint and 9 bench points.

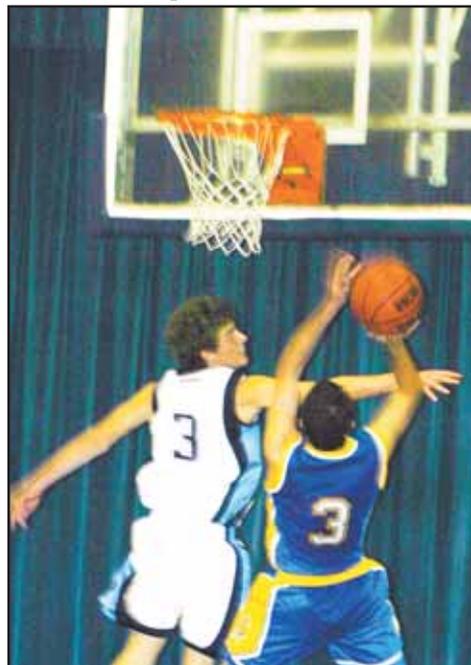
High scorer was Alec Schmitt with 29 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists, 1 block and 2 steals. He was on court 32 minutes.

Next up was Nick Kerhoulas with 11 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 block and 2 steals. He was on court 32 minutes. Andrew Billingsley, Jason Aspinwall and Arthur Reynolds all scored 5 points. Gray Alexander and Darren Keener each scored 4 points. Alexander was on court 32 minutes.

...

The Highlanders won Tuesday night's home game against Cherokee 77 to 38. Top scorers were Jason Aspinwall and Darren Keener with 26 points each. Next up was Nick Kerhoulas with 9, Alec Schmitt with 6, Arthur Reynolds Potts and Ezra Herz each with 4 points and Luke McClellan with 2 points.

Highlands had 25 assists, 16 turnovers, 18 steals, 14 fouls, 48 points in paint and 10 bench points.



Nick Kerhoulas going for the basket during the Friday, Dec. 8 game at Nantahala game.



Arthur Reynolds Potts during the Rabun County game at home in Highlands, Saturday, Dec. 9. The next home game is Dec. 21 against Franklin.

Photos by Noel Atherton

## Girls record is 8-3

**T**he girls team won against Nantahala, Friday, Dec. 8 43 to 36.

Katie Bryson was top scorer with 12 points. Next up was Allison Winn with 11; Toni Schmitt and Kaylie Buras each with 8; Becca Wyatt with 5 and Brie Schmitt with 2 points.

Nantahala and Highlands were neck in neck during the first and second quarters with 8 points for Highlands and 9 points for Nantahala during the first quarter and 13 for Highlands and 12 for Nantahala the second quarter.

During the third quarter, Highlands pulled ahead with 12 points against Nantahala's 8 and 10 for Highlands and 7 for Nantahala during the fourth quarter.

The final score was 43 Highlands, 36 Nantahala.

...

### Dec. 9 Game

The girls sustained their third loss of the season, Saturday, Dec. 9 against Rabun County.

Except for the second quarter, Rabun County out-scored Highlands. The final score was 35 Highlands, 57 Rabun County.

Katie Bryson and Allison Winn were top scorers with 11 points each, followed by Toni Schmitt with 10 points. Brie Schmitt scored 2 points and Becca Wyatt scored 1 point.

...

### Dec. 12 Game

The girls beat the Cherokee Braves 71 to 52 at home Dec. 12.

The teams were neck and neck during the first quarter but Highlands jumped way ahead in the second and third quarters scoring 22 points in each.

High scorer was Allison Winn with 26 points, close behind was Toni Schmitt with 25, Kaylie Buras with 15, Katie Bryson with 3 and Danielle Reese and Katie-Marie Parks each with one point.

Katie Bryson and Toni Schmitt pulled 10 rebounds each. The team had 35 rebounds in all, with 16 assist and 13 steals.

"It was a great team effort," said coach Brett Lamb. "Our three seniors stepped up tonight, leading the team. Cherokee was a tough team to play and we played well, worked together as a team and earned a well deserved victory."

### Rabun Gap Tournament

Fri. Dec. 15

Highlands vs. Darrington

Academy

Sat. Dec. 16

Opponent TBA

# 'Lessons in Carols' at First Presbyterian

On Sunday, Dec. 17, "Lessons in Carols" will be presented at the 11 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church with the Chancel Choir. The choir is directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins on the organ.

Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano, Wayne

Coleman, tenor, John Greene, tenor and Stell Huie, baritone. Also featured will be Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup, harpist.

The community is invited.

At  
**Cyrano's Book Shop**  
 a signing:  
 1-3 p.m.  
 Carl Smith's  
 "Louisiana Burn."  
 390 Main St.  
 526-5488

## • BIZ NEWS •

### Century 21 names top producers

Top Listing agent and top Sales Agent for the Cashiers office for November was Cathy Garren, managing broker. Garren was awarded the Masters Emerald award for her production in 2005. She also received the Top Listing by Volume award for her office last year.

In November, Top Listing Agent for the Highlands office was Bill Bubenik, broker associate. Top Sales Agent was Sherman Pope, broker associate. Sherman Pope was recognized as "Rookie of the Year" for his office in 2005.



Cathy Garren



Bill Bubenik



Sherman Pope

## Playing at Ruby Cinemas

Franklin, NC 28734

**The Week of: Dec. 15-21**  
**CHARLOTTE'S WEB**  
 rated G  
 Fri (4:10), 7, 9:10  
 Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10  
 Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7  
**ERAGON**  
 rated PG  
 Fri: (4:20), 7:10, 9:20  
 Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20  
 Mon - Thurs (4:20), 7:10  
**DEJA VU**  
 rated PG-13  
 Fri: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20  
 Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20  
 Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:05  
**THE NATIVITY STORY**  
 rated PG  
 Fri: 7, 9:10  
 Sat & Sun: 7, 9:10  
 Mon - Thurs: 7  
**HAPPY FEET**  
 rated PG  
 Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05  
 Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05  
 Mon - Thurs: (4:05), 7:05  
**STARTING WEDNESDAY, Dec. 20**  
**ROCKY BALBOA**  
 rated PG  
 Fri:(4:20), 7, 9:20  
 Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20  
 Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7

## ... AUDITOR continued from page 1

The Unreserved Fund Balance is the portion of governmental fund equity that is neither legally segregated for a specific future use nor unavailable for appropriation. In Macon County that's divided into two funds Designated Unreserved and Undesignated Unreserved.

"The Designated Unreserved Fund Balance is money the board of commission has designated for spending," he said.

In 2005 the Designated Unreserved Fund was \$2,704,975; in 2006 it rose to \$3,672,098.

"Then there's the Undesignated Unreserved portion which has no strings attached," he said.

In 2005 the Undesignated Unreserved portion was \$10,364,773; in 2006 it fell slightly to \$10,029,331.

The county's revenue is generated by ad valorem taxes, local

option sales tax and federal and state grants and other revenue namely, permits and fees, sales and service and investment income. Ad Valorem, Local Option Tax and federal and state grants are the top revenue generators for the county.

In 2006 Ad Valorem taxes accounted for 49 percent of the general fund; local option tax accounted for 18 percent; federal and state grants accounted for 20 percent and other revenue accounted for 13 percent of the general fund.

