

Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 2, Number 4

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Jan. 30, 2004

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The week of Jan. 29–Feb. 7

ON-GOING

▪ **CLOSED SATURDAYS** – Fibber Magee's Closet will be closed on Saturdays until the first of May. It will remain open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

▪ **CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP** – Leave your tree outside near the road and Alan Marsh with Highlands Rotary will pick it up. Call him at 526-5130.

▪ **AEROBICS CLASS** – New After-Work Aerobics Class at the Highlands Rec Park with Sandy Trevathan, certified in AFAA and ACE training. Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 526-5852.

▪ **GIRL SCOUTING** – Daisys, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church.

▪ **FREE MUSIC** – Every Friday and Saturday night, Cy Timmons sings and plays his guitar at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 7-11 p.m. It's free.

• **FREE MUSIC** – Every Saturday night there is live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street from 8-11 p.m. This Saturday it's Arthur & Katie.

Jan 30 & 31

▪ **COWBOY ENVY** – an exciting evening of old-time cowboy song and stories will be presented by Highlands' Instant Theatre Company Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chesnut St. in Highlands. \$5 Children, \$15 Adults. For tickets call 342-9197.

Feb. 3

▪ **MOVIE NIGHT** – The Bascom-Louise Gallery presents the film "Man in the White Suit" is at 7 p.m. at PAC. The uniquely original script pokes fun at big business and big labor as they try to suppress his discovery. Donations accepted.

Feb. 4

▪ **MAGIC SHOW** – The community is invited for a magical evening at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Magician Bill Grimsley of Grimsley Productions in Asheville will present "A Magic Show" for children (and adults, too) at 6:30 p.m. The magic show is free.

Maconians turn out for 1st drug forum

By Kim Lewicki

The geography of Western North Carolina and the way illegal drugs are manufactured today makes it extra hard for authorities to locate and apprehend drug dealers.

"We need your help," said Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. "If you see something suspicious or hear of something going on, call us."

Saturday, Jan. 24, Holland joined forces with Ken Razza, Assistant Spe-

cial Agent in Charge of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation to explain the scope of drugs in Western North Carolina and in Macon County, spe-

▪See FORUM pg 3

Ice storm knocks out power for 24 hours

By Kim Lewicki

When Sunday, Jan. 25 dawned, Highlanders were greeted with a rainy, sleeting, sloppy day. The weather was so foul in fact, some area churches called off services.

As the day progressed and temperatures dropped, what fell as rain turned into ice. Soon ice-covered tree limbs and branches began to bow under the weight and roads and walkways became treacherous.

And then it started. The cracking and crashing of tree limbs giving way under the weight of ice could be heard throughout the day and night. When limbs snapped, they fell on wires and one by one, node by node, power went out all over Highlands.

"Before it was over we had more

▪See ICE STORM pg 15

Jan. 23 was an emotional night



Photo by Jim Lewicki

After a hard, fast and ultimately tight VG Basketball game against Cherokee Friday night, Highlands Varsity Cheerleaders, from left, Caitlin Huitt, Rachel Lewicki, Kelsey Schmitt and Kelly Baer presented Coach Butch Smart with a birthday cake – he turned 60. Also on hand were Macon County Superintendent Rodney Shotwell and Highlands School Principal Jack Brooks who presented Coach Smart with plaques commemorating the 600th win of his career which took place at Nantahala Tuesday, Jan. 20 with a score of 71-59.

Residential zoning permits on the rise

By Kim Lewicki

It seems Highlands is destined to evolve.

Just as commercial projects are beginning to slow down, residential work is picking up.

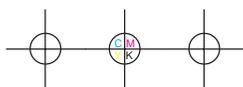
"There's a new trend is zoning

permits being issued," said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. "There are far more zoning permits being issued than Special Use Permits (SUP). SUPs are issued for all new commercial construction, or commercial renovations that are a

change of use.

"Commercial construction in 2004 is at the same level now as it has been for the last three years," said Gantenbein. "About 27-28 SUPs have been issued each year."

▪See ZONING page 2



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... ZONING continued from page 1

What's up are zoning permits for residential renovations or additions, said Gantenbein. "Way up, like 25-40 percent."

Mostly people are adding garages, bedrooms and bathrooms to their homes. "I'm attributing it to the baby-boomers who have decided to renovate the family summer home into a year-round residence they can retire to," said Gantenbein. Homeowners are also putting on new roofs and siding.

"They're in their late 50s early 60s and they're starting to think about retirement," said Gantenbein. "Instead of buying and building new they're making use of what's here."

Gantenbein said this is a plus for Highlands for a couple of reasons. "They're not building new structures on less-than desirable lots left in town

and they're improving property without increasing the need for more infrastructure." Typically renovations increase property value so the trend boosts the town's property tax revenues without dramatically increasing service requirements from the town.

Gantenbein said electric, cable and water lines have already been run to the homes; "It just means that they will be used 12 months of the year instead of six."

The cost of a zoning permit for a homeowner depends on the cost of the renovation. It's \$5 for the first \$25,000 of work; \$2 for each \$1,000 increment thereafter.

"The scale is set to make it conducive to homeowners to improve their property," said Gantenbein.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Anti-freeze kills pets

Dear Editor,

It's wintertime – time to check your antifreeze. We lost our dog on Jan. 13 because he ingested antifreeze.

It's one thing to lose a pet from natural causes, but to lose a beloved pet and family member from someone's cruelty or negligence is inexcusable.

Please be aware of what you leave within reach of pets and children. Animals are drawn to anti-freeze because of its sweet smell and taste.

Vets can test for anti-freeze digestion and if the damage is not too far along, treat with grain alcohol.

Debbie & Robby Wilson
Highlands

LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

We welcome letters from our readers. All letters are subject to editing. We reserve the right to reject letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters bearing identification and phone numbers can arrive by post or email. Published letters do not necessarily represent opinions of Highlands' Newspaper. Letter deadline: Monday prior to publication.

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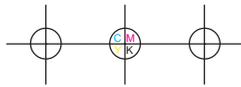
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**... FORUM continued from page 1**

cifically.

"We do have a substance abuse problem in Macon County," said Holland. "We know this through the 2002 Youth Risk Survey and the 2003 Community Health Assessment and we know this because we deal with it every day."

More than 200 people turned out for the forum "Let's Talk About It" sponsored by the Sheriff's Dept and Healthy Carolinians at the Macon Middle School Saturday night.

"I was afraid only about 20 people would show up," said Holland. "I'm so glad you came out and I promise you, this is the first of many forums to come."

Agent Razza talked about all kinds of drugs readily available in Macon County - marijuana from Mexico and a hydroponic, extra potent crop coming in from British Columbia with a high THC content; ecstasy, cocaine, crack cocaine and most prolific, and dangerous - methamphetamine.

"Meth is having the biggest impact on every aspect of the community and family life," said Razza. "More than any drug out there, this one scares me the most."

