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 milepost 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 suspect.

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 Highlands Library.

Present were Committee Chair Mary Ann Sloan, Bill Nellis and Dick Lawrence. Not present was Jill Montana.

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 us what your plan is,” Leatherman said.

School board outlines facilities’ needs

Improving 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, Highlands 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

• See RESULTS page 13

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
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

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.

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

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
Margie Lee Elmore
Margie Lee Elmore, age 85, of Franklin, NC died Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:38 p.m. 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 Sylico 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 of Franklin, NC; 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 were 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 28722. 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 Gamor 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 Hoen inghausen 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 longtime 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. 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.

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.
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.

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.

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 members 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 RiverWalk property to the Cullasaja River and neighboring properties,” said Ross. “Please let me know what additional information is necessary 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.
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Fred Wooldridge

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 this 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 ornal 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 dire 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 country have conveniently isolated themselves away from all the turmoil going on? Why is that? Soo…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 little 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 arranjeh dastehman mamo saperahshad” means “It is exceptionally kind of you to allow me to travel in the trunk of your car.” Here’s another important phrase. “Fashal-e tupehman na degat mano goftam cheeshayeh mohema rajebeh keshavehman” 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
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, 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 with 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 old at 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 defiliation 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, 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 Gandhri, 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 ideas 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 imagine that churches could be converted to worship a prime mover, electromagnetic force, or alternating current, all of which are 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 flush. Neither do you. I imagine great thinkers, intellectuals, clad in turtle necks, chin hugging Meerschaum pipes, flinging of the secrets of the universe, but here is a flush. Neither do you. I imagine great thinkers, intellectuals, clad in turtle necks, chin hugging Meerschaum pipes, flinging theories, and paraphrasing the secrets of the universe, but here is a flush. Neither do you. I imagine great thinkers, intellectuals, clad in turtle necks, chin hugging Meerschaum pipes, flinging theories, and paraphrasing others to their way of thinking. 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 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.
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, 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 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 immortality 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).
Franklin, Cartoogechaye, Iota, and Union.

At the meeting, described as more of a “work session than a standard meeting” by architect Mike Watson, a plan to renovate East Franklin Elementary was presented. 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 as today, 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 grades 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 $77,089. 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 gymnasium, a concession stand and track repair 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.

... SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1
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 God's Great 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 hangar 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.

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.

The next meeting is January 26. Current membership includes Sundie H_yaml, Joslyn Hunt, and Lindsey Wagner. The Clubhouse is open to all girls in grades 4-8.

... 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.”

... 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 – multifamily 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, stepping 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.

“Let’s assume it’s affordable housing, all funding requests for grants or low-interest loans will have to come through the county,” said County Manager 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 explore 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 chimpanzee 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 situation 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

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• Local & Long Distance Hauls
James “Popcorn” Manley
Owner/Operator
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 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 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 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 said government requirements concerning extra training and certifying of all inspectors has tided the department’s hands. He hopes to have all seven inspectors credentialed soon.

Kim Lewicki
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)$10.50hr. 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, bookkeeping, and office management. Candidate should have excellent computer, interpersonal, communication, and writing skills. Experience with non-profit organization a plus. Interested parties should mail resume and names of three references by December 31, 2006 to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741 or email to hiriusr@earthlink.net.

LOOKING FOR LABORERS to clear land and landscape for December, January and February. Must speak some English. $10 per hour. Call Charlie @ 526-5939.

HOSPITAL — Office 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, 526-526-1301 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, 526-526-1301 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.

CHOOSE YOUR CAREER at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. 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, 526-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital — Registered Nurse, B.S. 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, 526-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

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

COOK at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital — Part-time, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Competitive salary and full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 526-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

DIETARY AIDES at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital — Full time, year-round employment, 16:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days. 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, 526-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

FOR RENT

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, spacious, 3-1/2 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. 1600 sqft secure storage $95 monthly, no maintenance fees. OR, 2,300 sq ft, new retail $1,750 monthly, no maintenance fees. Call (828) 526-5296 or (828) 421-3161. Limited space.


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

NEW SPACES FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION – Lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza. 600 sq ft – $5,000 per month, no maintenance fees. Call (828) 358-3952.

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! 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath cabin for rent in Scaly Mt. New carpet, appliances, this stone/wood cabin has an awesome view! $825 per month with a 1 year lease. Chapel Lane location. Call for details today! Won’t last long. 423-894-1956.

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 3/2 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 828-715-9759 or 864-242-5519.

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-groove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1 full 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. $1,995. (770)351-2802 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.
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, 3 1/2 baths, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For Appt. Call 828-526-3258.

Pilot Mountain in Cashiers. Mountain views, beautiful hardwoods, sounds of stream echo below. For price contact us. (828) 693-9918 or (828) 243-1503.

