'Citizens Against ETJ' take action

There's no telling what the outcome of the Nov. 18 public hearing on ETJ would have been had the "Citizens Against ETJ" approached the subject in the cool, calm and calculating manner in which they conducted their first meeting, Monday night.

About 40 people gathered at High Country Café, Dec. 12 to determine what tack to take to "put the brakes on ETJ." "Where do we go from here and how do we get there?" asked moderator David Hourdequin.

Work sessions for zoning ETJ begin Friday

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But the subject of zoning the area brought to the surface attitudes still festerin since the Town Board evoked ETJ the middle of last month.

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See CITIZENS page 10

See ETJ page 11

See PARKING page 11

On-going
- On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., The Food Pantry is open for anyone needing provisions - canned goods and nonperishables – at Highlands United Methodist Church building on Church Street Alley.
- At the Verandah live music - Chad Reed, piano player – on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- Cy Timmons at Fresser's at Helen's Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.
- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.

Dec. 16
- HS Basketball at home against Tallulah Falls. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.
- ITC's free reading of "Papa's Angels" by Collin Wilcox at 7 p.m. with music by John Roman.
- Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Civic Center at noon. Donations accepted.

Dec. 17
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse. Call leader David Sapin, 828-369-2628, for reservations.
- The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual Christmas "Noche de Familia," Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church.

Dec. 18
- Chancel Choir Lessons & Carols during Sunday's 11 a.m. worship service at Highlands United Methodist Church.
- No Town Board meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall boardroom.

Dec. 24
- Family-Oriented Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church.
- Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Community Bible Church at 7 p.m.

Dec. 25
- Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn with proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Dinner is $29.95. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

Highlanders win at home


Photo by Jim Lewicki

'Nonconforming' issue still looms

Several boomerangs have been flying around the boardrooms at Town Hall lately. The latest is the nonconforming ordinance.

Close to a year ago, commissioners requested the ordinance be rewritten when they learned that Old Edwards Hospitality Group was going to rebuild a building which had been dismantled to its footings on the Church Street bluff.

The building was nonconforming because it was in the Church Street right-of-way, but because the footings were intact, Larry Gantenbein, zoning administrator, allowed the building to be rebuilt. (When controversy arose, however, OEI abandoned the project and decided not to rebuild the building.)

Though technically allowed by the ordinance, several commissioners were under the impression that the ordinance had been changed to disallow the rebuilding of nonconforming buildings once they were destroyed.

And therein lay the rub. Exactly what is "destroyed?"

The Town Board took it upon itself to rewrite the ordinance for clarification as elevating Gantenbein and Town Administrator Richard Betz of the task.

Now seven months later, the ordinance is still in the rewrite stage with the Town Board soliciting input from the Planning Board for the third time.

No one can decide to what degree a building should be classified destroyed - if it's taken down manually to be

See NONCONFORMING page 20

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Letters pg. 2
Obituaries pg. 3
Wooldridge pg. 4
Ruby Theater pg 5
School Sports pg. 10-11
Police & Fire pg. 15
Upcoming Events pg. 16

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See PARKING page 11
PTO gives teachers classroom money

Every teacher who participated in Highlands School Fall Festival was rewarded with a $150 check courtesy of Highlands School PTO. About $1,500 was given to teachers.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

• SCHOOL BOARD TIDBITS

- The school board accepted teacher Anne Tate’s resignation as of Dec. 2005. Macon County Schools is advertising for the position and hopes to fill it by the first of January.
- It’s possible the soccer field/interpretative playground project will be discussed at the January school board meeting.
- The school board didn’t discuss or take action on the suggested elimination of the Valedictorian/Salutatorian designations at Highlands School.
- Answers to parents’ questions about the quality points of a SCC ITV class vs. an AP class: “The decision on quality points is made from an agreement with the state board of education, the community college board and the university system. We are following the standardized transcript that is approved by the state board of education.” – Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bush suffers consequences

Dear Editor,

In the lead up to the Iraq conflict, we were repeatedly told that anyone who disagreed with the rush to go to war, or criticized the Bush Administration, was “anti-American.” I guess that means that the majority of Americans are anti-American.

A series of polls has shown that most Americans now realize that Bush and his administration lied to get them into the war and that it was a mistake to go to war. The Harris Poll now shows President Bush down to a 34 percent approval rating.

The White House promised to conduct a “sustained attack” against the Democrats for suggesting that the administration lied to the American people to sell the war in Iraq. The more the White House keeps the “we didn’t lie” message in the media, the more the public will be reminded that they probably did.

Don Twardowski, Franklin

Parade shouldn’t be political arena

Dear Editor,

It’s customary and appropriate that our local organizations, businesses, elected officials, our schools, and private citizens celebrate the season of Jesus’ birth with lovingly decorated floats and music and all the fun of our traditional parade.

However we try hard to keep reminding ourselves and our families that we must never forget to keep Christ in Christmas. I wonder what effect it had on our young people to see the Star of Bethlehem used as the vehicle for a political ad.

I hope this does not become an example for future parades and that we are not treated to a profusion of ads for congressmen, mayors, county commissioners, etc. Hopefully, other folks running for public office will have better sense – and better taste.

Elizabeth Linsley, Highlands
Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, December 16, 2005 - Page 3

Elsie Belle Green McCall

Elsie Belle Green McCall, 90, of Highlands, NC died Sunday, December 11, 2005 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Habersham County, GA, the daughter of the late Hannable E. and Nancy Texiana Norris Green. She was married to the late Edgar McCall. She was a homemaker and a member of Goldmine Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Rosemary Riggleman of Franklin, NC; two sons, Mac Arthur McCall of Highlands, NC and Jerry McCall and his wife, Hazel of Franklin, NC; two brothers, Carl Green and Fred Green of Highlands, NC; 21 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by two daughters, Ruby J. Watts and Linda McCall and four sons, James, David, Cletis McCall and Leon McCall; one sister, Ethel Henry and one brother Ed Green.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 15, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home at Highlands with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial was held at Miller Cemetery. Daniel McCull, Shannon McCull, Richard Riggleman, Doug McCull, Ricky McCall and Leroy McCall served as pallbearers.

