

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 48

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
40 / 30F	34 / 26F	39 / 28F

This Week in Highlands

Friday, Dec. 4

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, "The Christmas Letters" at 7:30 pm, \$15. For tickets, call 526-9047.

- At Community Bible Church, the Daraja Children's Choir at 6:30 p.m. Free.
- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 5-6

- Christmas Showhouse at the Stewart House, ca. 1890, 1-5 p.m. \$15. Shuttle from the Community Building on US 64.

Saturday, Dec. 5

- Free pancake and sausage breakfast at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop at 561 E. Main Street beginning at 9 a.m.

- Highlands annual Christmas Parade on Main Street at 11 a.m.

- Santa at the Visitor Center after the Christmas Parade.

- At First Presbyterian Church, annual Christmas caroling in the sanctuary at 2 p.m.

- Art class "Holiday Cards" at The Bascom from 2-4 p.m. \$25 or \$20 for Bascom members. Call 526-4949.

- "Split Oak Basket Weaving" demonstration at The Bascom from 1-4 p.m. Free.

- Alternative Giving Christmas, after the parade at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Free lunch and visit booths to see what the local non-profits are doing.

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, The Dappled Grays, \$15 at 7:30 pm. For tickets, call 526-9047.

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20.

- At Wolfgang's Restaurant "Winter Wonderland" after the parade. Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, ornament sale from The Christmas Tree and Christmas-themed book signing and sale from Cyrano's Book Shop.

Sunday, Dec. 6

- At the First Baptist Church, "Christmas Hang-ups" a Christian Musical for Children at 6:30 p.m. Free.

- YOGA for the MIND. 4-6 p.m. \$20, Call Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, Ashby 526-8880.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

- Art class "Create a Holiday Centerpiece" at The Bascom from 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$25 or \$20 for Bascom members.

- UNC-Chapel Hill students special closing event on at 3:30 p.m. at the Highlands Biological Station at 265 N. Sixth Street. Call 526-2602.

Thursday, Dec. 10

- Highlands-Cashiers Players annual free Holiday Reading at 7:30 p.m.

1.5 cent tax hike set for July 2010

At the Nov. 17 Macon County Commission meeting, the board voted unanimously to raise the current tax rate per \$100 valuation from 26.4 cents to 27.9 cents, effective July 1, 2010.

Now may not appear to be the time to raise taxes, but like the old saying goes "You have to spend money to make money."

The money raised through the tax hike will be used to finance the debt incurred to build the new Iotla K-4 school and make renovations and repairs to Franklin High School and Nantahala School. Those three construction projects will in turn put people to work, say commissioners.

"There were several reasons

why now was a good time to raise the tax rate," said Commission Chair Ronnie Beale. "The construction of the North Macon School concludes the major construction for Macon County Schools for many years to come and low interest rates combined with low con-

• See TAX HIKE page 24

• Inside •	
Letters	2
Obituary	3
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
From Turtle Pond	6
Conservative POV	8
HS B-Ball	8&9
His & Hers	10
Events PULLOUT	13
Spiritually Speaking	17
Classifieds	20
Police & Fire	20

Annual Christmas parade is Saturday, Dec. 5



The Highlands School band is just one of scores of participants lined up for this year's annual Christmas parade in Highlands. The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Main Street. You can't miss it!

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Business Advisory Committee established

The only Town Board meeting set for December was short and sweet — some might say bitter-sweet, as the gavel was passed and familiar faces left the table for new ones.

Presentations were made by Mayor Pro Tempore Amy Patterson to both outgoing Mayor Don Mullen and Commissioner Hank Ross, thanking them for a job well done.

Past Mayor Buck Trott and Mullen also presented Ross with a proclamation outlining the contributions and pro bono service he has done during his two terms as commissioner concerning planning, infrastructure, beautification and landscaping.

Mayor Wilkes stepped down from his position as chairman of ABC Board. Eric Pierson, the only applicant who applied for the position, will take his seat on the board and finish out his term which ends Aug. 17, 2012. The Town Board will pick the chairman of the ABC Board following suggestions from its members at the Jan. 6 meeting.

Commissioner Patterson was elected Mayor Pro Tempore, a position she has held for several terms.

As his first "official" act, May-

• See BUSINESS page 19

Planning Board says 'no' to ordinance again

At Monday night's Planning Board meeting, members once again stone-walled the Town Board's attempt to get an "Abandoned Building" ordinance on the books.

Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell took offense to the Town Board's claim that its charge wasn't acted on by the Planning Board at its October meeting saying the

charge was "to look at the issue, not come up with an ordinance," he said.

Citing "property rights" and undue government intervention — also suggesting the real reason for the ordinance was aesthetics and not public health, safety and welfare — the majority of the board suggested using diplomacy rather than law to take care of abandoned

buildings in Highlands.

However, if diplomacy fails, municipalities typically turn to ordinances to ensure due process procedures are followed whose basis is backed by NC statutes. "And that's why the Town Board requested an ordinance," said Town Planner Joe Cooley.

• See ORDINANCE page 21

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Western school districts rank high in new 'parent-friendly' ratings Asheville, Buncombe lag behind with C+ grades

Western North Carolina had three of the five highest-ranked public school systems in the John Locke Foundation's latest assessment of parent-friendly schools. Clay and Cherokee county schools ranked No. 1 and No. 2 among the state's 115 public districts, while Polk County tied for No. 4.

The news was not as good for some other public school systems in the western part of the state. Asheville and Buncombe County schools earned C+ grades for the second straight year.

Clay and Cherokee earned the only overall grades of B+ in North Carolina. For Clay, this represented a jump from a B grade in 2008. Cherokee maintained a B+ grade, while Polk dropped from a B+ to a B.

Three other western school systems earned full B grades. Rutherford County schools climbed from a B- to a B, while Macon County climbed from a C+ to a B. Henderson County schools made the largest leap, from a C to a B grade. Meanwhile, McDowell County dipped from a B to a B-, while Madison County schools jumped from a C to a B- grade.

Along with Asheville and Buncombe County, Burke and Graham county schools maintained C+ grades for a second straight year. Haywood County schools climbed from a C grade to C+. Yancey County schools dropped a full letter grade from B to C, while Transylvania County dropped from C+ to C. Jackson and Mitchell county schools maintained C grades.

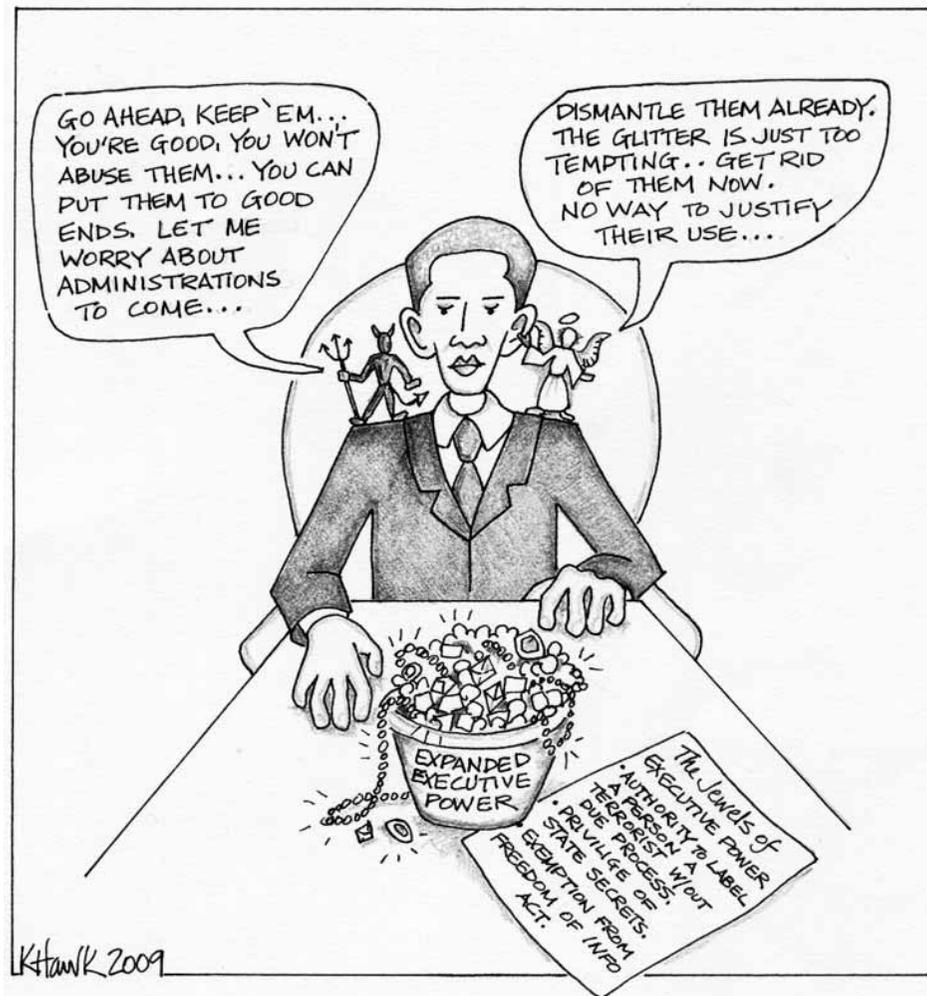
The Swain County school system was the only Western North Carolina district to record an overall grade lower than C. Swain dipped from a C in 2008 to a D+ grade in 2009.

Districts across the state earned more C grades and fewer D's in the John Locke Foundation's second-annual assessment of "parent-friendly" schools. That's a sign of progress to the JLF analyst who graded every district.

"The good news is that the number of overall D grades dropped from 27 school districts to 19 districts this year, while the number of C's climbed from 64 to 75," said

• See FORUM page 7

• 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

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation over 7,500

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782



Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor - Tom Merchant

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

• LETTERS •

Dad relates to Fred

Dear Editor,

I am writing for my dad (Ralph Nichols) over here in Cashiers. He really enjoys Fred's column! He spent 35 years down in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and gets lots of kicks out of his many illustrated stories.

Jim Nichols
Cashiers

The state of American affairs belies reason

Dear Editor,

I have been contemplating the logic of events, or lack thereof, as of late and would like to point out a few things.

First of all, I already knew that government has a knack for forcing itself on the unsuspecting citizen, but lately the tactics being employed by the government makes Roman Polanski appear chivalrous. Obama and his minions are determined to force their will on the rest of us, meaning the rest of us take it up the ... well, you get the point. Slowly, people other than me are catching on.

Unfortunately, this realization has come only after a largely ignorant electorate gave us a president that firmly believes that only the state is capable of bankrupting, I mean, operating even more than what it has already committed itself to doing.

Of course, one would be hard pressed to name a program that the government hasn't bungled in one way or another. And yet Obama reassures us that they will do better with health care. No, he promises. No, he really means it. What are you laughing at? Even China, CHINA, advised us to not create another entitlement program. You know something is wrong when a communist country lectures us on the size and scope our government.

If health care passes in its present form everyone would be pressured to purchase government approved insurance. By the way, whatever happened to the mantras, "my body my choice," or "keep your laws off my body." Or where did an individual's right to privacy go? Apparently, these principles only apply to someone seeking to dismember a child in utero.

Next, I will attempt to address the

• See LETTERS page 12

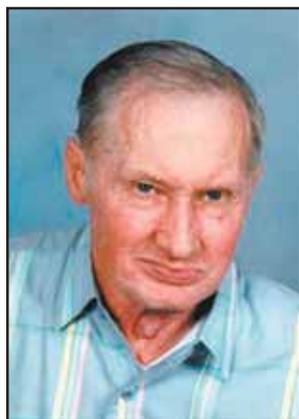
• OBITUARY •

James "Bill" William Webb

James "Bill" William Webb, age 72, of Walhalla, SC died Friday, November 27, 2009 at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, N.C.

He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late James Floyd and Annie Lee Owens Webb. He retired from J. P. Stephens in Seneca, SC with 37 years of service. He was a member of Mountain Rest Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Reba Talley Webb; two daughters, Karen Anderson and Beverly Webb both of Seneca, SC; a sister Betty Jean Roach of Walhalla, SC; a half-sister, Shelia Owensby of Copperhill, TN; three brothers, George Webb of Lenoir City, TN, John Webb and Floyd Calvin (Curt) Webb both of Clayton, GA. Six grandchildren and four great-



grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his step-mother Lydia Hembree Webb; brothers, James Edward (Ed) Webb, Homer Webb and three infants; two twin half sisters and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 3 pm in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Clyde Webb and Rev. Junior Jenkins officiating. Burial was at the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Andrew Picklesimer, Richard Todd, Matt Phillips, Paul Webb, Relton Talley, Bobby Jenkins

and Darrel Talley. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Happy Birthday to Bessie Dryman Barnes

Bessie Dryman Barnes of Scaly Mountain, NC will be 98 years young on Dec. 3, 2009. She was born Dec. 3, 1911 to Ray and Mamie Mcconnell Dryman. She is the oldest and only survivor of seven siblings. She is also the oldest resident in Scaly Mtn., and a veritable wealth of knowledge about Scaly and its history. Her progeny include 10 children, 26 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.




Holiday Reading
 Thursday, December 10 7:30pm PAC
 Our Gift to the Community * Free

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

THE SUMMER HOUSE
 ANNUAL STOREWIDE "FIRE SALE"
We're not on fire this year but our sales are SMOKIN'!
Sale ends Saturday, Dec. 5th

2089 Dillard Road
 Highlands, N.C.
 828-526-5577

This is a special time of the year to offer our greatest savings just to you- our most valued customers.
www.summerhousehighlands.com

Monday - Saturday:
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed Sundays

• **HIGHLANDS FINE DINING** •

Cyprus Dinner: 5-10 nightly
(Open late weekends)
Live Music Saturdays
International Cuisine
N.C. 106 in Dillard Road Shopping Center • 526-4429

Oak Street Café "Fabulous food in a casual atmosphere"
Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner
"Serving USDA prime steaks & seafood"
2 Entrances – Main Street and Oak • 828-787-2200



Small plates & wine, beer and full bar Open Wed-Sun for Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Reservations suggested
The Bistro
Open 4 p.m. – wine & small plates
Taking reservations for New Year's Eve
474 Main Street • 526-3807 • Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence



WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO
CHEF WOLFGANG
Former Executive Chef for
The Brennan's Family of Commander's Palace

Ristorante Paoletti
Uptown Italian Dining Since 1953
Downtown Highlands Since 1984
Exceptional Wines, Robust Cocktails & Artful Beer
Dinner/Bar from 5:30, Thurs.-Sun. through December
Closed Christmas
Reservations: 828.526.4906

The Log Cabin Restaurant
Open for Dinner
7 days
5:30 until
Reservations appreciated
On Log Cabin Road behind Hampton Inn off N.C. 106 • 526-3380



526-4188
Fressers eatery
151 Helen's Barn Avenue, Highlands
Music with Cy Timmons Fri.-Sat at 6 p.m.

Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch: 11-3 everyday
Dinner: 5 until every night except Sunday
Now taking Holiday reservations
Cy Timmons Live Friday & Saturday 6 'til closing

• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Croaking can be fun ... read and learn

I know, I know, I've been fixating on death lately but, so what? It's what we geezers do. I tried to make a bucket list; i.e. those things I want to accomplish before they pat sand in my face and I get moldy cheeks, but I finished it.

I know lots of folks are not going to like reading this. Croaking should be a serious matter but, in my world, it's not. Here's my fun croaking story. A grandchild climbed into my lap and asked, "Poppy, can you make a noise like a frog?"

"Sure I can," I replied. "But why do you ask?"

"Because Grammy says when you croak, we're all going to Disney World."

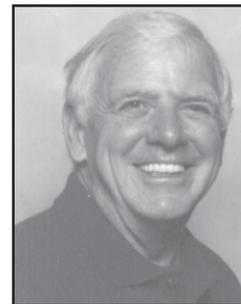
I look at kicking the bucket like this. Literally skillions of people have done this before me, yet I haven't heard one complaint ... not one. That's a good thing.

And don't ja just love those spooky stories about people who supposedly died, went to the other side, and then were miraculously brought back to life. They saw dead relatives, the mysterious tunnel with the white light at the end. I say horse feathers. Those people must've been smoking those skinny cigarettes. There's no tunnel ...except in their squirrely minds.

Write in if you've seen a tunnel but only if you're not smoking skinny cigarettes and you're dead. Ponder this: Was Saddam Hussein reincarnated as a urinal cake? I think so.

When God created us, He...or She, God forbid, built this "self preservation" thingy inside us to keep us alive. But God never meant for us to coast into death like blobs. I see so many geezers doing that. I envy General Custer. That's the way to go, guns blazing and screaming. "Where did all these #@\$%& Indians come from?"

If you're currently blobbing into death, change your ways and start to live. Please don't die at a bridge tournament. Can you imagine? If you're in "blob" mode, get off your duff and do something wild, even if it kills you. Remember, in less than 100 years, no one will even know you existed. Your kids will squander your entire financial portfolio in less than nine months so spend



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

it now before they do. On your deathbed, your last check should bounce.

The li'l missus and I have decided to meet the grim reaper at full speed ahead, sliding into home base, spikes held high as the devil tries desperately to tag us out. That's why we take continuous, exciting and sometimes dangerous trips. Soon, we'll be checking out those scoundrels who highjack ships in the Gulf of Aden. And it's why we hung from cliffs teach-

ing rappelling for 13 years. We're driven to live life to its fullest; otherwise we're just hangin' out waiting to croak. BORING! Also, it's why I loved shooting it out with the bad guys for all those years.

I just know there's a special place over in the corner of heaven where He puts policemen. I hope we can bring our spouses when it's their turn. By the way, why don't men bring casseroles when women croak?

And I can't write about dying and not bring up religion. I'm Catholic. For years, I thought Catholics were the only people in heaven. I learned that from Sister Whachamacallit while reading my Catechism in the second grade. Are you sitting down? Now I'm told even Baptists are allowed in. Wow!

My Ma had no religion. She was the kindest, most gentle, hard working lady I ever knew. She never prayed but literally led the good life, wronged no one and died peacefully at the age of 92. I never heard her curse or say a cross word to or about anyone. She was a generous, gentle, loving woman who stayed married to my Pa for over 65 years until he died. I'm sure God won't put her in the same corner with scoundrel cops like me.

I have faced death many times and loved every minute of it. If the odds makers knew the truth, they would say I shouldn't be alive. Only the li'l missus knows the full story. Now I'm convinced I'll die when scheduled and not before. Until then, my mission is to live the good life and take risks.

Finally, my biggest fear in dying is possibly learning that eating properly was totally meaningless. Can you imagine? Maybe I could've been eating real butter, greasy steaks, eggs and shrimp every day but I wasn't going to croak until it was my time. Oy!

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

The definition of 'food'

The miracle is that they can sell them; Miracle Noodles.

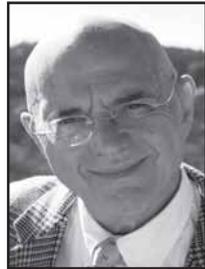
They contain no calories, are devoid of nutritional value. That's the company's only promise, that and "boosting soluble fiber intake." How do you sell food with no calories? Market it in America, silly. Why not shove saw dust into a calorie-free casing, mix in a little sage and fennel, and sell it as sausage? Matter of fact, might make a nice meal, konnyaku imo root noodles and red oak saw dust links. There would be a few calories in the red sauce, but the goal is weight loss, not starvation. The noodles are made from root, but so is sweet potato soufflé. The company web site declares its product to be, "guilt free noodles, zero calories, soy free, gluten free." If that's not enough, they're made in America.

I heard about Miracles Noodles from Frank. Frank wouldn't want to mention his last name. He and his wife are enrolled in the automatic re-order program. They need never run out of noodles and will get first shot when Miracle Noodles introduces mostacioli. The root noodles are available in several popular pasta types, apparently with more to come. Frank has lost a lot of weight eating noodle root, so I decided it wouldn't hurt to check out the web site. I've been eating a low carb diet, and miss pasta.

I ordered angel hair, and expected the Fed Ex package to be as light as a feather. It weighed 10 pounds. Of course that's 10 calorie-free pounds, which can fill a lot of empty stomach space.

Frank had warned me not to smell the product, which has a distinct fishy order. That was strike one. Still, I never dreamed noodles would be packaged in water. It had to be water because fish had been dying in it. Company information, which I hadn't bothered to read before placing my order, warned of a fishy odor, but only reassured the customer that they were safe to eat, and should not be returned for a refund.

Disappointments were mounting fast. I expected my "pasta" to arrive dry. In my Italian family, we didn't put the spaghetti in the water until it was time to cook it. The pouches feel like something you would use at your kid's Halloween party, between the skinless grapes and mushy bananas. Blindfold the kids and ask them to touch some icky stuff.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com**

Miracle noodles are, if nothing else, versatile. Your guests could be convinced the stuff was brains, or kidney, heart, or any of a number of internal organs. That's before you take them out of the package. The gory possibilities are endless, especially if you refrain from rinsing them for three to five minutes in warm water, which the company strongly recommends. After thrusting his hand into the noodles, a kid might say, "This is not

fettuccini. This is dead guy's guts, and he's been dead for awhile."

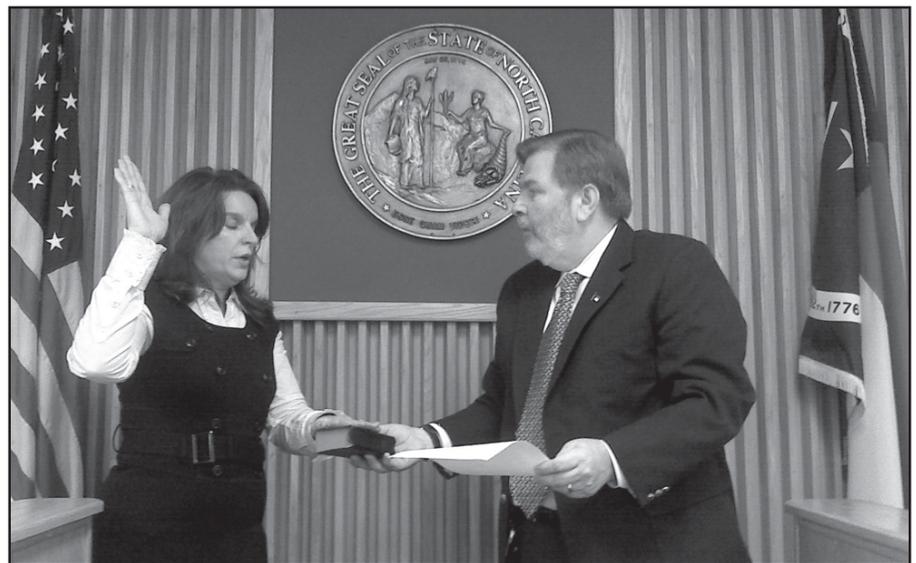
The smell really is pretty overwhelming, and it seemed to linger, even after a prolonged rinse, the way skunk scent stays on a dog, and reemerges every time he gets wet.

I rinsed the bag before throwing it in the trash, and then immediately carried the bag to the garage. Lizzie asked that I not use her kitchen scissors to open the pouch. Why would a company pack its product in water that smells like expired sushi? Individual noodles look like albino worms, no offense to albinos.

It's not easy to isolate a single noodle for examination. They tend to clump. Even after getting past the smell, heating the little devils, and pouring a little red sauce on top, I couldn't separate them. I learned as a kid that Italians roll their pasta, while all others cut it. To this day I feel distain for anyone who chops her noodles. So it was a real problem for me that they stubbornly resisted attempts to separate them, and remained in a pesky clump. I'm not exaggerating. They should work on that, maybe add a little surfactant. They say the noodles have no taste and absorb the flavor of whatever is added. It worked for fish. Marinara — not so much.

I still had nine bags, and while I'm not sure why, I didn't feel right throwing them away. It's not as if I was wasting food. I soaked the noodles for a full five minutes, cooked them in bacon grease, added a little olive oil and grated Romano, and finished it with a tomato with cabernet sauvignon sauce. It wasn't bad. The angel hair was less matted. With some difficulty, I was able to twirl it over a spoon into bite sized globs. Lizzie told me that my recipe had more calories than a real spaghetti dinner. Ah! But no carbs.

McCall sworn in as BOE member



On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Stephanie McCall was sworn into office by Macon County Clerk of Court Vic Perry. McCall is replacing Frieda Bennett who vacated her position on the Macon County Board of Education in October.

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •



WILD THYME GOURMET

Cafe • Gourmet Retail • Fine Wines • Beer

Monday: Lunch from 11:30-4

Wed-Sat: Lunch 11:30-4 & Dinner from 5:30

Dine inside or in the garden!

Closed Sundays and Tuesdays

526-4035 • 490 Carolina Way • Highlands



ruka's
TABLE

Breakfast & Lunch...
7 days a week
...Dinner (Thurs.-Sun.)

In Wright Square on Main Street • 526-3636

Nick's Fine Foods

Fine Food For Particular People

Lunch Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m to 2:30 p.m.

Dinner Wed - Sat. from 5:30 p.m.

Now offering beer & wine!

• Last Day of the Season is Christmas Eve



108 Main Street • 526-2706

• Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays • Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays •



Join us for great food and drinks on the front lawn during the Christmas parade!



When visiting Highlands, a MUST place to dine!

• Casual atmosphere • Fantastic cuisine • Dinner items \$10.50 to \$19

• Cozy, fireside bar serving cocktails, beer and wine

• Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays • Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays •

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Freedom equality opportunity

Last week when describing the principles this country is founded on I wrote "freedom, equality, and opportunity." Later I wondered why it was those three words that sprang to mind when I thought of my country, particularly the word "opportunity."

The Declaration of Independence declares "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happi-

ness." Some of the Founders wanted to say we are guaranteed the right to "life, liberty, and property," but they lost.

What does the right to pursue happiness mean except the opportunity to follow your dreams?

It is curious to me that there is so much animus towards France in this country, particularly in the last decade — re-

member "Freedom Fries?" France overthrew their monarch at the same time we did, the French revolutionaries called for liberty just like the revolutionaries in our country did. But they didn't call for opportunity; they called for "brotherhood." The French motto is Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité.

Perhaps this plea for equality and brotherhood is why so many Americans hate the French. The two revolutions were in reality fundamentally different. The American revolution was led by successful and wealthy men, property owners who disliked the interference of the British Crown in their business dealings. George Washington, I have read, was one of the wealthiest landowners in Colonial America. The American revolutionaries really weren't that interested in equality: at the time the Constitution was written only white men who owned property were considered worthy of citizenship.

France's revolution on the other hand, was a class revolution. The peasants overthrew the aristocracy to bring about equality in wealth and citizenship. In fact, post-revolution equality was so extreme it resulted in the anarchy of mob rule.

I thought of this conversation-with-myself when I saw the abstract of David Brooks' November 24 *New York Times* column, "The Values Question." It read, "Like all great public issues, the health care debate is fundamentally about values, about whether we have a moral preference for vitality or security."

In the article he wrote: "During the first many decades of this nation's existence, the United States was a wide-open, dynamic country with a rapidly expanding economy. It was also a country that tolerated a large amount of cruelty and pain — poor people living in misery, workers suffering from exploitation. Over the years, Americans decided they wanted a little more safety and security. This is what happens as nations grow wealthier; they use money to buy civilization Reform would make us a more decent society, but also a less vibrant one. We all have to decide what we want at this moment in history, vitality or security."

Certainly the United States is a vibrant nation of opportunity and I'd like to keep it that way. However, I have a different idea of what it takes for a nation to create opportunity for all its citizens. I would like our nation to be a true meritocracy, where talents and hard work are what make for success, not a family pedigree.

To provide equal opportunity, we need to provide for basic needs: among these are a quality education and basic health care. Without a healthy body and mind, opportunity to participate in life is decreased.

One of the rallying cries against the health care reform bills in Congress among conservatives is that they will mandate that everyone buy insurance. I don't hear those people arguing against the requirement for all automobile

owners to purchase insurance. If you own a car you are mandated to have automobile insurance. In the same way, if you have a body you should be mandated to have body insurance, otherwise known as health insurance.

No one knows when they will need medical care. Accidents and illnesses come out of the blue. Those healthy young people who don't "need" health insurance because statistically they won't get ill are also in the age bracket that is most likely to have an auto accident.

A good friend of mine from high school went sledding the day before his twenty-first birthday. Healthy as a horse, never ill, his sled slammed into a tree and he was paralyzed from the waist down. He worked extremely hard to get out of that hospital bed and graduated with his class from college. But he could never get medical insurance and his family was burdened with enormous medical bills. His opportunities were forever truncated by his struggle to afford health care.

I just happened to read the introduction to Richard Hofstadter's "American Political Tradition" this week. I was struck by his claim that "however much at odds on specific issues, the major political traditions have shared a belief in the rights of property, the philosophy of economic individualism, the value of competition; they have accepted the economic virtues of capitalist culture as necessary qualities of man... The business of politics is to protect this competitive world, to foster it on occasion, to patch up its incidental abuses, but not to cripple it with a plan for common collective action. American traditions also show a strong bias in favor of equalitarian democracy, but it has been a democracy in cupidity [greed] rather than a democracy of fraternity."

This is why France has universal health care and we don't, and probably never will.

