

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 49

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007

On-going

- 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 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Jane Woodward Bld. room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

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 Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall for one hour.

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

- CBC offering 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 for boys ages 7-18. The cost is \$35 per player. For more information 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.

Saturday, Dec. 8

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

- Breakfast with Santa at the Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 9

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

- A seminar on business immigration law and regulations 7:30 a.m. at the Community Building. Breakfast is at 7:15 a.m. \$10 for non-MtnTop Rotary members. RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841 by December 7.

Thursday, Dec 13

- Highlands Community Players Annual Free Holiday Readings program, 7 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. Featured are a variety of readings with appropriate music. It is appropriate for the whole family.

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
49-32°F	58-37°F	59-39°F

Restaurant parking solution offered

The Town Board may be nearing a solution to the restaurant parking problem the town has been plagued with lately.

At Wednesday's Town Board meeting, owner of Wild Thyme Gourmet, Nancy Brun suggested the town consider allowing dual-

use parking to satisfy the town's seat versus parking space requirement for restaurants outside the B1 zoning district.

"I believe dual usage of parking between businesses with different hours of operation would solve the problem and be a more

effective use of the parking and minimize asphalt in town," she said. "Since the rules were written, a lot of public parking has been developed but is it only in existence for the Main Street businesses?"

• See PARKING page 19

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King and queen for the night!



Highlands School seniors Baily Buck and Josh Hendricks were named Homecoming Queen and King at the dance Saturday night at the Performing Arts Center. See more photos on page 20.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Room tax committee begins groundwork

An organizational meeting of the newly formed Occupancy Tax Study Committee met Wednesday to discuss possible changes in the way occupancy tax money is distributed in the county.

Macon County Commissioners Bob Simpson and Brian McClellan co-chaired the committee. Also present were Bob Kieltyka, of Highlands Chamber of Commerce; Linda Harbuck, of Franklin Chamber of Commerce; Ron Baker, Nantahala lodging representative; Josh Drake, Franklin lodging representative; Hank Ross, Town of Highlands commissioner; and Mike Grubermann, Town of Franklin commissioner. Rick Siegel, the Highlands lodging representative was absent.

McClellan noted that Drake and Grubermann were not assigned to the committee by the commission but that bit of house-keeping would be taken care of at the Monday, Dec. 10 meeting.

Occupancy tax proceeds represents big bucks to both chambers of commerce and their visi-

tors centers – in the realm of \$250,000 to \$280,000 to Highlands, alone, which is the greatest contributor to the county's room tax pool.

By law, each lodging entity in the county adds 10% to the price of a room, cottage, vacation rental, or campsite. The money is sent to the county who then sends it to the state. The state retains seven percent and sends three percent back to the county. Since the mid-1980s the county has been giving the Franklin and Highlands chambers of commerce the proportion each area raises minus an administrative fee. Lately, the county has charged a 15% administration fee, but for years the fee was more in lines with that recommended by the state of three percent.

Commissioner Simpson opened the meeting saying by law, as explained to him by County Attorney Lesley Moxley, "no room tax proceeds can be spent for anything other than travel and tour-

• See ROOM TAX page 13

Subdivision of parcel called illegal by commissioners

The town could be named in a lawsuit involving the recombining and division of two lots in Highlands Country Club.

The Weatherbys, owners of vacant lot 160 (1/4 acre) and lot 162 (3/4 acre) which included a home, had a buyer lined up for the vacant lot if it could be moved to the north end of the property.

Lawyer for the Weatherbys, Ed Hensen, said Zoning Administrator

Larry Gantenbein told his client it could be done as long as the size of the vacant lot remained the same. The lots were switched, the plats were redrawn and recorded. Then the potential buyer backed out.

A new buyer the Calverts, were set to proceed with the purchase until told by Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward and Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz that the "subdivision of the land

was null and void."

"While both state law and section 5019(A) of the town's subdivision regulations permit the 'recombination of portions of previously subdivided and recorded lots,' the resultant lots must 'equal or exceed the standards of the town,'" wrote Ward to the Calverts.

Had the nonconforming lot been left where it was it could have been used as a building site, be-

cause it was in existence prior to adoption of the ordinance.

Hensen said Gantenbein said the lot was an exception because according the ordinance, it could be relocated as long as no additional building sites were created. Now the Calverts said they will sue the Weatherbys and the Weatherbys will in turn sue the town.

However, the Town Board upheld Ward's ruling.

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

About America's obesseion with sex

Dear Editor,

I must tell you that Fred Wooldridge's column in the Nov. 29 issue was absolutely fabulous and kept me in stitches for a long time.

Our nation has become so obsessed with sex that kids in a New York school district cannot hug one another and one district in Virginia won't allow kids to even shake hands. Both stories were on CNN. Kids playing "doctor" behind the barn will now get them branded for life and a possible jail sentence.

In one local church, women are required to wear skirts long enough to cover their ankles. But, who knows, perhaps the women all have Hillary legs and want them covered up. This can present problems for those of us who are leg and butt men and whose curiosity works overtime.

Attending Catholic schools, we were not faced with sex education which probably accounts for both Sally and Suzie getting, well, you know, "that way." What would a nun know about sex anyway?

His story was, to say the least, refreshing and at a time when the pendulum has swing so far in one direction that kids can't even shake hands. We need to get back to the nuts and bolts of running the country, solve our problems and quit worrying about what our neighbor is doing in their bedrooms with the lights off yet!

Bob Wilson
Highlands

Where is our magnificent Christmas tree?

Dear Editor,

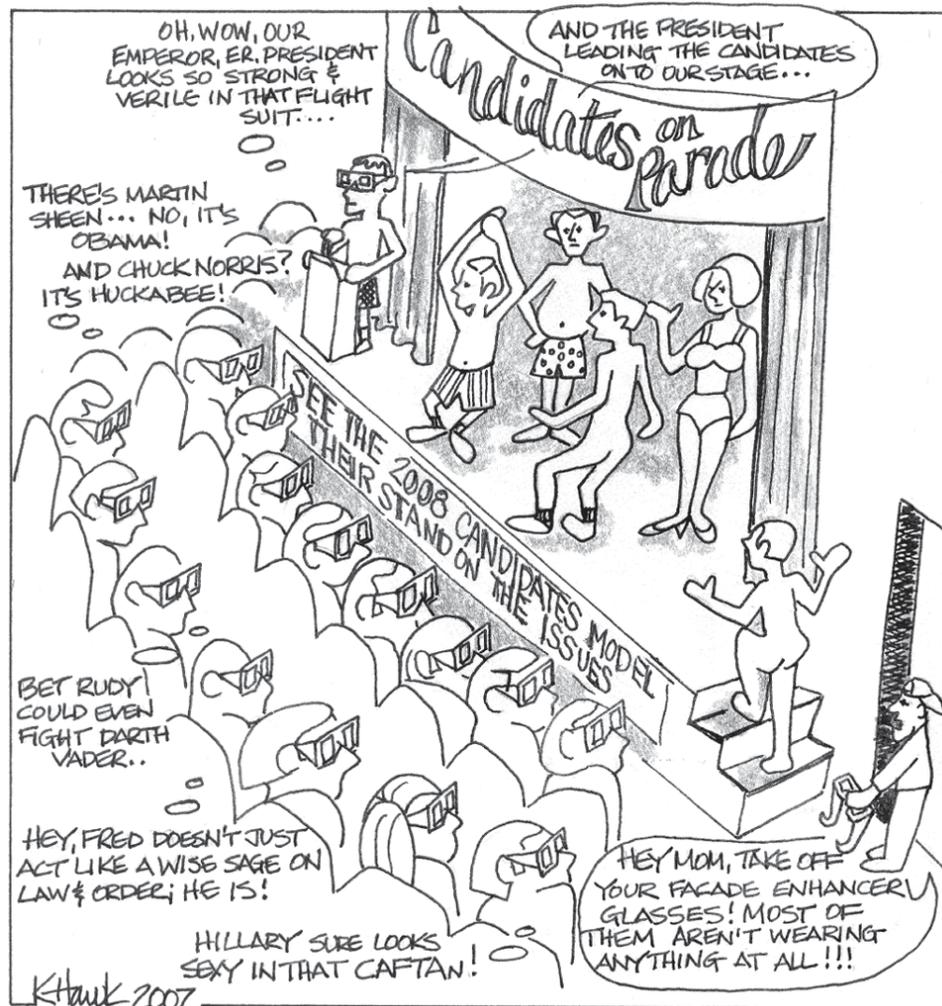
Last year we had the most beautiful Christmas tree we ever had on the grounds of the Methodist church.

It is my understanding that Mr. Mario Gomes, CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, was responsible for the amazingly beautiful tree with all the gorgeous ornaments.

In the heat and rush of the season, I don't think OEI was ever properly thanked for such a glorious gesture. This should have been acknowledged by us all. So much for our manners, and I'm guilty as well.

Now, to the title of this letter. Where

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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• LETTERS •

is our magnificent tree?

Mr. Gomes said the ornaments and lights have been packed away in hopes people come to their senses.

It's true that last year, OEI would have appreciated some acknowledgement (and who wouldn't) for the \$42,000 spent — \$20,000 upgrading the church's underground electrical system and \$22,000 for the ornaments and extra lights.

But, somewhere between the Methodist Church Board and the Chamber of Commerce Board it was decided that no one business should be credited for the tree and Gomes was asked to sign a contract verifying that OEI wouldn't seek publicity.

As a gesture of good will and in the spirit of Christmas, Gomes signed the contract but when approached again this year with yet another contract with the same terms, Gomes told the Chamber of Commerce OEI would not participate.

Who can blame them? Why shouldn't OEI be acknowledged for its good deed? We in Highlands thank everyone for everything all the time!

It seems to me that somebody owes the people of this community an explanation about what, when and why this was allowed to happen. We want our magnificent Christmas tree back.

Pat Griffin
Highlands

Chairman rantings questioned

Dear Editor,

After reading about Chairman Charlie Leatherman's childish rants at the Nov. 26 County Commission meeting, I feel a need to respond.

Have we reached a point where citizens of Macon County aren't going to be allowed to speak without being bullied by the county chairman? What a disgrace!

While finance director Evelyn Southard explained the \$4.4 million of fund balance money was no longer available, where did it go since there was no explanation given?

As to Chairman Leatherman's obvious hatred of Highlands, it seems to have clouded his judgment. His comment that Highlands has the newest school is totally false. The school was built in 1952-1953. There has been a small high school wing and middle school wing built to alleviate the problem of children 5 years to 18 years under the same roof.

