Mayor Pro Tempore policy explained

Questions have been posed regarding the town’s policy for electing its Mayor Pro Tempore. Each year, traditionally the first Wednesday night in December, a Mayor Pro Tempore is appointed by vote of the board.

The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as Mayor when the Mayor is not present at Town Board meetings. Prior to the November 1997 election when the members of the Town Board were elected en masse every four years, the Mayor Pro Tempore was always the commissioner who gleaned the most votes.

However, staggered terms went into effect in Highlands during the 1997 election when after a 14-year run as mayor, John Cleaveland lost to Buck Trott and after 18 years, Commissioner Donnie Calloway lost to Amy Patterson.

According to the minutes of the Dec. 3, 1997 Town Board meeting, when Mayor Cleaveland and Commissioner Calloway vacated their seats, Mayor Trott opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore. For more information, call (828) 526-9060.

Camels steal the show at annual parade

Highlands’ resident camel trader, Kenneth Knight with the new mayor of Highlands, David Wilkes and Dr. Carter Davis, the father of Highlands’ Newspaper’s newest columnist Gardner Davis. The camels are always a big hit at the parade—a parade started by Highlands’ first Merchants Association of which Wilkes and others were a part in the mid-80s. For more parade shots, see page 10.

Property purchase near Zachary Field a ‘no’

Following the closed session part of the Tuesday, Nov. 17 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners announced that the county would not purchase land in the vicinity of Zachary Field as entertained in 2007.

In December 2007, the county entered into a two-year option contract with Lucille (Zachary) Potts concerning her 0.667 acre – the remaining portion of parcel ID#05-04314 which the county bought from her earlier for parking.

Potts had sold the front portion of the plot that joined Zachary Field but wasn’t ready to sell the rest of the plot on which her home now sits. She asked for a two-year option with permission to reside on the property until then, said Commissioner Brian McClellan.

Lucille Z. Potts and her sisters were the owners of the Zachary homestead which they sold to the county for the creation of Zachary Field—the only county sports complex on the plateau.

Due to increasing supplies of the H1N1 vaccine, the Macon County Public Health Center has further expanded its eligibility criterion to include anyone age 64 or under, individuals over 64 who have a chronic medical condition, and any child who needs their second dose of vaccine.

The next H1N1 immunization clinic is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 11 and is offered by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 349-2081. Children 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday.

Also beginning in December, school-based H1N1 flu shot clinics will be offered to children enrolled in Macon County Public Schools. Information will be sent home with children before the shot clinics begin.

For more information, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.
Dental Health Project at Highlands School

The Rotary Clubs of Highlands and Highlands MountainTop have come together to offer a Children’s Dental Health Project at the Highlands School to grades K-5. Modeled on a similar Cashiers Rotary program in Jackson County at the Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School, the program provides a fluoride rinse to students once a week in the classroom and a visual dental check-up by a local dentist once a year.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said the NC Department of Regional Dentists endorsed the program and his teachers are enthusiastic about it, adding that parental approval is required and that letters are being sent to the parents of those students in grades K-5.

Dr. Jim Rothermel with Highlands Rotary and director of the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-MountainTop have come together and Rotarian Ginger Slaughter.

Fred Wooldridge Highland Taxpayer

Dear Editor,

I was stunned to read the article in the Dec. 3 edition of Highlands’ Newspaper entitled “1.5-cent tax hike set for July 2010.” In it I learned Macon County has raised our property taxes at a time when taxpayers can least afford it. Nobody seems to get it. We are in a deep recession and it’s not getting better and won’t for quite a while.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale says this is the best time to raise taxes. Is he kidding? This is the very worst time to raise taxes.

Whatever happened to “doing without” during hard times which are what taxpayers are currently doing to make ends meet. Many Macon County taxpayers will now have less food on their tables because of this inconsiderate decision.

Fred Wooldridge Highland Taxpayer

Glad we’re not France

Dear Editor,

I just read Ms. Brugger’s column in the Dec. 3 issue entitled “Freedom equality opportunity” in which she appears to bemoan that we are not France.

In it she vastly understates the killings that were part of the French Revolution. It was more than mob anarchy. The leaders ordered the killings, often even of other leaders.

She ignores that France does not welcome immigrants, that France withdrew command of its less than awesome military forces from NATO even though it was American and British forces who died liberating France after it surrendered six weeks after Germany started toward France.

She ignores that France knowingly sold arms to Saddam in flagrant violation of the UN oil for food program.

She ignores that it was France that built the nuclear reactor for Saddam. She is right that we are not France and many of us are truly grateful for that.

Mike Nims
Glennieville, NC
Track star Hawkins is ‘lettered’

At the annual Highlands Road Runners Banquet on Saturday night Corbin Hawkins was presented a Varsity Letter which he earned during the recently completed season. A major criteria for awarding a varsity letter in cross country is that the athlete was in the top seven runners on his team. Hawkins was the only runner on the Highlands School Cross Country Team so being in the top seven was not a problem. Results of the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship show that he placed within the top seven on every team in the conference which is unusual for a ninth-grader. Hawkins also was recognized as the Most Improved Runner of the Highlands Road Runner Club.

... PRO TEMPORE continued from page 1

Pro Tempore, explaining that the previous policy of electing the commissioner with the highest vote count to the position no longer applied since staggered terms had been adopted.

Commissioner Ron Sanders nominated Commissioner Herb James Mayor Pro Tempore and Commissioner Zake Sosamon moved to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner James abstaining.

At the Dec. 3, 2009 Town Board meeting, Mayor David Wilkes began proceedings to name new commissioner Gary Drake Mayor Pro Tempore since he had the most votes, but was informed by Commissioner Patterson of the town’s policy which had changed back in 1997.

“The commissioner with the most votes used to be appointed Mayor Pro Tempore, but that changed when we went to staggered terms,” she said.

With that, Mayor Wilkes took nominations and Commissioner Patterson was unanimously named Mayor Pro Tempore. She has been appointed to that position numerous times over the years.


- Kim Lewicki

New restaurant coming to ...the hill

The cry for “More Restaurants” has been heard and now the newest eating establishment could open April 2010.

At the Dec. 9 Zoning Board meeting, Thomas and Kay Craig requested a special use permit (SUP) to open a 43-seat restaurant at 292 S. Fourth Street.

The 882 sq. ft. space is currently occupied by Basketcase and The Laurel Magazine. According to the application, the restaurant will serve lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., feature a bar with stools and several tables, a 158 sq. ft. kitchen and two employees.

However, Thomas Craig said nothing is carved in stone at this point.

“Since we’re thinking about a restaurant, we decided to go ahead and apply for a special use permit, because you need one for a restaurant, but it’s very possible another retail shop could go there which doesn’t require a SUP.”

All new restaurants or change-of-use businesses in an established space require a special use permit.

Craig said he’s still doing a budget forecast and determining renovation costs so it’s too early to say if a restaurant will definitely go in the space. But if so, renovations could start Jan. 1, 2010 with an opening target date of April.

