Board assigns zones to ETJ

Though the Planning Board moved quickly, Monday night, to establish residential zoning in the ETJ area, some ETJ residents and at least two Town Board members think the Planning Board is moving too fast.

“You’ve taken exactly 49 minutes to decide on this and you’re affecting a lot of people’s lives,” said Mike Bryson.

Member Griffin Bell disagreed saying the Planning Board has been working on this for about a year. “It’s too bad you weren’t here before, but you’re not.”

Asbestos ‘tip’ sent to EPA

A claim of asbestos in Town Hall has been logged with the North Carolina Health Hazard Control Unit and will be investigated probably in January, said officials.

Pat Wylie, with the control unit, said a complaint was forwarded to her from the EPA’s Toxic Substances Region A Division. EPA forwards all asbestos calls to the Health Hazard Control Unit.

“We get calls concerning asbestos everyday,” said Wylie. “Mostly folks are afraid of it and are concerned, but usually, it’s nothing really to be concerned with.”

Wylie said her office is doing the preliminary investigation over the phone and based on the phone interviews, it may determine if a January field investigation is necessary.

Unless the building material in question is actually labeled “asbestos,” the only sure way to know if something contains asbestos is to test it in a lab, she said.

“Asbestos is a particle, a fiber – actually a mineral that is mined. It can be everywhere. We advise the public to be cautious. Most of the complaints to us are from folks that are unfamiliar with it or don’t know how to handle it. We try to help guide them through that.”

For months the Town Board has been trying to come up with a sewer connection policy that will be fair to all and help finance sewer expansion in town.

Commissioners have been hung up on requiring sewer hook-ups of residents who have a septic system in place and willing to connect to an existing sewer line. They’ve agreed that new residents and businesses constructed adjacent to an existing sewer line should be required to connect at prevailing connection fees.

At the Dec. 12 Public Works Committee a plan was hammered out and will be recommended to the Town Board at the Jan. 4 meeting.

“Town Administrator Richard Betz said a survey conducted by GIS/Field Technician Matt Shuler indicates there are about 133 residences adjoining existing sewer lines that are not connected.

Low bids could expedite pole change-outs

A low bid on changing out utility poles, has commissioners interested in expanding the job to perhaps accomplish more this year than originally expected.

Haynes Electric’s bid to change out 16 of the town’s utility poles in the Mirror Lake area came to $78,000 – far less than the $242,000 budgeted.

With that in mind, at the Dec. 7 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested asking Haynes Electric to bid on change-outs down N.C. 28.

Changing out poles involves more than just planting taller poles, it involves reconfiguring the system which is a time consuming process, said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. “They have to change the copper wire which is old and brittle.”

On Monday, Dec. 19, Dana Gordon, Master of Blue Ridge #435 Masonic Lodge, presented The Girls’ Clubhouse with a check for $75 to help them in their community service endeavors. From left is Dana Gordon, Elizabeth Gordon, Stephanie Puchacz, club president Paige Baty, Bessie Chambers, Christie Owens, Amy Fogle, Amanda Barnes, Gabrielle Tilson, Shelby Houston, Marcia Owens and Alex Michaud. The Girls’ Clubhouse is a group of Highlands School middle school girls who meet once a week to do community service.

On Monday, Dec. 12, Highlands Resolution Run 9 a.m.

The spirit of giving personified

With that in mind, at the Dec. 7 Public Works Committee meeting, Commissioner Richard Betz asked for public input.

On Monday, Dec. 19, Dana Gordon, Master of Blue Ridge #435 Masonic Lodge, presented The Girls’ Clubhouse with a check for $75 to help them in their community service endeavors. From left is Dana Gordon, Elizabeth Gordon, Stephanie Puchacz, club president Paige Baty, Bessie Chambers, Christie Owens, Amy Fogle, Amanda Barnes, Gabrielle Tilson, Shelby Houston, Marcia Owens and Alex Michaud. The Girls’ Clubhouse is a group of Highlands School middle school girls who meet once a week to do community service.

Photo by Jim Lewicki
Another view on ‘Our immigration dilemma’

Dear Editor,

I read Dr. Alex Redmountain’s column on “Our immigration dilemma” which ran in the November 11, 2005 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper with great interest.

My forefathers immigrated to America a long time ago from Ireland; they were poor and looking for a better life. Like Dr. Redmountain, I too have seen a lot of changes in our labor force in my 35 years of experience in Highlands. I too am concerned about our national security and attacks from terrorists. I agree that all efforts to stop or even reduce the number of illegal immigrants crossing our borders have failed despite a significant increase in our nation’s efforts.

The Latino, Hispanic or Mexican population (whatever you call them, I’ll use Latino) is the latest wave of immigration to our country. Just like my Irish forefathers, they work hard, take low-paying jobs and do work that no one else wants to do. I think they are here and they are not going away. The gap between what they can earn at the bottom of our wage scale and what they can earn back in their home country has become too great. And they can dream, just as my forefathers did, of succeeding in America.

I think we need to quit treating all of these Latino immigrants alike. Some of them are honest, hard working tax paying people who want to become legal citizens. Some of them are not; they operate in an underground economy, don’t pay taxes, use our social services, and are a real drain on our economy and/or engage in illegal activities like smuggling drugs.

We have tried Amnesties in 1987 and 1997 and they were less than successful. I think it is time to try a new strategy. We need to provide incentives for the honest immigrants to pay taxes, have driver’s licenses and to work towards legal status in our country. A North Carolina Driver’s license requires a photograph, other identification, an address and proof of insurance. I think issuing licenses would help our security not detract from it. It would certainly give the government a lot of information about these immigrants. I agree we should recognize those that serve in our military and reward them with citizenship. We should educate their children in English, so they can join the mainstream of our economy. We also need to reduce the bureaucracy and time required to get a legal visa and increase the quota for legal visas.

I support President Bush’s initiative to increase the number of green cards and to have a temporary worker program. I also support the McCain/Kennedy “Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act.” The Cornyn/Kyl “Comprehensive Enforcement and Immigration Control Act” is a totally unworkable proposal which requires 11 million undocumented immigrants to be found and forced to leave the country.

At the same time we need to discourage those not willing to work within our system. If they don’t pay taxes, drive without a license, or engage in illegal activities they should be deported. The most severe punishments should go to those engaged in illegal activities and those preying upon illegal immigrants.

Hillie Quin
Highlands

Clarifying ETJ stand

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the article by Fred Wooldridge in the December 9, 2005 edition of Highlands’ Newspaper. However, he only addressed half of what I said at the Nov. 18 public hearing on ETJ and I think he missed the entire point.

What I said was, “Highlands is like Hitler’s Nazi Germany and the average ordinary people of Highlands are like the Jews.”

Average people are being forced out of Highlands by the extreme land prices, high taxes, government regulations and government fees. Although the town government can do little about some of these, they are doing absolutely nothing to help the average people remaining in Highlands.

I understand the first building permit has been issued in the ETJ area. I have been told that it cost the owner an additional 450 dollars due to Town regulations and fees. Not everyone in Highlands is a veterinarian, architect, real estate broker/agent, lawyer, etc., who has that kind of money to “buy” permission to use their own land. Those who do have the money have no idea what $450 means to an average working person.

If we look at government’s track record (federal, state and local) it doesn’t take long to realize that everything it touches turns into an extreme burden for the people or a boondoggle of some type. Initially, it all starts with good well intended plans, but, I only have to point out income tax, health care, social...

Hillie Quin
Highlands
Obituary

Juanita Mae Jones Keener

Juanita Mae Jones Keener, age 78, of Highlands, died Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at Fidelia-Eckerd Nursing Center. She was born in Transylvania County, N.C., the daughter of the late Floyd and Beulah Wood Jones. She was married to James Donald Keener who died in 1983. She was a homemaker and a member of Highlands First Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Sonjia Stewart of Highlands, N.C. and Angela Powell and her husband, Charles of Crawfordville, FL; one son David Keener and his wife, Brenda of Highlands, NC; three sisters, Helen Owen and Azalee Hall both of Lake Toxaway, N.C. and Birty Ann Mackey of Marshall, N.C.; five grandchildren, Amanda Stewart, Jeremy Keener, Jennafer Powell, Darin Keener and Krista Powell. She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Keener.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. at Highlands First Baptist Church with Rev. Dan Robinson officiating. Burial was in the Highlands Memorial Park. Darin Keener, Jeremy Keener, Charles Powell, Buddy Elmore, Roy Potts, and Bryant Hendricks served as pallbearers.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Cards of Thanks

Under a beautiful full moon on December 13, 2005, our sweet and lovely mother, Luz Maria McKeown transitioned into the arms of her Heavenly Father. We are filled with love and appreciation for the beautiful life that was hers. Just like her favorite flower, the daffodil, her wonderful smile was golden and bright and brought joy to those fortunate enough to gaze upon it. Maria was so blessed by your love and friendship, as we are. Thank you for your outpouring of love and support. May we all be as blessed and free as she is right now. If you would like to honor the life of Luz Maria McKeown, please share love and appreciation with everyone you know. Look for the beauty and goodness in everything you see, and most of all love and appreciate yourself.

