Property decision postponed again

The future of the Werder property on the corner of Hickory and Fourth streets still hangs in the balance. At the Wednesday, Dec. 7 Town Board meeting, commissioners didn’t vote to rezone the property R3 as suggested by the Planning Board for the third time and initially requested by developer Chuck Simmerson. But commission- ers did decide to consider the multi-fam- ily subdivision when conditional zoning is in place, hopefully in January.

Simmerson was visibly frustrated at the meeting, stating it was a ‘hearken’ decision. He had planned to use the property to redevelop a house to accommodate the increasing population in the Highlands. The Planning Board had recommended re-zoning the property R3, a multi-family zone, to allow for the construction of additional units. However, the commissioners decided to consider the multi-family subdivision, which requires further conditional zoning. Simmerson expressed his disappointment that the decision was postponed, as he had hoped for a clear and definite decision.

Changing of the guard

After eight years at the table, Wednesday night, Mayor Buck Trott handed the gavel to newly elected Mayor Don Mullen who now joins re-elected commissioners, Amy Patterson and Hank Ross, and commissioners Herb James, Alan Marsh, and Dennis DeWolf at the table.

“I want to thank the board, the staff and the Town Administrator for their cooperation and the citizens of Highlands for the consideration they have showed me over the past eight years,” said Trott. “Municipal government is changing everyday and it takes a group of lawyers to keep you out of trouble.”

Mullen said he was honored that people of Highlands have put their trust in him as their mayor. “I will do everything I can to uphold the laws of the city and state and do everything I can do to make the community proud of Highlands,” he said.

He commended Trott for all he has done for the Highlands community and plans on working closely with both Trott and ex-mayor John Cleaveland to learn whatever he can.

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Homecoming King & Queen

Seniors David “Buddy” Parrish and Claire Frederick were crowned Homecoming King & Queen at Saturday’s dance at Highlands Country Club. For more photos see page 11. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Bowery Road paving delayed

Everyone – residents, town and NC-DOT officials – had hoped the Bowery Road project would be completed by now. But it’s not to be. “I am very disappointed that we did not make our goal of paving Bowery Road this year,” said Wesley Grindstaff with DOT. “But I can assure you that upon completion next spring users of Bowery Road will be able to use and enjoy a long overdue paved roadway.

Unforeseen geological problems have caused delays in the paving process. The road is currently in place, but it needs to be fixed and covered with a layer of asphalt. The completion date for this project has been pushed back to the spring of 2006.

Bowery Road paving delays are an ongoing issue for residents of the Highlands. The project was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2005, but due to unforeseen geological problems, the completion date has been pushed back to the spring of 2006. Residents are disappointed that the project has not been completed as planned, but they are confident that the road will be in place and ready for use by spring.
Dear Friends,

It is time to bring you up to date with changes in your Highlands-Cashiers and Rabun county GYN healthcare.

My contract with Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is up the end of this year, and after that I will be cutting back the number of days, not cutting out care provided up here. At this writing I am not sure of the exact time or dates we will be starting the new hours in January. Please contact Denise in Dr. Richardson’s office (828-526-0720) for specifics.

The more than four years as your physician and friend have been special and I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been chosen as such. I would hope we can continue the same relationship for many years to come. My wife Pat and I have been privileged to live in this beautiful area and to meet and get to know many wonderful people. Both of us have developed relationships that we will cherish forever.

Dr. Stephen Goldman of Western North Carolina Ob/Gyn in Asheville at 828-255-8900 and Dr Gwang Han of Sylva Women’s Clinic at 828-586-4096 will be happy to provide any care should I be unavailable. If you need care when I am not around these two highly qualified physicians will do a wonderful job. I have known both for years and have full confidence in their abilities.

Many of you are being followed for Pap smear changes, ovarian cysts, etc. I am not around these two highly qualified physicians will do a wonderful job. I have known both for years and have full confidence in their abilities.

I appreciate your interest and value your friendship. Let’s not let this little side trip close them off.

Willis Sherrer, MD
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
Rotary gives for ‘Shop with a Cop’

Sheriff Deputy Craig Stahl, and Sgt. Amy Stewart, with Highlands Rotary President LaDonna Keener, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, and Highlands Police Captain Tony Carver. The Highlands Rotary Club presented a check for $1253.70 raised at their Tuesday meeting to the “Shop with a Cop” program. This program matches law enforcement officers with children in the community to enjoy a special day out to buy Christmas presents, followed by lunch and a party.

