Over the course of several board meetings, commissioners have discussed the scope of the ABC Store renovation to accommodate the Highlands Police Department. Plans have been reworked several times to make the most out of the existing building and to keep the cost low, particularly since bids came in higher than the $600,000 budgeted by the town. The lowest bid was from JT Turner Construction at $719,000.

When asked to bring the cost down, Summit Architect and JT Turner returned to the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting with a “value engi-

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The good news is as a Small Town Main Street Community, a special $200,000 grant to spur business development is up for grabs. The better news is more than one business can be recipients of the funds.

The grant is distributed by the NC Department of Commerce and is contingent on several items—first, that a business owner or a group of businesses have an idea that will grow sustainable jobs in Highlands and second, that the town backs the idea as the lead agency in the grant process.

The $200,000 grant is extremely competitive across the state, with only one grant given to any one town, but the grant can be applied for more than one business.

The grant is up for grabs in the town’s existing building and is designed to accommodate the needs of the Highlands Police Department. The plans have been reworked several times to make the most out of the existing building and to keep the cost low.

Many businesses can be on ‘Main St.’ grant

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School funds sought for new activity bus & oven

Highlands School needs a new Activity Bus – the 1991 vehicle is on its last legs which has put Highlands’ athletes and their coaches in perilous situations.

The issue came to a head Monday night when the bus limped to and from Hayesville, NC, with questionable brakes an issue in the dark and rain.

Because of capital expenditure budget cuts over the past few years, and due to that line item being zeroed out by the county this year, the four-year rotation of old activity buses for new has been put on hold.

The state pays to replace the regular yellow school buses, but it’s the county’s responsibility to buy the white activity buses.

Because of Monday night’s problems on the road, Board of Education members are trying to get a replacement bus in the interim, while the county sees if it can find the $81,000 for a new bus which if ordered now could be delivered by February.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said Country Manager Jack Horton is looking at the county’s revenue

• See School page 8

“The better news is more than one business can be recipients of the funds.”

“We are all about birds!”

526-3910

the bird barn
at the Falls on Main

Nature's Website

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Bear Hunters

Dear Editor,

Last Saturday night, I was surprised to see a mother bear crossing Cheney Lane. I stopped my car to watch her run into the woods and was amazed to see three cubs come running after her. What a thrill for me! I love bear sightings!

A week later on Saturday morning, while walking my dog, I heard a pack of dogs madly barking down in the woods. I hoped they had not ‘treed’ this mother or one of her cubs and wondered what happens when the dogs do tree a mother bear? How do the hunters know whether she has cubs somewhere or is female or does it even matter?

I am not opposed to hunting if it helps with overpopulation of that particular species. However, I don’t call it hunting to have dogs tree bears so that hunters can then go shoot them. Really is there skill in that?

Is it a true and horrible fact that hunters shoot off the paws, as Glenda Bell recounted in her letter-to-the editor in the Nov. 18 edition of Highlands’ Newspaper? Why aren’t bear hunters required to kill on equal ground (with bow & arrow at least—a skill of some kind and way away from our neighborhoods?) and if there is ever any torture, they be held accountable for that?

I, too, want to know why this type of hunting is allowed in our state?

I was so glad to see Glenda’s letter and hope that there will be responses to her question. I, too, want to know.

Helen Moore
Highlands

Proposed 28th Amendment to the US Constitution

Dear Editor,

There will likely be 30 Republican governors after today. There will also likely be a majority of Republican state legislatures. So: The Time Has Indeed Come!

Governors of 35 states have already filed suit against the Federal Government for imposing unlawful burdens upon them. It only takes 38 of the 50 States to convene a Constitutional Convention.

This will take less than thirty seconds to read. If you agree, please pass it on. An idea whose time has come!

For too long we have been too complacent about the workings of Congress. Many citizens had no idea that members of Congress could retire with the same pay after only one term, that they specifically exempted themselves from many of the laws they have passed (such as being exempt from any fear of prosecution for sexual harassment) while ordinary citizens must live under those laws. The latest was to exempt themselves from the Healthcare Reform — in all of its forms. Somehow, that doesn’t seem logical. We do not have an elite that is above the law. It doesn’t matter if they are Democrat, Republican, Independent or whatever. The self-serving must stop.

A Constitutional Convention is a good way to do that. It is an idea whose time has come. And, with the advent of modern communication, the process can be moved along with incredible speed.

There is talk out there that the “government” doesn’t care what the people think. That is irrelevant. It is incumbent on the population to address elected officials to the wrongs afflicted against the populace — you and me. Think about this:

The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18-year-olds) took only three months and 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple! The people demanded it. That was in 1971 — before computers, before cell phones, etc.

Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took one year or less to become the law of the land — all because of public pressure.

This is one proposal that really should be passed around.

Proposed 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution: “Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and/or Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States.”

Jim Whitehurst
Highlands

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands’ Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m.

There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands’ Newspaper

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...on this day from the History Guy

Dec. 2, 1971

Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, Dubai, and Umm Al Quwain form the United Arab Emirates.

Here’s a day that commemorates the United Arab Emirates.

A very important place, even crucial, these states, once known as Trucial. If your business there you are likely to get a fair price. They’re pretty rich and pretty able.

compared to the neighbors, they are stable, very smart, and quite bold with oil, banking, and their gold, but lately even they’re confessing, they’re not immune from a recession.
Jerry BeulinTilson

Jerry BeulinTilson, age 55, of Highlands, NC, died Wednesday, November 24 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late John Beulin and Eva Arlecia Rogers Tilson. He was married to Laura Elaine Burrell Tilson for 37 years. He was a carpenter and builder; loved to work; was an avid sports fan and liked to hunt and fish. Jerry was a loving husband, father, friend and a devoted Christian. He was a member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church where he was a Deacon for 22 years and a Sunday School teacher.

In addition to his wife he is survived by two daughters, Jessica Tilson and Gabrielle Tilson both of the home; one son David Tilson of the home; one sister, June Manning and husband Bob of Tallahassee, FL; sister-in-law, Georgetta Dixon and brother-in-law, Joe Dixon of Pensacola, FL and one nephew Jeff Dixon and wife Melody of Tallahassee, FL.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 27 at Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Everette Wilson, Rev. Matt Shuler and Rev. Rusty Wolfe officiating. Burial was in the Clear Creek Community Cemetery. Pallbearers were Charlie Hicks, Dennis Ivester, Donnie Edwards, Doyle Calloway, Jeff Dixon and Michael Wilson. Honorary Pallbearers were members of Highlands and Satolah Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Rd., Asheville, NC 28803-2426. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Randy Preston Laws

Randy Preston Laws, age 67 of North Carolina, died from cancer on Sunday, November 21, 2010 in Clayton, GA. Randy first started drawing before he was 4 years old.

