Wheeler house burns in Saturday fire

About 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, life changed for Dr. Patti Wheeler and her family but thanks to the community that is Highlands, change won't be as bad as it could be.

A couple of neighbors in the vicinity of Satulah Ridge Road had just returned home from a hike up Whiteside Mountain when they saw smoke billowing out of the eves of the Wheeler house.

“We stopped the car and as we watched, the house ignited with the smoke turning into flames,” said Ginger Slaughter.

“That’s when I made the first 9-1-1 call in my life.”

Slaughter said within seven minutes the Highlands volunteer fire & rescue department was on the scene extinguishing the fire and preventing it from spreading to nearby houses.

“It looked like fire was also

Cooley new town planner

After almost a year, Highlands now has a Planning and Development Director.

The job title has changed, but for the most part the duties of Joseph Cooley will mimic those of the previous Zoning Administrator/Planning Director.

Cooley is currently a lawyer with the Smith, Gambrell & Russell Land Use Group in Atlanta, GA.

“He decided to go back to law school and become a lawyer late in life,” said Mayor Don Mullen.

“Before that he was a city planner.”

Room tax talk heats up

Now that the bond issue is put to rest, the county commission is ready to focus on the room tax money.

Since the mid 1980s three percent of the room tax money levied by every lodging establishment in Macon County including hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, and vacation rentals has been given back to the Highlands and Franklin chambers of commerce.

By law, the money can only be

Veterans remembered

About 30 people attended a poorly publicized affair held to honor veterans Sunday, Nov. 11 where a memorial erected on the outskirts of town was unveiled. No one from the county or town government was in attendance, but in all fairness, Highlands’ Newspaper learned of the affair only two hours prior when Pastor Todd Strubel of the Methodist church announced it from the pulpit. Join Highlands’ Newspaper in honoring our veterans by placing flowers at the memorial at the corner of 6th Street and Horse Cove Road in commemoration of our veterans.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Horton new county manager

It only took three months for the county to find its next county manager and as it turns out, he’s been here before.

Commissioners found what they believe the county needs in C. Jack Horton, 57, current county manager of Caldwell County in Lenoir, N.C., population 78,000. He begins January, 7, 2008 at a salary of $125,000.

At the Nov. 13 commission meeting the board emerged from a closed session to announce Horton’s hiring.

However, following a Macon County Commission Nov. 2 closed meeting which was continued from Oct. 22, during which Horton was interviewed and employment discussed, Caldwell’s selection is made by the Foundation.

Horton has one of the highest ratios of police per capita. His efforts in working hard and being successful in reducing traffic crashes, the Highlands community was honored as Traffic Safety Community of the Year in its population category of 10,000 people or less.

The success of the Highlands
Highlands needs to stand up and fight

Remind wounded you care

Dear Editor,

What a great idea!
When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following. A Recovering American Soldier; c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center; 6900 Georgia Avenue NW; Washington, D.C. 20307-5001.

Tax revolt evidenced by election results

Dear Editor,

What has happened that resulted in Macon County voters voting down the bond referendum in the recent election? My answer to the question is: Could we be experiencing a tax revolt?

This was the year for property taxes to increase with revaluations and then our leadership attempted to layer another bill on us with a record-setting bond debt. The failure should make our leaders consider what we, the people think is needed for the betterment of our community.

Nom Roberts
Franklin

Democracy requires real leaders and thinkers

Dear Editor,

Many of you may not know of a brilliant political move that I witnessed (thanks to CSPAN) of a Senator who defied all the political advisors and think tanks in Washington.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, one candidate for president, backed by 22 co-sponsors of a bill (mostly Democrats) HR799/333, won a majority of votes to continue the process of the impeachment of Dick Cheney.

You may remember I wrote a letter earlier concerning the act of impeachment and its importance to truth in government. But what was so astounding was the bill surprised both sides and passed with a huge support of Republicans. If you like football or even tennis this was quite the match of political play/game strategy.

The bill as it is written is quite lengthy (read it for yourself at THOMAS the Library of Congress website) and legally sound. It was created for the purpose of debate on the lawful conduct of the VP, citing the now well read lies concerning the invasion of Iraq and the continuum of this reasoning for the invasion of Iran.

Lee Hodges
Highlands


democracy requires real leaders and thinkers

It seems the Democrats were not happy with this bill and worked to kill it when unexpectedly the Republicans started to vote NOT to kill it. The Democrats switched gears and started switching their votes – let’s just say a vote that was supposed to take 15 minutes (normally) took 55 minutes. HMMM…connect some dots. I’ll leave you to do it as you wish but the final vote was 135 votes from Dems to kill it and 165 from Reps not to. The end result is there will be a decision from the judiciary committee (headed by Sen. John Conyers who supports the impeachment) and thus a possible impeachment.

Thank you President-elect Dennis Kucinich for being a thoughtful leader and not afraid of breaking some political party rules to save this country and uphold his oath to the people and the Constitution. Oh yeah, thanks to the Republicans, too, for agreeing there are possibly grounds for impeachment. Please be an American and make your own political decision based on facts (beyond the major media) and common sense and not party lines.

Lee Hodges
Highlands

‘Walk a mile in his shoes’

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in support of Macon County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles Leatherman. This dedicated public servant deserves our appreciation and gratitude.

I have tremendous respect for Mr. Leatherman’s work as commission chair, because I walked miles in the same shoes he now wears. I commend him for his position of sticking to his guns and not being held hostage to a revenue-neutral budget.

Chairman Leatherman helped the volunteer fire departments achieve their needs in order to serve the public by going over the budget by $220,000, which averaged roughly to 43 cents per tax bill. This is a small amount to pay for these essential services to this county and time in need is priceless.

Mr. Leatherman has kept the needs of the schools on track in Macon County

Kim Lewicki
Publisher
Elbert E. Jenkins, Jr.

Mr. Elbert E. Jenkins, Jr., born in Macon and a resident of Glynn county Georgia for the past 24 years, died Nov. 1, 2007.

He attended Lanier High School in Macon as well as Mercer University and Capitol Radio Engineering. He worked for Bibb Paper Co. in Macon and as the General Manager of Bearings Supply Co. in Macon. He was in the U.S. Air Corps as a radio instructor as well as the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

Elbert was a member of Sigma Pi Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma, Pan Hellenic Council, Glee Club Orchestra and Chorus, and College Band. He was an honor graduate of Mercer University.

He was a member of the Macon Radio Club, Macon Camera Club, Lions International, Military Amateur Radio Society, American Radio Relay League and the American Legion. He was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Macon and St. Francis Catholic Church of Brunswick.

He received the American Legion Medal of Honor in 1930 and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942 to 1945 as part of the 155th AAC’s Squadron, and was promoted to major in the Reserves upon separation.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Jenkins of Brunswick (formerly Catherine Amis of West Palm Beach, FL); son, Tommy Jenkins (Kay) of Brunswick; daughter, Nancy Welch (Charles) of Highlands, NC, granddaughters, Marsha Welch of Nashville, TN, and Katie McDonald (Jason) of Asheville, NC; grandsons Carter Welch (Christina) of Jacksonville, FL, Thomas Jenkins of Atlanta and Robert Jenkins of Brunswick, and three nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Elbert’s life was held Monday, Nov. 5, at St. William’s Catholic Church on St. Simons Island, GA, with the Rev. John Kenneally officiating.

Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home, Brunswick, was in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands.
Dear Mr. Wooldridge:

The appearance committee conducted an inspection of your home and we have concluded you are currently in violation of our rules and regulations concerning dirty gutters. Please have your gutters either painted or cleaned within the next 30 days or you will be subject to a $100 fine. Sincerely, the Appearance Committee.

I am freaking out as I stared at this letter in disbelief. It’s about my home in Florida and I am sitting in Highlands. Even worse, the chairman of the appearance committee is my good friend and next door neighbor, Cathy. How could she do this to me? Dirty gutters? Then I remembered the old adage, if you want to turn neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend, put them on a committee and watch what happens.

I raced down to Florida with scrub brush in hand and had not even finished the last section of dirty guttering when I opened the Highlands’ Newspaper and discovered the Appearance Commission of Highlands is also hard at work losing friends and aggravating everyone. Only the Highlands’ Appearance Commission is funnier than the one in Florida for several reasons.

For starters, Highlands’ appearance folks have no authority, like policemen with no bullets. Now that’s funny. The one in Florida can actually fine me $100. Also, the chairman of this committee is Rick Segel, a friend that I can’t even look at anymore without bursting out laughing. He played the “out to lunch” guy in “How the Other Half Lives” and I still picture him wearing those horn rimmed glasses and displaying that “duh” look. Then, just when that memory started to wane, I see him perform at the Highlands Playhouse in the all male review. Come on, Rick, how can I take anything you say serious anymore? And Puleeeese do something about your legs. Anyway, he is much too funny to be chairman of anything.

This all reminds me of my early days in business as a rappelling instructor in Highlands. I was overwhelmed by the rules and regulations set forth by the United States Forest Service where I conducted all my business. Then I met an old retired ranger who gave me a great piece of advice. He put his arm around me and said, “It’s easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission.” A light went on in my head. I’ll do what I want until I get caught, then plead for forgiveness and promise not to do it again. It worked perfectly. That’s when I learned they don’t have an appearance committee or any expertise in stucco and kiosk design.

Apparently, some Highlanders are using the “don’t ask and pray a lot” approach with the appearance committee, realizing there is little they can do about it. If Highlanders were smart, they would realize that the new car wash station at Highlands’ Plaza is the new standard for designers to follow.

How foolish for the RBC Centura Bank to create an ATM kiosk that doesn’t look like a car wash. Getting your car washed and banking all at the same time would have received a standing ovation from the appearance committee. Obviously, RBC has no vision, somewhat like the people who are against Pine Street Park.

