Zoning Board upholds Cooley’s decision

The appeal hearing of the Zoning Administrator’s decision concerning the use of a split-zoned piece of property on NC 28 was continued from the October Zoning Board meeting Wednesday, Nov. 4.

After two hours of deliberation involving additional evidence presented by both the Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley and appellate attorney Richard Melvin, the board ruled unanimously to deny Shearl’s appeal and to uphold the Zoning Administrator’s decision.

The town issued Shearl two violations for using the residential portion of his split-zoned property on N.C. 28 – the location of J & J Lawn and Landscape at 1663 S. Fourth Street — for commercial purposes and because a storage shed sits within the right-of-way on the residential portion.

The Heddens, owners of the residential lot behind Shearl’s say his commercial business has been growing consistently since they bought their property in 1997 and

• See ZONING page 17

Town Board establishes sustainability advisory committee

The Town Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 21 approved the establishment of a Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The idea of sustainability was discussed by Vice Mayor Amy Patterson at the retreat held on Sept. 23 at The Bascom.

“Recognizing that quality of life is linked to a healthy environment, it is vital to begood stewards of our natural resources” said Commissioner Patterson. “Highlands needs to take the lead in promoting sustainability.”

The Sustainability Advisory Committee would provide feedback and advice to the Town Board on policies, ordinances and administrative procedures regarding the environment and natural resources. The general scope of work is to identify and assess policy alternatives for the Town Board to consider as part of the Town’s strategic plan to expand leadership and implement cutting edge applications and standards for environmental stewardship and leadership.

To serve on the Sustainability Advisory Committee, please complete application at Town Hall, 462 Dil-lard Road or on line at www.highlandsnc.org

Highest voter turn-out since 2001 changes face of Highlands board

In the larger scheme of things, an off-year election of a mayor and two council members in a small town in the mountains of North Carolina may not be a big deal, but here in Highlands it’s been “all the talk” since candidates announced their intentions this summer.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, 429 of Highlands’ 893 registered voters — a whopping 48.04% — turned up at the Highlands Civic Center to cast their vote and exercise one of the rights many Americans take for granted.

“Since the 2001 Highlands municipal election, this has been the largest turnout for the Town of Highlands,” said Kim Bishop with the Macon County Board of Elections.

Incumbent Don Mullen and David Wilkes vied for the mayoral seat; Amy Patterson and Hank Ross vied for two open board seats.

Wilkes beat Mullen by more than three-to-one with 385 votes or 77.7%, to Mullen’s 108 votes or 21.82% of voters.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support,” said David Wilkes. “The voters have sent a strong and clear message that they want a more fiscally sound approach to town government. At the same time, we want to continue to build on the theme of hospitality which is vital for our economy to continue to thrive. I look forward to working with the commissioners, town employees, and you, our citizens to make our town even more special. Thank you for your confidence.”

Mayor Mullen thanked the people of Highlands for giving him the honor of serving as mayor over the past four years.

“It has been a position which I have not taken lightly, and I have worked hard to help accomplish what I believe is right for our community and, quite frankly, I think that has been a lot. I am very proud of what has happened in Highlands in the past four years and I would do it again,” he said. “I congratulate David Wilkes on his victory and have told him that I certainly am willing to help him all I can in this transition period. I also congrat uate

• See TURN-OUT page 24
Dear Editor,

In reading the various letters against the proposed health care bill, one recurring statement is made by the Republicans: “We know that health care reform is necessary…” Here are the facts:

Reagan was President for eight years and did nothing for health care reform.

Bush (the second) was President for eight years and did nothing for health care reform.

So, over the past 28 years, the Republicans have done nothing for the millions without health care. They truly do not care for the uninsured or they would have not been a roadblock to this “necessary reform.”

The Republicans are nothing but hypocrites.

Jim Hartje
Otto, NC

Discussion about ‘socialized’ medicine continues through the ages

Dear Editor,

Here’s an interesting blast from the past news item from the Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian, which we have on file at the Highlands Historical Society’s Archives. It’s dated April 30, 1936, under the title, “Prizes Awarded in School Finals.” “Guy Paul, Jr., was the medal winner in the annual debate presented at Highlands school Monday evening. Other participants on the affirmative side of the question: ‘Resolved: That the Several States Should Provide Socialization of Medicine,’ were Steve Potts and Bruce Edwards. Upholding the negative side were John Beale and Guy Paul. The decision went to the affirmative side.”

Ran Shaffner
Highlands Historical Society

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.

Gnostics were first to ‘question’

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Ms. Brugger’s column on October 29th as she espouses the philosophy of Bishop Spong.

First of all, this attitude of philosophy is really not new. In the first century, as the early church was in its infancy, there arose teachers whom the scholars call Gnostics. These people claimed to have special secret revelations of spirituality known only to them and attempted to infiltrate the church and corrupt the teachings of Christ. The Apostle Paul, in his New Testament writings, warned the Church of this teaching numerous times in different letters to Churches of his day.

For sake of brevity, I will cite the reference to these passages and allow the interested reader to more thoroughly research this. These are found in 2nd Corinthians 11:1-15, Galatians 1, Colossians 2:1-5 and 2nd Timothy 4:1-5.

In her letter, Ms. Brugger cited Bishop Spong as teaching that Jesus was not the Son of God. However, Jesus made many statements to those of His day, that He indeed is the Son of God (Matthew 16:13-28, John 8:48-59, 10:22-42, and 17:5). In the gospels, Jesus’ favorite title when referring to Himself is the Son of Man. If this is traced back to Daniel 7:13-14, this title is expressive of Diety and an everlasting Kingdom.

The teaching of Jesus, that He is the Son of God leaves us with three possibilities. First, Jesus knew he was not God, but said He was. This would make Jesus a liar. Secondly, Jesus believed He was God but really wasn’t. This would make Jesus a lunatic. Lastly, Jesus said He is God and in fact He is. This would make Jesus Lord.

You, as the reader, must make a choice to believe Jesus or not. If you will read Philippians 2:1-11, it is revealed that Christ did not have to seek to become God, but He laid aside the glory of God (Philippians 2:6-11). Paul, in his New Testament writings, warned the Church to maintain the orthodoxy known only to them and attempted to infiltrate the church and corrupt the teachings of Christ. The Apostle Paul, in his New Testament writings, warned the Church of this teaching numerous times in different letters to Churches of his day.

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Ruth Eva Keener Garland

Ruth Eva Keener Garland, 98, of Highlands, NC, died Wednesday, October 28, 2009 in a Clayton, GA hospital. She was born in Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late Emory and Huldah Holbrook Keener. She was a homemaker and a member of the Highlands United Methodist Church where she was a member of the United Methodist Women’s Association.

She is survived by two daughters, Rebecca Cragg of Coppers Cove, TX and Mary Garland Newton of Pendleton, SC; two sons, Dean Garland of Seneca, SC and Willard Garland of Highlands, NC. Seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a sister, Mattie Cabe and three brothers, Lee Keener, Will Keener and George Keener.

Memorial services were held Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m. at Highlands First United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Umcor Fund, Highlands United Methodist Church, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741 or to the Tamassee Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1, Tamassee, SC 29686.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Shot clinics scheduled for children

Currently, the Macon County Public Health Center has scheduled a series of flu vaccination clinics for children ages 6 months through 18 years old. These clinics are by appointment only each Friday from November 6 through November 20th from 8 am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Lakeside Drive location in Franklin. For appointments call 349-2081 during regular office hours and following the directions found on the flu information telephone prompt. Seasonal flu vaccine will be available for all children 6 months

*See FLU SHOT page 7

End of Season Sale!

at Highlands Antiques

Everything must go!

Huge discounts!

Open

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

...located in an historic summer home • 802 North 4th Street, Highlands

All Sales Final
Rest easy, Highlanders. I’ve left the area for scary South Florida. You can release the women and children.

We were going to take the famous Woodpecker Trail from Highlands to Jacksonville, FL so we could stop by the Naval Base and squeeze three of our eight grandchildren. Then, at the last minute, one grandkid was directly exposed to the dreaded swine flu and we couldn’t take the chance.

This would have been our last trip to Jacksonville because our Navy family will soon be packing up their Navy brats and moving to Norfolk. Darn!

Our trip to Palm Beach was uneventful so I won’t bother you with boring details. Anyone who has ever driven through Florida knows the real meaning of boring.

It was early afternoon of the following day when I finally turned off the car’s engine and stared at our boarded up house. It had been almost six months since we’d seen it. Then I thought it’s time to turn off the kitchen light before we left in May.

