Tate to replace McClellan on MC Board

The Macon County Republican Party Executive Committee held a special meeting at the Macon County Courthouse Monday, Dec. 5 to select an interim Republican to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Brian McClellan who resigned effective Dec. 1. James (Jimmy) Tate from Highlands was recommended by unanimous vote during the meeting. Tate ran against McClellan in 2010 Republican primary. The vote was taken after a speech by Tate and a question and answer session.

“Jimmy Tate has been an active member of the Republican Party and an active member of the Highlands community,” said...

Planning Board set to consider CD zoning

Conditional District Zoning fences and commercial lighting were tasks discussed at the Monday, Nov. 28 Planning Board meeting.

Conditional District Zoning has been discussed at length over the last few months - brought to the forefront by Old Edwards Hospitality Group’s (OEI) request to renovate the old Northland Cable Group building on NC 106 into a 9-unit apartment building.

It’s in the B3 zone and incidental apartments are allowed, but only two above the downstairs commercial space.

To accommodate the 9-unit renovation, OEI wanted to rezone the parcel R3 (multifamily), but since the lot wasn’t two acres, it couldn’t be zoned R3 and so the 9-unit renovation was not allowed.

That segued to discussing...

King and Queen for the night

The Highlands School Homecoming Dance was held at the Performing Arts Center Saturday night. Crowned were seniors Cody St. Germain and Juliane Buras. For more photos see page 10.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

New board seated Tuesday

Beginnings and endings was the theme of Tuesday night’s Town Board meeting.

The board voted unanimously to hire Robert Frye as Town Manager, effective immediately. His employment contract was finalized at a 5 p.m. closed meeting Tuesday.

Mayor David Wilkes bid farewell to both Larry Rogers and Dennis DeWolf. He said everything Larry did, he did for the people of Highlands “and that’s something to be admired.”

He said though Dennis said it was time for him to step back, Wilkes said during his eight years on the board Dennis has always stepped forward to do whatever was asked of him.

DeWolf said he greatly appreciated being a part of the Town Board and thanked his wife Jane for her support during the past eight years as he and the board dealt with the issues and...
Dear Editor,

We have been in the Christmas tree farming business for 18 years and Highlands Chamber members for more than 10. We have been very pleased with Bob Kieltyka’s leadership as director of the Chamber until now. In fact, we have highly encouraged many Cashiers businesses to join the Highlands Chamber.

The Chamber has a sub-committee that consists of local business people called the Winter Activities Committee, which is responsible for promoting business activity in the lean winter months. Many of us winter businesses have only a short six-week season to try and cover business expenses.

This last week I received some of my usual Highlands Chamber emails, one of them, “Winter Fun in Highlands” showing a beautiful email or printed publication that visitors can pick up all over town. This is also emailed to all Chamber members and any of the public that have shown an interest in the area. This tells of important dates and happenings in the area.

Much to my surprise, another Christmas tree farm that is not a Highlands Chamber member (as of December 5, 2011) and is right down the road from our farm has a whole half page devoted to them with their tree farm name fully advertised. In fact, as of December 5, 2011 our tree farm is THE only tree farm that is a member of the Highlands Chamber. Wow, I had no idea!

I made a call to Bob at the Chamber and learned that the Winter Activities sub-committee is responsible for the brochure and the committee is mainly comprised of an entity in Highlands that pretty much “owns” the town of Highlands. Turns out this company and the tree farm featured in the Winter Activities brochure have been aligned for a few years.

I find it highly interesting that the Winter Activities sub-committee would not have recommended a blanket “visit our local tree farms” or mentioned all of the farms that are Chamber members. Why would the Chamber have sent out this email and printed this publication without approving what it contained? How does a business that is not even a Chamber member receive such great advertising?

I have always supported the company whose representatives sit on the Winter Activities sub-committee (as well as other boards in Highlands) by recommending people to stay in their lodging establishments, eat in their restaurants, and purchase items from their retail stores. We even have the company listed on our website, have bought gift certificates and have defended them to many of Highlands and Cashiers residents who do not approve of the company and how its members conduct themselves.

I can now understand the negative publicity the “corporation” has received. In this day and age, I have been trying to support local businesses, but this company is trying to have a monopoly in the town of Highlands and obviously uses its positions on boards and committees to promote its interests. Our business was never called on to be represented in the Winter Activities publication.

I do not need to be a member of a Chamber of Commerce which is so blatantly is led by private interests.

Joni Wavra

Ty-Lyn Plantation

Food for Fuel!

A luncheon at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands to raise Funds for The Highlands Emergency Council’s Fuel Program. Luncheon will be prepared by Joel Porter. Donations accepted. Make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church designated For The Fuel Fund. Reservations would be appreciated and need to be made by Wed., Dec. 14.

Call 828-526-3175.

Who is running the show around here?

Betty Jane Gentile Ross

Betty Jane Gentile Ross, 87, of Highlands, NC passed away Friday, December 2, 2011 after a short stay in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

She was born October 15, 1924 in Sewickley, PA, and grew up in Negley and East Palestine, Ohio. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Grace Harte Gentile and a 1942 graduate of East Palestine High School. Betty was married to the late Henry Ross for 49 years and traveled widely with him during his 40-year career at Delta Air Lines. She was a homemaker and a pre-school teacher for 14 years at East Point (GA) Presbyterian Church. Betty later married the late Walton Smith of Clarksville, TN.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and also a former member of East Point Presbyterian Church and Northwest Presbyterian Church. She was a member of Highlands Country Club for 28 years and a former member of the East Point Garden Club.

She will be remembered for her vivacious spirit, devotion to family, love of animals and reading, and always being in favor of having a good time with friends and relatives.

Surviving is a daughter, Paula Ross Derrick and husband Kirby of Glencoe, AL, two sons David H. Ross and wife Olga Mary Ross of Kennesaw, GA, and Henry “Hank” Ross and wife Cathy McIntyre-Ross of Highlands, NC, one sister Jean Beale of Miami, FL, a sister-in-law and brother-in-law Rose Castigioni and Francis Ross of East Palestine, Ohio, special

This Holiday Season ...
Take a child's winter garment – gloves, mittens, caps, hats, scarves – to Ruka's Table, Flipside or Highlands Smokehouse and get 10% off your order!
ALSO, take an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to The Pizza Place on Main Street and get 10% off your order.

