Monday night, Commissioner Brian McClelan was elected to chair the Macon County Board of Commissioners, but the selection came following a divisive continuation on Thursday, Dec. 2, as well as a divisive start to the Dec. 6 meeting — which may come to signify a county commission drawn along party lines.

The back story.

Thursday’s meeting was held in the large courtroom at the courthouse to accommodate more than 100 people who came to either show support for former Planning Board member Al Slagle or newly appointed member Jimmy Goodman.

Planning Board chairman Lewis Penland requested the meeting asking asking two things: that Slagle be appointed to the board and that from now on the chairman of the board be reappointed to the board and that the selection be made on a non-partisan basis.

King & Queen for the night

Seniors Cord Strawn and Valerie Shelton were crowned at the annual Highlands School Homecoming Dance, Saturday, Dec. 4. See photos on page 8.

Expansion needs heard by Zoning Board

Like the saying goes “One door closes and another opens,” and so it is in Highlands.

On Wednesday night, the Zoning Board of Adjustment heard two Special Use Permit requests — one regarding expansion of the Sports Page and the other OEl’s The Farm.

Bobby and Kristy Lewis, owners of Sports Pages since 2000, have gleaned as much business as possible in the current configuration of the eatery on 314 Main Street.

Due to the limited seating and the way the kitchen and order area are set up, patrons literally line up and spill onto the sidewalk waiting to place their orders and to sit down.

By expanding into units in the building vacated by The Grinning Frog and the back room of the Christmas Cottage, the Lewises will accomplish two things — expand their seating capacity and occupy one area of the building that has been empty for more than two years and another that is currently underused.

No exterior construction is necessary nor will the signage change so the Appearance Commission approves.

The Hen House

Pottery, condiments & much more!

Free Samples

Open Mon-Sat

10 to 5

488 E. Main Street • Highlands • 787-2473

“We are all about birds!”

the bird barn

at the Falls on Main

Nature’s Website

HighlandsInfo.com

The December Main Street Program meeting that focused on what people think of when they think “Highlands,” as well as grants and stipulations and two surveys now in circulation.

Facilitator Sherri Adams tried to finalize what people consider Highlands’ strengths and weaknesses by asking specific questions. What does Highlands offer and how well does it do it? How do you use technology? Who are your people? How do the people in the community help? And, what are your values and philosophy?

Two surveys are also a component of the Main Street Program whose purpose is to help Highlands become more viable and sustainable as a year-round town for all citizens, even those who don’t own businesses on Main Street.

Because many of those citizens aren’t part of the downtown business community, they have been left out of the discussion, but they are important because they make up what is considered a real, sustainable town.
Barbaric hunting practices need to stop

Dear Editor,

It is time to bring an end to the barbaric practice of bear hound hunting in the woods of North Carolina. And, since I have no idea how to go about making this kind of change, I figured I would start with local newspapers. Now, before I begin, I want to go on record that I am against hunting — I don’t actually hunt, but I am certainly not against it. I am not saying people should not hunt — or that they should not hunt bear. I am not with PETA or any humane society. I eat meat, wear leather shoes, and everything — but, I am a human being and once I heard about the animal abuse involved in hunting bear this way, well, I had to do something.

Thursday, Nov. 11, was a beautiful day — the sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the temperatures were perfect. All my windows were open and it began, at 8:30 in the morning. Howling, baying, barking, and I knew what it was, as I had heard it before. It lasted, no exasperation, all day — until past two o’clock. That day I heard a total of four gunshot. In my quest to stop this, I discovered both the dogs and the hunters were on property that belonged to Highlands Land Trust on Satulah; their vehicles were parked on private property belonging to the Land Trust, but, they were not in their town limits. I was upset to have heard that, though the letter is anonymous, others were as well. However, this letter is not about getting to work on time, but about saving lives. Because it provides the only access to the hospital, this part of US 64 is a critical stretch of road. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Similar situation occurred numerous times last winter. Because it provides the only access to the hospital, this part of US 64 is a critical stretch of road. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Similar situation occurred numerous times last winter, despite a promise by DOT to county commissioners.

Kate Messer
Highlands, NC

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.
Rev. James Junior Jenkins

Rev. James Junior Jenkins, age 76, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, December 2, 2010. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Jim and Ethel Wilborn Jenkins. He was married to the late Constance (Connie) Elizabeth Baty Jenkins who died in 2007. He was a carpenter for over 60 years. He was called to preach in 1964. He was of the Baptist faith. He loved his family, music, and singing. He was a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by five children; three daughters, Ann Jenkins and Holly Higgs & Regan of Highlands, NC; and Angela Passmore & Tony of Sylva, NC; two sons, Robert Jenkins and fiancé Judy Fashing of Franklin, NC and Bobby Jenkins & Brenda of Highlands, NC; three sisters, Mary Baty of Highlands, NC, Effie Hunnicutt of Franklin, NC and Phyllis Pearson of Seneca, SC; four brothers, Donnie Jenkins and Billy Jenkins of Seneca, SC, Lewis Jenkins of Salem, SC and Tommy Lee Jenkins; sixteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Connie, his parents, and his brothers, Donnie Jenkins and Billy Jenkins.

Quin recognized for Greenway Trail work

At the American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, TN, on Nov. 16, Highlands’ Hillrie Quin was given the State Trail Worker Award.

Quin is “an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and provided consistent support for trail planning, development, or maintenance on the Highlands Plateau Greenway. The award recognizes the commitment and efforts of a private or public sector individual working for enhanced trail recreation in their local area/state.”

The Highlands Plateau Greenway is a non-profit organization that was created in 2005 by volunteers intent on connecting natural areas and historic sites in the town of Highlands, North Carolina, by walking and hiking trails to shopping, school, and civic destinations. Having first settled in Highlands, Quin assumed the leadership of this group by helping it focus on five goals of recreation, transportation, beautification, watershed improvement, and wildlife habitat enhancement. With the help of a National Park Services grant based upon their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, which he negotiated, the group created a conceptual map of proposed trails designed to incorporate botanical points of interest, historic sites, important birding areas, art, scenic overlooks, and other areas of natural beauty within the town.

In 2006, Quin convinced the Town Council to approve a budget allocation of $180,000 over the next three years to be used for construction and maintenance of the proposed trail, and he secured a generous grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. Work began with the local Audubon chapter, of which he was a member, to incorporate parts of the trail into the NC Birding Trail, a Greenway logo was created, a website was established, and a quarterly newsletter began publication.

In the spring of 2009, Quin spearheaded discussions with the Town Council about the inclusion of the Greenway in the Town Ordinance and in planning for new subdivisions. In the summer of 2009, he located and hired a professional stone mason, trail builder, and former Appalachian Trail Conference crew leader to guide volunteers in the construction of a new one-and-a-third-mile loop trail through Rhododendron Park, a large forested section of Big Bear Pen Mountain that was recently donated by him and his wife to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. In the end this would entail cutting three-to-four-foot-width through rhododendron and laurel thickets, pinning stone cribs, setting over 350 stone steps, and removing and replacing duff or organic layers for full bench construction on compacted mineral soil. About half the trail has been completed since the summer of 2009, and the rest has been planned and is well under way.