OBIITUARIES

In a lovely sedated area close to Glen Falls is this ready-to-move into 3-bedroom, 2-bath with cypress floors, tongue-in-groove cypress ceilings in the living areas, vintage beams, stone-faced fireplace, wrap-around deck, verde butterfly granite countertops, Baldwin hardware, Hunter fans, locust posts with rhodo rails and a full basement on a beautiful open lot with winter Blue Valley view. Now offered at $549,000.

Tucked away in charming Highland Hills, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath is ready for occupancy after an extensive remodel. New front and back porches, wood floors, stone fireplace and garage. Offered at $499,000.

Call Pam Taylor at (cell) 342-6988, 526-2520 or 526-9027 anytime.

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

In a lovely sedated area close to Glen Falls is this ready-to-move into 3-bedroom, 2-bath with cypress floors, tongue-in-groove cypress ceilings in the living areas, vintage beams, stone-faced fireplace, wrap-around deck, verde butterfly granite countertops, Baldwin hardware, Hunter fans, locust posts with rhodo rails and a full basement on a beautiful open lot with winter Blue Valley view. Now offered at $549,000.

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Madison's

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Join us for

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

A festive six-course dinner is featured for New Year’s Eve.

$85 per person

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445 Main Street Highlands, North Carolina 28741

Owned and operated by Old Edwards Hospitality Group, LLC

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Pessimist or Realist?

Mr. Glass Half Empty", that’s what she calls me. The little missus thinks I am a pessimist and says I sometimes see the world through dark gray glasses. Maybe that’s a side of me my readers have not seen. I argue, oops, I mean debate. I am a realist and see the world exactly as it is and not what I am spoon fed or want it to be. We have agreed to disagree on this issue and life is good at our house. Highlands’ folks might choose to do the same thing on ETJ.

What brought this debate about were the inspiring words that came from our new mayor, Doctor Don Mullen, at his swearing in ceremony. Who could disagree with his criticism of Highlanders at the ETJ meeting or his patriotic remarks about our beloved country? Who could disagree there is mistrust in government? But I understand those people who spoke out at that meeting. Excuse me while I put on my dark gray glasses.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mullen’s comments were just part of a speech and have little impact. Action is needed here, not speeches. Dr. Mullen’s comments were a reminder about just how ugly American history really were.

Long, long ago, my eyes have been opened to the real world. Many years of cop work helped me get like this. Some say it is cynicism; I say it is realism.

I know our country’s history is not as rosy as painted in my 5th grade history book. And I know that Highlands is not all peaches and cream, even though I like to think it is. Here, I have my rose colored glasses on.

Like all history, it is written by the winners. If Briton had prevailed during our revolution, my 5th grade history book would have been telling about the traitors to the throne, like George Washington, his many henchmen and how they deserved to be hanged for trying to overthrow the Kingdom. Imagine what this country would look like today if the South had prevailed during the Civil War? Would we be two nations instead of united? Would Highlanders have been able to speak out against their government the way they did recently? No one knows.

There is one indisputable fact that even the most rosiest of opportunists must agree upon. We are, and always have been, a nation of violence, from the first shots fired at the Battle of Bunker Hill to the last solder to die in Iraq. We are a gun toting, shoot em’ up, country who likes to solve its problems with violence, from way back in the old Wild West to the mob gangs of New York. I could go on and on.

The United States seems to always have an enemy to go after. The entire world sees us as a violent nation and I think we deserve our reputation. What does this have to do with ETJ? There are parallels.

I doubt that the ugliness displayed by Highlanders at the recent ETJ meeting was any worse than comments made by patriots against England before the war. People say ugly things when they feel disenfranchised. Shoving ETJ down folk’s throats will never be swallowed because those affected feel disenfranchised. They will muster together in secret against the government, which is going on now in Highlands.

The town board must find a way to help those who feel this way. Words will not work. If government is going to have control over people’s property, then those people must have a say in the matter. To think otherwise is simply un-American.

Fortunately, we waited until all of our summer people had gone to display just how ugly we can really get. Let’s not tell them about this and get this resolved before they return. Whadayathink?

New Year’s concert and gala set at PAC

The Fine Arts Committee announces a spectacular New Year’s Eve Gala.

Three of the world’s finest artists will give a concert at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street at 5 p.m. This event will feature a cocktail reception at 4 p.m.

Artists are Jeanne Brown, soprano; Pamela Dillard, mezzo soprano and Robert Henry, pianist.

Included on the program will be opera arias from La Boheme, la Traviata, Carmen and duets from Lakme and Madame Butterfly.

The evening will benefit the children of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania who have contracted AIDS. Tickets are limited and cost $50 for the cocktail event and concert.

Highlands Fine Dining

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Highlands’ Most Scenic Dining Overlooking Lake Sequoyah
Wine Spectator Award since 1987
Dinner Friday & Saturday from 6 p.m. and from Dec. 26-31 • Join us for New Year’s Eve BASH!
Live music from 7:30 p.m. featuring Chad Reed or Michael Lococo
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otv1@ontheverandah.com

The Highlight of Highlands
Breakfast buffet: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sat; 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday
A Great Place to Stay. A Great Place for Breakfast

Just in time for the holidays!
Fred Wooldridge’s book, “I’m Moving Back to Mars” can be purchased at Cyrano’s Book Shop or on line at AuthorHouse.com

Gourmet Food in a Casual Atmosphere
Lunch • Mon-Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Dinner • Thurs.-Sat. 5 – 9:30 p.m.
Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Closed Wednesday
828-526-2338

Dinner: 5-11 nightly
Live Music Fridays at 9:30
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Prime Rib daily • Fish • Pasta
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• Full Wine List
Lunch 11-2:30; Dinner 5:30
18 dinner items under $20!
CLOSED WEDNESDAY
Congressman Murtha playing politics at our soldiers’ expense

In 1998, while serving as a Marine Corps Base Commander in Japan, I had the opportunity to brief Congressman Murtha on Pacific Rim political and military issues. I was very impressed with Congressman Murtha because of his Marine Corps background as a decorated Vietnam War veteran, where he received two purple hearts and bronze star medal. He has the distinction of being the first Vietnam War veteran to be elected to Congress. He is also the ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and is considered to be a conservative Democrat.

