

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 50

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Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
33 / 26F	34 / 22F	32 / 20F

This Week in Highlands

Through January

- Buy your 2010 full color Highlands School yearbook. Call 1-866-282-1516 or go to www.jostensyearbooks.com Questions? Call Highlands School at 526-2147.

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 1-4:30 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 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with matinees and evening shows Call PAC at 526-9047.

- The Highlands Audubon Society will have its annual Christmas Bird Count on Friday at 7 a.m. Call Edwin Poole at 828-526-2775.

- At First Presbyterian Church a "Christmas Concert" at 7 p.m. Call 526-0784.

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19

- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meeting at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast at 9 am, meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

- The Greenway Trail group will be working on Big Pear Pen Mountain. Call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385.

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, The Magic of Music" A Braidstream Workshop at 3 pm. \$5. For tickets, call 526-9047

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, Braidstream Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. \$20. For tickets, call 526-9047.

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- At the Civic Center, La Noche Navidena, a Christmas Holiday Dinner & Santa Visit from 6-9 p.m. Free to Internationals. Tickets at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Sunday, Dec. 20

- At First Presbyterian Church, a Christmas Cantata "Songs of Emmanuel" at the 11 a.m. service Call 526-0784.

- At the Highlands United Methodist Church, Christmas Cantata at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Police Dept. reputation discussed

The Highlands Police Department was a big issue on the campaign trail recently with certain factions in town suggesting it's over staffed, serves to harass citizens, issues unnecessary DWI citations, and isn't sensitive to the needs of the business community.

On the job a few weeks now, Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Gary Drake met with Police Chief Bill Harrell to learn for them-

selves what's going on.

"We had a very positive meeting," said Chief Harrell. "Things aren't always as they seem and it's best to ask questions and that's what they did."

Grumblings concerning an alleged inordinate amount of citations being issued, too many people arrested for DWI, restaurateurs saying people won't come to Highlands because they're worried about

getting a DWI, a lack of response concerning shoplifters - were all issues raised by the public.

First, statistics show the issuance of six times as many warning citations (703) to state citations (180) over the year, so for the sake of public relations, Harrell said he will make note of that fact from now on in his reports.

Second, since January 2009

• See POLICE DEPT. page 9

VIPER tower could come to Highlands

The possibility of a 300-ft., steel, communication tower erected on county property in the Highlands area was discussed at the Monday, Dec. 14 Macon County Commission meeting.

Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Management Director, said NC Highway Patrol requested permission to install the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responder (VIPER) 800 mghz radio communication tower and radio equipment in the Highlands area at no cost to the county.

Interoperable communications was identified as one of the nation's top 10 homeland security priorities.

This was evident after the attack on the World Trade Center when public safety officials needed to talk with one another on a single radio and closer to home, during the Peek's Creek tragedy when public safety officials weren't able to communicate.

"The biggest issue is communication," said Cabe. "During Peek's Creek in 2004, we had all types of North Carolina agencies here and we couldn't talk to them and they couldn't talk to us."

Interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies to talk to one another via radio communication

• See VIPER page 21

Santa Claus has come to town!



Last Saturday, Santa made a visit to the Highlands United Methodist Church where he had breakfast with scores of children. Later he heard all their wishes in a picture perfect setting for the holidays. He will be at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street Saturdays until Christmas and at Mountain Rarities on Main Street Dec. 17, 18 and Dec. 23 from 2-4 p.m. Pictured is Kedra McCall.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

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Fiber loop 'connects' Western NC

Though not up and running yet, Phase I connectivity of WNC-EdNET - the network that will bring voice, video, data and distance communications to more than 70 school sites in Western North Carolina - is about to be turned on.

The only thing holding it up is a person to manage the system and that was one subject at the Monday, Dec. 14 Macon County School Board meeting.

Financial backers are requesting a single WAN Engineer be hired to maintain the system and that he be based out of the Macon County Schools Administration office.

"Macon County Schools will function as the fiscal agent and provide oversight in conjunction with the WNC-EdNet Technology Committee," said Macon County School IT Administrator Tim Burrell, who will act as the engineer's immediate supervisor.

The total cost of the position is \$100,000 annually and includes salary, benefits, travel and supplies. It begins Jan. 1, 2010.

The salary for the first six months - \$50,000 - will come from a \$30,000 grant and \$20,000 from the school districts in each county.

Macon County Schools and schools in Jackson, Haywood, Cherokee, Swain and Clay counties, on the Cherokee Indian Reservation,

• See FIBER LOOP page 9

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Those who promote war should fight in one

Dear Editor,

There is no comparison between what the World, and Sir Winston were fighting and engaged in defeating, and this War on Terror so carelessly and inappropriately waged by President Bush and Cheney.

The Germans were going to overrun Europe, and nearly burnt England to the ground. Total victory against such a force was necessary. No comparison exists between WWII and Afghanistan.

Bush and Cheney and their gang had Bin Ladin on the run and vulnerable in late 2001. They changed their focus and let the real enemy escape. Iraq for oil that we never benefited from to date, revenge for the First Gulf War, and money-making contracts for friends became the real game in town.

Cheney had five, count them five, deferments from military service for no real valid reason!

Why is it that those who so eagerly ran from any form of military service are so much in a hurry to send someone else's son or daughter to die or be maimed?

Have they felt the thrill of sand in their eyes and mouth? No A/C, no comfortable place to rest, the weight and strain of equipment on their backs. Have they served their country in the military. Everyone wants to fight, and win. But not everyone knows even the most remote experience of real combat.

We are living in a World Village in this technical age. Understanding, cooperation, respect for other countries and for various peoples has to be at the forefront of any activity — especially, war!

John Armor of "His & Hers" and his cohorts need a good dose of the pain and anguish of conflict.

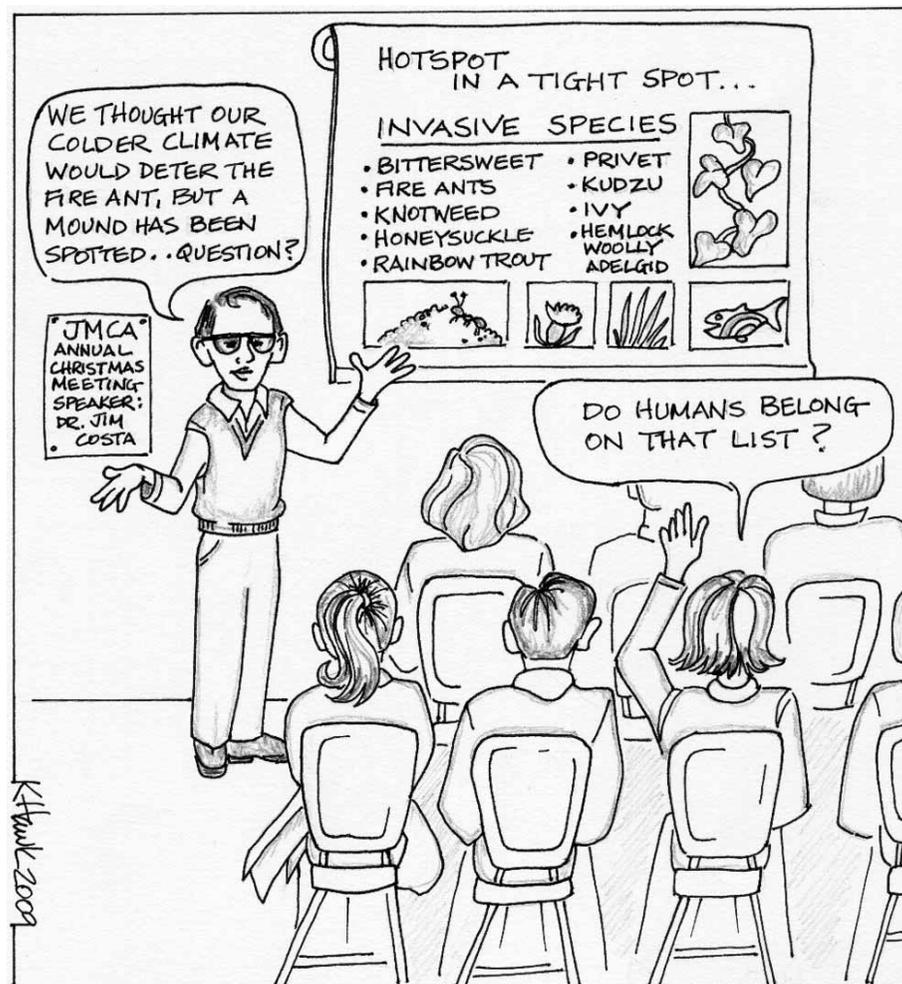
Joe Mathers
Otto, N C

Where were the children?

Dear Editor:

Was it the threat of possible ice or simply an excess of wonderful programs that caused parents not to take advantage of the opportunity to bring their children (who would have been admitted free of charge!) to the remarkable musical event at PAC last Saturday evening?

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** 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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The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival provided Highlanders of all ages with an unforgettable performance by Will and Kate Ransom that deserved a packed house; it did not get it, and the most conspicuous absentees were the children, even though the event had been planned and advertised to include children.

The Ransoms, their friend cellist David Hancock and Santa Claus gave commentary on compositions by the likes of Vivaldi, Chopin and Tchaikovsky that folks of any age would have enjoyed.

As we walked to our car after this thrilling performance, a friend commented, "Where but in Highlands could you come dressed casually, and sit so close to world-class performers to listen to their music? Nowhere but Highlands. And parking is even free at PAC!"

I truly wish every child in Highlands had been present for what I know they would have loved. If the Chamber Music folks provide such an event again next year, I hope every adult who attended Saturday's recital will bring their own or someone else's children to enjoy it!