Razza has been in the drug-fighting business since the early 80s and was involved in a round of drug busts in Macon County back then.

Razza said meth is particularly bad because of the way it's manufactured and because of what it does to the user.

"It's 15 times stronger than everything else. The very first time it's smoked, it causes a total serotonin release which means the brain is totally bathed in serotonin," said Razza. Serotonin is the hormone released in the brain during pleasurable experiences.

The high lasts for 10-12 hours during which users are awake. They stay that way until it wears off and then depression sets in. Then users sleep "as if they are dead or in a coma for long periods of time," said Razza.

Within three months, users are fully addicted, he said. "At that point there is only a 16 percent chance of rehabilitation from meth use."

The typical meth user is white, male or female, from 17 to 50 years old. Though Holland said drugs are in Macon County Schools "just like every other school in the nation,"

teenagers who use meth are typically 16- to 17-year-old high school drop-outs.

People addicted to meth display paranoid, aggressive behavior and experience audio and visual hallucinations. "Sexual abuse and increased gun use is associated with the drug because users begin to hear and see things like 'little green men,'" said Razza.

The manufacturing of the drug is just as debilitating. The process emits toxic fumes which can kill or cause brain damage. Children exposed to the fumes develop learning disabilities, and behavior problems, said Razza.

"They are potential candidates for problems with the law," said Holland. "I guarantee you they will be our next generations of felons."

Once the drug is manufactured the remains of the process are actually categorized as "toxic waste" and must be handled as such by government officials.

"There are countless environmental waste dumps where the end-product is left," said Razza. "Five to six pounds are left each time a batch is cooked."

Ingredients to make meth are found in grocery, drug or convenience stores - nasal decongestants, match sticks, lye, iodine and more.

Tell-tale odors of a meth lab are pungent like the smell of dirty socks or cat urine.

The labs themselves, which are easy to set up in a bathroom, kitchen, the back of a pickup truck, even a cooler, are extremely flammable.

"We approach them as if they could explode any minute," said Razza.

One day last week officials found five labs in Macon County.

Called Ice, Shards, Tina, Glass, it costs about \$70 per gram - \$35 for half a gram and users smoke it all at once if they can, said Razza.

The audience listened intently to both men and asked pertinent questions. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the court system - the way charges are dropped and sentences lessened once in the system.

"Once we apprehend the criminal, what happens next is out of our hands," said Holland. "But the next time we have a forum we will invite the judges and members of the court system and you can talk to them directly."

Historical Society fundraiser

The Highlands Historical Society has pewter plates to sell to raise much needed funds to help complete the Highlands Historical Village on Fourth Street. The society hopes to open the Village to the public this year. Paving the driveway and sidewalks will lead to landscaping and final finishing touches. Volunteers will be needed to staff the Prince House and a curator will be needed for the Library. Plates are \$75 and are available by contacting any Highlands Historical Society board member.

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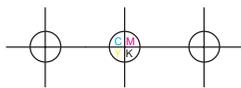
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• LIFE UNDER CONSTRUCTION •

Live & Learn

I guess I am still reflecting about 2003 and the lessons I've learned. So, forgive me if I am still thinking about things I want to do differently this year. Maybe these will help you as well. Okay, here goes.

Take Control: No one else will or should I say everyone else will, if you don't. Don't worry about those things that are out of your control. Take responsibility for your life and for things that you can control. I know it sounds simple and makes perfect sense but you just might be amazed if you stop and think about what you are trying to control but realize that it is really out of your control anyway.

Stay True to Your Values: If your compass works for you and steers you in the "right" direction, then let it guide you. You know what feels right when you say or do it. Are you heading in the direction that you want to travel?

Think Kindness First: I've learned that whenever I decide something or act with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Not always the easiest decision, but the "right" one.

Choose Your Attitude: Joy is the ability to be happy in small ways. I believe that it really is the small things that tend to make a big difference. Even though life can be difficult, it doesn't help to dwell on it or be cynical. It never helps make the situation better.

Take the High Road: Always treat people, animals, and things with respect. How people treat you is more of a reflection of how they see themselves. It really doesn't have anything to do with you. Don't take

too many things personally. They really aren't about us anyway.

Be a Human Highlighter: Why not catch people doing things right? Just how many of you suffer from too much appreciation? Well, my guess is most of us don't. I don't think you can give away what you don't have. Learn to appreciate the good in others. It's easy to point out what others do wrong. Try the reverse.

Be Brave: Even if you're not, pretend to be. No one can tell the difference. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "We must do the things we think we cannot do." A less eloquent way to say it might be, fake it till you make it.

Think!: Yes, I said think. Just take ten minutes at night and in the morning to think. Think about how your life is going so far this year. Now is certainly the time to make a course correction, or pull out a different tool that you may need to use. Why not sharpen a tool that has become a bit dull. Sooner rather than later.

Take Action: It seems to flow right after thinking. "A vision without action is hallucination," says Christopher Haggerty. Plato said, "Life doesn't begin until there is action." Reward yourself and live life to the fullest by carrying out your thoughts and bringing them to action. Nothing to it but to do it.

Get rid of the things in your life that no longer serve you. Put your vision in motion. Just remember life is a work in progress, it's never fully constructed. We are always building and learning. Just when you think you have it figured out, something will surprise you.



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

Have you picked up your copy of Life Under Construction? Stop by Chapter 2 in Cashiers or Cyrano's Bookshop in Highlands or email melspeaks@aol.com. Dr. Maryellen Lipinski is a psychologist by profession and an international professional speaker by design. Currently, she coaches individuals to obtain their goals in life and works as a Realtor at Village Realty of Sapphire Valley. www.ilovemountainrealestate.com. Her first book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power* will make you laugh, cry, and think! www.maryellenlipinski.com

SEX!

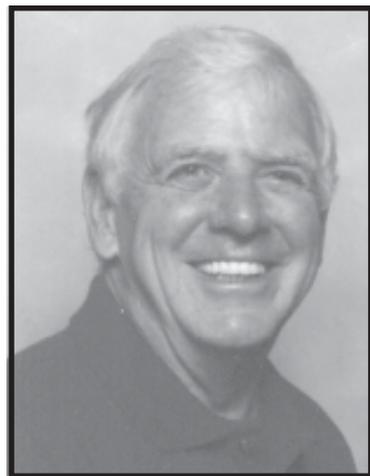
Actually this is not about sex at all, but it was the only way I could be assured that every breathing person in the Highlands area would at least read the first paragraph. This is about fruitcake. If I had said that in the title, only 12 people would be reading this.

Wait, don't give up on me yet. Hidden in this article about fruitcake are the following: A tacky rumor about a well known Highlands' politician, an insulting remark about a local building contractor and an inside tip about a new fast food restaurant about to open right on Main Street. Read on.