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



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

• SALONS & SPAS •

828-526-5069

Gifted Hands
468 Main Street, #4

www.gifted-hands.com

Massage • Skin Care • Manicure • Pedicure • Microdermabrasion • Peels • Body Wraps

Check out our great packages!

• Swedish Massage or Euro Facial & Express Pedicure – \$100

• Swedish Massage or Euro Facial – \$130

• Swedish Massage, Euro Facial, Manicure & Express Pedicure – \$180

All Seasons Salon

Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women

Razor Cuts • Color • Perms

Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang's

Oak & Fifth Streets

Barbara & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat



"Falls on Main"



549 Main Street – Upper Level

Creative Concepts Salon

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday • 9-5

Saturday • 9-2

526-3939



Taylor



Color, Cuts, Up Do's, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training

OPEN: Tues. - Sat. • Monday by appt. at our

NEW LOCATION

behind Highlands Decorating Center on Highway 106 (The Dillard Rd)

NC LMBT #1429

(828) 526-4192

Barnes
Spa & Salon

Images Unlimited Salon & Spa

225 Spring Street • Highlands

Hair Care ~ Nail Care
Skin Care ~ Waxing ~ Weddings

828-526-9477

... FORUM continued from page 2

Terry Stoops, JLF Education Policy Analyst. "The bad news is that most districts are still earning C's and D's. No district earns an overall A grade, and the number of B's dipped slightly this year from 19 to 17."

This is the second year that Stoops has assigned each school district a "parent-friendly" grade, so it's the first time he's had a chance to note signs of progress or back-pedaling. The Clay County public school system raised its grade this year from B to B+, securing the No. 1 ranking in the state. Cherokee County earned the only other B+, ranking No. 2. Fifteen other districts earned a B or B-, while 75 earned some form of C. Nineteen districts earned D grades, while Bertie, Hoke, and Vance counties joined the Weldon City Schools in earning F's.

Nine school systems improved by a full letter grade since Stoops issued his 2008 report. Henderson County schools tie for the state's No. 7 ranking after raising their grade from C to B. Durham, Edgecombe, and Warren County public schools joined the Thomasville City Schools in improving from F to D in the past year.

Meanwhile, marks for six school systems dropped by a full letter grade. Catawba, Carteret, and Yancey counties all dropped from B grades to C's, while Hoke and Bertie dropped from D's to F's.

"With no threat of losing clientele to competitors, many schools and school districts behave like the monopolies they are," Stoops said. "These school districts focus on strengthening the organization's position and goals, rather than meeting the needs of their clientele. One need not look further than the low regard that many teachers and administrators have toward parents to find evidence of this organization-first mentality."

As in 2008, Stoops found differences in district-to-district comparisons based on geography and school district size. "School districts in western North Carolina generally fared well in the 'parent-friendly' rankings, with seven of the top 10 districts being located in the west," he said. "In contrast, districts in the Triad, Triangle, Charlotte, and northeastern North Carolina tended to fare poorly."

"In general, smaller school districts proved to be more parent-friendly than large school districts," Stoops added. "Most of the top-performing school districts enrolled fewer than 10,000 students."

The rankings are based on 11 different measures in the four categories of school administration, teachers, safety, and performance. The measures include end-of-grade reading and math scores, four-year graduation rates, and school crime statistics. Also included are statistics linked to teacher turnover and teaching vacancies, the percentage of each school system's staff devoted to jobs outside classroom teaching, and results of a Teacher Working Conditions survey.

Stoops converted the numbers into letter grades. He assigned each school district four individual-category letter grades and an average final grade. "This report develops a system that's designed to show the extent to which North Carolina's school districts provide children a sound, basic education in a stable and safe environment that is responsive to the needs of children and concerns of parents."

Further research could help school leaders learn more about the steps they can take to become more parent-friendly, Stoops said. "We need to know more before we can pinpoint the combination of factors that contribute to success, but the school districts that fared well in this ranking were generally small districts with stable, high-performing teaching staffs."

School districts should focus attention on their parent-friendly rankings, Stoops said. "It would be easy for teachers, administrators, and staff to believe the schools belong to them," he said. "Ratings for parent-friendly schools shift the attention back to the families the schools were designed to serve."

Terry Stoops' Spotlight report "Parent-Friendly Schools, 2009: How 'parent-friendly' are school districts in North Carolina?" is available at the JLF Web site. For more information, please contact Stoops at (919) 828-3876 or tstoops@johnlocke.org. To arrange an interview, contact Mitch Kokai at (919) 306-8736 or mkokai@johnlocke.org.

COME ONE • COME ALL • COME CASUAL

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY™

• GRILL • FRESH FOODS • WINE MARKET •

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GOOD FOOD™



We Fire Up The Grill Daily at 11:00 am

**We Promise To Serve You
the Best Angus Burgers, Grilled Chicken,
Hand-Cut French Fries and Comfort Food Specials
in Highlands ... So Come Casual & Eat Well**

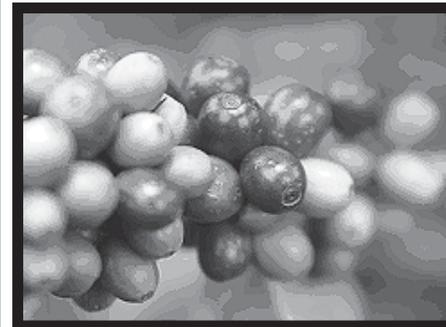
• THE CORNER OF FIFTH & MAIN IN HIGHLANDS •

828.526.2400

**WHAT'S
BREWING
IN HERE?**



**MOUNTAIN FRESH
GROCERY™
828.526.2400**



**•Soon Offering
Fresh-Roasted
Coffee in
Highlands
& Wholesale
Whole-Bean
Coffee to the
Trade**

Have something to advertise for the upcoming holidays?

Email: highlandseditor@aol.com

On the street and on the web, we've got it all covered -- news, features and events.

• HS BASKETBALL ROUND-UP •

Highlanders split a pair with Hayesville

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlanders and Lady Highlanders hosted the Hayesville Yellow Jackets on Tuesday evening.

The Lady Highlanders began the evening looking to be aggressive and set the tone early with full court pressure. While the Lady Highlanders had no trouble forcing turnovers early in the contest, they struggled on offense, only scoring 6 points in the first quarter. The second quarter brought better offensive flow, as the Lady Highlanders outscored the Lady Jackets 15-7 to take a lead that they would not relinquish. Emily Munger led Highlands with 15 points and Marlee McCall added 9.

The Highlander boys were looking to build off of a strong performance despite a loss to Franklin.

Unfortunately, Hayesville had other plans, using a stifling man-to-man defense and precise offense to take an early lead. Despite early problems offensively, the Highlanders continued to fight, trailing by double digits at the break they managed to cut the lead to 6 on three separate occasions in

the second half. These comeback efforts were repelled by Hayesville, who ultimately wore down the Highlanders with their depth and speed for a 13 point victory. Logan Schmitt led the Highlanders with 13 points, and Michael Shearl added 10.

The Highlanders will host Cherokee on Friday night as they celebrate Homecoming. Come out and support your Highlanders!



Photo by Stephanie McCall

Senior Kate-Marie Parks going up for a lay up against Hayesville Tuesday night.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Green, green, it's green they say ...

...on the far side of the truth.

Now that the morons running the New World Order are on the verge of committing global economic suicide (Copenhagen, don't cha know), a group of enterprising hackers have tapped into a treasure trove of emails disclosing the dirty little secrets that expose the scam for what it is... a scam.

Do you remember the recent orchestrated spin effort when several climate "scientists" claimed that man-made global warming was "settled science?"

Perhaps the following report from the Wall Street Journal "unsettles" the issue.

"The scientific community is buzzing over thousands of emails and documents – posted on the Internet last week after being hacked from a prominent climate change research center. Some say they raise ethical questions about a group of scientists who contend humans are responsible for global warming.

"The correspondence between dozens of climate-change researchers, including many in the U. S., illustrates bitter feelings among those who believe activities cause global warming toward rivals who argue that the link between climate change remains uncertain.

"This is horrible," said Pat Michaels, a climate scientist at the Cato Institute in Washington who is mentioned negatively in the emails. "This is what everyone feared. Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult for anyone who does not view global warming as an end-of-the-world issue to publish papers. This isn't questionable practice, this is unethical."

If you are not unsettled yet, you can pay my energy bills when they skyrocket (Obama's word, not mine) if cap-and-trade results from belief in this "settled science." Those that support the "theory" claim that a consensus has been reached. The last I heard, science deals in facts, not opinions.

It is a fraud, it has always been a fraud, and always will be a fraud.

While it appears that lying has become commonplace to achieve one's objectives, others have come full circle.

The lovely and talented Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La) passed right through the cover-up routine and proudly admitted that she is not only a prostitute, but a high-priced one at that. When dipstick Harry Reid found he was one vote short of the 60 he needed to start the debate on healthcare reform, and Miss Mary was still uncommitted to the proposition, the haggling commenced. Harry offered \$100



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

mil; Mary countered with a half a bil. Ultimately, they split the difference and her vote went for \$300,000,000 solving Harry's dilemma and assuring Mary's reelection for a lifetime.

So, now we have one case of lying, subterfuge and deception while perpetrating the biggest fraud in my lifetime, and another case of blatant candor. What's the commonality of these two issues? For the moment, I have forgotten where I was going with all this, but I'm sure something will come to

me.

The great disappointment of recent history was the disclosure of Gov. Mark Sanford's (R-SC) abandonment of his responsibilities in Columbia to fan the flames of lust and desire. Being incommunicado for five days is bordering on treason and doing so using state resources is probably impeachable. In addition to the wreckage caused his family, the likely sorry ending to an ascending political career is painful at a time when true conservative leaders are scarce. Furthermore, the delusion that the most visible person in the State can disappear whose absence would not be noticed brings his mental health into question.

And finally, somehow the collective malfeasance (mostly, but not limited to, tax cheating) of many of Obama's nominees and appointees to the most powerful offices in the government has been overwhelmed by the breakneck destruction of our culture and economy, caused in large part, by those very same crooks.

I'm not going to name them (possibly with the exception of Tim Geithner, who deserves special attention), but just think back to the early days of Obama's administration, when nearly every day, a potential member of the Obama team was outed as either being a law-breaker or a socialist/Marxist/communist. And you wonder why his inner circle looks more like Russia's politburo in the bad old days? No mystery to me.

So, what's the meaning of all this? What's the lesson here? Soon, we will be besieged by hoards of wannabe "public servants" including several incumbents.

They are going to be telling you what they think you want to hear to garner your vote.

Educate yourself; get informed; go to every event involving candidates that you may potentially be asked to vote for. Listen skeptically, ask hard questions, demand clear answers. When you go into the voting booth, know what you are doing. Your future depends on it.

• CRAFTING & MORE •

Cut n Patch Quilt Shop

It's never too early to think "Christmas!" Quilted items for sale and fabric for your own creations, too!

160 Strawberry Lane Highlands
Please call Liz View at 526-9743 for hours and directions

Needlepoint of Highlands

Barbara B. Cusachs

828-526-3901
1-800-526-3902

526-5208 high country photo
In Highlands Plaza Hours: Mon-Fri. 9-5 Saturdays 10-2

Come see our great selection of Frames and Albums!

Make us your hometown stop for:

- Custom Photo Calendars and Greeting Cards
- Photo Restoration
- Poster Prints & Enlargements
- Film Development & Digital prints
- Video Transfer to DVD (we do this in house)
- Photo collage posters and more!

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL VARSITY BASKET BALL TEAMS •



The Boys Varsity Team: Clayton Dunn, Bryon Neumann, Tim Fogel, Taylor Osteen, Jose Feria, Cody St. Germain, Chase Flowers, Spencer Ferlita, Collin Taylor, Isaac Beavers, Parker Sims, Samuel Wheeler, Logan Schmitt, Michael Shearl, Robbie Vanderbilt, Cai Roman, Clayton Lassiter, Josh Delacruz, Felipe Ruiz and Manager Tyler Owens. The head coach is Butch Smart and the Assistant Coaches are Ryan Potts and Eric Schmitt.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



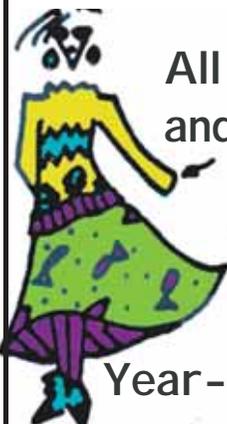
The Girls JV/Varsity team: Kalyn Billingsley, Juliane Buras, Taylor Buras, Jenny Coram, Jessica Gagne, Manager Elizabeth Gordon, Abigail Hewins, Rebecca Johnson, Susan Johnson, Marlee McCall, Emily Munger, Emily Murphy, Kate-Marie Parks, Sarah Power, Courtney Rogers, Brie Schmitt, Karaline Shomaker, Stephanie Smart, Manager Bobbi Jo Talley, and Mary Warner. The head Coach is Brett Lamb and Assistant Coaches are George Schmitt and Stephanie Smathers.

It's Homecoming Week at Highlands School!

A Pep Rally is Friday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m.; the Homecoming basketball game against Cherokee is Friday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation of Homecoming Court will take place between Varsity Girls' and Boys' Games.

APPAREL

All Sweaters and Coats on Sale



Year-End Denim Sale

'7 for All Mankind' BLOWOUT!

'Free People' Holiday Dresses and more ... All on SALE!

355 Main Street
in The Galax Theatre
526-4660

CROCS • GRAMICCI • MERRELL • MINNETONKA • AVENTURA • CHACO • LOLE • TEVA

For wherever you choose to roam...

BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

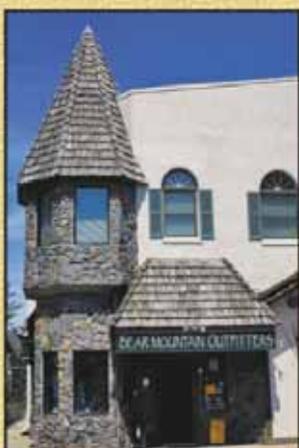


MEN • WOMEN • KIDS • CASUAL CLOTHING
ACTIVE WEAR • ACCESSORIES • BACKPACKS
HUNDREDS OF SANDAL, SHOE & HIKING
BOOT STYLES

Hours: M-Th 10-6 F Sa 10-8 Su 11-5
Open Year Round

Corner of Main and 3rd St. • Highlands, N.C. 28741
bearmountainoutfitters@dnet.net

828-526-5784



CLARKS • EARTH • ASOLO • SEBAGO • OBOZ • KELTY

MOUNTAINSMITH • AETREX • BÖRN • GEOX • TIMBERLAND • SMARTWOOL • BIRKENSTOCK

AMERIBAG • ECCO • WEEKENDZ OFF • SOFTSPOTS • MARMOT

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN THE HEART OF HIGHLANDS?