In the fall of 2009, a Greenway brochure and map were created, along with a booklet describing partially completed and proposed trails within the Greenway plan, and Quin was recognized for Greenway Trail work.

Milestone

Hillrie Quin on working on the trail.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 4 at the First Assembly of God Church in Highlands, NC with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial was in the Miller Cemetery. Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, William Passmore, Justin Passmore, Wayne Carver, Walter Wilson and Roy Baty served as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 4 from 12:00-2:00pm at the First Assembly of God Church in Highlands. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
The sky is falling!
Has America gone mad?

If you don’t think things are getting crazy then check this out.
Because of Sarah Palin’s increasing popularity, political pundits Chris Matthews and Keith Olbermann are attending therapy on a regular basis. Our congress has been overrun with Tea Party members carrying funky flags depicting chopped up snakes and those dastardly, wild spending Republicans are back in control.

Palin is refusing to be interviewed by the left wing media who are dying to slice her up. She’s even hinting at a run for president, making Democrats all over America crazy….and a truck dealership in Sanford, Florida, is offering a free AK 47 assault rifle with the purchase of any truck on his lot.

Has America gone mad or are the majority of us just plain ole fed up with it all?

While most Georgians figure they have cornered the market on kickin’ poop, Sanford, Florida, folks think they have out poop kicked them with their own brand of “good ole boy” behavior, like dropping what they’re doin’ and rushin’ over to a dealership to buy a truck just to get their hands on a free AK 47 semi-automatic assault rifle. Rumor has it, for an extra under the table installation fee, they’ll mount that bad boy right smack in the middle of the truck’s hood. Whoa!

First, a word of caution just in case you’re packin’ your duds and headin’ for Sanford. They don’t cotton to highfalutin’ city folks….like from Highlands, with their two story buildings and fancy country clubs. Ya better take the “I love Highlands” plate off your car if you go. Sanford is down and dirty. Also, know that cars with Obama bumper stickers get.Keyed.

Here are a few fun things to do while visiting Sanford. For the price of one depreciated American dollar, you can get a beer and a bloody nose at Steele Arm’s Sports Pub. If someone speaks to you, call them sir and doff your hat. And if you attend the “Hart Sisters Tea Room,” you’ll be required to wear your best jeans and t-shirt. Check your AK 47 at the door as they run a respectable joint….I mean tea house. Finally, if you take a slow ride down French Ave. you’ll know you’re not in Highlands anymore. Sanford is light on boutiques, fancy restaurants and quaint shops.

Here’s the scary part. The AK 47 the dealership is giving away was made by American workers not wearing union pins. Liberals should be very afraid of what’s going on in America.

The AK 47, invented by the Russians in 1952, was typical of everything the Russians made, a piece of junk. After the rifle became popular in the U.S., American manufacturers opened plants here and, of course, the quality and workmanship greatly improved. Today, the AK 47 is a fine, well made weapon that fits nicely under your bed.

And here’s another word of caution. If you buy a truck in Sanford just to get your free assault rifle, don’t mention you’d like to get it mounted on the hood ‘cause they only do that for the local boys. In fact, asking for that service may blow the deal and get you run out of town. You see, the owner doesn’t need your business ‘cause his sales are already up 46% since he started this program. He calls it his AK 47 stimulus package. He surely doesn’t need a city slicker from Highlands to improve his sales, so be careful with your conduct….and don’t forget to doff your hat.

Here’s a little tip that only a retired sounidred lawman like me would know. I call it my ten/ten/ten plan. Caution: This plan could get you in serious trouble. Take your AK 47 home to your workbench, take it apart and lock the breech/chamber assembly in a vise. Drag your sharpest file across a small lil’ gizmo called a retaining sear about 10 times and, pff, your rifle becomes fully automatic, spitting out 10 rounds of scaldin’ hot lead per second. Yeah, that’s 10 rounds per second. You’ll also get 10 years in a federal penitentiary for possession if you’re caught. Remember, 10 whacks, 10 rounds and 10 years. Are you writing this down?

Oh and here’s another tip. Don’t tell the dealership in Sanford about filing the ‘cause I know they’ll offer it for another extra fee. After all, the world has gone mad and the sky is falling.

Read Fred’s column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.
The winter season has arrived along with spitting snow and frigid temperatures. The trees are bare, ridgelines visible beneath skeletal trees. The Floridians have fled and are sunk in Florida. Town will shut down. There'll be parking aplenty on Main Street, and the businesses that do remain open through the winter season will shave their hours. It's a tough time for business owners. Highlanders resemble black bears. We'll hibernate, live off the fat of tourist season and remerge in the spring hungry and haggard. We'll welcome the return of the tourists, who area mixed blessing.

I don't go downtown very often, so Main Street congestion isn't a problem. When I do go to the hardware store, I don't mind parking on Spring Street. If Lizzie and I want to eat out, there's always room in Clayton if Highlanders' eateries are fully booked.

It's only on the roads that I notice the tourists. It is the rare tourist who drives our mountain roads like a native. Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon come to mind. The others cautiously break in anticipation of every corner. The creep up gentle hills and increase their speed only when approaching our rare passing zones. They drive like they own the road, or rather as if they were the only motorists using them. The main difference between them and us is that we have somewhere to go and a time to arrive.

We marvel that they don't seem to understand the fact that we are in a hurry. It's rare that a tourist, especially one with Florida plates, is courteous enough to pull aside and let us pass. We employ various strategies to encourage cooperation. Driving dangerously close to the rear bumper of the offending car is perhaps the most common, and least effective.

I think the tourists are actually afraid to get out of the way. They assume that if they pull over when they have the opportunity, we'll beat them with a jack handle; road rage, mountain style. Even if they don't fear personal attack, they're afraid if they do slow down, some redneck will rear end them. They are reduced to driving in fear of the car behind. They stare into the rearview mirror, mesmerized by the lurking danger, and unable to focus on the road ahead. The result is that they drive even more slowly, impede our progress further, and enrage us all the more. So tailgating is not an effective strategy. Some of us flash our lights or honk our horns, with the assumption that the slow moving motorist is aware of his surroundings and/or is wearing his hearing aid.

It's difficult, coping with the annual influx of summer residents and occasional tourists. They are gone for now. We have our little town to ourselves. We welcome the arrival of winter, if only to give us a reprieve from our often inconsiderate guests. In a few months, we'll begin to miss them, they bring, even if we don't miss them. It is the circle of life in a resort town; inundation with outsiders, followed by a period of peace before they descend on us again. We need them even though we're reluctant to admit it. We depend on them for our economic well being. We have nothing to say other than the beauty of our hills and a pleasant summer climate. If it weren't for the summer folks, we wouldn't suffer those annoying delays, but then, we wouldn't have any place to go.

Macon County’s ‘natural inventory’ the topic of ‘League’ talk on Thursday

On Thursday, Dec. 9, 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 examples of the state’s natural areas.

