$200K available for area businesses

Since Highlands was picked as a Small Town Main Street Community, its businesses are now eligible for a special $200,000 grant to spur business development. The grant is distributed by the NC Department of Commerce and is contingent on several items – mainly that a business owner have an idea that will grow business and jobs in Highlands. It's also important to have both the town and the Chamber of Commerce back the business idea, and the application for the grant funds must be submitted jointly.

Though Fatland said the grants are extremely competitive across the state, any business in Highlands is eligible to apply for the money.

USFS has new way to fight Woolly Adelgid

Since mid-October, the Forest Service has been using new approaches to protect hemlock forests under attack by the introduced insect pest, hemlock woolly adelgid. The new approaches give forest managers a wider array of treatment options. Options include aerial application of an adelgid-killing fungus, use of the chemical dinofuran in high-priority areas where trees are in immediate danger of dying, expanding the number of sites that will be treated, releasing new species of predator beetles as they are evaluated, and allowing the use of the longer-lasting chemical, imidacloprid, on all treatment areas as needed.

Myriad of business at county meeting

Commissioners say good-bye to Commissioner Simpson, remember Commissioner Jay Dee Shepherd and accept Commissioner Davis's resignation

Monday night Macon County Commissioners paved the way for newcomers to the board and said good-bye to others before recessing the meeting to Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. when the official rotation will take place and a new chairman will be named.

The board thanked Democrat Commissioner Bob Simpson, who lost the seat he held for eight years to Republican Ron Haven, for always holding Macon County in his heart and doing what he thought was best for the county as a whole. Members also accepted Commissioner Jim Davis's resignation, thoughFatland said the grants are extremely competitive across the state, any business in Highlands is eligible to apply for the money.

Main Street will be closed for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church, Saturday, Nov., 27. At 5:30 p.m., Main Street will be closed from 2nd to 4th streets and 3rd Street will be closed on the north side to Oak Street and on the south side to the Church Street alley. The ceremony opens with Christmas Carols at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. at which point the streets will be reopened.

Photo by Jim Lewicki
The other side of the Post Office story

Dear Editor,

I feel that I must write about the Highlands Post Office "debate" to the citizens of Highlands — my hometown. I was born and grew up here in Highlands. Some of you know me but most of you probably do not. I will try to make this a short history of the Mitchell family and the history of the post office.

My parents moved to Highlands in 1933. I was an only child born after my parents moved to Highlands. Upon my Father's retirement he, Clarence (Doc) Mitchell, built Highlands Plaza in 1972, for the homeowners of the area. Highway 28. I had no recourse.

As my parents began to age, I became more involved with their business. In 1994, I was approached by the United States Postal Dept about moving to Highlands Plaza. The Post Office had to be out of its then location on 5th Street by a certain time. We (the USPS and I) had come to an agreement and were looking over their spec book. My father was admitted into the hospital very seriously ill. I called the USPS and told them I could no longer work with them on the building that they would have to look for another property. A few days later the USPS called me to tell me there was a company in Ohio that did land leases with property owners and it would build a post office and in turn would rent the building to the USPS. I told them I would be happy to do a land lease (my first and I might add the last I will ever do). My goal was to get the post office to the best location for our town's residents. I requested that NO PARKING be along Hwy 28. As you know, the company in Ohio, Carbone Properties, built parking along Hwy 28. I had no recourse.

Fast forward many years to this past spring.

Carbone Properties, with whom I had a land lease, was about to go into bankruptcy and they offered to sell me the building and land lease. I bought the post office building and land lease late March, 2010. The first thing I wanted to change was the parking off Hwy 28, but it was too close to "the season" so I decided to put that on hold until winter and spring of 2010 and 2011. Now, Mrs. Woodruff has decided to build a building and take away a tenant that has many more days by a certain time. We (the USPS and I) had come to an agreement and were looking over their spec book. My father was admitted into the hospital very seriously ill. I called the USPS and told them I could no longer work with them on the building that they would have to look for another property. A few days later the USPS called me to tell me there was a company in Ohio that did land leases with property owners and it would build a post office and in turn would rent the building to the USPS. I told them I would be happy to do a land lease (my first and I might add the last I will ever do). My goal was to get the post office to the best location for our town's residents. I requested that NO PARKING be along Hwy 28. As you know, the company in Ohio, Carbone Properties, built parking along Hwy 28. I had no recourse.

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If the Town of Highlands and Mrs. Woodruff think that the parking on Hwy 28 is such a serious problem for the citizens of Highlands, then why hasn’t anyone from the town ever asked to meet with us to come up with a better solution? We have always believed the parking design built by Carbone Properties is not desirable. Now with the possibility of the post office moving, our plans of changing that area has been put on hold indefinitely.

The present location of the Highlands Post Office has served Highlands well and helps to make Highlands Plaza a “one stop shop” place — which was my father’s dream for Highlands. My parents and especially my Father did a lot for the town and the people of Highlands. I can go on and on about that. Our family certainly does not have the financial backing that Mrs. Woodruff has; however we feel that we do have the best interest in mind for our fellow townspeople.

Margaret Mitchell O’Donnell
Highlands

... LETTERS continued from page 2

... LETTERS continued from page 2

years left on its lease with Highlands Plaza.

Priscilla Ann Roulston
Priscilla Ann Roulston, nine-day-old daughter of Joseph Roulston and Palmer Lowery, died Friday, November 19, 2010 in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She is survived in addition to her mother and father by one sister Arabella Swofford and two brothers Campbell Swofford and Hayden Swofford all of the home; maternal grandparents Shay and Jay Connors of Vero Beach, FL; paternal grandparents Cindy Roulston and great-grandmother Charlotte Roulston.

 Graveside services were held at 1 pm Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at Woodlawn Cemetery with Rev. Paul Christy officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the SIDS Program, NC Department of Health and Human Services, 1330 St. Mary’s Street, PO Box 29597, Raleigh, NC 27626-0597.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, NC is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com
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• Highlands Fine Dining •

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Voted Best Restaurant & Best Wine List in The Highlander’s Reader’s Choice Awards
Also, selected by “Southern Living” magazine as Best Place for Dinner in Highlands!