• OBITUARIES •

Philip Leroy Capman

Philip Leroy Capman, age 79, of Highlands, N.C. died Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Dade County, Florida, the son of the late Sherman G. and Edith Baker Capman. He was a US Army Veteran of WWII and was a lifetime member of the Highlands VFW. He worked in all phases of the carpet industry from installation to custom carpet design. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Highlands where he served as an usher and was a member of the Mission Committee.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jane Wensley Capman; his daughter, Claudia Murrie Thompson of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; one brother Sherman G. Capman of South Florida; four grandchildren, Casey Flint and her husband Anthony, Carly Thompson, Charlene Thompson and Cory Capman. A memorial service was held Friday, December 2 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Highlands with Rev. Eddie Ingram and Rev. Kim Ingram officiating. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

David Bruce Forrester

David Bruce Forrester, Jr., age 93, of Highlands, N.C., died Tuesday, November 29, 2005 in a Sylva Hospital. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of the late David Bruce Forrester, Sr. and Maude Swentzel Forrester. He was married to the late Elizabeth Tresevant Forrester, who died in 2004. Mr. Forrester was Vice President of General Box Company. He was a member of the board and past president of Highlands Country Club; on the board of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Bank of America, formerly Carolina Mountain Bank in Highlands; president of the Chamber of Commerce in Meridian, MS., a member of United Way and a member of the Rotary Club. He was Episcopalian by faith.

He is survived by a daughter, Betsy Gleason of Missoula, MT; one son, David Bruce Forrester, III and his wife Peggy of Cumming, GA; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also survive. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Cecily Swentzel Forrester, and a twin sister Barbara Forrester Rahm.

Memorial services were held Friday, December 9, 2005 at 11 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, with Father Brian Sullivan officiating. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 1648, Franklin, NC 28744 or to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• CARD OF THANKS •

We would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits, cards, prayers and offers of help after Lee’s and Leslie’s accident. God has really blessed us. He protected our children; provided wonderful medical help; and surrounded us with loving family and friends.

God Bless,
The Zoellners & Wilsons - Bob, Jodie, Lee, Edwin, Lisa and Leslie

Highlands’ Newspaper - Friday, December 9, 2005 - Page 3
Getting ETJ’d
(The Nazis are coming, the Nazis are coming.)

I just about the time the last summer person had left Highlands and the tourist season began to slow a little, the Town Board fires things up and approves ETJ. Highlands’ folks, who were just settling in for their well deserved quiet time of winter, have their shorts in a wad and some are declaring war against ETJ.

You know things are hot when Baker Crane, usually a quiet Christian man, spends his hard earned money to put a half page ad in the paper protesting the action of the Town Board. Use caution, Commissioners. Baker has God on his side. And what about Harold Neely, whose family has been around here longer than toilets? He thinks Highlands is like Nazi Germany. Actually, the German people, except for Jews, loved Hitler and what he was doing in Germany before the war. I don’t see much love going on in Highlands right now. Ask Alex Redmountain for some first-hand information about how Highlands compares to Nazi Germany. Isn’t this all a little embarrassing?

Here is what I do when I’m all bent out of shape on an issue that affects my life. I think about it for a while, try to remain calm and then wind up doing something stupid anyway. I do this with my foot in my mouth, which is a real talent. Remember that freedom of speech also means freedom to make an jackass of yourself. Later on, when the issue has been resolved, I look back and reflect on my stupidity. I vow never to do it again, which, of course, doesn’t work. Angry people make bad decisions, even when they’re calm.

This ETJ conflict is perfect for a guy like me who thrives on controversy. With just the right amount of adjectives and adverbs, along with a few unproven rumors and insults, I can fan the fires and start a Hatfield/McCoy feud worse than the Burger King wars of yesteryear.

Being the nice guy that I am, I will call for calm, remembering that calm people can also make some real bonehead decisions. Whatever made the Town Board think they could pull this off without a ruckus? They proclaimed, “Let there be ETJ” and POW, it springs to life. Then they tell folks who can’t vote them out of office how to run their property. Did they really think that would fly?