Income from property tax stayed about the same which reflects the county's revenue neutral platform in 2005 — \$20,332,261 in 2005 and \$20,847,221 in 2006.

Revenue from sales tax rose by about \$500,000 — it was \$7243269 in 2005 and \$7,706,632 in 2006.

Fiscal year 2005-2006 saw a substantial gain in revenue from state and federal grants — from

\$4,755,382 in 2005 to \$8,483,811 in 2006. Much of that gain was from state and federal funding for Hurricane Ivan recovery.

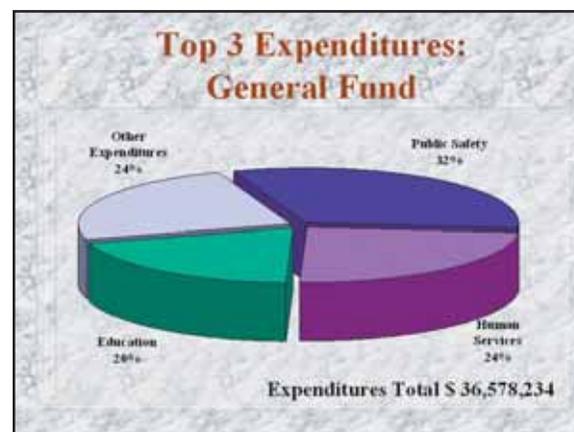
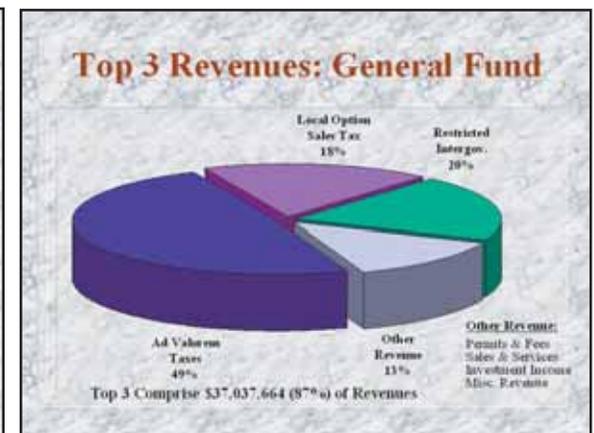
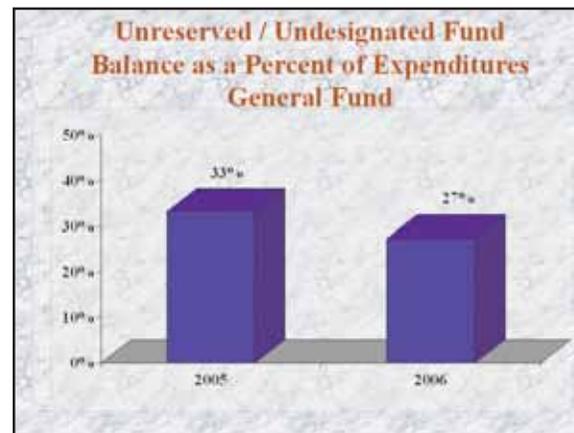
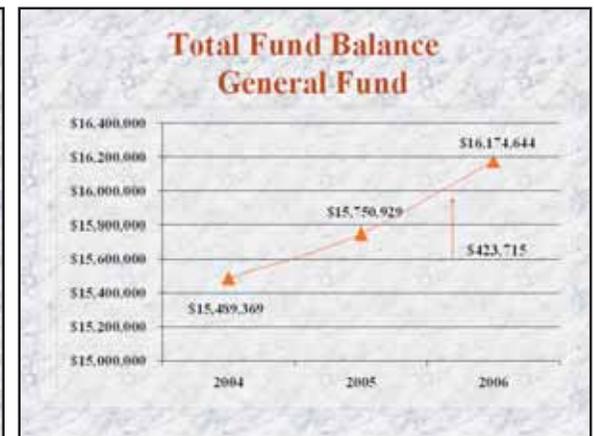
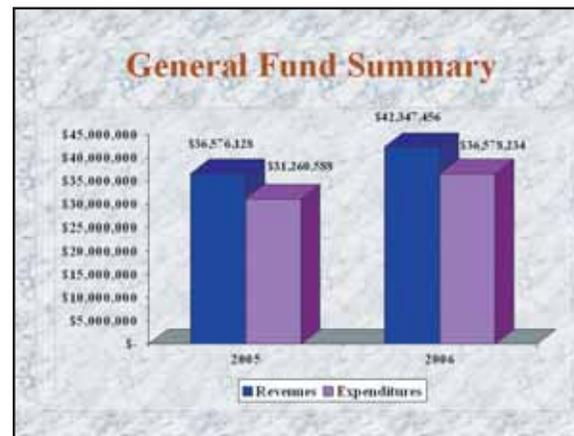
The county's top expenditures are Public Safety at 32 percent; Human Services at 24 percent and Education at 20 percent. All other expenditures account for 24 percent of the budget.

Money spent on public safety rose sharply in 2006 from \$8,895,943 in 2005 to \$11,837,563 in 2006. Money spent on Human Services was \$8,075,861 in 2005; \$8,813,543 in 2006. Education expenditures increased slightly from \$6,907,752 in 2005 to \$7,468,249 in 2006.

"Macon County's legal debt margin is outstanding," he said. "Well below the norm."

Outstanding debt at June 30, 2006 was \$22,089,776 with a debt margin of \$423,998,202.

— Kim Lewicki



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 Super Sunday Buffet with Carvery, \$10.95, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Big Karaoke New Years Dinner Party, Saturday, Dec 30 including dinner, party favors, champagne toasts at midnight, and lots of fun is only \$25 per person, and we have special guest room rates with a hot breakfast for 2 included. No drinking and driving allowed. Please call for reservations.

# Highlands School honor roll & perfect attendance list for 2nd six-weeks

**4<sup>th</sup> - D. West**

- "A" Alli Bolt
- "A" April Moss
- "A" Josh Wolfrey
- "A" Kenan Lewis
- "A" Philip Murphy
- "A" Valarie Billingsley
- "A" Veronica Garcia

- "AB" Ann Marie Crowe
- "AB" Craig Dalton
- "AB" Jessica Tilson
- "AB" Kassie Vinson
- "AB" Katie Ingram
- "AB" Taylor Schmitt
- "AB" Grace Brassard

**6<sup>th</sup> - S. Mayer & G. Borino**

- "A" Will Araujo
- "A" Rebecca Johnson
- "AB" Kaly Billingsley
- "AB" Dax Lloyd
- "AB" Parker Sims
- "AB" Sydney Wagner
- "AB" Lindsay Wagner

**7<sup>th</sup> - E. Woods**

- "A" Isaac Beavers
- "A" Cai Roman
- "AB" Tim Fogle

**7<sup>th</sup> - S. Smathers**

- "A" Kaitlin Lewis
- "A" Kim Machuca
- "A" Emily Murphy

- "AB" Fabiola Diaz
- "AB" Copeland Hardin
- "AB" Emily Munger
- "AB" Danielle Shomper

**8<sup>th</sup> - S. Massey**

- "AB" Amy Fogle
- "AB" Clayton Lassiter
- "AB" Marlee McCall
- "AB" Bevan Schiffl