474 Main Street • 526.3807
Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence

Thanks, Lord, for all you’ve given me, especially Cracker Barrel

The insanity of the Thanksgiving holiday is finally here. Usually by this time, I’m already taking my Lithium to keep from strangling one of my grandkids for running through and ripping out our screen door. I’m certain our early settlers didn’t put up with the grief of Thanksgiving like we do in the 21st century. The Indians brought the fowl and venison and the settlers brought the mutton and corn. No fuss, no muss. Everyone ate outside so whatever possible damage could the grandkids do — break a tree?

Not that many years ago, our sizable family always came together from the four corners of the globe to share a Thanksgiving dinner at our home and give thanks to the Lord for all our blessings. This meant the lil missus and I would shop at Publix a week before the big event. Do we buy fresh or frozen turkey? Will the yams be canned or fresh? Will our cranberry sauce be gel or berries? The marshmallows, don’t forget the marshmallows. Decisions, decisions.

Then on the Tuesday before the big day, the lil missus wakes at 3 AM, sits up in bed in a panic, grabs my arm and announces, “I’m out of Rosemary.”

The next day, of course, is “put away” Wednesday. We childproof our home. Guns are gathered and locked up. The two beautiful sculptures on our oversized coffee table are put out of reach. The magnificent set of imported crystal wine glasses that cost me an entire paycheck and then some more are stored in a cabinet until just before the meal. We are, once again, shocked to see how many breakables there are. We scan each room looking for a possible disaster. “W hat can they break in this room,” I mutter as I move from room to room.

At 6 AM on Thanksgiving morning, I drag a fresh turkey out of the refrigerator and remove the wrapping. I smell it just to make sure it doesn’t have an odor. It smells like — turkey. Then I give it a bath, paying special attention to washing under its arms. When the turkey is blotted dry, I smell it again just to make sure it’s still fresh. What is this thing I have with sniffing turkeys? Finally, I lift the bird, holding it by its wings and laugh. “Thanks, Lord, for not making me a turkey,” I joke.

Later, when the lil missus comes to the kitchen, she looks over my work, smells the turkey and begins further preparation. I’m the go-fer and pull seasonings, flour, etc. from the shelf on command. The bird is shoved back in the frig. Eventually it will get stuff with traditional dressing and go in the oven.

Our kids arrive early and the grandkids head for the pool. The insanity begins. “Can I have another drink of water?” is asked over a dozen times, usually right in the middle of studying a complicated recipe for an appetizer called killer crunchy apple delight. “Grammy, I think Max is peeing in your pool,” another announces.

In the interim, a rather long list of foods to be prepared and served is posted and the circus begins. Timing is everything. The rolls must turn brown at the same moment the marshmallows brown on the yams at the same time the turkey skin browns but doesn’t get dried out at the same time all eight grandkids have washed their hands and are seated. Aaahh.

Hours have gone by and we haven’t even had time to have a conversation with our kids about anything. Cooking, cooking, cooking. Finally, it’s all set on the table, the blessing is said and 30 minutes later its over for another year, except for the enormous job of cleanup which is almost as labor intensive as cooking. Is that dried yams smeared across the white upholstered dining room chair?

This Thanksgiving morning things will be different. We’ll wake and read the paper over coffee. Then we’ll loaf — then loaf some more. Then at 2 PM, the lil missus and I will stroll into a nearby Cracker Barrel restaurant and announce, “Wooldridge, party of 16.” Shortly after, our families will arrive and there’ll be plenty of time to chat and get filled in on the latest news. We’ll enjoy a sumptuous traditional dressing and go in the oven.

Feedback is encouraged!
email: askfredanything@aol.com

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Feedback is encouraged!
email: askfredanything@aol.com
Let’s face it. Sarah Palin really could be our next president. The political world was shocked when John McCain, in a desperate gesture, added her to his doomed ticket. Both intellectuals and political analysts scoffed at her ill advised and inaccurate statements. She became a side show when she resigned her position as governor of Alaska, added to the frivolity with support of outlandish Tea Party candidates. She made millions writing, or ghost writing, a book or two. Incredibly, she became star of her own reality TV show. Sarah Palin committed numerous gaffes that should have ended her political career. She cited Alaska’s proximity to Russia as an example of foreign policy experience. Not even Joe Biden could have survived that one. And then a funny thing happened. Sarah Palin’s outlandish candidates garnered more votes than snickers. Several won their races. Others came close. Even the losers seem to have political life for 2012. It is a new political season. There are 23 new members of Congress who had never been elected to any elective office. Experience doesn’t count. The electorate, with some justification, took a look at the state of the country and blamed it on the guys with decades of political experience. The cynical might well equate decades of experience with years of perks, prestige, and payoffs. It’s no secret that powerful lobbies have greater influence than ordinary citizens. It is well known that politicians shift position with the political wind. The contrast between the liberal Republican Governor of Massachusetts and the conservative candidate for the Republican nomination is a depressing example of a politician playing to his audience. There are others, many others. There are those who compromise their position so the country can move forward. Others abandon their principles to scavenge votes, or amass wealth. It shouldn’t be too great a surprise that the American people are fed up. There is despair in the wind. Despite economists’ proclamation that the Great Recession is over, unemployment remains near 10%. Billions have been spent, much of it misspent, in an effort to jump-start the economy. Corporate profits are soaring while the American Middle Class is shrinking. The gap between rich and poor has never been wider. There is a palpable malaise. When I was growing up, everyone was chasing the American Dream. There were guys just back from the war, eager to start their families and careers. There were jobs for high school graduates and better jobs for college graduates. Unskilled workers could make a decent living and dream of a better world for their kids. The new world is here, and it is not better. It is exciting. The technological advances are staggering. No hurdle seems too high, no goal beyond reach, except the goal to preserve the Middle Class, to provide jobs for all Americans, and to restore America as the world’s beacon of hope. In the eyes of the world, America has lost her innocence. Many Americans share that view. Sarah Palin has emerged as the leader of those who believe that America can be restored by turning back the clock. If we fail to create jobs, and if the shrinking middle class doesn’t feel the weight lifted from its back, the scene will be set. Anger, frustration, and hopelessness spawned the dramatic shift of power in Washington in recent midterm elections. The rage may grow in the next two years. If it does, the American people may say, “What the hell! We can’t do any worse” and vote for Palin.