Being an ex big time power broker and government employee from a zillion years ago, I learned that when big brother wants to take something away, like the freedom to control property, they must throw out a bone. For example, when we bargained with the union to take away employee privileges, we had to throw around some money or add a fringe benefit to sweeten the pot so everyone would remain calm. Believe me, you never want to face a bunch of policemen who are not calm.

... Where’s the bone for the people affected by ETJ?
And how about our mayor, Buck Trott; is he not the luckiest man in Highlands? While counting down his days as mayor, he must have been sitting on a couch somewhere far away, doubled over in laughter. I can just hear him, “Go get ‘em, Dapper Don.”

I am going to stick my neck out right now and take a firm stand on...
When I read the latest news, I find myself wondering: What happened to my country? Is this the America to which I pledged allegiance every morning during my school years? Is this the America of the free and the land of the brave? Who stole my country from me? I want my country given back! But the truth is that the country I want returned to me never existed. It was only a figment of my imagination. It was part yearning, part bad high school history classes, part mythology.

The fantasy of America that I carry around in my head is an America of democratic institutions at home and of generosity, friendship, and non-aggression abroad. I keep thinking that there was a time, even during my lifetime, when this was a true picture of the United States, but my research and my memory tell me I’m mistaken. Then I wonder about our founding fathers and the nation they stitched together in 1776. Is that the America of my dreams? A nation of large plantation owners, indentured servants, slaves, disenfranchised women, and victimized “savages”? I don’t think so.

In the years that followed, the United States took two steps forward and one step back when it came to justice and equality. Always the hope was kept alive that progress was being made, that the gap between ideal reality was narrowing. But since at least the administration of Richard Nixon, and perhaps earlier, retracement rather than progress has been the norm. When I look at our country today, I see the “last, best hope of mankind” in a state of terminal decay and decline.

Today we have a swollen, overbearing federal government that often bullies and intimidates ordinary citizens via the IRS and other agencies. Even though it is hugely inflated, when a real crisis like Katrina strikes, the government is pitifully ineffectual and uncaring. I can’t even imagine what would happen in the event of a serious terrorist attack, although billions are being spent for “homeland security.”

Corruption is rife throughout our system, both in and out of government. It isn’t the old-fashioned bribe and steal, nickel and dime corruption of third world countries like Mexico and Kenya, but a much larger, sophisticated form of theft that rewards corporate cronies and well-connected politicians with immense, ill-gotten wealth. In the private sector, intricate financial schemes and stock manipulations, available only to the chosen few, contribute to the national climate of cupidity.

Opponents of the separation of church and state have infiltrated the political system, and are resolutely trying to impose right-wing Christianity and its distorted non-Christian values on the rest of us, through court decisions, constitutional amendments, and acts of Congress.

Our public school system, with a few exceptions, fails our minority students, and is only marginally better for the rest. In a perverse effort at democratization, neither the most talented nor the least able receive an adequate education.

The American health system, as everyone knows, is in a shambles. Only the well-off and the well-insured receive adequate care. The rest wait in overcrowded emergency rooms, renge on their medical bills, or depend wholly on charity. Speaking of which, our poverty rate continues to be a reprehensible disgrace. As Katrina again highlighted, being poor and black are still conjoined despite many efforts to address the problem. Unquestionably this is connected to the education issue (mentioned above), as well as to grieveous, self-destructive attitudes promoted by some activists and black youth culture.

This is only a partial reckoning of our domestic dysfunctions.

Even worse is what we have become internationally: an imperious bully advocating pre-emptive war; mistreatment and torture of captives; submission to our will by small, vulnerable nations (Haiti, Panama); assassination and attempted assassination of foreign leaders (Lumumba, Castro); a stubborn unwillingness to admit our mistakes and listen to our critics.

A prime example of our misadventures is, of course, the war in Iraq. It is a terrible travesty, the net result of bad intelligence, fabrication, grandiosity, poor planning, and plain presidential stubbornness. To waste more than 2,000 young American lives, and countless Iraqi ones, for this meaningless struggle is a historical catastrophe.

As others have pointed out, China, India, and perhaps some other ambitious nations are waiting impatiently in the wings to supplant us scientifically, economically, and militarily. It won’t take long. Unless we reinvent ourselves, re-commit to our basic values, invest in future generations wisely, we shall surely be upended along with our discarded dreams.

