**Conditional zoning could be the ticket**

The town’s recent adoption of conditional zoning may be the answer to a sticky situation between a property owner and current zoning restrictions.

Elizabeth Lindsey, who developed the Sherwood Forest subdivision on U.S. 64 east, wants an eight-acre strip of the property along U.S. 64 east rezoned R3 commercial from its current R2 status.

Lindsey, who has owned the property since the early 1980s, thought the strip would remain commercial and it was always her intention to build something on it as “nest egg” she said. She wants to build a 50-room English manor lodge on the site.

But the results of a 1989 survey of citizens, where 86 percent said they didn’t want commercial development along Highlands’ corridors, prompted the town to rezone property along the corridors residential.

Town officials claim over the years Lindsey was notified of these intended changes — she contends she was never notified. Regardless, the property wasn’t actually rezoned residential until 1999, said officials.

Since the 1999 rezoning, Lindsey has requested it be rezoned. • See CONDITIONAL page 15

### Workers dress up the town

You see them everywhere — trimming trees, opening sewer lines, constructing the baseball diamond, repairing utility lines, even dressing Highlands for the holiday season. Here the town crew strings the Town Christmas Tree at the Methodist Church in preparation of the “Town Lighting.”

Saturday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.  
(Photo by Jim Lewicki)

### Weekend Weather:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>48.29°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>49.29°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>45.28°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Town Hall complex re-design in the works

During a special meeting, Nov. 8, the Town Board discusses the development of an architectural study of the Town Hall property with Peter Alberice of Camille Alberice Architects in Asheville.

Alberice outlined a three-phase process for property design and construction. The process would include developing a schematic design, the design development, and finally construction drawings.

The Town Hall property under... • See TOWN HALL page 13

### USDA explains affordable housing criteria

By Susanna Forrester Hearn  
Report

Like in many upscale tourist and second-home communities across the country, the lack of affordable housing has been an issue in Highlands for years.

Basically, many of the people who service the restaurants, hotels, and child care centers or who work in the construction industry come to Highlands to work but can’t afford to live in the area.

Now the Town of Highlands is investigating ways to provide affordable housing in the area.

The mayor and several members of the Town Board met with Pam Highsong and Betty Thompson of the USDA on Monday.  
• See HOUSING page 15

### Proposal sets timeline for RiverWalk

At a special Town Board meeting Wednesday, Nov. 8, the board listened to a proposed “deal” from RiverWalk’s attorney Billy Clarke.

As the attorney in the case of Youngs vs. Highlands Cove some years ago, Clarke represented the Youngs and won the case which involved sedimentation and erosion violations and the subsequent siting of the upper Cullasaja River and Mirror Lake.

The proposed settlement was discussed with Bill Coward, town attorney during a closed session a week before at the regular Nov. 1 Town Board meeting.

Clarke and RiverWalk’s new project manager, Henry Lyngos, presented a timetable for completion including all aspects of the job — erosion control measures, tree, brush and soil cleanup, water quality facilities, road and grading stabilization, storm drainage, water mains, sanitary sewer construction, electric, telephone and cable installation, fine the Cullasaja River.

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As a problem. Please indulge me as I indulge myself. It's only me or does anyone else see this bombardment? Because I'm worried that when I see the Election Day (or sometime) it disturbs me to no end, and each opponent is using that to try to make us think the other one is a tax evader.

Then after hearing several more ads whereby each opponent wants to make the other guy (or gal) out to be Saddam Hussein, it dawned on me that these politicians must truly think that we, the voting public, are all pretty naïve, that all we need to hear is a key word, said in a certain context, and it will send us fleeing in their direction. And now after almost three weeks of constant bombardment (as I write this it is Election Day) it disturbs me to no end, because I'm worried that when I see the results on TV tonight, they may have been right.

So I'm writing to the editor to see if it's only me or does anyone else see this as a problem. Please indulge me as I indulge myself.
Dear Editor,

For the past couple weekends, while eating breakfast, we got your newspaper. You have given even account of the necessary avenues the Mirror Lake area must take to restore our beautiful little lake. Thank you for your insightful articles. I hope you will continue to look into this for all of us who have places on Mirror Lake.

The fact that the mayor is urging action and making it clear that Mirror Lake is the responsibility of the residents of the area, shows we do have his concern. Your articles of the mayor’s perspective may keep this issue in the forefront, too. Please continue to urge people on Hickory Hill Road to allow the rights of way for paving to take place. It may be hard for them to give up some of their property to asphalt, but property values won’t be hurt if the roads in the area are better and if the lake is deep and shimmering.

Right now the trees, bushes and hedges on the sides of the roads are so covered in dust they appear grey not green. Hickory Hill Road, Chowan and the others are narrow and have potholes around every bend. Emergency vehicles probably can’t even get to some homes in that area.

Also, the bottom of the lake is now only a few inches from the surface of the water, even in places where we used to boat and fish.

Drinking water is being compromised, we are told. Don’t we all hope that the people of Mirror Lake will be generous enough to give a few feet to improve the whole area? Some have probably gone home to their winter dwellings. How sad if they return to a lake that only promises to shrink further.

Thank you again for your attention to this and for urging residents to allow paving to happen. I would like to hear the reason any Hickory Hill person would not want this paving to happen. Everything I have read and hear points only to selfishness of the people in the area.

I choose to think it is mainly a fear of giving up land and without knowledge of the alternative for the lake and area.

Thank you again and please continue your excellent reporting.

Judy Noble
Highlands

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**Obituaries**

William Young Bryson

William Young Bryson, age 75, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, November 9, 2006 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Walter Alan and Ruth Young Bryson. He was U.S. Army veteran during the Korean Conflict. He was a home builder and was of the Methodist faith. He was a member of the Highlands VFW.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Virginia Vinson Bryson; two sons, William Y. “Pete” Bryson, Jr. of Highlands, NC and Daniel Allan Bryson of Highlands, NC; one sister, Mozelle Postell and her husband, Bright of Robbinsville, NC; one brother, Walter Neville Bryson and his wife, Edna of Highlands, NC; one granddaughter, Marissa Bryan Moore of Greenville, SC; one step-granddaughter, Stephanie Presley of Franklin, NC and one step-great-granddaughter, Emily Presley of Franklin, NC.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 2 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Eddie Ingram and Rev. Walter Wilson officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jim Bryson, Mike Bryson, Paul Corbin, Clay Bryson, Jimmy Lowe and Eddie McDonald.

Memorials may be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC, 28741. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Dear Editor,

I want to thank all the voters who turned out in great numbers and voted for change. I was so happy that the wise and wonderful John Snow was re-elected. He has represented us well in Raleigh! I was delighted that we will now be represented in Washington by the young and vibrant Heath Shuler.

Nancy Pelosi has mapped out a positive agenda and intends to work with Republicans to accomplish good things. I was pleased that the president has nominated Bob Gates to be Secretary of Defense to bring fresh eyes to the situation in Iraq. It was also encouraging to me to hear the president say he will be listening to the Iraq Study Group.

These outstanding leaders have declared that they love their country more than their party and are trying to come up with solutions to end this stalemate. Let us hold up in prayer all these men and women who have been called to positions of responsibility – that they may be statesmen instead of politicians.