He said no name has been decided, but the restaurant will feature simple American fare. “We are definitely not planning on establishing a fine dining experience,” he said.

In January, June Webb, owner of High Country Cafe, will begin renovations at the old Hill Top Grill next door which will be renamed “June’s Place.” Craig said he’s looking forward to her opening because when it was open, that eating establishment drew customers up the street.
Your guide to hunting, fishing and camping

 Mounted on the front of my car is a decorative license plate of a magnificent buck sporting huge antlers. I get a lot of nods and smiles from hunters. What they don’t realize is that I could easier shoot them than a defenseless deer. I take that back, if I’m starving. I’ll kill a deer and not them. I’m told human flesh is not tasty.

How to hunt: Buy a camera rifle with an accurate powerful scope. Hunt as usual using the skills you have developed through the years. From your tree-stand, spot your defenseless target walking toward you, not looking up because deer never look up. Raise your rifle and get those crosshairs right on his chest. While he’s busy looking for food, squeeze the trigger until the camera fires, sending out a soft “pop” noise that startles your prey. Try to get more shots as he runs for safety.

Here’s the best part. At the end of your hunt, take your best picture and develop it into a poster. Mount it in a frame over your fireplace. When your fellow hunting buddies drop by and ask if you shot that deer, wondering how you could get such a great picture, you can say, “Yea, I shot that buck from my stand using my new scope.” You won’t be lying because you still maintain your testosterone level knowing one of God’s most beautiful creations is still alive. Life is good, killing is not.

How to fish: I’m not sure why it’s important to get up early but it is. Call your buddies and see if they’re also dumb enough to be awake. Hook the boat to your car and head out.

Buying the proper bait is important. I like live shrimp for saltwater fishing. Buying a case of beer is also essential for a fun day on the water. When your buddies arrive, head out for a day of fishing.

Now this part is important. First, cut the barb off the end of your hook. Take one of your live shrimp and run the hook up its backside until it goes to shrimp heaven. Now cast out and put your pole in a rod holder. Open a beer, sit in your fishing chair and doze off, waking only to take an occasional sip of brew. When it’s apparent something is nibbling on your hook, do nothing until your beer can is empty. Then, lift your fishing pole to see what’s on the line. If a fish was dumb enough to bite on a dead shrimp and can’t get off a hook with no barb, take your empty beer can and push the fish off the hook, careful not to let it get in your boat and mess it up. Grab another unlucky shrimp and start the process again. It’s not essential to drink one beer per bite. Sometimes I go through three beers before realizing a smart fish has stolen my bait. This is good ‘cause you don’t have to get outta your chair. Of course, the fishing day is over when the beer runs out.

On your way home, stop at the market and buy a nice piece of farm-raised, lead-free salmon for dinner. Hose down any spilled beer from your boat and put the salmon on the BBQ along with any leftover shrimp. Get a beer from the frig. Again, life is good, except if you’re a shrimp.

How to camp: Load everything you’ll need for the trip into your camper. Drag your camper to a campground and pay a fortune for a campsite. Meet with your fellow campers and hoop it up, telling each other lies until it’s almost dark. Then cook a sumptuous meal over a fire and let the world pass you by.

When it’s dark, get into your car and drive to a Motel 6 and check in, paying less than you did for the campsite. While your camping buddies are all swatting mosquitoes and unable to sleep on a hard bed, you are snuggled in, watching TV, knowing the toilet is six feet away.

It’s important to get up early and be back at the campground to make fun of your fellow campers who are now covered with chiggers.

While they itch and scratch and complain of a restless night, throw a slab of bacon on the gas BBQ and ask how many eggs everyone wants. Again, life is good, scratching is not.

PS - I just know you’re going to save this.
Americans can’t fathom such a faith

It’s been more than eight years since the attack of September 11, 2001, more than eight years since we invaded Afghanistan. Our goals were to replace the Taliban and capture or kill Osama bin Laden. With the Taliban resurging and bin Laden at large, earlier claims of victory seem exaggerated at best.

In 2001 the United States posted a $25 million reward for information leading to the capture of bin Laden. No takers. We upped the ante to $50 million in 2007. In a country whose average per capita income is $800 per year, why did we think $50 million would do the trick? The reward wasn’t mislaid. Rather it is a result of bin Laden’s hosts adherence to Islamic law.

The Prophet admonishes followers to take care of guests, including strangers. To surrender a guest to authorities is a violation, apparently even when a 50 million dollar payout awaits. You have to admire that kind of loyalty. It’s surprising that the guys at the State Department, CIA, or Department of Defense, who ever originated the idea of a bounty, didn’t understand our enemy better.

Such devotion to religious ideas and cultural norms is startling to us in the West, who will sell anything is for sale if the price is high enough.

At one time the code of La Cosa Nostra was inviolate. Today many former members are in the witness protection program, selling medical supplies in Montana or cosmetics in Arkansas. Most of them violated the code of Omerta, informed on colleagues, in exchange for leniency and protection. There’s even an Italian guy in Banner Elk who came to town with lots of money. He has bought businesses and developed condominums, and everyone in town knows he is in witness protection. If everyone in Banner Elk knows it, hasn’t it occurred to the locals that some guy in New York or Newark has the same information?

It’s easy to make a promise. It’s harder to keep. The Muslim world is a place that craves eight-century values more than 21st century conveniences, a people more concerned with Allah’s eternal judgment, than instant wealth. It’s hard for us to understand devotion, to claim the prize.

Our enemy is a formidable one, a society that craves eight-century values more than 21st century conveniences, a people more concerned with Allah’s eternal judgment, than instant wealth. It’s hard for us to understand and loathing to claim the prize.

Perhaps in time globalization, with similar cultural norms is starting to us in the West, who will sell anything is for sale if the price is high enough.

Whether on the street or on the web ... it’s all here.
Highlands’ Newspaper
Email: highlandseditor@aol.com

Buy an ornament for the Hospital tree

Bells in honor of living friends and loved ones, stars in memory of deceased friends or loved ones, will be placed on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree in the hospital lobby. Bells or stars are $10. Complete the form below and mail to: Attn.: Tree of Lights, PO Box 742, Highlands, NC, 28741. Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary.

Proceeds go toward scholarships for qualifying candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital’s team of a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.

Amount:
Circle one: In Honor of In Memory of

Given By:
Address:
Send Acknowledgments to:
Address:

HIGHLANDS FINE DINING

Nick’s Fine Foods
Fine Food For Particular People
Lunch Wed - Sat. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Dinner Wed - Sat. from 5:30 p.m.
Now offering beer & wine!
• Last Day of the Season is Christmas Eve
108 Main Street • 526-2706

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Health Care reform end game

We’re now in the end game of health-care reform, and it’s looking like we’ll actually see a bill pass, but opposition among Republicans and conservatives is still strong. Opponents are making a number of objections.

For the last eight years our wars have been paid by special appropriations outside the federal budget so the cost is never accounted for...it’s just added to the federal budget so the cost is never accounted for...it’s just added to the federal budget and to the national debt.

The government has already shelled out at least $1 trillion since 2003 for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (part of the reason the federal debt doubled during George W. Bush’s administration).

