

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 2

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007

On-going

- The Macon County Public Health Center offers an outreach clinic in Highlands at the soccer field facility off Buck Creek Road. Clinics are held the second and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For information about services, directions, or to make an appointment, call 349-2081.

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park 4-5, Mon. Wed. and Thursday.

- The Macon County Art League exhibition at the Bascom Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library through Feb. 15.

- Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets on Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Call 526-8880.

- Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mon. and Wed. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.

Every Tuesday

- Open Studio Night Figure Drawing. Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

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

- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or \$8 for non-members. Contact Health Tracks at 526-1FIT.

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

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

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

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

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

- Children's classes resume at Bascom-Louise Gallery - cost is \$5 per student. Mon.: Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. and 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tues.: pre-school at 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wed. middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Zoning Administrator arrested & jailed

Highlands Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein, 60, and his son Michael, 35, of Good Year Tire and Auto are in jail in St. Tammany Parish, LA, facing charges of possession with intent to distribute, manufacture and cultivate

marijuana.

On Jan. 5, at 3:53 p.m., while en route to Highlands from the west coast, the Gantenbein vehicle was pulled over for improper lane use by Louisiana State Police on Interstate 12 eastbound at mile

post 59 on the border of Mandeville and Covington, LA.

After speaking with Larry Gantenbein, the driver, and Michael, the passenger, conflicting statements made the trooper sus-

•See JAILED page 13

Inside:

Letters	pg. 2
Obituary	pg. 3
Wooldridge	pg. 6
Another View	pg. 7
Conservative POV	pg. 8
Classifieds	pg. 14
Police and Fire	pg. 22
NEW Pseudocube	pg. 22

First snow of 2007!



It started flurrying about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9 and by 11:30 a.m. schools were closed and students and teachers were sent home due to inclement weather. Only 1-3 inches fell, and temperatures hovered between 28 and 32 degrees. Canoes on the shore of Mirror Lake rest in the snow.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

School board outlines facilities' needs

By Susanna Forrester
Reporter

On Monday, Jan. 8, at a special called school board meeting, members discussed plans for im-

proving Macon County school facilities over the next five years.

Over the next five years projected enrollment for Macon County Schools is expected to increase by seven percent and that means the county's campuses need to be ready.

As of the 2006-07 school year a total of 4,330 students are enrolled in the 10 schools in the system, but by 2011-12 board members speculate that number will increase to 4,752. However, High-

lands School's total enrollment is not expected to increase, they said.

Funds for subsequent additions, repairs and renovations will come from QZAB funds, the NC Lottery, the sale of the old Otto School, and unallocated public school building capital funding with a hopeful 25% match from the county.

Targeted schools, are Franklin High School, Macon Middle School, Highlands School, East

•See SCHOOLBOARD page 9

MC county demanding results

The Macon County Commission has heard all it's willing to hear in the way of reasons from the Health Department pertaining to the backlog of septic permits.

At the Jan. 8 meeting, Commissioner Chair Charlie Leatherman gave Director of the Health Department Ken Ring one month to supply the commission with a fool-proof plan to bring the septic permitting waiting period to six weeks.

"You come back to us and tell

•See RESULTS page 13

Affordable housing plans begin

Affordable housing is one thing Highlands can't seem to offer its residents, but over the next several months, a newly appointed committee will seek ways to remedy that situation.

On Monday, Jan. 8, Highlands Affordable Housing Committee, with members appointed by Mayor Don Mullen, met in the boardroom of the Hudson Library.

Present were Committee Chair Mary Ann Sloan, Pat Boyd, Lee Hodges, Christie Kelly, Ginger Slaughter, Bill Nellis and Dick Lawrence. Not present was Jill Montana.

•See HOUSING page 11

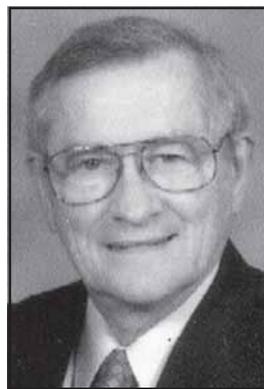
Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
49-39°F	53-45°F	56-42°F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

The week that was



Mayor Don Mullen

The Recreation Committee of the Board of Commissioners has struggled recently with the issue of use of the Civic recreation facility for various shows.

When one looks at the situation carefully, it becomes very complicated. We do not want purely commercial ventures used there but agree that certain not-for-profit ventures are acceptable.

However, the discussion gets down to how much of purely recreational activity are we going to allow to be taken away from the youth and others in town for what many times is a commercial venture under the umbrella of a not-for-profit sponsorship.

There is agreement that there are only three or four months in the year that we would allow this and the time should be limited to three or four days for each event. The summer months are not appropriate for this use because of heavy recreational activity in the gym. However, September, October, March and April (before and after basketball season) would be acceptable and should be limited to three, maybe four days.

Specifically, the Playhouse use of the civic center sponsoring an antique show was turned down at the last Town Board meeting because they were requesting a week, although September was an agreeable month for that use. If they would reduce their requested use to three or maybe four days, then I think the Board of Commissioners would consider letting them have it.

The Recreation Committee is working on some overall written policy for use of the center to be fair to all concerned. It is a much more complicated issue when one considers

•See MULLEN page 17

• BIRD'S EYE VIEW •

Martin Luther King
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968



• LETTER •

Board's decision a disservice to Highlands

Dear Editor,

The January 3 Town Board hearing on the use of the Civic Center resulted in a real disservice to the business community of Highlands, its residents and visitors.

By voting down the Highlands Playhouse Antique Show the commissioners killed (the Mayor's words-not mine) a jewel of an event that was enjoyed by hundreds of people who came from all over the Southeast. It is an event that benefited the Playhouse as well as being a financial success for the restaurants, hotels, inns and the local merchants and an event that could become an annual tradition that Highlands could be proud of.

The Board was so afraid of offending some one person, they disallowed a very successful venue that benefited everybody.

I would hope that the request from the Playhouse could be revisited at another meeting and more time and thought put into a compromise, instead of flip conversation about "witches and warlocks" and unscrupulous nonprofits who might descend on Highlands in mass. This is a matter that deserves more serious consideration.

Suzy Mosely
Highlands

Love and kindnesses deeply appreciated

I want to write to tell people how touched and grateful I am for the outpouring of love and appreciation I and my family experienced upon the death of my husband, Alex Redmountain.

He loved living in this town, small enough to be known by so many, through his writing and other connections. He often said he felt "well used."

Thank you, Kim, for providing him a forum; thank you Kim and Henry for beautifully written tributes (and he basically agreed with Henry's position eschewing mechanical longevity) and thanks to all the folks who sent love and support.

In Peace,
Carole Light

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 5,000; 100 distribution points

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk

Copy Editor/Proofreader

Circulation & Digital Media

Tom Merchant

Jim Lewicki



Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

• OBITUARIES •

Margie Lee Elmore

Margie Lee Elmore, age 85, of Franklin, NC died Thursday, Jan. 4, 6 at a local nursing home. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Joseph D. and Ella Allen Hurst. She was married to John T. Elmore who died in 1988. She was retired from Sylco Industries. She was a member of Shortoff Baptist Church and attended Scotts Creek Baptist Church in Sylva, NC.

She is survived by her daughter, Jean Farmer and her husband, Art Menard of Franklin, NC; one son, Harris "Buddy" Elmore and his wife, Jo Anne of Highlands, NC; one brother, Claude Hurst and his wife, Mattie Jo of Franklin, N.C.; one granddaughter, Lynn Talley and her husband, Bud of Franklin, N.C.; two great-grandchildren, Rebekah and Jordan Talley. A number of nieces and nephews also survive. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Alene Burnette and Eula Mason; two brothers, Jay Hurst and Carroll Hurst.

Funeral services was held Saturday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home. Her nephews served as pallbearers. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Broyhill Baptist Children's Home, 111 Sneed Drive, Clyde, NC 2872. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Josephine Ratliff

Mary Josephine Ratliff, age 68, of Highlands, NC, died Monday, January 8, 2007 at her residence. She was a native of Chattooga County, GA., the daughter of the late Elisha Paul Henderson and Cecil Annie Gaylor Henderson. She was married to the late John Thomas Ratliff, and was a retired textile worker.

She is survived by three daughters, Sherry Elaine Ratliff of Lyerly, GA, Karen Hoenighausen and her husband Rick, of Gardiner, Montana, and Linda Hunter of Franklin, NC; two sons, Jeff Ratliff of Lyerly, GA and Paul Ratliff, and his wife Shirley, of Summerville, GA; three sisters, Ann Strawn and Joan Ratliff both of Lyerly, GA and Edna Cavin of Summerville, GA; three brothers, Sidney Henderson and Johnny Henderson both of Summerville, GA, and Greg Henderson of Lyerly, GA; her long time companion, Charles Maybury of Highlands, NC; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive. Memorial services held Tuesday, January 9 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Franklin, with Martha Porter officiating. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Donald James Teachman

Donald James Teachman, age 72, of Franklin, NC died Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at his residence. He was born, May 6, 1934 in Dumont, N.J., the son of the late James and Martha McLardy Teachman.