P.S. Enough grousing. Some possible solutions in future columns.
...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

I know, you think paper mills smell. This simply is not true. Like asphalt factories, the aroma is, well…different. I know most Highlanders have smelled the asphalt factory on their way to Franklin, but few have smelled a paper mill. No, you don’t have to go to Jersey. Instead, do this. Leave your cut flowers in their vase long after they have wilted. Now, throw out the flowers and stick your nose in the vase and inhale. Not bad, huh? Better than bacon and eggs if you use your imagination.

TIMES REMEMBERED

The computer list

The turkey has been butchered to a fare- ye-well and the leftovers are in the freezer (as it we’re going to eat it someday!) Now comes the real fun. It’s time to make the Christmas list.

With this in mind, I turned to a recent edition of Parade Magazine which featured a plethora of new, updated hand-held computers and cell phones.

I was lost. I am, after all, computer illiterate. I have a cell phone, but can only use it to make and receive calls (in the street in front of my house, as that is the only place I can get reception). The phone evidently has lots of bells and whistles, but I can’t figure them out. So, trying to make sense of Parade’s suggestions was not too easy. Also, I’m not sure I agree that we all should have such gadgets available at all times.

For instance:

* According to Parade, the cell phone can now do more than any of us would have imagined 10 years ago. I wouldn’t, anyway. But it doesn’t matter as I don’t even know what an MP3 is. However, it seems you can now, for a mere $250, purchase a cell phone “compatible with iTunes,” which, according to the Sunday magazine, allows the owner to store and listen to as many as 100 songs.

* “Can’t be parted with your favorite shows,” the article reads. “Fear not: Your entire satellite or cable lineup is now available from just about anywhere.” Well, isn’t that special. I guess children no longer play road games (billboard alphabet, count the cows – bury them when you pass a church). Why, do you think they no longer fight over who has the biggest area of the back seat? My brother and I could do that for 12 hours on our drive to West Palm Beach.

* Then there’s the biggy. An iPod (whatever that is) that plays videos, gets TV reception and also gets music. Somehow I long for the days that children opened all the presents (non-interactive) and then played all day with the gift boxes.

I’m getting old, folks. I still listen to a radio, one that plugs into the wall, at that.
**School Basketball**

Boys and girls basketball game round-up

**West Oaks**

On Thursday, Dec. 1, Highlands basketball teams traveled to West Oaks in South Carolina but came home defeated.

West Oaks beat the girls 47 to 15. The boys' score was 67 West Oaks, 63 Highlands.

As usual, the girls played hard. Becca Wyatt scored 5 goals, Katie Bryson and Toni Schmitt scored 4 and Keri Raby scored 2.

The boys didn't fair as well. The Walhalla Razorbacks beat Highlands 61 to 62.

Top scorer was Alec Schmitt with 20 points, 9 rebounds and 6 assists. Nick Kerhoulas scored 14 points, had 3 rebounds and 1 assist. Ryan Bears scored 7 points, had one rebound and two assists. Darren Keener scored 7 points with one rebound. Jason Aspinwall scored 6 points, had 5 rebounds and 2 assists. David Parrish scored 6 points, had 7 rebounds and 3 assists. Adam Hedden scored 2 points and had one rebound.

Franklin

It was a disappointing night for both the girls and boys teams at home Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Franklin beat the girls 50 to 27 and the boys 66 to 54.

Becca Wyatt was top scorer with 12 points; Toni Schmitt scored 7; Ramsey Ashburn scored 4 and Katie Bryson and Keri Raby each scored 2 points.

Keri Raby had 8 rebounds and Becca Wyatt followed with 5. Becca Wyatt also had 5 steals.

The girls' Saturday, Dec. 10 home game against Hayesville is at 5 p.m. The boys' game is at 6:30 p.m.

The boys were down two of their regular players for the home game against Franklin. Parnish and Keener were out with injuries.

Jason Aspinwall was top scorer with 19 points and 12 rebounds; Alec Schmitt scored 12 points and had 13 rebounds; Allison Winn had 5 assists and Toni Schmitt and Katie Bryson pulled 11 boards each.

The girls are really coming together and playing well as a team,” said Coach Brett Lamb. “Friday’s play showed our hearts and willingness to play the game — by shooting, working well offensively, by rebounding and playing a tough defense.”

Principal nominates seniors for awards

Seniors David “Buddy Boy” Parrish and Callie Rawlins have been nominated for the Wendy’s High School Heisman Award.