For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NCNHP, 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 only. Call 371-0527 or email lwvmacon@wild-dog-mountian.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.
The European Union was formed in 1993, then consisting of six countries, now expanded to 27. The member countries range from Malta to the United Kingdom, from Finland to Luxemburg. The reason for the amalgamation was to form a cohesive organization to compete economically primarily with North America, Asia and Japan. It also allowed freetrade among the member countries, and, in 1999, created a common currency, the euro, which eliminated exchange rate conversion between 16 countries participating in the eurozone.

There were many more contemplated advantages to unification.

While all this was unfolding in the 90s, I’m thinking how on earth can you possibly combine many countries with diverse cultures, economics, historical animosities, political formats, legal systems, etc.? The two linchpins of the whole deal are France and Germany, and they haven’t agreed on anything throughout. Good grief, half the marriages, consisting of two initially harmonious participants don’t last, and they have the advantage of sexto perpetuate the union.

The union seemed to work fairly well, as far as I was able to tell, and then the debt bubble burst. First, this past May, Greece was on the brink of insolvency due to its excessively liberal social structure. The EU agreed to throw 80 billion euros at the problem and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) contributed 30 billion in exchange for Greece agreeing to initiate an austerity program that would right their ship.

Faced with the threat with retirement age being raised from 60 to 62, and some pension and wage reduction in order to save them from extinction, the Greeks got off their chaise lounges and noted at the thought that the party might be ending. Next comes Ireland, whose banks suffered whopping losses as the result of the collapse of the property market in 2008 and a serious reduction in deposits. Caused by different reasons, the result for the two is the same—Bailout.

A package of about $120 billion, consisting of a combination of participation by the EU, the IMF and internal resources was announced as we speak. The irony of the Irish problem is that it resulted from too much economic growth. From Bloomberg: “Ireland was one of the poorest countries in Europe when it joined the EU in 1973. Even with European subsidies, unemployment in the mid-1980s averaged 16 percent.

In the 1990’s, lured by a 12.5 percent corporate tax, companies such as Pfizer and Microsoft helped Ireland export its way into becoming the “Celtic Tiger.” The jobless rate sank to 3.9 percent by 2001.

In the decade through 2006, Ireland grew at an average annual rate of about 7 percent, the fastest among euro-area countries. Easy credit ensued, home prices soared and then the implosion hit, causing the banking crisis now being addressed.

Who’s next in the succession of needy nations? From Reuters: “Portugal is likely to need a rescue package of 45-60 billion euros from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund and may not get through the year without seeking a bailout.” Investors believe Portugal will be the next euro zone country after Greece and Ireland to ask for help as borrowing costs have risen above sustainable levels while its economy lacks competitiveness and growth is very slow.”

Spain is said to be on the horizon and its needs would make the first three look like chump change. To its credit, they are taking stern measures to trim their budget and privatize services to avoid financial collapse. Facing privatization of the state controlled airport management company, air traffic controllers threw a wildcat strike crippling Spain’s tourist industry at a high-traffic period when two state holidays make the airlines unusually busy. Not very helpful to a struggling economy.

So what is the big deal about someone else’s problems? First, the IMF’s funds are 17% supplied by the U.S. With the parade of bailouts likely to continue, we will be asked to pony up. You and I will pay for it. Second, it appears that the financial problems Europe is experiencing is similar to those prevalent here. Cross out the EU and replace it with the US, substitute Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Italy for the UK, New York, New Jersey, California, and you will see the fore-runner of things to come to our shores.

The message is that unification does not work. You are seeing the sovereign assets of the strong, largely Germany and France, being depleted by tending to the weak, massively redistributing the wealth of the industrious, productive economies to the less successful. How do you think the average German feels seeing the fruits of his labor being sent to Athens or Dublin or Lisbon? You may well find out when USA Sugar soon starts sending your money to Springfield, Albany, Trenton and Sacramento.

The ultimate result of all this munificence is to lower the standard of living of some of the poorest that of others. Incentives are dulled, the productive are frustrated and apathy sets in. God had another idea.

Per Wikipedia: “According to the biblical account, a united humanity of the generations followed the Great Flood, speaking in a single language and migrating from the

---See SWANSON page 21---
In the end, it was the lima beans that made the memory. I’d gotten to my apartment in town, and was unpacking the food brought from home. With less space than the house, I have to bring the food over a little at a time. On this trip, the cooler was filled with crab cakes, shrimp, and frozen veggies. Unloading these items, I found the bag of lima beans.

My mother is a fabulous cook, so we grew up eating with gusto. Maman cooks vegetables the French way; she doesn’t cook them until they are a tasteless, colorless lump. I love just about any vegetable you can name. The short list is the few veggies the French way; she doesn’t do – okra, beets, and lima beans. It was a source of frustration. Finally, I bailed out, storming upstairs to crawl into bed, fully clothed, wearing my heavy winter bathrobe, a wool beanie, and gloves to keep me warm. I pulled two comforters on top of me, and cuddled up with the cats. I snuffed all night. The next morning, I made plans to move into town.

As fate would have it, the day I planned to bring the cats was the day we had over four inches of rain. I’d phoned ahead to ensure the vet would be open, since Sue’s car wasn’t all that happy on our road in bad weather. That morning, I phoned the vet and got an appointment for later on that afternoon. I telephoned Sue to bring her up to date on my plans. Unfortunately, she had a bug, and was out of commission. I activated Plan B, and Ann was on board for the great cat caper. When two o’clock rolled around, I took out the tranquilizers, crushed them in the bottom of the bowls, and mixed them with food.

Mean Mommy had not fed the cats that morning, just to make sure they would throw themselves on their chow like misery on the world. My cats are many things, but the term “dumb animals” doesn’t describe them. Orion and Weasel took a few bites, turned up their noses, and walked away. Perhaps I should have been comfortable. I had proof that my cats don’t do drugs.

Unfortunately, this meant that both fe...
Karen Hendricks, RN and Director of Educational Resources at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (right) demonstrates proper Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques to teacher Tyler Kittle (left) and teacher Marie Starkings during an educational course held at Summit Charter School in Cashiers, NC last Thursday. The course taught to teaching and administrative staff is part of an ongoing program of continuing education provided by HCH’s education department. Hendricks, an approved provider of continuing nursing education, states “By becoming an approved provider, our facility can provide community members the convenient opportunity to obtain life saving certifications, increasing safety throughout.” This CPR course is also open to members of the community as well as physicians and nursing professionals. In addition to the CPR training, HCH also offers courses in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, First Aid, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and a variety of other courses related to nursing clinical practice. For a schedule of courses contact the Education Department at HCH. Please call: (828) 526-1243 or 526-1247.

Hospital kicks off food drive

This season, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital staff members held their 1st Annual Food Drive, and the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents joined the effort by sorting and packing up the donated food for delivery.

“During the holidays, when it is tradition to gather around the table and enjoy seasonal meals, we sometimes forget how lucky we are and turn our head to those in need,” said President and CEO Craig James.