He was the owner of Don's Village Market in Scaly Mountain for 23 years. Under his management, it grew from a small store to include gas, groceries and hardware. Don always enjoyed the coffee crowd in the morning. He met wonderful people while in business there. He was one of the founding members of the Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. He was a Braves baseball fan, loved to watch football, and was a great armchair quarterback.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy E. Teachman; two daughters, Noreen Cyphers, and her husband Cliff of Franklin, NC, Lisa Miller and her husband Dale of Scaly Mountain, NC; two sons, Donnie Teachman and his wife Maria of Jacksonville, FL, and Jim Cook, of Boynton Beach, FL; one sister, Dorothy Fleenor, of FL; one brother, Dorward Teachman of FL; eight grandchildren, Donnie Jr., Michelle, Zachary, Luke, Morgan, Amanda, James and Joseph; and one great-grandson, Dane also survives. He was preceded in death by a son, Jeff Cook, and a brother, Harry Teachman.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home, with Rev. Dwight Loggins officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm Friday evening at Bryant Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Westcare Hospice, 132 Sylva Plaza, Sylva, NC 28779, or Scaly Mountain Fire Department, PO Box 278, Scaly Mtn., NC 28775, would be appreciated. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• BIRTH •

Griffin Young Moore

Griffin Young Moore, son of Jonathan and Marissa Bryson Moore of Greenville, S.C., and grandson of Allan "Ricky" Bryson of Highlands was born 6:38 p.m. Dec. 19 in Greenville. He weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He is the first boy born in the Bryson line since Allan was born.



CP COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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

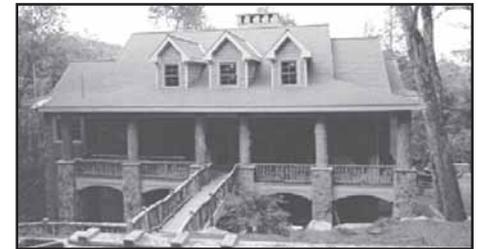


19+ wooded acres \$2,150,000

Several streams, some view lots located about 3 miles from Main Street on the Cashiers Road just outside the Highlands ETJ. Some roads and utilities installed. Price includes engineering reports, plans, permits and other.

Incredible Value at \$2.150 million

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



Reduced to \$479,000

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



On Apple Lake!

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



Three lots for sale:

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

• MILESTONE •

Smith named 'Teacher of Excellence'



Dotty Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dendy of Highlands, has been named Buncombe County Schools Special Educator of Excellence for 2006-2007.

Dotty, a graduate of Highlands School and a two-time graduate of Western Carolina University, has taught individuals with special needs for more than three decades. She has instructed students with a wide range of disabilities including students with mild mental retardation, moderate and severe disabilities, learning disabilities and behavioral and emotional disabilities.

Dotty is currently employed as a teacher of individuals with autism and moderate disabilities in the Progressive Education Program (PEP) at Valley Springs Middle School in Asheville.

County employees cited for good work and service at Jan. 8 MC Commission meeting in Franklin



Macon County Commission Vice-Chair Ronnie Beale presented Richard Lightner, with the Tax Assessor of the Year award during a ceremony prior to the monthly commission meeting at the courthouse Jan. 8.



Left: Commissioner Beale presented Evelyn Southard and the county finance staff with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) to Finance Director Evelyn Southard and the Finance staff noting the award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This is the 15th year the county's finance department has received the award.



Commissioner Brian McClellan presented Lisa Henry and Lisa Hilliard with a plaque commemorating 15 years of service with Macon County. Lora Beegle was also a recipient but was not present.



Commissioner Bob Simpson presented Diane Alexander, Kim Angel, Wayne Clark, Kenneth Cole, Kathy McGaha, Debbie Mosteller, Pam O'Dell, Jill Pickelsimer and Dennis Tippett with plaques commemorating 10 years of service with the county.



Commissioner Jim Davis presented June Cassada and Andy Shields with a plaque commemorating 20 years of service with the county. Shields wasn't present. Below, Jim Davis and his wife Judy celebrated his 60th birthday with fellow commissioners, Monday night.

County sponsoring drug discount card

Macon County is joining 510 counties nationwide in a discount drug card program for its citizens.

At the Jan. 8 Macon County Commission meeting, Jane Kimsey, director of the department of social services, presented the program which is sponsored by the National Association of Counties.

The Prescription Discount Card Program gets recipients 20% off the retail price of prescription drugs.

"This is primarily for the uninsured and the underinsured," said Kimsey. "Even those in the Medicare D donut hole," she said.

The discount card program started as a pilot program in 2005 with 17 counties across the nation. It's grown to include 510.

All county residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage may use the cards. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family mem-

bers may use the card any time their prescription isn't covered by insurance at any pharmacy anywhere.

"There are 5,700 chains and independent drug stores participating," she said.

Cards indicating the recipient is a Macon County resident will be distributed at all Macon County public libraries, Macon County Senior Services, Macon County Social Services in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala, through the Medication Assistance Program, Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

A fact sheet will be distributed with each card including the National Association of Counties toll free telephone number and website for assistance with the program. Macon County can't offer information or assistance with any questions regarding coverage or particular drugs. All questions must go to NAC.

The county expects to disburse 10,000 cards begin-



Citizens document the silting of Cullasaja and area properties

Developers at RiverWalk continue to battle with the silt allegedly leaving the property.

The Town Board, members of the Mirror Lake Improvement Association and adjacent property owners the Daughtrey's, continue to keep a watchful eye on the project.

Planning Board member Pat Taylor and Town Board Commissioner Hank Ross made a visit to the RiverWalk area along the Cullasaja by canoe and on foot Jan. 1 following the rain event of Dec. 31, 2006. "I made the trip as a concerned citizen," said Ross.

In an email to the Planning Board and Town Board he wrote: "I believe that additional silt has migrated from the River Walk property to the Cullasaja River and neighboring properties," said Ross. "Please let me know what additional information is nec-

essary to apply an additional notice of violation."

Meanwhile, Liz Daughtrey, said RiverWalk is a mess and DENR isn't doing a thing.

"The townspeople need to get in an uproar about this and demand the town take action," she said. "I have gotten two falsehoods told to me from DENR. One was that verbal approval was given for the upper pond above the trout stream and the second that they were coming to Highlands to meet with the Mirror Lake Improvement Association. I don't know what is the truth."

Mayor Don Mullen says the town is still struggling with the RiverWalk situation concerning silt drainage into the Cullasaja River and Mirror Lake.

•See RIVERWALK page 12



These photos were taken after the Dec. 31 rain event. Above, silt lines the shore of the Cullasaja River. Below, breakage in a silt fence is evident.

Photos by Hank Ross



A shot of the silt surrounding the Daughtrey dock in the Cullasaja River. The Daughtreys contend the silt came from the trout stream contaminated by development at RiverWalk.

Photo by Buck Trott



This is a photo of a silt-laden trout stream that begins on the RiverWalk property and crosses the Daughtrey property before emptying into the Cullasaja River. These photos above and right, were taken by Buck Trott after the two-plus inch rain events of Jan. 4 and Jan. 5.



The above photo taken by Buck Trott shows "brown water" coming from the pipe above the trout stream that runs across the Daughtrey property.

HIGHLANDS HOME DECOR

Wholesale Down Comforters & More!

Next to Farmers Market on the Main Street side



- Down comforters
- Down blankets
- 600 & 440 thread count sheet sets
- Feather beds
- New shipment of sheets

526-4905

Keep warm this winter with down comforters & blankets!

Monday-Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



- Cards
- Accessories
- Gourmet Kitchenware
- Dinner Settings

Casafina

Open Mon - Saturday • 10am to 5pm

450 Main Street Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

Prepare to prosper in 2007!

Call for Highlands' Newspaper's 2007 Media Kit.
It's all about being on the streets and on the net!
526-0782

Evenings at

The Spa

AT OLD EDWARDS INN

A Great Way To Spend Your Winter Nights

Receive 20% Off

All Treatments Scheduled from

6pm - 8pm ~ Monday thru Thursday

Guests who cancel with less than 12 hours notice or fail to show for an appointment will be charged the full treatment price. A credit card number is required at the time of booking. Reschedule of appointment with less than 12 hours notice will be charged 50% of treatment. Limited time only and promotion subject to change.

445 MAIN STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

PHONE 828.526.9887 FAX 828.787.2596

WWW.OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

SPA@OLDEDWARDSINN.COM

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Should I learn Spanish or Arabic?

I always thought, no matter what, I would be well planted under eight feet of dirt by the time I would be required to make a decision on language change.

I admit I have not had the patience to read the entire novel "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" but I have read enough excerpts to realize our country is on the same path. I thought we had lots of time before we collapsed but now my cynical brain tells me we are on a much faster track. Like Rome, our modern day Senators already have their little boys to frolic with; we call them pages.

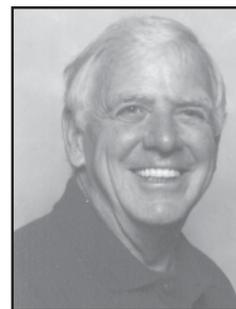
I used to feel sorry for my children and grandchildren, but now I am feeling sorry for myself as well. Here are my issues.

Will the many Hispanic folks entering America overwhelm and overthrow our form of life before or after the Arabs send us to our eternal 72 virgins? Oops, did I get that mixed up? Is it only lunatic Islamic radicals that get the virgins? I hope so because my greatest fear is that 72 virgins will be waiting for me at death. Can you imagine? For sure, none of them ever lived in Miami.

While Congress fiddles, our nation twiddles. Other than senators and congressmen, is there any American out there that doesn't believe the terrorists will send us a nuclear bomb the minute they are capable of doing so? Are we aware that could happen this year? If there is such a person, call me as I have beautiful Beirut view property to sell you.

