

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 50

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007

On-going

- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 526-4340 for information.

- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402.

Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Methodist church at 6:15.

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

- CBC will offer the AWANA program for kids — K-5th grade non-denominational Bible-based program for kids – from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

Though Saturday, Dec. 15

- Macon County Boys Basketball sign-ups at the Highlands Civic Center. Call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

Saturdays through Dec. 22

- Santa will be at Town Square to hear Christmas wishes and for photos, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 13

- Highlands Community Players Annual Free Holiday Readings program, 7 p.m. at PAC.

- Highlands Visitor Center Holiday Open House from 5-7. Call 828-526-2112.

Saturday, Dec. 15

- Fifth Annual La Noche Navidena celebration at the Rec Park at 6 p.m. Gifts for children, Santa Claus visit and free supper.

Sunday, Dec. 16

- Free concert at the Episcopal Church at 4 p.m., Saint Saens Christmas Oratorio.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested at the Civic Center. Contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
52-32°F	34-24°F	33-18°F

Zachary Park continues to grow

At Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting, the board firmed up its agreement to purchase about two acres next to Zachary Park.

A 1.986-acre parcel owned by Lucille Zachary Potts, which is

next to the 1.761-acre parcel for which the county paid \$50,000 in earnest money in October, abuts Zachary Park property.

Acquisition of property adjoining the park makes expansion possible for both parking and ad-

ditional fields. During games, a lack of parking is causing safety problems on Buck Creek where vehicles often line the road.

The Potts parcel has been divided into two sections – one in-
•See ZACHARY page 19

County's fund balance clarified

Auditors pronounced Macon County fiscally strong saying the county's much discussed fund balance serves as a measure of the county's stability.

"No news is good news," said representatives of Martin Starnes & Assoc., CPA, P.A., of Hickory, N.C. Monday night's MC Commission meeting. "There are no unqualified opinions; no findings or questioned costs; no material internal control weaknesses identified; and the county staff was cooperative."

The general fund represents the county's primary operating costs. In 2006-2007 the general fund was \$42,359,043 with expenditures at \$36,746,857. The difference is the much debated fund balance whose figures fluctuate from the beginning of the fiscal year – July 1 – to audit time at the end of the year – June 30.

The fund balance, which is broken into three categories – reserved, unreserved designated and unreserved undesignated — is the money left over after expenditures are paid from revenues.

The reserved fund balance has strings attached to it; the unreserved designated has "internal" strings attached to it and the unreserved undesignated has no strings and is available.

Speaking as the outgoing County Manager, Greenwood offered words of advice concerning the county's fiscal future.

"Macon County is one of the
•See FUND BALANCE page 6

Preparing for Christmas



Churches around town are preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church on Fifth Street has erected this manger scene.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

County to fund upgrades

Bond passage or not, the county is still committed to senior services and education.

At Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting, board members heard from Cecil Groves, president of Southwestern Community College (SCC) and Jane Kimsey, DDS Director, about needed expansions.

SCC

Master Plan Facility expansion of the SCC campus on Siler Road involves matching funds between the state and county which won't be fully realized until a statewide higher education bond referendum passes with funds seen in 2010.

Over the years, the county has

put \$1.5 million in its "matching bond bank" by financing some of SCC's Macon campus expansion. Ultimately, the county must put \$3 million in the "matching bond bank" before SCC is granted funds.

However, since attendance at SCC's Macon campus is growing faster than expected, SCC can't wait until 2010 to expand.

"We need more space within 12 months," said Groves. "Hopefully by the fall of 2008."

Instead of "wasting" money on temporary modular units which can't be counted toward a bond match, Groves suggested a permanent structure which could

•See UPGRADES page 13

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Stray problem soon finalized

Pending an ordinance, the county is ready to form an Animal Care and Control Unit.

At the Dec. 10 Macon County Commission meeting, the board heard from Sheriff Robbie Holland who sits on the county's Animal Control Study Committee chaired by Dr. Amy Patterson.

After its meeting last week, the group recommended establishing a local Animal Care and Control Unit; hiring two state certified Animal Control Officers and one full-time clerical person; establishing a five-member board to govern the facility; building a facility to house both dogs and cats with possible contracts for large animals such as cows and horses; and to fund and operate a spay and neuter program with a minimum of \$25,000 a year.

"The more money you spend on a spay and neuter program, the more beneficial it will be," said Holland.

However without an ordinance none of this can happen.

"That's why we stopped picking up animals," said Holland. "The county's previous attorney said we couldn't provide animal control because the county didn't have an ordinance or a place to take the animals. Without an ordinance, my officers were basically stealing animals."

Part of the ordinance would require all domesticated animals to be collared with informational tags, or microchips containing owners' names, addresses and phone numbers.

•See STRAY page 11

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Other performing arts entities need money, too

Dear Editor,

Returning home after an extended absence, I was reading Highlands' Newspaper to catch up on the election results and other November news of the town. Reading the Forum, I was disappointed to learn of the financial problems of the Instant Theatre Company (ITC). I do hope that a way can be found for it to survive. The town is fortunate to have three theater groups offering a variety of entertainment. Although, I sometimes hear people remark about competition among the groups, they really are not competitors in that the offerings of the groups are quite different and the schedules and length of runs are such that most of the time those who are so interested can see performances of the current productions at all three.

However, I do wish to point out that the article may mislead your readers about the stage costs of other groups when you say "The Instant Theatre is the only theatre in town that has to pay rent, utilities and everything else associated with maintaining a theater..." I have worked with the Highlands Community Players (HCP) in a number of capacities and know that they pay considerable rent and ticket fees to the Performing Arts Center (PAC). Upon my inquiries, I learned that during the past season HCP paid PAC \$12,200 for the stage, rehearsal space and ticket fees. (The rental cost would have been higher except that rehearsals for the August show were held at another location to accommodate Chamber Music scheduling.) Granted that this is only about half of the amount you indicate that ITC must raise to continue operations, nevertheless it is substantial especially when one considers that HCP produces four shows plus a Christmas reading for a total of only 32 performances annually.

(Dr.) Curtis T. Sears
Highlands

Future spending despite 'no' vote?

Dear Editor,

Do we need to remind our commissioners that we, the electorate are the ruling body, and they are our representatives in our system of government? So why do I make this point?

I make this point because, prior to

the recent elections we were informed that, "regardless of the outcome of the elections" by this, the sovereign electorate, "you would spend the money on the proposed referendum anyway." Gentlemen, that is troubling to me because, in my opinion, you have announced that you plan to ignore the will and voice of the "electorate," the people who have said NO to the plan.

There is also a larger issue. There is a page on the web entitled "Slash Dot" which is designed especially for the younger generation. They ask questions on their site and request responses. Recently they posted, "Would you trade your vote for a million dollars?" One of the answers was "Yes, I would trade my vote for an i-pod because my vote doesn't mean anything anyway." That was a good example of most of the replies. I wonder where this cynical notion has come from and how many of the electors feel this way, but especially most of the younger generation? Could it be the electorate is watching elected officials, like ours, breach the will of the electorate or just ignore the voters completely?

This is not an isolated example. I raise this issue because most of the young voters I talk to feel exactly like the voters in the above sample.

Gentleman, this is a serious matter. If we continue down this path will we soon have an apathetic voting electorate be-

coming a "mob" who will want to take things into their own hands?

Therefore, I urge you to do three things. One: publicly announce that you made a hasty decision on proceeding with construction which will incur major debt, against the will of the voters, and will take steps to seek the counsel of the electorate. Two: appoint a "Citizens' Steering Committee," with the primary responsibility of giving financial advice on any major expenses (school construction?). Three: In light of current economic times revise your "wish list of new construction" so that we will not have a tax increase.

Norm Roberts
Franklin

Military letter campaign in the works

Dear Editor,

The first grade class at Highlands School is inviting all Kindergarten through 12th-grade students, staff and members of the community to write letters to soldiers connected to the school and community. We are compiling names, pictures of soldiers and their mailing addresses to be placed on the bulletin board in the lobby of the school. The community is welcome to bring or

send these in, as well.

There are three boxes in the main hallway labeled for "Iraq," "Afghanistan," and "Walter Reed Hospital."

Our goal is to receive 1,000 letters in the next three weeks. Each Friday during December, the letters will be mailed to a soldier. The soldier will be asked to pass the letters out to other soldiers in his/her unit.

Donations of boxes of Christmas cards would be helpful for this project, even though handwritten letters and cards and hand-drawn pictures are especially welcomed!

The final deadline for this project will be Friday, Dec. 21, the last day before the holidays begin for our students and staff.

The contact person for this project is Mrs. Donna Sizemore, First Grade Teacher. Email: donna.sizemore@mcsk-12.org

Donna Sizemore
Highlands

Help the needy right here in Highlands

Dear Editor,

After the very successful Instant Theatre Company's White Elephant Sale, we decided to give the unsold, useful items to the needy of our community. I took a truckload of dishes, glasses, bedding, heaters, and more to the Highlands Emergency Council. What I found there broke my heart. I discovered a small group of dedicated women volunteers trying to take care of the poor in Highlands.

Try to imagine being a family of three making just a little more than \$12,000 a year, which is considered poverty level in this country, and living in Highlands. This family makes too much money to qualify for government assistance. You get sick, or you lose your job at the end of the season, while your cost of living continues to rise, and soon you have to choose: do we eat or do we heat or which medicine stays at the pharmacy?

The Emergency Council takes care of about 72 families in the Highlands area every month. The Emergency Council is not allowed to solicit funds, or to advertise, or hold their own benefits to raise money. Because of these restrictions I, personally, did not have any idea how much the Emergency Council needs our help. When adults and children are hungry, they are fed by the Emergency

• See LETTERS page 16

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Mrs. Sara Ann Beavers Richards

Mrs. Sara Ann Beavers Richards died at her home on St. Simons Island, Georgia on Sunday December 2, 2007. Mrs. Richards, who is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and the daughter of the late Greer and Daisy Gillespie Beavers, spent her childhood in Ansley Park, and graduated from Washington Seminary and attended the Art Institute of the High Museum of Atlanta. She is preceded in death by husbands Phillip Summerfield Alston, James Jonathon Flowers, both of Atlanta, and William Legro Richards, formerly of Orlando and North Palm Beach, Florida and Highlands, North Carolina. She moved recently to St. Simons Island, Georgia to be nearer to her children and grandchildren, but continued to spend her summers in Highlands.

She was a founding member of the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in Highlands, and also a member of the The Sea Island Club. She was a former member of the Lost Tree Club in North Palm Beach, Florida and of the Capital City Club, Ansley Golf Club, Druid Hills Golf Club and the Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta, of which she was a charter member. She spent many happy years as an outstanding golfer at these clubs. She was also an accomplished artist.

She is survived by her children, Toddie Alston Harris and husband, Hensell of Sea Island, Jon Gillespie (Gil) Flowers and wife, Marcie of St. Simons Island; Grandchildren, Hensell Alston Harris and wife, Renee, and Elizabeth Harris Britt and husband David; Great Grandchildren, Anna Renee Harris, Sara Elizabeth Britt, David Lane Britt, Jr., Olivia Ann Britt, and Austin Greer Harris all of St. Simons Island, Ga. She is also survived by her sister, Bitsy Beavers Dabney (Mrs. M. Jefferson Dabney), formerly of Atlanta now of Sarasota, Florida; Nephews, M. Jefferson Dabney, III of Houston, Texas and wife, Marie, David Dewitt Dabney and wife Mary Ann of Sarasota, Florida and niece Ann Dabney Hopkins and husband, Pat of Atlanta. She is also survived by great nieces, Laura and Dabney Hopkins of Atlanta, and great nephews, Jeff Dabney and wife, Michelle of Houston, Texas, Christopher Hopkins of Atlanta, Ga., and David Dabney of Sarasota, Fla. and one great-great niece, Samantha Dabney of Houston, Texas.

A funeral service was held on Saturday December 8, 2007 at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, N.C. at 11 a.m followed by burial at Highlands Memorial Park in Highlands.

Donations may be made in her memory to The Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia, Inc. at 4627 North Highway 17, Brunswick, GA 31565.

Edo Miller and Sons of Brunswick and Bryant Funeral Home were in charge of arrangements.