I focused on the garage doors, wondering what adventures await us inside. As I pulled the decorative, indestructible, cut-proof, tamper-proof, cable-locked from the two large front door handles, three chameleons rushed forward to dash in. I shoed them away. Why are they so arrogant? Don’t they know there’s no food inside? Or is there? Are you aware we have lizards that bite?

When I pulled the front door open, the rubber seal around the door, designed to keep hurricane force winds out, made a loud swish sound, alerting any critters inside they better take cover. I’ll have to lubricate that seal first thing in the morning to keep it soft.

Because the house is shuttered, it was dark inside. We threw on lights as we made our way, moving from room to room, looking for anything unusual, like an alligator sleeping in our bed. Ha, only kidding. Except for a few dead ants and one dried up chameleon, nothing unusual was spotted.

While the lil’ missus started unpacking the car, I checked the outside of the house. I should tell you that, while we live right smack-dab in the heart of the city of North Palm Beach, we’re less than a block from the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) and right next to a large natural saltwater preserve full of critters. So it was normal when I found a five-foot snakeskin against our back fence. There’s little doubt that some morning I’ll wake to find the snake taking a dip in our pool, something it’s probably been doing all summer. The pool also contained crabs, some dead, some alive. I’ll fish them out after I lubricate the seal around the door.

Although we move 700 miles twice a year, critters are always a significant part of our lives. We just change critter types. Instead of bear, we have giant pythons, alligators and large land crabs. We also have your basic forest critters like rabbits, fox, raccoons and opossum who wander out of the preserve and out of the pool for a drink of chlorinated pool water…yuck! Last winter, the raccoons destroyed three of our gas burner feeds tubes on our grill. Highlands’ raccoons have never been that rude, but these are South Florida raccoons where any behavior is expected.

On our morning walks we spot magnificent blue herons fishing along the edge of the saltwater preserve. Egrets, hoards of noisy looking Ibises and an occasional pelican remind us we are no longer in Highlands.

Now for some tacky news. (You knew it was coming!) Because I’m always surrounded by critters no matter where I live, poop happens. Let me explain. Our preserve is also the home of scary looking turkey buzzards. They fly in packs of 10 or more. Have you seen those things up close? They have four-foot wing spans and eyes that can see a large natural preserve full of critters. They can fly up to 500 miles without stopping.

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Anyway each evening just before dark the buzzards head for the preserve to prepare for nighty-night. Before roosting, they land on the corner of our roof. They poop, preen, socialize and poop some more before bedding down. After months of being away, buzzard poop, now two inches thick and as hard as concrete, cover one corner of our roof. After lubricating the front door, fishing crabs out of the pool, I’ll chisel buzzard poop off the roof. Remember, one buzzard poop equals 10 chicken broiler poop. Better write that down.

PS – I had turned off the kitchen light.
I've recently started drinking a glass or two of red wine in the evening. It's not for the health benefits. I take a massive daily dose of resveratrol, the ingredient in red wine which is probably responsible for the health benefits of red wine. The French, whose diet is rich in fats but who drink red wine, have a lower rate of heart disease than citizens of other countries, a fact which led to a search for the active ingredient, which is resveratrol.

I don't need any more resveratrol. I would have to consume at least 100 liters of red wine to equal my daily dose. And some of you didn't think I was crazy, a fact that Republicans, doctors, and war mongers have known for sometime. I'm not all sure why! I started. In fact, I have no idea. The only red wine I ever liked was strawberry Ripple, which I discovered in 1967. I think if you're going to call Ripple a red wine, you have to attach an asterisk. I don't think there was much resveratrol in Ripple. I don't think there was much of anything but alcohol, sugar, and artificial strawberry flavor. I don't know when chemists learned to synthesize what we call resveratrol.

I met Ripple on June 30, 1967. I remember the date because it was the night before I started my internship, an encounter from which my internship never recovered. New interns were to meet with the director of medical education at eight o'clock. I staggered in, unshowered and unshaven, at 10 after. I was still drunk, but my hangover had already begun. It takes a really good binge to experience both at the same time. To make matters worse, I interned at an Army hospital, where shaving was expected.

I've always been suspicious of wine aficionados, adopted the term “wine bore” to describe them years ago. When these people start to discuss wine, they change completely, at least they surrender anything about themselves that seemed genuine. Even their voices changed, and their accents resembled William Buckley at a Yale reunion. I guess there really are people who can distinguish a French cabernet from a North Carolina merlot, but I think most people's admiration of wine depends entirely on the price on the menu. It may be because I've never had much luck tasting the difference between Budweiser and Orange Crush. Nonetheless, I lumped wine bores with art lovers and ballet buffs. Years ago, I begged my sister to admit that she would rather see a really good movie than a really good ballet. She was resolute. I even promised that I wouldn't tell our siblings. No dice. To this day she stands by her story, but I can't help noticing that her accent changes from Indiana to England whenever we have the conversation.

So here I am drinking wine, and I must admit I kind of enjoy it. Wine is not as easy to like as Coca Cola or a chocolate shake. It takes more time, more concentration. It's more complex, but it's not at all sure why! I started. In fact, I have no idea. The only red wine I ever liked was strawberry Ripple, which I discovered in 1967. I think if you're going to call Ripple a red wine, you have to attach an asterisk. I don't think there was much resveratrol in Ripple. I don't think there was much of anything but alcohol, sugar, and artificial strawberry flavor. I don't know when chemists learned to synthesize what we call resveratrol.

But now I live in fear that I'll examine the cork, swirl the wine around in my glass, take a sip, gargle it, allow it to trickle down my throat, wait an appropriate interval for the aftertaste, and declare it superb, only to discover that the waiter substituted a bottle of wine vinegar or Strawberry Ripple.
Some global-warming deniers have been gleefully pointing out that many places in the United States had their coldest summer in decades this year — so global warming can’t possibly be. These same people seem to think that the reason the phrase “climate change” has replaced “global warming” is because of a conspiracy by the global-warming nuts to hide the fact that the planet isn’t getting warmer after all.

Of course the real reason people are using the phrase “climate change” instead of “global warming” is because the effects of an increase in greenhouse gases is more than just the overall warming of the planet. For example, rainfall patterns will change, some places will be dryer, some wetter.

In addition, the melting ice caps will change global systems such as the Gulf Stream. The ice caps are fresh water, and as they melt they desalinate the ocean which will alter the flow of ocean currents. The Gulf Stream brings warmer temperately to Western Europe, and if this current is altered, Europe could actually be colder as a consequence of “global warming.” That is why “climate change” is a much better descriptor of what is happening.

Other deniers are cleverer; they are willing to admit that climate change happens, but they are adamant that the climate is not being significantly altered by human activity. They claim that the climate changes in cycles and the current warming/change is natural.

One anonymous gave me a subscription to the conservative magazine National Review. I assume it’s a reader of my column who thought that I could be “educated” out of my liberal philosophy. (To whomever you are, it’s not working, and I’ll probably have more to say about that soon.)

In the most recent issue there was an insert with a DVD produced by an organization called “The Idea Channel.” The short film, “Unstoppable Solar Cycles” alleges that there are recurring patterns of heating and cooling on the Earth and that the main driver of our planet’s climate is the Sun. It acknowledges that humans have an impact but a vanishingly small one compared to that of the Sun. The film jumps back and forth between two scientists — both well-known global-warming deniers — and you start wondering whether these were the only two scientists left on the planet willing to deny that humans are bringing about climate change.

The film used a favorite denial example: Greenland. The Vikings settled Greenland around 985 C.E. when the island was warm enough for agriculture. Thriving communities were established, but by 1400 or so all the settlements were abandoned because advancing ice sheets rendered the island too cold for agriculture.

This was the Little Ice Age, which was a period of much cooler temperatures across the entire planet. The beginning of this cold spell is disputed, but if you look at temperature graphs it appears to really begin around 1400 and last until around 1850.

Some years ago I published a review of a book called The Winds of Change: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations, by Eugene Linden, which looks at a number of civilizations that mysteriously disappeared and argues that the cause of their downfall was climate change.

Mr. Linden picks out a number of past societies, among them the Mayans and the Viking Greenland colony, and attempts to prove that climate change is what did them in; drought in the case of the Mayans and cold in the case of Greenland.

There is also a discussion of climate science, and it took my breath away to see how complicated this science is. In order to understand Earth’s climate a scientist has to take into consideration such facts as the magnitude of Earth’s wobble and tilt as it processes in its orbit around the sun in patterns that last for tens of thousands of years.

Climate scientists are still uncertain about the cause of the Little Ice Age because it does not fit into the regular pattern of our planet’s ice ages. The November issue of Harper’s Magazine has an intriguing article about research by William Ruddiman, a paleoecologist and professor at the University of Virginia (“The Cold We Caused,” by Steven Stoll).