But this claim that health-care reform is too expensive is not true. Not reforming our health-care system is what would ruin this country (see my column “Health Care Reform II: Can We Afford to Do Nothing?” August 2009).

Paul Krugman wrote last week (“Reform or Else”) that “health care economists I respect are seriously impressed by the cost-control measures in the Senate bill, which include efforts to improve incentives for cost-effective care, the use of medical research to guide doctors toward treatments that actually work, and more.”

A letter signed by 23 prominent health care experts — including Mark McClellan, who headed Medicare under the Bush administration — declares that the bill’s cost-control measures will reduce long-term deficits. Over the next decade, the Congressional Budget Office has concluded, the proposed legislation would reduce, not increase, the budget deficit.

Another argument Republicans are throwing against reform is that it will mean cuts in Medicare. These same people know that if Medicare is not reformed it will become so expensive it will threaten the entire national economy and have to be eliminated (their real goal). Senator John McCain has been trying to scare people with the threat of “draconian cuts” in Medicare even though he proposed much deeper cuts last year as part of his presidential campaign.

Another argument is that it is unconstitutional to mandate the purchase of health insurance. Yet it was the Republican Party that wrote a Medicare drug bill in 2003 that not only mandated purchase of insurance but instituted a penalty if you didn’t sign up. This penalty increased every month you procrastinated — 1% extra per month delayed. If you put off signing up for a year you would pay a 12% higher premium for the rest of your life, and the money goes to an insurance company — pure profit based on nothing.

This fall I read Money-Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much, by Maggie Mahar, a financial journalist since 1982. The title of her book says it all really: in too many cases the profit motive trumps the well-being of the patient. Mahar shows us how in regions where more procedures and tests are done the medical results are worse. The researchers concluded that one-third of American health care spending is wasted.

If you’d like to read about this issue in detail, read “The Cost Conundrum,” by Atul Gawande, a fabulous article in the New Yorker in June of this year. Dr. Gawande writes, “In a 2003 study, another Dartmouth team, led by the internist Elliott Fisher, examined the treatment received by a million elderly Americans diagnosed with colon or rectal cancer, a hip fracture, or a heart attack. They found that patients in higher-spending regions received sixty percent more care than elsewhere. They got more frequent tests and procedures, more visits with specialists, and more frequent admission to hospitals. Yet they did no better than other patients, whether this was measured in terms of survival, their ability to function, or satisfaction with the care they received. If anything, they seemed to do worse. That’s because nothing in medicine is without risks. Complications can arise from hospital stays, medications, procedures, and tests, and when these things are of marginal value the harm can be greater than the benefits.”

Other studies have looked at autopsy reports to assess whether a doctor’s diagnosis matched what killed a patient. Former Journal of American Medical Association editor George Lundberg, who trained as a pathologist, said that despite extensive use of modern diagnostic imaging techniques, the studies reveal that misdiagnosis of terminally ill patients has not improved since at least 1938. The studies showed major misdiagnosis in about 40% of the cases, for example the patient was being treated for heart disease but really had cancer. A group of doctors at Harvard decided to test this research. When they looked at results of autopsies in their own hospital they found the same results.

Why are drug prices so high in this country? The pharmaceutical industry spends approximately one-and-a-half times as much on marketing and sales as it spends on research and development. From 1995 to 2002, pharmaceutical companies were the nation’s most profitable industry, reporting earnings that ranged from 13% to 18.6% of sales each and every year. Over the same period, the average Fortune 500 firm posted earnings that averaged just 3.1% to 5% of...
Little Barry goes to school

By John Armor

It has been almost a year that little Barry What's-His-Name, the Kenyan-Indonesian-African-American lad has been going to school as President of the United States. This is an interim Report Card to his political parents, the voters of the United States.

English Comprehension:
Barry has the most extraordinary ability to speak in English than all but a small handful of students who have ever attended this school. However, this ability to speak in complete sentences, using words that seem appropriate to the subject at hand, is coupled with a near total lack of content in those speeches. A for delivery, F for content. As Benjamin Franklin observed, "Here comes the Orator! With his flood of words, and his drop of reason."

Social Studies:
With Barry's approval, one of his confederates, Little Harry Reid, spent $300 million to purchase the one time services of Little Mary Landrieu to vote yes to put the Health Care Bill on the floor in the Senate. But, it turned out that Little Mary thought it was only $100 million. They paid 200% more than Little Mary was willing to go for. C for sizing up the situation. F for acting appropriately. As Oscar Wilde said, "A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing."

Science:
The very week that internal documents in a British university surface, showing that the scientists who most support global warming have falsified their data, Little Barry decides to take part in a meeting that assumes that those false data are true. Barry and his selected playmates persist in the view that science is decided by the number of scientists who hold a particular view, rather than which scientist has a theory which best fits the observed facts. F for comprehension of what science consists of. F for application of science in the real world. When Galileo was challenged on his theory that the Earth revolved around the Sun rather than the Sun around the Earth (the common belief of the day) he is reported to have said, "Eppur Si Muove" — "And Yet It Moves."

Economics:
Little Barry has shown a distressing tendency to equate borrowed money with earned money, that either can be spent for "investment" with equal effect. Even if there were no waste in the spending, and no fraud in the counting of the results, the radical difference between borrowing which must be repaid, and spending of present, real money, would remain. F for understanding the basics. F for application in the real world. Milton Friedman from Free to Choose: "You can be sure that we'll all be able to find very good reasons why we should be the ones to spend somebody else's money." Ben Franklin from Poor Richard's Almanack: "A penny saved is a penny earned."

History:
Little Barry has given several speeches in class about the conduct of warfare and the manner of ending a war successfully. Apparently, he has been neglecting his homework assignments. F for comprehension. F for application. As Vince Lombardi observed, and Winston Churchill also did before him, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Actually, that precise quote came from a John Wayne movie and was attributed to Lombardi.

There is no doubt, however, about Churchill's position. Spoken in Commons, "You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us, to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory — victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."

Conclusion:
Little Barry is not doing well here at the School. Not only do I fear that he will not be promoted at the end of this session, without serious private tutoring to fill in the gaps in his current knowledge, I do not think he can successfully complete the current year. The voters should come and see me, at their earliest opportunity.

Signed:
Miss Irmengard Sweeney, Sixth Grade, Unified School District of the United States of America

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Pain, is available here: www.TheseAreTheTimes.us
My, it’s getting warm in here, or…
The really inconvenient truth

Channel 14
Highlands’ own TV channel!

Heart of the High Country
weekly show about Highlands

Show times: 8 am, noon, 5 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm, midnight
To see what’s on this week, visit: www.heartofthehighcountry.com

DVDs of Heart of the High Country available at the Hudson Library and Movie Stop

Visitor Information Program
Show times: 6 am, 9 am, 2 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm, 11 pm

Northland Cable Television

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Revenues

The medical device field is another major growth industry. “Just as Americans shell out far more for prescription drugs than the citizens of other countries, we also pay a premium for devices.” An artificial hip that costs $1270 in Europe would cost four times that here (just for the device). And the most amazing (disgusting?) fact of all: the medical-device salesperson sometimes makes more on the commission than the surgeon makes on the operation to install the device.