During the month of November, donation boxes were placed throughout lobby areas on the hospital’s campus. At the conclusion of the drive, FELC residents and staff helped sort the packaged food and deliver the products to the Food Pantry in Highlands and Fishes and Loaves in Cashiers.

“By spreading the word and encouraging participation, the drive brought in more than 300 canned and packaged food items,” said James. The food drive is a part of HCH’s mission and collective effort to reach out to the surrounding communities.

Thanksgiving at Eckerd Living Center

The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital hosted its annual Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, Nov. 17. About 200 residents, family members, and employees joined the celebration. “Since many of our residents are unable to travel to see family during the holidays, we bring the holidays to their home, here at our living center” says Ava Emory, Chief Nursing Officer.

Orange table cloths and fresh floral arrangements transformed the dining hall. The floral arrangements were a special gift provided by Judy Fields. Roasted turkey, cornbread dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, cranberry sauce and biscuits were all on the menu.

Pumpkin cheesecake topped off the traditional meal. Plans are underway for a Christmas Party on Dec. 21 which will include hors d’oeuvres, music, and a visit from Saint Nick.
The other day I was looking through my extensive library of sports books and I was looking to find something to read as quickly as possible. When this is the case, I go to the section of my library that features the “shortest books ever written.” Here are a few of my more popular titles. Let me know what you think.

Don’t look back in anger: How to control the rage inside you: by Robert M. Knight
Using your Inside Voice: How to vary your voice effectively: by Richard Vitale
The Man’s Guide to a fuller, more natural looking head of hair: by Eugene Keady
Football Ethics: by William Belichek (forward by Barry Switzer)
Relaxation… a Coach’s Guide: by Gary Williams
Eliminating predictability in the Spread Offense: by Steve Addazio (soon to be former UF offensive coordinator)
Soul Glow: Obtaining a natural looking Mediterranean tan: by Roy Williams
Retiring with grace -- a memoir: by Brett Favre
Photography and women-4 handy tips: by Brett Favre
Reading Secondary Coverage: by Brett Favre
Player-Coach Relationships: by Brett Favre (sold conveniently in a “Favre Four Pack”)
**** I have time for other than football: by Nick Saban

Highlanders split at Rosman

By Ryan Potts
The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders traveled to Rosman on Tuesday night to renew their annual rivalry with the Tigers in what has been a very competitive series of games in recent years. However, the Lady Highlanders ensured early that their game with the Lady Tigers would be over quickly.

Highlands began the game on a 18-4 run and dominated the first half with their pressure defense against the Lady Tigers. The Highland defense was stellar throughout the game, holding Rosman to just 24 points in a 57-24 victory. Emily Munger scored 14 for Highlands and Marlee McColl added 10. Taylor Buras secured 14 rebounds for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlanders looked poised to do much of the same against the Tigers, beginning the game on a 21-9 run in what looked like it might be a blowout early. However, the Tigers crept back and were able to take the lead on several occasions in what was a nip and tuck game in the second half.

Things looked bleak for Highlands when Rosman scored and took a 2-point lead with just 1.6 seconds to play, but Cody St. Germain was able to find Josh Delacruz with a long pass at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

In the extra session, the Highlanders were able to fight back and tie the game after being down 5 points, but they could not take the lead and a couple of costly turnovers allowed the Tigers to capitalize for a 61-58 win.

Josh Delacruz led Highlands with 21 points. Highlands will face Swain County here in Highlands on Friday evening.
Highlands School Homecoming Dance Saturday, Dec. 4 at PAC

“Welcome to Candyland!”

Photos by Jim Lewicki
Upcoming and Ongoing Events

Ongoing

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.
- Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. $2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3566.

Sundays

- Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullesaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth min-isters Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.
- The High Mountain Squares will be having a dance workshop get-together on Sundays. This will include main-stream and plus levels. The caller will be Jim Roper from Cornelia, GA. The dances will be held at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin, from 3 to 5 p.m. The cost is $3 per person. For information, call 828 349-0905, 828 369-8334, 706 782-0943.
- Mon & Thurs.
  - On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Upper Level Jones Hall. Mon., and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. $10/hour. (12/31)
- 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 join-ing the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

- Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Cen-ter 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.

Community Rotary Bingo

Highlands Rotary Bingo does save the best for last – Shop with a Cop Rotary Bingo. The Macon County Sheriff’s Depart-ment, Highlands Police Department, High-lands Rotary and Santa Claus join forces to sponsor Christmas for over 200 children who otherwise would not have much, if any Christmas.

Each child, selected by teachers or law enforcement officers, will be taken to Wal-mart by a LEO with $100 to spend – and, yes, the officers will make a number of trips. What about the brothers and sisters of that child? They also go with the officer and have $100 to spend. There’s only one rule they must buy a present for them-selves and one other person – then the officer must buy the child’s choice which goes to necessities.

Shop with a Cop Rotary Bingo is today, Thursday, Dec. 9th, from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building. The cost to play is $1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with the last one being a special money. Half of all Bingo money goes to Bingo players and the other half goes to Shop with a Cop.

Last minute? Oops? Can’t make it? Okay - drop off a donation at Shop with a Cop Bingo: give your donation to any Highlands Police Officer, Macon County Depu-ty, Highlands Rotarian or drop it off at the Civic Center – we’ll get your donation and 100% of the donations goes to Shop with a Cop.

Free refreshments are served by Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207. Boy Scouts, Ro-tary, the Sheriff’s Dept, Highlands PD and Santa – it doesn’t get much better than this. That small sound you may hear on Christmas day may be a child saying, “Thank you.”

The Rotary Club of Highlands is a li-censed operator of Bingo in North Carolina.

Community Christmas Chorale

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present this special 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 McAllister, harp; Johnathon McAllister, boy soprano; and David Lantis, bagpipes.

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located at Fifth Street and on Church Street.
On going and Upcoming Events

11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston john@gaston@earthlink.net.

Tues. & Thurs.
• Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925 or by email at missolvera@yahoo.com.
• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Baldwin at 5:15 p.m. Fast moving free weight kinetic chain movement for 30-40 minutes. $8 per class. Call 526-3556 or 526-4859 to reserve a spot.

Wednesday
• 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 home-school 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Women’s & Fridays
• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday
• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursday
• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

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

Saturdays
• At Paoletti’s Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.
• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

Wednesday through Dec. 15
• 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 6:15-7:30p.m. The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.

Through 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. 9
• Rotary Bingo at the Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Macon County Law Enforcement’s “Shop with a Cop” program. Cost is $1 per card.
• 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.
• 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 examples of the state’s natural areas. For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NCNHP, 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 Nantahala 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 Paoletti’s Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20. Refundable with wine purchase.

Friday, Dec. 10
• 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 am 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...
On going and Upcoming Events

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 Toy Drive Concert “The 2nd Annual Musicians For A Clause” 6 am til at 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 Navidenca from 6-9 p.m. Call 526-0890 ext. 290/252 for more information.

Sunday, Dec. 12
• Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m.
  • The final fundraiser for the Latin Mission for 2010 will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church following the service from noon to 2 p.m. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from Bolivia will be on sale. Sherry Janes has 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.