- "AB" Samuel Wheeler
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**
- "A" Brice Jenkins
  - "A" Beverly Nix
  - "A" Kate-Marie Parks

- "AB" Jamie Bolt
- "AB" Amanda Bruce
- "AB" Ashley Dickey
- "AB" Eli Dryman
- "AB" Katie Durham
- "AB" Shelby Johnson
- "AB" Will Mathiowdis

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- "A" Will Edwards
- "A" Casey Jenkins
- "A" Taylor Parrish

- "AB" Carolyn Hornsby
  - "AB" Luke McClellan
  - "AB" Matt McClellan
  - "AB" Michael Nix
  - "AB" Marisol Ruiz
  - "AB" Griselda Sanchez
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**
- "A" Jessica Dryman
  - "A" Kyle Lassiter
  - "A" Taylor Stinson
  - "A" Sally Wheeler

- "AB" Thomas Forrester
- "AB" Michael Grabe
- "AB" Katie Pierce
- "AB" Greg Porter

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- "A" Eric Chen
- "A" Brittany Dryman
- "A" Lucy Herz
- "A" Chase Jenkins
- "A" Nick Kerhoulas
- "A" Pamela Potts
- "A" Sara Vanderbilt
- "A" Allison Winn

- "AB" Becca Ashburn
- "AB" Jacob Bowers
- "AB" Katie Bryson

- "AB" Amanda Chambers
- "AB" Lara Gibson
- "AB" Craig McCall
- "AB" Angela Sanchez

**Perfect Attendance**

**GB - J. Chalker**

- Ethan Crisp
- Grace Crowe
- Madison Dalton
- Destin Gearhart
- Samuel Hawkins
- Josh Kennedy
- Manuel Machuca
- Sarah Rogers
- Brenna Wilson
- K - J. McClellan
- Jake Billingsley
- Alex Damian
- Beatrice Garcia
- Alex Healey
- Yuliana Mora
- Samuel Schmitt
- Bert Zachary

**1<sup>st</sup> - D. Sizemore**

- Brianna Buchanan
  - Manuel Contreras
  - Ana Damian
  - Brittany Edmonds
  - Kimberly Feria
  - Angelo Garcia
  - Juan Garcia
  - Suzette Garcia
  - Jose Jimenez
  - Wayland McCall
  - Taylor Welch
  - Cole Wilkes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - C. Cox**
- Nicole Barnes
  - Nicholas Boggs
  - Sandra Garcia

- Linsey Hernandez
- Andy Marquez
- Danielle Mathis
- Dillan Medlin
- Amber Reese
- Stella Wilson

**2<sup>nd</sup> - M. Miller**

- Jake Calloway
- Abigail Gilbert
- Wesley Hedden
- Ryan Houser
- Tucker Johnson
- Emily Mathis
- Benjamin Miller
- John Murphy
- Alexa Reese
- Adam Schiffl
- Megan Vinson

**3<sup>rd</sup> - C. Murphy**

- Whitney Billingsley
- Kyle Gabbard
- Chase Grant
- Sierra Nylund
- Tasha Thurmond
- Dylan Vinson
- Colin Weller

**3<sup>rd</sup> - J. Archer**

- Remy Adrian
- Sofia Diaz
- Courtney Henry
- Sarah Henry
- Jesse Machuca
- Adriann McCall
- Randall McCall
- Carrie McClure
- Carter Potts
- Allie Wilkes

**4<sup>th</sup> - D. West**

- Alex Bronaugh
- Preston Chastain
- Veronica Garcia
- Meredith Garren
- Kenan Lewis
- McKinley Moseley

- Philip Murphy
- Kirstyn Owen
- Kassie Vinson
- Josh Wolfrey

**5<sup>th</sup> - T. Hedden**

- Austin Baty
- Olivia Dendy
- Kim Hernandez
- Tyler Munger
- Jerry Reed
- Matthew Rodriguez
- Ryan Vinson

**6<sup>th</sup> - S. Mayer**

- Corbin Hawkins
- Rebecca Johnson
- Parker Sims
- Skyler Wagner
- Brett Wilson

**6<sup>th</sup> - G. Borino**

- Kyle Boggs
- Jacqueline Reyes
- Cristell Ruiz
- Lindsay Wagner
- Sydney Wagner

**7<sup>th</sup> - S. Smathers**

- Cory Capman
- Jenny Coram
- Sayne Feria
- Fabiola Diaz
- Kaitlin Lewis
- Alex Michaud
- Emily Munger
- Danielle Shomper

**7<sup>th</sup> - E. Woods**

- Tyler Converse
- Clayton Creighton
- Clayton Dunn
- Rene Garcia
- Will Hedden
- Cory Ramey
- Austin Reese
- Justin Rodriguez
- Cai Roman
- Felippe Ruiz
- Logan Schmitt
- Cody St. Germain

**8<sup>th</sup> - M. Lane**

- Ana Damian
- Jose Feria
- Cody Houser
- Benjamin Kennedy
- Hugo Reyes
- Michael Shearl

**8<sup>th</sup> - S. Massey**

- Taylor Buras
- Amy Fogle
- Clayton Lassiter
- Sarah Power
- Bevan Schiffl
- Robbie Vanderbilt
- Samuel Wheeler

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Carmen Damian
- Carolina Diaz
- Eli Dryman

- Sarah Hedden
- Ashley Loth
- Chris St. German

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Andrew Billingsley
- Caden Brown
- Kasey Chambers
- William Edwards
- Alex Hedden
- Carolyn Hornsby
- Danielle Reese
- Marisol Ruiz
- Griselda Sanchez-Velasco
- Jonathan Smith

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Martha Damian
- Thomas Forrester
- Adam Hedden
- Jake Heffington
- Josh Hendricks
- Kyle Lassiter
- Danielle Puchacz

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Jason Aspinwall
- Kelli Baer
- Sara Bates
- Eric Chen
- Brittany Dryman
- Jeff Potts
- Rachel Power
- Alec Schmitt
- Toni Schmitt
- Sara Vanderbilt
- Allison Winn

**Christmas Band Concert - Dec. 14, 7 p.m. in the old gym.**

**Last Day of School - Dec. 21**

**First Day of School after Vacation - Jan. 2**

**Why Knot Knit Highlands**  
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A superb selection of the finest yarns, accessories and classes for your knitting pleasure.

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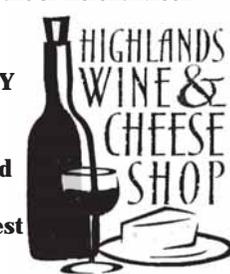
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# Hospital's new ultrasound brightening up diagnostic picture

The diagnostic picture at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is much brighter these days – literally — thanks to the latest in new ultrasound technology.

The hospital recently upgraded its ultrasound unit, and both physicians and technicians are impressed with the images it is turning out.

"These are the best images I've seen come out of ultrasound technology," said full-time cardiologist Dr. Carl Curtiss. "The quality of these images is every bit as good as those being generated by equipment currently being used at major teaching institutions. I'm very pleased."

Curtiss said the new unit, which is already being used heavily for echocardiology patients, will make it much easier to obtain quality images for patients whose body types pose challenges to ultrasound technology, such as those with large chest cavities. And the new unit allows the use of some new imaging techniques not previously available here.

The new ultrasound unit, a Phillips HD 11, represents another major step



forward in an ongoing initiative to upgrade cardiac services at the hospital.