... OBITUARY
continued from page 2
niece Connie Hays Parish, Peachtree City, GA, three stepchildren: Mary Milam Jenkins, Walton Smith, Jr., and Corrine Smith. Four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren also survive.
Memorial services will be held Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 2 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands with Rev. Dr. Don Mullen officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hudson Library, P.O. Box 430, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

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Independent Cottages and Apartments or Assisted Living Suites
Retirement as it is meant to be! Enjoy our carefree lifestyle with elegant dining, scheduled transportation, and a full calendar of planned events to meet all stages of life.

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Turn on Buck Creek Road and proceed to Clubhouse Trail.
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Call or email to place ads for holiday shopping!
828-526-3228 or highlandseditor@aol.com
If you take your politics serious, don’t read this!

This is not just about the Republicans or the Democrats or the Tea Party or Libertarians or the Whigs or whatever other corrupt political group you might hook up with. I wanna warn you, this is cynical. Oh, and if you’re a Whig, you’re even older than I’ll oleme.

Most everyone has me pegged as a Republican but I’m not. I’m a die-hard conservative Independent. It will be me and my ilk who will decide the presidency in 2012.

First, let’s poke fun of the Republicans: Back in the day, the Republican Party represented the fat cats and spoke for the wealthy, the business people, the land barons, the bankers and the Wall Street bunch. They were symbolized by the character on the Monopoly board….fat, bald, with a mustache.

The Democratic Party spoke for the 1% people, the workers, and the nine-to-five folks, like the WWII symbol of the lady worker wearing the bandana and showing her muscles. Back then, the lines were clearly drawn and it was obvious what each party represented.

Now both parties represent their personal interests and America and its citizens can go to hell.

My Pa was in the restaurant business most of his life and was a registered Republican. For payment of his taxes, he felt our government owed him something… and I mean nothing… except protection from foreign invasion. How silly. Of course I had no choice. If I ever wanted back in his restaurant I would have to register as a Republican.

So here I am, a half century later, staring at a bunch of corrupt clowns on a national stage trying to convince “we the people” to vote for them in 2012. They have two things in common: they’re all Republicans and they’re all dishonest. There’s not a statesman in the group and they all disgust me.

And having changed from being a Republican to a conservative Independent has not helped me a bit. Presidential candidates from both parties have been disappointing me for decades. Do some research. How many past presidential candidates promised to change our unfair tax system? How about none of them.

The Republicans have driven this country into such deep debt we may never recover. Who wants to vote for more of that? Oh, and remember, they’re all lying through their teeth on that debate stage. It’s too late to get out of this mess we’re in.

This was driven home to me in 2008 when boneheaded Senator John McCain, running on his promise to end...
The moral of the story isn’t a righteous one

It was at a lovely house in suburban Seattle. The weather, while damp, was perfect for a light lunch under a covered porch. My host, something of a wind aficionado, uncorked a pleasantly crisp white wine. The entrée was a heaping pile of Beluga caviar on toast. A guy more accustomed to peanut butter than fish eggs, I was impressed. I complimented the caviar, and his extravagance. He replied with no show of remorse, and very little embarrassment, that it was stolen.

My gaze captured the elegance of the surroundings and I naively asked how he could possibly justify shoplifting. It wasn’t as though he was stealing bread to feed a hungry family. His tone was matter-of-fact when he answered that the caviar was too expensive to buy. I suggested to my impervious host that if the caviar was beyond his budget, which seemed unlikely, he should have gone without or chosen a cheaper brand. He answered that he preferred Beluga to less expensive alternatives, and that was the end of it.

With considerable guilt, I finished my lunch, left, and never saw my friend again.

Dr. Paul Farmer told me of unemployed Russians who stole to feed starving kids, were captured, incarcerated, and while in prison contracted fatal multiple drug resistant tuberculosis. The crime seemed justifiable, although had I owned the bakery, I might have had a different view. The punishment seemed excessive and the outcome tragic. Compared to my friend in Seattle, the unfortunate men in Paul’s story seemed positively heroic. They were, for me, the model of what a shoplifter should be, and were, as far as I knew, more typical.

I just read an article that claimed that one in every 11 people who leave a store take something they haven’t paid for. It was a shocking high number, but as I remembered a national unemployment rate stubbornly stuck at a crippling 9%, it became less so. The article listed the most frequently pilfered items. Surprisingly, filet mignon, not stale bread topped the list. I found myself wondering how one would go about concealing two pounds of steak while walking out of Piggly Wiggly. It would lose much of its appeal if it had been concealed in the thief’s pants. Most of the items listed would be considered luxury, or at least unnecessary.

Nothing supported my fantasy of the noble husband and father risking freedom and life in an effort to provide for his family, Jameson, and other expensive liquors followed expensive steak cuts. Whiskey seems like a luxury to me, but to the alcoholic, it is a daily need. I guess as long as a person is stealing, he might as well lift the best, but I still think of the down and out drunk with a pint of Mogan David 20/20 shoved in his hip pocket.

The list includes Gillette Mach 4 razors, Ralph Lauren clothing, Channel No.5 perfume, Nike shoes, Axe personal care products. Electric tools, iPhones, and a popular Elmo doll made the list. Elmo might be even more difficult to conceal than Filet Mignon. Shoplifting is up 6% since 2010. It is estimated that the cost to retailers will be 119 billion dollars. Electronic stores lose one thousand laptops each year.

It turns out my buddy in Seattle wasn’t atypical after all. His fellow shoplifters steal not what they need, but what they want. He might merely have been a few years ahead of the crowd.

WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

earmarks on Senate bills forever, suspended his presidential campaign to rush to the Senate floor to push a stimulus bill containing multi-millions of dollars in pork barrel spending. I was stunned because I had momentarily forgotten all politicians lie and all politicians are corrupt. DUH on me!

I’m also convinced we must get President Obama out of office or we’re done for as a nation. He is taking this country in the wrong direction and a whopping
Uncle Henry’s last poker game

“The history of the true mountaineer will soon be lost forever. We don’t know why our ancestors settled in the rugged mountains of Western North Carolina, but I am sure they had a reason.

