Town not pursuing initial RiverWalk fines

Emerging from a brief closed session at the Jan. 3 Town Board meeting, commissioners decided not to pursue the $3,500 in fines levied against RiverWalk, LLC the fall of 2006. “Instead, we’re going to reserve our resources and energy to pursue collection of the $400,000,” said Mayor Don Mullen. At the Dec. 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners moved to hold RiverWalk developers accountable for soil and erosion violations at its site instead of signifying the $5,000 settlement resolution discussed at the Nov. 8 meeting with RiverWalk attorney Billy Clarke. The proposed settlement would have basically wiped clean the Swain game Tuesday night. The score was 71-51. Photo Noel Atherton

They’re on fire!

The Highlands School boys basketball team just can’t lose! It lead Swain in a typical first game after a 10-day break from the court. “This is the fastest start Highlands has had since anyone can remember,” said Coach Butch Smart. “We have defeated everyone in Big Smokey Conference except Murphy whom we’ve not played. Now we’re looking to up the record in the Little Smokey Conference and maintain a high seed in the state 1-A.” Highlands’ record is 14 wins 2 losses and 1 and 0 for the conference. The next game is at Hiassee Dam, Friday, Jan. 5. The next home game is against Blue Ridge at home, Tuesday, Jan. 9. Pictured is Alec Schmitt at the Swain game Tuesday night. The score was 71-51.

Openings at fire dept. point to changing times

The Highlands Fire and Rescue Department is looking for volunteers. Due to pending retirements, there will be four openings for membership this year. “We’ve never been in this situation having vacancies with no applications,” said department administrator Bob Houston who’s been with the department 40 years. He equates the anomaly to changing times and “a changing Highlands.”

Houston says the reasons are multifaceted. “It used to be people didn’t leave Highlands to go to college, now they do. Plus there’s a lot of mandatory training which wasn’t required in years past.”

Houston and Captain Robbie Forrester say these are good things, but it also makes the work the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department does a lot harder. “Volunteering like this is going by the wayside,” said Forrest er. “Plus it’s getting harder and harder for our volunteers to get off work and training.”

Several volunteer fire departments in the county have at least one, sometimes two full-time paid fire and rescue officers. The Franklin Fire & Rescue Depart
State of the town

Mayor Don Mullen

This past year in Highlands was both busy and productive, sometimes more busy than productive but somehow we all survived 2006. The holiday season being behind us, we can look forward optimistically to an easier New Year with more production than business. Let’s now review some of the major issues of this past year and try to gain some sort of perspective as not only to how far we have come but how far we hope to go in 2007.

The main issue of the year, of course, was Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, which was passed by the Town Board in November of 2005 after a stormy public hearing, three weeks before I took office as mayor of Highlands. It was apparent that in 2006 the major job of the Town was to implement this big step in the history of Highlands which had become so controversial. We immediately appointed a committee of commissioners and interested citizens in the area to begin to work together discussing the process and have town meetings to try to explain the zoning process and the reasons for trying to control growth in both the town and the ETJ area along with continuing to answer questions and keep the dialogue open between the Planning Board and the affected citizens in the ETJ in the different geographic areas around our Town. Throughout this long process a system of zoning was worked out and I think people have become more accepting of the need for ETJ although there will continue to be some disagreement. All in all I think this system has worked and we look forward to the Public Hearing is January before we finalize most of the zoning process. I thank all those people who have put so much time and effort in assuring we have the best system available for the great majority of our people. Ten years...
Reese makes the list

Trent Reese, a 2004 graduate of Highlands School, made the dean’s list for the fall semester at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is a junior majoring in Information Science. He is the son of Joe and Karen Potts of Highlands, and Dennis Reese of Arden, N.C. He will be studying abroad during the spring semester in Dijon, France.

Lewicki & Rawlins make the list

Megan Hyatt Lewicki, a 2006 graduate of Highlands School and a freshman at Appalachian State University, earned a 4.0 average for the fall 2006 semester. She is a theatre arts major. She was listed on both the Chancellor’s list and the Dean’s list. She is the daughter of Jim and Kim Lewicki of Highlands.

Callie Marie Rawlins, a 2006 graduate of Highlands School and a freshman at Appalachian State University was listed on the Chancellor’s list for the fall 2006 semester. She is a theatre arts major. She was listed on both the Chancellor’s list and the Dean’s list. She is the daughter of Rick Rawlins and Erin Bronk of Georgia.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s list, full-time students must receive a grade-point average of 3.85 or higher.

To be eligible for the Dean’s list, an undergraduate student who carries 12-14 hours of coursework on which grade points are computed must earn a grade-point average of 3.45 or better. An undergraduate student who carries 15 hours or more of coursework on which grade points are computed must earn a grade-point average of 3.25 or better.

50 years!

Happy 50th anniversary to Martha and Jayco Owens. Married on December 22, 1956 in Walhalla, S.C.
- From your 8 children and maternal father Jess Munger, 93.

Thomas Hunter Hedlund

Thomas Hunter Hedlund, age 53, of Runken Lane, Scaly Mountain, N.C., died Sunday, December 31, 2006 at Highlands-Cashiers hospital. He was born in Orange County, Florida, the son of Paul Hedlund, Jr., and Roberta Sue Hunter Hedlund of Silver Springs, MD. He was a cook and purchasing agent for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran, and was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Woodbury Hedlund; one daughter, Kernesia Woodbury of Franklin, N.C.; three sons, Eric Hedlund of Franklin, N.C., Paul Raymond Hedlund, II, of Glen Burnie, MD, and Jeremiah Woodbury of Tampa, FL; one brother, Steve Hedlund and his wife, Diane of Bowie, MD; five grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 4 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. Gary McCall officiating. Burial will be in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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.

Incredibe Value at $2,150 million

7,400 sq. ft. on 14 acres. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces.

In Highlands Point.

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!

Old Highlands charm

Bright open spacious home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus loft. Updated with slate patio, cypress floors, vaulted v-groove cypress ceilings, pine and cypress paneling, granite countertops, solid pine doors, 2 massive rock fireplaces, 2 master suites, on a large lot with plenty of parking. Lovely landscaping on the

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.
Bend, pay homage and ...

Happy New Year?

Ah yes, the tax man cometh, hands outstretched, waiting to be filled with your hard earned money. Let's all bend and pay him homage. Not only does January 1 mark the start of another exciting year of blood letting, death and destruction around the world, it marks the continuing thirst of our government to relieve you of your money to pay for the carnage. Some believe a Democratic Congress will translate into even higher taxes. I think they're right, but time will tell.

We all cringed when we read Macon County would be re-evaluating our land and homes again. This means more money for them and less for us. Is there no end to the increases of taxation? Oh, your house hasn't changed much, maybe four years older and a little more rundown, but other than that it's probably the same ole place, except maybe the roof needs fixing. But now you have to pay more tax to keep it because the county says its worth more. Tell the kids that when they have less milk to drink.

When British rogues like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson started railing about the huge taxes being levied on them by the Crown, they were told to knuckle under. They demanded representation and felt the whip instead.

So they started a war to overthrow the Crown and free America from extreme taxation and government forced religion. If George and Thomas had failed in their efforts, they would have been hanged as traitors. They won and the rest is history.

But that was more than 200 years ago and much has changed. If Washington and Jefferson could return to life and see what a mess we have made of their Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, they would be incensed.

For starters, they never intended to erase religion from government. To the contrary and to the chagrin of non-Christians, we were founded on a Christian faith that was entwined in every thread of our government for the first 150 years. The prevailing attitude was the majority rules; minorities suck it up. Read your history. In the last 50 years, we have managed to dismantle that for the sake of a tiny minority who now control the majority.

We are the most taxed nation in the world. It's hidden so we can't see it. You say 28 percent of your income is not too bad and I might agree if that was it. Except for food and this newspaper, there's not much else that is not taxed. I know freedom is expensive, but this is ridiculous.