On the other hand, an all wood ATM could be stolen by a redneck with an oversized chainsaw. He could have that baby on the back of his pickup in about 5 minutes. Back to the drawing board on that one. I know Pat will use his expertise in building design to come up with something more better. How about an ATM station made of pottery? Nah!

P.S. – Did I just say more better?
Helping others feels good

The passenger, a short, stout, Hispanic man of about 30 waved to warn me of a problem. I was at the crossroads in Cashiers, on my way to pick Bull up from school. His truck had stalled and would soon start backing up north bound traffic on NC 107.

I might have cursed the presence of aliens in my neighborhood, blasted my horn, and shook my fist. Instead, I pulled off the road, parked, and helped push the truck off the road. The truth is that three Hispanic youths were already pushing the truck and had gained enough momentum to steer it to safety without my help. One wore the white coat of a restaurant worker, the others, the rough clothes of day laborers. The four of us pushed while the driver steered the truck off the highway and into a parking space. It was a tight squeeze, but I was able to find just enough room on the rear bumper to lend a hand.

As I returned to my car, the Mexican guys waved their thanks. I hadn’t checked their immigration status, or tested their English language fluency. I wouldn’t be surprised if they were all undocumented, and grateful waves may have been as close to English as they could get. I enjoy helping. It feels good, and it felt especially good today. I can’t describe the warmth in those smiles or the appreciation in the waves. It felt a lot like a good night kiss from Bull, or a firm hand shake from a dear friend, like sitting in front of a warm fire on a cold December night. I had done almost nothing, but it felt great all the same. Those guys are thousands of miles from home and family, trying to forge a better life, living under miserable conditions, surrounded by an often hostile native population. The undocumented live in fear of deportation. All risk exploitation.

I didn’t do much. I had to hurry or the moment would have passed before I had done anything. They knew how little I had contributed, but I believe that they were also aware that helping them, reaching out to them, had been important to me.

This is what we do in America. We help neighbors in need. The race, religion, economic condition, or immigration status of our neighbors shouldn’t matter. I did nothing more, less in fact, than carrying a basket of store bought cookies to new resident on the block. My insignificant little act might have been the first kindness these guys had experienced since they left home, the first welcome, the initial indication of acceptance.

They might have been driving a poorly maintained, uninsured truck, with an empty gas tank. The driver may not have had a valid driver’s license. It really doesn’t matter. Helping matters. Accepting matters. Treating all people as you would wish to be treated matters a lot.

Dr. Henry Salzarulo
Feedback is encouraged. email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

... ROOM TAX from pg 1 used to promote tourism. But lately the county has been concerned about the proper use of the room tax money.

"It is necessary to remember that the county has been put on notice concerning a variety of deficiencies in collection and use of occupancy tax," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. "The corrective steps, when taken, should remove all concerns about the noted deficiencies and ensure the proper and accountable use of occupancy tax funds."

The county took its first "corrective" step by forming a nine-person study committee comprised of each chamber director, a representative from a lodging enterprise in Highlands, Franklin and Nantahala, Macon County Commissioners Bob Simpson and Brian McClellan, and a representative from each of the town boards.

At the Wednesday, Nov. 14 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Hank Ross was appointed to represent Highlands on the committee.

Commissioners asked the chamber directors — who will be non-voting members of the study committee due to a conflict of interest — to return Nov. 26 with nominees from their town to represent the lodging industry.

"I urge you to select someone from your areas with a multi-use facility with at least an inn and a restaurant so representation is from a broader spectrum," said County Commissioner Brian McClellan.

At the Tuesday, Nov. 13 commission meeting, the board heard from representatives from both chambers, urging the commissioners to both form the "study committee" promised in June when redistri- bution was discussed and to understand how vital the chambers’ roles have been in promoting tourism in the county.

"I feel it is worth repeating that revenues generated over just the last 10 years have increased 62% thus indicating that the

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Includes your choice of
Roasted Turkey with Giblet Gravy
OR
Virginia Baked Ham
Choice of 2 Sides
(Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Cornbread Stuffing, Candied Yams, Green Beans or Collard Greens)
Rolls
Choice of Dessert
(Fresh Baked Pumpkin Pie or Southern Pecan Pie)
$45.00, plus tax (Serves 4)

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Therapy for everyone, continued

Last week I wrote about the idea that everyone should make regular visits to see a mental health professional just as they do to a physician or dentist. I also imagined having classes in school that would help children learn about social interaction. I’ve thought about this some more in the intervening week.

Psychologists say when we are born we do not distinguish any separate “thing” in the world around us. Our perception is that everything is One. We see sights and hear sounds but our perception is that they are all part of one connected whole. When we close our eyes that world disappears (why peek-a-boo is so fun).

The development of the mind is a slow process of learning to see boundaries, to see things as separate entities, and to learn the names of these things. Slowly we begin to realize that there is more than One, there is a multitude. First Mother separates out from the formlessness, then we learn, for example, that those things out there are “our” toes.

In the process we make a model of the world in our minds, what social scientists call a mental map of reality. We also must learn to see things in accordance with the culture we are born into. In this country, we learn that a cow goes moo, and a cow makes hamburgers to eat. In India a child learns a cow goes moo, and a cow is sacred. Same cow, different mental map.

On Halloween when my husband and I were filming people in their costumes, it was an interesting look into the development of these mental maps.

Babies were wide-eyed and wondering, looking around fascinated at the amazing lights and colors. The world was a kaleidoscopic lightshow.

Toddlers were often on the verge of tears or panic — why? Because the world they thought they were starting to understand had all of a sudden turned upside down and they felt threatened.

A toddler I know was terrified on Halloween night twice, once when she saw a man dressed as the Straw Man from The Wizard of Oz, and the second time when she saw a man dressed as a mummy. People aren’t supposed to have straw coming out of their clothes and hat; they’re not supposed to have strips of cloth wrapped around them. She was terrified because she had been successfully putting together her mental construct of the way the world works, and all of a sudden on Halloween she saw example after example that brought many of her conclusions about the world into question.

Kids in the 4-6 year-old range were serious and watchful, but they knew this night was about candy so they were willing to tolerate the weirdness. But once the kids were 7 or 8 they were ready to really get into the fun. By this age, our mental maps are developed enough to not only cover most of the basic elements of reality but also allow for some rule bending and breaking.

All of us have gone through this process of putting a mental map of the world together, and we do it alone with little assistance from others. Of course other people help us make sense of the world — this is a blue balloon, that’s a red lollipop. But in a real sense we are alone in this process, because almost no one talks about the process itself.

Concurrently with building our mental model of the outside world we build a mental map of our self; what we call our identity.

Everyone’s mental map of the external world is slightly different from everyone else’s because we inevitably have different points of view and experiences that affect how we see anything. But usually there is a large area of agreement in how we see a thing, for instance, the American and the Indian in the earlier example would probably not have any trouble agreeing on a lot of the cow’s features.

When it comes to the mental maps of our interior worlds, our self-identities, however, there is much less basis for confirming the reality or truth of a feature. We don’t remember that we were the ones who put together this sense of self, we only know that we feel insecure and unsure of who we really are. Our person-

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  - 1 Mashed potatoes or Sweet potatoes
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  - 2 Veggies (Green beans, black-eyed peas, corn in butter sauce, collard greens, green bean casserole, butternut squash)
  - 1 rolls or cornbread
  - 1 pie (pumpkin or sweet potato)
- Dinner includes gravy & cranberry sauce

$40 plus tax (serves 6-8 people)

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Call for selection and details • 828-526-0572
(Orders must be placed by Nov. 18, 2007)
3601 Cashiers Road
The first Sunday in November is Marathon Sunday in New York, and it was a bit sad to have missed it this year. You wouldn’t think it to look at me, but I’ve “done” the New York Marathon... twice... my interest in the Marathon began several years ago. I’d gone out to get my New York Times, and was chatting to one of the doormen in my apartment building. Suddenly, there was the most unearthly sound, and we looked in the direction of the noise. “What in heaven’s name is that?” I asked. “Oh, ‘tis the New York Marathon” he replied. It was my first introduction to The Roar. The Roar? Marathon... twice.

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The wheelchair competitors have the admiration of all of us. The elite runners are thrilling. The most fun part is the arrival of runners in costumes. Men in kilts get whistles from delighted female viewers. Bavarians run with goofy beer stein hats; Parisians have Eiffel Towers strapped to their heads. Peds of newbies, like me, initially feel a bit awkward until we get our bearings. We’re called to a meeting place on a huge boulder, where we are thanked by the organizers, pick up our sandwiches and bottled water, and then the sorting begins. One by one, they call out our names, and we strain to hear our specialty. “French” they shout, and a bunch of us break from the pack, and huddle together in the damp and dew. “OK, who knows anything about medicine?” “How do you say ‘are you feeling better?’”

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Thanksgiving Dinner for 4
$48.99

Includes
- Turkey (12-14 lbs.) & dressing
- One dozen rolls
- One pie (pumpkin, apple, sweet potato)
- Choice of 2 vegetables:
  - Green beans, green bean casserole, Sweet potato casserole
  - Mashed potatoes and gravy, mac and cheese

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Apple and Pecan Stuffing
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 3/4 cup apple juice
- 1 box (two 6 oz. bags) Mrs. Cubbison’s Seasoned Dressing

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions, celery, and carrots. Sauté vegetables until tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Toss with seasoned dressing, nuts and apples. Gradually moisten dressing mixture with liquid, blending lightly. Cool thoroughly. Lightly spoon stuffing mix into turkey. Spoon extra stuffing into a greased 2 & 1/2 or 3-quart casserole dish. Bake covered for 30 minutes at 350°F. Remove cover and bake 5 minutes longer, or until top is browned and crispy.