The young people of today who grew up in the mountains don’t have the slightest ideas as to what the true life of a mountaineer was because they were born into the jet age and our nation has changed so much in the last 50 years. I write the following parts of “Back Days in Highlands” so a record of that time can be kept.”

Herm Wilson

(Published with permission from his son Neville Wilson)

Back in the Roaring 20s us lumber jacks or loggers, as we were called, liked our teeth crowned with gold. A dentist would crown a tooth for five bucks. That was the style of the day.

Well lived and worked high up in the Great Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina, now called the Smoky Mountain National Park.

I remember Uncle Henry as we younger guys called him. He was the only man in our crew who wore a beard. Every tooth that could be seen in his mouth was crowned in gold.

Uncle Henry would play poker every night and lose every game. Sometimes he thought he would win. I said, “Uncle Henry, you are getting old and you need to think about the future and be planning for that.” He said, “Wilson, my plans are already made.”

The work that we were doing was extremely dangerous. The logs were carried overhead on a big steel cable, sometimes 400 feet high from one mountain to another where the great ledger wood skidding machine was located on a railroad track. When changing sets, as it was called, the big cable was lowered and changed to a new area.

While raising the cable one day, it got underneath a big birch tree that was down. The powerful machine lifted the tree high into the air. Uncle Henry was standing by when the tree turned loose from the cable. It came crashing to the ground. Uncle Henry thought that he was well out of the way but he wasn’t. The tree came down and crushed him to death.

I never learned if he had any relatives and if so, where they were. I am sure that the Suncrest Lumber Company gave him a decent funeral.

Herman “Herm” Wilson was one of the six men whose contributions to the Town of Highlands were featured in the Highlands Historical Society’s production of “Highlands Live!” in June 2011. Interest in him led his son Neville and daughter-in-law Kathleen to share some of Herm’s writings that reflect the man’s homespun humor, philosophy and patriotism.

This Holiday Season ...

Take a child’s winter garment – gloves, mittens, caps, hats, scarves – to Ruka’s Table, Flipside or Highlands Smokehouse and get 10% off your order!

ALSO, take an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to The Pizza Place on Main Street and get 10% off your order.

83% of Americans agree with me. HEL-LO!

Since socialism represents a few of the very rich and a massive amount of the very poor, I’m plotting...just in case...to be one of the very rich. (Read my journal “How to get rich from socialism while living the good life in Dubai.”)

George Bush drove us into deep, deep debt and President Obama is finishing the job....putting the final nails on our coffin. Where do I turn? Well, the answer is certainly not with the Democrats, the most corrupt organization in America.

Three years ago, after drowning in eight years of Republican debt and I’ve lost track of how many wars nobody wanted, the country was begging for change. And change it got. Out of nowhere came this wonderful, intelligent silver tongued lemming who would take us over the cliff. America fell in love with him....and he was black. What more could one ask for? He said all the right things but, like his predecessor, George Bush, he was lying through his teeth. And he certainly broke as many campaign promises as Bush....and printed more money than Bush and borrowed more money than Bush. As a nation, we went from horrible to more horrible, a little circus music, please.

After three years in office, I’m convinced our president is on a mission to destroy capitalism. I’m a capitalist so I’ll be...
A couple of weeks ago, I outlined a plan for a playoff which would help to settle a lot of issues that currently plague the college football BCS system. Unfortunately, the BCS has failed us yet again by creating a rematch between Alabama and LSU instead of placing the most deserving one-loss team (Oklahoma St.) in the BCS National Championship.

Alabama fans are going to hate me for this, but the bottom line is that the BCS has placed us in a position now where the only way for us to have a clear national champion is for Alabama to blow out the Tigers in New Orleans, and while that is a possibility, it is certainly not likely. Here's why the BCS has failed us—even if Alabama were to win...unless they win convincingly they will still have a worse loss than LSU (at home) and they will have only 4 wins against quality competition.

Oh, and also, let's not forget that Alabama didn't even win their own division or their own conference championship! Let's get real here: Alabama is in the game because they are Alabama, not because of a body of work that includes a schedule softer than Charmin—they played their two toughest games at home and avoided UGA and South Carolina out of the SEC East.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma State has beaten 5 teams that finished in the top 25 of the BCS Standings, and when naysayers said they would have to beat Oklahoma in a blowout to make a case for the BCS, they walloped their archrival on national television.

Now, with that out of the way, the real issue should be saved for the so-called "system" that is supposed to provide us with a clear national champion. A mere .009 percentage points separated Alabama and Oklahoma State, which means that some idiot with a vote who ranked OSU 5th instead of 3rd likely decided who played in the National Championship game. I would write this in caps if I felt like it wouldn't frighten people, but how can people think that this is a good idea on how to pick a champion? Sure, the Bammers are happy now, but if we keep this system it will come back to bite them eventually...it seems as if more years than not someone deserving is left out.

The one solace in all of this is that it was Oklahoma State who was left out, and now maybe T. Boone Pickens will be so upset with this result that he will invest millions of dollars in getting rid of the BCS once and for all. You may laugh at that comment, but the man helped build a powerhouse in Stillwater, Oklahoma...I have no doubt that he could take down the BCS if he were so inclined.

HS Fundraisers!

Wed., Dec. 14
- Pancake Supper Highlands Boys Basketball Team fundraiser before the PTO meeting and band concert, 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pancakes, juice and fruit $5 for 2 pancakes or $7 for all you can eat.

Sat. Dec. 17
- Mountain Fresh Grocery will give the Highlands School PTO 100% of its breakfast proceeds—not profits, but all Breakfast Sales will be donated to the Highlands School PTO. The full Breakfast Menu will be available and Mountain Fresh will also be serving a special "Highlander's Blend" coffee at the Breakfast.

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"I was angry this weekend listening to the spin coming out of the administration about the failure of the super committee and that the president knew it was doomed for failure so he didn't get involved" the Republican Governor said. ‘Well then what are we paying you for? It's doomed for failure so I'm not getting involved? What have you been doing exactly?’

That is a good question. Let's look at the facts.

Since his inauguration in 2009, from most recent working backwards, Obama has visited; Bali, Australia, France, Poland, France again, UK, Ireland, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil in 2011; Afghanistan, Portugal, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, India, Canada, Czech Republic, and back to Afghanistan in 2010; Denmark, Norway, South Korea, China Singapore, Japan, Denmark again, Mexico, Ghana, Vatican City, Italy, Russia, France, Germany, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico again, Iraq, Turkey, Czech Republic, Germany, France, UK and Canada in 2009. Domestic trips don't count, for now.