Our system of health care and insurance is horribly broken and badly in need of repair. If you haven’t called your Senators to urge them to vote in favor of the bill, now is the time to do it.

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CONSERVATIVE POV

Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swandonson@dnet.net

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... BRUGGER continued from page 6
... ZACHARY continued from page 1

commitment to school construction, and the completion of the regulation-size soccer field at Highlands School, caused commissioners to rethink their options.

In a letter to Lucille Potts dated Nov. 23, 2009, the county exercised its option not to purchase the 0.667-acre parcel.

"After looking at the county’s needs, the board of commissioners voted not to exercise its option to purchase the Lyman Zachary Road property," reads the letter by County Manager Jack Horton. "Accordingly, the county is terminating its contract with you and will not be exercising its option to purchase your property."

Commission Chairman Ronnie Beale said all along, the primary purpose for buying the Potts property adjoining the park was to eventually build a regulation-size soccer field and expand parking.

"The county did purchase part of the property and probably would have purchased the rest if the seller had agreed to sell at that time of the original purchase," said Beale. "We now hope that the new soccer field at Highlands School will relieve some of the pressure that has always been at Zachary Field during soccer season concerning scheduling games, upkeep and parking."

The change in the real estate climate and the availability of county funds has changed since the county first entertained ideas of purchasing the plot. "This year we had to cut the county budget by 10% across the board," said Commissioner McClellan.

Beale said the county has offered to make a land swap with Potts, however.

"We did offer to swap a lot near the Potts property that the county owns so the county would not have to outlay over $200,000 which was the agreed upon cost of the Potts parcel for which we had an option to buy," he said.

"The land the county would be interested in swapping is a 1.74-acre and locked tract in the same general area that isn’t adjacent to the Zachary Field property."

"If you would like to discuss or consider an exchange of properties, please give us a call," reads the letter by County Manager Jack Horton.

Past Commissioner Ricky Bryson, who orchestrated the land dealings for Zachary Park is disappointed in the county’s decision. "They may not need her property now, but what about 25 years from now?"

Commissioner Beale said perhaps in the future, if the seller is still willing to sell to the county, it might be interested, but not at this time. "Right now the county is focused on its capital improvement efforts toward school renovation and construction," he said.

The county option to purchase the Potts parcel ran out on Dec. 1. — Kim Lewicki from the history guy ...

Dec 10, 1955

The Mighty Mouse Playhouse premiered on television.

"Hi, boys and girls! Here we go, rocketing into a exciting cartoon show!"

"Tho’ the explanation was far from cogent, this extraordinary rodent mixed it up with O’ il Can Harry, who was always up to something contrary."

This super powered mouse, was known to rock the house.

I can not explain how or why, but he started out as Super Fly, and this diminutive hero went from really small to more than zero.

But what I really must try to convey is ‘Here he comes to save the day!’"
Highlands Christmas Parade
Sat., Dec. 5

To see more photos and video clips of the parade go to www.highlandsinfo.com.
Photos by Jim Lewicki
Ongoing

• Republican women from Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties have initiated the formation of a Republican Women’s Association. The core group of organizers headed by Meisa McKim of Cashiers includes Carol Adams, Glenville, Dinah Davis, Highlands, Melinda Barber, Cashiers and Debbie Sanderson, Sapphire. All Republican women, permanent and seasonal residents, are invited to join and participate as the group gets officially underway. Announcements about meetings and events will be made through local publications and radio stations. For additional information please call 828-200-0437.

Week Long

• The 2010 Highlands Historical Society calendars are available for $10 each, and if you buy 4 you get a free cookbook. The calendars feature scenes of High- ders are available for $10 each, and if you buy 4 you get a free cookbook. The calendars feature scenes of Highlands from the 1800s to the early 1900s. Calendars are available at Cyano’s, The Highlander Newspaper, Country Club Properties (Wright Square location), and The Chambers Agency. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

• First Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas concert on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Featured will be Valerie Whitcup, harp, Margaret McAllister, harp, Johnathon McAllister, soprano, and Mary Kay Bauer, soprano. Also featured will be Wayne Coleman, tenor, John Greene, tenor, Jim Hunter, tenor, Stell Huie, baritone, and The Highlands Male Chorus led by Orville Wike. Angie Jenkins will be accompanist. Please make plans to attend for a delightful evening of beautiful music. Selections will include “Ave Maria” by Schubert, “Mary, Did You Know,” “But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming” and “He Shall Feed His Flock” from Handel’s “Messiah,” “I Wonder As I Wander,” “Gesu Bambino,” “In the Bleak Midwinter,” and “O Holy Night” which will be sung by 11 year old Johnathon McAllister with harp accompaniment by his sister, 13 year old Margaret McAllister. Also featured will be solo harp selections and congregational singing of familiar carols.

There will be a reception immediately following the concert.

The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

First Presbyterian Church to present Christmas concert

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call 828-526-1F1T.

Sundays

• Escape Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. Call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

Sundays beginning Jan. 3

Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall, Winter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. $10 hourly. 12/31.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.

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.

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

• Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doeter at 877-6618. $30/mth.

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

• ClosedAA Women’s meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays


Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka’s Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church on Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd 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.

Thursdays

• AA-Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. It is for people coping with serious mental illnesses (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385.

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Saturdays

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheese-
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

HCPs Holiday Reading program tonight at PAC

This evening, 7:30 at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, the Highlands Cashiers Players present their 13th Holiday Reading Program. A lineup of fifteen actor/readers will gather on stage to read holiday stories and poems, some humorous, some poignant, some informational — all entertaining. Music and songs will be interspersed with the readings. Professional harpist Valerie von Peddy Whitcup will provide heavenly harp music. Wayne Coleman will sing the “Boar’s Head Carol,” Michelle Holt, “The Christmas Song” (chestnuts roasting, etc.), and Melanie McKenna will add “What Child is This” to complement Vanie Rich’s reading of this year’s children’s story, “B is for Bethlehem.”

The actors/readers include several HCP regulars and a number of other talented readers of the community. Ann Schneider, Jody Read, Vanie Rich, and Diane Rosazza will read selections from the book by Marjorie Holmes, “At Christmas the Heart Goes Home.” Steve Hott will give “Holiday Eating Tips.” Jim Gordon, Curtis and Vanie Rich will dramatize the touching story, “A Lesson from My Father.” Betty Chesna will read a surprising true story, “Santa Rocks;” Stuart Armor, a humorous story, “Oy to the World.” Dean Zuch, Wayne Coleman, and Kirk Howard will dramatize the story, “Night of the Magi,” and winding up the evening will be the appearance of Rachael Hedden as the Lucia Bride, enacting and explaining a past and present Scandinavian tradition.

After the performance the audience is invited downstairs to the PAC reception area for a homemade holiday sweet breads and hot cider furnished by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. The Holiday Reading program is the Players’ annual gift to the community. There is no charge for the performance, no tickets are needed. Older children will enjoy the readings.