Elaine Whitehurst
Highlands

• THANKS •

Turnout was great!

'Tis the Season', representing the local non-profit organizations, wants to thank the community for the great response on Saturday following the wonderful Christmas Parade.

Many people will receive an attractive card saying they have been honored by a gift which will furnish food, medical care, supplies or emotional support to our residents who need help. If you haven't yet made this gift to honor someone who has so much 'stuff' by giving to help someone who has less, you can still do so. Go by or call the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church or Methodist Church, make your donation and pick up your gift cards to give to those you want to honor. What a great way to put more meaning into the Christmas Season!

HHS says 'thanks'

Thank you Highlanders and guests for supporting the Highlands Historical Society's Annual Christmas Showhouse!

I'm almost afraid to start naming names, lest I forget someone - but there are so many unsung heroes to this event, I feel I must try, so here goes.

First of all, my thanks to Elaine Whitehurst, president of the Highlands Historical Society, and to Wiley Sloan - thinker/

•See THANKS page 3

... THANKS continued from page 2

DOER extraordinaire, and of course Jim Whitehurst who seems to be there any time ANY thing needs to be done.

Our Christmas Showhouse this year was unique in a couple of ways; one was that the house we chose was an unfurnished home – that alone proved to be too much for most decorators to even consider. Secondly, we decided to offer pieces used as furnishings/decorations for sale to the public, so that viewers could get ideas, but they could actually buy items as they saw them displayed.

The house for 2009 was The Stewart House – but also has been known as the Downing house (1890 – 1899, Mr. Henry C. Downing from Mississippi), then the Stewart family (1899 – 1926, Mr. Stewart was a well known agricultural writer), then the Michael family (1926 – 1969, the Michaels from Florida used the house mainly in the summers), then the Cook family (1969 – 1996; Frank Cook, a well known real estate developer, then passed on to his daughters Mary Bascom Cook and Beverly Cook Quin), then to the Werders (1996 – 2006, Bruce and Barbara Werder along with Barbara's mother, Joan Levinson operated the home as a bed & breakfast called 1891 - The Stewart House), and now owned by Bill Evans, developer of Town Place Condominium.

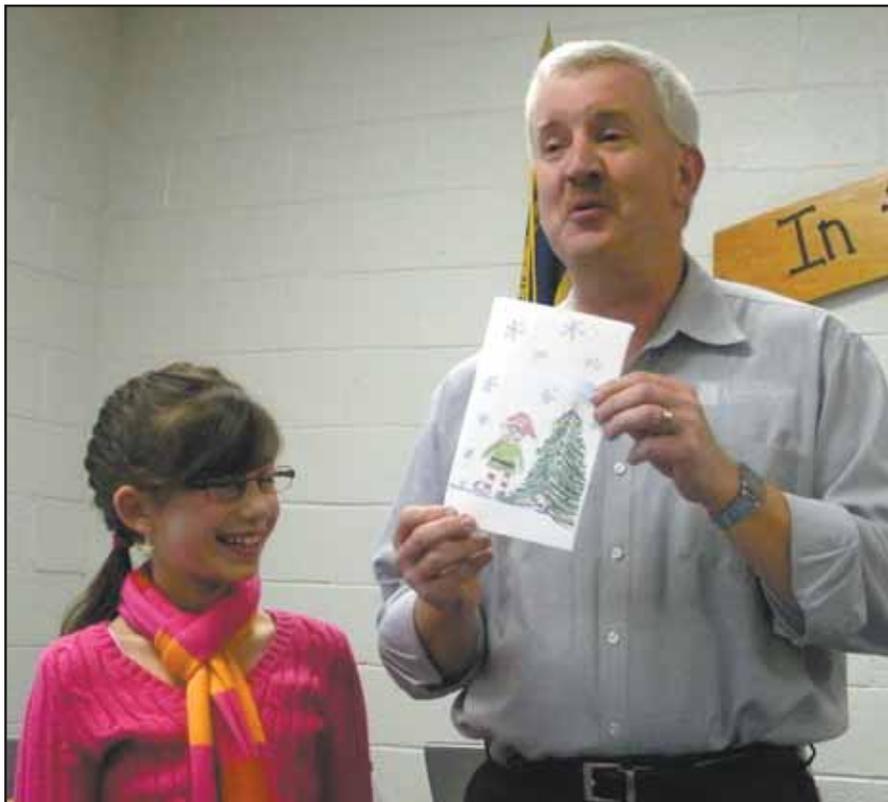
Our special thanks to Mr. Evans who graciously allowed us free reign to decorate

to our hearts content. I think it is notable that for a home to be 119 years old and only have had six owners, speaks well of the home and the owners that have preserved her. I would also like to thank Pat Allen of Harry Norman Realtors, the listing broker of Town Place Condominiums and The Stewart House for her help and access.

All of our decorators deserve the biggest blue ribbons possible. The transformation from an empty house to a beautifully decorated home was remarkable – and all done within one week. Every room had a Christmas tree decorated by the decorator for that room to coordinate with that room's style. Sam Gunter and David Ebert of Sam Gunter Interiors warmly welcomed us with the entry room with beautiful wall hangings, a Christmas village and lifelike animals. Liz View of Cut N' Patch Quilts along with Sharon Gregory-Smith of Aartbark, and P.J. View decorated the Master Bedroom with a stylish country flair using wood and handmade quilts, Cut N' Patch along with Robert Gregory's Woodworks decorated a child's bedroom with more handmade quilts, exquisite handmade rocking horses, cradle and children's rocking chairs, Audrey Wood, Cheryl Benitez and crew of Mountain House Home Furnishings from Cashiers furnished and decorated a den with beautiful furnishings and accessories complete with a massive man-

•See THANKS page 18

Elementary Student designs School Board's annual Christmas card



At the last Macon County School Board meeting for 2009, Chairman Jim Breedlove congratulated Macie Bodenheimer whose artwork was chosen to adorn the school district's annual Christmas card. Macie is 8-years-old.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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... HIS & HERS continued from page 16

tell me that if they have a sick, scrawny animal in their sights, and a buck with a magnificent set of antlers strolls by, they will shoot the puny deer for the good of the race? Of course not! They want the bragging rights for bagging the magnificent animal. Don't take us for idiots.

I realize it's not wise to tick off people who carry guns. Still, folks would be wasting their time on our property. They've al-

ready killed off everything that moves. Gosh, I guess they'll just have to go back to shooting up road signs. Bummer.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who lives on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle and John miss the wild animals which used to live in abundance on their property.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Free Nobel Peace prize with every taco dinner

Ya know, sometimes the world gets so nutty, ya just gotta back away from it and laugh. The title of this column was on a sign outside a Texas restaurant. Now that's funny.

I'm just your average Joe. No silver spoon in my mouth. I'm not a "lucky spermer" born rich and famous. I'm also not an intellect but over the years, I've become something better; I'm wise and street savvy. I certainly wouldn't

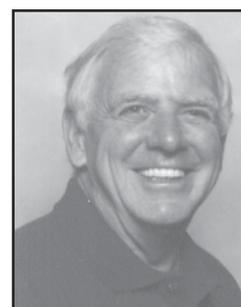
trade wise and savvy for being an intellect or a Nobel. I'm one happy dude who practically never buys a person's BS. You can learn from me because I can smell a con.

I once worked with a cop who was brilliant. I have no idea why he was a cop. He had more PhDs and degrees than Highlands has churches. But he was kept off the street for his safety. By today's standards, he was so street stupid he could be president. His fellow officers called him an imbecile but he wasn't. He was buried inside my department for most of his career doing research and studies. He was likable, a nice guy who spoke most eloquently; academic but dumb as toast. Surely, you know people like that.

The reason I'm feeling smug these days is because I now realize I'm more astute, more savvy and wiser than the 53 million Americans who voted for Barack Obama. Being I'm an average Joe, there's got to be lots of people with higher IQs than I who voted for him. But I never bought his BS which included his global warming con. Excuse me for one minute while I turn my back on you. Har, har, har, did you get conned, or what?

The great part about being "me" is I'm able to maintain both liberal and conservative relationships. We have agreed to disagreed and remain friends. Unlike the hard core right or left who usually have no friends who differ with them, I enjoy my middle of the road position.

Before the national elections, I took this approach in choosing who I wanted to be my president. Realizing both candidates are crooks or they wouldn't have gotten this far politically, I had to find the one who was the least corrupt



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
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and could keep my family safe. Keeping my family safe trumped everything. I pretended I was a corporate president interviewing two men vying for a position of trust in my company. After interviewing candidate A, Barack Obama, I made the following notes, "Too good to be true. He sounds great but he's gotta be full of bull. He also has shady friends and zero experience at running a huge corporation. But he's very intelligent. I must consider

him."

When I interviewed candidate B, John McCain, my notes read, "War hero but pretty darn old. Definitely CEO material but he's friendly with an existing spend-crazy and corrupt Republican Party. He says one thing and does the opposite. His trust is questionable. Not as intelligent as candidate A and doesn't speak well either. Use caution."

Unable to decide, I had to rely on what my Ma used to say, "If it sounds too good to be true, it is." Anyway, my candidate lost. Then, right after the election, I wrote, "Congratulations, America, you've just elected a man for president who wouldn't even qualify to be a member of his own security detail." I believe that now more than ever. I love being right.

In late January of last year, I decided to get over my loss and do what I could to support our president, something my hard core right wing friends would never do. I need our president to succeed because I'm scared stiff for our country. Bush handed Obama a mess and he's making it worse.