Last winter the hospital recruited its first full-time cardiologist (Curtiss). And the hospital board of directors agreed earlier this fall to purchase more than \$500,000

in new diagnostic equipment to enhance cardiology services. The new ultrasound, costing approximately \$154,000, was the first part of that commitment. The hospital also plans to install its own state-of-the-art nuclear medicine scanner, which it hopes

to have operational by mid winter.

"New technology is expensive, but it's absolutely essential if we are going to maintain the quality of medical care we provide here," said Ken Shull, CEO and president of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "The hospital has always depended on the generosity of the community to provide state-of-the-art technology through the hospital Foundation, and that's even more the case today."

While the new ultrasound is taking cardiology service to another level, it's also making a difference for other types of patients. Staff radiologist Dr. Rodney Stinnett, says the brighter, clearer images will make it easier to accurately diagnose diseases in several key areas.

Stinnett says the new technology makes it easier to view all types of vein and artery issues such as embolisms (blood clots) in leg veins. But the clearer images are also aiding in the mainstay uses of ultrasound technology, such as general abdomen and gastrointestinal imaging.

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Richard Taylor and Donna Stockton of Mountainique



Suzanne Sloan of Highlands Gem Shop



Susan Jones of The Dry Sink



Marianne Vines, Chairperson for the Tree Lighting, presenting Melissa Webb Dorsey, Sweatshirt competition winner and Delaina Webb, Holiday Poster winner with their checks.

## Winners of the Chamber's holiday contests

Every year the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce asks the locals to submit their drawings for our holiday posters and sweatshirts. This year we had numerous drawings to choose from. The winners were chosen and we would like to thank all that participated.

Melissa Webb Dorsey won the sweatshirt competition.

Her drawing of the snow globe was printed on this year's Christmas sweatshirts. She was awarded with a check for \$100.

Delaina Webb won the poster competition. Her drawing with a theme of

"Olde Mountain Christmas" was printed on this year's holiday poster. She was rewarded with a check for \$50.

The Store Window Decorating Contest left Main Street and Fourth Streets filled with beautiful windows for all to enjoy.

The following businesses were awarded for their creativity.

The Most Whimsical Window was awarded to Susan Jones of the The Dry Sink.

Best Interpretation of theme- "Olde Mountain Christmas" was awarded to Suzanne Sloan of Highlands Gem Shop.

Best Traditional theme was awarded to Richard Taylor and Donna Stockton of Mountainique.

## Chamber names parade winners

Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade 2006 line up was full of originality and creativity. Dancers, camels, dogs, Brownies and Scouts, the fun just kept on coming.

Judges Choice Award Winners:

• New Vision Gymnastics - Mary Lou Retton Award

• Brownie Troop #219 - Two Front Teeth Award

• Old Edwards Inn and Spa - Tchaikovsky Award

• Highlands community Players - "Cause I'm An Actor" Award

• Jack Ralston - Ringo Star Award

• Highlands Mini Meet Up - It's A Small World Award

• Mountain Garden Club - Little Deuce Dance Award

• International Friendship Center - Feliz Navid Award

• Historical Society - Spreading The Joy of Christmas Award- Judges Favorite

• Harry Norman Realtors - The Promenading Presents Award

• Smoky Mountain Shriners - Christmas Poka Award

• Highlands Male Chorus - No Chippen- dales? Award

• Reeves Hardware - Toys R Reeves Award

• Atlanta Thunderbirds - Red and Yellow, Black and White Award

• Kiln Dried Firewood - Some Like It Hot Award

• Sky Valley- Scaly Mtn. VF&R - Best Parade Placement Award

• Cashiers Highlands Humane Society - I'm Dreaming Of A Home For Christmas Award

• Star Pony Electronics - Beary Merry Christmas Award

• Free Dental Clinic - The Tooth Fairy Has a Mustache? Award

• Toys For Tots - The Hoo Ah Award

• High Country Photo - The Dr. Seuss Award

• We Believe In Santa Claus - The Originality Award

• Highlands United Methodist Church - Please Bring The Camels Back Next Year Award

• Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles - We Even Sell Gingerbread Houses Award

• J&R Racing (Basketcase) - The Insanity Award

• Episcopal Church, HUMC, OLM, CBC - Christmas Is For Everyone Award

The parade was sponsored by The Christmas Tree...on the hill.

## • UPCOMING EVENETS •

### On-going

• Santa Claus in Town Square every Saturday through Christmas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.

• FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687. A new class is forming now.

• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

• Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with HealthTracks Membership or \$8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or \$8 for non-members. An advanced class will also be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$10 per session or \$8 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

• A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

• Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30.

### Dec. 15 - Friday

• First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra invite you to join our congregation for the Christmas Musical Drama, *Jesus, Our Treasure*. The presentation is at 7 p.m. It's free.

• At Highlands United Methodist Church a live Nativity and Christmas Open House from 5-7 p.m. The open house is in the fellowship hall.

• Angel Medical Center is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, December 15 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. The hospital is located at 120 Riverview Street in Franklin, NC. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### Dec. 16, Saturday

• At Cyrano's Book Shop, a book signing from 1-3 p.m. Carl Smith "Louisiana Burn."

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-5-mile hike along the Horsepasture River passing Bust-er-butt, Turtleback, Rainbow and Stairstep Falls. The trail has several short, steep rocky sections. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 18 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations.

• The Prince House, the Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse is open for touring from 1-4 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.

• The Arts Council will sponsor a 5-hour basketry workshop on Saturday at 10 a.m., in the Franklin High School Careers Center. Instructor Joanne Nolen will teach how to construct a multi-purpose, decorative basket with 10" diameter open top, 5" high sides, and color accents. No experience is needed. Pre-registration is required; call 524-7683 for registration information and a list of common household tools you should bring.

### Dec. 17, Sunday

• "Christmas Oratorio" presented by six of the Episcopal Church's soloists and conducted by Fletcher Wolfe, Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. The concert is free and followed by a gala reception.

• Lessons in Carols at the 11 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church with the Chancel Choir. The choir is directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins on the organ. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano, Wayne Coleman, tenor, John Greene, tenor and Stell Huie, baritone. Also featured will be Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup, harpist.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3.5 mile hike from Winding Stair Gap on Forest Service roads, returning on the Appalachian Trail to the Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 33 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader: Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

• First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra invite you to join our congregation for the Christmas Musical Drama, *Jesus, Our Treasure*. The presentations will be Sunday at 6:30 pm. It's free.

• "Christmas is Jesus" musical at 10 a.m. at Grace Community Church in Cashiers. Featuring the Grace Christmas Choral Group. For more information, call the church at 743-9814.

### Dec. 18 - Monday

• Macon County Commission meeting at noon to address moratorium on high-rise construction. The meeting is at the courthouse.

### Dec. 19 - Tuesday

• Barbara Ehrenreich's book, *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of The American Dream*: "Coordinator: Fia Scheyer. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

### Dec. 20, Wednesday

• At Highlands United Methodist Church-wide caroling will be on at 5:30 p.m. Youth and Seekers (4th and 5th graders) will meet at 5 p.m. for supper and will have their Christmas parties after caroling.

### Dec. 21, Thursday

• Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Gallery On 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m.-7: 30 p.m. It is across from Town Hall at 221 N. Fourth Street. Photos from Fall Finale and the Christmas Parade will be on display. The fee is \$10 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. Please RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841.