With such an impressive background, his statement last week calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq proved to be a stunning comment, which quickly made the headlines throughout the world. Congressman Murtha went on to say Islamic forces “are united against U.S. forces and we have become a catalyst for violence.

“It’s time to bring them home.” During this past week, I have given considerable thought to why Congressman Murtha was motivated to make such comments, and have come to certain conclusions.

A few weeks before Congressman Murtha’s made his statement, the Democrats and the elite media attempted to convince the American people that President Bush deliberately deceived them in order to invade Iraq, thereby substituting failure for success. The Republicans countered this offensive by addressing successes such as the elimination of Saddam Hussein’s tyrannical and murderous dictatorship/threat to his neighbors, and the establishment of a democratic government under a new constitution that still needs our help in fighting the insurgency. At the present time, U.S. presence is the glue holding the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds together; otherwise, there would likely be civil war.

While this bantering was going on, out came Congressman Murtha to call for the removal of American troops in Iraq. No doubt in my mind this was a dangerous political stunt, because there was no discussion about the implications of immediately removing our forces. When Congress voted on the withdrawal of troops, even Congressman Murtha voted against it. The final vote was 403 against the motion and 3 for it.

Whether you supported or were against the invasion of Iraq is not the issue at this point. We are there and now and we must do the right thing for this Nation and the world. But, what are the implications should we immediately remove our troops from Iraq?

A civil war between the Shiites and Sunnis would likely occur, as the Baathist Party would try to put in power another dictator like Saddam Hussein, and the country would be split up. Iraq would become a terrorist haven, and they would have unlimited funds from oil revenues. While this is occurring, terrorist short-term goals would be to create Islamic fundamentalist governments like the Taliban throughout the Middle East while taking control of oil fields from countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Terrorist long-term goals would likely be to severely damage or destroy Western economies through their control of oil and continued terrorist acts, which will become even more sophisticated due to their wealth and ability to buy technology and weapons of mass destruction. The CIA reports that 50% of Russian nuclear weapons are not secured! If you have enough money you could probably buy or even produce nuclear weapons, which will likely occur in Iran soon. Our borders are porous and it is just a matter of time before such a catastrophic event will occur in this country unless we continue our efforts to bring democracy and freedom to Iraq and Afghanistan, while defeating Islamic fundamentalists throughout the world. Iraq is the center of gravity for defeating terrorists. Democracies don’t fight each other, which is why it is important to create such governments throughout the Middle East.

Unfortunately, since Vietnam our Nation has a reputation for running from a fight. After our departure from Vietnam, Congress cut off all funding to make your home a reality.

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Visit us at www.WarthConstruction.com

Ruby Cinemas
Franklin, NC
Adult — $6, $5 Child — $4
Dec 14-29
KING KONG — rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (5), 8:30
Sat & Sun: (1), (5), 8:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
THE LION, THE WITCH,
& THE WARDROBE — rated PG
Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:45
Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 9:45
YOUR S, MINE & OURS — rated PG
LAST SHOWING Tues., Dec 20
Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
WALK THE LINE — rated PG-13
LAST SHOWING Tues., Dec 20
Mon - Fri: (4:30), 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 9:30
HARRY POTTER & THE
GOBLET OF FIRE — rated PG-13
LAST SHOWING Tues, Dec 20
Mon - Sun: (7)
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 — PG
STARTS Wed., Dec 21
Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15
FUN WITH DICK & JANE — PG
STARTS Wed., Dec 21
Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

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Call: 1-800-522-9874
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or go online to see our accommodations.
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Family owned and operated since 1939.

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 7
Rebecca Clary
Of Highlands Furniture, Inc.
31 Years of Design Experience.  
Custom Window Treatments – Design Services  
Call (828) 526-2973 For information

Make your reservations now for the fifth annual Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn.  Dinner includes baked turkey or ham, mashed or sweet potatoes, dressing and gravy, vegetables galore, and a dessert buffet for only $29.95.

What makes this dinner especially special is that all proceeds go toward Habitat for Humanity.  For reservations, call the Main Street Inn at 526-2590.
... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

for the South Vietnamese Government, which left them vulnerable and unable to defend themselves. This was done contrary to the peace accord, and on April 30, 1975, the North Vietnamese Army captured South Vietnam and the communists in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos killed millions and interned thousands more. In the end, this didn’t impact Americans because they could not bring their destruction to our shores. This is totally unlike Iraq, where we will clearly become an even bigger target if we do not finish the job. In 1983 we left Beirut when 241 Marines and Navy Corpsmen were killed in the bombing of their barracks, and the same occurred in Somalia when U.S. soldiers were killed. The terrorists chased us out of one place after another because we would not retaliate. Our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq are a clear setback and surprise to the likes of Osama and other fundamentalist terrorists.

Congressman Murtha’s withdrawal comments are disingenuous because he clearly knows about the significant successes in Iraq. There is a laundry list of success stories but the most significant is the Iraqi people jeopardizing their lives twice to vote and will do so again next month for a permanent government. It is understandable that the American people want to know when our troops are coming home, but you cannot announce such events, or the terrorists will wait you out. Troop withdrawal must be event driven such as the election of the formal government and sufficient Iraqi military and police forces trained to go it alone. I predict forces will begin coming home in 2006, but it will be a gradual drawdown based on critical events.