Savory Nut and Vegetable Stuffing
- 1 box (two 6-oz. bags) Mrs. Cubbison’s Seasoned Dressing
- 1/4 cup melted margarine or oil
- 1 & 1/2 cups chopped onions
- 1 & 1/2 cups chopped celery
- 1 cup of chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped almonds or walnuts
- 1 cup chopped apples
- 1 & 1/2 cups sparkling apple cider

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions, celery, and carrots. Sauté vegetables until tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Toss with seasoned dressing, nuts and apples. Gradually moisten dressing mixture with liquid, blending lightly. Cool thoroughly. Lightly spoon stuffing mix into turkey. Spoon extra stuffing into a greased 2 & 1/2 or 3-quart casserole dish. Bake covered for 30 minutes at 350°F. Remove cover and bake 5 minutes longer, or until top is browned and crispy.

2 cups chopped, peeled Granny Smith apple
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 2 & 1/2 - 3-quart casserole dish and set aside. Place the butter or margarine in a large skillet, and melt over medium heat. Add the celery and onion and sauté for 5 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft. Add the chicken broth and heat for 2 minutes. In a large bowl, combine all of the remaining ingredients. Add the sautéed vegetable mixture and mix well. Transfer the stuffing to the prepared dish, cover and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through. If a crisp top is desired, uncover the dish and bake for 10 additional minutes.

- Courtesy of Family Features

Thanksgiving tradition: Something for everyone

Thanksgiving today brings people with different tastes to the same table. If you’re faced with pleasing a variety of dietary preferences, plan a menu that will have something for everyone.

Start with the stuffing — a Thanksgiving menu "must". You can delight your guests by offering more than one kind. And, you can also vary the ingredients for certain dietary needs.

"Thanksgiving brings everyone to the table," said Ed Begley, Jr., host of Living with Ed (HGTV) and star of the past hit TV show, St. Elsewhere. "It’s a loving gesture of hospitality to plan a menu that reflects everyone’s tastes and special needs." Begley adopted a vegetarian lifestyle in 1970; one of his favorite recipes is Savory Nut and Vegetable Stuffing.

For an “all inclusive” Thanksgiving and to begin some new traditions:

- Plan your menu with guests’ special dietary needs in mind.
- Ask your guests for any special recipes you can prepare.
- Have a Thanksgiving mini “pot luck.” (Guests with special dietary needs and traditions are often happy to bring a dish to share with others.)
- Serve buffet style and label special dishes: sugar-free, vegetarian, kosher, low-fat, or dairy-free.
- Make Thanksgiving a very welcome table this year, offering a variety of tastes to suit everyone. Check out delicious ideas at www.thanksgivingtips.com.

Apple and Pecan Stuffing
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What in the world is going on?

We spend a great deal of time and energy being concerned about our government, and rightly so. Who leads us, and how, is of extreme importance to us and the rest of the World. However, like it or not, as the globe consolidates, we are losing our grip, and our influence on the rest of the World is diminishing.

If you need proof, consider the plunging value of the dollar, while the euro gains strength against it daily. The US dollar used to be the investment of choice for foreign governments. Currently, the Chinese are threatening to bail out of $1.4 trillion of US securities that would depress the dollar even further. So, it is important for us to understand how other significant countries are being governed, and by whom.

In November, 2005, Angela Merkel was elevated to the position of Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Her power is roughly equal to that of Prime Minister. The administration she replaced, along with that of France, was unfriendly to the US and created additional difficulties in an already complicated diplomatic environment. Merkel, however, is a conservative who has indicated she will be generally cooperative with US diplomatic arms and is a welcome friend.

A second advantageous change in Europe occurred when Nicolas Sarkozy was elected President of the French Republic in May of this year. He replaced Jacques Chirac, notorious antagonist of the US. Sarkozy immediately replaced Dominique de Villepin, Chirac’s partner in demonizing our diplomatic efforts, with Francois Fillon as Prime Minister. Unlike other structures, in France’s democratic government, the President has the power.

We remember the antagonism that existed between the US and France when traveling to France was considered treasonous behavior and French fries were renamed “freedom fries.” All was not pleasant between the two governments.

Upon taking office, Sarkozy made it clear that his regime desired to be very friendly to us, and has demonstrated his sincerity at almost every opportunity.

Another win for our side.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom swung the other way. We lost a great ally and friend when Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was replaced by Gordon Brown in June, 2007. Blair had presented himself as a close friend of President Bush and demonstrated his loyalty by joining in the Iraq war effort. Britain’s troops secured the southern front and were invaluable in keeping access to the Persian Gulf open to the flow of personnel and supplies.

Unfortunately, Blair’s willingness to provide help to the US likely caused his political demise. Brown is a horse of a different color. His attitude towards the US certainly is not the “shoulder to shoulder” policy Blair maintained. Brown has either not clearly formed his direction in this regard, or has not chosen to make it clear to the rest of the world, or at least so that I can understand it. He does profess to be a strong supporter of Israel, which needs all the friends it can get.

Where Brown stands in the confused world of diplomacy remains to be seen.

Three days prior to Spain’s 2004 national election, the Madrid’s commuter train system was bombed. About 200 were killed and approximately 2000 were injured in the attack. The effect of the bombings was to likely cause defeat of the then incumbent conservative Partido Popular, a friend of the US, and turn the election to Rodriguez Zapatero and his Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol. One of his first acts was to withdraw the few troops Spain had contributed to the effort in Iraq and signal his lack of solidarity with the US.

Let me be the first one to admit that foreign relations are not my strong point. It’s not even my point. So, when it comes to analyzing Vladimir Putin’s style of leadership and diplomacy, I’m afraid. The former KGB agent and still member of the Communist Party at one time had President Bush convinced he was a good guy and a friend. Subsequent events proved controversial and cast doubt on Bush’s assessment. Most recently, he vigorously objected to our plans to build a missile shield in the Check Republic. He offered an alternative plan, which would use an existing facility in Azerbaijan and would replace our management of the operation with that of others. Putin is definitely leaning toward the one world structure being currently promoted and is ruling toward that end.

These leaders, and others, will have an increasing influence on the world of which we are a part. The more we know about them, and other major leaders, the better. Knowledge is power, and we’re losing ours.

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County issued a press release announcing Horton’s resignation.

County Attorney Lesley Moxley said Caldwell County’s actions were not related to anything improper on the part of the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

“I wasn’t present at the closed meeting so I don’t know exactly what was said, but it’s perfectly legal for a county board to discuss terms of employment with a candidate and say something like ‘would you come on board’ during the interview in a closed session,” she said. “If someone turns in their resignation based on that question and prior to the board voting in open session, they do so at their own peril. A person can’t be hired until the board votes in open session which it did Tuesday night.”

Moxley said the terms of Horton’s contract were only just finalized so for the board to vote on the question prior to Tuesday’s meeting would have been premature.

Horton was the Macon County Manager from 1985-1991 until he accepted a position as Haywood County’s first non-elected manager.

In 1991 he accepted the position at Caldwell and has been there for 15 years.

With a degree from Appalachian State University in Political Science and minor in Local Government Administration, he has spent most of his career in the southwestern and western counties of North Carolina.

Besides wanting to return to Macon County where he has life-long friends and family ties, he was ready for a change: “Macon County has a reputation for progressive government which speaks well of the county,” he said.

He comes with extensive experience in every aspect of county government including personnel, capital expansion programs and expenditures, human services, and public safety. “I believe I can hit the ground running,” he said. “I know what the county needs to proceed.”

Meanwhile, County Manager Greenwood says though he’s looking forward to December when he’ll attend his final commission meeting, “you always feel reluctant leaving something you’ve worked hard to build up, but there comes a time to turn it over to someone else.”

Like Horton, Greenwood worked two stints for Macon County – first from 1979-1985 then again from 1996 until now.

“I’ve known Jack for a long time and I know he will be OK,” said Greenwood. Like Horton, Greenwood said Macon County has a reputation as a progressive county “but it also has a reputation as a hard place to work,” said Greenwood.

That reputation stems back to the early 1990s when county finances weren’t as stable as they are now. “We’re in good shape now, but after Jack left in 1985 the county had a new manager every year for four years until I was hired and it took a while to straighten things out.”

In January Greenwood will work as a consultant for local governments in Western North Carolina while he eases into retirement.
HS Boys Middle School Basket Ball Team

Boys’ Coaches:
Steve Massey
Noel Buras
Jessie Munger

Girls’ Coaches:
Tracy Austin
Michelle Munger

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... ROOM TAX from page 5

Highlands Chamber has succeeded not only in promoting travel and tourism in Macon County but also has successfully generated additional revenue while overseeing these funds,” read Executive Director of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce Bob Kieltyka.

Ric Neal, president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce made a plea for a quick decision.

“Because we have not had a clear direction of these occupancy revenues and who would be responsible for their allocation in the future, it is causing difficulty for the Franklin Chamber to finalize its 2008 budget.”

Room tax proceeds varying from $500,000-$600,000 a year with each chamber getting back the proportion levied by the lodging establishments in their areas. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center has been getting between $240,000-$280,000 a year.

Greenwood said hopefully at the Dec. 10 meeting, county staff will present reports on room tax collection questions including recipient audit requirements, legal review and recommendations on allowable expenditures plus an update on the current collection of revenues.

... PLANNER from page 1

Besides a law degree, Cooley has a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with a certificate in Environmental Studies from the University of Florida College of Architecture.

The town received about 30 applications for the position, considered five seriously and had three “close calls” said the Mayor, before hiring Cooley.

He will be paid $67,000 a year and will begin work no later than December 31, 2007.