Awarded in conjunction with the collegiate Heisman, the program celebrates the nation’s top high school seniors who best exemplify a well-rounded “citizen-scholar-athlete.”

The Wendy’s High School Heisman Program is comprised of five phases - Nomination, State Finalists, State Winners, National Finalists and National Winners. Entries are initially evaluated by ACT Assessment during the State Finalist and State Winner phases and then passed on to a panel of judges.

Principal Monica Bomengen nominated Parrish and Rawlins for their academic aptitude, athletic talent and exceptional commitment to their communities.

“We believe it’s important to celebrate success in all facets of life,” said Bomengen. “The Wendy’s High School Heisman is the ultimate way to showcase students’ diverse achievements for all to see.”

Highlands School senior Megan Lewicki has been nominated as a recipient of the Principal’s Leadership Award Scholarship, co-sponsored by the national Association of Secondary Schools and Herff Jones, Inc.

There are 150 national winners who will receive $1,000 scholarships. The country’s participating high school principals nominate one senior to compete in the program. Nominees are selected based on their leaderships skills, participation in service organizations, and achievements in the arts, sciences, employment experience and academic record.

“Megan Lewicki is an outstanding student who serves not only as president of the senior class but also as an advisor to the middle school Girls’ Clubhouse program,” said Bomengen. “Her most significant accomplishment in terms of leadership is she commands the respect and admiration of her peers.”

In recognizing leadership in curricular activities as well as academic performance, the PLA scholarship recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education.
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New Medicare D coverage program to be explained one-on-one

Confused about the new Medicare D coverage program? Here’s a chance to get answers.

One-on-one individual meetings will be held to help individuals decide on what to do concerning the new “Medicare Prescription Drug Part D” coverage.

Darrell Authier, retired CPA, will explain the different options available so you can make the right decision.

Even if you are presently covered with a previous employer on Medicaid, have drug coverage with your present Medigap policy or do not take any prescription drugs at this time, you should look at the new plan.

Sixteen companies with more than 40 different plans are available in North Carolina. The new program is not complicated, but very, very confusing.

The free sessions are open to the public. Enrollment began Nov. 15 and continues through Dec. 31.

To keep your continued coverage and to join without a penalty you must decide by May 15, 2006. Enrollment after May 15 will cost one percent per month more until you finally enroll. That’s one percent per month times 12 months which equals a 12 percent higher premium for as long as you are enrolled.

The sessions are free and will be held Monday through Friday from noon to 3:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Call the church office at 526-3175 or 526-3896 for more information and to register for your one-on-one session.

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 Auxiliary
Attn: Tree of Lights, P.O. Box 742, Highlands, NC 28741

Amount given: __________

Name:
Given by:
Address:

Send acknowledgement to: _________________________
Address: ________________________

Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary

Proceeds from the Tree of Lights 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.

... BOWERY continued from page 1

arose in certain areas where the road was widened, mainly more rock. But engineers also had to wait for utility poles to be moved by various groups.

“Although we were working with a tight schedule, I had hoped the construction process would have progressed more quickly and we could have completed the project entirely this winter,” said Grindstaff. “We have about two weeks worth of grading and finish work remaining.”

He said they are also still waiting for Verizon to relocate its lines.

After the final touches are put on the grading and finish work, the road will be graveled with an 18-foot travel surface for the winter and will be paved as soon as temperature and weather permit in the spring. “That typically occurs at some point in April in the Highlands area,” he said. “I appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding throughout the construction process.”
Dr. Lindsay closing practice, relocating

Family practitioner Thomas F. Lindsay, who has practiced in Cashiers since April, announced this week he will close his offices here Dec. 30, and relocate to Sparta, NC.

Lindsay said a primary factor in the decision is the need to be closer to family members, some of whom have serious, on-going medical issues.

"Dr. Lindsay is a fine physician and we are sorry to see him leave the area, but we understand his concerns," said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "We want to assure everyone in Cashiers, Glenville and Sapphire, particularly Dr. Lindsay's patients, that the hospital is still very much committed to making sure there is adequate access to primary care physicians in the area."

Shull said the hospital continues to recruit more physicians to the area.

"We hope we will be able to announce some success in those efforts in the near future," he added.

Dr. Lindsay, who came to Cashiers from Brevard, said he will initially work in the emergency room of Alleghany Memorial Hospital and will later join Alleghany Family Practice, a primary care group in Sparta. Both Lindsay and his wife have family in the Winston-Salem/Greensboro, NC area.