Congressman Murtha has done a lot to embolden the terrorists to continue the fight, which might also encourage them to use more lethality, resulting in our government’s pulling our forces out sooner. His comments may very well result in more of our soldiers and Iraqi civilians being killed. Congressman Murtha took off his Marine warrior hat and put on his politician hat to benefit his colleagues during the mid-term election. He is also exchanging selflessness for selfishness, I’m very disappointed in him!

General Higginbotham entered active duty in 1967 and retired in 2000 as the Vice Director for Logistics, J-4, the Joint Staff. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with combat “V”, Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary is hard at work these days bringing a little Christmas cheer to the nearly 80 residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Auxiliary members have purchased miniature Christmas trees and are hard at work decorating them. Once the final touches are in place, the mini-trees will be used to help brighten up every resident’s room, along with the other decorations going up around the center. And employees around the hospital and Living Center are once again participating in an annual gift tree. Staff members volunteer to adopt a resident by choosing a paper ornament from a special tree. Each ornament has a residents’ name and holiday “wish list.”
Hospital Auxiliary 'Tree of Lights'

Bells, in honor of living friends and loved ones, and stars, in memory of deceased friends or loved one, will be placed on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree in the hospital lobby. These tributes are available with a gift of $25 or more.

Complete the form below (please print) and mail to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation
Attn: Tree of Lights, P.O. Box 742, Highlands, NC 28741

Amount given: ________
Circle one: in memory of in honor of

Name:  ___________________________
Given by:  ________________________
Address:  _________________________
____________________________________________
Send acknowledgement to:  _________
Address:  _________________________
____________________________________________

Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary
Proceeds from the Tree of Lights in the hospital lobby will go toward scholarships for qualifying candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital’s team for a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.

Free Christmas reading at ITC

The Instant Theatre Company presents Collin Wilcox in a free reading of excerpts from her book Papa's Angels co-authored with Gary Cardin. The reading will be held On Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., at the ITC's Studio on Main Street at 310 Oak Square.

This Christmas story is set in Highlands in 1935, and was inspired by a real incident that happened in Highlands. Appearing with Collin is local composer John Roman, who will play and sing the music he wrote for both the play and the book.

This Christmas presentation is sponsored by The Christmas Tree. Happy Holidays from The Instant Theatre Company.

Highlands Lutheran Church growing

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road in Highlands, welcomes 12 new members on Dec. 11.

Pastor Delmer Chilton stands before the altar with Noel (III) and Bessie Buras and their four children, Kaylie, Taylor, Casey and Juliann; Noel (Jr.) and Goldie Buras and Noel’s sister Gail Buras; Richard and Marlene Gravelle and their grand-daughter Avalon Camello, recently baptized at the church. Holy Family meets every Sunday at 10:30 for Holy Communion with Sunday School preceding at 9:30.
He said he felt like those against ETJ weren't heard by a constitutional process on Nov. 18. “A lot of compelling arguments were made against ETJ which were discounted or already considered by the board,” he said.

Hourdequin said it was imperative for the group to come up with something new and innovative to get the Town Board’s attention.

“We need a compelling reason not yet heard because they’ve already moved forward on what we’ve already said. We now need a rational set of issues to get them to rethink, back up or slow down,” he said.

Macon County Commissioner Allan Bryson said he’s been told there are grounds for an injunction based on the fact that the Nov. 18 meeting was poorly run and there were legal aspects not adhered to such as changing the ETJ map during the public hearing and not having zoning in the ETJ area outlined prior to the hearing.

“First we must put the brakes on this with an injunction,” said Bryson. “We can hit them politically or verbally but we must first slow the process down with the injunction. Put the brakes on legally, put the pressure on locally. And we need a short term, intermediate and long term plan.”

Based on technical errors made at the meeting, Bryson said the group has 60 days to file the injunction but they’re about 25 days into that.

Speaking as citizen Bryson, he said “The question is does your wallet want to support an injunction? It will take $4,000 to get an injunction and $10,000 to take it to trial, but if we all stand together that’s not a whole lot of money.

“I welcome everyone of that mind into a commitment. This will be a legal fight not to be taken lightly. It will be a long, doggedly slow, expensive government process. It’s that way whenever you have governmental entities fighting against each other. We only have three or four chances to put an end to this, and the fact is we might not end it or win it.”

He said in North Carolina, ETJ has been challenged at the State Supreme Court level two times and lost, and the U.S. Supreme Court is reluctant to hear cases ruled on by the State court.

* See CITIZENS page 10
...CITIZENS continued from page 9

Hesaid an injunction might not stop ETJ, but the Town Board would have to restart the whole process. “They might re-consider it; maybe work with the county to create serviced districts made up of members in the ETJ area who are elected to set up rules to run the district.”

“The Planning Board members are not necessarily in favor of ETJ, but the members are elected to do their job,” he said. “The Planning Board members need to be convinced of its worthiness.”

He said that the case against ETJ is “probably not even winnable” but said personally it was time for him to put his wallet up or shut up.

“Sometimes in life we must take a stand for something. It’s a sad day when as a Highlander you stand in the house your grandfather built and you feel you have to fight against the city of Highlands because you’ve been wronged.” He said many Highlanders in the ETJ area now feel disenfranchised from Highlands.

When asked if they were ready to support an injunction with their pocketbooks, the majority of people at the meeting raised their hands and wrote down an amount they were willing to pledge on the sign-in sheet.

Harold Neely told the group it would be an uphill battle. “Be prepared to dig in and stay or head out the door,” he said. “We need to stick together, be tough and hang in there. The mayor, Dr. Mullien, realizes there’s a problem in the community. He knows there’s a divide up.”

With that in mind, members of the group suggested an injunction would give the group time to perhaps change the minds of some of the Town Board members.