Just take a quick look at our taxes other than income tax. There is a tobacco tax, corporate income tax, dog license tax, federal unemployment tax, fishing license tax, food license tax, fuel permit tax, electrical tax, gasoline tax, hunting license tax, inheritance tax, interest expense tax, inventory tax, IRS interest charges (a tax on a tax), liquor tax, luxury tax, marriage license tax, Medicare tax, property tax, real estate tax, service charge taxes, Social Security tax, road usage taxes, sales tax, recreation vehicle tax, school tax, state income tax, state unemployment tax, telephone federal excise tax, telephone federal universal service fee tax, telephone federal, state and local surcharge taxes, telephone minimum usage surcharge tax, telephone recurring and non-recurring charges tax, telephone state and local tax, telephone usage charge tax, utility tax, vehicle license registration tax, vehicle sales tax, watercraft sales and registration tax, well permit tax and finally workers compensation tax. I am sure I have left something.

Here's a not so fun thing to do. Dig out your phone bill and add up all the taxes you are charged on the bill. Now multiply that by 12 months. It will bowl you over. Are you sitting down? Bell South just asked for another 50 cents per month to pay for hurricane damage. What hurricane damage?

Next, add up the stuff you must pay for on a weekly or monthly basis just to stay alive, like a mortgage or rent payments, utilities, increasing food costs, constantly inflated insurance rates on your home, life and vehicles, medications and doctor's bills, ya de, ya de, ya de.

What income tax, dog license tax, federal unemployment tax, fishing license tax, food license tax, fuel permit tax, electrical tax, gasoline tax, hunting license tax, inheritance tax, interest expense tax, inventory tax, IRS interest charges (a tax on a tax), liquor tax, luxury tax, marriage license tax, Medicare tax, property tax, real estate tax, service charge taxes, Social Security tax, road usage taxes, sales tax, recreation vehicle tax, school tax, state income tax, state unemployment tax, telephone federal excise tax, telephone federal universal service fee tax, telephone federal, state and local surcharge taxes, telephone minimum usage surcharge tax, telephone recurring and non-recurring charges tax, telephone state and local tax, telephone usage charge tax, utility tax, vehicle license registration tax, vehicle sales tax, watercraft sales and registration tax, well permit tax and finally workers compensation tax. I am sure I have left something.

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For folks on a fixed income, the future is grim. Is this the United States of America, the land of the free and...
I didn’t know Alex Redmountain well enough to write a fitting tribute, but I respected him so much that I had to try.

Our efforts on behalf of the Highlands’ Newspaper brought us together, sadly only once.

Alex called and suggested that we get together for breakfast. I enthusiastically accepted and we met in town the following Saturday morning. Each was aware of the other’s column. We felt one another out, sparred for a while. The breakthrough came when I mentioned that, in my youth I had loved the old Brooklyn Dodgers.

Alex not only shared that love but had spent a season in the Brooklyn organization as a catcher.

I found a wonderful man seated across the table in a wheel chair, both legs amputated because of diabetes, but his face was radiant and his smile infectious. We talked about baseball, the war in Iraq, poverty, injustice, religion, you know, typical first date stuff.

We didn’t discuss a column which I had written, it which I had taken an uncompromising position on longevity. I had written, and still believe, that efforts to develop technology designed to extend human life to 150 years or longer were selfish, unjust, and unfair. Unjust in a world which accepts frightful levels of maternal and neonatal mortality, unjust in a world, and in a country, in which poverty and inequality abound. Unfair to an ever shrinking working population with its own bills to pay and its own kids to raise, unfair in a country which asks its young to fight and die for the national good, yet which cannot ask its aged to die gracefully for the welfare of that nation and those to follow.

I had also written that I would not personally be interested in living if I were no longer fit and healthy. My mother suffered a crippling stroke in her seventy-fifth year. Prior to that time she had lived fully and traveled extensively. She spent her final years in a nursing home, five dreadful lingering years of having the half on her body that was paralyzed, instead of loving the half that remained.

I learned to hate infirmity, to detest the smell of hot lunch and the stench of urine. I despised the vacant shells propped up and strapped in wheel chairs, the demented moaning in the night. I was repulsed by Mom’s inability to cut her food, by her feeble attempts to transfer herself from bed to chair.

Uncle Blackie had suffered a similar stroke, but on the opposite side of his brain, the side that permits speech. Blackie knew what he wanted to say, but he was unable to go from thought to speech, expressive aphasia in medical lingo. He would start quietly, attempting to express a well developed thought. As his frustration grew, so did the volume of his unintelligible repetitive sounds, until finally he found a way to shout a vulgar expletive, much to the chagrin of those seated nearby.

Then I met Alex, his wheel chair, his incredible intellect, and his zest for life. I had declared that if I could no longer ski with Bull, I would be ready to pack it in. I have never felt so foolish, so selfish, so utterly narcissistic.

We talked some about each other’s writing. Alex didn’t mention my dwarfed opinion of what makes life worth living. I learned that day, at 65 years of age, to appreciate life to follow Alex rather than Mom.

Alex Redmountain, in his gentle way, perhaps even unintentionally, taught me a wonderful lesson, that the quality of one’s life is measured not by what he can have or what he can do, but by what he can give. I don’t think that I will ever be able to handle physical adversity with the dignity or acceptance that Alex displayed, but if that’s the hand I’m dealt, I’ll try.

I talked with Carole Light, Alex’s wife shortly after his death. She asked that I continue writing my little column, carrying the liberal message which Alex had championed, for as she said, his voice is forever silenced.

I will try to match his clarity of expression, and with years of practice at this craft I may come close. I will try to reach his depth of thought, even while knowing that I could no more achieve that goal than Mom could have stood and walked, or that Uncle Blackie could have spoken his thoughts. With the possible exception of my son Bull, Alex was the best teacher I ever had.

So here’s to you Alex, baseball player, teacher, psychologist, philosopher, husband, father, humanitarian, writer, hero, friend, mensch. Echoing the thoughts and words of others who knew you better, I’ll miss you.
2006 IN REVIEW

January 2006

COUNTY WON'T ENFORCE MORATORIUM

At the Nov. 18 "Citizens Against ETJ" meeting, members learned that the county might not have to honor the Town of Highlands' moratorium on commercial development in the ETJ area. So started a year-long battle between the town and the county and citizens for ETJ and those against its concern. Development in the ETJ areas. So started a year-long battle between the town and the county and citizens for ETJ.

CONDITIONAL ZONING ON THE BOOKS

The Town Board adopted conditional zoning as a way to have a say in the way developers develop and to ensure that is agreed on, between developers and boards comes to fruition. Each new conditional district (CD) is a "floating district" because no land can be situated in the district until the owner of the property to have it rezoned to a CD.

COUNTY NAMES ETJ MEMBERS TO PLANNING BOARD

County commissioners appointed two representatives from the recent ETJ area to sit on the town's Planning Board. Appointment was made by Mayor Don Mullen at the Jan. 6 Town Board meeting. Commissioners didn't waste any time sitting down to work with the Citizens Against ETJ (CA-ETJ). On Jan. 13, Commissioners Hank Ross and Amy Patterson met with the executive board of CA-ETJ to go over scenarios. The group suggested at the Jan. 6 Town Board meeting and to design a plan to involve the community in potential decisions made in the ETJ areas.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL WELCOMES NEW, FULL-TIME CARDIOLOGIST

Thanks to a joint partnership between Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Northeast Georgia Heart Center of Gainesville, GA, Carl M. Curtis, MD, FACC, will open the Mountain Heart Center on Jan. 30, with offices located in Suite 304 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

NO TO SCHOOL/UCWA PROJECT

After months of debate it only took a paid consultant's minute to kill UCWA's stream remediation/wetlands/outdoor classroom proposal for Highlands School.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Vince Petrone was honored as Fireman of the Year for 2005. Picture are Asst. Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart, Fire Chief James Manley and Vince Petrone.

