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# Highlands' Newspaper

## FREE

Volume 1, Number 19

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Nov. 21, 2003

## The week of Nov. 21-28

### Nov. 21

- **FREE MUSIC** – Singer Cy Timmons will be performing at Highlands Wine & Cheese at Falls on Main beginning at 7 p.m.

- **EAT OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE** – Highlands School junior class is sponsoring spaghetti supper from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the school cafeteria. Each plate cost \$6 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and a desert. To-go plates will be available. This fund-raiser will help pay for the junior/senior prom in May.

- **FREE MUSIC** – Zorki will be performing at Buck's Coffee Cafe from 8:30-11 p.m.

### Nov. 22

- **FREE MUSIC** – Singer, songwriters Arthur & Katie will be performing at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street from 8-11 p.m.

- **FREE WINE TASTING** – From noon until 4:30 p.m. and a free concert by the Cool Creek Ramblers at 7:30 p.m. in the Wine Bar at Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop

### Nov. 24

- **NEED ASSISTANCE** – Applications for holiday financial aid are available at the HEC office on Poplar Street until Mon., Nov. 24.

### Nov. 25

- **FREE MOVIE** – The film, "Miracle on 34th Street" will be shown at PAC on at 7 p.m.

### Nov. 27

- **CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY** – The Macon County Landfill and all recycling centers will be closed on Thanksgiving.

### Nov. 28 & 29

- **SANTA'S COMING** – Santa will be hearing wish lists and posing for photos in Oak Square on Main Street Friday and Saturday.

- **TREE LIGHTING** – The annual Christmas Tree Lighting is in front of the HUMC at 7 p.m.

### Upcoming

- **OWN A HOUND?** – Please participate in the Basset Brigade in the Christmas Parade, Dec. 6. Call Sandie at 526-5852.

## – Q & A with Zoning Administrator –

### Gantenbein explains town's position on OEI project

By Kim Lewicki

The fact that Larry Gantenbein's son has secured financing for the purchase of Bryson's Automotive Center through a company tied to A.L. Williams has tongues wagging across the plateau.

Folks now wonder if Gantenbein will give the OEI project special treatment because of his son's business relations.

"It's just ridiculous," said Gantenbein. "My son is an emancipated 32-year-old who has as much right as anyone else to make a living and do business with whomever he chooses on this mountain. This doesn't involve me."

Mayor Buck Trott echoed Gantenbein's sentiments. "This interpretation is a shame," said Trott. "The idea that a relation of a person employed by the town can't engage in free enterprise is silly."

Trott said three North Carolina lawyers he's spoken to say there is nothing illegal or unethical about the situation.

Still, Gantenbein agreed to answer specific questions about the recent accusation and the town's dealings with the Old Edwards Inn group (OEI) in general.

**The League of Municipalities and the Institute of Government**

**have been contacted about your son's affiliation with one of A.L. Williams' companies — a capital venture company. Why?**

To verify that a man who happens to be my son can have a business dealings with someone outside the

town limits with whom the town is involved without it being an ethical violation. Those agencies verified that my son is entitled to do business on this mountain like anyone else.