Thank you and many many blessings
Kyra Russell and David Alan

Thanks to everyone who attended our First Annual Christmas Carol Sing at first Presbyterian Church on Dec 3 after the parade. The weather was bad but the turnout was good. Everyone had a great time. In fact, general consensus was to make it an annual affair. So we will!!

Mark your 2006 calendar for Sat., Dec. 2, 2006 for our Second Annual Carol Sing and help us make lunch and caroling at First Presbyterian Church after the parade part of your Highlands Christmas tradition. A great singing voice is not required to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Travis B. Goodloe, elder, First Presbyterian Church

Country Club Properties

Highlands Point
Lots Available

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In a lovely secluded 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, antique beams, stone-faced fireplace, wrap-around deck, granite countertops, Baldwin hardware, Hunter fans, locust posts with rhodo rails and a full basement on a beautiful 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.

4.2 acres on Norton Creek
5-bedroom septic permit, well with great output, and building site cleared with picnic site. Reduced to $425,000

Beautiful 19.24 acres between Highlands and Cashiers with views of Shortoff Mountain. $2,395,000.

Call Pam Taylor
at (cell) 342-6888, 526-2520 or 526-9027 anytime.

Rotarians in training

At the Dec. 20 Highlands Rotary meeting, members of the Interact Club conducted the meeting. Interact president, Megan Lewicki was acting Rotary president for the day and Allison Winn was acting Serjeant in Arms. Also pictured are Franka Dadic, Kelly Baer, David Parrish, Toni Schmitt, Katie Bryson, Ramsey Ashburn, Alec Schmitt and Ryan Bears.
“Mary” Christmas
A Cop’s Story

Her first name was Mary and the events are true. Out of respect, I will change her last to Christmas. She was Miami Beach’s only year-round bag lady.

While there were always seasonal bag ladies, winos and vagrants finding their way south for the winter, Mary was a full-time resident of South Beach. During Mary’s era, a time when I was a rookie cop, South Beach was a run down, dismal neighborhood of tired hotels and apartment buildings that existed long before the famed Miami Beach hotel lift or the glitz that exists today. It was where the poor and elderly came to wait for death.

In typical fashion, Mary walked the streets pushing her shopping cart full of her worldly possessions. I got along well with her because I never bothered her. Each morning, just after daybreak, I would find Mary’s grocery cart parked in Lumus Park. She would sit on the sandy beach and stare at the ocean for hours, then while away the rest of her day sitting on bus benches and walking the streets. A quiet lady, she bothered no one. She just existed.

Mary had made arrangements with the owner of an Amoco gas station to sleep next to one of his pumps after the station closed. He liked her because he thought it was exceptional she didn’t drink alcohol. Mary was not a drunk, or drug user. She just sat and stared.

Several times a year, for public health reasons, we would capture Mary, kicking and screaming, and take her to jail for delousing. She was usually infested with head and pubic lice. She was so wriggled. After delousing, female jailers would scrub her down and release her. To the best of my knowledge, Mary was never arrested.

On rare cold nights, she would refuse public shelter. At sundown, you would find her wrapping her body with newspaper to insulate her from the cold. She would throw a couple of blankets over her head and snuggle in at her gas pump for the night.

One Christmas morning, I dragged myself from a warm bed and prepared for work. With my wife and child still asleep, I walked into the dark living room and turned on the tree. I sat for just a moment and stared at the presents and the beauty of the tree. Even though I would miss the festivities, I still pondered my many blessings. How fortunate I was to have this life.

Later, just after seven, I drove my squad car past Mary, still covered with blankets, lying in a heap next to her gas pump. It was a chilly morning and I assumed she had decided to sleep in since it was Christmas. The gas station was closed. When I returned at eight, Mary had not moved. I walked over and gently nudged her with my foot, calling out her name. Mary was dead.

Once the medical examiner removed her body, I took Mary’s possessions to the station house for inventory. There, tucked away in the bottom of her purse, was a badly stained and crumpled bank book. I removed several rubber bands and opened it. Balance: $278,000. Stuck between the pages was a crumpled picture of a young man.

Mary’s cause of death was never determined. They simply could not find a physical cause of death. She had willed herself dead. Days later, I met her brother, who had flown in to claim her body. He talked and I listened.

As a child, Mary had an almost unhealthy love relationship with her father, the owner of a large textile mill in Philadelphia. Their father died at a young age and Mary and her brother inherited the mill and all his wealth. Mary was a millionaire.

She grew increasingly despondent over her father’s death and had to be hospitalized several times. Then, she just disappeared. Private investigations found her on South Beach and she was brought home several times before her brother just gave up on her. On one return, he took her bank book and put a sizable amount of money in it along with a picture of their father, hoping she would improve her life. It didn’t work.

I will never forget Mary and the badly worn picture of her dad. She must have fondled it often. In her life of sadness, she proved that money cannot buy happiness. I will remember Mary on Christmas morning and a brief moment of sadness will fill my soul.

Merry Christmas everyone and be sure to count your blessings this Christmas morning.
One of the most troubling issues facing all levels of government, from counties to states to the federal Department of Education, with billions of dollars at stake, is the deteriorating condition of our schools—and by that I mean all our schools, elementary through graduate.

The impact is felt unequally. Some major universities and some suburban or rural schools (like the ones in Highlands and Cashiers) may scarcely notice the decline, or, in fact, may not have declined at all. But in most of the country, the downward trend, in terms of standards and achievement, is obvious.

This isn't just another version of that apocryphal Egyptian inscription found on a bit of papyrus circa 3400 B.C. “Our youths just want to party and have a good time. They neglect their studies, have no manners, and don't respect their elders.”

Nor is it just a case of generational misperception or competition or even envy. There are many studies that strongly make the argument for a widespread educational decline.

When I went to elementary and middle schools in New York City half a century ago, we had 12 or 13 sections of each grade, with about 30 boys and girls in each section. The sections were numbered 6A-1, 6A-2, 6A-3, and so on. It was generally understood that as the numbers increased, the ability of the students declined. The 6A-13 class was known, to one and all, as the “dummy” class.

There is no question that it was an elitist system, laden with prejudice and unconcerned with the self-esteem of the “dummies.” The self-esteem of those in the lower-numbered sections, especially the “ones,” was well-nourished—to say the least. It was a system that rewarded the talented and penalized the others in varying degrees.

In addition, there were entire schools for the most able, with admission based on IQ tests or special entrance exams. At the high school level, two public schools for boys, two co-ed, and one for girls served as magnets for the “smart” kids. It was assumed that these students would go to the “best” colleges (the Ivies), if they could get past the quotas for Jews (very small) or Blacks and Latinos (almost non-existent). The bright ethnic rejects went to City College, an excellent public, free university. It wasn't as rigid a system as it might sound. There was some mobility in the lower grades, although once you got past the eighth year of school, your future was pretty well set in concrete.

The mobility, such as it was, allowed students in grade school to be evaluated at the end of each year and moved either up or down the class sections.

I'm not endorsing this as any kind of ideal. It had many flaws, bigotry being the most obvious. But it was nevertheless a merit system that allowed teachers to teach and pupils to learn. Competition within a section was possible and productive, since all boys and girls were of roughly equal ability. Teachers, at least in the higher sections, were relieved of the need to enforce much discipline, and the other teachers incorporated discipline as part of the less academically demanding curriculum.

For David, a bright and talented pupil in 88-1 (B was the second semester designation), it meant that he could breeze through all the assigned work in Algebra I in less than two months, move on to Geometry and Algebra II on his own—while still getting supervision from the teacher—and enter ninth grade at the Bronx High School of Science, one of the magnet schools, ready to take on Solid Geometry or Calculus. He attended Princeton as an undergraduate, got his Ph.D. from Harvard at 22, and had a distinguished career.