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The next home games are Wed. Nov. 28. The girls play at 4 p.m. and the boys play at 5:15 p.m. against Smokey Mountain

- Not pictured is Clayton Creighton
Tracing the surrealism/ comedy/drama, directed by Marc Forster (Kite Runner, Monsters Ball), starring Will Ferrell (Anchor Man, Elf, Blades of Glory), Maggie Gyllenhaal (Sherry Baby, Donnie Darko) Dustin Hoffman (in practically every movie ever made between The Graduate to Perfume: The Story of a Murderer), Emma Thompson (Harry Potter, Nannie McPhee) Queen Latifah (Beauty Shop, Last Holiday).

The storyline: This is the story of Harold Crick (Ferrell does an excellent job in this, far and away his best performance), his wristwatch, and the voices in his head. Previously, Harold's life had been fairly orderly, compulsively so, in fact. An obsessive counter, time saver, he is well suited to his job as an IRS auditor. It is only when he begins to hear his life being narrated that things become odd. He, unlike some of us, finds the voices in his head a little unsettling, so much so that he starts to do rather uncharacteristic things, like becoming interested in women (hard not to, when the woman in question is Maggie (Gyllenhaal) becoming unable to complete audits, he almost even stops counting his steps and the tiles on the floor.

However, once he overhears mention of his impending demise, he gets a little perturbed, consults with a psychiatrist, and the wristwatch will become anxious. Very cool, very weird, VERY fun, marginally creepy, this is a well done and clever story, and I usually don't care that much for Will Ferrell (that doesn't seem to have harmed his career very much), but in this show, his goofy, dead pan delivery works flawlessly. Great performance by the supporting cast, but no question, this is Ferrell's show. Overall comic, but some genuine angst and drama. Completely different kinds of roles for Ferrell, Thompson, and Latifah, but all do a wonderful job. So does the wristwatch, and rarely does a wristwatch get cast in such a good role in a mainstream film.

Not many others that are a lot like this, but a few that contain similar elements are Sliding Doors, Lady in the Water, Brazil, and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. These and about 5,000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video, Stop by and give a look.
Police Department, as noted by Chief W. E. Harrell, has been in part due to the strategic implementation of a higher visibility philosophy and the development of other vehicular operator awareness measures to serve as a deterrent to speeding on heavily traveled roads during the peak and/or rush hour times.

The department’s utilization of “Operation Ghost Rider,” which was created with the deployment of its spare car, is the simple tactical placement of this spare cruiser in strategic locations to slow down vehicle operators. The deployment of other measures, such as the speed measurement trailer which heightens drivers’ awareness of excessive speed habits, further adds to the successful strategy of reducing traffic crashes in the Highlands area.

“To make our community as safe as possible” is the mission statement of the Highlands Police Department. Chief Harrell’s message to motorists is “to simply stay focused with the task at hand when driving on roads.”

In determining what constitutes an accident, and whether or not fender benders are included in the police report weekly figures and whether or not these figures are factored in into the numbers which establishes the criteria for the award, the Chief’s said “Actually, there are some relevant dynamics which must be factored in. The state does not recognize accidents that have monetary damages less than $1,000 unless persons are injured. Minor accidents resulting in damages less than $1,000 are considered non-reportable accidents according to the state, however, as you know, the public is still required to make that report to the authorities. We still generate a non-reportable accident form for those who might wish to pursue even small damages to their insurance. Most insurance companies will not even talk to them unless they have a report of some nature.”

Chief Harrell said he is excited and proud that the Highlands Police Department has been recognized for its efforts to provide a better, safer quality of life for its community. A total of 15 cities received honors in traffic safety for their efforts in this same analysis period, whose public safety officials were honored during a Foundation-hosted awards luncheon held in Durham, N.C.

Highlands, Huntersville and Tarboro were named the top three safest cities in North Carolina, within their respective population categories. Highlands was tops in the less than 10,000 population category, while Tarboro was the winner in the 10,000 to 30,000 population category and Huntersville was tops among municipalities with a population greater than 30,000.

Other winners within the same population category as Highlands of less than 10,000 but who ranked lower were: Laurel Park, Henderson County, Bladenboro, Bladen County, Robersonville, Martin County and Edenton, Chowan County.

The awards were presented by Lyndo Tippett, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and President Tom Crosby of the AAA Carolinas’ Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The foundation has offered to purchase a sign for the town. At the Nov. 7 Town Board meeting, Mayor Don Mullen said the board will consider the best place to put it.
Changes ahead for Highlands

I would like to congratulate those who won the election for Town Commissioner last week on Election Day. For an off year election we had a 50% turnout which I consider good. Most places have off-year election percentages in the 10% to 20% range. As you all know, Buz Dotson and Larry Rogers were elected for their first term as commissioners and incumbent Dennis DeWolf was re-elected. I congratulate all the candidates for a good clean campaign in which the issues were aired out so well to the citizens of Highlands in a sincere and civil manner. Those of us who are already on the board look forward to working with these men in the coming years as we all try to continue to keep Highlands the wonderful place it is. There are many big issues before the board and well prepared discussions are important at our public board meetings.

I would also like to thank those two board members who will be going off the board in December for their dedicated work for the town over the years. Herb James has worked for or with the town for almost 50 years, the last 16 as a commissioner, and has more knowledge about the workings of the Town Hall and the town of Highlands than anyone I know. We will miss this knowledge on the board and the wisdom he brought. Alan Marsh has also been a dedicated hard working member of the board over these past four years. He has been well prepared for each issue and attended other meetings, which were really not required of commissioners, than anyone on the board. I thank Alan for not only his persistence on issues he felt strongly about but also for his wonderful friendship over the last few years. Thank you Herb James and Alan Marsh. There are few more dedicated to the well being of Highlands than the two of them and each of them is a real gentleman in the way they relate to people and handle difficult situations.

These changes will take place on the board at the first meeting in December at which time the newly elected board members will be sworn in. This election also changes the board committee composition, and we will all be working on these appointments over the next month. As most of you know we have several important committees which meet almost on a monthly basis to make recommendations to the full board. They are the public works, the finance, the recreation and the police committees. The proper function of these committees is essential for the efficient workings of the town of Highlands. Members of these committees will be appointed at the first meeting in December as well.

Yes, change is in the air as we move forward positively in Highlands. With the passage of the liquor by the drink referendum, some restaurants and other public places will also be changing the way they do things. A more orderly control of alcoholic beverages will now be possible. This will also add more responsibility for the ABC Store as we consider a new ABC facility at some time in the near future.

At this last board meeting we also approved the guidelines for the use of our newest employee of the town, Ruby, our canine addition to the police force. Chief Harrell has been working for this for a long time and the addition of a drug sniffing canine will go a long way to reducing illegal drugs in our community. Those involved in this illicit use of mind killing materials take heed. We are coming after you to make Highlands a safer and better place to live.

We also announced a public hearing for our December meeting regarding proposed amendments of the Zoning Ordinance concerning Greenways and perennial streams and the adoption of a Greenway Plan Map. Those who are interested in these changes are encouraged to get copies of them and come to the public hearing in December to make comments so the commissioners can make a final decision on these issues.
College Hoops Preseason Top 10

1. Memphis: The Tigers are loaded with top talent, returning four starters including stud guard Chris Douglas — Roberts and behemoth Joey Dorsey filling the lane. However, this ranking is much more based on the arrival of freshman Derek Rose than anything else. Rose is a one and done freshman, but his presence on the perimeter is a perfect addition to the frenetic pace that the Tigers want to force.

2. North Carolina: All discussion of the Heels begins and ends with Tyler Hansbrough. The Hansborg (as I affectionately refer to him as) is the hardest working player in college basketball, and he usually enforces his will in the post against all comers. UNC loses superstar Brandon Wright, but has ample replacements in the post. What UNC does not have is a replacement for wing Reyshawn Terry, whose versatility will be sorely missed.

3. Kansas: This will be Bill Self’s most talented team since he has taken over for Ol’ Roy Williams at Kansas. The Jayhawks will depend on Sherron Collins and Julian Wright to dominate in Self’s hi-lo style of offense. The biggest issue for Kansas this year will be to overcome Self’s history of flaming out early in the tournament, which is the biggest factor for the residents of the Phog.

4. UCLA: Love is in the air for the Bruins, Kevin Love that is. With the addition of Love-who was the most coveted recruit for 2007, Ben Howland and the Bruins look to finally bring home a national championship after two straight Final Fours. Love’s presence will give the Bruins a force down low that they have lacked the last two years, but PG Darren Collison will have to be more consistent for the Bruins to return to the Final Four.

5. Georgetown: The biggest news for the Hoyas this summer was the return of big Roy Hibbert to DC for another season. Hibbert’s return will ensure that the Hoyas are a threat in the Big East and on the national scene. Don’t overlook the presence of Dajuan Summers on the perimeter for the Hoyas — his 3-point shooting was critical to Georgetown’s Final Four run last year.

6. Tennessee: Chris Lofton returns for what seems like his 13th season in a Volunteer uniform. Lofton may be the best guard in the nation when it is all said and done this year, but Tennessee is going to have to find a consistent inside presence if they want to make a serious case for a national championship.

7. Washington State: The Cougars return all-world guard Derrick Low and look to build on a surprising run in last year’s NCAA tournament. The Cougars are well coached, hungry, and have a terrific home court advantage in Pullman, where they were almost unbeatable last season. Can they handle being the hunted rather than the hunter? That remains to be seen.

8. Oregon: The Ducks lose only one starter from last years Elite Eight run (Pac — 10 first teamer Aaron Brooks) and are led by mighty mite guard Tajuan Porter. The biggest question for Oregon is how well they will play on the road, where they struggled at times last year.

9. Indiana: The Hoosiers return both AJ Ratliff and DJ White, but the biggest addition will be super freshman Eric Gordon, who scored 33 points in his debut on Monday night. Indiana is loaded in the backcourt and will be the early favorite to win the Big 10 (+1)

10. Duke: This could be too high or too low for the Blue Devils depending on how well they shoot the basketball. The addition of freshman Kyle Singler and Taylor King provide tremendous perimeter firepower for Duke, but they have little inside presence and could get run over by bigger teams in the paint.
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Garden club offering scholarship

With Thanksgiving approaching and Christmas and Hanukah just around the corner, families gather together to share the memories of the past and some to plan the future. This is a great time for graduating seniors to consider their plans to further their education and expand their opportunities for their future.