**Still, people seem to think that**

▪ See Q & A page 11

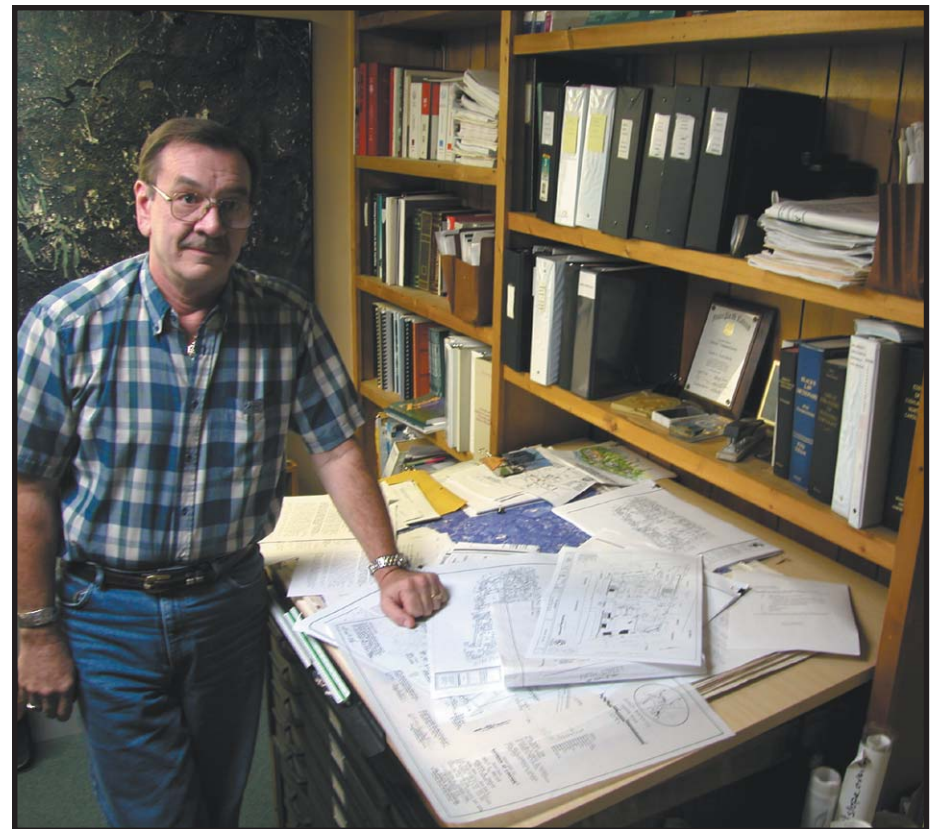


Photo by Kim Lewicki

Zoning Administrator, Larry Gantenbein in his office at Town Hall.

## Wind and rain batter Macon County

By Kim Lewicki

Gale-like weather brought howling winds and sheets of rain to the plateau Tuesday. Enough rain in fact to prompt Macon County Emergency Management to issue a warning.

"Residents are urged to avoid high water areas and vehicles should

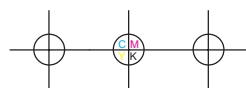
never be driven across flooded highways," said Director Warren Cabe. "Although secondary tributaries are subsiding, main rivers are still at high levels."

At the Highlands Biological Station 7.07 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours. High winds ushered in cooler more seasonable weather

littering streets with scores of branches.

"We have spent an awful lot of time repairing roads today," said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. He said rushing water carved ruts in gravel roads and washed gravel across

▪ See WIND page 4



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## • Letters to the Editor •

### How far should "smoke-free" go?

Dear Editor,

After reading the story by Skip Taylor both in your paper and *The Highlander* about the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital becoming "smoke-free," it does cause me to really pause and wonder about the word "free."

First I'd like to clarify that I am a former smoker, now smoke-free for over 12 years. In addition, I teach Stop Smoking classes to smokers who want to quit. I am definitely of the opinion that smoking is not a good thing to do and anyone who smokes would be better off to quit. So my issue is not that I'm in favor of smoking and I can certainly understand why a health institution such as a hospital would want to encourage their employees not to smoke. With adequate notice the employees have a choice - they can work there or not. Some will have to drive further and it will be more inconvenient to work at another hospital that allows smoking. And it's nice of the hospital to offer free courses in smoking cessation since they're changing the rules.

But is it *really* the hospital's business to say what goes on in a parked car in their parking lot? And is it right for the public, who is not necessarily trying to model health consciousness, to have their right to smoke taken away when they are in a parked car on the hospital premises? There is only one hospital here on the mountain, and there isn't a choice in an emergency.