Edna Foster, Highlands

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This remarkable new home is ready to live in! Buy now for the holidays!
It allows owners and guests ample space to enjoy the view of Whiteside Mountain and a mountain stream. 7,400 sq. ft. on 14 acres. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces. In Highlands Point.

On Apple Lake!

5 lots - 2.16 acres. Plus, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at $12. million.

Laurel Branch at Skyline

This beautiful home, tucked away in Laurel Falls at Skyline, is very sophisticated yet charmingly rustic. Bright, open plan with top of the line kitchen appliances, dining and great room with cathedral ceilings, open and covered decks, guest quarters, a master suite to die for on nearly 2 acres with 2-car garage with apartment. Offered at $1,495,000.

Old Highlands charm with a complete renovation

You will love the bright openness of this spacious home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus loft. It has just been updated with slate patio, cypress floors, vaulted v-grove cypress ceilings, pine and cypress paneling, granite countertops, solid pine doors, 2 massive rock fireplaces, 2 master suites, new 30-year architectural grade shingle roof on a large lot with plenty of parking. Lovely landscaping as well, on the Atlanta-side of Highlands. $749,000.

Two lots:

- 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.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Continue keeping us informed

Dear Editor,

As your fellow citizens, we are concerned about the condition of Mirror Lake. The Mirror Lake area has been neglected for too long. It is time for the residents of the area to come together and take responsibility for the future of our lake.

We are encouraged by the recent statements of these outstanding leaders who have declared that they love their country more than their party. We hope that these leaders will work with the president and Congress to find solutions to the problems we face.

We would like to hear from you about your thoughts on this issue. Please continue to keep us informed.

Judy Noble
Highlands

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- Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. $179,000.
**Raffle for Class of 2011**

A fully decorated pre-lit Christmas tree. See it in the Highlands Printing storefront at Highlands Plaza. Tickets are 6 for $5 or $1 each, available from parents of current 8th graders. The drawing will be November 18 at the Highlands School Alumni Basketball game.

---

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For the past 21 years, Shiraz has had prominence in the Highlands, N.C. area as the ultimate resource for genuine, hand-knotted Oriental rugs. Shiraz has built a reputation that is second to none. Hand Cleaning, repairing and appraisals, too.

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**Laughing at Life**

The Jelly Bellies won

No, no, no, I’m not talking about the fat slob politicians in the halls of Congress, I’m talking about fat slob police officers on the streets of America.

Just in case you don’t read my column often, I will qualify my remarks by telling you I am a retired dinosaur police commander from South Florida. Also, I believe one of the reasons God created death is because He knows the world will eventually run off and leave us geezers behind. It happens to everyone who lives long enough.

There is little that can “get my shorts in a wad” these days, the keyword being little. Near the top of my short list is fat cops.

The reason I have my dander up this week is a report from Winter Haven, Florida, where the Police Chief was fired for having the audacity of issuing a memo to his officers suggesting they are “Jelly Bellies.” POW, he was fired for offending them. Can you believe it? His memo went on to suggest his officers might consider, for the good of the community, to stop smoking, keep out of the donut and fast food shops, start an exercise regimentation and make an effort to lose weight. Who does this chief think he is?

His firing brought back memories of my fight with our police union to create a physical fitness program for police officers on my department. Of course, I eventually lost. Our entire nation is overweight, so it is hard to find leaders who will support fit officers, especially if the mayor, commissioners and city manager are so fat they can barely waddle into a fast food shop.

Fit officers perform better than fat ones. Foot chases are common in big cities because the bad guys know cops can’t shoot them in the back simply because they run, at least not anymore. So he sizes up the fat slob asking for his badge. I would counter, that only works on the open highway. Here, have another donut.

I cannot speak for police departments around the country, but I can speak for mine after all, I spent over 28 years there. The physical criterion to get on our department was one of the toughest in the nation. I still remember having to pull my body weight up a 20-foot rope, touch the rafter of the gym with one hand, all in less than 30 seconds. Then there was an extremely difficult swimming test with all your clothes on, including shoes. Have you ever tried that? Well, don’t. Since Miami Beach was surrounded by water, being able to swim fully clothed was mandatory.

Are you sitting down? Our officers no longer have to be able to swim at all. The swimming test is gone and our department just hired a 340 pound, 6-foot, 6-inch munchkin who couldn’t climb a six-foot rope in 340 minutes. He looks like Humpty Dumpty. Oh, retirement is sooooo good and I am such a politically incorrect dinosaur.

I was always proud that I remained physically fit throughout my career. I worked very hard at it. On my retirement day, I and several police friends ran three miles out on the beach to celebrate goodbye to my job. Many officers, mostly fat, cheered as I turned in my gun and badge.

If you truly love your country and want to have a physically fit nation, you need fit cops. Like me were always the ones who wound up in foot chases, many times ending in a tackle, arm abrasions and bruises. The fat guys came later to do the reports. As a rule, bad guys don’t run from fit, trim officers because the consequences were grim when they were caught.

Like most police departments, ours was getting fatter and fatter by the year. With the support of my chief and Mount Sinai Hospital, I created a mandatory physical exercise program, complete with physical exams and a recommended diet. During the last hour of a shift, officers were required to report for physical training. Just on the initial startup of the program, we saved two officers’ lives when it was discovered during physical exams they had heart problems. That, alone, made it all worthwhile. After a year, the union sued us for breach of contract and after a lengthy fight before the arbitrators, we lost the program.

The fat cops would say to me, “They can’t outrun my radio.” I would counter, that only works on the open highway. Here, have another donut.

If I cannot speak for police departments around the country, but I can speak for mine after all, I spent over 28 years there. The physical criterion to get on our department was one of the toughest in the nation. I still remember having to pull my body weight up a 20-foot rope, touch the rafter of the gym with one hand, all in less than 30 seconds. Then there was an extremely difficult swimming test with all your clothes on, including shoes. Have you ever tried that? Well, don’t. Since Miami Beach was surrounded by water, being able to swim fully clothed was mandatory.

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Whether you like what I wrote or not, know one thing for certain. I love police officers. I may be a dinosaur from the old school, but I am a geezer who is still in good physical condition. If I see an officer in trouble, fat or not, he should know I will be there to assist him if I can. You can take that to the bank.

Read Fred’s column while you’re away at http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm
Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006 - Page 5

Winning ballot breakdown by precinct for Highlands and Scaly

The following is the winning ballot breakdown by precinct for the Nov. 7 election. The winner is listed first.

