

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 6, Number 1

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Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008

On-going  
• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Hospital in the Jane Woodward bldg., room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Every Monday

• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Tuesday

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

Every Wednesday

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.

• Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

Every Thursday

• Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyrus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

Sunday, Jan. 6

• Auditions for the Highlands Community Players production, The Last Night of Ballyhoo by Alfred Uhry, 3-5 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Rehearsals will begin mid March, 2008.

Monday, Jan. 7

• Auditions for the Highlands Community Players production, The Last Night of Ballyhoo by Alfred Uhry. 5:30-7 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Rehearsals will begin mid March, 2008.

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
38-20°F	40-27°F	47-32°F

## Town wins ETJ rep case, again

On Dec. 18, 2007, The N.C. Court of Appeals upheld the judgment of Judge Dennis J. Winner in the Macon County Superior Court and the petition heard by the Court of Appeals on Aug. 23, 2007 – that the town properly determined the proportion of ETJ

representatives on its Planning and Zoning boards.

The county contended that the trial court erred by granting the town's motion for summary judgment because there were genuine controversies as to the meaning of the word "population" in the N.C.

Gen. Stat. 160A-362 and the town didn't comply with the statute when it adopted amendments to its extraterritorial jurisdiction ordinance.

"We disagree and affirm the judgment of the trial court that

• See ETJ page 14

## First snow fall of 2008



2007 ended with unseasonably warm weather but by nightfall on Jan. 1, 2008 the temperature was dropping and around 8 p.m. snow began to fall. By the morning of Jan. 2, about two inches of dry powder covered the plateau accompanied by arctic weather with a low of 4 degrees and a high of 10 degrees for the day. Above Mirror Lake canoes nestle under the snow.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Pollsters predict Western NC voters

By Tom Jensen  
Contributor

John Edwards and Mike Huckabee are the most popular Presidential candidates in their own parties in western North Carolina, according to recent surveys conducted by Raleigh's Public Policy Polling. But Rudy Giuliani is the most popular candidate with the public at large in

WNC.

Public Policy Polling has conducted monthly polls in 2007 about the various statewide races we will have in North Carolina next year. One of the ways we analyze our results is by region, so as we enter 2008 it seems worth taking a look at the attitudes of WNC voters about next year's candidates.

On the Democratic side, John Edwards has been more popular with his home state voters in western North Carolina than any other region of the state. Hillary Clinton has led in many state wide polls of Democrats, but Edwards has led in the mountains nearly every month, most recently leading Clinton

• See VOTERS page 11

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## Students learn 'spit' tobacco far from 'cool'

– Screening ID's 7 students with potential problems –

By Sally Hansen  
Reporter

On Dec. 4, Macon County students saw up close and personal real-life disastrous affects spit tobacco can have on their lives.

Students at Macon Middle School (MMS) and Franklin High School (FHS) had the opportunity to see a presentation by oral cancer survivor Gruen Von Behrens on the dangers of spit tobacco use. The presentation was made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which funds programs that promote preventive health.

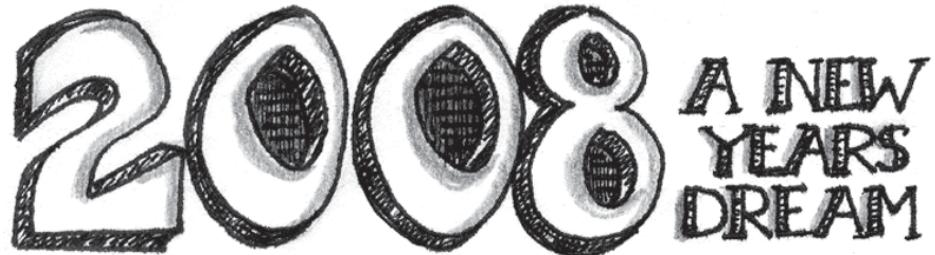
Von Behrens is now 29 years old, but he began using spit tobacco when he was 13 years old. Four years later he was diagnosed with oral cancer. To date, Von Behrens has had 34 surgeries on his face and neck. His medical bills are estimated to have been between \$2.5 and \$3 million.

Von Behrens made three presentations during his time in Macon County. One of these was for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at MMS and the other two included FHS students, students from the Early College High School, students from Union Academy, and around 40 community leaders.

• See TOBACCO page 14

## • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

### • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



Twas the week after Christmas, resolutions abound,  
With electronic beeping the only night sound.  
The stockings were flung all empty and forgotten  
To fill ipods and blackberrys, be-fitting a glutton.

The energy required quietly quickening a drain  
Of our resources for power...oh, what a strain!  
The downloads continue well into the night  
And batteries recharged; indicators alight.

When what should arise, but a wind that blew colder,  
Adding wood to the fire, turning heaters to smolder.  
On top of the plug-ins was too much of a load.  
The transformers grew hot, crackled, proceeded to explode!

The lights, they did flicker, go out – all is black.  
With time to ponder electricity, that which I now lack,  
I remember a movie; I can see Al Gore's face,  
Warning consumers, "We can't keep this pace."

"Build windmills, solar panels and recycle waste,  
Change light bulbs, be creative, but above all make haste.  
Clean smokestacks are needed, before Earth starts to boil,  
So, let's dash away coal as we dash away oil!"

I pondered on horsepower with waste that is usable,  
Not nuclear power, forever radioactive and fusible.  
Along with the horse, we can harness the sun,  
The sky's not the limit, but will clear as clean up's begun.

I fancy that Santa has shown us the way,  
Our imagination's what's needed to power his sleigh.  
His sleigh never powered by a source soon depleted,  
But a source always ready, on our shoulders when needed.

So, let our brains come awake as with reindeers on shingle,  
Clean fuel in our cars, tools, phones – Thanks, Kris Kringle!  
I can hear him exclaim as he flies though the night,  
"Happy New Year to ALL – alternate energy is in sight!"

"HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL –  
ALTERNATE ENERGY IS IN SIGHT!"

K Hawk 2008

### • LETTERS •

#### 'Oneness' theory questioned

Dear Editor:

In a recent "Reflections from Turtle Pond" Katie Brugger expounded on her beliefs on the "oneness" of the universe. In the same article she mentioned a book she and her husband wrote entitled *The Game of God*. I would like to make a response.

The book *The Game of God* is a 300-page explanation of the authors' belief system, complete with visual aids. The title of the introduction is, "Why we need to forgive God," and is available for reading on [www.gameofgod.com](http://www.gameofgod.com).

As a Christian, the thought of God justifying himself to me makes me uncomfortable. Nonetheless, I trudged on. The authors dedicate a small portion of the beginning of the book rejecting and vilifying the god that would *knowingly* create a universe filled with suffering inhabitants; they then spend the remainder of the book building a case for a god that *knowingly* created a universe filled with suffering inhabitants. Although I'm not sure who it is that supposedly believes in the aforementioned rejected god, one can only assume that it is intended to be a caricature of the God of the Bible, but it is this god that needs our forgiveness. They then state their intentions of proposing a theory of "Creator and creation as one. The universe, we will assert, is a Game of God. We hold that this model allows us to absolutely forgive, and thus absolutely love, God."

This world view presents itself as the answer to questions other religions have failed to answer. Really? I have heard it said that for any belief system to have validity, it must give coherent answers to four fundamental questions. These are questions of origin, meaning, morality, and destiny. So, does the theoretical model given to us in *The Game of God* provide these answers?

What of the question of origin? The theoretical god came to the conclusion that to be truly unlimited, one must experience ultimate limitation. To accomplish this goal of experiencing limitation, this god decided to place itself into a state of self-induced amnesia at the very instant of the Big Bang. The entire universe is thus made up of this forgetful creator and is in a constant process of "re-awakening."

First of all, I disagree with the concept of having to experience something in order to have knowledge of it. After all, it is possible to have knowledge of suicide without ever having experienced it. Secondly, would the revelation of needing to experience limitation not mean that this god has spent eternity past as an incomplete deity?

• See LETTERS page 17

#### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARIES •

### **Dane David Morgan Sr.**

Dane David Morgan Sr., 95, of Highlands, N.C. and Naples, FL, died December 10, 2007 at his home in Naples with beloved wife, Georgia at his side. They were married for 16 years. Dane was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Elizabeth Smith, "Lib," the mother of his three sons.

An architect by vocation, a painter by avocation, he studied at Carnegie Mellon, Illinois Institute of Technology, including Bauhaus staff under Mies van der Rohe. He founded his own firm, Dane D. Morgan and Associates in Burlington, IA. AIA registered in six states, he worked for 30 years across the Midwest building schools and hospitals. He finished with a hospital project in Liberia.

He continued to study upon retirement with master watercolorists at the Instituto San Miguel D'Allende in Mexico and with Robert Wood, James Cooper, Miles Batt, Millard Wells and Gerald Brommer. Dane was an active member of the Florida Water Color Society, Miami Water Color Society, Ocean Reef Club Art League, Florida Keys Water Color Society, Naples Art League, Homestead Art League and Highlands Art League. His own works won more than a few prizes.

A great love of his was the "Studio Alive," a group of artists who painted together weekly in his home studio in Highlands. They worked from 1983 on, until blindness forced him to stop.

Another love was water. Dane roamed the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, the Atlantic Coast, the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. He served as commodore at the Ocean Reef Yacht Club and with its busy Coast Guard Auxiliary. His paintings grace many homes there.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia; and children of both, Stephan and Dianne Morgan of Santa Fe, N.M. and daughter, Dawn and child, Kate; Michael and Sandy Morgan of Minneapolis, MN and daughters, Susan and Ellie; Dane Jr. and Alice Morgan of Brookline, MA and son, Dane III and daughter, Anne and child, Amelia; Roy and Jackie Cronacher and their daughter, Carin Ashley and son, Roy Cronacher III; Patricia Cronacher-Travers

and family; Scott and Audrey Cronacher.

A service for immediate family only was held soon in Naples and a celebration of Dane's life for family and friends in Highlands in August.

In lieu of flowers, please consider the following who helped greatly, Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 or Avow Hospice, 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, FL, 34105.

### **John Henry Nix**

John Henry Nix, age 89, of Lonesome Valley Road Cashiers, NC died Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at his residence. He was born in Oconee, SC, the son of Emma Nix. He was married to Dora Stewart who died in 2005. He retired from Jennings Builders Supply with 53 years of service. He was a member of Cashiers Baptist Church. Mr. Nix was an avid coon hunter.

He is survived by three daughters, Shirley Chastain of Sevierville, TN, Glenda Moss and husband, Junior of Cashiers, NC and Thyra Chapman and husband, Lester of Lake Toxaway, NC; one special son, Dickie Jennings of Cashiers, N.C.; two sisters, Lillie Mae Monroe of Piedmont, S.C. and Mae Bell Mathis of Easley, S.C.; one brother, Clarence Murphy of Georgia; a special caregiver, Teresa Davis. Eighteen grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by one son, Dale Nix, one son-in-law, James Chastain, four sisters, five brothers and one grandson, Eddie Moss.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 21 at 2 p.m. at the Cashiers Baptist Church with Rev. Johnny Norris, Rev. Walter Wilson, and Rev. Scotty Patrick officiating. Burial was at Stewart Cemetery. Russell Messer, Rob Herstek, Jimmy McCall, Tracy Nelson, Ricky Morgan and Darren Stiwinter served as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be employees of Jennings Builders Supply.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the West Care Hospice of Jackson County. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### **Vicki Gould Sawyer**

Vicki Gould Sawyer died Tuesday, December 18, 2007. She was born in Brookville, Pa., April 1, 1946. Vicki is survived by her husband of 40 years, Tom Sawyer, son, Tom Sawyer II and his wife Kim and grandchildren, Tommy III and Marissa of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., daughter, Jenny Callahan and her husband Steve of Cashiers, her parents, William and Millicent Gould of Jupiter, Fla.

Vicki and Tom came to the area in 1976 and spent every summer here. Their lifelong dream was to relocate to Cashiers/Glenville from Florida, which they did in 1998. She started Miss Vicki's Holiday Fixin's and Mountain Party Tents and Events. Vicki was very active in her church, Grace Community of Cashiers, as well as Rotary and many other community programs. She was a wonderful mother and great friend to many.

She fought cancer bravely with an incredible strength and positive attitude for five years, never giving up. Vicki is now with our Lord, where there is no cancer or sickness. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held at Community Bible Church in Highlands on Saturday, December 22 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be sent to Grace Community Church for Vicki's Victors and the American Cancer Society. Bryant Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

### **G.W. "Doc" Meadows**

G.W. "Doc" Meadows, age 73, of State Road 1158, Glenville, N.C., died Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Pine Bluff, AR, the son of the late Gaylord W. Meadows, Sr. and Nelle Finney Meadows. He was a veteran of the US Army and was a structural designer. He was a loving father, grandfather, loved the outdoors, and was an avid story teller. He was a member of Hamburg Baptist Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Sheryl Rene' Krasnokutsky of Sapphire, N.C.; two sons, Mark Randal Meadows and his wife, Debbie of Cashiers, N.C. and Timothy Scott Meadows and his wife, Marlena of Athens, GA; seven grandchildren, Blake, Haley, Naomi, Josiah, Lydia, and Abigail Meadows and Robert Krasnokatsky.

