Town Board to meet twice a month again

Last week, during the last Town Board meeting, commissioners tied up loose ends prior to agreeing to enter into a 20-year wholesale power contract with Duke Power. (See story in the Nov. 19 edition.)

Commissioner Amy Patterson initiated discussion on the board returning to its two meetings a month policy which was changed in May.

“I don’t think meeting once a month is timely enough and it may give the impression that in some way the public isn’t as involved or being kept as informed as it was when we had two meetings a month,” she said.

Commissioner Dennis DeWoff said meeting more frequently would be better for him. “It keeps me more focused on the issues,” he said.

Commissioner John Dotson agreed. “Meeting two times a month gives us a better opportunity to discuss things.”

Santa & Mrs. Claus to be at annual Town Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 28

Between 6-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, the town officially kicks off the holiday season with a town lighting of Christmas decorations and carol-singing in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. After the lighting, Santa will go to the Highlands Visitor Center to hear Christmas wishes.

By Katie Brugger

Town Board reiterates need for ordinance

Last Wednesday, the Town Board voiced dissatisfaction with the Planning Board over its decision not to pursue an Abandoned/ Derelict Structures Ordinance. Some time ago, at the request of several Realtors, the Town Board agreed that such an ordinance was needed.

It reacted to concern over two structures in particular, the old Northland Cable building on N.C. 106 which is now owned by the Old Edwards company and another on U.S. 64 east near the Highlands Falls Country Club entrance.

Besides being a health and welfare issue, members said both buildings were eyesores on two major corridors into Highlands.

“The board voted unanimously to send this request to the Planning Board and asked its members to come up with an ordinance to deal with this and instead they decided we don’t need such an ordinance,” said Commissioner Hank Ross. “The board was supposed to look at it, not make a ‘yeah’ or ‘nay’ decision.”

Renovations in the works at Hudson Library

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 become an Adult Reading room 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 upper floor will become a new Children’s Room, and the back room, which was formerly the Bascom office space, will become a community meeting room. This room will be available for groups to use in the evening when the library is closed, and will have a kitchen facilities.

In addition, the existing library will be getting a facelift: new ceiling tiles, new carpet, improved lighting and fresh paint on the walls. The computers will be moved to the current children’s section, and the young adult area will be improved. There will be more seating and room for book shelves.

*See TWICE page 2
*See ORDINANCE page 13
*See LIBRARY page 2
Highlanders can do better

Dear Editor,

On Wednesday night the Town of Highlands reluctantly accepted the terms of a new 20 year contract with Duke Energy; a ripple effect of the 1989 acquisition of Nantahala Power and Light by Duke Energy.

Our current generation of WNC residents has benefited from cheap hydroelectricity made possible through the sacrifice of a previous generation. The forced taking of private lands during the 1930’s was considered for the “public good.” Now communities in WNC have somehow lost their leverage and negotiating strength. Aren’t Duke’s eight major hydro projects still located in WNC?

Highlanders have always been self reliant. We have the capability to off-set some of the coming double digit increases and re-establish negotiating strength by developing our own renewable/alternative energy plan. Lake Sequoia was built for powering Highlands in the 1920s. Are we smarter now than our grandparents were?

Steve Ham
Highlands

Fred does it for me

Dear Editor,

I live in Orlando, FL and go to Franklin, NC in the summer. I look forward to Fred Wooldridge’s column each week. Thanks for making me look forward to Thursday each week.

Don Babain
Orlando, FL

... LIBRARY continued from page 1

... TWICE continued from page 1
George Madison Wright

George Madison Wright, age 84, of Highlands, NC, died Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of DeKalb County, GA, the son of the late George P. and Florence Moore Wright.

He was a US Marine Veteran of World War II. He owned and operated East Atlanta TV Company. He is survived by a number of cousins.

Graveside services were held Saturday, November 21 at 2 p.m. at Highlands Memorial Park, with Rev. Hunter Coleman officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Betty Lou Passmore

Betty Lou Passmore, age 69, of Franklin, NC died Saturday, November 21, 2009 in an Asheville, NC hospital. She was a native of Macon County, NC the daughter of the late Frank and Maybelle Williamson Cowart. She was a homemaker and loved cooking, sewing, and taking care of her children. She was Baptist by faith.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James Passmore; two sons, Tony Passmore and his wife Angie of Sylva, NC, Taburn Passmore of Franklin, NC; one sister, Dorothy Scott of Franklin; four brothers, Fred, Jesse, and Earl Cowart of Franklin, NC and Ralph Cowart of Otto, NC; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one son, J. B. Passmore and three brothers, R. L., Wiley and Junior Cowart.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 23, 2009 at 2 PM in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, Franklin, NC with the Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Burial will be in the Union United Methodist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Justin, Sonny, William, Jason, Jerry Passmore, Jeff Clark, and Sammy Lee.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

TOWN BOARD MEETING
COMMUNITY BUILDING
DECEMBER 2, 2009
7:00 P.M.
***AGENDA***

1. Call to order
2. Public Comments
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes of Nov. 18
5. Reports
   A. Mayor
   B. Commissioners
   C. Committees
   D. Town Manager
6. Consent Agenda
   A. Public Services Department
   B. Police Department
   C. Parks & Recreation
   D. Planning & Zoning
   E. Monthly Calendar
   F. Grant Status Report
7. Special Presentations from Mayor Pro Tempore Amy Patterson
8. Swearing in of Mayor-Elect David Wilkes & Commissioner-Elect Gary Drake
9. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore
10. Committee Appointments
11. Appointment to Highlands ABC Board
12. Adjourn
   • Reception to follow

End of Season Sale!
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Everything must go!
Huge discounts!
Open
This weekend
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
....located in an historic summer home
• 802 North 4th Street, Highlands
All Sales Final
I know I shouldn’t be writing smart-alecky stuff about our Thanksgiving holiday but I can’t help myself. Maybe it’s the cop in me that drives me to write this way. And don’t get me started about that scal’iyaw. Christopher Columbus, who couldn’t find his butt using both hands. But that’s another story. Anyway, gather round, ‘cause here’s my take on the first Thanksgiving celebration.

Once upon a time a bunch of milky-faced, white people sailed from far, far away to live in a place called Plymouth Rock. When they landed, they dropped to their knees and thanked God for helping them find this wonderful rock, which, by the way, is smaller than the one in my front yard. No, no, that wasn’t the first Thanksgiving celebration. Slow up a bit, storytimeus, I’m gettin’ to it.

These people were called Quakers and, no, they had nothing to do with the oatmeal you eat for breakfast. Wearing funky clothes and silly hats, the Quakers were preparing for their once-a-year, ho-hum, run-of-the-mill, harvest feast when a bunch of mean looking Indians showed up looking for a handout, kinda like illegal immigrants outside of a Miami Heat game.

This tribe was known as the Wampanoag Indians, not to be confused with the famous Wambamthanyakamam Indians that came later on. Anyway, in fear of losing their scalps, the settlers invited the Wampanoags to stay for dinner; big mistake. This happened in 1621.

No one is certain what was on the menu but historians are sure what was not on the menu. Are you sitting down? There were no creamed sweet potatoes with marshmallow topping; no mashed potatoes with gravy; no turkey or pumpkin pie. What a yucky meal it must have been!

