

Holiday Shopping Map **INSIDE**

FREE

Highlands' Newspaper

Inside:

- Christmas Memories pg. 8
- Movie Pix pg. 9
- Ask Fred pg. 5
- Sports Picks pg. 6
- Florist Tips pg. 19
- Christmas Crafts pg. 18

Volume 1, Number 22

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Dec. 12, 2003

The week of Dec. 12-19

Dec. 13 & 14

- **HEARING WISHES** – Santa will be hearing wish lists and posing for photos in Oak Square on Main Street from 10-4 on Sat. and 1-4 on Sun.

- **FREE CONCERT** – The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Sat. and 7 p.m. Sun. A nursery will be provided.

- **BENEFIT** – There will be a benefit for Ralph Owens who suffered a Skillsaw accident at 5 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Dept. There will be live music, barbecue and a raffle. For more information, call 536-4550.

Dec. 14

- **FREE CONCERT** – The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. A nursery will be provided.

- **CANTATA** – The Chancel Choir of Highlands United Methodist Church will present its Christmas Cantata, "Let Heaven and Nature Sing," on Sunday, during the 11 a.m. worship service. All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 15

- **BIRD COUNT** – The Annual Christmas Bird Count on Monday, December 15, will be the final activity of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for 2003.

Dec. 17

- **CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE** – The Children of Highlands United Methodist Church will present "Sound the Bells: The Savior's Born" on Wed., at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. It's a musical drama. Supper is served at 5:30 p.m. and a reservation is needed by Monday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. (526-3376).

Dec. 18

- **FREE LUNCH** – Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. Donations are accepted.

Dec. 19

- **PARTY FOR JESUS** – The Children of Highlands United Methodist Church will have a "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Friday, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. It will include breakfast, birthday cake, games, crafts and more. Reservations are helpful.

Ad hoc committee fields OEI zoning issues

By Kim Lewicki

Last week, public outcry of "foul play" prompted the Town Board to form an ad hoc zoning committee to deal with Old Edwards Inn zoning, planning and appearance board dealings but now the point may be

moot.

Since the Dec. 3 Town Board meeting when citizen Griffin Bell Jr., suggested the Town Board relieve Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein of his Old Edwards Inn project duties, everything has

changed.

"My son has secured financing for his business purchase through Macon Bank," said Gantenbein. "A.L. Williams has absolutely noth-

▪ See AD HOC page 2

2003 HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN

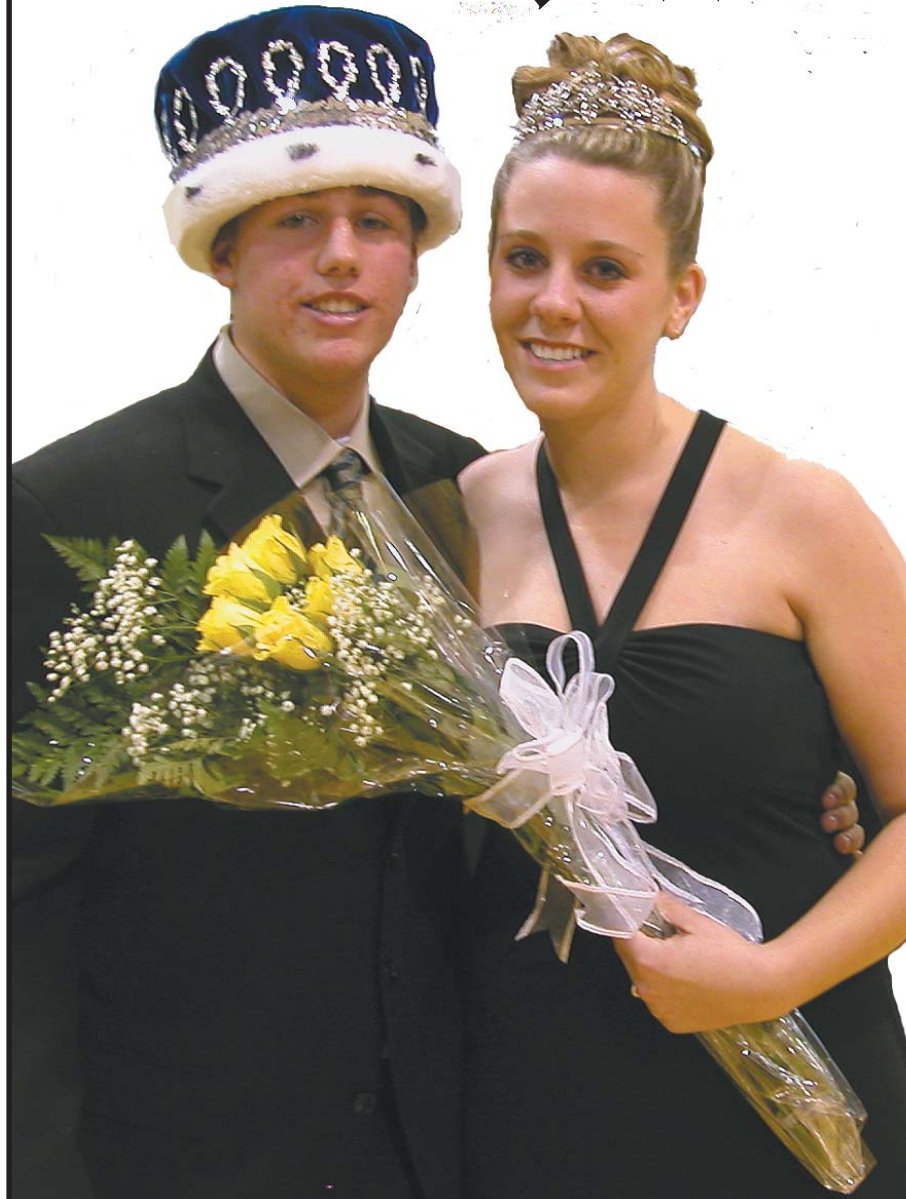


Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands School Seniors James View and Anna Claire Sims. See more homecoming photos on pages 10 and 11, parade shots on page 13.

County schools get high marks

By Kim Lewicki

Public education in Highlands and in the county is in good shape, even slightly better in several categories than counterparts statewide.

According to the N.C. School Report Card released this week, Highlands School and Macon County Schools are where they should be, but there's always room for improvement, said Highlands Principal Jack Brooks.

"Overall we are doing well, and what we're looking at are long term trends."

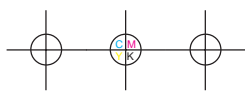
▪ See HIGH MARKS page 2

For now the rock stays put

NC DOT officials and USFS officials are still trying to figure out what to do about the massive slab of rock that fell from Bridal Veil Falls last week.

"It's going to be removed, but we don't know if the area is stable or whose responsibility it is to move it," said Jeff Owenby with USFS.

He said it's likely state geologists will test the area either by drilling or with sound signals but one thing is for sure. "It's not a safe area. People should heed the barricade," he said.



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... AD HOC continued from page 1

ing to do with the transaction."

Previously, Michael Gantenbein had secured financing for part of his business purchase through a Williams capital venture firm. The fact that he is the son of the town's zoning administrator who deals regularly with A.L. Williams' representatives, caused conflict of interest issues to be raised by citizens and commissioners.

Consequently, the ad hoc committee made up of commissioners Dennis DeWolf and Hank Ross and Town Administrator Richard Betz as acting Deputy Zoning Administrator, heard all things "Williams" at the Dec. 10 zoning board meeting. Gantenbein resided over cases not involving Williams.

Zoning board members OK'd two projects on the Rib Country Restaurant site. The renovation of the restaurant which will become a three-meal-a-day "southern food" establishment. And a dry cleaning/laundry facility under Rib Country where Closet Cowgirl used to be.

The plans were approved contingent upon a final built-upon percentage work up and sidewalks as prescribed by the town through its master sidewalk plan.

During two closed meetings last week, Betz told the board that Gantenbein had volunteered to recuse himself from OEI dealings because of the political atmosphere in town concerning his son's financial relationship with Williams and Gantenbein's "work" relationship with OEI projects.

Mayor Allen L. Trott has called a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners for 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Town Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a personnel matter involving Larry Gantenbein in closed session.

"It will be a general airing of this whole thing," said the mayor

He said obviously some things have changed since the board formed the ad hoc committee.

... HIGH MARKS continued from page 1

Once again Highlands School is a School of Distinction, reaching expected growth where at least 80 percent of its students are at or above grade level.