I couldn't wait for George Bush to step down. Now, after not having a single terrorist attack on American soil for eight years, we have the Fort Hood terrorist attack and who knows what else will occur in the next three and a half years. If Obama can't protect himself from simple gate crashers at a state dinner, how can we expect him to keep us safe? It's getting scary.

By the way, there's no truth to the rumor that our president bowed to Burger King. You can't believe anything those hardcore right-wingers say.

But you can believe my Ma when she said, "If it looks too good to be true, it is."

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

There must be a 'sock' heaven

It's not every day someone is lucky enough to find a missing sock. Single sock disappearance remains one of the great unsolved household mysteries. There is a bundle of unmatched socks in my drawer. The cleaning lady ties all the single together. From time to time I go through them, hoping that a mate for one of them might have appeared since the last inspection. Like everyone else, I've searched the washer tub and scoured the dryer tumbler in hopes of finding an unpaired survivor. I've looked behind the washer and shined flash lights behind the dryer. All I find is lint.

I've joked that my socks and ball point pens are probably together. But where? I had two pairs of socks that were quite similar. The rib pattern was identical. The colors, however, were slightly different. The difference was too subtle to notice in the semi-darkness in which I dress. That's how I happened to wear them as a pair. The mistake went undetected, and having united them lessened my sense of loss. It probably didn't do anything for the socks. I don't think of socks as sensate, but it did a great deal for me.

After a while I was wearing them as a pair any time I felt a little blue. It always boosted my spirits, and as far as I know, no one noticed, until the day one of my nurses said, "Doctor Salzarulo. Your socks don't match." What was I to do? I certainly could answer, "I know. I wear them like this two or three times a month, whenever I'm depressed. It brightens my mood." Instead I mumbled something about dressing in the dark. I starting wishing the cleaning lady would lose one of them, just to eliminate the temptation.

No one notices when I wear unrelated black socks, even when the length isn't identical or the knit pattern is a little differ-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

ent. As long as I'm wearing shoes, the knowledge that one of them has gold toes will remain our secret. I don't understand the gold toes. Maybe it's a brand thing. Maybe it reinforces the tip and protects against jagged toe nails. Many guys my age have bad toenails. It may be a flexibility problem, or perhaps they trim with garden sheers. My toes are still OK, except the baby ones, which have been pathetic for years. I notice a lot of women have nails like

mine on their baby toes. They just paint the skin. The small toe is the appendix of the foot, a vestigial organ whose only purpose is to snag socks.

My Mom used to darn socks. She used a dried gourd to give shape to the end of the sock. It was better than risking our toes. As far as I know, nobody repairs socks anymore. Chinese socks are so cheap, it wouldn't be worthwhile. In our disposable world, repair shops of all kinds are rapidly disappearing. Have you seen a shoe repair shop recently? My cousin Max Scotesse made a good living fixing shoes. He always wore a leather apron and a broad smile. I loved the smell of his shop. It smelled like wax and leather. Now that I think about it, I wonder why it didn't smell like dirty feet.

I found a missing sock today. I hadn't seen it since last winter, although until I found it, I had no idea when it disappeared. It was with our ski clothes, and I found it while getting ready for the coming season. It wasn't the first time I'd found a long lost sock, but it had been a long time. The discovery reinforced my stubborn refusal to discard unmatched socks. I didn't locate a hoard of missing socks, but now I know there is hope.

And I'll have no trouble throwing away the sack of green pepperoni flavored sausage that was in the same bag.

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.



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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Visions of the future

I read an interesting little book by Robert Heilbroner (author of the famous economics book *Worldly Philosophers*) this month called *Visions of the Future: The Distant Past, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. This was actually delivered as a lecture in 1995 as part of series sponsored by the New York Public Library and Oxford University. Mr. Heilbroner's focus is how different

societies envision the future.

He divides human history into three parts: "the distant past," from the first humans until about 1750; "yesterday," from 1750 until 1970 or so; and "today," from 1970 until now.

Heilbroner asserts that during that huge stretch of time he calls the "distant past" the perception was that nothing ever

changed. People thought things would always be the way they had always been. Nature didn't change, it moved in cycles. The year went round — plant in the spring, harvest in the fall, rest in the winter, then plant again. People didn't see time as a straight line marching into the future the way we do; they saw only cycles.

Progress in human affairs was so slow and incremental people couldn't see it. Technology has existed a long time — pottery, weaving, metallurgy, and agriculture are impressive human achievements — but advances were rare and spaced far apart.

This attitude may seem understandable for primitive peoples from long, long ago, but certainly Heilbroner must have been wrong about this extending all the way to the 18th Century! In the following passage, he compares a statement made by Aristotle, who died in 322 B.C.E. to one made by Machiavelli, who died in 1527:

"Aristotle wrote in a famous passage; 'From the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, some for rule.' In this summary judgment we find further evidence of an attitude that bears heavily against any conception of a future that would break decisively with the past. In both the pre-and post-historic periods of antiquity, the shape of things to come expresses the belief that the future is ultimately beyond human control... Such a view imparts to the future of society the same unyielding fixity as that imparted by Nature.

Almost 2,000 years after Aristotle we find the same judgment, leading to the same conclusion: Machiavelli writes, 'Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times. This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever will be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same result.'

All of this changed in the 18th century with the Enlightenment; discoveries in science and technology began to speed up rapidly. During this same century capitalism and democracy emerged. In many western countries the average person's material well-being and political liberties improved. The idea of "progress" was born. All of a sudden there was a new concept: a future different from today and maybe better than today.

But, Heilbroner argues, that belief in a better future began to fade in the last century, at the transition between



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

"yesterday" and "today." People realized that science had developed technologies with horrible destructive power posing a great danger to the future of human life. Capitalism was revealed to be prone to busts and panics leading to painful depressions. In the realm of politics, the march towards liberty and equality didn't seem so certain. In

particular, Heilbroner (being an economist) stresses rising income inequality in this country. During the first part of the 20th century incomes became more equal in this country, but starting in the 1980s that trend was reversed.

Heilbroner writes, "The liberating political spirit continues to make itself felt in the West, generally in the steady enlargement of political goals to include civil, feminist, and sexual rights... Matters are not so simple when the issues at stake involve the underlying economic prerogatives of Western society. All stratified orders — feudalisms, aristocracies, and centrally planned socialisms as well as capitalism — create privileged orderings from which flow the varied economic dispensations of dues, tithes, rents, perquisites, executive compensations, and market-driven profits.

"The acid test of the political will as a liberating force comes when it directs its democratizing energies against these economic dispensations — in the case of capitalism, seeking to make more equal the distribution of income and wealth." The fact that we seem to be moving backwards on economic equality is, to Heilbroner, a major cause of the "malaise" of our time.

When we, the people of "today" envision "tomorrow" we see apocalypse (see my article "Apocalypse Now" from last month). We're anxious about our future, we're no longer certain it will be better than today.

This discussion is relevant to our country's current political stalemate. The quote by Machiavelli above reminded me of something I had written a year ago, ("The Giving Spirit," Dec 2008): "Liberals are called 'progressives' because they believe in progress, evolution, improvement, change for the better. I'll quote from an authoritative source — William F. Buckley (from his book *Up From Liberalism*) — for what conservatives believe: 'Conservatism is the tacit acknowledgement that all that is finally important in human experience is behind

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• HIS & HERS •

Bad will hunting

By **Michelle A. Mead-Armor**

Let me apologize to my readers who expected to be in sunny Greece again this week – at least in my column. I'd like to be there, too. Despite the cheer and excitement of the holidays, this is a time I dread. It's hunting season.

I should insert a disclaimer, saying that some of my best friends are hunters. They aren't, at least, not that I know. My brother is a hunter, though, and so were my grandfather and great grandfather, who actually held the record for killing the largest black bear in New York State. While I may have moved to Western North Carolina from New York City, I grew up in a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and am by no means a spoiled out-of-touch city girl.

So what bothers me the most about hunting? Well, certainly not eating the by-products. I'm as happy to chomp on venison, partridge, and elk as anyone else. What bothers me is the BS and blatant dishonesty that surrounds a lot of hunting.

We live on a mountain not too far from Highlands. Over the last two years, we've seen two new houses built on the mountain, and major renovations on two other houses. Yet another house had a big yard project going on. Suddenly, our sleepy mountain road hummed with the sound of construction workers and their equipment. When they left their garbage out overnight, they noticed that bears were getting into it. One day, on our way into town, we saw a construction worker had stopped his flat bed truck, and was staring into our woods. "Can I help you?" said John. "Dang, have you seen that big ole tom turkey over there?" "Oh, the one that's on our property? We'll see you out." And we waited until the good ole boy got back in his truck, and followed him until he joined the main road. Our hearts sank. We knew our secret was out. We lived on a mountain that had critters that other people like to shoot, and since we weren't shooting them, that made them fair game in the eyes of many locals. Literally.

On top of that, some of our neighbors have spent considerable amounts of money landscaping their property, or planting crops. It's natural that they want to protect their financial investments. Still, a mountaintop in Western North Carolina isn't supposed to be Versailles, or Hampton Court. I'm not just saying that because we live in a 1916 farmhouse, and have the least



**Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor**
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John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

"gussied up" property on our mountain. I never thought there would be trouble until a cocktail party last year. I had seen a deer in our yard, and was enthusiastically describing how beautiful it was. "Well, it'd better not wander over to our place," fumed one neighbor. "I didn't spend X thousand dollars landscaping my yard to have my bushes eaten by some damn deer. If I see

one on my property, I'll shoot it." What a wake-up call! It had never occurred to me before then that anyone could look out their window, see one of these magnificent animals, and not feel the delight that I did.