Since 1996 the Mountain Garden Club of Highlands, through the Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship, has provided more than $28,000 to qualifying students.

Scholarships are available to students interested in horticulture, environmental studies, forestry, landscape architecture, marine biology or other related fields. To qualify, students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average or higher and be a resident of Scaly Mountain or Highlands, or be a graduate of Highlands School.

Katy Betz shared with us what the scholarship and connection to the club has meant for her.

“The Mountain Garden Club scholarship has meant so much to me through the years. Not only does the club help pay for all of my expenses, which is terrific, but by receiving those checks, attending the meetings, and exchanging correspondences, I keep in touch with my hometown,” said Betz. “It’s so nice to know that I have the support of the MGC when I’m away at school. The members are always so thoughtful and concerned about how I am doing. The Mountain Garden Club scholarship has been a wonderful blessing to me for the last four years, thank you so much.

Any student interested in this scholarship opportunity should contact Elizabeth Motts, chairman of the scholarship committee at 526-3083 or contact the guidance counselor at the school for more information.

Chasing Hilltops Animal Farming

Christ Anglican Church is having a “Winter Coat Drive” to benefit Highlands Emergency Council through Dec. 2. Donations of gently worn men’s, women’s and children’s coats will be accepted. Drop them at the office at the Peggy Cosby Center or bring them to the Highlands Community Center worship service, Sunday between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The church is also participating in the “Bright Hope International Med Pack” program. Med packs of basic toiletries such as soap, antibiotic cream, toothpaste/brush, lotion, talcum powder, cotton swabs, facial tissues, petroleum jelly, a wash cloth, and a Bible are for men, women and children in Africa. For more information, call Mary Beth Houston at 526-2320.

Another project is the “Baby Bottle Highlands Fall Campaign.” Fill baby bottles with extra change, dollars and checks to help men and woman who are facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Christ Anglican Church members will also be donating canned food to the Food Pantry at the Highlands United Methodist Church through the end of November.

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At its Annual meeting on Nov. 3, the board of directors of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) paid tribute to outgoing members, Sandy Cohn and Caroline Cook, who were replaced on the board by Stewart Manning and Dr. Jack Sapolsky. Mr. Cohn and Ms. Cook had served on the board of PAC since its inception.

At the Nov. 3 meeting the board also welcomed Don Paulk as its full-time administrative director. He will manage the building, including its facilities and finances, as well as its schedule of events. Paulk says he feels quite at home at PAC, since he worked there three years as business manager of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.

Stewart Manning and his wife, Brenda, are now year-round members of the Highlands community, having moved here from Athens, Georgia where Stewart still owns a kitchen design company. Until his retirement, Dr. Sapolsky was a surgeon in Atlanta but now lives in Highlands year-round.

Elaine Whitehurst, president of the Performing Arts Center, says the upcoming year at PAC could not be more exciting. “In the last year our dream of expanding the building has come true, we have a full-time administrative director, we have replaced two wonderful board members with enthusiastic new ones, and the schedule of events includes all our old favorites plus many great additions. One very special addition will be a school play with cast and crew from Highlands School, directed by Ronnie Sploton of the Highlands Community Players. HCP is also planning its first-ever musical at PAC! And the Chamber Music Festival has already contracted with musical favorites and musicians who will become favorites! Are we excited? You bet we are!”

Anyone interested in staging performances at PAC may call Don Paulk at (828) 526-9047.

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Unsightly junk in county and recycling bill subject of ‘League” forum

By Sally Hanson
Reporter

Topics on the environment were the focus of last week’s Macon County League of Women Voters’ monthly meeting. Haywood County Planner Kris Boyd talked about his county’s ordinance for junkyards, while Macon County Planner Stacy Guffey spoke about what needs to happen for our county to adopt a similar ordinance. Additionally, Debby Boots promoted a Senate bill that proposed a refundable deposit on recyclable containers such as plastic water bottles.

Boyd opened with the statement that the issue of junkyards and junk cars is the single most difficult issue concerned with private property rights. Haywood County’s ordinance has been in place for about 10 years, and seems to be working well so far. “Our ordinance just deals with fencing, screening and spacing,” Boyd said. Fences must be either solid wood or made up of vegetation at least six feet tall, although he acknowledged that due to topography even a six-foot fence won’t obscure everything.

“We developed a format that required fencing and screening of existing facilities,” he said. For new facilities there are other requirements like setbacks from rights-of-way and a certain distance from schools and churches, but there is nothing in the ordinance that will prevent these facilities. “We must have ordinances to help clean up our counties,” he said.

Boyd said that because there are other facilities that may have junk cars or scrap metal, the ordinance was expanded to include more than just junkyards. “It covers service stations, wrecker services, and any place having junked automobiles sitting around for lengths of time,” he said.

Most counties have junkyard and junk car guidelines through their solid waste facilities. Currently, Haywood County’s ordinance is enforced through the sheriff’s office. “We have a certified deputy that is dedicated full-time to our junkyards and other facilities’ ordinances,” Boyd said.

The county chose this route for enforcement because general statues allow low enforcement officers to write citations for violations of county ordinances. These citations are civil citations, just like speeding tickets, Boyd said.

“The bottom line is that it is a necessary evil to have a junkyard,” Boyd said. Every community has to have one to properly dispose of cars, heavy equipment, manufactured housing, and metal, he said.

Boyd also addressed the issue faced by car collectors. “A lot of folks feel like you’re infringing on private property rights, especially those involved with antique automobiles,” he said. He mentioned that many collectors have a few parts cars, which can be an eyesore. “I am an avid old car restorer myself. I have five or six of my own. Some of those look very bad. I keep those in a barn so they can’t be seen,” Boyd said.

He stated that it can be difficult to deal with individuals to get them to understand and try to work through any issues in a nice manner. “I don’t anticipate that it’s going to get any easier anytime soon.”

Stacy Guffey said that while there are some state laws that deal with junk cars, their enforcement is dependent on bringing in someone from outside of Macon County. “We can’t depend on the state,” he said. Guffey cited some issues last summer that required the enforcement of state statutes, and noted that it was nearly impossible to have them enforced. “We have to do these things on a local level.”

Macon County has discussed legislation concerning junk on peoples’ property before, but each time the issues have come up they have eventually been dismissed because of anticipated difficulty in enforcement. “Property rights end when they affect someone else. You have a right to have junk on your property if you make sure it’s clean, not affecting the environment and not affecting the economy for everyone else,” Guffey said.

Guffey also said that if individual citizens won’t take responsibility for such junk, the government should be able to force them to take responsibility. “We talk about mountain values, but where is our moral responsibility?” she asked.

According to Guffey, 80% of North Carolina’s 100 counties have junk ordinances in place. He said “Macon County is a lot cleaner than it was when I was a kid, a lot of that has to do with property values.” He said that this is the primary reason why there aren’t junkyards in the Highlands area mainly because it’s not just not lucrative to have a lot of junk.

“We need to create the will to do something about it. We’ve talked about it for 50 years, and I encourage you to follow through, write letters, and start campaigning,” Guffey said.

The first step is to get a local ordinance, and he recommended a junkyard/junk vehicle ordinance to start with. “We also need minimum housing codes to deal with things like dilapidated or abandoned homes,” he said. Additionally, to prevent old mobile homes from being deposited on land, Guffey said a mobile home graveyard ordinance would be helpful.

“We have to have local controls for these things and we need to identify who will be responsible for enforcing such ordinances,” Guffey said. Several concerned citizens attended the meeting and seemed to be motivated by the presentations.

At the end of the meeting, Debby Boots reminded citizens about the Senate Bill 215/Litter Reduction Act of 2007, better known as the “Bottle Bill.” This bill includes the proposal to add a 10-cent deposit to the sale of all beverage containers. Local redemption centers would be set up, and consumers could collect refunds for each container that is returned.

Not only would this prevent many cases in which recyclable materials are simply not recycled, but it would also provide an incentive to pick up roadside litter and turn it in for money. “Taxpayers paid $16.6 million last year to have the Department of Transportation (DOT) pick up litter along the roadsides,” Boots said. Ten million pounds of litter were picked up by the DOT, and about half of this amount was never recycled.
Christmas Show House a beauty

Owner Vicki Chambers in the Highlands Historical Christmas Show House at 424 Big Bearpen Road. It's a two-story log cabin built around 1925 by Joe Webb for Rucker L. Ragland. The home, sits on a large wooded lot that still boasts the spring that once provided drinking water and cooling for food as was the custom of the time. Some of the furniture in the house was also crafted by Joe Webb and his stepson, Furman Vinson. The Christmas Showhouse will be open to visitors from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2. Tickets are $15 each available at Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Bookshop and Macon Bank. All proceeds will benefit the work at the Highlands Historic Village, including the Museum and Archives, the Prince House and the Bug Hill Cottage.

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... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

feeling faint?" “You in the red jacket, how do you say ‘are you feeling nauseous?’” Before we know it, the interpreting team for the M.A.S.H. unit is chosen. I am among them, honored to have such a responsibility my first time.

There are several M.A.S.H. units, but I’m in the biggest one. We are stationed just past the finish line. At this point, runners have completed the Marathon, received their medal for participating, and a special blanket. Now, they are walking slowly to prevent cramps, and heading toward the area to pick up their clothes and reunite with loved ones. We are instructed to line the area, and talk to the runners in our specialized language. “Bravo” we yell. Then we get creative. “You the man,” “We’re proud of you,” “Good job,” we shout. Some of us get funny. “Hey, you wanna start all over?”