Schools are rated based on the ABCs end-of-grade tests given for grades 3-8 and end-of-course tests given for grades 9-12.

Overall, 86.6 percent of students in grades 3-8 scored at or above grade level in reading and 89.4 in math. District-wide 87.1 percent of students scored at or above grade level in reading, 89.3 in math. State-wide it was 82.6 in reading, 86.8 in math.

On the high school level, the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level was substantially higher in all subjects except U.S. History.

In English, 95 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district, 81.8 percent, the state 81.4.

In algebra I, 94.4 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district, 88.5 percent, the state 78.9.

In algebra II, 87.5 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district, 79.3 percent, the state 79.1.

In Geometry 95 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district, 78 percent, the state 69.9.

In Biology, 83.8 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district, 73.6 percent, the state 61.1.

In Chemistry, 76 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district 75 percent, the state 74.3.

In Economic, Legal and Political Systems, 77.1 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district 67.8 percent, the state 69.4.

In U.S. History, 45.9 percent of Highlands students scored at or above grade level - in the district 55.7 percent, the state 55.1.

Brooks encourages parents to go on-line at www.ncreportcards.org to look at the "total picture." "Compare us in all categories statewide not just district-wide," he said.

• Letter to the Editor •

In Highlands, people still care

Dear Editor:

For the past several years, my family and I have spent Thanksgiving in Highlands. This year, we were treated to the added excitement of the "Great 2003 Day After Thanksgiving Blizzard." Unfortunately, I somehow managed to lose my cell phone while shopping on Main Street just a couple of hours before the snow started. I didn't discover the loss until the next morning. By that time there were several inches of snow on the streets and sidewalks, making my search nearly impossible.

I tried to retrace my steps from the previous day (which included a trip to Cashiers) but was unable to find the phone.. However, I was overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness shown by so many shopkeepers in Highlands who took the time to try to help me. One of the ladies suggested that I check with the Highlands Police Department (HPD), stating, "The people in Highlands are so honest that somebody will probably turn it in." Although my visit to the HPD was unsuccessful, the lady was right. When I arrived home in Knoxville, I had a message waiting from the Highlands Quick Mart stating that they had found my phone.

I contacted Fred Bowers at the Texaco Quick Mart, and he got together with Joe and Marsha Shmaol at Lindy's Gifts & Collectibles, who shipped the phone to me with some items my wife had purchased at their shop. I received the phone yesterday afternoon, and was pleased to learn that not one "900" call had been placed!

I want to express my thanks to Fred and the Shmalos, as well as all of the other shopkeepers who were so helpful. It's nice to know that there are still a few places where people genuinely care about each other. Merry Christmas, Highlands!

John Orr
Knoxville, Tenn.

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

• Obituary •

Henry LaCagnina

Henry LaCagnina, 94, of Highlands, died Tuesday, December 9, 2003 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Giulia Schmentti LaCagnina. He was a retired artist, and was a member of the Episcopal Church.

He is survived by a daughter, Giulia R. Saucier of Hattiesburg, Miss.; and two sons, David H. LaCagnina of Highlands, and Michael LaCagnina of High Springs,

Fla.; one sister, Genevieve Viscarelli of Lewiston, Maine; four grandchildren also survive.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, P.O. Box 190, Highlands, N.C. 28741 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1648, Franklin, N.C. 28734.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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Dressing for 'Parade Day'



The folks at Mountain Fresh Foods are a happy, festive bunch every day of the year, but on Parade Day in Highlands they dress the part. Last year, Bruce Sloan, general manager, started a tradition of wearing "Christmas Shirts" on Parade Day and it stuck. So far, only the ladies and Bruce wear the shirts, but who knows maybe next year the guys will get on board. From left are Bruce, Angie, Renee Selena, Frankie and Pee Wee.

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• Life Under Construction •

Breakaway spirit...

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

Show up like there is no place else you want to be! Or don't go.

Show up and Be Present. 'Tis the holiday season. I know that sometimes it is difficult to even show up at events, let alone be really present. What do I mean?

I'm just talking about putting your heart and soul into your daily activities.

To me, showing up is just getting there but being present means really being attentive and listening to those around you. It's much easier said than done. How many times have you had a conversation with someone and you really don't remember much of it? OK. Don't answer that.

Let's talk about the power of presence. Every human being carries the power of presence. Walt Whitman recognized this power when he wrote in *Leaves of Grass*, "We convince by our presence." This is a wonderful book.

It can be rough being attentive around the holidays. For years, I wrote about depression during the holidays or what some call the holiday blues. I'd like to suggest several tips to help you show up and be present and participate during the holiday by sharing your unique spirit.

Gandhi said, "We must be the change we want to see in the world." The change I would like to see is that people share more of their spirit. We all have it and now just might be the time to let it out. I am sure you know people that spread toxic fumes. Bah Humbug.



1. Lower your expectations! Whatever they are for the holidays, crank 'em down a notch. Here's a challenge. Try not having any at all.

2. Understand that everyone is under stress.

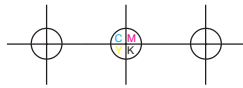
3. I'm not going to mention too much food or drink. You already know that!

4. A dream come true holiday only comes once a lifetime, if that. Most of the movies and photos in the magazines are not even close to reality. And then we are subjected to TV commercials with everyone so huggy and smiley. My favorite is when a guy picks up a gal and swings her around and around and they have huge smiles on their faces. Just once, I like that to happen to me. PLEASE!?

5. Connecting with or being near people you love is what the holidays are all about. Letting people know that you love them and that they are not alone in this world. If you can't be near your family, be near friends. If you can't be near friends, enjoy your own company.

And finally, remember that the spirit of Christmas works best when it is shared year round.

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



• Ask Fred •

Dining Etiquette

Dear Fred:

I am having eight people for dinner and my husband and I are arguing over whether to serve the salad first and then the entree or just sit the whole dinner on the table at once. He says serving the salad first is much too formal for our atmosphere. He is really being a persistent jerk on this issue. What do you think?

Salad Now On The Table

Dear S.N.O.T.T.

First off, never invite eight people for dinner because, including you and your grumpy husband, that makes a total of ten.

Since you only have a table setting for eight, two people are going to have to eat off the plates you got from the last Bi Lo promotion.

Then again, the road you live on is in such poor condition, expect most people without four wheel drive cars won't show anyway. (I did not say the B word.)

Secondly, don't worry about the atmosphere. Keep the room temperature at 70 and don't serve cocktails outside if it is snowing. Practically no one I know of ever refuses to go to a dinner party because of poor atmospheric conditions. Check with Highlands weather the day before, not that that will help much.

Also, never take your husband



Fred Wooldridge

to Italy for fine dining. There's a good chance that he will get his salad served at the very end of the meal and you will have to unscrew him from the ceiling.

If your bone headed husband really wants to turn this into a major tiff then you must realize that a mere salad is not worth all this arguing and bickering. Simply send him to his room until everyone has finished your succulent garden repast and then serve his salad with his entree.

Remind him that he is in charge of the lawn mower and you are in charge of the kitchen.

When dessert is served, make sure he gets an extra small portion. When he gives you that icy glare from across the table and then looks down at his dessert, ask him if he enjoyed his salad.

Remember, training people from Mars is a never ending process.

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

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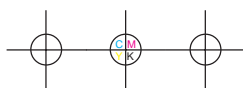
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Christmas Day buffet at the inn



The third annual Christmas Day Buffet benefiting Habitat for Humanity is at the Main Street Inn. Seating begins at noon. Dinner buffet includes, baked ham, roasted turkey, sweet and mashed potatoes, dressing, assorted vegetables, desserts, ice or hot tea or coffee. Wine available by the glass or bottle. The cost is \$24.95 per person. MasterCard, Visa or American Express accepted. Call 526-2590 for reservations. Seating is limited.



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• **Sports Picks** •

Everyday Heroes and Christmas Dreams

Every year during the holiday season folks begin to think a little more about other people and a little less about themselves.

That's one of the neat things about the Christmas spirit.

For me, the Christmas season marks the anniversary of something very special to me. It was only a few years ago when one of my dreams came true at Christmas time.

As kids, we all have heroes – people who we look up to, study intently, even idolize. Whether it be knocking down threes as Larry Bird or tongue-wagging layups as His Airness; hitting a game winning homer as Barry Bonds or getting that clinching strikeout as Mariano Rivera; busting a 90 yard TD run as Walter Payton or throwing that last second TD pass as Montana or Favre – kids dream of being their heroes.