So, Chris, safe to say El Presidente has been doing a lot of traveling. WeOldsters remember the slogan “Join the Navy and see the World.” It appears you can do just as well as president. Does anybody remember any substantial benefits that resulted from his globetrotting? For us, I mean.

Then there is his penchant for the game of golf. The best information I can find is that he had played 75 rounds during his presidency by the end of June. How many since I don't know. From Right Wing News: “Between 2000 and 2008 one of the left’s most cherished ways to ridicule President Bush was to point out how often he went golfing. Bush’s golfing was a clear sign that he was ignoring the work he had to do in Washington and he just didn’t care, they claimed. He was a playboy and a goof off, a time waster.

But now that Barack Obama has come to office all of a sudden the left has found that golf isn’t worth noting, even as Obama has played the gamemore in just under two years (that column is a year old) than Bush did during his entire eight-year term. The word hypocrisy comes to mind.”

When he isn't bothering heads of state abroad, or beating up on the little white ball, he can generally be found shooting hoops at the Interior Department Building, which is handy to the White House. While most of us are spending our Sunday mornings in some form of worship, the President is spending quality time on the court with his daughters. That'snice. So that, Mr. Christie, is what he has been doing exactly.

Eric Holder, on the other hand, has been extremely busy. He has taken up hole-digging and is digging himself in, deeper and deeper. The Fast and Furious debacle has caused all sorts of excitement in Congress and Eric is the target of so many investigations I can't keep up.

From Yahoo! News: The Justice Department provided Congress with documents detailing how department officials gave inaccurate information to a U.S. senator in the controversy surrounding Operation Fast and Furious, the flawed law enforcement initiative aimed at dismantling major arms trafficking networks on the Southwest border.

In a letter last February to Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Justice Department said that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had not sanctioned the sale of assault weapons to a straw purchaser and that the agency makes every effort to intercept weapons that have been purchased illegally. In Operation Fast and Furious, both statements turned out to be incorrect (lies).

The Justice Department letter was responding to Grassley’s statements that the Senate Judiciary Committee had received all allegations from the ATF that had sanctioned the sale of hundreds of assault weapons to suspected straw purchasers. Grassley also said there were allegations that two of the assault weapons had been used in a shootout that killed customs agent Brian Terry.

In an email four days later to Justice Department colleagues, then-U.S. Attorney Dennis Burke in Phoenix said that "Grassley’s assertions regarding the Arizona investigation and the weapons recovered at the murder scene are based on categorical falsehoods. I worry that ATF will take months to answer this when they should be refuting its underlying..."
TATE continued from page 1

Jimmy Tate signs document to be presented to the Macon County Board of Commissioners recommending him as the person to fill Brian McClellan’s vacancy.

Chris Murray, chairman of the MC Republican Party. “He is an excellent person to fill the vacancy and will work well with all of the commissioners — both Republican and Democrat. Jimmy believes in fiscal responsibility and will bode well for all the citizens of Macon County. We are proud to recommend him as our next commissioner.”

McClellan resigned his position as Chairman of the MC Commission after being arrested for DWI, Friday, Nov. 18 in Sylva marking the second such arrest in a little over two years.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 153A-27.1 (Vacancies on board of commissioners in certain counties) the interim commissioner for District 1 will serve until the next general election (November 2012), will have to run for that seat (and be elected) and then if that person wins will serve the remaining two years of Brian McClellan’s term which expires in 2014.

“I am very excited about working for the citizens of Macon County and I am humbled and appreciative of the confidence and support that the Republican Party has provided to me with this opportunity,” said Tate. “This scenario has come about very quickly and I am still absorbing the changes that will need to happen with my schedule and with my family; however, I have been grooming my self for this chance for a long time. So, I know that I am ready!” Tate said his initial goal is simple: Hewants to work closely with all of the Macon County Commissioners and staff to make sure he understands the problems that Macon County is and will be facing so he can make informed decisions.

“I also know that the budget process is just around the corner, and I am definitely going to apply my belief in fiscal responsibility,” he said.

Since Monday night’s meeting, Tate said his phone and e-mail have been overwhelmed with continuous voices of support.

“This makes me extremely proud to call Highlands and Macon County home, and it provides extra incentive to get to work with representing our taxpayers,” he said.

He is married to Allison Morton Tate and has two children, Ethan, 8 and Eliza 7. He has a BA in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and owns Tate Landscaping Services, Inc.

He is a member of Highlands United Methodist Church, sits on the board of the H-C Land Trust and is chairman of its Stewardship Committee. He is a 13-year member of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department, 11 of which he has served as an officer. He is currently Fire Lieutenant.

He is a member of the Highlands Rotary Club, is chairman of the Highlands Zoning Board and is past chairman of the Highlands Planning Board, Appearance Commission and Land Use Committee.

He was a 14-year employee of Macon County Emergency Medical Services as an EMT-1 and is a member of the EMS Quality Management Committee, the Macon County Planning Board and vice-chairman of the MC Republican Party.

Tate will be sworn into office at the Tuesday, Dec. 13 MC Commission meeting in the boardroom at the MC Courthouse at 6 p.m.

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders played their first full week of games this season, winning 2 of 3 against Andrews, Tallulah Falls, and Rosman.

The Lady Highlanders opened Monday night’s game with Andrews by applying full court pressure and looking to create turnovers. While Andrews was able to handle the pressure early, the Lady Highlanders ultimately wore down the Lady Wildcats and pulled away for a 51-41 victory. Senior Emily Munger led the Highlanders with 16 points. Wednesday, the Lady Highlanders traveled to Tallulah Falls to face the Lady Indians and dominated the game from start to finish for a final of 51-18. Lloyd was again the Highlanders leading scorer with 18 points.

The Highlanders faced Rosman looking to get Smart his 700th win. This time, the Highlanders started strong, pushing out to a 9 point lead in the second quarter. As the game went on, the Highlanders were able to speed the game up in the second half and force overtime, where they prevailed 50-47. Junior Dax Lloyd led the Highlanders with 24 points, and Junior Taylor Osteen added 13.