At age 22 he began his career in the arts as graphic designer for a well-known regional chain store in Tennessee. After serving in Vietnam he returned to become their advertising manager. By age 32 he left advertising to pursue the fine arts specializing in portraiture and depictions of nature. In 1972 he founded the Tennessee Artists Association in Knoxville, and was elected the first president.

After relocating to Highlands, NC, in 1983, he expanded his repertoire, working in new mediums and winning a juried art exhibition for his dry-brush watercolor. His careful and expert art restoration techniques were often in demand.

In 1987 he had a one man show at the First National Bank in Palm Beach and later that year his trompe l’oeil creations for a home in Highlands were featured in Veranda Magazine. Being of English and Cherokee heritage, Randy was elected president of the Southern Band of Cherokees earlier this year.

He was preceded in death by father, Earl James Laws, Sr.; and grandparents John and Maggie Fox Laws and Lafayette and Martha York Branum.

Randy is survived by mother Bertha Branum Laws of Knoxville; brothers, James Laws and wife Ethel of Chattanooga, Gary Laws and wife Carolyn of Strawberry Plains, Dale Laws and wife Sandra of Maryville; several nieces and nephews; fellow members of the Southern Band of Cherokees, and numerous friends.

Special thanks to his caregiver and friend Daniel Winner of Clayton, GA and Regency Hospice of Georgia. Randy will be profoundly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Blake Meadows wins MOOT competition

Patrick Henry College has won the undergraduate Moot Court Championship, four of the last six years.

Freshman Blake Meadows and his partner Kayla Griesemer were the only all Freshman Team to compete and managed to beat teams from Duke, Liberty and Wooster to win the Mid-Atlantic Moot Court Competition which was held at Regent Law School on November 12-13. By virtue of their first place finish, they will be able to compete as one of the top 64 teams from across the country to vie for the National Championship which will be held at Tulane Law School, January 14-15.

Blake is the son of Mark and Debbie Meadows.
We Floridiots shout, ‘Go back to Highlands!’

Opening the columns I wrote last summer, none was more polarizing and volatile than the one titled “Go back to Florida” where I demanded all Floridians get out of Highlands and leave us mountain folks alone. Wow, did I get hate mail. One person wanted me fired and burned at the stake, then my ashes flushed down President Obama’s urinal; probably a Democrat, ya think? Another reader suggested I be reincarnated as a Urinal cake. Yuck! They called me the worse kind of racist. Huh? I didn’t know Floridiots were a race.

When I write outrageous stuff like the Floridiot column, (Look it up on-line for July 15th) I try to make the piece so absurd that no one even with an IQ of over 50 would take me serious. Ha, boy, was I wrong.

Of course, my regular readers and most summer folks from Florida knew I was just trying to be a good satirist. I got kudos, further feeding my ego. Others said it was unfair because visitors that don’t know me took me seriously and got their shorts in a wad. They didn’t know I write fiction. The amazing part is that most everyone knows I’m just poking fun but if I hit that one particular nerve on a sensitive topic, they have to be unscrewed from the ceiling. I’m continuously fascinated by that phenomenon.

Are you sitting down? Some other folks said I’m very bad and mean spirited; also good for my ego….kinda. The amazing part is that most everyone knows I’m just making fun but if I hit that one particular nerve on a sensitive topic, they have to be unscrewed from the ceiling. I’m continuously fascinated by that phenomenon.

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Are you sitting down? Some other folks said I’m very bad and mean spirited. They called me the worse kind of racist. Huh? I didn’t know Floridiots were a race.
I've lost 35 pounds in the past several months. You'd think someone would notice. The fact is only four people have mentioned my transformation and one of them asked me if I'd been sick. It's hard to understand. Unlike as it seems, it's possible that folks haven't noticed. I get the idea that some people are jealous of my success. Somebody may actually think I have cancer, like the guy who asked if I'd been feeling OK. I can understand friends being reluctant to broach the subject, but about half the people I know, and a good many I've never met, would be overjoyed.

"Serves him right," they might think, "for all the un-American things he's said." Before! get a slew of mail under the heading: "Cancer is not a laughing matter," let me tell you that my family has suffered more than its share of cancer. My Mom had five different primary cancers, before the one that finally killed her, a tumor that was so aggressive the pathologist couldn't even identify the source. Lizzie's Mom died from a rapidly growing cancer, and my brother was eaten alive by an especially virulent form of multiple myeloma. So while having cancer isn't the least bit funny, not having it can be hilarious, and exhilarating. I still have friends being reluctant to broach the subject, but about half the people I know, and a good many I've never met, would be overjoyed.

Even people who aren't exactly fans probably want to know my secret. My dog, Marley, deserves part of the credit. Regular readers may recall the Marley got in a little trouble last March when he killed a goat. We tried to find him a new home. A wonderful man named Possum took him home, but tearfully returned him a few days later. He explained that Marley refused to eat, and missed us terribly. I couldn't bring myself to tell Possum that Marley had shown no hint of loyalty or affection and I suspected he just didn't like what was being served. Marley could no longer run free, but needed plenty of exercise. I started walking him. I guess Marley and I have walked six or seven thousand miles since March. What started as an annoying chore has become a highlight of my day. But before you fat people run out and buy goat eating dogs, realize that dog ownership is a big commitment, and there aren't many people as nice as Possum.

Speaking of commitment, weight loss is another big one. I decided I needed to lose weight on a SCUBA diving trip. It's not that I looked particularly obese. I had to do with buoyancy. Fat floats. The fatter the diver, the more lead weight is needed to keep him on the bottom. When I was 40, four pounds was plenty. In April I decided I needed 12. Twelve pounds of lead without a wet suit is definitely "fat boy" territory. Six pounds would have been OK, or even eight, but the extra lead was strong motivation. I did it without starvation or forced vomiting. The only time I was even mildly nauseated was when I saw a picture of myself from the trip.

The hard part will be to level off and keep it off. Two friends lost weight, but after a few months no one would have known it. Neither had any trouble finding it again. I wish I'd told them how terrific they looked. It might have helped them stay trim. I didn't for a minute think either of them had cancer.