But it got worse. It turned out that turkeys, deer, and bears were wandering onto another neighbor's yard, and eating their crops. Our neighbors enlisted the services of locals who'd done work at their place, and, knowing they were hunters, invited them onto their property. One hunter even brought along his young son, who was dressed for the occasion in miniature camouflage gear. Before long, the hills were not alive with the sound of music – they were alive with the sound of yelping dogs and gun shots. John got into our Jeep, and rode down our driveway to check out the situation. He clarified to the hunters that while they may have had permission to hunt on one neighbor's property, that did not give them permission to pursue their prey into our yard.

If only hunters had the decency to drive up to our house, and ask for permission to hunt on our land. We'd tell them we don't allow hunting, and send them on their way, probably with a hot cup of coffee and a sandwich. That doesn't happen. They park their vehicles on the turnout on the Dillard Road just below our property, and then release their dogs up the back way. If we see folks face to face, it's only when they pull up in front of our house in their pickup trucks, in full camouflage gear, guns blazing. I walk out, and greet them. "You boys wouldn't by any chance be hunting, would you?" I say sweetly. "No, m'am" they lie. "Just lookin' for a lost dog, m'am. Just lookin' for my dog." Yeah, right. Since when does it say "stupid" on my forehead?

Because that's another thing that angers me. People think that if you live in a big house with a lot of land, you are: (1) rich (2) spoiled (3) stupid (4) a part-timer who usually lives in Atlanta, Birmingham, or New Orleans, and who is completely out-of-touch with country ways. We are none of the above. We live year round in a

clutter-filled house with a leaky roof and no central heating. I am enough of a country woman that I can smell when it's going to

snow. The day of my father's funeral, I came home from the service, put on his old

• See HIS & HERS page 16

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

How's this for change, sucker?

Some of you will remember this story like it was yesterday. Others of you will have no idea what I'm talking about, so let me enlighten you. Bear in mind, I

have no interest in Baltimore whatsoever. Never been there, not interested in going, however it is the home of a memorable event.

The Baltimore Colts prospered in that

town for years, winning several conference championships and played in a couple of Super Bowls. The team, however, had to play in a miserable stadium that wasn't up to NFL standards. Try as they might, the team's owners couldn't cut through the red tape to get a new stadium built, so, in the spring of 1984, owner Robert Irsay hired 24 Mayflower moving vans, and, in the darkness of night, the Baltimore Colts moved out of Maryland and into Indiana. They now prosper as the Indianapolis Colts.



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swansonson@dnnet.net

Obama's agenda and his heavy-handed, "Chicago style" management continues to grow in volume and intensity in the months ahead.

In the early stages of public outcry, politicians (Pelosi) claimed that these weren't real people. They were described as Teflon (not grassroots) folks decked out in Brooks Brothers' suits (I never understood that one) and should be ignored.

Following the formation of the TEA Party movement and the Tax Day demonstra-

tions the voting public started warming up to the idea that they do have a voice and should use it. This was fully demonstrated during the Town Hall meetings, or lack thereof, and Fourth of July activities.

The crown jewel to date was the 9/12 March on Washington, when about two million conservative patriots gathered to express their concerns over what the government was doing to their country. Pelosi ordered her troops out of Washington so the representatives of the people wouldn't have to face their constituents and Obama claimed not to have noticed the endless sea of people in his front yard. But they saw, and they heard. And they are moved.

Most of Washington politicians are there for one reason. To exercise their power over you and me. They do it by spending our money to buy votes to perpetuate their power. They believe that if they spend more money, it will buy more votes.

That's why immigration legislation has been stuck in neutral for decades. That's why the urgency to give healthcare to everyone without fixing the cost problem.

That's why the head of the SEIU (Service Employees International Union) sits at Obama's most favored table. He's selling votes. And Barack is buying.

I realize this comes as no revelation to most of you, nor does the fact that spending legislation contains huge amounts of pork, frivolous projects intended to curry favor with the folks at home. After all, isn't that their job? Unfortunately, most think it is. Waiting for the elections to do something about it may well be too late. Believe me, those who are standing for reelection next year are starting to wonder if they need to distance themselves from Obama's failing policies.

If you are letting your feelings known to public officials, good for you. If you are not, perhaps it's time to get serious. Make the calls, write letters to the editor, join an activist group. Just do it!!

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... POLICE DEPT. from page 1

only 23 people have been arrested for DWI. "And they were stopped due to traffic violations," he said. In fact, most arrests – not just DWIs – occur after a traffic stop, said Harrell.

Interestingly, he said people can drink an awful lot of alcohol before they blow a .08 – the level a person can be convicted of driving while intoxicated in North Carolina.

- 0.01 g/210 liters of breath - This is the only safe BAC level.

- 0.02 g/210 liters of breath - At and above this level US federal laws mandate that a person in a safety sensitive transportation job must be removed from the workplace.

- 0.04 g/210 liters of breath - At and above this level US federal laws mandate that a person in a safety sensitive transportation job must be sanctioned and may lose their job. Also in most states a person can be convicted of driving under the influence at this level.

- 0.08 g/210 liters of breath - At and above this level you can be convicted of driving while intoxicated in most states.

- 0.10 g/210 liters of breath - At and above this level you can be convicted of driving while intoxicated in ALL states.

- 0.30 g/210 liters of breath - At this level most people will lose consciousness.

- 0.40 g/210 liters of breath - At this level most people will become comatose and may die.

He suggests people go to The Drink Wheel at www.intox.com/wheel/drinkwheel.asp to see exactly how much al-

cohol they can drink before they are legally intoxicated.

For instance, at 190-pound man Harrell's age, can drink four beers in an hour and not blow a .08. The fifth beer would put him over but that's a lot of beer to drink in an hour. "So no one is saying you can't go to a restaurant and drink," he said.

Harrell said there are a lot of variables – including the amount of food consumed and medications in a person's system that affect blood alcohol levels – but generally when alcohol is consumed with food, a person can drink more than on an empty stomach and not blow a .08.

In its drop-down menu, the Drink Wheel also takes into account what kind of alcohol is consumed over a period of time – light beer, domestic beer, foreign beer, table wine, fortified wine, various mixed drinks, etc., the number of drinks consumed, the weight of the individual, and the gender.

As to shoplifters, Harrell said he can't fix a problem if he doesn't know it exists. Since January 2009, no instances of shoplifting have been reported. "People need to file a report so we can investigate the matter," he said. He also said the foot and bike patrols started four years ago, have been increased since the election but assignments depend on available manpower and incident calls elsewhere.

"Commissioner Drake and I met with Chief Harrell to discuss our thoughts regard-

ing the relationship between the police department and the business community," said Wilkes. "I've had positive comments from business owners about having officers downtown on foot and in the shops. We will continue to discuss all the issues that were

brought to our attention during the campaign and invite input from all citizens regarding either specific or general issues, regarding Highlands Police Department."

Email Mayor Wilkes at mayor@highlandsc.org. – **Kim Lewicki**

from the history guy ...

Dec 17, 1969

Project Blue Book. The United States Air Force closes its study of UFOs, stating that sightings were a result of "A mild form of mass hysteria, individuals who fabricate such reports to perpetrate a hoax or seek publicity, psychopathological persons, and misidentification of various conventional objects."

I'm not sure who's in the Know
about the existence of a UFO,
but the U. S. Air Force
would have us reject it as a matter of course,
and say that it's some form of psychopathology
without the smallest amount of apology.
Now, if I was at some point apprised
about aliens in New Mexico, I'd be unsurprised,
you can find them from there to California,
where they came from I can't inform ya,
clearly they've come from some place,
might as well be outer space.

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... FIBER LOOP continued from page 1

Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College are all on the 300-mile communications fiber loop whose construction began in 2003.

The salary from July 1, 2010 through June 20, 2011 (\$100,000) will come from a \$50,000 grant from the same source and \$50,000 from the school districts in each county.

"The program won't begin until the first \$30,000 in grant money is in hand," said Burrell. "We have a grant funding source that is committed to the first \$30,000 for January 2010 and a \$50,000 commitment in grant money beginning July 2010, too."

Just to be safe, though, a funding scenario with and without the grant funding as been determined.

With the \$50,000 grant, the division for Macon, Jackson, Cherokee and Haywood school districts would be \$10,000 a year; \$3,333.33 each for Swain, Clay and the Cherokee Reservation districts.

Without the \$50,000 grant, the division for Macon, Jackson, Cherokee and Haywood districts would be \$19,225.66 each and \$6,408.55 each for Swain, Clay and the Cherokee Reservation schools.

Fifty percent of these amounts will be due in July 2010 and 50% of the amounts will be due January 2011.

"Even if the \$50,000 grant doesn't come through later on, we would never be able to hire a WAN Engineer to oversee a system this

extensive for \$19,000," said Burrell.

The work schedule will be 43.6 days each for Macon, Jackson, Cherokee and Haywood and 14.5 days each for Swain, Clay and Cherokee Reservation.

The districts that pay the most have a greater number of schools hooked on to the loop and therefore require more attention.

"This loop has increased our Internet connectivity capacity 677% and would have cost \$60 million if counties in Western North Carolina had tried to install this on their own due to the far-reaching and geographical nature of the counties in Western North Carolina," said Burrell.

For safety, security and aesthetics, the fiber optic network has been built underground through the highest and most rugged terrain east of the Rocky Mountains.

Most of the funding for construction of the ultra-high-speed fiber optic network which delivers bandwidth of one gigabyte per second-equivalent to nearly 13,000 simultaneous phone calls was taken care of by BalsamWest. With its local partners, \$14 million was invested.

By forming strategic local alliances, called "ASAP Partners," BalsamWest was able to save schools more than \$60 million.

A little over \$5 million was supplied by the participating counties.