And while they dream of being like someone on TV, or on the radio, or on the field kids also admire other, more tangible heroes – people who are there for you day in and day out and help get you through life.

While this may be hard for some to believe, it shouldn't be. How much more do you understand someone you see everyday?

For some it is parents, for others teachers, pastors, friends, upperclassmen, coaches or even just a passing acquaintance that provide a spark that powers a teenager through the day, a week, a tough time, or even just a short feeling of doubt about their own self worth.

Growing up I had many of these everyday heroes – each one of them providing that extra bit of

motivation or offering just the right message (sometimes even unspoken) to quell feelings of insignificance, frustration or

insecurity.

One particular hero stands out to me though – especially when I think back to those nights playing hoops. He of the smooth, effortless jumper and high basketball IQ – the guy who always seemed to be a step ahead of the



Ryan Potts

defense.

When I was a young player, I wanted to be like him and I looked up to him, for no particular reason other than the fact that he actually spoke to me on occasion, and because I liked his game.

And while I don't remember the day, and I don't remember the reason I remember the words. They weren't the words of an older kid trying to be nice, and they weren't the sarcastic words of a normal teenager, they were just...words. But to me, it was a sense of validation, a sense that all of the work and all of the frustration may just be worth something after all.

Now don't get me wrong, I wasn't an unhappy kid, and I wasn't on the verge of something drastic, but I was frustrated, ready to quit, ready to try something new and different, something that wasn't so hard. But because of those words, I didn't.

When thinking back on my Christmas dream come true, I can't quite remember every detail like I used to – every made basket, every turnover, every boneheaded play. But I can still remember that feeling as if it were yesterday – that

... **SPORTS** continued from page 6

feeling that you can only get when one of your childhood fantasies becomes reality.

And when I look back, I think about the road up to that day, and I think about all the things that could have gone wrong, or could have happened to change history.

And I think about all of the things that maybe could have happened, or should have happened and realize that things aren't merely by chance, and that dreams are not built on luck, or chance, or fortune.

When you look back at your life, and all the dreams that have come true for you, take the time to realize that your dream was built on the backs of thousands of everyday heroes.

Thousands of long talks, hugs, special days, family dinners, unexpected phone calls, best friends, surprise visits or even merely a compliment from someone that you admire and respect.

They all are the building blocks for our dreams – and if just one block is missing, then the whole tower falls.

Some may say that it is sad or trite that an ugly, poorly played basketball game on a Friday night

in December was a dream come true for me, but it's not a sense of accomplishment, or self importance that fills my memories. And the more I stare backwards in time, I realize that it doesn't have anything to do with basketball at all.

In fact, it is a sense of awe – awe of that moment where everyone forgot their grievances, their jealousies, their problems and their fears – where in my eyes everyone forgot about everything but joy-even if it was for only a moment.

And I know that everyone has had that joy at some time in their life, whether it be that moment where you made your parents beam with pride, or your first kiss, or your wedding day, or the birth of your child.

And I know that the Christmas season provides us with the opportunity to thank those everyday heroes that make the joy of our dreams possible.

So to everyone that has ever been an inspiration and a hero to me – thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Merry Christmas and God Bless You all.

Franklin businesses offering percentage of sales for Care Net

The Athlete's Foot and WNC SportsZone are doing more this Christmas than selling shoes and

sporting goods – they are also helping collect food for Care Net.

Care Net is a non-profit organization that provides food to needy families in Macon County. Donate two cans of food and receive \$5 off any pair of shoes at The Athlete's Foot or 10 percent off any purchase at WNC SportsZone.

Donate three or more cans of food and receive \$10 off your shoe purchase or 20 percent off at WNC SportsZone.

This discount will be available through Christmas.



Pictured are Fred Stiles manager of The Athlete's Foot and Tom Geigerich manager of WNC SportsZone.

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FIRESIDE DINING
"As Seen in Southern Living Magazine"



Christmas dinner on Dec. 8




Macon County School board members, several employees at the main office and everyone else who attended the Dec. 8 board meeting at Nantahala School enjoyed a "Turkey Dinner with all the fixings." There was sliced turkey breast (not processed), mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans, hot rolls, apple pie and ice cream. And Sherri Baldwin, who prepared the meal with the help of her staff, said "Yes, the children at Nantahala School really do eat this well."



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- Christmas Memories - Highlands - changing with the times

By Kim Lewicki

Christmas preparation in Highlands wasn't always marked by tree lightings, frantic shopping, and scores of weekend shoppers.

Mary Thompson, mother of ex-mayor John Cleaveland, whose family has lived in Highlands, well, forever, said life in Highlands though good, is quite different from days of old.

"I think we sometimes make Christmas too materialistic. When I was coming up, we didn't do a lot of Christmas shopping. First of all, there wasn't a lot of wealth in Highlands, N.C., like there is now and there were only one or two shops."

Like a lot of people today, Mary and her family cut down their Christmas tree. "At that time, though, we could go anywhere we wanted to get it. Sometimes there was snow on the ground and that was nice," she said.

Traditionally, Christmas is a time for family but in Highlands, bound by impassable roads and blustery winter weather, family was particularly important.

"We didn't have much, but we had family. We loved and cared for each other and that's what mattered." A lot of people made gifts instead of buying them and preparing for Christmas was a community affair, she said.

"We'd bake together and visit each other, take meals and gifts to shut-ins, go to Christmas Eve services at churches," she said. "Even now, spending Christmas Eve at my church, going there

through the snow - that's one of my favorite times of the year."

Though nostalgic about the past, Mary said there are more things going on in Highlands these days and that's good including more communication and more town services.

"If people had to live the way we did then, I don't think they could do it," said Mary.

After WWII there wasn't any

The deep snows of the mid-1900s proved more disruptive for Highlands than snows of 1886 and 1893 because said, Gertrude Harbison, "By 1942 many Highlanders had accustomed themselves to automobiles and electricity without which they found themselves snowbound and incapacitated."

An 11-inch snowfall in 1979 disrupted life in Highlands. But the Blizzard of 1993 called "the storm of the century," threw the town into real turmoil when 16 inches of snow fell in a 12-hour period. - Ran Shaffner's Heart of the Blue Ridge

work in most of Western North Carolina and life was particularly hard in Highlands. "Lot's of us moved to Virginia where it was booming," said Mary. "There was a lot of construction going on there because of its proximity to Washington D.C."

Over the years, life has gotten easier in Highlands. More and more people have year-long jobs but still Highlanders have always had to be hearty especially in the winter.

"We used to be snowbound for

days, even in the '60s. It wasn't easy to get around in those days. You did a lot of walking. You just bundled up with extra clothing. I didn't mind it. The cold didn't hurt like it does now. When you're young you don't pay attention to the cold."

There was a lot of sledding back then, particularly on Satulah and Monkey Hill. More ice skating, too. Harris and Mirror lakes were frozen solid for months at a time but Mary said Mirror Lake was used more because it was larger.

"Skating is almost non-existent

See CHRISTMAS MEMORIES page 14

• Movie Pix •

Video Guy Presents:

The 1991, PG film

"Oscar"

Written by Michael Barr & Jim Mullholland, directed by John Landis, starring Sylvester Stallone and, if not exactly a cast of thousands, several dozens at least, that includes Marisa Tomei, Don Ameche, Vincent Spano, Tim Curry, Kirk Douglas, Jim Mullholland as Oscar, and many more.



Stuart Armor

The Story Line: "Snaps" Provolone (Stallone), mob boss, promises his dying father he will go straight. He is not helped in the slightest by a line of hoods, cons, cops, crooked accountants, real and bogus daughters, and Oscar. One (or maybe more) young man comes to ask for Snap's daughter's hand in marriage (maybe).

A whirlwind afternoon takes place as hoods turn into butlers, strangers into daughters, tailors into hit men, and a really cool, silly, really fast near Marx Brothers routine with a bunch of black bags, some that contain dirty laundry, some filled with jewels.

If you are looking for a deep, dramatic, moving piece of cinematic work of art, keep looking. If you are looking for some fast, clever and silly, this will fill the bill. This could well be some of Stallion's best comic work (admittedly, this is not the most

high praise, but, what the hey, it's a fun bit).