A recent study of fruitcake owners in the Highlands area has revealed that there are a whopping 12 of you out there. These owners keep their treasured cakes in their freezer until December of each year when they thaw them out and exchange them as gifts with other fruitcake lovers who immediately put their gift back in the freezer until next December. These 12 fruitcakes have been passed back and forth now for over 40 years. Awesome.

It is believed that fruitcake was first invented by the Egyptians and rumor has it that King Tut may have a large piece still lodged in his throat, alas, causing his demise. Actually, because King Tut may have been a couple of clicks left of center, the slang term 'fruitcake' may have gotten its origin. (If you believe that, I have some very cheap mountain view property to sell you.) After the death of their beloved king, fruitcake disappeared until late nineteenth century Denmark when Otto and Brun-Hilda Nackenshaser (common spelling) reinvented the dessert.

Brun-Hilda noticed that several jars of her candied fruit were past their shelf life and had turned gray. Not wanting to waste her labor of canning the fruit, she dumped the mess into a large



Fred Wooldridge

bowl and leaned over to take a big sniff. "W(v)as ist los? Der is something rotten in Denmark" she screamed as she withdrew. (Now you know where that term came from.)

Next, she dumped a half bottle of schnapps on the rotting fruit and let it sit for the rest of the day. Then she announced, "Is ready. I will mix it mit mind wonderful strudel recipe and make a cake. We will call it "Fruitcake."

After cooling in the window for a couple of hours, she told Otto he could have the first bite. He noticed that none of the neighborhood flies were landing on the cake and said, "No, Brun-Hilda, da pleasure is yours." "No, Otto, I insist." This went back and forth a few times until Otto spotted Brun-Hilda fingering a nearby rolling pin.

Otto chewed the first bite with blank expression. Without swallowing, he held the remaining portion over his head, trying not to gag, and declared, "Dis fruit cake is much too delicious to waste on you and I. Ve need to give this to our friends as a token

Want to have some fun this winter? Our very own Contributor/Columnist Fred Wooldridge is ready to answer your questions about Highlands with tongue in cheek – in ASK FRED. The sky's the limit. All published questions are anonymous and, of course, don't expect a straight answer. E-mail us at askfredanything@aol.com. Put "Dear Fred" in memo line. We reserve the right to edit questions.



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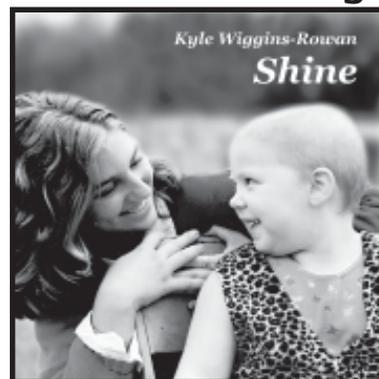
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Songs for Madison



Kyle Wiggins-Rowan, a junior at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, initiated a fundraising effort to benefit Madison Schandolph, a four-year-old girl who has Leukemia. She has produced a CD of songs which can be purchased by sending an email request to pwiggins_rowan@yahoo.com. Additional contributions may be sent to: The Madison Fund c/o Marlene Alvarez, 1536 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

of our love." Then, when Brun-Hilda wasn't looking, Otto spit the bite into his upper jacket pocket which, of course, created the ever popular term, "Fruit Pockets," currently being sold in the frozen food section of your local food stores.

The cake was wrapped with a big bow and presented to their friends, Helga and Dork Hoffenslammer, who never spoke to them again. They, in turn, were able to give the cake away the following Christmas to other friends who also never spoke to them again.

Now you know how this

wonderful tradition all got started.

And here's a little tip you might want to use when deciding what to do with a fruitcake given to you next Christmas. Turn the entire cake on its side and, with a large bread knife, carefully slice a thin sliver off the bottom. Then, if it tastes like Brun-Hilda's cake, you just turn the cake back upright, put it in the freezer until next year when you can dump it on a friend. Clever, huh?

Oh yes, please forgive me for lying about the tacky hidden rumors and insults supposedly in the article. I was really desperate to get folks to read this.

Fred took a break for answering questions to writing about a topic dear to a reader. Ask Fred will return next week.

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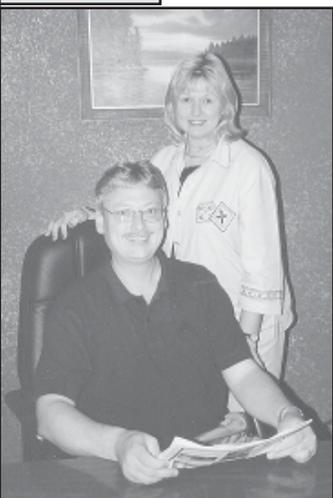
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• **HEALTHY LIVING** •

Got kids? Get them moving

Have you kept up with those statistics on childhood obesity so prevalent in the news recently?

If you are a parent, I believe you must be concerned if your child falls into those stunning percentages of children who are overweight or obese (more than 20 percent above normal weight.)

Everyone should be aware of the growing number of children in this country who suffer from diabetes and other diseases generally thought to strike older adults. Here is another one. By the time they reach high school, 63 percent of teenagers are no longer physically active. Blame TV, video games and computers.

If your kids fall into this group, there are things you can do. Parents can set a good example. Do it right and the kids will, too.

How about off the couch and on a bike with your children. Let them see that exercise can be fun. If you help your kids to be active now, chances are they will be active for the rest of their lives. Also, demonstrate good eating habits. It will help the entire family. Try keeping fruits and low-fat or non-fat snacks.

No, carbohydrates are not poisonous. When evaluating healthy diets, please look to some entity that has nothing for sale. The American Heart Association, The American Diabetes Association, Mayo Clinic or other research hospital can be good sources of solid, research-driven information.

Start them young. Physically active children have fewer chronic health problems than kids with sedentary lifestyles. They are better equipped to handle the activities of daily living, have a stronger self-image and more self-confidence. They demonstrate greater improvement in skill and health-related fitness. When the facts are considered, it makes good sense to encour-



Ginger Flowers

age physical activity in young children.

Parents play the greatest role. Your kids look to you as an example. What kind of lifestyle do you lead. Remember, you can benefit from physical activity, also.

Be a good role model. Give up some of those evenings in front of the TV. Get

moving with your kids. Warm weather means biking, hiking and baseball. Play tag or toss a frisbee. In cold weather, remember we are fortunate to have the Highlands Civic Center and its facilities.

It's never too late (or too early) to help you kids build strength and endurance. Push-ups or pull-ups are great ways to build upper body strength. Keep in mind that young children will be more enthusiastic about sessions on monkey bars or jungle gyms rather than formal exercise programs. Make it fun.

Dads, take note. Heavy lifting programs for young children are not advisable. It is possible to negatively affect bone growth in preteens. Guide them to activities that requires them to move their body weight or in the weight room, have them move light weights with more repetitions while you lift the heavy stuff.