Now listen to what was probably on the menu. Barf-like salted fish, wild fowl (probably pigeons) and salted venison, all cooked over an open fire and tough as shoe leather. Yuck, again! All food was eaten with their fingers since, knives and forks were still sitting in a suitcase somewhere in Europe. The Pilgrims forgot to bring. I’m sure my grandkids learned to eat from these people.

After much belching and acceptable passing of wind, the feast came to an end and the whitemen (and their not so hot looking babies) were at peace with the Wamns. (Short for Wampanoag) Everyone was in such good spirits, the Indians ran off and killed more deer while the Pilgrims strangled more pigeons for the next day’s feast. Just when everyone thought they were as happy as pigs in slop, in walked King Massasoit and his tribe of 90 Wam braves. (Can you say Massasoit three times real fast?) The king got caught up in the festivities and sent his warriors out for even more food. What a glutton!

There’s much controversy over which was the real Thanksgiving dinner celebration. Some say earlier ceremonies of thanks among European settlers, like the bloody British colonists in the Berkeley Plantation of Virginia, came before the big 1621 feed. A placename the Charles River in December of 1619 is fed by some to be the first Thanksgiving celebration. Do not lose sleep over this. Although there’s no record, the Berkeley Plantation might be where the ACLU first got a foothold.

By the way, the biggest meal of the day for the colonists was eaten at noon. It was called “noonmeat.” Is that clever, or what? Their ill-misses would spend the morning preparing the meal of mostly Indian corn, ham, fish and herbs. The serving of ham was acceptable during this era as there were no Jewish Indians.

Supper (Southerners call it dinner,) was a much smaller meal eaten at the end of the day. Breakfast consisted of whatever was left over from the day before: nothing like a cold, greasy, tough piece of moldy venison and some cold corn without butter at 6 AM on a November morning. Yum, yum!

So there you have it, Indians and white men working and sharing together for a better America. Unfortunately, later on, the milky-faced, white guys decided they wanted some of the Indians’ prized hunting land but the Indians didn’t cotton to the idea. So the milky-faced, white guys did what any red-blooded, milky-white American would do under these circumstances. They ran the Indians off and stole their land. And everyone lived happily ever after. Well, almost everyone… except the pigeons, deer and Indians.
Politicians know how to ‘play’ Americans

A study published this week in The American Journal of Medicine failed to find any savings from electronic medical records. The Administration has been claiming that savings from e-records will help defray the cost of expanded health care coverage.

In an earlier column, I stated that such savings are non-existent. Administration officials could have asked me, or they could have asked any of hundreds or thousands of hospital administrators who struggle to find money to feed their voracious I.T. monsters. The cost of the hardware, coupled with the cost of frequent mandatory software upgrades, imposes a very crushing burden on small and middle sized hospitals. Jean Ward, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Oconee Medical Center in Seneca, SC, believes that far from creating savings, the cost of the hardware, coupled with the cost of frequent mandatory software upgrades, imposes a very crushing burden on small and middle sized hospitals. Jean Ward, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Oconee Medical Center in Seneca, SC, believes that far from creating savings, the requirements for computerized records will cripple and lead to failure of many small hospitals. President Obama’s surrogates could have asked and in all likelihood did, but when they received the wrong answer, they ignore wisdom that differed from the message.

In the same column, I questioned, in fact denied, the savings that are projected to flow from educational and wellness programs. No one who don’t even exercise changing channels, but the perils of inactivity are universally known.

We know what we should and shouldn’t do. The unpleasant fact is that we are unwilling or unable to modify our behavior. A fanatic few believe laws requiring seat belt or motorcycle helmet usage infringe on Constitutional rights. I recently saw a very young girl buying cigarettes. I said, “You’re too young to smoke. In fact, everyone is too young to smoke.” Her addiction, or pastime, was none of my business, but I was trying to help the President reduce health care costs. She was not rude, which in itself is remarkable. She just answered that her grandfather, who is 99, has been smoking his entire life. How can evidence-based medicine ever compete with such conviction.

I wish spokesmen on both sides of the question would be honest with the American people. That’s how it’s supposed to work in a democracy, but candor is a threat to reelection, so it is unlikely we’ll hear the truth.

Sara Palin will go on warning of “Death Panels” and Senator Tom Harkin will continue pimping imaginary savings from computers and wellness programs. That’s politics in America, and considering our inability to accept responsibility and our gullibility, maybe it’s for the best.

Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged. email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

Girls pick up trash to raise money for needy

Each Friday afternoon members of The Girls’ Clubhouse perform community service activities. Recently, old and current members of the club pick up trash on one of the club’s routes – Oak, Main and Maple streets. The Doubleday family pays organizations to pick up trash along prescribed routes. The girls will spend the money they earn on the needy at Christmas time.
Real holiday helpings from Bobby Flay

It’s time to heat things up and set the holiday table for delicious food. Chef Bobby Flay has teamed up with Hellmann’s® and Best Foods® Mayonnaise to help parents prepare a holiday meal of real, nutritious ingredients the whole family will love.

Complement your holiday dinner with delicious sides that satisfy family and guests alike. Roasted New Potatoes with Blue Cheese Ranch Dressing and Green Onions are sure to please even the pickiest of palates. For an appetizing main dish even the kids will eat, try “Stuffing” Crusted Turkey Cublets. Finish the meal with a simple, seasonal dessert like Oven Roasted Apple-Cranberry Crisp with Creamy Spiced Chantilly.

Lost when it comes to leftover ideas? Celebrate the day after the holiday by using your leftover turkey and traditional holiday sides to create a Turkey Cuban. For a simple twist on the classic day-after turkey sandwich, mix some mayonnaise with leftover cranberry relish to create a creamy cranberry sandwich spread.


Turkey Cuban

Serves: 2

1/4 cup Dijonnaise
2 tablespoons leftover cranberry relish
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 slices good quality Italian bread
8 slices thinly sliced Swiss cheese
4 slices thinly sliced deli ham
6 slices leftover sliced turkey, white or dark meat or a combination
8 dill pickle slices
4 tablespoons Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise

Whisk together the Dijonnaise and cranberry relish in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Put the bread on a flat surface and spread each slice with some of the Dijonnaise mixture. Top 2 of the slices of bread with 1 slice of the cheese, ham, turkey another slice of cheese and pickles (in that order). Place the remaining bread on top, mayonnaise side down.

Heat a hot skillet over medium heat or a panini press. Wrap a brick in heavy duty aluminum foil (if not using a panini press). Spread 1 tablespoon of the mayonnaise on the top of each sandwich and place in the skillet if using in a panini press, mayonnaise side down. Place the brick on top of the sandwiches and cook until the bottom is golden brown, about 2 minutes. Remove the brick, spread the top of the sandwiches with the remaining mayonnaise, turn over, place the brick back on top and cook until the bottom is golden brown and the cheese has melted, about 2 minutes longer. Cut in half and serve warm.

Roasted New Potatoes with Blue Cheese Ranch Dressing and Green Onions

Serves: 4

2 pounds new red or yellow potatoes, halved
Canola oilKosher salt & freshly ground black pepper

With real, simple ingredients including eggs, oil and vinegar, Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise is a great complement to any post-holiday sandwich.

Roasted New Potatoes with Blue Cheese Ranch Dressing and Green Onions

Serves: 4

2 pounds new red or yellow potatoes, halved
Canola oilKosher salt & freshly ground black pepper

Combine the oil, vinegar, and mayonnaise in a medium bowl and mix well. Add the potatoes and toss to coat. Spread the potatoes in a single layer on a baking sheet and roast in the oven until golden brown and tender, about 25 minutes. Transfer potatoes to a platter.