The Bascom. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• A demonstration, “Holiday Botanical Painting by Fayne,” will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 1-1:45 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Art class "Botanical Watercolor: American Hol-

ly,” by Fayne Ansley, will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. For teens and adults. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Votes sought this week for winners of Gingerbread Structure contest

A student in The Bascom’s intergenerational gingerbread building workshop works at her creation, above. The workshop was held Thanksgiving weekend at the nonprofit art center and “was wildly successful,” said Bascom Education Director Norma Hendrix. More than 80 gingerbread houses were built by an array of age groups in the class taught by Fayne Ansley, with volunteer help from Mary Guy Gunn, Nancy Pearson and Barbara Domingos. The community is invited to stop by The Bascom and cast a vote for their favorite of the 19 gingerbread houses entered in a Gingerbread Structure Contest. Votes will be taken through Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The winners of the contest will be announced in a free public celebration at 4 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 12. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
**A sweet ending for Christmas Day**

Martha Porter has been tempting Highlanders with her fabulous baked goods and desserts for many years, and services many of Highland's outstanding restaurants. This year she will bake her magic for the Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner.

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fresser's Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. The cost is $35 for adults and $25 for children under 10 and all proceeds will go to Highlands' Cashiers Hospice and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands. It is an extensive buffet of extraordinary holiday cuisine.

Find these brownies and more Christmas Day! Call today: 526-8867 for reservations.

Melt together:
1 cup butter
4 1 oz bars unsweetened chocolate
1/2 tsp salt
1 TBSP vanilla extract
2 cups sugar
1/4 cup milk

Add the melted butter and chocolate to a medium bowl, beat together:
4 eggs

Fold in:
4 1 oz bars unsweetened chocolate
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp salt

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour 20 minutes in an 8x8 or 9x13 pan.

**Fudge Frosting**

Bring to a boil in a saucepan:
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup milk

Boil, stirring constantly, about 2 minutes remove from heat beat in 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips and 6 large marshmallows. (Double to frost 2-layer cake).

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**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

- Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at the Holly Springs Baptist Church at 8 a.m. to noon pm. Please call 524-0908 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of three pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets!
- **Sunday, Dec. 13**
  - At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 7 p.m.
  - Auditions for Highands-Cashiers Players winter play, "The Dixie Swim Club," by J. Jones, N. Hope, and J. Wooten will be held at 3 at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands NC. "The Dixie Swim Club" is a charming play featuring 5 female college friends and former competition swim club teammates and their friendship over 55 years. Performance dates are Feb. 25-26 and March 5-7, 2010. Rehearsals begin early January 2010. Scripts are at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Call: Rick Siegel, Director, 828-200-9237

- **Monday, Dec. 14**
  - Macon County Commission meeting at the courthouse boardroom at 6 p.m. There won't be a second meeting in December.
  - The Macon County School Board meeting meeting is at 6 p.m. at the administration building in Franklin.

- **Wednesday, Dec. 16**
  - A demonstration, "Holiday Floral Arrangement," will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Watch Margie Shambaugh take native seasonal greens and with the help of a few embellishments, create a gorgeous holiday arrangement. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- **Thursday, Dec. 17**
  - Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.
  - At the Literacy Council at the Peggy Crosby Center 1:45 p.m. Holiday Fun with Literacy. Free.
  - Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

- **Friday, Dec. 18**
  - At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2:30 p.m. $20 per person refundable with wine purchase.
  - At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with Matinees, Evening Shows and Refreshments for Purchase. call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.
  - The Highlands Audubon Society will have its annual Christmas Bird Count on Friday at 7 a.m. If you wish to participate please contact Edwin Poole at 828-526-2775.
  - At First Presbyterian Church, A Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. featuring soloists, instrumentalists and The Highlands Male Chorus. Reception immediately follows in Coleman Hall. For more information, call 526-0784.

- **Saturday, Dec. 19**
  - At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2:30 p.m. $20 per person refundable with wine purchase.
  - At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with Matinees, Evening Shows and Refreshments for Purchase. call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.
  - Highlands New Year's Eve Ball 8 p.m. until. Details to follow.

- **Sunday, Dec. 20**
  - At First Presbyterian Church, a Christmas Cantata "Songs of Emmanuel" at the 11 a.m. service directed by Orville Wike and a accompanied by organist, Angie Jenkins and trumpeter Brad Ulrich. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano and Jim Hunter. Narrator will be Duncan Greenlee. For more information, call 526-0784.

- **Wednesday, Dec. 23**
  - Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

- **Thursday, Dec. 24**
  - At First Presbyterian Church, a Christmas Cantata "Songs of Emmanuel" at the 11 a.m. service directed by Orville Wike and a accompanied by organist, Angie Jenkins and trumpeter Brad Ulrich. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano and Jim Hunter. Narrator will be Duncan Greenlee. For more information, call 526-0784.

- **Friday, Dec. 25**
  - At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with Matinees, Evening Shows and Refreshments for Purchase. call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

- **Saturday, Dec. 26**
  - Highlands New Year's Eve Ball 8 p.m. until. Details to follow.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 12**

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**Three exhibitions at The Bascom through Dec. 18**

Art lovers have one more week to view three top-notch exhibitions at The Bascom, a center for the visual arts. The Bascom offers education programs year-round on the ground floor of its main building, but exhibitions, the shop and the first and second floors of the building close Dec 18 until the spring. Admission is free, and exhibitions include "American Art Today, Juried Works," featuring more than 40 pieces like these images, above, from artists across the nation; "The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Images," featuring a collection of historical bag samples from the Newark (N.J.) Public Library; and "Enchanted Forest," featuring creations by The Bascom's youth arts students. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

- **HIARP’T’s Winter Dialogue.** All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. “Theological Implications of Darwin,” by Jim Costa. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan 26
- **At Hiarp’T, The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner.** Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

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**Chamber music Christmas program featuring the ‘best of the best’ for the holidays!**

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival offers a beautiful gift to the twin communities with its Christmas Program, slated for 5 p.m. Saturday, December 12th, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

The performance features gorgeous Christmas music preformed by violinist Kate Ransom; David Hancock and pianist William Ransom. In this program for audiences of all ages, Santa will be on hand to comment on the music and to hand out treats to good listeners. Vivid’s “Winter” from his ever-popular “Four Seasons,” Tchaikovsky’s “Noel” from his own “Serenata,” some Chopin for solo piano, Christmas Carols for trio and a fun singing along of Christmas songs will make this a perfect prelude to the holidays.

This unabashedly festive program is $20 for adults, and children under 12 are free. For more information or tickets, call (828) 526-9060.

An internationally-recognized chamber musician and recitalist who’s been a favorite of Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival audiences for her passionate performances, Kate Ransom is currently violinist with the Serafin String Quartet. She was a founder of the Alexander String Quartet and has chambered audiences in chamber music concert halls around the world.