COUNTY TO EXAMINE ETJ LEGALITY

Macon County Commissioners are considering suing the Town of Highlands or misrepresenting population figures in its ETJ representative calculations and the owner is disappointed, to say the least.

February 2006

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS BEHIND IN COUNTRY

Real estate brokers, builders and engineer filled the boardroom at Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting demonstrating their solidarity over concerns over the county's septic system approval crisis.

BOARD OKS OEI'S OLD CREEK PLANS

It just squeaked through, but the Planning Board OK'd OEI's Old Creek Lodge plans. At a special meeting Monday, Feb. 6, planning board members considered revamped plans for the subdivision — to be called Satulah Village West. The plans passed 5 to 4. On the 7.3-acre parcel zoned B3, OEI plans to replace the commercial motel complex with a clustered residential community of 35 homes situated around common green areas.

HOSPITAL PURCHASES OAKMONT TRACT FOR NEW CASHIERS MEDICAL FACILITY

Plans to build a new medical office building in Cashiers took a major step forward last week, as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital finalized the purchase of just over eight acres on NC 107, near the crossroads.

FEBRUARY SNOW

Highlands School senior Tyler Shook snowboards down Main Street's "Terrain Park" Saturday afternoon. Friday night Father Winter reminded Highlands that spring isn't here yet when about six inches of snow fell.

2ND STREET SPUR COULD CLOSE

Owners of Highlands Plaza want to close Second Street at their property line as it comes into the plaza but citizens at Wednesday night's Town Board meeting urged commissioners to keep it open. But in 1974, several streets and alleys on or adjoining the plaza — including Second Street where it meets the plaza to N.C. 28 — were closed and abandoned by the town.

MARCH 2006

HARLEM AMBASSADORS COME TO TOWN

The internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors 2005-2006 Tour, covering Europe, Asia, and North America, will be stopping in Highlands for a game at the Highlands School new gym. On March 14 at 7 p.m. it was the Harlem Ambassadors vs. the Highlands High School Girls.

COUNTY AND TOWN GOING TO COURT

The county is going ahead with its suit against the town to legally settle ETJ representation issues between them. At the March 6 Macon County Commission meeting, County Attorney Rickey Moorefield said the town had come to an agreement in aligning its population figures in town and in the ETJ area from the original count.

HS PRINCIPAL NOT RETURNING '06-'07

At a press conference Tuesday night, Highlands School Principal Monica Bomen- gen announced she would be seeking employment elsewhere next year. "I will not return as principal of Highlands School this fall. I have decided to make this announce- ment now to initiate a smooth transition to a new administration for 2006-2007."

HOSPITAL'S CEO'S RETURN PENDING

As the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital board battles instability and rumors at least one positive thing has transpired. "The board just heard that he is reconsidering his decision to resign," said Hospital Marketing Director Skip Taylor. Taylor said Shull's sudden departure last Thursday was "unexpected and un思索了." "The board regretted Ken's decision and feels there was some misunderstanding," said Taylor.

April 2006

LARRY BROOKS RETURNS TO HS

Ex-Highlands School Principal Larry Brooks has returned to Highlands School as interim principal until the end of June. "It's a bit strange, but good," said Brooks Wednesday morning. "Where there is instability, there will be stability, but I have no other agenda." At a mandatory faculty meeting at Highlands School Tuesday afternoon, Macon County Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shoat said Highlands School Principal Monica Bomen- gen has been reassigned to assist with the Early College High School.

MERCHANT TURNS 90

Mr. Merchant, Highlands' Newspaper's proofreader turned 90 and celebrated his birthday with friends and family at Chestnut Hill.

KING AND QUEEN FOR THE NIGHT

King and Queen Seniors Ryan Bears and Ramsey Ashburn at the Junior-Senior Prom at the Highlands Conference Center, Saturday, April 8.

RASH OF BREAK-INS SIGNAL SEASON

Seven breaking and entering with burglary this past week joins a list of such episodes this year: pickup in the area since Spring has sprung. Police Chief Bill Harrell said people...
Highlands School students win big at writing contest

Middle school winners of the 27th Annual Olives & Eaton Creative Writing Contest were honored at a reception at the Public Library where the three winners who were present read their essays with the theme of “Libraries Change Lives.” Top award of $175 went to Hannah Krumholt; 8th grade winner of the second prize of $100 was Will Mathiowdis, 8th grade; and the third prize of $75 was awarded to Austin Reese, 6th grade. The top three students all attend the Highlands School.

One-of-a-kind house burns down

A house completely and lovingly decorated with “gems” found at Mountain Findings burned mid-morning Wednesday during a brief but violent storm that included lightning. In the four minutes it took Highlands firefighters to reach the home on the corner of Chestnut and Fifth streets it was already gutted and nothing like it is bound to be built in Highlands again.

In three days Highlands F&R handles four major incidents

Following a relatively inactive period, the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department has suddenly been very busy.

May 2006

Voters choose at primaries

Provisional ballots must still be counted, so the official count won’t be logged until May 9, but Macon County’s votes are in and officials expect Tuesday’s winners to stick. The polls saw 4,034 voters on Tuesday, May 2. One-stop voters amounted to 1,261 for a total of 5,294 voters for the primary election.

Highlands makes Forbes most expensive zip code list

Mountain Garden Club hit on some thing big—the value of a Highlands zip code. Last week Highlands ranked 499 on the “Forbes 500 Most Expensive Zip Code List for 2006.” Ranking was based on median home sale prices across the country. Data as of December 2005 was used to compile the list.

Interim super takes charge

The announcement of an interim Superintendent of Macon County Schools came on the heels of the announcement of Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell accepting a job as Superintendent of Rockingham County Schools. Shotwell’s last day with Macon County is May 31, but as of May 17 he took annual leave to prepare for his new job.

Karen Hawk began as Highlands’ newspaper’s cartoonist.

HS students chosen for governor’s school

Herz and Chase Jenkins have been selected to attend the Governor’s School of North Carolina 2006. Funded annually by the General Assembly of North Carolina, and administered by the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction through the Exceptional Children Division, the Governor’s School of North Carolina is the oldest statewide summer residential program for the academically or intellectually gifted high school students in the nation.

Police arrest suspect in HCC burglaries

The rash of burglaries that have plagued Highlands Country Club residents since March may be ending and the cases put to rest. On Friday, May 19, Highlands Police arrested Deborah Ann Cross, 49, from Alpharetta, Ga., for felonious larceny in connection with at least one residence.

June 2006

Highlands school principal Larry Brooks presented Mrs. Brenda Owens with the Highl anger School Award at Monday’s high school award ceremony.

Zoning board says “yes” to Nick’s

Nick Moschouris’s next stop is the courthouse where he plans to pick up his building permit. At the Zoning Board’s June 14 meeting, Moschouris met no resistance to his plans to convert the old Patterson house on the corner of First and Main streets into a new version of the old Nick’s Restaurant.

The appearance commission’s recommendation as a starting point, the board voted unanimously to accept the Nick’s.

County accepts bare bones version of subdivision ordinance

Macon County is clearly behind the times when it comes to land use regulations but commissioners took a big step at their June meeting and passed a bare bones subdivision ordinance. Charged with writing a subdivision ordinance in 90 days, the Macon County Planning Board began the painstaking process.

HCC thief indicted

Deborah Cross has been indicted in Macon County court on one count of felony larceny and one count of felony possession of stolen goods in connection with string of thefts at Highlands Country Club recently. On May 19 she was arrested at a home on Hutchinson Court in HCC where she was in the act of stealing a table from the porch. With no previous marks on her record, prosecutors agreed to charge her with the one incident even though authorities thought she might be involved with the string of thefts at the club.

Highlands school class of 2006 graduates Saturday, June 10

Community members, family and friends of graduates gathered in the school’s new gym to celebrate the graduation of the school’s largest graduating class — the class of 2006 with 48 students.

On June 12, Irene Picklesimer James turned 101.