•See LETTERS page 18

Changing of the guard

Larry Rogers, John "Buz" Dotson and Dennis DeWolf were sworn in as Town Commissioners, Wed. Dec. 5 at the Town Board meeting. Mayor Don Mullen thanked outgoing commissioners Herb James and Alan Marsh for not only their years of service on the Town Board but for the terms each have served on other town boards and committees. Mayor Mullen said James has served the town in some capacity for more than 50 years.



• OBITUARIES •

Eunice Frances Swaner Raymer

Eunice Frances Swaner Raymer, age 101, of Highlands, NC, died Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at her residence. She was a native of Laurel County, Kentucky, the daughter of the late George and Mary Catherine Scoville Swaner. She was married to the late William Fountain "Spon" Raymer, who died July 25, 1989. She received her teaching certificate from Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College and was an elementary school teacher. She was a Red Cross Volunteer for over thirty years, and was Past Chairman for the Red Cross for half those years. She taught Sunday School in Kentucky, and was a member of the Hospital Auxillary in Kentucky, New Jersey and Highlands. She was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church and was in the Church Choir.

She was "Best Mother" to her nieces and nephews, she loved children, so was "Other Mother" to many.

She is survived by nieces, Mary A. Hamby, of Lexington, KY, Frederica L. Bryant of Bowling Green, KY; nephew, George R. Johnson of Louisville, KY; grand-nephew, Rex Raymer Little of Lexington, KY; grand-niece and primary caregiver, Elizabeth J. Bryant of Highlands, NC; seven special grand nieces and nephews; twenty great-grand nieces and nephews and three great-great grands.

A memorial service will be held December 15th at 11:00 am at Highlands Methodist Church, with Rev. Todd Struble officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church 315 Main St., Highlands, NC 28741, Hospice of Highlands, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741, or to a charity of your choice.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mildred Mashburn Vaughn

Mildred Mashburn Vaughn, age 84, of the Buck Creek Community, died Thursday, November 29, 2007 in an Asheville hospital.

She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Grady and Jane Henry Mashburn. She was married to Clyde Vaughn who passed away in 2004.

She was a homemaker and a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church where she was a choir member and a former Sunday School Teacher. She will be remembered for her loving care for her family, friends and neighbors.

She is survived by her daughter, Juanita Vaughn of the Buck Creek Community; her four sons, Randall Vaughn and his wife Kathryn of Grayson, GA, Glandon Vaughn and his wife, Geneva of Buck Creek Community, Clayton Vaughn and his wife, Elaine of Buck Creek Community and Delynn Vaughn and his wife, Pat of Franklin, NC; three sisters, Nina Wood of Franklin, NC, Rosa Lee Woods of Canyonville, OR, and Alice Underwood of Cullowhee, NC; three brothers, David Mashburn, Bruce Mashburn and Dayton Mashburn all of Franklin, NC. Seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a sister, Gertrude Mashburn and two brothers, Howard and Furman Mashburn.

Funeral services were held Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m. at Buck Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Mike McConnell, Rev. Rick Harrell and Rev. William Wooten officiating. Burial will be in the Church Cemetery. Denver, Darwin, Derrick and Dwayne Vaughn, Daryl Holland and Loyd Mashburn served as pallbearers. Harold Ammons, Algie Bolick, Mike Houston and Ronnie Gregory will serve as honorary pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Buck Creek Cemetery Fund, c/o Geneva Vaughn, 133 Embers Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

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CAKE by Petunia
Fawn by Petunia
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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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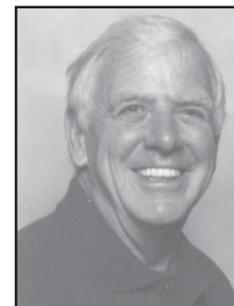
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

'Forget you'



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
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askfredanything@aol.com

The li'l missus and I have been catching up on some of the old "Sopranos" series that are running on A&E. If you have ever watched the series on HBO or on DVDs then you know the language is atrocious. Unfortunately that is the way things are in the real world of gangsters and bad guys, (and cops also) so using dirty language made the program seem more authentic. But there is a world of difference between HBO and A&E because A&E is required to clean up the language.

Since I have a weird sense of humor (have you noticed?) and occasionally find things funny that shouldn't be, I am sometimes accused of laughing inappropriately and the li'l missus has to give me the elbow in the movie theatre when I'm the only guy laughing. It's an insensitive cop thing.

When I watch The Sopranos on A&E I laugh during some of the serious scenes at the clever way electronics can clean up the tape. Since every fifth word is foul, they have their work cut out for them. It's easy for me to watch the series and fill in the missing dirty language, like "forget you" which is said a dozen times an hour. When a gangster grabs a fellow gangster by the throat, sticks a pistol in his mouth and with the most sinister look on his face says "forget you," I roll off the couch in laughter. I know I'm weird, but can't help it.

This brings me back to my carefree single days of the 50s, hanging out on the beach, checking out the hot babes and drinking beer. (Before li'l missus.) Then, after spending my last fin on a pitcher of Bud, I got a job with Florida Power & Light. I acquired many friends at FP&L, like Norm Westbrook, a power lineman and part time preacher from Bradenton, FL.

Like most preachers, Norm didn't curse or use bad language in public. But being a lineman in 97-degree heat can raise tempers when things don't go well, especially while standing in tree gaffs on the top end of a 70-foot power pole covered with rubber to protect him from 7,500 volt wires. This is what I would hear. "Dad gum that dad ratted son of a

sea biscuit gal dang ding blasted cotton pickin' gosh dang bolt is bent. Ah, forget it, send up another bolt." Thank goodness ol' Norm never used any bad language that offended the Lord.

Moving on, if you have met my li'l missus, then you know she is a lady who doesn't use bad or foul language. I guess I admire her even more because, in police work, things can get pretty gosh dang rangy. Her working for the FBI for 10 years did

not change her or make her coarse. She really is a lady in every sense of the word.

Way back when our kids were little, she had had a tough day with them and couldn't wait until their bedtime to get a little rest herself. After baths and bedtime stories, she fell into bed to watch TV and drift off to sleep. As usual, I was asleep in 10 minutes (ha, the mark of a clear conscience) and didn't know anything was amiss until around midnight when she flung the covers from the bed and leaped to her feet.

"I'm going to kill 'em."

I was shocked as she stormed from our bedroom, heading straight for the boys' room. Did I mention she has the ears of a German shepherd? She flung open their door, catching them both sitting up in bed giggling. She screamed, "If you don't friggin go to sleep, I'm going to....." They were shocked at her language and their mouths dropped in surprise. Then the li'l missus, shocked at what she had said, placed her hand over her mouth and started laughing. Then the boys started laughing. Unable to recover from this disaster, she turned and left, slamming the door behind her. Once back in bed, I whispered, "Did I hear you say "friggin?" After a long pause, she said, "That's not a bad word. Go back to sleep."

That evening was such an unusual occurrence for our family that, to this day, our two sons still talk about that night. Whenever they do mention it, she would like to say, "Forget you" but she doesn't use foul language.

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

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Fundamentalists put tolerance to test

I always try to give the other guy a break. I detest iced coffee, but I don't care a bit if you drink it by the gallon. Hip hop hurts my brain, but it you play it a safe distance from my ears, I figure it's your ears' problem, not mine. Feel free to be agnostic or atheist. I can't say that I haven't had my own doubts. What is good for me may stink for you, and what is accepted in an enlightened western culture might well be taboo in a restrictive eastern country. Islamic fundamentalists may want to destroy our way, but I suspect that they are more worried that we might pollute theirs with education, human rights, equality, pork roast and Coca Cola.

I've chosen to look away from the always brutal, sometimes lethal right of passage to adulthood practiced both by boys and girls in many primitive civilizations. I wince at the thought of young girls being subjected to clitoral amputation with a shard of glass or a rusty knife, but never believed that it was our right or duty to interfere and doubted that anyone would listen anyway. Well, maybe the girls would listen, but they are powerless and voiceless in the places where these rituals are performed.

A well attended Quinceanera celebration provides passage without the blood shed. Some of the things boys go through actually sound pretty cool, their first lion hunt with Dad, or days of dancing and sleep deprivation, perhaps followed by a dollop of some hallucinatory drug and bloody circumcision with a rusty knife. It actually sounds a lot like being a college freshman until you get to the circumcision part. No fraternity party could prepare a guy for that. I wonder how many of these boys look forward to the ritual and the passage. Some little guy might say, "Hey, Dad, Uncle Monty says that a Bar Mitzvah and a BMW would accomplish pretty much the same thing."

"Bar Mitzvah is for Jews."

"Oh. How about confirmation and a couple of games for my Play Station?"

"Confirmation is for Christians."

"OK. Then could you at least use a rusty spear for the lion hunt and a razor sharp knife for the circumcision?"

My tolerance evaporated last week after I read two stories. Gillian Gibbons, a British teacher working in Sudan, permitted her mostly Muslim students to name the class Teddy Bear. The kids, aged six and seven, nominated Abdullah, Hassan, and Mohammed. Mo won in a landslide. The teacher was arrested, charged, and jailed for blasphemy and insulting the prophet. Flogging is a common punishment for such transgressions, and 40 lashes seems to be a nice round number.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

Muslims, dissatisfied with a simple beating demonstrated in the streets for the death penalty. Following international outrage and some arm twisting by Muslim members of the British parliament the teacher spent a few days in jail, was pardoned, and deported.

In a second story, a young Saudi woman had an Internet friendship with a man. During the course of the relationship she sent him a picture of her unveiled face. When she married, she

feared that the picture would be revealed. She contacted her web buddy and asked that he return the photo. He agreed and they arranged a meeting. At the meeting she was gang raped by seven men. Charges were brought. The men were convicted of rape. The woman was convicted of adultery for the crime of being in a car with a man to whom she was not related. She was sentenced to 90 lashes. She appealed the sentence and punishment was increased to 200. Her attorney was disbarred for his vigorous defense.

I doubt that there is anything we can do to secure basic rights for women in the Muslim world, short of bombing them into the stone age which is their preferred destination anyway. We tried it in Afghanistan and there have been complications. I still believe that most Muslims, like most of the rest of us, just want to get by until tomorrow, and have no interest in lashing anyone. In moderate Muslim nations, women go to school, work, serve in the government, dress as they please, and marry whom they choose. In fundamentalist countries, those whose constitutions are based on the Koran, women have standing similar to a donkey.

I'm ready to declare that this barbaric interpretation of Islam is foul and vile and it is unfortunate that we can't eradicate it from the earth. Unfortunately, we can't rid our own cities of drugs, poverty, crime, or sewer rats, can't eradicate intolerance and racism. There is no chance of eliminating this malignancy from countries over which we have no influence. This ideology is not an acceptable alternative. The fact that is archaic is perhaps its least evil aspect. Its treatment of women and its non-Muslim neighbors is abhorrent. Its men are condemned to life stifling lives with little opportunity and no meaningful education beyond that which is based on the Quran. They live a lie and worship a perversion. I'm glad that our paper's distribution is limited and our circulation too small to make me a target of Islamic justice. I don't fancy the notion of being beheaded for my blasphemy, but I'm happy that I got it off my chest.