David Hancock came to Atlanta in 1991 as first cellist with the Atlanta Chamber Orchestra (recently renamed Orchestra Nashville). A group committed to programming new “cross-over” works in concert with traditional masterpieces. He is soloist on the group’s debut compact disc, “Conversations in Silence.” David earned the Master of Music degree in conducting from Southwestern Theological Seminary in Texas. His extensive study of solo and chamber repertoire placed him under the coaching of Lynn Harrell, Claus Adam, Leonard Rose and Samuel Mays. David received the Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, where he studied with Fritz Magg. Since coming to Atlanta, David frequently performs in the Southeast as soloist, and chamber musician where he also serves as pedagogue, composer and arranger. He recorded as soloist and chamber musician on several CD recordings and has also recorded with Trey Anastasio, Steve Green, Michael W. Smith, Amy Grant and others. In 2005 he formed the Elusym Chamber Orchestra and Chorus and serves as its Artistic Director. David is the co-founders of Chamber Music Atlanta.

Pianist William Ransom, who serves as artistic director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, has appeared in recital, as soloist with orchestras, and as a chamber musician in Eastern and Western Europe, Japan, Korea, South America, Mexico, and throughout the United States. He has performed in New York’s Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, and Merkin Hall; in Orchestra Halls in Chicago, Detroit, and Atlanta; at the National Gallery in Washington D.C.; and in Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, Dallas, and Los Angeles. He has performed for the American Embassadorto Japan and Ireland, and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio and Television in the United States, Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Poland. His recording of “Enoch Arden,” by Richard Strauss; “The Music of Alfredo Barili,” and “Chamber Music of Johannes Brahms” were released on the ACA label. Ransom can also be heard on “Heartkeys,” from Rising Star Records.

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**Literacy Council hosts Holiday event**

The Literary Council of Highlands will be hosting its Holiday Fun with Literacy event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 17, in the Peggy Crosby Center. All children are invited to participate in holiday-themed arts and crafts, and listen to a read-aloud of a holiday-themed book, “Kids love Christmas, and it’s a great opportunity to read aloud to them. There are so many great holiday-themed children’s books to share with them,” said Laura Miller, programs coordinator.

Holiday Fun with Literacy is a free event. Snacks will be provided. Call Bessie Dietrich Goggins at The Literary Council of Highlands by telephone at (828) 526-9938 extension 240.

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**Sheriff Department asks community for monetary donations for annual ‘Shop with a Cop’ program**

It’s that time of year again when the Sheriff’s Office is preparing for its annual “Shop With a Cop” and as always the department is asking the communities to help! Thank you to all of the community officials who pick up local children at their homes and take them Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. Afterward, they have lunch with the officer compliments of Burger King and Wendy’s. The officer then went back to the Sheriff’s Office and Police wrap their Christmas gifts.

As always the only requirement that before the child finishes shopping they must buy one small gift for anyone the child wishes to buy one for.

This year’s event will include officers from the Macon County Sheriff’s Office, Franklin Police Department, Highlands Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, NC Wildlife Commission, United States Forest Service, and the NC State Bureau of Investigations.

“This year we hope to bring big smiles to more Macon County children than ever before,” said Sheriff Robert L. Holland. “This annual event always always spends time and the officers always look forward to participating. With your contribution you can make this year’s event a huge success and help give a family a Christmas they’ll remember for years to come.”

Please send checks by Dec. 14th to:
Macon County Sheriff’s Office
1820 Lakeside Drive
Franklin NC 28734
Please make checks payable to: MCSO “Shop with a Cop”
Highlanders drop hard fought Homecoming games to Cherokee

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders celebrated homecoming on Friday night, Dec. 4, unfortunately, the Cherokee Braves came to play the role of spoiler.

The Lady Highlanders started slowly against the Lady Braves, struggling somewhat with their size on the interior and trailing by 12 at halftime. However, the third quarter saw the Lady Highlanders constant pressure defense finally start wearing down the Lady Braves, and Highlands crept to within a single basket at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Lady Highlanders had two possessions to either tie or take the lead, but could not capitalize and Cherokee's superiority on the offensive glass allowed them to push the lead out and prevail 67-56.

Emily Munger scored 23 points for the Lady Highlanders, Taylor Buras added 12 and Kate-Marie Parks scored 14.

The nightcap saw the Highlanders face the Braves in a rematch of last year's state tournament game.

Cherokee came out strong early behind 6'7” sophomore Jordy Sequoyah and 6'3 Senior Storm Sequoyah. The Sequoyah's (f fittingly) dominated the paint early and pushed the Braves out to a double-digit lead.

The Highlanders fought back late in the second half to tie the game at 29 at the break. In the second half, Cherokee jumped out early, but again the Highlanders closed to within a basket despite being in heavy foul trouble.

In the fourth quarter, the war of attrition came to a head, as the Highlanders had 3 players foul out and ultimately succumbed to a 61-47 defeat. The Braves shot 41 free throws to the Highlanders 15.

Logan Schmitt scored 13 points for the Highlanders and Josh Delacruz scored 16.

The Highlanders next home game is Friday, when they will host the Rosman Tigers. Varsity Girls start at 6 pm.

Taylor Buras and Jose' Feria and Katie Nix and Collin Taylor
Seniors:
Jessica Gagne, Shelby Johnson, Kate Marie Parks, Bobbi Jo Talley, Jamie Bolt, Brice Jenkins, Will Mathiowdis, and Chris St. Germain.

Highlands School Homecoming Court

At Friday night’s Homecoming Basketball game against Cherokee, the 2009 Homecoming Court was named. The dance was cancelled due to pending weather, but it has been tentatively scheduled for Jan. 23, 2010. At that time, the Homecoming King and Queen will be named.

Freshmen:
Elizabeth Strawn and Parker Sims

Sophomores:
Danielle Shomper and Isaac Beavers

Juniors:
Taylor Buras and Jose' Feria and Katie Nix and Collin Taylor

Seniors:
Jessica Gagne, Shelby Johnson, Kate Marie Parks, Bobbi Jo Talley, Jamie Bolt, Brice Jenkins, Will Mathiowdis, and Chris St. Germain.

Though the annual Homecoming Dance was cancelled due to pending inclement weather, Highlands School Homecoming Court was showcased in the parade on Saturday.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Above, Highlander Cai Roman holds his own against Cherokee.
below Cody St. Germain shoots.

Photos by Noel Atherton
Get your Emergency Council ‘angel’ now

This year all banks, except for Regions Bank, each have a Christmas tree in their lobby with ornaments bearing the items needed by a person from a family who has sought aid from the Emergency Council for Christmas.

Please stop by and choose an ornament to help make someone’s Christmas a little brighter this year. All gifts must be returned unwrapped (gift bags may be used) to the banks by close of business Friday, Dec. 18. Any questions can be directed to the Highlands Emergency Council or any of the banks involved.

‘House of Spears’ is in the Heisman house

As I was watching Alabama dismantle Florida on Saturday night in the SEC Championship, I was listening to the commentators talk about Alabama nose tackle Terrence ‘Mount’ Cody.

The commentators pointed out that most fans do not notice the nose tackle because their job is to eat up blocks and free the linebackers. Cody did a terrific job of this taking on double teams and allowing LB Rolando McClain to dominate the football game. However, Cody himself was not easily noticed by the casual observer.