Ray Bryson

Ray Bryson, age 97, of River Road, Franklin, NC died Thursday, December 6, 2007 at a local hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Charlie and Maggie Gregory Bryson. He was a farmer and attended the First Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Amelia Wright Bryson; his daughter, Alice Louise Davis and her husband Roger of Franklin, NC; three sons, James Ray Bryson and his wife, Pat of Inman, SC, Charles Frank Bryson and his wife Frances and Ralph Leslie Bryson and his wife Linda all of Franklin, NC. Thirteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Lease and Fred Bryson.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home with Rev. Tom Grubb and Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial will be held at Salem Cemetery. His grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Salem Cemetery Fund, c/o Becky Bryson, 525 Bryson Branch Road, Franklin, NC 28734. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

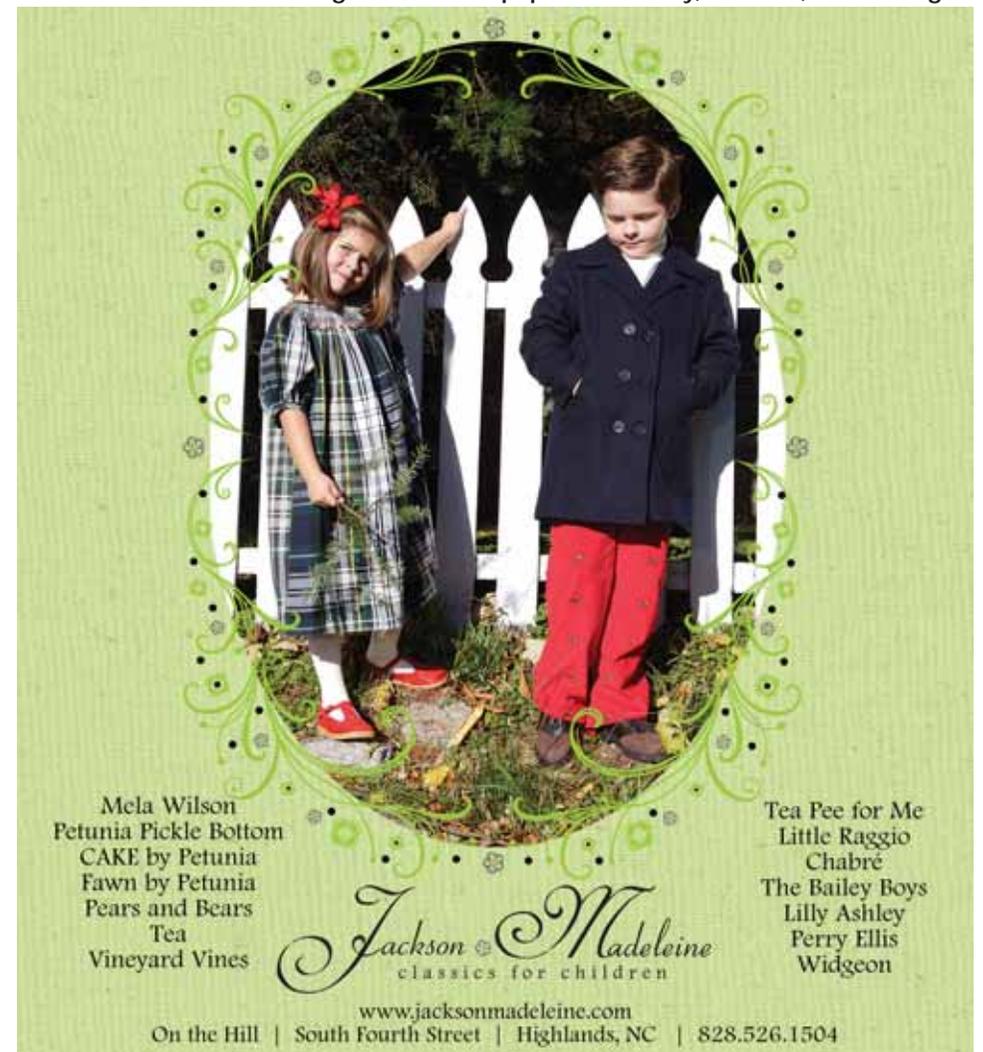
Halley Ann Talley McCall

Halley Ann Talley McCall, age 61, of Dillard Road, Highlands, NC died Sunday, December 9, 2007 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Sadie Marie Talley. She was married to Leon McCall who passed away May 29, 2005. She was a homemaker and was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her three daughters, Julie Reed of Clayton, GA, Laura McCall of Highlands, NC and Jane McCall of Franklin, NC; her son, Ricky McCall of Highlands, NC and her sister, Agnes Nix of Clayton, GA. Eight grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 12 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial will be in the Miller Cemetery. Stanley Reed, Gary McClure, Junior Reed, Jerry McCall, Doyle Wayne McCall and Daniel McCall will served as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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Close to town, Mirror Lake and Lake Sequoyah. This sweet cottage, nestled into the trees on almost 3/4 of an acre, & features granite countertops in the kitchen, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and a generous back deck. 2 BR, 2 BA and a stone facing fireplace in the living room. With a one car carport that makes this home the perfect weekend getaway or year round home. \$396,000



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Are mountain folks stupid?

If there's any benefit to aging, it's that people become wiser. Notice I didn't say smarter. For geezers, years and years of life experiences have taught them many things that can't be learned from reading a book, attending school, going to seminars or even life-lab classes, whatever that is.

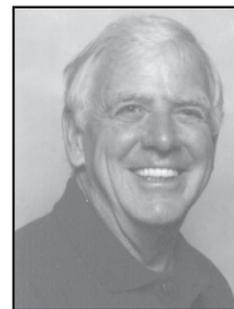
For a geezer cop like myself who has seen too much of a sordid life, the wisdom is different from your everyday, run-of-the-mill geezer type wisdom. Calling mountain folks stupid is not part of that wisdom and I am surprised so many do it.

In Oriental countries, people recognize the benefits of the aged and place great value on their wisdom. They honor them and seek out their advice. In the United States, we lock them up in nursing homes long before we have to so they won't bother us. Is that why we keep making the same dumb mistakes over and over again?

How we measure intelligence, wisdom and smarts in this country is confusing. I guess it depends on whose standards are used. It took me a while to realize being well educated has nothing to do with being smart or wise. It definitely has nothing to do with common sense.

I've only known three policemen in my lifetime that had a PhD from a legitimate college. (By the way, there's a lot of fake PhDs out there.) All three of them didn't have enough common sense to stay alive and fortunately were taken off the street so they wouldn't catch pneumonia from standing in the rain. (Gobble, gobble) All of them were highly intelligent but were no match for the street savvy of an uneducated low life scummy street junkie with a six-inch knife. So if the standard to measure intelligence versus stupid was to see who could stay alive the longest on the backstreets of Miami, was it the PhD or the junkie? More study is needed.

Early in life, long before I became wiser than I currently am, I became aware of the "pigeonhole" syndrome. People "pigeonhole" others based on little or no information. You probably did it unconsciously this week. Here's how it works. After learning a small amount of information about a person you barely know, you evaluate them and place them in your own personal "pigeonhole."



Fred Wooldridge

•
Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

For example, I have learned when intelligent people want to refer to mountain folks as stupid, they disguise their remarks by saying they lack vision and quickly stuff them in the "lack vision" pigeonhole.

Walk into any uppity northeast college and ask the students what they think about people born and raised in the Appalachian Mountains. Stupid, uneducated, incest-retarded and closed-minded are a few of the pigeonholed answers you will probably

get. Some will say mountain folks lack vision and you know what that means.

To test my own theory on this, I found a real live bona fide mountain man, born and raised right here in Highlands. He has a four-year college degree and over a million bucks in his portfolio. I consider him an intelligent, successful mountain man.

I invited him to Fifth and Pine and had him look out over the beautiful Pine Street Park project. "Tell me what you see," I demanded. After much deliberation, he responded, "I see a vacant lot filled with dog poop?" I shook my head in despair. "Try to have more vision.... oops, I mean look beyond the dog poop."

Not wanting to be wrong again, he stared a long time before responding again. "Beyond the dog poop, I see propane tanks and merchants' garbage cans?"

"Pul-leeeeeease, this is important. Try one last time. Have more vision....oops, sorry again. Try and look beyond all that."

Finally, the mountain man smiled and said, "Now I get it. I see a great piece of prime property that Art Williams would pay lots of money for."

Could it be the intellects were right? Do mountain folks lack vision and are stupid? I refused to give up.

I invited my mountain man over to the propane tanks and garbage cans and had him face out over the beautiful park toward the bank. "Now what do you see from this perspective," I asked?

He smiled again, put his arm around me and said, "I see you have dog poop all over your shoes. For a flatlander, you sure don't have much vision, do you?"

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at: <http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

'Suffer the little children to come unto me..'

Some people shouldn't have kids. It's fortunate when they realize it before it's too late. They feel about children much as they do about dog droppings, but the latter is easier to escape than kids with parents like me.

I think kids belong at Christmas parties, which may explain why I receive few invitations and accept even fewer. There has been a general perception that children are unwelcome at our tennis club, so we had never attended a party there. A member once asked that the kids' clinic be scheduled at a time when he was not playing. He found their presence distracting. Honest! He really did. This wasn't the U.S. Open. It wasn't even the club championship. It was Friday afternoon doubles. Lizzie and some other moms, operating under the belief that there is strength in numbers, decided to test the theory. We were sure that they wouldn't expel all of us.

We put all the kids at a large table at the end of the room so that they could play together. I was a little slow to recognize the pity in the voice of a woman who commented, "It's good that you put the children at a big table at the end of the room." I didn't realize that she was expressing gratitude for what she assumed was our compassionate sequestration of the kids.

"Yes," I agreed, "they have more fun being together." It wasn't until she added, in an obviously sympathetic tone, "It must be so difficult, especially during the holidays, to find people who will stay with them, so that parents can go out and have a good time." I explained that Lizzie's mom lives in town and is delighted to spend time with Bull. Helen bore six children and has already been exposed to the joy, love, enthusiasm, and sense of wonder that infects kids. In fact, those who know Helen have noted that she contracted a chronic, incurable case. I added that nothing gives me greater pleasure than being with my family, and as a general rule, I'm not interested in being any place where my son is unwelcome.

I didn't add that this was a Christmas party, that Christmas is all about kids, that we were expecting Santa, not a stripper emerging from an oversized cake. I wouldn't take Bull to Hugh Hefner's birthday party or to a get-well party for Larry Flynt but Christmas seems different.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

Bull walked into the room while I was typing, and asked, "Dad, what's your column about?"

"People who hate kids," I answered.

"People who ATE kids," he repeated in shock.

"Hate kids," I corrected him, "People who HATE kids."

"Oh, they should put them in the potty." I guess turn about is fair play.

I don't think most guests objected to the children's

presence. At least they didn't voice displeasure. Many, I suspect, actually enjoyed having them in attendance. There I go again, assuming that everyone loves dog poop as much as I. Santa came and distributed presents but it was only at the last minute that someone noticed that some of the adult gifts might be inappropriate for the kids. Santa rearranged his bags and the kids received kid appropriate gifts and the adults got what they wanted, except for refuge from kids.

A few years ago a parishioner at our church complained that children occupied seats that should have been available for adults at our Christmas service. Times have changed. We have opened our arms and our doors to kids. These days our sanctuary is filled with children, with their smiles and giggles, and yes, their sometimes distracting coughs and sniffles, chatter and tears. Those are the sights and sounds of the future. Children are the future. The world will soon rest in their hands. It is they who will deal with the mess we have left.

As I listen to Bull and his buddies talk about the things that are important to them, I cannot help believing that they will be better stewards, that his generation will recognize the evil of greed, of racism, of pollution, of the waste of precious limited resources, of unrestrained consumption, and of intolerance. I hope, and I believe, that the idealism of these kids may just save our world.

"And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:13-14).

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Highlands goes down with a fight

During the Highlands vs. Andrews Homecoming game, Friday, Nov. 30, it was a close call with Highlands losing 55 to Andrews' 58. Highest scorer was Ezra Herz with 19 points followed by Andrew Billingsley with 13, Michael Baty with 8, Michael Shearl with 7, Jake Heffington with 6 and Adam Hedden with 2 points.

* In the Dec. 6 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, the school submitted the wrong stats for the Boys Varsity game.

Dec. 8 game

Highlands Girls' Varsity played a tough game against Rabun County, Saturday, Dec. 8 losing 18 to 62. The three scorers from Highlands were Taylor Buras with 7, Bobbi Joe Talley with 6 and Brie Schmitt with 5 points.

Dec. 11 game

Highlands Boys' lost 34 to 74. For the third game in a row, Ezra Herz has been top scorer for the last few games. Against Rabun County he scored 20 points followed by Michael Baty with 7, 2 each for Jake Heffington, Mikey Lica, and Andrew Billingsley and 1 for Adam Hedden.

On Dec. 11, Highlands played Nantahala at home.

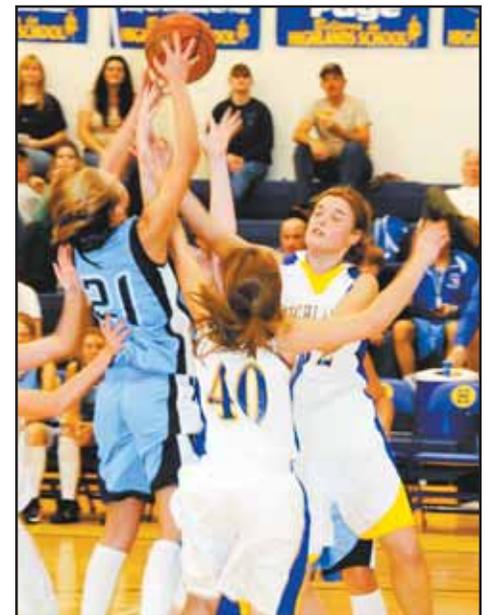
Varsity Girls lost 31 to 51. High scorers

The next games are:

Fri., Dec. 14, 8 p.m. at Cherokee; Mon., Dec. 17, 8 p.m. at Hayesville and Thurs. Dec. 20, 8 p.m. at Franklin

... FUND BALANCE continued from page 1

few counties that maintains reserves the way it does and has the credit history it has," he said. "It will be difficult to continue that



Jessica Gagne, sophomore, and Marlee McCall, freshman, fight Nantahala for the ball at the Dec. 11 home game.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

were Taylor Buras and Marlee McCall with 8 points each followed by Brie Schmitt with 5; Bobbi Joe Talley with 3; 2 each for Courtney Rogers, Susan Johnson, and Jessica Gagne; and Kate-Marie Parks with 1 point.