We are a nation in decline, morally and spiritually. I don't think most Americans realize just how fast we are failing. We call ourselves a Christian nation, founded on Christian beliefs, but we all know that's a bad joke. Sadly, God seems to be on his way out in America. We had a president getting oral sex in the oval office, for crying out loud, and Americans loved him. He could have won a third term if it were permitted. We are a corrupt nation hated or resented by most of the world. So was Rome. Is it time to circle the chariots or is it too late?

If I survive the nuclear holocaust from the Arabs, I have plans. I will open a burqua shop in Miami, selling strictly to Hispanic folks since that's all that's there anyway. Oh, here's a thought. Have you ever noticed all the bleeding hearts in our



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

country have conveniently isolated themselves away from all the turmoil going on? Why is that?

Soooo...after much hand wringing, I have made a decision to learn the Arabic language and here is why. Once our nation crashes, everyone not born here will be heading for our borders to escape, relinquishing control to the Arabs. Of course, by then we will have built a great wall and it will be difficult for anyone to get out.

So, this week, the little missus and I are headed for

Dubai in the Middle East. We will attend Arabic school and the little missus will learn to make burquas at the Al Fonz Ca Boom Ali 'Aliyy School of weaving. Loosely translated, this means, I "knew" your sister as a child.

Like Henry Ford's model T, burquas usually come in black. My li'l missus looks awesome in basic black. Wait...have you seen the new look in Afghanistan? Gun powder blue burquas with blood stains are the rage.

Before attending Arabic school, I have been studying on my own, learning important phrases that will allow me to get around the Middle East. For example, "auto arraregh dvateman mamo sepaheh-hast" means "It is exceptionally kind of you to allow me to travel in the trunk of your car." Here's another important phrase. "Fashal-eh tupehman na degat mano goftam cheeshayeh mohema rajebbeh keshavarehman" which means, "If you will do me the kindness of not harming my genital appendages, I will gladly reciprocate by betraying my country in public." Since those are my favorites, I won't bore you with more.

I will not be able to send you reports on our progress as everything is censored, especially me. You'll just have to wait until I return...maybe... if I do. Oh, I almost forgot, I plan on meeting with the head Sheik to tell him how narrow minded our Congress was in not allowing his nation to take over our entire port system. Silly us, it will belong to them soon anyway.

• Read Fred's column while you are away at:
<http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Will the real expert on creation please stand up?

Last summer, I attended a lecture by John Spong, retired Presiding Bishop of the American Episcopal Church. He caught my attention by saying that in the time of Christ, "virgin births were a dime a dozen." He claimed that whatever divinity Jesus possessed had been achieved through his humanity, man made God. He delivered a crushing body blow when opined, "the Easter experience, whatever it was," had occurred months or even years after the crucifixion of Jesus, not on the third day, as I had been taught.

A question and answer session followed the presentation. The questions confused me, let alone the answers. I never trust a query that begins, "In terms of..." This was pretty startling stuff to me, a guy who hasn't made up his mind about Santa and who figures the chances of the existence of Bigfoot are no worse than 50/50. The Loch Ness monster comes in around 70/30 mostly because it is easier to hide under water. My only previous exposure to progressive religious thought had been with a church study group, which I attended only once, which explored the nature of God. Ideas of the Almighty included an electromagnetic force, a female, and a poorly described author of the Big Bang. None bore any resemblance to the kindly, but stern, father figure which many of us worship.

I told Alex Redmountain about the Spong lecture. I should not have been surprised to learn that Alex and Spong were good friends and that, according to Alex, the stuff I had heard at the lecture was about 25 years out of date. He didn't tell me what is currently being taught in progressive seminaries, but he assured me that it differed dramatically from what was being said from the pulpit.

If true, I wondered why there should be such a gap between what clergy people were taught at progressive seminaries and what they preach on Sunday morning. Maybe they don't believe what they were taught or maybe they understand that deification of God would empty a church quicker than a fire alarm.

It's hard for me to imagine that preachers would preach something they don't believe for the sake of job security,



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

but then I'm a Bigfoot guy.

Why would people call themselves Christians if they reject the divinity of Christ? Why not houses of worship to Ghandi, Mandela, or M. L. King, Jr.? All good men, all sacrificed greatly, suffered terribly, and each accomplished great things.

Why attempt to reform Christianity to incorporate the belief that Christ is not God? Why not fold the tents, convert the cathedrals to art museums, and sleep in on Sunday mornings? Revere Christ as holy man? Sure. Respect his contribution to

ideals of love, justice, and morality? Absolutely. But worship? We don't need Christ to define goodness, although he may be the best example.

Humanists and deists have, for centuries, expressed and embraced ideas of human dignity and equality, influenced, I suspect, as much by Greek philosophers and, in more modern times, Thomas Jefferson as by Jesus Christ. I just don't get it.

If, as progressive religious thinkers believe, Christianity is woven on a loom of myth and fairy tale, then let's move on. I can't imagine that churches could be converted to worship a prime mover, electromagnetic force, or alternating current, all of which are all incomprehensible to me.

It should be pretty clear that I don't presume to know the truth of creation or the secrets of the universe, but here is a flash. Neither do you. I imagine great thinkers, intellectuals, clad in turtle neck sweaters and Burkinstocks, chewing on chin hugging Meerscham pipes, rejecting any claim that is unfathomable to their considerable collected intellects. I can envision, with equal clarity, polyester fundamentalists, gathered in a bare walled, non-denominational church, pounding a Bible, and agreeing that all truth is contained within its pages.

We just don't know who is right, and depending on the validity of the concept of an after life, may never know. So let's live together and respect the other's right to believe what he or she wishes.

One big advantage of the progressives is that they are not out there trying to convert others to their way of thinking. One must go out of his way to even sniff what they are thinking. I wouldn't

• SALONS & SPAS •

All Seasons Salon

Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women
Razor Cuts • Color • Perms
Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang's
Oak & Fifth Streets



Barbara, Gale & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat

Creative Concepts Salon

549 E. Main St.
- Upper Level -

at
The Falls on Main

526-3939

Tracy, Michael, Joe, Lacy, Heather, and Janet Marie
Ask About our Holiday Specials!

Images Unlimited

PROFESSIONAL HAIR & NAIL CARE

828-526-9477

NCLMBT

225 Spring Street • Highlands

Spa on Spring

MASSAGE THERAPY
REFLEXOLOGY ~ AROMATHERAPY
GIFTS

828-526-8832
SpaOnSpring@aol.com

Pro **NAILS**

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mon.-Sat.

Appointments & Walk-ins

526-8777



- Sea salt spa - Pedicure & Manicure
- Solar Nails
- Diamond & Gel Nails
- Complete Waxing Services

Corner of 5th & Main

Mountain Magic Salon

Hair, Nails & Tanning

Hair Stylists: Marisa & Judi • Nail Tech: Sharon

Call for appointment • 526-4049 • Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m. until.

44 Satulah Road



Patricia Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Caprita Barnes • Master Cosmetologist
Sharon Taylor • Massage Therapist NC LMBT #1429

Justin Taylor • Ace Certified Personal Trainer
OPEN: Tues. - Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 10-3 • Monday by appt.

(828) 526-4192

460 Dillard Road in The Great Things! Shopping Plaza

be surprised if they have a secret hand shake. Even they need a little mysticism.

The Evangelicals, on the other hand, believe that they are doing the rest of us a favor by attempting to influence legislation, restrict our freedom of

expression, correct our errant beliefs, and co-opt the Republican Party.

There are many things of which I am uncertain, but this is not one of them. They are doing us no favor.

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

MAIN STREET

Inn

A Great Place to Stay.

270 Main Street • 526-2590 • www.mainstreet-inn.com

SERVING
Breakfast Daily
&
Breakfast Buffet
on Weekends



Fressers eatery

151 Helen's Barn Avenue • Highlands

Serving Lunch and Dinner

Wine • Fabulous Desserts • Open Year-Round • Catering • Private Room Available
Brown Bagging Permitted • 828-526-4188 • Dinner Reservations Appreciated

Featuring Cy Timmons Wednesday thru Saturday Nights



Cyprus

International Cuisine

Dinner: 5-10 nightly
Live Music Fridays at 9:30

Regional Menus & Extensive Wine List

N.C. 106 in Great Things Plaza • 526-4429

Why wait for a special occasion?
At Madison's every day is special!

Madison's
RESTAURANT AND WINE GARDEN

Highlands most beautiful upscale dining destination celebrates every day with their Carolina High Country Cuisine and the Wine Spectator Award Winning wine list. Lunch or dinner, the service will make you feel, dare we say, special.

445 Main Streets Adjacent to the Inn ~ 828-526-5477 ~ www.olderwardsinn.com

...ON THE VERANDAH

"...Highlands Most Scenic Dining

Thanks for a wonderful 2006!
See you in March when we re-open.

828-526-2338

Wine Spectator Award Since 1987
RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED

Live music with Chad Reed
on Fridays & Saturdays
otv1@ontheverandah.com



Highlands Own Internet Shopping

Enter the following coupon code when checking out and we'll donate 5% of your order in your name to the charity named

Highlands School: Coupon# HS12001

Summit Charter School: Coupon# SC12002

The Girls' Clubhouse: Coupon# GC12004

Highlands Playhouse: Coupon# HP12005

www.highlandsgifts.com

highlandsgifts.com, Inc.
P.O. Box 575

Highlands, NC 28741-0575

Phone: 877-509-6808 • Email: info@highlandsgifts.com

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

What Happened?