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Our grill serves fresh angus burgers made to order with hand cut french fries, grilled chicken, and daily specials like soup bread bowls, stew, and chicken tenders. Grill open from 11 am until 3 pm every day.
Beck versus Soros

I have no idea where this is going to end up, but here goes. In this corner, we have Glenn Beck. First, let me say that I respect him and what he’s trying to do. Not long ago, Beck was a radio talk-show host who had, and still may have, a somewhat wacky style. He frequently referred to his listeners as “you sick, twisted freaks.” He still does his morning radio show in addition to filling the five o’clock hour on the Fox News Network.

He has become extremely popular with the Tea Party people, stressing principles over politics and exposing the perils of government in general, a one-world government specifically, and progressivism ballistically. He founded the 9-12 Project, that is named for nine principles and 12 values, which he says embody the spirit of the American people on the day after the Sept. 11 attacks. He has either sponsored or participated in several mass rallies with religious and patriotic themes.

In the other corner is George Soros, very wealthy hedge fund manager and liberal political activist. Soros was born in Budapest and moved with his family to New York, where he was employed in the securities industry. His father was a writer and a strong proponent of a one-world government. Of Jewish birth, for political reasons (rising anti-Semitism), the family changed their name from Schwarz to Soros, which, in Hungarian, means “next in line” or “designated successor.” This may be the genesis of Soros’ apparent complex.

After learning the ropes working in various stock brokerage firms, Soros formed the Soros Fund, an early-stage hedge fund, later called the “Quantum Fund.” Acquiring the power of managing huge amounts of money, Soros’s fund sold short more than $10 billion (US) worth of British pounds, profiting from the Bank of England’s reluctance to either raise its interest rates to levels comparable to those of other European Exchange Rate Mechanism countries or to float its currency.

Finally, the Bank withdrew the currency from the European Exchange Mechanism, devaluing the pound sterling, earning Soros an estimated $1.1 billion. He was dubbed “the man who broke the Bank of England.” Later, he pulled similar attacks on the Thai and Malaysian currencies, causing serious political unrest in both countries. My purpose in dragging you through this historical rhetoric is to demonstrate Soros’s willingness in his dual pur-pose activities. He profits greatly and weakens capitalism, both tools in his lifelong quest to create a one-world government.

I will now be quoting, on and off, from an article on the Guardian.co.uk news site, usually an objective source, written by Sadhbh Walshe (how on earth would you pronounce that?) who is critical of Beck’s efforts. According to her, Beck is quoted as saying: “Eighty years ago, George Soros was born. Little did the world know then that economies would collapse, currencies would become worthless, elections would be stolen and one billionaire would find himself, coincidentally, at the center of it all.” Beck contends that Soros has created a “shadow government” in the US. According to Bill O’Reilly, during his show, “the Factor”: “The Factor has been investigating far left billionaire George Soros, a man who wants to impose a radical left agenda on America, and under the radar, he is making great progress. Soros has set up a complicated political operation to do two things, buy people with influence among liberal politicians and smear people with whom he disagrees.”

Soros puts his money where his mouth is. Quoting from Wikipedia, “In an interview with The Washington Post on November 13, 2003, Soros said that removing President George W. Bush from office was the “central focus of my life” and “a matter of life and death.” He said he would sacrifice his entire fortune to defeat President Bush, “if someone guaranteed it.” Soros gave $3 million to the Center for American Progress, $2.5 million to MoveOn.org, and $20 million to America Coming Together. These groups worked to support Democrats in the 2004 election. That didn’t work out too well for him; however, his efforts probably had a spill-over effect in 2006 and 2008.

I find it interesting that the major news sources make a huge stink about the source of contributions to conservatism when rarely is heard a word about Soros’ massive funding of extreme liberalism. Is he responsible for the rapidly devaluing dollar and the ultimate destruction it will bring? He knows how; he’s done it before. We’ve made it harder for him with our vote.

All that aside, I am very thankful for my family and friends, my editor who allows this column, faithful readers and a gracious God.
Nov. 25, 1947

Nov 25, 1947-Studio executives blacklist 10 screenwriters and directors who were jailed for refusing to testify at the House Un-American Activities Committee. In Hollywood, it's been detected that some of those who have directed spend their time doing more than screening, in fact they may well be left leaning. And a few of those who write are red, at least that's what some have said. Would you believe these Pinkos attempted to indicate the Court was contemplated? It's true, I tell you, it's no myth, they had the NERVE to plead the Fifth, didn't even try to be contrite, I guess they thought they had that right. Oh, wait a minute, I guess they do so, by the way, do me and you.
By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When I was a little girl, my father - a lifelong Republican - had this joke about Communism. “Communism is when you have something someone else wants, and they want to share it with you.” He was nobody’s fool, and neither am I.

This is the time of year I always dread - hunting season. While we’re hardly an animal sanctuary up here, we do have our fair share of wild critters. It’s odd that folks who wouldn’t dream of driving up your driveway, walking into your house, strolling into your kitchen, and grabbing a beer out of the fridge, think nothing of coming on to your land, and killing everything that moves. As far as they’re concerned, wild animals are to be killed, and if you, the property owner, aren’t going to kill them, then it’s open season.

Just once, it would be nice if these hunters would be honest. They would come up the driveway, get out of their pickup, ring the doorbell, and introduce themselves. “Hi, I’m Jim. These are my friends, Beau and Bill. We’re hunters. We were wondering if we could have permission to hunt on your land.” Except that’s never going to happen. There’s a Private Property sign at the bottom of the mountain, so just driving up to our house is already a “no-no.”

The hunters on our land aren’t honest. They park their trucks on the turn-offs at the bottom of the mountain, and then run their dogs up the side of the mountain, sneaking up the back way. Should you catch them on your property, they play dumb, and swear, “No, M’am, we’re not hunting. We’re just chasing after a lost dog!” Give me a break. Your dog is here because you chased him onto my property. He’s not lost. He’s doing exactly what you want him to do.