Try to focus on the fun aspect of exercise. The kids will enjoy the family time. Avoid competition, discipline (as long as they are moving, who cares about form) and embarrassment. Avoid things that can turn good times into times they dread. Praise them for doing and trying.

You can't just tell them that being active is fun. You have to show them. Plan outings that involve movement. Trips to the zoo, walking in the mall, a nature hike, sledding or swimming. If you want your kids to be healthy, active teens and adults, it's up to you.

Ginger is a personal trainer. To contact her call the Rec Park at 526-3556

● **MOVIE PIX** ●

**Video Guy
Presents:**

Nell

A 1994 drama starring Jodie Foster, Liam Neeson and Natasha Richardson, directed by Michael Apted, written by William Nicholson.

Based on a play titled "Idioglossia" by Mark Handly, it's the story of a young woman, raised with her stroke afflicted, speech impaired mother. The young girl has no language skills, or more accurately, none the outside world can understand.

A Doctor (Neeson) and a court appointed psychologist (Richardson) struggle with some questions like who can or should decide what's in someone else's best interests. Foster plays the title role with amazing skill.

The two doctors learn about Nell and her language, and are touched by her simple grace, then are forced to bring her into the court and hospital system.

Sweet, a bit funny in parts, tear-jerking in others. Really a stunning performance by Foster, who received a stack of awards and



Stuart Armor

nominations for her work, and spent four months working up a dialect.

The filming is beautiful,

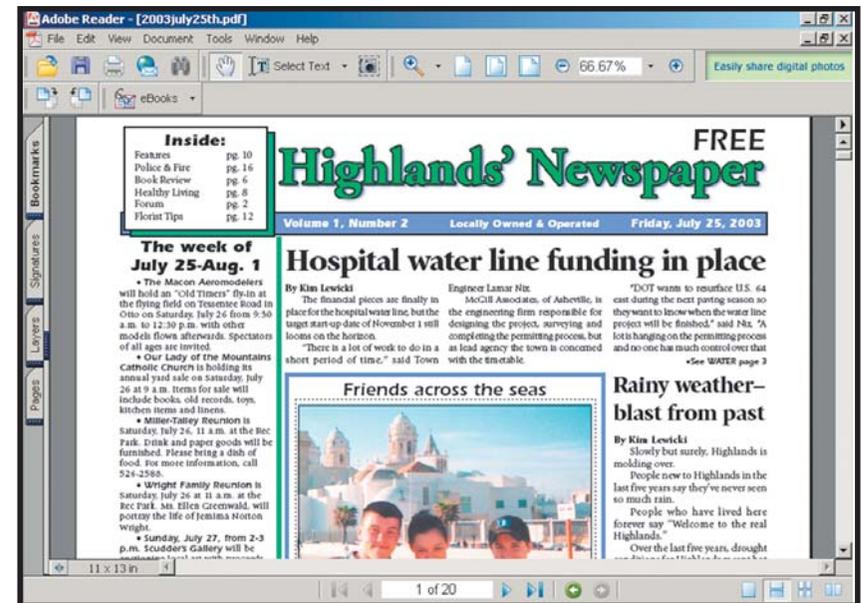


mountain and lake scenes shot in Graham County and near Fontana Dam, Tennessee, town scenes shot in Robinsville and Charlotte.

Fans of Jodie Foster (I am one of them) will want to see Panic Room, Contact, Maverick, Shadows and Fog, Little Man Tate, Silence of the Lambs, the original Freaky Friday from 1976, and more. These and about 5,000 other titles are available at Movie Stop Video, stop on by and give them a look.

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Super Bowl preview

The law of supply and demand is a staple of the American economy. I see it every day where I work. A room at the Four Seasons that runs \$119 per night on the weekends can be had for less than \$60 during the week. A lift ticket that costs 45 big ones on the weekend can be had for \$10 on a Wednesday at Ski Beech.

I know you are saying, why the economics lesson? Well, in a Super Bowl desperate for angles, the demand for Tom Brady just went out the roof. In the past few weeks, Mr. Brady has gone from a quarterback who manages the game well and doesn't make mistakes...to Joe Montana.

This is all in direct correlation with media who were praying to God, Allah, Zeus and Bill Gates that Carolina did not win the NFC championship solely because they are without star power, without a overrated quote machine playing

DT, and without a huge fan base.

Now that it is Carolina-NE, media writers cannot play up NE as the big bad Goliath without exposing their own hypocrisy. NE is the same tough defense -- no star team that they were two years ago when they upset the Rams, meaning that it would be next to impossible for sportswriters to turn America's darlings from 2002 into the nasty behemoth against which poor Carolina is up against in 2004.

New England is a great team, and a likeable team -- they play smart football, pick each other up, and play with the humble demeanor of their coach.

Yet instead of admiring two equally tough, well coached football teams, our wonderful entertainment-driven society derides these teams for not being exciting enough for the Super Bowl. It's sad really -- sad that our most important sporting events have changed from

meaningful games played by the best of the best to a chance for people to line their pockets.

Money has become the driving force behind our top sporting events. From billion dollar commercials during the Super Bowl to the backhairremover.com bowl in college football, corporate sponsors are placing their slimy fingerprints all over our national pastimes. I wouldn't be surprised if we soon see things like "Welcome to March to the beat of Nextel Madness," or the Denny's French Toast Open. It's one thing to have a sponsor, and to mention that sponsor somewhere in the telecast, but it doesn't work like that.

Every chyron in the whole dadgum (thanks Roy) telecast screams the name of the sponsor, not to mention every banner in the arena, the front of the sportscast booth, even the fat shirtless dude in the third row has an advertisement on his chest. This trend has got to stop somewhere, but it probably never will -- supply and demand rules all and I guess if you can't beat 'em-join 'em. (By the way, I realize that we have moved from opening paragraph to a full-fledged rant, but I didn't want to break my flow)

On to the Super Bowl. Like I said earlier, suddenly Tom Brady is supposed to be superman, and the Patriots defense unbeatable. Make no bones about it -- this game is going to be slower than a Cadillac from Florida on the Gorge Road. But that doesn't matter because it is going to be exciting nonetheless.

The Patriots have played exactly one team that is similar to the Panthers, and that was the Dallas Cowboys. The Patriots won 12-0 and forced 3 turnovers which might lead one to believe that they will do the same to Carolina, but not so fast my friends. (Trademark Lee Corso)

The Panthers have a stronger running game than Dallas, a better QB and a better defense. I look for Belichick to try and force Carolina to throw short to intermediate passes. On offense, the Patriots will go from the shotgun to try and



Ryan Potts

limit the Carolina pass rush. New England will have a very hard time running the ball, so they will have to use quick drops and slip screens or else Brady will be wearing Julius Peppers and Brenston Buckner all night.