"This will put us only an hour to an hour and a half away from them. We will be much closer in the event of a medical emergency," he said. "That's the primary reason I'm moving."

"I want to thank the people in the Cashiers area for allowing me to serve them during the past year and I wish them and everyone at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital a bright future," he said. "I have enjoyed working with the hospital administration, physicians, and staff during my months here."

A native of High Point, NC, Dr. Lindsay earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1988 and completed both his internship and residency in family practice at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, finishing in 1991.
Homecoming festivities from Rally to Parade

During the Dec. 2 Pep Rally, Principal Monica Bomengen encouraged kindergartners to give Asst. Principal Mark Thomas a birthday hug. Above, Megan Lewicki leads seniors around the gym with the "Spirit Stick." Right, David Parrish breaks down in tears at the crowning of his "Miss Highlander" rival, Ryan Perkins.

Right, Megan Lewicki and Stephanie Dalton head up the senior parade as they enter the gym for the Pep Rally. Above Megan Lewicki and Ryan Bears in the high school "dance-off," below elementary students in the "dance-off," bottom left, the Lady Highlanders beating Walhalla at the Dec. 2 Homecoming game – 60-45.

Pep Rallies at Highlands School are truly a "school affair" with students in kindergarten on up participating. Students of all ages took a turn at the "spin the bat then run the court" relay.

Photos by Jim Lewicki
A Midwinter’s Night’s Dream
Highlands School Homecoming Dance
Dec. 3 at Highlands Country Club

Whitney Talley, Stephanie Dalton, Maggie Rogers, Jackie Reed and Tiffany Austin

Maggie Dearth, Franka Dadic & Vicki Smith

As Kayla McCall crowns Claire Frederick, Megan Lewicki hands her a bouquet.

Ryan Bears & Anna Trine

Callie Rawlins, Laura Kremser & Claire Frederick

Angela Aspinwall & Alec Schmitt

Class of 2005 Homecoming King & Queen Kayla McCall & Mat Keener with Stephanie McCall.

Stephanie Dalton & Whitney Talley

Whitney Talley, Stephanie Dalton, Maggie Rogers, Jackie Reed and Tiffany Austin

Becca Dotson & Ray Varnes

Callie Rawlins & Drew Wilhide
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Holiday Shopping in Highlands
An Announces its ANNUAL 62% OFF SALE Dec. 12 thru Dec. 16 Almost all CLOTHING for Men, Women & Children will be 62% OFF to honor my Mother’s & Father’s 62nd Wedding Anniversary.
526-3963
446 Main Street

Community Chorale Concert this weekend

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale - 65 voices strong - under the direction of Fletcher Wolfe, will perform on Saturday evening Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. and Sunday evening Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Episcopal church.

Come out and enjoy some of the world’s greatest Christmas songs performed by this outstanding choral group. There will be many new beautiful selections as well as many of the classic Christmas pieces.

Since all the churches are participating in this event it is necessary to come early for a seat. Following the Sunday evening performance there will be a reception in Jones Hall given by the church.

In addition to Patty Campbell, pianist and Pat Robinson, organist, the choir will be accompanied by Valerie Van Pechy, harpist and Lea Kibbler, flutist. It’s free.

**Places of Worship on the Plateau**

**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
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) 369-1627

**CHRIST CHURCH**
743-9370
The Rev. Thomas Allen
“Traditional Episcopal Worship”
Sunday Worship and communion at 2 p.m.
Tuesday Noon Bible Study: noon Parish House
Thursday worship and communion at 10:30 a.m.
Pot Luck Dinner: Last Sunday of the Month.
All services at the Community Bible Church

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
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 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.;
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.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m & 5

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**HIGHLANDS 7TH-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,
Z152 Dillard Road - 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 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, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass - 9 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m.
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

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

**SCASY 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
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time) 526-9769
Sundays: Worship/Communion - 10:30
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
**Macon County Schools and county OKs 3rd SRO officer**

At the Dec. 5 Macon County School Board meeting held in Nantahala, the board OK’d Sheriff Robbie Holland’s request to begin a student crime-stoppers program in Macon County Schools and to include fifth-graders in the Reality Check 101 program.

Holland said the Reality Check 101 program has been successful in the middle schools and believes it will help to introduce students to the “reality” of drug and alcohol abuse at an earlier age.