All 70 sites on the WNC-EdNET fiber loop are ready – except Highlands School

•See FIBER LOOP page 10



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• HS BASKETBALL NEWS •

Highlander Girls grab two before trip to Florida

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Girls Varsity Basketball team completed their most successful week yet, picking up a pair of wins against Smoky Mountain Conference rivals Rosman and Swain.

On Friday night, the Lady Highlanders defeated the Lady Tigers 64-60 behind a strong pair of performances from guards Taylor Buras and Emily Munger. Munger scored 23 points and Buras added 18 points in a high scoring affair. Marlee McCall also added 11 for the Lady Highlanders.

Tuesday night, the Lady Highlanders traveled to Swain to face the Lady Devils in another matchup of Little Smoky Mountain against Big Smoky Mountain. The Lady Highlanders went on a 9-0 run to start the game and never trailed, defeating Swain 47-32.

The Highlander boys split a pair of games against Rosman and Swain over the week.

On Friday night, the Highlanders withstood an early Rosman run to prevail over the Tigers 46-42. Samuel Wheeler scored 17 points for the Highlanders and Cai Roman added 11. The Highlanders hit 7 of 10 three pointers in the contest.

On Tuesday, Highlands traveled to Bryson City to face the Maroon Devils, where they were overwhelmed early and trailed by 28 points at the half. Strong effort allowed the Highlanders to play well in the second half, but the hole was too deep as Swain finished with a 57-42 victory. Logan Schmitt led Highlands with 9 points.

... FIBER LOOP continued from page 9

which will be on line by August 2010.

Installers ran into problems in Highlands when two property owners along U.S. 64 east refused to give rights-of-way.

"We didn't know the state didn't have the right-of-way along that route," said Burrell, "so connecting Highlands has been held up for about two years."

However, he said other property owners in the vicinity have given WNC-EdNet permission to cross their property so Highlands will be on line by August 2010.

Superintendent Dan Brigman signed Memorandums of Agreement with each of the participating school districts as did each of their superintendents with Macon County.

- Kim Lewicki

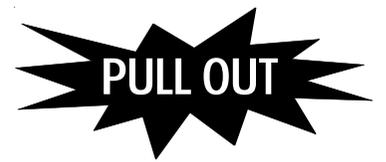
• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM •



Tyler Munger, Matt Rodriguez, Craig Forster, Austin Baty, Kenan Lewis, Phillip Murphy, Tanner Stephens, Josh Wolfrey, Preston Chastain, Luke Rodgers, Craig Dalton, Ryan Vinson and coaches Steve Massey and Jessie Munger.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Ongoing

Through Dec. 24

• Free horseback rides in ring at Arrowmont Stables & Cabins. Call for reservations: 828-743-2762.

• 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 Melisa 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 Highlands from the 1800s to the early

1900s. Calendars are available at Cyrano's, The Highlander Newspaper, Country Club Properties (Wright Square location), and The Chambers Agency. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

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

Sundays

• Refuge 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/hour. 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 Doter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

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

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays Zumba Gold/Beginner, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.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 at 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

• 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 (bipolar 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 am. 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 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

Through Friday, Dec. 18

• *American Art Today. Juried Works* exhibition at The Bascom. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Gifts and donations for distribution through the Highlands Emergency Council should be dropped off at area banks or at the Highlands Emergency Council on Poplar Street.

• *The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design* exhibition will open at The Bascom in Highlands and run through Dec. 18. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be Nov. 14 from 5-7 p.m. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Pottery workshop "Open Studio for Ceram-

ics," by Patrick Taylor, will be held at The Bascom for intermediate to advanced students. Two sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.; or Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 pm. Cost is \$375/\$350 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949.

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 1-4:30 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 12:30-2p.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

See EVENTS page 12

Reserve your place at the Highlands annual Christmas Dinner table

Twas the week before Christmas and all through our town

Locals were stirring and visitors ran round

All were preparing for a perfect Christmas day

And hopes of a great meal without future delay

Well here is your chance for feasting on a good deed

A fabulous meal while helping non-profits in need

Scrumptious desserts, great wine, trimmings of traditional holiday fare

Put on by many local chefs and volunteers, who hope you'll be there

All proceeds raised by this Annual Christmas Day Dinner

Benefit our locals, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Highlands-Cashiers Hospice

Family, friends, visitors, and locals, please support and join us this Christmas Day

At Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn, your reservation's only a phone call away!

• • •

Seating is available from 11 am through 4 pm. Adults are \$35 and children 10 and under are \$25. Call 828-526-8867 and leave a message.

Poem by Laura Huerta

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Dec. 18-31

Open Christmas Day

AVATAR

rated PG-13
Daily: 1, 4, 7, 10

BLIND SIDE

rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

THE TWILIGHT SAGA:

NEW MOON
rated PG-13

** Last Showing on Tuesday 12/22 **
Daily: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

OLD DOGS

rated PG
** Last Showing on Thursday 12/24 **
Daily: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

** Opening Wednesday 12/23 **

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

rated PG
Daily: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

** Opening Christmas Day **

IT'S COMPLICATED

rated R
Daily: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

SHERLOCK HOLMES

rated PG-13
Daily: 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:40



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 7-9 p.m. Ricky Simpson from Martin, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943.

• Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19

• The Greenway Trail group will be working on Big Pear Pen Mountain. Needed are volunteers to: Clear with Chain Saws — 2 people; Trim with loppers and clear brush — 4 people; Operate

CanyCom tracked wheelbarrow — 1 person; Operate Yanmar mini-excavator — 1 person. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. We will still meet at the lower parking lot behind the Rec Park on Foreman Rd. at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session and then carpool to the trail section for construction. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment and lunch. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, The Magic of Music" A Braidstream Workshop at 3 pm. \$5. The talented musicians of BRAIDSTREAM will teach you the art of the hammered dulcimer and other instruments as you learn how to make magical sounds with hallmarks of our mountain heritage. To purchase tickets, call 526-9047

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, Braidstream Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. \$20. From Celtic to Baltic, classical to the edge of jazz, BRAIDSTREAM is an eclectic mix of musical styles, backgrounds and cultures coming together to create a whole greater

than the sum of its parts. To purchase tickets, call 526-9047.

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

• At the Civic Center, La Noche Navidena, a Christmas Holiday Dinner & Santa Visit from 6-9 p.m. Free to Internationals. Pick up tickets at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Sunday, Dec. 20

• At First Presbyterian Church, a Christmas Cantata "Songs of Emmanuel" at the 11 a.m. service directed by Orville Wike and 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.

• At the Highlands United Methodist Church, Christmas Cantata at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

• Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24

• Christ Anglican Church of Highlands-Cash-

iers will celebrate Christmas Eve with Holy Communion, including the singing of Christmas carols on Thursday at 8 pm at the Whiteside Presbyterian Church facilities, located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. All are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate our Savior's birth — as we look forward to Jesus' return.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 5 p.m. At 4:30 there will be a Harp Prelude by Valerie Whitcup, harpist. This is designed for the entire family. For more information, call 526-0784.

• At the Highlands United Methodist Church, Family-Friendly Candlelight Service at 5 p.m.; Drop-in Communion at 7 p.m. and Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

• At the Lutheran Church of the Holy Family on NC 106, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; 3:30 Special Music; 4 Family Service. All are welcome.

Friday, Dec. 25

• Christmas Dinner at Fresser's Eatery to benefit Highlands-Cashiers Hospice and Big Brothers Big Sister of Highlands. Contributing chefs include Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside); Debbie Grossman (Fresser's Eatery); Donna Woods; and Martha Porter. Seating times are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35 per person; \$25 for children under 10. Traditional holiday buffet. Make your reservation today. Call 526-8867.

Saturday, Dec. 26

• 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.

Sunday, Dec. 27

• At Highlands United Methodist Church, A Service of Lessons and Carols at 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church to present Christmas concert



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, boy 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 in Coleman Hall.

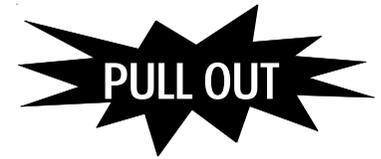
The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

Literacy Council hosts Holiday event Thursday, Dec. 17

The Literacy council of Highlands will be hosting its Holiday Fun with Literacy event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 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 Literacy Council of Highlands by telephone at (828) 526-9938 extension 240.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Tuesday, Dec. 29

• Free influenza shots for both seasonal and H1N1, from 9-11 a.m. on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic located on the hospital campus. Vaccines are available on a first come, first serve basis. You may pre-register by calling (828) 526-1435. Pre-registration is preferred due to limited availability.

Thursday, Dec. 31

• Highlands New Year's Eve Ball 8 p.m. until. Details to follow.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

• HIARPT'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 Hiarpt, "Against Grand Narratives, Part 1 & 2, by Shadia B. Drury. Will be distributed by email. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

• At Hiarpt, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner. Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

• At Hiarpt, "Batter My Heart" will be distributed at previous meeting. Coordinator: Martha Porter. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

• At Hiarpt, *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn. Coordinator: Karen Hawk. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

• At Hiarpt, "The Things People Say" by Elizabeth Kolbert and "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" by Richard Hofstadter. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursdays-Sundays, Feb. 25-28 and March 5-7

• Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform *The Dixie Swim Club* at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Those wishing to subscribe may pick up a subscription brochure at the counter in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and fill out the enclosed form to mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

lands NC, 28741.

Monday, March 8

• An acclaimed author, storyteller, humorist and musician, Keillor will take center stage in WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets for "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" are \$25. For information or tickets, contact the FAPAC box office at (828) 227-2479 or online www.wcu.edu/fapac.