Tues., Dec. 14
• Macon County Democratic Women will meet on at 5:30 PM at the library on Siler Road in Franklin for installation of officers and a Christmas party. Please bring a covered dish of finger-foods and non-perishable items for Care-Net. Outgoing Commissioner Bob Simpson will be honored. Men are invited. Call Elizabeth Cabe at 524-6859.

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 17 & 18
• At Paoletti’s Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20. Refundable with wine purchase.

Friday, Dec. 17
• The Atlanta Boy Choir Annual Holiday Concert With All Choirs Participating at 7:30 P.M. at The Cathedral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA. Tickets are $15 each and may be ordered by calling 404.378.0064, Please make checks out to the Atlanta Boy Choir.

Saturday, Dec. 18
• Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m.

December brings holiday magic to The Bascom

What’s happening at The Bascom this holiday season?
You can stop by the studio barn for a brief visit or stay a while and watch Pat Taylor and other area potters spin clay into lovely forms on Friday, December 10th.
Join Fayne Ansley for a demonstration of the art botanical watercolor with native seasonal evergreens from 1-1:45 pm or follow up with her workshop and paint your own holiday botanical from 2-4 pm on Saturday, December 11th.

Bring the family and create personalized ceramic ornaments at the studio barn on Saturday, December 11th from 9:30 am-12:30 pm or on December 11th and 18th from 10 am-noon. Christmas Crafts from Around the World welcomes children to participate and learn about holiday customs and traditions in other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts.
Plus don’t miss two remarkable shows on display through December 18th:
A Stitch in Time: Quilts offers the opportunity to examine extraordinary quilts, true works of art, from local collectors. The exhibition is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson, Sreginde and Jack Gillifflin in memory of Jody Sitz and exhibition partner, The Highlands Historical Society.
With artists from sixteen states and Canada represented, The American Craft Today juried exhibition features forty-seven pieces of original craft works. The exhibition is sponsored by Frances Bunzl and Family, Julia and Bill Grumbles, Charlotte Pippin (pip-in), Cary Saurage and Penny and Ed Mawyer.

Workshop registration is going on now. The Bascom is open to the public Tuesday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526.4949.

This year’s top prize, “Best in Show,” in The Bascom’s juried exhibition went to Brian Boggs for his Greenwood Side Chair. Stop by and see The American Craft Today exhibition at The Bascom through December 18.

Exhibitions through December 18
A Stitch in Time: Quilts
American Craft Today

Workshops
• Botanical Watercolor from 2-4 pm, 1-2:30 pm or on
• American Craft Today juried exhibition features forty-seven pieces of original craft works.
• The exhibition is sponsored by Frances Bunzl and Family, Julia and Bill Grumbles, Charlotte Pippin (pip-in), Cary Saurage and Penny and Ed Mawyer.

Workshop registration is going on now. The Bascom is open to the public Tuesday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526.4949.

Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010 - Page 13
He said he wasn’t against Slagle, but admitted to pulling him wrong, “he said. “He needs to be on the Planning Board but he did in Goodman’s case. “So I voted for him to right a wrong,” he said.

Beale said this was not the way he wanted to end his career as a Macon County Commissioner but he voted for Goodman to ensure a widediversity on the Planning Board. “But the way I did it was wrong,” he said.

Commissioner Beale suggested beginning the process to amend the ordinance that governs the Planning Board to increase membership by two — from 11 to 13 at the regular Dec. 13 meeting — so Al Slagle could be put back on the Planning Board.

So, following the election of chairman, the ordinance was the subject of Monday’s commission meeting. However, the election didn’t go smoothly.

Kupper’s made a motion to elect Beale as chairman to maintain the continuity of leadership demonstrated by Beale the past four years.

The vote tied 2 to 2 with newly seated Commission Ron Haven and McClellan voting nay. (Republican Commissioner Davis was at a mandatory “New Senator” meeting in Raleigh.)

Haven then made a motion to elect McClellan chairman “because we are the majority,” he said, referring to their Republican party affiliation.

That motion tied 2 to 2 with Kuppers and Beale voting nay.

After a brief recess, the commission tried again. Kuppers paved the way saying he would change his motion only because without a chairman no county business could ensue — in fact, the meeting would have to adjourn.

“With great reluctance and trepidation, I will make a motion to elect Commissioner Brian McClellan chairman,” he said.

Beale said he, too, would support the motion because continuing the impasse would do nothing but hinder the business of the county.

The Planning Board ordinance was next on the agenda but the vote to instruct Attorney Chester Jones to begin the amendment process to allow for 13 members rather than 11 didn’t come easy.

Commissioner Haven thought the board was moving too fast and suggested more deliberation on the matter.

However, Kuppers and Jones explained that the process was still a lengthy one involving amended verbiage, acceptance of that verbiage, an advertised public hearing followed by possible aadoption — likely in January.

On Beale’s suggestion, Jones was also instructed to try to devise verbiage to handle situations that occurred three years ago — that is, to have some sort of mechanism in place so members of the Planning Board can request someone be removed if they are considered an obstruction to the Planning Board or even if their term isn’t over.

Jones said that could probably be done, but would likely take longer than simply amending the ordinance to accommodate more members. “We may have to do this in two parts, but that’s all right. We can amend the ordinance again,” he said.

— Kim Lewicki

... SURVEY continued from page 1

Questions on the Consumer Survey are:

How often do you shop in your community’s historic downtown commercial district; what is the primary reason you visit your community’s historic downtown commercial district; what other activities do you engage in while in your community’s historic downtown commercial district; in addition to or in lieu of your community’s historic downtown commercial district, where do you do most of your shopping; in addition to existing businesses, list three types of new businesses or activities you would be interested in if they were located in your community’s historic downtown commercial district; where do you live in relation to your community’s historic downtown commercial district; how do you find out about local businesses, shopping opportunities, special sales and promotions in your community’s historic downtown commercial district; how would you rate the following in regards to the shopping experience in your community’s historic downtown commercial district; how important are the following to improving your community’s historic downtown commercial district; maintaining historic character, cleanliness and maintenance, public improvements — streets, sidewalks, and landscaping, focusing on the needs of local customers, customer service, providing regular business hours, supporting local businesses, creating more jobs for locals, advertising, improving tourism, hosting more special events, parking.

Retailers have also been asked to fill out a survey whose results will be confidential. Questions revolve around how much money is grossed, how much square footage is occupied, do you rent or own, if you rent, how much do you pay, etc.

Some retailers are reluctant to divulge some information typically reserved for the tax man, but Adams says the information will help her team determine if rents are too high and if businesses owners are running their businesses properly, among other things.

The next Main Street Program meeting is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6 when survey results will be discussed.

— Kim Lewicki
...ZONING continued from page 1

mission isn't required to see the plans. All expansion will be done within the current building footprint and within required setbacks. Space at the existing building will be utilized as a new facility.

Spaces 310B (the rear of the Christmas Cottage) and 310C (formerly The Grinning Frog) will become part of the Sports Page.