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Get your events in Highlands’ Newspaper where they are seen EVERY WEEK! Email highlandseditor@aol.com
Nancy has no cause for celebration. "Shellacked" in the election, you name it; for job creation. Another feather in her cap. Additional staff, because they don't know of small businesses won't hire needed away if nothing is done. This is equally as heard the debate over whether of not to House to produce a tax bill that determines "money." Yes, Nancy, that's a record to be proud of. The procedural vote passed 215-210 from HumanEvents.com, posted on July 2nd of this year: "House Democrats 'Dream Faux (French for money) $1.1 Trillion Budget 'as passed.' Last night, as part of a procedural vote on the emergency war supplemental bill, House Democrats attached a document that 'deemed as passed' a non-existent $1.2 trillion budget. The execution of the 'deeming' document allows Democrats to start spending money for fiscal year 2011 without the pesky constraints of a budget." "The procedural vote passed 215-210 with no Republicans voting in favor and 38 Democrats crossing the aisle to vote against deeming the faux budget resolution passed. Never before — since the creation of the Congressional budget process — has the House failed to pass a budget, failed to propose a budget, then deemed the non-existent budget as passed as a means to avoid a direct, recorded vote on a budget, but still allow Congress to spend taxpayer money." Yes, Nancy, that's a record to be proud of. And then there is the failure of the House to produce a tax bill that determines your income tax rate for 2011. Surely you've heard the debate over whether of not to extend the Bush tax cuts, which will go away if nothing is done. This is equally as shameful as not passing a budget. Owners of small businesses won't hire needed additional staff, because they don't know what they will be paying in taxes. So much for job creation. Another feather in her cap. Malfeasance, nonfeasance, getting "shellacked" in the election, you name it; Nancy has no cause for celebration.
Words of wisdom from a licensed home inspector

Whether you are buying or selling a home, there are several salient things you should know. Mountain properties are rather unique, and one is well advised to become knowledgeable in what to look for when buying, or how to best prepare your home prior to listing.

I had the great pleasure of interviewing local home inspector, Patricia Nardy of Eagle Eye Home Inspection Services, Inc., based in Cashiers, and am happy to share an edited excerpt of our conversation.

Susie: What should sellers do to properly prepare their homes before they list them on the market?

Pat: The first thing I would recommend is for sellers to make sure their gutters are cleaned and that there are no loose or missing shingles, limbs, or other debris on the roof. You can do this safely by standing on the ground with a pair of binoculars and looking over the roof area carefully.

Next, I would make sure there is proper drainage all around the house foundation. That is, make sure the grade is going away from the house, and if not, dig out that area to get water to drain away from the foundation. You may check to see if you have a water drainage issue by looking in the crawl space with a bright flashlight to see if you see water stains, water puddling, and/or crickets on the foundation wall (crickets are a sign that there is moisture in that area).

Go ahead and clear debris from around crawl space vents, too. Inside, change your filters in the furnace and make sure they are working properly. Finally, secure access for the inspector for the attic and crawl spaces and make sure no debris is in their location.

Susie: Do you think that sellers should have their property inspected before they list their property or soon thereafter?

Pat: Yes, then the sellers can let the inspectors find all the issues that would come up in an inspection before they have a buyer. Inspectors will give sellers a written list of necessary repairs, and then the seller can go ahead and have those issues repaired. Sellers can give that list to prospective buyers and show them what they did to address those issues. Inspectors can also uncover any hidden safety issues that a seller should know about right away.

Susie: Since we have unique mountain homes in our area, what should our buyers be especially aware of when they are looking at investing in a home?

Pat: Buyers should look for high humidity, mold, and mildew inside the home which is common in our area as we are a rain forest and many homes are built next to springs, streams, and waterfalls. I recommend that home owners have a dehumidifier installed in the basement or crawl space to address any excess moisture in the home.

Also, many homes in our area were built years ago and were built as summer cottages and do not have proper insulation in the walls, ceiling, and crawl space. Many of these summer homes lack a sealed/enclosed crawl space. If you are planning on living in the house year round, you'll want to insulate your pipes and make sure the area under the house is sealed/enclosed.

Susie deVille Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her blog at www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com, or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.

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Once again our popular drawing for a Bakery Treat is going on!
Kids bring in a Holiday drawing by Dec. 18 to enter!
Remember we make beignets Friday & Saturday mornings until 10 a.m.
M:F 8-5:30; Sat: 8:30-5:30; Closed Sun.
493 Dillard Road (NC 106)
Highlands (828) 526-2762
Meanwhile Activity Bus #8109 has been taken to the garage yet again, to patch it up until an interim solution is found or hopefully a new bus is ordered.

Among other things, the speedometer on bus #8109 has been replaced three times and as of Monday night it still wasn’t working.

In other news, Highlands is the last connection on the WNC fiber loop linking all the schools in the district. Tim Burrell, IT director said the district is waiting for Duke Power to change out a few more poles on US 64 east. Once that’s done, Highlands School can be hooked up which means connectivity it’s never had before at no cost to the school.

Burrell said the district was aiming for Christmas break but it looks like it may be closer to the end of January, but at this point it depends on Duke Power.

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Hams & Turkeys
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Winter Hours:
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Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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Bobby Bishop bid BOE chair Jim Breedlove and Superintendent Dan Brigman good-bye at the Nov. BOE meeting in Nantahala.

BOE chair Jim Breedlove and Superintendent Dan Brigman bid Bobby Bishop good-bye at the Nov. BOE meeting in Nantahala.

Photos by Kim Lewicki
Upcoming and Ongoing Events

Ongoing
• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FT.
• Nantahala Tennis Club meets every day at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. $2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.
• Highlands' National Tennis Tournament. For information, call 828 349-0905, 828 369-8334, 526-3556 or 526-4959.
• New Year’s Eve at the Cullasaja Club. $20 per person; $35 per couple. Reservations call Rick Siegel at 828-526-5102.

Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. $20/month.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park. 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.

First Mondays
• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

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

Tuesdays
• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
• Closed AA Women’s meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• The Highlands Dialogue Tuesday discussions at the Civic Center from 10–11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston phngaston@oad.com or Karen Hawk khowakc@earthlink.net.

Wednesdays
• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Landis, bagpipes. A nursery will be set up so the parents can participate in the class and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925 or by email at missolvera@yahoo.com.
• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at First Presbyterian Church, 462 Main Street. Call 828-2128. Free/$10/hour. (12/31)

Thursdays
• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
• Highlands Dialogue Tuesday discussions at the Civic Center from 10–11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston phngaston@oad.com or Karen Hawk khowakc@earthlink.net.