Julie, a Black girl from a working-class family, was stuck in the lower sections until her sixth-grade teacher detected a spark of ambition, and recommended she be moved up to 7B-3. Her work improved dramatically in the seventh and eighth grades, but she failed to make the cutoff score for any of the magnet schools. Instead she attended Commerce High School, the local, tough-neighborhood school. After a difficult and obstreperous start, she graduated with honors, went on to City College, and became a social worker.

**See REDMOUNTAIN page 7**
Dear Editor,

As one of the “little guys,” I would like to address the newly appointed Mayor’s comments in the local papers.

First and foremost, trust is earned, not given. Mistrust and anger are natural emotions when a tiny government tries to seize more control than it can handle. The Town Board, the Planning Board, the previous mayor and the new mayor seem to have a total disregard for the property rights of the deedholders surrounding Highlands. Your mistrust of the general citizenry is obvious by your lack of faith in the landowner to do with his/her land as they see fit, that being in their best interest to maintain in a suitable fashion.

My second point addresses Mr. Mullen’s comparisons of Highlands to the cities of Asheville, Hendersonville, Waynesville, Brevard, Clyde, Banner Elk and Franklin. The difference is clear. Those are all major cities with shopping malls, factories, various industrial enterprises, fast food and class segregated areas “real slums” with populations that tremendously out-number Highlands. They may have a legitimate need of ETJ. The tiny town of Highlands does not appear to have any of those special needs.

You sirs and madam have picked a fight and may come to know you have been in a fight. You could have easily polled the outlying areas to check the general consensus. You could have asked for permission instead of assuming you have a divine right. This move of yours shows a distinct will to further separate the classes of residents. It’s an obvious power move to these eyes.

An honest question I would personally like to know the answer to – Is the income level of any of the board members less than $75,000 per year? I think that any of you who don’t already could afford to live in a private gated community and certainly have the right to do so. Then your desires for everyone to be matching drones would be met, at least in your own neighborhood. Calling Highlands a single community is ludicrous. There are many clearly separate communities in your controlled area. Each as color, flair, tradition and uniqueness. I personally find this to be wonderful.

All involved in this wrongful action need to know what the affected or afflicted people think of you. I hope this gives you some insight. Though I speak only for myself and would not presume to speak for others, you may find this statement to comply with the general consensus of the afflicted/affect.

After perusing through your regulations, I decided that I might want to have more than one camper on my property, etc. That would be my decision, not yours. If you do not like hate and anger, do not stir them up. Let free people remain free. Trust them to make good decisions. Guide me if need be, but command me nothing.

Russell K. Arnold
Rich Gap Community
... LETTERS continued from page 6

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks we have heard much discussion of ETJ, conditional zoning and so forth. In the midst of all this I have concern that something of value to each of us is in jeopardy. That commodity being the “spirit of Highlands.” The thing that causes us to reach out to our neighbors in times of crisis and to greet each other with a smile when we pass on the street. The thing that has knit together a group of people who came here at different times from different places into a community that others are anxious to join.

It is unfortunate that 224 people can cast a vote for a person to become mayor but when 200 plus people attend a hearing to voice an opinion against ETJ they are not heard.

Areas were exempted from the ETJ because they have controls in place. There is control for the rest of the area as well. The county issues building permits and inspection construction in progress to enforce state building codes.

The state and county exercise control over water, septic systems and watershed protection. There is control that is not legislated. The price of real estate in this area even outside the city limits restricts many people from purchasing property.

The fact that water and septic systems are up to each property owner to provide for himself places more restriction. Much of the land is either solid rock or swamp. Neither “perk” very well so expensive sewer systems are required. Wells and septic systems have to be distant from each other and existing streams so more restrictions and more expense come into play.

It is not possible to just build anything you want in any place you want to. Macon County is a dry county. Alcoholic beverages are not sold legally outside the city limits under ordinary circumstances. That makes the corridors unattractive for many commercial interests.

I have read the statute and I know North Carolina is one of a half dozen or so states that permits ETJ. A large percentage of towns and cities, some of those in our area, has chosen to exercise ETJ. I thought Highlands prided itself in uniqueness. Isn’t that why there aren’t any “golden arches” here?

Mention was made of plans that could cause “your hair to stand on end.” Shouldn’t we all be warned of those things? I’m sure no one would welcome anything that horrendous. Do you really think someone would want to haul asphalt off the mountain every day? Or do you think there is enough paving done in Highlands to support a plant here? As for big box stores, they require a high volume of traffic. If you think that exists here, poll some of the merchants on the corridors. Just don’t do it in January, they might hand you the key and walk off. The geographic features of the area which necessitate steep winding roads and the seasonal nature of business limit the commercial concerns that would be interested in locating in the Highlands area.

It is my opinion that if and when areas are annexed and there is access to municipal water and sewer and sale of alcohol that is the time development will come. Left the way things are now there is plenty of control and restriction without any overlay of zoning from the Town of Highlands.

We are at a crossroad. Will the choice be made to protect the “spirit of Highlands” or will control squeeze the life out of the place we call home? Is Highlands to become a series of million-dollar developments with a workforce that comes up the mountain each morning and goes back down at the end of the day? Are we to be the last generation of working people to call Highlands home?

I ask the Town Board to reconsider their decision to exercise ETJ. I ask the citizens of the Town of Highlands who oppose ETJ to let your Town Board know how you feel. This is a huge decision to be made by four people. Thank you for your time.

Susan W. Crane
Highlands

... REDMOUNTAIN continued from page 5

Finally, to continue this mini-journey through ethnic diversity, consider Mario, a Puerto Rican kid whose primary language was definitely not English. In fact, he had only a rudimentary knowledge of the tongue. He seemed to be a permanent fixture in the 12 and 13 sections. He finally graduated, after spending five years in the seventh and eighth grades, and matriculated in trade school where he studied auto mechanics. A few years ago, he retired as a master mechanic in New York City’s bus division.

These are the success stories. Of course there are many less-triumphal tales, but my point is that at least here was a rational system, however imperfect, that provided a good education for the largest number. Today’s libertarian system, in many cases, cheats nearly everyone.

In a subsequent column, I will try to offer some ideas for reforming education. (Incidentally, I was a teacher for almost a decade before becoming a psychologist.)
Holidays

'Tis the season...
to be careful.

It’s a wonderful time. Time for giving and sharing. Time for friends and family. It’s also a time when accidents can happen. A slip on the ice, a fall from a ladder, a bit too much turkey – or is that heartburn more serious?

At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we wish you and your family the happiest and safest of holiday seasons. Remember, if you should need us in an emergency, we’re here twenty-four hours each day, seven days a week, every day of the year. So live, laugh and love. Take a moment to reflect on all of your blessings – including your good health. And remember, we’re right here, by your side.

Highlander Boys win one and lose one

Point-wise the second quarter was the strongest for the Highlanders but Tallulah Falls consistently scored over Highlands at the Dec. 16 non-league home game.

The final score was 100 Tallulah, 60 Highlands.

Darin Keener was on court 32 minutes; Alec Schmitt and Nick Kerhoulas on court 24 minutes; Jason Aspinwall, Ryan Bears, Eric Chen and Adam Hedden were on court 16 minutes.

During Schmitt’s 24 minutes he scored 26 points, had 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 6 steals.

Kerhoulas scored 13 points and had 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 3 steals; Aspinwall scored 11 points, had 3 rebounds and 1 assist; Ryan Bears scored 3 points, had 7 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal; Eric Chen scored 2 points and had 1 rebound and 1 assist.

Ezra Herz and Michael Lica each saw some court time. In Herz’s 8 minutes he scored 3 points; in Lica’s 8 minutes, he scored 2 points.

Though Keener didn’t score any points he did have 1 rebound and 3 steals.

The Dec. 17 game was a nail-biting affair with Highlands coming out the winner 59 to 56 against Hayesville.

The team’s starters were on the court the entire game. Kerhoulas, Bears and Keener stayed for 32 minutes; Aspinwall and Schmitt for 24 minutes and Chen for 16 minutes.

Aspinwall and Schmitt each scored 16 points; Aspinwall had 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals; Schmitt had 8 rebounds, 7 assists and 1 steal.