This season, I’ve been crossing my fingers. After all, I don’t have my Big Guy to face the hunters, and read them the riot act. I’m on my own on this one, a single woman up against a bunch of guys in camouflage, armed to the teeth, with their packs of snarling dogs. What do you think of my odds?

Since John has died, I don’t sleep well to begin with. I’m just beginning to get back to some semblance of normalcy. You can imagine how much I resented four solid days of barking dogs, going on as late as 10 pm. Finally, at 8:30 pm one night, I called the warden. The 26-year-old officer was kind, polite, and helpful. He calmed me down, and defused the situation. What he did suggest was that I call the fish and wildlife officer the next day. After all, while trespassing was his job, the whole hunting thing had its own department.

Sure enough, I hit the phone the next day. My first call was answered by a particularly unhelpful woman. “Well,” she drawled. “The area around Highlands is one of only two areas in Macon County where you don’t have to have the permission of the owner to hunt.” Excuse me? That’s a complete contradiction of my editor, Kim Lewicki’s recent article. She gave me another number to call. I left two messages on the warden’s cell phone, and that evening, he returned my call.

I explained the situation - hunters on my property, baying dogs until late at night. “Are you from around here?” he began. “Excuse me?” I replied. Oh, here we go. I’m not from around here. I don’t know beans. “No, I’m not from around here. I’m from Virginia. But I do know about hunting. My great-grandfather, grandfather, and brother were all hunters. I’m not some squeamish Bambi-hugger.” The warden proceeded to ramble on about the long-standing local hunting culture. Did I know that hunting was a way of life around here? To my astonishment, he told me that the local hunters were better conservationists of my property than I was. You mean if a hunter has two deer in his sights - a healthy buck with huge antlers and a sick, scrawny specimen, hell, I’m going to kill the sick one for the good of the breed? Maybe he doesn’t believe in evolution.

Hunting late at night? Oh, that was just coon hunters who had to wait until nightfall to tree the coons. They aren’t illegal hunting bears. Dog on my property? Why, they were just lost, that’s all. Dogs just go where dogs want to go. The dogs don’t know its private property. Have I posted signs on my land? So that the hunters can shoot them up? Since they don’t come up the road, of course, so it would mean going out and putting a sign on every tree, a road sign would be useless.

I got mad. I yelled at him. People talking nonsense do that to me. He told me I was disrespectful. I was. So was he.

See JUST HERS page 21
HCH Foundation Launches “Holiday Hope” Fund Drive

Volunteers prepare mailing.

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation launched its “Holiday Hope” fund drive this week to raise funds for capital improvements and equipment needed at the hospital in the months ahead. Gifts can be designated to any of eight top priority areas, or for the hospital’s unrestricted fund. Gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one.

Some of the “Holiday Hope” items involve efforts to update or advance the hospital’s medical technology. Included in the list is new surgical and lab equipment that will allow the hospital to keep pace with the latest standards, and improvements to the hospital’s computer infrastructure that will position the hospital to complete its transition to electronic medical records throughout the organization.

Other top priorities include essential improvements to the hospital’s physical infrastructure, such as a hot water heater replacement.

“The Holidays are a special time of year when it is traditional to give thanks for our blessings, and we would like to thank our community for their steadfast support of the Hospital. Without charitable support, we would not be able to provide the quality of care or range of services for our communities,” said Robin T. Taylor, Executive Director of the HCH Foundation. “We have to be a full-time hospital, yet serve a largely part-time population. We are grateful for the continuing support from the community so the hospital can remain a quality facility with great physicians and staff.”

This past year, the hospital served more than 12,000 inpatients and outpatients. There were nearly 5,000 emergency visits, 8,000 radiology exams, 1,000 surgeries and 40,000 lab tests. And the personalized care provided at HCH continues to generate fan mail from patients and family members.

“The hospital we have today is a testament to what we can do when donors empower us. That’s why we are asking our community to please consider HCH in their year-end giving.”

Year-end gifts play an important role in the hospital’s annual fundraising efforts, Taylor said. “On behalf of our patients, staff and from all of our hospital family, we are thankful for each and every gift, which ultimately helps HCH to save lives.”

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

However, business or project ideas don’t have to reside on Main Street.

A Small Business is defined as an independently owned and operated business with less than 100 employees and with annual revenues less than $6 million.

Likewise, a Private Investment could apply defined as a project or a group of projects in a designated area that will spur private investment and improve property. However, a project must be owned and maintained by the private entity and must provide a direct benefit to small businesses.

The idea is to use the money to initiate projects that will have a direct benefit to small businesses, retention, expansion or recruitment; retain or create jobs in association with small business; foster long-term property improvements and provide operating capital with direct benefit to small businesses.

Applications are available and must be submitted by the close of business (5 p.m.) February 10, 2011.

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Code Enforcement Office Josh Ward attended the workshop in Raleigh announcing the program recently so he can answer specific questions about the grant process.

Donations Welcome

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nal weakness controls and said the county was in good fiscal shape. “You have had a good year despite the economy,” said the

The board gave a preliminary OK to a draft lease for the construction of a vipertower for NC Highway Patrol on a county-owned

This means the previous site in the town of Franklin will not be used and the tower off Addington Bridge Road will be about 100 feet

Highway Patrol is also considering a site between Highlands and Cashiers in Jackson County but details were not available.

VIPER towers enable emergency personnel to set up “talk groups” that can communicate continuously without having to wait for someone to get off a frequency, which was a problem during the Peek’s Creek tragedy.

The board also unanimously approved the continued franchise with Northland Cable in Highlands. Northland is undergoing

The commissioners unanimously agreed to help fund Macon County’s comprehensive cancer program – Ladies Night Out – by putting up $10,000, contingent upon Congressman Heath Shuler’s ability to get the program $30,000 which will be used for its breast cancer detection program.

Commissioner Beale said following a meeting he had with Shuler a promise was made to help fund the program which is administered by Angel Medical Center in Franklin. In 2010, the NC Comprehensive Cancer Program estimates that 42 MC women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and seven MC women will lose their battle with the disease.

“With all the advances in healthcare, these seven women don’t have to die,” wrote Angel Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Tim Hubbs in a letter to the board. “Unfortunately, many women in Macon County aren’t receiving crucial screenings due to being uninsured or under-insured.”