And while I am officially on the Panther bandwagon, I'm not sure that they can hit the deep passes that have propelled them all year against this New England secondary. That will ultimately cost them at some point and time.

Therefore, I am invoking my right as a sports columnist, and perhaps future politician, to sit the fence completely on this game. (I could go either way on this -- let's put it this way, whoever has the ball last is going to win.)

Both Brady and the Ragin Cajun are capable of game winning drives. BTW. Did I mention that I am bitter because New Orleans let Delhomme go in favor of Aaron Brooks...aka the Human Turnover? What the crap is Haslett thinking? How can anyone love Aaron Brooks this much? Isn't Haslett married? Why does the Lord torture me? Is Bob Knight mentally unstable? Tune in next week for more answers to unanswerable questions!)

Whatever the outcome, make sure and watch the Super Bowl to support the state of Carolina in what will be a great experience for both the players and the fans.

P.S. This column is sponsored by...well I haven't sold out yet, but I'm willing to listen to a few offers...anyone...anyone...Bueller...anyone?

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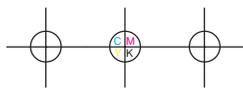
Saturday
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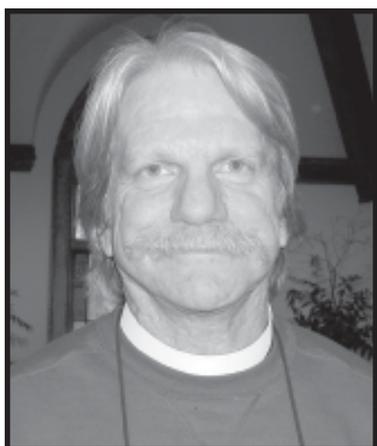


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■ SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING ■

Reminiscing about the past



The Rev. Steve Hines
Priest In Charge

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

The Episcopal Church here in Highlands, The Church of the Incarnation, was founded in 1895. I love old photographs of the church. Looking at them I wonder what life was like back then, and I give thanks for all the people who have kept the church "alive and well" in their time.

While thinking about the church's past I came upon the following article which I liked and would like to share with you:

"I may be old fashioned but....

I still like to hear an audible "amen" by members of the congregation after public prayer.

I still like to hear sermons with lots of scripture in them. I still like to hear a congregation lift their voices when they sing God's praise together.

I still like to hear the term "sister" and "brother" used when addressing members of the Body of Christ.

I still like to see youngsters respect and be polite to their elders.

I still like to hear people say "If God wills" I will do this or that, suggesting a conscious realization of their dependence on God at all times.

I still like to see people so much in love with Christ and His Church that they are continually asking people to share with them in the grace of God's love by participating with them in worship.

And it saddens me immensely to see people who are miserable with their religion, simply because they have not been able to give their hearts to Jesus and experience His peace which passes understanding."

● PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU ●

Blue Valley Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday night services every second and fourth Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

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
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; school & primary classes – 11 a.m.; Women's & Men's Org. – noon
Tues: Women's Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6-8
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30 p.m.; Young women's activities – 6:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.;
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 7 p.m.

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.
Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45 a.m.
Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:30
Thursdays: Guys Sr. High Discipleship – 6 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m.; Bible Study & Book Study classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.; Children's – 10:30 a.m.
Mondays: Daughters of the King – 10:30 a.m.; Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4 p.m.;
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper and Program in Jones Hall – 6 p.m.; Magician Bill Grimsley – 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
The Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14 every week.

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sundays: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 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.; Student & Adult Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m. (child care at 11 a.m.); School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.; Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

Highlands United Methodist Church

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sundays: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family – ELCA

Rev. Pam Mitcham, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30 a.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Rusty Wolfrey, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871
Friday: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 12 noon
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

Scaly Mountain Church of God

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

Shortoff Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. Baker Crane
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin

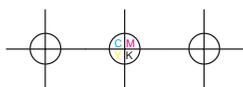
526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11 a.m.;

Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
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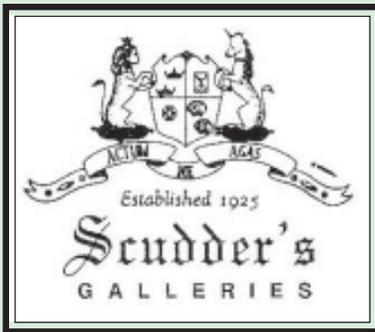
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Habitat looking for recipients

Macon County Habitat for Humanity will hold an orientation meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 at the Highlands Conference Center.

The purpose of the meeting is to take applications for a Habitat House that will be built this year in Highlands.

To qualify, a family must be currently living in a substandard house, have the ability to repay and have a willingness to partner with Habitat and meet income guidelines. Interested people should be prepared to fill out an application at the meeting. Habitat representatives will be present to explain the qualifications and rules.

Eleven Habitat homes have been built in Macon County since the early 1990s. Habitat offers a hand up, not a hand out, to qualified persons who are seeking to improve their living conditions

and who want to own their home.

Responsibilities of the Habitat homeowner include maintenance (when things go wrong you have to fix it), and making timely mortgage payments on the interest-free mortgage held by Habitat. Failure to pay the mortgage or maintain the property may constitute foreclosure proceedings.

Habitat houses are built by volunteers and the prospective homeowners must agree to put in 450 hours of "sweat equity." This can be done on their Habitat home or other Habitat houses or by working in the Habitat Resale Store in Franklin. The required hours can be filled by the homeowners or their friends and relatives.

If you are interested in a Habitat house, or know of someone who is, then please attend the meeting, Feb. 16 or call the Habitat office at 369-3716.

Perusing for supper



Photo by Jim Lewicki

This Barred Owl – about 20 inches long – was photographed just as evening was falling on Oak Street below Crane's Barn. It was positioned on a wire above the rolling fields surrounding the Crane house – looking for a rodent supper, no doubt.

JMCA Mounts new phase in campaign against Woolly Adelgid

By Cynthia Strain
JMCA Chair

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is stepping up its efforts to combat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid through the establishment of an adelgid monitoring project. At a January 17th meeting at the office of the Chattooga Conservancy in Clayton, six board members of JMCA met with people from the University of Georgia, Georgia Forest Watch and other interested parties to devise a plan to monitor the spread and population density of the dangerous pest that threatens our hemlock trees.



James Sullivan

The program and field trip were led by James Sullivan of the Georgia Forestry Commission. The adelgid (HWA) had gained a stronghold in north Georgia and is spreading rapidly. For example, an area on

Burrell's Ford Road which we surveyed Saturday had a heavy infestation of the adelgids. In March of 2003 there had been none. This is typical of many areas, as property owners in Highlands and Cashiers can readily attest to. Groundwork was laid at the meeting for a regional citizen monitoring program using hikers, hunters and other citizens to identify and report areas of infestation. The monitoring will assist in the determination of areas suitable for release of predator beetles from the lab at Clemson University.