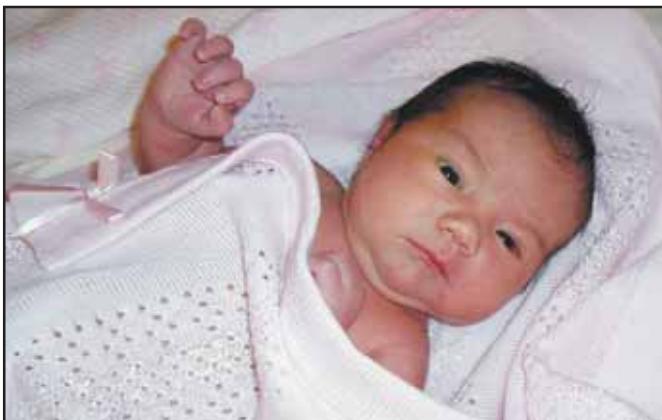
Funeral services were held Sunday, December 23 at 2:30 p.m. at Hamburg Baptist Church with Rev. Matt Ledbetter officiating. Burial was in the Church Cemetery. Mark Meadows, Scott Meadows, Blake Meadows, Eric Shomaker, Kyle McKim and Jesse Franks served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hamburg Baptist Church Building Fund, 4673 Hwy 107 N, Glenville, NC 28736. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• See OBITUARIES page 22

## • BIRTH •

### **Avery Morgan Connor**



#### **It's a girl!**

John and Jessica Connor, of Sapphire Valley, and "big brother" Cameron proudly welcome the arrival of their new baby girl, Avery Morgan Connor. Avery was born on Dec. 11, 2007, at 6:44 p.m. at Transylvania Community Hospital. She weighed 9 lbs., 6 oz., and was 23 inches long at birth.

## • MILESTONES •

### **Lewicki makes Chancellor's List**

Megan Lewicki, Highlands Class of 2006, was named to the Appalachian State University Chancellor's List for the third time. Her GPA for the Fall 2007 semester was 3.93. To be included on the list a student must have a 3.85 GPA or better. She is also on the Dean's List.

Lewicki is a Theatre major with a minor in English.



This sweet cottage, nestled into the trees on almost 3/4 of an acre, is conveniently located in Mirror Lake. Featuring granite countertops in the kitchen, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and a generous back deck. 2 BR with private bath and a stone facing fireplace in the living room. With a one car carport that makes this home the perfect weekend getaway or year round home. \$396,000



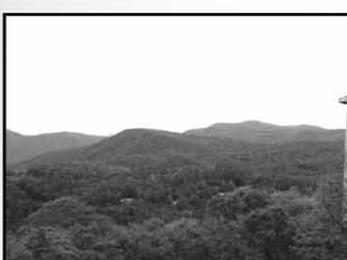
Best one of all the Highlands Cove Cottages! Sitting at the very top and offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. 3 BR/ 3.5 BA, a one car carport with a storage room. These quality cottages have been built by Schmitt Building Contractors. \$1,079,000



Stunning in town estate on 5 acres with lake access. The finest craftsmanship and a perfect floor plan. Gorgeous kitchen with dual dishwashers, 2 cooling drawers, warming drawer, industrial six burner range and vegetable sink. Private decks and balconies, fireplace with outdoor cooking center. 3 BR on the main, 1 suite upstairs and a bonus room with full bath over the 3 car Car-storage. \$3,688,021.



A rare find on Big Bear Pen Mountain in town. Wonderful farm-styled home features a large covered front porch with rocking chairs, just right for enjoying the mountain view. The master is on the main floor and guests can have their own privacy with two guest bedrooms upstairs. A nice yard in back is perfect for dogs and children to play. \$775,000



Upgraded VZ Top condo has been completely redone with fresh paint, updated lighting, and all new flooring. The kitchen features new appliances, granite counter tops, and new bead board ceiling with recessed lighting. Guest level has snack/ wet bar with granite counter tops, microwave. An most importantly the condo has MAGNIFICENT long mountain views. Only \$339,000



This wonderful upper level condo at HFCC offers 20 ft vaulted ceilings, beautiful built-in bookcases, stone-faced fireplace, decorator paint and custom wood trim work installed by owner. The spacious master suite opens onto the open deck as well. Great kitchen with breakfast area and lots of cabinets and counter space. Offered fully furnished at \$333,000. Membership NOT REQUIRED.

  
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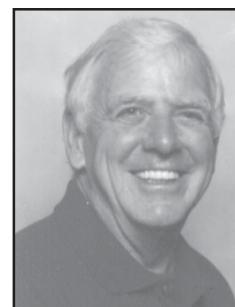
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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### MY 2008 predictions (You had better sit down!)



**Fred Wooldridge**

•  
**Feedback  
is encouraged!**  
email:

[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)

Square Garden. Don't miss it!

In March, Larry Rogers and Buz Dotson will compete for the position of Easter Bunny for the Highlands Easter Parade. Hank Ross will protest, stating he is cuter than both those guys. I agree. A small group of persistent Highlanders will march on Main Street with banners that proclaim "Roger Rabbit for Easter Bunny" giving Larry the edge.

In May, the two-hour parking restrictions will be lengthened to 8-hour parking restrictions and only enforced between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. Sundays included. Hmm!

The judge who will eventually hear the Larry and Michael Gantenbein illegal drug trafficking case is still in law school.

Starving local Realtors will meet at a secret location and agree to recalibrate their altimeters to 500 feet higher than they really are. Everyone will be shocked to find most Realtors had already done that so they will agree to recalibrate at 1,000 feet. What do flatlanders know anyhow?

Local attorney Lenny Baer will publish a best seller titled "Learning Bridge My Way" and then form a club focused on kicking all the good players out of Highlands. I'm with ya, Lenny!

In February, our honorable Mayor, Don Mullen, will put on a happy face and agree to everything voted on by the new Town Board. He will be trained at the Buck Trott (a.k.a. Trout) promise them anything school of agreement and happy face. Good luck, Buck!

A group of surveyors, pouring over old maps and surveys, will determine that Highlands is actually located in Rabun County, GA. Macon County commissioners will panic, hold an emergency meeting and ask, "Where is Highlands, anyway?"

Local churches in Highlands will learn that television was originally invented by a Mormon named Philo T. Farnsworth. They will ban television from all Christian homes and issue a fatwa, proclaiming "Be leery of people named Philo." Next, they will ban all recipes containing "philo dough" thinking it is a plan to collect money for the Mormons. (Oy, vey is mir!)

And finally, the persistent rumor that John Cleaveland was circumcised with pinking shears will be proven untrue. I'm certainly relieved.

*Away from Highlands? Read Fred's column all year at: <http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>*

• ANOTHER VIEW •

## Bhutto's death may rally moderates

The assassination of former Pakistani prime minister and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto came as a shock, but should have been no surprise. This was the second attempt on her life since her return from exile, the first occurred last October. Whatever truth there may have been to charges of corruption against Bhutto and her husband, her death is a tragedy for the already unstable country. Bhutto was the first woman elected to lead a Muslim country, and given the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, it may be centuries before another emerges.

The fact that Bhutto was elected Pakistan's leader not once, but twice, speaks to the secular nature of Pakistan. It remains to be seen if moderate Muslims in her country can stand up to a growing fanatic minority determined to establish an Islamic state similar to Afghanistan under the Taliban.

At the moment, the best hope for stability rests with the continued rule of President Musharraf. There is considerable doubt that he will be able to withstand the tide of fundamentalism. We don't want the establishment of a Taliban-like government in Pakistan, but that is what democratic elections might produce, if not today, within a few years. Such is the appeal of the message of Islamic fundamentalism to millions of Muslims in the world today.

Pakistan's voters would probably opt for a continued secular state, but they lack the passion for democracy that characterizes the western democracies. It is the Islamists who are willing to die, and to send others to their deaths. It is the Islamists who are willing to kill and be killed to destabilize the government. Riots and demonstrations followed Bhutto's death last week. What is uncertain is the number of Pakistanis willing to risk death to keep alive the ideal of democracy. An element of ambivalence certainly exists, abhorrence for the slaughter of innocent people on the one hand, pride in the promise of Muslim domination on the other. I suspect that many moderate Pakistanis harbor pride in the dedication, if not the methods, of the fundamentalists. I remember that no Muslim leader could be found to unconditionally condemn the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the murder, and it is difficult to imagine a conspiracy between the Islamists and the Musharraf government. Still, complicity by some in the military or government is possible, even likely. In-



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**  
Feedback is encouraged.  
email:  
[hosalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hosalzarulo@aol.com)

filtration of the military by militants is a near certainty. Musharraf may well have seen Bhutto as a greater immediate threat to his rule than the more remote threat posed by the radicals. If this was his assessment, he may have permitted or encouraged the assassination. Perhaps time will unravel the web of events, perhaps not. Remember, even in the freest, most open country in the world, many believe the official explanation of a lone gunman in the murder of President Kennedy. What is undeniable is that Pakistan is less secure than it was a week ago, and that the region and the world are less secure.

There was hope for the world if a predominately Muslim country would vote a woman to power in 2008. She had the courage and the sense of purpose to return from a comfortable exile in Dubai to risk death in her homeland. Her passion for democracy demanded that she accept the near certainty of attempted attempts on her life. Whatever her flaws, she was the greatest force to inspire moderate Muslims to make the sacrifices necessary to restore democracy, order, and sanity to one vital corner of the Middle East.

It is our hope that her courage and sacrifice will rally moderates in the Muslim world. It is unfortunately more likely that her death will leave them cowering before the forces of repression and regression.

### Upper Chattooga River environmental assessment coming in February

The U.S. Forest Service is releasing a pre-decisional Environmental Assessment (EA) of recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River in February. The agency had planned to release the EA this month.

"The agency is working diligently to prepare the EA for public review," said Sumter National Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas. "As anyone familiar with this subject knows, the issues being considered in this EA are wide-ranging and complex; we need additional time to complete our analysis."

The EA will be available for a 30-day comment period in February and will be posted on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests' web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms> where additional background information can be found as well.

## • SALONS & SPAS •

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Parking on Church Street and Valet Parking available at Old Edwards Inn.



Photo by: Steffi Smith

## "Heart of the High Country"

Highlands' Own TV Show...on Northland Cable Channel 14.



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m., & midnight.  
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## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### Eschatology



Katie Brugger  
[k-brugger@hotmail.com](mailto:k-brugger@hotmail.com)

This may be a strange topic to start the new year with, but it's something I have been thinking about for some time now. Eschatology is the branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind, but the word can also mean a belief concerning ultimate or final things, such as the destiny of humanity.

I first started thinking about this last year when I realized that, when pondering the consequences of global warming I was very pessimistic about humanity's chances for survival. I was envisioning end-times, but from an environmental cause, not a religious one.

How could I envision the end of the human race so dispassionately? The more I thought about it, the more clear it became that envisioning end-times is a pretty common human trait.

Of course Christians are an obvious example. Almost as soon as Jesus was dead his disciples were looking for him to return and bring an end to this earthly kingdom. When that didn't happen the belief developed that the millennium spoken of in Revelation meant that Jesus would come again in the year 1000. I once read that just before midnight on Dec. 31, 999 the Pope was lying on his face in front of an altar expecting the end to come at any minute. I wonder how long it took before he gave up. (I was actually disappointed that there wasn't more craziness in the buildup to the second millennium; all we got was the Y2K bug.)

Among many present-day Christians the Rapture is a fondly hoped for event, even though there will be plenty of people "left behind" as the select are transported to heaven.

Other religions also have their own forms of eschatological theology; Jews and Muslims both believe in a future messianic age, while Hindus and Buddhists believe in cycles of creation and destruction.

People in the new-age community are hoping for a transformative moment that will raise the awareness of everyone on the planet sufficiently to usher in a new age of peace and harmony.

A popular theory is this awakening will happen in the year 2012. This is reputed to be the year that completes the thirteenth cycle in the Long Count of the Mayan calendar (on December 21, to be exact). NASA (not exactly a new-age institution) predicts the Sun will reverse

its magnetic poles during 2012. I'm not quite sure how these two things will bring about an awakening, but if you'd like to learn more, there are plenty of websites (for example, [www.survive2012.com](http://www.survive2012.com))

Peter Russell, a British physicist, provides a logical premise for a coming awakening in his book *The White Hole in Time* (revised version

called *Waking Up In Time*). His premise is that evolution is accelerating; we can see it clearly in the increasing acceleration of technological development. He suggests that we are heading towards an evolutionary singularity, the "white hole in time" which will bring about some kind of extraordinary change.

I have been surprised in conversation with friends to find eschatological thinking is common in the environmental community. These people long for the day when humans have been wiped out by their stupidity and the earth can recover from the effects of our depredations.