She celebrated with family and friends at her home. With her are four of her five children— Herb James, Walinda Gordon, Geri Crowe and Tom James.

The Nick’s saga is over.

On Tuesday, June 27, at about 4:15 p.m., the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. burned the old Nick’s restaurant.

July 2006

Multi-family request sent to PB

“If you’re dead set against it, speak up. If you think it has merit, let’s move ahead.” That was developer Bill Nellis’s plea to the Town Board concerning his request for conditional use R-3 multi-family zoning for a 4.4-acre R-2 tract on Harris Lake. Nellis has sat through countless Town Board and Planning Board meetings absorbing what it is the boards like and dislike.

Restaurant bitten by ordinance

In Highlands, the number of seats allowed a restaurant in the B2 and B3 commercial districts in town is determined by the number of parking spaces the restaurant can provide customers on the property. This has long been a bone of contention among restaurant owners and now it’s affecting a restaurant long in business with a grandfathered parking arrangement.

Crowds turn out for public hearing

“Keep your hands off my wife, don’t kick my dog and don’t mess with my land.” That was a stance echoed by many at the public hearing on the county’s proposed subdivision ordinance the evening of July 10. When it was obvious the boardroom of the courthouse wasn’t going to hold the number of people who turned out to listen or speak their minds about the ordinance, commissioners moved the public hearing segment of the commission meeting to Courtroom A on the second floor. Still every seat was taken, people lined the walls and spilled into the hallway. The public hearing lasted two hours and 40 minutes.

Riverwalk developers fined $1,000

The Riverwalk subdivision is in the town’s sights. Following a routine inspection on June 20, Zoning Administrator Larry Garnet issued a Notice of Violation when he saw stormwater control violations taking place on the property.

Surgeon Pearlsheim resigns from hospital

In what has been called a “blow to the hospital,” surgeon Dr. Leslie Pearlsheim has resigned effective Friday, July 28.

River walk in citizens’ sights

At what might be the best attended Planning Board meeting in the history of Highlands, citizens angered by environmentally damaging practices at the River Walk development on U.S. 64 east had their say.

August 2006

People of all ages enjoyed the Highlands Fire & Rescue Fire Truck Rides during its annual open house, this year Saturday, Aug. 5

Highlands school principal Brian Jetter (center) with asst. principal Terry Bradley (left) and guidance counselor Thomas Jessup (right) at a “meet the principal” get together at Aug. 15 at the school.

With board OK, learn in place at school

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter with Assistant Principal Terry Bradley and Guidance Counselor Thomas Jessup met with the community Tuesday, Aug. 15 in the lobby of the school during the PTO’s “Meet the Principal” reception. Jetter says he’s got a “great team in place.” In addition to new teachers in each “school,” students will have new course offerings to look forward to this year.

Noise ordinance changed again

Changes made to the noise ordinance at the July 26 Planning Board meeting have been changed again. At the Aug. 16 Town Board meeting, the board ruled 3-2 to change the start-up time to 7:30 a.m. in lieu of 8 a.m.

School board candidates speak out

Eight people are vying for the two seats opening up on the Macon County School Board. Tony Estwood is trying to unseat Tommy Cabé for the District II seat; everyone else is running for Kevin Corbin’s at-large seat. Though they very in age, gender, and occupation, the one thing they all have in common is an interest in the school system and the education of the children of Macon County. Each candidate was asked to answer four questions.
Happy New Year!

The returns are in, the results are in, and pending the mortality of Sen. Tim Johnson, the Dems will control both Houses of Congress as it reconvenes. Not so curiously, there seems to be a total lack of information regarding his condition, and we should expect that lack to be perpetuated ad infinitum. So, in retrospect, what caused this shift in sentiment?

First, typically, in midterm elections, the party in power loses members in both houses in about the same dimensions as this year’s. Rarely, however, do the results have such a profound effect on leadership. Unless Sen. Johnson dies as a result of his cerebral malformation, the Dems will control all committee assignments and chairmanship positions in both houses.

So, was it the economy, stupid? Ain’t likely, since the goldilocks condition of employment, inflation, growth, profits and market levels all are all in wonderful shape.

Somehow, the anti-Bush, anti-Republican, anti-free-market media have convinced voters that, even though statistically all is well, they are suffering economic deprivation. IRA’s, 401Ks and other investment accounts are prospering but we are told that only the ultra-rich are benefiting. Baloney. I like to gauge things by looking around and seeing things for myself. My wife and I did the South Florida thing again for Christmas and in our travels both this trip and over Thanksgiving, we stopped to eat in places like Valdosta, GA and Lake City, FL, pretty much mainstream America. If we didn’t get to the Outback, Red Lobster, Olive Garden or whatever by 5:45, we were in line. Monday night, Tuesday night, the night after Christmas, it didn’t matter, these places were full to overflowing every time. These were mostly not travelers, but homefolks.

So, was it the war? The war that Clinton insisted we needed but couldn’t pull the trigger? The war that EVERYBODY (well, almost everybody) said we needed for the preservation of mankind and now conveniently have memory lapses and now it’s all Bush’s fault. Don’t believe me? Ask the anti-Bush, anti-Republican media. Have some fun and Google-in “Pull Out of Washington DC.” It’s more dangerous to live in Washington and according to some, Detroit, Baltimore, Atlanta and St. Louis than in Iraq. The mainstream media didn’t tell you that did they?

So, was it corruption? Could be. Let’s see. Texas Democrat District Attorney Ronnie Earle, long-time political enemy of Tom Delay, got a grand-jury to indict Delay for allegedly conspiring to violate campaign laws. Republican rules required him to step down from his position as majority leader. He later withdrew from the 2006 election. On the other hand, Rep. Wm Jefferson (D-LA) was found to have $90,000 of bribe money in his freezer; is being investigated, ran in 2006, won a runoff in December and continues to serve in Congress.

So, was it sexual misconduct? Give credit to the Dems; they played Foleygate like a violin. Foley allegedly sent sexy emails to former Congressional pages, was caught having done it, and resigned in shame. By contrast, in 1983, Gerry Studds (D-MA) who was caught by the House for having a sexual relationship with a 17-year old male Congressional page, retained his office and received standing ovations from his constituents in town meetings following his censure. I don’t know why, but I am reminded of an incident in 1956 when Soviet premier Nikita Krushchev said “We will bury you” to a meeting of Western ambassadors. He later explained he meant “of course we will not bury you with a shovel. Your own working class will bury you” meaning socialism will replace capitalism.

I can’t connect the dots, and I am aware that the USSR’s great experiment imploded, thanks to Reagan, but I can’t get it out of my mind that somehow all of the above is related to Krushchev’s pronouncement. Someone much wiser than I said “control the media and the educational system and you will control the people” or something similar. I am confident that our media and our educational system are being controlled and the obvious decline of our society is the proof.

Happy New Year, y’all.
Curtiss named medical director of Cardiac Rehab Program

Dr. Carl M. Curtiss, FACC, full-time cardiologist at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, has been named medical director of the hospital’s nationally-certified cardiac rehabilitation program.

Curtiss replaces internist Dr. Mark S. Wagner, who has served as the program’s medical director for the last two years. Wagner will take over other duties.

Dr. Curtiss has practiced cardiology for more than 27 years, much of that time in northeastern Ohio, but most recently in Durango, CO, before moving to the area and opening Mountain Heart Center in the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus this past February.

“We are very excited to have a cardiologist available on campus full time and are looking forward to working with him to keep our cardiac rehabilitation program one of the best in the state,” said HealthTracks Director Yvonne Smith, MHS, RD, LDN, CDE.

Curtiss is one of two cardiologists serving the area, both fellows of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. William W. Wharton III, FACC of Asheville Cardiology, sees patients on once or twice per month at the office of Mountain Medical Associates, also located in the Jane Woodruff Clinic.

