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 the 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.”

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 Stames of Hickory, N.C., said the county has a “clean report.”

“There were no findings or costs questioned, nor any material internal control weaknesses 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.

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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Another View pg. 6

Conservative POV pg. 7

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NEW Pseudocube pg. 22

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 E1 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 a 15,000 sq. ft. metal storage buildings.

The project will be phased in – with phase one including the town's 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.

“Yet 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’s sewer policy.

The project will be phased in – with phase one including the town’s sewer policy.
Follow the money

Kim Lewicki  
Publisher

"The Forum," the newsletter of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, recently released its 19th 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, 43rd in supplemental funding, and 21st in actual effort.

In John Doman’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 Doman’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}

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.

Letters to the Editor:

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 300 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

Edna Foster, Highlands

Thanks also to: PTO, Mountain Top Pottery, Mr. Simeon Hickman, Quick Mart Texaco Gas Station and Wit’s End. Donations: Bucks Coffee Café, Kilwins, Cyranos, Cosper 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

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Copy Editor/Proofreader - Tom Merchant  
Cartoonist - Karen Hawk  
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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 Hijdon, 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.

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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 - 2.36 acres. Plus, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at $12 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.

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.”

... 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 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

... FORUM continued from page 2

Call Pam Taylor
(cell) 342-6988, 526-9027, 526-2520

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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.

Welcome to our little nuthouse

Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged! email: askfredanything@aol.com

Dateline: Palm Beach, Fl.

It was a grand idea. Even the lil’ 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 17½ 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 burqas. 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 whimpering 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 gripe 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 bedraggled 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 sniffle plagued 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 halftime 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, passing 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 furnaces 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.” “So, 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 firefighters but from my family.

Then it hit me. This had to be the work of my kid, a haz/mat firefighter himself. I watched with interest as the firefighters but from my family.
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 "honour 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, 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 manipulators, 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 they revolution, like others that preceded it, gets its second (or third or fourth) wind.
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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Does ‘color’ cloud our judgement?

Try 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 “Chews” as in “Chews, Chews. All I ever hear is Jews.” But he pronounced it “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 cheeries 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 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 dear, 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 snarly 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, had a poll after the last election (booo, boo) 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 percent of those queried admitted to not knowing enough about him to rate him, 60 percent 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 disqualify 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 humor.

McCain and Rice followed at 3rd & 4th, John Edwards nudged out Hillary for 8th, and Al Gore edged W for 14th. 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. Gov. Vilsack of Iowa wasn't even on the list.

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 wiser-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 Ncwot 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 dollars to soups.

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**Local bear honored for participation in Christmas parade**

Highland's 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 Bruger 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 up here and the blackberries are the best I've ever tasted!"

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!"

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**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
First 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 Kieltyka, 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 Kieltyka.

The annual Christmas music program performed by the eumcinal 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 but this was not necessary but we must protect the interest of the Town in seeing 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 activestaff 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

Growing 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 same way they felt; 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 story 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 sassy, 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 a.m.
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
Upcoming Events:
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 a.m.
First Saturday: Sniging at 7:30 p.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2955
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: Men’s 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 a.m.
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. Women’s 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. – Children’s Chapel; 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Monday: 4 p.m. – Women’s cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. – Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. – Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – Men’s 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. – Men’s Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Wednesdays: Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m.

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study

**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 – Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group;
4:45 – Children’s 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 – Women’s 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
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.
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.

**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 a.m.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Weekly Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 11 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
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: __________________________

Given By: _________________________

Address: __________________________

Send Acknowledgments to: ____________

Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree

... SEWER continued from page 1

... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

... 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 does not 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 3rd. 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 as well as any teacher to students, it’s likely he had the 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.

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... PROJECTS continued from page 1

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

Architect Paul Schmitt said the concept of the development is to focus on the view of the cabin, screening the storage build-
ings behind it: “Leaving considerable natu-
ral 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 building 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, Mer-
edith learned that metal buildings aren’t
allowed in town or in the ETJ area. “They
can be metal, but must be dad in some-
thing else so you can’t see it,” said Town
Planner Larry Gantenbein.

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

“In the court of public opinion, buff-
ering 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 re-
quired of new projects in the ETJ area.
Schmitt and Meredith said they are work-
ing very hard to preserve as much foliage
for buffering both from the road and with-
in the project itself.