Varsity Boys lost 58 to 72. High scorer was Ezra Herz with 15 points followed by Andrew Billingsley with 12, Jake Heffington and Michael Baty with 10 each; Michael Shearl with 7 and Mikey Lica with 4.

trend with the challenges before this board."

Even though the \$64 million bond package failed, the commission intends to fund needed capital projects. At Monday's meeting, the current year's budget was reconciled Dec. 5, "to show what you actually do have in the unreserved undesignated fund," said Greenwood.

The county's budget for 2007-2008 was \$43,990,854 with the minimum 25% fund balance set at \$10,997,713.

The Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2007 - the end of the last fiscal year - was \$15,407,847.

Less appropriations needed to balance the 07/08 budget; less additional appropriations since July 1, 2007 including the SCC addition at the Industrial Park, the Animal Shelter and others, the total appropriations from the 07/08 fund balance to date is \$3,729,580.

That left an unreserved undesignated balance of \$11,679,287 as of 12/1/07 with just \$680,574 over the 25% cap.

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•See FUND BALANCE page 13

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

The implications of 'oneness'

Last week I wrote about how I have learned to experience gratitude in my life. One of the main underpinnings of my worldview is a belief in the Oneness of everything, and I asserted that this conviction was essential to my experience of gratitude.

I thought I'd talk a little more about Oneness this week.

First, what do I mean by Oneness? Last week I wrote, "I believe the universe is the manifest expression of an underlying unity, the One. Every 'thing'—eminently including myself—may appear to be separate but that is an illusion; underneath the surface appearance there is only the One."

Someone asked me if by "Oneness" I meant God. The answer is yes and no. From a Judeo-Christian perspective, "God" has the meaning of a separate entity distinct in all ways from "His" creation. This is exactly what I reject when I say Oneness.

I do believe that there is a transcendent truth beyond what we can see. I think of this as God in that it is the all-encompassing sum of what is. I think there is only God; there is nothing that is not God. There is only One. This doesn't mean that God equals the universe, it just means that the universe is not something other than or separate from God.

As I have said before, pantheism seems to be the best word for my understanding of God. I like this definition from wikipedia.com: "Pantheism is essentially a unifying combination of theism (God is the supreme being) and pantheism (God is everything). While pantheism says that God and the universe are coextensive, pantheism claims that God is greater than the universe and that the universe is contained within God."

God is unlimited; the realm of form — the universe — is limited. God is immortal; in the realm of form there is life and death. God is all-knowing; in the realm of form there is limited knowing.

The universe exists as a field of experience for God to experience the full range of limitation from the most mundane to the most horrible to the most sublime. (Check out the book I wrote with my husband Arthur, *The Game of God*, available at the Hudson Library or at bookstores; www.gameofgod.com).

All the multifarious experiences going on right now in the entire universe, and



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

throughout all time, are being experienced by God disguised as the multiplicity of forms we see all around us. I think of the universe as a huge jigsaw puzzle, every life-form one tiny piece, and the picture formed by all the pieces put together is the complete experience of what it is to be limited.

We learn to distinguish reality by looking at boundaries, so

when we see the pieces of the puzzle we see only the edges, the boundaries that define each piece, and completely miss the fact that they all interlock, that the deeper truth is they are all part of One Whole.

What are the implications of this profound underlying unity? If every person is part of the Whole, then every person has a unique role to play in the expression of the One in form.

Last week I talked about how a concert violinist was "playing that part for me." That's a happy example. The baby who dies at three months from "sudden infant death syndrome." The woman crippled for life by a degenerative muscle disease. The man who gets hooked on heroin and dies before he reaches the age of 30. All of these are pieces of the universe puzzle, are parts to be played. The serial killer and murderous tyrant are "playing their parts" also.

And I am *really* grateful that I'm not the one who has to play those parts!

This perspective also opens up a whole new way to feel compassion. Ted Bundy and Adolph Hitler were the vehicles to play these particular parts of the puzzle, and they were condemned to suffer for being the people who played those parts. (And just for the record, I am not advocating that these people should be allowed to "play their parts" without interference by society!)

If you question why God might want to experience being a serial killer, then ask yourself why the movie "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" has produced so many sequels. Movies and books are ways for us to vicariously experience parts we are not willing to live out ourselves.

Another implication: there is no intrinsic evil in anything or anybody. "Evil" by definition is something that is completely outside of God, and once again there is no such place. There is no way to be "outside" of God. There is only God.

Another implication: everything is perfect exactly the way it is. So relax.

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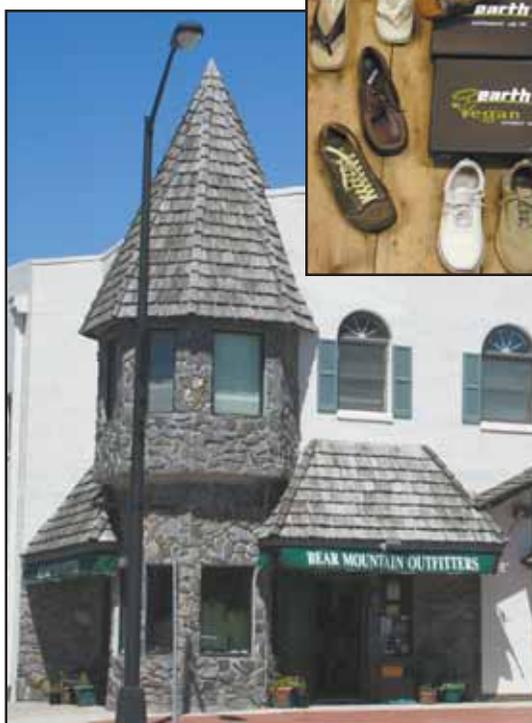
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Over-decorated Christmas trees and more

Last Friday the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital announced the successful recruitment of the second general surgeon in the last month. Dr. Gus Dozier has already started on a half time basis, and it was critical that another surgeon also be recruited as soon as possible. Thus Dr. William Noell will start his practice of surgery in Highlands in early January. Both Dr. Dozier and Dr. Noell are highly experienced, well known, and highly regarded general surgeons. Dr. Dozier has practiced for many years quite successfully in Atlanta and Dr. Noell has been in Sylva for the past 18 years. The importance of this liaison cannot be overestimated. This means that beginning in January the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have full-time emergency surgical coverage year round and the people in our area will have the ability to choose between two highly qualified and experienced surgeons.



Mayor Don Mullen

great. And the way each business establishment has decorated has added greatly to the town center decorations this year. I thank everyone for a wonderful effort in what should be this joyful time of the year. And, please, folks, let us do be joyful during this season of both fun, worship and frolicking and enjoy each other and the beauty around us. No

grinches allowed!

The ecumenical Christmas Chorale performances this past weekend at the Methodist church was outstanding. It is a wonderful example of how our churches always work together in worship, excellence and fun. This free program directed by Nancy Bonner was a wonderful example of dedicated people working together through many months of hard work to put together an incredible program of beautiful music.

Finally, the owner of Wild Tyme restaurant, Nancy Bruns, made an impassioned plea to the town board this past Wednesday to solve the restaurant parking controversy. It is truly time to put this issue to rest. Her idea of dual-use parking in the B-2 zoning areas is a suggestion which should be given strong consideration by the Planning Board and the Town Board. We certainly do not want well established popular restaurants to have to close because of antiquated regulations. But we also must be fair to all restaurants in all that we do. Let us hope this problem is solved before our busy season begins next year.

The administrative staff, the medical staff and the board's physician recruiting committee are to be commended for their exhaustive search which included going through almost 60 applications in the process of hiring these two fine surgeons who have reputations which the people of the Highlands Cashiers area demand and indeed deserve. As a surgeon myself, I can say both of these surgeons have impressive backgrounds and we welcome them to the area. The Board of Directors of the hospital is grateful to all those people who have had enough patience to wait for excellence in a very difficult time for the hospital and supported our efforts through the process without complaint or harassment.

There has been some discussion in town regarding the Christmas decorations, particularly the tree on Methodist church property. The Methodist church tree decoration decisions are purely the prerogative of the trustees of the Methodist church and the town thanks them for their efforts. That tree looks much better than the over decorating which was done last year and we should be proud of the way it has been handled by the church and the decorating committee. In addition to that the tree behind Town Hall and at Harris Lake have also been decorated beautifully and appropriately this year at the request of the people of Highlands and they look

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• HIS & HERS •

Since you asked

November 15 has come and gone. It was the first anniversary of my move here to Highlands, and it seems like a lifetime ago. This column was a crazy idea which came into my head in those ten minutes before you fall asleep at night. Both John and I are thrilled and amazed at how warmly it has been received.

In the many articles which have been my half of the "His and Hers" column, I have introduced you to a number of characters, and I am delighted that so many of you have asked what has become of them. I thought I'd take this occasion to catch you up on their news.

Alas, the gas station which I mentioned in my first column, **Bagel Withdrawal**, has changed hands, and their Krispy Kreme display is gone. Honestly, I didn't go there as often as some folks might think, but I do miss them. And, yes, I know you can get nice, big boxes of these wonderful donuts at several other places, but, dear readers, they are ALL THE SAME. If you want one apple and spice, and one blueberry, you are out of luck. My beloved Norfolk Island pine tree, **Oscar**, which I did so much to bring here, is not doing well. After flourishing outside for months, Oscar took a turn for the worse during the drought. I put him outside, hoping that the morning dew would at least help a bit. As you may recall, our spring went dry, and we were without running water for at least four weeks. And before you chide us for not drilling a well, even folks who had wells on our mountain had them go dry. As precious as Oscar is to me, he came way behind the water needs of John, the cats and me. So, Oscar is recuperating on the porch. Bits of green are coming back, slowly, but surely. He won't be in good enough shape to be our Christmas tree this year, but we're hoping that by next year, he will once more be dressed in tiny white lights and ornaments. Oscar is proof that sometimes you have to think long term, and keep your hopes up.

My mother, Annette, turned 80 on Nov. 29th. Thinking back on it, I don't know if I ever thought about my mother getting older. We're supposed to be the "sandwich generation", having both our children and our parents to worry about. Not being blessed with children of my own, I am an open-faced sandwich. We pulled out the stops, and made sure that this birthday was a humdinger. Feuding family members buried the hatchet, too – thankfully, not in



Michelle Mead & John Armor
 michiemead@aol.com
 John_Armor@yale.edu

each other, either. Maman was showered with the love and attention she deserves. I don't know how much longer my brother and I have with our mother, but we're doing our best to make sure that she has the best life possible. While I consider myself a pretty easy-going person, I am absolutely fierce when it comes to my Mom. She tells me

that when my brother and I were born, she looked at us, and couldn't believe you could love someone so much. She says she would have killed for us. I'm glad it's never come to that, but I secretly feel the same way about her.

Our wayward boy, Orion the Cat, has once again settled back in the routine of life here. His three days on the lam seem like a bad dream. We suspect he hid under the house, given the grime on his normally white tummy, and the fact that he smelled rather dubious. We also think he was chased by something wild and nasty, given the large claw marks on the crawl space under the house. In any case, he has never been more clingy and affectionate, following us around the house, making his odd little talking noises. Our little lion takes up the lion's share of the bed, and we sheepishly let him. Every time we see flyers on local bulletin boards, announcing the latest lost pet, we sympathize, and know how lucky we were to get Orion back. We weren't as fortunate with our little Sylvester cat, Smidgen, who escaped out an open window, and was never seen again.

My birthday article about being born in Key West has brought two charming gentlemen into my life – John, a Highland's resident, and best friend of the doctor who delivered me – and Richard, the son of that doctor. I never dreamed that writing a local column could have such far-reaching consequences.

Speaking of far-reaching consequences, a fellow World War II war baby from California was visiting North Carolina, and read my article about attending the WWII war brides conference in Chicago. She forwarded it to the editor of our group's newsletter. I was surprised and delighted to read my article reprinted in this publication one day, as John and I were driving down the Cullasaja Gorge, and I was checking the mail we'd just picked up at the post office. By the way, I don't recommend reading in the car when you're doing this drive, unless you have the digestion of a Prussian cavalry officer.

• See HIS & HERS page 26



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

‘Tis the Season to be... Politikin?

We have discussed in previcolumns the wacky schedule race to be first, or at least early, in the caucus/primary race. It seemed like it was way premature when we wrote it and now it is nearly upon us. This shrinking time span occurred as a result of 1, time marching on, and 2, the various states moving the date forward.