In last week's column, I alluded that the control of the educational system as

being in the hands of those wishing to destroy our society, either intentionally

or residually. This week I intend to substantiate that statement.

Post-Dark Age public education started in Scotland in the mid-1500s as a result

of the Protestant Reformation, where education was made available by the church, free to the poor and inexpensive to all others. The church supported the educational system until 1633, when local taxation was imposed to help pay for schooling for all.

Prior to the invention and development of the printing press, there was little need for education since almost everyone was involved in farming or an enterprise related to farming. Basically, the church provided the only reason to leave the farm and the distribution of the Bible provided the impetus to learn to read.

The concept spread through Europe and if you travel there today, you will see large churches in small villages, every few miles, serving those who once walked to worship and later, to school there. There is no doubt that religion was the basis and foundation of public education.

To bring that thought closer to home, to quote Wikipedia on the subject; "While in colonial America, as in Europe, schooling was often regarded as a prerequisite

for religion on the basis of the same Protestant Reformation concepts, the Northwest Ordinance provided that 'Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged'"

Sounds good and it was. I'm sure many have received an email showing a typical

grammar school examination circa 1900. Just the questions boggled the mind and the range of content which students were expected to understand was at today's college level.

So what happened? In the 1940s, when I was in grade school, all the teachers were unmarried ladies, known as spinsters, who devoted their lives to their profession. Teachers' work days were unknown. They thought that teaching



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swanson@dn.net.

was their work and they did it every school day. They taught all day, did lesson plans and graded papers in the evening, and in my case, we were at 11th and 12th grade level in 6th and 7th grades. I was the beneficiary of a very good early education.

Enter the American Humanist Association, which included among its founding members, John Dewey, "the father of modern education". In

1933 he and others issued the Humanist Manifesto I, which declared a totally secular "religion". It opens "The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. The time is past for mere revision of traditional attitudes". It goes on to list 15 premises which espouse, among other things, man is God, and God is irrelevant. No creation, no afterlife, nothing but man, here and now.

The 15 theses are followed by "Though we consider the religious forms and ideas of our fathers no longer adequate, the quest for the good life is still the central task of mankind. Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement. He must set intelligence and will to the task."

Don't give up on me yet, the punch line is worth reading on.

In 1973, realizing their earlier professed ideals just weren't happening, the humanists decided they needed some mid-course corrections. Hitler, a believing humanist, blew the theory of peace and perfection to smithereens and crumbling socialism and communism regimes, based on humanism, just weren't delivering the intended nirvana. So, they issued Humanist Manifesto II.

Among other things, HM II professes: "We believe that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species.

Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusionary and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices."

(Hang in, the end is in sight).

"In the area of sexuality, we believe

• See CONSERVATIVE page 14

... SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1

Franklin, Cartoogechaye, Iotla, and Union.

At the meeting, described as more of a "work session than a standard meeting," architect Mike Watson presented a plan to renovate the aging East Franklin Elementary. The original wing of the school, constructed in the 1950s, has cracks in the bricks and mortar. Because the power demand was not as great in the 50s the classrooms are limited to one outlet each. All this needs to be updated, he said.

There are 10 portable classrooms at East Franklin which is seriously overcrowded and 4th and 5th grade students have to go through the custodial closet to get to their bathrooms. Board members agreed this issue must be addressed.

Watson said that the original renovation concept was to put two classroom additions on the original wing and eight classroom additions on the south wing. But this would "spread out the contractor" and create a dangerous environment for students, Watson claimed. The new revised plan would require tearing down the original 50s wing of the school and building a two-story building with eight classrooms on the first and second stories.

East Franklin will also be using QZAB funding, federal money used for interior renovations, to redo the cafeteria. If the project is approved with dual funding it would allow the board to create a timeline somewhere in the ballpark of summer 2007.

The funding required to complete the

proposed construction and repair will come from the selling of the old Otto school which will close on or about Jan. 31. After the sale, a total of \$525,446 will be available for immediate needs. The Highlands School will receive \$12,000 of this money to repair the high school corridor roof which has been leaking.

Other funding will come from lottery funds. The HVAC system at Highlands School's kitchen and cafeteria will receive \$40,000 of the total \$77,099. The school has been using an early 70s model similar to the one used at the Nantahala School.

According to board members the system has been on "its last leg" for awhile.

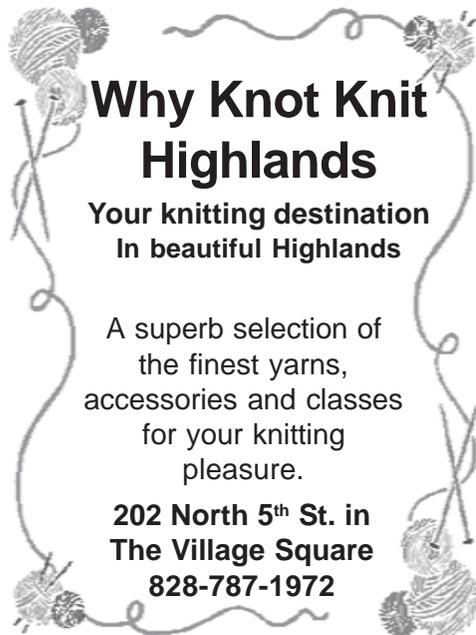
To receive the total amount of funding needed to complete the proposed projects for Macon County schools the county will be asking for a 75/25 match from local government. Currently the Public School Building Capital Fund has \$335,305.34 in unallocated funds. The school system will need an additional \$109,000 from county government.

Other proposed projects for Macon County schools are a new HVAC system for Fine Arts Center, public toilets in the gym-

nasium, a concession stand and track repair all at Franklin School High School, a sewer generator at Macon Middle School, and roof replacement at East Franklin.

School Superintendent Dan Brigman said the proposed projects and their costs, as well as needed funding and their sources, are all preliminary and subject to the change.

At their Jan. 8 meeting, Macon County Commissioners said they knew about capital improvement plans for the school system and expected to be hearing from Superintendent Brigman in the near future.



Why Knot Knit Highlands
Your knitting destination
In beautiful Highlands

A superb selection of the finest yarns, accessories and classes for your knitting pleasure.

**202 North 5th St. in
The Village Square
828-787-1972**



Raspberry Fizz
BEADING, POTTERY & MORE

- Full line of quality beads and beading supplies
- The area's only "Paint-Your-Own" Pottery studio
- Fun and whimsical gifts
- Book your beading and pottery parties now!
526-8123

On Main St, between Buck's and Highlands Fine Art

A PROMISE FROM
WAYAH INSURANCE GROUP



Steve, Lori, Judy, Janice, Pam, Lila, Leesa

"If we can't offer you equal or better coverage with an equal or better price, we'll tell you. Give us a try. We want what's best for you."

AUTO • BUSINESS • HOME • LIFE • HEALTH
472 Carolina Way • Highlands, N.C.
828-526-3713 • 800-333-5188

• REMODELING & DESIGN •



American Upholstery
We Repair Furniture from frame

Residential or Commercial • 37 Years Experience
Free Estimates • Free Pick-up and Delivery
Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday
102 S. College Street • (864) 638-9661

P.O. Box 593
Walhalla, SC 29691



Derek Taylor

330 Dillard RD
Highlands
828-526-3571

Benjamin Moore Paints
Custom Area Rugs
Fabrics
Floor Coverings
Tile
Wall Coverings
Window Treatments

828-743-5451 Village Square in Sapphire

HomePlace Blinds & Design Of Sapphire Valley

Custom Window Coverings – Heritance® hardwood shutters
Duette® honeycomb shades
Country Woods® Collection™ Custom Closet Systems
Unique Home Accessories **HunterDouglas Gallery**



HIGHLANDS HARDWARE

330 Dillard Road
Upper Level of Highlands Decorating
Phone: 828-526-3719




FURNITURE BUYING TRIPS
BY **REBECCA CLARY**
Of Highlands Furniture, Inc.
31 Years of Design Experience.
Custom Window Treatments ~ Design Services
Call (828) 526-2973 For information

Southern Shutters & Blinds

Full Line of Custom Window Treatments
30 Years Experience of Superior Service & Quality
Call: Ben Rutledge
(706) 782-5212
www.SouthernShuttersandBlinds.com



Locals have hand in award-winning Rose Parade float

By Kim Lewicki

The Tournament of Roses Parade held in Pasadena, CA., on New Year's Day, is a 118-year tradition and involves thousands of people and hours of creativity before close to 100 floats travel down Orange Grove Road to charm and delight.

This year, Highlands' own Ann Tate and her husband John were an award-winning part of the affair.

A retired consumer science teacher from Highlands School, Tate has always spent her off-hours orchestrating events and baking elaborate cakes for friends, families and clients for weddings, baptisms and family reunions.

This year she decided to travel to Pasadena to try her hand at float decorating.

"I just wanted to do this, so I called and offered our services and they said, 'Come on!'" she said.

The last 10 days of the year are the most intense as organizations scurry to complete floats made completely of natural products – flowers, nuts, bark, fruit and vegetables – before judging and parade day. This year's theme was "Our Good Nature."

Designs for floats start as early as the second week of January and work continues nonstop until 11 p.m. Dec. 31. That's when all work stops and the judging begins.

On Dec. 28, the Tates flew out to Pasadena and basically took up residence in the Rose Palace – a huge hanger where scores of floats are assembled mostly by volunteers of various organizations.

She and John were there working with the Lutheran's Laymen's League. This was the League's 57th Rose Parade and this year's float was named "God's Great Nature."