Hubbs said if breast cancer is detected in the early stages through mammograms or other diagnostic screenings, survival rate reaches almost 100%.

The $40,000 earmarked for the breast cancer detection at Angel Medical Center will enable 200 women who can’t afford mammograms to get them for free.

The cost of a digital mammogram is $200 which includes the screening and the diagnostic reading.

To date, the Ladies Night Out program has paid for 13 mammograms for 12 women and one man. Two of the women were diagnosed with breast cancer.

The county’s portion will be paid out of contingency funds and will only be used if Shuler comes through with the $30,000 match.

And finally, Republican Jimmy Goodman was selected to replace Democrat Al Stagle on the MC Planning Board whose term expired on Nov. 1. Stagle was recommended for reappointment but was voted down 3 to 2. Goodman was selected on the 3 to 2 vote. The MC Planning Board is busy working on the Slop Slope ordinance.

— Kim Lewicki
Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner is a philanthropic endeavor.

In 2001, there was not a single restaurant in Highlands open for Christmas. A group of concerned innkeepers organized volunteers to make a potluck dinner for guests and local families. Because they charged the for the dinner, they wanted the proceeds to go to a nonprofit. This dinner became the Habit for Humanity dinner at the Main Street Inn, and continued until 2005. In its final year, the dinner raised in excess of $11,000 and served over 200 people. Over the five years, it raised $23,000 for Habit for Humanity.

After taking a year off, in 2007 Marty Rosenfield and Rick Siegel wanted to continue the dinner as a fundraiser to support local nonprofits and it became the Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner.

The beneficiaries are always local nonprofits that serve Highlanders. In 2007 the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/Big Sisters and The Literacy Council of Highlands. In 2008, the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/Big Sisters and The Friendship Center; in 2009 the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Hospice; in 2010, the beneficiaries are Garr’s Kids program at Carpe Diem Farm; R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Over the years the Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner has collectively donated over $60,000 to local nonprofits serving Highlanders.

The Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner will be at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club on December 25th. Dinner is a bountiful buffet of mouthwatering holiday fare prepared by some of Highlands finest Chefs including Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); Martha Porter (Morningide & B&B); Jan Zehr (Banana Pudding Goddess); and of course we’ll spend a year in anticipation of Donna Woods’ (worth every bit of the calories) dressing. The cost is $35 for adults, $25 for children under 12; and children under 5 eat free. All proceeds go to the three local nonprofits mentioned earlier. Come dine in the elegance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club on Christmas Day. For reservations call 828-526-3102. Call today!
On going and Upcoming Events

or Karen Hawk hwkncw@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 526-4959 to reserve a spot.

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 on Main and Fifth 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.

Thursdays
• 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 a.m. 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.
• At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Parade day). Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Wednesdays 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 6:15-7:30 p.m. If you want to come early and join us for supper, $5 per person of $12 per family, call the church office by Monday of each week. (526-3376) The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamey Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.

Tuesday, Nov. 23
• Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It’s free.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 26-27
• At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. $40 Bascom members/$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828.526.4949.
• At The Bascom, Artist’s Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn featuring a gathering of artists tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists’ works for Christmas, hostesses and New Year’s gifts. For information, call 828.526.4949.
• At Paoletti’s, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20 per person. Refundable with wine purchase.
• Hard Candy Christmas Art & Craft Show at WCU Ramsey Center in Cullowee, NC. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adults, $3 children under 12 free.

Friday, Nov. 26
• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 27
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. to the top of Yellow Mtn., highest in the Highlands area at 5,127 feet, with a tower providing a 360 degree view. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 33 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• At Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Winter Wonderland from 1-3 p.m. It’s free.
• Town Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 6-6:30 p.m. Santa at Visitor Center following tree lighting.
• Thursday, Dec. 2
• Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3 & 4
• At Paoletti’s, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20 per person. Refund with wine purchase.

Nog Off and A Stitch in Time: Quilts Exhibition Shine at The Bascom

The People’s Choice for outstanding egg nog during The Bascom’s Nog Off competition went to Kent and Alice Nelson’s family recipe, prepared by Sallie Taylor, exhibition coordinator at The Bascom. Joe Baird, Mary Collany, Eric NeSmith and Britt Ammann also submitted wonderful recipes that delighted all in attendance.

The evening’s festivities also served as the opening for the A Stitch in Time Quilts exhibition. The quilts, on loan from local collectors, will be on view through December 18. The exhibition is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson, Sallie Taylor and Jack Gillfillen and exhibition partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

This weekend, don’t miss what’s happening at The Bascom. On Friday and Saturday, November 26-27, put your holiday gift shopping behind you at The Bascom’s Artists’ Marketplace, explore our White Elephant Sale or register to be a part of our second annual Gingerbread House Workshop. The public is invited to cast their votes for their favorite gingerbread creation, Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 11.

All Bascom exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Workshop registration is going on now. For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.
On going and Upcoming Events

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 in someone’s name to your favorite charity.
- Santa 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 Nanahala 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; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome but no pets please.

Wed., Dec. 8
- At The Bascom, Create a Holiday Wreath, 1:30-3:30 pm. Tuition: $20 members/$25 non-members (materials included). For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, 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. 10 & 11
- At Paolelli’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 pm. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday, Dec. 11
- 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 pm. 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 or visit www.thebascom.org.
- 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 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.