A training workshop will be held at the Nature Center in Highlands on Feb. 21 to organize a local monitoring project. For more information, call JMCA at 526-9938 ext. 320 or e-mail JMCA@dnet.net.

Heading for Mexico



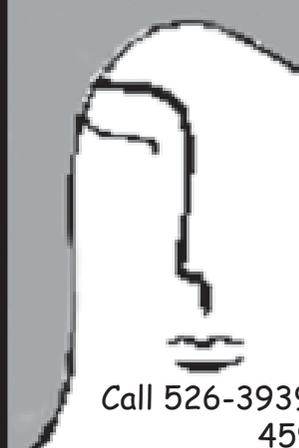
Mountain Top Rotary selected Ken McKim as its Group Study Exchange student. He is headed for Mexico this spring. With him his Mtn. Top Rotary member Dixie Barton.

Ice storm moves onto plateau



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Several churches cancelled services Sunday, Jan. 25, due to icy roads, snow and sleet. As the day wore on, and temperatures fell, snow- and ice-laden limbs crashed down on power lines causing power go out about 5 p.m. in several areas in town. Town crews worked through the night and by mid-day Monday, Jan. 26, most of the power was restored.

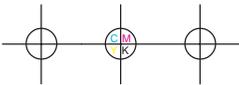


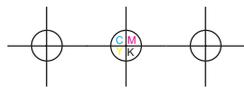
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Hospital receives \$1 million check from Williams family

By Skip Taylor
Contributor

Most of us may be finished welcoming in the new year, but for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital there's still cause to celebrate: a \$1 million contribution from an area couple.

The gift is the initial installment on a \$5 million commitment made to the hospital's Challenge Campaign by retired insurance executive Art Williams and his wife Angela, owners of Old Edwards Inn and Spa, and seasonal residents at Highlands Country Club. That campaign officially ended three years ago, but pledges and gifts are still being collected.

"As supporters of the hospital for a number of years now, the Williamses realize the importance of having quality health care available to everyone in Highlands, Cashiers and the surrounding communities," said Jack A. Calloway, president of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. "This generous gift is very much in keeping with their commitment to support the hospital and the community as a whole."

The initial pledge was made in the form of a challenge gift, contingent upon the hospital raising -- and collecting -- at least \$17 million in contributions and pledges from the community, said Calloway.

"Realizing how important the Challenge Campaign was to the future success of the hospital, the Williamses made their pledge in the form of a challenge to others capable of making substantial gifts to the campaign," he said. "Art and Angela's challenge helped create a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in the campaign, serving as a catalyst for a number of large gifts early on, and giving the campaign vital momentum."

Overall, the Challenge Campaign exceeded its \$22 million goal. Of the total \$26 million pledged, some \$14 million has been spent on major capital improvements at the hospital, including construction of the new surgical center, expansion and renovation of the emergency facilities, an interior makeover of the Fidelity Eckerd Living Center, and other much

needed construction and renovation. Some of those funds also went to purchased or upgrade medical equipment. The remaining \$12 million is being used to establish a significant endowment that will help the hospital purchase equipment, expand health care services, and -- if necessary -- cover operating deficits that might occur in the future.

"Our communities responded very generously to this vital campaign to secure the future of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the support of the Williamses played an important role in the overall success of that effort. Now that the initial

\$17 million requirement has been met, they have come forward to begin fulfilling their commitment," said Bill Gaston, chairman of the Challenge Campaign, and current chairman of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. "We greatly appreciate the support and leadership they have shown on behalf of the hospital."

The Williams have a long association with Highlands, dating back to the 1950s. Seven years ago they purchased a seasonal home here, and subsequently purchased Old Edwards Inn and Central House Restaurant, which is in the process of being developed into a world-class spa.

"In their short time here, Art and Angela have demonstrated in many ways their love and concern for this community and the organizations that make it a special place in which to live, including Highlands-Cashiers Hospital," said Calloway.

"Like many aspects of life in Highlands in recent years, medical care has expanded greatly in terms of the scope of services and physicians available locally. This means a better life for all of us. Those accomplishments could not have come about without the support of people like the Williamses and the thousands of others who supported The Challenge Campaign and all of the hospital's other fundraising efforts over the years. The hospital must rely on its many friends to continue to provide the financial support it needs to bring state-of-the-art medical services to its communities," he said.



Jack Calloway (left), president of the hospital foundation, receives a check for \$1 million from Angela and Art Williams for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Challenge Campaign.

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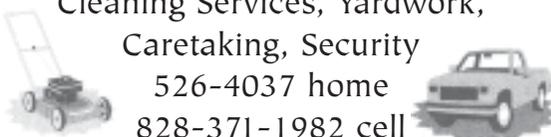


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Send check to Highlands Newspaper, P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C. 28741 or put in HIGHLANDS NEWSPAPER DROP BOX at Highlands Vacation Rentals/CCP office at Mtn. Fresh Ctr.

Apartment For Rent. In Town. Fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, garage, indoor hot tub. Call (404) 226-5415.

For Sale by Owner. Commercial and residential building 4,200 sq. ft In-town. Call (404) 226-5415.

Green plaid sleeper sofa, glass/wood coffee table, separately, BEST OFFER for both. Free chair (needs reupholstering) with purchase. 526-5558.

• HELP WANTED •

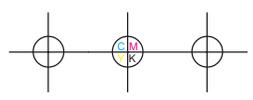
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (EOE) RNs: Four full-time positions. Prefer ACLS, TNCC, ENPC, or PALS with E.R. and cardiac background. Also, R.N. in the O.R. CNA: Monday-Thursday, full-time. Competitive pay and an excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

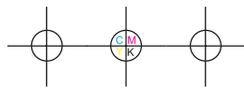
New LPN salary scale! Do what you love, and love what you do. We are looking for excellent nurses to work 7 p.m. – 7 a.m., full time, great benefits. Can-

didates must be compassionate, dependable, and possess above-average supervisory skills. Apply now, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, an EOE. Pre-employment substance screening. For details call: Mary Osmar, Human Resources, 828-526-1301.

Executive Director needed for the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization based in Highlands. Part time \$1,000/month. Apply

by March 1 to Cynthia Strain, Chair, JMCA, 348 S. Fifth St., Highlands, NC 28741; 828-526-9227 or JMCA@dnet.net for more info.





Park service law enforcement officer to discuss poaching

John Garrison, acting chief ranger for the Blue Ridge Parkway, will speak on "Thieving Plants from National Parks" at 4 p.m., Feb. 2, on the UNC-A campus, Room 228 of Robinson Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Plants in national parks belong to all Americans, and they are protected to ensure the natural integrity of our national parks into the future. The Blue Ridge Parkway is home to numerous plants that have a high demand in the marketplace, such as galax, which is used in floral arrangements; ginseng, used in herbal medicine; and trilliums, collected by plant enthusiasts.