2-Bedroom, 2-Bath, FULLY FURNISHED
Pinebrook Condo with fireplace & screened porch.
Only two blocks from town. Enjoy year round living in beautiful Highlands, NC.
Offered at \$169,000.
Contact
Martha Betz, Real Estate Broker
Country Club Properties
Office 828-526-2520 • Cell 828-200-1411



HIGHLANDS EATERIES

High Country Cafe
Down home favorites everyday!

WINTER HOURS
Breakfast & Lunch
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday

526-0572
Cashiers Road next to the
Community Bible Church

Highlands Hill Deli
Corner of Main and 4th streets

Now with In-Store Seating!

Open Daily Serving:
Soups, Salads, & Made-to-Order
Sandwiches for Breakfast, Lunch &
Dinner. Ice Cream, too!

7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon-Fri
9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sat & Sun
526-9632

The Pizza Place

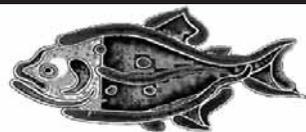
Free Wi-Fi
now available!

Daily Lunch Specials Mon-Fri
Hot Sub, choice of sides & drink \$5.99
Pizza by the slice, and beer, too!

365 Main Street • 526-5660



Open 7
Days a
Week



Pescado's

Burritos – Tacos – Quesadillas
Now serving Beer – We offer free Wi-Fi

Open: 11-4 Mon., Tues., Wed., & Sat.
Open: 11-7 Thurs., & Fri.
Closed Sunday

226 S. 4th St., Highlands
838-526-9313

Eat right, Live long!

SportsPage



Sandwich Shoppe

Soups • Salads • Sandwiches
Desserts • Loaded Baked Potatoes

Hours:
Mon-Sat: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

314 Main Street • 526-3555

• HIS & HERS •

Greek to me

By **Michelle A. Mead-Armor**

Linguistically speaking, I've been pretty lucky up to now. Raised in the USA, with a French mother, I grew up speaking two languages. Living in New York City for 12 years, with the nicest doormen anyone could hope for, I picked up a working knowledge of Spanish. My six years in a German bank – which provided us with German language lessons, if we so desired – gave me *ein bisschen* of German, too.

But Greek? Well, it's Greek to me! Not only do you have to deal with a completely new language, you also have to deal with a new alphabet. Now I know how it feels to be in a country where you don't have a clue what people are saying, seeing road signs and shop signs you don't understand. It's unsettling, to say the least.

Fortunately, the patience and kindness of the Greek people we meet – and their steadfast determination to help us out by trying to speak English – keeps the trip from being a disaster.

Arrivaderci, Italy! Ya su, Greece! Our destination is Katakolon. Once off the ship, we divide up into tours and board the buses for our chosen excursions. Our guide for the day is Katie, a delightful young lady with a ready smile and flashing eyes.

Fortunately for us, she is also very knowledgeable, and has a way of explaining that is neither boring nor patronizing. The drive through the Greek countryside is a treat for the eyes – more olive trees, as in Italy, but this time, mile after mile of oleander, as well.

We notice little chapels, the size of mailboxes, alongside the road, and find out that they are the equivalent of our roadside crosses put up at the scene of traffic fatalities. Other features we don't recognize are the metal tanks on the roofs of many houses (which turn out to be solar water heaters) and crow-like metal "birds" perched on the chimneys (which direct the smoke away from houses when strong winds blow.) This may be an ancient land, but Greece has embraced its share of modern technology.

Our main destination is Olympia, the site of the original Olympic Games. Since tourism is a major part of Greece's economy, the site has clear signage and



Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

maps. Katie explains the origin of the Olympic Games, and we realize that there is a lot we don't know. For one thing, most of the competitors were ordinary people, not professional athletes. Another fact which becomes very obvious is that there are few places which don't show major devastation, mostly the result of earthquakes, so frequent in this part of the

world One of the ladies in our group turns to me, and says "Are these ruins?" I resist the temptation to reply, "No, M'am, it's a building site. They're putting in a McDonalds."

We see the ruins of the temple of this god; the ruins of the temple of that god. Over here is where the athletes trained; over there a sort of spa/gym building. It's a massive complex, showing how seriously the Greeks felt about the role of physical activity in everyday life. Over and over we see bare blocks of stone which were originally topped by statues of Olympic champions – statues which now adorn museums all over the world. Katie tells us how much of Greece's cultural heritage is no longer found Greece, due to centuries of conquest and pillage. Every time you visit the Louvre in Paris, or the British Museum in London, just remember where these masterpieces come from and where many Greeks feel they still belong.

The most popular site is perhaps the least impressive – the starting line for races in the Olympic Games. Tourists vie to have their pictures taken on the starting line, poised to burst into action at any second. We are informed that the Olympic competitors competed in the nude, which causes great hilarity among our group. In fact, no women were allowed among the competitors or the audience at the Games. The only exception was a lone priestess – who was blind (or so she said!). Women had their own separate games, where they wore what looks to us now like two-piece bathing suits.

Much is made of the whole concept of amateurism in the Olympics, but this is a relatively modern concept. In ancient times, each winner was awarded a symbolic Zeus olive wreath, and allowed to erect a victory statue of himself at Olympia. More than that, however, the victors often returned home, receiving free meals and sometimes even free housing, for life. Some towns even tore down their

... HIS & HERS continued from page 10

walls since they deemed them unnecessary, with such an athlete as their citizen. Solon even legislated rewards of 500 drachmas (\$200,000) for Athenian Olympic victors.

After our trip to Olympia, we start back to the ship, pausing for a detour at a Greek taverna, for a sampling of Greek food and a chance to try Greek dancing. John and I pass on the dancing, and concentrate on the appetizers and **mezethes** (small plates of tasty morsels). We wolf down cheese pie triangles **tyropitakia**, lamb meatballs **keftethakia**, fresh country bread and feta cheese, among other

delicacies. The large bottle with strawberries on the label looks harmless enough, until I take a nice, big swig, and discover it is strawberry-flavored **ouzo**! A couple of glasses of that potent beverage, and you are hard pressed to make a fist!

Finally, we board our ship, tired, but pleased with our day. We don't have any preconceived notions about Greece, so everything thus far is a pleasant surprise. As neither John nor I are great shoppers, we can't join in on all the shopping adventure stories yet, but think we may have a few of our own after Oia and Mykonos, our next stops.

Interior renovations ongoing at Hudson Library



Crews work quickly to gut Bascom part of Hudson Library. Photo by Katie Brugger

On Monday, Nov. 16 a crew from the Macon County maintenance department arrived at the Hudson Library to start the renovation of the building. The former Bascom gallery is where the first work is being done, so the impact on library users will be minimal during this phase of the renovation.

The front room, which was formerly the main Bascom gallery space, will be an Adult Reading area with book shelves and comfortable reading chairs. Also, windows which have been completely covered up on the side wall will be opened so there will be natural light in this room. The middle room will be a new Children's Room, and the back room, which was formerly the Bascom office space, will be a community meeting room. This room will be available for groups to use in the evening when the library is closed, and will have kitchen facilities.

This project is called an "interim" renovation because the Hudson Library Board of Trustee's long-range plan includes an expansion of the library facility in this same location sometime in the next five years. The work being done during this interim phase has been designed to fit with the needs of the future expansion.

If you have any questions about the interim renovation, please call the Hudson Library at 526-3031. There are architect's drawings available for view at the library so you can see the floor plans and renderings of the finished rooms.

Since tomorrow's tours begin bright and early, we decide on an early night. Both of us sleep like babies. Personally, I blame the **ouzo**.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good

looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle wonders about the possibility of opening up a Greek restaurant in Highlands, possibly named **Feta Compli**.

Use Highlands' Newspaper to get the word out! It's on the streets and on the web every Thursday. Call 526-0782



**HIGHLANDS
CASHIERS
CHAMBER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

HCCMF Presents...

“Christmas Chamber Music with Santa”

Saturday, December 12th at 5PM

Performing Arts Center - Highlands



Kate Ransom



David Hancock



William Ransom

performing Christmas Music for violin, cello, piano and... a fun Christmas Carol sing-along

Santa will hand out treats for good listeners!

Children under 12 are free; Adult tickets \$20

Call HCCMF at 828-526-9060 for ticket information

• **RENOVATE & RENEW** •



Template • Fabrication
Installation
Marble • Travertine • Slate
Soapstone • Silestone
Cambria

Over 400 Slabs on site, All others available
5385 Hwy 107 North • Glenville, NC • 828-743-0200

Wholesale Down Comforters & More!



HOLIDAY SPECIALS:

White Goose Down Comforters, Flannel Sheets
& Duvet Covers

526-4905 New Shipments Every Week Mon.-Sat.
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Next to Farmers Market on the Main Street side

Larry Rogers Construction Company, Inc.

Serving Highlands and Cashiers from over 25 years
Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe
Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities
(828) 526-2874
776 Dillard Road • Highlands



In Highlands, conveniently
located at
2543 Cashiers Road ...
across from Highlands Lawn
& Garden
828-787-1100



"Our attention to detail makes the difference."

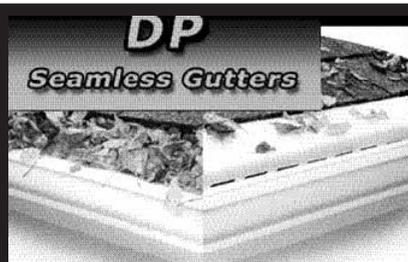
- Large selection of Unique Slabs of Granite, Marble, Travertine, Soapstone, and Quartz...on site!
- Experienced in Custom Granite Fabrication, High Standards of Quality and Service
- Custom Cabinetry, Hardware, Sinks, Faucets ... with Design Services to put it all together!

Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately!

FREE Radon Testing • Call 828-743-0900
www.drycrawlspaces.com



Crawl Space Encapsulation System®



Serving Western NC and Northeast GA

SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS

23 colors including copper
Several styles of leaf guards available
Free Estimates
Dennis Perkins

828-371-2277 • 828-526-3542

We also install underground gutter drainage systems,
and clean gutters, too

... **LETTERS** from page 2

Fort Hood shootings without any shout outs, awarding of "props," or even a single fist bump. Why is it that the establishment media and the administration has fallen all over themselves to avoid the words terrorist or Muslim when talking about Fort Hood? I am not suggesting Obama flail his hands in the air and scream, "the terrorists are coming!" but I am asking that he muster as much indignation and passion when describing someone who killed or injured a few dozen Americans as he did about Fox News.

The only times that Islamic terrorism was hinted at the elites were breathlessly assuring us that this act was an aberration of Islam. That nothing in the Islamic faith would encourage such behavior. Why is it that Nancy Pelosi teared up, or at least she would have if her tear ducts were still operational, when warning us of how the rhetoric of the tea party goes could contribute to an environment of violence, even though there hasn't been any to speak of, but every attack from a subscriber to the "religion of peace" is an anomaly?

Chris Matthews questioned whether it was illegal to contact someone in Al Qaeda. While I can't say if Hasan broke any laws in contacting Al Qaeda, I can say that it was in extremely poor taste. To put it into terms that liberals can understand ... contacting an organization that preaches hatred of America and her ideals, Al Qaeda not the ACLU, is almost as distasteful as not aborting a child with down syndrome.

I am sure by now that we have all heard about the upcoming civil trials for the handful of terrorists that are going to be brought to New York. Personally, I think that this is a foolish decision and reveals a regression to the pre 9/11 mind set of treating terrorist acts as a police action. Never mind that the trials will be well publicized circuses, but they could be detrimental to national security.

Why is it that liberals get misty when talking about a terrorist's supposed constitutional rights yet they forget all about that document when it comes to our own citizens' rights to own and bear arms, right to free speech etc...? I keep looking for Michael Moore to come out with *The Hairy-Backed Man in the Striped Pajamas*, the harrowing untold story of Kaleed Sheikh Mohammed.

Alas, I guess I will never be able to plumb the shallow waters of the labyrinth that is the mind of a liberal. It is a mystery that will never be answered. Finding a liberal in Washington capable of deductive reasoning and logic is like finding Big Foot. There will be the occasional rumors of sightings or every now and then a grainy video might surface as evidence of their existence, but there may never be any conclusive proof.

Waylon Chastain
Highlands

• **THANKS** •

**Oyster Roast
'tradition' started**

Dear Editor,

The Oyster Roast benefiting the Highlands and Cashiers-Glenville Fire Departments and Rescue Squads was a great success; attended by many and enjoyed by all. Hopefully, a new tradition has begun - as these brave men can never be thanked enough!

Many thanks to all the generous donors: Carolina Smokehouse, Let Holly do the cooking, Lisa Dickey - Jennings Supply, Lee Hodges, Brian Renfro, Cynthia Strain, FatiGati's Bakery - Cashiers, Flipside Bar & Grill, Phyllis Obenshain, The Pizza Place, Brick Oven, Ali Sadaat, Lenny Metrick, Highlands Hill Deli, Highlands Wine & Cheese, Dusty's Superette, Kilwins, Reeve's Hardware, Cyprus Restaurant and a very special thanks to Derek Bryson, Craig McCall, and Matthew Perkins - all of whom gave countless hours of their valuable time to help bring it all together.

Noel Atherton and Gray
Alexander
Highlands

**Community turnout
appreciated**

Dear Editor,

Gary, Lena & Dusty Raby would like to thank all the Highlands family and friends who helped with our benefit. The out pouring of kindness was overwhelming. We are very fortunate to be a part of such a great community. So again we want to thank you one and all.

**Shuler Announces
Grants for Macon
County Airport**

Congressman Heath Shuler announced federal grants totaling more than \$2 million to improve the Macon County Airport.

The grant, issued through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), will provide \$2.2 million to extend the airport's runway and taxiway. The expansion to a 5,000-foot runway would meet additional FAA safety requirements and allow small jets to utilize the airport.

"The Macon County Airport plays an important role in the local economy and serves as a vital link for emergency responders," said Congressman Shuler, D-Waynesville. "I will continue to work to help the airport grow and prosper."

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Ongoing

• Republican women from Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties have initiated the formation of a Republican Women's Association. The core group of organizers headed by 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 loca-

tion), 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.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. M/W @ 7:30 a.m., Thur. @

10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. 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 Doerter 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-

See EVENTS page 14

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

BLIND SIDE

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7, 9:30

Saturday: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Sunday: 2, 4:30, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:30, 7

PLANET 51

rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

Saturday: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

Sunday: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10

OLD DOGS

rated PG

Friday: 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

Saturday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

Sunday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:15

Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15

THE TWILIGHT SAGA:

NEW MOON

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

Saturday: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

Sunday: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:05

Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05

Expanded H1N1 Flu Clinics scheduled

The Macon County Public Health Center has scheduled several H1N1 flu vaccination clinics. The clinics are by appointment only and clinic times and locations may be obtained when calling 349-2081 to schedule an appointment.