The Lewis's will move the kitchen and order area to the rear of the reconfigured space with an additional 49 seats filling the rest of the building. Right now they have 54 seats; they look to have 103 seats.

Since the Sports Page is in the B1 Business District, there are no seating/parking ratio requirements.

Construction is set to begin this week in 310C with all renovations hopefully completed by the end of February so the Sports Page can reopen the week of March 7.

OEI wants to add a weather-tight pavilion over the existing open-air patio adjacent to the barn facility at The Farm off NC 106. Enclosing the space with a timber-like pavilion designed and constructed by Lupoli Construction and Real Estate will both secure events in inclement weather and help with noise control. Over the years the patio has proved that weather and noise continued to be an issue.

The Appearance Commission OK'd the plans as presented at its Monday night meeting.

Three other components of the project include a covered porte-cochere and the expansion of the existing covered walks, which will provide covered access to both the existing barn and proposed pavilion.

OEI also requested permission to build a storage cottage next to the pavilion for tables and chairs, as well as a changing area and private bathroom for event entertainment staff.

A new road with 10 additional parking spaces will also be constructed so event and entertainment staff can park and access the Event Pavilion separate from guests.

With the 10 additional parking spots there will be 90 spaces; 45 are required by code so they would be exceeding code requirements by 45 spaces.

“"The number of parking spaces required for a place of assembly is 200 per square foot of gross floor space for patron use," said Josh Ward with the Highlands planning department. "The 45 spaces referred to is the amount required for the existing and proposed gross square footage located at The Farm. The 90 spaces will be in excess of what is required."

OEI's The Farm is on 28.56 acres and as per watershed built-upon requirements, the impervious surface can't exceed 12%.

Existing impervious surface is 7.79%; proposed additions will add .65% for a total impervious area of 8.44% — well below the 12%.

- Kim Lewicki

Don't miss out on prospective buyers! Call 526-0782 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com for ad rates and information.

... QUIN continued from page 3

encouraged partnerships with the Highlands Biological Station, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Bascom Gallery of Fine Art, and the Town of Highlands; within an Adopt-a-Trail program that allowed adoption of sections of the trail for continual maintenance. Included in the Adopt-a-Trail Manual were lists of recommended Native Trees and Shrubs for preservation and planting as well as Invasive Plants to avoid, which were compiled from the Land Stewards, the Highlands Botanical Garden, and local garden clubs. Also included in the booklet was a checklist of year-round and summer birds in the area and over fifty historic sites that appeared on the National Register of Historic Places or were worthy of preservation.

Membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway in 2008 jumped from 22-44 individuals, and between November 1, 2008, and October 30, 2009, it rose to 73. Volunteer activity during the same 2008-2009 period involved 57 participants contributing 1,817 hours on 36 work trips.

At present Quin has his sights set on completing five miles of proposed trails and spur connections over the next five years with continued funding by a grant request from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources; and $50,000 from the Town of Highlands FY 2010. The completed trail will descend from Sunset Rock, a high granite dome overlooking the town; through the Botanical Garden, a living museum of labeled native plant species; to Big Bear Pen, the largest current construction of switchbacks up a moderate to steep incline with a panoramic view of the mountains surrounding Highlands; down the Kelsey Trail, a 127-year-old trail, the oldest in the town, through an old-growth prairie forest; along the Mill Creek Trail, including its new loop, beneath towering hemlocks and pines; to the Bascom Art Center along a sculptured trail of native flora, a brook, and a waterfall; and continuing through a charming neighborhood to end at Mirror Lake, with a beautiful open view of the water.

In May, 2010, the Secretary of Interior officially designated the Highlands Plateau Greenway as a National Recreation Trail, one of over 1,000 other trails nationwide that encourage people of all ages to get outside and use trails for exercise and exploration. It's to Quin's credit that, working with dedicated volunteers, the town of Highlands, and associated partners, he inspired the Highlands Plateau Greenway to accomplish a tremendous amount in a very short time, providing a valuable resource for the Highlands community.

Musty Odor? It's Mold!

Be Healthy and Protect your Family!
Call 828-505-6780
www.ahealthyhomeNC.com

Valentine’s Photo Studio
Holiday Portrait Photographer
Sarah Valentine

located on the Hill @ Greenleaf Gallery
211 S.Fourth St.
Highlands, NC
828.342.1995
sValentinePhotos.com
Call Now, Sessions are filling FAST
Perpetual seasons:
Advent and Christmas

In “church-speak” we have entered into the Season of Advent, a four-week period of expectation and preparation. In so entering, we are hopeful in expectation of and busy with preparation for Christmas. Christmas was a historical event and is also time-honored season of two weeks duration wherein we celebrate and focus upon Emmanuel, literally, “God with us.”

Upon reflection, perhaps the Church, i.e., Christendom has done herself a disservice with the brief seasons of Advent and Christmas. Perhaps the diminutive nature (time periods) of the two seasons has led to a diminished understanding and appreciation of them and the importance they bear for living rightly the Christian life, proclaiming the Good News.

If we are to truly believe or observe Advent, we will live perpetually in a season of expectation and preparation. Yes, we expect and prepare for Christmas. However and perhaps more importantly, we also look forward to the Lord’s promised return. Indeed, we are called to live always in a mode of expectation and preparation for the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise. How can we be said to be living faithfully if we live not expectantly nor in preparation for the second Advent? Can there be integrity in what we say (our message) if we are not busy getting ready for Christ’s return?

In the same way, if we as post-Pentecost Christians believe the fact that God has come to live within each believer, we cannot credibly live our lives without the evidence of Emmanuel, God being with us. God is with us (Christians) in the person of his Holy Spirit. We are to live perpetually in that understanding as his ambassadors. When we ignore the fact of the Spirit’s indwelling presence, if and when we suppress that truth, we limit both ourselves and our witness to reality.

How much more exciting could these seasons, Advent and Christmas, be for everyone if we all dared to live in a perpetual state of expectation, preparation, and holy presence? It’s too easy — too unfaithful a thing to do so for just a series of weeks and be done with it. Let us, the church of Jesus Christ resolve to recapture the full life perpetually. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!
What if dental plaque didn't stick to teeth?

By Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

Scientists at the University of Gronigen have unlocked secret of the mechanism that makes dental plaque stick to teeth. Now that the structure of the glucansucrase enzyme is known, researchers can start looking for substances that combat the enzyme. Adding those substances to toothpaste, or even food products could help make dental cavities extinct. The results of the study were published in the journal of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dental cavities develop when bacteria attach to tooth enamel. They then ferment sugars which release acids that dissolve the calcium in the teeth thus causing dental caries (cavities). The researchers were able to uncover the unique structure of the enzyme by crystallizing glucansucrase. While the scientists are excited about the future possibilities of their discoveries, don't toss the floss just yet, researcher Lubbert Dijkhuizen feels “it will always be necessary to clean your teeth.”