The Highlanders will host conference rival Hiwassee Dam this Friday in their first conference matchup of the season, so come out and support your Highlanders!

Coach Butch Smart approaches milestone as both Highlander teams go 2-1 this week

By Ryan Potts

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Children’s book author comes to Highlands School

Author Darlene Conley visited Highlands School recently with her dog, Leo. Leo is the inspiration for her first children’s book, Leo’s Job. Ava Schmitt, a member of Mrs. Miller’s second grade class, helped her with Leo while Conley read her book. Conley presented the students in Mrs. Miller’s class with copies of the book which is illustrated by Isabella Kung. Conley plans to continue writing children’s books about Leo and her daughter, Christie.

Photo by Carol Bowen

HS SPORTS/NEWS

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Photo by Carol Bowen
Conditional District Zoning not to be confused with Conditional Use Zoning which the Town Board has used to accommodate multi-family developers in the past.

With Conditional Use Zoning, developers still had to meet the underlying criteria for R3, particularly the acreage component, and the “conditions” requested by the developers of Old Highlands Park and Town Place Condominiums were negotiated with the Town Board.

In both cases conditions were made concerning buffering and setbacks and in return the developer accommodated the Town Board by supplying a sidewalk.

Both developers had to go through the painstaking process of hearings before the Town Board, the Appearance Commission, the Planning Board and finally the Zoning Board to get a Special Use Permit (SUP).

But Conditional District zoning is different and Town Planner David Clabo said it has been allowed by the legislature since 2005 and more and more municipalities are using it.

Since Highlands Land Use plan stressed the need for more incidential apartments and more multi-family configurations in town and since Conditional District zoning would be a mechanism to accomplish that, the Planning Board is working on an ordinance.

But the process and allowances in the Conditional District are different from Conditional Use Zoning.

Like Conditional Use Zoning, Conditional District Zoning is done on a case-by-case basis and doesn’t set precedence for future projects.

However, unlike Conditional Use Zoning in Conditional District Zoning just about everything including allowed uses in the underlying zone is erased.

Clabo said the only requirement that must stay is the watershed built-upon which is state mandated.

Clabo urged the board to just consider R3-CD (Multi-family, Conditional District) for now—to focus on multi-family needs in town—now being called workforce or affordable housing by proponents of the change.

Member Mike Bryson suggested Conditional District zoning for other purposes, as well, namely as a way to accommodate owners of properties whose size limits what can be done to an existing structure.

Members Alan Marsh and Linda Clark voiced concern over Conditional District Zoning, especially when the board learned that the uses allowed by the underlying zone would be erased.

In addition, Conditional District zoning doesn’t require a SUP like Conditional Use Zoning and only has to be heard by the Planning and Town boards.

Marsh said without any rules applying to the zone, it will come down to who knows (likes) whom on the boards.

For instance, though it’s not likely to be OKed, theoretically, someone could ask for a R3-CD zone in a R1 (residential) neighborhood.

Clabo said by law the owner or developer must hold two meetings in the neighborhood where the parcel exists— not to be confused with a Town-run public hearing—so citizens would have to be informed as to what is planned in the neighborhood so they could voice opinions.

Besides the “political” ramifications, Clark said once zoning stipulations are erased, the town has nothing to use to uphold its decision to allow or disallow a project in a Conditional District. She feared decisions would appear to be arbitrary.

All along Clabo has said for Conditional District zoning to work, citizens must trust and believe in their elected and appointed boards.

The Planning Board asked Clabo to return to the Dec. 12 Planning Board meeting with a R3-CD draft which will be loosely based on the Wilmington, NC Conditional District ordinance.

Fences have popped up along

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HS Homecoming Dance – 2011

This year’s dance was held at the Performing Arts Center. Crowned were seniors Cody St. Germain and Juliane Buras. Students in the 9th-12th grade attended.
Think Christmas from Highlands!

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Dwight E. Bryant, Artist

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... SWANSON continued from page 8

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6

... SWANSON continued from page 8

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6

accusations right now. That email marked the start of an internal debate in the Justice Department over what and how much to say in response to Grassley's allegations. The fact that there was an ongoing investigation into Terry's murder prompted some at the Justice Department to argue for less disclosure."

The story goes on and on detailing how to escape the ramifications of the blunder. The DoJ is corrupt, headed by an incompetent lawyer who is Obama's chief thug. Holder should be fired…now.

... SWANSON continued from page 8

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6

be forced to vote for the clown who runs against him. Sad, sad, sad!

I was hoping I was wrong about Obama. He and his cronies are hard at work on the destruction of capitalism. The majority of Americans feel it's too late to save this nation from financial collapse that will usher in the end of capitalism.

So I pray God will send a person to save us. A person with good moral character who does not lie, has not taken money for political favors or gain and has not succeeded by being dishonest. God, send us a person who is not for the little people or the big people but for all the people, a person who is smart enough to pull this nation back together again; a person who will circle the wagons and be willing to take on the hard fight to bring us back to being the greatest nation on the planet.

But send him quick, Lord, we're almost out of time.

Are you aware you can read Fred’s mystery/thriller titled Deceived on your Kindle or Nook? Download it today!
Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 11th**
The Mountaintop Ringers will play during the 10:50 worship service.

**Sunday, December 18th**
10:50am
Christmas Cantata

**Christmas Eve Services:**
5pm
Family-Friendly Candlelight Service

7-8pm
Drop-in Communion

11pm
Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day**
Sunday, December 25th
10:50am

Join us as we Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior at Highlands United Methodist Church

**Storytellers in The Atrium, Hot Chocolate and Holiday Music**
Enjoy the spirit of the season at The Bascom

There is so much to see and do at The Bascom in December.
• The Bascom’s “Hot Chocolate Events” will warm your heart. On December 10 and 17 from 3-5 p.m., visitors can come out and view the exhibitions, enjoy free hot chocolate or coffee, holiday story telling and music from Sarah Harkins and Bryan Heller.
• With 29 participating local nonprofits, The Bascom’s Giving Trees exhibition will amaze visitors with a stunning showcase of festive holiday trees. Best of all, donations made for the Giving Trees at The Bascom through January 3, will benefit the participating nonprofit organizations.
• Tools in Motion: Works from the Hechinger Collection, a traveling exhibition organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, featuring 20th century art that celebrates repetition and motion in common, everyday tools and hardware, continues through December 23rd.
• And coming in January, Art Cinema at The Bascom, every Saturday at 2 pm and the first Winter Barn Dance of the season, January 28 from 7-8 pm.