Neely reminded the group that the Town Board acted on the recommendation of the Planning Board.

“The Planning Board members are not necessarily in favor of ETJ, but the members are elected to do their job,” he said. “The Planning Board members need to be convinced of its worthiness.”

Ralph Thomas suggested changing things within the system. “We need to get new people elected,” he said. “That’s the simplest thing. Use the Richard Betz mentality. Do the simplest thing possible.”

With ETJ, it was simplest for the board to take it all. We need new people in office with some new ideas,” he said. “That’s the way to do this — within the system.”

But Bryant said the next election is two years away and for several years people have tried to get new people on the board and it hasn’t worked.

Baker Crane said he’s heard from a lot of folks in town who are upset and angry at seeing their neighbors harmed and are willing to join the legal fight with them.

“Where to do from here? Several different angles,” he said. “Park cars on Main Street with signs in them that say ‘Repeal ETJ’ or ‘Rescind ETJ’ for one thing.”

For another, he said two weeks ago he made the decision not to do business within the corporate limits of Highlands as a form of protest.

“I know this may be hurting innocent merchants, but they have more power than we do and they can go to the Town Board and protest. These folks will understand what affects their pocketbooks more than anything else.”

Most merchants are friends and I hate doing this but if I need something from the town, I am now going somewhere else and I urge you to consider doing the same.”

Crane said it’s not just about land rights or property rights. It’s bigger than that. “On Nov. 18, 2005 I was robbed by four people. I used to think Highlands was the best city in the world. I used to think we had the best government in the world. But those four folks shattered that for me.”

Tommy Chambers suggested hitting the Town Board from several angles at one time, not just a one-pronged attack.

The group agreed a multi-pronged, three-stage approach should be taken but the first step should be the filing of an injunction.

Bryson said everyone needs to enlist the help of their family and their friends. “We need to have an emailing and mailing campaign. We need people to volunteer their time,” he said.

Mitch Gurganus said a lot of second-home owners in the ETJ area have told him they are willing to make a donation to the cause. “We need to reach out to whoever we know to put money in the pot to get this done,” he said.

Before the meeting adjourned, a five-member executive committee was formed. David Hurdgequin, Mitch Gurganus, Tommy Chambers, Lee Hodges, and Mike Bryant are on the committee and will be named chairman, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and alternate.

Once $4,000 is raised the group will proceed with the injunction.

Anyone interested in contributing to the “Citizens Against ETJ” action, is urged to contact one of the executive board members.
On Friday, Dec. 9, the Highlanders traveled to Nantahala and though the girls lost 61 to 68, it wasn't an easy win for Nantahala.

During the first quarter Nantahala scored 18 points to Highlands' 13, but in the second quarter, Highlands came back with 19 points to Nantahala's 8. In the third quarter it was Highlands with 13 and Nantahala with 16 and in the fourth quarter each team scored 16 points.

Keri Raby led the team with 21 points and 12 rebounds; Becca Wyatt added 14 points and 7 rebounds; Allison Winn had 10 points and 5 assists; Toni Schmitt scored 6 points; Katie Bryson had 9 points and 5 steals and Ramsey Ashburn scored one point.

Top scorer was Allison Winn with 15 points; Toni Schmitt led with 13 points and had 8 rebounds; Maggie Dearth also scored 4 points; Becca Wyatt made 3; and Katie Bryson scored 2.

On Monday, Dec. 12 it was home again for Highlands this time against Rosman. Highlands lost 49 to 62.

Becca Wyatt scored 16 points and had 7 rebounds; Toni Schmitt led with 13 points and 13 rebounds; Allison Winn scored 9 points; Katie Bryson scored 6 points and had 7 rebounds; Kaylie Buras scored 4 points and Maggie Dearth scored 2.

So far Highlands girls basketball stats: 4 wins, 6 losses.

The next game is Dec. 16, home against Tallulah Falls. The girls play at 6:30, the boys at 8.

On Dec. 17, the teams play away at Hayesville.

... PARKING continued from page 1

Ironed out, commissioners voted unanimously to require a clear delineation of areas the Town OKs for storage and staging by contractors to increase fines for violations to the parking and right-of-way encroachment ordinance; and to consider two-hour parking year-round.

Commissioners suggested a $200 fine for violations but didn’t decide on the number of warnings before issuing a fine or did they decide whether to enforce two-hour parking all over town or just in and around construction sites.

residential zones could be designated to accommodate specific uses like having farm animals.

Gantenbein said yes, and that farm animals are already allowed within the town limits they just have to be penned properly.

The Planning Board meets Friday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. to do a “drive around” of the ETJ area; on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. to begin work on zoning the area; on Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. to continue work on zoning and on Monday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

... ETJ continued from page 1

schedules during the holiday season not to keep people out.

Member Griffin Bell took offense to the comment.

“I resent people inferring we are dishonest and can’t be trusted,” he said. “I am not afraid to talk to anyone face-to-face.”

Mike Bryson, who was in the audience with Eric and Steve Pierson to hear what zoning the board proposed in the ETJ area, said a lot of people don’t trust Highlands’ government right now and they don’t feel like the Town Board listened to them.

“Having people at the Planning Board meetings would be a good opportunity to turn those trust issues around,” he said. “You could bring us back into the community rather than treating us like residents who don’t know how to deal with our property.”

Bell said it’s likely the Town Board did have its mind made up at the public hearing when they voted 4 to 1 to ETJ but he said their initial opinions were modified.

“They did listen to viewpoints to see if their minds should be changed but nothing was said to change their minds,” he said. “But change is subject to modification. They did listen to the rich country club people. That’s not the way I would have done it, but that’s the way it was done. The point is they did listen, they just didn’t listen to you.”

Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland said both “sides” need to work together. “We need to sit down as people who have known each other forever without calling each other Hitler and communists.”