- NC CONGRESS DISTRICT 11
  Highlands Township: Health Shuler – 456
  Charles Taylor – 508
  Flats Township: Health Shuler – 111
  Charles Taylor – 78
  • NC STATE SENATE DISTRICT 50
  Highlands Township: John Snow – 504
  Charles Taylor – 508
  • COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT I
  Highlands Township: Brian McClellan – 108
  Allan Ricky Bryson – 451

- COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT II
  Highlands Township: Brian McClellan – 108
  Allan Ricky Bryson – 451

- COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT IV
  Highlands Township: Robert Holland – 589
  CD Jenkins – 372

- SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT II
  Highlands Township: Tommy Cabe – 440
  Tony Estes – 198

- SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT IV
  Highlands Township: Tommy Cabe – 82
  Tony Estes – 63

- SHERIFF
  Highlands Township: Robert Holland – 589
  CD Jenkins – 372

- DON LEON’S CAFE
  Lunch served Tuesday—Sunday...11am—3pm
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- MADISON’S
  Why wait for a special occasion?
  At Madison’s every day is special!
  445 Main Streets Adjacent to the Inn ~ 828-526-5477 ~ www.oldedwardsinn.com

- RISTORANTE PADETTI
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- MAIN STREET INN
  On Main Street near 5th St. • 526-3807
  Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence

- FRESSERS
  151 Helen’s Barn Avenue • Highlands
  Serving Lunch and Dinner
  Wine • Fabulous Desserts • Open Year-Round • Catering • Private Room Available
  Lunch: $6.95—$12.95, M~F 11:30—2, Sat 11:30—2
  Reservations are advised

- WOLFGANG’S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO
  On Main Street near 5th St. • 526-3807
  Serving Thanksgiving Dinner
  11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  Now taking reservations for Christmas and New Year’s Eve parties

- Make reservations now to spend your holiday meals at Highlands’ great restaurants!
Here is the dilemma: Can we really share this planet with people and governments who advocate, condone, or at least tolerate the humiliation, abuse, rape and murder of women? We may have to, because there may not be a damn thing we can do about it, but it sticks terribly in my craw.

Every cell in my body rebels against such fatalism. The reason this particular “war” is so difficult to talk about is that the vast majority of these horrors takes place in Muslim countries or Muslim communities, and I’m reluctant to indict an entire religion with brutality. I realize that there are sects among Christians, Jews, and Hindus which are guilty of marginalizing and mistreating women, but their actions pale in comparison.

I have carefully read the Koran and find no justification in the Muslim holy text for such repugnant behavior. What seems to have happened, as it has in non-Muslim societies, is that so-called “holy men” and self-appointed male interpreters have focused on a phrase or verse to justify the abuse of an entire gender. It so happens that Mohammed, the “messenger” of Allah, prophet and founder of Islam, was a eulogizer and exalter of women, a sensualist, and was married to a powerful woman in her own right. But what has happened since then, as in other religions, is that the power structure — always men, of course — created a rigid system that serves their own interests above all.

The ultimate manifestation is something like the Taliban, where women (but not men) are publicly stoned for adultery and murdered if they “dishonor” their fathers. In Pakistan, as Bob Herbert of the New York Times reports, a woman cannot legally prove that she was raped unless four “virtuous” Muslim males testify that they witnessed the attack. Barring such “proof,” the woman can be prosecuted for fornication or adultery. An estimated 2000 women currently languish in Pakistani jails, convicted in precisely such cases.

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- Did you know there are approximately 31.5 million Americans suffering from hearing loss?
- Did you know the majority of hearing losses can be treated with amplification?
- Did you know that Council On Aging studies show improvement in the quality of life with improved hearing?

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Genital mutilation, although not of Islamic origin, is now widespread in Muslim countries. Millions of girls and women have died from this barbaric practice, which supposedly suppresses the wild, uncontrollable passion of females. Sometimes the custom ignores borders, as in a recent case in Florida: a Muslim was arrested for using scissors on his infant daughter’sitoris.

A few years ago, a woman arrived at a Canadian airport on a flight from Saudi Arabia and asked for asylum. She stated that if she was repatriated, she would be executed for having been caught outside her home without being enveloped from head to toe in a black chador. At first, the Canadian immigration officials refused, thinking that her story was at best an exaggeration, but they checked and found it was true. Forced marriage, forced prostitution, and everyday beatings of women by their fathers, and later by their husbands, are all common in Islamic societies which have been subjugated by fundamentalists. On these issues, as with extremist terrorism, the silence of moderate Muslims has been deafening. Whether it is because of fear of the extremists, or fear of anti-Muslim sentiment, the silence, as is usually the case, has just emboldened the fundamentalists.

The key to understanding all this, of course, can be found in the previous sentence: it isn’t Islam that is the enemy of women, but fundamentalist Islam, just as fundamentalist Christianity and ultra-orthodox Judaism keep women trapped in subjugated roles, arguably with some women’s collusion and collaboration. In a subsequent column, I will address how this phenomenon shows up in other religions. So the deeper question is: does tolerance end where brutality begins, do we need to be accepting of cultural practices which are destructive to an entire people or an entire gender? Obviously I think the answer is no. If you agree, a more difficult question is, what can be done about it? Stay tuned.
HS students honored each month by Highlands Rotary

New this year, Highlands Rotary will showcase a student from each school at Highlands School to be named “Rotary Student of the Month.”

A student from the elementary, middle and high school will be nominated by teachers or members of the administration each month.

Fifth-grader Sydney Harris, 12th-grader Rachel Power and 8th-grader Marlee McCall were the first to be nominated.

Sydney Harris was nominated by her teacher Tracy Hedden.

Sydney’s gentle spirit and caring nature have been noticed by many of her peers and teachers since her first step into Highlands School. Teachers and students are awed by her commitment and compassion toward others. Last fall she prompted action to create and organize her own Teddy Bear drive for refugee Hurricane Katrina victims. She has also organized an after school girls’ club that meets on Mondays to help her friend have fun being a girl and finding the creative side of themselves.

She has maintained placement on the honor roll several times in the fourth grade and has been consistent in reaching her reading goals since 2nd grade. She continues to be a front runner in 5th grade as one that leads the pack in reaching reading goals, being organized and responsible with homework. Recently, her classmates elected her as the classroom spokesperson which speaks to her organization and people skills.

She is a member of the Highlands School Pep Squad and is a spirit leader during her cheerleader practices and activities. Sydney has taken Highlands School “Highlander Pride” theme very seriously. She has invested greatly in the blue and gold memorabilia and maintains a positive attitude about Highlands School.

She is the daughter of Shannon Calloway, the granddaughter of Freida Isham and great-granddaughter of Matti Calloway, all of Highlands.

Eighth-grader Marlee McCall was nominated by Assistant Principal Terry Bradley. She is an excellent student, athlete and member of the Highlands community. She is considered a positive leader in the classroom. As a member of the middle school Junior Beta Club, she is able to learn the material herself and tutor others who need help.

Athletically, Marlee is dedicated and committed working with her teammates to have the very best team possible. She knows when to step up and lead and displays good sportsmanship toward the opposing team while cheering her own team on.

Marlee cares very much about her school and community and is actively involved in volunteer service. She is considered well-rounded, compassionate and a “joy to teach” says her teachers.

She is on the middle school volleyball team.

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Brokers Protected
**WCU Faculty Showcase Concert**

Robert Holquist, baritone; Lillian Pearson, piano; Terri Armfield, oboe; Michael Schallock, tuba; Mary Kay Bauer, soprano; Eldred Spell, flute; not pictured: Michael Lanford, piano.

**Sunday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.**
at First Presbyterian Church. Main Street, Highlands
It's FREE!

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**AFTERWARD SWING BY PEREGRINE**

One of the nicest things about Highlands Cove is that you don’t have to live here to enjoy all that goes with it. Our many amenities are open to the public, pay as you use. There are 18 holes of spectacular golf where the views are nothing short of inspiring. A clubhouse with a fully stocked golf pro shop. A practice facility that rivals any in the area. And a PGA professional staff.