A bit of Three Stooges, a bit of Marx

Brothers

(Hey, if you're

gonna steal ideas, steal

from the best), there are

mix ups, hidden identities,

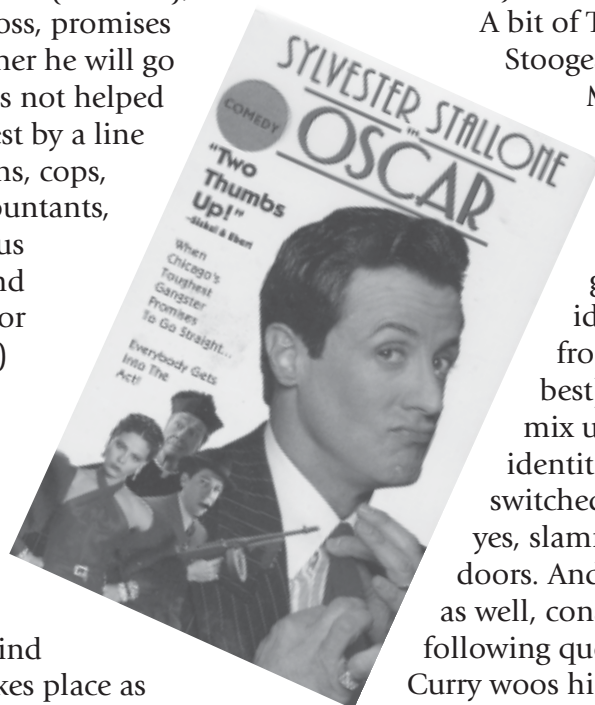
switched bags, and yes, slamming

doors. And romance as well, consider the

following quote as Tim Curry woos his lady love,

"Your diction is surprisingly good, considering your genealogy."

A neat bit of fluff, Stallone really is better at comedy than action (although, sometimes it IS a bit hard to tell which is which). Some more light hearted mob "hits" are Blues Brothers, Fish Called Wanda, Bullets Over Broadway, Family Business, Dick Tracy, and Freshman. These and about 5000 other titles are available at Movie Stop, stop on in and give us a look.



The Animal Barn

Come do Christmas shopping for pets and the people who love them.

- Dog, cat & horse supplies
- Turvis Tumblers & More
- Pet sitting
- Dog training
- Experienced, knowledgeable staff.

A year-round shop at the Franklin Flea/Craft Market
Open Mon., Tues., Thurs., 10-6; Wed. 10-4; Fri.-Sun., 9-4.
Call: 349-3526

Hospital Auxiliary Tree of Lights

Bells (in honor of living friends and loved ones) and Stars (in memory of deceased friends and loved ones) will be placed on the Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree. These tributes are available with a gift of \$25 or more. All money will be used to fund scholarships for students planning on entering the health care field.

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

Everyone is invited to place an ornament on the tree in memory or in honor of a family member.



The tree will be in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Lobby during December

Amount Given: _____

Circle one: In Memory of In Honor of

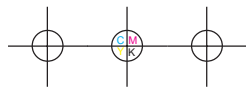
Name: _____

Address: _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary. Donations may also be made at the Hospital Gift Shop or through any member of the Auxiliary.



HIGHLANDS SCHOOL HOMECOMING – 2003

The Highlands School Homecoming Court was presented prior to the Girls Varsity Basketball Game, Saturday, Dec. 6 at Highlands School. From left are Jason Aspinwall and Angela Sanchez, Jacob Chandler and Ramsey Ashburn, Nathan Heffington and Rosalind Ashburn, James View and Brittany Shook, Anna Claire Sims and Zach Wilcox, Margie Potts and Trent Reese, McKenzie Thompson Matt Keener, and Kathryn Coppage and Jeremy Keener.

Photos by Jim Lewicki



Last year's homecoming queen, Tori Schmitt, crowns this year's queen, Anna Claire Sims. Right, Brittany Shook and James View, seniors, in the Highlands Parade. At the Homecoming Basketball game played at Highlands against Tamassee-Salem, the VG won 54-48 and the VB lost 52-59.

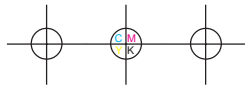


Margie Potts was Maid of Honor of Homecoming Court. Left, she rode in the parade with Trent Reese. Above she dances with Seth Wilson



From left, Liz View, King James View, Brittany Shook, Kim Shook, George Shook and Sherri Sims applaud Anna Claire's crowning.

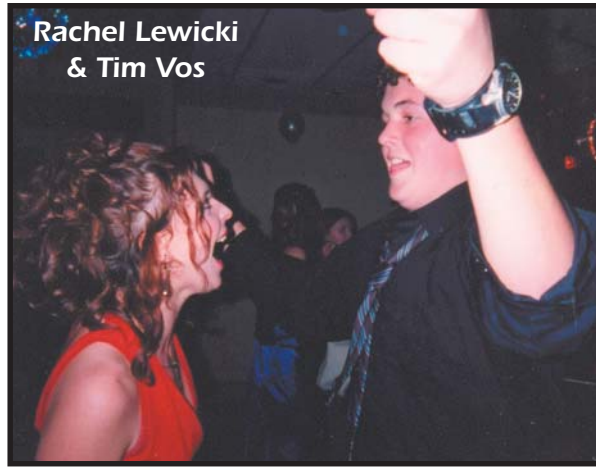




**THE
HIGHLANDS
SCHOOL
2003
HOMECOMING
DANCE,
SATURDAY,
DEC. 6,
WAS AT
HIGHLANDS
COUNTRY
CLUB.
STUDENTS
GRADES
9-12
DANCED
THE NIGHT
AWAY TO
THE THEME,
"HERE'S TO
THE
NIGHT."**



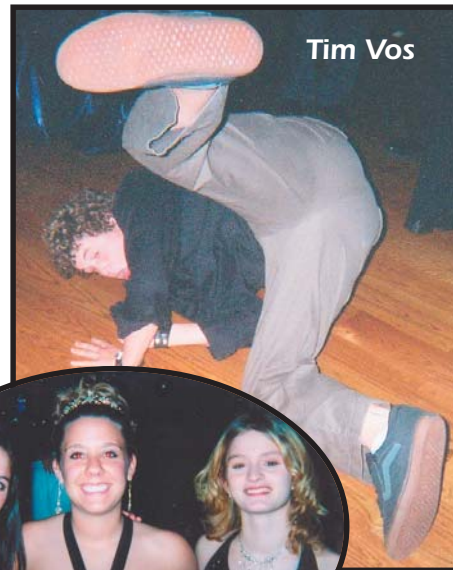
Alana Wilson & Melissa Warren



Rachel Lewicki & Tim Vos



Laruren Carnes & Megan Lewicki



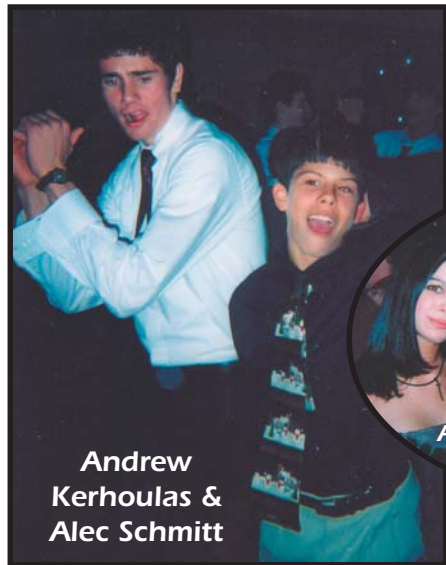
Tim Vos

Photos by Megan Lewicki & friends



Matt Chenoweth & Nathan Heffington

Top photo, Tiffany Austin, Jackie Reed, Whitney Talley and Stephanie Dalton.