Many of the runners are in a world of their own, but some glance in our direction, grin, and applaud us. Some are crying. After training for a whole year, some runners fall apart emotionally when they’ve met their goal, and feel they have nothing more to look forward to. We’re told to go up to them, talk quietly, and stay with them until they look like they’ve gotten it together again.

I see a French runner in his mid-30s who is clearly losing it. “Hi, I’m Michelle,” I begin, in French. “What’s your name?” “Pierre,” he mumbles, in a haze. “Can I walk a bit with you, Pierre?” I take his arm, and start chattering away in French. It takes him a long time, but finally his eyes seem clearer and focused. “Are you going to be OK now, Pierre?” “Oui, merci” he says, smiling.

I rejoin the M.A.S.H. unit. So it continues for several hours. Blisters, fainting, nausea, dehydration – and something that surprises me – people who have drunk so much water that they have flushed most of the salt out of their bodies. We open up little packets of salt, and tip them onto the runners’ tongues. Some of what we see is upsetting, but bearable because we know we’re helping out. An ambulance is called for a runner who looks like he’s having heart problems. We’re lucky that no one dies on us that year. Some years aren’t so lucky. And then it’s all over. Our supervisor tells us we can pack up our stuff, and go home. I gather my official parka, and wearing my Marathon t-shirt, interpreter’s badge and cap, trudge off home. I’m already planning to volunteer the next year, which I do.

So, what’s the lesson from all this? Well, volunteering, for one. And getting involved in things that are a little outside your comfort zone. Heck, I’m no athlete, but I sure enjoyed getting to know them. There are always ways to help out, and in a small community, it’s not hard to find folks who need your help. Don’t make the same good people get stuck doing the lion’s share of the work all the time! The unexpected bonus of volunteering? It makes you feel good. And if you’re not a very nice person, people will actually think better of you. In a small town, that’s not a bad thing.

Life’s a marathon. The only reason to be on the sidelines is if you’re cheering someone else along.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. Her main forms of exercise are running at the mouth and jumping to conclusions.
... FORUM continued from page 2

... LETTERS from page 2

**... LEAGUE from page 18**

It's not just a matter of filling up the landfills, according to Boots. Having to make new beverage containers to replace the ones that were thrown away uses energy. “Last year, 200 billion beverage containers were sold in the United States, and around 130 billion of these were discarded in some way,” Boots said. Approximately 50 million barrels of crude oil had to be used to replace the containers that were thrown away.

The bill was introduced in the Senate this past year but no final decision was made. Boots brought a petition to the meeting and asked for signatures to encourage lawmakers to take another look at the bill when they meet again next year.
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REDUCED to $1,395 million

Dr. Leila Martin, left, Nancy Callahan, right, and host of other friends and well-wishers recently celebrated Dr. Martin's retirement from her career as a full-time anesthesiologist at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The good bye party, which was held on the hospital campus, was hosted by fellow anesthesiologist Dr. Dave Register, and his wife Ann. Dr. Martin, the hospital's first full-time anesthesiologist, joined the medical staff here in 1997. While she is leaving her regular duties at the hospital, she plans to stay in the area and pursue her interest in painting. She will continue to fill in when needed in the hospital's operating room.

Dr. Martin retires from H-C Hospital

... LETTERS continued from page 21

Freedom does work

Dear Editor
For several years, a group of Macon County citizens have been referred to us as nay sayers, against everything, always negative. To an extent, when it comes to inefficient County government, they're right. Sometimes we wonder why we stick our necks out and incur the wrath of certain people. What keeps us going is the occasional opportunity to join with thousands of our friends and neighbors in sending a message to government that they are out of touch with the people. Knowing you are with the majority is a good feeling.

To address the recent expressions of taxpayer dissatisfaction, the Real Property Transfer Tax referendum, specifically, was flawed at the outset. When three of our Commissioners came back from a NC Association of County Commissioners meeting a few months ago, a meeting held for the purpose of encouraging increasing revenues at the County level, they were all excited about a proposed Land Transfer Tax, or Real Property Transfer Tax or Home Tax. No matter what you call it, Macon's voters didn't want another tax, and they knew we didn't need it.

Regarding the other five spending referendums, evidently the theme "Something for Everyone" didn't resonate with the voters. Unless I missed something along the way, it isn't the job of government to provide something for everyone, especially when doing so incurs huge amounts of debt and enormous interest obligations. Thank God the people of Macon County didn't allow themselves to be led down the road of financial irresponsibility that would have haunted us for decades.

A question arises: How could the commissioners be so out of touch with the people that they placed these referendums on the ballot? To go 0-6 would indicate that either they misread the people they represent, or they thought they, along with the School Board, could put on a full-court press, and sell their bad ideas to a gullible public. Obviously, the people are a good deal more thoughtful than they were given credit for.

Many of us are following the run-up to the presidential primaries in just a couple of months. Perhaps we should show the same interest in our County government.

Your input has a lot more impact on local matters than on National races. It's time for Macon's Government to prioritize the needs of the county and start accomplishing what they say must be done. There is plenty of existing surplus to do many of them immediately. There is enough cushion in the current tax rate to do other projects in the future without a significant increase in property taxes.

Oh, by the way, we're not against everything. We're FOR Lower Taxes, Less Government, More Freedom. Freedom does work.

Don Swanson
Macon FreedomWorks

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office@christanglicanchurch.com

All ARE WELCOME!
Nuclear medicine now available full time at hospital

An important radiology tool is now available at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital full-time.

The hospital’s new nuclear medicine camera went into operation Oct. 30, several days ahead of schedule. It replaced a mobile unit that visited the hospital several times a month. The new camera’s all-digital technology is a step up from that mobile unit, and produces images as good as, or better than, any unit in Western North Carolina, says Alex Lane, CNMT, RT (RN), a 10-year veteran in the field of nuclear medicine.

Lane, who joined the hospital’s radiology department last month, should know. He’s worked at a number of other hospitals around the region, including spending six years as a nuclear medicine technologist at Mission Hospitals in Asheville, which has seven nuclear medicine cameras.

Although a widely used diagnostic tool, Lane says nuclear medicine is one of the least known parts of a modern radiology department. Radionuclide scanning, as it is also known, can be used to diagnose problems with the heart, gallbladder, liver and spleen, kidneys, lungs, veins, bones, thyroid and several other glands, including some types of cancers. Officials conservatively estimate the hospital will perform between 300 and 400 nuclear procedures during the first year. If fact, the new unit has performed 10 nuclear scans during its first nine days of operation.

“Having nuclear medicine available here full time will not only be much more convenient for area patients, it will assure our physicians of having access to excellent, state-of-the-art images on which to base their diagnoses. This is certainly an important step forward in the level of care we can provide,” said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull.

And he adds that a greater proportion of the revenue generated by those procedures will now stay with the hospital, improving the hospital’s financial picture for a number of years to come.

Radionuclide scanning produces pictures of internal parts of the body using small amounts of radioactive isotopes that are introduced into the body, either by ingestion or injection. A gamma camera detects the radiation emitted by the isotope by varying the types of materials combined with the isotopes, technologists can target various organs or internal structures that cannot be seen well with standard X-rays. Many abnormal tissue growths or tumors are particularly visible using radionuclide scanning. But perhaps the most important aspect of the technology is that it can allow doctors to see how well an organ is functioning.

That’s particularly true for studies of the heart and the gallbladder, two of the most common uses of nuclear medicine.

A HIDA scan (hydascan), for example, allows physicians to see how well the gallbladder, liver, and bile ducts are functioning. A radioactive tracer is introduced into the bloodstream. That tracer is removed by the liver and added into the bile that normally flows through the bile ducts to the gallbladder. The gamma camera takes pictures of the tracer as it moves through the liver, bile ducts, gallbladder, and small intestine.

When an ultrasound fails to show the problem with the gallbladder, such as gallstones, nuclear medicine is usually the next diagnostic tool doctors turn to, says new general surgeon F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS. If the gallbladder fails to empty adequately in a prescribed amount of time, it is likely diseased and may need to be removed.

Using nuclear scanning to study organ function is also important when it comes to heart disease.

“In my opinion, it’s the screening modality of choice for evaluating patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), or for screening certain patients for suspected coronary disease,” says Highlands cardiologist Carl M. Curtis, MD, FACC. “It’s a well-established standard of care, because it can help confirm a diagnosis of CAD and also assess the severity of the disease.”

In patients who have not suffered a heart attack, nuclear scanning is often a means of confirming the presence and severity of CAD prior to heart catheterization, which is the “gold standard,” he adds.

A cardiac perfusion scan can measure the amount of blood reaching the heart.

See HOSPITAL page 34
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The girls team lost to Forsyth on Nov. 9 to Weslyan on Nov. 10 and Rabun Gap Nacoochee on Nov. 13.

“We are a young team but there is a lot of potential and ability,” said Coach Brett Lamb. “We need to continue to work on the fundamentals of the game and improve one game at a time. The private schools that we played over the weekend were loaded with talent, with many of the athletes being college bound in basketball. It was a tough way to begin the season but a way for us to see where we would like to be down the road in the season.”

The first home game is Friday, Nov. 16 against Hayesville. The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 p.m.

Highlands Brie schmitt with the ball at the Rabun Gap game. Below Michael Shearl takes the ball down court at Rabun Gap.

Photos by Stephanie McCall
Saint who?

The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding
Chapel of the Sky

We are in Oslo, Norway. It is Dec. 11, 1979, and the temperature is below zero, not unusual for this time of year.

A short old lady is hunched forward with the wrinkles of time etched on her face, sad eyes deeply set, no longer accustomed to this weather, although she had been born in Romania.

Tears creep out of both eyes, not of sadness, although the face gives witness to much sadness seen, but now from the cold winds of an Oslo winter.