I found more examples of end-of-the-worldism in the January 2008 issue of Harper's Magazine, in a review of books on secularism. ("Faith in Reason: Secular fantasies of a godless age," by John Gray) Mr. Gray describes utopianism and Marxism as philosophies built upon the "millenarian belief anticipating a violent rupture in history that would be followed by a new world": the old world of greed and strife would be transformed into a new one of equality and cooperation. Mr. Gray cites *The End of History and the Last Man*, by Francis Fukuyama, as an example of end-time thinking in the modern political sphere.

Finally, it seems to me that this common belief in the end of time is implicit in the standard middle-aged complaint, "What's wrong with this younger generation?" Every generation seems to think the following one is somehow worse than their own, lazier, less concerned with things of importance (family, religion, etc.), and because of these traits the younger generation is sure to bring about the ruination of the race.

Why is eschatological thinking so common? I asked some people their opinion. One person answered that perhaps the human race collectively works better under pressure, and when we think the world's about to end we're willing to put out a little more effort.

• See BRUGGER page 8

## • HIS & HERs •

### Our disastrous, Canadian future

**F**ar from denigrating Canadians, I begin with high praise for one Canadian. I never miss the byline of Mark Steyn. He is a Canadian, living in New Hampshire, who publishes frequent articles in Canada, in the US, in Great Britain, and in Australia, and elsewhere.

Steyn combines humor, excellent research and powerful logic in articles on politics, philosophy and culture. He would be a lock to win the annual H.L. Mencken Award, except for its requirement that the winners be born in the US. But today's subject centers on his latest best-selling book, "America Alone."

One chapter in that book, entitled "The Future Belongs to Islam," was republished in Macleans' magazine, which is the Canadian equivalent to Time magazine. The Canadian Islamic Conference (CIC) filed a complaint against Steyn and Macleans' accusing them of "exposing Canadian Muslims to hatred and Islamophobia."

CIC is in Canada what the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is in the US. CAIR has threatened and taken assorted actions in court in the US similar to what CIC has done in Canada. However, CIC's complaint against Steyn and Macleans' in the Canadian Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Unlike courts, the HRC is staffed by laymen, not judges. Its members tend to be members of assorted groups who are, or claim they are, discriminated against. Judicial rules are not used; for instance, hearsay is admitted. There is no presumption of innocence. Possible bias on the part of witnesses is ignored. Complainants get help for free; respondents have to pay their own fees and costs.

As you may have gathered, this is a stacked deck. And finally, the broad Canadian press and most of its citizens have noticed that the HRC is not serving to improve Canadian society, but is a blackmail process that inhibits freedom of speech, religion and the press.

Could such things happen here in the US? After all, we have our First Amendment, which most nations do not have. It guarantees our freedoms in those and other areas. Yet, what is happening in Canada today, is a sample of where we are headed.

Most of the decisions of the HRC are rendered in the interests of ending discrimination or prejudice. But they are



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really about groups that claim they have been offended. Some judges and bureaucrats in the US are going down the same path, giving recovery for individuals who claim they are offended on behalf of their group.

It really would be a good idea for such people, their lawyers, but especially bureaucrats and judges,

to read the text of the Constitution. Nowhere in that document does it guarantee each of us freedom from being offended. And people and groups who ride on that idea are not defending American ideals, they are attacking them, especially attacking the Constitution itself.

The process here is also similar to that in Canada. In venues from mass demonstrations to complaints in court, representatives of assorted groups claim discrimination. And if they win their cases in court, they claim attorneys fees and costs. Often, they offer witnesses whose careers consist of complaining and gaining money. And last, in many instances, the complaints are made against smaller cities, smaller school boards, or individuals who lack resources to fight back against their accusers.

In this aspect, the complaint against Steyn and Macleans' are atypical. They have the wherewithal to fight back. They will not fold under pressure regardless of the merits of their case. Many of the cases in the US are brought against financially-weaker defendants, and the defendants cave rather than face the possibility of having their budgets gut-shot by the fees and costs extracted by the Complainants – often represented by the ACLU.

In Canada, as in the US, the environment that sacrifices real freedoms on the altar of false equality was created by legislation deliberately passed by their Parliament and our Congress. The legislation was written with apparent good intentions. But the results have been the opposite of the intentions.

The Steyn matter in Canada shows us our future, unless we change course. And, that future ain't pretty.

Many of the facts for this article were drawn from LifeSite.com at this address: <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2007/dec/07121902.html>. The legal conclusions, however, are mine.

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

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## • VIDEO GUY •

### Very Annie Mary



Stuart of  
The Movie Stop

The British (well, Welsh, actually) comedy/drama with elements cute, dark and strange, starring Rachel Griffiths (Me Myself I), Jonathan Pryce (Brazil, Tomorrow Never Dies), Ioan Gruffudd (Amazing Grace, Fantastic Four) Matthew Rhys (Match Point). Directed by: Sara Sugarman (Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen, Escape from Sobidor). Original music by Stephen Warbeck, the rest by Village People and Luciano Pavarotti, and other artists like them. Not rated, but the equivalent of PG 13.

The Storyline: Annie Mary Pugh is a woman with a dream, a very big dream. Which is a very good thing, because reality is not that great.

Annie Mary (an inspired performance by Griffiths, cute and twisted) is, to put it charitably, a little awkward, a little prone walking into doors or falling down. She has had a few high points, winning a prize in opera, (the whole family has been singers) but that was a few decades ago.

She might be a little more confident if her dad (Pryce is both funny and nasty in this role) didn't tell her she was pathetic quite so often.

So, she lives her quiet life in the bucolic village of Ogg, waiting for good things to happen. And lo' and behold, something good does happen, when her father suffers a devastating stroke. Annie Mary acquires a bit more independence, a bit more courage, and a some confidence to perform again in a talent show in the big city of Cardiff. You sort of get the feeling that some how, most things are going to work out along they way, but not before a few genuinely tear jerking moments, more than a few laughs, and impending disaster.

All the characters are strange, light (even Pryce as the belittling father doesn't come across as evil, just thoughtless), in an eccentric, small town way, and all just a little flawed, but only a bit. A funny, odd, and terrific performance by all the principals, and none are afraid to look a little stupid for the sake of the story.

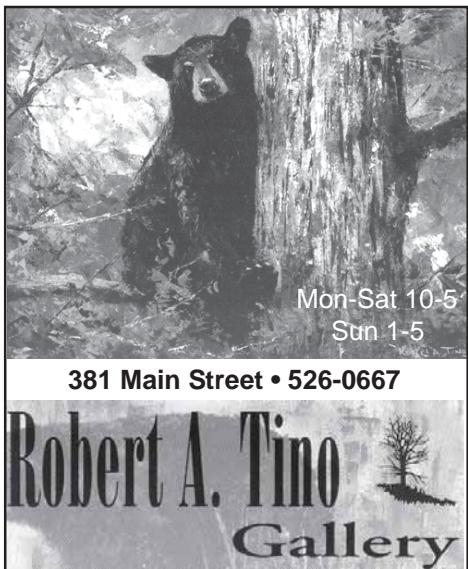
There is a small amount of message, but no more than you'd want in a comic film. A good mix of the silly and clever, that British film does so well (British actors seem more willing to look silly for the sake of the story than Americans).

Great performance by all, but clearly Griffiths show, and it shows a range of her considerable abilities. A great pick for those who dream of performing.

A few more British comic gems are Janice Beard, Mrs. Henderson Presents, Widows Peak, Billy Elliot, and the brilliant and hysterical Kinky Boots.

These and about 5,000 others are available for sale or rent at Movie Stop Video, stop on by and take a look.

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## ... BRUGGER continued from page 6

Maybe this is how he works best, but I don't find it a satisfactory answer.

Another gave the answer that had first occurred to me, "It's an easy way to get out of the problems confronting us, both personally and collectively." If I think the human race is already toast from global warming (to quote an eminent scientist, James Lovelock) then why bother doing any of the hard work required to clean up our polluting behavior? If the year of spiritual transformation is quickly approaching and all of us will be changed anyway, then why bother trying to be a better person now? Why not just wait for the easy fix?

My husband once began a song on this topic entitled, "You're Not Going To Get Out of it That Easy."

I have come to the conclusion that our end-of-the-world thinking is just another reflection of the fact that life is hard and most of us crave a magical resolution. End-times equal happy-times. As I wrote last Thanksgiving, "It is easy to fall into the trap of seeing life as a burden. We get so busy with work and family and paying bills it's not surprising so many people believe happiness is only possible by escaping their life — whether it be on vacation or in heaven (a sort of permanent vacation)."

## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### The year in the rear-view mirror.

**I**t was a dark and stormy night, early in 2007, lightning shattered the night sky and thunder rumbled through the darkness. It was as if the Heavens were foretelling a disaster of historic proportions. And alas, so it was, for the very next day, Nancy "Dimbulb" Pelosi was named Speaker of the House, and Harry "Dimwit" Reid was chosen to be Senate Majority Leader. From that day forward, the ineptitude became manifest and the embarrassment built to a dizzying nadir to the point that Congress had a lower approval rating than O.J. Simpson.

2007 will be non-remembered as the year of the hair-brained bimbo. Kicked off by Paris Hilton, a succession of young ladies engaged in what would appear to be a competition of downright stupidity. Paris' rap sheet of driving infractions makes one dizzy. In January, she pleaded guilty to an alcohol-related reckless driving charge and was given 36 months probation. No sooner had she exited the courtroom than she was pulled over on a suspended license charge. No penalty reported. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, she was caught doing 70 in a 35 zone, again with a suspended license. Oh, and no headlights on at night. Violated probation. Sentenced to jail, Sheriff Lee Baca mysteriously said she could serve 40 days home-confinement instead. Evidently, the sentencing judge didn't agree and Paris went to the clink. Grandpa Baron recently minimized her inheritance. Poor baby.

Lindsay Lohan, after being involved in multiple automobile incidents in 2004-2006, in January checked herself into rehab for the first of three times in 2007.

Her stint in the "Wonderland Center" didn't seem to accomplish the purpose as she was arrested in May for putting her car into a curb while DUI, whereupon the cops found cocaine in the car.

Since the Wonderland experience didn't do the trick, she entered the "Promises" rehabilitation facility in Malibu and stayed for 45 days. Eleven days after leaving Promises, Lindsay was again arrested for DUI, possession and transportation of cocaine and driving while suspended. Off to the "Cirque Lodge" in Sundance, Utah. Oh yeah, that'll work. Enough of her.

On to Britney, the Queen of Morons. The short list of her 2007 problems: she checked into rehab before she checked out a few hours later; shaved off her hair;



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swandonson@dnet.net](mailto:swandonson@dnet.net)

another rehab, in and out and back in; attacked reporters with an umbrella; ran over somebody's feet, charged with hit-and-run; left the house without her panties; all this while carrying on a custody battle with her ex (? is he ex yet?).

So, how is Brit's sister, Jamie Lynn, going to compete with all that? By getting her 16-year-old self preggers, that's how. The Nickelodeon star is now setting the example to young girls as to how one achieves notoriety, which seems to be their goal in life. A disaster to our society, just when we didn't need another.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, President Bush announced a change of strategy in the Iraq war.

The Surge, which required the addition of 20,000+ troops to be inserted into the war zone, was met by fierce opposition by liberal leaders, calling it a failure before it had, for all practical purposes, begun. Now that even reporters and liberals have admitted that it is a success in the making, and the American body count is way down (to their dismay), establishing an end-date certain seems to have lost its luster.

Not that it came as a great surprise, but the fact still chilled one to the bone. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Hillbabeast announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee. To make matters worse, even though Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina are extremely close, she holds commanding leads in Michigan and Florida, each state having more delegates than the other three combined. Nationally, she leads big. If, by some horrible twist of fate, she becomes president (shudder), you can forget about the U.S. continuing to be a world power. If she has a cooperative Congress, she will finish us in her first term.

Good grief, we're not out of January's events, and the column is almost over.

2007 seems to be a year of dissatisfaction, displeasure with government, (Bush 35%, Congress 25%), the economy (recession ahead? – I doubt it), education (a disaster), the fabric of our society being torn by rampant immorality, moral bankruptcy abounds.

Don, I thought conservatives were supposed to be optimistic, seeing the glass half full. This is a time that tries men's souls. We have been through gloomy times before and God has mercifully pulled us out of the muck. Pray He will again.

## Burning ban partially lifted

The Macon County Fire Marshal's office and the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources have lifted the burning ban in Macon County for fires located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Questions should be directed to the fire marshal's office at 828-349-2067 or the N.C. Division of Forest Resources at 828-369-8677. The burning ban may be reinstated if dry conditions persist.

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• TOWN BOARD •

**AGENDA**

Note:

Due to the inclement weather in Highlands, the January 2 Town Board meeting has been re-scheduled to 7:00 p.m., January 9, in the Conference Room.