Discriminating diners will take delight in the carefully crafted cuisine that flows from Peregrine at the Cove. Located in the clubhouse, the atmosphere is relaxed and casually elegant. The menu is classic continental American and entirely handmade. Our chefs are passionate about serving up an excellent dining experience. And the full-service bar will quench any thirst.

Great golf. Fabulous food. Excellent service. Enjoy Highlands Cove today. We’re located six miles east of Highlands on Highway 64. The course is open daily. Call 828-526-4185 for a tee time. Peregrine dining hours are seasonal. Call 828-787-2465 for our dining schedule, reservations or information on special events.

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**Pseudocube** © 2006

a new mind game

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 equaling 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!**

Email your answer to pseudocube8@aol.com. The first correct solution earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee at Buck’s Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

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**WCU Faculty Showcase Concert**

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It's FREE!
What's redeeming about the UN?

When you grow up in Minnesota, the epitome of that which is so aggravating and without value would be the mosquito.

Recently, I understand that the bedbug has made a comeback and has replaced the winged menace as chief misery producer. As miserable as I understand they are, there is something that exceeds even their ability to inflict pain with no positive attribution, and that would be....the United Nations.

I compare the UN with an extremely ripe and pus-filled boil at the end of your nose. On its best day, it hurts like the devil. Occasionally, someone comes along and smacks you on the offending member, and then, oh Nellie, does that smart.

It gets worse. Not only do you have to put up with the pain and the humiliation, but you've got to pay for the privilege. Hundreds of millions a year. It makes no sense whatsoever.

The old adage says, “don't cut off your nose to spite your face.” Well, how about cutting off your nose to save face. It's downright debasing to think that a bunch of foreigners can come into our country, set up shop central right in our own front yard, take all the good parking spots and fill up the best restaurants in town, and then pop up, their gracious host, in the nose, time after time. It just isn't right.

All humans need a passion in life to get them up in the morning and since I retired, and have recently cleaned out the garage so you can actually get one car in it, I have decided that my passion is to rid the world, or at least the U.S. of A, of the UN. There are so many facets of worthlessness and downright evil involved in their operation it's hard to pick one to harp on. I'll give it some thought.

Meanwhile, if there can be a bright spot in this sea of morass, it would be John Bolton, whose being named as ambassador to the UN is one of the president's better moves. I don't know if anything can stop the bleeding, but Bolton would seem to give us the best chance. Will Bush have enough political capital to get him through the confirmation process in a couple of months? I don't know but it would be a blow to civilization if he doesn't survive. Well see.

Let me ask you a question. Do you think the UN has any redeeming value whatever? Didn't think so. Know anybody who does? Very unlikely. That being the case, why don't we throw them out? I frankly don't have a clue as to what would take to remove them nor do I understand the relationship between the U.S. and the UN. Normally, an ambassador would provide the diplomatic link between countries. Does that mean the UN has country status? Beats me.

Which brings up another mystery. Of what earthly good has diplomacy accomplished in any context? Has it ever won a war? Has it ever prevented a war? If it is so valuable, why are there so many attempts at diplomacy and so many conflicts? Let's sit down with Iran. Let's sit down with North Korea. That's what H. R. Clinton suggested recently. That's what you can expect if the worst-case scenario comes to pass and she becomes Queen of the World. I shudder to think.

... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

grading and landscape and pond dressing — all to be completed and addressed now through the week of March 10.

“We would like to take care of the soil and erosion and do it all on schedule in an orderly manner which will stabilize the development and address these issues,” said Clarke. “If you accept this proposal we will agree to pay the seven outstanding penalties including the one issued today for an even $4,000.”

Since the project started, Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein has issued notices of violation and seven subsequent citations totaling $3,500. The citation issued on Nov. 1 involved the continuation of a violation involving the piping of silt over the recently named trout stream. Once the piped silt cleared the stream, it headed straight into the Cullasaja River, Gantenbein said at an earlier Zoning Board meeting.

The latest citation was for $5,000 - the new fee set by the town a couple of months ago - but Clarke’s proposal Nov. 8 included it at the $500 rate.

“I’m not enough of a construction person to know the difference in this plan,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson. “Erosion controls should have been part of the entire project and should have been taken... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 20, 21, 22
Call Liz View at 526-9743

Cut-n-Patch Quilt Shop
personalized classes, fabrics, quilting supplies
SALE!!
25% off ALL fabric

The Fitness Center at Old Edwards Inn

Membership benefits include:
Unlimited use of the fitness center including:
~Exercise studio featuring TechnoGym
~Steam rooms, whirlpools and sauna
~Ladies and Men's locker rooms
~Outdoor heated salt water pool and spa
~Weight training studio

Use of the Spa Amenities Building including:
~Spa Café
~Spa Solarium for relaxing between workouts or treatments
~Spa Terraces
~Reflection Room

Access to the Hummingbird Bar at Old Edwards Inn

Please contact Mandee Williams at 828-787-2609 for more information or to reserve your membership.

By appointment only for tours and membership sign-up.
The Town Board of Commissioners is now undergoing a major review of the town property and buildings between Oak and Maple streets with the idea of eventually building a new Town Hall. The current Town Hall is woefully inadequate and in poor physical condition to house the necessary functions of a growing Highlands.

Under these preliminary plans it means razing the current Town Hall and creating a building to make room for all that we do including a larger place for our police force and the expanding administrative functions of the town. The only thing in the Town Hall of historical significance is the clock and bell in the tower which was part of the old school building which, before being razed, was where the present ABC store is now located. The ABC store already is making plans to move from its present location. Anything of historical significance in the Town Hall will be preserved, and we welcome comments from the community on these plans. The more ideas we have the better building we will have. We certainly do not want to destroy anything of historical significance.

We have directed Camille Alberico Architects in Asheville to begin the process of planning the new Town Hall. They have the experience and expertise to do this and will be working with each department head to begin developing a plan. Money has been put aside in the budget for this year for the beginning of this process. The Board is of course always open to public comment on these plans, also.

Riverwalk seems to be back on track now. Two weeks after I met with the principals of the project and came to informal agreements this past week the Town Board of Commissioners had a more formal meeting with its attorney and its new project director. They presented their timeline as to the completion of the road and utility system to us. The plan is to have this part of the project completed by the end of March.

In order to do this the town will allow them to work on weekends and after hours only for stormwater management. Heavy noise making equipment will be kept to a minimum during these periods and used only during regular weekday hours. Because of the change over to Eastern Standard Time, it gets light earlier in the morning and we have allowed them to start at 6:30 a.m. but stop at 5:30 p.m. They have also agreed to pay all fines which have been imposed. We think this is a good agreement and should move the project forward as quickly as possible to better control erosion. This plan will be continuously monitored by the zoning administrator and on a monthly basis the Town Board will review the process at our meetings.

Monday morning we had an important meeting with a representative of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture to discuss affordable housing in Highlands. We are in the preliminary stages of developing a plan for working through this very difficult problem. Initial promises of land for this purpose are being pursued, and we will be saying more about this at a later time.