Don Swanson
 Feedback is encouraged. Email swansonson@dnet.net

The Iowa caucuses will be held on January 3, 2008, giving participants just enough time to cure their hangovers and find their way to the caucus sites. The end result of the caucus activity is to pick delegates to the succeeding conventions ending up at their Party's national conventions. The delegates are generally pledged to support a particular candidate but aren't bound to vote for that candidate.

New Hampshire's primaries will be held on Jan. 8th. Even though Michigan has primaries before South Carolina, and has a lot more electoral votes, very little campaign activity seems to be taking place there, and it is receiving little news coverage. South Carolina, whose primaries take place on Jan. 26th, is considered a good indication of the way black voters will go, and their heavy concentration of retired military is thought to be a meaningful indicator. Then Florida, then Super Duper Tuesday, Feb. 5th, which will decide 40% of the electoral votes.

So, who's on first? On the Dem's side, as of this writing, nationwide Hillary still leads Obama 42% to 23% and Edwards with 13%. The others seem to be out of it. In Iowa, however, Clinton and Edwards had exchanged the lead all summer and most of the fall, but recently Obama has pulled marginally ahead and now leads Hillary. Hubby Bill briefly came to her "rescue" but sounded so much like it was he that was running that Hillary sent him home and trotted out Barbara Streisand to rally the troops. Babs in Iowa? Meanwhile, Barak has Oprah supporting him and appearing with him at rallies in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. I can't see this move doing anything but good for Obama.

In New Hampshire Hillary still leads, but since Nov. 1st her count is falling and Obama's is rising. If closure continues at its present rate by primary time it should be a toss-up. Hillary leads big in Michigan and should maintain it (can we say union votes?)—likewise in Florida unless something monumental happens.

So, what's it all mean. At this time in 2004, Howard Dean was the frontrunner and lost to both John Kerry and John Edwards in Iowa, both who became the ultimate losers. This would explain the "Dean Scream" during his concession speech. It does point out, however, the influence that the Iowa result has on the final outcome.

The Republicans present an equally interesting scenario. Because they had no significant primary race in 2004, and since there is no incumbent President or Vice-President running, the race started wide open. Currently, nationwide, Rudy Giuliani leads Mike Huckabee, 24% to 17%, McCain and Thompson at 13% and Romney at 12%. However, Giuliani and McCain have been losing ground since March and Huckabee has been rising dramatically in the last few weeks. Romney, who has been campaigning harder and spending more than anyone, and who is the most qualified to lead in my opinion, just doesn't seem to get traction.

The result of his recent speech explaining his faith, and how it would or wouldn't affect his leadership, remains to be seen.

It certainly didn't help him in Iowa. As I write this, a new poll result shows Huckabee at 39% and Romney at 17%, a dramatic spike in the Arkansas ex-governor's popularity. Giuliani and Thompson trail at about 10% each and do not figure to score in Iowa. In New Hampshire with less than a month to go, Romney would seem to have it in the bag, almost doubling McCain and Rudy.

With Huckabee a distant fourth, he will really have to surge to overtake Romney.

In Michigan Giuliani and Romney lead the pack. In South Carolina Huckabee already leads and that lead may grow. In Florida, California and New Jersey big delegate states, Giuliani has impressive leads—for now. One of the others will have to peck away at his margins here, if Rudy were to lose the lead.

Right now it's Clinton vs. Giuliani, but, if I were a betting man, I'd bet neither is there at the finish. Hillary looks like she's crumbling, the Oprah factor is in play.

Rudy has too much baggage, and I don't like either of them. Stay tuned.

... STRAY continued from page 1

Any domestic animal running at-large and being a nuisance without a collar or microchip will be declared a stray and will be seized by an animal control officer to be held for a period of time to be designated by commissioners.

Initially, a holding time of 72 hours was discussed, after which an animal would be put down, but Sheriff Holland suggested another plan.

"The majority of the committee agreed that 72 hours isn't long enough and suggested a maximum time length not be determined," he said. "State law determines the minimum time of 72 hours but after that the length of time could be space driven."

He said if the facility is built to hold 20 animals but only has five in residence, then those five could be held for as long as needed. If no one claims the animals, the Animal Control and Care Unit could work with established groups in the county to adopt the animals.

Holland said the purpose of the ordinance is to make irresponsible pet owners responsible. "Animals aren't the problem,

it's people who are irresponsible," he said.

He also said a funded spay and neuter program coupled with the ordinance will eliminate the stray problem in the county.

Of the 11,908 calls to the Sheriff's Department from Jan. 1, 2007 to date, 1,000 have been animal related calls.

Though the sheriff was on the study committee, the Sheriff's Dept. will not be part of the Animal Control and Care Unit. It will be a separate county department.

The cost for the building is estimated at \$350,000 and has been allocated from the 2007-2008 unreserved fund balance.

Once the county adopts an ordinance, the county's municipalities can accept the county's ordinance for application within their corporate and ETJ limits.

"At that point a working agreement between the towns and the county can be worked out," said County Attorney Lesley Moxley.

Commissioner Brian McClellan said it might be possible for the county to recoup some of its costs through the relationship with the municipalities.

Quilt raffle raises money for 'home'



Emma Harris raised \$565 for the Methodist Children's Home with the quilt made by her grandmother. This brings the total amount raised to \$1,075 which will be delivered to the home this holiday season. Sharon Harris won the quilt. Emma would like to thank everyone who so generously supported her effort.

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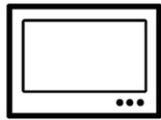


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• COACH'S CORNER •

Failure can lead to greatness

Many of you have heard the stories before -- stories of people who seemed destined for a life of anonymity only to rise up from the bottom and succeed in life. Beethoven's music teacher once told him he would never succeed. Thomas Edison was always labeled a problem child throughout elementary school. Henry Ford's first two attempts to jump-start the automobile industry were flops. We read these anecdotes, and we applaud those who have managed to climb to the tops of society yet we fear the concept that allowed these people to become the household names that we know and revere.

The word *fail* has become one of the four-letter words that is unacceptable in today's society, particularly in the world of youth sports. I have countless stories of parents who push their children to the point of abuse simply because it is unacceptable for their child to fail. Fail to be the superstar, fail to be a starter, fail to play big minutes -- all are cause for consternation among



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

the parents of today's children. And while it happens on the court and in the playing fields, it also happens in the classroom. Children who do not make straight As are held in contempt by their parents, as are the teachers who refuse to give high grades for anything but high level work. We have created a culture that does not understand the value of failure -- particularly in sports.

In the past, when children were learning how to ride the proverbial bicycle they had to fall down many times to learn how to get up, dust themselves off and try again. Now when children fall down, it is because the bicycle was defective, or the street wasn't straight or because the sun got in their eyes. Perhaps the child had attention deficit disorder and couldn't concentrate long enough to ride the bike, or maybe they just need to quit riding bikes all together and focus on a more inclusive sport, like walking or chewing gum. (but not at the same time)

At this point you are asking yourself -- so what is the answer to this problem? Isn't encouraging success a good thing? For many of the best people in the world failure is not an option. But (and I hate to break this to some people) failure is the only option in many situations.

Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times in his career. Michael Jordan missed more game-winning shots than he ever made. Two hall-of-fame basketball coaches named Dean Smith and Mike Krzyzewski were both hung in effigy on their respective college campuses early in their careers. The best coach in the NFL right now was considered one of the worst coaches when he was with the Cleveland Browns. All of these people had failure as a part of their lives, but refused to be satisfied with it. That is the crux of this argument for those of us that work with kids each and every day. We must teach that it is perfectly acceptable to try and fail, because people do it every day. The key for our children is to learn perseverance in the face of failure and always search for success, regardless of your position in life.

The irony in this column is that I am one of those people who has always been afraid of failure. It's difficult to admit sometimes, but for me failure has not been an option. However, as I reflect back, I have learned the most from failure, and it has helped me immensely as a person to learn how to pick yourself up and try again. It is my hope that we as a society learn the lessons of those heroes of ours who were not infallible, but they were also never satisfied. As the great John F. Kennedy once said, "Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly."

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... UPGRADES continued from page 1

initially be used for classrooms and laboratories and later as a student center once state bond money comes in.

"Given projected enrollment growth numbers, especially in college transfer courses, and additional medical/technical courses, and enrollment in the Early College High School, additional classrooms and laboratory instructional space is needed," he said.

He suggested a metal frame building whose exterior could be made to look like the other buildings on the campus but whose interior would be one big room to be fashioned as needed.

"The money spent toward the construction could go toward the required match for later while providing a facility that looks like the rest of the campus," he said.

The projected cost of the building is \$800,000. The only commissioner against the idea was Brian McClellan. "I'm not for this at this time," he said.

But Commissioner Ronnie Beale said as the county grows courses and degrees offered at the SCC campus will be a benefit to the people of Macon County. Groves said students are asking for more medical and technical courses.

The board agreed 4 to 1 in concept but wants to see specific figures, plans and a timeline associated with the project before allocating the funds.

Senior Services

Over the years, the county's senior services department was consolidated with DDS which in a year's time, saved the county \$280,000 – a 400% decrease in county costs from fiscal year 2005-2006 compared to fiscal year 2006-2007. A savings that will be recurring from here on out, said Jane Kimsey.

... FUND BALANCE from page 6

tion for the 5-6 school is subtracted, the unreserved fund balance drops to \$29,426 below the 25% cap. "If it drops to 16% it will be harder for us to get the deals and interest rates we get," said Evelyn Southard, finance director.

Greenwood said without the bond, the county will have to incrementally self-finance to fund capital projects and the 25% cap is crucial.

"The 25% fund balance is designed to optimize the county's position and the nature of its financing as far as the Local Government Commission (LGC) is concerned," he said. "Macon County is a small county by North Carolina standards and it needs a higher margin than larger counties."

The minimum unreserved fund balance allowed by the LGC is 8% which is considered to be enough to fund a county for one month should a catastrophe halt revenues.

• See FUND BALANCE page 27

"The cost savings was realized through increasing a variety of revenue sources and decreasing overall operational costs by reorganization and attrition," she said. "At the same time, service to our senior and disabled population was increased."

However, with growth has come a need for expansion and renovation at the senior center near Wal-Mart totaling \$237,800, which is less than the initial savings.

Added to the back of the building for Adult Daycare use will be a men's room with a closed stall and urinal, a sink and shower; a women's room with two closed stalls; a sink and shower and a stackable washer and dryer for \$60,000.

Also needed is a water fountain for \$1,000; removal of a wall to increase the activities room as well as doorbells at all entrance doors for \$500; wallpaper removed from the public bathrooms and replaced with ceramic tile as required by environmental health codes for \$11,000; 16-feet added to the far end of the building to enlarge the dining room and provide space for a small file room, a small meeting room and second floor storage space over the 16-ft. extension for \$90,000.

The current dining room is so small people in walkers and using canes can't maneuver between tables and around the room.

In addition, the gravel parking lot will be repaved and parking spaces lined to create additional parking for \$30,000 and according to the fire marshal a sprinkler sys-

tem must be installed in the new 16-ft. addition for \$45,000.

"We're asking for less than what we saved," said Kimsey.

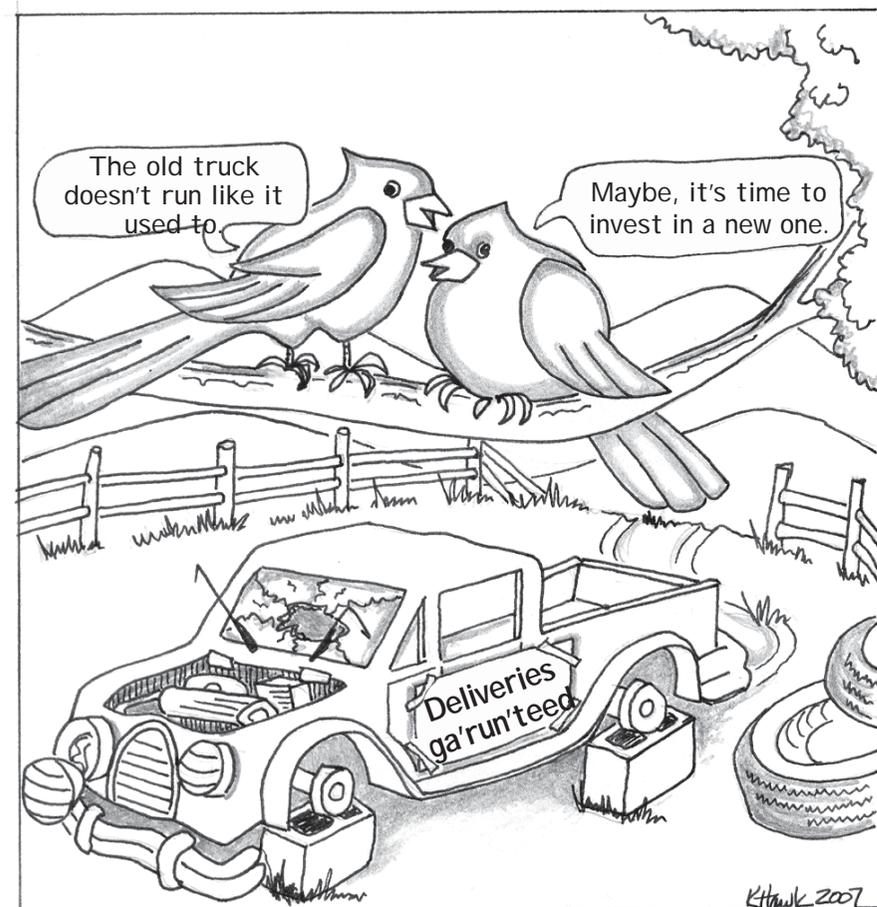
The board voted unanimously for the renovations and expansion.