Later in the evening, while tuning in to the Nebraska-Texas Big 12 Championship, I noticed someone. In fact, it would have been hard NOT to notice the 300+ pound behemoth that continually found his way into the Texas backfield.

Ndumukong Suh (pronounced En-Dam-ah-ken Soo) dominated that game in a way reserved for defensive tackles named Warren Sapp, and it soon became obvious to even the most casual of observers that Suh was the best player on the field.

At 6’4” and 300+ pounds, Suh is projected as the number one pick in the NFL Draft as either a 4-3 tackle or a 3-4 end. His name means “House of Spears” in Cambodian and his presence on the field has been every bit as foreboding as his name for opponents this year.

Suh has collected 12 quarterback sacks and 21 QB hurries this season, which is a tremendous number for a tackle. (Compare that to the stats of Terrence Cody, who has no sacks this year and 3 QB hurries. In fairness to Cody, he is projected as a 2-gap lineman in the NFL and his job is to command double-team each play)

What really stands out with Suh (aside from the chants of “Soooooo” that were heard numerous times throughout the Big 12 Championship) was how he brought it during the biggest game of the season — 4.5 sacks of Colt McCoy to go along with 13 tackles in what was undoubtedly supposed to be McCoy’s Heisman moment.

Suh’s domination should have solidified his Heisman vote; seeing as the Heisman is supposed to go to the best football player in college.

Unfortunately, the last time that a college defender won the Heisman was all the way back in 1997 when Charles Woodson won the award as a defensive back. No interior lineman on either side of the ball has ever won the Heisman, despite interior lineman having been #1 draft picks in many NFL drafts.

There has long been a complaint about the inherent offensive bias to the Heisman award, but I would argue that it is understandable, particularly considering the focus on offense in today’s game.

Highlight packages rarely feature anything defensive unless it is a big hit or an interception, but last Saturday’s highlight package for Texas-Nebraska was an exception. Suh’s domination in such a high profile game propelled him to a Heisman invitation in New York, and if the voters carefully consider the criteria then Suh should be the choice.
Losing the nerve to believe

It has happened gradually. Over the course of the past several generations, many folks have lost the nerve to believe in God. Millions of people have either decided to disregard much of human history or they have become ignorant of an entire dimension of human existence which heretofore was a ubiquitous fact of life—Faith in the Almighty God.

The controversies we hear about during this time of the year concerning Nativity scenes, what to call the Christmas Season or the trees we decorate, are not rooted in some cavalier notion of inclusivity or even scientific enlightenment. Rather, they find their genesis in a decided and rapid reluctance to believe, in fear of trusting another’s word. If we modern people cannot lay hold of God or of whatever, so as to examine, understand and master it, then we tend to not believe or imagine or wonder.

Jesus, the one whom Christians remember, celebrate, and seek after as the already but not yet come Son of God—said, to those who have the courage to believe, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10, NIV) Faith is not for the faint of heart. Belief takes courage so as to trust in another’s Word and to abandon our self examined, seemingly secure little lives. Yet when belief truly comes, it reopens that lost dimension of life. Indeed, it opens the gate to genuine life, the full life that Jesus talked about, here and for eternity.

The Bible teaches that the “righteous will live by faith.” This means that life lived to the fullest extent can only come through faithful living. Our best life only comes by loving, by trusting another’s Word completely. Believing in the author of life, Jesus, allows Christians to move beyond the confines of the mono-dimensional life that the modern world peddles as it抢劫 the nerve to believe. Faith in the Son of God allows us to truly live.

How much more exciting could Christmas be for everyone if we all dared to be courageous and to believe in him? It’s too easy — small minded and boring — to not believe. Let us regain our nerve and resolve to recapture the full life. Merry Christmas!
After-Parade wine tastings at Wolfgang’s and Paoletti’s on Saturday, Dec. 5

December Rotary Bingo winners

Last week, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff’s Department to sponsor “Shop With A Cop Bingo.” Net proceeds of more than $4,000 were donated to Shop-With-A-Cop. This program pairs officers with local children who might not have a happy holiday. Each child is given $100 to spend on gifts for themselves and family and is paired with an officer for shopping and fun. Sheriff Robbie Holland, Joy Wood, Cecelia Schmitt and Ivy Satterwhite won the final Super Bingo game. They are shown with Rotary member and Bingo caller Tay Bronaugh.

November Rotary Bingo winners

Dusty’s

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**POLICE & FIRE REPORTS**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Nov. 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**Nov. 20**
- At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hicks and Mirror Lake.
- At 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N. 5th and Carolina Way.

**Nov. 25**
- At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 28 and South Street.
- At 9:45 a.m., officers were called to a residence at N. 1st Street concerning a domestic dispute involving a knife. Vidalia Ovando, 28, of N. 1st Street was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. No bond was set. Also arrested was Jose Alberto, 20, of N. 1st Street for simple physical assault. No bond was set.

**Dec. 1**
- At 1:58 a.m., officers responded to a residence at N. 1st Street where a student had been injured on the basketball property and resisting arrest. There was no bond set.

**Dec. 2**
- At 5:55 p.m., officers responded to a call of injury to property by a couple who said they had to jump out of the road in front of the Peggy Crosby Center to keep from getting hit by a pick-up truck that was traveling too fast so they dropped and damaged their computer valued at $1,150.
- At 9:30 p.m., Roman De Dias Tosca, 43, of Highlands was arrested for assault to a female, injury to property and resisting arrest. There was no bond set.

**Dec. 5**
- At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to a call of an assault on a female and injury to property valued at $100 at Mountain High Lodge.
- At 9:30 p.m., Roman De Dias Tosca, 43, of Highlands was arrested for assault to a female, injury to property and resisting arrest. There was no bond set.

**Dec. 7**
- At 2 p.m., employees of the ABC Store reported receiving a returned check on a closed account totaling $81.86.
- At noon, Bryson’s Food Store reported nine checks written between Nov. 23-28 totaling $788.57 were returned stamped “closed account.”
- At 3 p.m., officers took a report from a woman claiming she was being stalked by a man in town.
- During the week, police officers responded to 9 alarms and issued 3 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 2:

**Dec. 2**
- At 9:24 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the Playmore residence on Horse Cove Road. It was false.

**Dec. 4**
- At 9:17 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Point Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- At 4:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands School where a student had been injured on the basketball court. She was taken to the hospital for neck pain but was released.

**Dec. 7**
- At 10:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the landfill on Rich Gap Road where a worker was experiencing medical problems.

**Dec. 9**
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. was called to a possible structure fire at a residence on Crescent Trail. There was a malfunction of the propane gas feed into the wood-burning fireplace.

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**HELP WANTED**

FNS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL
Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Our wage scale is $11.00 to $14.40 per hour with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

**LEGAL**

Bryson Enterprises Ltd. is requesting bids from Certified Minority Contractors/Suppliers and Certified Minority Contractors/Suppliers for Pine Street Park Stormwater for the Town of Highlands. Bids are requested by 9 a.m. on December 15, 2009. Plans are available at McGill and Associates, 55 Broad Street, Asheville, NC 28801 or by contacting Bryson Enterprises office, 2939 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC 28741. (828-526-9348).