Andrew Kerhoulas & Alec Schmitt



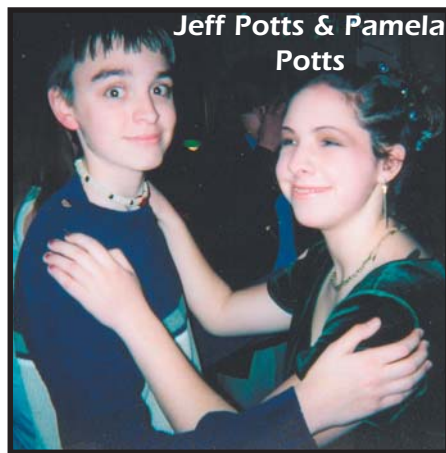
Anna Smith, Anna Claire Sims & Callie Rawlins



Brittany Potts & Eric Fielding



Rachel Power & James View



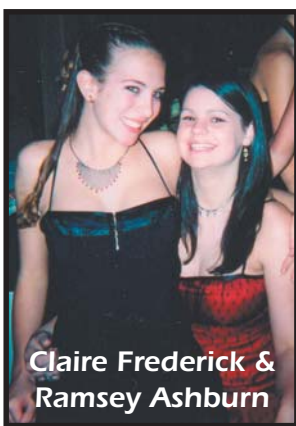
Jeff Potts & Pamela Potts



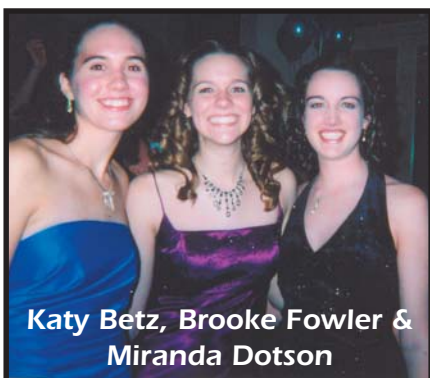
Matt Man Keener



Sara Bates, Travis Schultz, David Hodges & Rebecca Dotson



Claire Frederick & Ramsey Ashburn



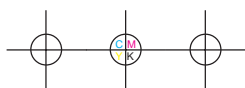
Katy Betz, Brooke Fowler & Miranda Dotson

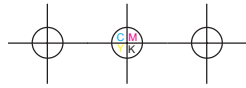


Tony Schmitt, Tori Schmitt & Kelsey Schmitt



Kathryn Coppage, Kelsey Schmitt, Lauren Carnes, Angela Aspinwall, Amy Crook, Allison Waller, & Angela Sanchez.





Aspiring singers – take note

Martin Rice, former director of vocal-choral music at Pfeiffer University, will lead a ten-week voice lesson course for Southwestern Community College.

Rice will focus on the development of an outstanding singing and speaking voice. Students will study intercostals-diaphragmatic breath support, vibrato, range and register, posture, vowel quality and focus, consonant articulation and resonance.

Those interested in improving their voice for solo, choral or ensemble singing, as well as those interested in public speaking and theater will benefit from the techniques taught in this course.

The class will meet from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 20 - Mar. 23, at the First United Methodist Church in Franklin.

There is a \$25 registration fee. For additional information or to register, call SCC's Macon Center at 369-7331.

GA DOT 'heard' citizens' concerns

Attendees of the public meeting about the proposed bridge closing on U.S. 28 were recently sent a letter from Georgia DOT.

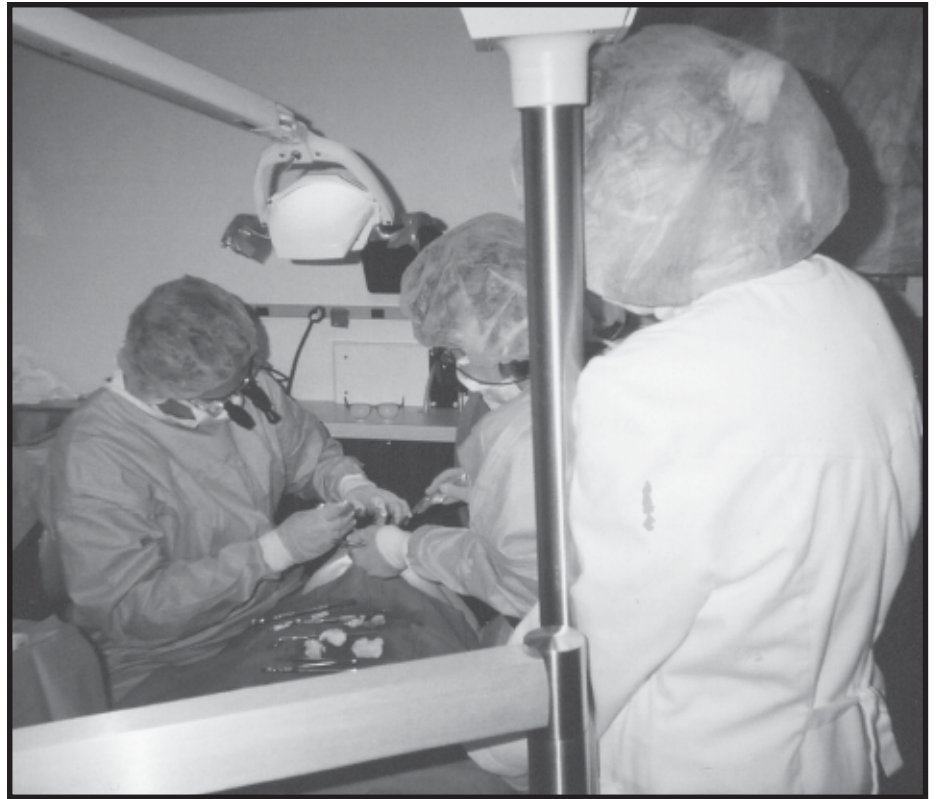
Harvey D. Keepler, with the department's State Environmental/Location Engineer said, "The department understands the concerns regarding the potential closure of the bridge.

"At this time, our preferred alternative is to construct the new bridge while maintaining one lane of traffic.

"Environmental surveys are underway in the area of the proposed project to determine the potential environmental impacts.

"The Department is in the process of developing a plan that will minimize the impacts to both the human and natural environment."

There is no guarantee this will happen but proponents of leaving the bridge open during construction say it's a step in the right direction.



Dr. Joe Mason with assistants Ellie Hogan and Sherry Mason during first implant surgery on Tuesday.

Cashiers dentist offering surgical implant solutions

Medical services on and around the plateau are getting better and better.

Dr. Joe Mason, D.M.D., FADG performed the area's first dental implant surgery, Tuesday, Dec. 9 in his office in Cashiers.

Assisting Dr. Mason was consulting pharmacist and wife, Sherry Mason and Ellie Hogan, CDA, longtime assistant of Highlands dentist Dr. Rodenbeck.

Previously, candidates for dental implants and other advanced restorative care had to travel to Sylva, Asheville, and Atlanta to get the work done.

Mason uses advanced laser technology in implant surgery, periodontal, oral surgery, and root canal therapy.

He says the surgical implant of teeth is the esthetically the best.

"The exact placement of the implant is critical for the most realistic appearance," said Mason. "Mimicking the natural

beauty of teeth with an implant is dentistry's goal and esthetic success or failure is always determined at the time of surgical placement not when the implant is restored,"

He said implants should only be placed in the healthiest of mouths. He has restored implants for years but is now going to "another level" with surgical implants.

Mason is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, College of Denistry and has earned fellowship status in the Academy of General Denistry.

He has studied implantology in a 10-month mini-residency sponsored by AAID through the Medical College of Georgia and has been trained for advanced dental prosthetics at the L.D. Pankey Institute and the Center of Advanced Dental Studies, both in Florida.

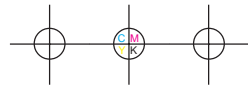
Mason's practice is located in Chestnut Square in Cashiers.

Corbin and Edwards reappointed

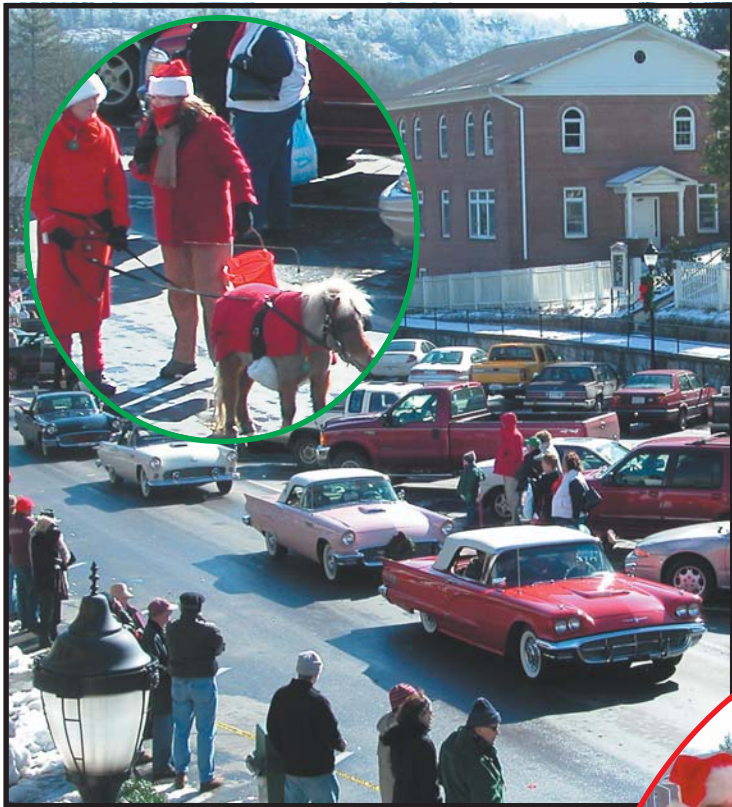


At the Dec. 8 Macon County School Board meeting at Nantahala School, board members re-appointed Kevin Corbin as chairman and Donnie Edwards as vice-chairman of the school board.