### Dec. 23 - Saturday

• The Prince House, Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse will be open for touring from 1 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10.

### Dec. 27 - Wednesday

• The Prince House, Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse will be open for touring from 1 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10.

### Dec. 30 - Saturday

• The Prince House, Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse will be open for touring from 1 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10.



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# Sunday's Christmas oratorio featuring beautiful crèche

Those attending the Episcopal Church's presentation of Saint-Saens' Christmas Oratorio on Sunday afternoon will view a magnificent Italian porcelain crèche at the sanctuary entrance. The impressive manger was crafted by Incarnation member Clyde Fricks.

This work of art was a gift to Bobbe Wolfe from Father Austin Ford, former director of the Episcopal Emmaus House in Atlanta for her contributions as designer and fabricator of costumes for the Emmaus House Children's Choir who sang under the direction of Fletcher Wolfe. Their concerts were given at Saint Philips Cathedral in Atlanta.

Emmaus House was established by Father Ford as a home away from home for young African American children. It was a place where they could learn and feel safe. Many of them were latch-key children. Father Ford also arranged for the children to



Alto soloist Jody Zahner and concert pianist Robert Henry admire Incarnation's crèche.

attend summer camp around the country and was responsible for educating many of these children.

Although no longer at Emmaus House, his influence is evident in the many lives whom he helped change. Now retired, Father Ford is a frequent visitor to Highlands.

The oratorio will begin at 5

p.m. and is free and open to the public. It will feature the church choir and soloists in a very beautiful setting of the Christmas Story. Directed by Fletcher Wolfe, it will be accompanied by church organist, Barbara Luhn and internationally acclaimed concert pianist Robert Henry. A gala reception will follow the program and everyone is invited.

## Hospital Foundation can benefit from your shopping

There's a new program in town that allows community members and friends to support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation by making online purchases through the shoppingmall – a website created in with the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Fundlink, LLC, and more than 1,300 major retailers.

Popular customer and business merchants such as Target, Macy's Best Buy, Dell and Staples, and web-based giants such as Expedia, along with 1,300 other retailers have joined in helping local hospitals and health care facilities by donating a portion of their online proceeds. You shop and they give a donation.

The shoppingmall works like any other online shopping vehicle except now Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation

benefits from the experience. After enter the shoppingmall and selecting an online retailer to visit, you will be asked to designate the foundation as the organization what will benefit from your shopping experience. Once the designation is made, you will be sent directly to the retailer of your choice to start shopping. It takes just one extra step when shopping online for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation to earn contributions.

Each week, thousands of consumers are purchasing business, household and personal items on the Internet. These same people now have a way to contribute to the foundation by making these purchases through the shoppingmall.

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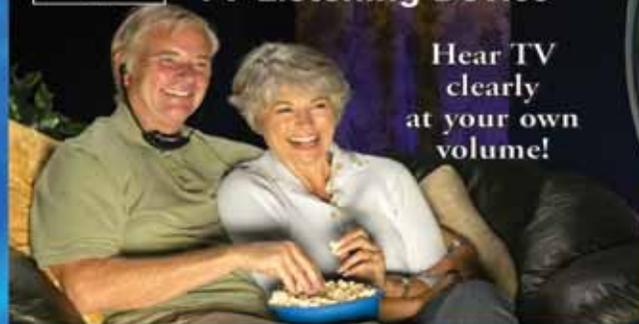


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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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**OFFICE MANAGER/DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR** — Duties for this full-time position include membership development, book keeping, and office management. Candidate should have excellent computer, interpersonal, communication, and writing skills. Experience with non-profit organization a plus. Interested parties should mail resume and names of three references by December 31, 2006 to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 29741 or email to [hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:hitrust@earthlink.net).

**LOOKING FOR LABORERS** to clear land and landscape for December, January and February. Must speak some English. \$10 per hour. Call Charlie @ 526-5939

**HIGHLANDS AREA LUXURY INN** looking for breakfast chef. Call 828-526-8170 or fax résumé to 828-526-2625.

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ployment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER.** Experience in management of Housekeeping, Floor Care, and Laundry is preferred as is knowledge of State and Federal regulations. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

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**HOLIDAY RENTAL** – Lake Glenville, 4 bed-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

# Madison's

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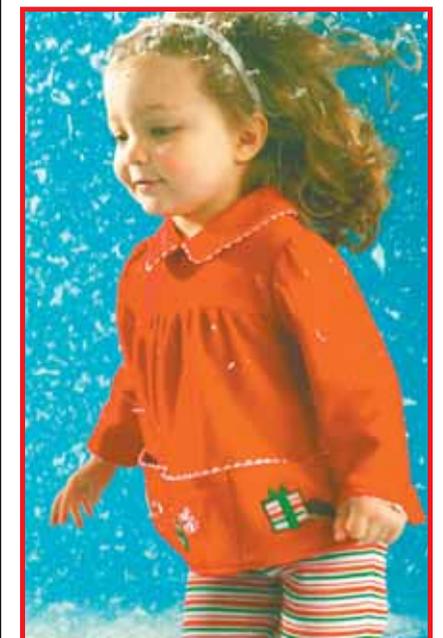
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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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### WANTED TO RENT

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**ON LAKE SEQUOYAH** — Fabulous lake views. All newly remodeled executive home. 3 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 4 fireplaces. Call 828-342-2302.

**BY OWNER ON MIRROR LAKE** — Cute 2/2 on Wyanoak. All Newly remodeled. \$399,000. Call 828-

342-2302.

**MOTOR COACH SITE** — Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

**HOME FOR SALE** — Classic Country Home between Cashiers and Franklin, near Lake Glenville; 3,800 ft. elevation; 4 bed, 3 bath with 2,900 sq. ft. living area, plus garage and shed; 1,500 sq. ft. deck on 4.2 acres with perennial landscaping. Many extras. \$399,000. Brokers Welcome. Call 828-743-5788.

**LOTS 21 & 23.** A total of 3.65 acres in heart of Pilot Mountain in Cashiers. Mountain views, beautiful hardwoods, sounds of stream echo below. Call for price. (828) 693-9918 or (828) 243-1503. 1/19/07

**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** — Creekside, 3 bed, 2 bath, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For sale by owner. \$550,000 OBO Call 828-226-6123.

**1- AND 1 1/2-ACRE HOME SITES CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS** — Only 2.8 miles from Main Street. Lots of large rhodies, hardwood trees and mountain laurel. Some with creek front, some back up to National Forest. All are gentle, easy building sites with community well, telephone, electric and septic in place. Dramatic waterfall at entrance. Community will be gated. Price range from \$169,000 to \$329,000. Call 828-526-9622.

**BY BUILDER** — 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in

a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

**PRIVATE, WOODED LOT ON HIGH RIDGE** — Cashiers area; Sapphire Valley Resort amenities (golf, boating/fishing, swim & tennis, skiing, horseback riding). \$45,900. By owner. Call Eva (404) 819-8300.

**QUAINT** — Newly remodeled farm-style home. 1 acre, 2 stories, 3 bed, 1 bath, hardwood & carpet floors. Close to Cashiers area golf courses and Lake Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Asking \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948. Evenings: 828-743-2654.

**ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE** with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. \$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

**THREE BEDROOM** — 2 bath ranch home on approx. 3/4 acre. 2 miles from Highlands-Cashiers hospital. \$240,000. Will consider offer. Ask for Anna. Country Club Properties 828-526-2520

### ITEMS FOR SALE

**SHE IS AKC FEMALE YORKIE REGISTERED.** She is very sweet and pre-spoiled. Given lots of attention. She will be an estimated 3.5-4 pounds at her adult weight. She has an excellent temperament. She is raised in the house. She has been well socialized with...and ready for her new home now. She comes with health guarantee and shipping is available. For more information contact me on my email. [susan\\_755007@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_755007@yahoo.com)

**FURNITURE** - Reception desk \$300, solid wood round dining table w/leaf and 6 chairs \$200, triple dresser w/mirror and night stand \$100, 2 early American end tables \$30 ea., secretariat \$40. Or OBO. Call 787-2383.

**SPA (FLORES 6-3 SERIES)** — From Rec Warehouse, 6-8 seats with 38 jets including a waterface and 4 shoulder jets. The size is 93" x 93" x 41.25". Brand new, still in container. Original price \$6,500, will sell for \$5,000. Can be seen at Long Transfer Company. Call Mariette at 770-503-4433.

**HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER.** New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

**1958 ALBATROSE TRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH.** Maple interior. Good condition. \$1,000. Can be seen a Carolina Court. 526-5939.

**JENNY LIND BABY BED** — light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally \$375 asking \$225. Call 526-0498.

**NINE OLD DOORS** — original paint, 4 and 5 panel, 7 interior, 2 exterior, good condition. All for \$375. Call 526-0498.

**AKC BLACK LAB PUPPIES** — Very healthy, home-raised, loveable. 2 female, 1 male. Call 828-389-9737.

**IKEA STORAGE LOFT QUEEN BED WITH DESK, BOOKSHELVES & DRAWERS** — Solid Pine/ Hardware & Instructions Included 63" w x 84" h x 86" l \$400, OBO. 828-524-1172.

**4 WINTER COATS** — 3 Ladies (size 12) Woolrich (\$15), 2 John Weitz (100% Camel Hair \$30 each), 1 Men's Coat L.L. Bean (lined) \$30. Call 526-5367.

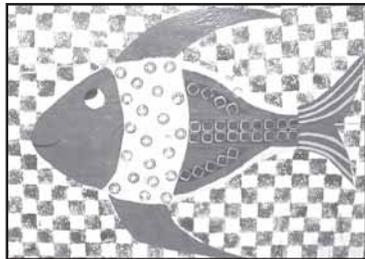
**GUITAR AMP CRATE** GLX212 w/ 16 built in effects, 3 channels, Free footswitch \$300. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

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## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •



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age, mattress possibly available, too. \$300. Call 828-371-8677.

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**ENGLISH & AMERICAN ANTIQUES** – 18th & 20th Century. Private Estate Sale by Appointment only. Call 828-452-4888.

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**1 LADIES 26" BICYCLE** . 6-speed, very good condition. \$25.00 828-349-3320

**HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIXTURE** – Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

**ANTIQUe FURNITURE**, beds, love seats, chairs, tables, lamps, curio cabinets and collectible paper-

weights, Royal Daltons, Hummels, etc. By appointment only. 828-526-3258.

**11-INCH METAL PLATE** – handcrafted, dramatic scene by Reid & Barton 1975. Title: "Indians Discovery Lewis & Clark" by Charles Russell Limited Edition of 2500 – #1623. Good Condition. \$100. Call 526-1773.

**ALL WOOD LARGE (6' TALL X 7' LONG) ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**, – lighted with stained glass upper doors, wood doors on bottom, has open shelves too, very nice \$450 obo, King size bed frame with brass headboard \$75 obo, please call 828-369-2223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.

**AKC REGISTERED SHELTIES**. Sable Merle & Blue Merle. \$300. Call 706-982-9325.

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**SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET**.

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VEHICLES FOR SALE

**ANTIQUe 1926 MODEL T FORD TOURING CAR** – Fully restored. Needs a new starter. Selling for health reasons. \$15,000 but will discount cost of starter and ignition work. Great car and lots of fun. Call Horace Duncan at 526-3760.

**2000 PONTIAC MONTANA EXTENDED VAN** – Well maintained. Cruise. Electric. \$6,100. Call 342-9475 days, 526-4876 Evenings.

**1992 FORD 150 PICK-UP TRUCK** – Extended cab, with covered top, 100,000 miles. Cherry condition. \$3,500. Call 526-0539.

**1993 CADILLAC 60 SPECIAL** – 4-door, DeVille chassis, 4.7 V/8, 16 city/24Hwy. Beautiful Artic white with flawless red leather, ABS Brakes, Air bags, sun roof, Bose CD sound system, new Michelin tires. Two

owners, Florida car. Like new. Non smoker. \$4,750. Call 828-787-1563 or cell: 828-200-1563.

**2003 DODGE STRATUS** – red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, A.C. PW, PS, PB, clean. \$8,000 OBO 828-526-3257.

**1995 GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO**, loaded, V-8, 4WD, new tires, new brakes, leather, PW, PL, 168K, priced to sell, \$3,900. Cell: 200-0013.

**1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON**, 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. Call 200-0013.

**GEM ELECTRIC CAR** – Excellent Condition. Has two motors and will cruise at 40 mph. Many extras including new tires. Great for gated communities, golf courses, and senior citizen communities. Asking \$6,500. email gem603@prodigy.net

**UNWANTED ITEMS** in good condition for a family of five. please call Tony @ 828-779-1765.

SERVICES

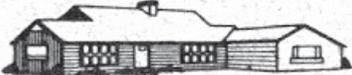
• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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**H & D HOUSE CLEANERS** – We're the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call 'cause we are the Best!" 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

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job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

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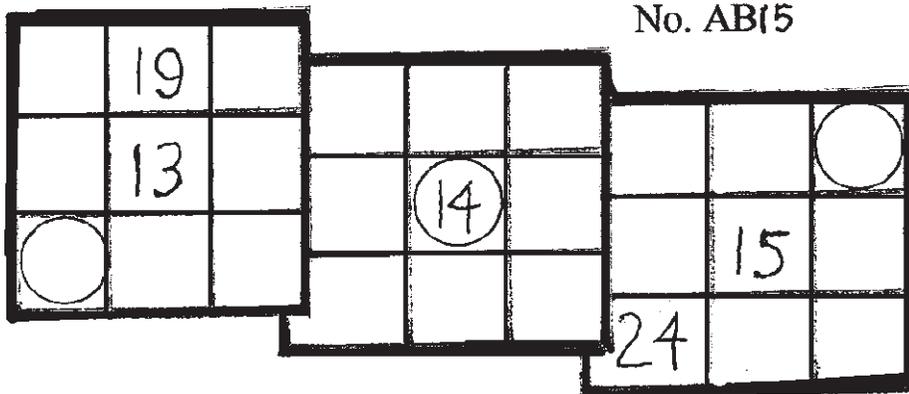
### LOST DOG

**TWO DOGS.** Italian Pointer neutered male, tan and white, wearing an orange collar, 90 lbs., and female Weimaraner, silver-gray, wearing a pink collar. May be seen together. Last seen in Highlands, NC. Very upset child waiting for their return. Please call with any information or if you have seen either one. REWARD OFFERED!! 828-526-2197.