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 17 & 18
- At Paoletti’s Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1
• S P I R I T U A L L Y  S P E A K I N G  •

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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, 252-671-4011
Worshiping at the facilities of Whitside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Buck’s Coffee Cafe, 6:30 p.m.
Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whitside 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., Whitside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon
CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group, 10:30 a.m: Children’s Program (Pre-K - 5th Grade), Merge for 6th Graders, 10:45 am: Worship Service, 5 p.m Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.
Tues.: 9:30 am: Women’s Bible Study.
Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner, 6pm: 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 I)
Monday: 4 p.m. Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group
4:30 PM. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 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
526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30
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 526-1371
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth
Wed: Supper; 6: 7 - 11: children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12-60 - 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.
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 Clay 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. on 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.
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 Worship - 11 a.m.
Children - 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.
WHITESTIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Old time Highlands charm in this classic home that overlooks Mirror lake. Great family compound or possible B&B with a usable yard. 3 bedrooms 2 baths in the main house, with updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, and a native stone fireplace. The annex has 2 one-bedroom, one-bath apartments, each with private entry. Offered at $599,000. mls #66770

Tuscan Inspired Mountain Escape. Beautifully constructed home in gated community in Cashier. Sits on a fantastic lot with 3.56 acres with additional acreage which could be added for even more privacy. This lovely 3 bedroom 3 ½ bath home was completed in 2006. Reduced for quick sell at $1,199,000. mls #68619

Commercial location at Carolina Way. Spacious office or bank building has many possibilities. Great office space with fixtures in place. A great opportunity in a good location! Offered at $895,000 MLS#65504

North Old Walhalla Road. Located on over 4 acres, this cute cabin is the perfect retreat. Property backs up to Highlands Land Trust lands and has views of Blue Valley. 2 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, stone fireplace and wood stove. 2 large covered porches and a small matching storage shed. Offered at $599,000. mls #688

Commercial – Office – Professional – Residential. Great location on Harris Lakes features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Could also be used as residence – great for home office. Offered at $750,000 mls#67077

Exceptional view of Shortoff Mountain! Great price! Each living level is all open to the deck and view, wood burning fireplace. Lower level has second kitchen, pool table, fireplace and two bedrooms. Offered at $775,000 mls# 68780

Fabulous views of Whiteside and beyond. State of the art movie theater, a 3,000 bottle wine cellar, custom stair case, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, great room and bar. Offered at $5,900,000 mls#68561

Nearly new mountain cottage is fully furnished. Charming property with lots of trees. Three bedrooms, with large master upstairs for added privacy. Wonderful screened porch overlooks small stream. Wooded area with little yard maintenance. Offered at $469,000 mls #68894

Great home on desirable Foreman Road. Walk to town. Quality finishes throughout from this 6 bedrooms and 5 ½ bath home. Two fireplaces and lots of built-ins. Large pond. Great kitchen and family room. 2-car garage. Offered at $1,395,000 mls#69424

Great Mirror Lake Location on Chowan Drive! Almost new, this lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath cabin sits on a hill and is in immaculate condition! Large covered porch and open deck, spacious open living room with fireplace. Offered at $595,000. mls #69266

Great Blue Valley view! Cathedral ceilings, screened porch, built in gas grill on deck and garden tub in MBA. Faux finishes, wonderful landscaping and rock work. Dining area off kitchen, full house generator. Offered at $775,000 mls# 68526

Commercial- Residential. Great location on Harris Lakes features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Could also be used as residence – great for home office. Offered at $750,000 mls#67077

Wonderful new home under construction in Woodland Ridge. This cottage style home sits on a hill with a great long range mountain view. Great porch with fireplace. Large open living spaces, walk-in pantry and master bedroom on main level. Offered at $1,295,000 mls#69335

Large deck that overlooks Koy pond and many possibilities. Great office space with fixtures in place. A great opportunity in a good location! Offered at $895,000 MLS#65504

This builder’s home has a great floor plan and loads of great custom extras. Open living room with cathedral ceiling and heavy beam work. Large dining room and huge storage and butler’s pantry. Large office and a large master suite with his and her baths and closets. Upstairs level has family room with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Lower level has family room game room, bedroom and bath. Tons of storage! Detached 2 car garage with breezeway. Offered at a great value of $1,490,000. mls #68814

Beautifully constructed home in gated community in Cashier. Sits on a beautiful lot with 3.56 acres with additional acreage which could be added for even more privacy. This lovely 3 bedroom 3 ½ bath home was completed in 2006. Reduced for quick sell at $1,199,000. mls #68619

Commercial – Office – Professional – Residential. Great location on Harris Lakes features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Could also be used as residence – great for home office. Offered at $750,000 mls#67077

Lands. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Master upstairs for added privacy. Offered at $500,000. mls# 68338

Little Bear Pen 2 bedrooms, 2 baths Old Highlands Charm Flat usable yard Great location with a pretty setting! Offered at $300,000. mls# 68338

Charming log cabin sits on over one acre and backs up to Land Trust Lands. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Massive stone fireplace in the living room. Covered porch with outdoor living room with fireplace. Custom kitchen. Large deck that overlooks Koy pond with waterfall and gardens. Offered at $765,000. mls #68834

Commercial- Office – Professional – Residential. Great location on Harris Lakes features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Could also be used as residence – great for home office. Offered at $750,000 mls#67077

VZ Top Townhouse living. Enjoy one of the most spectacular Mountain Views in this area for the bargain price of $249,000. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, fully renovated and ready to enjoy. mls # 67460

Nearly new mountain cottage is fully furnished. Charming property with lots of trees. Three bedrooms, with large master upstairs for added privacy. Wonderful screened porch overlooks small stream. Wooded area with little yard maintenance. Offered at $469,000 mls #68894

New construction on great view lot in Woodland Ridge. Open living spaces with soaring vaulted ceiling. Large screened porch with fireplace and long mountain view. Separate guest suite over garage. Offered at $1,295,000 mls#69344

Great home with magnificent setting close to town. Screened porch, outside patio with fireplace, Master on first floor with 4 bedrooms up or appropriate for a large media room and 2 bedroom suites and an office. Offered at $1,495,000. mls #70726

Change does not come easy for most of us, but it is something we can always count on. Those of us living in Highlands for many years had reason to believe we were uniquely “recession proof.” Facing the harsh reality to the contrary has been a process. Nothing clarifies the current state of the economy better than our real estate market.

Change is something we have no control over. What we do have control over is our attitudes and our choices. These are times of sacrifice, but also times of great opportunity. They go hand in hand.

Here’s an example: A friend of mine shared her experience in selling a vehicle. Although she had not wanted to sell, she needed the money. The SUV had much greater value before the recession. Now there were multitudes of SUVs on car lots and in newspapers with much lower prices. Instead of lamenting over how much she “could have” sold it for, she priced it under the current competition and it sold immediately. My friend was relieved to have the money to pay her bills and genuinely grateful to have a buyer. The buyer was happy to have a quality SUV and thankful to have it at a reasonable price. Together, their needs were met.