Since the Parkway is a long, narrow, road-based park, plant poachers have easy access. In 1998, park rangers confiscated 1,517 pounds of the medicinal plant black cohosh from the back of a man's pickup

truck. In 2000, galax poachers were caught with 47,000 galax stems. As a result of the challenge of protecting the Parkway's plants and thwarting poachers, officers have become ingenious in their efforts, including marking plants with telltale dyes and monitoring plant populations electronically.

Garrison has worked in National Park Service law enforcement for 22 Years -- 17 with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and 5 with the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Garrison's presentation is the fifth in a year-long lecture series presented by the UNCA Environmental Studies Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA Forest Service. The lecture series examines a number of regional environmental issues, ranging from air quality to national forest management.



Instant Theater presents 'Cowboy Envy' at PAC Jan.30

Highlands' Instant Theatre Company continues its commitment to bringing year-round entertainment to Macon County with Cowboy Envy, an exciting evening of old-time cowboy songs and stories, on January 30th and 31st at 8pm at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

From Atlanta, Cowboy Envy is doing its part to keep western music from being lost in the shuffle. With a healthy respect for the traditional and the familiar, these folks give cowboy music their own special touch — or should we say brand.

Audience members are encouraged to drag out their spurs and cowboy hats and take part in the "Western Costume Contest" to be held both evenings. Winners go home with Cowboy Envy CDs and

other merchandise.

The members of Cowboy Envy are: Frenchy (Bernie Poliakoff) on vocals, whip cracks, dinner bell, train whistle and stampedes, Too Short (DeDe Vogt) on vocals, bass, harmonica and mandolin, and Buffalo K (Kathleen Hatfield) on vocals and guitar. Their favorite cowboy/accordionist/juggler is Ropin' Rodger French who plays on most occasions (including this Highlands appearance), adding many not-to-be-missed flourishes and amazing solos.

To purchase tickets for this event call the ITC Box Office at (828) 342-9197 or visit their office at the Peggy Crosby Center room 218 on Fifth Street. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$15 for Adults. The production is sponsored by Country Club Properties of Highlands.

New member at Mtn. Top Rotary



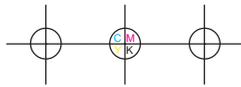
Marie Thompson, (left) with the Old Edwards Inn & Spa was inducted into the Mountain Top Rotary recently. With her is Joe Simmons and Dixie Barton.

Highlands' Newspaper Internet Directory

In 2003, more than 1/4-million visitors averaging 5 minutes per view visited the directory at www.highlandsinfo.com

It has everything you want to know about news, dining, lodging, shopping, events, hiking, waterfalls and real estate.





• POLICE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Jan. 22-28, 2004. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Jan. 22

- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to an accident between a pickup truck and a Town garbage truck on Spring Street. There were no injuries.
- At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles in Wright Square. There were no injuries.
- At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at U.S. 64 east and Webbmont. There were no injuries.

Jan. 23

- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Old Walhalla Road. All was secure.

Jan. 24

- At 1:53 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Sage Woods Road. All was secure.

Jan. 25

- At 6:52 a.m., officers responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east where a car slid into a ditch. There were no injuries.
- Officers responded to four separate alarm activations at Wachovia Bank twice, Centura Bank and at Rosenthal's on Main Street. All was secure at each location. The alarms were set off by weather.

Jan. 26

- Officers responded to four separate alarm activations set off by weather at Macon and Wachovia banks, the Episcopal Church and the ABC Store. All was secure at each location.

Jan. 27

- At 11:25 a.m., the owner of Best of the Bunch reported the company vehicle had been vandalized with eggs.

Jan. 28

- At 6:30 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Bowery Road. They found an open door, but all was secure.
- At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two motorists. There were no injuries.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Jan. 21-28, 2004.

Jan. 21

- The dept. responded to a report of a brush fire in a field along U.S. 64 east. It was a controlled burn.

Jan. 23

- The dept. responded to a report of power lines down on Hicks Rd. that started a fire. It was extinguished before the dept. arrived.

Jan. 25

- The dept. responded to an accident on Buck Creek Road. There was one injury. EMS transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a report of a limb on a power line. It was burning but stopped when the power went out.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence at VZ-Top. All was secure.

Sheriff's Dept. arrests local Realtor on drug-related charges

At 11:49 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, Macon County Sheriff's Deputies arrested John Robert Potts, 40, of Highlands, on numerous drug-related charges. Potts is a Realtor with Country Club Properties.

"Mr. Potts was arrested after a routine traffic stop and subsequent search of his residence," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

Deputies stopped him at U.S. 64 west near Gold Mine Road after wit-

nessing him make several traffic violations while travelling U.S. 64 toward Highlands.

Potts consented to the search of his vehicle and subsequent search of his residence on Brush Creek Drive in Franklin, the sheriff said.

Deputies seized several items including a large amount of cash and a 1996 Chevrolet Corvette that belonged to Potts. Charges include one felony count of possession with in-

... ICE STORM continued from page 1



Photo by Jim Lewicki

This tree on the old Crane Farm on Oak Street lost a few of its stately limbs to Sunday's ice storm.

than 100 homes without power," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. County figures put outages around 300. "Fuses began blowing around 5 p.m. Sunday." School was called off Monday, but it wasn't a fun day off without electricity.

The eight-man electric crew went to work immediately Sunday, locating damaged wires, clearing away downed trees and limbs, repairing lines and re-installing fuses. Then before they could turn the system on, they had to check it. "It's a time-consuming process," said Nix.

Crews worked through the night and were still at it Monday afternoon. "We had eight people going 24 hours," said Nix. "Other departments were helping too - sanitation and water departments." The street department was busy plowing,

putting down chad and salt. "We've had our hands full," said Nix.

By early Monday evening, some homes were still without power. "But by 9 p.m. Monday everyone one that we knew of had power," said Nix. "My crews never stopped. I thought they'd go home to rest, but they must have gotten their second wind."

Tuesday's weather turned bitter cold - dropping from the high 30s to the teens in a matter of hours from mid-afternoon to evening. Gusts of wind blew 19-26 mph out of the north. Nix expected more damage to occur, but it didn't.

Fortunately, there was only one house without power Tuesday because a limb fell on a wire, but that was it, said Nix. "Ice storms are the worst."

tent to sell and deliver marijuana (440 grams); one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia (two digital scales, rolling papers and scissors); one felony count of maintaining a vehicle or dwelling place for purpose of keeping a controlled substance (a 1996 Chevrolet Corvette containing marijuana and cocaine); and three counts of trafficking in cocaine (more than 60 grams).

"We found very little at the resi-

dence," said Sheriff Holland. "Most of what was found was in a suitcase in the car."

Monday morning Potts was released from the Macon County Detention Center on a \$35,000 bond. He's scheduled to appear in district court on Feb. 26 at 9 a.m.