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Highlands School Media Specialist Carol Bowen with Jeff Weller, Rotary Club of Highlands President, Christine Murphy, Highlands School teacher and PTO representative.

Highlands School media center gets federal grant to boost student achievement through reading

The State Library of North Carolina, a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, has awarded Highlands School a grant to help strengthen its library's book collection. The \$10,000 School Library Collection Development Grant was one of 54 awarded this year to public school libraries statewide.

"This school library collection grant helps us build a strong book collection to support the school's curriculum," said Carol Bowen, the media specialist at Highlands School. "We've got a long way to go before our collection is where it needs to be, but this helps—our average book is 27 years old," she added, noting that the grant will be used to replace outdated books as well to add new books to the library's collection. "This grant will help us buy current books on the arts, geography and history, the areas targeted in the grant and most critically in

need of updating. While these funds will certainly help to update our collection, it's just a "drop in the bucket" for what is needed to bring all the nonfiction collection up-to-date."

Research completed in North Carolina and other states shows a link between levels of spending on the school library's book collection and student achievement — the library is the best place to start when it comes to academic success. The grant applications received by the State Library provide clear evidence that many school libraries have seriously outdated print collections. The grant funds assist school librarians in developing stronger book collections that support reading, reading readiness, and student achievement.

The grants are to buy books only and are not offered to replace existing funding for the library. Each dollar of grant funds must be matched with at least 25 cents in local funds. The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands School PTO matched the grant for Highlands School. The grant funding, made available through the federal Library Services and Technology Act, must be used during the current school year. Overall, the grants to schools this year totaled \$540,000. Of the more than 2,300 North Carolina public schools, 660 have received funding through this program since 2000. These grants are a small step in the right direction, focusing the attention of teachers, principals and parents on the need to maintain strong print collections in school libraries.

The library at Highlands School is staffed by Carol Bowen, Media Coordinator and Gail Garland, Media Assistant. The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services administers the Library Services and Technology Act, and funds are distributed through a grant to the State Library of North Carolina.

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REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND

Gratitude how-to

During Thanksgiving week I wrote about being grateful. A loyal reader of my column called me and said, "Well fine, I should be learning gratitude as I get older. But it seems to be eluding me. How do you get it?"

My mother had been visiting the week before and we listened to a CD called "Appalachian Waltz" filled with incredible "bluegrass chamber music" played by violin, cello, and bass. I had played the violin as a teenager and after a particularly exquisite song my mother asked me, "Does listening to that make you want to take up the violin again?" I answered, "No, because I could never play like that. I am just thankful that there are people in this world who can."

I thought of this when my friend asked me how to be thankful.

When I was young I thought I controlled my life. I thought I was independent of the world around me. I wanted things for myself, and was jealous of people who had talents and gifts I didn't have. And I wasn't very grateful because I either thought I had created all my gifts myself — after all I was in control and independent — or I was angry because someone else had gifts or talents that I wanted.

I am a control freak. I love to handle every detail of everything I do so I am in complete control of the end result. I think our culture has control freak components also — we believe that everyone should be responsible for their lives. Welfare reform in the 1990s was based on that thinking: create strong, contributing individuals by ending dependency and encouraging independence and responsibility.

But one of the main lessons I have learned in life is how interdependent everything is, how entwined my life is with all around me. I am not an independent agent and I'm not controlling anything. I am part of something far greater than myself.

Thinking back to my school days I thought I was responsible for my good grades and intelligence. But was I? Now I can see that my intelligence is a gift I was given (for which I am very grateful), along with intelligent attentive parents who earned enough money to put me in a good school system.

Fast forward to today. I am an entrepreneur with a TV channel. All done by my own efforts, right? When you're



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

done factoring in the elements I had no control over, starting with my intelligence and moving through my rebellious artistic personality which kept me out of a "real" job, through the chance encounters that led me to Highlands and the serendipitous events that led me to video production, it's easy to start questioning where my individual control

comes in.

What I find is when I let go of the belief that "I did it," that I should get the credit, gratitude starts to flow. A whole host of events and influences led me here to the place where I am the producer of a TV show (and the writer of a column), and I am grateful that they led me here.

I think where most people struggle with gratitude though, is not for what they have, but for what they lack. I was a very envious person, and still am from time to time. How can I be grateful for a world in which other people have the things I should have? For example, I'd be a lot more grateful for my life if I could get a book published, say, or a documentary made that won a big award.

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.

One of the unexpected aspects of gaining this perspective of the world is that I am a much less envious person than I used to be. If this is true, that every person is part of the Whole, then every person has a unique role to play in the expression of the One in form.

I have my part to play, and that part doesn't include being a concert violinist. But others do have that part, and because I feel my connection with them on this deeper level — we are both part of the One — I am not envious of them because in a deep way they are playing that part for me. I can just feel grateful that this role exists and someone is playing it.

Perhaps the biggest problem is feeling gratitude in the complete way: gratitude for life itself. How can I feel grateful when there are so many problems in the world? Hate, poverty, murder, unhappiness: only a simpleton or a Pollyanna with her head in the clouds could feel grateful for a life filled with these things.

• See BRUGGER page 16

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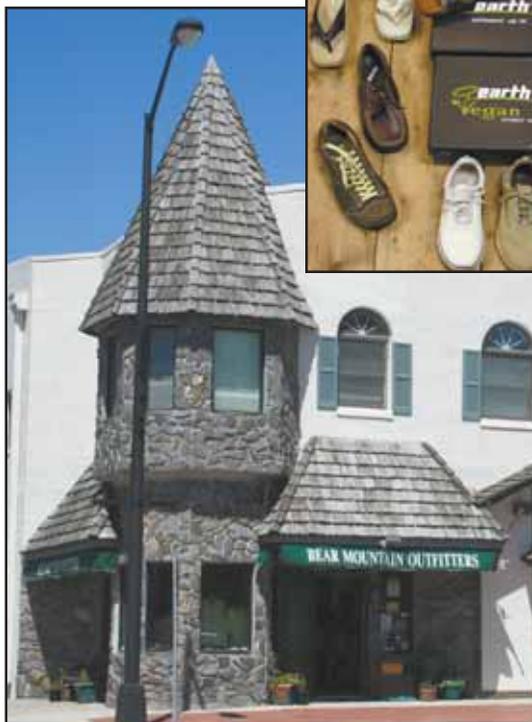
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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

Highlands community shows its colors

What a great day this past Saturday was! As usual the parade was great and enjoyed by young and old alike. We had animals, floats, cars and trucks of all kinds filled with happy and frolicking people from all over the area with the holiday spirit to go with it. As usual, the Chamber of Commerce did a wonderful job putting this outstanding parade together for the enjoyment of the community. Indeed, 'Tis the Season.



Mayor Don Mullen

And speaking of 'Tis the Season, we all had a chance to show our appreciation to the many charitable not-for-profit organizations we have in our area with donations to these outstanding service groups. Indeed, it is a season for giving and Highlands and Cashiers people always turn out big when there are such great organizations with life improving services to which to donate, such organizations as the Community Care Clinic, the Highlands Community Child Development Center, International Friendship Center, the Literacy Council, the Free Dental Clinic, Brothers and Sisters, the Bolivian Mission and so many others. In fact, almost \$20,000 was earned at the 'Tis the Season event which this year was held at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation after the parade. This has now become a yearly function, and what a wonderful event it is. Free lunch was served at the church which helped to make the turnout even better than expected.

Speaking of turning out at special fund raising events, I am proud to say the Instant Theater was highly successful in their attempt to save the Theater for this coming year. They were able to meet their goal and this coming year we will all be privileged to be entertained once again by a great theater group. Congratulations to them. Many people contributed to the success of this project. Once again our people have supported an important function in our town.

There was also the singing of Christmas Carols in the churches and a small town spirit that is hard to match anywhere. The weather was good and a good time was had by all. For Christians and Jews alike this is a very special time. For our Jewish friends Hanukkah, the Festival of the Lights, began Decem-

ber 5, and this is also the Advent season as Christians look forward to the coming of the Christ child. Let us all keep these remembrances as the most important part of the season, celebrating our religious traditions as the center of our lives during this worshipful time of the year. Getting is great but giving is even better.

We had our transitional Town board meeting this past Wednesday in which there was a changing of the guard with two new commissioners coming onto the board. Herb James and Alan Marsh, who have served us honorably for many years, will go off the board and Larry Rogers and Buz Dotson will be coming on. We also appointed committee members from the Board of Commissioners. Two commissioners will serve on the public works, recreation, and finance committees and we added a new committee we will call the land use committee. All of these committees will meet regularly and eventually advise the Board of Commissioners in each of these areas.

During this first meeting of the month we also received reports from the heads of the various departments of the town, re-elected Fire Chief Manley to that position and added members to the ABC board and the Appearance commission as well as appointed Commissioner Amy Patterson again as Mayor pro-tem. This was an important organizational meeting of the board which is always held the first Wednesday in December.

At the hospital and in our town we were all grieved to hear of the death this past weekend not only of a valuable member of the Hospital Foundation Board but also an important member of our community. John Bullock died last Sunday. John was also an important member of the physician recruiting committee and worked hard to help the hospital board recruit new and qualified physicians to the medical staff. We will all miss this important contributor to the workings of the hospital, one who helped work us through difficult times so well that now we are definitely seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Our condolences go out to the Bullock family in their loss. He will be greatly missed.

• HIS & HERS •

Minor civic miracles

Two things happened last week that are minor miracles. We take such things for granted; they got merely local coverage, and not much of that. The first was the Highlands Christmas Parade on Saturday.

The Town is only four blocks long, but the parade was about eight blocks long. So, the first people to take part, had time to join the audience for the rest of the parade. In years past, Mayor Buck Trot would be in the first car as Mayor. Then he would rush back to the staging area, put on his red suit, and be at the end of the parade as Santa Claus.

Buck retired from being Mayor. But with his long white hair, his beard and mustache, and the fact that he is "a man of a certain girth," he'll remain as the Santa Claus forever.

Sounds like our parade was sorta lame. Not so. The new Mayor was in a lovingly restored late-model Model A Ford, with a rumble seat. There were two other Model As in the parade. Folks hereabouts take their vehicles very seriously. From the shine and perfection of the outsides of these cars, I guarantee the engines were clean enough to eat your lunch off them.