We all have needs. In matters of high ticket items such as real estate, both buyers and sellers will be better served by a professional with experience and knowledge of the local market.

A seller’s motivation is not always due to financial issues, but their desire to sell may be of equal importance. This is especially true in the Highlands market. However, there are many more sellers than buyers.

If a seller is not substantially motivated, we recommend waiting for a more opportune time to sell. In today’s market, appreciating the VALUE OF A BUYER is the key to selling. Those who are willing to step out and buy in these uncertain times naturally want to buy the nicest property at the best price. In order to attract these potential buyers, sellers will gain their attention by pricing at the low end of their competition.

There are so much to be thankful for. We live in one of the most beautiful places in God’s creation. And let’s remember — Highlands’ greatest natural asset is the warm and loving spirit of the people who make up our community.

Signature Properties has been serving Highlands and Cashiers for over 25 years. Our agents would be honored to apply for the position as your Realtor and would be grateful for the opportunity.

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The Signature Properties’ family wishes you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season.

Lynn Kimball
Signature Properties
Facial rejuvenation

We all age. Our genes and lifestyles determine how we do so. Since our faces are our most visible area, it is the area where we are most concerned with hiding the effects of aging. As a specialty, we have developed multiple means of doing this, but the method providing the best reversal of the signs of aging is surgery. Surgical rejuvenation is undergoing dramatic changes as I, at the Center for Plastic Surgery, and others recognize the shortcomings of our previous techniques. Older methods tend to pull tissues in unnatural directions. They also removed fat that was already sparse. All this tended to give an unnatural, pulled and flattened look. Newer techniques return the tissues to a more natural position and preserve or restore volume to the face.

Initially, when we began using surgery to reverse aging, we dealt only with the skin that appeared to become loose with the passage of time. We attributed this to a natural loss of tissue elasticity and the effects of gravity. Now we know that what we see is actually a very complex interaction of many factors and at many levels within the face. Yes, gravity and loss of elastic rebound do play a role. The nutrition of the tissues, muscle action on them, underlying attachments to other tissues and bone, the natural loss or accumulation of fat, and even loss of muscle and bone also play significant roles. As our understanding of all these factors has evolved, our methods of reversing the signs of aging have also changed dramatically.

Starting at the top, the brow is an excellent example of radical changes in our approach to rejuvenation based on new knowledge. Early in my career, I refused to do browlifts because they made everyone look strange. The approach was to remove the forehead muscle and tighten the skin to, thus, smoothing the brow. We now know that the forehead lines are just a response to descent of the forehead and, that by repositioning the tissues naturally, the lines go away but let you still express yourself. The old method also elevated the brow evenly, also causing strange looks. We now elevate the lateral brow more than the central brow, and pull the temple up and lateral to reverse the uneven descent due to the central brow fixation near the nose. This has now become one of my favorite procedures, since it has almost no down time, and, not only rejuvenates the brow naturally, but also corrects the upper eyelids and the lateral crow’s feet. We also eliminate the need for Botox® by removing the abnormal, hypertrophied muscles between the brows.

We have also changed dramatically our approach to the lower eyelids and cheeks. Surgery for the lower lids was done by removing some of the muscle, fat and skin and elevating the tissues straight. This really did not get rid of the indentation under the eye, created a further hollow that got worse with time, and risked deforming the shape of the eye. It and a facelift did not correct the other problems in the cheek including loss of upper cheek fullness, lower cheek depression, and increase in the “parentheses” between the cheek and the lip. Once we understood what caused the problems, surgery dramatically changed. Although there are different approaches, I prefer to lift both the eye and cheek at the same time, as this corrects the entire midface. I now remove very little skin below the eye, most of it comes out laterally. This, and taking the eyelid attachment off the bone under the eye, allows elevation of the whole cheek, and stabilization of the cheek and jawline.

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

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... HEALTH MATTERS
continued from pg 17

of the elevated cheek to solid bony fixation. Instead of removing fat, we now just move it to fill areas of aging loss, or transfer it from another area of excess to provide a natural, youthful appearance.

The face and neck has seen some of the most dramatic changes. While most surgeons cling to the method they were taught, a new method produces more natural, longer lasting results with less surgery. Today’s Facelift, which I have modified from this technique, does so with faster recovery, lesser risk and minimal discomfort. It, thus, is a Mini-Lift with Maximum results. By understanding the problems, we are, again, able to correct the changes of aging more naturally with less surgery. This allows the correction of early signs of aging in younger individuals with no scar behind the ear and correcting many of the problems of previous facelifts.

To find out what you can do to rejuvenate your face, call the Center for Plastic Surgery in Highlands at 828-526-3783, or, toll free 877-526-3784. For more information, also visit www.TodaysFacelift.com.

Although our genes play a pivotal role in our aging, they are only one factor. Studies of twins have demonstrated that our lifestyle may have an even greater influence on how we age. The two things that had the greatest influence in differentiating how each individual twin aged was smoking and sun exposure. The more the sun exposure, the faster the aging. Smoking accelerated aging even more.

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Cullasaja Women's Outreach (CWO) recently announced the results of its 2010 fundraising for charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the Highlands and Cashiers communities. More than $80,875 was raised and awarded through a combination of CWO grants and individual member-directed donations.

More than $47,000 was raised at the CWO progressive dining experience — Rockin' at the Top of the Rock — last summer. The fundraiser was attended by 154 members of the Cullasaja Club. Funds raised were awarded to 17 area organizations in grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 each, following a sophisticated grants process headed up by CWO Grant Co-chairs Karen Leabo and Brenda Manning.

This year's grant recipients included: The Bascom, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Blue Ridge Mountain Health Project, Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Girls on the Run of Western NC, Highlands-Cashiers Community Child Development Center, Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Hudson Library, International Friendship Center, IFC Food Pantry, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Literacy Council of Highlands, and the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

Working with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the CWO set up a CFWNC-CWO Charities fund. This special fund allows members to designate the recipients of their donations directly, or to make donations to the CWO Charities General Fund, which are disbursed each fall when the organization completes its annual grant process.