Whisk together the buttermilk, mayonnaise, mustard and garlic in a bowl and season with salt. Fold in the cream cheese and spread over the potatoes and serve.

Oven Roasted Apple-Cranberry Crisp with Creamy Spiced Chantilly

Serves: 6

1/2 cup very cold heavy cream
3 tablespoons light brown sugar
1/4 cup Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise

Preheat oven to 375°F. Toss potatoes on a baking sheet with the oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast in the oven until golden brown and tender, about 25 minutes. Transfer potatoes to a platter.

Whisk together the buttermilk, mayonnaise, mustard and garlic in a medium bowl and season with salt and pepper. Fold in the cream cheese and spread over the potatoes and serve.

Divide the fruit into 4 bowls or goblets. Halve each apple and place the halves in the bowls. Combine the cranberries, granola, and walnuts in a medium bowl and divide among the bowls. Whisk together the cinnamon, sugar, and spices in a small bowl. Sprinkle the spice mixture over the cranberries.

Creamy Spiced Chantilly

3/4 cup buttermilk
1/4 cup Hellmann’s® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine the cream and brown sugar in a bowl and whip to soft peaks with a large whisk or hand-held mixer. Whisk together the mayonnaise and cinnamon in a medium bowl and fold the mixture together.

Divide the fruit into 4 bowls or goblets and sprinkle with the granola. Top each with a large dollop of the spiced chantilly mayonnaise.

Courtesy of Family Features

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Civil war without the guns (yet)

Just lately I have been feeling as if there is a civil war in this country. Right now it’s a low-intensity conflict but it feels like it wouldn’t take much for it to turn into a shooting war. I am politically liberal, a fact obvious to anyone who reads my column. Sometimes when I hear a conservative talk it seems as if he or she is speaking an entirely different language.

Someone once said, “If you can only afford one newspaper, read the opposition.” I think this is very wise advice. The meaning of the quote is that it’s good to challenge your beliefs, your assumptions and patterns of thought. Reading, or listening or watching, only people who you agree with prevents you from seeing the flaws in your own arguments. I don’t think anyone has a lock on the truth and if you choose yourself off from alternate points of view you are doomed to only a narrow and constricted view of reality.

In the Nov. 2 issue of the New Yorker Elizabeth Kolbert reviewed a new book by Cass Sunstein, who for many years taught at the University of Chicago Law School and recently became the head of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. The book’s entitled “On Rumors: How Falsehoods Spread, Why We Believe Them, What Can Be Done.”

Mr. Sunstein writes that “the most striking power provided by emerging technologies is the growing power of consumers to ‘filter’ what they see.” We can go online and visit websites that match our political point-of-view and never be exposed to an alternate way of perceiving an issue or event.

Ms. Kolbert comments, “Conservative blogs like Power Line almost always direct visitors to other conservative blogs, like No Left Turns, while liberal blogs like Daily Kos guide them to others that are also liberal, like Firedoglake. A study of the 20 most visited blogs in each camp in the months leading up to the 2004 Presidential election found that more than 85% of their links were to other blogs with similar politics. When the study’s authors charted the links in graphic form, they came up with a picture of non-interaction — a dense scribble on one side, a dense scribble on the other, and only the thinnest strands connecting the two.”

In psychology there is a concept called “group polarization.” Researchers did an experiment in 1970 where they divided students into two groups based on their answers to a questionnaire about race “high prejudice” and “low prejudice.” Then they had the students discuss race-related issues, such as school busing and fair housing (major issues in 1970). After the discussions, the students filled out the questionnaire again and both groups had become more entrenched in their beliefs. The high-prejudiced were more prejudiced and the low-prejudiced were less prejudiced.

Many experiments since then have documented this effect: discussion with like-minded people tends to create more extreme opinions. A possible cause is that in the discussion you hear arguments that you hadn’t thought of that support your way of thinking, which strengthens your reasons to believe the way you do.

The Internet powerfully magnifies this effect because in the past people with really extreme ideas couldn’t find anyone in their community to agree with them. But Sunstein writes, “Views that would ordinarily dissolve, simply because of an absence of social support, can be found in large numbers on the Internet, even if they are understood to be exotic, indefensible, or bizarre in most communities.”

In addition psychologists have found that when a group discussion is anonymous, the “group polarizing” effect is amplified.

Ms. Kolbert wonders, “Put the Web’s filtering tools together with [group polarizing] and what you get are the perfect conditions for spreading mis-information. Who, on liberal blogs, is going to object to (or even recognize) a few misstatements about Sarah Palin? And who, on conservative blogs, is going to challenge mistaken assertions (or, if you prefer, lies) about President Obama?”

I have long thought that America has a great challenge that most other nations have never had to face (although many are now beginning to confront this): how do you have a sense of national identity in a country that is not built on an ethnic or religious identity? This is an oversimplification, but you can say that Germany is made up of ethnic Germans, Iran of ethnic Iranians, China of ethnic Chinese, America is a nation built on ideas — freedom, equality, and opportunity — not ethnic or religious identity.

We may be a melting pot, but our diversity keeps increasing both ethically and in our cultural norms. We have very little that unites us. On what basis are we nation?

In last week’s New York Times Week in Review there was an article speculating how the tendency to be religious could be an evolved trait. (“The Evolution of the God Gene,” by Nicholas Wade) What I found pertinent to this discussion was a section where Mr. Wade described the pre-survival feature of religious rituals: “It is easier to see from hunter-gatherer societies how religion may have conferred compelling advantages in the struggle for survival. Their rituals emphasized not theology but intense communal dancing that may last through the night. The sustained rhythmic movement induces strong feelings of exaltation and emotional commitment to the group.”

• See BRUGGER page 21
PINEBROOK - Fully furnished Highlands in-town condo. Second level, back of building, highly desirable corner unit. This is absolutely the best way to enjoy in-town living at a fraction of the cost. Interior stairs w/chair lift. Walk to town. Move in condition. $169,000. OWNER SAYS MAKE AN OFFER! MLS# 69351

Highlands Cove — One of the nicest home available in Highlands Cove Old Edwards Club. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, Sunroom, Loft. 2 fireplaces. Water feature, 2 car garage. Professionally landscaped by Zoellner Landscaping. Great floor plan and constructed using the highest quality finish materials by Lupoli Construction. Over 2 acres with a spectacular mountain view that includes the golf course and lakes in the foreground. Membership is available upon satisfaction of all requirements. Offered unfurnished at $2,400,000. mls #69256

3 bedroom 2 bath totally renovated historic Satulah Mountain, Old Highlands Charm home. Walk to town. Renovations done within last 12 months. Offered at $699,500 MLS #69058

Great log home on 1.75 private acres with a great view. Stacked stone fireplaces in great room and large dining room. Four sets of French doors on main level open to ultra large screened porch with hot tub. It is like living outside. Two car garage is the size of a three car. Full walk-out basement plumbed for a bath. Guest suite with living area and kitchen on upper level. Three heating and cooling areas. Offered at $627,000 MLS# 69046

Highlands Village Walk — The best condo unit available for the price if you are looking for a like new ground floor unit that is walking distance to town. This unit features many upgrades and 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Wonderful screened porch and a great mountain stream. This is a do not miss if you are looking for a main floor unit with the best quality in this area. Offered at $869,500.