What sets her apart from the people on this street is her clothing. She is dressed in a blue-bordered sari, no coat. On her feet are sandals, not winter boots. A small crucifix hangs from the corner of her sari. It is wrapped tightly around her head.

Her name is Agnes Bojarhui, but the world knows her by another name. She is Mother Teresa, the “Saint of the Gutters” of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa saw a need to minister, both physically and spiritually, to the “poorest of the poor,” the sick, the dying beggars and street children in September of 1946. She claimed that Christ spoke to her that day, the tenth of that September in 1946, with these words, “Come, come, carry Me, the Christ, into the holes of the poor.”

He told her, “Come be My light to help them live their lives with dignity, and so encounter God’s infinite love.”

But why this woman? Why now, December 11, 1979? Why Oslo in the dead of winter? To accept the world’s accolades, in the acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mother Teresa started a one-woman mission in the hell holes of Calcutta in 1948, which was to become a world beacon for the love of God. Her acceptance speech was simple, as she was. She told the world that day what it needed to hear.

She said, “It is not enough for us to say I love God but I do not love my neighbor, since in dying on the cross, God has made himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one.

Jesus’ hunger,” she said, is what “you and I must find and alleviate.” She reminded the world “that radiating joy is real” because Christ is everywhere. Christ in our hearts, Christ in the poor we meet, Christ in the smile we give, and the smile that we receive.

This was December 1979, but now we know that...
Summit One Gallery will host an “Invitational” exhibition opening Saturday, Nov. 17 with a Meet the Artists Reception from 5-7 p.m. Summit One owner, Mary Adair Leslie has “invited” three artists not currently represented by Summit One to exhibit during November and December.

Norma Smith, Mixed Media, has recently received her MFA from Johnson State College, VT. She received her MA (Painting and Drawing) from Western Carolina University and her BFA (Painting and Drawing) from Ohio University, OH. This body of work, which was part of her Master’s Thesis, is an exploration of our present age, looked at through the lens of the past. What social structures, systems of thought and ideas have created the strata upon which current thought and philosophies exist? Smith says, “I can only understand this technological age of whirling ideas, transient thoughts and spiritual disconnects by asking how it is we have come to this place historically.”

Mark Hutchinson’s Photography has been honored by both Fuji Film USA, Inc., & Eastman Kodak Co. He has been represented internationally in numerous galleries & exhibitions the last two decades, as well as in magazines, such as Outdoor Photographer, Photo District News, American Photo, Professional Photographer, VIEW Camera, Fuji Film Profiles, Atlanta Magazine, Blue Ridge Country, Our State North Carolina, VIEW’S Magazine, among many others. His photography has brought national attention to the beauty of the Highlands Plateau. Mark has been photographing on the Highlands Plateau for 25 years, using medium & large format cameras. Mark studied with the late, great 20th century Master Landscape Photographer, Eliot Porter, and seeks to carry on his tradition of environmental preservation through his art.

The native Atlantan, Sarah Morgan Wingfield, Works on Paper, relocated to Highlands fulltime in 2005. She attended University of GA, received her BFA from the Atlanta College of Art and post baccalaureate studies in Arabic at GA State University. In 2002 Wingfield was named to the Board of the American Museum of Papermaking and in 2003 was honored by the Crane Paper Company in Crane Paper Co. Salutes American H and Papermakers. For Sarah Morgan education has been a lifelong pursuit; either in giving workshops or taking them to explore new territories. She integrates the disciplines of drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking in her work. To her every piece is a new adventure. “Invitational” will continue through December 31. Summit One Gallery is located in “The Galleries,” South Second Street, Highlands NC. 828.526.2673 summitonegallery@verizon.net www.summitonegallery.com

Mark Hutchson -- Photography, Eden

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

Sarah Morgan -- Mixed Media

Norma Smith -- Remembering Delphi, Know Thyself
Scudder’s donates auction proceeds to Summit Charter School

Last month, proceeds of the auction of a Frederick Remington bronze entitled “The Scout” purchased by a friend of Jane Woodruffs were donated to the Summit Charter School.

Nancy Bruin accepted a check from Frank Scudder on behalf of Summit Charter School in Cashiers.

Al Scudder, Sr., with Jane Woodruff, right, and friend, left.

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in the brush behind the house traveling toward the neighbors, but the fire department took care of it all quickly,” said Slaughter.

Meanwhile, Dr. Patti was in the emergency room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital seeing up a patient’s hand when she got a phone message saying “her house was on fire and she needed to call home.” “I figured if the house is on fire there’s no point in calling home, so I finished working on my patient and then Rita Garland and I got in the car and headed home,” she said. They arrived about 5 p.m.

“But the time I got home, there was no deck and there was smoke and firemen everywhere,” said Patti.

Given the dry conditions and potential for harm to the neighborhood, Highlands Fire & Rescue had called for backup from the Cashiers, Scalpy and Satalah, GA, fire departments.

Except for smoke-damage, the bedrooms and living room were not charred, but the kitchen, dining room, roof and washer and dryer area downstairs were destroyed.

“I ran in and grabbed all the important items I could think of at the time – pictures, birth certificates stuff like that, and packed both vehicles,” said Patti. “Later that night after the fire had reignited and the fire department had returned, shredded, too, and grabbed all the picture albums, souvenir boxes. ‘Things you can’t replace that I had forgotten before,’” said Patti. “The little ones have no preschool, that sort of thing.”

Before the second fire ignited, she had three calls from people offering the family a place to stay. In the interim, Patti and the children, Samuel and Sally, alternate between Anne Tate’s house and Dr. David Wheeler’s home. For the long term, while the insurance claims are settled and the home rebuilt, she’s taking Betty Kizer up on her offer to live at her home while she’s away for six months.

No humans were in the Wheeler home at the time, though their 15-year-old cat Coko died due to smoke inhalation. Dick, a big black lab-mix was fine, just anxious about all the people, siren and commotion, said Patti. “At one point a fireman said I had to do something with him because he wouldn’t let them in the house.”

At 3:45 p.m., Saturday, when high-schooler Sally Wheeler darted in and out of the house to pick something up and there was no sign or smell of fire. Luckily, she was gone by 4 p.m. when the call went out.

“Except for Coko, everything that was lost can be replaced and the Wheelers are just grateful for the response from the Highlands fire department and their safety.” “For now we will just rest in the warmth of the community,” said Patti.

---

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Live music at Cypress Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 5:30 p.m. $10 cover.**
- **Children’s classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is $5 per student.**
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**FIRE continued from page 1**
This Friday and Saturday at Instant Theatre

Madeleine Davis and David Milford in “The Diaries of Adam and Eve” at The Instant Theatre Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17 at 8 p.m.

A performance piece of Mark Twain’s “The Diaries of Adam and Eve” will be held at the Instant Theatre Company’s Studio on Main at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17, only.

In Twain’s “translation” Adam comes across as the original couch potato, grumpily uninterested at first in his new female companion who keeps pestering him with her all-too-innovative ideas. Eve, by contrast, is the talkative, ever curious experimenter whose inquisitive nature prompts her to name all the animals in the garden, among other things. “The Diaries of Adam and Eve” is a funny and touching retelling, full of Twain’s sarcastic humor, incisive intelligence, and subtle touches of pathos for the foibles of human nature.

Performing the roles of Adam and Eve are two of the finest actors to ever grace a Highlands stage, David Milford and Madeleine Davis. Davis has been seen on the ITC stage this past September in the dramatic production of “Copenhagen” in the role of Hildebrandt. Previous to that he appeared at Atlanta’s Theatre in the Square in the leading role of Willie Stark in “All the Kings Men,” for which he received a nomination as Best Actor for this year’s Atlanta Theatre Awards. Ten years ago he played the male lead roles in “Sylvia” and “Damn Yankees” at the Highlands Playhouse. David has appeared in regional theatre coast-to-coast for 39 years. During that time he has also appeared in feature films, television and radio.

Madeleine Davis is well known and admired by Highlands’ theatre going audiences. Most recently she was seen in August on the ITC stage in their production of the North Carolina Premiere of “My Secret Weapon.” Her previous ITC appearances include, “The Turn of the Screw,” “Little Entertainments,” “Cocktail Hour Theatre,” “Sylvia,” and “Carpe Noctum Theatre.”

Madeleine has appeared in many Highlands Community Players productions, most recently last spring in “Enchanted April.” In Asheville she has been in “The Tempest,” “Henry IV, Parts I and II,” and “She Stoops to Conquer” with the Montford Players. She holds an MFA from the University of Alabama.

These two evenings of the “Diary of Adam and Eve” are sponsored by Jolie’s of Highlands. Tickets are $15 for adults and $7.50 for 17 and under.

Coming up on Saturday, Nov. 24, the ITC will hold its second Tree Lighting Dance with Hurricane Creek. The dance will begin immediately following the annual tree lighting and choral singing at the Methodist church. Just walk across the street to the Studio on Main. The dance is sponsored by Carolina Eyes in Highlands.