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

At the Dec. 11 Appearance Commis-
sion 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 larg-
er 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,
however, architect Craig Orange with Pes-
terfield Engineering, said stacked-stone
would be used instead. “We want the proj-
et to be similar and of the same gen-
eral 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 con-
ider putting the majority of the parking
in the back of each building, rather than in
the front as drawn, so paving isn’t the fo-
cus as seen from the street.

Members said it was too bad so much of
the property had to be eaten up by park-
ing. “You’re eating up more ground for
parking and driveways than for the struc-
tures 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 park-
ing requirements when they get a chance.

“The trick will be to reduce parking re-
quirements but not allow developers to put
that footage back into the footprint of the build-
ing. 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 adjoining Pinecrest sub-
division signed a petition in favor of the
project because they said they’d rather have
a residential community next to their neigh-
borhood than a commercial office complex.

- Kim Lewicki

\[ \text{Fuel assistance} \]

\[ \text{sign-up next week} \]

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.

\[ \text{Flu shots at Health Dept.} \]

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

Shots will be administered Mon-
tday 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 insur-
ance, 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 infor-
mation call 349-2081.
Boys record is 8-2

On 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.

Girls record is 8-3

The 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 Jenkins on the organ. Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins on the organ.

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

**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 $7,243,269 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 $22,069,776 with a debt margin of $423,998,202.

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

4th – D. West
A” Alli Bolt
A” April Moss
A” Josh Wolfe
A” Kenan Lewis
A” Philip Murphy
A” Valarie Billingsley
A” Veronica Garcia
A” Ann Marie Crowe
A” Craig Dalton
A” Jessica Tilson
A” Kassie Vinson
A” Katie Ingram
A” Taylor Schmitt
A” Grace Brassard
A” Will Araujo
A” Rebecca Johnson
A” Kelyn Billingsley
A” Dax Lloyd
A” Parker Sims
A” Sydney Wagner
A” Lindsay Wagner

5th – S. Mayer & G. Boring
A” Will Araujo
A” Rebecca Johnson
A” Kelyn Billingsley
A” Dax Lloyd
A” Parker Sims
A” Sydney Wagner
A” Lindsay Wagner

6th – S. Mayer & G. Boring
A” Will Araujo
A” Rebecca Johnson
A” Kelyn Billingsley
A” Dax Lloyd
A” Parker Sims
A” Sydney Wagner
A” Lindsay Wagner

7th – E. Woods
A” Isaac Beavers
A” Cai Roman
A” Tim Fogle
A” Sydney Wagner
A” Lindsay Wagner

8th – S. Smathers
A” Katlin Lewis
A” Kim Machuca
A” Emily Murphy
A” Fabiola Diaz
A” Copeland Hardin
A” Emily Munger
A” Danielle Stomper

9th – S. Massey
A” Amy Fogle
A” Clayton Lassiter
A” Marlee McCall
A” Bevan Schiffl

9th Grade
A” Samuel Wheeler
A” Brice Jenkins
A” Beverly Nix
A” Kate-Marie Parks
A” Jamie Bolt
A” Amanda Bruce
A” Ashley Dickie
A” Katie Durham
A” Shelby Johnson
A” Will Mathiowid
A” Will Edwards
A” Casey Jenkins
A” Taylor Parrish
A” Carolyn Horby
A” Luke McClellan
A” Matt McClellan
A” Michael Nix
A” Marisol Ruiz
A” Griselda Sanchez
A” Jessica Dryman
A” Kyle Lassiter
A” Taylor Slinson
A” Sally Wheeler
A” Thomas Forrest
A” Michael Grabe
A” Katie Pierce
A” Greg Porter
A” Eric Chen
A” Britanny Dryman
A” Lucy Horz
A” Chase Jenkins
A” Nick Kerholus
A” Pamela Potts
A” Sara Varaflber
A” Allison Winn
A” Reem Armin
A” Sofia Diaz
A” Courtney Henry
A” Sarah Henry
A” Jesse Machuca
A” Brianna Buchanan
A” Manuel Contreras
A” Ana Damian
A” Britanny Edmonds
A” Kimberly Feria
A” Angelo Garcia
A” Juan Garcia
A” Suzette Garcia
A” Jose Jimenez
A” Wayland McCall
A” Taylor Welch
A” Cole Wilkes
A” Becca Ashburn
A” Jacob Bowers
A” Katie Bryson
A” Amanda Chambers
A” Lara Gibson
A” Craig McCall
A” Angela Sanchez
A” Ethan Crisp
A” Grace Cowe
A” Madison Dalton
A” Destin Gearhart
A” Samuel Hawkins
A” Josh Kennedy
A” Manul Machuca
A” Sarah Rogers
A” Brenna Wilson
A” K – J. McClellan
A” Jake Billingsley
A” Alex Damian
A” Beatrice Garcia
A” Alex Healy
A” Yulana Mora
A” Samuel Schmitt
A” Bert Zachary
A” D. Sizemore
A” Brianna Buchanan
A” Manuel Contreras
A” Ana Damian
A” Britanny Edmonds
A” Kimberly Feria
A” Angelo Garcia
A” Juan Garcia
A” Suzette Garcia
A” Jose Jimenez
A” Wayland McCall
A” Taylor Welch
A” Cole Wilkes
A” Becca Ashburn
A” Jacob Bowers
A” Katie Bryson
A” Amanda Chambers
A” Lara Gibson
A” Craig McCall
A” Angela Sanchez
A” Ethan Crisp
A” Grace Cowe
A” Madison Dalton
A” Destin Gearhart
A” Samuel Hawkins
A” Josh Kennedy
A” Manul Machuca
A” Sarah Rogers
A” Brenna Wilson
A” K – J. McClellan
A” Jake Billingsley
A” Alex Damian
A” Beatrice Garcia
A” Alex Healy
A” Yulana Mora
A” Samuel Schmitt
A” Bert Zachary