HOME FOR SALE — Classic Country Home between Cashiers and Franklin, near Lake Glenville. 3,800 sq. ft. elevation; 3 bed, 2 bath, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For Appt. Call 828-243-2302.

IN TOWN — 3 bedrooms, 3 bath, plus cottage. Call 828-342-2302.

TOP ENTRANCE — Fabulous mountain views. All newly remodeled executive home. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For Appt. Call 828-526-3258.

HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN — Creekside, 3 bed, 2 bath, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For sale by owner. $550,000 OBO. Call 828-226-6123.

CABBAGE ROAD — 1-1/2 ACRE HOME SITES CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. — Only 2.6 miles from Main Street. Lots of large oaks, hardwood trees and mountain laurel. Some with creek front, some back up to National Forest. All are gentle, easy building sites with community water, telephone, electric and septic in place. Dramatic waterfall at entrance. Community will be gated. Price range from $189,000 to $329,000. Call 828-526-9622.


1/10 ACRE 3 BED/2 BATH HOME IN TOWN. Rental rate is $1,150 a month with a portion going towards purchase. For details call (828)526-8422 or (828)421-3181. Ask for Jimmy.

ITEMS FOR SALE

DIGITAL PIANO WITH STAND — 389-9737.


SPALING TRAILER WITH COVER — 2,223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.


GUITAR AMP CRATE — GLX12 w/16 built in effects, 3 channels, Free footswitch, $300. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-0498.

SOLID OAK DINETTE CABINET — 2,000 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 827-743-5788.

RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER — Excellent condition. $575. Call 526-0498.

ANIMALS FOR SALE

AKC BLACK LAB PUPPIES — Very healthy, very smart, very friendly. Ready for new homes. 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

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

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


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.

OAK ROCKERS — From Ted Mell Estate in Athens, Ga. All original including leather seat. Call 828-349-4581.

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

GEM ELECTRIC CAR — Excellent Condition.

2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0 — Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. $15,000. Call 828-243-6447.

ANTIQUE 1826 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.


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.


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.
On-going
• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park 4-5, Mon, Wed, 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.

Steps to Health
• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with Health Tracks Membership or $8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.
• Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have 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: classes are from 1-3 p.m. For Homeschooled, classes are from 1:30-3:15. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11:15-12:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1:30-3 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Open Studio Night at Bascom-Louise Gallery & Framing
Open Studio Night Figure Drawing Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is $12, $10 for “Friends” of the Gallery. Saturday, Jan. 13

Hiking and Nature
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike with a steep elevation change of 1,000 feet to Chimneytop in the Cashiers Valley. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Reservations are required. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-8977, for reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 13
• “Watercolor, Pure and Direct,” a class for all levels of expertise, Evening introductory lecture January 18th. Learn the heart and soul of watercolor, no gimmicks, no tricks.

Sunday, Jan. 20
• If you got a new digital camera for Christmas and aren’t quite sure how to work it, here’s your chance to learn. The first of a two-part digital photo workshop for beginners is set for Saturday in Highlands. Cynthia Strain, a professional photographer and owner of Mill Creek Gallery & Framing, is offering the class. The class is three hours and costs $35 per person. A second class will also be scheduled. The classes will cover camera operation, white balance, exposure, composition, flash and lighting. For information call 526-9227.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Long Branch and Appalachian trails to Rock Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. For reservations are required. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

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, 9, 11

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS rated PG
Fri: (4), 7, 9, 11
Sat & Sun: (4:20), 7, 9
Mon – Thurs: (4:20), 7, 9

BLOOD DIAMOND rated R
Fri: (4:20), 7, 9, 11
Sat & Sun: (4:30), 7, 9
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7, 9

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM rated PG
Fri: (4), 7, 9
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 7, 9
Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7, 9

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slaferty@aol.com

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.
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 timeframe 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 skepticism 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 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.

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. Enabling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastors 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 Study)
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbbcullasaja.org • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students’ Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. – 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice
Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Brian Sullivan • 526-2968
Sunday: 8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist-Rite I; 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast; 9 a.m. – Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. – Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. – Children’s Chapel; 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Monday: 4 p.m. – Women’s Cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. – Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. – Men’s Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. – Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study
Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.;
School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m. – Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s 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 Kiddie at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Children’s choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies (Community Bible Church)
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Rev. Delmar Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
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 Szemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
WINTER CLEANUP – Yards, landscaping, storage rooms. Call 526-0241.

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.


YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3188 or 828-371-2186. 9/18

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 service, 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.

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

Jan. 4
• At 2:30 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.

Threats to Chattooga River continue

The first boater trials on the headwaters of the Chattooga River’s North Fork, held this past weekend, made 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 Gatin, 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 Ellijay Rock Wilderness and Rock Gorge Roadless Area, as well as the incredibly wild Chattooga Cliff section above the Old Iron Bridge on Bull Pen Road. These areas are among the few remaining 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 'oek boaters' is trying to storm its way into a local treasure and shove traditional users out of their way," said Gatin.

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