The League used 30 people per eight-hour shift – 60 people a day the last 10 days – to complete the float that ended up winning "The Princess Trophy – The Most Beautiful Float Under 35 Feet." The League used 5,000 volunteer decorators to develop the end product – including the Tates.

There were 97 floats in this year's parade – the League's float was number 82.

Believing that all things in the universe flow from God's great nature, the group designed and produced an inspiring church setting, depicting human love, nature in colorful blossom and the beauty of animal life.

Everything on the float, including the windows in the church was made of

flowers and other natural elements, said Tate. "The swans were made of coconut."

Flowers of all kinds and colors were used – 47,700 pink, white and red roses; and 92,000 other flowers including Gerber daisies – each of which were individually placed in vials and later stuck in place on the float. Though absolutely exhausting, Tate said she wants to do it again next year, only get there sooner so she can do more.

"The scents were wonderful and the camaraderie was really good," she said. "It was a culmination of a lot of talent and an unbelievable experience."

Though she will always offer her services for free to her "children," those she taught at Highlands School, now retired she's a bon a fide wedding planner, consultant and director. For more on her company Wedding Bells 4 U email weddingbells4u@verizon.net.



Ann and John Tate hold one of the hundreds of flats of flowers each in its own vial, which were used to assemble the Lutheran church's float. These are Gerber daisies. The float which was made entirely of natural products - - flowers, nuts, bark, fruit.



The Lutheran Hour's float -- named "God's Great Nature" won the Princess Trophy for the "Most Beautiful Float Under 35 Feet." It is made completely of flowers, nuts, bark, even coconut.

HS Boys Bball named #10 in ranking

According to the Asheville Citizen-Times top 10 rankings, Highlands Boys Basketball Team is #10 and is the only 1-A team that is ranked. The team just keeps winning! The overall is 17-2 and conference 2-0.

Highlands won the Jan. 5 game against Hiwassee Dam 73-64.

Three players were on court 32 minutes – Alec Schmitt, Andrew Billingsley and Gray Alexander. Schmitt was high scorer with 38 points, 9 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. Billingsley scored 8 points with 1 assist and 1 steal. Alexander scored 2 points with 3 rebounds.



Jason Aspinwall and Nick Kerhoulas were on court for 24 minutes. Aspinwall scored 11 points with 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 steals. Kerhoulas scored 6 points, with 6 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal.

Arthur Reynolds Potts and Ezra Herz were on court 8 minutes. Potts scored 2 points.

The Blue Ridge game set for Tuesday, Jan. 9 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The next home games are Jan 11 at 6 p.m. against Hendersonville and Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. against Nantahala.



Right, Arthur Reynolds Potts scores during the Hiwassee Dam game. Above, Toni Schmitt shoots for the basket.

Photos by Noel Atherton

... SMITH continued from page 3

In her letter of recommendation, Dr. Lin Moore, director of PEP, wrote, "Ms. Smith leads in our academic focus at PEP in using age-appropriate thematic units that demonstrate interdisciplinary teaching at its best. The success that her students achieve, as they experience her teacher strategies and ideas, has become

the gold standard for our program and for neighboring counties to emulate. Ms. Smith, master teacher and master professional, makes me proud as I observe her in action in the classroom. No challenge deters her from her strong belief that all students can learn."

Girls' Clubhouse serves at library

Kaylyn Billingsley and Lindsey Wagner were just two of the Girls' Clubhouse members who worked at the Hudson Library Friday, Jan. 5. Each week the club does community service projects in town. This week the girls will be selling baked goods to raise money for their trip to Charleston, S.C. in the spring.

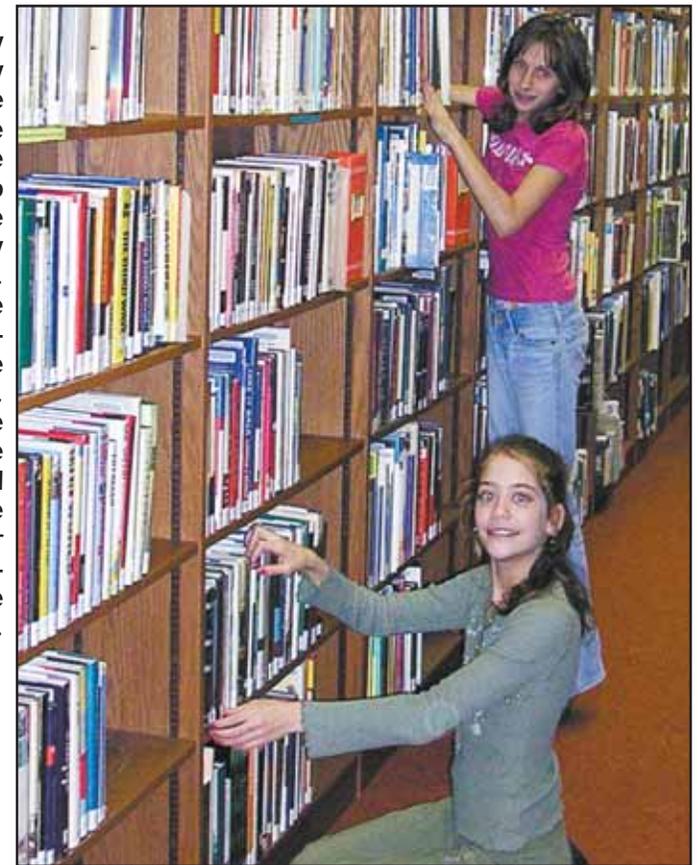


Photo by Kim Lewicki

... HOUSING continued from page 1

Each member either has an interest in the subject due to personal dilemmas finding affordable housing, or just plain interested in the concept.

"Our members have a variety of backgrounds and interests," said Sloan. "Some have backgrounds in neighborhood planning and development."

In its first meeting, the group laid out plans to investigate all aspects of the affordable housing situation, including land, the type of housing, who it would serve and where it might be situated.

"We're looking at models of successful affordable housing projects in other communities, reading articles on the subject, and looking at websites," said Sloan. "The general consensus is that people who work in Highlands should be able to live here."

The definition of "affordable housing" is when a family pays less than 30 percent of its gross income for housing. "Given that definition, not many in Highlands live in affordable housing," said Sloan.

Sloan said there are so many aspects to investigate including what type of affordable housing might be developed – multi-family or scattered single-family units; where it might be located – in town or outside the town limits; who would assume responsibility for operations, maintenance and occupation criteria and whether it would be a public or a private venture.

If it's a public venture tapping the myriad of grants and various funding opportunities through state and federal agencies like

HUD, Highlands Affordable Housing Committee would have to go through the county.

"As the county's housing authority, all funding requests for grants or low-interest loans will have to come through the county," said County Manger Sam Greenwood. "But the county will be happy to help any way it can as the lead agency or lobbyist in support of Highlands' plan. The county commission is dedicated to working on affordable housing county-wide."

Over the past year, the county has been working on becoming the designated housing authority for the county. The terms were finalized about in November when it took over the designation from the Macon Program for Progress.

However, if affordable housing in Highlands is a private venture, similar to the way the Old Edwards Inn and Spa Hospitality Group provided for its employees on N.C. 28, then Highlands would be free to take and use whatever monies offered by private individuals for such a project anyway it chooses, said Greenwood.

Once the committee comes up with a plan, it will go to the Planning Board which will in turn send its recommendation to the Town Board, presumably early summer.

Initially, the committee will be meeting twice a month.

The next meeting is January 26. Currently, at the mayor's request, the meetings aren't open to the public or the press, said Sloan.

... CONSERVATIVE continued from page 8

that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion and divorce should be recognized.

"It also includes a recognition of an individual's right to die with dignity, euthanasia, and the right to suicide.

"We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We

have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of the human family can participate.

"Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon cultural pluralism and

diversity.

"These are the times for men and women of goodwill to further the building of a peaceful and prosperous world. We urge that parochial loyalties and inflexible moral and religious ideologies be transcended.

So what? What does all this have to do with anything? Here's what. Because, the American Humanist Association is in a coalition with the National Education Association to produce "Great Public Schools."

So when you scratch your head trying to understand why little Johnny shot up his school or you find condoms in Susie's backpack or they come up with one world ideas that you don't espouse or place the value of a human being with that of a chipmunk or what difference does it make, I'm just an advanced salamander anyway, ask the National Education Association (the teachers' union). They're in partnership with the American Humanist Association in creating "Great Public Schools."

The classroom has been turned into a battlefield in the war for young minds.

The atheistic humanist influence is

struggling to gain control of students' thinking

and it's winning the fight. Mom and dad may have Christian conservative principals but they only see the kids a few hours a day while the government schools have them all day, sometimes from dawn to dusk.

How ironic. God created the reason for schools and now He's not welcome.

Wake up America, we are going down the drain - fast.

... RIVERWALK continued from page 5

"The damage to the Daughtrey property has become a great concern also," he said. "The RiverWalk principals, through their lawyer, have filed an appeal of the fines imposed upon them, but we will continue to pursue payment."

He said the perceived indifference to the damage RiverWalk is continuing to cause, and the town's inability to stop it, is wrong. "That is inexcusable," said Mayor Mullen. "We are continuing to monitor the situation closely and produce photographic and video evidence of continuing violations during and after each significant rainfall."

On the morning of Jan. 9, Town Administrator Richard Betz said the measures set in place to control soil and erosion from leaving the site "appear to be working."