Tuesday, Mar 9

• At Hiarpt, *The Evil Gene* by Dr. Barbara Oakley. Coordinator: Virginia Wilson. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23

• Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform *Rebecca* at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Those wishing to subscribe may pick up a subscription brochure at the counter in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and fill out the enclosed form to mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

Tuesday, Mar 16

• At Hiarpt, Poems of Emily Dickerson. Coordinator: Bill West. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Church Services

• Christ Anglican Church of Highlands-Cashiers will celebrate Christmas Eve with Holy Communion, including the singing of Christmas carols on Thursday at 8 pm at the Whiteside Presbyterian Church facilities, located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. All are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate our Savior's birth — as we look forward to Jesus' return.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 5 p.m. At 4:30 there will be a Harp Prelude by Valerie Whitcup, harpist. This is designed for the entire family. For more information, call 526-0784.

• At the Highlands United Methodist Church, Family-Friendly Candlelight Service at 5 p.m.; Drop-in Communion at 7 p.m. and Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

• At the Lutheran Church of the Holy Family on NC 106, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; 3:30 Special Music; 4 Family Service. All are welcome.

Friday, Dec. 18 is last chance in 2009 to see Bascom exhibitions



This Friday, Dec. 18, is the community's last chance until spring to enjoy the full spectrum of The Bascom's stunning new center for the visual arts. Throughout the winter and all year, The Bascom offers ongoing education programs 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," "The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design," and "Enchanted Forest," featuring creations by The Bascom's youth art students. Above, Highlands' Buck Trott checks out a painting in the juried exhibition. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Free flu shots available at hospital Dec. 29

Area residents still have the opportunity to take advantage of receiving complimentary flu vaccines being offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The hospital will conduct its annual community influenza clinic providing flu vaccines, more commonly known as the flu shot, both seasonal and H1N1, on Tuesday, December 29th from 9-11 a.m. on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic located on the hospital campus. Vaccines are available on a first come, first serve basis. You may pre-register by calling (828) 526-1435. Pre-registration is preferred due to limited availability.

According to the CDC, the H1N1 or "Swine Flu" emerged in April of 2009. It is estimated that 99% of the flu cases in NC currently being seen are H1N1 flu. The H1N1 flu vaccine is recommended for everyone ages 6 months to 24 years, and those patients ages 24 to 64 and older who have chronic medical conditions. "The vaccination is safe and effective. It's not a live vaccine and this means you cannot get the flu from the shot" says Cindy Coley, RN, Infection Control Nurse at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

"The best protection against the flu still

remains the vaccine," Coley remarked. "We are encouraging all residents to get a flu shot this year. It's important to remember that flu vaccinations need to be given each year as the viruses can mutate or change. The sooner one is vaccinated the better. The CDC says that it can take up to 2 weeks for one to develop immunity to the seasonal flu shot, and 8 to ten days for the H1N1 flu shot.

In conjunction with the vaccine, there are proven ways to reduce and avoid infection. Frequent hand washing, avoiding anyone who is sick, staying at home if you are sick, if you have a fever, staying at home until no fever has reoccurred 24 hours after the last fever reducing medications has been taken, and practicing respiratory etiquette (covering your mouth when you cough, disposing of used tissues in trashcans and washing your hands with soap and water or using the alcohol based hand sanitizers) are helpful practices to keep you healthy."

"This free vaccine initiative is part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's collective effort to provide the broadest possible range of quality health care services and advances our goal of being the healthcare partner to whom our community citizens can entrust their lives," said Frank Leslie, interim CEO.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Overstocked and Discontinued Items
from The Dry Sink inventory!

Back Door SALE!

OAK STREET
Behind THE DRY SINK

75% OFF
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
Open Now thru Saturday Dec 19th
10am - 4pm

- Drive or walk to Oak Street, behind The Dry Sink
- All Sales Final
- No Returns or Exchanges

HealthTracks puts good health on sale

The HealthTracks program of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering special rates for memberships and personal training packages.

From now through December 31st 2009, you can get an unlimited-visit 3 month gift certificate for just \$150. That's less than \$2 per day. This membership includes use of all aerobic and strength training equipment, toning classes, firm and burn classes, and introductory instruction by one of our qualified professional trainers. It represents a 20% discount over the regular fees.

"This is a great opportunity to bring your exercise program indoors and be active during the winter months," says Yvonne Smith, HealthTracks Manager and Registered Dietician.

"We welcome everyone, all levels of fitness, to join our program" she added.

HealthTracks is also offering a Holiday personal training package. For \$400, a

30% reduction from their regular fee, HealthTracks will offer clients 10 personal training, one hour sessions with Jeanette Fisher, Certified Personal Trainer. "Over the holidays, it's easy to get out of one's routine and gain extra pounds. The individualized attention and personalized workout regimen can boost one's weight loss goal, keep them on track, and avoid the seasonal weight gain" said Fisher.

Both promotions are great gift ideas for you or family members, so contact HealthTracks at 526-1FIT (526-1348) and sign up before the offer expires on December 31st.

This is yet another example of how Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is providing the broadest range of healthcare services to enable you to live a better life. At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are the healthcare partner to whom you can entrust your life

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS

Cordially invites you to a Christmas Season filled with Meditation, Music, and Candlelight.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009 AT 7:00

"CHRISTMAS CONCERT"

Featured will be soloists, instrumentalists, and The Highlands Male Chorus. Please make plans to attend for a delightful evening of beautiful music. Reception immediately following in Coleman Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"SONGS OF EMMANUEL"

The Cantata, at the 11 am service will be directed by Orville Wike & 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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

"CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE"

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Valerie Whitcup, Harpist

Candlelight Communion Service designed for the entire family at 5:00 p.m.
Homily presented by Don Mullen, pastor

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E-MAIL: FPCH@VERIZON.NET

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NURSERY PROVIDED



Join us as we Celebrate
the Birth of Our Savior at
Highlands United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 20

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Cantata

Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 p.m.

Family-Friendly Candlelight Service

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Drop-in Communion

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 27th

11:00 a.m.

A Service of Lessons and Carols
(singing your favorite carols)

315 Main Street - 526-3376



**HS
Varsity
Girls
beat
Rosman
in tight,
action-
packed
game**

Emily Munger goes for a lay-up against Rosman last week. Highlands won 64-60. Wednesday, Dec. 16, the team went to Orlando, FL, to compete in the Christmas Tournament.



Photo by Stephanie McCall

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• **HIGHLANDS SCHOOL GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL** •



Paige Moss, Kirstyn Owen, Valarie Billingsley, Ellie Cate Beavers, Cali Smolarsky, Ann Marie Crowe, Cara Hedden, Emily Gabbard, Kassie Vinson, April Moss, Jessica Tilson, Rebekah Parks, Brianna Marshall, Autumn Houston, Emily Shuler and coaches Michele Munger and Tracy Hedden.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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... HIS & HERS from page 7

jacket, and chopped down three old trees in the back yard. I wasn't worrying about my manicure.

Yes, I realize that wild animals are not pets; that they can be destructive and damage property. I also think that if you live next to a national forest, your chances of killing everything that munches on your rose bushes is slim. The bottom line is that when you kill animals on your property, you kill them for everyone, even the people who have no quarrel with them.

Every morning, I used to look out of our picture window to see if some wild animal was breakfasting in our yard. That doesn't happen anymore. A tradesman we see occasionally said it best. "When I used to come up to your place, there was always some wild thing around - turkeys, deer. Now there's nothing. I haven't seen a living thing on your property in months." One neighbor decries the disappearance of a mother bear and her two cubs. Another neighbor hasn't seen a single deer. And don't even talk about Old Lame Tom, that patriarch of our turkeys. He and all of his flock have disappeared, as well as Mr. Bumbles, our groundhog. Our foxes, coyotes, raccoons, possums have vanished. The only animal in our yard was a hunting dog, sniffing around our barn last week, and one lone rabbit.

Pro-hunting groups love to tell you that they are conservationists. Do you mean to

• See HIS & HERS page 4



• COACH'S CORNER •

Duke-UNC...the MOVIE

Laying in bed at night thinking about whatever it is 29-year-olds think about, an idea came into my brain. What would happen if the Duke-UNC rivalry were made into a movie? Since it was such a cool idea, I figured that I would run with it and come up with a general plot and some casting decisions.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

PLOT SUMMARY

A young Mike Krzyzewski arrives at Duke in an attempt to rebuild a fallen program. His success is limited as he battles rival North Carolina and Hall of Fame Coach Dean Smith. Things finally turn around in 1986 and Krzyzewski has a decade of national success and accolade.

Unfortunately, in 1995 a health crisis causes Krzyzewski's empire to fall. Krzyzewski's wife convinces him to change his priorities, and he returns with a vengeance. The new Krzyzewski becomes the villain of college basketball, the intensity that once radiated within him now out of control.

After Dean Smith retires, Krzyzewski battles coaches Bill Guthridge and Matt Doherty successfully, but has trouble accepting his role as the "elder coach" in the area.

The arrival of Hall of Fame Coach Roy Williams to the Tar Heels brings new intensity to the rivalry, and incompetent assistant coaches along with recruiting losses allow North Carolina to regain their dominance.

Now faced with lack of success at Duke and attempting to make one last run, Krzyzewski seeks the advice of his former rival, who has become perhaps the most beloved and revered coach in basketball history.

CAST

Dean Smith: I'm going with Dustin

Hoffman on this one. He has the acting chops, and a little makeup could go a long way.

Duke Athletic

Director Tom Butters: Brian Dennehy, who can also double for Bob Knight if we need a cameo.

Mickie Krzyzewski: Talia Shire (Adrian from the Rocky movies) She favors Mickie quite a bit.