NEW LISTING IN TOWN. 2 bedroom 2 bath all on 1 level. Great room with fireplace, large kitchen. An added sunroom/den adds extra living space. Great Buy! Offered at $285,000. mls #69247

Lovely neighborhood with a spacious hybrid log home that features loads of room for guests. 4+ bedrooms, 4 baths. Large office, loft and family room. Open floor plan with a wall of glass to soak in the spectacular vistas. Fireplace, fantastic media room with surround sound and huge big screen TV. Adequate parking and gentle lot. Offered at $995,000. mls #69325

Almost completed, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 car garage. Still time to pick you colors and finishes. Excellent plan and quality finishes. Located in the new community of Woodland Ridge. Offered at $1,295,000. mls #69335

GREAT VIEWS with 65 Unrestricted Acres that adjoins USFS. Easy access yet secluded with nature abounding. A charming Farmhouse features 3 bedrooms, one bath, hardwood floors, fireplace and screened porch. Property features include, 4 car detached garage, two barns, small cabin for guests 20+ acres of pasture lands that are visited by many deer and turkey, a nice trout creek running through and awesome views! Not many properties like this one. Offered at $1,200,000. mls #69235

When you pull in this driveway, you know you are home. Drive past the stocked pond to a home with so much privacy. Two sides border USFS. Water feature and beautiful gardens. This home was on the Bascom Louise Garden Tour. A detached two car garage with room above that could be additional living quarters. The kitchen is one of a kind, great for entertaining. Generator and much more! Offered at $600,000 MLS#69305

Great Mirror Lake Location on Chovan Drive! Almost new, this lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath cabin sits high on a hill and is in immaculate condition! Large covered porch and open deck, spacious open living room with fireplace. If you are looking for a mountain home, this one is not to be missed. Basic designer furnishings may be purchased at additional cost. Offered at $595,000, MLS#69266

Eastover Drive — Lovely Estate sits on over 6 1/2 acres with usable yard and great mountain view. Main house features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths plus an office. Great room opens to large porch and deck for outdoor living. Garden areas, and great guest house for all of your friends. Close to 4 area Country Clubs. A wonderful property and offered at $1,995,000.

BAVD View — Great neighborhood close to town with unrivaled views of Blue Valley. Home sits on 1.3 acres which backs up to National Forest. Fabulous view homes in this neighborhood do not come up often, don’t miss this one. Priced to sell at $725,000. MLS# 69207

Brand new with a great Mountain View. 4 bedrooms 4 1/2 bath home, cathedral ceilings, open floorplan, outdoor fireplace, one bedroom, one bath is guest quarters above the garage that is perfect for guests! Fantastic master bathroom and great finishes with spacious rooms. Offered at $1,295,000. mls #69334

Almost completed, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 car garage. Still time to pick you colors and finishes. Excellent plan and quality finishes. Located in the new community of Woodland Ridge. Offered at $1,295,000. mls #69335

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The Girls' Clubhouse works at Hudson Library

This group of hardworking girls meet every Friday afternoon to perform community service projects. On this day they dusted shelves and straightened books. Pictured are Shannon Welch, Veronica Garcia, Elizabeth Houston, McKinley Mosely, Claudia Lewis and Meredith Garren.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Students honored at Rotary

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the November Highlands Rotary Students of the Month at its November 17 meeting. Shown with former Rotary President, Derek Taylor and Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup are Middle School winner, Emily Dorsey, Grammar School winner, Marie Essary and High School winner, Sarah Hedden.

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.
from the history guy ...

Nov. 24, 1971

During a severe thunderstorm over Washington state, a hijacker calling himself Dan Cooper (AKA D. B. Cooper) parachutes from a Northwest Orient Airlines plane with $200,000 in ransom money – neither he nor the money have ever been found.

Here’s a bit of a mystery about some criminal history, it was a well known hijacking and to this day, there is still tracking by many a Fed, cop, and trooper, the infamous Mr D B Cooper. This guy of very ill repute was the object of pursuit. But so far they have been stumped and haven’t found this guy that jumped, their search remains unfilled. The odds are good that he was killed, but the hunt goes on for him that took a chute and, so far, has escaped with all the loot.

Northwest Orient Airlines plane with $200,000 in ransom money – calling himself Dan Cooper (AKA D. B. Cooper) parachutes from a.

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

Thank You... thank you very much

...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.

Not intended to be a sermon, just a thought. I find it works well.

What I find doesn’t work well is the government. I know I am guilty of being a skeptic, and there are reasons for that. I have been lied to by the government as an adult for over a half century. While I may not be the brightest bulb in the box, I can tell a lie when I hear it and the bunch doing the lying now are not very good at it. Remember when our President promised a new level of transparency in government? Ironically, in that instance he was actually telling the truth. At least their lies are transparent, and frequent.

Take for example, there’s the failure of the $7878 stimulus package that were recently announced. Depending on your news sources, you may have heard that there seems to be a problem with the accuracy of the information from the hinterland. ABC, the Los Angeles Times and other notorious liberal “news” sources, unlike critics of the administration, tell us stories of many districts reporting many jobs being created in non-existent districts. My favorite was the district that reported numerous jobs were created with their stimulus money, which would have been swell except they hadn’t received any Whoops.

From The Hill: “House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-Wis) called on the Obama administration to fix any further mistakes in stimulus reporting following a report that federal agencies submitted suspect data about how many stimulus jobs were saved or created. The inaccuracies on recovery.gov that have come to light are outrageous and the Administration owes itself, the Congress, and every American a commitment to work night and day to correct the ludicrous mistakes. Credibility counts in government and stupid mistakes like this undermine it,” Obey said. “We’ve got too many serious problems in this country to let that happen.”

Now, at first glance, one might think, wow, liberal Obey is really being upfront about this. I did. And then it occurred to me that he was employing the David Copperfield tactic; he called these misstatements “mistakes.” These weren’t mistakes, they were lies. I haven’t heard a single report where the job creation/saving bull was understated, defying statistical probability. At least Bubba’s spinmeisters were good at their trade; the current bunch are amateurs.

It’s time for our occasional unofficial unscientific economics survey. I am, in no way, dispassionate about those who have been negatively affected by the puny economy so please don’t berate my comments.

Evidently, the impact was felt in Detroit, where Tiger attendance was down from 2008, which was a huge year for them. Can’t blame it on the team’s performance, since they won their division. Although down, the Tigers attendance ranks 12th out of 32, so folks still went out to the old ball park and paid seven bucks for a beer.

No shortage of fans for the playoffs, in spite of miserable, cold, rainy weather. The house was wall-to-wall with bundled-up fans for every game.

I’ve watched a few dozen college and pro football games this year, and with a few very exceptions, not a vacant seat was to be seen. Even in Cleveland the other night, where the Browns have stunk up the place en route to their 1-8 record, the Dog Pound was full as was the rest of the stadium. The fans were rewarded by possibly the worst performance ever by an NFL team.

Perhaps the most telling was the recent report of record sales of the video game Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II to the tune of $310 million on the first day, surpassing the debut last year of Grand Theft Auto IV. At the same time, the blockbuster flick “2012” drew $76 Mil to their opening weekend. It seems somebody is spending out there.

Now, obviously I haven no problem with money being spent on sporting events. While I haven’t seen a movie in years, if that’s your thing, go for it. I missed the video game craze of Duty: Modern Warfare II to the tune of $76 Mil to their opening weekend. It seems somebody is spending out there.