As part of the Reality 101 program, inmates from the Macon County jail go into the schools with Holland to talk with students about their lifestyles in an effort to keep young people out of trouble and out of jail.

Holland was also given permission to install a full-time SRO officer at Nantahala School. “Now you’ll have an SRO officer in every high school in the county,” said Holland.

Later that same evening, he asked the Macon County Commission if he could hire a full-time SRO officer for the Nantahala position in place of an officer who is retiring.

“I’m not asking for any more money because I’m just changing the position,” he said.

Commissioners gave their OK.

**Christmas music programs at school**

On Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., the Highlands School Middle School and High School bands will perform a variety of Christmas songs. The program will include Christmas favorites.

On Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the K-5 Christmas Program, “Christmas Around the World” will be presented. During December, each class is studying a country and will perform a song from that country. After the program, there is an open house and in each classroom, cookies or a dessert will be served from the class’s “country.”

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Live music Fri & Sat

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Through Dec. 15**
- Signups for Macon County Boys Basketball for boys ages 7-18. Applications are available at the Highlands Civic Center. The cost is $30. Birth certificates are required. Contact Michael Munger at 526-8029 or 342-3551.
- 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 through the Nov. 26, 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 Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
  - Cy 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.
  - HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthWalk at 526-3348 for details.
  - Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.
  - Mountainview 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. 8
  - On Thursday at 7 p.m. at PAC Highlands Community Players presents a program of readings appropriate to the holiday season interspersed with live music by community performers. It’s free.
- Dec. 10
  - Highlands United Methodist Church will host “Breakfast with Santa” on Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. Join them for a pancake breakfast, a craft, a story about the birth of Jesus, carols, and visit with Santa Claus. The cost is $10 per family. Space is limited. Call 526-3376 for reservations.
- Highlands Community Chorus presents its Annual Christmas Chorale lead by Fletcher Wolfe at the Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. It’s free.
- HS Basketball at home against Hayesville Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.
- Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roll-ups, pecans, peanuts, jellies, jams and other baked goods for sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Second and Main streets between the Masonic Lodge and HUMC and on the corner of Fifth & Main streets near the Presbyterian Church. Proceeds fund Highlands Chapter of the Eastern Star charitable programs.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to Siler Bald with an elevation gain of 900 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader David Sapin, 369-2628 for reservations.
- Dec. 11
  - Highlands Community Chorus presents its Annual Christmas Chorale lead by Fletcher Wolfe at the Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. It’s free.
  - HS Basketball at home against Rosman. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.
- Concerned about ETJ? Whether affected or not, meet at High Country Cafe at 7 p.m. to discuss measures to counter this action by the Highlands Town Board.
- Dec. 13
  - HIARP’s Dialogue at Civic Center, 10-11:30 a.m. Topic “Dark Side of American History,” with a selection from Howard Zinn’s “People’s History of the United States.” Alex Redmountain–coordinator.
  - The December meeting of The WNC Woodturners club will meet on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Cashiers Community Center gymnasium. Visitors are always welcomed.
  - The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Business After Hours on Tuesday at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center from 5:30 to 7:30. $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Call 526-5841 for reservations.
- Dec. 14
- Dec. 16
  - HS Basketball at home against Tallulah Falls. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.
  - The Highlands Community Players presents a program of readings appropriate to the holiday season interspersed with live music by community performers. It’s free.

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OFFICE MANAGER AT HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Must have skills in Quick Books, Excel, Windows, Word, good organizational skills and work well with people. Qualified applicants only need to apply. Send resume with references and salary requirements to President, P.O. Box 62, Highlands, NC 28741.

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 and salaries. Inclusion in effective community development. 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 coupled with 5 years operational management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience. All shifts available. Excellent benefit package for full-time positions. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

DIETARY AIDE – Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Duties include working patient tray line and cafeteria line, stock kitchen, washing dishes. Full time position, 10:30 am to 7:00 am, 5 days a week. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.


LPN OR RN AT FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Three 12-hour shifts per week. 7 am to 7 pm. Shift difference gradually increases with age and experience. Full time position, 7 am to 7 pm. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

LPNs and RNs - FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL: Now hiring for PRN positions. If you want to join a team whose focus is on excellent elder care, then this is the place for you. Full time position, 7 am to 7 pm. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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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! Classes for nurses and aides 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 interest in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Judy Mahoney at 828-526-1318 or Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.
Under rainy skies annual Highlands Parade shines

This year’s parade, Saturday, Dec. 3 which was sponsored by The Christmas Tree and the Chamber of Commerce, was the largest yet with 68 entrants. Judges positioned on the balcony of the Highlands Inn selected winners and assigned titles.