Mr. Ruddiman connects the Little Ice Age with the plague. In 1347 a ship entered the port of Messina in Sicily with sick people on board and within four years approximately 50 million Europeans were dead — at least a third of the population gone. This same disease had already decimated China, killing at least the same number of people there.
Darling, I want to destroy you

I don’t really write about music in this space, mainly because it’s a sports column and I am a sporting kinda guy. However, after buying the new AFI album (don’t worry if you haven’t heard of them, this will make sense in a minute… maybe) I was listening to a song called “Darling, I want to destroy you.” It’s an interesting tune about a once promising relationship gone bad. There’s still quite a bit of love there (hence the term darling) but there is also the realization that the relationship has soured. So how is this going to relate to sports, who do I want to destroy… read on if you dare. (maniacal, yet mildly nervous laugh)

When I was a young lad at Highlands School, my favorite pastime was to wake up in the morning and watch Sportscenter. ESPN was still in its early years and had just obtained rights to MLB baseball. Sportscenter was just starting to take off with anchors Keith Olbermann, Craig Kilborn and Dan Patrick, and there was no better way to get sports news and info in the morning. ESPN was entering the forefront of sports, and it was great for a 10-year-old kid to be able to learn about sports, teams, etc., in a 30-minute window before school.

I begin to love ESPN, listing it as my favorite channel and “Sportscenter” as my favorite TV show in every survey imaginable. Soon, technology expanded, and ESPN.com became my default homepage on my computer. My sports addiction was growing and growing, and ESPN was my dealer of choice.

Flash forward to 2009. ESPN is now “the worldwide leader in sports.” They now broadcast 65 sports in over 150 countries, including five US channels. The overexposure of ESPN personalities has been mocked by satire on Saturday Night Live, Mad TV and numerous other media outlets. ESPN’s saturation of opinion/analysis, it’s so nauseating, that it permeates every sports’ broadcast. Despite the fact that it was MY team that they were giving the treatment to, it was making me feel sick, and thus I can only imagine how Falcons fan must have felt. And thus, the decline begins…the sobering realization that the ESPN of my youth is no more like finding out your sweet, average looking high school girlfriend is now in Hollywood.

Sure, she looks a lot better and has had some definite “enhancement,” but the innocence is gone, replaced instead by fake laughter and even faker personality. ESPN, I want to destroy you.

Football this week, I came to a stunning realization. I have come to despise ESPN, not because of the network itself, but because of the “analysis” and “opinion” that permeates every sport’s broadcast. Despite the fact that it was MY team that they were giving the treatment to, it was making me feel sick, and thus I can only imagine how Falcons fan must have felt. And thus, the decline begins…the sobering realization that the ESPN of my youth is no more like finding out your sweet, average looking high school girlfriend is now in Hollywood.

Sure, she looks a lot better and has had some definite “enhancement,” but the innocence is gone, replaced instead by fake laughter and even faker personality. ESPN, I want to destroy you.

Thank you for your vote of confidence!

I’m sure the new Mayor and Board will work together to carry our Town of Highlands into a more prosperous and wonderful place to live, all while preserving our heritage.

A special thank you to the dedication and hard work of the campaign committees and all our wonderful friends.

This ad paid for by the Committees to Elect Gary Drake Commissioner of Highlands

... FLU SHOTS continued from page 3

through 18 years old. H1N1 flu vaccine will be available for children 6 months through 4 years old, caregivers (parents and siblings) of infants less than 6 months old; and pregnant women.

The shots are free of charge for children, caregivers, and pregnant women.

An adult seasonal flu clinic will be scheduled in November as soon as additional vaccine is received from the manufacturer. Please check the Macon County Public Health Center’s flu information phone message at 349-2081 and local media for information about when this clinic is scheduled.
Commissioner Brian McClellan helps out in Kindergarten class

Brian McClellan visited with wife Julie McClellan’s Kindergarten class and carved a pumpkin for the students. The children had been learning about pumpkins the weeks before, and journaled about their classroom pumpkin before and after the carving took place.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

dents, businesses and volunteers who braved less than ideal weather to make Halloween 2009 a special night for all those young ghosts, goblins, witches, princesses and spiders who prowled the foggy streets of Highlands last Saturday evening.

It all began with The Highlands Rotary Club Interact Club members distributing Chamber Chocolate to participating merchants on Thursday after school. Dancing and swaying to the music was seen up and down the streets of Highlands as DJ Mike “Howlin’ Wolf” Murphy entertained trick-or-treaters all evening from near Town Square close to the filming of Arthur Hancock and Katie Brugger. Thanks to our Mayor and town council for allowing the use of our downtown area and Police Chief Harrell, Highlands Police and the many volunteers from the Highlands Rotary Club for providing a safe venue and traffic control.

The Fire Department and EMS also joined in the fun with the added treat of demonstrating the town’s new ladder truck. The ever helpful Selwyn Chalker and his Recreation Department along with Engineer Lamar Nix and Highlands Sanitation assisted in too many ways to mention.

Kudos to Mountain Top Rotary – 1,200 hot dogs and soft drinks later the tented (thanks to Patrick Healey) food concession ceased operation for this Halloween. Local media, The Highlander, Highlands Newspaper, Laurel Magazine and WHLC FM 104.5 playfully promoted the event. Great events are created by the many who give selflessly of their time and Halloween in Highlands is among the very best every year. Over the years thousands of smiling costumed youngsters, adults and pets are our reward.

Bob Kieltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce
See LETTERS page 20
States are not free in Europe. You may have to pay to use the toilet, or rent a chair and an umbrella at the beach. Many Americans are outraged by this.

Look at it from another standpoint, if you will. This is not ripping you off. This is providing you with a service, and why shouldn’t someone make a living by doing this? Personally, I’d much rather pay a small amount of money to use a clean toilet, in a safe environment. The toilet attendants are often friendly, pleasant people who nod and smile in your direction as you plunk down your coins while leaving. This is why it is vital to acquire small coins as soon as possible upon arrival in Europe (the coins are issued in 2, 1, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c, 2c, and 1c denominations). The standard fee for using the toilet is around 50c, unless otherwise posted. If there is an attendant, it is tacky and rude not to pay.

Which brings me to a second awkward subject – you cannot use US currency everywhere. While you might get away with tipping tour bus drivers and tour guides in US money, there is no reason why local shopkeepers and restaurants in small towns should accept American money. What if someone from Europe tried to pay for gas in Highlands with Euros? By the time people pay exchange rates to convert the money into local currency they would lose hugely in the process. I have to chuckle at the nerve of the American lady who hands the Italian toilet attendant a dollar bill, and says “I’d like four quarters back, please,” as if currency exchange is a service the attendant is supposed to provide.

At last, our ride comes to an end. We arrive in Venice, but where are the canals, the gondolas, and St. Mark’s Square? Well, they are there, of course, but we learn that the city of Venice stretches across 118 small islands. Not only is it “La Serenissima,” the historic city of Venice, but it is also a thriving modern port city, with both trade and cruise ships plying its waters.

I’ll skip the unpleasantness of the boarding procedures, since I assume they are much the same if you’re cruising the Adriatic or the Caribbean. There’s a lot of hanging around and waiting, lining up with your passport, and aggravation, before you finally pose for your first photo, and I note with despair that our ID photos make us look like crazed lunatics, and tired ones at that.

Finally on board, we are greeted by smiling crew members who point us in the direction of our cabin. Homelast! We open the door, and find a small, but nicely appointed, room. We run upstairs to see the view as we sail out of Venice.
Nov. SALE! 40-70% OFF

**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**

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1-800-526-3902

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Family owned and operated for over 20 years
Main Street in Oak Square
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(828) 526-5759 www.shirazruggalleries.com

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**CONSERVATIVE POV**

You ain't going to get my meat

Planetarl.org tells us: "On December 12 the Copenhagen Climate Council will bring together business leaders from around the world at Hamlet's Kronborg Castle to help kick-start the low-carbon revolution."

If that doesn't send chills down your spine, it should. Without boring you with the reality of it all, if these loonies are successful in implementing cap and trade, which I assume is their aim, in round terms, $300,000,000,000 will be pulled out of our collective pockets – EVERY YEAR.

Being a business type, I can understand the greed factor motivating Jeff Immelt (GE), Jim Rogers (Duke Energy) and the rest who will end up with your money in their till. However, the ultimate damage it will do to our culture is beyond calculation and beyond my imagination. The last I heard, Obama won't commit which has the organizers' shorts in a bundle. Well, good for him unless he has changed his mind by the time you read this.