The next Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 2, 2008, in the Conference Room of the Town Hall; the agenda is as follows:

A. Public Hearing - Zoning Amendment, ATM Kiosks.

B. Regular Board Meeting.

I. Call to order.

II. Approve agenda.

III. Approve minutes of December 5 and December 19 Regular Board meetings.

IV. Public Comment Period.

V. Reports.

1. Mayor.

2. Committees.

3. Town Attorney.

4. Engineer/Public Services Administrator.

5. Police Chief.

6. Recreation Director.

7. Planner/Zoning Administrator.

8. Treasurer.

9. Town Administrator.

VI. Old Business.

1. Stormwater grants - McGill Associates.

2. Valet parking for Old Edwards Inn.

VII. New Business.

1. Zoning Amendment, ATM Kiosks.

2. Receive bids on police vehicles.

3. Pole Attachment Ordinance.

4. Appoint members to ABC Board, Appearance Commission.

5. Closed Session pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11(A)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney on Riverwalk and other litigation.

6. Review of decision of Administrative Law Judge in re: Riverwalk LLC/Town of Highlands, and issuance of final agency decision.

VIII. Adjourn.

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## ... VOTERS continued from pg. 1

38-34 in a December poll. Interestingly Barack Obama has earned very little support from people likely to vote in the Democratic primary in the region, always finishing well behind Clinton and Edwards among WNC voters.

For the Republicans, Fred Thompson was the top candidate for most of 2007 but his standing has fallen to third. Mike Huckabee, who recently visited western North Carolina, took a large lead over Rudy Giuliani in the most recent poll. Huckabee had 34% to 19% for Giuliani among Republicans in the mountains who responded.

Edwards and Huckabee might be the most popular candidates with each of their parties, but the candidate who would fare best in a general election in WNC is Rudy Giuliani. Public Policy Polling tested nine possible matchups for the presidency and found that he would lead Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama by large margins in the region if either of them was the Democratic nominee. Giuliani's lead over Edwards was just 51-44, and the poll showed that the former senator from North Carolina would beat either Mike Huckabee or Mitt Romney in the mountains if either of them ended up being the choice of the Republicans.

In the Democratic race for Governor, Lieutenant Governor Bev Perdue had a big lead in the region over Treasurer Richard Moore in September but has seen the margin decline every month since to the point that Moore led Perdue 35-30 in the December poll. So far Perdue has led all of the polls on a statewide level. Neither of the candidates has shown much interest or spent much time traveling to western North Carolina so far during the campaign so the region is probably up for grabs to the candidate who works harder to court the support of mountain voters in 2008.

One candidate who has been traveling regularly to the region is senator Fred Smith, one of the Republican candidates for Governor, who has attended numerous BBQs on his behalf in small towns over the last few months. After finishing third behind opponents Bill Graham and Bob Orr in our September poll, Smith has taken the lead by increasingly greater margins in our last three polls. Traveling to places like Brevard, Robbinsville, and Marion has clearly helped his standing with WNC Republicans.

Several Democratic candidates from western North Carolina seeking statewide office are getting a good deal of support from voters in their neck of the woods. Buncombe County commissioner David Young, who is running for Treasurer, has been basically tied in the statewide polls with his main opponent, senator Janet Cowell from Wake County. But in the mountain region, Young has a significant lead.

Another statewide candidate from the area is Canton mayor Pat Smathers, who is seeking the office of Lieutenant Governor. He has been running a narrow second in the polls behind senator Walter Dalton of Rutherford County, but has received the greatest amount of support from his home region in most of our polls.

It's early but it is clear that from the top of the ballot on down the way western North Carolina votes could have a significant impact on who wins the statewide races next year. As a region where neither Democrats or Republicans dominate the vote, candidates in close races will need to take it seriously to come out on top.

• Tom Jensen is the Communications Director for Public Policy Polling and can be reached at [tomj@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:tomj@publicpolicypolling.com)

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Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.  
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p.m. programs for students.

Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

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Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King

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Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30

a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;

Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Choir - 7

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

### HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study

Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris  
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;  
5 p.m. Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 - children, youth, & adults  
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

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

Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

### LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD

Services at the Church in the Wildwood in Horse  
Cove. Sundays at 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Dress is  
casual. Old fashioned hymn-sing.

### Macedonia Baptist Church

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

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Choir - 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871

Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.

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

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.

(through last Saturday of October)

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

828-369-3633

Lay Led Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

# Highlands' 2007 Year-in-Review

## January

### Town says no antique show at Rec Park

The Highlands Playhouse will have to find another home for its antique show this year. After much discussion among members of the board and input from citizens at the board meeting, the motion to allow the Playhouse to use the Civic Center September 2007 failed 3-2.

### Zoning Administrator arrested & jailed

Highlands Zoning Administrator Larry Gantzenbein, 60, and his son Michael, 35, of Good Year Tire and Auto are in jail in St. Tammany Parish, LA, facing charges of possession with intent to distribute, manufacture and cultivate marijuana. On Jan. 5, at 3:53 p.m., while en route to Highlands from the west coast, the Gantzenbein vehicle was pulled over for improper lane use by Louisiana State Police on Interstate 12 eastbound at mile post 59 on the border of Mandeville and Covington, LA. After several continuations, the case will be heard in February.

### Affordable housing plans begin

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

### School board outlines facilities' needs

On Monday, Jan. 8, at a special called school board meeting, members discussed plans for improving Macon County school facilities over the next five years.

### Land trusts protect 1,000 acres in area

Conservation easements on property, such as this land in Horse Cove, are an effective conservation tool that allows owners to continue to own their property, protect it from future development, and earn a federal and a North Carolina tax credit. Nearly half of the 225,000 acres protected by Land Trusts in North Carolina are conservation easements. In Highlands and Cashiers, easements have led to the protection of nearly 1,000 acres. See story page 10.

### County wants \$400,000 to upgrade landfill

The landfill on Rich Gap Road is changing to a transfer station July 2007 which means big changes for Highlands. Stahl said regulations mandated by DENR have made the landfill operation obsolete. He said the cost of changes to continue operations as they are at Rich Gap would be astronomical. The town has decided to pay the money but asked the county to waive the tipping fees for three years.

### Redefining of duties a possible at Town Hall

Suddenly, Highlands has outgrown its britches and town officials realize what fit in the past might not fit now. "We need to analyze what we're doing in some areas," said Commissioner Herb James. "We're getting larger and larger but we don't staff. The county at least staffs their government." With that in mind, the Town Board recently established a Town Organization Review Committee and charged it to take a hard look at the organization of Highlands' government. Commissioners continue to discuss the matter.

## February

### MS B-ball has first winning season in 4 years (photo)

Middle school boys and girls haven't won more than half their games since this year's senior class was in eighth grade! But this season both teams won more than half. The teams played in the Jackson County Conference during the season but since they were not approved to play in that tournament,

### Boys win tournament & conference title

Highlands hosted the 2006-2007 Little Smoky Mountain Conference Tournament for the first time in school history. The Highlanders were crowned regular season champions with a 5-1 record as well as tournament champions with wins over Blue Ridge (60-35)

and Hiwassee Dam (69-56).

### Area youths questioned about break-ins

A discovery by the Thompson family when they came up from Griffin, GA for a weekend at their second home instigated an investigation which quickly ended a series of break-ins in the Mirror Lake community. No arrests have been made, but Highlands Police are questioning three youths in connection with breaking and entering with larceny of 14 homes on Wyanoak, Hickory Hill, Chowan roads and Vinca Lane which occurred Feb. 16 and 17. Taken were food items, alcoholic beverages, a radio, CD player and a laptop computer.

### BOE member resigns

The Macon County School Board's most recent addition – Guy Gooder – has resigned. "It is with much deliberation that I submit my resignation effective immediately. After being involved with this board and staff I have found it is not in my best interest or the interest of the constituency that elected me to office to further my term," wrote Gooder in his resignation letter.

## March

### Gantenbeins plead not-guilty to charges

Larry Gantzenbein, 60, and his son Michael, 35, were arraigned in the Covington, LA, St. Tammany Parish courtroom of Judge Reggie Badeaux, Monday, Feb. 26. Both men plead not-guilty to charges of possession with intent to distribute, manufacture and cultivate marijuana.

### Audit shows hospital on the upswing

Despite the apparent descent of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital last year, all indicators point to a hospital slowly climbing out of its fiscal and operational hole. Though most hospitals, particularly small acute-care hospitals lose money on the operations side, the board of directors and President Ken Shull are determined to prove statistics wrong. "My goal is to get our operations loss to zero in 18 months," he said last week during an audit review.

### Rib Shack bar OK'd

There's been much talk about a proposed bar at The Rib Shack restaurant on Spring Street. Now it's official. Very soon patrons can order a martini with their ribs. Wednesday, March 14, the Zoning Board unanimously approved the required Special Use Permit to expand The Rib Shack to include a bar. The only contingency is verification of the parcel's built-upon percentage. The built-upon allowance is 70 percent; the built-upon is 65 percent.

### Smaller hi-rise planned for U.S. 64 tract

The dust has settled concerning the transaction of property on U.S. 64 east where a high-rise condominium complex was planned. Now, the buyer is ready to move forward with his plans for Highland Views. Though a cloud still exists on the 19-acre deed regarding the allowance of multi-story condominium structures there, Friday, March 16, Developer Bill Shephard closed on the two original tracts for a total of 21-plus acres. On the front 1.3 acres – the tract without a cloud on the deed – a four-story building housing 23, three-bedroom, 2,400-2,600 sq. ft. condominium units is planned.

## April

### Board approves RiverWalk changes

RiverWalk appears to be on the mend. With approved soil and erosion controls in place and working, the emotion associated with the project has dissipated. Attorney for RiverWalk, Billy Clarke was at the Town Board meeting to request an extension of RiverWalk's preliminary plat which technically expired November 2006.

### New project planned near VZ Top

Developers for a proposed development on top of VZ Top got the go-ahead from the Town Board. Ray McPhail and Will Stoltz appeared before the Planning

Board twice before going to the Town Board Wednesday night for ultimate approval of their preliminary subdivision plat and for three variances. Six homes on an 11.77 acre knoll above the VZ Top condominiums are planned and will be incorporated on the old Smathers estate. The six lots vary in size from 1.174 acres to 2.223 acres.

### Clustering still an issue

The concept of clustering continues to elude clarification, but two other ordinances passed unanimously. At the April 4 Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Coward spotted irregularities and ambiguous statements in the proposed ordinance and suggested it be re-worked once more before adoption.

### Commissioners agree to revenue neutral budget but not the rate

Citizens wearing stickers and waiving miniature signs proclaiming "MIL LIMIT 25" packed the board room, lined the walls and spilled into the hallway for the Macon County Courthouse Monday night. But the cry for a revenue neutral budget to be set at the 25 millage rate wasn't to be, at least not yet.

### County's height ordinance on temporary hold

Just as county planners were crossing the finish line with the Building Height Ordinance the commission put on the brakes. The problem? No distinction in the ordinance between height restrictions for commercial and multi-family projects versus single-family residences.

### Easter eggs in the snow at the Rec Park

Bundled in winter outfits, families with children in tow gathered at the Rec Park on a cold April 7 morning for the annual Easter egg hunt. Despite the 27 degrees and the dusting of snow, every egg was found.

### ETJ reps subject of closed session

Once back in open session, the board verified the discussion about ongoing litigation between the town and the county concerning the means of determining the number of ETJ representatives on town boards and their duties. It also discussed the legal ramifications of amending Section 2-67 of the Highlands Code. "The only change to what has actually taken place concerning representation is that the exact method of determining proportional representation is spelled out in detail – same as the brief the Town filed," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "And that it clearly says ETJ members can participate in all Planning Board and Zoning Board matters – which they have been doing anyway."

### County prepares for bond referendum

County commissioners have taken the first step in preparation for a possible bond referendum on the November ballot. At the April 24 Macon County Commission continuation meeting, a resolution declaring the county's intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of one or more tax exempt financings for expenditures made in connection with the 2007 county facility bond referendum was passed unanimously. The maximum principal amount of the financings is estimated at \$70 million. "This represents the maximum figure the bond can be but it can be less," said County Attorney Lesley Mosley.

### New planters to line Main St. 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup>

With parking on Main Street a premium, merchants were alarmed when town workers began replacing the old planters with a larger revised version last Friday. Town Engineer Lamar Nix says the planters are configured differently than before and will eventually house a fuller tree, garbage cans and perhaps a bench. Taking the garbage cans off the sidewalk will make pedestrian passage easier.

## May

### King & Queen for the night!

Seniors Toni Schmitt and Jason Aspinwall were crowned King and Queen at the Highlands School Jun-

ior-Senior Prom Saturday night at the Performing Arts Center. See page 12 for more photos.

### Alcohol permits required of nonprofits

Just as the season is opening in Highlands, a damper of sorts has been put on the bevy of nonprofit functions offering alcohol and wine as part of their venue. "One-time permits allowing alcohol are required for each function even if the drinks are free," said Police Chief Bill Harrell. Evidently, the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Commission put the word out about two weeks ago when representatives learned that alcohol was being offered at nonprofit functions in town.

### Commission dissatisfied with 'Plaza' look

The Highlands Plaza face lift hasn't turned out the way it was presented to the Appearance Commission back in October 2006 and members are concerned. At the May 7 meeting, members said Al Bolt, who represented his mother who owns the Highlands Plaza property, indicated that the façade of the existing plaza would be upgraded to match the Car Spa.