Kerhoulas scored 13 points, had 5 rebounds and 2 steals; Bears scored 8 points, had 4 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals; Keener scored 4 points, had 7 rebounds, and 1 steal; and Chen scored 2 points.

The Walhalla Tournament is Dec. 28, 29, and 30.

The next home game is Jan. 6 against Hiwassee Dam.

Girls win tough game Saturday

The Dec. 17 home game against Hayesville was a nail-biter for the girls team as well.

But in the final 2.6 minutes of the game, Toni Schmitt stole the ball and made a lay-up with winning the game for the Lady Highlanders.

The score was Highlands 39, Hayesville 37.

Becca Wyatt was top scorer with 11 points; both Allison Winn and Katie Bryson scored 8 points; Toni Schmitt scored 6; Keri Raby scored 4 and Ramsey Ashburn scored 2.

So far the team has won 5 games and lost 6.

Correction: On the night of Dec. 9, Highlands Varsity Girls Basketball Team defeated Nantahala 61-58—not 61-68 Nantahala as reported.

Christmas Day Dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity

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.
New Year’s Gala at PAC

The Gala, which will feature world renowned concert artists, Jeanne Brown, Pamela Dillard and Robert Henry, starts with a cocktail reception at 4 p.m. at the PAC with the concert beginning at 5 p.m.

The formal dinner will feature food by Chef Mark Burnette Catering and dinner music by Lawrence Weaver and friends.

This event, which is sponsored by The Fine Arts Committee of The Episcopal Church, is to benefit the AIDS Children of Dar Es Salaam.

Tickets can be ordered by calling The Church of the Incarnation at 526-2968.

Cocktails and concert cost $50 per person. Cocktails, concert and formal dinner cost $150 per person. All are invited.

... ASBESTOS from page 1

be pressed into a felt, spun into a fiber or mixed into cement to make shingles.

Allegedly construction workers discovered what they think is asbestos when they punched through a ceiling in the Town Engineer’s office to build a staircase to the old Chamber of Commerce quarters above.

Sources say the workers were told to “enclose it and continue working.”

With the Chamber in its new quarters, the Town Hall is being renovated so the entire building can be used by town employees.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said he has no idea if asbestos is in the building and no one said anything to him about asbestos. He has not contacted the construction crew and they said they don’t know anything about asbestos, either, said Betz.

Though no amount of asbestos is considered safe, Wylie said if it’s undisturbed and stable sometimes it’s best to leave it alone. She said several questions must be answered before an on-site investigation is scheduled.

“How did they know it was asbestos? Not much was disturbed, what quantity of it was disturbed?”

Wylie said her department is proceeding with the investigation and will deal directly with the Town for answers to questions.

Mamas, Let Your Sons Grow Up To Be Boy Scouts...

- Let them be Doctors and Lawyers and such...
- Boy Scouts are special. They are courteous to all and are reliable.
- The first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, was an Eagle Scout.
- In fact, 26 of the first 29 Astronauts were Boy Scouts.
- Boy Scouts are most likely to succeed. They learn about responsibility.
- When you go to Wal-Mart, remember it was founded by a Scout.
- Scouts are more likely to clean up their rooms, and take the garbage out.
- In High Schools in the U.S., 89% of Class Presidents are Scouts.
- Scouting teaches leadership, how to work hard, and how to succeed.
- 85% of all FBI Agents are Boy Scouts, and 85% of Airline Pilots.
- Bill Gates, Harrison Ford, JFK, H. Ross Perot, Gerald Ford, and most business and political leaders were Boy Scouts.
- Here, In Franklin, the CEO/Owner of our largest manufacturer is General Furman “Bodie” Bodenheimer, an Eagle Scout. Not surprising when you understand Scouting.
- When your son is a Scout, the chances that he will be a college graduate will double.

For camping fun and a reliable son, CALL US:

Boys 5 to 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cub Scout Packs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pack 207 United Methodist Ch. Highlands Mon. 6:30pm Phil Potts, 526-3719</td>
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<td>Pack 217 1st United Methodist Ch. Franklin Tues. 6:30pm Anthony Esterwood, 524-1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pack 219 Memorial Methodist Ch. Cartoog. Tues. 7:00pm Tina Galloway, 421-0503</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pack 229 Cullasaja Gorge FD Tues. 6:30pm* James Watson, 349-7915</td>
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<td>Pack 282 Ashbury Methodist Ch. Otto Tues. 6:30pm Kevin Fountain, 524-9079</td>
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Boys 11 to 17

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<th>Boy Scout Troops</th>
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<tr>
<td>Troop 202 Slagle Memorial Bldg. Franklin Mon. 6:00pm Ray Romano, 349-4749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troop 207 Masonic Lodge, Highlands Tues. 5:30pm Jack Creighton, 526-8318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troop 229 Sugarfork Baptist Ch. Cullasaja Thurs. 6:30pm* Greg Wallace, 349-1170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troop 282 Oto Community Bldg. Otro Tues. 7:00pm Bill Edwards, 524-9124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troop 298 1st United Methodist Ch. Franklin Tues. 7:00pm Rick Monninghoff, 524-3084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW TROOP St. Francis R.C. Church, Franklin Starting Soon Mary, Church Office, 524-2289</td>
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Boys 14 to 20

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<th>Venture Crews and Explorer Posts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Post 204 Sheriff's Office, Macon County Tues. 6:30pm Robbie Younce, 349-0124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew 1910 Slagle Memorial Bldg. Franklin 3rd Thurs., 7:00pm Bill Dyar, 524-8129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Meets every other week

If financial limitations would prevent your son from joining, CALL Jim Sottile, “HELP A SCOUT”, (828) 349-0322 Every boy deserves to be a Scout! All calls are confidential.

Ad Sponsors: Zickgraf Hardwood Flooring Co., Nantahala Lumber & Building Supply, Franklin Machine Company
On Dec. 7, 15 community and business leaders in Macon County agreed to be “arrested” for Macon County’s March of Dimes “Jingle Jail-n-Bail” fundraising event. The “jailbirds” were picked up and handcuffed by Macon County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Ken Lane and brought back to the “jail” which was held at the Macon County Public Health Center.

After mug shots were taken, the “jailbirds” appeared before “Judge Robbie Holland and Wesley Price.” The “jailbirds” were sentenced to raise bail money in the form of pledges. Phone calls were made to co-workers, family members, and friends in their effort to be released. These fifteen leaders raised over $9,000 for the March of Dimes mission, “to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.” The money raised allows the March of Dimes to continue its mission. With the money raised at the Jail-n-Bail event and the September WalkAmerica, Macon County has raised over $20,000 this year for the March of Dimes.

A special thank you to our “jailbirds” Ronnie Beale, Thomas Black, Ricky Bryson, Warren Cabe, Bob Carpenter, Judge Downs, Dr. Doug Egges, Coach Fred Goldsmith, Anne Hyder, Phillip Moore, Roger Plemens, Wesley Price, Bryan Rauers, Dr. Rodney Shotwell, and Jackson Sveen (who was filling in for Barbara McRae). Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland and Wesley Price served as the judges for the court and Deputy Ken Lane picked up the jailbirds at their offices. Subway and Stamey’s Café provided a wonderful lunch for the “jailbirds” and Bi-Lo provided snacks for them as well. Several volunteers were important in the success of this event. This included Jennifer Garrett, Nicki Tallent, and Jennifer Hollifield. Without all of these groups or individuals this event would not have been such a success.

**Community leaders “arrested” for the March of Dimes**

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**HCP sets auditions for Jan. 8**

Auditions for the Highlands Community Players’ second production of their 2005-2006 season have been set for Sunday, January 8, 2006, at 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands NC. The play, “The Hollow,” is a mystery by the queen of mysteries, Agatha Christie. The play is scheduled to be performed March 2-5, and 10-12. There are roles for 12 people. One older male, one older female, five females ages 25-55 and five males ages 25-55. A copy of the play can be read at the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands. For more information call director Tanji Armor at 828-743-7757.
Annual ‘Resolution Run’ is good way to start new year

It's time for the annual ritual of New Year resolutions: that list, short or long, of good intentions for 2006. And that’s the driving force behind the Highlands Roadrunners Club annual Resolution Run, held every January 1 at 9 a.m.

According to Club President Richard Betz, the run has attracted a couple of dozen hardy runners — “resolution-makers all” — each year since its inception several years ago.