Commissioner Beale said the lot should have been paved years ago but ques-

tioned the need for a sprinkler system since the facility is only used during the day.

County Manager Sam Greenwood recommended the board move forward due to the increased demand for services and safety issues associated with the center. He said the cost could be appropriated from the fund balance.

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For more information, call the
Christ Anglican Church office
at 526-2320

office@christanglicanchurch.com

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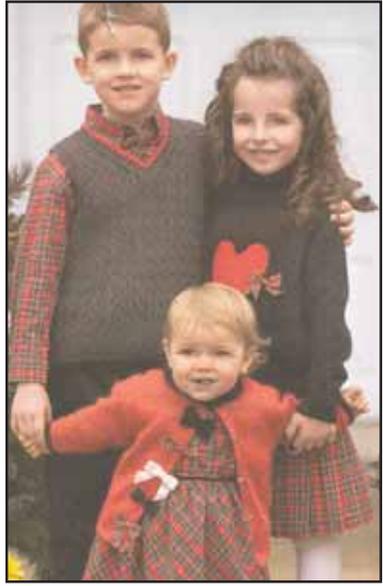
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Second new general surgeon joins hospital staff

Less than a five weeks after Highlands-Cashiers Hospital successfully recruited a general surgeon back to its roster of physicians, another general surgeon has announced plans to relocate his practice to the area in conjunction with the hospital.

Well-known Sylva general surgeon Dr. William J. Noell, FACS, will become part of Mountain Medical and Surgical Group in Highlands on Jan. 7, 2008, joining surgeon Dr. F. Augustus Dozier, FACS. Dr. Dozier began practicing at the hospital Nov. 5, spending every other week here. Noell, who is also board-certified, will provide coverage during the weeks when Dozier is back in Atlanta.

That will mean that with the start of the new year, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have full-time emergency surgical coverage year-round.

"Everyone here is overjoyed at this development," said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "This is going to make our general surgery program stronger than ever before."

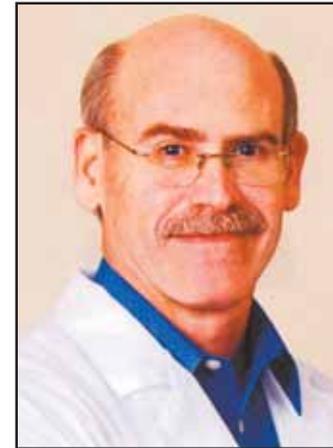
Shull said the arrangement works well for both Dr. Dozier and Dr. Noell, and it means the hospital will now be able to provide emergency surgical coverage for a full 52 weeks a year, something that would not be possible if the hospital had only one full-time surgeon. The most weeks that could effectively be covered by a single surgeon would be 39 or 40, he said.

"Not only will area patients be able to choose between two different general surgeons, this means that when it comes to emergencies, area residents will have access to a board-certified, experienced general surgeon around the clock, seven days per week, all year around. That will answer some of the concerns that we've heard in recent months," said Shull. "We couldn't be more pleased."

Dr. Noell has practiced in Sylva since 1989, and already has a number of patients who reside in this area — including several employees of the hospital here.

"Dr. Noell has a superb reputation and I'm thrilled to be associated with him," said Dozier this week. "The combination of our skills will enable us to provide a very full range of general surgical and laparoscopic services here at the hospital."

Dr. Noell has already been credentialed by hospital's medical staff and was approved by a unanimous vote of the hospital's board of directors on Thursday.



Dr. William J. Noell

"Both of these surgeons are very highly-qualified and have great reputations. And they are both very personable, as well. I think the hospital and our communities are very fortunate," said Board Chairman Bud Smith later. "After everything we've been through in the last two years, it's great that things are really beginning to work out for the hospital and its medical community."

A native of Arkansas, Dr. Noell earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas College of Medicine in Little Rock, AR in 1982, and performed his residency in family practice at Halifax Hospital Medical Center in Daytona, Beach, FL. In 1984 he became an intern in general surgery at Sinai Hospital of Detroit in Detroit, MI, and went on to complete his residency in general surgery at that same institution. Upon coming to Sylva out of residency, he joined the staff at Harris Regional Hospital (now part of West Care Health Systems).

During his career there, he has served as chief of the medical staff, chief of surgery and chairman of Medical Management. From 1995 through 1997, he was a member of the medical staff of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, with courtesy privileges, which he also maintained at Angel Community Hospital (now Angel Medical Center) until 2000. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, and certified by the American Board of Surgery.

The offices of Mountain Medical & Surgical are located in Suite 104 on Level 1 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Appointments can be made by calling (828) 526-2371.

Burning ban back in effect

The Macon County Fire Marshal's office has prohibited burning due to local conditions which make fires hazardous.

Open burning is prohibited until adequate rainfall lessens the hazards associated with burning.

This is in conjunction with a statewide burning ban due to severe drought conditions, lack of rainfall, low relative humidity and breezy conditions.

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Mrs. McClellan's Highlands School Kindergarten Class enjoyed making Stone Soup to celebrate the Letter S, recently. Each student took a turn to add their ingredient and to stir. All students brought in ingredients to make the soup which was sampled by all. Above are the students with Mrs. Jetter and Mrs. McClellan. Below are students Emma Weller, Sayla Roman, Jack Hardin, Matthew Campbell and Cristo Gonzales.



Bolivia mission volunteers sought

The Highlands Bolivian Mission is looking for volunteers to come to Montero, Bolivia between the middle of February to the middle of April. It is suggested that the volunteer come for a period of at least 10 days and be healthy enough to endure hot, humid conditions. There are several jobs that do not involve hard, physical work, but the mission plans to build four houses and help build a church. Less strenuous jobs include working at medical and dental clinics, the foster home, hospital work, and feeding projects. Spanish is not required,

but it is helpful. The cost of the mission is \$1,500 and that cost includes the travel, room and board. Yellow fever injection is required within the last 10 years, and a visa and passport are needed. Please call 526-3605 and talk to Dr. John if you have an interest. If you are a youth, call Mike Harris at 526-3376.

In the 10 years of the mission, over one million dollars of medical equipment has been donated, many houses built, and many lives have been changed, on both sides of the equator.



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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Council; when they are cold, the Emergency council pays for their fuel or electric bill.

When a house burns down they help with furnishings. They maintain a food pantry, an inventory of used furniture, household goods and appliances, a clothes closet, and a linen room. The Emergency Council also assists with medical and funeral expenses. The town gives the Emergency Council their building and pays for their electric. There are a few people, not enough, who sponsor families that need help. Last year the Highlands Emergency Council subsisted on less than \$10,000. I asked how they were able to operate on that amount and was told, "That's all there was, so we

just made do with that amount." One volunteer paid for the week's shopping at the government food bank in Franklin herself because there was no money left. While she was buying the food, a man from Franklin followed her around saying she shouldn't be there because there are no poor people in Highlands.

Well, there are. What can we do to help? Personally, I took the Emergency Council a telephone with an answering service that they said they very much needed. I went to Reeves Hardware and with the help and generosity of manager Joe Luke delivered six heaters to the Emergency Council. I'm also going to offer a challenge to our community. Join me in sending just \$100, or more if you can afford it, before Christmas this year to help the needy in our back yard. The Highlands Emergency Council needs every family, full-time or part-time residents, and every business to do this. Please help them to help others. Send your tax-deductible contribution to Highlands Emergency Council, PO Box 974, Highlands, NC 28741. If you can't afford to send money, go over to their building at 71 Poplar Street between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and see how you could help.

Here is the list the volunteers gave me of needs: (1) Fuel money (specify for fuel), (2) Help with picking people up, (3) The loan of a truck for hauling, (4) People able to assist with lifting heavy items, (5) People to help in the warehouse to arrange and maintain a workable area, (6) Assistance in packing the government commodities, twice each month, and assistance with lifting the heavy cases of food, which must then be opened and placed in forty-eight bags, or boxes, ready to distribute, (6)Supplies: Heavy brown paper bags with handles to use for commodities, copy paper, stamps, staples, tape, pens, and copier ink cartridges. (7) Sponsorship for families, food, fuel, etc. (8) Gifts for children, and some senior citizens, during November and December each year.

Scott Paxton
Highlands

• THANK YOU'S •

Highlands Historical Society is grateful

Last weekend a house built in the mid-1920s in Highlands was the site of beautifully decorated rooms that were enjoyed by over 160 people. The Highlands Historical Society wants to thank each and every person who paid \$15 to view the Joe Webb-built house, now owned by Tommy and Vickie Chambers, as well as each of the merchants and individuals who decorated the rooms. Those decorators included Mary Berry, Deborah Gibson and Liz View, as well as staff members from Basketcase, Bedroom and Bath Design, The Chambers Agency, Cosper's Flowers and The Dry Sink.

We are grateful, too, to Alan Marsh and the 12 people who agreed to drive their own vehicles to shuttle patrons from the Civic Center to the Showhouse and back. Vickie Chambers herself recruited docents for the event, LaDonna Keener printed our tickets and Ran Shaffner printed beautiful brochures. We thank each of them, as well as Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Bookshop and Macon Bank, each of whom agreed to handle advance ticket sales.

One never knows what may be found on a homestead that is more than 80 years old, and the Christmas Showhouse was no exception. Jim Whitehurst volunteered to clean up and clear out the trail leading to two old springhouses, and in the process discovered a natural rock patio at the site of the springs which still flow clear cold water.

The funds earned by the Christmas Showhouse will be used along with donations and grants to help pay off the mortgage on the Prince House and to operate the Historical Museum and Archives. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Martha Betz and Elaine Whitehurst, co-chairs

CofC thanks community for its participation

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center would like to recognize everyone who has created such a charming and delightful holiday season for Highlands. Starting with the beauty of the Tree Lighting on Nov. 24 through the annual Highlands Christmas Parade on Dec. 1.

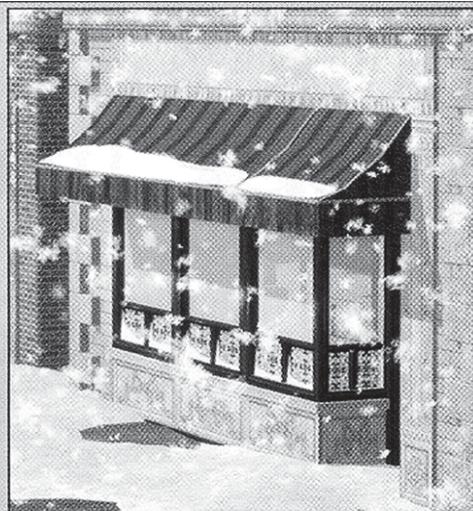
The Tree Lighting, as always, was a treat. We truly appreciate Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, the Snow Princess and the Toy Soldier visiting all the way from the North Pole.

Special thanks to Marianne Vines and the Tree Lighting Committee, Mary Beth Brody and the Carolers, Chuck Cooper, Buck Trott, Jane Chalker, The Town of Highlands, Highlands Police, Fire and Rescue personnel, Rotary Club of Highlands, the Highlands School Interact Club, the Highlander Newspaper, the Highlands United Methodist Church, Bill Nellis, Karla Bunnell and everyone that worked long and hard to bake over 2,000 cookies!

We are pleased to announce that after purchasing the lights for this year's event, The Highlands Visitor Center has donated them to the Town of Highlands for future tree lightings.

•See THANK YOUs page 26

Wishing you a good old fashioned holiday season!
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Love bears all things

Chaplain Margaret Howell

Holy Family Lutheran Church

It was late one Saturday night just before Thanksgiving, and my husband Jon had stepped out on our deck for a discreet smoke. A minute later, he was back, eyes as big as saucers.

"Honey," he said in a very strange tone of voice, "There is a BEAR in the trash bin."

For a nano-second, I thought he was pulling my leg, but a second glance at his face assured me that this was the real deal.

Now my husband is a city boy and I'm a city girl, though I've had brief stints living in the mountains and working for the park service down in the flatlands.

We're used to raccoons and possums raiding our trash at our house in Charlotte, but a few well-placed bungee cords took care of them. Our bin up here has a locking lid, and it's big and heavy — how could anything get in there?

"Right" I thought. "I'll bet it's some puny little yearling scrounging for food."

The only window that overlooks the drive where the trash bin is located is over the kitchen sink. Try not to think too hard about a plump preacher crawling up onto a very slippery granite countertop to get a peek at the alleged bear.

All dignity forgotten, I clambered up and almost fell into a sink full of dishes.

It wasn't just a bear, it was a HUGE, FULL-GROWN BLACK BEAR!