RiverWalk developers have hired several new firms to help them get the siltation under control. They are all working closely with Henry Lyngos, project manager of RiverWalk. The public relations firm of Jackson-Spaulding with offices in Atlanta and Athens, GA, has also been hired to "help change the perception of RiverWalk," said Glen Jackson with the firm.

- Kim Lewicki

The Chambers Agency, REALTORS



Want a Highlands home of your own?
Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS
 Want a lot, parcel or acreage in the Highlands area?
Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS
 Want a vacation rental in the mountains?
Call The Chambers Agency, REALTORS

VACATION RENTALS
 You can check home availability and **BOOK ONLINE** with our secure server.

FOR SALE - You can read important facts and information on our listings - contact us and we can send you info on ANY listing. **Call 526-3717 • 401 N. Fifth Street**

info@chambersagency.net
 www.chambersagency.net

• **HIGHLANDS EATERIES** •

High Country Cafe



Down home favorites everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch
 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sunday through Friday;
 Saturday, 7 am.-1 p.m.

526-0572

Cashiers Road next to the
 Community Bible Church

Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs, Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other Southern favorites that'll have you coming back for more.



461 Spring Street • 526-2626

DUSTY'S

RHODES SUPERETTE

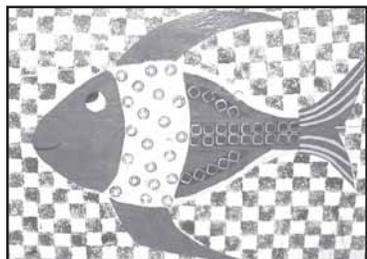
Coming in February

Proudly announces the addition of

Homebaked Sweetbread,
 Danish & more by
Season's Sampler
 Christina Picklesimer
 Owner/Baker

Sweets for your Valentine!
 Come in and sample these
 delicious pastries!

Mon-Sat • 493 Dillard Rd.
526-2762



Pescado's Burritos

In the middle of 4th St.
 Open for lunch
 Mon-Sat. • 526-9313

HILL TOP GRILL



"Quick Service Not Fast Food!"

Hamburgers & Fries
 Sandwiches & Salads
 Ice Cream & More!
Open for lunch Mon.-Sat.
Now Trans Fat FREE

At 4th & Spring streets...on the hill

526-5916
 \$10 minimum with credit card

Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Coffee, tea, wine,
 pastries, sandwiches
 384 Main Street

Manley's Auto Service

1597 S. Fourth Street
828-526-9805

Complete Auto Care
 Towing Service Available
 U-Haul Rentals

Manley's Towing Service

526-9805 or 342-0583

- 24 Hour Service
- AAA provider
- Local & Long Distance Hauls



James "Popcorn" Manley
 Owner/Operator

... JAILED continued from page 1

pect something illegal was going on, said Public Information Officer State Trooper Louis Calato.

A consent to search was denied, so a drug dog was brought to the site and it "alerted on the vehicle," said Trooper Calato.

A subsequent search revealed 369 pounds of marijuana and one gram of cocaine.

The two were placed under arrest and transported to the St. Tammany jail where they were booked and charged a little after midnight.

Larry Gantenbein is being held on a \$100,000 bond for possession with intent to distribute schedule I and a \$250 bond for improper lane use.

Michael Gantenbein is being held on a \$95,000 bond for possession with intent to distribute schedule I and a \$5,000 bond for possession with intent to distribute schedule II. "He admitted the cocaine was his," said Trooper Calato.

Their arraignment hearing is February 28, 2007 in St. Tammany Parish. They have not bonded out yet, but "can as long as the judge determines they aren't a flight risk," said Trooper Calato.

On Jan. 9, the Good Year Tire and Auto on U.S. 64 east, co-owned by Michael Gantenbein, was closed and the personal property seized by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. "Pursuant to NC G.S. 105-242 the personal property here within has been seized for nonpayment of taxes," reads a notice on the window of the business.

Sheriff Robert Holland said on Monday, Jan. 8, his officers were called to assist Levy Officer M.R. Haney with the Dept. of Revenue with the seizure "to make sure all went smoothly at Good Year Tire and Auto," said Holland.

After a closed session at an emergency

... RESULTS continued from page 1

us exactly what you need to take place to cut this down to six weeks," he said. "We want a detailed report of your system in place, what is going on and then tell us what you can do with your present resources to cut this back to six weeks. If you can't do it with what you've got, tell us what you need."

Director of the Health Department Ken Ring gave what has become a monthly report on the status of the backlog. "The published increase in the septic application fees, effective July 1, 2006 stimulated a surge of applications which resulted in a backlog of more than 600 sites," read Ring from a prepared statement. "As of Dec. 31, this backlog has been reduced by 187 which includes the 487 new applications received during the same period."

At the October meeting both Ring and Environmental Specialist Barry Patterson, reported that the wait for permitting would be reduced to 2-3 weeks by February, March

Town Board meeting, Tuesday morning, Dec. 9, commissioners voted unanimously to fire Gantenbein from his position as Zoning Administrator, Town Planner, and Watershed Administrator.

Commissioners didn't give the reason Gantenbein was fired. "We can hire and fire at will," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Mayor Don Mullen said his termination was "due to a lot of things."

As in the past, Town Administrator Richard Betz will be acting Zoning Administrator until a replacement is found. Sonja Stewart, who has been assisting Gantenbein, will assist Betz.

The board will also enlist the contract services of an "expert" in soil and erosion inspections and violations out of Murphy, N.C. to help in the interim.

"We've realized for some time that we need help in this area, and have been thinking about using him," said Patterson.

Mayor Mullen said the town might even offer him the job as Zoning Administrator but Betz said based on his conversations with him, he's only interested in contract work at this time.

Nevertheless, commissioners said they will discuss the idea with him and see what happens.

Over the last nine years Highlands has employed four Zoning Administrators: Eddie Madden, Maureen Lackey, Christopher Shook and Larry Gantenbein. Gantenbein was hired March of 2002.

Commissioners also established a committee to look at the organization of the town's government. Commissioners Hank Ross and Amy Patterson will head the committee assisted by Commissioner Herb James. They said he has the longest history with the town government and can offer a lot of insight.

— Kim Lewicki

at the latest. Now Ring said it's back to the 8-10 week period and doesn't expect to be caught up until April at the earliest.

Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman said from the sounds of things, it sounds more like a 16-20 even 18-26 week wait.

With two commissioners in the development business — Ronnie Beale who is in construction and Bob Simpson who is in heating and air-conditioning — Ring was clearly on the hot seat.

"This county depends on building, it's all we have," said Commissioner Simpson.

Commissioner Beale agreed. "When the county's government is costing people their livelihood, we have to fix it." He suggested grouping permit requests by type, or location and assigning inspectors that way.

Commissioners Brian McClellan and Jim Davis said they have received numerous phone calls from constituents who have had to lay-off personnel because all work

• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

**RAND
SOELLNER
ARCHITECT**

website: randarch.com

Phone: 8 2 8 . 7 4 3 . 6 0 1 0

Cell: 828.269.9046

randsoellner@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264

Mountain Architecture & Interiors



Whether your property is on top of a cliff or lakeside, we have the experience to make your home a reality.

**Corner of 2nd and Spring streets
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-4929**

Visit us at www.WarthConstruction.com

Ask about
"Green Building
Options!"

**Steve Abranyi
828-787-2297
828-342-3234**

GREEN MOUNTAIN BUILDERS
Custom homes and remodels

The Macon County Public Health Center offers an outreach clinic in Highlands at the soccer field facility off Buck Creek Road. Clinics are held the second and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For information about services, directions, or to make an appointment, call 349-2081.

has stopped pending septic permits.

Commissioner McClellan said concrete goals had to be set and the department needs some accountability.

Commissioner Beale also asked that a human be on the other end of the Health Department phone line. "People should be able to get a person and not an answering machine to help them when they call," he said. "We're holding their money and they have a right to know the status of their permit request."

County commissioners recently increased funding so more staff could be hired in the Environmental Health division but Ring says government requirements concerning extra training and certifying of already experienced and credentialed inspectors has tied the department's hands. He hopes to have all seven inspectors credentialed soon.

— Kim Lewicki

THE
**Summer
House**

Distinct and Customized
Products...

- Summer House Collection of Upholstery
- Coordinated Bedding
- Interior and Exterior Lighting
- Collections of Original Art
- Extensive Selection of Unique Accessories
- Gifts
- Kitchen and Pantry Items

Handcrafted Furniture by:

**Tiger mounTain
WoodWorKs**

2 miles from Main Street
2089 Dillard Road • 526-5577
Paula & Barry Jones

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT: one (1) Police Officer and two (2) Auxiliary Police Officers. Salary for police officer \$25,305, DOQ, salary for auxiliary officers (2) \$10.50/hr. Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver's license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Contact: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester or Capt. T. Ensley, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741, (828) 526-8734.

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

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

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

lie @ 526-5939

FLOOR TECH AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, year-round employment; Monday-Friday, 7am to 3:30pm. Experience in commercial floor care is preferred. Other floor care experience is helpful. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time and PRN positions available. Experience in hospital cleaning preferred. Other housekeeping experience helpful. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. - Full-time, year-round employment; Monday-Friday, flexible hours. Responsibilities include evaluation and treatment for outpatient services, and supervising support staff in satellite clinic. Must have B.S. degree and NC licensure. Competitive salary and full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! - Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. We are now accepting applications for the next class beginning January 23, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay.

Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Miller at 828-526-1317, or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPPORTUNITY

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSI-

TY'S PROGRAMS in elementary education, special education, birth-kindergarten, psychology and educational leadership are developing adjunct professor pools for teaching in the region. Masters degree in the discipline area is required, doctorate preferred. Send vita to Amelia Schlott, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

FOR RENT

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, spacious, fully furnished, 1/1 apt right on Main St. Balcony, walk in closet, new carpet, and small pets are allowed. This won't last long so call 526-3363.

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

2 BED, 2 BATH - in Mirror Lake area. Newly remodeled. Wood Floors, wood-burning fireplace. Annual Lease. \$900 a month. Call 828-342-2302.

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

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

HOLIDAY RENTAL - Lake Glenville, 4 bedrooms, 3 bath, stone fireplace, dock, weekly rates. Call 858-354-0057.

CHARMING CABIN - Your own little taste of heaven in a home! 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath cabin for rent in Scaly Mtn. New carpet, appliances, this stone/wood cabin has an awesome view! \$825 per month with a 1 year lease. Chapin Lane location. Call for details today! Won't last long. 423-894-9566.

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

CUTE 3/BED 2/BATH COTTAGE in Mirror lake for rent. Walk to town. \$1,200 + utilities monthly. Available mid October. Call 770-977-5692

VACATION RENTAL - The Lodge on Mirror Lake, fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

WANTED TO RENT

3/2 HOME - Responsible, mature couple with no pets, non-smokers, looking for 3/2 house to rent for one year or longer beginning Jan. 1, 2007. Please call 828-713-9789 or 864-242-5819.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR LEASE

BEAUTIFUL CHALET for you in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-grove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1full bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft basement for your office or storage needs. Beautiful brand new furniture, new carpet, new wood floors in kitchen. Fireplace. Awesome location. 1 year lease, negotiable. \$1395. (772)631-2602 or

Democrats rally at Main Street Inn



On Wednesday, Jan. 3, local, county and state Democrats gathered at the Main Street Inn to celebrate the Democrats taking control of the House and Senate. Pictured from left is Macon County Vice Chairman Ronnie Beale, NC Senator John Snow, and ex-Mayor of Highlands, Buck Tortt. Photo by Jim Lewicki

• CLASSIFIEDS •

(772)919-2384.

IN TOWN – 535 N. 4th Street. 2,000 sq. ft. building on 1/4-acre lot. Call David Brown at 770-827-0450. 1/01/07

RENT TO OWN THIS 3BED/2BATH HOME IN TOWN. Rental rate is \$1,150 a month/with a portion going towards purchase. For details call (828)526-8422 or (828)421-3161. Ask for Jimmy.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ON MIRROR LAKE – 3 bedrooms, 3 bath, plus cottage. Call 828-342-2302.

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

BY OWNER ON MIRROR LAKE – Cute 2/2 on Wyanoak. All Newly remodeled. \$399,000. Call 828-342-2302.

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

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

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

1/19/07
HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN – Creekside, 3 bed, 2 bath, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For sale by owner. \$550,000 OBO Call 828-226-6123.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

DINING ROOM FURNITURE. Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. \$326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

SHE IS AKC FEMALE YORKIE REGISTERED. She is very sweet and pre-spoiled. Given lots of attention. She will be an estimated 3.5-4 pounds at her adult weight. She has an excellent temperament. She is raised in the house. She has been well socialized with...and ready for her new home now. She comes with health guarantee and shipping is available. For more information contact me on my email. susan_755007@yahoo.com 2/8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GUITAR DISTORTION PEDALS Digitech - Metal Master (distortion pedal) Death Metal - DOD (distortion pedal) AC Adapters Free \$30 or \$50 for both. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

LINE 6 SPIDER II HD HEAD 150W, AC Adapter and free guitar cable Price \$100 or make me an offer. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

KING SIZE WATERBED FRAME – Wood, Lighted pannels and shelves in headboard, under-bed storage, mattress possibly available, too. \$300. Call 828-371-8677.

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

MICROWAVE – GE spacesaver, 19"x12"x12", black. \$50. 526-5834

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

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

HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIX-

TURE – Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE, beds, love seats, chairs, tables, lamps, curio cabinets and collectible paperweights, Royal Daltons, Hummels, etc. By appointment only. 828-526-3258.

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

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

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

OAK ROCKER, over 100 years old. From E.B. (Ted) Mell Estate in Athens, Ga. All original including leather seat. Call 828-349-4581.

RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER, excellent condition with all accessories, \$925 call Dee @ 828-369-8928.

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 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0 – Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. \$15,000. Call 828-243-6447.

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

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

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

1993 CADILLAC 60 SPECIAL – 4-door, DeVille chassis, 4.7 V/8, 16 city/24Hwy. Beautiful Artic white with flawless red leather, ABS Brakes, Air bags, sun roof, Bose CD sound system, new Michelin tires. Two owners, Florida car. Like new. Non smoker. \$4,750. Call 828-787-1563 or cell: 828-200-1563.

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

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

GEM ELECTRIC CAR, Excellent Condition. See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

HCP to present 'Death by Chocolate'



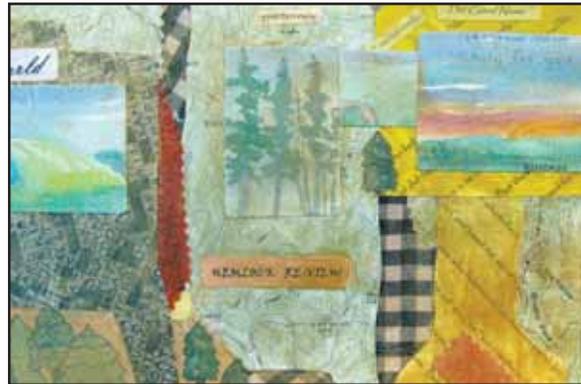
Chef Henri Lavonne (Virginia Talbot) presents a dessert specialty to his boss, Angela Wudge, (Ronnie Spilton) during the Highlands Community Players' presentation of the Carolina Murder Mystery's "Death by Chocolate," to be presented Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27 at Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center reception hall, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands, NC. The show is a benefit for the new addition to the PAC facility. Tickets are \$60 per person. Gather at 6:30 p.m., the show begins promptly at 7 p.m. For ticket reservations and information call 526-8084 for a call back. Tables for parties of 8 are available. Spaces are limited to 56 persons each night. Join the fun and solve the mystery.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park 4-5, Mon. Wedl, and Thursday.
- The Macon County Art League exhibits work at the Bascom Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library through Feb. 15.
- Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets On Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Learn the basics and improve your health. Other classes available. Call 526-8880 Ashby or Chad.
- Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.
- Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.
- Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.
- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with HealthTracks Membership or \$8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays

Art League exhibits at gallery



"The News is not All Bad" is the title of this collage by Cashiers artist Kathie Blozan of the Art League of Highlands. Bascom Louise Gallery is hosting a show of the art leagues of Macon County with an opening reception Jan. 13 from 5-7 p.m. and through Feb. 15.

and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or \$8 for non-members. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$10 per session or \$8 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.
- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.
- Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- Children's classes resume at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student. Mondays: For Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

• HIGHLANDS SERVICE DIRECTORY •

The Computer Man!

"But you can call me James"



Through Christmas!

\$100 off any new computer

68 Highlands Plaza • 526-1796 FAX: 526-2936

www.danimalscloset.com

Danimalscloset

I Can Sell Your Unused Items on eBay!



Free Pick-up & Value Estimate
Call for an Appointment

P.O. Box 181
Highlands, NC 28741

Dan Garthwaite
(828) 526 • 5484

Karcher's Painting Interior or Exterior.

Since 1976. Fully insured.
References.

Call 828-743-2218
or 828-526-3641



Time is Money.

Don't waste it.

Get the help you need with

TempStaffers!

Quality help for a day, a week, a season.

526-4946 • 342-9312

THE LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANERS
AT OLD EDWARDS INN

FULL SERVICE LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING

Wash & Fold Service Available

Open Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm • Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Accepting: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Checks

459 Spring Street Highlands, North Carolina 28741

(Located under Rib Shack)

Telephone: 828.787.2597

Escape to a treasure. Treasure the escape.

© OWNED AND OPERATED BY OLD EDWARDS HOSPITALITY GROUP, LLC

FIVE STAR

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

HOME REPAIRS AND
IMPROVEMENTS



LIGHT AND DETAIL
CLEANING

CALL TODAY 828-332-7201

Hunter Douglas

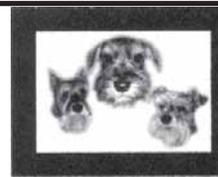
window fashions
at

Carpets, Blinds,
Shutters & Flooring



Mark Harris
271 Spring Street
Ph: 828-526-4226
Fax: 828-526-4255

Runaround Sue Pet Sitting



- Healthy Homemade Treats
- Birthday Parties
- Pet Photos
- Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing

Sue Laferty
P.O. Box 1991
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-0844
slaferty@aol.com

Ruby Cinemas

Franklin, NC 28734

The Week of: Jan 12-19

THE GOOD SHEPHERD rated R

Fri: (4), 7

Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7

Mon – Thurs: (4), 7:05

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS rated PG-13

Fri: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7:05

BLOOD DIAMOND rated R

Fri: (4:30), 7, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7: 9:30

Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:00

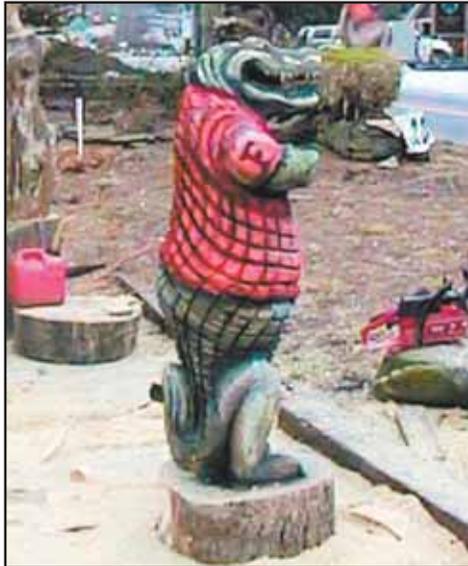
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM rated PG

Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

Gator frenzy!