### Citizens voice ideas for Pine Street Park

About 30 people attended the Pine Street Park Public Meeting, May 7, and enthusiastically submitted their opinions for the park.

### HS Band wins big in GA

This past Saturday the high school band took their first trip to a music festival at "Music in the Parks" at Six Flags Over Georgia and did an outstanding job. They performed at Chapel Hill High School in Douglasville, GA, and received a rating of Excellent which is the second highest rating. The students played better than anyone expected, got some great comments from the judges, and received the band's first trophy. The group spent the rest of the day in Six Flags Over Georgia. Pictured at Highlands School is Band Teacher Kristina Kirchner with her high school students.

### Town to get promised Rec Park funds

After a prolonged locking of horns, the county has authorized the payment of 2006-2007 Rec Park funds to the town of Highlands. Some years ago, the county agreed to continue to give the town \$500,000 a year to help fund operational costs associated with the Rec Park. Trouble began when the Town Board asked the county to consider increasing the allocation due to a general increase in "the cost of doing business."

### Firm to take over pole plant audit

McGavran Engineering's proposal to perform a pole attachment and general system review of Highlands' pole plant got the green light Wednesday night with a 4 to 1 vote. At the May 2 Town Board meeting, commissioners deferred their decision on contracting with McGavran pending a reference check of the engineering firm. Commissioner Alan Marsh checked several references and learned that the firm comes highly recommended and municipalities who contract with it see a substantial financial gain in their pole attachee business.

### New millage rate decreased to 24.5 cents

The county's proposed budget for 2007-2008 was presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners Monday night and it revolves tightly around the revenue neutral tax rate of 24.5 cents per \$100 valuation. Members in the audience, who have lobbied long and hard for a mil rate of 25 cents – including the waving of miniature "MIL Limit 25" on sticks at meetings – were pleasantly surprised

### Recent accident raises concern about traffic

A flurry of vehicular and pedestrian traffic this past Memorial Day weekend, has brought attention to Highlands' busy Main Street. On May 26 at 2 p.m., a motorist hit a stroller being pushed by pedestrians across the Third and Main streets crosswalk. Though no one was seriously injured and the youngsters were released from Highlands-Cashiers

## June

# Highlands' 2007 Year-in-Review

## County has plans for 'room tax' funds

The county's budget message, which was presented to the commission at its May meeting, lays the groundwork for many changes coming to Macon County. A change that will affect the Highlands and Franklin Chambers of Commerce, is the Economic Development Commission's (EDC) recommendation to revise the disbursement of the county's room tax money.

## Valedictorian & Salutatorian of Class of 2007 named

At the Highlands School Award Ceremony, Monday, June 4, Chase Jenkins was named Valedictorian and Lucy Herz was named Salutatorian of the senior class. Jenkins will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill and Herz will be attending Columbia University. With them is Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

## County not releasing rec park funds

The recreation funds promised Highlands at the May Macon County Commission meeting will be held up a bit longer. At the end of last month's meeting, the commission agreed to release the remaining \$425,000 – not the \$500,000 Highlands expected — with an explanation. During 2006-2007 budget year, the county allocated \$100,000 for the Pine Street Park and bought property to expand parking at Zachary Field for \$150,000. The amount of \$425,000 is what's left of the \$675,000 in recreational funds earmarked for Highlands.

## Outdoor merchandise under attack

As has been the case recently, another town ordinance has surfaced to haunt. At the June 6 Town Board meeting, Town Administrator Richard Betz told the board that numerous violations of the town's "Outdoor Display of Merchandise" ordinance were going on about town.

## 102 years and counting

Irene Picklesimer James turned 102 on June 12. At a family birthday party held at her home, she was surrounded by children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, daughters-in-laws, son-in-laws and friends. Irene is following in the footsteps of her aunt Albie McCall, of the McCall cabin fame, who lived to be 103.

## Restaurant parking threatened

At the June 13 Zoning Board meeting, Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz said the department has been investigating parking for Fressers Restaurant and Don Leon Café as it applies to Furniture South parking across the street.

## Highlands town tax rate to drop

Thanks to Macon County's increased property values, Highlands residents will see a reduction in the town's tax rate from 19 cents per \$100 valuation to 13.5 cents. At a special budget work session meeting Thursday, June 14, commissioners put finishing touches on the proposed 2007-2008 budget which will be accepted at the June 27 meeting as required by General Statute.

## Passage of ordinance paves way for construction

The moratorium on multi-story buildings has been cancelled and effective immediately, the height of new buildings in Macon County is capped at 50 feet. During the public hearing on the Building Height Ordinance at the June 18 Macon County Commission meeting, 10 residents – two Franklin and eight from Highlands – spoke in favor of the ordinance.

## Interns identify new streams

Armed with verification as to their existence, the commissioners can now take steps to protect 10 more perennial streams which empty into Big Creek – the town's primary water source.

## Town Hall complex plans unveiled

The concept of a town government complex is beginning to solidify as it would relate to Pine Street Park, Main Street, and a visitor center. At the special

June 27 Town Board meeting, architects Mitch Sorin of Sorin Architecture and John Fisher of Fisher Architects explained their idea of a 10,000 sq. ft., two-story town government building.

## Wild things living amongst us

For the second time this year, this Bobcat has come calling at the Franken residence on Rainbow Road off Clear Creek. In January, as he was getting ready to go to a basketball game, John Franken looked out his bedroom window and saw the cat amble across his yard. Then on June 14, John was standing in the yard grilling when their 14-year-old dog started growling. John turned around and about 50 feet away across the road that runs along the property was the Bobcat. This time he ran inside and grabbed a camera.

## July

### Home-biz OK'd for R1-ETJ

At its Wednesday night meeting, the Town Board finally put to rest the issue of home-occupations in the R1-ETJ. Both the Planning Board and the Town Board have been battling the issue around for months.

## Fate of outdoor merchandise still hanging

Years ago the town drew up an ordinance prohibiting the display of outdoor merchandise. Now, with Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward ready to enforce ordinances left unattended for years, the ambiguity of the wording has come back to haunt.

## Highlands School gets Asst. Principal

An assistant principal for Highlands School has been named. At the July 23 Macon County School Board meeting, the board agreed to employ, James Draheim, formerly of Gwinnett County Public Schools Shiloh Middle School, as Assistant Principal at Highlands School. He begins Aug. 1.

## Bond to be set at \$64 million

At two work sessions – one held Thursday night and one held Sunday afternoon and evening – Macon County Commissioners prioritized facilities requests to determine the bond referendum that will be on the ballot in November. Though a \$70 million bond referendum was planned, by the time facilities requests were tallied the figure jumped to \$85 million. But once commissioners prioritized needs, it fell to \$64 million.

## Riverwalk building phases 1 & 2

Motorists traveling down U.S. 64 east have undoubtedly noticed a change at the Riverwalk subdivision. The main entrance is paved. Paving hopefully culminates an on-going battle with soil erosion and officials at the local and state level.

## August

Officials say flood plain ordinance crucial Structural damage due to last week's flash flooding accentuated the dangers of building and living in the flood plains of rivers and streams in Macon County.

## County-run Rec Park a maybe

The newly formed countywide recreation commission is ready to get to work. At its first meeting Monday, July 30, the six representatives from Franklin, Nantahala and Highlands met with Macon County Commission liaison Bob Simpson to appoint chairman Matt Bullis, whose volunteer position is advisory. The countywide recreation program director hasn't been hired, yet.

## New school programs aim to keep students engaged

As students progress through the education system, the flame ignited that first day of Kindergarten risks being extinguished by the everydayness of the learning process. Bad grades, personality conflicts, problems at home, learning disabilities and other factors all eat away at a student's ability to succeed at school.

## Rules about fire alarm and mutual aid responses change

Automatic fire alarms are becoming an increased

burden on fire departments and their automatic aid departments. In 2006 the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department responded to 396 calls – 35 more than in 2005 – with the increase coming in the fire and related category which had a total of 263 calls – 55 more than last year. There were 82 fire alarms.

## Board OKs restaurant parking

The parking saga concerning Fressers Eatery and Don Leon's Café is over, at least for now. At the Aug. 8 Zoning Board meeting, members ruled in favor of reissuing both restaurants' Special Use Permits (SUPs) and allowing the continued use of remote parking at Furniture South across N.C. 106.

## Voters to decide on real estate transfer tax

Joining the five bond questions on the November 6 ballot, will be questions about levying a real estate property transfer tax. At the Aug. 13 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners agreed to ask the voters if the county can collect up to four-tenths of a percent (0.4%) from each real estate transaction.

## County to build animal shelter

Finally, commissioners are ready to address the county's long pending animal control problem. At the Aug. 13 Macon County Commission meeting, the board agreed to fund first the construction of an animal shelter for \$350,000 and possibly operations from the county's fund balance at a later date.

## Town extends ABC lease

The ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) store can keep its home on the hill between the Highlands Playhouse and Town Hall for another three years. At the Aug. 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to extend the lease with the store at \$1 a year with the understanding that in three years things may change on the site.

## Fine Art Center to break ground

On Tuesday, Aug. 14, members of the Fine Art Center team – Bob Fisher, Pat Taylor, Tom Clark and Hank Ross – and the town's Josh Ward, met with Tim Murphy, project manager and Max Couch, construction supervisor of Trehel Corporation of Clemson, S.C., who will be building the art center.

## Macon County in 'extreme' drought

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources has initiated a statewide ban on all open burning and canceled all burning permits effective Aug. 21, 2007. The ban on open burning will be in effect until further notice.

## New diplomas to address graduation & drop-out rates

With a single unanimous motion, Macon County School Board may have figured out a way to increase its cohort graduation rate and decrease, if not eliminate, its drop-out rate. At the Aug. 27 school board meeting, board members approved two new diploma programs at Franklin High School – one for students at risk of dropping out or not graduating due to a lack of credits and one for students who are bored with the traditional high school course offerings and are ready for more.

## School system stands poised for future

Most of Macon County Schools hit targets set by the state concerning Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2006-2007 school year. The ABCs of Public Education began in the 1996-1997 school year as part of North Carolina's school improvement program.

## 'Child's' play in local garden

Betty Ingrish on Whiteside Road was wondering why the daisies she planted around her waterfall and pond were showing signs of wear. Now she knows! The area has become a playground for a mama bear and her three cubs.

## September

### Highlands and Franklin tie

Highlander Greg Porter races Franklin opponent for the ball during the Thursday, Aug. 30 game played

at Franklin. The teams tied, 2-2. Highlands plays Franklin at home tonight, Thursday, Sept. 6 at 5 p.m.

## Citizens to vote on 'liquor by the drink'

Come November the citizens of Highlands will decide whether liquor by the drink can be sold at restaurants in town.

## Judge rules in Riverwalk's favor

On Thursday, Sept. 13, Administrative Law Judge Beecher Gray granted Riverwalk's Motion for Summary Judgment, dismissing the two civil penalties of \$200,000 each levied by the Town of Highlands in December of 2006. "In making his ruling, Judge Gray indicated the town failed to follow proper procedure in assessing the fines and that the fines were not supported by the evidence the Town Board had before it at the December 6, 2006 meeting," said Riverwalk Attorney Billy Clarke with Robert & Stevens law firm in Asheville.

## Flood plain ordinance coming to Highlands

The state has finally released the county's long-awaited flood plain map which was revised due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan. On Sept. 19, the Macon County Watershed Council met to finalize the Flood Damage Control Ordinance and that night, the Town Board learned it needed to adopt a similar ordinance.

## PB says 'yes' to outdoor displays

Finally, after a succession of Town Board and Planning Board meetings, a decision was made concerning the display of outdoor merchandise. It's allowed. At the Sept. 24 Planning Board meeting, members agreed upon verbiage allowing outdoor merchandise displays similar to the one in Vail, CO.

## The race is on for three Town Board seats

Six candidates have lined up for three seats on the Highlands Town Board. Two seats are now occupied by Commissioners Dennis DeWolf and Alan Marsh who are both running for their second term; the other will be vacated by Commissioner Herb James who leaves the post after four terms.

## October

### Hospital gets new general surgeon

General surgery will soon be available again at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The hospital announced this week that a board-certified Atlanta surgeon will open a practice here Nov. 5 in association with the hospital. F. Augustus "Gus" Dozier, MD, FACS, who already has a North Carolina medical license, was credentialed by a unanimous vote of the hospital's medical staff last week. Hospital board members gave their final stamp of approval to the deal at their regular meeting on Thursday.

## Meadows Mountain Realty sets new record

The Rainwater Estate, at the top of Highlands Country Club, has sold for a record \$6.3 million, the highest price ever paid for a single-family home as reported in the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service.

## Restaurant parking plagues ZB

The restaurant parking issue just won't die. At the Oct. 10 Zoning Board meeting, Carter Bruns, owner of Wild Thyme Gourmet on Carolina Way, requested a Special Use Permit (SUP) to legalize his seat-to-parking ratio in the restaurant.

## Gorge Road tractor-trailer near misses continue

Tractor-trailer trucks aren't allowed on the Gorge Road unless they are making a delivery in Highlands. Yet, accidents and near misses continue.