Parade Awards

1. Cub Scouts – “We Be Cold” award
2. Soccer Team – “Illegal Use of Hands” award
4. Shriners – “Most Exalted, Esteemed and Honorable” award
5. “South Paws” award
6. Gymnastics – “Perfect 10” award
7. Red Hat Society – “I Don’t Give A...” award
8. Stephanie McCall – “Congratulations” award
9. Girls Clubhouse – “No Useless Boys” award
10. Dogs – “Most Glad It Didn’t Snow” award
11. CHHS – “How Much Is That Doggie in the Manger” award
12. Historical Society – “Ancient August and Honorable Guild” award
13. First Citizens Bank – “Unkind to Geriatrics” award
14. Presbyterian Church – “They Are Precious in His Sight” award
15. Highlands Women’s Club – “Babes in Toyland” award
16. Reeves Hardware – “Nicely Packaged” award
17. McKim – “Macy’s” award
18. Bryson Motor Sports – “5th Place” award
19. Old Edwards – “Sweet Dreams” award
20. Literacy Council – “Letters to Santa” award
21. High Country Photo – “One Hour Christmas” award
22. Highlands Country Club – “Christmas on the Green” award
23. Century 21 – “We Sell Christmas Dreams” award
24. Dieter Harre – “Let it Pour” award
25. Mountain Hardscapes – “Chestnut Roasting” award
27. Lupoli Construction – “Marjorie Wants Your Car” award
28. Church Youth – “Littlest Angels” award
29. Community Bible – “The Dr. Seuss” award
30. Highlands School varsity boys soccer team who advanced to the final four of the state championship.
Winter Night Life
Cyprus
Bucks Cafe
Fressers
SweeTreats Cafe
...on the Verandah
OEI’s Wine Garden

<<< WATERFALLS
Cullasaja Falls 9 Miles
Bust Your Butt Falls 7 Miles
Cliffside Lake 6 Miles
Dry Falls 3 Miles
Bridal Veil Falls 2 Miles

Highlands Map & Guide
PDF Online Version
HighlandsMapGuide.com

Highlands Road, Hwy 64e
Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Skyline Lodge & Jack’s 4 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hosp. 4 Miles
Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS & Fibbers 1/4 Mile

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e
Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Skyline Lodge & Jack’s 4 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hosp. 4 Miles
Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS & Fibbers 1/4 Mile

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526-3320
"However, unfortunately, there are those who would use every means to get what they want against the greater good of the community. The community must protect itself against such occurrences," he said.

"In no place that I have been lately was this tension so intense with lines drawn sharply between individuals and community as at the recent ETJ public hearing. The air was thick with hatred and distrust. The rhetoric was vitriolic. Attempts to disrupt and end the hearing for technical reasons were made. Tempers were hot. I was appalled at the level of hatred and mistrust, and I grieved deeply for our community as I saw this going on.

"We must have some sense of compromise and some reconciliation in our hearts regarding both the protection of the individual and the protection of the community as a whole as we try to come to some kind of mutual consent and respect for the opinions of others."

"We are all citizens of the same community, whether living within the borders of the town or in areas surrounding the town. Borders are arbitrary but our people are all equal and the same in their individual goals for themselves and their families. It is important that we work as a unit to preserve the integrity and well being of the Highlands plateau as we seek to continuously guard our own individual property rights so long as they do not impinge upon the rights of our neighbors."

"As mayor of Highlands, it is my hope that I can help to restore confidence and respect to our town government by helping everyone understand the reasons we do what we do. I hope in my four years to create an atmosphere of reconciliation. There is too much distrust. Without trust, we all lose."

"In the meantime let us keep the rhetoric down, the political opportunists out, and discuss our differences peacefully and in a more civilized manner. I look forward to working with both those inside and outside the borders of Highlands to restore unity, honesty and integrity to our community on the Highlands plateau," he said.

Habitat for Humanity Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn. Dinner is $29.95. Call Main Street Inn at (828)526-2590 for reservations. All proceeds benefit Habitat.