He said he believes zoning raises property values. “I’m not for ruining people’s property values — zoning enhances property values. But we need to work together to end up with a plan that’s better for all of us. I’m not against development. I’m for good development.

If something’s done, we want it done well. We want an attractive entrance into Highlands. We don’t want to see something out there that we regret. What has happened in the last 20 years doesn’t matter.”

Gantenbein said he has talked separately to several Town Board members and what they would like to see is a “mixed-use” zone along the corridors with some sort of “big box” protection. They also want some sort of residential designation based on the watershed districts whose built-upon requirements trump the town’s zoning.

Ginger Slaughter asked if new farm animals could be designated to accommodate specific uses like having farm animals.

Gantenbein said yes, and that farm animals are already allowed within the town limits they just have to be penned properly.

The Planning Board meets Friday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. to do a “drive around” of the ETJ area; on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. to begin work on zoning the area; on Jan. 2 at 5 p.m. to continue work on zoning and on Monday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

... PARKING continued from page 1

George Mathis with OEI encouraged the town to move forward with higher fines and even suggested a towing component. OEI has no power over the contractors, sub-contractors or construction workers hired by the general contractor on OEI projects and Mathis said they’re making OEI look bad.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said he had an amendment to the ordinance drafted by the Jan. 4 Town Board meeting.
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Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, December 16, 2005 - Page 13
**Volleyball players receive post-season honors**

Six Highlander volleyball players were honored by the Smoky Mountain Conference for their outstanding play this season as the Highlanders won the regular season championship and the conference tournament championship.

Anna Trine, who led the team in kills with 224 and was second in blocks with 25, was selected as All Conference and the Smoky Mountain Conference Volleyball Player of the Year. "Anna had an outstanding year at the net, and was by far the most dominating outside hitter in the conference. Her tremendous kills gave us the push that enabled us to win many of our matches" said head varsity coach Rick Rawlins. Also voted All Smoky Mountain Conference was Highlands' Callie Rawlins, who led the team in assists with 248 and led the team in blocks with 42. "Callie had an outstanding year at the net. She developed into a great defender with her vertical jump and timing of her blocks, and she could always be counted on to fight for the win until the end of the match."

Four other Highlanders received Honorable Mention All Smoky Mountain Conference. Ramsey Ashburn, who was the Captain of the team, led the team in service aces with 75 and served 322 out of 342 for the season. She tied third on the team in digs and blocks.

"Ramsey did a great job as captain of the squad this year. She was our motivator that got the team going at times, and had a great overall year," Toni Schmitt, Maggie Dearth, and Becca Wyatt also received Honorable Mention in the All Conference voting. "Toni had an outstanding year, leading the team in digs with 121, second in assists with 177, and finished second in aces with 45. Maggie did a great job as outside hitter, finishing second on the team in kills with 114. Becca Wyatt also had a great year, finishing second on the team in digs with 119 and third in kills with 109."

Conference coaches are allowed to nominate for All Conference two players per team and one additional player for each conference win up to a maximum of six. The conference is limited to seven All Conference players. "When the coaches vote, we are not allowed to vote for our own players. We pick seven players from the other teams in the conference and rank them from 1 to 7. The top seven players with the most votes receive All Conference and the other players Honorable Mention. The player with the most votes is the Player of the Year. While it was an honor for Anna and Callie to come in first and fourth in the voting, I really feel like we had more than two All Conference players on our team." Leslie Wilson, Katie Bryson, Allison Winn, Becca Ashburn, and Angela Sanchez also played an important role in the great season Highlands had this year. The Highlanders finished the year 15 and 6, winning the first round of the state for the second year in a row.

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

**Buck Creek Baptist Church**
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

**Chapel of Sky Valley**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastors residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir

**Community Bible Church**
3645 U.S. 64 East, Highlands
(706) 746-4685

**Clear Creek Baptist Church**
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

**Community Bible Church**
(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
www.cbcbhighlands.com
526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6 p.m., “The Rock” for highschoolers
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;
7 p.m. Teaching

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**
Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist - 8 a.m.; Sunday School - 9
a.m.; Choir - 9:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.;
Youth Group - 5 p.m.
Mondays: Women’s Cursillo Group - 4 & 5:30
Christmas Chorale - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: Men’s Cursillo in Jones Hall - 8; Staff Mtg.
- 9:30 a.m.; Flying Solo - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Supper & Program - 5:30 p.m.; Choir
Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.; Gulf Coast
Support - 10:30 a.m.; Women’s Cursillo - noon.
Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

**First Baptist Church**
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: 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.

**First Presbyterian Church**
Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor; 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sunday 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.

**Highlands Assembly of God**
Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**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
Sun: School - 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wed: Supper - 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities - 6

**Holy Family Lutheran Church - ELCA**
Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

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

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

**Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church**
Rev. Tien, Phust
Parish office, 526-2418

**Scaly Mountain Baptist Church**
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Mondays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**Scaly Mountain United Church of God**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore
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. Wayne Price
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sunday School - 9:30 &
9:45 a.m.; Flying Solo - 6:30 p.m.

**Westside Baptist Church**
Interim Pastor; Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship - 11

**Whitefish Presbyterian Church**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

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**Flu vaccine in Otto**

The Macon County Public Health Center will hold a flu vaccination clinic for the general public in Otto on Monday, Dec. 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. This clinic will be held at the Otto Community Building.

No appointments will be scheduled and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Persons unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and vaccine will be taken to the vehicle.

Persons, who are on Medicare Part B or Medicaid, should bring their card with them. If your insurance carrier covers the cost of flu shots, please bring your insurance card and we will bill it for you. This state supplied flu vaccine is free.
**Police & Fire Log**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 7-14. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials are used.

**Dec. 11**
- At 7 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at U.S. 64 east and Sherwood Forest Drive.
- At 6:40 a.m., a driver was cited for driving left of center at U.S. 64 west and Raoul Road.