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NEW HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL Full-time weekend shift position. Medical terminology and typing skills a must. C.N.A. certification preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

UNIT CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL Full-time weekend shift position. Medical terminology and typing skills a must. C.N.A. certification preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL Full-time, 90% out-patient care with potential planned upward mobility. Strong orthopedic skills desired. Professional independence encouraged. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

WANTED

WANTED TO RENT – Quality 3 or 4-bedroom home close to town. Upgraded kitchen, flexible on

See CLASSIFIEDS page 20
furnishings, easy access. Small, clean dog allowed. Long term lease. Possibly interested in option for the right home. Call 828-200-0815. (st. 12/10)

HARDWORKING COUPLE LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING AND YARDWORK AND HOUSE-CLEANING WORK – Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

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15-ACRES OF WOODED ACREAGE FOR SALE – NE Georgia Mountains at NC/GA state line. Across from Sky Valley Golf. Includes Spring-fed creeks. $100,000 per acre. Call 706-782-7396. (12/31)

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation included. (st. 12/10)

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HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS, Fully Furnished with W/D, $750 a month. 787-2423. (st. 11/12)

SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT, full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. $700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 11/15)

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN – 535 N. 4th Street. $600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)


APT. FOR RENT – Fully Furnished. Including W/D. Minutes from Hospital and downtown. $475/month plus utilities. Call 787-2423. (st. 10/22)

2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Few minutes from downtown Highlands and the hospital. fully furnished included w/d. Call 787-2423. (St. 9/24)

$325/MONTH, one bedroom in 5-bedroom house. Utilities divided equally. Walk to hospital. Call: 828-200-1064. (st. 10/1)

FULLY FURNISHED 4-ROOM CABIN SUITE off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person. $700/mo. includes electric, heat, satellite TV and wifi. Visit http://highlandsbigcountryrealty.com for virtual tour. Phone (828) 421-7922. (st. 11/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1Ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - $100/week - call (828) 787-1515

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - $50/week - call (828) 787-1515

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. $795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

GREAT 2/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

SMALL FURNISHED COTTAGE suitable for (1) occupant conveniently located @ 674 Chestnut Street. Queen bed, living area and kitchen combined. Nice screen porch with sleeping loft. Quiet and private. No pets and no smoking. $800. monthly plus $300. deposit.

See CLASSIFIEDS page 21
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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009 - Page 21

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

AURANT FOR LEASE ON LARGE ENOUGH FOR TWO $400 OBO. Call 526-3847.

EMPIRE GAS LOGS: 28 wide, ventless, remote controlled, 20,000 BTU, imitates real fire very well, $150. 526-4594.


ESWLO CARDIO GLIDE - Like New. $75. Call 526-5462.

ORIGIAL SYRACUSE CHINA FROM NOW CLOSED “AUNT FANNY’S CABIN” IN ATLANTA, 19 plates, 18 bread and butter, 18 dessert. All for $295. Call 526-0498.

RECLAIMED BRAZILIAN CHERRY DINING TABLE; One of a Kind. $1.200. 828-526-9012. Randy. (st. 10/22)

PIANO - Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbults and was in the Biltmore Esates Plays Beautiful $7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for $2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 827-371-2129 (st. 10/22).

EMPIRE GAS LOGS; available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 526-0439.

KITCHENAIDE SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR, Stainless steel with in-the-door water and ice. $1,000. Call 828-371-2232.

GOODYEAR WRANGLER TD TIRES – size 265/75R16. With hard case-great condition-$250 828.482.2222

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3-PIECE BEDROOM SET - Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. $300. Call 526-5772.


AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS – 9 piece place setting. 64 pieces. $395. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

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COLONIAL GLASS – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and 6 Dessert plates. $35. Call 526-4053.

WENLO GUITAR – Like New. $75. Call 787-2310.

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2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT – olive green, beige leather, 72,000 miles. Excellent condition, V-8 5.4 liter. $13,500. Call 526-5470.

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 19)

• VEHICLES FOR SALE
The Holiday season is a journey of the heart to help us remember that giving to others can bring the greatest joy.

To bring a little joy to the less fortunate children in the Highlands community, the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club ladies donated more than 50 presents begin out by Santa this Christmas season.

On Dec. 3, Wildcat hostesses Linda Arnold, Nancy Temple, Midge Rothermel, Claire Vaughn, and Pegi Williard held a luncheon at Pegi's house for all the winter Wildcat Ladies.

The admission ticket to the luncheon was a child's toy. The event was filled with singing, laughter and good food but the real joy was knowing that we were doing something special for children. It was indeed a “party with a purpose.”

Wildcat Ladies: Starting from the left and going around the table: Pegi Williard, Midge Rothermel, Jane Grimes, Veda Sherard, Nancy Temple Susan Murphy Linda Arnold, Claire Harrington, Linda Shearon, Jane Mcclade Margaret Hanlen, Candyce Field, Pierrette Phillips, Ruth McDivitt, Mary Jane Highsmith, Cecil Hines, Suzy Mosely, Debbie Hodges, Claire Vaughn, Barbara Domingos, Diane Rethorst.

Two area churches to share facilities beginning Jan. 3

Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 62L US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717.

The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Nursing degree possible in one year through WCU's ABSN program

A career in nursing can be just a year away for individuals who enroll in Western Carolina University's new 12-month Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

The ABSN Program allows those who already hold bachelor’s degrees, or higher degrees, in any field to transition to a career as a registered nurse. The program is designed for working full-time students who are willing to immerse themselves in a full year of intense academic study, said Shelia Chapman, assistant professor at WCU and coordinator for the program.

Previously, WCU’s School of Nursing admitted just one group of students into the ABSN program each May, and those students completed the program in 16 months. Beginning in 2010, new classes of students will be enrolled in both January and August, and those students will be able to complete the program in 12 months, making them eligible to take the state’s licensing examination to become a registered nurse.

WCU’s nursing faculty is currently interviewing candidates for January enrollment, and no new applications are being taken for that class, which will be full, Chapman said. However, an application packet for the August class will be posted online on Feb. 1. The deadline for submission of that application is May 15.

Course requirements for the ABSN are the same as those for a traditional bachelor of science in nursing degree, and prerequisites are required. Classes are held full time on the Enka campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and there are no semester breaks, Chapman said. Students typically attend classes for eight hours a day, five days each week.

Earlier this year, WCU’s School of Nursing and the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville announced a new partnership designed to increase the number of nurses qualified to serve their region and its veteran population. A federal grant of $1.5 million is being used to increase the number of students in WCU’s ABSN program. The partnership is part of a five-year, $40 million federal program that began in 2007.

For more information about the ABSN, visit http://www.wcu.edu/10421.asp on the Web. The Web site includes information on scheduling an advising session. Information is also available by contacting Shelia Chapman at (828) 670-8810, extension 228.
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