"Since its inception in 2006, the women of the CWO have invested more than $344,000 into our community," noted 2010 President Lana Jordan. "This is absolutely incredible considering that we're a grassroots organization. Today, we are about 70 women strong — with a shared mission of reaching out to each other and to the community through philanthropy, volunteerism, and friendship. Together, we're working to build a better world, starting here in our own backyard."
... USFS continued from page 1

tools in conserving hemlock for future generations.”

In 2005, the Forest Service identified 159 eastern and Carolina hemlock areas that were distributed throughout a conservation network designed to represent genetic diversity within the distribution of known hemlock stands. These areas were part of a larger conservation network of areas being treated in surrounding states. Initial treatments focused primarily on release of certain predator beetles and treatment of high-priority areas with imidacloprid. Follow-up monitoring has shown that a number of the conservation areas have suffered mortality and can no longer function as genetic conservation areas for the hemlock.

Forest Supervisor Hilliard decided in late August to allow expansion of the treatment areas, both to replace those that were lost as well as to add more areas overall.

In addition, the wider range of allowed treatments helps forest managers select the treatments best suited for a specific area. The recent decision also gives the forest access to new treatments and predator options in the future.

The forest analyzed three alternatives, including continuing current treatment, expanding treatment but without using the new chemical, dinotefuran, and expanding treatment options to includedinotefuran. During the public comment period last spring, 13 comments were received, most of which supported the alternative that was eventually selected.

For more information about National Forests in North Carolina hemlock conservation, please go to the website: http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/final_hwa ea 2010.pdf, or contact David Casey, Silviculturist, at dmcasey@fs.fed.us.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

thought he was dealing with a stupid city woman whom he could sweet talk with his good ole boy logic. Was he barking up the wrong tree! Since it was dark outside, I guess it was just those coon dogs.

Hunting season is going to be taking a break for a while, before the next onslaught. It’ll be nice to have a breather. It’s discouraging when the people who are supposed to protect you are instead protecting the right of people to invade your privacy and your property. I don’t know what the solution is, but from where I stand, it sure seems like a losing battle.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. When Michelle was 2½ years old, she was attacked by a hunting dog, which ripped open her right knee. To this day, she has a healthy respect for all dogs.

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Time for the annual Thanksgiving column, and this year is certainly a special one because 2010 has given me a lot to be thankful for. Therefore, without further ado, here is my list for 2010.

I am thankful for both myself and the city of New Orleans that our years of faithful suffering were rewarded with a Super Bowl. The celebration afterwards was amazing, and it was incredible to see the happiness in the city as well as among the players and fans.

Special thanks go to Drew Brees, who has been remarkable in the way that he represents the team and the city without reserve.

I am thankful for Coach K—not only the captain of my preferred team, but also the leader of Team USA. Amazing when one considers that he was won a championship in three different decades in addition to winning a gold medal in two different decades as well. Despite his flaws (foul language, obvious hair dye job, pretentiousness) Coach K is truly one of the legends of the sport. (PS— I’m thankful that Gordon Hayward’s half-court shot was just a tad off on that fateful day in April)

I’m thankful that this will be Brett Favre’s last year playing football in the NFL. Despite numerous attempts by announcers to make me feel sorry for the guy, I just can’t do it—especially not since he got a fat contract to throw interceptions for Minnesota this year.

I’m thankful for TCU and Boise State—two supposed “have nots” that will have the opportunity to change college football this year. If we can just get one of these guys in the BCS Championship and have them win it, then maybe the greedy folks in charge of college football will finally succumb to the public clamor for a playoff.

I’m thankful that the Miami Heat are a middle of the road team right now. If anything it proves that the “team” concept still holds some weight in the NBA. While I am sure that Lebron, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh will eventually become a more cohesive unit as the year progresses, it is nice to see that it takes more than just a couple of superstars to win games on the professional level.

I am thankful that Lou Holtz is not my personal physician. While he may be a decent pop psychologist, I definitely do not want him showering me with spittle during a consultation.

I am thankful for Steve Spurrier, who taught me that it is my job to stop the other team, not to have them stop themselves by putting in second string or laying back. Spurrier’s boys will play for the SEC Championship later this season, and I am certainly being pulled for them in that game.

And finally, while I must preface this statement by saying that I am certainly biased, I am thankful that Highlands School has been the home of a man the caliber of Butch Smart. I was part of Coach’s first team ever at Highlands School, and while I was too young to appreciate it at the time, he taught me the value of character, integrity and commitment during my years as a player.

Later, as a mentor, he has taught me about loyalty, perseverance, and more than anything else, he has taught me about courage. Our community is very fortunate to have such a man working with our young people. Once you play for Coach, you are a member of the Highlands basketball family. With that being said, I hope everyone is able to enjoy plenty of time with their families this Thanksgiving.

Highlanders get first win of season

By Ryan Potts

The Highlander basketball teams opened the season with several tough non-conference opponents to start the season. After playing several 2A schools to begin the year, the Highlanders hosted 1A Andrews on Monday night and earned their first wins of the season.

The Lady Highlanders struggled early against the Lady Wildcats, committing several mistakes in the first half and uncharacteristically turning the ball over. Despite a sloppy first half, the Lady Highlanders managed to lead by 3 at the half, but several halftime adjustments allowed Highlands to open the third quarter with an 8-0 run to extend the lead.

The Lady Highlanders lead ballooned to as many as 21 before a late Andrews run narrowed the final margin to 51-42. Junior Emily Munger scored 18 for Highlands and Senior Taylor Buras added 11.

The Lady Highlanders also struggled early against Andrews, as the Wildcats fell back into a tight 2-3 zone and the Highlanders were unable to hit jump shots early. The cold shooting of Highlands allowed Andrews to control the tempo and take an 18-16 lead into the half.

In the second half, the Highlanders were able to wake up on defense and get some easy baskets off of turnovers. Highlands led throughout the second half, but was not able to pull away until midway through the fourth quarter when they used a 12-0 run to put the game out of reach.

Junior PG Logan Schmitt led the Highlanders with 17 points, and seniors Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz scored 12 and 14 points respectively.

Highlands’ Emily Murphy at the game against Andrews.

Highlands’ Cai Roman at the game against Rabun.

Photos by Noel Atherton