I very nearly fell off the counter. Just at that moment, the outdoor lights that were triggered by the bear's initial approach, went out. Frustrated, all I could see was a hulking black shape, about the size of a Volkswagon Beetle, with its rump in the air, head hidden in the bin. Finally, Mr. or Mrs. Bear moved enough to re-trigger the lights.

I held my breath. It was beautiful. It was big. Really, really big. It gave me a scathing eye-ball as I gawked at it out the window and made several interesting noises.

Remember the big, heavy bin? Well it was flipped out into the driveway and open, as if it were a toy. Garbage was scattered everywhere, but pickin's must have been slim because the bear gave me another scathing eye-ball and leisurely wandered off, dragging a last sack of goodies up into the woods for, one presumes, a midnight snack.

After the bear departed, we were both, as we say in the south, "in a state."

Jon was freaked out and I was wishing I had one of my Dad's old shotguns in the cabin, just in case in future Mr. or Mrs. Bear might decide to come calling through the sliding glass door. I called 9-1-1 and they did everything but laugh. Needless to say, no one showed up. After about an hour we realized that we had to take the dog out, but neither of us was too enthusiastic about the idea, especially the dog, which is just about a hors d'oeuvre size.

Belatedly, we remembered the panic button on our truck, which is parked right next to the trash bin. We hit the button and let it wail for a minute or two,

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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 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 ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cass Daly • Office - 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion - 11 a.m.

(Highlands Community Center on U.S. 64 next to the ballfield in Highlands)

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

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

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship; 6:30 p.m. High School Group

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 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. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 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

Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376

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

5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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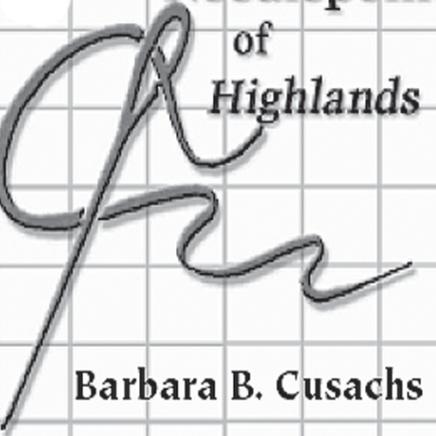
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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 17

to the delight of our neighbors, and then cautiously dragged the reluctant canine out for her nightly constitutional, hoping that the noise had scared off our furry visitor. I've never seen a dog take care of business that fast. One whiff of bear and she was ready to go back in — fine with us!

Sleep didn't come easily to the Howell's Nest that night. Both Jon and I lay awake and kept saying "Did you see the SIZE off that bear!?!?"

The dog paced the house nervously and wouldn't settle in her bed. I can't blame her.

Bears are omnivorous, which means they'll eat anything they can get their paws on, including house-pets, I would think.

A couple of days later I got a call from a fella at the Wildlife Commission. "All right" I thought, "now we'll see some action." We played phone tag for a week or two and finally spoke person to person. I felt guilty about ratting on the bear, but we live next to the hospital and an old folks home. I thought, "Isn't it just a *little* bit dangerous to have a huge bear wandering around?" If I thought that a team of burly naturalists was going to appear, trap and re-locate our furry friend I was sadly mistaken. Instead the man on the phone told us where to get a trash can that might be a bit more bear resistant. (notice the man didn't say *bear proof!*)

The web site I Googled told me much more about black bears than I ever wanted to know. Black bears are survivors. They are omnivorous, and tremendously strong. An adult bear can kill an elk with one blow of their paw. One of my parishioners told me that a bear bent the steel pole of their bird-feeder clean in two. They can run up to 30-miles per hour and can climb trees better than Tarzan. This got me to

thinking.

If anyone should be trapped and re-located, it's us. We're encroaching on the bears' habitat. Bears were a part of the landscape here long before humans started developing the land on the Highlands plateau. We've destroyed or altered their foraging grounds to the point where they have to find "alternative" means of nourishment, i.e. our trash bins. Do they "bear" us a grudge?

No, if given a choice, they would rather avoid human contact altogether. All they want is to survive.

The more I thought about all this, the more I realized that I was the Grinch here, not the bear. Mr. or Mrs. Bear is my neighbor, just like the nice couple next door. We are supposed to love our neighbors, or at least, respect their right to exist. One of my commentary publications wrote, "Harmony is intentional unity sustained through an ongoing drift toward grace." We Lutherans are big into grace. We believe that we are justified, or, "made right" by the grace of God, through faith, as a gift. We are about to celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Christ, who came, not to condemn the world, but to save it.

The reading from Isaiah for last week is one of my favorites:

"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of Him, and His dwelling shall be glorious." Isaiah 11: 6-10.

Some day the Peaceable Kingdom will come to fruition, but in the meantime, it is up to us to live in harmony, grace and peace with our fellow creatures, whether it's your next door neighbor or the neighborhood bear.

Have a "Beary" Merry Christmas!

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... ZACHARY continued from page 1

cludes a home and another which is vacant. The Potts property had been under contract to the county and commissioners planned to close by Oct. 31, but an agreement on usage slowed things up a bit.

Monday night the deal was sealed when the parcel was split so Potts could retain use of her house for a while.

"She can retain use of her home for up to two years," said County Commissioner

Brian McClellan. "The county has a contract to purchase it within two years therefore she will own the land so that the county has no liability."

However, the two-year option is just on the piece that contains the house. The other parcel will become the county's at the time of closing.

The .667-acre tract containing the home is under contract for \$225,000 and

the vacant 1.326 acres was purchased for \$250,000.

The county currently owns 4.80 acres – previously two lots split by Aunt Dora Drive – upon which the current Zachary Park now resides.

At its October meeting, the board agreed to purchase Mattie Zachary Crawford's 1.761 acres for its appraised value of \$167,040. So far that deal isn't complete, but in October earnest money was allocat-

ed. The Potts and Crawford property will add 3.754 acres to the park.

The Zachary siblings, five sisters and a brother, made Zachary Park on Buck Creek Drive possible several years ago when they sold the family homeplace to the county. They said they wanted the children of Highlands and Macon County to have a place to play. Their property represented one of the few relatively flat pieces of property in the Highlands area suitable for sports fields.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Come have Christmas Dinner at the Log Cabin Restaurant for a good cause

Hurry! It is time to reserve your seats for the Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner! The dinner is at the Log Cabin Restaurant on December 25th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cost is only \$29.95 for a scrumptious meal prepared by some of Highlands' premiere chefs (Marty Rosenfeld, Donna Woods, Rene and Jim Ramsdell, and Debbie Grossman)! Select Wines are provided by Mindy and Wolfgang Green.

The cost of the dinner is worth the mouth watering deserts alone (Jan Zehr)! But for those of you who don't solely survive on their sweet tooth, there will be a bountiful buffet of turkey, gravy, ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry relish, apple/date delight, and warm rolls. These traditional foods will be especially delectable because they are prepared with extra ingredients of love and sprinkled by fairy dust from Santa's Elves who will make sure the buffet is never bare.

The Annual Christmas dinner is being sponsored by H.A.N.D.S. and all proceeds benefit the Literacy Council of Highlands and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands. Don't procrastinate— 215 friends and neighbors have all ready reserved their seats for this joyous event! Let us prepare your meal, set your table, serve your dinner, and best of all, wash your dishes while at the same time giving you the opportunity to support this magical village we all call home.

Come join 215 of your friends and neighbors who have all ready reserved their place at our table. Call Farrel Zehr for reservations today!!828-342-7586

On-going

- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 526-4340 for information.
- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.
- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satelite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.
- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.
- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Tuesday

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
- Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for begin-

Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall — beginning promptly at 6:15 and will last approximately one hour.
- Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.
- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- CBC will offer the AWANA program for kids — K-5th grade non-denominational Bible-based program for kids — from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.
- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery — cost is \$5 per stu-

• See EVENTS page 21

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Choir readies church for Oratorio on Dec. 16th



Episcopal Church choir members help ready the sanctuary for the Sunday, Dec. 16 performance of Saint Saens' Christmas Oratorio at 4 p.m.

The altar as well as the rest of the church's dias furniture has been moved to make room for this spectacular presentation which will be directed by Fletcher Wolfe and accompanied by Robert Henry.

The beautiful music of this Christmas Story involves six soloists as well as the entire church choir. Darrel McGhee, well known African America tenor from Atlanta, will sing the role of the narrator and other soloists from Piedmont College and Western Carolina University will be joined

by Highlanders Molly McKim, soprano and Jody Zahner, alto.

This performance is free and open to the public and a reception will follow the concert. Based on last year's response to their productions, interested listeners should come early as seating is limited to 200 persons in the main sanctuary.

You are encouraged to begin your Christmas season with this meaningful and spiritual experience.

dent.

Though Saturday, Dec. 15

• Macon County Boys Basketball sign-ups are currently being taken for the 2008 season. Boys ages 7-18 are eligible to play. A minimum of 8 players is needed to make a team in any respective age division. The cost is \$35 per player. Players must be

age 7 by December 31, 2007. No signups will be taken after December 15. To sign-up you must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate. Sign-up forms are available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information or if you are interested in coaching, please call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

McCully's raffle for year-round performing arts

Mary Bynum, owner of McCully's Cashmere is raffling a Scottish cashmere sweatshirt of the highest quality to benefit the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. The winner can choose either men's or women's style, any size, from a choice of 50 colors. Raffle tickets are \$3 each; four for \$10 or 10 for \$25. Tickets are available at McCully's Cashmere on S. 4th St.; Brick Oven Pizza, Movie Stop and Highlands Fine Arts and Estate Jewelry on Main Street. The drawing will be held at McCully's Cashmere Monday, Dec. 31. Take a chance on an incredible sweatshirt while supporting year-round diverse quality entertainment in Highlands.



Saturdays through Dec. 22
• Santa will be at Town Square to hear Christmas wishes and for photos, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 13

• Highlands Community Players Annual Free Holiday Readings program, 7 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Featured are a variety of readings - some humorous, some joyous, some sentimental - along with appropriate music. It is a free program appropriate for the whole family.

• Highlands Visitor Center Holiday Open House Thursday, from 5-7. For more info, call 828-526-2112.

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 14-16

• At The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands. Mendicant Monk Claude Anshin Thomas will be doing a weekend workshop "Journey Toward Peace" December 14-16. There will be a free Public Talk on December 15 from 7-9. Prior to the Program, a delicious dinner will be served for \$10 per person and reservations must be made in advance.

• See EVENTS page 22

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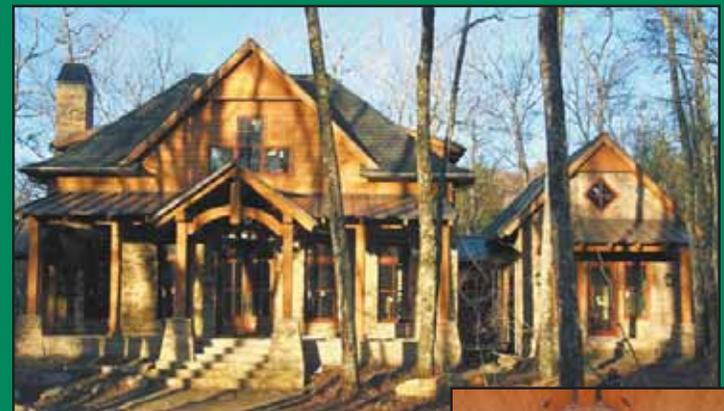
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Saturday, Dec. 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike up Osage and Rocky Knob mountains with nice view from both, and elevation gains and descents of 200-300 feet each. Meet at the Scaly Mtn. post office on Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Drive 4 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations.

• The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee will host an annual Christmas Bird Count at Tessentee Farm in Macon County near Otto. Birders will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the farm and will walk approximately 1.5 miles along the Little Tennessee River and on the farm's forest trails. The outing will take about three hours. To RSVP, call Kate Parkerson at kparkerson@litt.org or call 828-524-2711 x203.

• Fifth Annual La Noche Navidena celebration at the Rec Park at 6 p.m. Gifts

for children, Santa Claus visit and free supper.

Sunday, Dec. 16

• Free concert at the Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. featuring Darrel McGhee, re-knowned African-American tenor in Saint Saens Christmas Oratorio.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike over fields and old roads on the Tessentee Historic Farm near Otto. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center on Hwy. 441 at 2 p.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

• A Christmas Puppet Show at the Coweeta Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Call 369-7508 for info.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend,

'Readers in the Round' members of Highlands WritersGroup, remember long-time friend, Alex Redmountain

On Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., the Highlands Writers Group will present "Readers in the Round" at the Instant Theatre. Admission is free and there will be a complimentary glass of wine and, of course, good stories.

Alex Redmountain was one of our first members and he held us together when we were beginning. We have missed him this year and want to feature some of his lovely poetry. Alex led an interesting life. He was



Alex Redmountain

born to an upper class Jewish family in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1934. After fleeing from hiding during Nazi occupation, he, with his parents, escaped through Italy, Spain, and Cuba, arriving in the United States in 1945. Alex was a teacher, a clinical psychologist and a writer.