First Presbyterian to hold Annual Carol Sing after parade

There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, after the Christmas Parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you won’t want to miss this! Shelly Hui will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Special guests will be the Highlands Male Chorus, led by Orville Wike. Everyone is invited! The church is located at the corner of Main and 5th Streets. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

Community Christian Chorale is Dec. 10 and 11

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present the annual Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow the Sunday performance. The group is directed this year by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins. The concert will consist of beautiful arrangements of many familiar favorites such as “In the Bleak Midwinter,” “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” “O Holy Night,” “I Wonder As I Wander,” “Mary Did You Know,” and “The Hallelujah Chorus.” Special guest musicians will be Margaret Moilister, harp; Johnathon McAllister, boy soprano; and David Landis, bagpipes. A nursery will be available. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

Community Christmas Day Dinner

Are you still wondering what to do on Christmas Day? Give yourself the gift of calm, ease, and time with your loved ones. Come celebrate Christmas at the 9th annual Christmas Dinner in the quiet elegance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. Treat yourself to a sumptuous buffet of holiday fare lovingly prepared by some of Highlands premiere chefs.

Chefs are Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); Martha Porter (Morning B&B); Jan Zehr (Banana Pudding Goddess); and Donna Woods (Famous Dressing Goddess). The cost is only $35 per person for adults; $25 per person for children under 12; and children under 5 eat free. All proceeds go to R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County; Garr’s kids program of Carpe Diem Farms; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands.

Let us prepare your meal, do your dishes, and give you the gift of time while you enjoy your loved ones; a fabulous meal; and the warm ambiance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. What makes this extra special is that you get to do it, you are contributing to 3 local non-profits benefiting local children and adults in the Highlands area.

Service is from 11 am – 4 pm. For reservations call Rick Segel at 828-526-5102.

Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at First Presbyterian Church, 462 Main Street. Call 828-2128. Free/$10/hour. (12/31)
An annual Christmas gift from HCP on Dec. 9

Sayla Roman (left) and Ronnie Spilton look over the funny “Naughty or Nice” Santa Claus quiz they will present along with Taj Roman for the Highlands Cassiers Players annual Holiday Readings program, Thursday evening, December 9, 7:30, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

Every year for the past 15 (except for one time when snow prevented), the Highlands Cassiers Players have presented a program of holiday readings and music that has become one of the area's traditions. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 9, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The readings will be presented by talented actor/reader and also by members of the community who might not be actors, but nevertheless have dramatic storytelling talents to bring the written words to life. The readings include humorous pieces, touching and inspiring stories, holiday jokes, and this year a Christmas playlet, all available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.

On going and Upcoming Events

**Cast your gingerbread house vote by Dec. 10**

Now that the Gingerbread House designers have created their imaginative gingerbread houses, the public is invited to cast their votes for their favorite creation, Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m on Saturday, Dec. 11. Exhibitions at The Bascom are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until December 18th. Beginning January 7th, 2011, The Bascom will be open on Fridays and Saturdays during the winter from 10 a.m-5 p.m.

**Llamas and more in the parade on Saturday**

Critters of all kinds take to Main Street during the annual parade. The fun starts at 11 a.m.

For more information on The Bascom visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

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

**On going and Upcoming Events**

**WEDNESDAYS**

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.
  - Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
  - The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.
**Wednesdays & Fridays**

- Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- Third Wednesday
  - Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.
- Third Thursday
  - A Toast to the Holidays, at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. It's free.

**THURSDAYS**

- The Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. The group will meet in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30 p.m. The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamey Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.
- Thurs., Dec. 2-Sun., Dec. 12
  - The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will host a showing of photographs by Jim Loring, who toured Haiti earlier this year, to record the stories of families and communities impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets in Highlands. The exhibit will be hosted by Jane Chalker and “Friends of Haiti,” a parish outreach committee.
  - Thursday, Dec. 2
    - Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.
    - A reception at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation following the opening of the photo exhibit by Jim Loring about the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake. Refreshments will be served. Exhibit is 6-7:30 p.m.
- Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3 & 4
  - At Paoletti's, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20 per person. Refund with wine purchase.
- Saturday, Dec. 4
  - Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street
  - Tis the Season “Alternative Gift Market” 11:45 until 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Right after the Christmas Parade. Make a gift to your favorite charity in someone’s name.
  - At the Visitor Center after the parade.
  - At Wolfgang’s, Winter Wonderland right after the parade. It’s free.
  - A “Carol Sing” at 2 p.m. – after the parade – at the First Presbyterian Church.
  - Holiday Gift and Bake Sale from noon-4 p.m. in the front room at the Rec Park to help Donna Tew pay medical bills due to surgery after a stroke.
- Sun., Dec. 5
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike thru fields and woods on Tessentee Farm trails, an area where the Land Trust is restoring the old farm house and plantings of river cane. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center on Hwy. 441 in Otto NC at 2 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish; sturdy shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Cornell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome but no pets please.
  - The High Mountain Squares will dance this Sunday, December 5th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 2-5 p.m. Jim Duncan from Otto will be the caller for our special “Toys for Tots Dance.” We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a gift for the children. Call 828-349-0605, 828-389-8344 for info.
- Wed., Dec. 8
  - At The Bascom, Create a Holiday Wreath, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuition: $20 members/$25 non-members (materials included). For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
- Thu., Dec. 9
  - HCP's Annual Holiday Reading at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. It's free.
  - A 10th anniversary celebration of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Food, drink, and music by Thea and the Green Man. Everyone is invited. (828) 526-0890 ext. 320 for more info.
- Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3 & 4
  - At Paoletti’s, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20 per person. Refund with wine purchase.
- Saturday, Dec. 4
  - Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street
  - Tis the Season “Alternative Gift Market” 11:45 until 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Right after the Christmas Parade. Make a gift to your favorite charity in someone’s name.
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- The League of Women Voters of NC will sponsor a program on the Natural Areas Inventory of Macon County. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) works to identify and protect the best...
On going and Upcoming Events