Referrals and appointments with Dr. Curtiss can be made by calling Mountain Heart Center at 828-787-2450, Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

“Monitored cardiac rehabilitation is indicated for many patients with heart disease at some point in the course of their illness,” said Curtiss. “Fortunately we are able to provide quality cardiac rehab by well-trained personnel right here at the hospital, and I am happy to play an even more active role in that program.”

A native of Ohio, Dr. Curtiss earned his medical degree from Ohio State University’s College of Medicine in Columbus in 1972, and performed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at University of Minnesota Hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Paul. He completed his fellowship in cardiology at the University of Minnesota, and then underwent additional training in cardiac catheterization at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Highlands MountainTop Rotary welcomes its newest member, Russell Hawkins. Russell is the Financial Specialist at Wachovia Bank in Highlands and recently graduated from Western Carolina University.
Prepate 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

Hospital's gift shop is a gift itself

'Twas the season to experience the joy of giving. And the volunteers at the gift shop at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital celebrate that experience year around.

Many of them, like Highlands' Jean Shields, have been helping people choose just the right gift for more than a decade - and helping raise money for the hospital as well.

"The gift shop gives me a sense of pride," says Jean, who has volunteered in the gift shop every Monday for the past 14 years. "I feel needed here at the hospital. The gift shop is my niche, but there are plenty of opportunities for volunteers in all the other departments of the hospital."

The gift shop at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, which has played a vital role in helping to fund many of the hospital's needs, is managed and staffed by volunteers who share Jean's sense of pride — both in the hospital, and in knowing they are giving back to their communities. All proceeds from the gift shop are donated to the hospital and used to help fund equipment and other needs in various departments such as lab and radiology to name just two.

Chairman and volunteer Joanna Baumrucker has been managing the gift shop since the spring of 1993, when the existing hospital first opened. Joanna is the wife of Dr. John Baumrucker, long-time family physician and now part-time emergency room physician at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. For the last 14 years, Joanna has traveled to Atlanta, attending the wholesale gift market selecting the stock and merchandise sold at the gift shop. She also sets up the displays of merchandise.

As a result of her hard work, the gift shop has become a favorite shopping destination in the area, especially at holidays.

"I've heard from friends that the gift shop is the best kept secret in Highlands," says Jean.

Others from the community also give their time and efforts by volunteering at the hospital's gift shop. Elaine Reynolds of Highlands, like Joanna, has been volunteering since the beginning. Elaine works weekly at the gift shop and coordinates the volunteer scheduling. Gay Spencer of Sapphire also works weekly and handles the gift shop's deposits and Louise Clark of Highlands helps with the displays and works weekly at the shop.

Other volunteers from the Highlands area include Dorothee Garrett, Corrine Cooper, Mary Anne Ray, Polly Dean, Polly Touzinlin, Ann Schneider, Melba Egan, Linda Curtiss, Judy Williams, Louise Clark, Nancy Couch, Barbara Cusachs, Priscilla Flowers, Gay Kattel, Sally Maloney, Kathie Marsh, Jean Sarjeant, Jackie Walters, and Barbara Newton. There are still others from the Cashiers, Glenville and Sapphire communities.

"Volunteering at the gift shop makes me feel a part of the community and allows me to get to know other people who volunteer at the hospital," says Roolynn Dutton, of Cashiers, who has volunteered in the gift shop for the last eight years. "Along with the other volunteers, I try to give our visitors and customers a good experience when they are at the hospital. Most of the time they need a little lift in their spirits. I am very people oriented, so volunteering at the gift shop is a perfect choice for me."

Open to the public Monday through Friday, the gift shop stocks a variety of merchandise that appeals to patients, family members, hospital staff, and visitors for a wide variety of occasions.

There is still a need for more gift shop volunteers, especially during the winter months. Anyone interested should call the hospital's volunteer coordinator, Erline Rich, at 828-526-1345.

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
Cabe retires from hospital with fanfare after 34 years

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital CEO Ken Shull and Administrative Assistant Cindy Latina present outgoing VP for Operations Joan Cabe with a plaque honoring her for more than three decades of service to the hospital during a special going-away party last Wednesday. Cabe was showered with gifts, flowers and other tributes by her fellow members of the administration, board members, and more than a 100 of her coworkers from throughout the hospital. She left the hospital on Dec. 29, after more than 34 years, and will move to Beaufort of the coast of S.C.

League to hear about county’s flood damage prevention ordinance

Proposed revisions to the Macon County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance will be discussed at the January 11 League of Women Voters meeting in Franklin.

Bob Wright of the Macon County Watershed Council will speak on the flood revision proposal given to the Macon County commissioners last August.

Since hurricanes Frances and Ivan in the fall of 2004 and the Peaks Creek disaster the Macon County Watershed Council has prepared revisions to the existing ordinance to increase public safety and to shift more of the cost burden for ensuring the public safety improvements from the taxpayer to the property owner that decides to build in an area of Special Flood Hazard - as defined by the FEMA maps for the county.

Now that the 2006 elections are behind us, the MCWC is hopeful that the revised ordinance will be brought back to the commissioners’ agenda and passed early next year.

The program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, at noon on Thursday, January 11. Lunch is available by reservation—call 524-5192.
2006 IN REVIEW

which specializes in health care governance, leadership, strategy, quality, organizational development, and risk management, says what Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has been going through is very common.

MISHANDLING OF FUNDS AT CIVIC CENTER UNDER INVESTIGATION
The State Bureau of Investigation has been called in to investigate the possible misappropriation of funds at the Highlands Civic Center.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL OPENS
Macon County’s Early College High School starts up in Franklin.

September 2006

PAT CONROY, WHO SUMMERED IN HIGHLANDS, SIGNED COPIES OF HIS LATEST BOOK CYRANO’S.

CITIZENS TOUR NEWLY EXPANDED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
Last week, citizens were invited to tour the new Highlands wastewater treatment plant with Chief Operator Mike Houston. As a retired engineer, the state of the art processing facilities and computer controlled equipment were very interesting, but the spotless, cleanliness of the site, the buildings, and all of the equipment will impress any visitor.

RIVERWALK ORDERED TO STOP WORK
River-Walk of Highlands, LLC in Atlanta and its general grading contractor on site were both delivered a stop-work order by Highlands Watershed Administrator Larry Gantenbein. Monday’s inspection of River-Walk by the state Division of Water Quality and the state Land Quality Division substantiated Gantenbein’s misgivings about the project.

CONDO HIGH-RISE A MAYBE ON U.S. 64 E
A rumor involving the development of a 12- to 14-floor condominium complex going up on 19 acres on U.S. 64 east across from the Community Bible Church has been confirmed. County Building Inspector Jack Morgan said permits haven’t been issued, but developers have been in contact with him concerning building restrictions on the site.

MCINTYRE-ROSS NAMED HIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Macon County school system’s Teacher of the Year banquet was held on Sept. 12 at the Mill Creek Country Club in Franklin. This year, Highlands has two reasons to be proud. Highlands School Teacher of the Year is high school English teacher Cathy McIntyre-Ross. Macon County’s Teacher of the Year is Teacher of the Year for Franklin High, history and philosophy teacher John DeVille. DeVille is a 1980 graduate of Highlands School.

BOARD OK’S MULTIFAMILY AT HARRIS LAKE
The third time was the charm for Developer Bill Nellis. Despite getting a “no” from the Planning Board two times, the third time Nellis appeared before the Town Board for approval to rezone the 4.4 acres on Harris Lake from R2 to conditional use multifamily, the board voted 3-2 in favor of the complex.

PEARLSTEIN OUT; SURGEON SEARCH ON
Dr. Leslie Pearlstein’s credentialing process is over but he won’t be employed by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Tuesday afternoon hospital officials announced he didn’t pass the final inspection – that of his peers at the hospital. The staff voted Thursday, Sept. 21, to recommend not granting staff privileges to Pearlstein.

SCHOOL BOARD FIRES PERSONNEL DIRECTOR
FORMER MACON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL Tamra Tisdale was officially terminated at Monday night’s school board meeting.