I'm an old man. I will not feel the full effects of the greening of America, but I can commiserate with those of you who will. I thought Al Gore was nuts until I realized he was brilliant. Unfortunately, he was working for Al and not for you when he was Veep. But all that aside, something crossed my radar that really has me concerned.

A headline from the Times Online last month: "Climate chief Lord Stern: give up meat to save the planet." REALLY? Well excuse me but this is carrying things a bit too far. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. Just as I am entering this information, Glenn Beck is scoping me out, but I'm going to report it anyway. "People will need to consider turning vegetarian if the world is to conquer climate change according to a LEADING AUTHORITY on global warming."

In an interview with The Times, Lord Stern of Brentford said: 'Meat is a wasteful use of water and creates a lot of greenhouse gasses. It puts enormous pressure on the world's resources. A vegetarian diet is better.'

"Direct emissions of methane from cows and pigs is a significant source of greenhouse gasses. Methane is 23 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a global warming gas. Lord Stern, the author of the influential (to whom?) 2006 Stern Review on the cost of tackling global warming, said that a successful deal at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December would lead to soaring costs for meat and other foods that generate large quantities of greenhouse gasses."

Let's just take a step back and review what they (the loonies) would like to put on us.

First, in 1992 as I recall, my nemesis (and a very wealthy one, at that) Al Gore wrote a book entitled "Earth in the Balance." Somewhere in there, Al advocated putting an end to the internal combustion engine. I even went to the library to read it for myself just to see if what this crackpot was attributed to have said was true. It was. What does this mean? First, no shiny man car in the garage, or anywhere else. It would eliminate the biker world. It would kill all forms of fishing if you happen to use a boat with a motor. And your precious riding mower? Forget about it. And your non-riding power mower? Back to the scythe for you, dude. This is Al Gore's idea of where mankind belongs (except for the Gore household – he'd buy his way out). Sorry Al, bad idea.

Later, in a moment of honest candor and economic acuity, the President told us that "My plan would cause energy prices to skyrocket" referring to his cap-and-trade proposal. He went on to explain that this skyrocketing of energy prices would hopefully result in people pursuing cleaner energy sources. How about nuclear? Oh no, too dangerous. Wind is the answer. The environmentalists say the fan blades are dangerous to birds and bats. I'm sure solar presents a similar hazard to one creature or another. These fruitcakes just can't say yes.

And finally, this wacko (Stern) predicts that people's attitudes would evolve until meat eating became unacceptable. "I think it's important that people think about what they are doing and that includes what they are eating. People change their notion of what is responsible. They will increasingly ask about the carbon content of their food."

In your dreams, you cookoo.

Sure, I'm going to walk to work, either fry my bacon or freeze my buns because my employer can't afford to cool/heat the place and go home for a plate of beans for dinner. Not in this lifetime.
from the history guy ...

Nov. 5, 1605

Gunpowder Plot: A conspiracy to blow up the English Houses of Parliament is thwarted when a justice of the peace finds Guy Fawkes in a cellar below the House of Lords.

Remember, remember the 5th of November?
Is there any reason to celebrate with things pyrotechnic? Why, yes there is, if you can detect it.
You see, there was this potentially dangerous Guy, who conspired to blow up Parliament sky high, and all those legislators who had voted would end up being all exploded.
Why did he want to do this deed?
I think it had something to do with his creed.
A celebration today would not be outmoded, the anniversary of that bomb unexploded.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 9

Now this is the real Venice we hoped for! Our ship, the Costa Fortuna makes its way through the historic city, like the grand lady she is. Tourists in small boats wave to us, and like royalty, we wave back. From our lofty perch, St. Mark’s Square looks like it’s swarming with ants. We watch as long as we can, then go downstairs to change for dinner.

Fortunately, our group has first sitting for dinner, which is at 7 p.m. Our table seats eight people, in our case, four couples. These are people from the larger Collette group, but not any of the folks we left with from Waynesboro. Our dinner companions are interesting, personable people, and it’s going to be a real treat to meet up with them every evening, and swap adventures.

Our waiter arrives, bearing menus. Oh, boy! This is going to be a week of gastronomic indulgence, followed by the attack of the killer waistbands. Like wise men bearing gifts, the waiters arrive with pumpkin soup, wild boar, and strawberry gelato, among other goodies. The meal ended, we say our goodnights, and head back to our cabins. Darn. They could have just set up a cot for me in the dining room.

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 is currently suffering from gelato withdrawal.

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

One hundred and fifty years later when the Europeans arrived in the Americas bringing strange new diseases like smallpox and influenza, another 50 million people were killed.

All in all, the global pandemics of these centuries are killed off the equivalent of 25% of the world’s population in the year 1500.

The devastation of the population meant huge tracts of land that had been in cultivation were abandoned. As the land grew up in forests, Mr. Ruddiman estimates that billions of tons of carbon were pulled out of the atmosphere. In addition there were fewer wood fires for heating and cooking — millions fewer.

It took centuries for the societies to recover and the human population to increase to the levels before the plague. But as they recovered and the forests were cut down for fields and fireplaces the carbon dioxide levels rose again and the Little Ice Age came to an end.

This is evidence, Mr. Ruddiman suggests, that human activity does have a significant impact on the climate.

The Hudson Library has a new book questioning the “apocalyptic vision of climate change,” which claims, as does the “Solar Cycles” film, that global warming is just a political fiction contrived to advance some green agenda (“Climate of Extremes” 551.6). In fact, there is an overwhelming consensus among scientists that climate change is happening and is human induced.

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

What’s for Lunch?

Mountain Fresh Grocery™ your Everyday-and-Gourmet Grocery

... It’s Autumn at Mountain Fresh Grocery...

Hand cut fries, fresh angus burgers, grilled chicken, and weekly specials.

Expanded Fall menu including:
House-made Soups, Stews and Pot Pies
Indoor and porch seating, serving lunch 11 to 2 weekdays, 11 to 3 weekends
Meals to go, excellent wine selection and an abundant collection of craft and seasonal beers.

Mountain Fresh Grocery™ your Everyday-and-Gourmet Grocery

CORNER OF FIFTH & MAIN IN HIGHLANDS 828.526.2400
There is ‘hope’ in death

There is a curious poem by Thomas Hood. After a long series of “no’s” – no sun, no moon, no warmth, to flowers, no leaves, no birds, the poem ends with the word November. If you Google “November poem,” you can see the whole poem. (I suppose copyrights would prevent me from reproducing it here in entirety.)

The cold snap we had a few weeks ago and then the rainy and cold weather with which October finished reminded me of this poem. And yet, the first of November was anything but that. Sunny and brisk, what one might expect for a fall day in the mountains. It speaks of hope.

As we see dying going on all around us, we are reminded of our own end. Trees losing their leaves, color giving way to colorlessness, warmth giving way to cold – these are all reminders of death. And yet, there is hope. We begin November with a remembrance of all the saints (following all hallow’s evening, Hallowe’en). They are the ones recognized for their holiness. The bleakness of mortal existence was transcended by their belief in a god that empowered them to live beyond their human limitations, here and hereafter. We honor them, ask for their help, as they now live a life fuller than the one we live now. They are close to God in eternity and, as we would ask only a person of holiness to pray for us, we seek their prayers for us. We admire them, not with envy or jealousy, but seeking to imitate their blessed ways. Where they have gone, we hope to follow.

Then we turn our attention to our own beloved dead. We remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We entrust them to their creator. We pray as Christians have for millennia that they may find their eternal home with God. With confident assurances of faith, we move from grief over the loss to joy for what they have gained.

Even our country sees November as a time of this sort of remembrance. Later this month, we’ll celebrate Veteran’s Day. We’ll remember those who have served our country. Though there will always be debate over the participation in armed conflict, one must at least admire the courage if not the cause.

It is also a time of another sort of goodbye. So many leave these beautiful mountains for warmer climes. Streets empty, businesses close earlier and earlier and then cease to open at all. Winter schedules are in effect. We drop our Saturday mass at Our Lady of the Mountains. It is a time that is much less busy. It is a time for more reflection, introspection, evaluation, assessment. It is a time to reflect on our own mortality. Certainly, both good and bad will surface. Dying must come to some things. We are encouraged by those who have lived good and holy lives before us. The hope of new life awaits the coming spring.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ruby Cinema
Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC 254-2076
Nov. 6-12

A CHRISTMAS CAROL rated PG
Fri: 4:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sat: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10

THE BOX rated PG-13
Fri: 4:20, 7, 9:20
Sat: 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20
Sun: 2, 4:20, 7
Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7
Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:20, 7

THE FOURTH KIND rated PG-13
Fri: 4:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sat: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sun: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:15
Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY rated R
Fri: 4:30, 7:20, 9:30
Sat: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:30
Sun: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:20
Tues + Thurs: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20

Alumni basketball weekend fundraiser for Varsity Girls BB Christmas Tournament

Calling all Highlands High School Alumni back to Highlands School November 20-21 for a weekend of basketball, as well as remembering with old friends and meeting new friends.