10th Grade
A” Remy Armin
A” Sofia Diaz
A” Courtney Henry
A” Sarah Henry
A” Jesse Machuca
A” Brianna Buchanan
A” Manuel Contreras
A” Ana Damian
A” Britanny Edmonds
A” Kimberly Feria
A” Angelo Garcia
A” Juan Garcia
A” Suzette Garcia
A” Jose Jimenez
A” Wayland McCall
A” Taylor Welch
A” Cole Wilkes
A” Becca Ashburn
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A” Lara Gibson
A” Craig McCall
A” Angela Sanchez
A” Ethan Crisp
A” Grace Cowe
A” Madison Dalton
A” Destin Gearhart
A” Samuel Hawkins
A” Josh Kennedy
A” Manul Machuca
A” Sarah Rogers
A” Brenna Wilson
A” K – J. McClellan
A” Jake Billingsley
A” Alex Damian
A” Beatrice Garcia
A” Alex Healy
A” Yulana Mora
A” Samuel Schmitt
A” Bert Zachary

11th Grade
A” Remy Armin
A” Sofia Diaz
A” Courtney Henry
A” Sarah Henry
A” Jesse Machuca
A” Brianna Buchanan
A” Manuel Contreras
A” Ana Damian
A” Britanny Edmonds
A” Kimberly Feria
A” Angelo Garcia
A” Juan Garcia
A” Suzette Garcia
A” Jose Jimenez
A” Wayland McCall
A” Taylor Welch
A” Cole Wilkes
A” Becca Ashburn
A” Jacob Bowers
A” Katie Bryson
A” Amanda Chambers
A” Lara Gibson
A” Craig McCall
A” Angela Sanchez
A” Ethan Crisp
A” Grace Cowe
A” Madison Dalton
A” Destin Gearhart
A” Samuel Hawkins
A” Josh Kennedy
A” Manul Machuca
A” Sarah Rogers
A” Brenna Wilson
A” K – J. McClellan
A” Jake Billingsley
A” Alex Damian
A” Beatrice Garcia
A” Alex Healy
A” Yulana Mora
A” Samuel Schmitt
A” Bert Zachary

12th Grade
A” Remy Armin
A” Sofia Diaz
A” Courtney Henry
A” Sarah Henry
A” Jesse Machuca
A” Brianna Buchanan
A” Manuel Contreras
A” Ana Damian
A” Britanny Edmonds
A” Kimberly Feria
A” Angelo Garcia
A” Juan Garcia
A” Suzette Garcia
A” Jose Jimenez
A” Wayland McCall
A” Taylor Welch
A” Cole Wilkes
A” Becca Ashburn
A” Jacob Bowers
A” Katie Bryson
A” Amanda Chambers
A” Lara Gibson
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A” Angela Sanchez
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A” Grace Cowe
A” Madison Dalton
A” Destin Gearhart
A” Samuel Hawkins
A” Josh Kennedy
A” Manul Machuca
A” Sarah Rogers
A” Brenna Wilson
A” K – J. McClellan
A” Jake Billingsley
A” Alex Damian
A” Beatrice Garcia
A” Alex Healy
A” Yulana Mora
A” Samuel Schmitt
A” Bert Zachary

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
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 echocardiography 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, its also making a difference for other types of patients. Staff radiologist Dr. Rodney Stinnett, says the brighter, clearer images 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 mainstream uses of ultrasound technology, such as general abdomen and gastrointestinal imaging.