Brushing and flossing are important for more than preventing cavities. Good brushing and flossing habits also help prevent gum disease. Not only is gum disease the leading cause of tooth loss, it is also linked to heart disease, certain cancers, pre-term birth and poor blood sugar control in diabetic patients.

Let us help you have the healthiest mouth possible by contacting Wilbanks Smile Center today at 706-886-9439. Until the magic day comes that dental plaque doesn't stick to teeth you can rely on our hygiene team to help you learn proper brushing and flossing techniques and to keep your smile in tip-top condition. Please call for your appointment today. jwilbanks@windstream.net

The Highlander Soccer team was honored this week for having 7 players recognized for outstanding performance by the Smoky Mountain Conference. Defender Robbie Vanderbilt and Midfielders Samuel Wheeler and Andrew Renfro were named to the All-Conference team, and Midfielder Tucker Bates and Fullbacks Justin Watson and Cord Strawn were All-Conference honorable mentions. Senior Michael Shearl was named the Player of the Year in the Smoky Mountain Conference. The awards are voted on by the opposing coaches in the conference. Pictured Front from left are: Michael Shearl, Andrew Renfro, Cord Strawn; Back from left: Robbie Vanderbilt, Samuel Wheeler, Tucker Bates (Not Pictured is Justin Watson)
$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 Sarbina. Calls may also be made to CrimeStoppers at 828-421-1157.

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 Allard: 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


CLASSIFIEDS

30) CLASSIC 40’S CABIN in Webbmont area w/1+ ac. 2/2.5 w/wormy chestnut walls. Completely renovated in 2000. Below REA at $439K furnished. By appt ONLY. 526-0974

1038 526-1025.

1500 0000! LOWER CLEAR CREEK, 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. 55 & 95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2bd, 2bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 11/11)

$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq ft living space. $338,500, 743-5789 (st. 10/15)

LOST and FOUND

BROWN CAP WITH FISH ON FRONT. heirloom. Call 772-321-0881 or 526-5669.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

ENTIRE UPPER FLOOR, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 sq ft. Next to Highlands Hospital. Call 828-200-1064. (12/16)

COMMERCIAL – MAIN STREET EXPOSURE, 800 sq ft. with storage space. Small kitchen area. Great for retail or small office space. handicap access. For details: call 526-3363


NICE 1BR 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.11/8)

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


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

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/BATH HOME. Stunning 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. (3/31/11)

COFFEE TUNNEL COTTAGE, 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. 1st floor unit, walking distance to town, quiet, several decks, central heat, A/C. $400/month plus utilities. Call 828-371-2129 or 828-371-2129. (5/9)

COVENTRY CONDO, 2BD, 2 1/2 BA, LR/DR, eating area, gas heat, fireplace, central heat, A/C, new stove, refrigerator. New carpet, windows, painted, new hardware. $103,000!! LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 526-0974

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


RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD – Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 5,000 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremsler at 706-782-6252. (st. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE

GLASS TOP TABLE WITH 4 PARSONS CHAIRS – paid $1,500 will sell for $650; Bissel Steam cleaner – $100; Service for 8 Mikasa $45; Service for 4 Portuguese dinnerware $35; Set of golf clubs with bag $200. Call 349-0284. (12/9)

HUGE LOT OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLOTHES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. Boys sizes Newborn to 4T – Sleepers, shorts, jeans, coats and more — Over 130 items: $135; Girls sizes Newborn to 2T — Sleepers, leggings, pants, dresses — Over 125 items: $125; or both for $220. Please call 526-827-8709 and ask for Lisa. (12/8)

2009 CAMOUFLAGE ATV 250 CC BRAND- KAYAK, has front and rear racks with helmet and trailer only 20 miles. Great Christmas Present or Great for Hunting Season! Paid $5,000, will sacrifice for $1,989 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-371-2129. (st. 9/9)

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 $1,899 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-524-7233 (st. 9/9)

Baldwin Organ $100, Gulbransen Spinet piano $250. 828-526-4818. (st. 9/28)

PIANO – MAKE OFFER! Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800’s 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)

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

Vehicles for Sale


2003 NISSAN FRONTIER – 4 Door, 60,000 miles, Excellent condition, $9,000 OBO. 526-9190. (st. 5/20)

SERVICES

WILL SIT FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED OR CHILDREN. Your home or mine. 13 years childcare experience. By the hour. Call 828-966-3988. References.

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


Highlands Police & Fire Reports

Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 20
Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.
Nov. 20
• At 7:30 a.m., a resident on Raoul Road reported property damage due to a vehicle accident that occurred in his yard during the night.
Nov. 22
• At 4 p.m., a report was logged regarding littering and 2-3 a.m. noise complaints by residents and business owners in Wright Square against Ruka’s.
Nov. 24
• At 10:35 p.m., officers were called to the Mountain Fresh vicinity concerning a possible domestic dispute, but the call was unfounded.
Nov. 26
• At 10:13 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.
Nov. 27
• At 4:03 p.m., officers were called to assist EMS at a vehicle accident on US 106.
Nov. 29
• At 4 p.m. the officers were called about two suspicious people wearing hoods running behind the Fire Dept. The call was unfounded.
Dec. 5
• At 3 p.m., officers were called to Hampton Inn concerning an alleged hit and run in the parking lot.
Dec. 6
• At 2:15 p.m., officers were called to assist EMS with a resident on Oak Street.
• During the week, police officers responded to 10 alarms and issued 6 citations.

Highlands F & R Dept. log entries from Dec. 1:
Dec. 1
• At 1:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane where the resident had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• At 8:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.
Dec. 2
• At 10 a.m., the dept. assisted a report of smoke at Highlands Country Club but it was due to a controlled burn.
• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive where someone had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.
Dec. 3
• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. controlled traffic at the site of an accident at US 64 and Dry Falls. An injured person was taken to the hospital.
• At 2:37 p.m., the dept. was called to the Osage overlook on NC 106 to help the Scaly Fire Dept. search for a missing person. He was found in Blue Valley.
• At 9:49 p.m., the dept. controlled traffic at an accident with no injuries at N. 4th St.
Dec. 4
• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. assisted EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• At 8:56 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive when a water line broke.
Dec. 6
• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. assisted the Cashiers Fire Dept. search for overdue hikers. They were found and returned.

Salons & Spas

Images Unlimited Salon
225 Spring Street • Highlands

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/ Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo,
Stylist: Heather D. Escandon,
Stylist: Christa Hooper,
Massage Therapist: Betsy Phillips

Taylor Barnes Spa & Salon

Color, Cuts, Up Do’s, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training
OPEN: Tues. - Sat. • Monday by appt.
Located behind Highlands Decorating Center on Highway 106 (The Dillard Rd)
NC LMBT #1429
(828) 526-4192

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

• SERVICE DIRECTORY •

Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage
With covered loading zone
Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555
Cashiers Road

• Units Available •

MASTER BUILDER FOR HIRE
Highlands Native w/35 years experience
Great references. All workmanship guaranteed
ABSOLUTELY, NO JOB TOO SMALL!
The ONLY DEAL in town!
Call Neal Chastain for all of your remodeling, home improvement and repair needs. Full insured.
(H) 526-8883 (C)342-2030

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
e-mail: allandeart@mson.com
to give this stretch of road priority during bad weather.