We invite others in the town to give us their ideas and support. This past weekend we celebrated Veterans’ Day as we honored all the millions of men and women who have served their country over the years. The honor is well deserved for all the sacrifices made to keep our country free and strong. As we move forward now into unknown territory with many new people in the Congress, let us hope and pray that our country will continue to be steady not only in our support of our service personnel everywhere but in our efforts to protect our shores from those who would try to destroy us.

However, let us always keep in mind that we must use our place as the only super-power with care as we refrain from interfering with the rights of others to also be free in their own culture and not impose our will on them because of our cultural differences and misunderstandings. Understanding others fully is a major step toward peace in the world. Many times we fail at that both internationally and locally, and yes, also individually.
Spiritually Speaking

Be still - there lies wisdom

What do you do when the newspaper editor tells you it's your turn to write the faith article and you have nothing to say? As I thought and anguished over this, I was reminded of other times when there seems to be nothing to say - or at least nothing fitting, appropriate or meaningful enough.

Likewise if you call a friend after they have experienced a personal crisis and no words can convey your empathy and love. Or when you go through a receiving line at the funeral home and say "I am sorry," seems shallow, but there's not enough time to convey your deepest sorrow. Or when your child makes a mistake and "I told you so," doesn't seem most helpful.

The Psalms give us wisdom and guidance. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Sometimes these words are enough.

Old-time revival in Scaly

The Scaly Mountain Church of God revival services on Friday-Sunday, Nov. 17-19, Friday-Sunday with Rev. Randy Barr. Services are at 7 p.m. except Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

...RIVERWALK from page 9

...into consideration in the beginning. I don't know if they are stringing this out like this just to get this done when they want to, or is it absolutely necessary to do it this way."

Gantenbein said the change in management, RiverWalk developers had made considerable improvements in their soil and erosion plans, but rain still causes problems.

Lyngs agreed saying that what they've got going now is working but likely won't hold up to a six-inch rain.

He also said another six trees will have to come down.

"They are standing on steep slopes. Some are dead and others are not going to live." He said the road configuration has left many trees unhealthy.

The board agreed to let RiverWalk work on the weekends to complete the proposed schedule and from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to make up for the loss of daylight due the Day Light Savings Time. Commissioners agreed to let them work on weekends but only to address soil and erosion controls.

Commissioner Patterson said one big problem is not enough people are on the job. "You need more manhours out there," she said.

Remediation funding to remove soil and sediment from the Cullasaja and Mirror Lake were not discussed but officials say both the town and the state have the right to ask for such funding from developers.

Board members agreed to points of the proposal, but the final word will come from Town Attorney Coward. "I agree in concept to what's been proposed but I want to see it in writing from out attorney," said Commissioner Herb James.

Blue Valley Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.
Upcoming Events:
Oct 29: 10 a.m., 5th Sunday Singing & Dinner featuring "Promised Land."
Nov 26: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "The Mark's Men."

Buck Creek Baptist Church

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.
Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion 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
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
1st & 3rd Sunday: 8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
2nd & 4th Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. - Eucharist - Rite I
5 p.m. - Women's Cursillo Group
6 p.m. - Choir
Evening: 7 p.m. - Choir

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sundays: Worship - 8:15 a.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
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Weekly Services:
Weds: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 6 p.m.
Sat: Adventists del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m.

Highland's Assembly of God
Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Rev. Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

Highlands United Methodist Church
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sundays: School - 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group

Weekly Services:
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 in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

Scaly Mountain Church of God
250 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemere
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.

Shorloff Baptist Church
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-3212

Wespring Presbyterian Church
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
... HONORED continued from page 7

and basketball teams, an long-standing member of Student Government Association, is the school photographer and reporter for Highlands’ Newspaper, and an active member of the Clear Creek Missionary Baptist church.

“I’m excited to have been nominated for this recognition and appreciate it very much. I feel I’ve been blessed and have chosen to use my blessing to the best of my ability to represent my family and community the way that they deserve. It always seems to pay off. Thank you!”

She is the daughter of Bert and Stephanie McCall and the big sister of Gracee McCall.

Senior Rachel Power was nominated by history teacher and soccer coach Chris Green. She was chosen to be this month’s Rotary student because of her dedication to the Adopt-An-Acre program. She has worked tirelessly to raise money for this worthy organization with no adult guidance. She has planned fundraisers and worked with local businesses in hopes of raising $2,000 for Adopt-An-Acre. She is an asset not only to her community but to the global community, too.

She is actively involved on campus and in the community. Last year she represented Highlands School in Chile as the Highlands Rotary Exchange student. Rachel is consistently an honor roll student and is a member of the volleyball and soccer teams. Her interest include sports, hiking, art, writing, cooking and music. After high school she hopes to attend UNCAshville or Appalachian State University. She is the daughter of Lottie and Randy Power and the sister of 8th-grader Sarah Power.

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Knowing the joy of volunteering

By Callie Utz

WCU intern

A volunteer is a person whose charity is fidelity, who is faithful in an unfaithful world, grateful in an ungrateful world, giving when all about are grasping, listening when others need to tell about their fears and problems — from “The Beacon,” newsletter of Birthright, South Africa.

I can think of a better way to spend my time. Volunteering at the Eckerd Living Center brings so much joy to my life,” she says.

Linda, who has been volunteering at the center for the past four years, devotes each Saturday to making a difference in the lives of its residents. She collects stories and jokes to share with the residents during their Saturday activities, which often include trivia and game playing, and helping with a favorite activity of residents, bingo. She also provides snacks for the residents during activity time.

And once a month she organizes a Red Hat Tea party for ladies at the center. In addition to providing snacks for these special socials, she also arranges for local musicians and bands to provide entertainment form time to time. Sometimes she brings in adorns, speakers; or in the case of next month’s Red Hat Tea Party, a make-up artist.

Aside from her usual Saturday efforts, Linda helps with other activities around the Eckerd Living Center, including helping take residents on special community outings and excursions. Wal-Mart is a favorite destination for residents. “She is a real trooper when it comes to our outings, she goes far beyond the call of duty,” says Mary Billingsley, activities director of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. “The time and the effort she puts in are greatly appreciated by the staff, as well as the residents.”

Like Linda, and her husband Charles who volunteers in the hospital’s pharmacy, there are roughly 150 volunteers making a difference to patients and residents of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. And more volunteers are always needed, especially during the winter months when many seasonal volunteers are away. You too can give your time helping others by volunteering. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at 828-526-1345.

County hires new attorney

The Macon County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to hire Lenoir County native Lesley F. Moxley to fill the position of county attorney pursuant to the terms of the contract negotiated with the board, through the chairman and Moxley at an annual salary of $123,000 effective Dec. 1, 2006.

The county attorney position was vacated by Rick Moorefield who accepted a position with Cumberland County.

Moxley earned her law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1986 and is currently serving as the Moore County attorney. She is experienced in the governmental and private sectors as well as the legal services community. She has a son who is a college freshman.

“Her extensive background as a county attorney and a seasoned litigator will be an asset to Macon County,” said Macon County Commission Chair Allan Bryson.
Historical Society’s Christmas Show House opens Nov. 25

Just outside the Prince House at the Highlands Historical Village is a memorial garden dedicated to Jan Chambers Chmar, one of the founding directors of the Highlands Historical Society. Jan was a part-time resident in the 1930s and year-round homeowner with her husband Paul from 1974. She was an active gardener, a lover of books and children, and board member of the Hudson Library. It is fitting that the bronze scene of two children reading on a bench sits between the old Hudson Library building and the house that she was instrumental in securing just one month before her death in the fall of 2000.