examples of the state’s natural areas. For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NC-NHP, has been working in Macon County, exploring the peaks and valleys looking for unique places and documenting them in order to promote their conservation. From the high summit of Standing Indian to the granite domes of Highlands and across the Cowee Mountains to the Little Tennessee River valley, Ed has turned up populations of rare plants, animals, and unique habitats such as bogs and old-growth forest. He will show pictures and tell us about these special areas, and how landowners, researchers, and the public benefit from knowing about them. The program will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 371-0527 or email lwvmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 10 & 11
- At Paolelli’s Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20. Refundable with wine purchase.
- At The Bascom, Wheel Throwing with Pat Taylor and other regional potters, 2-4 p.m. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
- Highlands Community Christian Chorale at First Presbyterian Church. 4 p.m. on Friday and 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Saturday, Dec. 11
  - Breakfast with Santa, 8:30-10 a.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.
  - Highlands Community Christian Chorale at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3.7-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail from Rock Gap to Winding Stair Gap with an elevation change of 700 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 35 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
  - Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.
  - At The Bascom, Fayne Ansley, Botanical Painting of Native Evergreens, 1-1:45 p.m. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
- At The Bascom, Ceramic Ornaments. This intergenerational class, for children and adults, will be taught in The Bascom’s Studio Barn. $25 Bascom members/$30 non-members (materials and firings included). For information, call 828.526.4949.
- Santa at the Visitor’s Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Toys For Tots Drive Concert “The 2nd Annual Musicians For A Cause” 6 a.m til at the The Promenade Of The Arts on Hwy 441 (behind the Dollar General) in Mountain City, GA. The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.
- At The Bascom, Botanical Watercolor Demonstration from 2-4 p.m. $20 for members. $25 for non-members. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.
- At the Highlands Civic Center, La Noche Navidena from 6-9 p.m. Call 526-0890 ext. 2900252 for more information.

Order your Dec. AngelFood now

The December AngelFood Menu is now available at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Three special Christmas Boxes are available for immediate order. Special #4 is the featured Christmas Box for $36 and the last day to order this box is Dec. 8. This box includes a Perdue Roasting Hen, Boneless Ham, Stuffing Mix, Frozen Cranberries, Mini Corn Coblettes, Green Beans, Diced Sweet Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy Mix and a Dessert. Special #5 is the popular Christmas Meat and Cheese Box for $18 and contains 1 beef summer sausage, 1 beef salami, 1 summer sausage and 3 Wisconsin Cheese Bars (1 cheddar, 1 swiss and 1 smoked). There is a limited supply of this box available by order early! Special #6 is the Assorted Christmas Fruit Special for $26 and includes 4 varieties of apples (16 total), 5 pears, 6 oranges, 4 tangerines, 4 tangelos, 6 sweet juice oranges, and 5 ruby-red grapefruit.

This month’s menu also offers the regular monthly items: Bit O’ Blessing Box ($21), Signature Box ($31), Bountiful Blessing Box ($41), Convenience Meals for $28 (10 ready-to-eat meals) Just 4 Me After School Box ($24), Allergen Free Food Box ($25), Ribeye Steak Special ($25) and the Fresh Fruit & Veggie Box ($23).

Stop by the Church of the Incarnation, 5th & Main, and place your order! The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 12. Distribution day is Saturday, Dec. 18 from 8-9 a.m. Reminder: Special #4 needs to be ordered by Dec. 8 and there is a limited supply of Special #5 so place your order soon! Distribution will be Saturday, December 18 from 8-9 a.m. For questions, call 526-2968, 526-9191 or 526-9889.

On Saturday, Dec. 18
- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.2-mile easy hike to Kings Creek and Spoon Auger Falls with a modest climb to view each fall. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079

Sunday, Dec. 12
- Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m.
- The final fundraiser for the Bolivian Mission for 2010 will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church following the service from noon to 2 p.m. Bolivian Mission 2010 fundraiser at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from Bolivia will be on sale including jewelry, clothing and artisan items as well as pens and Corkscrews, made by the boys at the foster home. Sherry Janes will have a large selection of affordable “gifty” items from the Mary Kay Cosmetics collection Christmas packaged-ready to place under the tree - as an option. 25% of all Mary Kay sales will go to the mission and help fund other projects.

Tuesday, Dec. 14
- Macon County Democratic Women will meet for brunch with H. Suegun (NC Board of Elections) at 11:30 a.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from the Mary Kay Cosmetics collection Christmas packaged-available at noon, by reservation. Call 371-0527 or email lwvmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Saturday, Dec. 18
- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.2-mile easy hike to Kings Creek and Spoon Auger Falls with a modest climb to view each fall. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079.

Photos with Santa after the parade on Saturday
**SPRITUALLY SPEAKING**

*Have you seen ‘Secretariat’?*

Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

We as a family went to see the Disney version of Secretariat’s life on the big screen over the Thanksgiving break. For those who are not aware, Secretariat is considered to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest racehorse of all time. He was named one of the top 100 “athletes” of the Time during a very controversial season in our nation’s history. He had a heart twice the size of other racehorses. He ran him hard prior to this long race rather than resting him up for such a demanding challenge. He had never raced such a distance. He was supposed to be tired. He was supposed to be overwhelmed with three huge races in such a short period of time.

Secretariat did something very uncharacteristic. He broke early and took the lead. Each quarter of this long race was faster than the previous quarter. Secretariat won the Belmont and thus the Triple Crown by 31 lengths. The crowd that day witnessed something they knew they were not supposed to see. They experienced something they knew they would never experience again. Spectators with winning tickets didn’t even cash them in, because it was more meaningful to keep them as a souvenir.

His jockey never used the whip. He only spoke to Secretariat. A whip would have been insulting to this horse. He had more motivation to run than anyone could provide beyond him. Secretariat had passion! He loved the crowds, the noise, the lights, and the winner’s circle. It was in him. An autopsy discovered something unique about this animal. He had a heart twice the size of other racehorses. He was a galloping perfect storm for victory.

Secretariat teaches us something about running this race we call life. Life is to be driven by passion. We each run our unique personal race toward one common finish line, namely death. How we run is up to each of us. Jesus summed up all 66 books of the Bible with a simple understandable statement: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart…”

Run your race without the whip of religiosity and legalism. Stay in a meaningful, passionate, life-changing relationship with Christ. Start out slowly if you must, but finish...