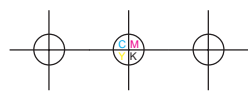
Highlands Christmas Parade – Dec. 6, 2003

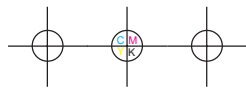


Judges Zeke Sossomon, Marjorie Owens, and Isabelle Chambers on the balcony of the historic Highlands Inn.



Photos by Jim Lewicki





Water with no place to go



Photos by Jim Lewicki

With the deluge of rainwater a few weeks ago, a slight problem arose at the Highlands School gymnasium construction site. Seven inches of rain coupled with runoff from the rock face behind the site pooled up around the footings. "There's just no where for it to go," said board member Donnie Edwards. "The architect has gone back to the drawing board to design a drainage system to alleviate the problem. Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell said the problem will worsen when a pitched roof is added to the picture. "Then it will be coming from the sky and running off the roof as well," he said. Meanwhile, a moat-type arrangement is being used to funnel the water away from the footings.

... CHRISTMAS MEMORIES from page 8

now," said Mary. "Course it's due to the stuff they put on the roads to keep them clear that ends up in the lakes."

In the not-too-distant Highlands past, seasonal folks left after Labor Day and didn't return until the spring. "They couldn't get here, for one thing," said Mary. "The roads weren't as good and there was a lot more snow. Everything closed down tight."

Now people come back to Highlands for Thanksgiving and Christmas and that's nice, said Mary. "That means Highlands is a meaningful place to be. It's not like the cities. They come back because Highlands is special."

"It may change and that's all right. People may come and go, but as long as I can look out and see the trees, I'm happy."



Old Highlands closed up tight, covered with snow.

Extreme weather teasing Highlands to continue

By Kim Lewicki

So what kind of winter are we in for? How many snowfalls?

Are the telltale signs the number of fogs in August? Or, is it based on the date of the first snowfall in November? If that holds true Highlands is in for 28 snowfalls. The first snowfall of the season was about three inches on Nov. 28.

National weather watchers say weather this winter season is likely to be one of extremes – the lack of a "Nino" system is to blame.

"Without a Nino, which tends to keep a weather pattern on hold, we'll have heat waves and cold spells across the country," said officials.

So far that forecast is ringing true here in Highlands. Over the last few weeks we've seen torrential downpours and spring-like balmy days that suddenly turn icy cold.

On Nov. 28, a spring-like morning spawned snow by late afternoon, early evening.

Highlanders and hundreds of visitors who came to town for the Thanksgiving weekend, awoke to a mild, rainy day that hovered around 50.

But by 4 p.m. temperatures had plummeted to the low 30s-high 20s. Wet roads started to ice over and the snow began to fall.

By the time the snow truly ended sometime after midnight,

three to four inches covered the plateau.

True to the weather extremes of late, Saturday, Nov. 29 dawned clear and sunny but stayed cold most of the day and into the night. And it's stayed in the high then low 30s ever since.

Despite Friday night's icy roads, Highlands Fire and Rescue was called out to just one accident at U.S. 64 east and Little Bear Pen Road where a vehicle slid off the road down an embankment.

Most people greeted the blast of cold and snow with glee.

"Who expected this?" said a visitor from Nashville, Tenn. He and his family sledded down Monkey Hill making the most of the meager snow fall.

The weather helped get people into the holiday shopping spirit. Shoppers crowded downtown Friday and Saturday looking for bargains and enjoying the "Norman Rockwell" feel of shopping in Highlands.

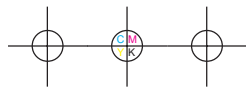
"You'd think they were giving everything away for free," said a visitor from California who gave up trying to find a parking space.

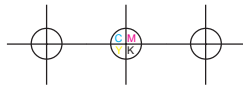
Most merchants said sales were brisk, on both days – some claim Friday was their BIG day others say Saturday outperformed Friday, likely due to the weather, they said.



Photo by Jim Lewicki

When the snow starts falling visitors and locals head for Monkey Hill. A lot of sledding can be done on three inches and a little ice.





■ Spiritually Speaking ■

Tending to the 'holiday spirit'



Steve Kerhoulas
Pastor
Community Bible Church

So much to do and not enough time to get it all done". Take some deep breaths, that's it, breath, one more time...breath" Feel better?

There is an old gospel tune with the words, "Take time to be holy..." The problem isn't that most people don't want to be holy, it's that we don't have the time to be holy. We're too busy doing other things. Granted some things are important but let's face it - so much of what takes up our time is just plain crazy. In most homes, kids are as busy as their parents. Some even have Day Timers to keep track of their schedules. Crazy! Maybe this accounts for the fact that the number one complaint parents hear the most is, "I'm so bored." We have conditioned ourselves into a state of perpetual motion.

So what's the answer? Believe it or not the answer is found in the hymn I quoted earlier. We need to "take time to be holy." We need to spend less time moving and more time sitting. We need to start reconditioning ourselves into thinking that life is more about "being" and less about "doing".

The Christmas season is the busiest time of the year. And oddly it may be the most unholy. Unholy? Yes - far too often we forget what Christmas is about. Christmas is the most exhausting time of the year. It's not about running around like a chicken with its head cut off.. Some people take aerobics classes just to get in shape for all that "it" demands. And let's face it - most of us end the year wiped out physically, emotionally, and spiritually. So what's the answer?

"Take time to be holy/ Speak oft with thy Lord/ Abide in Him always/ And feed on His word/ Take time to be holy/ The world rushes on/ Spend much time in secret/ With Jesus alone" (W.D. Longstaff)

If you're living life but enjoying it less do yourself a favor and set some time apart to be with Jesus. Life was not meant to be lived on the run. Put on the brakes "take time to be holy."

■ Places of Worship on the Plateau ■

Blue Valley Baptist Church

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

Buck Creek Baptist Church

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
Sundays: Worship - 10 a.m.; school & primary classes - 11 a.m.; Women's & Men's Org. - noon
Tuesdays: Women's Org. - 6:30 p.m.; Library - 6-8 p.m.;
Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. - 6:30 p.m.; Young women's activities - 6:30 p.m.

Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

Community Bible Church

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

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Interim Priest: Stephen Hines, 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.; Adult Class - 10 a.m.; Children's - 11 a.m.
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group @ Church - 4a.m.;
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo @ church - 8 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper and Program @ First Presbyterian Church - 6 p.m.
Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sundays: Worship - 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Student & Adult Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30

First Presbyterian Church

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

Highlands Assembly of God

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

Highlands Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Highlands United Methodist Church

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

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family - ELCA

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

Macedonia Baptist Church

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

Mountain Synagogue

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

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass - 9 a.m.
Sundays: Mass - 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

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

Scaly Mountain Church of God

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.
Sunday, Nov. 30: Rev. Monroe Horn will preach at 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.
At 6 p.m. official lighting of the Community Christmas Tree & the singing of carols.

Shortoff Baptist Church

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

The Church in the Wildwood

Horse Cove Road
Old-fashioned hymn-singing led by lay people.
Every Sunday Memorial Day - Labor Day at 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin

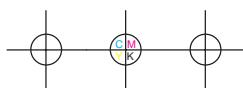
526-9769
Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

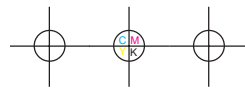
Westside Baptist Church

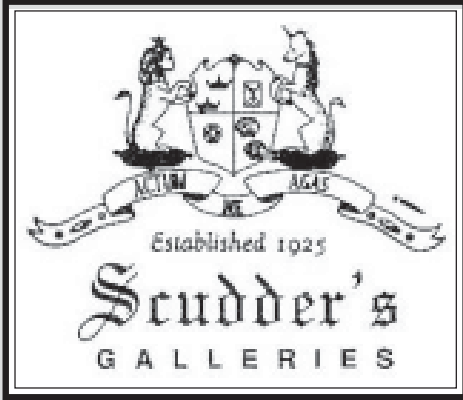
Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship - 11 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.