“For those of us interested in a lifestyle that revolves around health and fitness, it's a wonderful opportunity to have fun, celebrate the New Year, and meet other like-minded folks.”

The Resolution Run has no entry fee and offers no T-shirts or trophies. Runners gather in front of the Town Hall Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and run a three-mile loop at a relaxed pace around the downtown area of Highlands, returning to the Town Hall. The run is held “come rain or shine or ice or snow,” but Betz claims that the weather has been flawless for several years, though a little on the chilly side on some occasions.

“Running is a great way to stay in shape, especially as we grow older,” Betz says. “Our running club has been successful in attracting and encouraging a pretty broad demographic who want to run.”

**See RUN page 12**
only come to the last two meetings.”

But Commissioners Hank Ross and Dennis DeWolf who were in the audience agreed.

“I really appreciate how hard the Planning Board has been working and I'm sure they are exhausted, but we shouldn't be pushed prematurely into zoning decisions based on the timeframe of 120 days,” said DeWolf.

The Town has 120 days to establish zoning in the ETJ area which was declared Nov. 18.

Commissioner Ross said he was surprised at the speed at which the Planning Board worked Monday and said the process needs to be slowed down.

“We need to get the community involved with this and we should wait for the county to assign Planning Board members before go much further,” he said. “We said we were going to get people from the affected areas more involved in the process and that’s what we should do.”

Bryson agreed, “I think people should have a say in how they’re zoned.”

Commissioner Ross suggested sectioning off ETJ areas and inviting those residents to come to the meetings to discuss that part.

The Town hopes the Macon County Commission will assign Planning Board members at its January 9 meeting.

Meanwhile, the Planning Board agreed to recommend zoning most of the ETJ area except the corridors – R-1 and R-2. “I feel strongly that people in the ETJ should not be zoned more strictly than people in town,” said Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland. “Also, property not in the strictest watershed should be R2. This way we're not imposing any undue hardship because of what the watershed dictates.”

In terms of lot size and built-upon allowances, the watershed usually trumps any zoning parcel size stipulations.

In WS II Balance of the Watershed, the minimum lot size is one acre or 12 percent built-upon; in WS II Critical Area, the minimum lot size is two acres or six percent built-upon; in WS III Balance of the Watershed, the minimum lot size is ½ acre or 24 percent built-upon; and in the WS III Critical Area, it’s a one-acre minimum or 12 percent built-upon.

In R-1 the minimum lot size is 3/4-acre, in R-2 it’s ½-acre.

“The larger parcel size trumps the zoning designation’s smaller parcel size,” said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein.

There are a few cases where the zoning stipulation trumps the watershed.

In WS III Balance of the Watershed, the minimum lot size is ½ acre or 24 percent built-upon but if it’s zoned R-1.

... See ETJ page 13

YES, I want to learn more about The Suites at Chestnut Hill of Highlands. Please send me more information.

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City/State/Zip: ______________________ ______________________

Email: ____________________________

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... RUN from page 11

to stay fit and achieve measurable goals.” The Club covers both sexes and most age groups, including some 70-year-olds who still compete in races.

Last year, local runner Glenda Bell, who had never run much more than three miles at a stretch, decided that she wanted to train for and complete a marathon at the age of 63. A marathon is a 26.2-mile race that is the defining distance for most runners. Bell will run the historic race this April.

Closer to home, Betz said that his wife Martha, 50, began running in November of 2004. She had never run before, although she was a walker and had taken some aerobic classes in the

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... See RUN page 13
Author inspires students to write

Author Michael Finklea visited Highlands School on Tuesday, Dec. 20, speaking to students in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

He is the author of eight books ranging from rhyming picture books to scary novels to joke books.

The students really enjoyed his presentation as he encouraged them to persevere by telling them how he submitted his first book nine times before it was finally published.

He emphasized the reading and writing connection, telling students to make notes of dreams and other interesting things that happen in their life that they may want to write a story about one day.

Michael concluded his presentation by reading an excerpt from one of his books.

... ETJ continued from page 12

Then the R-1 minimum lot size of ¾-acre trumps the watershed requirement.

Where ETJ buttled up against an R2 area, the board is recommending it be made R2; if it butted up against an R1 area, it is recommending R1.

Because of that, the board is recommending changing the zoning in the Mirror Lake area from Mirror Lake Road west to a little west of Laurel Heights Road from R-2 to R-1 so it matches the recommended zoning designation of R-1 in the ETJ area.

Initially, the board was going to make almost all of the ETJ area R-1, but acting on the suggestion of Mike Bryson, members changed their minds.

"R-2 gives a little more freedom," said Mike Bryson. "Not everyone has a lot of money to build a home and a lot of folks give their children a half-acre so they can put up a mobile home. They can't do that if you make it all R-1."

The board agreed to recommend making the areas in Clear Creek R-2 and the area contiguous with the town's current R-2 area east of Hicks Road also R-2. The rest of the ETJ area is R-1. Because "home occupations" aren't allowed in R-1, which could be the designated zoning label for much of the ETJ area, the board is asking the Town Board to change its zoning regulations to allow "home occupations" in the R-1 zone. Currently "home occupations" like beauty parlors are only allowed in the R-2 or R-3 areas.

Gantenbein said regardless of the new zoning classification, current land uses in the ETJ area are grandfathered in, but lot sizes, which would be a concern for future development, aren’t.

The board intends to concentrate on corridor zoning at subsequent meetings.

Commissioner DeWolf said the corridors are the main concern for everyone. "But we need to know what sort of buffering is being considered between the residential areas in the ETJ area and the commercial areas of the corridors."

The next Planning Board meeting is Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.

... RUN continued from page 12

past. Over the past year, she completed several races at distances from 5-K (3 miles) to half-marathon, and completed long runs up to 20 miles. Husband and wife completed the Rocket City Marathon in Huntsville on December 10, crossing the finish line hand-in-hand.

Betz says that his wife made her debut as a runner at last year’s Resolution Run. The marathon distance is not for everyone, but even a modest program of running or other regular aerobic activity can produce remarkable results, from controlling weight to improving the condition of heart and circulation. There’s even some suggestions that exercise might help prevent Alzheimer’s and other age-related diseases.

So if you’ve been thinking about starting the new year as a healthier person, plan to join the Roadrunners Club on January 1 in front of the Town Office for their first run of the year.
The holidays in South Africa...far from home!

By Sara Bates

Hello Highlands!

It is 78°F outside, the sky is cloudless and the pool is inviting. So, why am I sitting inside at the computer? Well, because I love y’all and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is summer holidays now in King William’s Town, South Africa and the new school year will not begin again until January 19th. I have been in King for over 4 months, which is hard to believe, but let me catch you up on what life is like here on the other side of the world.

When my classmates at Kingsridge High School began stressing over end-of-the-year exams, I imagined the tests would be similar to those we take at home. Let me tell you, school is very difficult here! Almost all of my exams lasted over 3 hours, and most subjects required multiple exams! For example, in English we took 3 exams that each lasted 3 hours. Students treat their exams seriously, and they study hard for very long hours. My exams included Science, English, Art History and Biology, but thankfully I was not required to take math or Afrikaans. In math class, I am able to struggle through the work, but it is taught very differently here as students learn Calculus, Trigonometry, Algebra and Geometry all in bits and pieces at the same time! It is a very different way of teaching, so they kindly set me free from the stress of that exam. And with Afrikaans, students begin learning this language in grade 2, so my chances of catching up were very slim. I am learning by myself in class, though, with a child’s vocabulary book and dictionary, and progress is slow but steady.

At the end of November I moved in with my second host family. After spending the first four months at a wonderful home, I was very attached, but good news is that my current home is just down the hill from where I lived before. I am so blessed! Having other siblings in the house makes the experience very fun.

In my first home, I had a host sister, my age and an older sister who would visit from college every few weekends. Now I have two new sisters who are home on holiday from their universities. I live on the Dale College campus, which is an all boys school. My first host family lives at the boy’s hostel (dormitory) because the father is a teacher at the school and oversees the boys’ dorm. My current host dad is the Headmaster of the school. It is very interesting to be at an all girls school during the day, and an all boys school at home! The guys have been great, though, including me in their soccer matches and cheering when I play water polo. I am known as their “sister,” which is even more comical, since most of the students at Dale College are black.