Last Wednesday morning on my way to work, I turned onto Highway 64 toward Highlands. As soon as I got onto the highway, a vehicle coming towards me flashed its headlights. I slowed down, rounded the curve, and saw a vehicle flipped on its side. The driver had apparently hit a patch of ice. A fire truck and ambulance were at the scene. Once again, DOT failed to address the dangerous road conditions.

What will it take before our NC DOT realizes that this particular stretch of road is usually icy, even when other areas are not? What will it take before they realize that most of us who travel that road are on our way to work early in the morning? What will it take before they realize that, if traffic is blocking the entrance to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, essential personnel and emergency vehicles cannot get through?

What will it take — a life-threatening emergency or a fatal accident on the highway? I hope not.

MaryAnn Sloan
Highlands

Politics vs. Planning

Dear Editor,

The anti-Planning Board bleatings during the past election campaign as well as the most current attempts to cripple Planning Board processes and activities, are nothing short of appalling. These attempts included the study to develop a reasoned plan for Steep (Safe) Slopes, and a portion of work in progress for a Comprehensive Plan package that will be of total benefit to Macon County’s future.

Particularly dismaying were the ill-informed, extremely negative ads designed to capture the attention of the easily led who choose not or won’t bother to check the real, readily available, facts about steep slopes for themselves.

Let metry to fill in some gaps and help them out with that little attention-deficit problem.

About 20 months ago discussions of a steep slope ordinance were begun and a committee established to determine a list of potential (not the word-potential) recommendations.

MaryAnn Sloan
Highlands

... LETTERS continued from page 2
...LETTERS continued from page 20

There was a flurry of well publicized dis-
content by a group who thought all the-
thing in order to be addressed. The commit-
tee researched the needs for such an
ordinance. The community would have
to bear the cost and the impacts an ordi-
nance would have for the safety of persons,
protections of property, the environment and our economy.

The committee, chaired by the very able Mr. Al Slagle, consisted of local citizens well
versed in building real estate, soil, and other
topographical concerns, took their meetings
to the many communities of our county. They
listened to community concerns, with in-
tent to incorporate the people’s input into the
(as yet un-written) still pending ultimate ordi-
nance.

SWANSON continued from page 6

lines were wired as their Mommy.
Rounding up your felines and getting them
into pet carriers must be one of those big
stress events, like a death in the family, or
an IRS audit. Fortunately, I had the element
of surprise with Weasel. She hadn’t been in
for a check-up since I’d moved to High-
lands so the old “snatch and grab” wasn’t
something she was used to. I grabbed her,
and stuck her in the carrier before she
knew what was happening. Orion was a
different story. His cancer surgery two years
ago made him a veteran of the whole cat
carrier process. Who knows what a cat re-
members, or if he could even recall his
three hour car ride to the wonderful Up-
state Veterinary Clinic in Greenville, or any
of his two-week stay, when they cured his
cancer. The taste of the tranquilizer must
haveetu died him…Orion took off up the
stairs. I took off after him, cat carrier in
hand. He bolted. I sprinted. He struggled. I
held on. At one time, all I could hold on to
was a back leg, terrified that I was hurting
him. I knew I’d goto, that would be the end of it. I’d have to leave him alone in the
house and start over again the next day.

Holding on to the back leg, I lifted him in,
finally getting a better grip, as I lifted him
into the cat carrier and closed the door. I
don’t know how he felt about it, but I was
exhausted.

Ann showed up in her car, and we
loaded up the cats into the back. Weasel
protested enthusiastically, but Orion had
taken more of the drug than I thought. He
snuggled up in this carrier, snoring loudly.
Ann backed us up into the parking lot of
the Animal Wellness Hospital of High-
lands, and in the downpour, we brought
in the cats. Weasel meowed pitifully in her
carrier, especially when a very well-be-
have, but curious, dog arrived in the waiting
room. Orion snored away, oblivious to
everything.

When our turn arrived, both cats
were taken into the examination room, and the
doors to their cages opened. Orion contin-
ued to sleep, but Weasel got out and started
exploring her surroundings. The cats were
thoroughly checked out, weighed, blood
drawn, nails trimmed. Both cats were de-
clared well-behaved, and I gloved like a
proud mother. Pride turned to concern
once the cats arrived at their new home.

Instead of bolting out of their cages and ex-
ploring the apartment, Orion crawled into
Weasel’s carrier and clung to her. The two of
them looked like orphans. Hours later, they
were out of the carrier, but huddled together
for comfort, hiding under a kitchen cabi-
et. I was as miserable as they were.

The next day was even worse. For
hours, I couldn’t find either cat. Finally, I re-
alized that they had crawled into the box
spring of the bed, where they hid out most
of the day. I phoned the vet’s office in a pan-
ncy only to be reassured that cats – highly ter-
ritorial – do not take well to change. At last,
by dinnertime, the cats were reconciled to
the new surroundings. The next morning, the
cats wereale to sleep, but Weasel got out and started
exploring her surroundings. The cats were
thoroughly checked out, weighed, blood
drawn, nails trimmed. Both cats were de-
clared well-behaved, and I gloved like a
proud mother. Pride turned to concern
once the cats arrived at their new home.

Instead of bolting out of their cages and ex-
ploring the apartment, Orion crawled into
Weasel’s carrier and clung to her. The two of
them looked like orphans. Hours later, they
were out of the carrier, but huddled together
for comfort, hiding under a kitchen cabi-
et. I was as miserable as they were.

The next day was even worse. For
hours, I couldn’t find either cat. Finally, I re-
alized that they had crawled into the box
spring of the bed, where they hid out most
of the day. I phoned the vet’s office in a pan-
ancy only to be reassured that cats – highly ter-
ritorial – do not take well to change. At last,
by dinnertime, the cats were reconciled to
their circumstances, and after a late supper,
settled down on the couch with meto
watch TV. They particularly like
Law & Or-
der.

Change doesn’t come easily to any of
us – widows and cats alike. Sometimes it
comes in a howling wind, and sometimes
it comes quietly, on gentle cat paws. The
ewild birds enjoyed the lima beans, but
they left the lima beans alone.

The next day was even worse. For
hours, I couldn’t find either cat. Finally, I re-
alized that they had crawled into the box
spring of the bed, where they hid out most
of the day. I phoned the vet’s office in a pan-
ancy only to be reassured that cats – highly ter-
ritorial – do not take well to change. At last,
by dinnertime, the cats were reconciled to
their circumstances, and after a late supper,
settled down on the couch with meto
watch TV. They particularly like
Law & Or-
der.

Change doesn’t come easily to any of
us – widows and cats alike. Sometimes it
comes in a howling wind, and sometimes
it comes quietly, on gentle cat paws. The
ewild birds enjoyed the lima beans, but
they left the lima beans alone.
Highlands Christmas Parade - Dec. 4, 2010

Photos by Jim Lewicki