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
SKY VALLEY, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastors residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4111
Worshiping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian - 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study - 6 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group.
10:00 am: Children's Program (Pre-K - 5th Grade), Merge for 6th Graders.
10:45 am: Worship Service. 5 pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.
Tues: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.
Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner, 6 pm: Children's Program

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
526-2968
Reverend Denson Franklin
Sunday: Breakfast: 9 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 PM. Education for Ministry
Wednesdays: 6:30 PM. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

**FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
526-4133
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESbyterian CHURCH**
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays - Choir - 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30

**HEALING SERVICE** on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Choir - 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: - 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worshop - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Regaining your vision; resuming your life

According to the National Eye Institute by age 80, more than half of all Americans either have a cataract or have had cataract surgery. A cataract is clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision. Most cataracts are related to aging so they are very common in older people. As we age, some of the protein may clump together and start to cloud a small area of the lens. This is a cataract. Over time, the cataract may grow larger and cloud more of the lens, making it harder to see. A cataract can occur in either or both eyes but cannot spread from one eye to the other.

The most common symptom of a cataract are cloudy or blurry vision, colors seem faded, glare, headlight lamps or sunlight may appear to bright, halos around lights, poor night vision, double vision or multiple images in one eye. (This symptom may clear as the cataract gets larger.) Frequent prescription changes in your eyeglasses or contact lenses. These symptoms also can be a sign of other eye problems. If you have any of these symptoms, check with your eye care professional. The symptoms of early cataract may be improved with new eyeglasses, brighter lighting, anti-glare sunglasses, or magnifying lenses. If these measures do not help, surgery is the only effective treatment. Surgery involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial lens. Many people who need cataract surgery also have other eye conditions, such as age related macular degeneration or glaucoma. Wearing sunglasses and a hat with a brim to block ultraviolet sunlight may help to delay cataracts. If you smoke, stop. Researchers also believe good nutrition can help reduce the risk of age-related cataract. They recommend eating green leafy vegetables, fruit, and other foods with antioxidants.

When to consider cataract surgery
Talk with your eye doctor about whether surgery is right for you. Most eye doctors suggest considering cataract surgery when your cataracts begin to affect your quality of life or interfere with your ability to perform normal daily activities, such as reading or driving at night.

You may need cataract removal in one or both eyes and there will be a period of adjustment. But if you are like most who have had cataract surgery, you will be surprised at what a great improvement there is in your vision.

The first day: Many patients have excellent vision on the first day after surgery. As your eyes and brain adapt, your vision should continue to get better over time. Returning to the activities that you engage in every day will help your eyes and brain adjust to life after cataract surgery. But you will likely find your vision so improved that you are motivated to resume activities or hobbies that you haven't been able to do for a long time. And you may even find that you'd like to take up a few new ones. Here are a few suggestions for activities that might help speed your healing and adjustment. Always remember, however, to follow the advice of your physician as you learn to adjust to your new vision. You will also notice that everything is brighter and colors are richer with your new lens.

If you are age 60 or older, you should have a comprehensive dilated eye exam once every year. In addition to cataracts, your eye care professional can check for signs of age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other vision disorders. Early treatment for many eye diseases may save your sight. Dr. Blue is available to see you for any of your eye issues.

The National Eye Institute (NEI) is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is the Federal government's lead agency for vision research that leads to sight-saving treatments and plays a key role in reducing visual impairment and blindness.

Hard to tell in a black & white ad, huh?

Actually, “Blue” refers to how clear my world is after having LASIK vision correction at the Blue Laser Group. If you have ever imagined a life without glasses or contacts, call their Highlands office and ask how you can earn a $1000 credit toward the procedure!

Go on and make those bad eyes Blue.
HELP WANTED

PART TIME MANAGER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT RETAIL APPAREL AND GIFT STORE. Flexible hours and benefits. Please reply to PO Box 2366, Highlands NC 28741 or e-mail mountainstar1@verizon.net. (st. 8/5)

WANTED

LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK. Have tools. Please call Alfredo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

LOOKING FOR HOUSECLEANING WORK. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE


HELP WANTED

CLASSIFIEDS

$5,000 REWARD
For information leading to the arrest of the person(s) involved in the theft of items taken from the Home of Lois Hawkins on Clear Creek Road. Any information will be kept confidential. Call 828-526-5899 or 828-421-1403, Bill or Sabrina. Calls may also be made to CrimeStoppers at 828-349-2600.

CLASSIFIED AD

CLASSIC 40’S CABIN in Webbmont area w/ 1+ ac. 225 sq. w/ 4 curly maple wood furniture. #22500. Call 828-526-0974.

1 BED/1 BATH APARTMENT, unfurnished, next to H-C Hospital. 828-200-1064. (st. 11/11)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT


CHARMING CABIN FOR RENT – $750/mth, 2 bed/2 bath. Wonderful yard, wpt. corner. 61 Chapman Rd, Scaly Mountain. Call 828-715-7757. (12/2)

ONE BR CABIN CLOSE TO TOWN ON SMALL HORSE FARM. Private, well insulated, pretty view, W/D and gas heat/fireplace. Can provide some optional rent relief with occasional property maintenance. $600/mo. 421-7922. (st. 11/18)

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE – 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. Close to town, private, quiet, Deck, WD, DW, wood stove. No smoking. $795/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 11/4)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BR/3BA HOME. Stunnning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non-smokers only; deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31)

COTTAGE ON TURTLE POND ROAD NEAR DILLARD ROAD. 2/2, unfurnished, $600 a month plus utilities. Call 526-5838 ext. 230. (st. 9/30)

1 BED/1 BATH APARTMENT. Furnished. Clean. No smokers, no pets. $450 per month plus utilities. Call 828-200-9360. (10/7)

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, central heat/air, dishwasher, wood floors at Oak Square Apartments on Main Street, Highlands. Washer/dryer access. Competitive rental price Available NOW. Call 828-421-1157. (st. 9/23)

FOR LEASE – LARGE, 2 STORY, 5 BEDROOM HOME with decks. Available for immediate occupancy Near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SECLUDED AND ONLY MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet, available seasonal through November. All utilities included AC and Heat. $1,200/month. Call 526-3608 (Slovened Rotten) or evening, 526-2694. (st. 4/29)

SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch, Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately, $650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail chestnutcottages@yahoo.com or contact Charlie @ (828)526-8845 (st. 4/22)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

A STEAL ON GORGEOUS 3 BED/3 BATH – Monthly rental (or weekly) – Beautifully furnished home on 1.5 acres in a private community just off Hwy 64, between Cullasaja Club & Lake Osseroga. Central heat/air, lg. stone fireplace, large open living design, 1000 ft. deck, garage, many extras. (561) 212-2148 or (561) 239-2424 woodlandsview@bellsouth.net or see our place on www.wrbo.com/9964. Contact for special low monthly rates. Tell us you heard about us from this ad. House is also for sale. (12/16)

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEAST OR SALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.