And in the future will the hospital give up serving fried cholesterol-laden food with possibly harmful chemical additives and sugary desserts in the cafeteria and to their patients? (Because these are also health hazards.) And will they check their employees' cholesterol levels and blood pressure and blood sugar when they arrive at work? (Because high cholesterol, high blood pressure and high blood sugar are also health hazards.) And will they need to fill out daily questionnaires revealing anything from unprotected sex to heavy alcohol use to not exercising regularly? (Because these are also health hazards.) Maybe the public, too, will have to demonstrate a certain level of wellness to get treated there.

I was just wondering just how "free" "smoke free" really is, and what other "freedoms" might be in the works.

**Betty Holt  
Highlands**

### A word on the current chamber

Dear Editor,

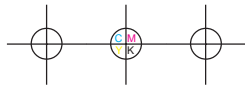
Hats off on editorial on current chamber of commerce board and directors. They have clearly shot themselves in the foot so many times as to be totally crippled. I remember the chamber of three years ago as a really well respected and viable member and contributor to the entire Highlands community.

**Jim Meiring  
Highlands**

▪See LETTERS page 8

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 •

### Richard Delano Potts

Richard Delano Potts, age 70, died at his home on Thursday, November 13, 2003. Born November 17, 1932 in Highlands, Potts was the son of the late Samuel Eugene and Alice Reese Potts. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Highlands and served there in several positions for many years. He served for 6 years on the first Zoning Board of Highlands and volunteered for the Highlands Memorial Park. Richard was a master carpenter and painter and is well remembered by family and friends for his wit and humor. He was preceded in death by one brother, Leon "Dead-eye" Potts, and two infant brothers, Harry and Clarence; nephews Douglas and David Potts; and niece Pam Little.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kathryn Sue Hopper Potts. He is also survived by his children, daughter Katrina Dianne Lavery and husband Tim; and sons, Richard Anthony (Tony) and wife Terri; Phillip Jeffery; and Samuel Alan and wife Megan. Also surviving are grandchildren, Denise and Jessica Potts; Kelsey Schmitt, Seth Schmitt and wife Jenna; Carter Potts; Christopher and Katy Potts; and one great-grandchild, Dillon Schmitt. In addition, he is survived by a brother, Louis E. (Bud) Potts, wife Mary and sister Doris Potts, all of Highlands; sisters, Betty Little and husband C.J. of Lawrenceville, Ga.; Emily Houston and husband Gene of Rabun Gap, GA; and Linda Calloway and husband Joe of Ocala, Fla., and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Richard's life was held on Saturday, November 15 at Bryant Funeral Chapel in Highlands at 2 p.m. Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at a later date.

The family requests memorials be made, in lieu of flowers, to Highlands Historical Society, PO Box 940, Highlands, NC 28741 or Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, PO Box 742, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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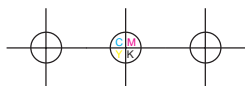
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## Fall Festival proceeds put to good use



**This year's Fall Festival and 5K & Fun Run raised \$15,594 for Highlands School. At the Tuesday, Nov. 18 faculty meeting, PTO presented members of the faculty and administration with \$150 for use in their classrooms. Also, caps & gowns for the Class of 2004 will be purchased from Fall Festival proceeds.**

... WIND from page 1



Photo by Jim Lewicki

### Torrents of water cascade from Dry Falls after the Nov. 18 storm

many paved roads in town.

Several areas in town were unable to drain properly because of drain pipes clogged with leaves. "We've spent a lot of time cleaning out culverts, too," said Nix.

Some places in town are just low – especially on Fifth between Laurel and Chestnut and midway down Laurel Street.

"Years ago, when people lived full-time in one of the houses on that street the fire and rescue department had to evacuate the people in the middle of the night," said Nix.

Nix said it's not so much that the creeks and rivers overflowed, but

rather there was more water than the drainage system and pipes could handle in a short period of time.

"We'll be cleaning up roads around town over the next several days," he said.

In the county, flooding damaged at least four homes and destroyed a private bridge providing access to approximately 10 homes.