OCTOBER 2006

RIVERWALK NOT PAYING CITATIONS
In a closed session at the Wednesday, Oct. 11 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted not to pursue RiverWalk’s appeal of citations issued by the town on the grounds that it would be too costly to contest. The citations for $500 each were issued by Watershed Administrator Larry Gantenbein when sit from the development left the property. Though seven citations have been issued since the project started some months ago, to date, only the first three are being contested.

GIRLS’ VB TEAM CONFERENCE WINNERS
After another wonderful year of volleyball, Highlands High School Lady Highlanders are once again the Little Smoky Conference Champions. Finishing with a 20-0 conference record and a 13-6 season record the Lady Highlanders, and all of Highlands for that matter, can be very proud of their team.

HIGHLANDS BEATS HENDERSONVILLE IN FIRST ROUND OF SOCCER CONFERENCE.
An ecstatic Highlands soccer team leaves the field Wednesday night. Highlands won its first game in the state playoffs against Hendersonville, 7-2.

NOVEMBER 2006

SHERIFF HOLLAND RE-ELECTED; MC COMMISSIONER SIMPSON, RE-ELECTED; MC COMMISSIONERS BEALE AND MCCLELLAN ELECTED; SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TOMMY CABE IS RE-ELECTED AND GUY GOODER JOINS THE BOARD.

‘BUG HILL’ CABIN SAVED
A part of history is coming home to the Rec Park. At the Nov. 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to let the Highlands Historical Society move one of the original ‘Bug Hill’ tuberculos cottages to the part of the Highlands Historical Village that encroaches onto Rec Park property.

PLAYGROUND DEDICATED, LOCAL HONORED
At 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20, it finally happened. Highlands School officially opened its new playground with a ribbon cutting and dedication.

December 2006

2007 REVALUATIONS TO GO OUT JAN. 15
Property revaluations are in the works for 2007 and commissioners are bracing for the traditional volatile backlash.

At the Dec. 4 Macon County Commissioners meeting, Tax Administrator Richard Lightner explained the regulations behind the county’s every four-year revaluation process, how revaluations are determined and how the appeal process works.

BOARD FINES RIVERWALK $400,000
After breaking twice for closed meetings on the subject, hearing impassioned pleas from homeowners, lawyers, and evidence from town employees, the Town Board moved to hold RiverWalk developers accountable for soil and erosion violations at its site.

KING AND QUEEN
Seniors Sara Bates and Nick Kerhoulas were crowned king and queen of the homecoming court Saturday, Dec. 2 at the dance held at the Highlands Country Club’s Hudson House.

HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS PARADE 2007 -- YEAR OF THE CAMELS!

DEVELOPER NIXES HIGH-RISE PROJECT
As of Thursday, Dec. 14, the subject of the high-rise on 19 acres just outside Highlands (ET) area on U.S. 64 east ended. Developer Bill Shepherd backed out of the real estate deal and subsequent project and requested the funds in escrow be restored to him on the grounds that clear title cannot be established for the property. The acreage, owned by Sanders Dupree, is now back on the market for $2.15 million.

HIGH-RISE MORATORIUM IN AFFECT
Effective immediately, there is a moratorium on the issuance of building permits for the construction of any residential structure greater than four stories or 48-feet high in Macon County.

REAL ESTATE SALES DRIVE ECONOMY
If the average six percent commission was paid to real estate agents and brokers for homes and 10 percent on lots, $8-9 million in real estate commissions were paid out in 2006.

NOTED PSYCHOLOGIST ALEX REDMOUNTAIN DIES AT 72
The Instant Theatre
- A year in review -

The Instant Theatre Company’s 2006 season offered something for everyone—music, dance, classes, plays, and comedy. Little Entertainments, the improv and variety show, brought many people to the Studio on Main in the early months of 2006 for the warmth of laughter and entertainment. The success of these 11 performances led ITC to expand to Cocktail Hour Theatre every Friday evening. Cocktail Hour Theatre ran 12 shows during the summer of 2006 and featured live, unrehearsed theatre at its best where audience members enjoyed cocktails and delicious hors d’oeuvres while watching the ITC’s Improv Troupe.

The summer season kicked off with the Wild Hog Band (sponsored by Country Club Properties) performing at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Art Center and also brought the Appalachian High Concert Series (co-sponsored with Starpony Electronics) featuring nationally touring artists Jenny Bird, Jack Williams and Small Potatoes. Songwriters in the round featured 25 various songwriters during 7 performances and Spiritual Cinema (co-sponsored with Starpony Electronics) featured 3 premier film showings as well as the regularly scheduled Tuesday evening movies. William Wildcat Jude delighted audiences with his own local brand of wit and music. In July the ITC sponsored a 2-week acting class for interested youth who then performed for the Rec Park campers. The Woopets were there for a special workshop and so popular they returned for the holidays. Cowboy Envy, back for its third year, played for two nights at the Performing Arts Center (sponsored by Nellis Communities).

The Instant Theatre Company treated the public to several free offerings—the reading of “Wit” sponsored by Cyrano’s Bookshop, Tom Meyer’s reading of his translation of The Dao de Jing and the Christmas reading of “Papa’s Angels.”

In October, The ITC staged “Sylvia” by A.R. Gurney which played to sold-out audiences and was a huge success. A portion of the proceeds benefited the Cashiers Area Humane Society. Also in October The Buckerettes, a cowgirl band from Asheville, entertained the house with their own special brand of comedy and music. November was the month when Jack Williams returned to the Studio on Main and treated a packed house to his original songs and awe-inspiring guitar virtuosity.

Just in time for the holidays, Hurricane Creek played for the Tree Lighting Dance, something that may become an annual event. This was the first of three holiday shows at The Studio on Main. Collin Wilcox Paxton read from her book, co-authored with Gary Carden, “Papa’s Angels.” John Roman played his original music. And for the little ones, The Woopets performed with their own brand of magic and imagination in Peter and The Wolf and The Fairie Ring.

The ITC wishes to thank all its supporters during 2006—The season could not have been possible without all you. Many people bought chairs, helped with productions, and brought new faces to The Studio on Main. The sheer variety of what The Instant Theatre Company can offer could not have happened without you. In 2007 you can look forward to the same professional theatre that you loved in 2006 with The ITC’s own brand of eclectic, innovative and diverse entertainment. Come be part of the Instant Audience and visit The ITC on the web at www.InstantTheatre.org.

Winning again

The Dec. 21 win against Franklin was the first folks can remember in years. The score was Highlands 67, Franklin 58.

Highlands had 38 rebounds, 11 assists, 8 turnovers, 14 steals, 5 blocked shots, 14 fouls, 38 points in paint and 2 bench points.

Alec Schmitt, Nick Kerhoulas, Jason Aspinwall and Andrew Billingsley were each on court 24 minutes. Schmitt scored 29 points, had 12 rebounds, 5 assists and 7 steals. Kerhoulas scored 20 points, had 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block and 3 steals. Aspinwall scored 9 points with 8 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals. Billingsley scored 3 points, had 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block and 1 steal.

Gray Alexander was on court 16 minutes and scored 2 points with 2 rebounds 3 assists and 1 steal.

Darren Keener was on court 8 minutes and scored 4 points with 5 rebounds and 4 blocks.

Tuesday night’s game against Swain marked up another win for Highlands 71 to Swain’s 51.

Highlands had 39 rebounds, 19 assists, 12 turnovers, 11 steals, 5 blocked shots, 13 fouls, 32 points in paint and 30 bench points.

High scorer was Aspinwall with 18 points, 4 rebounds and 1 steal. He was on court 24 minutes.

Next up was Kerhoulas on court for 8 minutes with 13 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

Schmitt, on court the longest at 24 minutes, scored 7 points with 11 rebounds, 9 assists and 6 steals.

Alexander and Arthur Reynolds Potts were on court 16 minutes each. Alexander scored 6 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists.