## Pseudocube © 2006

a new mind game

No. AB15



### THE SETUP:

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

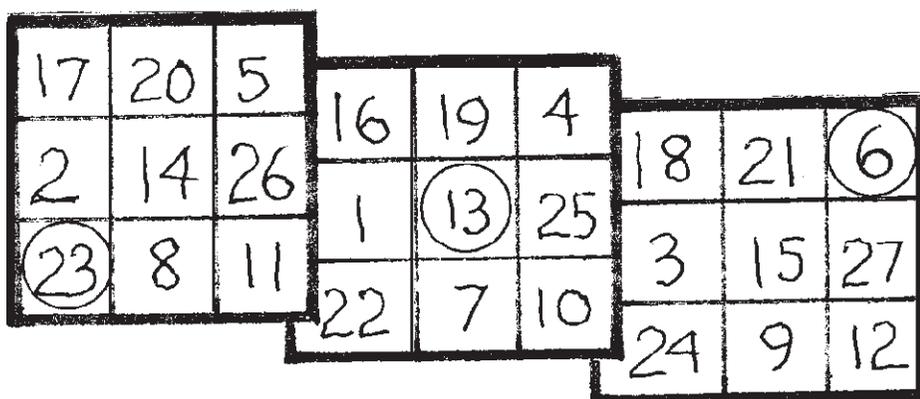
### THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

### Solution for puzzle # AB14 in the Dec. 7 issue



## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 6-13. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Dec. 6

- A little past midnight, Highlands Police assisted Macon County Sheriff Deputies in a car chase on Buck Creek Road. Highlands officers were able to stop the car and hold the three white males at gunpoint until the sheriff's deputies arrived.

Dec. 7

- At 9 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 41 mph in a 25 zone at Laurel and U.S. 64 east.

- At 9:12 a.m., a gas drive-off was reported at D&J Express Mart.

- At 3:48 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and Third streets.

- At 5 p.m., a breaking and entering was reported at a residence on Stacy Russell Road. Nothing was taken.

Dec. 8

- At 10 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for failing to secure the load he was hauling.

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106.

Dec. 11

- At 2:10 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a resident on Morehead Circle. \$700 was reported missing.

- During the week, officers responded to 2 alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 7-13.

Dec. 7

- The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 106. There were no injuries.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Cashiers Fire Department. The call was cancelled en route.

Dec. 8

- The dept. responded to an alarm at OEI. It was set off by the sprinkler system..

- The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Cashiers Fire Department. The call was cancelled en route.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a resident on Lower Brushy Face Road. It was set off due to a broken water line.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Deer Run. It was false.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 9

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Country Club Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 11

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers to assist with a woods fire in the Mill Creek area where 45 acres burned.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Macon Bank. It was false.

Dec. 12

- The dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over on Buck Creek Road. It was caused by black ice on the road. There was one injury.

Dec. 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at resident on Country Club Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

## • RE TRANSACTIONS •

### Highlands Township

- 0531258, 3352 CLEAR CREEK RD, PERKINS GILES G, 11/16/2006, \$447,000., MCCUTCHEN WILLIAM A III, \$267,940.

- 0548515, 441 GLEN FALLS RD, PARRISH LINDA KELLY, 11/20/2006, \$600,000., RALSTON JOHN HODGES, \$225,720.

- 0548635, DILLARD RD LOT 4 HIGHLANDS POINT, JACOBSON A PAGE, 11/17/2006, \$0., JACOBSON A PAGE, \$120,000.

- 0516879, LOT 4 BL C SEC II HFCC, SAEDLO WILLIAM P., 11/15/2006, \$530,000., PRIDGEN B CAMERON, \$153,460.

- 0517068, 112 LOWER CLIFF RD CULLASAJA CLUB, J B FAM LTD LIABILITY LTD PTSP, 11/15/2006, \$1,488,000., DOGWOOD HOMES LLC, \$115,200.

- 0536618, 89 THE GRAYROCKS AT HIGHGATE, JTK REALTY LLC, 11/15/2006, \$1,300,000., COSTELLO MARION E JR., \$1,525,450.

- 0504029, 211 VALENTINE LN, HILL PAULA DOUGLASS, 11/20/2006, \$420,000., CONERY DEBORAH C, \$240,270.

- 0527102, 130 HIDDEN SPRINGS RD PT OF LOTS 2 & 3 HARRELLS ACRES, COOK ADAM R, 11/17/2006, \$285,000., SKIPPER MARSHALL E, \$131,990.

### Flats Township / Scaly Mtn.

- 0624588, 270 NIX RD, POINTER JACQUELINE 140, 11/17/2006, 145000., HAYS FRANK J JR., \$69,060.



Eric Chen

## Pseudocube winner number 2

Eric Chen, Highlands School senior, emailed the first correct solution for puzzle number 14 which ran in the Dec. 7 issue of Highlands' Newspaper. Eric hails from "just south of Shanghai, China" and plans to study architecture at the University of Syracuse in New York.

He's heading to Buck's Coffee Cafe for his free cup of coffee.

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<b>Area Code 828</b>	2 Tin Roof Gallery	5 Signatory Prop.	8 Mtn Golf Properties	11 Fairfield Realty	14 Rand Soellner Arch.	17 Hampton Inn	20
	3 On The Verandah	6 Skyline Lodge	9 Buyers' Real Estate	12 TUBBY Tubing	15 HomePlace Blinds	18 Brew Bird Cafe	21

<b>ANTIQUES</b> Elephant's Foot Highlands, 526-5451 Shiraz Oriental Rugs Highlands, 526-5759	<b>BEAUTY &amp; SPA</b> Mountain Magic Highlands, 526-4049 Old Edwards Spa Highlands, 526-8008 Pro Nails Highlands, 526-8777 Taylor Barns Salon Highlands, 526-4192 The Very Thing Highlands, 526-2333	<b>BOUTIQUES</b> Village Kids Highlands, 526-5799 Vivace Highlands, 526-1880 Wits End Highlands, 526-3160	<b>FOODS</b> Whole Life Market Highlands, 526-5999 Wine & Cheese Highlands, 526-5210	<b>HOME DECOR</b> Highlands Cust Cov Highlands, 526-4226 Highlands Decor Ctr Highlands, 526-3571 Highlands Hardware Highlands, 526-3719 HomePlace Blinds Sapphire, 743-5451 Old Rangoon Highlands, 526-8288 Southern Shutters Clayton, 706-782-5212 The Summer House Highlands, 526-5577 Wholesale Down Highlands, 526-4905	<b>LODGING</b> Chambers Rentals Highlands, 526-3717 Main Street Inn Highlands, 526-2590 Mitchell's Lodge Highlands, 526-2267 Old Clayton Inn Clayton, 706-782-7722 Old Edwards Inn Highlands, 526-8008 The Lodge Highlands, 526-8008 Skyline Lodge Highlands, 526-2121	<b>RESTAURANTS</b> Golden China Highlands, 526-5525 High Country Cafe Highlands, 526-0572 Hill-Top Grill Highlands, 526-5916 Lakeside Highlands, 526-9419 Madison's Highlands, 526-5477 Mountain Perk Sapphire, 743-7889 On The Verandah Highlands, 526-2338 Peregrine Highlands, 787-2465 Pescado's Highlands, 526-9313 Pizza Place Highlands, 526-5660 Rib Shack Highlands, 526-2626 Ristorante Paoletti Highlands, 526-4906 Rosewood Market Highlands, 526-0383 Skyline Restaurant Highlands, 526-2121 SportsPage Highlands, 526-3555	<b>RESTAURANTS</b> SweeTreats Cafe Highlands, 526-9822 Wolfgang's Highlands, 526-3807 <b>REAL ESTATE</b> Buyer's Realty Highlands, 526-0988 Catatoga C.C. LakeToxaway, 877-6270 Century 21 Highlands, 787-2121 Chambers Agency Highlands, 526-3717 Country Club Prop. Highlands, 526-2520 Highlands Cove Highlands, 526-4185 John Schiffli Highlands, 526-5750 Keller Williams Highlands, 526-9520 Meadows Mountain Highlands, 526-1717 Architect - Soellner Sapphire, 743-6010 Builder - Warth Highlands, 526-4929 Builder - NBG Highlands, 526-4780
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**10 CYPRUS** **18 Main St. Inn Wine Bar** **SweetTreats 28**  
**Instant Theatre NIGHT LIFE** **Fressers 12**  
**30 Wolfgang's** **On The Verandah 20** **Wine Garden 17**