## Boards try to talk things out

Experiencing a meeting of the Macon County Commission and the Town Board of Highlands is like witnessing a dysfunctional family try to communicate. At a dinner meeting between the two boards held at

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 15

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10% discount to first 50 renters • 526-4555  
2821 Cashiers road (2.5 miles east of Main between Flat Mtn. & Buck Creek)

## ... TOBACCO continued from page 1

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders at MMS were not able to attend the presentation due to limited space in the MMS gymnasium. However, one of the presentations was recorded for future educational use in the schools. The recording will be made available to students at Nantahala and Highlands schools, as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at MMS and any 5<sup>th</sup> graders whose principals want them to view the video.

Von Behrens discussed his use of tobacco and the consequences it brought him, as well as several life lessons for the students. He emphasized that "you can't judge a book by its cover," and he also talked about loving and respecting your parents. Von Behrens mentioned that when he was in and out of hospitals, it was his mother and not his friends who was always by his side.

Jennifer Hollifield, with the Macon County Health Department, said after Von Behrens' presentation there were many cans of spit tobacco found in the trash at FHS. "We all feel that if one student stops using tobacco due to these presentations then it was worth every-

thing to get Gruen to Macon County," she said.

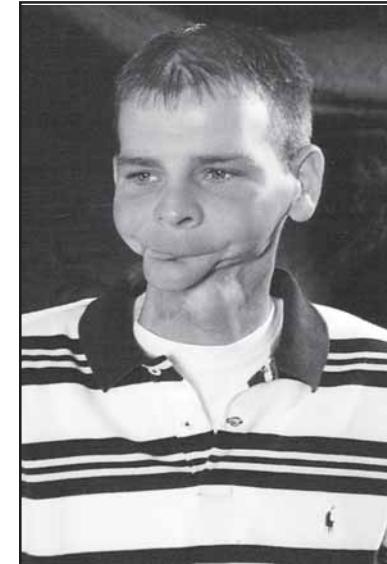
On the Friday following Von Behrens' visit, public health dentists Dr. David Oliver and Dr. Camelia Chang provided oral cancer screenings at FHS and MMS to students who had parental permission. Six students were seen at MMS and no prob-

lems were identified, while 17 FHS students were evaluated, and 7 of these were referred to their own dentists about potential problems.

Von Behrens' presentation was organized by Jennifer Hollifield and Diane Alexander at the Macon County Department of Public Health. They wanted to recognize Dr. David Oliver, Dr. Camelia Chang, Lead School Nurse Jennifer Garrett, School Nurse Debbie Hamilton, School Nurse Rita Esterwood, and FHS

principal Gary Shields and MMS principal Todd Gibbs.

For more information about the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund's tobacco cessation efforts, visit [www.healthwellinc.org](http://www.healthwellinc.org).

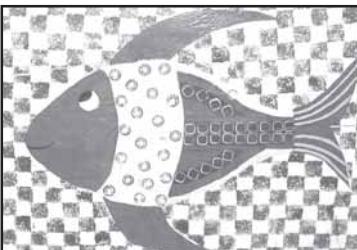


**Von Behrens**

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**HILL TOP GRILL**  
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...on the hill  
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## ... ETJ continued from page 1

there is no genuine issue of material fact," wrote Judge Elmore in his brief.

"The statute in question, states that a city shall provide a means of proportional representation based on population for residents of the extraterritorial area to be regulated. The statute doesn't define what means should be used. However, our Supreme Court has stated, 'It is often said that matters of local concern are and should be left largely to the judgment and discretion of a town government and that the courts will not interfere with their acts unless they are manifestly unreasonable and oppressive.'

Judge Elmore said the county didn't demonstrate that the town's method was unreasonable, nor has it demonstrated that a city cannot provide its own means of proportional representation.

"The statute plainly states that a city shall provide its own means of proportional representation and we, like the trial court decline to read the statute otherwise. Accordingly, we affirm the order and the judgment of the trial court," he wrote.

"We felt quite confident in the fair way proportional representation was developed and stood firm in defense of our methods," said Mayor Don Mullen.

At an April 2007 Town Board meeting, members voted 3 to 1 to amend the code

to mirror the brief filed by the town. Commissioners Herb James, Amy Patterson and Dennis DeWolf voted yes; Commissioner Alan Marsh voted no, and Commissioner Hank Ross was out of town.

"The only change to what has actually taken place concerning representation is that the exact method of determining proportional representation is spelled out in detail in our code, now — same as in the brief the Town filed," said Town Administrator Richard Betz. "And it clearly says ETJ members can participate in all Planning Board and Zoning Board matters — which they have been doing anyway."

The county had hoped to put more ETJ representatives on at least the Planning Board and possibly the Zoning board. Currently there are seven members on the Planning Board — two of which are from the ETJ. There are five members on the Zoning Board — one of which is from the ETJ.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said the county has a limited right to appeal to the Superior Court of Macon County — to petition the court to review the latest ruling. "There is no guarantee the Superior Court will hear the case," he said. "It's probably a waste of time and money to pursue it at this point."

County representatives have not said if they will pursue the case any further.

## ... YEAR IN REVIEW from page 13

the Boiler Room in Franklin last Thursday night, discourse which was easy during the small-talk phase, became increasingly strained as the evening progressed with Commissioner Herb James walking out of the meeting.

### Greenway Trail ordinances proposed

Most of Monday night's Planning Board meeting was devoted to the Greenway Trail and how it would affect homeowners and commercial entities. To make the Greenway Trail viable, the path it takes must be backed up by the town's zoning ordinance particularly as it pertains to trail width, buffers, lot size exceptions and setback exceptions.

### BOE takes steps to fix 'mistake'

Monday's meeting of the Macon County Board of Education included information about the bond referendum that is on the ballot for the Nov. 6 elections, as well as clarification regarding the board's advertisements for the bond. There were also updated plans on display of the proposed 5-6 grade middle school, the K-4 North Macon School and the renovations to the existing East Franklin School.

### Town asks county for help

Though the Town Board thinks it's likely Highlands will pay to build a transfer station at the landfill, they're not beyond asking for financial help from the county. At the Oct. 17 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to ask the county to forego tipping fees for about four years to help offset the cost of building a municipal solid waste (MSW) transfer station. Town Administrator Richard Betz sent the county the letter shortly thereafter.

### November

#### Senator Snow requests funds for town

At a special Town Board meeting, Monday, Oct. 29, the Town Administrator Richard Betz distributed copies of a resolution drafted by Senator John Snow requesting the release of discretionary funds for the paving of Hickory Hill Road, Chowan Drive, and Cullasaja Drive.

#### Humvee and Ruby are newest additions to police dept.

Slowly, the Highlands Police Department is acquiring tools common place in big-city police departments — an all-terrain vehicle and a drug dug.

### Election results mean big changes

Only 29% of Macon County's 23,980 voters cast their ballots Tuesday but that was enough to stop the county's bond issuance in its tracks, change the face of the Highlands Town Board and make the sale of mixed drinks and malt beverages allowable in Highlands. At the December Town Board meeting, incumbent Dennis DeWolf and new commissioners John "Buz" Dotson and Larry Rogers will be sworn into office.

### 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.

### Highlands receives top Traffic Safety Honor

AAA Carolinas' Foundation for Traffic Safety awarded Highlands the top honor as North Carolina's most Outstanding Traffic Safety Community. The Foundation has given this award in the past four years in an endeavor to recognize cities that make a strong effort to make their state's highways safer.

### 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.

### 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.

### Cyprus now offers mixed drinks & beer

Another restaurant has joined the ranks of Peregrin's, Madison Restaurant and the Rib Shack. Come this weekend alcoholic beverages and beer will be available at Cyprus International Restaurant, too.

### 'Sex-ed' class starting Spring '08

Teen pregnancies continue to be a problem in Macon County so school administrators are ready to try a pro-active approach to the subject of sex education. At the Nov. 19 Macon County School Board meeting held in Nantahala, the board voted to recruit a Healthy Living teacher to begin January 2008.

### December

#### Hospital hires 2nd surgeon

Dr. Billy Noell joins the staff.

#### Room tax committee begins groundwork

An organizational meeting of the newly formed Occupancy Tax Study Committee met Wednesday to discuss possible changes in the way occupancy tax money is distributed in the county. Macon County Commissioners Bob Simpson and Brian McClellan co-chaired the committee. Also present were Bob Kielyka, of Highlands Chamber of Commerce; Linda Harbuck, of Franklin Chamber of Commerce; Ron Baker, Nantahala lodging representative; Josh Drake, Franklin lodging representative; Hank Ross, Town of Highlands commissioner; and Mike Gruber, Town of Franklin commissioner. Rick Siegel, the Highlands lodging representative was absent.

#### King and queen for the night!

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

#### Restaurant parking solution offered

The Town Board may be nearing a solution to the restaurant parking problem the town has been plagued with lately. At Wednesday's Town Board meeting, owner of Wild Thyme Gourmet, Nancy Brun suggested the town consider allowing dual-use parking to satisfy the town's seat versus parking space requirement for restaurants outside the B1 zoning district.

#### Zachary Park continues to grow

At Monday night's Macon County Commission meeting, the board firmed up its agreement to purchase about two acres next to Zachary Park. A 1.986-acre parcel owned by Lucille Zachary Potts, which is next to the 1.761-acre parcel for which the county paid \$50,000 in earnest money in October, abuts Zachary Park property.

#### Stray problem soon finalized

Pending an ordinance, the county is ready to form an Animal Care and Control Unit. At the Dec. 10 Macon County Commission meeting, the board heard from Sheriff Robbie Holland who sits on the county's Animal Control Study Committee chaired by Dr. Amy Patterson.

#### Case of missing Rec Park money closed

Almost a year later, District Attorney Michael Bonfoey issued a statement concerning the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) findings in the matter. In a letter to Mayor Muller dated June 6, 2007, Bonfoey said during a four-month investigation of the Highlands Recreation Department which was requested by Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell on August 17, 2006, the SBI interviewed more than 24 people concerning "lost money" at the recreation department and requested an audit from the town.

#### Soccer field proposed at Highlands School

Members of the county recreation soccer league have devised a way to construct an extra soccer field in Highlands.

Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008 - Page 15

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## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### On-going

- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 526-4340 for information.

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

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satelite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201, 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

### First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

### Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

### Every Tuesday

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

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

- Open Studio Night Figure Drawing: Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

### Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.

- Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

- CBC will offer the AWANA program for kids — K-5th grade non-denominational Bible-based program for kids — from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30

p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### Every Thursday

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

### Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

### Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery — cost is \$5 per student.

### Saturday, Jan. 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5 mile easy-to-moderate hike along a creek in Blue Valley to see three types of mines that formerly yielded amethysts and other semi-precious gem stones. Elevation change is 150 feet; there is one small creek crossing. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m.. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Sunday, Jan. 6

- Auditions for the Highlands Community Players production, The Last Night of Ballyhoo by Alfred Uhry. Winner of the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play. 3-5 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Performance dates are May 8-11 and May 15-18. Rehearsals will begin mid March, 2008.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike on the Green Cove trails at Outward Bound Camp. Meet at the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center on US 441 at 2 p.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Monday, Jan. 7

- Auditions for the Highlands Community Players production, The Last Night of Ballyhoo by Alfred Uhry. Winner of the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play. 5:30-7 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Performance dates are May 8-11 and May 15-18.

Rehearsals will begin mid March, 2008.

### Thursday, Jan. 10

- The League of Women Voters will host Jenny Sanders of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, who will speak on water issues in our region — what are the threats and what positive steps can we take to insure the supply and quality of our water. A topic of great interest will be interbasin transfer of water — that is the taking of water from one watershed to another. During the recent drought, Atlanta has been considering additional water sources and our own Little Tennessee River could well be under threat in the future. It's at the Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Franklin. Lunch is available at noon by reservation; call 524-5192. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

### Saturday, Jan. 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 10-mile strenuous hike, with several ups and downs, on the Georgia Bartram Trail, partly along the Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 8 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip with car shuttle. If coming from Franklin, call leader for alternate meeting place. Bring water, a lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Tuesday, Jan. 15

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Atheism and Evidence" by Fish, New York Times, June 17, 2007. To be circulated by email. Coordinator: Don McCormick.

### Saturday, Jan. 19

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike with one short steep climb from Warwoman Dell to the Pinnacle, passing two waterfalls en route. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. or at Warwoman Dell parking lot at 10 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

### Sunday, Jan. 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will

take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch, including a couple of side trails, with a elevation change of 300 feet. Drive 6 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

### Tuesday, Jan. 22

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m., at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. "Once a Soldier" by David Craig. Magazine of Columbia University, Fall 2007, pp. 25-29. Will be circulated at previous meetings. Coordinator: Carole Light.