On Friday, November 20, Highlands School basketball teams will be hosting Rabun County with junior varsity girls starting at 4 p.m., junior varsity boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 7 p.m., and varsity boys at 8:30 p.m.

There will be hospitality room for all alumni sponsored by the HHS Boosters Club and the parents of current Highland basketball players.

“We are also asking businesses and all HHS fans, students and alumni to wear blue and gold on Friday, November 20,” said Highlands Varsity Girls Coach Brett Lamb. On Saturday, November 21, the HHS Lady Highlanders and HHS Boosters Club will be hosting a HHS Basketball Alumni Game in the gym. Beginning at 4 p.m., a BBQ dinner will be served and registration for all alumni will begin. Special guests, current players and alumni will be introduced beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Special guests will include former coaches and administrators Brooks Bennett, Greg Price, Donnie Calloway, Bill Lanford, Doyle Calloway, Donnie Edwards and Larry Brooks. Raffle tickets will be sold during both the Friday night game and the Saturday night Alumni game featuring a variety of prizes donated by members of the community.

At $1 a ticket or six for $5, supporters get a chance to win an original pottery piece by Pat Taylor (valued at $35), gas card from Exxon of Cashiers, $25 gift certificate from Sports Photo, or a $50 gift certificate from High County Hospital, or a manicure and pedicure session (valued at $50) from Mountain Tan.

Other prizes include a $25 gift certificate from Kilwin’s, $50 gift certificate from Annawear, $40 gift certificate from Pescado’s, $50 gift certificate from Nick’s, $25 gift certificate from SweeTreats, $25 gift certificate from Highlands Car Spa, $75 gift certificate from Log Cabin Restaurant and $50 gift certificate at Farmers Market or Citgo gas station.

Supporters can also purchase 5 $5 raffle tickets for a chance to win a blue sapphire and diamond bracelet (estimated value: $3,000). Raffle winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. during the Alumni game Saturday night. You do not have to be present to win. Money raised from the raffles and the alumni will help fund a trip for the Highlands School Varsity Girls to a Christmas Tournament December 17-19 at the Disney Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

“We would love to have as many alumni as possible comeback and participate,” said Lamb, who is coordinating the Alumni Weekend. “We’re excited about all our current student-athletes. The motto at our school is Highlander Pride… Get It! For more information, contact Coach Lamb at (828) 526-2147 or email brett.lamb@macon.k12.nc.us.

Highlands Varsity Girls BB Christmas Tournament

on Main and Fifth streets.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Fridays & Saturdays

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 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Through Sun., Nov. 8

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is accepting donations for the troops for its “Christmas for the Troops” campaign. Care packages will be put together containing microwaveable meals and soups, snap-topped cans of tuna, chicken or soup, ramen noodles, cereal bars, cookies, hot cocoa, tea and coffee, spices, salt and paper, hard candy, nuts, canned snacks like Pringles, pudding snacks, etc. Also travel-size board games, dominos, air-activated heat wraps, hand warmers, word puzzles, DVDs and CDs, icy hot patches and winter gloves. Please no chocolate, aerosol or perishable items. Please drop off donations at the church or mail a monetary donation to First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Care Packages, P.O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741.

Through Thurs., Nov. 19

• Pottery workshop “Open Studio for Ceramics,” by Patrick Taylor, will be held at The Bascom for intermedium to advanced students. Two sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.; and Fridays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost is $375/$350 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Fridays through Nov. 20

• H1N1 and Seasonal Flu shot clinics for children at the Macon County Health Center on Lakeside Rd.

See EVENTS page 14
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Drive in Franklin. For an appointment call 349-2081 during regular office hours and following the directions found on the flu information telephone prompt. Seasonal flu vaccine will be available for children 6 months through 18 years old. H1N1 flu vaccine will be available for children 6 months through 4 years old; caregivers (parents and siblings) of infants less than 6 months old; and pregnant women. The shots are free of charge for children, but insurance will be billed for the administration fee. For more information call 348-2081.

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
- Sign-ups are now being accepted for the upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season. The Highlands Civic Center through Wednesday, November 25. 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 August 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 during the week, 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 Friday, Dec. 18
- American Art Today. June's 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.

Thursday, Nov. 5
- Taize service at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.
- Rotary Bingo at Highlands Girls Scouts from 6:30-8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.
- Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church (69 Lotta Street) noon to 5:30 p.m. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred.

Friday, Nov. 6
- Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, (120 River View Street) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred.
- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 South from 7-9 p.m. Hoyle Grove from Asheville, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, Nov. 7
- Searching for Liberal Religion? The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, N.C. will present an introduction to liberal religion on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive in Franklin, N.C. For further information including directions contact www.frankinfellowship.org or call 706/782-7978. All are welcome.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a six to eight mile moderate hike on the Coweeta Lab Ridge Trail with a spectacular view from Albert Mtn. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5289, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- WNC 234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be celebrated at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino & Hotel. All Marines, Navy, families, and friends are invited to attend this Black Tie event celebrating 234 years of the United States Marine Corps. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m and Ceremony/Dinner/Guest Speaker to follow. Tickets are $30 per person and $50 per couple. Tickets are on sale until November 1, 2009. For tickets and information visit www.mcluseum-973.org or contact Commandant Gregory Hunt at (828) 342-5024. This event is sponsored by Smoky Mountain Detachment 973, Marine Corps League, Franklin, NC.

Monday, Nov. 9
- Art class “Figure Study Sessions with a Live Model,” by Laurence Holden, will be held at The Bascom from 5 to 7 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is $20 for Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
- The Macon County Board of Education will have a special meeting at 6 p.m. to pick the new Highlands District 1 representative to take the place of Frieda Bennett who resigned.

Tuesday, Nov 10
- HIAART’s Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. “Why Do We Rape, Kill And Sleep Around,” Newsweek, 6-29-09 Robert Wright’s “A Grand Bargain Over Evolution,” Coordinator: Peter Gorday, Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.
- Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the League of Women Voters meeting at Tarbut Hall in the Presbyterian Church in Franklin at 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 11
- The Public Input Committee, composed of members of the Macon County Planning Board and Planning Department staff, is inviting communities and civic groups to give citizens the opportunity to participate in developing a Comprehensive Plan for Macon County. The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a public input session with committee members. After a brief presentation on growth and demographic projections, participants will be able to tell committee members what issues are important to them and how they would like to see Macon County develop in the future. Areas that will be addressed in the comprehensive plan include land use, environment, housing, transportation, public services, education, recreation, economic development, health care, child care, and senior citizens’ needs. The meeting will be held at Tarbut Hall. Lunch will be served at noon by reservation. Call 524-5122. The program begins at 12:15.
- The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at the Blue Ridge School. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather. Visit our web site at www.wncwoodturners.com
- The Hudson Library will be hosting a new book club, “Bookies” during the winter months. The first meeting will be held at 5:45 p.m. The group will meet once a month on the second Thursday and discuss a different book each time. The books will be chosen by individual members of the group, in order of sign-up for the club. Mary Lou Worley, librarian and charter member, has chosen the first book, “One Thousand White Women” by Jim Fergus. The member who has chosen the month’s book will also moderate the discussion for that book. The Library has access to multiple copies of many books, so club participants won’t necessarily have to buy books. If you are interested in signing up please call the Hudson Library at 526-3031 as the number of participants is limited.

Friday, Nov. 13

‘Shopping Bag’ exhibition comes to The Bascom this month

Historical shopping bag samples from well known department stores and merchants will be on display this month as “The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design” opens at The Bascom.

The shopping bag exhibition opens with a free public reception on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5-7 p.m., featuring wine, hors d’oeuvres and mingling. It is the last Bascom opening reception of the year. The exhibition continues through Dec. 18, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The exhibition is on loan from the Newark Public Library, N.J., and curated by William Dane. “Shopping bags are an integral part of contemporary society and provide visual artifacts of our environment and popular culture,” said Kaye Gorecki, Bascom artistic director. These icons produced by department store chains are an integral part of Stephen Dinkham’s department store made retail history by introducing the first designer shopping bag. Artist Joseph King, who was commissioned to create a bag for promotional purposes, designed both famous and fledgling artists, architects, and designers created bags for various institutions and, almost overnight, they came into their own as design objects.”