Whiteside Presbyterian Church in America

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







352 Main Street

OPEN Mondays through Saturdays
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING HEADQUARTERS

- Fine Estate Jewelry
- Antique Furniture
- Oriental Rugs
 - Fine Art
 - Accessories

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The Calloways send greetings from Big Oak Ranch in Ala.



Donnie and Bitsey Calloway with Jacob is 15 and in the 7th, Josh is 13 and in the 6th, and Daniel is 13 and in the 7th in their home at Oak Ranch.

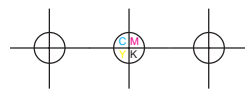
Hello Highlands, Happy Holidays from the Ranch!
Hope all is well in our beautiful little town. We sure miss seeing Highlands all dressed up for Christmas. How we miss all of you as well.

Well, life on the ranch is definitely 24/7. It starts at 5:30 a.m. and ends around 10 pm. I must admit, at the age of 50 (ish), I'm tired! We go non-stop all day. Donnie and I only have three boys at the moment. We acquired all three within a two-week period. That meant a lot of adjusting to do in a small time. Your household can change in the blink of an eye, so you never know. Most of the other homes have 7-9 boys as we speak.

Your day starts with breakfast, a devotional and some chores. Once the boys are off to school, then the race is on to get the mounds of laundry, cooking meals, and the normal everyday chores one would have, done. Add to this all the involvement with school things (they attend a private Christian school that requires parental involvement), doctors and dental appointments, ball game after ball game to attend it gets crazy sometimes.

Upon arriving home from school, it's snacks, homework (they are required a 1-2 hour study time), and their chores. During this time, we're cooking dinner, helping with

▪See BIG OAK RANCH page 18



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... BIG OAK RANCH from page 16

homework (most of these boys come here and they are below level in school), taking boys to or picking up from practices or games.

In your home you may have boys playing at all levels, which means different times. It becomes a real juggling act. After the homework, the chores, the boys try to get in some playing time before dinner. It's dinner and then time to get ready for bed (not their favorite thing to do).

Some of you are reading this and thinking it's no different than my life. I must admit, I often think of the McKim family, how did they do it? But here is the difference.

The boys we deal with are coming out of such dysfunctional families they are not used to being told what to do, or if they are, it's not in a nice way. They are not used to having boundaries in their lives. They are not used to eating healthy meals. They are not used to having a normal bedtime. One of our boys stayed on the streets until 2-3 in the morning. One of our boys had already been kicked out of every school in the county

and was in what they call an alternative school. Every day is a battle just to do the most simple things — brush teeth, put your plate in the washer, pick up your socks....etc.

So you see it is not only physically taxing, but mentally and emotionally taxing. We have often said it is like trying to break a wild horse. Persistence and tons of consistent love.

There are days we feel like we are riding on a rollercoaster — I can do this, I can't do this, I can do this. Then you step back and see how far your boys have come. It's usually baby steps but that's OK. And you know this is why you are here.

This is not a job to attempt without God's strength and wisdom. To Him we give all the glory and praise. Donnie and I are nothing more then willing vessels.

The best Christmas gift you could give the house parents and boys of Big Oak Ranch are your prayers. If we come to mind, please shoot up a prayer, we can always use them.

**Our love to you all,
Donnie & Bitsy**



Bitsy, Donnie and the "boys."



Big Oak Ranch

A Christian Home For Children Needing A Chance

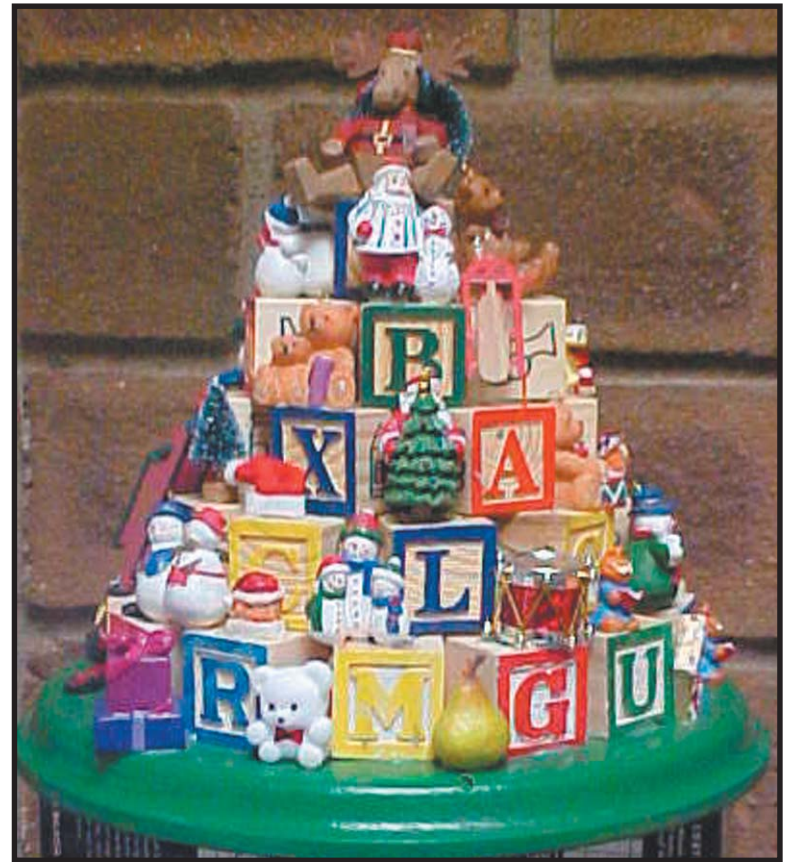
This ministry was started by John & Tee Croyle 30 years ago. Big Oak Ranch has been raised up by the Lord to relieve the suffering of children. To break the abuse and neglect cycle of the child. A child is either growing or withering within their heart and spirit. Today approximately 1,500 children have been cared for by the ranch. Many have gone on to be successful in their adult life.

The national average for houseparents is six months. The average for Big Oak is four years. So we see daily how God has kept his hand on this ministry. You are welcome to visit any time and see first hand how the ranch is run. We would love to have you visit. — **Bitsy Calloway**

• Christmas Crafts •

ABC/123 Christmas Tree

With Sabrina Cashion



Have you ever wondered what to do with some of toys your grown children have left behind? How about your old ornaments and Christmas decorations? Well here is the perfect gift to make and keep or give to friends and loved ones to remember their youth.

Supplies needed:

- 37 to 52 children's abc/123 wooden blocks.
- 50 to 75 mini-ornaments: snowmen, angels, moose, bells, trees, teddy bears, snowflakes, birds, small animals, nativity figurines, and any other miniature ornaments you are able to find.

- hot glue gun
- 8-inch wooden base

Optional supplies:

- artificial snow
 - floral decorations
- You may choose to spell out words related to the season or family member names.

Place your blocks on the base and space them out to fit the base. Begin gluing them in place.

With each layer space the blocks before gluing to insure correct spacing.

Decrease the size of every layer to create the illusion of a tree.

You may choose to make your tree as tall or as short as you desire.

When you have finished gluing the blocks then you may start with your ornaments.

Glue to your hearts content filling the "limbs" of the tree with your little treasures.

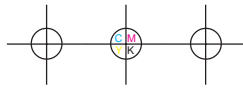
Use little "lights" to fill any small holes.

You may also use floral decorations such as "ting ting," small leaves, small pinecones or any other little items for filler.

Artificial snow may be added to create the look of a winter wonderland

You may also make the tree for the birth of a new baby with baby items and not just for the Christmas season.

Enjoy your tree every year or leave out all year long to enjoy the season every day.



• Police & Fire Report •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Dec. 3-10. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Dec. 3

• At 3:30 p.m., officers were called the corner of Fourth and Church streets to handle a minor automobile accident. There were no injuries.

Dec. 4

• At 5:20 p.m., officers were called to N.C. 28 south to handle a minor automobile accident. There were no injuries.