Water polo has become a favorite sport, which is surprising since I grew up swimming competitively and, as of four months ago, I didn’t know anything about water polo. With the help of teammates and a great coach though, I have learned some moves and tricks of the sport and now love the long distance training and the excitement of the game. I scored two goals in the first four matches of the season, can now swim 50 meters in 34 seconds and look forward to when we play again in January. And yes, we do have to wear those funny looking swim caps!

I recently returned from a Rotary conference in the town of Blanco. From swimming, to talent shows and lying in the grass to view the stars, the exchange students always have a blast together! The conference provided helpful information for the remaining 8 months of our year. We will all get together again in January for a tour from Durban up into Kruger National Park for 10 days! Sadly, we said goodbye to two students who have completed their year and are returning home, but I now have friends to visit if I am ever in Brazil or Australia!

On December 8, I left for Plettenberg Bay, a beautiful beach town where I stayed for two weeks with a family from King who owns a beach house there. Then, on December 20, my host family picked me up and we began our “caravanning” adventure through Cape Town until January 3.

How could I possibly be homesick here? From Cape Town to Kruger, I am going to see so many different parts of this beautiful country. Yes, I am taking my camera and many sets of batteries!

We have been warned that exchange students often become homesick, am sure I will have friends, but life anything that I have a new day and I am able to all the comforts of home. OK, cheers for when my summer wonderful Christmas! you are sipping hot chocolate, playing in the snow, or sweating it out as the tour guide says you have been warned. With love to H...
from home

become homesick during the Christmas season, and I am sure I will have my moments of missing family and friends, but life is so different here from anything that I have ever experienced. Every day is a new day and I am thoroughly enjoying my year here. I can’t believe a third of my year is gone already. I am so comfortable that part of me feels like I have been here forever.

OK, cheers for now! I will send another article when my summer holiday is over. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Just think, while I am swimming at the beach, or playing in the snow…. I will be sipping hot chocolate, sitting by the fire, or wondering Christmas and New Year. Just think.

With love to Highlands and Cashiers.

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### Highlands Township 2005 Real Estate Transactions

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Detailed information about 2005 Highlands property transfers @ www.HighlandsInfo.com/realty.htm

Learn how to search the Macon County N.C. data base.

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**See TRANSACTIONS page 23**
Holiday Shopping in Highlands • Holiday Shopping in Highlands • Holiday Shopping in Highlands

**Twigs**
Highlands, NC

“Everything for your nest!”

Open
Mon.- Sat
9-6 p.m.
Sun.10-5 p.m.

Hwy 64 east Across from
Little Bear Pen Road
626-5551

**End of Season SALE!**

Wit’s End

Ladies’ Classic Clothing

Since 1940

Mon-Sat 10-5 • 526-3160 • Main Street • Highlands

**BACK of the BEAR**

50% - 75 % OFF Everything

Girls Out of Business SALE!

WOMEN • CHILDREN • MEN
Clothing, footwear, gifts & accessories
Open daily: M-TH 10-5, F-S 10-6, Sun 12-5
Old Galax Theater • 526-2624

**The Grinning Frog**

Come visit our new location in Sapphire Valley

Home • Treasures • Toys

In Highlands - in Oak Square on Main St.
(828) 526-9033

In Sapphire - 3 miles east of Cashiers Crossroads

(828) 743-2299

**The Dry Sink**

Highlands, NC

New Inventory arriving daily!

Come see the new Vintage Port line of dinnerware from Casafina

Open Monday through Saturday 10am to 5pm • Sunday 1-5 p.m.
The Dry Sink 450 Main Street • Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

**ANNAWEAR**

Hard Tail • Junk Food • Split
7 For All Mankind • Citizens
Necessary Objects • Project E
Free People • Michael Stars • Tees
• Check out our SALE room

526-4660

In the Galax in the middle of Main Street

Holiday Shopping in Highlands • Holiday Shopping in Highlands • Holiday Shopping in Highlands
The Exchange  
For Men  

Featuring:  
Sansabelt • Riscatto • Remy  
Allen-Edmonds • Samuelsohn  
Johnston & Murphy • Oliver-Hilton  
Bobby Jones • Jhane Barnes  
Individualized Custom Shirts  

“Shop with us for the Holidays!”

230 S. 4th Street “On the Hill”  

Vivace  

Famous designer jewelry, stylish lines of clothes, hats, trendy handbags, scarves, rainwear, and much more. 

Most Everything on SALE!  
Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
526-1880

Cool Cats Hot Dogs  

“Unique Items for People and Their Pets!”  
Lots of Great Sales  

OPEN:  
Mon. - Thurs. - 11 to 4  
Fri. & Sat. 10 to 5  
526-9990  
256 S. 4th St. ...on the Hill

Silver Eagle  

• Sterling Silver Jewelry  
• Rugs & Pillows  
• Minnetonka Moccasins  
• Painted Ponies  
• Original Art & Artifacts  
• Books, Incense and Candles  

468 Main Street • 526-5190

The Old Rangoon  

Fine Furniture & Accessories for the Home • Designer Clothing, Handbags, Jewelry & Silks  

www.theoldrangoon.com  
290 S. Fourth St. • Highlands • 828-526-8288  
“On the Hill”

Village Kids  

Children’s apparel and shoes  
sizes 0-16  

In the middle of Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-5799

Bear Mountain Outfitters  

30% - 50% OFF Select Merchandise  
Men’s • Women’s Sportswear & Highlands Wear  
Boots • Shoes • Accessories  
Open daily: M-TH 10-5, F-S 10-6, Sun 12-5  
Oak Square • 526-5784

For all your holiday decorating needs!  
Highlands’ Original Christmas Shop  

• Dept. 56  
• LGB Trains  
• Patricia Breen  
• Christopher Radko  
• Byers’ Carolers  
• German Nutcrackers  

Hours:  
Mon-Sat 10-5 • Sun., 4th St. “...on the Hill” • 526-3687 • 800 -523-6558 12-5

20% to 70% OFF  

Hours:  
Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

www.ChristmasinHighlands.com

Holiday Shopping in Highlands
Behold the Christ child

The Rev. Thomas Allen
Christ Church Anglican

T

The Christmas season is one of the most perplexing times of the year. It is the time when the Christian Church is focused upon the Christ event and people are busy running from one store to another in search of a perfect gift for loved ones and friends. I say it’s perplexing because it is the time of year when either deep pain or deep joy seems to surface in people’s lives. It is the time of year when some profess the Christ child is the reason for their hope and purpose in life, while others focus on their lack of hope and purpose. Some have fallen victim to empty rituals, whether it be their once a year church attendance or their once a year credit card nightmare. Either way, Christmas does appear to be a unique time for all who participate.

Perhaps even more perplexing is the story behind Christmas itself. For instance, how could a child born in a smelly barn alter the way we calculate time? The Christmas itself. For instance, how could a child born in a smelly barn alter the way we calculate time? The Christmas gadget and snowmen? I think I’m wrong, I’m not saying there is anything wrong with these things. Perhaps even more perplexing is the story behind these things. Perhaps even more perplexing is the story behind these things. Perhaps even more perplexing is the story behind these things. Perhaps even more perplexing is the story behind these things.

I often wonder if all of the electronic Santas shouting “Happy Holidays!” and the commercialization of Christmas have created a disconnection from the Christmas story. Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying there is anything wrong with Christmas gadgets and snowmen. But I have to ask the question: what in the world does a baby born two thousand years ago who was placed in a feeding trough, have in common with the lights and glitter of our culture? I think I’m safe to surmise that the same Christ who was born in a place that was not sterile (and probably smelled due to the surrounding animals) and was forced out of his hometown due to a threat to the family, also came into this world to identify with lonely, desperate people. People alienated from family and God. He came to identify with the human condition.

The Christ story is real. It is real because God became the incarnate Christ. The story of Christ is rooted in real time and space, altering the time span of history in a B.C. and A.D. Jesus came to identify with people. It would be inconsistent to God’s character to leave mankind to his own corrupt nature. Two things that the Christ child grew up and accomplished in his life and ministry for the human race were: (1) He banished death from us and made us anew and (2) He made the invisible God visible by becoming flesh and blood. The great early church father St. Athanasius said, “At one and the same time this is the wonder as Man He was living a human life, and as Word He was sustaining the life of the universe, and as Son He was in constant union with the Father.” This all happened from a Christ who was born in a barn. Christmas is a time for joyous celebration. It is a time that has been set aside specifically to thank the • See SPIRITUALLY page 20

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**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**
  - School: 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
  - 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
  - Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770
  - Sundays: 9 a.m. - choir
  - Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
  - Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
  - NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
  - Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1672

- **CHRIST CHURCH**
  - 743-9370
  - The Rev. Thomas Allen
  - “Traditional Episcopal Worship”
  - Sunday Worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.
  - Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month
  - All services at Chapel of Sky Valley

- **CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
  - Pastor Everett Brewer
  - Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
  - Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
  - Evening Service: 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

- **COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
  - (Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
  - Steven E. Kerhoulas, Senior Pastor
  - www.cbchighlands.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 Cursoillo Group - 4 & 5:30
  - Christmas Chorale - 7 p.m.
  - Tuesdays: Men’s Cursoillo 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 Cursoillo - 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.
  - Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir: 7:30 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.