- |                         |                        |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>LODGING</b>          | <b>REAL ESTATE</b>     | <b>BOUTIQUES</b>        | <b>ANTIQUES</b>          |
| 01) Main Street Inn     | 31) Buyer's Realty     | 60) AnnaWear            | 90) Elephants Foot       |
| 02) Mitchell's Lodge    | 32) Century 21         | 61) Bungalow Boutique   | 91) Mirror Lake Antiques |
| 03) Mtn High Lodge      | 33) Chambers Agency    | 62) Cabin Casuals       | 92)                      |
| 04) Old Edwards Inn     | 34) Country Club Prop. | 63)                     | 93) Shiraz Oriental Rugs |
| 05) Skyline Lodge       | 35) Houston Realty     | 64) Coolcats Hotdogs    | <b>ART GALLERIES</b>     |
| 06) The Lodge           | 36) John Cleaveland    | 65) Jolies              | 95) Hubert Shuptrine     |
| <b>DINING</b>           | 37) John Schiffl       | 66)                     | 96) John Collette        |
| 07) Brick Oven          | 38) Keller Williams    | 67)                     | 97) Mill Creek Gallery   |
| 08) Bucks Cafe          | 39) Meadows Mtn.       | 68)                     | 98) Robert Tino          |
| 09) Cafe 460            | 40)                    | 69) Nancy's Fancys      | 99) The Very Thing       |
| 10) Cyprus              | <b>HOME DECOR</b>      | 70) Shops of O.E.I.     | <b>SERVICES</b>          |
| 11) Don Leon's          | 41) Acorns             | 71) The Exchange        | 100) ComputerMan         |
| 12) Fressers            | 42) Black Bear Furn.   | 72) Village Kids        | 111) Curves Fitness      |
| 14) Hill-Top Grill      | 43) Custom Coverings   | 73) Vivace              | 112) Drug Stores         |
| 15)                     | 44) Dry Sink           | 74) Wits End            | 114) Dry Cleaners        |
| 16)                     | 45) Highlands Cabinet  | <b>JEWELRY</b>          | 115) Highlands Office    |
| 17) Madison's           | 46) Highlands Decorat. | 75) Drakes Diamonds     | 116) Jack Mayer          |
| 18) Main Street Inn     | 47) Old Rangoon        | 76) Highlands Gem       | 117) Nantahala Tire      |
| 19) Nick's Restaurant   | 48)                    | 77) Highlands Fine Art  | 118) Zek Sossoman        |
| 20) On The Verandah     | 49) Summer House       | 78) Kent Ltd            | 119) Woodworks           |
| 21) Pescado's           | 50) Twigs              | 79) Silver Eagle        | <b>OUTFITTERS</b>        |
| 22) Pizza Place         | 51) Wholesale Down     | <b>BEAUTY &amp; SPA</b> | 120) Bear Mountain       |
| 23) Rib Shack           | <b>GIFTS</b>           | 80) #1 Nails            |                          |
| 24) Ristorante Paoletti | 52) Bird Barn          | 81) All Seasons Salon   |                          |
| 25) Rosewood Market     | 53) Christmas Tree     | 82) Creative Concepts   |                          |
| 26) Skyline Restaurant  | 54) Grinning Frog      | 83) Images Salon/Spa    |                          |
| 27) SportsPage          | 55) Needle Point       | 84) Mountain Magic      |                          |
| 28) SweetTreats Cafe    | 56) Shakespears        | 85) Pro Nails           |                          |
| 29) Fressers Express    | 57) Speckled Hen       | 86) Taylor Barns Salon  |                          |
| 30) Wolfgang's          | 58) The Hen House      | 87) The Very Thing      |                          |

# Highlands Map

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



Out On A Limb & Twigs 50

A'S LANE

FOREMAN RD.

Whole Health Market 90

Civic Center Pool & Tennis

HIGHWAY 64 (CASHIERS RD.)

MAPLE ST.

OAK ST.

MAIN ST.

CHURCH ST.

SPRING ST.

HIGHWAY 106 (DILLARD RD.)

3RD ST.

2ND ST.

1ST ST.

W. MAIN ST.

FRANKLIN RD.

RB Centura Bank

Gates Nursery 25

CITGO

Bryant Art Glass

August Produce

NBG Builders

On The Verandah 20

Restaurant 1 Mile

Shiraz Oriental Rug Gallery

Serving Highlands For 21 Years

Oak Sq. - Main & Third Streets

Have A Happy New Year

We Cut The Best Steaks In Town

Dusty's Market

Highlands Decorating & Hardware

Mitchell's Lodge & Cottages

Cyprus Dillard Road Village

Hwy. 106

The Farm & Highlands C.C.

1 Mile Hwy. 106

Tin Roof & Summer House

2 Miles Hwy. 106

Post Office

Computer Man The Connection

BRYSON'S FOODS

Subway

Highlands Office

CAR SPA

Wolfgang's

Wine Spectator

Satulah Village

The Very Thing

Art Gallery & Beauty Salon

<<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28

WORTH

Christian Scientist

Buyers Realty

CHURCH ST.

SPRING ST.

4TH ST.

HillTop Grill

Rib Shack

Cleaners

Highlands Chiropractic

Northland Cable

Highlands School

Peggy Crosby Ctr

Cabin Casuals

Casual Sportswear for the Whole Family!

The Falls on Main

828-526-3320

Wine Spectator 17

Madison's

Community Players

Chamber Music Festival

Performing Arts Center

Best of the Bunch

First Citizens Bank

Historic Village

Meadows Mountain Realty

Phillips 66

Fibber Magee's

Mt Findings

Mt Brook

SweetTreats

Brick Oven

MovieStop

DeWolff Custom House

Keller Williams

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

Nature Center

500 Yards >>

Sunset Rock

500 Yards >>

Hudson Library

Bascom-Louise Gallery

Falls on Main

Bird Barn

Cabin Casuals

Century 21

Wine & Cheese

Creative Concepts

Everything You Need

Child Care

The Lodge

South St.

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