There were also at least 10 restored, early model Thunderbirds in the parade. And a vintage Mustang. And six fire trucks from Highlands, and the two nearest communities which support each other when any major fires occur.

There was the band from Highlands High School. They don't have many musicians. They can't afford uniforms. Their musical talents are not the same as the national champions who appear in parades like the Macy's Thanksgiving one.

Why is it that the broadcast of the Macy's Parade consists of two semi-celebrities announcing "the award-winning band from South Succotash," and then talking over the band, telling lame jokes, and laugh over the parade. Wouldn't it be nice to HEAR those musicians, who sold a lot of cakes and washed a lot of cars, to get to New York to play their hearts out? Don't TV producers pay any attention to what they are putting on the air?

Almost everyone watching our parade knew almost everyone IN the parade. Parents and children were calling and waving to each other. It was like the final, heart-warming scene in



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

"The Music Man," where the band begins to play. The parents' cry out, "That's our Tommy." River City becomes a loving place where there really is a band – with 76 trombones and snappy uniforms.

This was a civic miracle for another reason. Almost every float (well, float is a high-fallutin word),

they were John Deere and other equipment, decorated and carrying children, had a sign supporting a local charity. An immaculate black Corvette that I'd give my eye teeth to have, had a sign for the "Free Dental Clinic."

What is the Clinic? Its chief fundraiser spoke at the Rotary Club last month. The Clinic provides millions of dollars in care to people who have no insurance and badly need dental care. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have provided first-class equipment and materials. That has attracted both practicing dentists, and ones who have retired to this area, to offer the free dentistry.

There is joy, there is caring, there is a community pulling together, all the things that any community should have, on display in Highlands on Saturday. That's why I call it a minor civic miracle. We take it for granted, but it's quite remarkable.

The other miracle took place in Hendersonville, last Wednesday. The Republican Men's Club there invited all of the Congressional candidates for the 11th District of North Carolina, to a debate. All three of us (yes, us) Republican candidates showed up at 7:30 a.m. for the debate. Because it's going to be a hot election here in 2008, the room was packed, the press turned out, and we had an honest debate.

No question was steered or rigged, like the most recent Presidential debates for Republicans and Democrats. Ours was real questions asked by real people, and we had to come up with real answers.

Again, this was a small-town civic event. It was also a civic miracle, one that can and should be repeated a thousand times, all across this nation. Good things happen in small towns, so I thought I'd share the news.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

**Middle East agreement?
 Here comes Santa Claus!**

I have skirted this issue for years because it seemed like an enigma wrapped in a mystery. But since it has surfaced in the news currently, I have decided to throw caution to the wind and try and make some sense out of it. I refer to the Annapolis peace summit attended by more than 40 nations. The nut of the matter is political relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.



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

I think I understand Israel. It most recently was reconstituted in 1948 after existing under a League of Nations approved British Mandate for Palestine with the intent of creating a national home for the Jewish people. In 1947, the United Nations approved the partition of the Mandate of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The Arab League rejected the plan but Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948.

Hostilities immediately ensued and Israel was at war with its Arab neighbors on and off to this day. With each battle, with Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon, the territory commonly known as Palestine ebbed and flowed, changing size and shape, continually. In 1949, armistice agreements between Israel and neighboring Arab states eliminated Palestine as a distinct territory. The land that was supposed to be Palestine was divided between Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

In spite of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, Arab states disagreed with the existence of Israel as they opposed the proposed partition of Palestine in 1948.

For the next several years, fighting over Gaza seemed to be Israel's main concern.

Filling a political vacuum that had existed since the Armistice, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) was formed in 1964. Founded by the Arab League, its charter outlined goals that included the destruction of Israel via armed struggle and a right of return and self-determination of Palestinian Arabs.

The UN more or less guarded Israel's borders until Egypt threw them out in 1967 and massed a strong strike force on the border. Israel responded by launching the six-day war, which not only set Egypt back on its heels, Israel has gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. The war has affected control of the area to this day.

Jimmy Carter arrives on the scene,

and the great peacemaker immediately undertakes the task of reconciling Egypt and Israel. He called Menachem Begin and Anwar Al Sadat to Camp David for peace talks, which started out slowly since the two principals were not on speaking terms. After several days of shuttling between the two, Carter was getting nowhere. To keep the process from falling flat and ruining Carter's hoped-for legacy as the savior of the world, he hauled

out the federal treasury and bought an accord that required Israel to return the Sinai. Sadat's failure to gain ground on Palestine's right to self-determination caused his assassination in 1981.

The Oslo Accord of 1993 was a milestone in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was the first face-to-face agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and it was the first time that the Palestinians acknowledged Israel's right to exist. It was the culmination of seven months of secret meetings held in a rural setting outside of Oslo. While the U. S. was clearly on the outside of these negotiations, Bill Clinton managed to bring the principals to Washington for ceremonial signing event. One assumes it cost us in additional foreign aid to bring it here to add to Clinton's foreign affairs dossier.

Not content to let ongoing negotiations go on, in 2000, Clinton declared a summit at Camp David, including Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Yassir Arafat. Barak came prepared to offer a laundry list of concessions, including:

Israeli redeployment from 95% of the West Bank and 100% of the Gaza Strip; the creation of a Palestinian state in the areas of Israeli withdrawal; Palestinian control of East Jerusalem and most of the Old City. Arafat, in his typical style, refused the offer and just walked out.

And now, after the smiles and handshakes and photo-ops, George Bush's attempt to establish a legacy by bringing the two sides together at the Naval Academy in Annapolis recently seems not to have accomplished what he wanted. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that, while he isn't going back on his pledge to seek further common ground, he will not be held to a the timetable desired by Bush, who would like to see real progress made by the end of '08.

George, refer to the Old Testament. Carter couldn't do it, Clinton couldn't do it, and you can't do it.

• VIDEO GUY •

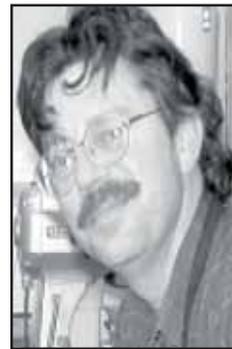
Freedom Writers

The 2007 true story, inspirational drama, rated PG13. Written and directed by Richard LaGravenese (Horse Whisperer), produced by Danny DeVito, starring Hilary Swank (The Black Dahlia, Million Dollar Baby) Patrick Dempsey (Sweet Home Alabama), Scott Glenn (Bourne Ultimatum) Imelda Staunton (Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix). Based on The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell and her class of freshman and sophomore high school students.

The Storyline: English teacher Erin Gruwell (Swank, in a role with quite a different tone than most of her work) is about to start a new job, Freshman English teacher in Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, and things are a little tough to start, weapons, gang violence, and rebellion, and this is just from the freshman girls. The school is recently integrated and recently experiencing some major Urban Flight,

and largely staffed by teachers and administrators who have already determined that these kids are very likely the disposable trash that they appear to be. After realizing that none of these kids have heard about the Holocaust, she decides that this could be a platform to engage these students in ways they might actually understand. As Gruwell devotes more and more of her time, effort, and money to her class, she makes some impressive headway in class, but it takes its toll on her personal life and career.

Swank does an impressive job in this role, coming across as perky, compassionate, driven, and idealistic. The students are played by a cast of relative



Stuart of The Movie Stop

unknowns, all doing a very impressive performance of starting out as sullen project dwelling punks, gradually coming to the conclusion that history and literacy may actually have some relevance in their lives. The concentration camp survivors that appear in the film are all actual camp survivors, interestingly enough. The bulk of the rest of the supporting cast, talented actors all, playing the roles of the other teachers

and principals, tend to show up a little two dimensional, more as foils to the heroism of Gruwell, but some of that is inevitable with the smaller roles. I don't always bother with the extra features on many movies, but did look at these,

interesting but would have liked to have learned more about the actual Freedom Writers, as opposed to the actors who portrayed them.

Some more true dramas that will appeal to those that like this story are Paper Clips, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Rabbit-Proof Fence, Mad Hot Ballroom (a real gem, this one), Remember The Titans, and Pursuit of Happyness (some of these are documentaries, some movies based on true events). These and about 5,000 more titles are available for rent or sale at Movie Stop Video, come on by and take a look.

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A sports fan's Christmas wish

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is at this time during the year that I prepare to write my Christmas wish list of wonderful things that I will ask Santa Claus for. However, before I can get fully into the holiday spirit -- I first must get a few things off my chest in preparation for good tidings. So, without further ado, here is the first annual "things that annoy me" list that I present for your perusal.



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

him overrated. Oh yeah, Hawaii opens the season at Florida next year. Enjoy starting out your season in the swamp June Jones, and you won't like Tim Tebow when he is angry.

I get very annoyed when watching a college basketball team go to a stall offense with 6 minutes left in the game. News Flash: you got the lead by being aggressive -- you will lose the lead by becoming passive.

You would think that coaches would learn, but that would require having less of an ego.

It's really annoying to watch your favorite team's season go down the drain because your coach (who thinks he is a super genius) calls a trick play rather than just running the ball and running clock. Now before you think I am being hypocritical here, football is a little different because you can score up to 8 points on one possession (with points being at a premium) whereas in basketball it takes a few more possessions to catch up quickly.

Dick Vitale (also universally known as Dukie V) really annoys me during games. I like having him there to pump up the game and bring some prestige, but I really wish that he would just concentrate on the game in front of him rather than talk about what a special person Coach K is or the passion that flows from Tyler Hansbrough's eyes.

It is extremely irritating to see the so called "greatest team ever in the history of mankind and all of the universe" being let off the hook by a mediocre team. Baltimore had the New England Patriots dead to rights before snatching defeat from the jaws of victory on Monday night. And don't blame the officials for this one football fans (although there were a few sketchy calls) this one belongs to Rex Ryan. The Ravens frustrated Tom Brady (male quarterback) by blitzing him relentlessly, but instead discovered their inner cowardice in the fourth quarter by only rushing three and allowing Brady time to lead the Patriots on the comeback trail.

And finally, the number one thing that annoys me in the sporting world right now is the lack of a salary cap in baseball. It's unbelievable that the Yankees, Tigers and Red Sox can have a payroll of over \$150 million while other teams can barely cover \$30 million for their roster. People wonder why the NFL is the most popular league in the United States at this point, and it is because of the parity of the game. Every year we have a different team step up in the NFL and make a run, which makes for new fans and exciting games. Baseball has been the Boston and New York show for the past decade, and it is only going to get worse as those big markets continue to open their pockets and overpay for free agents.

It really annoys me that the only undefeated team in college football had no chance of playing for a national championship. While I realize that Hawaii's strength of schedule was a joke, they still WENT UNDEFEATED when no one else did. In this season where it has been proven that anyone can beat anyone on any given night, all Hawaii did was win out -- which should have earned them a shot at a title rather than just a big paycheck.