Bill Guthridge: Chevy Chase (In a serious role)

Roy Williams: William H Macy. He can say 'dadgum' with the best of them, and can bring the acting depth required to play the part. It's hard to cover up Roy's intensity with the folksy charm, but Macy would pull it off.

Matt Doherty: Matt Dillon. Dillon already has the eyebrows, but a little touch of gray in the hair and he could pass for Doherty easily.

Pete Gaudet: Senator John Kerry (with 30 extra pounds) Not sure that Senator Kerry has any acting ability, but he won't need much in playing Gaudet.

Wojo: Sean Astin (from Rudy) Could there be anyone else?

And finally, the part of Coach K was a massive toss up for me. Steve Carell would look the most like Coach K, but he is a comedic actor and I am not sure he could pull off the smoldering intensity that has made Krzyzewski both beloved and despised. I'm going with Andy Garcia, who can definitely bring the intensity. I've always been fascinated with Krzyzewski, because he has changed so much during his career.

While the Hollywood ending would be for Coach K to ride off into the sunset victorious. However, the chances that Coach K could end up in a Bobby Bowden or Bob Knight (circa IU) situation could be just as likely.

Whatever the case, it would make for an interesting story.

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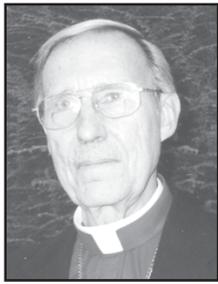
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The unaccepted gift



The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding
Senior Pastor, Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, Georgia

We are entering a season of gift giving. People everywhere are thinking of friends and family and what to give them. If we are lucky, we will find that special gift that meets a loved one's secret yearning — a gift that causes the receiver to say, "I've always wanted this. How did you know?" These are the gifts we never forget.

But imagine if we had such a special gift for someone, if we had paid a dear price for it, if it was customized, if it was wrapped beautifully. Imagine if we gave such a gift, and it was refused. What hurt we would feel. What rejection. Surely, we would want to ask, "Why can't you receive my gift?"

And what if the answers were, "I do not deserve such a gift?" or "I did not earn this gift" or "I am not worthy of such a gift"?

At this Christmas season, when we remember and honor the birth and life of Jesus, we are also reminded that that's the way many of us respond to the gift he gave us. And when we do, we hurt both the giver and the receiver.

The scriptures say it this way: "For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift."

Are we guilty of rejecting that which the Lord so lovingly offers us? Do we turn down his grace, his promise, his love? Jesus offers us a release from the burdens we carry if we will hand them to him.

But too many of us reject his offer and stubbornly feel we must do it alone. He offers us forgiveness, and we say, "I do not deserve forgiveness." He offers answers to our prayers, and we contend, "I have not yet done anything to earn an answer."

Perhaps we cannot receive his gifts because they are too much for us.

We live in a world where we are taught that what we have we must wrest for ourselves. We are constantly told, "There's no such thing as a free lunch"; "The race goes to the swift"; or, "You don't deserve what you have."

But the wonder of God's love is that, unlike the world, he gives us good things even when we don't deserve them. When we are pained by failure, he can make us new, able to start again. When we need comfort that we cannot find, he gives us peace that surpasses understanding. When we feel unworthy and unloved, he gives us a love that does not change.

"My grace is sufficient for thee," he says. And so it is; and so should be our acceptance and appreciation of such a gift. It is sufficient against all that would frighten and afflict us; sufficient to sustain us in time of need; sufficient for the promises of eternity. It is a gift given with joy that we can and should accept.

Do not be afraid to accept this gift; it is wrapped so simply. Do not be deceived.

It will never say "perishable" for his love will never perish.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Chapel of Sky Valley

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Father Jim Murphy: Office – 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.

Highlands Community Center

Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.

at First Baptist Church

Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am

Childrens/Family Program; 10:45 Worship

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

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

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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

Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – 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: Sunday School and Adult discussion group

9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred 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. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

... THANKS continued from page 3

tle and deer head. Susan Jones and Amberly Rogers of The Dry Sink gave us a kitchen/serving area with a "party in progress."

J.T. of Mountain Fresh donated the pies, breads, pastries, while The Dry Sink showed us everything we needed to make it happen, and the smells were divine! The dining room was decorated by Kathleen Wilson and Elephant's Foot Antiques with a pine cone theme that people are still talking about. The porch was done by Antiques and More- Main Street, Clayton (Sarah and Wiley Sloan) and offered us a step back in time with antique wicker furniture and vintage decorations. The living area was done by Oakleaf Flower and Garden of Highlands, by Don Fry and Kirk Moore tastefully appointed with plates, statuettes, and beautiful red berries. Also in that room and others, Sue Potts used hydrangeas and

galax roses to complete their tree of white ornaments, and Elaine Whitehurst added her special touches to the mantle and living areas.

Now, we could have stopped there, because the original plan was to only show the downstairs, but we wanted everyone to be able to see the whole house and all of its beautiful rooms. The stairwell and the large landing on the upper floor was decorated by The Little Flower Shoppe, owned by Bill Fitzgerald. Janet Avery, floral designer, made about 30 ft. of live garland with the largest pine cones I've ever seen along with a Mark Roberts' display complete with handmade leather camels, wreaths, and lots more. The two bedrooms upstairs were decorated by Isabel Chambers and myself-not as designers, but just to show the rooms as they may have been presented in years

past- one as a child's playroom with a "Charlie Brown" tree, and the other as an older ladies bedroom with a Victorian flair.

Also, we would like to thank Mary Ann Vines and helper who supplied fresh wreaths and garlands for the house and to offer for sale. And to Dwight Bryant, of Bryant Art Glass for the donation of the poinsettia plates that were raffled to benefit the Historical Society.

The showhouse couldn't go on with the understory work. Thanks to Eric Ne-smith, Ran Shaffner and Elaine Whitehurst for the beautiful brochure, Ronnie Waller, Alan Marsh, Luther Turner, Edwin Poole, and Walter Wingfield for transportation. Leila Chapman, Beverly Quin, Wiley Sloan and Jim Whitehurst for ticket sales, and Docents: Walter Wingfield, Sara Mortan Wingfield, Glenda Bell, Mary Berry, Martha Betz, Janey Christy, Geri Crowe, Polly Dean, Lewis Doggett, Mary Heffington, Gay

Kattel, Linda New, Edwin Poole, Kay Poole, Diana Rethorst, Sarah Sloan, Wiley Sloan, Karen Taylor, Ann Turner, Luther Turner, and Wade Wilson. Special thanks to Elaine Whitehurst for manning the raffle ticket table both days, and to Highlands' Newspaper, The Highlander newspaper, the Laurel Magazine and WHLC for getting the word out to the community about our show-house, and to Santa Claus who made a special appearance on Sunday!

And most of all Thank you Highlands for supporting the Highlands Historical Society. This is our 10th anniversary and we were pleased to be able to once again show you a piece of Highlands History. For more information on becoming a member of the Highlands Historical Society please go to our website: www.highlandshistory.com.

Jeannie Chambers
2009 HHS Chairman

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• BUSINESS NEWS •



Officers of the Mountain High Republican Women's Association from left: Kathy Hildreth, NC Federation of Republican Women Mountain District Director, presiding officer; Carol Odom, Glenville, Secretary; Terri Coyle, Highlands, Assistant Secretary; Elizabeth Hoffman, Toxaway, Assistant Treasurer; Maureen Catania, Sapphire, Treasurer; Dinah Davis, Highlands, Vice President; Melisa Mckim, President; not pictured Melinda Barber, Vice President

Mountain High Republican Women's
Association officially launched

A core group of 40 Republican women from Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties has recently officially launched a Republican women's association for the tri-county area. Since that evening 60 women have joined as Founding Members.

North Carolina Federation of Republican Women (NCFRW) Mountain District Director Kathy Hildreth guided the inaugural meeting attendees through the necessary steps to become a member of the North Carolina and National Federation of Republican Women. Hildreth who is a member of the Gem Country Republican Women's Association in Franklin, NC has held several chairships in the NCFRW prior to her District Director appointment. Her knowledge of Federation protocol and procedures allowed the meeting to run smoothly and efficiently. Other prominent Republicans in attendance included Dodie Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair. In a brief congratulatory commentary

to the group Allen stated that she adds her membership in this association to her memberships in the Gem Country Republican Women's Association and The Haywood County Republican Women's Association.

The official business included the selection of the group's name, *Mountain High Republican Women's Association (MHRWA)*. With an official name on record the women then ratified the association by-laws, and elected the following dynamic team of officers: President - Melisa McKim, Cashiers; 1st Vice President - Melinda Barber; Cashiers; 2nd Vice President - Dinah Davis, Highlands; Secretary - Carol Odom, Glenville; Assistant Secretary - Terri Coyle, Highlands; Treasurer - Maureen Catania, Sapphire; Assistant Treasurer - Elizabeth Hoffman, Toxaway. By Presidential appointment Carol Adams, Glenville, chairs the Communications and Pub-

•See MOUNTAIN HIGH page 22

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Dec. 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 2

• At 2:35 p.m., officers took a report concerning fraud using an unauthorized credit card for \$1,000. The BB&T fraud division was notified.

Dec. 9

• 9:15 a.m., officers stopped a motorist on U.S. 64 west for a traffic violation and after running the license and doing a warrant check discovered he was wanted in California by the U.S. Marshal's office. California won't extradite, but the Marshal's office will. Mr. Lopez-Quiroz was arrested and transported the Macon County Detention Center to await pick up by the U.S. Marshals.

Dec. 10

• At 9:11 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Highlands Decorating Center on NC 106 when a motorist slid into a ditch. There were no injuries.