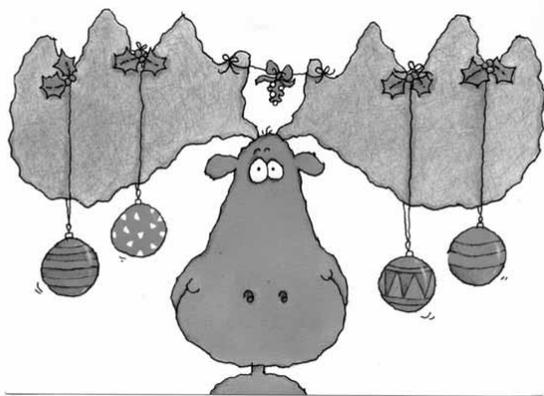
Beyond his careers, his passions were his family and the peace movement

Many of our members will be reading their work, along with a few newcomers. We have a wonderful talented group of writers who are involved in many types of writing projects. You will hear seasonal, humorous, songs, poetry and other genres. If there is anyone who would like to join us, please contact Anne Doggett 828-525-8009 or just come to the Hudson Library at 2 p.m. on

Thursdays. Writers of drama, fiction, short story, creative non-fiction (memoir), poetry and children's stories are all welcome. Once again, please join us Saturday, December 15th at the Instant Theatre for an entertaining evening.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY READINGS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

7:00 P.M.

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although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. William Bridges' Transitions. Coordinator: John and Ad Carr. Paperback book to be purchased by each individual. John writes: The paperback for our December 18th session is Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes by William Bridges. It's been in print for 25 years and is a classic on the subject, well worth buying. We'll supply a page of reflection questions and suggestions in advance.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

• A Christmas Play at the Coweeta Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Call 369-7508 for info.

Saturday, Dec. 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-hike, with a 500 foot elevation change, to the lower Whitewater Falls from the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

• Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner will be at the Log Cabin Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$29.95 per person for a buffet of traditional Christmas fare and desserts prepared by Lakeside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery and Blackberry Hill Deli with wine donated by Wolfgang's

Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Proceeds will benefit the Highlands Literacy Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands. For reservations, call Farrel Zehr at 828-342-7586.

Saturday, Dec. 29

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to Turtleback, Rainbow, and Stairstep Falls on the Horsepasture River with a couple of short steep climbs back up from the falls. Drive 16 miles round trip. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m., returning 12:30-1 p.m. Bring water, lunch or a snack, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leader Walter Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations.

Thursday, Jan. 3

• UNC-TV will air Gary Carden's "The Prince of Dark Corners" on January 3rd at 10 p.m

Tuesday, Jan. 8

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. Which came first? Morality or Religion? Can we be Good without God?" Our reading is "Fear, Trembling, and a Shrug" by Morgan Meis. See attached file for reading material. Coordinator: Elinor Artman

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Tuesday, Jan. 15

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Atheism and Evidence" by Fish, New York Times, June 17, 2007. To be circulated by email. Coordinator: Don McCormick.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Once a Soldier" by David Craig. Magazine of Columbia University, Fall 2007, pp. 25-29. Will be circulated at previous meetings. Coordinator: Carole Light

Tuesday, Jan. 29

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. Coordinator: Martha Porter. "My plan is to give some sort of summary or overview of the talks by Barbara Brown Taylor and Water Brueggeman at the conference in St. Simon the preceding week. It is described as a 'January Adventure in Emerging Christianity.'

Tuesday, Feb. 5

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

Tuesday, Feb. 12

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

Tuesday, Feb. 19

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. SNOW DAY; or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times,

Buy an ornament for the Hospital Tree

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

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

Amount: _____

Circle one: In Honor of - In Memory of

Name: _____

Given By: _____

Address: _____

Send Acknowledgments to: _____

Address: _____



Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Creighton Peden

Tuesday, Feb. 26

• HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Our Biotech Future," by Freeman Dawson. The New York Review of Books, Vol. 54, No. 12, July 19, 2007. Coordinator: Ed Gettys.

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Dec. 14-20

I AM LEGEND rated PG-13

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7:15

Fri: (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:20), 7:15, 9:20

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS rated PG

Mon - Thurs: (4), 7

Fri: (4), 7, 9

Sat & Sun: (2), (4), 7, 9

ENCHANTED rated PG

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

Fri: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

STEPHEN KING'S THE MIST rated R

Mon - Thurs: 7

Fri: 7, 9:15

Sat & Sun: 7, 9:15

WE OWN THE NIGHT rated R

Mon - Thurs: (4:15)

Fri: (4:15),

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15)

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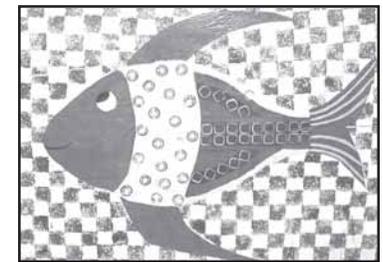
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HELP WANTED

THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS is seeking an Assistant Director to help with all Council activities including program direction, office management and grant writing. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge and be available Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please call Breta at 526-9938, ext 240, for more information. Job begins in January.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEEDED AT THE CASHIERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY a non-profit organization, focusing on preserving the heritage of Cashiers Valley, NC. It owns and operates a House Museum, the Zachary-Tolbert House (circa 1850) in a small mountain resort community in Cashiers, NC. It is an advocate for smart growth, in its role of preserving the past as a guidepost for the future. The ideal candidate will combine excellent communication (oral and written) and leadership skills with the ability to plan and implement programs. An interest in history is also paramount, as well as organizational and human relations skills, computer proficiency and accounting knowledge. A bachelor's degree is necessary and salary is commensurate with experience. This position is 30/hour week (negotiable) with duties including, but not limited to, the following: The Executive Director will oversee the Strategic Plan and programs of the Society. The Director will participate in Marketing the work of the Society and in Fundraising efforts, along with the Board of Trustees. The Director must be able to produce well-written correspondence and newsletters for the Society. The Director must be able to work well with others, as well as being a self-starter. Send cover letter, resume, and contact information for references to zacharytolbert@aol.com

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS seeking cook. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

COMPUTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT ART CENTER — Calling all techies: the Bascom-Louise Gallery is in need of a volunteer to

help the nonprofit art center with its computers. From networking to printer issues to backing up their computers, the art center could use an extra person to volunteer his or her time to help. The art center also needs a wide range of other volunteers to help with several different areas: gallery docents, hospitality workers, gallery shop workers, clerical assistants, visitor services, library assistants, teaching assistants and Movers and Shakers (those who help with prop building, landscaping and other indoor and outdoor physical activities). For more information on volunteer opportunities, call (828) 526-0207..

RN OR LPN NEEDED AT A PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WITH HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Monday-Friday position. Requires experience working in a clinic or physicians' office. Cardiology background preferred. Good communication, organizational, and computer skills a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Part-time, and PRN positions for day and night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-524-4052, or call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

FOR RENT

IN-TOWN APARTMENT — 800 sq. ft. one bedroom, one bath. Full kitchen. \$600/month. Call 770-827-0450.

ON MIRROR LAKE — Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a

month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT — 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$800. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

VACATION RENTAL

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB — Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

CUTE 3 BED/2 BATH Mirror lake home \$1,350-\$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE — Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH — Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

SCALY MOUNTAIN Building lots, views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at \$150,000 by owner, owner financing available. (404) 831-0222 or gonzobean@aol.com. 3/6/08

LOTS FOR SALE IN SHELBY PLACE. \$110,000 each. Call 828-526-2874.

MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEORGIA -- 126.88 +/- acres. 4 BR/3/BA, home, creek, lake. \$460,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 706-401-9035. Taylor Group Realty. www.landofgeorgia.com

TENNILLE, CENTRAL GEORGIA — 58.71 acres. 5 BR/3.5 BA, brick home, 7-board fencing, barn pecan orchard. 11-acre lake. \$799,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 678-313-5090. www.landofgeorgia.com

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

BUCK CREEK: 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator: 3 BR 2 large BA. \$329,000. 828-524-6038

WELCOME HOME TO MOUNTAIN GROVE & FRANKLIN, NC — Unprecedented opportunity to own 100 acres in picturesque and historic Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC! Combine the pleasures and opportunities of a secluded high mountain valley (elevations from 3100 to 3400 feet) with unusually easy to access land. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Streams, creeks and hiking trails throughout. Perfect for a family and equestrian retreat. Tremendous investment/development potential! All within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region! Contact Tim Ryan at (828) 349-4465 or ryan@sanctuarync.com for more information or visit our website at

www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.ht

FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME — 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL 305 458-0033

BEAUTIFUL RV/PARK MODEL LOT — Falls View Resort. Dillard, GA. \$72,000 706-746-0002

LOT — COWEE RIDGE ROAD, Highlands (off Hwy. 64). 4,500 ft. elevation. Great views, Two acres. Southern exposure. 4 bedroom septic installed, community water, paved road, gated community. \$300,000 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

RV LOT — North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC — Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

CREEK IS FREE! — With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

IN TOWN — 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) — Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

OCEAN FRONT — Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY — \$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE — Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE — 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

HOUSE FOR SALE — HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

LAND BY OWNER — 3/4 acre lot. Close to

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Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.

NC, OTTO, 38 ACRES 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

NEW HOME/CHALET – 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road. 2/1 with loft, .897 acres, 1,177 sq. ft. \$189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

IN TOWN — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS. Two bedrooms two and 1/2 bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at www.pixelitvdeos.com/townhome

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

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

BY BUILDER – 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

WANTED

HOUSE SITTER WANTED — mature person to care for home and 3 cats for the month of January. 526-9227/787-2021.

ITEMS FOR SALE

SNOW TIRES – Ford Expedition on factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$500. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

SOFA AND CHAIR SET. Neutral color. Excellent condition. \$300. Could be a great Christmas gift. Call 526-9107.

POOL TABLE – Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt – oak in color – \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

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10,000 Watt 18 HP 8 Gal Fuel Tank 3 years old. never used. New \$2,199. Now. \$1,000. Call 828-526-4784 or 404-255-4894.

SEII BUNK BED SET – Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

ANTIQUE ORNATE WALNUT Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

KING-SIZE HEADBOARD, \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACUUM 5.0 power with 2-motor systems. \$149. Call 526-4077.

MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR – Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

ANTIQUE CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$2,200. obo 828-787-1515

LARGE BIRDCAGE – 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. \$25. Call 526-9245.

DOG KENNEL. 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

DELUXE VENTED GAS heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

CUSTOM DECK SET – Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET, 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. Must see. Call 787-2307.

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NEW SHOWER DOOR – Still in box. 27" wide, gold color. Call 526-4077. \$79.

CHINA CABINETS desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES: Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637

(www.jcwoodworking.info)

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT – 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

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BISTRO TABLES, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets @ \$125 per set). See Bob at SweetTreats 526-9822.

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SLEEPER SOFA – Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

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2001 CHEVY 3500 EXTENDED CAB & CHASSIS. 4x4, 6 speed, low miles. \$16,000 828-526-5284.

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 330 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. Falcon Hitch. 27,000 miles. \$90,000. Call 743-5593.

1991 HONDA PRELUDE – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

HANDICAPPED VAN – Dodge Grand Caravan, wheelchair accessible, automatic ramp, hand controls, 43,900 miles, \$16,000.00 526-9769.

1966 MUSTANG – 2-door coupe. \$12,000. Call 828-883-4214.

1999 CAMARO – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.

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

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NEED A SANTA'S HELPER?– Eill decorate, shop wrap, and more! Call Elizabeth at 524-3261.

CULLASAJA MASONRY Stone Work -- landscaping with stone, culture stone and rock walls, piers, etc., indoor and outdoor; fireplaces, foundations - block and brick. Guaranteed, Fully Insured. Call 828-342-8132 or email cullasjamasonry@dnet.net. 12/13

FIREWOOD "Nature Dired" Call 526-2251.

CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE – "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

TREE SERVICE – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE – All airports – Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239) 292-3623. 10/25

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

UNIQUE BUSINESS FOR SALE in Highlands. Established Market. Call 828-200-0061.

LOST

LOST DOG IN SHORTOFF ROAD AREA. Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

PUPPIES FOR SALE

BOXER/BULLDOG/SHEPHERD PUPPIES: 2 male puppies for sale. One of a kind dog that can box, fight bulls, and guard your house! Mother is CKC boxer/bulldog and father is German Shepherd. \$200. each. Call 526-2465 after 5 p.m.

NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS – 6 male and 4 female - each weighing in at about 1 lb. at birth. Pups available to new homes by Dec. 15. noel@atherton.com

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Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.

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The majority of drainfield problems occur due to build up in the drain lines. Roto-Rooter can clean lines, saving you thousands of dollars when compared to replacing lines.

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... THANK YOUs continued from page 16

Through the efforts of the Christmas Parade committee, Mountaintop Rotary, everyone who supplied and drove vehicles for the participants, the Highlands Police, Fire and Rescue personnel and our judges (Thomas Craig, Kay Craig and Zeke Sossoman), the Tree Lighting was followed up by the most successful Highlands Christmas Parade ever - 72 entries in this year's event.