On court for 8 minutes each was Keener who scored 10 points with 8 rebounds, 1 assist and 5 blocks. Also on court for eight minutes were Ezra Herz, Billingsley, Luke McClellan, Adam Hedden, Kenny Robinson, Mike Lica, Chris St. Germain and Leiffer Hunter. Herz scored 5 points, Billingsley, McClellan and Hedden each scored 4 points.

The next game is at Hiwassee Dam, Friday, Jan. 5. The next home game is against Blue Ridge at home, Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Right: Adam Hedden keeps control of the ball during the Swain game Tuesday night.
... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

plentiful? Congress builds $50 million bridges to nowhere while people go to bed hungry in this country every night. We spend billions, yes billions, on political campaigns, yet there’s no money for health care.

Please Mr. Washington and Mr. Jefferson, could you please come back to earth and help? If you need assistance for a raiding party to dump some tea into the harbor, you can count on me as a member of your team.

Read Fred online at www.highlandsinfo.com click on News for latest issue.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust welcomes new board members

At their October 2006 meeting the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Board of Directors nominated and elected two new members. They welcomed Ann McKee Austin of Cashiers and James P. Tate of Highlands to three years of service with the HCLT Board of Directors. Ann will serve on the Education Committee while James will join the Stewardship Committee.

Ann’s roots are in Western North Carolina, having grown up in Asheville, spending every summer in Cashiers. She received a BA degree in the History of Art from Hollins College, Virginia. She is a founding member of the Cashiers Historical Society, Village Conservancy, and Designer Showcase. Ann received a B.A. degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia. James is a member of several Town of Highlands governmental boards and is a trained Emergency Medical Technician for the Macon County Urban Search and Rescue Team. James will provide the Board of Directors with an important historical outlook and a committed conservation ethic.

According to Mercedes Heller, President of HCLT, “Ann Austin and Jimmy Tate will bring much needed historical knowledge and diverse experiences that will assist us in attaining our mission. We welcome them.”

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust currently protects more than 1,100 acres of land in the Highlands-Cashiers area. The Land Trust protects land by purchase, by conservation easements, or by outright gift. Its work is supported by more than 350 members who are year-round or seasonal residents of Highlands-Cashiers and many others who have rallied to support threatened properties when called upon.

For information on how you can help the conservation work of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, call 828-526-9938, ext. 250, write to the land trust at PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC, 28741, or email hitrust@earthlink.net.

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526-0782
On-going
• Yoga Classes at the Rec Park, Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. $7 per person per class or $50 for a month 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 Health Tracks Membership or $8 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 and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or $8 for non-members. An advanced class will also be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m.
• 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 Cyrus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike on relatively flat terrain on historic Glade Road near Highlands to see several natural “rock houses.” Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Drive 18 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Jim Whitworth, 526-8134 for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike with great views from Lookout Mt. in Black Rock Mt. State Park in Georgia. There is one 1/3 mile steep climb. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Welcome Center on Highway 441 South at 2:00 p.m. or at the Rabun Gap post office at 2:20 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Drive 36 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Corell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
Beginning Jan. 8
• 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 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.
• Every Tuesday Beginning Jan. 9
• 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
The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 3-mile hike with a steep elevation change of 1,000 feet to Chimney Rock in the Cashiers Valley. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations.
• “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. Enliven and enrich your own visual world with this informative and innovative class.
Saturday, Jan. 20
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 10:00 a.m. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people; reservations are required. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

Playing at Ruby Cinemas
Franklin, NC 28734
The Week of:
Jan 5-11
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS 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), 7:00, 9:30 Sat & Sun: (2:00), (4:30), 7:00, 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
ROCKY BALBOA rated PG Fri: 7:15, 9:20 Sat & Sun: 7:15, 9:20
Mon – Thurs: 7:15
CHARLOTTE’S WEB rated G Fri: (4:15) Sat & Sun: (2:15), (4:15)
Mon – Thurs: (4:15)
Commissioner Patterson said the town has always had a loose policy regarding use of the Civic Center. “The question is, should we change it.”

Though no formal policy has ever been formulated, Town Administrator Richard Betz said minutes of a 1984 meeting say the building shouldn’t be used for commercial purposes.

“The idea was not to allow commercial purposes because it’s not fair to the merchants in town,” said Patterson. “But we can’t just say ‘only nonprofits’ because all nonprofits aren’t equal. Some are just nonprofits so they don’t have to pay taxes. We can’t assume nonprofits are all ‘Mom and apple pie’ and represent everything good in the world, either.”

She suggested nonprofit use be reserved for Highlands-based nonprofits which are widely accepted as something good.

But Mayor Don Mullen said that is a very subjective task and hard to do.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf questioned the legality of discriminating against certain nonprofits or commercial enterprises, but Town Attorney Bill Coward said the town can do whatever it wants.

“As long as you don’t discriminate based on color or religion, that sort of thing, you can change your policy every week if you want and pick and choose whomsoever you want,” he said. “This is more of a political matter than a legal one.”

Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker said the Macon County Community Building regularly rents out its facility during certain times of the year. “Basically, the renter can do whatever they want to do,” he said. “There are blocks of time when the facility can’t be rented for any reason, but otherwise it’s first come, first served.”

Jim Mullen, past Chamber of Commerce president, said he personally canvassed antique business owners in town to see if anyone objected or thought the Playhouse antique show would jeopardize their business.

“Out of the eight businesses I talked to, only one was against the idea. The show brought business to town. I think you should take a positive stance about this and move forward,” he said.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said minutes of a 1984 meeting say the Civic Center. “The question is, should we change it.”

Though no formal policy has ever been formulated, Commissioner Patterson said the town has always had a loose policy regarding use of the Civic Center. “The question is, should we change it.”

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**Methodists**

Note: This was submitted by Pastor Kim Ingram of Highlands United Methodist Church, adapted from an essay by Garrison Keillor.

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodistless place, to sing along with the chorus of “Michael Row the Boat Ashore,” they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they will smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person’s rib cage.

It’s natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you’re singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all 200 of you, it’s an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony, are the sort of people you could call up when you’re in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they’ll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they’ll give you tuna salad!

Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don’t notify them that they are there.

Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Methodists feel that applauding for their children’s choir would make the kids too proud and conceited.

Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Methodists are willing to pay up to $1 for a meal at church.

Methodists still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season, and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add too much color.

Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously. And finally, you know you are a Methodist when:

* It’s 100 degrees, with 90 percent humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
* You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
* Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
* You watch a Star Wars movie and they say, “May the Force be with you,” and you respond, “And also with you.” And lastly, it takes 10 minutes to say good-bye!
Girls B-ball on losing streak

The Highlands girls basketball team has had a disappointing stretch of losses lately, but it’s not for a lack of trying. The team continues to play hard and keep its spirit.

The Dec. 21 game against Franklin was tough with Franklin scoring 56 points and Highlands 37. Highlands beat Franklin by one point in the first quarter but just couldn’t keep it up throughout the game.

Toni Schmitt was top scorer with 22 points and 7 rebounds. Brie Schmitt, Kaylie Buras and Kate-Marie Park each scored 2 points. Buras also had 7 rebounds.

The Jan. 2 home game against Swain was a loss, too, but the team put there all into it. The final score was Swain 60, Highlands 50.

Again Highlands led in the first two quarters with 11 points to Swain’s 10 and 12 points to Swain’s 10, respectively, but Swain squeaked ahead thereafter.

High scorer was Allison Winn with 18 points; next up was Katie Bryson with 13 points and 9 rebounds.

Brie and Toni Schmitt each scored 8 points. Toni had 10 rebounds.

“It was a tough defeat,” said Coach Brett Lamb. “We played hard throughout the game but we need to continue to work on the game and take this and use it as motivation for subsequent games.”