Shopping bags have been featured in art museums all over the world and are a part of many public and private collections including the Smithsonian’s Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York and the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the shopping bag exhibition or other Bascom offerings, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

This Freda Kahlo bag from the Philadelphia Museum of Art is one of the historical samples featured in "The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design" at The Bascom Nov. 14-Dec. 18.
• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro, Domaine Serene, Flavor Spectrum Luncheon. Each will be poured a taste of four different Domaine Serene wines to complement four dishes. Noon. $65 plus tax and gratuity. 526-3807.

• At Ruka's Table in Wright Square. Sake Tasting and Sushi Roll Demonstration. 2 p.m. Call for pricing. 526-3636.

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro. Wine Dinner with Crocker and Starr. 7 p.m. Champagne & Appetizers, 7:30 p.m. Dinner. $150 plus tax and gratuity. Call 526-3807.

• At the Log Cabin, The 3rd Annual Grateful Palate Wine Dinner. This 5-course dinner features wine and food pairings that cannot be had anywhere else. 7:30 p.m. Call for pricing. 526-3807.

Sat., Nov. 14-Fri., Dec. 18
• 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.

Saturday, Nov. 14
• At Cyprus Restaurant, Fire Breathing Wok Cooking Salon & Demonstration. Noon. $69 plus tax and gratuity. Call 526-4429.

• At The Dry Sink, Discover the Latest in Kitchenware. Product demonstrations and giveaways. Samples of our delicious specialty foods and snacks. 1-5 p.m. Call 526-4429.

• At the Highlands Smokehouse. (Call Ruka’s Table for Info) Craft Beer & BBQ Tasting. Beer from Bell’s, Stone Dogfish Head and Founders along with Tapas and music. Call 536-3636.

• At Wolfgang’s Restaurant & Wine Bistro, Silver Oak Cellars Wine Dinner with Tom Johnson. 7 p.m. Champagne & Appetizers, 7:30 p.m. Dinner. $160, plus tax and gratuity. Call 526-3807.

• At Ruka’s Table, in Wright Square. Vine Connections Wine Dinner, 5-course Argentinian dinner with Tapas and music. Call 536-3636.

• Community Bible Church is hosting on the Focus on Family’s Focus on Parenting Simulcast featuring Kevin Leman, Larry Fowler, Elisa Morgan, Mark Holmen, & Matthew West. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $10 per person. Order tickets at www.cbchighlands.com or call 526-4685.

Sunday, Nov. 15
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a three-mile moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail from Wallace Gap to Winding Star Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King). 2:00 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip plus a shuttle for one car at end of hike. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Corell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Nov. 17
• HARP’S Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. Carl Sagan’s The Varieties of Scientific Experience. Coordinator: Don McCormick. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

• Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting at the Keller Williams Realty at 30 am.

• A drop-in reception to say “goodbye” to Hospital CEO Ken Shull at 3:30-5 p.m. in the Level 1 lobby of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

• Taize service at Our Lady of the Mountains Roman Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 20-21
• On Friday, Highlands High School Alumni weekend basketball. Hosting Rabun County with junior varsity girls at 4 p.m., junior varsity boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 7 p.m. and varsity boys at 8:30 p.m. Hospitality Room for alumni. On Saturday it’s a HHS Basketball Alumni Game at 4 p.m. ABBQ dinner will be served and raffle tickets will be sold for a new MacBook, $5 for six tickets for original pottery, gift certificates at Exx- on of Cashiers, Sports Page, High Country Photos, Kilwins, Annawear, Pescados, Sweettreats, the Car Spa, Log Cabin Restaurant, the Farmer’s Market or Citgo and manicure and pedicure at Mountain Rayz. All proceeds will benefit the HHS Varsity girls Christmas Tournament trip to Disney Sports Complex in Orlando Florida. For more information, contact Coach Lamb at (828) 526-2147 or email jmb-newto@macon.k12.nc.us

Saturday, Nov. 21
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a hike to two waterfalls: a 2-mile moderate hike to Kings Creek Falls and an easy 1-mile hike to Spoon Auger Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 473-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Nov. 24
• HARP’S Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. “Obama’s Faith Based Program,” Coordinator: Creghton Feden. To be circulated by email. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 27-28
• At PAC on Chestnut Street. “A Christmas Carol Revisited” Friday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15. After the play the cast will lead the audience in a medley of Christmas Carols. On Saturday free Mask-Making workshop for kids from 2-4 p.m. Both events will be presented by “Once Upon a Blue Ridge” Theater Company from Meadows of Dan, Virginia. To purchase tickets, call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

Saturday, Nov. 28
• Highlands annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Methodist Church.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 700 feet in Panthertown Valley to Blackrock Mtn. Warden Falls, Granny Burrell’s Falls, and Salt Rock Gap. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8314, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting. At the Upper Cartoogehaya community center at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Skitty Creek and Cliffside loop trails. Meet at the Bi-Lo Center in Franklin at 2:00 p.m. or, if coming from Highlands, call leader for alternate meeting place. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Corell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome but no pets please.

Tues., Dec. 1-Fri., Dec. 18
• 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 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, Dec. 3
• 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 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
• 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. 11
• 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 prize-winning 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.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5-6
• November Food and Wine Pairings at The Farmhouse at Black Rock Mtn, Cold Hollow Mtn, and the Highlands Country Club. A visit to the Highlands Food and Wine Festival on Saturday, Dec. 5. Tickets can be purchased at the Farmhouse for $45 or $50. A special taste of four different Domaine Serene wines will be poured. Celebrate the holidays with a special 3-course meal and wine library tour. The Farmhouse at Black Rock Mtn will feature a special dessert course with a wine pairing. The Highlands Country Club will feature Domaine Serene wines with each of its four courses. All proceeds to benefit the HS Varsity girls Christmas Tournament trip to Disney Sports Complex in Orlando Florida. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5
• Highlands annual Christmas Parade on Main Street at 11 a.m.

• Art class “Holiday Cards,” by Fayne Ansley, will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 12-2 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.
Local artists among winners of The Bascom's annual juried art competition

‘American Art Today’ continues through Dec. 18

Several local artists were among the 11 winners of The Bascom’s annual juried art exhibition, “American Art Today.”

Five thousand dollars in cash prizes were awarded Saturday, Oct. 24, when the exhibition opened at The Bascom. The exhibition continues through Dec. 18, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Distinguished curator and author Dr. Annette Blaugrund, former director of the National Academy of Design Museum and Fine Art School in New York, was the juror of the exhibition, which featured more than 40 pieces from artists all over the nation. Blaugrund came to Highlands to select the winners and give a gallery talk Oct. 24 on the exhibition.

“The Bascom’s juried exhibition reveals the diversity of subjects and media in which artists in the U.S. are now working,” Blaugrund said that evening. “Feed your eyes, open your mind, and I hope you enjoy the show.”

The Bascom’s juried exhibition is an annual event. This year’s top honor, Best in Show, went to Dana Brown for “Passages,” a watercolor. First place went to Tracy Deniszczuk for “Spirit Cradle,” acrylic on canvas. Second place went to Denise Stewart-Sanabria for “Donut Distress,” oil on canvas. Third place went to Sean Meyers for “Dhuhr Salah,” photography on canvas. Fourth place went to Highlands’ Sallie Taylor for “Seven Eggs and Shadows,” oil on canvas.

Honorable mentions went to James Cornel for “Teapot,” high fire stoneware; Kellie Hamilton for “Nuts and Bolts,” digital photography; Jo Ridge Kelley for “Emblaz3d,” oil on canvas; Highlands’ Leila Martin for “Masai Warriors,” oil on canvas; and Lee Sipe for “Vessel no.199,” copper wire. An juror’s Honorable Mention went to Jerome Grimm for “Grounded,” acrylic on canvas.

Applications for The Bascom’s annual juried art competition opened at The Bascom. The competition is open to artists in the U.S. are now working. First place went to Highlands’ Sallie Taylor for “Seven Eggs and Shadows,” oil on canvas, which won fourth place in the annual juried competition.

The First meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5:45 p.m. The group will meet once a month on the second Thursday and discuss a different book each time. The books will be chosen by individual members of the group, in order of sign-up for the club. Mary Lou Worley, librarian and charter member, has chosen the first book, “One Thousand White Women” by Jim Fergus. The member who has chosen the month’s book will also moderate the discussion for that book.