In Macon County, initial estimates of damages including real property and personal property, repairs to private drives, damaged signs and other minor repairs is expected to exceed \$250,000.

### Historical marker to honor Harbison

On Saturday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m., the Highlands Historical Society will host the unveiling of the first North Carolina landmark to honor a local Highlands citizen.

A newly erected Highway

Historical Marker will commemorate the life of Professor Thomas Grant Harbison. The public is invited to join the Society along with several of Harbison's descendants for a brief ceremony in front of Town Hall.

### Bring stuffed animals to the parade

Please bring a new or nearly new stuffed animal with you to the Highlands Christmas parade, Saturday, Dec. 6. Adults will be walking with the Highlands United Methodist Church Float and will collect the animals which will be given to several agencies for distribution during the holiday season.





## • Ask Fred •

### Dealing with the opposite sex

**Dear Fred:**

I am having trouble with my boyfriend. We have been going together for several years and I just can't get him to commit and take our relationship to the next level. He has moved into my spacious home, doesn't have to work because of my large income and he treats my maid and butler like they were trash. I am at wits end on what to do.



Fred Wooldridge

**– Practically out of Patience**

Dear PooP:

You have lots of company. There are hordes of women out there who can't get their boyfriends to the next level, mostly because men don't have a clue what you're talking about. Once our basic needs are met, we go into "status quo" mode and we don't do levels. Don't forget what planet we are from.

You are obviously not doing enough to further this relationship. Try leaving the toilet seat up for awhile, buy him a new fishing pole and keep lots of beer in the frig. Oh yes, I almost forgot, fire the help and hire a maid and butler that are not so trashy.

### "DEAR FRED" column

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.

### Gingerbread houses at the Biltmore



Highlands School Foods II Class accompanied by Ann Tate and Sherry Sims, attended the 2003 National Ginger Bread House Competition at the Grove Park Inn, located in Asheville, NC. Students from left to right are Michelle Dendy, Matt Keener, Anna Claire Sims, and Amber Manley. The class is preparing to bake, assemble, and decorate their own ginger bread houses beginning the week of November 17t

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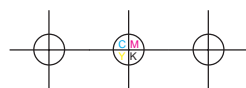
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## Spaghetti Supper at Highlands School

Highlands School junior class is sponsoring spaghetti supper November 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the school cafeteria. Each plate cost \$6 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and a desert. To-go plates will be available. This fund-raiser will help pay for the junior/senior prom in May.

## • Obituary •

### Douglas Charles Niedenthal

Douglas Charles Niedenthal, age 53, died at home on Wednesday, November 5 in Franklin, North Carolina. He was born in Batesville, Ind., on September 22, 1950 to parents Margaret and Leslie Niedenthal of Franklin County, Indiana.

Doug grew up with his family in Hamilton, Ohio and graduated from Taft High School in 1968.

After he graduated college in 1975 from Miami of Ohio University in Oxford, Ohio, Doug worked teaching 8th grade English and with runaways; out of the many hats he wore, this was his favorite work.

He moved to the Tampa Bay area in Florida in the early 80s, where he later met and married his wife, Polly Holt of Hampton, Va., on November 12, 1966. After a decade as a Property Appraiser for Pinellas County, Florida, Doug retired early to follow his dream and live in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina. There he served as a Tax Assessor in Haywood County and as a reporter for The Franklin Press in his new hometown.

Doug loved his work and was as conscientious on the job as he was privately. Throughout his life he continually sought out truth and beauty; his loves in life were to make music, to play golf and to be with the people he loved. There are many of us who will miss him greatly.

Doug is survived by his wife, Polly Holt of Franklin, N.C.; his sister, Rebecca Krebs and husband Chris of Dayton, Ohio; two nieces, Christy Pelt and husband Steve of Dayton, Ohio and Sarah Krebs of Nashville, Tennessee. Doug's parents preceded him in death.