H1N1 flu vaccination clinic is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 for the following priority groups:

Anyone under 49 years old

Any person (regardless of age) with the following chronic medical conditions:

- Asthma
- Chronic lung disease
- Heart disease
- Blood disorder
- Diabetes
- Kidney disorder
- Liver disorder
- Metabolic disorder
- Weakened immune system
- Neurological disorders

Please call the public health center at 349-2081 for H1N1 flu vaccination clinic appointments.

Also, if you are interested in receiving a seasonal flu vaccination, please call the public health center at 349-2081 for more information on availability. The public is encouraged to use the Macon County Public Health Center's flu information and appointment line to keep up-to-date on flu vaccination clinics and the latest eligibility criteria. This line may be accessed by calling 349-2081 and following the flu information instructions.

First Presbyterian to hold annual carol sing after parade



There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, after the parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you won't want to miss this! Stell Huie will be song leader.

Special guests will be The Highlands Male Chorus, led by Orville Wike, and Bagpiper David Landis who will join Angie Jenkins at the pipe organ in a rousing rendition of "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Make plans to attend for an enjoyable hour of singing and Christian fellowship. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

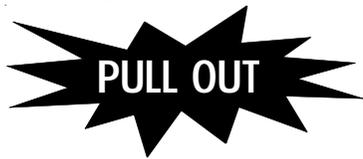
The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

Alternative Giving Christmas at Highlands Methodist Church this year Sat., Dec. 5 after the parade

Alternative Giving Christmas, right after the Christmas Parade at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Free lunch and visit booths to see what the local non-profit agencies are doing in our community. There will be information showing what any size donation can do for the needy in this area. There will be attractive gift cards which will show what has been done in the recipient's honor. What a wonderful way to honor those who have so much by giving for the benefit of those who have much less!

'Tis the Season...





Ongoing and Upcoming Events

746-9964.

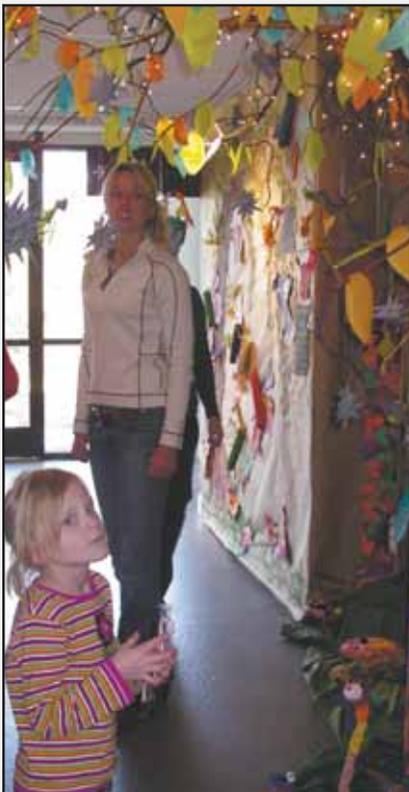
Thursdays

• 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 (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769

'Enchanted forest' youth art exhibition continues at The Bascom



A young artist checks out the new exhibition of children's art, "Enchanted Forest," at The Bascom. The exhibition showcases work done during the fall by the kindergarten through eighth graders who take weekly classes at the nonprofit art center. The exhibition continues through Dec. 18 in the ground-floor Children's Gallery. Admission is free. For more information about all Bascom youth art classes, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Fridays & Saturdays

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

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

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

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

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 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.

• YOGA All Levels Class Saturday 9:30-11AM, Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880. (12/3)

• Yoga Class by Candlelight with Ashby Underwood. 5-6:15 PM. Six-Week Series \$65/ \$13 drop-in. Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880. (12/3)

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 Ceramics," 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. 3

• The Thursday Library Movie Matinee "Four Christmases" starring Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn. They play a young yuppie couple who unexpectedly have to spend the Christmas holidays with their four extended families. The families are totally dysfunctional. As a result, the couple not only learns things about their families, but about each other as well. This is a fast moving comedy with an excellent supporting cast. The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. The movie and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

• Rotary Bingo proceeds will go toward the Macon County Sheriff Depts. "Shop with a Cop" program

to benefit 213 children this Christmas. Bingo at the Highlands Community Center is 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$1 per card and 15 games.

• Taize service at the Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m.

• A demonstration, "The Ancient Art of Spinning," by fiber artist Carol Singletary will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• An American Red Cross **Adult and Child CPR/AED and Infant CPR** course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. **Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, November 30, 2009.** For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Through Dec. 4

• The Historical Society is selling fresh-cut Fraser fir Christmas trees this year. 6' -7' trees are \$55 each, and 8'-9' trees are \$70. Place orders now by leaving a message at 787-1050. Trees that have been ordered may be picked up at the Historic Village next to the Rec Park on North Fourth Street on December

4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 4-Sat., Dec. 5

• Art class "Knit a Christmas Stocking" by Carol Singletary will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$135 for the general public and \$125 for Bascom members (supplies included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Friday, Dec. 4

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, "The Christmas Letters" with Barbara Bates Smith at 7:30 pm, \$15. From Off-Broadway . . . to Edinburgh. . . across the country to you: Barbara Bates Smith brings you stage adaptations of works by prizewinning authors such as Lee Smith, plus a variety of original scripts, with musical accompaniment by Jeff Sebens. To purchase tickets, call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

• At Community Bible Church, the Daraja Children's Choir at 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

• "Environmental Learning - First Friday every month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin presents Avram Friedman, Executive Director, The Canary Coalition, a grass roots clean air movement that believes we all have the right to breathe

Historic Society's Christmas Showhouse to be a show-stopper!



As this year's Christmas Showhouse the Highlands Historical Society has made arrangements for Highlanders and their visitors to tour one of the Town's most historic houses: the Stewart House, ca. 1890, located at 425 Brock Court off Hickory Street across from the ball field.

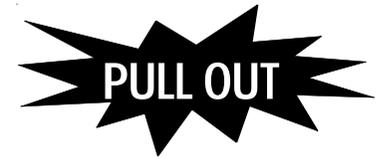
The ten-room house will be filled with beautiful baubles, fresh fragrant greenery, gorgeous handmade quilts and ideas to copy in celebrating the season. Something new has been added to this year's Showhouse: the sale of many of the decorative items, the quilts, gar-

lands, wreaths and boughs, 2010 calendars and chances to win a set of six art glass plates from Bryant Art Glass.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Admission to the Showhouse is \$15 with shuttles from the Community Building north of the ballfield.

Proceeds from the Showhouse benefit the Historical Society's preservation of the Prince House, ca. 1877, the Historical Museum and Archives housed in the original Hudson Library building, ca. 1915, and one of Dr. Mary Lapham's 60 cottages for TB patients, ca. 1908.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



clean air. This event is free. Please come and bring family, friends and students. 5:30 refreshments, 6:30 presentation. UU Fellowship, 85 Sierra Drive, Franklin, NC (1.3 miles from Hardee's on Lakeside Drive, left on Sierra Dr.)

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 5-6

• Christmas Showhouse sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society at the Stewart House, ca. 1890, at 425 Brock Court opposite the ballpark on Hickory Street. Showhouse hours will be 1-5 p.m. \$15. Shuttle from the Community Building on US 64. An added feature this year will be a raffle of a set of six art glass plates from Bryant Art Glass. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Saturday, Dec. 5

• Free pancake and sausage breakfast at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop at 561 E. Main Street. The breakfast prepared on one of the world's largest paella pans.

• Highlands annual Christmas Parade on Main Street at 11 a.m.

• Santa will be at the Visitor Center right after the Christmas Parade to hear children's wishes for the holidays.

• At First Presbyterian Church, annual Christmas caroling in the sanctuary at 2 p.m.

• Art class "Holiday Cards," by Fayne Ansley,

will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. Students will make beautiful handmade cards for friends and family using rubber stamps and embossing, glitter, bells, baubles and ribbon. This is an inter-generational class for children and adults. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• A demonstration, "Split Oak Basket Weaving," will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Alternative Giving Christmas, right after the Christmas Parade at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Free lunch and visit booths to see what the local non-profit agencies are doing in our community. There will be information showing what any size donation can do for the needy in this area. There will be attractive gift cards which will show what has been done in the recipient's honor. What a wonderful way to honor those who have so much by giving for the benefit of those who have much less!

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, The Dappled Grays, \$15 at 7:30 pm. To purchase tickets, call 526-9047.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an 8-mile strenuous hike with an elevation change of 3,000 feet to Black Rock Mtn. in Jackson County. Meet at the

Huddle House in Dillsboro at 9 a.m. Drive 60 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, wear hiking boots. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

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

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant "Winter Wonderland" after the parade. Wine tasting and purchase, holiday hors d'oeuvres demonstration and tasting, ornaments for sale from The Christmas Tree and Christmas-themed book signing and sale from Cyrano's Book Shop.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association Christmas Gathering at 6 p.m. at the home of Paul and Jane Wilgus, 1155 Hickory Hill Road. For more information, call 526-9939.

Sunday, Dec. 6

• At the First Baptist Church, "Christmas Hang-ups" a Christian Musical for Children at 6:30 p.m. Free.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike with an elevation change of 200 feet on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch, including some side trail and a small waterfall. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

• YOGA for the MIND. 4-6 PM Special Workshop with body movement, breath awareness, and deep relaxation. Beginners Welcome. Cost/\$20, Pre-register preferred. Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, Ashby 526-8880. (12/3)

• The Friends are hosting their Annual Holiday Party and will have Barbara Bates Smith performing her one-woman play, adapted by her from the Lee Smith novella, "The Christmas Letters." Attached is a press release and pictures of Ms. Smith and Mr. Sebens. This program is open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. We would appreciate your running this announcement the week of Thanksgiving if possible. If you have any questions, please give me or Karen Wallace a call at 524-3600.

• Art League of Highlands Christmas Drop-in party from 3-5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands. Fellow artists welcome to meet and greet.

• The High Mountain Squares will be having their 8th annual "TOYS FOR TOTS DANCE" this Sunday, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 2-5 p.m. Please bring a new unwrapped toy. At 3 p.m., these toys will be turned over to the Smoky Mountain Marine Reserve Unit for later distribution. Ken Perkins from Pelzer, SC and Rudy Saunders from Monroe, GA will be the callers. We call Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, or 706-782-0943.;

Monday, Dec. 7

• Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the Nantahala Community Center at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

• Macon County Democratic Women will have a covered dish Christmas party at the home of Ruth O'Bryan at 5:30 p.m. Carpooling will be at the Old Ingle's parking lot in Franklin at 5:15 p.m. Please remember to bring non-perishable food items or paper

Plein air artists enjoy fall weather at The Bascom



Highlands' crisp but clear fall weather has been attracting a host of open air, or *plein air*, artists to The Bascom lately. Highlands School art students, like this student above left, made a morning trip to sketch some of the landscape, while several painters from the Georgia Landmark Art Project, including this artist, above right, traveled to Highlands to paint the art center's historical buildings. The Bascom welcomes plein air artists and will be hosting a Plein Air Paint Out weekend in September 2010 in conjunction with the International Plein Air Painters. For more information about The Bascom and its offerings, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org (2010 programming will be available after the first of the year). The Bascom exhibitions and shop are open through Dec. 18. Educational programs run all year.

Literacy Council announces 'Great Literacy Challenge'

The Literacy Council of Highlands has been awarded a \$10,000 challenge grant by the Hayes Family Foundation of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to maintain the position of programs coordinator.

"In order to keep the position of programs coordinator, we need to meet the Great Literacy Challenge by raising \$10,000 by the end of the year," said Bessie Dietrich Goggins, executive director of the Literacy Council. To date, the Literacy Council has raised a little more than half of the funds and needs help to meet the challenge," said Goggins.

"Laura Miller is the council's programs coordinator, and besides working with the children, she does a fantastic job coordinating schedules and goals among the students, parents, tutors and school," Goggins said.

Others in the community agree that Miller fills a need within the Literacy Council. "Laura has a wonderful presence with the children who attend the Literacy Council's programs," said chemistry tutor Jodie Cook, local community leader. "She's just like a pied piper with the children. It is just amazing."

The funds raised from this campaign will allow the programs coordinator to continue as a full-time staff member for the Literacy Council, which offers seven ongoing programs throughout the year. "Laura fills a critical need because the Literacy Council needs to continually spread the word to children and parents about our free programs, as well as consistently recruit tutors," said council president Marjorie Fielding.

The programs coordinator is an essential position to helping the Literacy Council meet the needs of the community, said Goggins. "Laura helps us keep a pulse on what our programs' participants need to continue their educations and develop a love for literacy," Goggins said. "She helps us fulfill our mission to enrich lives through literacy on the Highlands plateau."

The Literacy Council asks that anyone who would like to donate to the Great Literacy Challenge can contact Goggins via e-mail at highlandsliteracy@juno.com or by telephone at (828) 526-9938



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Blue Ridge School, in Glensville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed.

Friday, Dec. 11

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

Saturday, Dec. 12

- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 4 p.m.
- Holiday Innkeepers Tour featuring treats with a corresponding recipe card. The more inns you visit, the more cards you will receive to help furnish your Holiday InnKeeper's Cookbook. 1-6 p.m. Participat-

ing Inns include: 4 ½ Street Inn; Chandler Inn; Colonial Pines Inn B&B; Hampton Inn; Highlands House B&B; Highlands Inn; Highlands Suite Hotel; Inn at Half Mile Farm; Main Street Inn; Mitchell's Lodge & Cottages; Mountain High Lodge; and Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Directions and your empty cookbook shell may be picked up from the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street. For questions, call 828-526-2112.

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

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Presents "Christmas Chamber Music with Santa." at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center-Highlands. Christmas music, carol sing-along and treats for good listen-

ers. adults: \$20; children under 12: free. Call 828-526-9060 for information.

- Art class "Ceramic Ornament," by Norma Hendrix, will be taught at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to noon. This is an intergenerational class for children and adults. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Bascom members. Call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Art class "Botanical Watercolor: American Holly," by Fayne Ansley, will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. For teens and adults. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

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

- Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at the

Holly Springs Baptist Church at 8 am to noon pm. Please call 524-0908 for more information or to schedule an appointment. *All presenting donors will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of three pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets!*

Sunday, Dec. 13

- At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 7 p.m.