The library has access to multiple copies of many books, so club participants won’t necessarily have to buy books. If you are interested in signing up please call the Hudson Library at 526-9047 as the number of participants is limited.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

• Art class “Create a Holiday Centerpiece,” by Margie Shambaugh, will be taught at The Bascom from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Students will create a 12-inch boxwood tree that will enhance one’s holiday dining room table. Cost is $25 for the general public and $20 for Bascom members (materials included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

Thursday, Dec. 10

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

Saturday, Dec. 12

• 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. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Book Club to begin at the Hudson Library

Have you ever wanted to join a book club? Now’s your chance! The Hudson Library will be hosting a new book club, “Bookies” during the winter months. The first meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5:45 p.m. The group will meet once a month on the second Thursday and discuss a different book each time. The books will be chosen by individual members of the group, in order of sign-up for the club. Mary Lou Worley, librarian and charter member, has chosen the first book, “One Thousand White Women” by Jim Fergus. The member who has chosen the month’s book will also moderate the discussion for that book.

The library has access to multiple copies of many books, so club participants won’t necessarily have to buy books. If you are interested in signing up please call the Hudson Library at 526-9047 as the number of participants is limited.

AngelFood

The November menu is available and orders may be placed and paid for at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main & 5th Streets through Monday, November 9th. Cash or EBT cards only. Distribution day is Saturday, November 14th from 9-10 a.m. at the church. NOTE: Steaks in a box of AngelFood are now thicker than ever before. Though there may be fewer steaks in a box, it’s the same amount of meat but the quality is higher and the dishes are tenderer.

NEW! Online ordering is now available by going to www.angelfoodministries.com. Click on “Order Online” “Find a local site”, type in your zip code (or 28741), and select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. You may pay by credit card via this website.

ANGELFOOD Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization. This food relief program is open to everyone. Call 526-9191 or 526-9898 for more information.
... ZONING continued from page 1

By state statute, the board had to decide on the case based on the “finding of facts” and could only go by the current zoning map and ordinances by which Cooley made his decision.

“Wesdon’thave to decide if the map now in place is legal or arrived at in a legal fashion. That is a civil matter between the town and Shearl,” said Eric Pierson. “This is about the map now in place. We’re here to decide if Joe’s decision to find Shearl in violation was warranted based on current information.”

Member Tony Potts said the case isn’t about the contract to purchase or that Shearl thought the entire parcel was zoned B3. He said it’s up to the buyer to verify what he’s buying.

Rethorst said the evidence before the board was consistent with what Cooley based his zoning ordinance to show he was in violation and that storage buildings, garages and outbuildings can’t be erected in the right-of-way.

Cooley also said Shearl’s property not only changed uses over the years but that it was not used commercially for an extended period of time – more than 12 months – so any grandfathering Shearl might be able to claim concerning the entire parcel, split-zoned or otherwise, didn’t apply.

Shearl contends the property has been used commercially since its inception, though a letter by Roger Wilson and admitted as hearsay evidence says it wasn’t used commercially.

But Larry Rogers testified that as long as he can remember the property has always been used commercially, first as a cabinet shop.

Zoning Board Chairman Bill Rethorst said even if that was so, the uses changed from cabinet shop to landscaping which would have negated any grandfathering attached to the parcel.

Attorney Melvin said he believed the two business uses could be considered the same.

Since Shearl and Melvin cited old zoning maps and minutes from past Town Board meetings in their testimony Cooley supplied a timeline of zoning history along the N.C. 28 corridor in the vicinity of Shearl’s parcel.

Beginning in 1983 through 1996, the town attempted to curb commercial uses along the corridor by split-zoning properties 230 feet from the centerline of N.C. 28 and later changing that to 150 feet. Property within that footage was kept commercial – B2 and later B3 – and parcels with additional land after the demarcation was zoned residential – R-33 and later R-1.

As substantiated in Planning and Town Board minutes, in 1990 a new zoning code and map was adopted by the town. Even though the map can’t be found, Cooley said the current zoning map coincides with the 1990 zoning map discussed in the minutes.

Attorney Melvin said the county’s map of the plat doesn’t show any zoning but Cooley said the county’s maps aren’t zoning maps but are tax maps where lots are often combined for tax purposes and have no bearing whatsoever on the Town of Highlands zoning map.

“A lot line is not a zoning line,” he said. “Lots are often split-zoned in municipalities and it’s perfectly legal.”

Highlands Antiques
...located in an historic summer home

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

Going Out of Business SALE
at The Grinning Frog
Village Square • Sapphire Valley
50% off
Everything MUST go!
Toys, T-shirts, home accessories, furniture and much, much more!
3 miles east of Crossroads in Cashiers

Irresistible Savings!

TGI GS at Highlands’ Edge
“Everything for your Nest”®
...and more including furniture, accessories, art and gifts.

Hours: 10-5 Thursday-Monday; Sunday 10-4; Closed Tues. & Wed. • Cashiers Road about one mile from town. • 526-5551
Virginia French of Chestnut Hill proudly displays the Wildflower Quilt that was raffled off earlier this month by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary. This was the 15th year for the raffle. Proceeds from what has become a local tradition go to help purchase equipment for the hospital. Work on the 36 panels, each of which depicts an area wildflower, usually begins each winter when kits containing drawings, carefully selected colored thread, and fabric are distributed to approximately a dozen different embroiderers. When the panels are completed local quilter Hazel Miller assembles the panels into the finished product in time to be raffled off each October at the Fall Craft Fair.
Dr. Scott Baker joins hospital's medical staff

Area family physician J. Scott Baker, MD, has rejoined the medical staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The hospital’s medical staff and board of directors approved Dr. Baker for associate privileges at the end of September. In a related move, the hospital also announced that Baker will become a regular member of the hospital’s emergency room staff.

Dr. Baker reopened his medical practice in Highlands last year, initially sharing space with long-time family physician John Baumrucker until he retired from active office practice last July. Baker previously practiced in Highlands from 1996 through 1999, before relocating his practice to Rabun County, and later to Franklin.

“Scott had a very loyal following of patients from his former practice here, and we hope his return as a member of the medical staff will improve the access to the services they need,” said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull.

Dr. Baker earned his medical degree from the Texas A&M University College of Medicine in College Station, TX, and completed his residency in Family and Community Medicine at Wake Forest University’s (Bowman Gray) School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC.

He earned his undergraduate degree in premed from Baylor University in Waco, TX, where he was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society and the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society. During college, he worked as a paramedic.

He is certified by the American Board of Family Practice. Board certification is required for all members of the hospital’s medical staff.

Baker and his wife Rebecca have two children, Trenton Forrest (15), and Bailey Elizabeth (11). Becky Baker is a registered nurse at MedWest Health System (formerly Harris Regional Medical Center) in Sylva, NC. The family is active in the Highlands United Methodist Church.

His office is located in Suite 304 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. His office can be reached at (828) 526-1700.

Community invited to say ‘goodbye’ to Shull

Members of the community, hospital staff, and area physicians will have an opportunity to say goodbye to hospital CEO Ken Shull at a drop-in reception set for Thursday, Nov. 19 at 3:30 p.m.

The farewell event will be held in the Level 1 lobby of the Janie Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus and last until 5 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Shull, who has been president and chief executive officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for the past four years, announced his resignation last week. He is leaving to become president of St. Luke’s Hospital in Columbus, NC. St. Luke’s Hospital, which is similar in size to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, serves Polk County, including the towns of Columbus and Tryon. He will remain in his post here through Nov. 22.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to say goodbye to the community and to many of those that I have worked with on the hospital board over the past four years,” said Shull. “I will certainly miss working with the great group of people that comprise the staff here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and those members of the medical staff who have done so much to advance the progress the hospital has made during my time here.”

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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
Dear Editor,

Georgia ForestWatch is gratified that the U.S. Forest Service wisely has granted Georgia ForestWatch’s request to stay implementation of any boating on the headwaters of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River pending resolution of the five administrative appeals filed in that matter.

We urge all interested hikers, picnickers, bird watchers, photographers, anglers, hunters, and lovers of this wild, backcountry area to urge the Forest Service to now closely review the ForestWatch appeal and consider granting its proposal to continue current “zoning” on the Upper Chattooga.

Everyone should understand that this administrative battle over these 21 miles of wild, backcountry river is far from over.

Of the five parties appealing the Forest Service decision to try to open the area to boating, only Georgia ForestWatch steadfastly has stuck to the position that the agency should continue its 30-plus-year prohibition on boating in this pristine area of national forestlands.

Three of the appellant groups are willing to accept some boating in this area. The fourth, the American Whitewater lobby group, which engendered the 4.5 years of study of this issue, still wants it all – boating anytime on the 21 miles of the Upper Chattooga.