But for those of us who are in the 85-90% who are employed, let’s take time out from being entertained and try to find someone(s) to help in their time of need.

We don’t need a special day to “give” thanks. Let’s make the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas “Thanksgiving Month.” We’ve got plenty of local organizations that give to those in need, and I can’t think of a better time to help them do it. CareNet, 130 Bidwell St, Franklin 28734 provides food and other help and uses their resources well. “Shop with a Cop” is another of my favorites. Macon County Sheriff Dept. personnel and members of all law enforcement organizations go shopping with less fortunate children. You can send a check to MCSO “Shop with a Cop”, 1820 Lakeside Dr., Franklin 28734.

Look around, you’ll see needs. If you can, give till it feels good.
Coppage – Grade 3
A
Jesus Alexis Damian
AB
Clemente
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Joel Harris
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AB
Deborah Forster
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AB
Destin Gearhart
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Samuel Hawkins
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Alexis Healey
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Hannah Holt
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Logan Houston
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Kaite McCall
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Grace Crowe
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Toby Barnes
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John Brooks
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Drew Chalker
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Perla Garcia-Montana
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Michael Iannacone
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Joshua Kennedy
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Riley Moseley
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Rylee Rivers
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William Shearl
AB
Caden Smolarsky

Murphy – Grade 3
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Ronald Gates
AB
Charles Underwood
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Jake Billingsley
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Iannacone – Grade 4
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John Grace
A
Tiffany Preda
AB
Zachary Delacruz
AB
Kyle Dorsey
AB
Juan Garcia-Montana
AB
Briana Jenkins
AB
Cole Satterwhite

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McCULLEY’S ...on the hill
Thanksgiving week STOREWIDE SALE
Everything 15%-75% OFF
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ANNAWEAR
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Year-End Denim Sale
‘7 for All Mankind’ BLOWOUT!
‘Free People’ Holiday Dresses and more ... All on SALE!
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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL HONOR ROLL •

Coppage – Grade 3
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Jesus Alexis Damian
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Juan Garcia-Montana
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Briana Jenkins
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Cole Satterwhite

• See HONOR ROLL page 25
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.

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Closed Sunday
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Highlands Hill Deli
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Soups, Salads, & MADE-TO-ORDER Sandwiches for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Ice Cream, too!

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A ‘Death Panel’ Surfaces

by John Armor

L ast week, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force announced its recommendation that women between the ages of 40 and 50 no longer receive routine mammograms to detect breast cancer at its earliest and most curable stage. This was a near-total reversal of the same Task Force’s earlier recommendations, and contrary to the advice of the American Cancer Society and other authorities.

The Task Force did, of course, state its reasons for this radically different recommendation. They used computer modeling of three large studies of breast cancer, in Sweden, Britain, and the United States. According to that work, “For every 1,000 women screened beginning at age-40, the modeling suggested that just 0.7 deaths from breast cancer would be prevented while 480 women would get a false-positive result and 33 more would undergo unnecessary biopsies.”

The total cost of all mammograms of women of all ages is estimated as $5 billion per year, though the Task Force claimed that cost was not a factor in its decision-making. However, the very way they stated the basis of their recommendation suggests that claim is false. It is also one more example of the fact that the American media can totally miss a story which is right under their noses. There has been ample discussion of whether this recommendation makes sense. There is no discussion of how many preventable deaths will occur.

Notice that the women who are inconvenienced by the early exams are numbered. The report says that 480 false positives will result in additional tests, and 33 more will undergo unnecessary biopsies. What about the women who will die without the tests? That number is concealed behind a seemingly-small number of 0.7 deaths per 1,000. No one in the press apparently thought to open a copy of the last official Census in 2000, and figure out the number of extra deaths.

The Census data divides its results in the middle of every 10 years, rather than at the end of each decade. There are slightly less than 83 million Americans between the ages of 35 and 55. Cut out slightly more than half, because the number of Americans at each individual age, declines as age goes up. So, count 40 million Americans between 40 and 50.

The older we get, the more women there are in each age category. So it is conservative to count half of that group, 20 million, as women. Now, apply that seemingly small 0.7% to those Americans. The result is, 140,000 women will die every year if the 40-50 mammograms are eliminated. That is not a misprint. The Task Force’s own figure of additional deaths at 0.7% does work out to 140,000 additional deaths of women.

Now, this Task Force does not have the power of compulsion. No private or public health programs have changed their policies as a result of this Task Force’s recommendation. However, the government health plan will have a review board which will have compulsion behind it. That board is in the Stimulus Act which has already passed and is in force.

It is that which Sarah Palin and other critics have called a “death panel.” When it has the power to reduce insurance coverage for individuals because some medical efforts are not “cost effective,” the deaths will begin. No woman in my family “likes” to get a mammogram. But all of them who are older than 40, routinely submit to this life-saving indignity. What will happen when the board with real power cuts out procedures as “inefficient,” as not “cost effective”? People with money to spare may pay for their own mammograms. All the women who depend on insurance will be the first to die of undetected cancers that could have been prevented.

We know this from statistics that are right in front of us. No one else has noticed and reported on the extra deaths. How sad.

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, is available here www.TheseAreTheTimes.us (Note the suffix .us)
Internal medicine physician intends to locate practice here next June

An internal medicine physician who is currently practicing in California has signed a letter of intent with the hospital to relocate his medical practice to Highlands next June.

Richard M. Stewart, MD, who is board certified in internal medicine with more than 30 years in private practice, will join family physician Richard S. Matthews, MD, who has offices in Suite 303 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

"I'm really looking forward to his joining the practice. He's going to be a great addition to the practice and to our community," Matthews said last week. "I've talked with him a number of times and we really hit it off. We have similar backgrounds and we share very similar philosophies when it comes to giving our patients very thorough, personal healthcare."

Stewart, who currently practices in San Luis Obispo, CA, is a native of Union Point, GA. From 1975 until 2005 he was in solo practice in Gainesville, GA. He and his family vacationed in Highlands many times during his years in practice there.

"Bringing an internist back to our area has been one of our main recruiting objectives for the past year and half, and we are very pleased that Dr. Stewart has agreed to come to Highlands and become part of the hospital's outstanding medical staff," said outgoing hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "Finding an internist who wants to practice primary care medicine and have an office practice is becoming increasingly difficult in an age when many internists are becoming hospitalists, who only see patients who are admitted to a hospital."

Matthews says the addition of Stewart to his rapidly growing practice will help improve access to primary care for area patients, as well as bringing some additional expertise. Although he only opened his practice here last May, Matthews has been seeing the number of patients grow substantially throughout the summer. And although the daily number of patients has slowed somewhat now that the season is winding down, the practice continues to grow.

"I may find that I have to stop taking new patients by next summer, so having Dr. Stewart here by next June is very good timing," he said.

Matthews also says that cardiology accounted for a large part of Stewart's practice while in Gainesville, and that is a big need in this area. Matthews says that one of the main advantages to him of having Stewart join the practice will be sharing call.

A graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Stewart earned his medical degree from Tulane Medical School in New Orleans, LA, where he also completed his residency and internship. As part of his agreement with the hospital, Stewart will join the hospital's team of emergency room physicians.