"This was heads-up work by the deputy assigned to the Highlands area. He and the deputies who assisted him did an outstanding job," said Holland.



● UPCOMING EVENTS ●

On-Going

- New After-Work Aerobics Class at the Highlands Rec Park with Sandy Trevathan, certified in AFAA and ACE training. Classes are at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 526-5852.

- Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts meet 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Highlands United Methodist Church. Come join them.

- Highlands School is still collecting used ink cartridges. The staff just sent in 150 and they're ready for more. Please take used ink cartridges to the main office at Highlands School. It means money to the school.

- Every Friday and Saturday night, Cy Timmons sings and plays his guitar at Highlands Wine & Cheese from 7-11 p.m. It's free.

- Every Saturday night there is live music at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous now meets in the remodeled basement meeting room of the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands. It's accessible from both Main and Church streets. Meeting times remain the same: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For further information, call (800) 524-0465.

Jan. 29

- The Highlands Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the law firm of Edwards, Ballard, Bishop, Sturm, Clark and Klein will host a seminar on changes in U.S. immigration laws that can impact local businesses. The business immigration law update will be held on Wednesday at the Highlands Conference Center from 9:30 until noon. Cost of the seminar is \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members. To register, please call Ruth Buchanan at 526.5841.

Jan. 30

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Ralph Stevens owner of Jolie's and Zaldanas will present a program called Street Talk about business and humor from his Main Street vantage point.

Jan 30 & 31

- Cowboy Envy - an exciting evening of old-time cowboy song and stories will be presented by Highlands' Instant Theatre Company Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chesnut St. in Highlands. \$5 Children, \$15 Adults. For tickets call (828) 342-9197.

Jan. 31

- Arthur & Katie will be performing at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street from 8-11 p.m.

Feb. 2

- The February regular meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners will be at 9 a.m. instead of 6 p.m. for presentation of employee service awards.

Feb. 3

- The Bascom-Louise Gallery presents the film "Man in the White Suit" is a 7 p.m. at PAC. The uniquely original script pokes fun at big business

Feb. 6

Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Local World War II historian Carlton Joyce will present a program about the Campaign in Italy.

Feb. 7

- Arthur & Katie will be performing at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street from 8-11 p.m.

Feb. 8

- Boy Scout Sunday is Sunday, Feb. 8. Highlands United Methodist Church sponsors Cub Scout Pack 207 and will be honoring current and former scouts in worship that day at 11 a.m. All Boy Scouts are welcome to attend. Active scouts are invited to participate in worship that day. Please call the church office at 526-3376 if you plan to participate.

Feb. 13

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Mountain Top Rotary Club Assembly

- On Friday afternoons, beginning Friday, Feb. 13, Highlands United Methodist Church will have an after school opportunity for children in grades 1st through 6th. There will be two six-week sessions that will include the God and Country series and a Beth Moore Bible study for children called Jesus, the One and Only. A snack and transportation from school will be provided. It will finish at 4:30 p.m. All children are invited. For more information or to register, call Kim Ingram at the church at 526-3376.

Feb. 16

- Macon County Habitat for Humanity will hold an orientation meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center. Applications will be for the recipient of the Habitat for Humanity home that will be built this year. For more information, call 369-3716.

Feb. 20

- Mountain Top Rotary breakfast meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the back of the Baptist Church. Ann Greenlee head of the laboratory at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will talk about relevant local clinical capacity and issues.

Feb. 21

- A training workshop will be held at the Nature Center in Highlands to organize a local monitoring project. Dr. John Pickering of the University of Georgia, who will provide training, is in the process of creating a web site for submitting HWA reports. For more information, call JMCA at 526-9938 ext. 320 or e-mail JMCA@dnet.net.

Hit the slopes for winter fun

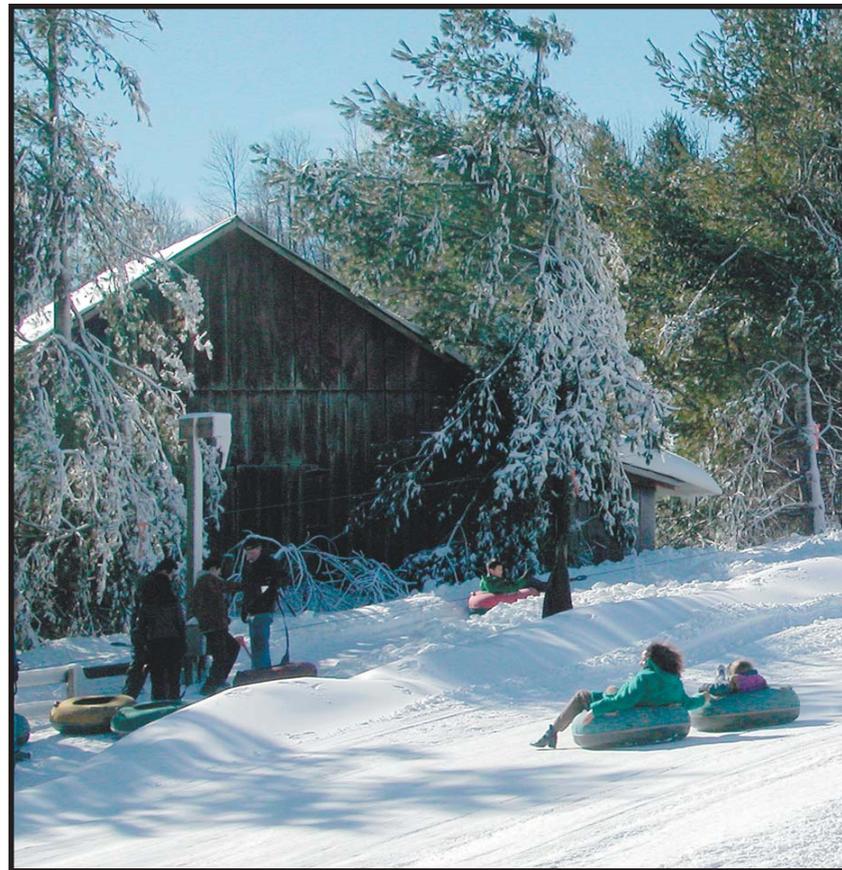


Photo by Jim Lewicki

As long as temperatures hover around 30 degrees, area slopes can make snow. For skiing, head to Sky Valley, Ga. - 800-437-2416. For tubing, it's Scaly Mountain - 526-3737, both off N.C. 106.

and big labor as they try to suppress his discovery. Donations accepted.

Feb. 4

- The community is invited for a magical evening at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Magician Bill Grimsley of Grimsley Productions in Asheville will present "A Magic Show" for children (and adults, too) at 6:30 p.m. following the Wednesday night supper which begins at 6 p.m. The supper is \$5 (children under 12 free). Make reservations by noon on Monday, Feb. 2 by calling the church office at 526-2968. The magic show is free.