The next game is at Hiwassee Dam, Friday, Jan. 5. The next home game is against Blue Ridge at home, Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Above: Katie Bryson fights for the ball during the Swain game, Tuesday, Jan. 2 at home. Below: Allison Winn shoots at the home game against Franklin, Dec.
The Widow of the South, by Robert Hicks (F Hicks)

This book is a perfect example of why I rarely read novels, especially modern ones. The book is based on a true story, in fact an amazing story from the Civil War. A friend told me about it and I bought it thinking it was a nonfiction account, and only when I got it home did I realize it was a novel.

I began it with high hopes — it’s a bestseller and all — but halfway through I really began to wonder whether the author was ever going to make it to the crux of the story.

Mr. Hicks crammed the fascinating facts into the first and last quarters of the book, and filled the middle with a relationship between “The Widow” and one of the soldiers wounded in the battle. I imagine this was supposed to illuminate why this remarkable woman made the choices she did but in my opinion serves only to detract from what she did.

Here’s the story in a nutshell: Carrie McGavock lived in a large plantation house, called Carnton, which was right on the edge of one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War: Franklin, Tennessee. Six thousand men were killed and three thousand wounded in less than five hours of battle in November 1864. The McGavock’s home was one of the many houses in the area turned into hospitals after the battle and not only their home but their yard was filled with wounded and dying.

Col. W.D. Gale, a member of General Stewart’s staff (Confederate), wrote these comments http://www.carnton.org/cemetery.htm: “Mrs. McGavock’s] house [Carnton] . . . was the rear of our line. The house is one of the large old-fashioned houses of the better class in Tennessee, two stories high, with many rooms . . . This was taken as a hospital, and the wounded, in hundreds, were brought to it during the battle, and all the night after. Every room was filled, every bed had two poor, bleeding fellows, every spare space, niche, and corner under the stairs, in the hall, everywhere — but one room for her own family. And when the noble old house could hold no more, the yard was appropriated until the wounded and the dead filled that, and all were not yet provided for.

“Our doctors were deficient in bandages, and she began by giving her old linen, then her towels and napkins, then her sheets and tablecloths, then her husband’s shirts and her own undergarments. During all this time the surgeons pried their dreadful work amid the sighs and moans and death rattle. Yet, amid it all, the noble woman . . . was very active and constantly at work. During all the night neither she nor any of the household slept, but dispensed tea and coffee and such stimulants as she had, and that, too, with her own hands.”

In the battle the Confederates massed for an insane and futile charge at the base of a hill. Thousands died on that hill and were buried in the field below. Two years after the battle the family who owned the field was going to plow it and put it into cultivation. Mrs. McGavock arranged to have all the dead dug up and moved to her plantation where they were reburied. The soldiers had originally been buried in shallow mass graves with a piece of wood laid on each man’s chest with an inscription of his name and hometown, and Mrs. McGavock carefully noted these details so that markers could be erected over every grave. In the end, the Carnton cemetery held 1,481 Confederate soldiers who died in the Franklin battle, 15 veterans of the battle, and one civilian who died while helping to rebury (you can see photos of the graveyard taken in the 1860s on the website).

She also wrote to every family and told them where their son or husband was buried. She spent the rest of her life tending the graves, and over time the wooden markers were changed to stone. In addition, she took in orphans and raised them as her own.

Three of her five children died in childhood before this battle took place, one as an infant, one at 7, the third at 12, and yet she rose above her personal sorrow to serve a greater need.

Doesn’t this sound like everything you need to write a book? Why would anyone need to invent anything? In an interview Mr. Hicks claims that he couldn’t find out enough facts to fill out more than a pamphlet and that’s why he had to invent the love story, but that sounds like just a lack of imagination to me.

For example, the first day that the wounded arrived at the house, the scene is vividly described, but as he develops the love story between the two characters, the rest of the wounded disappear from sight until one day, when the soldier wakes up he sees that all the other soldiers are gone and he wonders how they all disappeared. The reader wonders too, as this is what was of interest to me, not some sappy love story.

Mrs. McGavock must have received thousands of letters from people all around the country, from the author’s telling. He quotes a tiny few and they are a window into another age — did he make these up or do these letters still exist? He gives no clue in his epilogue, and I would have loved to hear much more from these if they did in fact exist.

I have looked and can find very little information about Carrie McGavock online except for this book. In Mr. Hicks’ defense, he is not a professional writer; this is his first book. He is “in the music business,” lives in the Nashville area, and became a member of the board that oversaw the restoration of Carnton. He tried to interest some writers in telling Carrie McGavock’s story and when that failed decided to write it himself. Hopefully with the interest this novel has raised about her, a biographer will write a more complete and true version of this remarkable woman’s life.

Santa, staff, and community brighten holiday for Eckerd residents

Once again this holiday, Santa Claus teamed up with nearly 75 staff members at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, as well as volunteers and other outside groups, to make sure center residents enjoyed a bright Christmas. Santa was on hand at a special Christmas dinner Dec. 21 for residents and their families, handing out a slew of presents and spreading holiday cheer. The majority of the presents were contributed by hospital and living center staff members and volunteers, who picked a resident’s name from a special Christmas Tree located in the hospital cafeteria in the weeks leading up to the celebration. They then purchased presents for their “adopted” residents. Other presents were contributed by members of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation Board. The Highlands-Emergency Council also joined in the effort again this year, donating slippers and slipper socks, and Highlands Pharmacy once again donated toothpaste bottles of lotion and many other “stocking stuffer” personal hygiene items. In all, 92 people received special gifts this season, thanks to the program organized by the Eden Alternative program at the center.
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) 526-6734.

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 28741 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 Charlie @ 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.


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.

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 Clinic. 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 CNAs 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 through our website, 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 our website, www.hchospital.org.

DIETARY AIDS 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 UNIVERSITY’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 Scholl, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

FOR RENT

NEW RETAIL/STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE. BEST PRICES IN TOWN. – All units individually climate controlled with bathrooms, 1,600 sq ft, new retail $1,750 monthly, no maintenance fees. Or, 3,160 sq ft, new retail $2,500 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 – $825 per month in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson’s. Call 828-640-0800 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. Chapel 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.


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-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. $1395. (772)631-2602 or (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 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, 5 fireplaces. Call 828-526-2302.

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


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. deck on 4.2 acres with perenniel landscaping. Many extras. $399,000. Brokers Welcome. Call 828-743-5788.


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 $188,000 to $329,000. Call 828-526-9622.

BY BUILDER – 43, 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.


QUANT – 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.
The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 17-Jan. 2. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Dec. 17
• At 1:10 p.m., Brian Justin Garland, 20, of Greenville, and Terren Kacey Eliod, 20, of Greenville, were arrested for shoplifting in Jolie’s, Mountainique, and Bear Mountain Outfitters earlier that same day.

Dec. 19
• At 6:30 p.m., a resident on Split Rail Row reported the lock on the chain across his driveway cut.

Dec. 20
• At 2 p.m., fraudulent use of a credit card was reported at Dr. Christopher Dyer’s office.

Dec. 21
• At 8:20 a.m., a two-vehicle accident occurred on U.S. 64 east and Little Bear Pen. There were no injuries.

Dec. 22
• At 4:15 p.m., Derrick Roy Potts, 40, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and driving with a revoked license on the Gorge Road.

Dec. 23
• At 5:45 p.m., a resident on Mt. Lori Road was cited for violating a town’s burning ordinance.

Dec. 24
• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106.

Dec. 25
• At 8:55 a.m., a gas drive-off was reported at the Farmer’s Market.

Dec. 26
• At 8:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106.

Dec. 27
• At 7 p.m., Thomas Glen Mancini, 26, of Franklin was arrested for DWI and driving with a revoked license on the Gorge Road.

Dec. 28
• At 9:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Little Bear Pen.

Dec. 29
• At 9:15 p.m., a motorist was cited for exceeding the speed limit by 1 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 28.

Dec. 30
• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Talladega and N.C. 106.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. is now accepting applications for membership. If interested, stop by the station on Oak St., Monday-Friday before 1 1 a.m., or call 526-3645 for an appointment.