"When my wife Dixie and I lived in Gainesville, GA, we would visit Highlands once or twice a year to vacation and attend the Highlands Playhouse. We can think of no place we had rather relocate than Highlands, and look forward to becoming members of the community," said Stewart. "We have enjoyed meeting Dr. Matthews and his wife Cathi, and look forward to a long relationship with the hospital and with the people of Highlands. I'm excited to get started!"
Highlands-Cashiers Hospice launches ‘Holiday Hope’ fund drive

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation launched its “Holiday Hope” fund drive this week to raise funds for more than a million dollars in capital improvements and equipment needed at the hospital in the months ahead.

Gifts can be designated to any of eight top priority areas, or for the hospital’s unrestricted fund. Gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one.

Some of the “Holiday Hope” items involve efforts to update or advance the hospital’s medical technology. Included in the list is purchasing digital mammography equipment, new endoscopes that will allow the hospital to keep pace with evolving diagnostic standards, and improvements to the hospital’s computer infrastructure that will position it for the coming mandatory changeover to electronic medical record keeping. Other top priorities include essential improvements to the hospital’s physical infrastructure, such as new flooring in the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and the replacement of a crucial part of the Hospital’s back-up air quality system. Also being sought are funds to help the hospital retain and recruit highly-educated and well-trained doctors to serve our communities.

This past year, the hospital served more than 15,565 inpatients and outpatients. The board-certified physicians on our Medical Staff collectively had more than 19,900 patient visits in their practices.

And the personalize care provided at HCH continues to generate weekly fan mail. “As is always the case, year-end gifts play an important role in the hospital’s annual fundraising efforts,” Taylor said. “On behalf of our patients, staff and from all of our hospital family, we are thankful for each and every gift, which ultimately helps HCH to save lives.”

For more information or to make a gift, please call 828-526-1435.

Highlanders fall to Rabun County

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders hosted Rabun County Friday evening in front of a capacity crowd at Highlands Gym and dropped all four games to the visiting Wildcats.

After an opening set of JV games that saw the visitors dominate the smaller Highlanders, the Lady Highlanders faced off against a Lady Wildcat squad that had a different look from years past. Rabun County’s small, quick guards were able to pressure the Lady Highlanders into a host of early turnovers, and Highlands was never able to recover, eventually resulting in a 79-30 final score. Emily Munger led the Lady Highlanders with 8 points, and Kate-Marie Parks added 7.

The Highlander boys were hoping for a repeat of the close matchups they had last year with Rabun County, albeit with a different result.

The Highlanders came out with a strong first quarter effort, leading 14-12 after a long 3-pointer from Michael Shearl beat the buzzer and gave Highlands the early lead. Unfortunately, Highlands could not sustain the effort, and could not contain Rabun County star (and Franklin High transfer) Tanner Plemmons. Plemmons put on a show in the second quarter, capping off a 10-0 Rabun County run with a thunderous dunk and giving the Wildcats a double-digit lead that they carried into the break.

The second half saw the Highlanders pull to within 6 points, but they would get no closer as Rabun County held on for a 71-60 victory. Josh Delacruz scored 16 points for the Highlanders; and Robbie Vanderbilt and Michael Shearl added 14 and 11, respectively. Plemmons led all scorers with 29 points.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ruby Cinema
Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Nov. 20-29

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

THE TWILIGHT SAGA:
NEW MOON
rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

2012
rated PG-13
Daily: 1:05, 4, 7:05, 10

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
rated PG
Daily: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

SVMA arts & crafts show in Sapphire Valley Nov. 27-28

The Sapphire Valley Master Association is holding its fifth annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 27-28 at its indoor community center.

Come check out the hand-made products, including jewelry, pottery, candles, clothing, woodworking holiday decorations, lotions, coffees, and other quality items. All of the artists and crafters have been pre-judged to provide you with the finest assortment of wares, all made in America with love and pride.

In addition to the vendors, the Friends for Lifewill have an assortment of cookies, cakes, and more. The Hospice group from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will also be selling wreaths. All profits from both organizations will be used to continue their operations.

The community center is on U.S. 64 three miles east of Hwy 107 at the crossroads in Cashiers. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Admission is free and there is ample parking.

Holiday-themed beginner art classes slated for The Bascom

Margie Shambaugh, above, will teach “Create a Holiday Centerpiece” on Dec. 9 at The Bascom, where students will create a 12-inch boxwood tree to enhance one’s dining room table. The class is one of six holiday-themed beginner art classes slated for this year. Registration is going on now.

Just in time for the holidays, The Bascom is offering six holiday-themed art classes so do-it-yourselfers can craft their hearts out for the season.

On Nov. 27-28, Fayne Ansley will teach “Gingerbread Building,” a drop-in style class that allows students to begin work on imaginative gingerbread houses, take a break and comeback for more. Held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this activity is perfect for the whole family. Pre-enrollment is necessary since there is a fixed amount of supplies. Cost is $45 ($40 for Bascom members) and includes all materials. Students can then enter their creations in the Gingerbread Structure Contest, to be judged Dec. 1-11, with winners announced Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.

On Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to noon, Patrick Taylor will teach “Ceramic Ornament,” an all-ages intergenerational class where students will roll out clay, cut out seasonal symbols, then carve and emboss the surfaced to personalize their ornament. Cost is $25 ($20 Bascom members).

On Dec. 9, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Margie Shambaugh will teach “Create a Holiday Centerpiece,” where students will create a 12-inch boxwood tree to enhance one’s dining room table. Cost is $25 ($20 Bascom members); all materials are included.

On Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to noon, Patrick Taylor will teach “Ceramic Ornament,” an all-ages intergenerational class where students will roll out clay, cut out seasonal symbols, then carve and emboss the surfaced to personalize their ornament. Cost is $25 ($20 Bascom members).

On Dec. 12, 2 to 4 p.m., Ansley will teach “Botanical Watercolor: American Holly” for teens and adults who will sketch and paint the emblematic holiday shrub. Cost is $25 ($20 Bascom members); all materials are included.

All of these classes are for non-artists and beginners, as well as more advanced artists.

Registration is going on now; space fills quickly. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.
Every Third Saturday
• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shoroff Baptish 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 vary). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-8950 (ext 258).

Saturday
• 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 888-764-0085.
• YOGAAll Levels Class Saturday 9:30-11AM, Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880. (12/3) Tuesday, Nov 24