It was early in 2000, the year after the Society was reformed, that the first board of directors voted to buy the Prince House. After six years from acquiring the property and later adding the old Hudson Library building and the house that she was instrumental in securing just one month before her death in the fall of 2000.

Starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Highlands Historical Society will be showing off the recently restored and furnished Prince House. This is Highlands’ oldest home built in 1877 by Arthur T. House and later owned by the Trapier, Wright, and Prince families. It stands today as testimony to the effort of many volunteers and donors to save a part of Highlands history and a living museum for what the home may have looked like when the House family first lived there.

So you are invited to visit the Highlands Historical Society Annual Christmas show house at the Prince home on each Saturday from Nov. 25 to December 16 between 1 and 4 pm. Tickets are available at the door at $10 for adults; children and students are admitted free.

Highlands U9 team winners!


... TOWN HALL continued from page 1

ORDER consideration encompasses everything from Town Hall back to the Playhouse, but would include moving the police department somewhere else on the property.

Right now it shares the building at the corner of Maple and Third street with the county’s Emergency Medical Services Department. The county has a 99-year lease with the town for the building. If the police department moves out, it’s likely the EMS department would use the entire building. The EMS department wants to stay in the building because of its Maple Street access.

The first phase of the re-design project will determine space requirements for each town department in conjunction with a review of these in relation to the downtown area, Pine Street Park, and the Recreation Park property.

Alberice said the town was very fortunate to own the parcel of property near the downtown area. “It’s really great that this is a contiguous parcel of land located near Main Street,” he said. “This gives you the opportunity to develop a project that will enhance the feeling of Highlands.”

Some months ago, ABC store representatives asked permission to expand that building but the answer has been put on hold until the town decides how to best use the entire parcel.

It’s likely the Town Hall building will be razed, though commissioners said everything is still up in the air. They said they would like to save the clock cupola and anything else considered memorable or historical.

Though the 2006-2007 budget doesn’t include funds for this project, at Commissioner Herb James’ suggestion some time ago, the town has earmarked one penny of the property tax for Town Hall renovations. That amounts to $110,000 a year.

As a first step, commissioners requested a cost estimate for the first phase from Alberice.

Carl Curtiss, MD, FACC

With Full-time Offices Located In

Suite 304, Jane Woodruff Clinic
209 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741

A Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Curtiss earned his medical degree from Ohio State University’s College of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine, as well as his fellowship in cardiology, at the University of Minnesota Hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both internal medicine and cardiovascular disease.

(828) 787-2450
... FORUM continued from page 2

rect to you the key words and hot buttons from the specific ads that I've heard, and my personal opinions about them:

A multi-millionaire liberal (showing a picture of a bald guy from New York named Howard Rich), with their radical agenda to abandon education. I have my theory about the Howard Rich inclusion, but I won't go there. But come on are we really expected to believe the guy wants to abandon education? And I'll get back to you about the word liberal in a minute.

A slick, out-of-state, political operative. All you have to do is say "out-of-state" and you got him beat. "The guy has a history of pulling dirty tricks like the one he's trying to pull on good ole so and so. The ad doesn't go on to describe the tricks, we're supposed to use our imaginations.

Valerie North Georgia values, mountain values. I'm curious, does that mean if you live in South Georgia, or on a river in the flat lands you're a degenerate? He evicted his grandchildren, give me a break!

I believe in God. I think this is supposed to get us to think that his opponent doesn't. Am I being too cynical?

"She wrote over 200 letters to try to set criminals free like child molesters."

Of course, she's probably a mother and maybe even a grandmother and she likes child molesters, right? Now, I don't know for sure, but couldn't it be possible that there's more to that story?

Oh, here's a good one. He accepted contributions from a group that used the coffins of dead soldiers in their ad. What does that even mean? Are we to believe that the candidate is in favor of hurting the families of troops that have died in the war? I think he should respond with, "Oh Yeah? Well I heard that one of the camera men on your campaign commercial is from North Vietnam, so there!"

Here's a real touchy quote. I think it came from the campaign of that slick, out-of-state, political operative. "There are those of us that think gays should have the right to marry each other." Obviously, he is against that.

Here you get people interpreting bible passages in order to support their own fears and prejudices. All I know for sure is that there are millions of gay people in this country and the world. It's not a choice and it isn't a disease, it's just a fact. The only input religion and values should have in this arena is to acknowledge that all of us are God's children, all of us — the Smiths, the Jones and even the Cheneys.

Next time you see them, you should ask your pastor, priest or rabbi if they think God would want gay people to be treated with less dignity than others.

And finally, let's put the liberals in charge. When did that become a dirty word? Under Reagan? I forget. We'll get partial-birth abortions on demand and they'll even bring back the death tax.

As you know, "death tax" is political — speak for the federal "estate tax," but I bet most people don't know that it only applies if you die owning $2,000,000 or more of assets — it's even higher in later years — that kind of means it only affects the rich, right? Now don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with being rich — we all want that — but don't try to buy our votes with false truths.

And as to abortions, Barry Goldwater (Mr. Conservative) whose daughter had one, was against the idea of abortions. No one likes the ideas of abortions, per se. But he was also against the idea of religion getting involved in government and against the idea of government getting involved in people's personal lives. I'm confused now... is that being conservative or liberal?

Ok, I told you that so I could ask you this. Is the voting public not on to these guys yet? Don't we know that they are pressing our hot buttons just to incite us into acting like a herd of sheep?

I suspect the marching orders come directly from the top — that the big wigs at the DNC and, more to the point, the RNC. Sorry folks, but isn't this the Karl Rove master plan that the first candidate who mentions values or conservative or God or education will be the one who'll win, because the voting public will label their opponent as a no-account, god-less, liberal, who thinks all children should go to private school with vouchers.

Wouldn't it be great if we could really look into the candidates soul before we vote and not be guided by the key words and hot buttons? I guess that is impossible, but I know we can do better then this. Does anyone else see this or is it just me?

Footnotes for the morning after:

The local Gay Marriage Amendment went overwhelmingly as expected. Isn't it high time decent people understood that their religion and their values are no more important or valid under God than that of the other guys? Nationally, I think it's pretty clear that the people have spoken.

Finally, I don't have a clue whether the "good guys" won or not, and with all due respect, fellow citizens, if you voted based on their ads, neither do you!

I'm Richard Lundy and I approve this message.

(Paid for by the Committee for I'm sick of this H e r d - m e n t a l i t y)

- I'd appreciate your e-mailed thoughts on this.
rlundy@lundyshacter.com
... HOUSING from page 1

Nov 13, to discuss funding for affordable housing. Several USDA programs offer loans and grants that give low-income families the ability to own a home in Macon County. “If there was some way to work towards finding a tract of land that the town would want to sponsor, we have loans for low-income folks,” said Highsong. “In fact, we have a range of programs for people who want to become homeowners but otherwise might not be able to.”

Besides the need for land – a high-priced commodity in Highlands – there are other hurdles. Mainly that applicants who qualify for the loans must meet the USDA's county income limits.