There were our Grand Marshals - The Laurel Magazine and Marianne & Gordy Vines. They were followed by people (and animals) walking, riding, singing and dancing.

Highlands' School was well represented by the marching band, pep squad, middle school athletic teams, The Girls' Clubhouse and the Homecoming Court. And our humorous highlight of this year's parade? - a self-propelled port-a-pottie. Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center

Thanks to donations, ITC ready for 2008

With deep gratitude the Instant Theatre Company announces it has made its fundraising goal and exceeded it. And donations are still coming in at this writing.

The "I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas" Sale brought in \$10,344.75. We extend a rousing heartfelt thank you to the individuals and businesses who supported the sale with donations of a wide variety of items. We cannot list all the individuals who donated their "white elephants" to the sale because many people left their items on our porch with no name attached.

All of you know who you are, however, and we are so very grateful for your support. The businesses who donated to the sale are Brick Oven Pizza and Movie Stop, Carolina Eyes, CK Swan, CoolCatsHotDogs.com, Custom House, Cyrano's Bookshop, Don Leon's Cafe and Deli, Drake's Diamond Gallery Inc, Dry Sink, Fressers Eatery, Highlands Emporium, Highlands News, Highlands Plaza Inc., House of Wong, Images Unlimited, Innisfree Victorian Inn, Jolie's of Highlands, Juliana's, Kent Ltd., Let Holly do the Cooking, McCulley's Cashmere, Meadows Mountain Realty, Mirror Lake Antiques, Mountain Heritage, Mountainique, Nellis Communities, Old Rangoon, On the Veranda, Pizza Place, Rosenthal Furs Inc., Shiraz Oriental Rug Gallery, Spoiled Rotten, Starpony Electronics, Stone Lantern, Summit One Gallery, T.J. Bailey, Vivace, WHLC FM 104.5, Wild Thyme Gourmet, Wolfgang's Restaurant & Bistro and artists Rosemary Stiefel and Julyan Davis.

The ITC received donations and pledges from generous individuals who let us know that they want the company to continue bringing diverse, quality entertainment to our community. The best way we can show our gratitude is to bring the community our best season ever.

To open the 2008 season, we present "ITC LIVE," an all new improv show and more, which will open Friday, February 1 and play every Friday and Saturday night through Saturday, Feb. 23. Plans are in the works this coming year for full-length plays, concerts, dances, staged readings, movies, and the return of the Highlands Community Players with an all new "Parallel Lives 2 and More." To keep up with the ITC schedule, email Instanttheatre@verizon.net to receive our information-packed newsletter.

The board of directors, the volunteers, the technicians, and the performers of the Instant Theatre Company extend their warmest wishes for a safe and glorious holiday season to all.
- The Instant Theatre Company Studio on Main

... HIS & HERS continued from page 9

Perhaps the most heartening response I've gotten to any column, however, is the one I wrote about women, and their obsession with age and weight. Ladies came off the scales (and out of the closet) to reveal these details about themselves. What a treat to finally see women getting real about this issue. In the year I've lived in Highlands, I've been amazed at how many gorgeous women live in this town. They come in all shapes and sizes, and I only wish they knew how beautiful they really are. The bottom line (no pun intended) is that you don't have to be 25, and a dress size 4 to be attractive.

I have no pretensions of being the Erma Bombeck of Western North Carolina, but if I can entertain my readers, it's all I've ever wanted to do. I've never felt that I had the next Great American Novel somewhere in me, unlike many fellow members of the Highlands Writers Group, whose talent

truly humbles me. "The most I've had is just a talent to amuse," Noel Coward wrote for the 1929 musical revue "Bitter Sweet." I hope to keep on doing just that, for as long as you'll read me. If you have a comment or question, don't hesitate to write. Or better still, introduce yourself to me at the post office, grocery, or hardware store. I am a huge fan of my readers.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands, with two cats, a lawyer, and a recuperating tree named Oscar. Michelle likes to sing and writes a little. She is a member of the Writers-in-the-Round which will have a reading this Saturday at the Instant Theatre and will sing in the Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio this Sunday at the Episcopal Church.

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec.-4-Dec. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 4

• At 7 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hold Knob Road.

• At 8:22 a.m., a motorist on N.C. 106 was cited for driving without a license.

• At 1:58 p.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and entering at a residence on Split Rail Row.

Dec. 7

• 8:05 a.m., officers redirected traffic on U.S. 64 when an 18-wheeler blocked the road.

• At 5:17 p.m., a motorist on U.S. 64 west was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 25 zone.

• At 5:31 p.m., a motorist on Hicks Road was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 25 zone.

Dec. 9

• A little after midnight, a motorist at N. 4th and Poplar streets was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25 zone.

Dec. 10

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at N.C. 106 and Spring Street.

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to Highlands School where injury to a vehicle was reported.

Dec. 12

• At 11 a.m., Sara Louise Harkins, 57, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia during a follow-up investigation in her home.

Warnings

• Over the past week, officers issued 7 warning tickets. The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 7-11.

Dec. 7

• The dept. responded to a call of a wreck at Flat Mountain Road and U.S. 64 west. There was nothing there when it arrived on scene.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Manor, where a baby was reported not breathing. When emergency crews arrived, the baby was breathing and fine.

Dec. 9

• The dept. was called to assist Scaly Mountain Fire & Rescue at the site of a wreck but the call was cancelled en route.

Dec. 10

• The dept. responded to a wreck with no injuries at N.C. 106 and Highlands Decorating Center.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on S. 4th Street in front of Pescados where a man in a truck was slumped over. The victim was transferred to the hospital and pronounced dead.

Dec. 11

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a

residence on Hemlock Lane where the victim complained of chest pain. He was transported to the hospital.

... AUDIT from page 13

“You need to maintain a backup position to continue incremental financing of capital projects. It may cost more and take longer while also maintaining the 25% unreserved fund balance, but the county will always end up with the same cash increase at the end of the year so the fund is replenished.”

Even with the lowest property tax rate in the state, it's proceeds are the main revenue stream for the county – 51% of the county's revenues.

The 2007 property tax revenues increased \$613,690 over 2006 as did sales tax revenue — \$600,059 over 2006..

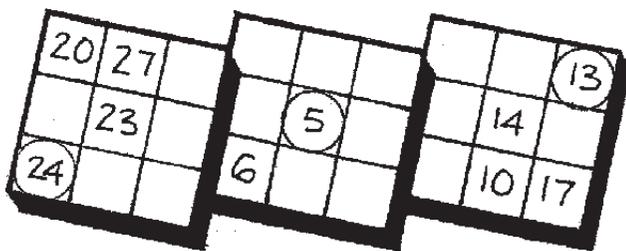
Southard said community confusion concerning unreserved undesignated fund balance monies lie in the time of year.

“During an end-of-year audit, that 34% is actual expenditures versus the amount in the budget which is a projection,” she said. “We need \$44 million budget to maintain a 25% unreserved fund balance of \$11 million.”

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]

#BZ2C – Level of Difficulty – Easy



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 equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

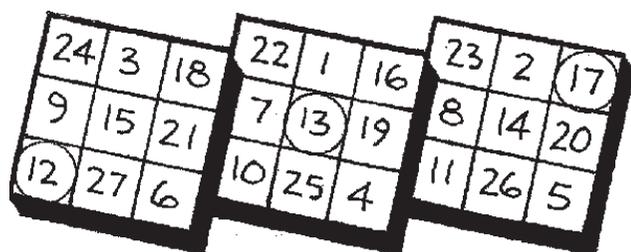
THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 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 to #AZ4C in Dec. 6 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

Object: Assign 9 different letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine different letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

How to Solve: Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

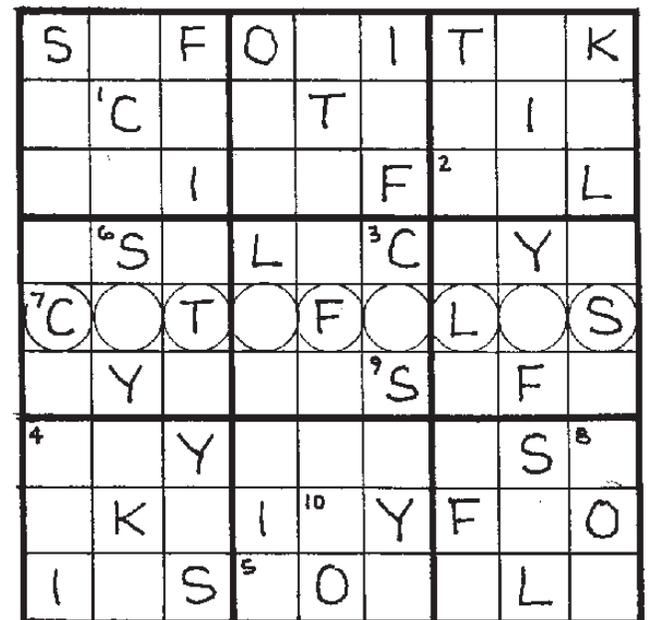
Mystery Word:
'Urban People'

Across

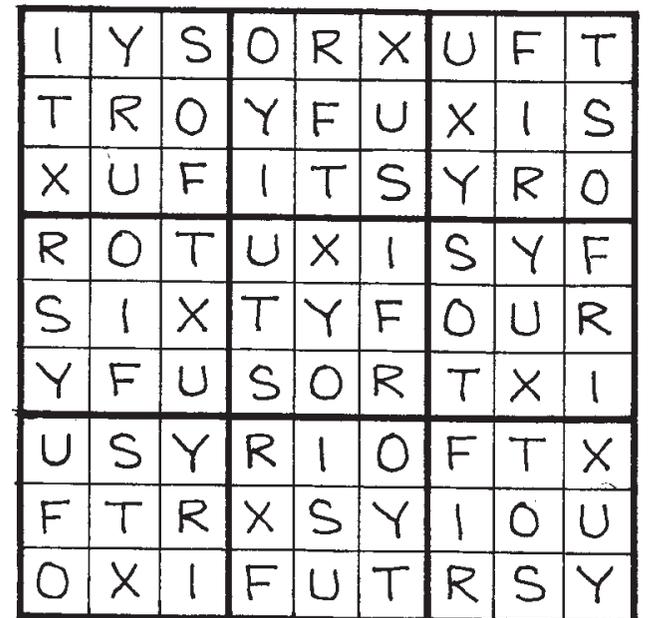
1. Price (4)
2. Sun (3)
3. Cute (3)
4. Plaything (3)
5. Small bed (3)

Down

6. Yes! (2)
7. Small Bed (3)
8. Cute (3)
9. Heavens (3)
10. Conjunction (2)



Solution to Dec. 6 puzzle



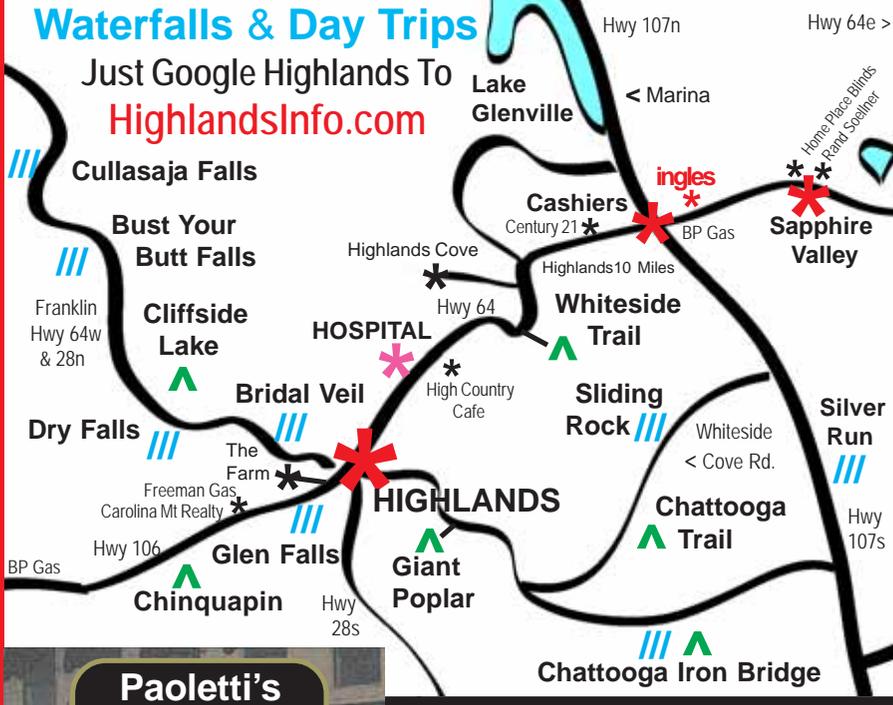
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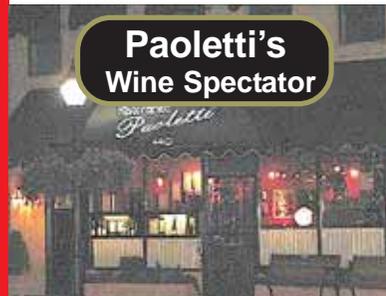
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9 Pescado's	9 Stone Lantern	2 Tino Gallery
10 Rib Shack	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Summit One

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