The Bascom is now open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828-526-4949.
Upcoming Events

• Pancake Supper Highlands Boys Basketball Team fundraiser before the PTO meeting and band concert, 5:15-6:45 p.m. Pancakes, juice and fruit $5 for 2 pancakes or $7 for all you can eat.
• Student Symposium at Highlands Biological Station when students will present their internship projects. For more information, call 526-2602.

Thursday, Dec. 15
• HCP presents its annual free Christmas Reading at PAC at 7:30 p.m. A mix of serious and humorous.

Friday, December 16
• Atlanta Boy Choir performance at The Cathedral of St. Philip on 2744 Peachtree Road in Atlanta at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are $20 and may be ordered by calling our office at 404.378.0064 or ordered online at www.atlantaboychoir.org (major credit cards accepted).

Sat. Dec. 17
• Mountain Fresh Grocery will give the Highlands School PTO 100% of its breakfast proceeds—not profits, but all Breakfast Sales will be donated to the Highlands School PTO. The full Breakfast Menu will be available and Mountain Fresh will also be serving a special “Highlander’s Blend” coffee at the Breakfast.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike from Deep Gap to the top of Standing Indian Mtn. at 5490 ft., an elevation change of 1200 ft. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations.
• La Noche Navidena at the Highlands Civic Center from 6-9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18
• Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players’ production of Tennessee Williams “Cat On A Hot Tin Roof” will take place on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC. There are roles for three men, ages 25 – 50 and three men, ages 50 – 70. Roles for women include four women, ages 25 – 50 and two women, ages 50 – 70. The main roles of Margaret (Maggie) and Brick have already been cast. There are also three roles for children under 12 years. The production will take place February 23 – 26 and March 2 – 6, 2012, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Copies of the play are at the Hudson Library in Highlands and the Cashiers Library. For more information call director Donna Cochran at 828-526-2080 or 770-317-6307.

... TOWN BOARD continued from page 1
Think Christmas from Highlands ...on the hill!

4th St. Boutique

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526-3687

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Maman Takes Manhattan, Part I

There is no good time to hear that your father is dying. Still, when we heard it on Christmas Eve of 1999, it was particularly hard to hear. My mother and I were standing near the nurses’ station, where the local radio was playing “Silver Bells” softly in the background. My father’s doctor came out of his room, looked at us, and shook his head. He put one arm around Maman, and the other around me. We stood there in the hallway, crying, all three of us. And then, all cried out, we wiped our eyes and went in to see Daddy. We did what the women in my family always do; we maintain.

My grandmother was 96 when she died, so I always assumed that my mother would equal her record. When I asked Maman how long she wanted to live, she stated that she didn’t want to live so long that Eric and I would say to each other, “Are you taking Mommy this year for Christmas? It was my turn last year.” Since I had moved from Paris back to the States, the holidays had been spent with my parents, whose celebration of the event was a low-key affair which was big on the food, and not so much on anything else. We didn’t even have a tree.

I wasn’t thinking of Christmas, or New Year’s Eve, either, when I got that phone call from Maman in early October. “What are you doing for Christmas?” she asked, and I didn’t know what to answer. “Well,” I began, trying to think of something quickly, “I hadn’t really given it much thought.” I decided to turn the tables. “How about you? Any plans?” And then my mother did the French Mother Thing. The French Mother Thing is kind of like the Jewish Mother Thing only with more Bordeaux and baguettes. Maman did a routine which we commonly refer to in my family as “doing a Sarah Bernhardt,” after the famous French actress. In a plaintive little voice, she said, “Oh, I was just thinking of doing something small. Maybe getting a little smoked salmon. Watching the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on PBS. Drinking a split of champagne on New Year’s Eve, and going to bed by nine.” You could almost hear the violins in the background, playing something plaintive.

Guilt washed over me like slush over low boots. Scrambling to be a good daughter, I blurted, “Well, you could always come up to New York.” This was greeted with silence. Having started, I continued, gaining enthusiasm as I went on. “Yeah, we could go to Rockefeller Center, and see the Christmas tree. We could go to St. Patrick’s Cathedral. We could go to Radio City Music Hall, and see the Rockettes. And the shopping! The food!” In trying to sell this to my mother, even I was caught up in the excitement of the moment. Hey, this just might be fun, for both of us. The next two months are a blur. Every weekend was filled with furious cleaning and tidying.

Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

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A skill out in the street for the lighting of the Christmas tree this year, I could not help but be amazed at how this whole community embraces the essence of the season of Christmas. I had traveled back that Saturday with my family from stuffing ourselves at Thanksgiving, and we had my mom. So she was with us this year at the lighting of the tree, and she was impressed.

The weather was perfect; the choir sang real well and Dr. Bowman read the Christmas story as beautifully as I have ever heard it. After Santa came out and gave the countdown, right on cue, the tree lit up and there was a cheer. My mom said, “Paul that was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen, the people packing the street the choir singing the feeling in the air that night was special. Now I am in the mood and I feel I have the spirit of the season.”

Why do I tell you this little bit of family history? Because you see I grew up in a preachers' family and in my 50 years of life I have seen all Christmas Cantata’s, singing Christmas trees, live Nativity scenes, and countless Christmas plays, but yet I am convinced that gathering as a whole community on Main Street in Highlands is one of the best things I have ever been a part of. It seems to signal that it is time to get ready for something special.

What makes Christmas special is not the expensive presents, it is not the receiving of the right gift, and it is not even all the parties we tend to go to this time of year. Instead the specialness of the Christmas season is the relationships we have with family and friends. What I have come to learn is that what matters in life is not what we have or do not have, what matters are the relationships we make and sustain.