A Memorial Service was held in Franklin, North Carolina on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. until sunset on the Tasse Bridge of the Little Tennessee Greenway.

There will be a second Memorial Service in Hamilton, Ohio on Sunday, November 23, 2003 at 2pm in the clubhouse at Twin Run Golf Course. A casual get together for friends will be at Wolpert's in Hamilton on Saturday, November 22, in the evening from 8 p.m.

A third Memorial Service will be in St. Petersburg, Florida on Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. until sunset on the Pier in Gulfport, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, your local branch, or to Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, Attn: Bo Aldige, 1600 Duke Street, suite 500, Alexandria, Va., 23314.

Arrangements have been handled by Macon County Funeral Home, Franklin, North Carolina.

## Big Smoke-Out at hospital

**Belinda Ivey is one of approximately two dozen employees at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital who have kicked the smoking habit as part of an all-out campaign to make the hospital campus smoke free and tobacco free, beginning this Thursday, Nov 20. That is also the day designated as the national "Great American Smoke-Out." Tobacco use will be prohibited anywhere on campus, not just inside hospital buildings as in the past. Hospital officials are asking patients, visitors and the public in general to cooperate with the new policy aimed at encouraging better health and enhancing safety.**







## Officials say annual fund drive as still much needed at hospital

**By Skip Taylor**  
Contributor

While the hospital has either spent or is spending approximately \$16 million over the last several years on new facilities and equipment, officials say its annual fall appeal for support is as essential as ever. The hospital's Annual Fund Drive is currently under way.

"The hospital has been the recipient of very generous support from our communities in recent years, especially for new construction and expansion of facilities. And for that we are very thankful," says Bill Gaston, chairman of the Foundation. "However, support for capital needs doesn't necessarily translate into revenues to cover the cost of providing the medical care we all need. Unfortunately, reduced reimbursement from managed care and Medicare continue to make it difficult for the hospital to generate enough revenue to cover its costs of operations."

After two years of essentially operating at a break-even level, the hospital showed a loss of nearly half a million dollars in the 2001-2002 year, and finished this past fiscal year (which ended Sept. 30, 2003) with a loss of \$625,000, before depreciation. Officials are forecasting a still larger deficit for the year now under way.

"The board of trustees has taken the position that the hospital has made substantial progress in the last 10 years in both the level and range of medical services offered here, and the board has agreed we don't want to see us have to take a step backwards," said Administrator Jim Graham. "Our goal has been, and still is, to balance the budget through operating revenues, but that is becoming more difficult to do."

For one thing, changes that began three years ago in the way the Federal Medicare and Medicaid programs reimburse for outpatient procedures and tests are only now being felt, so the hospital expects to receive even fewer dollars this coming year for the services it renders.

Last year, for example, the Hospital received only 61 cents per dollar of charges for services covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and some managed care plans— that represented

nearly \$7.7 million in lost revenue. The amount is expected to decline to 59 cents per dollar charged in the year ahead.

"The Hospital's mission is to be the first line of defense for major illness or trauma, as well as caring for more less acute medical problems. That takes exceptional physicians, a highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art equipment," says Jack Calloway, Hospital CEO and president of the Hospital Foundation, "Thanks to the generosity of area residents we've been able to make substantial progress in keeping pace with the health care needs of our communities. However, that will require the continued support of everyone."

So why keep building?

"These building programs are absolutely essential, not only to provide necessary space for current services, but also to provide the space needed for new services now under consideration that do not rely as heavily on Medicare reimbursement to generate revenue for the hospital," said Calloway. "More medical office space is needed now to accommodate new physicians as they relocate to the area."

"What may seem like a lot of growth all at once for the Hospital is really only making up for many years of little or no growth before the new hospital became a reality (11 years ago next spring). Expansion of services and construction of new facilities in recent years only reflects the rapid population growth in the area during the last decade and the public's desire for having quality health care service available close by," observes Calloway.