- **HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**
  - Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
  - Call Lloyd Kiddie at 526-9474

- **HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
  - Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
  - Sun.: School: 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
  - Wed: Supper: 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities - 6 p.m.

- **HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**
  - Rev. Delmer Chilton, 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 Jamie Passmore, (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: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
  - For more information, call (706)-745-1842.

- **OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
  - Rev. Tien, Priest
  - Parish office, 526-2418
  - Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass - 9 a.m.
  - Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m.
  - Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

- **SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**
  - Rev. Clifford Willis
  - Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
  - Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

- **SCALY MOUNTAIN 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 a.m.
  - Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7 p.m.

- **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
  - Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
  - Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
  - Wed, Thursdays: Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
  - Tuesdays: Prayer Service - 7 p.m.

- **WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
  - Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
  - Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby Church
  - Sundays: Worship: 11 a.m.
An Ode to Winter

By Katie Brugger

Winter is so often maligned. People say it’s ugly; they talk about the sadness of the leaves being gone and the obvious superior beauty of spring, summer, and fall. Of course, they say, snow is beautiful but that’s about it.

I grew up in the Midwest with moderate winters. My mom was from Toronto and we went up there a few times in the winter, and experienced a more serious side to winter. One of those times we visited my great-grandmother in her country cottage and we kids were transfixed at the sight of giant icicles that hung from her roof to the ground—all eight feet or so. Our plan was to cut a couple off and strap them to the roof of our station wagon to impress our friends. By the strength of this memory I’m not sure I really believed my parents when they said the icicles would melt before we got home.

I love winter in a purely aesthetic way. As a child I can remember riding in the backseat of our car, looking out the window at a bare tree silhouetted against a winter dusk sky of pink and deepest midnight blue and being moved by the beauty. That shot remains today one of the most beautiful things I know. Just down the road from my house is a field with a row of trees at the top along a ridge. Looking at those trees silhouetted against the deepening night of a winter sky is one of the pleasures of my year here. I rarely notice those trees any other time of year—all that foliage blocks the clean geometric lines of the branches.

I have found new aspects of winter’s grace since moving to the North Carolina mountains. On a warm sunny winter’s day the sunlight shining off the rhododendron leaves on hillsides sends off a sheen that thrills my heart. There is always a day in November when I am driving the gorge road and an unusual light strikes my eye and I realize I am seeing it again: the beautiful rhododendron-green light filling the forest. Six months of the year the sunlight never strikes the rhododendron leaves fully because it is filtered through thousands of leaves on the trees above.

I much prefer to hike in the winter than any other season. Someone who also loves this season said I shouldn’t mention how great it is to the general public—part of the wonder of it is that nobody else is around. First, I’ll mention the obvious reasons: no snakes and spiders and biting insects. (I am always greatly annoyed at the first gnats of spring). But mainly I love the wide-openess of the forest. When I hike in the summer I feel almost claustrophobic—all that foliage makes me feel like I am closed-in.

I hike on my own trails on a mountain near my home and I hiked quite a bit over two winters, and not at all the summer in between. The second summer I resolved to keep hiking and quickly realized that I much preferred my special places on the mountain in winter.

I like being able to see mountain vistas stretching out at every point of a mountain climb, not just from the top. It is so interesting to learn the land of this land that I live in and it is only possible in the winter. The rest of the year all I can see is green. (There I go with the foliage again).

Hidden things are revealed: mountain folds and cliff-faces. On a mountain-side near my home is a large cave that can only be seen in winter. I love to sit and look at the cave-mouth imagining the sleeping bear inside.

I like the mountain lace—my childhood single tree writh large. In summer a mountaintop is one relatively smooth green surface, with little to differentiate the individuals. Autumn lets their individuality loose (if we’re lucky) but mountain lace shows another kind of individuality: not just the trees’ species as does its autumn color, but its unique life history in the shape of its branches. Also uncovered are the wind-sculpted pines along the ridgelines that in other seasons blend in with all that green so you can’t see their exquisite shapes.

Winter is a time of rest. In most of the animal, plant, and insect world winter is a time of hibernation. Sitting on my favorite rock on my mountainside last week I could feel the peace of the season. The trees are all dormant. The insects are all dormant. The annual plants’ yearly growth has shriveled from frost. The snakes are in their burrows, as are most of the mammals.

There is nothing more peaceful than a snowfall. The whole world is wrapped in a soft blanket. There is no other time so quiet and calm. I love to sit for hours at a time watching snow fall outside my window while sitting warm by the fire (I who have trouble sitting still any other time).

One of the most wondrous aspects of Highlands life when I first moved here was the fact that winters were a time of hibernation for humans also. I would imagine that through most of human history winters were spent largely by the fire. People living before electricity probably slept a lot every winter.

Perhaps the roots of our winter holiday traditions—from Thanksgiving running through New Years—are relics of the burrowing into the nest for a long winter’s rest. We gather with friends and family for large feasts with colored lights to warm the cold nights. We wish each other the peace of the season.

Winter is a beautiful time of year.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays
& Happy New Year!

Thank you to all our columnists who tirelessly contribute to Highlands’ Newspaper which helps make the paper a “good read!”

Also, a big “Thank You” to all our advertisers—especially those who support us all year long! It’s only through advertising dollars that Highlands’ Newspaper can deliver the news for free 51 weeks of the year.

There will not be a paper Dec. 30. We take one week off at the end of the year. Look for the first edition of 2006 on Jan. 6.

Here’s to a healthy, joyful & prosperous 2006.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.
From Highlands’ Newspaper

Jim, Kim, Rachel and Megan Lewicki
**POLICE & FIRE LOG**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 14-21. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials are used.

**Dec. 16**
- At 9:40 a.m., a motorist was cited for making an unsafe movement at Hickory and Fifth streets.

**Dec. 17**
- At 11:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 52 mph in a 35 zone.

**Dec. 20**
- At 2:50 p.m., officers were called to a two-car accident on U.S. 64. There were no injuries.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 14-21.

**Dec. 14**
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. It was set off by workers.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Lucerne Circle. It was false.

**Dec. 30**
- The dept. responded to brush fire on Cole Mountain Circle. It was a burning of debris that got out of control. There was no damage.

**Dec. 21**
- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers at a structure fire. Cashiers needed more manpower to fight the blaze.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for promising His people a Saviour for the whole world. In the book of Hebrews we read that Jesus is the great high priest who identifies with his people. He actually sympathizes with us! This is why Jesus became flesh and blood. He identifies with the hurt and the suffering because He himself suffered too. God humbled himself in the person and work of Jesus Christ so that we might have an intercessor in the heavens, not an abstract deity or god-within, which is merely a projection of the self.

Christmas means everything. Not the shopping and the business sales. But the Christ story means everything. It means light in darkness, joy in the midst of pain, love in the midst of sorrow, and the promise of life after death. It means the story is true, and the truth of it has changed even the hardest of hearts. Its truth has changed history. Its truth has changed the way we see the world. So take comfort in the Christmas story. But also take note that it solicits a response. Take comfort in knowing Jesus Christ is Immanuel (God with us). And read this story all year round. Read it to not only consider who the Christ child was but who He became and still is today. Behold the Christ child.

**SEWER continued from page 1**

repair permits in town could be reviewed by the town officials prior to approval to ensure they do not adjoin the sewer system. If they do adjoin the system, it could be required by Town Ordinance to connect and be eventually replaced over a period of time.

Betz said there are grants in the amount of $7,500 available for very low income residents – those who earn 50 percent of the national median income. The money could be used for the fee of mandatory sewer connections, the pump station, and cost of line.

In previous Town Board meetings, commissioners also agreed that sewer connection fees could be spread out over a period of time on monthly utility bills to lessen the blow.