- Auditions for Highlands-Cashiers Players winter play, "The Dixie Swim Club," by J. Jones, N. Hope, and J. Wooten will be held at 3 at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands NC. "The Dixie Swim Club" is a charming play featuring 5 female college friends and former competition swim club teammates and their friendship over 55 years. Performance dates are Feb. 25-28 and March 5-7, 2010. Rehearsals begin early January 2010. Scripts are at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Call: Rick Siegel, Director, 828.200.9237

Chamber music Christmas program featuring the 'best of the best' for the holidays!

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

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

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

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

David Hancock came to Atlanta in 1991 as cellist with the Atlanta Chamber Players. Since 1993, David is the Principal Cellist of the Nashville Chamber Orchestra (recently renamed Orchestra Nashville), a group committed to programming new "cross-over" works in concert with traditional masterpieces. He is soloist on the group's debut compact disc, "Conversations in Silence". David earned the Master of Music degree in conducting from Southwestern Theological Seminary

in Texas. His extensive study of solo and chamber repertoire placed him under the coaching of Lynn Harrell, Claus Adam, Leonard Rose and Samuel Mays. David received the Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, where he studied with Fritz Magg. Since coming to Atlanta, David frequently performs in the Southeast as soloist, and chamber musician where he also serves as pedagogue, composer and arranger. He recorded as soloist and chamber musician on several CD recordings and has also recorded with Trey Anastasio, Steve Green, Michael W. Smith, Amy Grant and others. In 2005 he founded the Elysium Chamber Orchestra and Chorus and serves as its Artistic Co-Director. David is the co-founders of Chamber Music Atlanta.

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

Sheriff Department asks community for monetary donations for annual 'Shop with a Cop' program

It's that time of year again when the Sheriff's Office are preparing for its annual "Shop With a Cop" and as always the department is asking the communities to help! Thanks to monetary donations from the community, officers can pick up local children at their homes and take them Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. Afterward they have lunch with the officer compliments of Burger King and Wendy's. The officer and his new little friend then go back to the

Franklin Police Department, Highlands Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, NC

Wildlife Commission, United States Forest Service, and the NC State Bureau of Investigations.

"This year we hope to bring big smiles to more Macon County children than ever before," said Sheriff Robert L. Holland. "This annual event is always a special time and the officers always look forward to participating. With your contribution you can make this year's event a



Zack, age 9, shopped at Wal-Mart with Santa and Detective Don Willis, as part of the Sheriff Dept.'s "Shop With a Cop" program. Zack's younger brother and sister were shopping with two other officers also at the store. With Zack is Sheriff Robbie Holland and Santa "Buck Trott" Claus from Highlands.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Sheriff's Office or Police Department and wrap their Christmas gifts.

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

This year's event will include officers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office,

huge success and help give a family a Christmas they'll remember for years to come."

Please send checks by Dec. 14th to:

Macon County Sheriff's Office

1820 Lakeside Drive

Franklin NC 28734

Please make checks payable to: MCSO "Shop with a Cop"

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

'Tidings of Comfort and Joy'



Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

Last night I helped out one of my seminary classmates who was holding a Service of Lament for her congregation.

Seems odd, yes, to have such a service in this season ... or maybe not.

The assemblage was modest — about 10 people, but as we made our way through prayer, song, communion and sharing, I realized that all of us, if we live long enough, accumulate and carry our sorrows with us, sometimes for our entire lives.

The woman whose parents were all gone, who now found herself the matriarch of her family, but longed for someone to mother her.

The victims of abuse and incest, for whom holidays meant not just a gathering of family, but of predators as well. And most of us, who had lost friends and family, sometimes many years ago, but whose memory they still hold dear.

The manufactured joy of the season often brings these losses to weigh heavily on our hearts.

Yet, even in the anticipation of the joyful birth, the words of Handel's "Messiah" haunt me

"He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief."

A man of sorrows.

Except at Easter, we don't often think of Jesus in those terms, yet from the moment he was born, he carried all the joys and cares, sorrows and griefs that every human drags along with them. Not only that, but he took upon himself OUR sorrows, OUR griefs!

Quite a burden to heap on a newborn.

For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth (John 18: 37 b)

The truth of course, is that Christ came to love us, to walk with us on our journey on earth, to help us carry our burdens, and finally, to take all those burdens himself, so we might be free of them forever.

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God."

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 1:6)

"Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain." (Isaiah 40: 1, 4)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

May the comfort of the love of God sustain you all.
Amen.

• 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 childrens

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

from the history guy ...

Dec. 3

The USS Alfred became the first vessel to fly the Grand Union Flag (the precursor to the Stars and Stripes) the flag is hoisted by John Paul Jones.

Before we had the Stars and Stripes we had some flags of different types, one was designed, made and when it was raised, it became this ship's pennant.

Oh, did I forget to mention that was our official navy ensign? It was to represent our Union, Jack, 'cause to the Empire, we'd not go back. But it sort of looked, well, a little bit-ish, a lot like the one used by the British. So, we had a flag, how 'bout a constitution to recite? That, they had not begun to write.

Buy an ornament for the Hospital tree

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

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



Amount: _____

Circle one: In Honor of In Memory of

Name: _____

Given By: _____

Address: _____

Send Acknowledgments to: _____

Address: _____

Highlands Antiques

...located in an historic summer home



Open Thurs, Fri, and Sat, 10-5
802 North 4th Street, Highlands

ANTIQUE & FINE INTERIOR FURNISHINGS

Purveyors of Artful Objects

ESTABLISHED 1989

828-526-2083
www.ckswan.com

• COACH'S CORNER •

Quick thoughts from one of the busiest weekends in sports history

Some unbelievable stories from this weekend, but let's start with Charlie Weis being out at Notre Dame.

The fine folks in South Bend need to face the facts ... Notre Dame is not an elite job anymore. Despite having some big time talent at QB and WR respectively, Notre Dame



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

cannot compete with the depth and speed of southern schools overall, which is precisely why they need a guy like Brian Kelly to take over that program.

Speaking of coaches on their way out ... Bobby Bowden, I salute you. Despite my longtime hatred of you due to being the architect of the Crimino...er, Seminole dynasty, you have always been a worthy adversary. I have actually felt great sadness in recent years, as Bowden has been reduced to a harmless senior citizen, the kind whom you let cut in front of you at Cracker Barrel or forgive when they bring 17 items to the 10 items or less checkout. Dadgumit Bobby, I hope you have a great retirement-you will be missed.

Tim Tebow played his last home game this Saturday in a rout of Bowden's Seminoles --only two more games until fans around the country can breathe a sigh of relief.

I'm still not sold on Tebow as an NFL QB (although Vince Young's success provides a decent blueprint) but there is no doubt that he is in the pantheon of

greatness at the college level. We'll see this weekend if Nick Saban's defense has something cooked up for Superman.

The Big 10 -- ACC challenge wraps up tonight (Wednesday) could this be the year that the ACC goes down? The Clemson-Illinois game could be the deciding

game tonight.

The New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts both remain unbeaten in the NFL. This week the Saints were dominant on Monday Night Football, destroying the Patriots in the Superdome. However, Indianapolis may have the upper hand in that they almost have home field advantage locked up throughout the playoffs, whereas the Saints remain just a game in front of 10-1 Minnesota in the NFC.

And finally, Tiger Woods whoa. Whether the allegations are true or not, the fact that there have been allegations are surprising enough. We really have no precedent for something like this. Everyone who knows Michael Jordan knew what kind of person he was, but Tiger supposedly cheating on his wife seems much more shocking because of who we thought he was.

It's not the end of the world if it's true, but it just serves as that much more of a reminder that no one is above temptation when put in the wrong position.

TWIGS at Highlands' Edge

"Everything for your Nest"®

...and more including furniture, accessories, art and gifts.

TWIGS

Twigs
on
the
rocks

Twigs
the Season

OUT
ON
A
LIMB

Hours: 10-5 Thursday-Monday; Sunday 10-4; Closed Tues. & Wed. • Cashiers Road about one mile from town. • 526-5551

... BUSINESS continued from page 1



Magistrate Pat Taylor conducted the swearing in ceremonies Wednesday night when Commissioners Amy Patterson and Gary Drake and Mayor Dave Wilkes took office. Below, Commissioner Patterson presented Don Mullen and Hank Ross with plaques of appreciation and past mayors Mullen and Buck Trott presented Ross with a proclamation outlining his many services to the town over the last eight years.



Photos by Jim Lewicki

or David Wilkes suggested the formation of a Business Advisory Committee whose purpose will be to act as a liaison between the business community and the Town Board.

"Hopefully, members of the committee will be within a block of anyone who needs them, concerning any issue that is affecting them," said Wilkes. "Whether they want to talk about loose bricks on the sidewalk, parking, zoning or anything else, there will be a committee member nearby who can take the issue to the Town Manager who will in turn take it to the Town Board if necessary, but in any case, action can be taken in a timely manner."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the idea was a good one, especially since people are more apt to talk to peers rather than the Town Board, but she didn't want this to become another layer of bureaucracy.

"I don't want this to become a committee people have to go through, but it would be good for people to have an insulator spokesperson so they don't have to be articulate in front of the Town Board if they don't want to."

Commissioner Larry Rogers said it was a good idea and reminded the board of the short-lived Merchant's Association, which had a similar purpose.

Wilkes said the reason the Merchant's Association failed – an association he spearheaded – was because the Chamber of Commerce began getting the room tax money. Prior to that the Chamber was broke, he said, which instigated the formation of the Merchant's Association. He also reminded the board that it was the Merchant's Association that put on the first Christmas Parade in Highlands.

Wilkes said the Business Advisory Committee will be made up of representatives from every segment of business in Highlands – construction, Realtors, insurance companies, merchants, etc., — so everyone feels represented.

The board voted unanimously to establish the committee with details to be hammered out by the next Town Board meeting which is Wednesday, Jan. 6.

– Kim Lewicki

Two superior services. One unbeatable price.

Bundle High-Speed Internet with Digital Phone from Northland for one LOW price.



High-Speed Internet

- Only Northland can deliver the fastest speeds for all your video streaming, banking, shopping, schoolwork, and more!
- No matter where you live within the network, experience consistent speeds way faster than DSL and dial-up.



Digital Phone

- Reliable home phone service with unlimited local and long distance calling
- 13 FREE calling features including Voicemail, Caller ID, and Call Waiting PLUS online Voicemail access

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET plus DIGITAL PHONE starting at **\$52.85** per mo. for 1 year

Call (828) 526-5675 today!

Ask about our FREE HD!

479 South Street • Highlands, NC 28741 • (828) 526-5675 • www.northlandcabletv.com

\$52.85 rate guaranteed with a 12 month agreement (required). Standard prices apply after term. Prices subject to change. Offer valid for new customers only. Actual Internet speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. Northland manages network bandwidth and may temporarily restrict services as a result of high volume use to maintain quality service. Unlimited local and long distance calling to the U.S. and Canada. Equipment fees, taxes and installation not included. May not be available in all areas. Some restrictions may apply. Offer expires 10/31/08.



Have something to advertise for the holidays?
Email: highlandseditor@aol.com



Installation and On-Site Service

Christmas Gifts for EVERYONE
On your list!
Shop for the Kids, Grandkids or even Yourself!

OPEN
M-F 10-5 & SAT 10-4

555 E. Main Street Highlands
Across from Hudson Library
(828)-526-3350

Channel 14
Highlands' own TV channel!

Heart of the High Country
weekly show about Highlands

Show times: 8 am, noon, 5 pm, 7 pm,
10 pm, midnight

To see what's on this week, visit:
www.heartofthehighcountry.com

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

Visitor Information Program

Show times: 6 am, 9 am, 2 pm, 6 pm,
8 pm, 11 pm



Northland Cable Television

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position providing clerical support to HR Manager. Discretion and confidentiality required. Must have good communication and organizational skills. Must be able to multi-task and prioritize. Familiarity with employment law and HR related issues helpful. 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 Nurses needed in Acute/ER department. Strong leadership skills is a must. PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA or CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN needed in the Emergency Room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full Time position available. ER experience required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay,

NEW POLICY
One FREE Classified Ad for ONE item less than \$500 (Not animals, no commercial biz). ONE AD PER FAMILY otherwise: 20 words for \$5; \$2 for each 10-word increment.

Email copy to:
highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913
Send check to:
Highlands' Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

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.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in one of our Physician Offices. Full Time position available. 3-5 years of experience required, GYN office experience preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an

increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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. 10/22)

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

LOST AND FOUND

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 26

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Nov. 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 17

• At 1:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at 2nd Street and U.S. 64 west.

• At 1:33 p.m., officers responded to a call of a dog tied to Loafer's Bench. They weren't able to locate the owner who had left him there while shopping in town..

Nov. 18

• At 5:15 p.m., officers took a report of a wallet stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in Highlands Plaza..

Nov. 21

• At 4:30 p.m., officers took a report of a cell phone valued at \$100 stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on 2nd Street and Helen's Barn Ave.

• At 1:25 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on N.C. 106 at the entrance of Highlands Decorating Center where the driver was cited for causing an accident while driving under the influence. Arrested was Lindsay Elizabeth Shuler, 21, of Franklin for DWI and careless and reckless driving. She was released on an unsecured \$1,000 bond.

Nov. 23

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a call for service concerning a 12-year-old boy who was riding his bike on U.S. 64. He was escorted to his home on Laurel Street.

Nov. 24

• At 11:35 a.m., officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle parked at a home that was unoccupied. The owner of the vehicle said he parked there to be out of the way of construction traffic in the area.

Nov. 25

• At 2:30 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Satulah Road concerning domestic disturbance between two brothers.

Nov. 26

• At 10:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of suspicious vehicle parked on Wilson Road near Harris Lake. The driver was just parked and talking on his phone.

• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 20 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov 19:

Nov. 19

• At 6:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Road involving a 56-year old man. He was transported to the hospital.

Nov. 20

• At 11:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Wachovia Bank where a woman had fallen and hit her head. There was no transport..

Nov. 21

• At 5:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders

• See POLICE & FIRE page 26

Explore. Participate.

Exhibitions at The Bascom now through December 18:

- American Art Today, Juried Works
- The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design
- Enchanted Forest, youth art

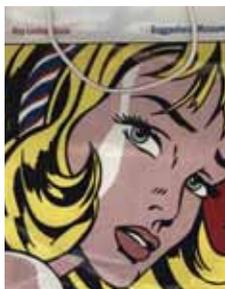
FREE EXHIBITION ADMISSION.

Open Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Don't forget The Shop for your holiday gift-giving!



CORNELL



NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION

Exhibitions, shop,
studio classes, nature trail

THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
828.526.4949
www.thebascom.org

• HIGHLANDS ART GALLERIES •

C o r e y J a m e s G a l l e r y
Fine art and collectables,
Bronzes, water fountains,
Furniture and accessories
Hand made signs &
custom art work

Corner of 3rd & Spring
828 526 4818



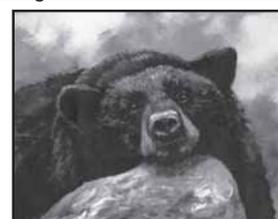
Bryant
Art Glass
Fused Glass and
Estate Silver
260 Franklin Road
(before The Bascom Bridge)
828-526-4095

Greenleaf Gallery

& Custom Picture Framing

The "Robert Tino" place in Highlands!