**Dec. 12**
- Christopher Scott Flowers, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for larceny and simple assault. He was released on a $2,000 secured bond.
- At 11:30 a.m., officers were called to The Rib Shack about a trespasser. The person was told to leave the property.
- At 3 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Horse Cove Road where a window was found open. All was secure.

**Dec. 13**
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled on route.
- The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire on Shelby Circle, but it was a controlled burn.
- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
- The dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at The Rib Shack on Spring Street. It was steam coming from the nearby laundry and dry cleaners.

**HIGHLANDS SCHOOL**

**SRO Report**

This is the November Highlands School Resource Officer report submitted by Officer Ron Castle.
- On Nov. 7, assisted the administration with a fire drill.
- On Nov. 9, assisted with school work.
- On Nov. 14, investigated a disorderly conduct complaint.
- On Nov. 15, investigated a disorderly conduct complaint.
- On Nov. 16 and Nov. 17, helped judge a fire evacuation drawing.
- On Nov. 18, investigated a claim of larceny.
- On Nov. 18, participated in a drug prevention program.
- On Nov. 18, took a trip to the police dept.
- On Nov. 22, investigated a claim of larceny.
- On Nov. 22, performed a security system check.
- On Nov. 30, helped disseminate information to parent about no bus.
- On Nov. 30, investigated an assault complaint.
- On Nov. 30, students were apprehended for possession of drug paraphernalia and communicating threats.

**HIGHLANDS EATERIES**

**Buck's Coffee Cafe**
Sun.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
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- 526-5916

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- “Celebrating 53 years in Highlands”
- “We cut the BEST steaks in town!”
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- 526-2762

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Donate a new toy valued at $15 or more and receive 50% OFF cable or Internet installation.

**Budgeting for 2006?**

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**On-going**
- On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., The Food Pantry is open for anyone needing provisions – canned goods and nonperishables – at Highlands United Methodist Church building on Church Street Alley.
- At …on the Verandah live music – Chad Reed, piano player – on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.
- Live music at Cypress Restaurant every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
- Cy Timmons at Fressers at Helen’s
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant
- Live music at Buck’s Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.
- Mondayview Alcohols Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed. and Fri. at noon.
- Dec. 16
  - HS Basketball: at home against Talulah Falls Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.
  - ITC’s free reading of “Papa’s Angels” by Collin Wilcox at 7 p.m. with music by John Roman.
- Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Civic Center at noon. Donations accepted.
- Dec. 17
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil’s Courthouse. Meet at the EXXON gas station on the Highlands Road (Hwy. 64 E) at 9 a.m. or at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 or at the Whiteside parking area at 10 a.m. Call leader David Sapin, 828-369-2628, for reservations.
- The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual Christmas “Noche de Familia,” Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church.
- Dec. 18
  - Chancel Choir Lessons & Carols during Sunday’s 11 a.m. worship service at Highlands United Methodist Church.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch up to the ridge. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.
- Dec. 24
  - Family-Oriented Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church.
  - Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Community Bible Church at 7 p.m.
  - Dec. 25
    - Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn with proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Dinner is $29.95. Wine available. Call 526-2590 for reservations.
  - Dec. 31
    - Ring in the New Year with …on the Verandah’s New Year’s Eve 2005 celebration. Featuring a Three-Course Dinner, Party Favors, Live Music with Trilo Loco, Dancing, Midnight Champagne Toast. Dinner & Party: $90 per person plus tax & gratuity. Dinner from 8 p.m., Dancing from 10 p.m. Dinner only $45 per person plus tax & gratuity. Seating between the hours of 6-7 p.m. 50% deposit (non-refundable cash or check) due at time of reservation.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**HIGHLANDS SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**NBG BUILDERS, INC.**
Custom Homes • Remodeling • Additions
Unlimited License • Insured
Bud Neidrauer 526-4780 • 349-9354

**Mountainside Marble & Tile**
"Your High Country Connection for Service & Installation."
220 Mountainside Road
Franklin, N.C. 28734
Jim Nichols 828-421-0999
Caye Nichols 828-421-2831

**DP Painting & Pressure Washing**

**GROUP ONE**
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Lance Hollars
Highlands, North Carolina • Since 1989
828-526-9393

**Kiln-dried FIREWOOD**
Enjoy your fire - Don't fight it
828-342-4681 • 828-526-3724
Highlands • Cashiers • Sylva
- Delivered - Bucky Meredith

**J & K Cleaning**
From laundry to dishes: from bedrooms to bathrooms; no job is too big or small. So give us a call!
References available.
526-4599 • 421-3931

**Runaround Sue Pet Sitting**
Your pet is guaranteed to receive lots of love & attention in the comfort and safety of its own home!
Sue Laferty 526-0844 • slaferty@aol.com

**The Computer Man!**
But you can call me James
Computer Sales
Mail Order Pricing
New & Used
Computer Services
Troubleshooting & Repairs
Installations & Consulting
68 Highlands Plaza • 526-1796 FAX: 526-2936

**The Laundry and Dry Cleaners at Old Edwards Inn**
FULL SERVICE LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING
Wash & Fold Service Available
Open Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm • Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm
Accepting Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Checks
459 Spring Street Highlands, North Carolina 28741
Telephone: 828.787.2597

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**Randsoellner ARCHITECT**
828.743.6010 Phone 828.269.9046 Cell
randsoellner@earthlink.net NC Lic.9266 FL Lic.AR9264
HELP WANTED

CREATIVE CONCEPTS & BODY WORKS – Needed at Highlands location. Massage therapist, esthetician, hair stylist, nail technician. Call Deb at 404-226-5415.