Commissioner Herb James suggested that contracts for future sewer lines include the cost of connecting all residents adjoining the line, with no exceptions for septic tanks, and the Board agreed to recommend this amendment of the proposed mandatory sewer connection policy previously drafted.

Meanwhile prioritized sewer lines have already been outlined and placed in the Capital Improvement Program for the 2005-2006 budget. Estimated costs don’t include funds from possible sewer connections but include Harris Lake Drainage Basin for $1,425,250; East Shore Lake Sequoyah for $1,040,485; Mirror Lake Drainage Basin for $1,834,892; and Big Creek Drainage Basin for $1,687,195.

The committee also discussed at some length possible financing strategies for sewer line extensions, including revenue and general obligation bonds, grants, loans, and increased fees.

Members of the Public Works Committee are Commissioners Hank Ross, Alan Marsh and Herb James.

**POLES continued from page 1**

At the Dec. 12 Public Works Committee, member Alan Marsh asked Nix to request an informal bid from Haynes Electric on the cost of changing out all of the poles identified in the pole audit conducted last year. He said it’s likely the entire process can be expedited.
Ruby Cinemas
Franklin, NC
Adult — $6, $5 Child — $4
Dec 21-29
Merry Christmas from the Owners, Management and Staff of Ruby Cinemas

KING KONG
rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:45
Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 9:45

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE
rated PG
Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), 7, 9:15

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
rated PG
Mon - Fri: (415), 7, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (415), 7, 9:15

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
rated PG-13
Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4-10), 7, 9:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 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 9:30 p.m.
- C Y Timmons at Fressers 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.
- Health Tracks, at Highlands Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. Health Tracks at 526-1348 for details.
- Al-Anon Group meets at noon in Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
- Mountainview Alcohics Anonymous meets in the remodelled 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.

Family-Oriented Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. at HUMC.
- 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.
- Ring in the New Year with... on the Verandah's New Year’s Eve 2005 celebration. Featuring a Three-Course Dinner, Party Favores, Live Music with Trio Locooco, 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.
- New Year's Gala by the Fine Arts Committee at PAC at 5 p.m. following a cocktail reception at 4 p.m. Three fine artists - Jeanine Brown, soprano, Pamela Dillard, mezzo soprano and Robert Hen- ry, pianist will perform opera arias from La Boheme, La Traviata, Carmen as well as duets from Lakeme and Madame Butterly. Tickets for the cocktail event and concert are $50. Proceeds will benefit the children of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania who have contracted AIDS.

In January
- Sustainable Living small group discussion course. Eight Saturday sessions starting in January are $17 for materials. Held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin. Call Nancy Heath 706-746-9981.
- Highlands Resolution Run 9 a.m. in front of Town Hall. There is no entry fee. Runners gather in front of the Town Hall Sunday morning and run a three-mile loop at a relaxed pace around the downtown area of Highlands, returning to the Town Hall. The run is held “come rain or shine or ice or snow.”
- Auditions for the Highlands Community Players second production of their 2005-2006 season “The Hollow” at 3 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands NC. “The Hollow,” is a mystery by the queen of mysteries, Agatha Christie. The play is scheduled to be performed March 2 - 5, and 10 - 12. There are roles for 12 people. One older male, one older female, five females ages 25-55 and five males ages 25-55. A copy of the play can be read at the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands. For more information call director Tanji Armor at 828-743-7757.

• Highlands Service Directory •

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Kiln-dried

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Jan. 8
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Jan. 24
- Blood Drive at Highlands School, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT hiring one Police Officer and two Auxiliary Police Officers. Police Officer salary $24,086, DOQ; Auxiliary Officer salary $10.50/hr. Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver’s license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Contact the Highlands Police Department, Capt. T.R. Carver, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741, (828) 526-9431

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 a CPA, applicant to be a club 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. Apply online at hchospital.org.

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, price and 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.


MAINTENANCE MECHANIC AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL and FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. General maintenance, 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. Week one Saturday every six weeks. Experience in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and HVAC preferred. Must have valid driver’s license. Excellent benefit package available after 60 days for this full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or apply online at hchospital.org.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING FOR FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. This R.N. will assist in the overall coordination of nursing care in the Living Center. Background in long-term care preferred. If interested in joining a team that focuses on excellent health care, call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301 or Janet Underwood, D.O.N., 828-526-1302, or apply online at hchospital.org.


LPN OR RNs FOR FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Three 12-hour shifts per week, 7pm to 7am. Shift differentials paid to work every other weekend. Salary range based on years of experience. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPNs and R.Ns – FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER: Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care with a low staffing ratio, above average wages, and shift differentials, call Pre-employment substance screening. Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A NEW CAREER? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. C.N.A. classes in Cashiers will start January 17, 2006. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation in the first week of March, receive $2.00 more per hour. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Mills, 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


REAL ESTATE SALES

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. $260,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobnnancy@brmemc.net

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: bobnnancy@brmemc.net

INCREDIBLE WHITSIDE VIEW – 2.5 gentle acres, 3/2, $450K. Call 743-1947.


LOT FOR SALE – Highlands, close to town, 1.5 acre lot with 300-ft. creek front and long view. Only 2.8 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Lots of large rhododendrons, hardwood trees and Mountain Laurel. Easy building site with community well, telephone, electric and septic in place. 2 1/2 blocks from Main Street. 7 creek-front lots available. Lots from 95K-129K. Only 10k upon signing contract. Close by mid-April, 2006 in time for season. These won’t last. Call 706-613-1438, 706-202-5292 (cell) or 828-526-9493.

CONDO FOR SALE – By Owner. Great 2-bedroom, 2-bath upstairs condo in town. Save gas, walk everywhere! Asking $210,000. Call for details. 526-3671.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .87 acre wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 11/2 baths, study, large workshop, studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking $425,000. (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner

SPECIAL SERVICES


HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WORK FROM HOME AND BUILD INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY. Top growth company – just expanded into Germany. Who do you know? Looking for leaders. Contact 828-787-2212.

FOR TRADE

FREE DECORATIVE PAINTING SERVICES for SUGAR BOWL TICKETS (2-4) Antiquing, distressing, glazing, cabinets, furniture, interiors. Call 526-5994.
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Detailed information about 2005 Highlands property transfers @ www.HighlandsInfo.com/realty.htm. Learn how to search the Macon County N.C. data base.
HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB.  4 bed, 3 1/2 bath, great room fireplace, covered porch & 2 car garage. Offered at $1,200,000.

DESIREABLE BOWERY ROAD, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, lofted living room with additional studio/family room & bath on a large wooded lot. $625,000.

Chelsey Lane off Flat Mountain, 3 bed, 2-1/2 baths on a great .93+/- lot with stream. Plus Workshop. Owner motivated! Offered at $349,000.

3 bed, 3 bath, den, game room & oversized 2 car garage with workshop. Grand master suite, huge great room. Offered at $549,000. MLS #56613

Mirror Lake Area. 2 bed, 2 bath, full unfinished basement, covered deck. Unfurnished, $285,000, or furnished at $299,000.

Listen to the bold stream from the large front porch. 3 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath, 1 car garage & carport. Bright open floor plan. $325,000. mls #56292

3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, loft, 2 car garage separate storage building/garage/guesthouse. 3+/- acres Offered at $750,000.

CLEAR CREEK ROAD. Great starter home!  2 bedrooms, 1 bath, full basement.  Over 1/2 +/- acre. Good Condition. Offered at $199,000.

Enjoy the views and listen to the rushing stream. 3 bed, 3 bath, 2 car garage. Lower level can be transformed into separate living area. $350,000.

HIGHLANDS WALK. - walking distance from Main Street. 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath, large living room, fireplace. Offered at $439,000.

Laurel Falls!  4 bed, 4 1/2 bath plus a garage & guest quarters. Great covered porch to enjoy the mountain view & rushing creek. $1,400,000.

Great mountain views. Subdivision with a community lake. 3 bed, 2 bath plus office. Fireplace & unfinished basement. $295,000. mls #56298

3 bed, 2 bath, stone fireplace, wrap around deck, granite countertops in kitchen and bathrooms, with Baldwin hardware. $549,000. mls #55255

Great Mountain View 4 bed, 3.5 bath, 2 story greatroom, fireplace & 4.0+/- acres. Additional acreage available. Priced moderately at $849,000.