To me that is one of the most beautiful parts of the Christmas story. God chose to be in a relationship with the world, with us. God chose to be born in stable, not a palace. God chose to announce the Good News of Christ’s birth to the working man of that day — the shepherds. God chose to bring a message of love and grace to the world, not just a select few. So this Christmas, I challenge you as I challenge myself to give the gifts that matter. May you give a gift of love, may you give a give of encouragement to another person, and may you give the gift of a relationship to another. I am convinced that far too often in life we point to our differences as human beings. What if we shared what we have?
Olde Mountain Christmas Parade

The annual Christmas Parade was held on Main Street under sunny skies with balmy weather, Saturday, Dec. 3. There were 82 participants representing area churches, nonprofits, businesses and schools.

Highlands corridors and so at Commissioner Gary Drake’s request made at the Nov. 15 Town Board meeting, the Planning Board is working up an ordinance regulating fences.

Monday night the board decided that regulations would only apply to fences in commercial or residential zones adjacent to public roadways; they would only apply to front yards though height restrictions might be considered for side and rear yards; that solid privacy fences would be discussed with vegetative screening suggested to soften the look of the fence.

Height restrictions were discussed – possibly capped at four feet, but that might change if the fence is more open rather than solid. Distance from roadways would be determined by rights-of-way and water/sewer lines.

Clabo suggested a color scheme be encouraged saying the “raw” fences recently constructed might look better once they weather.

The board requiring the Appearance Commission to consider fence designs in residential and commercial zones was necessary.

Next, the board discussed the Town Board’s concern about the potential of excessive outdoor lighting levels in commercial areas. The Dark Sky Association has developed a model ordinance for municipalities to consider, but it is long and very detailed. Clabo recommended that if the Town adopts an ordinance to control commercial outdoor lighting levels, then it does not need to be so complicated. It can be simple, but it must be enforceable and effective. An example from another town was distributed to the Planning Board members as background information and for review prior to the next meeting on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

— Kim Lewicki

Photos by Jim Lewicki
**Oral Bacteria Changes Linked to Pneumonia Risk**

There are lots of different types of oral bacteria living in our mouths. Some are good, some are bad, and a recent study showed that changes in the types of bacteria seem to predict the onset of pneumonia.

The study looked at healthy adults living in normal communities, nursing home residents and ICU patients. “We showed that as the risk for pneumonia increased among these three groups of adults, that certain types of bacteria living in their mouths decreased. Interestingly, in the adults who actually developed pneumonia, other disease-causing bacteria in their mouths actually increased days before those adults actually developed pneumonia” said Dr. Samit Joshi of Yale University.

Dr. Joshi feels that this discovery may help develop ways to prevent pneumonia in the future, particularly in hospital patients. “It may lead to new and improved ways that we can prevent pneumonia by maintaining the composition of bacteria which live inside our mouths.”

Every week there is a new study that shows oral health affecting our overall health. Most people prefer not to think about the colonies of bacteria that are breeding in their mouths but those bacteria are the cause of gum disease and tooth decay. To keep your smile in optimal health required regular visits to your dentist for professional cleanings. If it has been a while since your last visit please contact Wilbanks Smile Center in Toccoa, GA today at 706-886-9439. We are a full-service dental office serving patients in Northern Georgia and Macon County, NC.
American Upholstery

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Smokey the Bear visits Highlands School
First-graders to participate in Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Last Tuesday morning, Nov. 29, Mr. Greg Brooks, Fire Management Officer, Nantahala Ranger District, visited Mrs. Sizemore’s 1st grade class at Highlands School.

He told the students the story of Smokey Bear and why Smokey wants everyone to prevent wildfires. He talked about good fires and bad fires and how Smokey uses a shovel to put out fires. He gave Mrs. Sizemore a DVD about Smokey Bear to show her class, as well as gift bags for the students.

Then Smokey Bear arrived to visit with the students. After Smokey left the room, Dr. Rebecca Schilling of Mountain Garden Club talked with the class about making Smokey Bear posters. Mrs. Sizemore’s students will participate in the 2012 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest which is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

An added bonus was that Mrs. McClellan’s kindergarten students had a celebrity sighting in the hallway: they got to see Smokey Bear, too!

By Dr. Becky Schilling

If you didn’t get to see the Mountain Garden Club dancers do their routine in this year’s Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade, check out the video on YouTube. Go to it directly by searching for ‘2011 MGC Christmas Parade 2011.’ Or search for ‘Mountain Garden Club’ and scroll down.

The Mountain Garden Club enjoys creating unique performances for the parade. This was the 14th year the club has participated. The club’s first entry was in 1998 with ‘Jingle Bell Rock.’

Costumes this year were designed and constructed by Barbara Werder and Joan Levinson. Choreography was by Dr. Becky Schilling. The video on YouTube is courtesy of Charles B. Cooper.

The Mountain Garden Club wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays!
J-MCA is looking to grow its board

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is looking for a few more great minds to add to our board of directors and are currently taking applications for new board members. Anyone that may be interested should contact our Executive Director, Michelle Price by email at mprice@j-mca.org to request a copy of our board member application form.

The following people are currently on the J-MCA board: Dan Allen, Real Estate Agent with Silver Creek Realty; W. Travis Boswell, co-owner of the Orchard Restaurant; Michael Kettles, Environmental Consultant; Dawn Sanborn, Physical Therapist Assistant; Courtney Scarborough, Accountants Receivable for Warth Construction; Robert E. Smith PhD, retired University Administrator; and Brian Steihler, Highlands Country Club Golf Superintendent and newly elected Town of Highlands Board Member.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is a grassroots conservation organization whose mission is to address environmental issues through education, advocacy, collaboration and hands-on initiatives. We are working to take care of our natural resources to enhance and sustain quality of life and ensure the long-term health of the Cashiers and Highlands area and its people. We have several initiatives underway including Friends of Whiteside Mountain, Living Safely with Black Bears, Natural Resource Protection, Sustainable Development, Convenient Recycling and Energy Efficiency.

Board Members are not required to be full time residents; however, they should be at least part-time residents. If you are interested in lending a hand but not interested in serving on our board please contact our Executive Director to let her know that you are interested and how you are interested in helping. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Northland Cable rate adjustment coming in January

Northland is committed to providing you with the best value and unmatched customer service.

As of January 1st, 2012, there will be a rate adjustment for certain services due to increased programming and business costs. Your January billing statement will include full details.