CONTROLLER FOR PRIVATE COUNTRY CLUB IN HIGHLANDS, NC. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Professional. Club Connect software experience preferred. Duties include preparation of financial statements, payroll, budgeting, and human resources for club and related companies. Responsibilities include supervision of bookkeeper and oversight of accounts payable and receivable. Must be an effective communicator. Excellent benefits. Reply to General Manager, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

GENERAL MANAGER FOR PROPERTY OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION – for a private country club community in Highlands, NC. This is a 350-home community with a 24 hour security force. The ideal candidate will have progressive management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience in property management, construction or related fields. The General Manager will supervise 9 to 11 people and will work closely with a Board of Directors. Candidate must be able to develop and manage a budget, effectively implement Board policies, liaison with community government officials, provide guidance and leadership to an established group of employees and members while marketing homeowner’s services to existing and new members. The position is available immediately. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Retirement and health benefits are available. Please send resume to: General Manager, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

SOCIAL WORKER HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL is seeking a Social Worker (BSW) with preferably 3 or more years’ experience in a healthcare-related field. This full-time position provides services to meet the social, psychosocial and safety needs of the residents in Long-Term Care, Swing Bed patients and Hospice patients. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Miller, 828-526-1315 or Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

OPPORTUNITY


FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE – at 460 Carolina Way. 1,450 sq. ft. on street level. $1,700 per month. Available January 15. Call 828-526-4646 or 404-210-7979.

FOR SALE

FAMILY HOME – Highlands. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, study, exterior stonework. Asking $425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner.

REAL ESTATE SALES

THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot #4 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118’, the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course, shopping. In a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly.$240,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 –e-mail: bobbinnancy@bmmemc.net.

THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot #5 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118’, the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course, shopping. In a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly.$240,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 –e-mail: bobbinnancy@bmmemc.net.

FOR TRADE

FREE DECORATIVE PAINTING SERVICES for SUGAR BOWL TICKETS (2-4) Antiquing, distressing, glazing, cabinets, furniture, interiors. Call 526-5994.
The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual Christmas "Noche de Familia," Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church. The event has become a tradition for the Friendship Center and the Highlands Community. Last year more than 150 people attended the event. It will start off with a mass in Spanish officiated by Father Tim Hoytt of Hendersonville. After mass there will be a dinner and a visit from Mrs. Claus who will hand out gifts to the children.

Everyone is welcome! For more information, call 526-9938.

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Chamber Director Bill Bassham, Banyan President Ken Bolt, resident Myrtle Oxford and Chestnut Hill Director Frazier Jackson.

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Chestnut Hill of Highlands opened its new Assisted Living Center - The Suites at Chestnut Hill - on Thursday, Dec. 8, with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Suites at Chestnut Hill is located within the private senior living community of Chestnut Hill of Highlands near Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and is the first and only assisted living center in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Featured were guided tours of the 26-suite center, and the Chestnut Hill senior living community. State and local dignitaries were on hand and light refreshments, prepared by Chestnut Hill's executive chef were served.

"The opening of The Suites represents the fulfillment of a much-needed, long desired addition to our senior and adult retirement community," said Frazier Jackson, executive director of Chestnut Hill of Highlands. "Not only does it complete Chestnut Hill's offering of full-service continuing care, but it brings an added dimension to the quality of life our residents enjoy and for those who choose to retire in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

The fully-licensed center provides residents with 24-hour personal assistance. This includes the monitoring and scheduling of medication, as well as help with daily routines such as dressing, bathing and grooming.

Several floor plans are available ranging from 388 square feet to 637 square feet. Services and amenities at The Suites include (but are not limited to) three full-course meals a day, plus snacks; personnel on duty 24 hours a day; recreational, educational, religious and cultural programs; a full calendar of events and activities; scheduled transportation; as well as housekeeping, flat linen and laundry service.

For more information, contact Frazier Jackson at 526-5251.

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‘Noche de Familia’ Dec. 17

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El acontecimiento ha llegado a ser una tradición para el Centro de la Amistad y la Comunidad de tierras altas. El año pasado más de 150 personas asistieron al acontecimiento. Empezará lejos con una masa en Español oficiada por Padre Tim Hoytt de Hendersonville. Después que masa habrá una cena y una visita de Sra. Claus que repartirá obsequios a los niños.

¡Todos están bienvenidos! Para más información, la llamada 526-9938.
renovated and retrofitted? What if it’s destroyed by nature? What if it’s destroyed by fire? What if a car runs through a building? Should it be allowed to be rebuilt if it’s in a setback or in the town’s right-of-way?

To what extent can a nonconforming building be repaired? From the footings up or just one wall or the roof? The scenarios just keep coming.

At the Dec. 9 Planning Board meeting, members tried to keep it simple.

Members agree a nonconforming building’s size shouldn’t be increased, but owners should be allowed to repair or remodel it within the original footprint.

However, some members believe if a building is obliterated and owners want to rebuild they should conform to the current ordinance – that is take it out of the right-of-way or setbacks.

“A building burning to the ground or being obliterated is different than a car running through it or a tree falling on it,” said member King Young. “If someone wants to rebuild a whole new building it ought to conform to current regulations.”

Once conditional zoning is in place, Gantenbein said variances – which aren’t normally given – could be dealt with through conditional zoning process.

“For instance, if Highlands Inn burned down, which is a nonconforming use and a nonconforming building, technically it couldn’t be rebuilt, but conditional zoning could handle individual cases,” said Gantenbein. Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland is sticking to what he proposed the first time the Town Board requested the Planning Board's input.

“I think people should be able to rebuild whatever they bought,” he said. He said allowing nonconforming buildings to be rebuilt or repaired will maintain Highlands’ village character – a key point of the Land Use Plan.

Gantenbein said “nonconforming” can be whatever the Town Board wants it to be. “Nonconforming in itself doesn’t mean illegal,” he said. “If there are buildings in town the board doesn’t want around because they are dilapidated, then change the ordinance to disallow their repair or rebuilding. If not, then leave it alone,” he said.

The final word on the nonconforming ordinance will come from the Town Board.