### Saturday, Jan. 26

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.6 mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Standing Indian area from Long Branch to

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#### I AM LEGEND rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7:20  
Sat & Sun: (2:20), (4:20), 7:20, 9:20

#### ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

##### rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4)  
Sat & Sun: (4), 9

#### THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

##### rated PG

Mon - Fri: 7  
Sat & Sun: (2), 7

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

Glassmine Gap, with an elevation change of 1000 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. Drive 25 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

### **Tuesday, Jan. 29**

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. Coordinator: Martha Porter. "My plan is to give some sort of summary or overview of the talks by Barbara Brown Taylor and Water Brueggeman at the conference in St. Simon the preceding week. It is described as a 'January Adventure in Emerging Christianity.'

### **Tuesday, Feb. 5**

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact

Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

### **Tuesday, Feb. 12**

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For more information, please contact Creighton Peden (cphi2@verizon.net) 526-4038. The Assault on Reason by Gore. Coordinator, John Gaston

### **Tuesday, Feb. 19**

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. SNOW DAY; or "Taking Science on Faith" by Paul Davies. New York Times, Nov. 24, 2007. Coordinator: Creighton Peden

### **Tuesday, Feb. 26**

- HIARPT morning discussions are 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center with lunch to follow for those interested. All are welcome to attend, although we do ask that the material to be discussed be read prior to the discussions. For addition information, please contact Creighton Peden 526-4038. "Our Biotech Future," by Freeman Dawson. The New York Review of Books, Vol. 54, No. 12, July 19, 2007. Coordinator: Ed Gettys.

### **Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 28-March 2**

- HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

### **Friday-Sunday, March 7-9**

- HCP's "Lend Me a Tenor" at the Performing Arts Center.

### **Sunday, March 25**

- First Presbyterian Church will host an old-fashioned hymn-sing at 4 p.m. Those attending may choose a hymn from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. The song leader will be Stell Huie and Angie Jenkins will play the piano.

### **April 20-30**

- Highlands United Methodist Church trip to the Holy Land Trip: Please speak with Pastor Mike or Pastor Todd for more details.

### **Friday & Saturday, July 11-12**

- Bascom-Louise Gallery's annual "Mountains in Bloom" Garden Festival and will feature a two-day exhibit of some of the prettiest plants, flowers and trees grown by area residents and visitors. For more information, call Donna Woods, Bascom-Louise Gallery's events director, at (828) 526-0207.

## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

On the question of meaning, the authors and I agree on the belief that purpose is intrinsic to meaning. In other words, there has to be a purpose behind the universe for life to have meaning. That is where our similarities end. In this theoretical model we are told that our experiences are leading to god's reawakening. However, if having knowledge presupposes experience, and this deity must have all knowledge, then are we not trapped in a learning exercise without end?

When it comes to morality, Ms. Brugger tells us that good and bad are just parts of god. Therefore, good and evil are equally valid. According to this theory, one has no basis to condemn Hitler or Stalin because they were just "playing their parts." In a recent article Ms. Brugger used the example of the sequels of Texas Chainsaw Massacre as evidence that god wanted to experience being a serial killer. By that logic, god also yearns to be a pedophile due to the plight of child-pornography. While Ms. Brugger wrote in the same article that she didn't support such behavior, genuine condemnation is not a possibility in her world view. She ended that article by assuring us that there was no need to worry because everything was "perfect exactly the way it is." Somehow I don't think that would

bring much comfort to the woman that has been brutally raped or the oppressed people in Darfur.

Finally, when it comes to the question of destiny, we are told that their world view doesn't offer any definitive answer. While I commend their honesty in this admission of shortcoming, questions must still be asked. If there is no ultimate judgment, which the authors reject, what of justice not carried out in this lifetime? If there is no system of deterrence, such as retributive reincarnation or purgatory, why choose a life of self-sacrifice over a life of debauchery or hedonism? There can be no distinction between the philanderer and the philanthropist.

In closing, I would like to make it clear that I am not picking on Mr. Hancock and Ms. Brugger and mean no disrespect. I just felt it was worth mentioning that monumental issues such as those mentioned above are no laughing matter and certainly no game.

**Waylon Chastain**  
Highlands

## Auditions for HCPs 'Last Ballyhoo...' Jan. 6 & 7 at PAC

The Last Night of Ballyhoo is set in Atlanta in December 1939 during the time "Gone With the Wind" is premiering at the Fox Theater and Hitler is invading Poland. But Atlanta's elitist German Jews are much more concerned with who is going to Ballyhoo, the social event of the season. The New York Post wrote: "Alfred Uhry's charming Broadway comedy (sort of) The Last Night of Ballyhoo, ...is funny... and like Driving Miss Daisy before it - it has a subtext and undertow of thought. It is a delightful comedy freighted with an uncomfortable message."

Directed by Mary Adair Leslie. Copies of the script are available for reading at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Cast includes: One mature man, two mature women, two younger men and two younger women. If you have questions please call Mary Adair at 828.526.2673 or 706.782.9579 or email at summitonegallery@verizon.net



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### HELP WANTED

**THE LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS** is seeking an Assistant Director to help with all Council activities including program direction, office management and grant writing. Applicant must have both written and oral Spanish knowledge and be available Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please call Bretta at 526-9938, ext 240, for more information. Job begins in January.

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** seeking a housekeeper. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

**COMPUTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT ART CENTER** — Calling all techies: the Bascom-Louise Gallery is in need of a volunteer to help the nonprofit art center with its computers. From networking to printer issues to backing up their computers, the art center could use an extra person to volunteer his or her time to help. The art center also needs a wide range of other volunteers to help with several different areas: gallery docents, hospitality workers, gallery shop workers, clerical assistants, visitor services, library assistants, teaching assistants and Movers and Shakers (those who help with prop building, landscaping and other indoor and outdoor physical activities). For more information on volunteer opportunities, call (828) 526-0207..

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**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.

### VACATION RENTAL

**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB** – Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

**CUTE 3 BED/2 BATH** Mirror lake home \$1,350-\$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692

**THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE** – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

**ON LAKE SEQUOYAH** – Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplac-

es, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Lot for sale, .90 acre, drive graded, 2 bed septic approved, Shared well, off Turtle Pond and Dendy Orchard Road, 4 miles from center of town \$39,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261

**SCALY MOUNTAIN** Building lots, views, creeks, wooded. 2-5 acres, start at \$150,000 by owner, owner financing available. (404) 831-0222 or [gonzobean@aol.com](mailto:gonzobean@aol.com). 3/6/08

**LOTS FOR SALE IN SHELBY PLACE.** \$110,000 each. Call 828-526-2874.

**MOUNT VERON, SOUTH GEORGIA** -- 126.88 +/- acres. 4 BR/3/BA, home, creek, lake. \$460,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 706-401-9035. Taylor Group Realty. [www.landofgeorgia.com](http://www.landofgeorgia.com)

**TENNILLE, CENTRAL GEORGIA** – 58.71 acres. 5 BR//3.5 BA, brick home, 7-board fencing, barn pecan orchard. 11-acre lake. \$799,000. Call: 478-552-6677 or 678-313-5090. [www.landofgeorgia.com](http://www.landofgeorgia.com)  
**UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE** 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

**BUCK CREEK**; 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA.\$329,000. 828-524-6038

**WELCOME HOME TO MOUNTAIN GROVE & FRANKLIN, NC** — Unprecedented opportunity to own 100 acres in picturesque and historic Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC! Combine the pleasures and opportunities of a secluded high mountain valley (elevations from 3100 to 3400 feet) with unusually easy to access land. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Streams, creeks and hiking trails throughout. Perfect for a family and equestrian retreat. Tremendous investment/development potential! All within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region! Contact Tim Ryan at (828) 349-4465 or [ryan@sanctuarync.com](mailto:ryan@sanctuarync.com) for more information or visit our website at [www.sanctuarync.com/farm\\_for\\_sale6.htm](http://www.sanctuarync.com/farm_for_sale6.htm)

**FREE '07 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 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

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

**COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC** — Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

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

**IN TOWN** — 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

**HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA)** — Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

**OCEAN FRONT** — Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

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

**COMMERCIAL FOR SALE** — Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

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

**HOUSE FOR SALE** — HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

**LAND BY OWNER** — 3/4 acre lot. Close to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

**OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA** — Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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

**IN TOWN** — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$319,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

**PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS.** Two bedrooms two and 1/2 bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at [www.pixelityvideos.com/townhome](http://www.pixelityvideos.com/townhome)

**LOTS** — Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

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

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

### ITEMS FOR SALE

Antique furniture for sale. Double size spool bed \$300. Queen Anne sofa, 2 side chairs and rocking chair \$1,000. Will sell separately. Call Bob at SweeTreats 828 526-9822 or 828 369-6263.

**2 BATHROOM LAVATORIES** with brass faucets; 1 water closet - all almond finish \$25.00 each; 1 steno chair - black with mustard color back and seat \$15. 526-2671

**MISC. ITEMS** — Play Station 2 \$75; Old Walt Disney movies (never opened); Indoor plants; Girls' bicycle; Collectible Basketball Cards (never opened). Call 526-9123.

**SNOW TIRES** — Ford Expedition on factory rims. Complete set of 4 only \$500. Size 17 x 75 J. Call Wolfgang at 526-8396.

**SOFA AND CHAIR SET.** Neutral color. Excellent condition. \$300. Could be a great Christmas gift. Call 526-9107.

**POOL TABLE** — Peter Vitalie 8' x 50" pool table, burl wood rails, upgrades leather pockets, new upgraded felt — oak in color — \$3,400. Table located in Cashiers, Call 770-313-0899.

**BARBOUR COAT** Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

**MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING.** Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

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**SEII BUNK BED SET** — Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

**ANTIQUE ORNATE WALNUT** Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

### BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTERS: 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.

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— (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

**KING-SIZE HEADBOARD**, \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

### LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACCUUM

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 \$1,500 obo 828-787-1515

**LARGE BIRDCAGE** — 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feedrs. \$25. Call 526-9245.

**DOG KENNEL**, 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

**DELUXE VENTED GAS** heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

**CUSTOM DECK SET** — Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

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

### ARMOIRE & DRESSER W/ 3 WAY MIRROR

Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

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

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

**CHINA CABINETS** desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

**ANTIQUE BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES:** Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft.

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

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

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

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

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**2004 ROCKWOOD POP-UP CAMPER.** Sleeps 6, mattresses, Heated, Air Conditioned, Awning, Outdoor Grill. Very Good Condition \$3200. 828 342 1999, 706 782 9579.

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

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

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE** — 2002 Discovery — 38P Cat 330 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. Falcon Hitch. 27,000 miles. \$90,000. Call 743-5593.

**1991 HONDA PRELUDE** — 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

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

**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.

### SERVICES

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**FIREWOOD** "Nature Fired" Call 526-2251.

**CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE** — "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For

Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

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**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT** — By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

**J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** — complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

**SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP** UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

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

**MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE** — All airports — Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

### BUSINESSES FOR SALE

**HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE!** Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

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

### WANTED

**WHITE MALE, AGE 48**, looking for female companion. Call Donny. 706-335-6496 or write P.O. Box 411, Ilia, GA 30647. 1/24/08

### LOST

**LOST DOG IN SHORTOFF ROAD AREA.** Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

### PUPPIES FOR SALE

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

**NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS** — 6 male and 4 female - each weighing in at about 1 lb. at birth.noel@atherton.com

## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Linda Wright David joins board of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust

Linda Wright David was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Highlands- Cashiers Land Trust. David is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Highlander and is a great

niece of Henry Wright for whom the Wright Preserve is named. Donated to the Nature Conservancy, this last remaining stand of old growth forest was turned over to the

Highlands Land Trust in the late 1990s.

David spent her childhood hiking through the woods, riding horses, square dancing and enjoying herself at her Aunt

Helen's barn, which was the site of many enjoyable hours for residents of Highlands. She states that she feels very privileged and  
• See DAVID page 21

## • SERVICE DIRECTORY •

### Mountain Rayz



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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Summit One Gallery artist to be featured on 20/20

The national television newsmagazine 20/20 came to Asheville in November to film artist Jonas Gerard for a feature, "Living with Happiness." Gerard is happy, his life is happy. He has abounding energy. And that energy is infused into his canvases. His forceful, spontaneous manner and central core of energy are a lifeline for the artist. The splashes of color, whether painted or thrown on, create a spirited canvas and composition not easily forgotten. Since the 70s, it is this spirit, energy and consistency that brought him to the forefront of the national art scene.

Gerard believes in the art of true Expressionism. In the past he has explored other styles, including representational, figurative and portraiture, but his abstract work has held true over time. In all his exhibitions whether in Chicago, Atlanta, D.C. or Miami, one can feel the strength these paintings evoke.

Bringing to life the tradition of abstract expressionism, Jonas Gerard emerged fifty years ago into the art scene with work which has currently evolved into a mesmerizing explosion of color, contrast and movement. And like the great contemporary Masters, such as Willem DeKooning, Jackson Pollock, Hans Hoffman and Franz Kline, Gerard has found his very own style of abstraction which is continuously growing and developing.

Gerard comments, "As an artist, it's important for me to give the viewer the opportunity to become one with sensitivity. This art will reveal a truth that conveys an existence that is unique within our very soul. In my painting and mixed media techniques I open the door to time and space, allowing me to abstract from the primitive and contemporary states, as well as from moments of my personal life. I believe that through abstract art we can channel ourselves consciously and subconsciously to experience the sustaining power of the universe."