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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 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.

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 - Felix 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
- International Friendship Center - Feliz Navidad 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

- Episcopal Church, HUMC, OLM, CBC - Christmas Is For Everyone Award
- The parade was sponsored by The Christmas Tree…on the hill.
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 FTC office at 828-526-1687. A new class is forming now.

• Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn on Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.
• Beginners clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Cashiers 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 Health Tracks 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) at 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 6:30.

• 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 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 presentations will be 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 Cyranos Book Shop, a book signing from 1-3 p.m. Carl Smith “Louisiana Lunn.”

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-5 mile hike along the Horsepasture River passing Bust-yer-butt, Turtleback, Rainbow and Staircase 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 743-2377 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 Career Center. Instructor Joanne Nolen will teach how to construct a multi-purpose, decorative basket with 10” diameter open top, 3” 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 Cars at the 11 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church with the Chancel Choir. The choir is directed by Ollie Wilke and accompanied by Angie Jenkins on the organ. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano, Wayne Coleman, tenor, John Greene, tenor and Stella Hueil, baritone. Also featured will be Valerie Von Pech 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 on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. 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 Ms. Scheyer at 526-4032.

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 After Hours at Gallery On 4th from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. It is across from the town hall at 221 N. Fourth Street. Photos from Fall Finsale 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 p.m. Tickets are $10.

Dec. 27 – Wednesday
• The Prince House, Highlands Historical Society’s Christmas Showhouse will be open for touring from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are $10.

Dec. 30 – Saturday
• The Prince House, Highlands Historical Society’s Christmas Showhouse will be open for touring from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are $10.

For more information, call the Prince House at 743-1787 or at 743-1436.
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 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.

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 shopping mall works like any other online shopping vehicle except now Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation benefits from the experience. After entering the shopping mall 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.

Just bookmark http://ahpsShoppingMall.com and start shopping today!

去医院：http://ahpsShoppingMall.com and name Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation as the beneficiary for proceeds.
HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER MEALS – Needed on Fridays. Must pick up meals at the hospital and deliver to individuals at their homes. Call the Rec Park Office at 526-3556 or Teresa Curtis at the Macon County Dept. of Aging at 349-2058 or 349-2235.

OFFICE MANAGER/DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR — Duties for this full-time position include membership development, bookkeeping, 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 28741 or email to 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 828-526-6170 or fax résumé to 828-526-2625.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! — Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. We are now accepting applications for the next class beginning January 23, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Miller at 828-526-1317, or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

ADMINISTRATOR FOR FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Must be a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in North Carolina. Minimum of three years experience preferred. Must have knowledge of regulations established by DFS and JCAHO. Responsibility includes overall management of the center and ensuring compliance with all standards, applicable laws, and State/Federal regulations. Excellent salary and full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

ACCOUNTING CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Responsible for Accounts Payable. Will assist in payroll, general ledger, and fixed assets. You will also assist human resources in clerking duties as needed. Full time position Monday - Friday. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301, or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Our current wage scale is $19 to $27.74 per hour, depending on experience, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, R.N. licensed in N.C. Masters Degree preferred, but not required. Responsible for patient care, management, resource management, and fiscal management of Acute Care, Emergency, Respiratory Therapy and Outpatient Procedure Clinic. Also responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws governing nursing and clinical practice in N.C. and for the 24-hour management and operation of the departments. Excellent salary and full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II interested in working in an environment where you can truly make a difference to those whom you care for? We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNAs is $11 to $14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

COOK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, year-round employment. 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Competitive salary and full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

FOR RENT

NEW RETAIL/STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE. BEST PRICES IN TOWN. — All units individually climate controlled with bathrooms. 1,600 sq ft, secure storage $950 monthly, no maintenance fees. OR, 2,300 sq ft, new retail $1,750 monthly, no maintenance fees. Call (828)526-5296 or (828)421-3161. Limited space.


FARM HOUSE — 3 Bed 2 Bath renovated farm house in Scaly on Buck Knob Rd. $1,100 + utilities monthly. Call 526-4646.