Come register for a free Robert Tino print ... just in time for Christmas!



www.greenleafgallerygifts.com

177 Main St. (Wright Sq.) • 526-9333

... ORDINANCE continued from page 1

Though Cooley supplied the board with the Morrisville, NC, "Abandoned Structure" ordinance to use as a template a few meetings ago, most members had not read it on the basis that they don't think such an ordinance is needed.

"We were told to look and see if we thought such an ordinance was necessary and we don't," said Ricky Bryson. "The Realtors who are saying eyesores are the reason they can't sell property are just not telling the truth."

The subject of abandoned buildings was brought to the Town Board's attention a few months ago by Realtors who said the uninhabited yellow house on U.S. 64 east and the old Northland Cable building now owned

by the Old Edwards Group on NC 106 – both of which are in serious disrepair – are eyesores on Highlands corridors.

Though the ordinance wouldn't be about aesthetics, member Pat Taylor said that "usually when a structure is abandoned and in disrepair appearance is an issue."

Cooley said the owner of the yellow house is slowing dismantling the structure and OEI put plans to convert the old Northland Cable building into employee housing on the back burner due to the economy, but they are aware of the community's concerns.

Member Pat Taylor made two separate motions to have Cooley design an ordinance using Morrisville's as a template and returning it to the Planning Board at its January

meeting. Both motions, which varied slightly, failed 4 to 2 with Taylor and Linda Clark voting for them. Ricky Bryson, Mike Bryson, Griffin Bell and John Underwood voted against the motions. Thomas Craig was absent.

"I can think of lots of reasons why you would want an ordinance dealing with abandoned structures," said Clark. "If it isn't being lived in and there is a hole in the floor, for instance, there should be a procedure so something can be done before something bad happens like a child wandering in and falling through and getting hurt."

Members against the ordinance were stuck on the misguided notion that the town's code enforcement officer could inspect buildings in town – whether abandoned or not – and suggest changes, repairs or demolition.

Even after Cooley reiterated the facts – that acting on the ordinance had to be complaint driven, in fact required five complaints from five different people; that it only dealt with abandoned, uninhabitable buildings; and that it was about repairs not demolition – the majority of the board was still unmoved.

Taylor, who is also the Highlands Magistrate, said an ordinance is a document that ensures due process by law and would only be used if diplomacy failed.

Cooley said demolition of a building is the absolute last resort. "The point of this is 'repair' and human safety," he said.

With the Planning Board unwilling to move on the ordinance, Cooley said he will await direction from the Town Board. He said even without the Planning Board's backing, it's likely he will be asked to draft something.

The procedure for amending the town's ordinance code typically involves suggestions from the Planning Board but the Town Board always has the last say.

When the issue of amending Highlands' Zoning Ordinance comes up – whether it involves tweaking a portion already on the books, or incorporating a new segment – the

Town Board always asks the Planning Board to take the first look – a procedure grounded in NC Statute.

Regardless of the Planning Board's suggestion, however, if the Town Board decides to move forward with an ordinance, a public hearing about the ordinance is set and public comment is solicited.

After the public hearing, the Town Board makes the final decision concerning any addition to the Zoning Ordinance or an amendment to it.

– Kim Lewicki

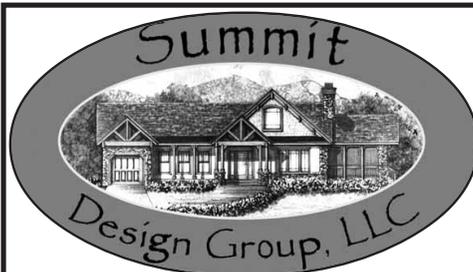
• BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS •

**BUILDING GREEN HOMES:
DURABLE, HEALTHY, & ENERGY EFFICIENT**



**CIMARRON
BUILDERS**

WWW.CIMBUILD.COM 828-526-2240



Summit Design Group

Design/Build Specialists

828-482-0110
Highlands, NC

• SPECIALTY FOODS •

Gourmet Sauces & Spices



- Accessories
- Gourmet Kitchenware
- Dinner Settings *Carafina*

Open Mon – Saturday • 10am to 5pm
450 Main Street Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

Gourmet to Go & Catering

526-0383



Tuesday-Saturday • 11-6
Next to D&J Express Mart at Main & 3rd streets
Also home to Wedding Designs³



Stop by and see our wide selection of
Local Organic Produce,
Specialty Gourmet Foods, Quality
Supplements, Organic Body Care,
Natural Health Books & References, &
Local Hand-Crafted Gifts.

"For a Healthier Life"

On the Corner of Foreman Rd. & Hwy. 64E
Monday-Friday 10 am - 5:30 pm
Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm
Call 526-5999

Dusty's

Our Heat and Serve appetizers, soups, dinners and desserts make your Holiday entertaining fun and easy!

Leave the cooking to us ...
the fun for you!

Tell us "Santa Sent You" and save
15% on gift items this month.

Closed Monday, Dec. 7 and 14.

Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
493 Dillard Road
(828) 526-2762

• CLASSIFIEDS •

FOUND PAIR OF EYEGLASSES on the USFS trail below the old Forest Station on Flat Mountain Road. Call 526-4696.

YARD SALE

MOVING SALE — BY APPOINTMENT. Houseful of Furniture Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Bakers Rack, Office Furniture, Corner TV Cabinet, Console Tables, Accessories, too many to list. Highlands, close to Wild Cat Country Club. Call for appointment to see. 526-9577 (st. 9/24)

MOVING SALE – 2 Side by Side Dressers, antique green, brass and white handles, \$65. 3 Wood End Tables with matching coffee table \$35. Pretty Red Oak Dining Table and 4 chairs with leaf \$125. Hoover Wind Tunnel Canister Vacuum Cleaner \$75 828-349-1546 or 828-342-7028. (St. 11/12)

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

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

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end

Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah 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)

LOT WITH A VIEW OF SATULAH MOUNTAIN, Hidden Springs Road, Highlands. Approximately 1/3 acre. Excellent neighborhood. Lynda Hamilton (912) 481-0174.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

ONE BED, 1 BATH, plus den with trundle beds – fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. \$950/month. Call 813-428-2359.

TWO BEDROOM, ONE BATH FARMHOUSE. Large Yard. View of Shortoff Mountain. Available Jan. 1, 2010. \$700 a month plus utilities. Furnished. Non-smokers. View Point Road area. Call 828-526-0036 after 6 p.m. or the cell at 828-421-1159. (11/26)

Order Your Christmas Tree Now!

Fresh-cut Fraser fir trees

6' - 7' trees: \$55

8' - 9' trees: \$70

Call (828) 787-1050 to place an order.

Pick up your tree at the Historic Village

next to the Rec Park on December 4

10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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

GREAT HOME FOR RENT. \$750 per month. 3 bed, 3bath, great room with fireplace, deck, big yard in Scaly Mtn behind Cabe Realty, utilities not included, no pet. Call Becky 828-526-2475. (12/3)

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)

BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM CHALET FOR RENT. \$750 per month INCLUDING utilities. Two bed/ two bath/screened porch/gazebo. Minutes from Highlands. Call Jeannie Chambers 526-3717 (office) or 526-8225 (cell). (st. 10/22)

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. Minutes from Hospital and downtown. \$475/month plus utilities. Call 787-2423. (st. 10/22)

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

\$325/MONTH, one bedroom in 5-bedroom house. Utilities divided equally. Walk to hospital. Call:

See CLASSIFIEDS page 23

\$17 weekly

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

\$17 weekly

Tile Works

Custom Tile Installation
Showers • Floors • Countertops

828-526-9450

1/14

Don't Scream...

Get the help you need with

TempStaffers!

Quality help for a day, a week, a season.

526-4946 • 342-9312



WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS

— *Black Rock* —

APPLIANCE REPAIR

James Doddridge, CAP Master Technician

PO Box 1970 • Clayton, GA 30525

706-982-1529

Serving Highlands, Cashiers, Sapphire and Lake Glenville.

Michael David Rogers

Native grown trees and plants
Erosion Control Specialist
Landscape Installation
& Maintenance

515 Wyanoak Drive • Highlands
828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268
tinarogers@nctv.com



WAYAH Insurance Group

Auto - Business - Home - Life - Health

526-3713

800-333-5188

www.wayah.com

Professional • Local

Great Service • Great Prices

2/5

UNIFORM PAVING

& Seal Coating

"All work guaranteed"

Leonard Harrison, Owner
828-361-5343



FIREWOOD
(Dry Hardwood)
for SALE.

Priced to SELL!

Call 526-4946 or 200-0268



CHANDLER CONTRACTING

Professional Painting & Staining
Residential & Commercial

Interior & Exterior • New Construction & Repaints
Pressure Washing • Deck Treatment & Repairs
Locally Owned and Operated
Years of Experience

Licensed • Insured • References • Free Estimates
828-369-5104 or cell: 828-226-3792

12/10

Edwards
Electric Service
of Highlands

Call: 526-5147

• CLASSIFIEDS •

828-200-1064. (st. 10/1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

GOODYEAR WRANGLER TD TIRES - size 265 75R 16 with black spoke rims. Bought new. Less than 100 miles on them. Selling for \$800. fits Toyota, Nissan & Chevrolet. Call 526-3824. (st. 12/3).

LOVE SEAT SOFA. Light Brown. Only 1 yr. old.

Looks brand new. Reclines on both sides. \$425. 526-9107.

UGG PONCHO - Warm, carmel-colored, leather and fleece. Perfect condition. Cost \$400. Asking \$250. Great Christmas gift. Call 828-526-0518.

CAST IRON CLAW FOOD CIALIS BATHTUB. Large enough for two \$400 OBO. Call 526-3824.

TWO CRAFTSMAN 9" TABLESAWS. \$100 takes both. Call 526-3824. (St. 11/12)

89-INCH SOFA, soft floral print, great condition. \$250. Also, 8-ft 4-inch x 5-ft 8-inch floral hooked rug that goes well with sofa. \$85. Call 526-3647.

EMPIRE GAS LOGS, 28 wide, ventless, remote controlled, 20-38M BTU, imitates real fire very well, \$150. 526-4594

LADIES MOVADO WATCH - Never worn. Asking \$400. Call 828-421-6198.

WESLO CARDIO GLIDE - Like New. \$75. Call 526-5462.

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES - 6-10 ft. For sale on Main Street next to the Methodist Church. Anytime delivery. Call 526-3824. 11/29.

ORIGINAL SYRACUSE CHINA FROM NOW CLOSED "AUNT FANNY'S CABIN" IN ATLANTA. 19 plates, 18 bread and butter, 18 dessert. All for \$295. Call 526-0498.

RECLAIMED BRAZILIAN CHERRY DINING TABLE. One of a Kind. \$1,200. 828-526-9012. Randy. (st. 10/22)

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

EMPIRE GAS LOGS, 28 inches wide, ventless, with remote control and ember material. \$250. 526-4594.

FIREWOOD 2 YRS OLD, split & dried hardwood plus cut kiln-dried kindling close to a cord U-Haul \$200. Can divide. 828-342-7028.

TVS FOR SALE - Remodeling makes these slightly used bargains possible. 25" -- \$140, 27" \$160, 32" \$260. Call 526-5992.

FURNITURE - 1 cream tweed sofa (89" long) \$500; 1 sofa/loveseat combo in cream stria-suede \$500 set; 2 brown fabric w/ color stripe custom swivel chairs \$300 each; 2 small green fabric swivel chairs \$150 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/ beveled mirror and 6 drawers \$300; 2 matching nightstands \$100 for both. Will e-mail photos if interested! 828-743-3071 or 828-787-1900. (st. 9/3)

TWO MATCHING QUEEN ANNE CHAIRS. Cranberry Red. Walnut legs. Excellent condition. \$300 for both. 828-226-2027.

COLLAPSIBLE LADDER - \$270. Call 526-5025.

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR. \$500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

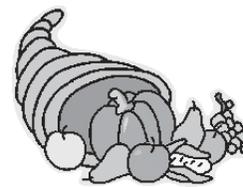
PALLADIUM STYLE WINDOW - Mahogany two section 1-3/4" thick x 42" H x 70-1/2" W. \$160, OBO for photo call 828-526-2671.

WOOD BURNING STOVE W/ELECTRIC BLOWER. \$200. 342-3234.

OLD-FASHIONED PUSH MOWER - No gas needed! In great shape. \$50. Call 526-9027 or 342-6988.

OLD BRASS BALL FIREPLACE ANDIRONS WITH ACCESSORIES. Asking \$500 but negotiable. Call 526-0439.

4 PIECE OUTDOOR FURNITURE SET. Glider, 2 rocking chairs & table. Metal frame, with cushions.



Don't let your vehicles FALL into disrepair this year ...

Come see us for all your repair needs.

- 24-Hour Towing Service also available.
- Local and Long-distance Hauls, too.

Manley's Auto and Towing
James "Popcorn" Manley
Hwy 28 S. Highlands 526-9805



Great condition \$125 369-5863.

EPIPHONE 6 STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR with hard case-great condition-\$250 828.482.2222

HIGHLANDS LICENSE PLATES - New Photo Designs by Cynthia Strain. Cashiers & Franklin, also. Mill Creek Gallery & Framing on oak Street. 828-787-2021.

BRAND-NEW, NEVER WORN, WEDDING DRESS AND VEIL. Beautiful; ivory with beading at waist and scoop neck. Size 6. Price tags: dress \$640 and veil \$265. Make offer. Please call 828-526-5733 or 601-316-3147.

GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally \$300. Asking \$175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

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

MARTIN-C-1740 UNVENTED GAS HEATER - with oxygen depleting sensing system. BTU 40,000. H. 14 24 3/4 W. 25" D. 13". Fan blower-model B35. \$125. Call 526-5640.

AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS - 8 piece place setting. 64 pieces. \$385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.

GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC - Set of MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

COLONIAL GLASS - set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. \$35. Call 526-4063.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38" tall x 12" square. Put bottled water on top. \$50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original price \$45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2005 BOBCAT 334 G SERIES - Enclosed cab/heat, 800 hrs./hydraulic thumb, 16 x 24 in. bucket. Asking: \$21,500 OBO. Call: 526-5793 (st. 12/3)

1997 NISSIAN PICK UP. - 5 speed. 140,000 K, 4-cyl., Great on gas! \$1,500. Call 526-4741.

2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT - olive green, beige leather, 72,000 miles, Excellent condition, V-8 5.4 liter. \$13,500. Call 828-526-4707.