"Each of my compositions is an expression of an inner journey where I aim to step out of my own way and balance, within the moment, all the intuitive inspirations coming at me. There is a constant and ongoing evolution in my relationship with the canvas. The absolute joy of self discovery

**... DAVID from page 20**

blessed to live on this land and be a part of Highlands. She feels a strong responsibility and desire to protect the forests, native plants, creeks, rivers, and lakes and the many kinds of animals and wildlife. For those reasons she was unanimously elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors of HCLT.

The Land Trust welcomes her to the



**Memories Yet to Come**

and self expression is an integral part of who I am as an artist. This process demands a kind of fearless honesty. The resulting painting is loaded like a charged battery that never fails, continuously holding the viewer's attention for a lifetime."

If you watch him paint, you can actually see the 'trusting' in his intuition. While mesmerizing music plays in the background, he becomes completely absorbed in expressing what is in his heart with a gestural painting style that appears almost as a spontaneously choreographed dance. The strong rhythms and sounds of his music are, for him, instrumental in creating the daring space to transcend limitations and fears that may come up. To the viewer, it may seem that the painting is done by the music itself while the artist is simply holding the brush.

"As an artist, it's important for me to give the viewer the opportunity to come in contact with the essence of what these paintings are about," says Gerard.

More than 50 years of passion and dedication to his work has brought him to the level he has achieved. His work has been exhibited and collected all over the United States and abroad, in private as well as in public collections. "We the People," a bicentennial portrait of the United States, presented to President Ford in the White House in 1975, is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

board and appreciates her strong land ethic which has been passed down from generation to generation in her family. She has been a member of the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau for several years. Graduating from the University of Tennessee, she has had experience in teaching, owning her own business, and volunteering in the community.

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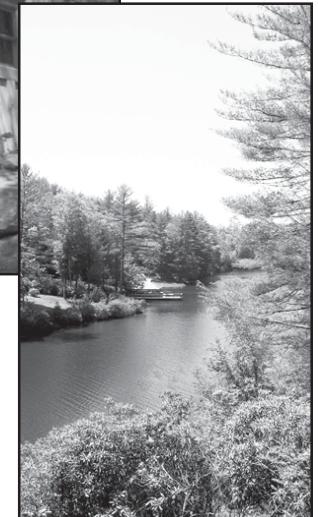
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## Christmas at the Living Center



Between 70 and 80 family members joined residents and other guests at the annual Christmas party at Eckerd Living Center Thursday evening. Santa and a half dozen "elves for the evening" passed out presents and spread large helpings of holiday cheer. Each year hospital employees, volunteers and others adopt an Eckerd Center resident and buy gifts (selecting names from the ornaments that hang on a large Christmas tree put up each year in the hospital's cafeteria). Extended nursing patients in the hospital were also included in the celebration. The hospital's nutrition services department provided plenty of hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats for the residents, guests, and staff. In all, some 200 people celebrated the holiday together.

## ... OBITUARIES from page 3

### Grace Louise Keener

Grace Louise Keener, age 97, of Three Forks Trail, Clayton, GA, died Tuesday, December 25, 2007 in a local nursing home. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Henry and Lillie Picklesimer Tally. She was married to the late Robert Keener, who died in 1978. She was a homemaker, a farmer and an avid gardener. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Ruby Watts of Clayton, GA and Eleanor Blankenship of Sylva, N.C.; one son, James Keener of Highlands, N.C.; one sister, Ellie Jenkins of Franklin, N.C.; 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a brother, Ed Tally.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 28th at 2 pm at Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. Everett Wilson officiating. Burial was in Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery. Robert Crowe, Ronnie Crowe, Kenneth Crowe, Brian Crowe, Steve Watts and Charles Reed served as pallbearers. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### LaVerne Dills

LaVerne Dills, age 72, of Watauga Road, Franklin, N.C., died Wednesday, December 26, 2007 in a local nursing home. She was a native of Macon County, a daughter of the late Lester and Pearl Frady Reed. She was married to the late Ray Dills. She worked as a pharmacist assistant at the Carolina Pharmacy for years, and was a member of the First Pentacostal Assembly of God Church.

She is survived by two step-daughters, Pat Ball of Sun Valley, South Africa and Sherry Sanders of Franklin, N.C.; two step-sons, Mike Smith of Champaign, IL and Mike Dills of Franklin, N.C.; three sisters, Helen Henson and Gloria Younce both of Franklin, N.C. and Norma Hopper of Atlanta, GA; three brothers, Junior Reed of Highlands, N.C., Charles Reed and George Reed both of Franklin, NC.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. at First Pentacostal Assembly of God Church, with Rev. George Patterson and Rev. William Wooten officiating. Burial will be at Mount Moriah Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Robbie Younce, Stanley Reed, Marvin Reed, Sheridan Reed, Mack Hopper and Keith Hopper. Memorials may be made to the First Pentacostal Assembly of God Church, PO Box 644, Franklin, N.C. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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# POLICE & FIRE

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 20-Jan 2.

## Dec. 21

- The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Carl Chastain Road but it was a controlled burn.

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N.C. 106. The victim was transported to the hospital.

## Dec. 23

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on N.C. 106. The victim was transported to the hospital.

## Dec. 25

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whetstone Drive. A baby was delivered by the EMS crew on Christ-

mas Day.

- The dept. responded twice to alarms at OEI when the sprinkler system went off by accident and once for a false alarm.

## Dec. 28

- The dept. responded to a brush fire on N.C. 106 but it was cancelled en route.

## Dec. 31

- The dept. responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.

Jan. 2

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive when a water pipe broke and set off the alarm.

## RBC Centura sponsors 'Tribute to teachers'

One of the many things that are GIANT to RBC Centura is a commitment to leadership and overall excellence. That's why it is honoring leaders in the community that do GIANT things every day: Teachers — those outstanding individuals dedicated to enriching students and supplying them with the tools to help build a better future for all of us.

the community. RBC Centura wants to reward these teachers for their outstanding leadership. RBC Centura teams in the Southeast region will determine a total of 35 winners based on these nominations for community contribution with demonstrated commitment to educational excellence and enrichment.

**The nomination period is Dec. 1, 2007 through March 16, 2008 and each winner will be awarded \$500 "Classroom Cash" to be used on learning tools for their classrooms. One grand prize winner will receive a \$2,000 shopping spree at Stone's Education Superstore in Raleigh, NC (travel included).**

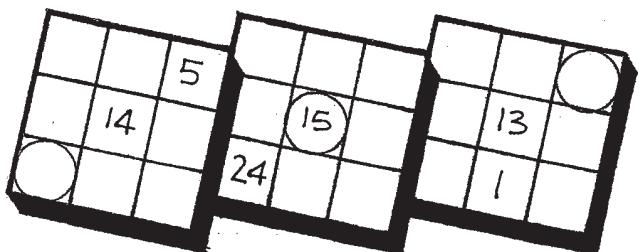
At the conclusion of the program, RBC Centura's website will salute and congratulate the winning teachers.

Click [www.rbccentura.com](http://www.rbccentura.com) for more information and to make a nomination to the "Tribute To Teachers" program.

## • FUN & GAMES •

### PseudoCube<sup>©</sup>

#AN1E - Level of Difficulty - Hard



#### THE SETUP:

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

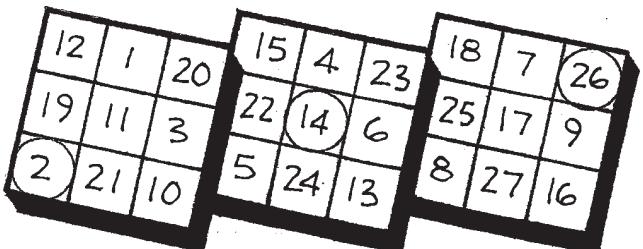
#### THE CHALLENGE:

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

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

Email: [pseudocube8@aol.com](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

Solution to #DN3D in Dec. 20 issue



### N-Cryptoku<sup>©</sup>

**Object:** Assign 9 different letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine different letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

**How to Solve:** Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

#### Mystery Word

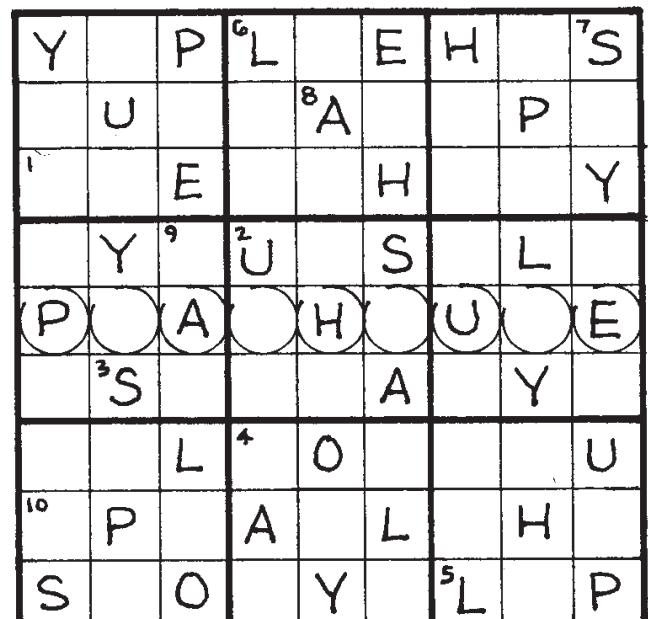
Children's toy home"

#### Across

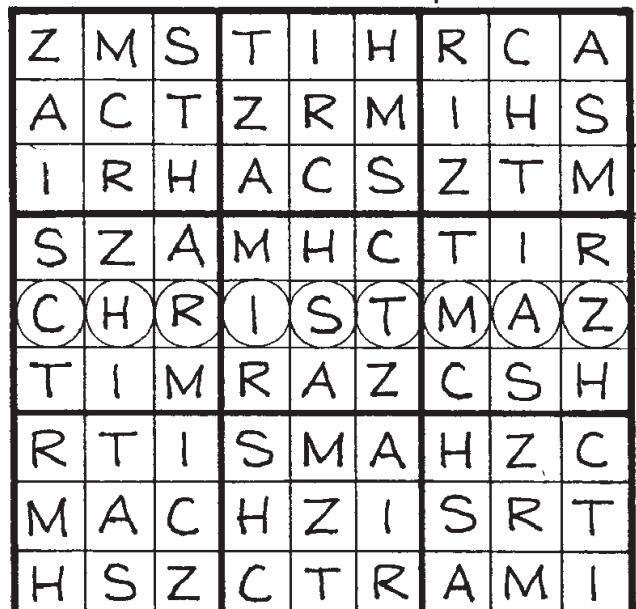
- \_\_\_ and behold (2)
- Above (2)
- Girl's name (3)
- Saturate (3)
- Lick (3)
- Cut completely off (3)
- Cunning (3)
- Poisonous reptile (3)
- Drag (4)
- We (obj.) (2)

#### Down

- \_\_\_ and behold (2)
- Above (2)
- Girl's name (3)
- Saturate (3)
- Lick (3)
- Cut completely off (3)
- Cunning (3)
- Poisonous reptile (3)
- Drag (4)
- We (obj.) (2)



Solution to Dec. 20 puzzle



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Bust Your Butt Falls

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Cliffside Lake

Dry Falls

Glen Falls

The Farm

Freeman Gas

Carolina Mt Brokers

Hwy 106

Glen Falls

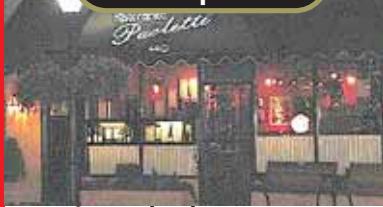
Chinquapin

Hwy 28s

Giant Poplar

Chattooga Iron Bridge

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Hwy. 106

1 Mile Hwy. 106

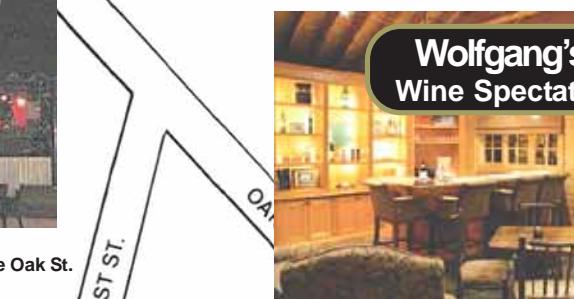
Summer House & Tin Roof

2 Miles Hwy. 106

Manley's Auto Service

J&J Lawn & Landscaping

<< 1 Mile Hwy. 28s



# Highlands Map

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5	Madison's	5	Dry Sink	5	John Schiffli
6		6	JacksonMadeleine	6	Meadows Mtn.
7	Oak St Cafe	7	Raspberry Fizz	7	
8	Paoletti	8	Silver Eagle	8	Bryant Art Glass
9	Pescado's	9	Shiraz Rugs	9	Tino Gallery
10	Rib Shack	10	Village Kids	10	Twigs
11	Wolfgang's	11	Wholesale Down	11	Summit One



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