Thank you for choosing Northland.
classes and workshops, Send resume and letter of interest to kgorecki@thebascom.org. No phone calls please. (11/30)

AT CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY MED TECH needed for 12 hour shift in Assisted Living. Please apply at Chestnut Hill, 64 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC (828)526-5251. (st.11/9)

$17 weekly - add $5 for color
Lost: Ladies gold watch and band lost in the area of Oak Street and/or the Jane Woodruff Clinic. Reward: 828 526 3312.

WANTED

JOB WANTED! Open for any opportunities. Any proposals are welcomed. Please call Michael at 828-482-2496.

ROOMMATE WANTED! A room for rent is available. The apartment is located in town. One person. No pets. $250 a month, plus $250 deposit, utilities not included. Call 828 342 8729 (st. 10/4)

RES/COM FOR RENT

1BR/1BA GARAGE APT. FOR RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL, walk to town. Mostly unfurnished, no W/D. $550/month plus utilities. 526-5558 (12/7)


LAKESIDE HOME – Mirror Lake. 3 bed, 3 bath, w/d, gas fireplace, expansive deck & dock. Bring your canoe. Annual lease. $500 per month plus utilities. Credit Report and references a must. Call 828-342-2302. (st. 10/26)

HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB, two beautifully furnished, 4 bedroom homes — mountain view or 18th hole — minimum 3 months for $5,000. Longer term means lower rent. No pets, no smoking. 828-508-0664. (st. 10/12)

CHARMING, SKY VALLEY – 3 bed, 2 bath home Fireplace. Useable Basement. Views. $750. Call Paul at 706-745-2729. (st. 8/31)

DOWNTOWN MAIN ST APT. – Convenient location, unfurnished 1/1, small pets allowed. $650/mo. Call 526-4044 or 200-0036 (st. 1/7)

HOUSE FOR RENT 3BR/2BTH, $650 plus utilities.No cell phone service.3459 Buck Creek Road 828-524-6038. (st. 3/3)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

2/1/2 SINGLE-WIDE WITH GREAT VIEW AND PRIVACY, backs to national forest and move-in ready. $89,000. 526.1971or 482.2050.


SERVICES


ACUPUNCTURE & HEALING ARTS — Herbs, bodywork, women's health, healthy weight, all ailments, wellness. 828-526-0743. (2/27)

PET CARE SERVICES OF HIGHLANDS - doggy daycare, washing, pl/u & delivery from house to daycare or vet., pet sitters available 526.1971or 482.2050.


HANDYMAN SERVICE – electrical, plumbing, pressure cleaning, painting, carpentry, yardwork. References. Call Al Edgar at 332-7271 (2/27)

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodelling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry, painting, pressure washing and more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-421-4667. (st. 8/1)

CRAWLSPACE MOISTURE PROBLEMS? Musty smell in your home? Call 828-787-1673. (St. 4/28)


ITEMS FOR SALE

"MAN CAVE" STUFF -- TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT. Table saw with stand, cable router, tiger saw, power planer, sanders, shop vac,dust collector, heaters, chain saws, pressure washers, portable fan, and more. Call 526-1917 for more information and an appointment. (12/7)

JET VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE MODEL JW-L1236 with accessories. Eight years old. Great condition. (st. 12/7)

828-526-2616 ALMOST NEW L-GLB (LARGE) ELECTRIC TRAIN. Cost over $2,500. Will sell for $1,000. Original boxes. 2-6-0 engine with sound tender. 70 track sections. Extra large transformer. Many extras. Call 526-3048. (12/25)

SWANN 2 CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM WITH DVR AND MONITOR. Store showcases, furniture towers, rosewood displays, jewelry, office desk, chairs, appliances, bookcase. Call 828-526-0502. (st. 11/9)

UTILITY TRAILER – 6X10, $500; Aerostatic Baldwin Piano 80B, $800; 4 Mag Wheels – 19x19 fits Mercedes W, Audi. Bolt pattern. 5x112. $325; 2 New 4 Wheeler tires – Fits Honda 250 and others. $75. Call 828-371-1609. (st. 1/11)

UTILITY TRAILER – 6x10. $500. Call 828-371-1609. (st. 11/9)

AEROSTATIC BALDWIN PIANO 80B – $800 Call 828-371-2329. (st. 11/9)

4 MAG WHEELS – 19x19 fits Mercedes W, Audi. Bolt pattern. 5x112. $325. Call 828-371-1609. (st. 11/9)

2 NEW 4 WHEELER TIRES – Fits Honda 250 and others. $75. Call 828-371-1609. (st. 11/9)

2 MARBLE END & COFFEE TABLES $125. 2 contemporary lady statues $100. Tammy 770-337-1000 (Highlands). (st. 6/16)

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Davis earns ‘Defender of Liberty’ rating

North Carolina’s Sen. Jim Davis was awarded The American Conservative Union’s (ACU) highest “Defender of Liberty” rating. The ACU tracks a wide range of issues before Congress and State Legislatures to determine which issues and votes serve as a clear litmus test identifying legislators who defend our founding principles—constitutionally limited government, individual liberty, free markets, a strong national defense and traditional values.

Senator Jim Davis

Rotary November Scholars

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the November Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its November 28 meeting. Shown with Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup and Rotary club president, Bill Futral are middle school winner, Cole Wilkes, high school winner, Emily Murphy, and elementary school winner, Joana Jimenez.

Rotary Bingo at Win-Win

The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with local law enforcement agencies to sponsor SHOP WITH A COP BINGO on December 1. All net proceeds were donated to our local area shop with a cop program. This annual event allows needy children the opportunity to go shopping with a cop to pick out holiday gifts for themselves and their family. Misty Holland won the final game and took home $200. She is shown with Highlands police chief Bill Harrell, Rotary member and Bingo caller Tay Bronaugh and Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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all held in common? We all want to be loved, we all want to be accepted, and we all want to feel needed. So what are you giving this year for Christmas? May it be a gift of love and appreciation to another human being? If we start there, there is no telling how long the Christmas story will last in our world. May you all have a blessed Christmas and may we all remember that God’s love is for the world, not just a select few, but for the world.

Isn’t it amazing that a lighting of Christmas Tree on November 26th started to get me in the mood for Christmas. Now I am fired up, how about you?

Larry Houston
Rock Work

Walls • Fireplaces • Patios • Piers
All Rock Work • Stucco

(828) 526-4138 or (828) 371-7451