• During the week, police officers responded to 10 alarms and issued 3 state citations and 2 warning citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 10:

Dec. 10

• At 9:11 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on NC 106 where a motorist had slid into a ditch. There were no injuries.

• At 12:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a call at Bridal Veil Falls where a vehicle had slid into the hole at the site. Three people were helped from the vehicle and USFS closed the site to through traffic due to icy conditions.

• At 11:09 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the Cullasaja Club. It was false.

Dec. 12

• At 9:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Hicks Road. The Scaly Fire Dept. also responded. The owner was home and it's believed the fire that razed the structure started in the wood-burning fireplace. However the case has been turned over to the Fire Investigation Team.

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a rescue call when a man slipped on the Dry Falls trail and sustained possible head injuries. They assisted EMS and the man was taken to the hospital.

• At 6:31 p.m., the dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east caused by icy roads, but deferred to Cashiers Fire & Rescue because it was across the county line.

Dec. 14

• At 5:01 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at Playmore on Horse Cove Road. It was false.

• At 7:33 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on NC 106 and Arnold Road where the motorist had slid into a ditch. There were no injuries.

Dec. 15

• At 9:13 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Cave Road. It was false.

• At 10:40 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at OEI. It was cancelled within a minutes.

Dec. 16

• At 7:11 a.m., the dept. was asked to assist Satolah Fire & Rescue at a structure fire but the request was cancelled.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

EARN \$250-\$300 WEEKLY WORKING AS A SECRETE/ MYSTERY SHOPPER - This is a flexible job offer, does not disturb your present Job if you have one, Here's your chance to get paid for shopping and dining out. Your job will be to evaluate and comment on customer service in a wide Variety of shops, Stores, restaurant and services in your area. Mystery shoppers are Needed. You'll be paid to shop and dine out- plus, you can also get free meals, Free merchandise, Free services, free Entertainment, Free travel and more. Great Pay. Fun Work. Flexible Schedules. No experience required. If you can shop- you are qualified! JOB REQUIREMENTS: Good business Skills; The Applicant must be 18 Years and above; Honest, responsible, industrious; PC, e-mail and the Internet skills; Ability to check e-mail daily; No less than 2 working hours per day. Interested candidate contact email: brian.williams@gmail.com (2/4/10)

MARKETING COORDINATOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time exempt status position. Experienced professional with Marketing background preferably in healthcare field. Responsible for coordinating the hospital's marketing and communications programs. Demonstrated proficiency in writing skills and website knowledge required. 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

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt

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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
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 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 HOUSECLEANING WORK - Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

BUSINESS Opportunity

THE REAL ESTATE BOOK - North America's largest and most successful "Homes for Sale" magazine, is offering the chance to be an Independent Distributor of the Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our other 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support & follow-up.

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

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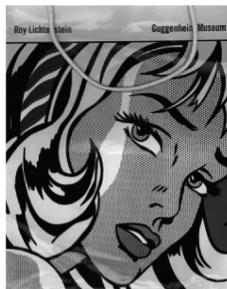
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RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

6.25 ACRES AT LAKE GLENVILLE, two tenths mile from public boat ramp, mountain views, zoned unrestricted, \$175,000 787-2132 (Dec. 29)

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. .33 acre and .63 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental \$2,500.00 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (3/25)

APT. FOR RENT: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, furnished. 1/2 miles from downtown. \$500. per mo. incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer, dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (1/6/10)

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SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT, full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 11/5)

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

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. Pets negotiable. \$900/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 10/22)

APT. FOR RENT – Fully Furnished. Including W/D.

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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)

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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. security deposit with 6 months lease and references. Includes all utilities & satellite TV. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

FOR SALE – BEST ‘COMMERCIAL’ BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/

office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. (st. 4/16)

VACATION RENTAL

RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN – Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (ST. 11/5)

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

PUPPIES FOR SALE

VERY SMALL AKC YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES – Will be ready for Christmas! \$950 Very small AKC Yorkshire Terrier Puppies for sale. Will be ready for Christmas! \$950. -\$1,050. Call 828-371-2010. (st. 12/3)

2 DOGS FOR ADOPTION – 1 A.K.C Teacup Yorkshire Terrier (female) and 1 A.K.C English Bulldog (female) \$350 each. Puppies for Adoption (M/F). Contact james.wallace09@rocketmail.com (12/17)

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HEALTHY TREATED HEMLOCKS, all sizes, name your price 787-2132 (Dec. 29)

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... TOWER continued from page 1

systems, to exchange voice and/or data with one another on demand and in real time.

No decision was made as to location, though the preferred is county property on Aunt Dora Drive off Buck Creek Road at the site of Zachary Field.

However, the property the USFS vacated on Flat Mountain Road was also discussed, but the county doesn't own the land.

"Wherever it's located, Macon County will have access to the communication frequencies and could install its own equipment," said Cabe. "In addition to the emergency aspect, it will allow extra talk groups for Macon County agencies, enable state and federal agencies to talk to us and each other, and even allow us direct contact with our NC Emergency Management office in Raleigh, NC," said Cabe.

It takes multiple sites to cover a county as large and as geographically diverse as Macon, so a tower is needed in Highlands. "We want to make sure we serve the residents of the Highlands' area as equitably as we do the rest of the residents in the county," said Cabe. They also want to put a tower near an existing water tank on county-owned property off 441 south.

Commission Chair Ronnie Beale said before it goes anywhere, the Highlands Town Board would be consulted because even if the tower is erected outside the town limits or in the ETJ area, it could have a visual impact.

The Highway Patrol representative said there are no federal funds available to disguise the tower as a tree as has been done on Satulah Mountain in Highlands.

By ordinance, the county's maximum tower height is 175 feet. "But if they put it on state-owned property they don't have to adhere to county or municipal ordinances," said Beale.

Cabe said this is not a done-deal. "I am sure authorities will take citizen and government comment into consideration when determining the locations," he said.

- Kim Lewicki

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

us; that the crucial explorations have been undertaken, and that it is given to man to know what are the great truths that emerged from them. Whatever is to come cannot outweigh the importance to man of what has gone before."

Heilbroner ends with a look at a possible better Tomorrow. His first premise for this "new level of civilization" is that humankind has learned to live sustainably on this planet. To attain this we must leave behind our current economic order that depends upon ceaseless accumulation and consumption.

Secondly, he imagines a unified world that has put an end to war. Everyone is a citizen of the world. No more countries to fight battles for territory or power. Many years ago I read *Hyperspace*, by Michio Kaku (530.1K) about string theory. What I remember is not a theory of physics but a theory of society. Kaku writes about a Russian astronomer named Nikolai Kardashev who categorized civilizations in an interesting way. A Type I civilization has unified the people of its planet, controls its planet's energy resources, and has colonized its solar system. A Type II civilization controls the power of its star — not passive solar energy but mining the sun — and is exploring its galaxy. Type III civilizations utilize the power of an entire galaxy, have colonized multiple star systems, and have begun to explore beyond their galaxy.

What I love most about this theory is that human beings haven't even made it to stage one yet. We're at zero, or maybe negative one. It seems so obvious to me that humanity's future, if we have one, is to be one people, the people of Earth, to dissolve the boundaries that divide us. Being American in the future, if there is one, will be like being a Highlander today — a local identifier only.

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Santa has gig at Mountain Rarities

Santa will be available to hear Christmas wishes at Mountain Rarities on Main Street Thursday, Dec. 17 from 2-4, Friday, Dec. 18, from 2-4 and Wednesday, Dec. 23 from 2-4.



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Nadine Paradise joins Harry Norman, Realtors



Nadine Paradise

Elizabeth Salzarulo, Owner/Broker of Harry Norman Realtors of Highlands is pleased to announce Real Estate Broker, Nadine Paradise, to the Harry Norman, Realtors team.

Nadine attended Oakland University and started her professional career in Information Technology with a major insurance company. Later, she joined an Executive Recruiting firm that specialized in Fortune 500 companies. Nadine was licensed as a Real Estate Broker in 2002 and during her tenure in real estate has consistently been a top producer. She was awarded "Broker of the Year" at Trillium Links and Lake Club. Nadine is licensed in the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Utah, and is recognized in the real estate industry for her outstanding customer service, dedication and professionalism.

Founded almost 80 years ago, Harry Norman, Realtors' parent company is Berkshire Hathaway, led by the legendary Warren Buffett. Harry Norman, Realtors is also affiliated with Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, Luxury Portfolio Fine Property Collection and Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate.

Harry Norman Realtors is located at #1 Mountain Brook Center (in same complex as Sweet Treats), the corner of 4th and Carolina Way Streets, Highlands, NC 28741, telephone 828-526-8300 or 371-2551, www.highlandsrealestate.com.

... MOUNTAIN HIGH continued from page 18

lic Relations Committee.

The main goals of the organization which are to inform members and the public through political information, to work for and support Republican candidates in all elections and to cooperate and support local and national Republican organizations as needed. She informed the attendees that beginning in April 2010 MHRWA will meet monthly for lunch. The luncheon meetings, to be held at various locations in the tri-county area, will feature speakers on current affairs, political issues or general local or national government information.

All attendees who joined at the official launch meeting are *Mountain High Women's Association* Founding Members. Active members are any woman who is a registered Republican in any state and who is not a member of any other National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) recognized organization. Republican women who have a primary membership in another NFRW club may join MHRWA as associate members. According to NCFRW officials the MHRWA, at sixty members strong and counting, has set a membership record for start-up associations in the state.

For information and a member application, please call 828 200-0437 or email mtnrepublicanwomen@yahoo.com. Inquiries may also be mailed to MHRWA, P.O. Box 126, Cashiers, NC 28717.

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