Gator fans turned out for a Gator party at Micas in Cashiers, Jan. 8. This 6-ft. gator, complete with the Gator colors, was carved by Tree of Highlands and joined the party.

Trees work is sponsored by Jonsered chainsaws.

... MULLEN from page 1

how many not-for-profits in Highlands may also want to use the facility, and we want to be fair to all. The easiest way would be to say no to all but that would be unacceptable overall. The final result of this process hopefully will be worked out soon, even at our next meeting, and the Antique Show could possibly still go on in a limited time frame this coming September. Another option would be to have the antique show in the Highlands School gym before school starts in August when their gym is not being used.

I might add that the pressure the Playhouse tried to put on the Commissioners by ads on the radio and in the newspaper which were inaccurate did not help their cause. I might also say that, contrary to the headlines in The Highlander newspaper this past week, the Board did not ignore the comments. It was a very good open discussion which I think will lead to resolution of these issues soon. Discussions like this are what our government is all about.

The first meeting of the Affordable Housing Task Force chaired by Mary Ann Sloan was held this past Monday and the process of studying the situation in our town was begun. In spite of some scepticism in the community I truly believe that we can come up with some solutions to this major problem. Other communities have done it quite well even in high price land situations, and we need to review how they have accomplished it and come up with a system and a process which meets our own particular needs. I consider this on the top of my list of importance this coming year. With proper planning and research a good plan is highly possible.

We are still struggling with the RiverWalk situation with silt drainage into the Cullasaja River and Mirror Lake. The damage to the Daughtrey property has become a great concern also. The River Walk principals, through their lawyer, have filed an appeal of the fines imposed upon them, but we will continue to pursue payment. Another problem in this situation is perceived indifference to the damage they are continuing to cause, and their inability to stop it. That is inexcusable. We are continuing to monitor the situation closely and produce photographic and video evidence of continuing violations during and after each significant rainfall.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

CHRIST CHURCH

(Anglican)
The Rev. Thomas "Tommy" Allen • 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion: 2 p.m.
(Community Bible Church)
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday:
Mens Bible Study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sunday: 8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist-Rite 1; 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Childrens Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Monday: 4 p.m. - Womens cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Womens Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;

School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.;
Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;
Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

Wednesdays: Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Has two motors and will cruise at 40 mph. Many extras including new tires. Great for gated communities, golf courses, and senior citizen communities. Asking \$6,500. email gem603@prodigy.net
UNWANTED ITEMS in good condition for a family of five. please call Tony @ 828-779-1765.

SERVICES

WINTER CLEANUP - Yards, landscaping, STORAGE ORGANIZATION -- garages, attics, storage rooms. Call 526-0241. 1/25

FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE - Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house

repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING - Interior and exterior painting. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING - Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8/18

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

SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION 'ME FIX IT' - Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn ser-

vice, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

C&C CONTRACTING - WE GET IT DONE - SMALL OR LARGE - Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty

at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

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

• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 4-10 Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Jan. 4

• At 2:10 p.m., officers received a report of an unauthorized cash purchase of \$790 by an employee at The Little Flower Shop.

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a call of a barking dog in an apartment above a business on Main St.

Jan. 8

• At 7:50 a.m., officers cited a driver in Highlands for driving without a license.

• At 2 p.m., a motorist at Cherokee and S. Fourth St. was cited for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone.

Jan. 9

• At 7:50 a.m., a motorist at N.4th St. and Cobb

Road was cited for driving without a license.

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N.C. 106 and Cobb Rd.

Over the week, officers responded to five alarms and issued two warning citations.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan.. 7-10.

Jan. 7

• The dept. responded to a mutual aid call to Cashiers but it was cancelled en route.

Jan. 8

• The dept. responded to a mutual aid call to Cashiers but it was cancelled en route.

Jan. 9

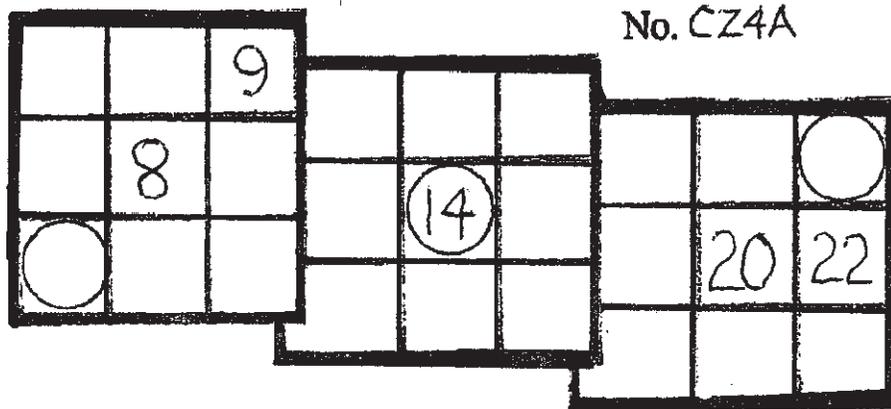
• The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106. There were no injuries.

Jan. 10

• The dept. responded to an alarm activation at Shiraz Rug Gallery. It was false.

Pseudocube

© 2006



THE SETUP:

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

THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

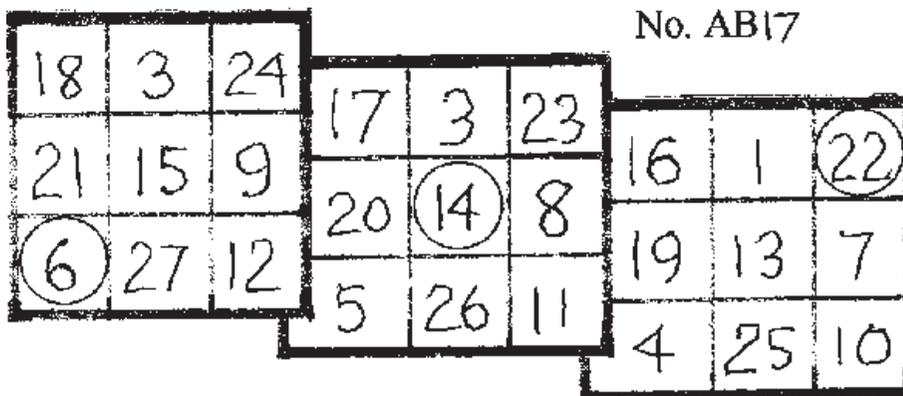
Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution for puzzle # AB16 in the Dec. 21 issue

Pseudocube

© 2006

a new mind game



Threats to Chattooga River continue

The first boater trials on the headwaters of the Chattooga River's North Fork, held this past weekend, make plain the many problems that opening this section of wild and scenic river could entail, said members of Friends of the Upper Chattooga.

"The boaters are seeking to create new access points on a stretch of pristine water, which likely would further erode the especially wild natural resources of this area. There are so many dead and downed trees and logjams and big waterfalls across the river that paddlers cannot really navigate without creating numerous portage trails. These new trails are bound to destroy the natural beauty and habitats of this portion of the river. Some of the headwaters are so dangerous that inexperienced boaters likely would have a difficult time safely negotiating various cascades and falls. Emergency rescue efforts, in turn, would create even more of an access problem," said Friends.

"This is section of backcountry that many believe should remain as close to its natural state as possible," said Joe Gatins, a spokesman for Friends of the Upper Chattooga. "Unfortunately, the U.S. Forest Service and its consultants appear to be paying scant attention to this multitude of resource issues."

The Chattooga headwaters reach in question bisects the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and Rock Gorge Roadless Area, as well as the incredibly wild, Chattooga Cliffs section above the Old Iron Bridge on Bull Pen Road. These areas are among the few re-

maining wild places in the Georgia-North Carolina-South Carolina boundary area that still provide high-quality solitude and wilderness experience. It is used sparingly by hunters, hikers, sunbathers, photographers, swimmers, naturalists, scientists, anglers, picnickers, local families and heritage enthusiasts - all of whom access the area on foot.

Gatins called on local people in Rabun, Macon, Jackson and Oconee counties to let the government know how they feel about this unique area. "I really believe that when all is said and done, the people will want the North Fork's headwaters to remain zoned for foot travel only, to preserve their remoteness and wildness." Although the weekend boater test involved only 10 paddlers, they left a pretty loud and intrusive footprint," Gatins said. "They took up most of a parking lot with their vehicles and you could hear them yahoo-ing' hundreds of yards downriver."

Friends spokesmen said boaters already have free use of the lower two-thirds of the Chattooga River, which often get so overcrowded that anglers and other users opt to shun that part of the waterway. "Now, this new group of 'creek boaters' is trying to storm its way into a local treasure and shove traditional users out of their way," said Gatins.

Members of the public wishing to comment on the Forest Service study and the boating trials can do so via e-mail to jcleaves@fs.fed.us