For more on the various appeals and the stay, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/Chattooga.php

Joe Gatins
Satolah, GA
HELP WANTED

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time. 90% out patient care with planned ground mobility potential. 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. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Contact Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA I needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Acute Department. Full-time and PRN positions available, shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA II needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Acute Department. Full-time and PRN positions available. Med Surg experience preferred. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. 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.

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

CNA or CNA II at 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, 828-526-1301 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 HOUSECLEANING WORK – Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

ABOUT PETS

LOVING PART SIAMESE CAT – Needs a good home, loves People, loves Attention, very sweet. Only two years old. Interested? Call (828) 526-1536.

BEAUTIFUL FEMALE MALAMUTE MIX, FREE TO A GOOD HOME WITH REFERENCES. 12 years old, bred to be the head of a sled dog team and in excellent health. Must sacrifice. Owner’s granddaughter has life threatening asthma. This is a very special animal and deserves a forever home. 828-396-0705. 4malastarpa@earthlink.net for pics and more info.

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)

RAIN OR SHINE – 4156 Horse Cove Road. 9-4 ONLY.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

TOTAL PRIVACY IN THE WOODS. 2 bed, 1 bath, 1.2 acres, gated entrance, located in Scaly Mountain, $149,500. Call Ann at Cabe Realty 828-526-2475. 11/5

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. (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. 11/5

FIVE BEDROOM, 4 1/2 BATH HOUSE FOR SALE/LEASE WITH OPTION. Owner financing possible. Handicap accessible, separate office below. Close to town. See at vrbo.com/20843 Call for details 808-443-7353 st 9/27


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

WALK TO TOWN FOR THIS 3/3 OLDER HOME – Furnished. Oil heat. Some utilities included for $1,225 per month. Call 526-5558. (1/12)

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)


APT. FOR RENT – Fully Furnished. Including W/D. Minutes from Hospital and downtown. $475/month plus utilities. 770-2423. (st. 10/22)

HOLLY FOREST II SAPPHIRE NC YEAR ROUND Mountain View easy access. Furnished 3 Bedroom/3 Bath with 2 Car Garage $1,850. month. 561-626-7467 11/5

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only.

Don’t let your vehicles 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

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Hwy 28 S. Highlands 526-9805

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


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.

YEAR-ROUND HOUSE NEAR GLEN FALLS, Reserve. $350/month for one bedroom, one and one-half baths, furnished or unfurnished. Wood and carpet floors, sunny deck with mountain and pond views, W/D, private. No smoking. $650 furnished, negotiable unfurnished. First, last, security required. 828-421-7922. (St. 5/7)

APARTMENT FOR RENT, 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove – newly furnished – In town. $1,250 per month. Very clean. Call 526-5587. (11/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT, 1BR/1ba in 5-bedroom DR, Sun room, W/D. Walk to town. Available year round. Call 828-421-2144

FURNISHED 3BD 2BATH HOUSE IN MIRRORS, area available for 6-12 month lease $1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE – In town. $1,250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

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. Available 9/18/09. 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. 1/15)

NEED A SMALL SPACE FOR YOUR BUSINESS? Two spaces, $375 and $475 or combine. Electric included. Near Bascom Gallery. Call 526-5588. (11/12)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Previously 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 Bramer. 828-526-5673. (3/4/16)

VACATION RENTAL

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9765 or 770-639-2682.

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.

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

6 ETHAN ALLEN LADDERBACK CHAIRS – rush seats. $50 each. Call 526-3647.

GENERATOR – Winco, tri-fuel, 16HP, 9,000 watts. $600. 828-526-1570. 11/5.

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES – Will cut to order. Can deliver. Sale Starts Nov. 21 on Main Street next to the Methodist Church. 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 — Gorgeously 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

See CLASSIFIEDS page 24
Highlanders wrap up SMC Championship

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Men’s soccer team finished the regular season with wins over Swain and Andrews to win their 7th straight Smoky Mountain Conference Championship. The Highlanders are the #1 seed from the SMC and will face Wild Card Avery County in the 1st round of the state playoffs.

Last Monday, the Highlanders celebrated Senior Night versus Swain County, where they honored their senior midfielder Will Mathowdis. (See page 21 of the Oct. 29 issue of this newspaper.)

Being the lone senior on this team, Mathowdis has demonstrated leadership from the first day of summer workouts, and has continued to be a driving force for the Highlanders throughout the season.

“We call him the motor in the middle,” said coach Chris Green. “He’s always moving out there, and it isn’t very often that you can outwork him.”

Having coached Mathowdis since middle school, Green speaks highly of his center midfielder’s skill and tenacity on the field.

“He works hard, he loves soccer and most importantly he’s been a great leader for us in a year where he had to be a leader as the senior on this team,” he said.

It was only fitting then that Mathowdis scored the first goal of Senior Night on a PK against the Maroon Devils. The goal from Mathowdis put the Highlanders in charge and they went on to a 7-0 victory.

Last Wednesday, the Highlanders traveled to Andrews with a chance to win the SMC Championship outright against the Wildcats. The Highlanders struck early and often on the way to a dominating 11-2 victory. Kevin Dickey scored his first goal of the season in the rout, and the Highlanders played many of their younger players in an attempt to rest up for the state playoffs.

The Highlanders hosted Western Highlands Conference wildcard Avery County last night in the first round of the state playoffs, but results were not available at press time. If the Highlanders are victorious they will play again Saturday against a yet to be determined opponent.

Mom Holly Roberts gives lone soccer senior, son Will Mathowdis, a hug at Senior Night last week.
GAS RANGE – 1-3/4” thick x 42” H x 70-1/2” W. $160, OBO for photo call 828-526-3397.

FURNITURE – 1 cream tweed sofa (89” long) $50; 1 sofa/loveseat combo in cream stria-suede $500 set; 2 brown fabric w/color stripe custom swivel chairs $30 each; 2 small fabric swivel chairs $150 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/beveled mirror $50. Call 526-9027 or 342-6988.

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR – Used 4 times. Has slide-out and bunkhouse. $26,000. 526-9107. (st. 10/29)

2008 KEYSTONE OUTBACK FIFTH WHEEL CAMPER – 38” tall x 12” square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-5025.


ACCESSORIES.


LENOX SPICE JARS – Two Electric Water Coolers for sale. Approximately 38” tall x 12” square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-5025.

EXTRA CHAIRS. Metal frame, with cushions. Great condition $125 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/beveled mirror $50 each. Call 526-9027 or 342-6988.

Hi-Speed Allison – PU with 26k miles, towing package, line-X bedliner, step rails, camper mirrors. @ $22,000. Call Charlie @ (828)526-8645, or email chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (st. 10/29)

5200 BUIK CENTURY LIMITED – 70,000 miles, excellent mileage, great mechanical condition, good body, well maintained. Power seat, new CO. $3995. 526-4594, 10/29


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

CADDILLAC DEVILLE2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

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1993 DODGE DAKOTA LE, 4X4, towing package, new C-rated tires, 127,000 miles, bedliner, new CD/radio, $2995 OBO. 526-4594.

2003 AIRSTREAM 30′ CLASSIC; One Owner, Extra Clean @ $34,000, rear island queen, walk-thru bath w/flat step down shower, & dinette. Airstream’s top of the line, no pets, no smoking. (st. 10/29)

ONE OWNER 2007 CHEVY DURAMAX DURAMAX 2500 W/6 SPEED ALLISON – PU with 26k miles, towing package, line-X bedliner, step rails, camper mirrors. @ $22,000. Call Charlie @ (828)526-8645, or email chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (st. 10/29)

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It was a dreary, rainy night.....

... but that didn’t stop hundreds of people from suiting up in costumes, donning wear gear and umbrellas and hitting Main Street in Highlands, Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31. The sidewalks were lined with people, the center of Main was open for walking and the restaurants were filled to overflowing with folks seeking cover from the elements.

The folks at Harry Norman Realty submitted this photo. They gave out candy on Halloween night and the 101st trick-or-treater - Jessica Huff from Raleigh, NC — won a pinata full of candy.

Patrons and employees, like the Indian Chief and Raggedy Anne at Wolfgang’s, both enjoyed the festivities and the crowds.

Photos by Kim Lewicki
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 a conventional crossword puzzle, 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:
Horses’ stalls

1. Cover with gravy (5)
2. Winged animals (4)

Down
3. Capable (4)
4. Consume (3)
5. Group (3)
6. Pounds (abbr) (3)

Solution to Oct. 29 Hex-a-Ku

Solution to #DN2B Pseudocube in Oct. 29 issue

#CZ3A Pseudocube Level of Difficulty Hard

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

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

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