Through Tuesday, Nov. 24
• Applications for the Highlands Emergency Council Christmas Program. Call 526-4357 to register to be a recipient of gifts, donations and food. Through Wed., Nov. 25
• Signups are now being accepted for the upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season at the Highlands Civic Center. New this year, the league is accepting six year olds, the age groups have changed, and the age cutoff date has been changed to Aug. 31. Players must be 6 years old by Aug. 31 to enter the league. The age of player as of Aug. 31 will determine the age division in which he plays. The new age groups are 6 and 7 year olds in the development league, 8 and 9 year olds in the biddy league, 10 and 11 year olds in the junior league, 12, 13, and 14 year olds in the senior league. 15 through 19 year olds (must be in school) in the varsity league. Because of the overlap with the school season, players on school teams will not be allowed to play in the county recreation league this year. Players in the development league will play only on Saturday mornings in Franklin. Teams in other divisions will play the week after, as well as on Saturdays in Franklin. There will also be games in Highlands on Tuesday nights for various age divisions. The cost is $35 for the first family member and $20 for the second. Please bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate. Drafts will be held in each age division beginning Saturday, December 5. More details on the draft times and days will be released at a later date. Anyone interested in coaching or helping coach must fill out a coaching application and additional paperwork available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551 or 828-342-3850. Through Tuesday, Dec. 1
• Operation: Patriotic Pen: Mrs. Sizemore’s first grade class at Highlands School would like to invite everyone (students, clubs/organizations, churches and the local community) to help us collect at least 2,000 Christmas cards, letters or small holiday craft items for our “Operation Patriotic Pen” project. These items will be sent to soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, other locations and in military hospitals. The soldiers who receive them will be asked to pass them out to other soldiers in their units. We want to let as many soldiers know that we honor them for their sacrifices. Our deadline for this project is December 1. Please help us find out the names and complete military address of some soldiers that are presently serving in full-time military service and will be away from their family during the holidays. The person submitting the soldier’s name and address should also include their name and address or phone number, in case there is any question about the address, etc. If you have a picture of the soldier, we will post it on the wall in the main hallway. If you have unused Christmas cards you would like to donate for students to use for this project, these can be sent to the school. To contact Mrs. Sizemore: Email: donna.sizemore@macon.k12.nc.us. Phone: Home: (828) 526-3212 School: (828) 526-2147, voice mailbox #415; School Fax: 828-526-0615 or write to Highlands School, PO Box 940, Highlands, NC 28741, Attention: Mrs. Sizemore. 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.
**Art League to meet Nov. 30**

A blue bear and a green tree are part of the work-in-progress mural at the Civic Center. The huge pieces are completed during the Bascom’s Summer Art Camp, co-sponsored by the Art League of Highlands. On Nov. 30, the Art League of Highlands will hold a meeting at noon at the Civic Center in Highlands. As you enter the Civic Center’s main entrance, look up and enjoy the work that the kids have done over the past couple summers. For further information, contact president Dottie Bruce at 743-7673. Photo by K. Blozan.

**Santa’s in town hearing wishes**

Santa will be at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street next to the Main Street Inn & Bistro right after the Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street in front of Highlands United Methodist Church which begins between 6-6:30 p.m. and again after the Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 5 at noon.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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! Steil Huie will be song leader.

Special guests will be The Highlands Male Chorus, led by Orville Wike, and Bagpipe 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 those in need. 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!

The Daraja Children’s Choir of Africa to perform at CBC Friday, Dec. 4

Cultures will unite when The Daraja Children’s Choir of Africa will perform at Community Bible Church on Friday, December 4th at 8:00pm to bring a message of joy and hope through African song and dance.

Daraja means “bridge” in Swahili, and the Choir, made up of 24 orphans and vulnerable children from Kenya, serve as a bridge to connect the people of Africa and America. This is a life-changing opportunity for these children to learn and experience the American culture, as many of them have never experienced life outside of Kenya. At the same time, Americans have the opportunity to step into the lives of these Kenyan children by hearing their testimonies and experiencing traditional African song and dance.

The Choir is embarking on two U.S. tours this year, which includes a stop in Highlands, NC. In spite of dealing with unimaginable hardships, these children are overflowing with joy and love, which they are eager to share, as is evident in their performance.

The Daraja Children’s Choir of Africa is part of The 410 Bridge, a non-profit organization focusing on mission work in Kenya. The 410 Bridge exists to connect people within the body of Christ to contribute to the self-developing capabilities of the people of Kenya.

Pine Street Park gets trees

Thanks to Highlands Lawn & Garden areas along the Greenway and even Pine Street park got the benefit of 60 trees on Saturday. The trees in Pine Street park were set along the creek that meanders along the back property line.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Christmas at Community Bible Church

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’!

Join Us through Saturday, Dec. 5th

TENT SALE Friday, Nov. 27th - Monday, Nov. 30th

* We will be closed Thanksgiving Day

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Open Sundays through Nov. 29th noon to 5 p.m.
**S P I R I T U A L L Y S P E A K I N G •**

*‘Let’s Go Build a Barn’*

By Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

I just returned from a mission trip to Bosnia with about three other people from this area. I had the privilege of taking my 14-year-old daughter with me and so this was one mission trip that I will always remember because as father and daughter got to experience this together.

Now to give you just a little back ground as to why I have ventured to Bosnia to build barns and buy livestock for displaced persons returning to a town called Srebrenica. Srebrenica is the place where you may recall in 1995 a Dutch peace keeping force left their post and about 10,000 Muslim men and boys were massacred. So this place is a place that many from the international community are just now getting to, to help rebuild the infrastructure. I have had the privilege of being in that part of Bosnia since 2004 with mission teams and so far we have built five barns and bought six cows for different persons. So it is a very place for me and I always look forward to getting to travel back to Srebrenica.

This year was no different and it was with this sense of expectation that we traveled to Bosnia to help identify two persons or families that we would do some barn building in 2010. I want to share a little story from the trip that reminded me of Thanksgiving.

We were visiting with one of the families that have already built the barn for in 2004 and it was good to see him and his young family. They are doing well now because they are making a living with the cow and the barn. He rents out part of the barn to help make ends, sell milk and butter and has many crops growing right now. Why do I tell you that part of the story? Because as we were preparing to leave he said, “You know I wasn’t sure many years ago when a bunch of Americans came to build me a barn, if Christians and Muslims could get along.” (He is a Muslim) But as you people came to help me, I realized that a lot of the tension between Christians and Muslims is simply because we do not know each other but I will always be grateful to my Christian friends from North Carolina.” I thanked him and assured him that we were grateful for our Muslim friends in Bosnia.

His comment resonated in my heart because as I look at the landscape of tension in the world between different faith communities and traditions, I think I have the answer to help resolve tension, are you ready? We need to build something together and work together in love and not hate. You see, the key for conflicts in the world is simply love. When we will learn that we need to love one another instead of hurt each other? You know as we enter the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas I am reminded that over 2,000 years ago there was this man by the name of Jesus from a little town called Nazareth who proclaimed love instead of hate, love instead of vindictiveness, and love as opposed to hurt.

As you gather round your Thanksgiving table this Thursday remember that thankfulness comes from a heart filled with love, not hate, thankfulness comes from a heart filled with love and not shallow words. Be thankful of where you live, of a roof over your head, and the freedom to read a newspaper. But most of all be thankful that you have a chance to make a difference by loving someone. And by the way, may we all strive to love one another because that is how the world will change. So are you ready to build a barn? I am, and I am thankful.
Buy an ornament for the Hospital tree

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

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

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Things I am thankful for

It’s that time of year again folks, the time where I annually list reasons to give thanks as we head into the holiday season.

I’m thankful that Tim Tebow chose Florida over Alabama – not just because of the two national championships but because he’s such a great kid that it would have been a shame for me to hate him because he played for Alabama. It’s always unfortunate when good kids choose to go to schools other than my favorite teams, because then I am forced to hate them for an undisclosed period of time. It may take years for me to get the hate for Tyler Hansbrough out of my system.

Speaking of the University of North Carolina, I am glad that Tywon Lawson is tormenting NBA teams now rather than my Blue Devils. That kid sure is fun to watch – he’s got an extra gear that most people don’t have.

I’m thankful that one Mr. William Packer is lounging around enjoying his retirement rather than making me want to puncture my eardrums during Raycom basketball games.

I’m thankful that the New Orleans Saints have been giving me a reason to celebrate this season although I am apprehensive of the new and exciting way that they will ultimately break my heart at some point this season.