NEW SPACE FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION — Lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza. 600 sq ft – 8,000 sq ft available in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson’s. Call 864-630-0808 today to lease your space in “The Most Visited Location in Highlands.”

HOLIDAY RENTAL — Lake Glenville, 4 bed/3 bath. — See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

HIGHSPIN ON MAIN STREET

In the middle of Main
526-5799
rooms, 3 bath, stone fireplace, dock, weekly rates. Call 858-354-0057.
CHARMING CABIN — Your own little taste of heaven in a home? 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath cabin for rent in Scaly Mtn. New carpet, appliances, this stone/wood cabin has an awesome view! $825 per month with a 1 year lease. Chapin Lane location. Call for details today! Won’t last long. 423-894-9566.

ONE-BEDROOM GARAGE APARTMENT — close in, for mature single. Sparsely furnished. $475 year lease. Chapin Lane location. Call for details to view.

CABIN 1/2 MILE FROM PILGRIM'S REST — 3 bdrm, sleeps 6-8, $300. call (seasonal or yearly) – 1 bed, 1 bath cottage – great view – quiet location – only 1 mile off of U.S. 64. Close to Highlands and Cashiers. $700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

SOLLYR PLEASURES — 1/2 acre on 1/4-acre lot. Call David Brown at 770-827-0450.

COTTAGE OFF NORTON ROAD — (seasonal or yearly) – 1 bed, 1 bath cottage – great view – quiet location – only 1 mile off of U.S. 64. Close to Highlands and Cashiers. $700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

CUTEBED 2BATH COTTAGE — in Mirror Lake for rent. Walk to town. $1,200 + utilities monthly. Available mid October. Call 770-977-5692

REAL ESTATE FOR LEASE

BEAUTIFUL CHALET — for rent in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-grove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1Ul bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft basement for your office or storage needs. $850/mo. Call for details. 888-700-0100.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ON MIRROR LAKE — 3 bedrooms, 3 bath, plus cottage. $828-342-3202.
ON LAKE SEQUOYAH — Fabulous lake views. All newly remodeled executive home. 3 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 4 fireplaces. Call 828-342-3202.

BY OWNER ON MIRROR LAKE — Cute 2/2 on Wymoak. All Newly remodeled. $359,000. Call 828-342-2302.

BY BUILDER — 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1 1/2 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 HIGHLAND RIDGE — Cashiers area; Sapphire Valley Resort amenities (golf, boating/fishing, swim & tennis, skiing, horseback riding). $45,900. By owner. Call Eva (404) 819-5300.


ADORABLE 3 BR/3 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. $275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-525-1085.

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 AKA FEMALE YORKIE REGISTERED — 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.75507@yahoo.com

FURNITURE — Reception desk $300, solid wood round dining table w/mirror and 6 chairs $200, triple dresser w/mirror and night stand $100, 2 early American end tables $30 ea., secretary $40. Or OBO. Call 778-2383.

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

HILTI TE 80S DEMOLITION HAMMER — New. Case. & 4 bits. $500. 828-526-3700 or 828-421-7886
1958 ALBATOR/STRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH — Maple interior. Good condition. $1,000. Can be seen in 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, lovable. Female, 1 male. Call 828-899-9737.

IKEA STORAGE LOFT QEN BEED WITH DESK, BOOKSHELVES & DRAWERS — Solid Pine! Hardware & instructions Included 63’ x 84” x 861’ $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 526-5357.

GUITAR AMP CRATE — GLX212 w/ 16 built in effects, 3 channels, Free footswitch $300. dcc1982@aol.com or 526-1536.

GUITAR DISTORTION PEDALS — Digitech - Metal Master (distortion pedal) Death Metal - DDS (distortion pedal) AC Adapters Free $30 or $50 for both. dcc1982@aol.com or 526-1536

LINE 6 SPIDER II HD HEAD 150W — AC Adapter and free guitar cable Price $100 or make me an offer. dcc1982@aol.com or 526-1536

KING SIZE WATERBED FRAME — Wood, Lighted pannels and shelves in headboard, underbed stor-
Pseudocube © 2006

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

Solution for puzzle # AB14 in the Dec. 7 issue

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’s email arrived 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.

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 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. 9
• At 2:10 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a residence on Morehead Circle. $700 was reported missing.
• During the week, officers responded to 2 alarms.

Dec. 10
• RE TRANSACTIONS •

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.

Dec. 8
• The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Cashiers Fire Department. The call was cancelled en route.

Dec. 9
• 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. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 11
• 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. 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.