Speaking of Hawaii, it really annoys me that their coach is a big windbag. He made some disparaging comments about Tim Tebow over the weekend, in essence calling



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Homecoming game excitement

The 2007 Homecoming basketball games were played at home against Andrews, Friday, Nov. 30.

Highlands Girls were behind until the fourth quarter when they scored 16 points against Andrews 14, but it wasn't enough. The final score was Highlands 25, Andrews 44.

Highest scorers were Courtney Rogers and Bobbi Jo Talley each with 4 points followed by Taylor Buras and Kate Marie Parks with 3 each.

Highlands Boys put up a good fight against Andrews, but they lost 42 to Andrews 54.

Andrews slammed Highlands the first quarter scoring 16 points against Highlands 2, but by the second quarter Highlands made a comeback scoring 17 points. Though a memorable feat, it wasn't enough to offset Andrews strong start. Highlands strongest quarter was the fourth quarter where the team scored 19 points against Andrews' 4. Highlands' highest scorer was Michael Shearl with 13 points followed by Ezra Herz with 10 points



Jake Heffington takes a shot during the Andrews game, Nov. 30 at Highlands. Photo by Noel Atherton

... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

ism and the expenses involved with the promotion there of."

"No salaries can be paid with travel and tourism money which means a visitor center employee can't keep a desk at a chamber and do chamber duties," said Simpson.

It's the crossover of duties and overhead between chambers of commerce and visitor centers in Highlands and Franklin and the way room tax money is spent that has the current system under scrutiny.

Simpson and Josh Drake who both sit on the county's Travel & Tourism Development Committee (TTD) are proponents of a county-run Travel & Tourism Authority (TTA) which would dole out room tax proceeds to representatives of various events and programs that promote tourism in Macon County. In that scenario, anyone could approach the TDA for funds and the chambers of commerce and visitor centers would line up like everyone else.

"What the authority would do is distribute the money. Highlands and Franklin would get the same amount they have been getting," he said. "If you raise it, you get it. The authority will just make sure it's spent the right way," said Drake.

Everyone on the committee agreed the proportion of room tax proceeds given back to Highlands and Franklin would remain the same, whether the chambers of commerce are the sole recipients or not.

However, Grubermann, who also sits on the current TTD board said it might not be necessary to change the system as it now stands with the chambers receiving the

money and agreed with Hank Ross, Brian McClellan, Bob Kieltyka and Linda Harbuck, that the chambers may know best how to spend the room tax money in their respective areas.

"We know what the problems have been in the past. Maybe we just have to tweak out those problems. There may not be a need to change the entire system," he said.

McClellan said if an authority is formed he wants to make sure it doesn't become a "political" thing. "I don't want the authority saying "no" you can't have that....we need a formula."

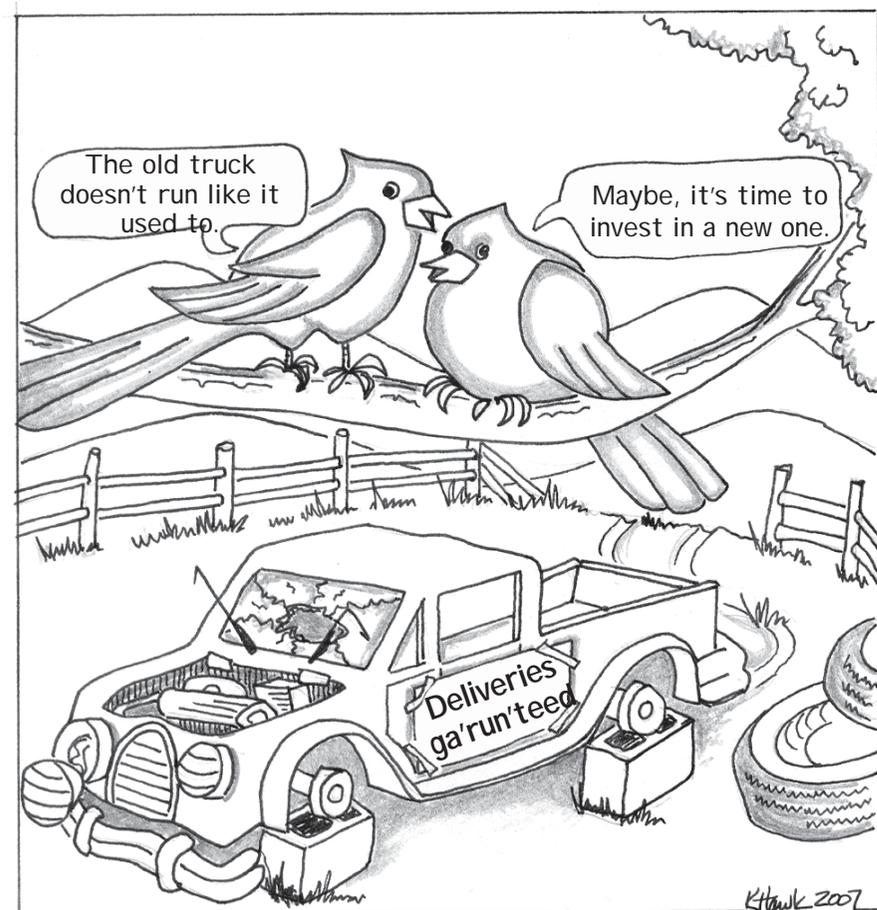
Though a contributor to the county's room tax pool hasn't been determined for Nantahala, everyone agreed that Nantahala should be getting room tax funds. "I don't know why room tax money hasn't been sent to Nantahala except that there isn't an entity to receive it but I do know that the money generated by businesses in Nantahala has been set aside," said Simpson. The board agreed the formation of an entity recipient in Nantahala was needed.

Advertising campaigns, media and target audiences for each area in the county as well as the county were discussed at length.

Simpson believes the county needs at least a part-time professional tourism promoter. "We need to promote the county while promoting Nantahala, Franklin and Highlands," he said.

The committee agreed to meet again sometime in January.

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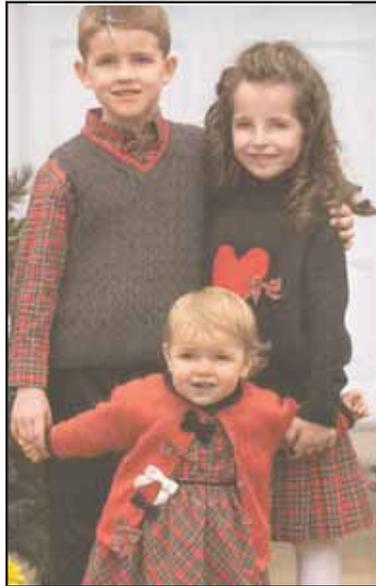
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Pastry cook Heather Hutton, pastry chef Douglas Matthews and baker Edwin Risado with one of the three gingerbread houses on display at Old Edwards Inn. Photos and story by Kim Lewicki

It's the time of year for gingerbread

This holiday season marks the year a new tradition begins at Old Edwards Hospitality Group.

Three chefs created a gingerbread house of their choice, which is on display in various gathering areas of the inn complex.

"This is something we've been wanting to do for a while as an extension of Christmas festivities at Old Edwards Inn," said Marketing Director Cynthia Gomes.

Each entirely edible house, which can last indefinitely in the right climate, took 30 hours to build using gingerbread, rolled fondant, marzipan, graham crackers, clear and colored gelatin and assorted candies.

The gelatin sheets which create the illusion of glass were used for windows and marzipan for people, flowers, and other intricate details that mimic reality.

The gingerbread church in the Hummingbird Lounge of the inn was patterned after the Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation by pastry cook Heather Hutton.

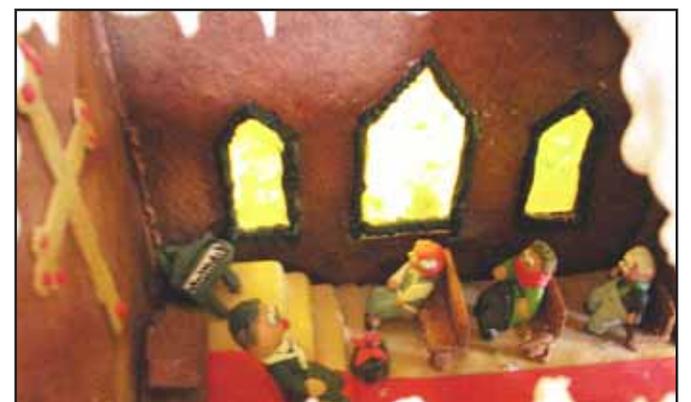
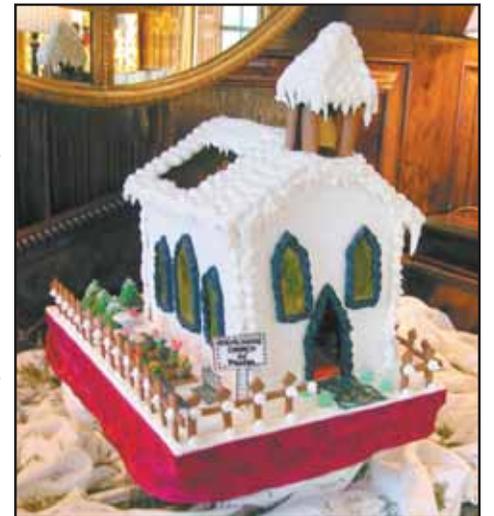
Take a peak through the opening on the roof and you'll see a church service in session complete with a minister at the front of the church under the cross mounted and the wall and people in the pews.

The larger house featured in the lobby of the inn mimics a southern town house reminiscent of Charleston, S.C., and old Charlotte, N.C.

Rolled fondant and assorted candies including starlight peppermint for trim, a peppermint patty foot path, Hershey's kisses for roof ridge, Hershey's chocolate pieces for shingles, and graham crackers for the front porch create a miniature house with all the trimmings.

Creators, pastry chef Douglas Matthews, baker Edwin Risado and Executive Chef Bill Heubel were responsible for the lobby creation and the more whimsical house at The Lodge.

The gingerbread church in the Hummingbird Lounge at the inn was inspired by the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Inside a church service is in progress.