Qualifications include the number of people in the household, U.S. citizenry, and a good credit history. The kinds of homes that qualify are new and existing homes, new manufactured homes, and modular homes. All homes must be located in rural areas and be structurally sound.

There are two assistant programs available – 504 loans for repair assistance and 502 loans for new construction and the purchasing of homes. The maximum loan amount for 504 repair assistance is $20,000 per family with an interest rate of one percent and a 20-year maximum repayment term.

The income for 504 assistance must fall below $16,500 for one person, $18,850 for two people, $22,100 for three and $23,550 for four.

The 502 loan program is for 33 years with a fixed interest rate of six percent with a maximum loan amount of $149,300. To be eligible for 502 assistance, the income must fall below $26,400 for one person, $30,150 for two, $33,950 for three and $37,700 for four. “We cover closing costs, too, if they need help with that,” she added.

The programs are mainly for single-family homes, though the program can cover condos, townhouses and modular units. The homes cannot be rented out, and deed restrictions could include a financial penalty if the homes are sold within 10 years. “We can also make a loan to a nonprofit,” said Highsong. “If you have a developer who wants to develop a site that’s fine, but if you want funding from us it has to be a nonprofit.”

Highsong also addressed the look and feel of the housing. “We want them to be landscaped, turn-key, paved driveways, on paved and publicly maintained roads,” she said. “We basically need someone to step forward and get us started with property. That seems to be the biggest issue.”

Highsong and Thompson said they’d be willing to meet with local employers to suggest they get the information to their employees. “If employers want us to set up a meeting with employees we can. We give them information about the program if they’re interested.”

Anyone in Macon County can apply for the USDA loans and assistance programs.

But the bottom line for Highlands is available land – either individual parcels or a tract somewhere that would lend itself to such a project.

... CONDITIONAL from 1

back to commercial several times but the Town Board has turned down her request each time.

Following her most recent request at the Oct. 4 Town Board meeting, however, commissioners agreed to forward her request to the Planning Board. The Planning Board heard her request, but tabled its decision pending inspection of the property.

At the Nov. 13 Planning Board meeting, the board agreed to suggest the 8-acre tract be rezoned B3 conditional zoning. “Conditional zoning is perfect for a project like this,” said Zoning Administr-
... LETTERS continued from page 3

‘Rough men’ do the violence for us

Dear Editor,

Your columnist Dr. Henry Salzarulo restates what Senator John Kerry meant to say before he said it. Unfortunately, Henry Salzarulo’s restatement comes out about the same as John Kerry’s.

Yes, your army has troubles. It has had troubles since Valley Forge. But there is a very high degree of accountability in the armed forces — much higher — I must say than in the civilian world.

For example, Dr. Salzarulo states, “Twice in the past year and a half, recruiting operations have been suspended to allow ‘retraining’ of recruiters following revelations of deceptive and illegal recruiting practices.” It would seem that corrective action was taken.

Likewise at Guantanamo, where the enemy is gaining weight in a near spa-like environment, corrective action has been taken. At Guantanamo, it is the staff that is abused. In fact, crime in the armed forces is lower than any comparable size community elsewhere.

The real problem is the absence of elitists, politicians, and the upper classes (is there a difference?) from military service. We have fewer congressmen with military experience than ever before. For further reading, I suggest “AWOL: The Unexcused Absence of America’s Upper Classes from Military Service — and How It Hurts Our Country.”

The good doctor’s comment about recruiting from the bottom of the barrel is incorrect, insulting, and insensitive particularly around Veteran’s Day.

As George Orwell wrote, “Gentle people sleep safely in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.” God Bless America.

William Bathurst, Macon County

‘Pantry’ items needed

Dear Editor,

November 7 marked the one-year anniversary of “The Pantry,” also known as La Bodega de Comida, a joint-venture of the Highlands United Methodist Church and the International Friendship Center. Non-perishable food and minimal household items like toilet paper and bath soap are provided to people in need.

Whenever possible we provide fresh produce. Much of what we offer depends on donations. Many of the people who take advantage of the pantry are more in need during the “off” season. Needed are cooking oil, sugar, plain rice, dry black beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, toilet paper, diapers, soap, deodorant, canned fish. Donations can be left in a bin at Fressers Eatery in Helen’s Barn, at the Friendship Center at the Peggy Crosby Center, at the Methodist Church or at the Highlands Visitor Center. Let’s make every season the season to help those less fortunate.

Debbie Grossman, Highlands

Highlands is a ‘caring’ village

With heartfelt appreciation, I would like to express my deepest thank you to the many individuals that helped during my urgent illness.

Thanks to my school family who acted promptly to get me the proper care, the Highlands Volunteer Fire Dept. first responders who acted quick in getting me to the hospitals in a timely fashion, to the hospital ER team, Dr. Baunrucker and the Radiology department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for diagnosing my medical condition fast and helping me get the prompt treatment needed.

During my recovery I have continued to be touched with the outpouring support and love shown through cards, phone calls, food and prayers. Thank you to my angels of the elementary wing that kept my family and me well fed and loved.

We are very blessed to live in such a caring village I am back in my classroom today because of all the people in this village that have taken a part in getting me back to good health. May God bless you all!

Tracy Hedden, Highlands

Kindnesses abundant during time of loss

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who were there for us during this time of loss of our loved one. Your many ways of expressing your love and care such as prayers, visits, cards, flowers or helping with the service is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center and Dr. Mark Wagner for the excellent care Jack Crain received.

The Jack Crain Family
**Area Thanksgiving weekend arts & crafts shows**

The 19th Annual Hard Candy Christmas Art & Craft show, always held in Macon County, is moving to Jackson County this year. As usual, it's Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving — Nov. 24-25, 10-5 p.m. Admission is $2 for adults; children and parking are free.

The spacious (WCU) Ramsey Center, Cullowhee, N.C. (Hwy 107) is our new home and gives this highly anticipated holiday event a bigger and better venue. Now there is plenty of room for the 100 heritage artists and contemporary craftsmen. For years, customers have been delighted with the wide assortment of original designs at great prices.

Many of pottery, weavings, and woodcraftsmen are invited to this show. The glass artists who do boxes, fused pieces and wind chimes are masters in their field. The ornament collectors will be happy to find Santas, angels and snowmen in all mediums, signed and dated. There are several wood craftsmen who make furniture: willow wood designs, cradles and heirloom pieces. A beekeeper will bring mountain sourwood honey just for this event. Also look for the goat milk soap booth and Shaker brooms made on a century-old machine! Skilled jewelers are busy right now designing pieces for someone special!

Also the annual Sapphire Valley Master Association's Arts and Crafts Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.

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**Sunday Special Buffet** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with soup, salad bar, carving, hot meats and vegetables, drinks, and dessert bar for $10.95.

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Multifunction phone systems Installation
Nov. 19 - Sunday
• Concert at First Presbyterian Church featuring the music department of Western Carolina University at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-modernate 2.5 mile hike, with an elevation change of 300 feet, from the end of Shortoff Road to Cold Springs Overlook, a rock outcrop with a pretty view. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 10 miles round trip. Meet at Highlands Bank of America at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Call leader Mo Wheeler at 743-9560 or 743-9579.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike on the Little Rock Branch Trail in the Standing Indian Campground area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 28 miles round trip. Reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6620.