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 - Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

SERVICES

HELPING HANDS WILL CLEAN FOR YOU - and do a great job. Excellent References. also pet sitter. Call cell 443-315-9547. Macon County resident. 12/3

STOP SMOKING IN 2010? Five-week program uses hypnosis and other tools, beginning January. Individuals, small groups. Details 526-8885. 12/31

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN - Anything and Everything. From High End to Low Spend. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031. 11/26

HANDYMAN SPECIAL - Repairs, and remodeling, electrical and plumbing. Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864. (12/10)

AFFORDABLE WINTERIZATION AND HOME WATCHING SERVICE - Call the Highlands Handyman. References. 526-0031.

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE - 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. \$2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME - Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, references and Early Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

FIREWOOD "Nature Dried" Call 526-2251.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT & FERTILIZATION - Great Results by J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES - total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

TREE SERVICE - Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for "Woolly Adelgid." 828-526-2251

LANDSCAPING - Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. 828-526-2251.

Eckerd residents and families gather for Thanksgiving dinner

The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital hosted its annual Thanksgiving meal on Monday, Nov. 23.

Approximately 200 residents, family members, and employees joined the celebration.

"Since many of our residents are unable to travel to see family during the holidays, we bring the holidays to their home, here at our living center" says Shawna Mellott, administrator.

Families drove from all around, locally and out of state, to spend special time with their relatives. Orange table clothes and fresh floral arrangements transformed the dining hall. The floral arrangements were a special gift provided by Judy Fields. Spiral ham, candied yams, cornbread stuffing, gravy, coleslaw and green beans were all on the menu. Pumpkin cheesecake and apple pie topped off the traditional meal.

"It's important to allow family members the opportunity to spend time with their loved ones during the holidays. Time spent with family is invaluable and priceless. Monday morning and throughout the evening, the living center was filled with



About 200 residents, family members and employees joined in the Thanksgiving celebration at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center on Monday, Nov. 23.

smiling faces, good conversations, and aromas of home cooked food. Celebrations like this provide great opportunities for needed social attention. Thanks to our Eden program we can provide these occasions for our residents and their families to enjoy" says Mellott.

"Both of my children moved to Tennessee this year, so the Thanksgiving dinner allowed me to have the family atmosphere I would have missed this holiday," said Flora Warren, a 5-year resident of the FELC.

Plans are underway for a Christmas Party on Dec. 18 which will include hors d'oeuvres, music, and a visit from Saint

Nick.

The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center is an 84-bed skilled nursing facility located on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Since 1993 when the center opened, its goal is to provide residents superior services delivered by a staff dedicated to the highest standards of care.

Fidelia Eckerd Living Center is among the 10 percent of North Carolina Nursing facilities which voluntarily seek and receive full accreditation from the Joint Commission. A high staff-to-resident ratio exceeds the requirements of state and other governing agencies.

Residents reside in both private and semi-private rooms, and enjoy a wide variety of activities, including music, books, bingo, Bible study, exercising, trips to baseball games, fishing spots and cultural events.

Mountain views, linen dining and the "Eden Alternative," which emphasizes close and continuing relationships with children animals and other adults, are some of the outstanding features of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. In addition, the medical resources of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital are just seconds away as the two facilities are physically connected.

... TAX HIKE continued from page 1

struction bids makes this a good time."

Right now, the county can borrow approximately 16 million dollars for an average interest rate of 2.73%.

The funding would include a \$10.4 million USDA loan financed at about 4.25% over 25 years. In addition, a QSCB loan for \$3.5 million will be used at 1.97% interest for 15 years.

QZAB funds equaling \$1.8 million, which can only be used for renovations and which the county has used in the past to make renovations to area schools, including Highlands, will be used to renovate Nantahala at the same interest rate and for the same time span as the QSCB funds, 1.97% and 15 years, respectively.

The renovations to Franklin High School will be paid for out of the county's general fund and will equal \$1.3 million.

"The 1.3 million used for renovations at Franklin High School is not a loan," said Beale. "Of the 1.3 million, \$650,000 is lot-

tery money and the balance is money that was left from the original loan on the East Franklin renovations and new 5-6 school."

The money raised by increasing the tax rate will be used to service the annual debt on the new construction and renovation loans which is estimated to cost \$1.3 million.

At the present tax rate of 26.4 cents — a penny is approximately \$900,000. The new rate of 27.9 will raise what's needed to service the debt with a bit to spare.

At the Nov. 23 Board of Education meeting held at the Nantahala School, Superintendent Dan Brigman said he was excited about the county's commitment to procuring the revenue to build the new school and renovate Nantahala and Franklin High. "We can take advantage of very low construction costs and hopefully create jobs for our community over the next three years," he said.

"This forward movement on a long-awaited essential piece of a long-range plan

has been evolving since 1998. The new North Macon School will bring many things to our school system including a safe, efficient structure to serve our children in Cowee and Iotla for the next 60-75 years. Today is the best time to build or renovate facilities due to the decrease in construction costs and limited work available to contractors. By moving forward with construction today, our county will save millions of dollars in construction costs and very low interest financing, not to mention the tremendous savings for using available land."

Brigman echoed County Manager and Commissioner Beale concerning job potential.

"These projects will also have the potential to bring jobs to the area for the next 2-3 years while allowing the purchase of building and other materials to occur in local businesses, as well. Once completed, our district's efficiency will drastically improve as we combine resources for students in the north

area of our county and ultimately save federal, state, and local operational expenditures," he said. "Following renovations at Franklin High School, Nantahala, and construction of the new K-4 school, all students in our district will be provided a safe learning environment with modern fire protection, security and communications systems."

Brigman said with the completion of these projects, the need for portable classrooms will essentially be eliminated in the Franklin area.

"We are very grateful for the collaborative partnership that exists between the school administration, Board of Education, and County Commissioners," he said. "In addition, we are extremely appreciative of the ongoing support from the taxpayers of Macon County and we remain committed to be good stewards of each dollar as we make our county and school system a great place to live and work."

— Kim Lewicki

\$17 weekly

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

Trying to sell your house?
 In this market, give yourself an edge
 by making it *really* clean and fresh.

Call Details.

Deep cleaning for the demanding home-owner.
 Offering home checks, clutter control, and more.

828-342-8853 www.details-clean.com

The Go-To Girl at
Highlands Concierge

- Airport Shuttle
- Pet Walking
- Errands



References, Insured.
 Call 526-5407 or 828-200-1237
highlandsconcierge@yahoo.com

J&J Lawn and Landscaping
 Serving Highlands & Cashiers for
 20 years!



Phone: 526-2251
 Toll Free: 888-526-2251
 Fax: 828-526-8764
 Email: JJlawn1663@verizon.net
 John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4th St. Highlands

95Highlands Plaza
 526-3379
 FAX: 526-3309



- Complete line of office supplies
- Laminating • Fax Service
- Greeting Cards • Laser paper
- Ink Cartridges • UPS services

"I t's good to do business in Highlands"

Visit **Greenleaf Gallery** right here
 in Highlands for all your ...

Custom Picture Framing

526-9333

177 Main St. (Wright Sq.) Highlands

Santa visits, too!



Creative Decor
 William & Ruby Shaheen
 828-526-4890
 Free Consultations
 Santa Visits

Decorating for All Occasions & Holidays
 ~ Interior & Exterior ~

Nurseries • Childrens Rooms • Dinner Parties
 Residential • Commercial • Churches

P.O. Box 187 • Scaly Mountain, NC 28775 Email: popngran1@verizon.net

Runaround Sue Pet Sitting



- Healthy Homemade Treats
- Birthday Parties
- Pet Photos
- Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing

Sue Laferty
 P.O. Box 1991
 Highlands, NC 28741
 (828) 526-0844
slaferty@verizon.net

DP Painting

Residential • Commercial
 Pressure Cleaning, too.
 Insured • Licensed • References
Dennis Perkins, owner
 828-371-2277 or 828-526-3542

CROWE CONSTRUCTION

**New Construction • Remodels
 Maintenance and Repairs**

Owner- Kenneth M. Crowe

(828) 526-5943
 Cell: (828) 332-8290
crowecrazy@yahoo.com

1540 Blue Valley Rd.
 Highlands, NC 28741

**Deluxe, Indoor
 Climate Controlled
 Self Storage**



With covered
 loading zone

• Units Available •

Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555
 Cashiers Road

**Allan Dearth & Sons
 Generator**

Sales & Service, Inc.

828-526-9325
 Cell: 828-200-1139
 email: allandearth@msn.com

Douglas Tank
 General Contractor

Since 1965
 New Home and Remodeling
 Licensed and Insured

828-526-9450

... POLICE & FIRE continued from page 21

to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Zachary Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 5:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire at the entrance of Sherwood Forest where an autumn display was on fire due to an electric light inside a pumpkin.

Nov. 22

• At 2:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence in Oak Square concerning a 51-year-old male. He was taken to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, transferred to Mission Memorial in Asheville where he died.

Nov. 23

• At 9:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call in Highlands Plaza concerning a disoriented man. There was no transport.

• At 11:28 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road. It was false.

• At 1:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Salt Rock Court where the caretaker had set off the alarm when he put off bug bombs.

Nov. 24

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders

to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Spruce Lane concerning a 48-year-old female about whom her family was concerned.

Nov. 28

• At 5:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire in Oak Square. It was an electrical problem.

Nov. 29

• At 8:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at a residence on Wingina Place but the smoke associated with the call was due to a power line down on some rhododendrons.

• At 12:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on 64 Clubhouse Lane concerning a 90-year-old woman. There was no transport.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke in the vicinity of Harris Drive but it was due to a controlled burn.

Dec. 1

• At 8:25 a.m., the dept. responded to possible electric fire when a transformer blew on N. 4th Street. The Highlands electrical dept. was called.

• At 8:28 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Episcopal Church that was set off by cookies burning in the microwave.

Raffle of 22-lb chocolate Santa to benefit Food Pantry



Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwins with David Long, and Elaine Reynolds, co-director of the Food Pantry.

Jerry Moore of Kilwins has joined local forces to raise money for the Food Pantry. Moore donated a 22-lb chocolate Santa which will be raffled off with proceeds going to the Pantry. Moore asked David Long, in the youth program at the Highlands United Methodist Church and other students from Highlands School to help sell raffle tickets. They are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Thursday, Dec. 24. To buy a ticket stop by Kilwins on Main Street or call the church at 526-3376 or Long at 526-4394.

Children tell Santa Christmas wishes



Right after the tree lighting Saturday night, families lined up to talk to Santa who was set up outside the Visitor Center. For more photos, go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Events.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

It's Not Too Late to Enjoy the Holidays in the Mountains!

Experience These Home on our Web!



- Bearfoot Community
- Flat Mtn Area
- BRAND NEW HOMES
- 3 Bedrooms
- 3.5 Baths
- 3 Sided Fireplaces
- Mtn Views
- Rustic Mtn Style
- Car Storage *
- Underground Utilities
- Family Room
- BEST VALUES
- Minutes to Town

UNBELIEVEABLE PRICES!
\$599,000 & \$750,000

COME SEE THEM TODAY!!



MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

Toll Free: 866.526.3558
450 North 4th Street
(Across from "SwecTreats")

Visit online at www.MeadowsMtnRealty.com



Highlands Biological Station students to hold Environmental Symposium December 9th

UNC-Chapel Hill students studying at the Highlands Biological Station will present the results of their internship and group research at a special closing event on December 9th at 3:30 PM.

The students have been in residence at the Highlands Biological Station since August studying the biodiversity of the southern Appalachian region.

Part of their program includes internships and group research with local organizations. This year, the Highlands Biological Station partnered with the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society and the Highlands Plateau Greenway to complete projects that forward the organizations' conservation and educational initiatives.

Student research ranged from field studies looking for rare species of salamanders to the development of environmental education curriculum and citizen science research projects for local schools.

Other projects included developing a plan for revegetating sections of the Highlands Greenway with native plant species, updating the State of the Streams report for the Little Tennessee watershed, and looking for trends in Highlands' Important Bird Area, recently designated by the Audubon Society, using historic and recent birding records, including recently-discovered archival material from the Biltmore Estate.

The students will also present their work with data on fish abundance and diversity in the greater Little Tennessee watershed, collected over a 20-year period by Dr. William McLarney of Franklin. This project is a collaboration between the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, and the Highlands Biological Station with help from the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

The public is invited to attend the symposium and closing event for the students as they prepare to depart Highlands and return to Chapel Hill. The



UNC-Chapel Hill environmental science students of the Institute of the Environment who spent the fall semester in residence at the Highlands Biological Station, shown here at Albert Mountain on a backpacking trip.

presentations will begin at 3:30PM and will be followed by a reception.

The event will be held at the Highlands Biological Station in its newly-

renovated Bruce Biodiversity Building, located at 265 N. Sixth Street (but easily accessible from the Nature Center). Call 828-526-2602 for further information.

Solution to Nov. 24
Hex-a-Ku

I	E	T	R	P	S
P	R	S	E	I	T
T	I	E	S	R	P
S	P	R	I	T	E
E	T	I	P	S	R
R	S	P	T	E	I

For the solution to
#DN4B Pseudocube in
Nov. 24 issue

Email:
thepuzzlers@yahoo.com

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY™

• GRILL • FRESH FOODS • WINE MARKET •

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GOOD FOOD™

**Come Casual
Eat Well**



526-2400
520 East Main Street



WWW.NCHIGHLANDS.NET

A one-stop site for all you need to know about Highlands and real estate in the area

Bert Mobley
Harry Norman Realtors
828 200-0846
bert.mobley@harrynorman.com

Kilwin's®
Chocolates - Fudge - Ice Cream

We Ship!

Fudge, Pralines, Caramel Apples,
Gift Baskets & Chocolates

Call Today:
828-526-3788
370 Main Street
Highlands, NC * 28741 (828) 526-3788

Enjoy a FREE
Pancake
Breakfast
before the
parade
Sat., Dec. 5
beginning
at 9 a.m.



**HIGHLANDS
WINE &
CHEESE
SHOP**

The Falls on Main
526-5210
highlandswine@nctv.com



**The
Chambers
Agency
Realtors**

**Homes and Land For Sale
Vacation Homes for Rent**

Phone: 526-3717
Toll Free: 1-888-526-3717
401 N 5th St, Highlands
www.chambersagency.net

Drake's
Diamond Gallery
- For the luxury of custom jewelry
Wanda H. Drake

~ Custom designed jewelry featuring diamonds of every size and shape, colored stones, pearls & sterling silver
~ Offering appraisals and repairs ~ Insurance replacements
~ Open year round, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
152 South Second Street
828-526-5858 or 404-668-4380
drakesdiamonds@yahoo.com