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New Year's Day

Regular Menu

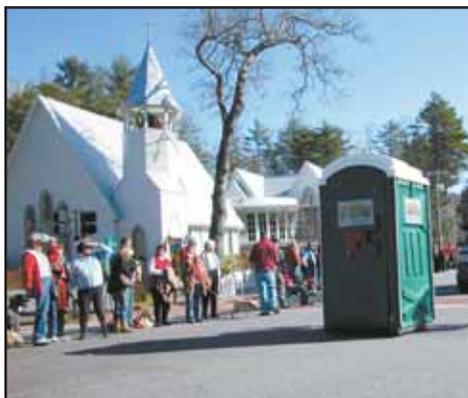
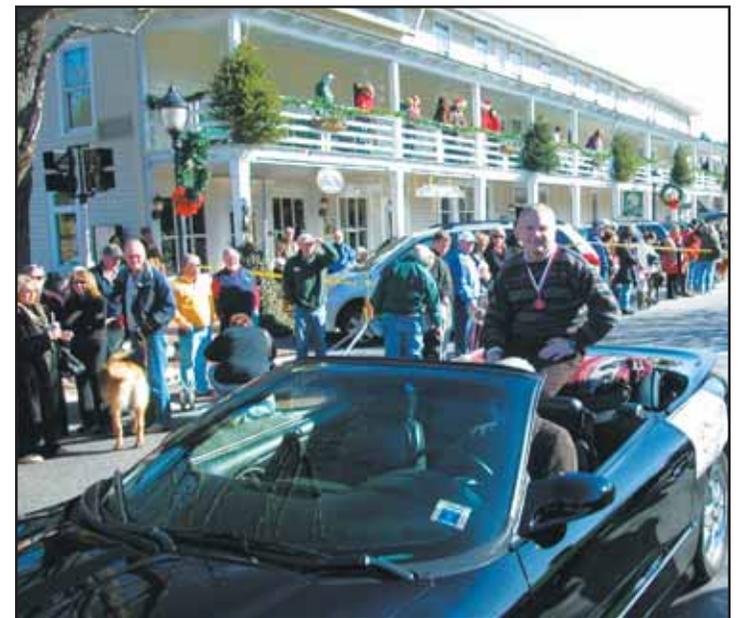
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Highlands Annual Christmas Parade, Sat., Dec. 1, 2007



Photos by Jim Lewicki

There were 72 entrants this year!



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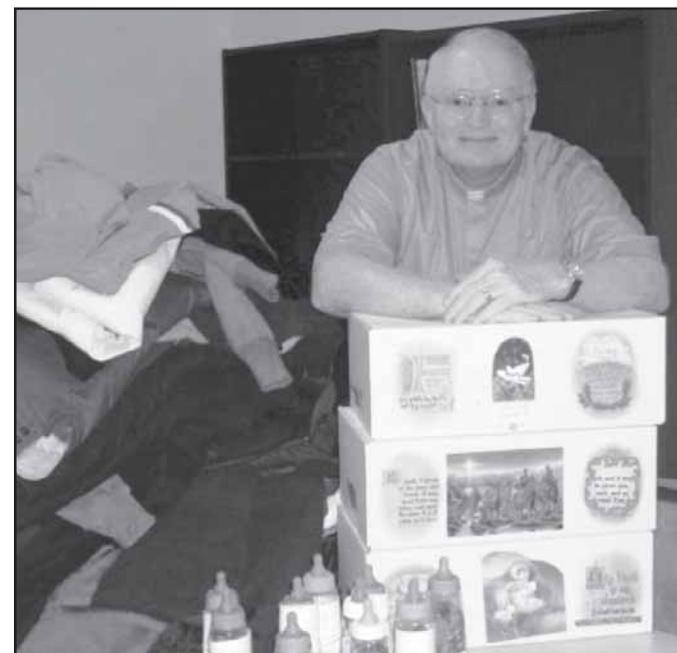


... BRUGGER continued from page 7

Once again it is my belief in the Oneness of the universe that answers this question. If everything is part of the One, then everything is perfect. It all fits together in a larger picture (which may be currently beyond our understanding) in which all suffering falls away and what is

left is the exquisite beauty of existence itself.

It is because of my profound belief that all is exactly as it should be (how could it not be if there is only the underlying One?) that I can feel grateful for life itself.



Father Cass with Christ Anglican Church with some of the coats, baby bottles and Med-Packs.

Christ Anglican Church's advent outreach

As part of the Parish's Advent Outreach, the congregation has been collecting items for those in need.

In the Coat Drive, over 40 warm coats have been gathered from church members and other Highlands/Cashiers residents. The coats are being delivered to the Highlands Emergency Council. More than 150 lbs. of canned goods and other staples have been collected for the Highlands community Pantry.

Also, parishioners have been putting

spare change, currency and checks into Baby Bottles to support the Smokey Mountain Pregnancy Center.

Many parishioners have also been making up "MED-PACKS". These med-packs are filled with basic medical and hygiene supplies which will be sent to Africa for children suffering with AIDS-related disease and illnesses. Christ Anglican Church has taken seriously the concept of this being the "Season of Giving."



Cara Hedden, a sixth grader at Highlands School, won the sweatshirt competition. With her is Chamber President Al Bolt and Mary Ann Vines.

Winners of 2007 holiday contests

The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center would like to thank all that participated in the Holiday Sweatshirt, the Holiday Poster, and the Store Window Decorating contests.

Cara Hedden, a sixth grader at Highlands School, won the sweatshirt competition. Cara's drawing of a Christmas tree was printed on this year's Christmas Sweatshirt and she was presented with a check for \$100.

Lynwood Hall won the poster compe-

petition. His painting of the Highlands United Methodist Church was printed on this year's Dates to Remember poster. Lynwood was awarded a check for \$50.

The Holiday Store Window Decorating Contest Winners: Best Traditional: Jackson & Madeleine; Best Interpretation of theme Olde Mountain Christmas: Ann Jacob Gallery; Most Whimsical: The Dry Sink; Honorable Mention: The Highlands Gem Shop.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A Time to Prepare



**Mike Harris, Associate Pastor
Highlands United Methodist Church**

It's amazing to me every year, how much earlier Christmas arrives. One of the things I love most about the church is keeping track of the Christian year. It's a great way to keep track of time. As we head into the second Sunday of Advent, I think about what advent is about. It's a time to prepare. To prepare for Christmas, yes, but also to prepare our hearts and our lives for not only the birth of a savior, but also the return of our savior. Jesus came and made a promise that there is something better to come.

We know that Jesus came and promised that he would return one day. That he would return and offer a place reserved for those faithful to him, a place with the one who sent him, the parent of us all. This is why we celebrate advent. Knowing that what we do here and now is not the end, but the beginning.

All this to say, that it matters how you live your life. It matters what you say and what you do. It's time to be prepared for what is to come. It's God's Time. It's time for the Church that Jesus Started, to be the Church to the world. The whole world not just those we agree with or those who have something we want. Its time for us, those who claim his name to live as such. My hope for every person is to truly know God, know God's never ending love and grace, and to change the world in Jesus Name. It's not a dream. It's only a dream if you let it be. It can be a reality if you and I live it.

Its time that father's should spend time with their children, because it does matter in who they will become. Mother's stop being like Martha, worrying about what the house looks like and what is meal is prepared and spend time at the feet of Jesus. Share that time too with your children.

Husbands and wives, stop working so hard to have more than you had as kids. Be thankful for one another. Take time to date again, take time to see why God put you together in the first place. If we lived the way Jesus showed us. If we sat and shared our lives and our stories with each other again, spouse's wouldn't feel neglected, spouses wouldn't feel over worked and under appreciated and there wouldn't be time or any reason that someone would look outside the marriage covenant for that love that we all require.

This advent season, it is time to prepare. It's time to live what we preach. It's time to celebrate our savior. It's time to stop worrying about what comes next, and to start thinking about what is right now.

If we live into the miracle of advent, if we live the miracle of a savior coming helpless as a baby, if we live into the love Joseph had for Mary and Mary had for Joseph, if we celebrate the time that is now, our faith will be stronger, our relationships will be healthier, and our world would be a little bit different.

As we begin advent, think about what is missing in your life. What is missing in your relationship with God? What is lacking in your family? What can be improved in the way you live out your career and your life and your faith?

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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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.

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

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Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

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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.

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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.

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.

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Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's
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Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
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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.

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Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.
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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers
Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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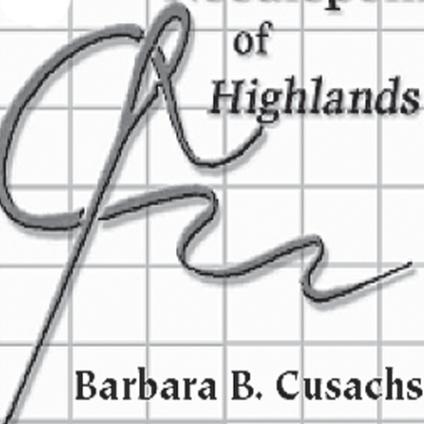
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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Both of these additions are a minimum of 10-20 years old.

A new gym had been promised for many years. During the last round of school construction, not one dime of capital improvements for Highlands was included. I believe the figure of \$30-plus million was used for the building of new and upgraded schools in the Franklin area.

Previous County Chairman Harold Corbin was convinced that Highlands deserved a new gym and was instrumental in getting funding for it. I want to publicly thank Harold for his efforts.

Now we come to the present bond issue of \$42 million and all of it to be spent in the Franklin area. Highlands asked for a new roof to correct mold and mildew problems and for bathroom renovations as a cost of \$1-plus million. Out of \$42 million that doesn't seem unreasonable to me.

Now to address Chairman Leatherman's math madness. His statement that Highlands defeated the school bond isn't true. There were 7% out of 15% out of the total "no" vote. According to Chairman Leatherman, the additional 83.6% didn't count.

Since Chairman Leatherman states that 70% of registered voters didn't vote, 30% that did vote split with 10% for, 10% against, it was the final 10% that made the difference. Can somebody out there in Chairman Leatherman's twilight zone explain that? With this logic, Chairman Leatherman should resign since he did not receive 50-plus percent of the total voter registration when he was elected. Does this not make you wonder what the math students at the middle-grade school are being taught?

As an aside, Commissioner Jim Davis's comment that Highlands' needs have been met. When was that?

In closing, Highlands Township pays 47% of the property taxes in Macon County. This equates to roughly \$10 million per year. Fairness demands that some of it come back up the mountain.

John W. Cleaveland
Highlands

On Mary, the mother of Christ

Dear Editor,

I applaud Pastor Todd Struble for his revealing article on Mary, the mother of Jesus. As a Roman Catholic, the veneration of Mary, along with the homage paid to the saints of the Church, provides a rich heritage of examples of human beings, throughout history, who have exemplified the call to serve Christ in our world. Their humanity is key. Some were great sinners before becoming great saints.

However, I cannot over emphasize that worship is strictly and only reserved for the triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pastor Struble is correct to point this out because it can be an obvious point of misunderstanding between Christians of various denominations.