Nov. 21 - Tuesday
• “How Democratic Is The Constitution” - from The New York Review of Books, Volume 53, Number 3 · Feb 23, 2006. Coordinator: Dave Scheyer. Material to be distributed via e-mail. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10:11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.
• Community Thanksgiving Service is on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park/Civic Center. Come for a meal and worship.

Nov. 24 & 25 - Fri. & Sat.
• Hard Candy Arts & Crafts Show at WCU’s Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, N.C., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $2. 100 high-quality artisans.
• Sapphire Valley Master Association’s Arts and Crafts Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center.

Nov. 24 - Friday
• Highlands Chapter #284, Order of the Eastern Star, is having a Hot Dog Lunch and Bake Sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the lawn of Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. Hot dog or smoked sausage plates, vegetable chili, baked goods, homemade preserves, pecans, and our famous Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-up Cakes will be for sale.
• Champagne Brunch at the Hank House in Cashiers at noon. $100 per person. Call 743-9002 for more information.

Nov. 25 - Saturday
• Silver Oak Cellars Wine Tasting 3-5 p.m. at Wolfgang’s on Main. Featuring Napa 2001; Napa 2002 pre-release; Alexander Valley 2002; Twomley 2003
• Annual Town Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling on Main Street in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m.
• Christmas Show House sponsored by the High-
Cyrano’s Book Shop

Book Signings

1-3 p.m.
(Unless otherwise noted)

Nov. 25 11-1
Riley Weston – Before I Go
December 16
Carl Smith – Lousianna
Burn

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike down Park Ridge to the Connector Trail and return to Park Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Reservations are required. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5296.
- Nov. 28 - Tuesday
   - Karsten D. Voigt - "Religion is the wild card in transatlantic relations". © EUobserver.com 2006. Print-ed from EUobserver.com 20.06.2006. Coordinator: Walter Burnett. Material to be distributed via e-mail. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center.
   - Christmas Show House sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society, at the Trapier-Wright-Prince House in the historical village on U.S. 64 east. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Tickets are $10.
   - Highlands Christmas Parade 11 a.m. to noon. Main Street.
   - Free reading of "Papa's Angels" at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. 7 pm.
   - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike from the South Carolina Fish Hatchery to Burrell’s Ford along the East Fork and then the Chattooga River, with an elevation change of 400 feet, mostly downhill. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank, in back, at 9:55 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip plus shuttle. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Reservations are required. Call leader: Mo Wheeler at 743-9560 or 743-9579.
   - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike on the Bartram Trail and related trails from Wallace Branch in Franklin. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5296.
- Dec. 3 - Sunday
   - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Bartram Trail and related trails from Wallace Branch in Franklin. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Reservations are required. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5296.
- Dec. 5 - Tuesday
   - Simon Weisenthal’s book, "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness." Coordinator: Carole Light. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.
- Dec. 9 - Saturday
   - Holiday Gift Show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Artisans of the Highlands Pla-teau.
- Dec. 11 - Sunday
   - "Tis the Season 2006," 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. This year for Christmas, give to an agency in need in the name of someone.
- Dec. 17 - Saturday
   - "Before I Go." Riley Weston. "Before I Go.” 828.342.9197
   - complimentary cider, hot chocolate and great music. Call 828.342.9197
- Dec. 22 - Thursday
  - Christmas Show House sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society, at the Trapier-Wright-Prince House in the historical village on U.S. 64 east. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Tickets are $10.
  - Highlands Christmas Parade 11 a.m. to noon. Main Street.
  - Free reading of "Papa’s Angels" at The Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main. 7 pm.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike from the South Carolina Fish Hatchery to Burrell’s Ford along the East Fork and then the Chattooga River, with an elevation change of 400 feet, mostly downhill. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or the Cashiers Wachovia Bank, in back, at 9:55 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip plus shuttle. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Reservations are required. Call leader: Mo Wheeler at 743-9560 or 743-9579.
  - "Tis the Season 2006," 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. This year for Christmas, give to an agency in need in the name of someone.

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Nov. 17-23

CASINO ROYALE rated PG-13
Fri: (4), 6:45, 9:30
Sat & Sun: (1:30), (4:00), 6:45, 9:30
Mon – Thurs: (4), 6:45, 9:30

HAPPY FEET rated G
Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10
Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7, 9:10

THE ESCAPE CLAUSE rated G
Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15
Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

FLUSHED AWAY rated PG
(Last Show Tuesday 11/21)
Fri: (4:20), 7:05
Sat & Sun: (4:20), 7:05
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:05

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS rated R
(Last Show Tuesday 11/21)
Fri: 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:30), 9:05
Mon – Thurs: 9:05

DECK THE HALLS rated PG
(Start Wednesday 11/22)
Fri: (4:20), 7:05, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2:05, 4:20), 7:05, 9:05
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:05, 9:05

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ITEMS FOR SALE

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

JENNIFER BABY BED – light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally $375 asking $225. Call 526-0498.

NINE OLD DOORS – original paint, 4 original panel, 5 interior, 2 exterior, good condition. All for $375. Call 526-0498.

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

IKEA STORAGE LOFT QUEEN BED WITH DESK, BOOKSHELVES & DRAWERS – Solid Pine frame and instructions included 53”x 84” x 66”. S400. OBO. 829-524-1172.


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GUITAR DISTORTION PEDALS DigiTech - Metal Master (distortion pedal) Death Metal - DOD distortion pedal AC Adapters Free $30 or $50 for both. Call 828-803-1536.

LINE 6 SPIDER II HD HEAD 150W, Ac Adapter and free guitar cable Price $100 or make me an offer. (volume pot needs repaired). dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536


MICROWAVE – GE space savers, 19”x12”x12”, black. $50. 526-5834


COLEMAN HEATILATOR FIREBOX INSERT with blower. Includes rack, vent pipes, brick front and hearth, mantle, screen, glass doors. Uses gas or wood. NEVER USED. REDUCED price $550 or OBO. 828-349-3230

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NOTICE

MINI-MEETING: MINI COOPER DRIVERS! Are you interested in being part of the Highlands Christmas parade? If so, come to the Mini Meeting, Friday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Fireside Rest.

LOST DOG

TWO DOGS, Italian Pointer neutered male, tan and white, wearing an orange collar, 90 lbs., and female Wemaraner, silver-gray, wearing a pink collar. May be seen together. Last seen in Highlands, NC. Very upset child waiting for their return. Please call with any information or if you have seen either one. REWARD OFFERED! 828-526-2137

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Nov 8-15. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Nov. 8
• At 7:50 a.m. a motorist at N.C. 106 and Upper Buttermilk was cited for driving without a license at the site of a two-vehicle accident.
• At 10 a.m., a driver reported another car backed into his on Spring St.

Nov. 10
• At 3:50 a.m. a motorist was cited at N.C. 28 and Cherokee for driving without a license.
• At 4 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Cherokee was cited for driving with an expired license.
• At 2:30 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 28 and Cherokee was cited for driving for an expired license.

Nov. 11
• At 11:46 a.m., a motorist at Poplar and U.S. 64 east was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25 zone.
• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and entering at a residence on Webbmont but the claim was unfounded.