Admission to the dance is $10 for adults, $2.50 for 17 and under. Dec. 1, the ITC is having a unique “I’m Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale.” The doors open after the Highlands Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Saturday, Dec. 8
• The Highlands Community Christian Choirale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Sunday, Dec. 9
• The Highlands Community Christian Choirale Christmas Concert is a 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Saturday, Dec. 15
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike up Osage and Rocky Knob mountains with nice view from both, and elevation gains and descents of 200-300 feet each. Meet at the Scaly Mtn. post office on Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Drive 4 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Dec. 16
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike over fields and old roads on the Tusseyee Historic Farm near Otto. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center on Hwy. 441 at 2 p.m. Drive 5 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Saturday, Dec. 22
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, with a 500 foot elevation change, to the lower Whitewater Falls from the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank, 10 a.m. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.
On Saturday November 3, 19 people gathered to paint the Highlands Emergency Council building. The Highlands Emergency Council provides food, clothing, furniture, heating help and many other donated items to those who are in need of help in our community. All donations are available to anyone in need and are kept in confidence. The painters enjoyed a great lunch prepared by the Highlands Emergency Council. The paint and supplies were provided by the First Presbyterian Church, with a substantial discount from Highlands Ace Hardware. The participants in the photograph are from left: Ricardo Morales, Jim McCord, John Henry, Anna Lee Henry, Mary Baty, Ann Chastain, Bob Tietze (standing), Hillie Quin (kneeling next to Kate), Gustavo Gonzales, Mary Ann Creswell, Magarito Torres, Jose Luis Dominguez, Linda James, William Creswell. Not included in the photograph are: Ann Greenlee, Amanda Taylor and Skip Taylor, Jeff James, and Jason Coggins.

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Illegal immigration tops list of citizens’ concerns

By Congressman Heath Shuler

Illegal immigration is an ever-increasing problem facing communities across Western North Carolina and our Nation. With over 12 million people currently living in the United States illegally and thousands more coming in every week, illegal immigration is one of the most pressing issues facing America today.

Every year illegal immigration costs North Carolina alone nearly $1 billion in three areas—health care, education, and incarceration. This problem is straining our state and local government budgets to the breaking point. Every dollar that state and local governments have to spend on illegal immigration is a dollar that cannot be spent on road construction, school improvements, services for the elderly, or environmental protection.

For years, Congress has failed to act. Americans are very upset at their government for not taking action, and they have a right to be. We cannot continue to ignore this problem and hope that it goes away.

I had consistently heard from people across Western North Carolina that illegal immigration was a top concern and an issue they wanted me to address. Upon taking office in January, I began examining the issue in-depth and looking for a solution. I sent members of my staff to the U.S.-Mexico border to see the problems up close. I met with business groups to hear their concerns. I spoke to local law enforcement officials and national police organizations about the problems illegal immigration caused for them. I met with officials from the Department of Homeland Security to hear about the challenges they faced and the opportunities they saw. What I took from all those meetings was that we had to do three things above all else: secure our borders, make sure those working here are here legally, and enforce our existing laws. Then, I went to work writing a bill.

Last week I introduced that bill, the Secure America with Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act, H.R. 4088. This bill has the support of both Democrats and Republicans, with 100 co-sponsors from all regions of the country. It provides a sensible solution to the illegal immigration crisis that is affecting every part of our Nation.

The SAVE Act is 3-part plan to stop illegal immigration—strict emphasis on border security, employer verification, and interior enforcement.

First, the SAVE Act addresses border security by increasing manpower and making needed technological and infra-structure improvements on America’s northern and southern borders, including 8,000 new Border Patrol Agents and provides the infrastructure they need to be effective. This will prevent illegal immigrants from entering our country.

Second, it expands the E-Verify program to provide all employers with the tools they need to ensure that their employees are here legally. The E-Verify program is a simple, effective, and free program that allows employers to efficiently and quickly ensure that the people they hire are legally allowed to work in the U.S. The program will be phased-in over four years, beginning with the federal government, federal contractors, and employers with over 250 employees. Smaller businesses would begin using the system in a graduated manner. The system is firm, yet fair.

Third, the SAVE Act also provides the tools, resources and infrastructure necessary to enforce existing federal laws and penalize offenders. It increases the investigative abilities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement by adding more agents and more training. Additionally, it provides assistance for state and local law enforcement. This will ensure that when illegal immigrants are arrested or detained, they are deported, not released.

The Senate has failed twice to pass “comprehensive” immigration bills that provided amnesty to those who entered the country illegally. Some people support that idea, I, along with most of the American people, oppose that idea, because it is wrong to reward someone for breaking the law. However, we cannot allow our differences to prevent us from taking action. Congress cannot continue to ignore the issue of illegal immigration and hope someone else solves this problem. The American people deserve better, and they are expecting Congress to act. The SAVE Act gives us that chance to act by securing our borders, turning off the job magnet, and enforcing existing laws. The SAVE Act is good for America. It is good for American workers. It is good for American businesses that are abide by the law. It is fair to those who have come to America legally, and it is what the American people have asked for.

America is a nation of immigrants, but it is also a nation of laws. The SAVE Act provides us with the opportunity to both honor our heritage and respect the rule of law. I sincerely believe this is the right thing to do.
CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS

CASHIER HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKER LIVING CENTER – Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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

WORK WANTED

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

FOR RENT

IN-TOWN APARTMENT – one bedroom, one bath, full kitchen, washer/dryer. Heat & air. $750 mo. plus utilities. Call 526-2598.

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


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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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

BUCK CREEK – Large 1.600 sq.ft. finished basement creekside front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA, $329,000. 828-524-6038.

UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY on 100 acres in picturesque Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC. Combine the pleasures of a secluded mountain valley and high mountain real estate. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Develop the rest. Or create one spectacular community. Stream and creeks throughout. All this within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State road) of the historic downtown of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region. Call or email Tim Ryan at 828-349-4465 for more information. TimRyan@sanctuarync.com - www.Sanctuarync.com.

FREE O 7 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME – 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! $369,000. Call 305 458-0033.

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

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

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


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

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

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) – Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 5,200 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. $475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.


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

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE – Log cabin at crossings in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-1854.

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

HOUSE FOR SALE – HFCC 2 story split, 32, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. $795,000. Call 919-450-7200 to reserve lot. Also, $599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email ft442@bellsouth.net.
**CLASSIFIEDS**

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

- **NEW HOME/CHALET** – 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road. 2/1 with loft, .89 acres, 1,777 sq. ft. $189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

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


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

- **ITEMS FOR SALE**
  - **MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING.** Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! $7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.
  - **GENERATOR** – Portable Briggs & Stratton 10,000 Watt 18 HP 8 Gal Fuel Tank 3 years old. never used. New $2,199. Now. $1,000. Call 828-526-4784 or 404-255-4894.
  - **SEII BUNK BED SET** – Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition. Mountain Bike w/carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.
  - **ANTIQUE ORNATE WALNUT Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair.** Call 369-0498 and leave message.
  - **BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS.** Beautiful material, large faces, $3.50-$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/a t&g), 6-12" widths, $8.00 per ft. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") $6/board ft. Wide barn siding, $3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

- **FREE STANDING WOOD-BURN-**


- **FRIGIDAIRE UPRIGHT FREEZER.** Excellent condition. $100.(828)526-9107.


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

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

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

- **LARGE BIRDHOUSE** – 2 – 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. $40. Call 526-9245.

- **CUSTOM DECK SET** – Picketed aluminum Low set & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. $125. Call 526-1078.

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

- **ARmoire/Cell Pressor w/ 3 WAY MIRROR**. Light Maple color. Excellent condition. $600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

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

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

- **CHINA CABINETS** – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, $59. Call 526-4077.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **HILITE TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER:** New. Case & 4 bits. $500. 828-526-7820 or 828-421-7866


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

- **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

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


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

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

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

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

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

- **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

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

- **LOST**


- **PUPPIES FOR SALE**

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

  - **NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS** – 6 male and 4 female - each weighing in at about 1 lb. at birth. Pups should be available to new homes by Dec. 15. noel@atherton.com
New general surgeon F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS, (center) began his medical practice Highlands on Monday, Nov. 5. He is shown with the staff of Mountain Medical and Surgical Group, Mellissa Hall, LPN, (L) and receptionist Charlene Felts (R). The practice is located in Suite 104 on the first level of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Dr. Dozier went to work in the hospital's operating room almost immediately, performing his first surgical case, a hernia repair, on Tuesday afternoon. Even though it's his first week, Dozier says he already feels at home. “I feel like this is my dream job and I belong here,” he said. “I think God has called me here.”

... HOSPITAL NEWS continued from page 23

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

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... BRUGGER continued from page 6

...
The following is the Highlands Police Dept.
log entries for the week of Nov. 8-12. Only the
names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3
misdemeanor, or public officials have been
used.

Nov. 8
• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to an acci-
dent at Mt. Lori and N. Cobb Roads.
• At noon, a burglary of women’s jewelry val-
ed at upwards of $3,000 was reported at a res-
didence on Wyanoak. It is under investigation.

Nov. 9
• At 6:23 p.m, a motorist at Hicks Rad was
cited for speeding 44 mph in a 25 zone.
• At 4 p.m., a simple assault was reported at
Cheesnut Village Walk.
• At 9 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding
49 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 and Webbmont.

Nov. 10
• At 10:45 a.m., at a structure fire on Satulah
Ridge, police reported suspecting arson but the
fire marshal ruled the structure fire accidental and
not intentional when an ignition source was found.
• During a traffic check between 3 and 4 p.m.
at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont, seven motorists
were cited for driving without a license.
• At 3:07 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving
while impaired at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont.

Nov. 11
• At 11:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for speed-
ing 50 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 106 and Arnold
Road.
• At 10:55 p.m., Stuart Armor, 45, of Highlands,
was arrested for DWI when officers responded to
an accident when the car he was driving ran off
the road at Little Bear Pen Road.
• At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to an acci-
dent at Highlands Plaza when it jumped the side-
walk and hit the building.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Res-
cue Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 8-
12.

Nov. 8
• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers.
• The dept. responded to an illegal brush fire
at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Nov. 9
• The dept. responded to an alarm at a resi-
dence on Lower Brushy Face Road. It was false.
• The dept. responded to a call of smoke in
the house from smoldering ashes.

Nov. 10
• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS
with a medical call at a residence on Smallwood
Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.
• The dept. responded to a structure fire on
Satulah Ridge. They responded again later when
it rekindled.

Nov. 11
• The dept. provided traffic control.

Nov. 12
• The dept. responded to an accident.
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