In our faith, Mary is venerated throughout the year because she alone, without understanding, assented to God's decree through the angel Gabriel. Because of that acceptance, our Saviour was born into our world. And that, fellow Christians, is worth celebrating every day of the year.

Moreover, Pastor Struble's article underscores how close, as Christians, we all are. Although not immaterial, that which separates us is minimal compared to that which unites us as followers of Christ.

Jack Cota
Highlands and Atlanta

A correspondence with Senator Snow

Dear Editor,

I recently wrote this letter to Senator Snow.

When I read in a local paper where our North Carolina Community Colleges were being forced to accept undocumented immigrants (illegal imigrants) I was appalled! How many of these "undocumented" students could be terrorists? Illegal is the keyword here! Should we quit paying taxes? After all no one seems to care if it is illegal! The officials who refuse to enforce the law in North Carolina should be removed from office. As a judge, illegal should have a very clear meaning to you.

I also read in your last update where the state is looking at managing our natural resources; water in particular. I smell a huge tax increase coming to pay for this. If government can't do a better job with resource management than it has with immigration all I can say is GOD HELP US ALL!

The number of defeated bond issues and tax referendums in the last election is a clear message that the people of North Carolina don't want more tax increases or new taxes. In Western North Carolina and Macon County we are still waiting for something to be done about property taxes and property evaluations.

Senator Snow's response:

•See LETTERS page 19

I too am concerned about the Community College System accepting illegal immigrants. Even though these individuals are paying out-of-state tuition, I can't help but think they are taking up spots in the classroom that could be filled by residents and those who are legally here.

As a retired judge, I cannot over look the fact that they are illegal. The laws of this country are clear and I do not believe we should reward individuals who have violated the law.

Harold Neely
Highlands

When the Bruns bought their restaurant September of 1999, they were unaware of parking regulations and ordinances and didn't know they were out of compliance with 54 seats. "We admit, it's our fault for not knowing but we didn't know we were only allowed 30 seats."

To remedy the situation which came

to light when they lost parking arrangements with Macon Bank when it moved across the street, they put in two more parking spots behind the restaurant and "borrowed" six spots from a neighbor behind the restaurant.

"At that point Zoning Administrator
•See PARKING page 27

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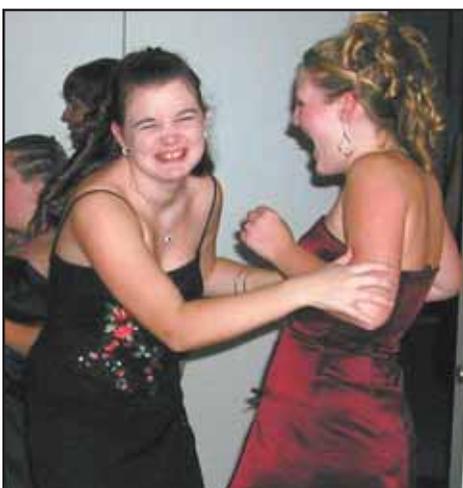
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It was a 'Blast from the Past' at the 2007 Highlands School Homecoming Dance, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Chapter 3 of the Christmas Dinner story!

Beyond a fabulous dinner by extraordinary local chefs the Christmas Dinner is a tribute to our "village" working together for the greater good of our community as a whole.

In its first five years this wonderful feast raised over \$20,000 for Habitat for Humanity. This year the Christmas Dinner is being sponsored by Highlands Area Non-Profit Donation Sharing, a non profit established by Rick Siegel allowing non-profits to work together in sponsoring events and sharing the revenue received. H.A.N.D.S. can collect and distribute money between non-profits who are working collectively in fundraising. This year all payments for the dinner will be made to and collected by H.A.N.D.S. who will distribute the revenue raised to the Literacy Council of Highlands and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands.

Big Brother/ Big sisters mission is to develop children's self esteem and character through volunteer mentoring programs and friendship to help them achieve their highest potential. 100% of the funding for The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of Highlands is through private donations and fundraising events.

December 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Log Cabin Restaurant \$29.95 per person
For reservations call Farrel Zehr at 828-342-7586

The Literacy Council of Highlands provides After-School reading and math tutoring, GED classes, English as a second language and Adult Literacy programs at no charge. A 10 computer language lab housing 3 different state of the art software packages support all services provided by the Literacy Council of Highlands. 90% of the funding for the Literacy Council of Highlands is through



private donations and fundraising events.

Come and support the children and adults from our own community while having a scrumptious holiday buffet featuring turkey with gravy, ham, stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, apple/date delight, cranberry relish, green beans, corn, rolls, and a spectacular array mouth watering desert lovingly prepared by Highlands's premier chefs.

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. Seating is limited, call now!

- On-going**
- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 526-4340 for information.
 - November auctions at Scudder's Galleries Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 352 Main St.
 - 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 Satellite 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

• See EVENTS page 22

HCP's free Christmas reading, Dec. 13



Diane Rosazza and Jim Gordon prepare for the Holiday Reading, Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. There is no charge.



Christ Anglican Church

Traditional • Conservative • Orthodox
 at the

Highlands Community Center
 Serving Cashiers and Highlands

Sunday, Dec. 9

**Holy Communion
 11 a.m.**

All services are at the
 Highlands Community Center
 on Highway 64 next to the ballpark.
 For more information, call the
 Christ Anglican Church office at
 526-2320

office@christanglicanchurch.com

All ARE WELCOME!

124619

- FREE ESTIMATES -



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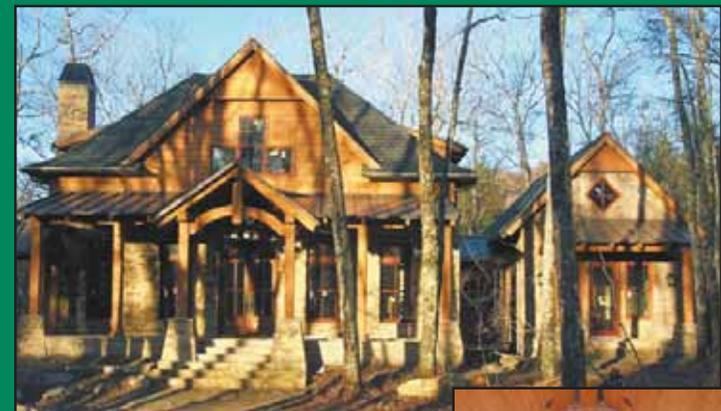
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From Main Street turn south on the Dillard Road. (N.C. 106) go 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Drive. Take first left onto Moonlight then right on Falling Water Drive. Continue up to the neighborhood.

Broker Protected 4% • Owner Financing Available

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

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 beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

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-Lou-

ise Gallery — cost is \$5 per student.

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 are 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.

Saturdays through Dec. 22

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

Friday, Dec. 7

• "Window Wonderland" Open House at the Little Tennessee Land Trust office at 88 E. Main Street, just upstairs of the Tartan Museum, from 5-7:30 p.m. A raffle of a Cowee grown Fraser Fir Christmas tree — proceeds to support the Rickman Store. Hot Cider and cookies will be served and you can also purchase Little Tennessee River Valley calendars or LTLT ball caps.

Highlands Community Chorale to perform Saturday and Sunday



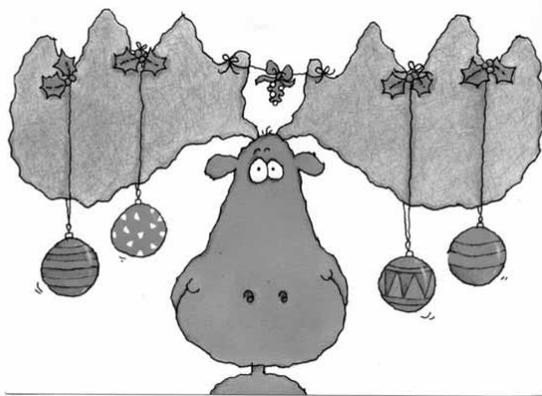
The Highlands Community Christian Chorale gave the public a sampling for their upcoming program at the Town Lighting Saturday night. It will be performing Saturday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Methodist Church and again on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church. It's free.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY PLAYERS

ANNUAL

HOLIDAY READINGS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

7:00 P.M.

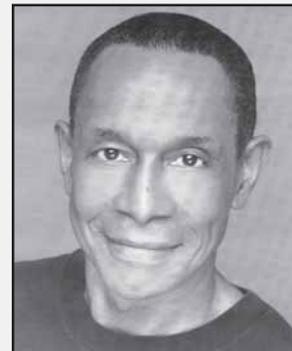
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CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS NC

NO CHARGE — NO TICKETS NECESSARY
OUR GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

"Spiritual" artist to sing in oratorio

Darrel McGhee, renowned African-American tenor who appeared last summer in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation's "Great Performance Series" will join the choir this season in the upcoming performance of Saint Saens Christmas Oratorio Sunday, Dec. 16 as tenor soloist.

McGhee, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College, has toured Africa as a soloist with the famous Morehouse Glee Club and appeared as soloist in a command performance for the Ethiopian Emperor, Haile Selassie. He has sung many times with the Atlanta Symphony in Operatic leading roles including Scott



Darrel McGhee

Joplin's "Treemonisha," Beethoven's "Fidelio," and Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

McGhee will join Incarnation's five soloists and choir under the direction of Grammy Award winning conductor Fletcher Wolfe for this performance.

The choir will be accompanied by International prize-winning concert pianist Robert Henry, who serves as the church's regular organist as well as artist-in-residence.

The concert begins at 4 p.m. in the church's new sanctuary and a reception will follow. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is free so come early to secure a seat.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Saturday, Dec. 8

• The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 9-mile hike on the GA Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell picnic area to Sandy Ford Road with a car shuttle of 10 miles, partly on a dirt road with one stream to ford. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 60 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Breakfast with Santa at the Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m.

• Mountain Christian Singles will host a Christmas Party on Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, NC. The turkey/dressing, ham, paper goods, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish in keeping with holiday tradition, an Unwrapped toy (\$10 value or more) for Toys for Tots and your favorite board game or cards. The group is open to any singles (whether still single, or single again) from high school on up. Activities vary to try to cover everyone's interest. Check out our website @ www.mtnacs.org.

Sunday, Dec. 9

• The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

• A seminar on business immigration law and regulations presented by Laura Foote Reiff, immigration lawyer, sponsored by Mountain Top Rotary and the International Friendship Center at 7:30 a.m. at the Community Building (formerly the Conference Center). Breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. If you are a non Mountain Top Rotary member, breakfast will be \$10. Please RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841 by December 7th.

• High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday night at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Hoyle Grose from Asheville NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For info call 828-349-0905

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.

Saturday, Dec. 15

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: _____



• 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@tltr.org or call 828-524-2711 x203.