RENTAL FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. Originally occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremer at 706-782-6252. (st. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE


AFGHANISTAN-VINTAGE RIFLE – Very rare. Collector’s Dream. Saw one at gun show for $7,000-$10,000. Great for Christmas for REAL gun collector. Over 100 years old. Will sacrifice for $1,950 or OBO. 828-371-2129. (st. 9/9)

BALDWIN ORGAN $100, Gulbransen Spinet piano $250. 828 526 4818 (st. 8/26)

PIANO – MAKE OFFER! Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates. Plays beautifully $7,000 invested, worth way more. Must sell. Will sacrifice for $2,100. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129. (st. 10/22)

COLMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR. – $500. Call 526-5035. (st. 8/13)

VEHICLES FOR SALE


POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Highlands-Cashiers HOSPITAL
Fidelia Eckerd Living Center
US 64 Between Highlands & Cashiers, NC

Positions Now Available

Respiratory Therapist (PRN)
Scrub Tech (Full-time)

Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment.

Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376, or reply online at www.bchospital.org.
Police & Fire

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

Nov. 17
• At 2:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the vicinity of Wright Square and NC 106.

Nov. 19
• At 10:14 p.m., officers assisted EMS with a call at a residence on Crowe Drive.
• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 5 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Nov. 21:
Nov. 21
• At 10:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buttermilk Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 26
• At 9:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webmont Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 27
• At 3:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 29
• At 4:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. There were no injuries. The driver was helped out of the vehicle and taken to the hospital because of being a minor.

Nov. 30
• At 7:54 p.m., members of the dept. drove low lying areas on the plateau looking for flooding due to the rains.

Dec. 1
• At 8:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 east due to ice on the road. There were no injuries.

Tree of Lights

This December at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend with a gift of $10 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax deductible donation will go toward scholarships for students entering the health care field.

Given in memory or honor of (circle one):

__________________________

Given by: _____________________________
Address: _____________________________

Amount donated $: __________

Send acknowledgment to:

__________________________

Address: _____________________________
Date: ________________________________

Amount donated $: __________

Has been made by: ____________________
Address: _____________________________

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation:

__________________________

Make checks payable to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741

Any Questions, call 526-3700.

Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage
With covered loading zone

Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555
Cashiers Road

Salons & Spas

[Images Unlimited Salon]
Highlights, Color, Cuts & Perms ~ Yonka Facials ~ Microdermabrasion ~ Manicures & Pedicures ~ Acrylics & Gel Enhancements ~ Gift Certificates
828-526-9477

Walk-Ins Welcome!
Opening at 9 am, Tuesday - Saturday
Owner/Style: Lacy Jane Vilardo,
Stylist: Heather D. Escandon,
Stylist: Christa Hooper,
Massage Therapist: Betsy Phillips

Taylor Barnes Spa & Salon

All Seasons Salon
Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women
Razor Cuts • Color • Perms
Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang’s Oak & Fifth Streets
Barbara & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat

Salons & Spas

[Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.]

Taylor Barnes Spa & Salon

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Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation:

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Make checks payable to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741

Any Questions, call 526-3700.
First Baptist Highlands calls interim pastor

Dr. Charles H. Harris, retired pastor and NC Baptist Convention employee has accepted the call to serve as Interim Pastor at First Baptist Highlands. Dr. Harris served as a senior pastor for 23 years and was a director of Caraway Conference Center and Camp, Asheboro, NC for 18 years before retiring in 2006.

He has an earned doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY. He is certified to serve as an Intentional Interim Pastor by the NC Center of Congregational Health, Winston Salem. His last pastorate was First Baptist Church, Durham, NC, where he will be providing crisis ministry.

For more information, call the church at 526-4153.
... POLICE continued from page 1

The firms were asked to return to the Dec. 1 Town Board meeting with costs associated with a new floor plan which makes use of the space downstairs instead of expanding it – hoping to bring the cost closer to $800,000 – it came in at $810,662, ” said Jeff Weller with Summit Architecture.

After much discussion, the board voted unanimously to fund the project with $50,000 from the commissioners at-large on an annual basis.

This year, the selection of the Mayor Pro Tempore was done at the Wednesday, Dec. 1 meeting – the first regular meeting in December, and the commissioner selected serves until the next regular meeting after the November election.

Mayor David Wilkes asked each board member for a vote when tallied, Commissioner John Dotson was elected Mayor Pro Tempore with two votes. Commissioners Amy Patterson, Gary Drake and Dennis DeWolf each got one vote.

Though tabled for more than a year, the Town Board is now talking in earnest about implementing some of the Parking Study Improvement plan. They considered the recommendation of the Planning Board as well as staff on several aspects but agreed to have another worksession on the subject in mid-January.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix had priced out several items that could be paid for and completed by April 2011 once the board agreed on particulars.

He said sidewalk improvements in the vicinity of Highlands Hill Dell and the Stone Lantern were in the works, that the plans to construct II planters and plant II trees down the center of Main Street at the tips of opposing parking spaces have been on the shelf for three years and that materials were in storage. If the board wants to move ahead with that recommendation, it could be done rather quickly at the cost of $55,000; a sidewalk on the north side of Main Street from 3rd to 1st streets would also cost $55,000 but Commissioner Amy Patterson asked that if it’s done the town consider using something other than concrete to decrease the amount of impervious surface in town; converting Spring Street to one way east bound and to construct a curb and gutter sidewalk for $110,000, were also discussed.

Another project involved the installation of a traffic circle or some configuration at 4th and South streets to act as a gateway into town and to eliminate the confusing intersection.

At the start of Wednesday night’s meeting, Commissioners John Dotson and Dennis DeWolf asked that the board hold a special meeting to consider the 14 applicants for the Zoning/Planning Administrator. “We need to begin the weedout process,” said Dotson. A meeting was set for Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

Commissioner Dotson also requested that the board go through the Town Manager Performance Evaluation procedure which the board agreed to do at its meeting last week.

Commissioner Patterson agreed saying, “I think what we have is a good format and we don’t need this to slip through the cracks,” he said.

Commissioner Patterson agreed saying the process needed to be formulated sooner than later.

Commissioner Gary Drake also asked that the board have a worksession Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. to discuss the town’s drug-free policy workplace builder – a program submitted by Attorney Coward.