I’m thankful for stories like that of Baltimore Ravens tackle Michael Oher. Oher’s getting a lot of love right now, mainly due to the movie The Blind Side (which is terrific by the way). However, it is stories like that of Oher that can remind people of the good that athletics can do in people’s lives. The current state of America is so negative, and we constantly are bombarded with images of athletes that are soaked with privilege and excess. That’s why stories like that of Oher are so important, because they can be a reminder of the type of lifestyle that many athletes are born out of.

I’m thankful that the New York Yankees won the World Series, mainly because it will make my good friend Mr. Cook happy, but also because I can go back to hating them as usual now. Never underestimate the benefit of high quality sports hate.

And finally, I am thankful for the town of Highlands. I was fortunate enough to participate in the alumni game the other night, and it was very fulfilling to be able to play on the same court as my father. While I am part of a big family, Highlands School itself is a family in and of itself. How many schools can have five decades represented at an alumni game and everyone there know everyone else? It’s a testament to the atmosphere cultivated in our small town and the love that Highlandsians have for one another. If there’s no other reason to give thanks this season, that kind of camaraderie will be enough.

... BRUGGER from pg 7

Rituals also resolve quarrels and patch up the social fabric. Religion served them as an invisible government. It bound people together, committing them to put their community’s needs ahead of their own self-interest.

In an email about my “Jobs” column, a regular correspondent wrote he had long been in favor of mandatory government service for all graduates, from either high school or college. I have always felt the same, although I conceived it as a trade—young person gives service and receives higher education. I wrote him back: It seems like we have lost a sense of unity in this country, of ourselves as a nation united. We are a people divided and we know what will happen—our house will fall. There’s a chance a national service program could instill in young people a sense of working for the good of the nation which I think is what we celebrated in the ‘Greatest Generation.’

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com
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Highlands’ Saturday ‘Alumnae Fundraiser’ basketball game a huge success

On Saturday night, it was the odd-numbered years against the even-numbered years at the Alumnae Fundraiser Basketball game whose proceeds will help fund the Highlands School Girls’ Varsity trip to Orlando over Christmas break.

By Ryan Potts
The Highlands Girls Basketball team held an alumnae game fundraiser Saturday night to raise money for a trip to Orlando, FL for a Christmas basketball tournament. The girls helped to prepare a BBQ dinner as well as homemade desserts before the alumni event. A number of prizes donated by local businesses were also raffled off in addition to the meal and game.

More than 30 Highlander alumni and several former coaches were in attendance to support the Lady Highlanders. Former Highlander coaches recognized included Greg Price, Richard Smith, Donnie Edwards and Brooks Bennett. Prizes were also awarded to the oldest player, youngest player, and the player who traveled the farthest to attend.

The event was sponsored by several local businesses including Jolie’s, Nelson and Betty Stiles, Judson Stiles, Annawear, Pescado’s, Sallie Taylor, Nick’s, Ruka’s Table, Log Cabin Steakhouse, High Country Photo, Sports Page, Cashiers Exxon,

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Ryan Potts and Seth Schmitt go for the jump ball at the Alumnae game on Saturday. Tina Rogers cheers them on.

Additional assistance was provided by Buddy Miller, Doc Wilson, Kristy and Bobby Lewis and Stephanie McCall for all of their help with the food and preparation for the event.

The basketball game itself featured alumni that graduated in odd-numbered years facing off against alumni from even-numbered years. Each quarter had a theme, such as a quarter specifically for the ladies and a quarter for alumni from the 1980s.

Ultimately, the even-numbered year alumni prevailed in what was a fun and exciting event that will benefit Highlands School and the young ladies who have put much effort into the basketball program and will gain the experience of a lifetime this Christmas as they play in Orlando.

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Northland Cable Television
Local Democrats help restock Food Pantry

Highlands Democrats delivered six bins of food to the Highlands Food Pantry for the upcoming holiday needs. The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance donated shopping bags to participants and the International Friendship Center provided bins and assistance. Pictured from left is Robert Smith, Lee Hodges and Faviola Olvera.

Photos by
Stephanie McCall

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Local Democrats help restock Food Pantry

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Four arrested in Franklin church vandalism case

Investigators from the Macon County Sheriff’s Office and the Franklin Police Department cleared in excess of 15 Breaking and Entering and Larceny cases and arrested four defendants during the evening of Nov. 18 and the early morning hours of Nov. 19. The cases included previously reported crimes involving numerous churches, businesses, and mailboxes. Separate investigations by each agency became a joint operation as the result of information recently provided to FPD investigators that was shared with MCSO investigators.

During the joint investigation unreported crimes were discovered, and numerous items of evidence were recovered during the arrests, and execution of search warrants and consent searches that were conducted.

Investigators followed up on numerous leads and tips over the past several months and some of the defendants cooperated with investigator’s in interviews after their arrests. This is an ongoing investigation and there may be additional charges and additional suspects as well as previously unreported crimes.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is requested to contact the Macon County Sheriff’s Office at 828-349-2104, the Franklin Police Department at 828-524-2864, or Macon County Crime Stoppers at 828-349-666-374-1115 (8477). Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward. Updated information may be added to the Macon County Sheriff’s Office website: http://www.maconnc.org/justice/press.html

The following four defendants were arrested on varying numbers of felony breaking and entering, felony larceny, to real property and injury to personal property.

Kathleen Stewart, 18, of Franklin; Lynn Marissa Harmon, 19, of Franklin, Paul Joseph Quinn, 20 of Franklin, and Caitlyn Kathleen Stewart, 18, of Franklin; Lynn Marissa Harmon, 19, of Franklin, Paul Joseph Quinn, 20 of Franklin, and Caitlyn
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... HONOR ROLL from page 25

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- A Emily Shuler
- AB Paige Moss
- AB Jessi Palmer
- AB Cali Smolarsky
- AB Ryan Vinson

**Grade – 9**

- A Hayden Bates
- A Rebecca Johnson
- A Brett Palmer
- A Austin Vinson
- AB Autumn Chastain
- AB Caroline Christy
- AB Corbin Hawkins

**Grade 10**

- A Isaac Beavers
- A Emily Murphy
- A Nichoila Roman
- A Juliana Buras
- A Clayton Creighton
- A Kaidlin Lewis
- A Bryn Neumann
- A Brian Renfro
- A Logan Schmitt
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- A Avee Graham
- A Mary Whitten Warner
- A Samuel Wheeler
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- A Marlena McCall
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- A Valarie Shelton
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- A Amanda Fuller
- A Sarah Hedden
- A Kayla Linville
- A Charles Pair
- A Olen Schiffl
- A Bobbi Jo Talley
- A Tiffany Billingsley
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**The Puzzlers**

**Hex-a-Ku©**

2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

**OBJECT:**
A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

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

**Mystery Word:**
Mythical Spirit

1. Railroad support member (3)
2. Service pay (4)

**Down**
3. Tear fabric (3)
4. Small drink (3)
5. For every (3)

---

**Solution to Nov. 19 Hex-a-Ku**

**Solution to # BN3B Pseudocube in Nov. 19 issue**

**PseudoCube©**

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

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

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

Email: thepuzzlers@yahoo.com.

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**Hex-a-Ku©**

2009

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3. Tear fabric (3)
4. Small drink (3)
5. For every (3)

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**Solution to Nov. 19 Hex-a-Ku**

**Solution to # DN4B PseudoCube Level of Difficulty Hard**

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