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Nov. 7-13
STEPHEN KING'S THE MIST rated R
Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7
Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20
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
WE OWN THE NIGHT rated R
Mon - Thurs: (4:05), 7
Fri: (4:05), 7, 9:05
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:05), 7, 9:05
BEOWULF rated PG-13
Mon - Thurs: 7:15
Fri: 7:15, 9:20
Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:20
FRED CLAUS rated PG
Mon - Thurs: (4:15)
Fri: (4:15)
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15)

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HELP WANTED

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.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Tuesday through Saturday, position. Responsibilities include storing and distribution of medications, supplies and products, under the supervision of a registered Pharmacist. Responsible for routine audits and maintaining records. Previous experience in purchasing and inventory control preferred. Current licensure is required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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 — one bedroom, one bath, full kitchen, washer/dryer. Heat & air. \$750 mo. plus utilities. Call 526-2598.

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.

MOVING SALE

FURNITURE AND VARIOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. Call 526-2671 or 626-5950 for times and place.

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

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

UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY on 100 acres in picturesque Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC. Combine the pleasures of a secluded mountain valley and high mountain real estate. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Develop the rest. Or create one spectacular community. Streams and

creeks throughout. All this 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. Call or email Tim Ryan at 828-349-4465 for more information. TimRyan@sanctuarync.com - www.Sanctuarync.com

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

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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 ½ 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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 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.

ITEMS FOR SALE

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.

GENERATOR, portable Briggs & Stratton 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.

SELL 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.

ARMOIRE & DRESSOR W/ 3 WAY MIRROR. Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

VANITY TOP SINK – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, \$59. Call 526-4077.

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.

TIME CLOCK, Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweetTreats, 526-9822.

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

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

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.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2001 CHEVY 3500 EXTENDED CAB & CHASSIS. 4x4, 6 speed, low miles. \$16,000 828-526-2874.

MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP TRUCK – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,500 miles. \$18,000. Call 526-0539.

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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J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, underbrushing, 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

Strahan joins Bascom-Louise staff as new Director of Accounting & Administration

A seasoned accountant boasting more than 20 years of experience has joined the staff of Bascom-Louise Gallery.

Michael Strahan started at the art center Nov. 19 as the new Director of Accounting and Administration. Strahan hails from Panama City, Fla., where he most recently served as the accounting director for Primecare of NW Florida. Prior to that, he held accounting positions with the Hilton, Inc.; Merrill Lynch Private Investor Group; Bay Credit Union; Wittner and Company; Jack Eckerd Corporation; and McClure and Co. CPAs.

Strahan holds a bachelor's degree in business administration (accounting major) from the University of South Florida and an associate's degree (accounting and finance major) from St. Petersburg Junior College. He successfully completed his CPA examination, holds a Certified Financial Manager designation from Merrill Lynch, and has a community association manager license.

He was involved with the Panama City Rotary Club and the University of South Florida Alumni Club.

For Strahan, moving to Highlands is "absolutely a dream come true."

"I've always loved Highlands – the

small town atmosphere, the friendly people," Strahan said. "I've been vacationing here for about 20 years and have wanted to live here since my first trip."

He was attracted to the art center specifically because of the combination of what it represents in this area: fusing the old with the new, such as reconstructing the old Crane Stables into the new three-dimensional studio or the restoration of the old Bagley Bridge as the art center's signature

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles names top producers for November

From the Cashiers office Elizabeth Matej, broker associate was named both the Top Sales Agent and the Top Listing Agent. She was also awarded the Bronze Producer award for her production in 2006. She also received the Top Listing by Volume & Units and the Top Sales by Units awards for her office as well.

From the Highlands office Sherman Pope, broker associate, was named Top Sales Agent. Sherman Pope was awarded the Masters Ruby award for his production in 2006. He also received the Top Sales by Volume, Units & Production award for his office as well.

Also from the Highlands office Gary

entrance.

"It's trying to maintain some connection with the past, and at the same time intertwining that with the artists of the present," Strahan said. "I really appreciate that."

Bob Fisher, board chairman, said Strahan will be a tremendous asset for the art center.

"Mike is a seasoned professional, and

that's exactly what we need at this critical stage in our development," Fisher said. "He has the skills and experience to manage the finances for the kind of growing and dynamic organization that we are becoming."

Strahan lives in Otto and has two adult children, Page and Brittany. In his spare time, he enjoys gun club sporting clay competitions, reading, gun smithing and collecting memorabilia from various World Wars.

Garren, broker/owner, was named Top Listing Agent for November.

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is located in eight offices in Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Macon and Transylvania

counties. It is the number one CENTURY 21® firm in North Carolina and is ranked in the top 50 CENTURY 21® firms nationwide



A section of the I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale, in the ITC Studio on Main.

Thanks to community support, Saturday's 'White Elephant Sale' assures continued shows at Instant Theatre

Right after the Highlands Christmas Parade Oak Square on Main Street became the place to be.

A two headed, white wicker elephant lead the way to a bargain hunters' paradise. Upstairs in the "third largest theatre in Highlands NC," the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main presented the 1st Annual "I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale."

The sale was to benefit the ITC and help keep the Studio on Main as a place in Highlands for year around, diverse quality entertainment. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of businesses and individuals there was such a wide variety of items for sale that there was something for everybody.

Cheerful shoppers departed the Studio with overflowing bags of eclectic items.

The Company would like to thank the volunteers, the individuals who donated their treasures, the businesses who donated their art, antiques, jewelry, gifts, food, lodgings, clothes and accessories, the benefactors who made pledges, and the donors who filled the money tree, and the enthusiastic throng of purchasers, for making the 1st annual "I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale" a huge success.

The Instant Theatre Company gives a standing ovation and a hearty cheer of gratitude to you all!

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• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 27-Dec.-4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 27

- At 5 p.m., a student at Highlands School reported \$40 stolen from her. Police are investigating.

Nov. 29

- At 8:30 a.m., larceny of personal goods was reported by a student at Highlands School. Police are investigating.

- At 3:45 p.m. a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a home on the Franklin Road where a TV and VCR were stolen.

- A motorist was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 106 and Main Street.

Dec. 1

- At 6 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and Third streets.

- At 10:30 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Dogwood Drive. James

Nagel, 53, was arrested for simple assault as was Barbara Frazer, 55.

Dec. 3

- At 8:05 a.m. Carlos Gaona, 21, of Highlands was cited and arrested for driving without a license on Main Street.

Dec. 4

- At 8:40 p.m., Ted M. Stuckey, of Highlands, was arrested for trespassing on Chestnut Cottages property.

Warnings

- Over the past week, officers issued 1 warning ticket.

Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. Elections

- At the annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. elections, Fire Chief James "Popcorn" Manley was re-elected; Asst. Fire Chief Ricky Bryson was re-elected; Captain Robbie Forrester was re-elected; Rescue Captain James Tate was re-elected; Rescue Lt. Eric Pierson was re-elected; Treasurer Terry Watson was re-elected and James Ramey was elected 1st Lt; Larry Metrick was elected 2nd Lt; and Wayne Henry was elected secretary.

... PARKING from page 19

Larry Gantenbein said we were in compliance for 54 seats, but we learned since that wasn't the case," she said. "If we can't expand our seating, we'll have to close our restaurant and timing is an issue. We'd rather know now then spend our season savings to operate through the spring and then find out we have to close."

She said as the town grows, ordinances and regulations may become outdated and need to be renewed.

Commissioners basically agreed that the dual-use concept was something to think about. "It makes sense," said Commissioner Patterson. "Why have the parking and if no one is using it a night? It keeps us from having to put in more asphalt. But some public parking is there because we pushed employees off Main Street, so have to be careful saying 'it's public parking so business should be able to use it.'"

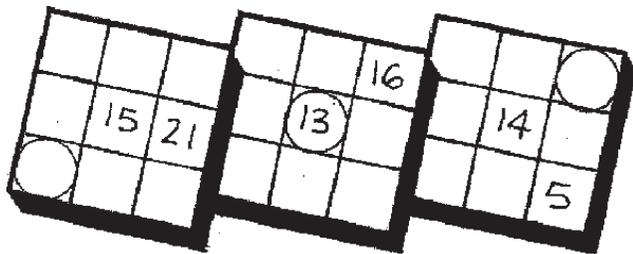
Buz Dotson said parking is a broad issue and not just about restaurants. "Right now, businesses in B1 are the only ones allowed to use public parking," he said.

The board closed the discussion requesting the Planning Board have an immediate discussion about dual-use parking in conjunction to public parking particularly as it applies to restaurants, at least for now.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]

#AZ4C - Level of Difficulty - Hard



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.

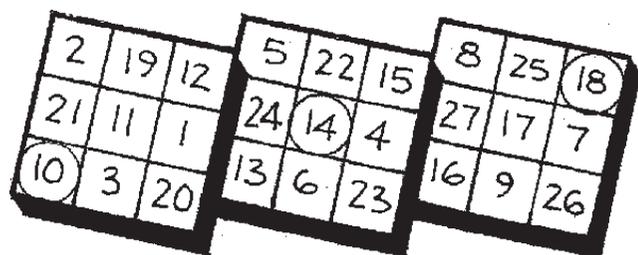
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #DN2D in Nov. 29 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:
'eight squared'

ACROSS

- Man's name (3)
- Tuxedo (abb.) (3)
- Corruption (3)
- Possessive adj. (Pl.) (3)
- Classify (4)

DOWN

- Mushy (4)
- Fraser ____ tree (3)
- Man's name (3)
- Drunken ____ (3)
- Balsam ____ tree (3)

1		'S	O	X	U	'	T	
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Solution to Nov. 29 puzzle

I	B	E	C	K	V	S	F	U
V	C	U	S	I	F	K	B	E
S	K	F	U	E	B	V	I	C
C	U	S	K	V	I	B	E	F
F	I	V	E	B	U	C	K	S
B	E	K	F	C	S	U	V	I
F	K	I	B	S	C	E	U	V
U	S	B	V	F	E	I	C	K
E	V	C	I	U	K	F	S	B

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Highlands Map

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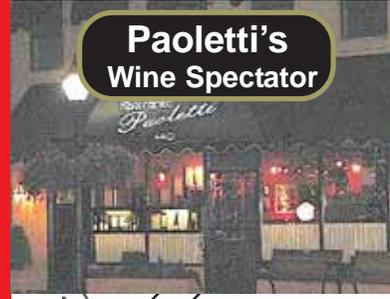
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8 Paoletti	8 Silver Eagle	1 Bryant Art Glass
9 Pescado's	9 Stone Lantern	2 Tino Gallery
10 Rib Shack	10 Village Kids	3 Twigs
11 Wolfgang's	11 Wholesale Down	4 Summit One

Scudders Gallery

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