• Officers responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

• At 5:50 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

Dec. 7

• At 11 a.m., officers received a noise complaint from an anonymous person about construction noise at the Old Edwards Inn job site. Police said the complaint was unfounded.

• At 11:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm activation at Mac's Manor. All was secure.

Dec. 8

• At 11:30 a.m., a resident called the dept. to report a lost or stolen cell phone which was last seen over Thanksgiving.

• At 11:30 a.m., a resident reported a verbal confrontation between another party in Highlands Plaza. Police told her the recourse was to press charges but she chose not to.

Dec. 9

• At 7:30 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving 51 mph in a 35 zone.

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to an alarm activation at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

Dec. 10

• At 9:10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm activation at The Antique Shop on Main Street. All was secure..

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the weeks of Dec. 3-10.

Dec. 4

• The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 28 south. There were no injuries. They directed traffic.

Dec. 6

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands Meadows where someone fell on ice. They were transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where someone had slipped on ice after the parade. There were no injuries.

Holiday Angels at Peggy Crosby



The Peggy Crosby Center is providing Christmas for three senior ladies through the Macon Program for Progress Holiday Angel program. Each of the women live alone and the Center has promised to make their Christmas brighter by providing gifts. They would like clothing, shoes, personal items, fuel, even gift certificates to Wal-Mart. If you would like to contribute to their Christmas, call for sizes and other information at 526-3899

• Florist Tips •

Holiday Decorating Part 2

From the folks at
Best of the Bunch Florist

Luke Osteen from The Little Flower Shop is a hard act to follow when it comes to discussing holiday decorating tips.

Our crew at Best of the Bunch is not exactly known for its wit or humor, so we voted to remain serious but talk about something sure to bring a smile to your face – fruit.

That's correct; we want you to consider using fruit for your holiday decorations. Those of you who visited the Highlands Historical Society Show House this past weekend were treated to wonderful decorations that incorporated fruit to complement the other more traditional holiday decorations.

Let's start with a simple yet fragrant decoration we used for the show house. Take tangerines, oranges or apples and stud them with fresh whole cloves. These can be placed in a bowl, a basket or hung from a ribbon as a pomander to add wonderful Christmas fragrance to your room. Place the cloves randomly or in a pattern to resemble a Christmas ornament.

Other fruit centered ideas include:

• Sugared fruit is a popular holiday option. Simply coat your choice of fresh fruit in beaten egg whites and then roll the fruit in sugar and let dry. The fruit can then be arranged on a plate, in a basket or on a glass cake stand for a lovely decoration. One word of caution, this is for decoration only and not to be eaten.

• Holiday sparkle can also be added through the use of commercially available beaded fruit. Stop by the shop and see some lovely selections.

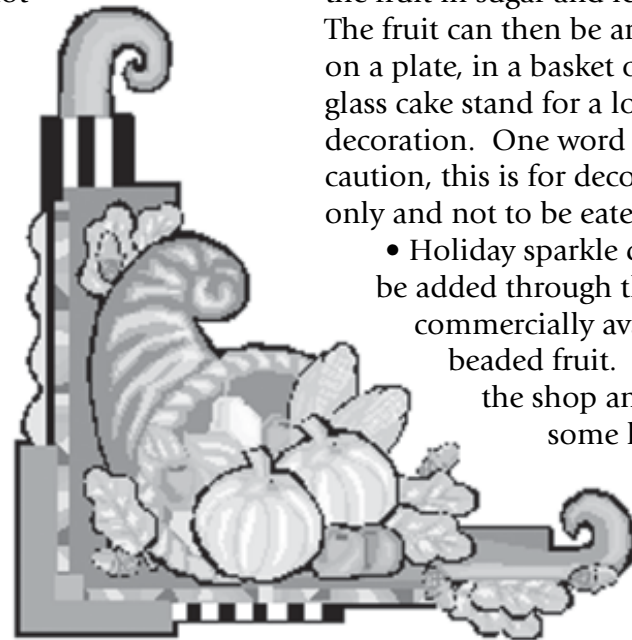
• To add fragrance to your home simmer a

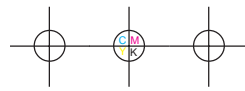
crock full of water to which you've added orange peel, cloves, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg. Your home will smell heavenly.

• Make a colorful and edible centerpiece for your holiday table by filling a bowl with apples, oranges, tangerines, cranberries and whole nuts accented with cinnamon sticks, pine cones and holly.

• Consider a fruit garland for your tree. String the traditional cranberries or expand to a more exotic mix such as kumquats, fresh cranberries and cinnamon sticks.

Happy decorating and Happy Holidays from Kathy, Jan and Debbie at Best of the Bunch!





● Upcoming Events ●

On-Going

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

• Every Saturday night, Arthur and Katie sing and play their instruments at Buck's Coffee Cafe. It's free.

• The Mountain View group of AA has added a Wednesday meeting to its weekly schedule of meetings in the Community Room of First Presbyterian Church at 5th and Main Streets. The new lineup: Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. For more information, call (800) 524-0465.

• The Highlands Emergency Council Raffle has started. Tickets are \$1 each or \$6 for \$5. The raffle is for a \$250 gift card from Wal-Mart and a \$100 gas card from D&J Express Mart. The drawing is Dec. 18. Tickets are available at the HEC office on Poplar Street.

Dec. 13 & 14

• Santa will be hearing wish lists and posing for photos in Oak Square on Main Street Saturday after the parade.

Dec. 12 & 13

• The North Georgia Community Players will present "Miracle on 34th Street," on Friday Dec. 12 at 7 p.m, Sat., Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m., and on Sun, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at the Reardon Theater on the campus on the Rabun Gap -Nacoochee School. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. For information or reservations: (706) 212-2500.

Dec. 13

• The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow. A nursery will be provided.

• There will be a benefit for Ralph Owens who suffered a

Skillsaw accident at 5 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Dept. There will be live music, barbecue and a raffle. For more information, call 536-4550.

Dec. 14

• The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow. A nursery will be provided.

Sunday, during the 11:00 worship service. All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 15

• The Annual Christmas Bird Count on Monday, December 15, will be the final activity of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for 2003.

Dec. 17

• The Children of Highlands United Methodist Church will present "Sound the Bells: The Savior's Born" on Wednesday, at

it will include breakfast, birthday cake, games, crafts and more. Reservations are helpful. If Highlands School has a snow make up day on that date, it will be postponed until Sunday morning, Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m.

• The speaker for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club will be Kaye Gorecki, executive director of the Bascom-Louise Gallery. The club meets downstairs in the back of the First Baptist Church of Highlands. Visitors are welcome.

Dec. 24

• Highlands United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:30 p.m. It is a family-friendly service including Holy Communion and Candlelight. Everyone is invited.

• The Hudson Library will be closed December 24-26 and the Bookworm will be closed December 24 through January 2 in observance of the Holiday Season.

Dec. 25

• The third annual Christmas Day Buffet benefiting Habitat for Humanity is at the Main Street Inn. Seating begins at noon. Dinner buffet includes, baked ham, roasted turkey, sweet and mashed potatoes, dressing, assorted vegetables, desserts, ice or hot tea or coffee. Wine available by the glass or bottle. The cost is \$24.95 per person. MasterCard, Visa or American Express accepted. Call 526-2590 for reservations. Seating is limited.

Dec. 26

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club will hold a holiday meeting with fellowship and a continental breakfast. No speaker is scheduled. Guests are welcome.

Jan. 2

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club will hold its regular breakfast meeting with continental fare and fellowship.

Annual chorale to perform at First Pres.



The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert Saturday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. A nursery will be provided.

• On Sunday, December 14, 2003, 10:45 & 6 p.m., Rev. Russell Ward, an evangelist with the Church of God, will be ministering at the Scaly Mountain Church of God. He and his wife, Naomi have ministered in Germany, Panama and Tennessee and now evangelize across America. You will be blessed by their ministry in the Word and in music.

• The Chancel Choir of Highlands United Methodist Church will present its Christmas Cantata, "Let Heaven and Nature Sing," on

6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary and is a musical drama. Supper is served at 5:30 p.m. and a reservation is needed by Monday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. (526-3376). All are welcome to attend.

Dec. 18

• Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. It's free but donations are accepted.

Dec. 19

• The Children of Highlands United Methodist Church will have a "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Friday, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.,