Interim Town Planner Mark Maxwell said the GA DOT will be doing work on a bridge deck and guardrail on NC 106 over the Little Tennessee River which will cause traffic traveling from Dillard, GA to Highlands to be detoured along Kelly Creek Road for about 2.1 miles for February and March of 2011.

— Kim Lewicki

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

ish strong. Break away from the worldly way of living and pace yourself by God’s unique will for you. Train hard when others are resting and rest when others are burning themselves out. Take someone else along for the ride. Enjoy the scrutiny and attention, but don’t let it become a hindrance. Allow someone else to speak into your life as you run. Ask God to form in you a heart twice the size of those around you.

Is death really the finish line? Is there not eternal life for those who call Jesus Christ their Lord. May God provide you all that you need to run the race he has called you to run.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3).
What is wrong with UNC?

The question has already been asked several times this year. First, after an early victory over Lipscomb where the Tar Heels struggled somewhat. Then came losses to Minnesota and Vanderbilt in which UNC fell out of the Top 25. A close home win over the College of Charleston helped ease some of the burden, but then Tuesday night the Heels dropped a game to Illinois in which they appeared to never threaten the Illini. Now, UNC fans are a restless lot, blaming everyone from Roy Williams to Larry Drew, but in watching UNC several times this year I can honestly say that there is no reason to panic for Tar Heel fans — as long as they keep their expectations in perspective.

Perspective can be a valuable tool for fans everywhere, but it is often the most difficult to obtain. The reality of the situation for North Carolina is that they were a 20-17 team last year and lost 5 contributors from that team. Ed Davis and Marcus Ginyard finished up their careers at UNC, the Wear twins transferred and leading scorer Will Graves was dismissed from the team. For a team to lose than much and then try and replace it with freshmen is a tall order.

Speaking of the freshmen, another explanation for UNC’s struggles is that with #1 recruit Harrison Barnes, Tar Heel fans thought that they were getting the next Derrick Rose or John Wall. However, if they had read the scouting reports on Barnes properly, they would have seen that Barnes is not that type of impact player. The words used to describe Barnes were “fundamentally sound,” “hard working,” and “does everything well.” Barnes is not a superior athlete, so it is going to take some time for him to adjust to the physicality of the college game. Thus far, he has been unable to get into the lane with ease and has settled for jump shots.

Of the freshmen that UNC has brought in, I would say that SG Reggie Bullock has looked like a possible big time contributor, but his knee has been bally and therefore his playing time has been somewhat limited by that nagging injury.

The third reason for UNC’s struggles has been some of the strategy from Roy Williams. Williams is a hall of fame coach and is above the usual pettiness that fans can bring up when a team is struggling. However, his inability to recruit a replacement to Tywon Lawson at the point has been the major reason that UNC has struggled. It’s hard to blame a coach for the recruiting decisions of 18 year old kids — that is not the issue here.

The issue is that Williams runs a system that is at its best when it has a dominant point guard running the show. With the current group of players that he has now, Roy may be best served to change things up a little bit until he can obtain another Lawson or Raymond Felton type player — whether he does or not remains to be seen.

Fear not UNC fans, the next stretch of games is going to be a difficult one, but once UNC gets into a down ACC they will be able to compete night in and night out. Ultimately, Barnes is the type of player that will improve as the year progresses, and if Bullock’s knee is healthy they will have enough scoring to be dangerous.

Both Highlander teams split games

The Lady Highlander and Highlander varsity basketball teams split a pair of games last week with local foes Hayesville and Franklin.

Last Tuesday night the Highlanders hosted county rival Franklin in front of a packed house at Highlands gym. The Lady Highlanders got the crowd involved early, beginning the game on a 7-0 run in what was a very competitive first quarter against the larger Panthers. However, as the game progressed Panther star Lindsey Simpson asserted herself and the deeper Panther team wore down the Lady Highlanders. The fourth quarter saw Simpson continuing to score despite the game being well in hand, and the Panthers were able to run up the final margin to 74-45. Emily Munger led the Lady Highlanders with 15 points and Taylor Buras added 11.

The nightcap featured the Highlanders versus the Panthers in what looked to be a physical mismatch. The Panthers front line measured 6’10 and 6’5 versus the smaller Highlanders front line. With both teams looking to score the pace was a very back and forth first half with the Highlanders headed into halftime clinging to a 18-17 lead. In the second half the game opened up a little bit, but both teams struggled to score the basketball. The turning point for the Highlanders came at the end of the third quarter when they were able to push out their lead to 5 points and were then able to hold onto that margin for the entire fourth quarter. The 44-38 victory for Highlanders was their first over Franklin in 5 years, with seniors Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz posting doubles of 16-11 and 15-15 in the win.

Monday night both teams traveled to Hayesville to face the Yellow Jackets in a SMC matchup. The Lady Highlanders were able to build an early lead, holding a 9-2 margin at the end of the first quarter. The game looked to be well in hand until the fourth quarter, where a series of Lady Highlander turnovers and some questionable officiating allowed the Lady Jackets to tie the game and force overtime. The game looked to be headed towards double OT, but with just 6 seconds left in OT senior Courtney Rogers buried a three pointer from the left corner to give the Lady Highlanders a thrilling 46-43 victory. Taylor Buras and Emily Munger both tallied doubles in the victory. Buras scored 13 and had 11 rebounds while Munger scored 13 and dished out 10 assists. Rogers scored 11, including the game winner.

The Highlanders faced Hayesville in what has always been a tough environment on the road. Monday night was no different, as the Highlanders turned the ball over 15 times in the first half against the relentless Hayesville pressure and trailed by 11 at the break. In the second half, the Highlanders were able to settle down somewhat and take advantage of their size in the post, but could get no closer than 7 points in what turned out to be a 59-47 defeat. Josh Delacruz scored 18 for the Highlanders and Robbie Vanderbilt added 13.

Friday night is homecoming for the Highlanders, who will host Rabun County JV girls start at 4pm.

Parks plays on

Highlands School Class of 2010 salutatorian Kate-Marie Parks completed her first varsity season with the Bryan College women’s soccer team. Parks is pictured playing defense in a victory over Bluefield College. The Lions went 8-8-1 and lost in the AAC (Appalachian Athletic Conference) Playoffs in the 1st round to Reinhardt College.
HighlandsInfo.com
Weekly Events, News
Real-Time Weather
Hi-Res WebCam
Golf, Hiking & Fishing

Country Club Properties
“Your local hometown Real Estate professionals.”
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com
Cashiers Road about 1 mile from town