"As everyone knows, the addition of new services and facilities doesn't just happen. Extensive planning, coordination, recruitment efforts, and financial resources are all necessary to add needed medical services. And that costs money," said Gaston, chairman of the Hospital Foundation. "Contributions from the hospital's many friends are what make quality health care possible."

For information on making a gift to either the Annual Fund Drive, please contact the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation at 828-526-1435.



### Thanksgiving Buffet

Two seatings: 12:30 & 2 p.m.

Dinner includes:

- Carved lamb, ham & turkey
- Bourbon sweet potatoes
- Green bean almonline
- Casseroles
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Desserts include:

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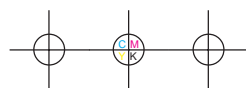
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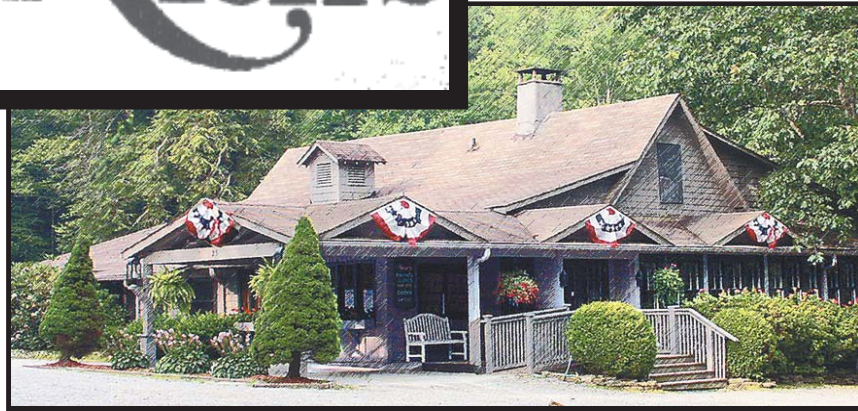
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... **LETTERS** from page 2

## Chamber too big for its britches?

Dear Editor:

Our small company, Mountain Down Rappelling Adventures, joined the Highlands Chamber of Commerce in 1989. In the beginning, some volunteers were uncomfortable in recommending our visitors pay us money to jump off of cliffs. In time, our relationship with the Chamber grew and we enjoyed being members.

Several years before we sold our business, we stopped getting referrals from the Chamber. Potential and former customers who had misplaced our phone number complained they asked for us by name and were told there was no such company. Luckily, merchants in the area knew us well and were able to give potential customers our phone number. We walked into the Chamber office and asked about our company by name. When we were told they are not located in Highlands, we knew we had to drop our membership. We had been in business 14 years.

To this day, no one has ever called to ask why we dropped out.

Highlands Chamber of Commerce is a microcosm of what has happened to Highlands. It has just gotten too big for its britches.

While we have runaway growth, we are still just a little mountain town in so many ways. I think year round residents want to hang on to that for as long as they can. I think the Chamber of Commerce should help them do that.

**Fred Wooldridge**  
**Highlands & Florida**

## • Sports Picks •

### Potts' big-time ACC Preview

Man, hoops is already here and I am stoked about the start of the 2003-2004 season. Due to the recent ACC expansion there is not a lot of time left to enjoy the traditional ACC. This year the ACC will again be one of the top 3 conferences in the nation, with two national championship contenders and a host of teams that will be playing in March. So without further ado-here are my picks for the season.

9. Clemson:

The Talent

The Tigers return Chey Christie, Sharrod Ford and Chris Hobbs to give them a nice trio of experienced players. Christie is a good shooter and Hobbs has a fantastic post game. Olu Babalola will give them a tough defender, as well as a candidate for the "name that sounds most like a Ricky Ricardo song" award. Hobbs and Ford are tough on the front line, but Christie is going to have to get some help from one of their incoming players for the Tigers to succeed.

The Strategy:

The Tigers will be solid on the interior but will give up a lot of outside shots with their lack of speed. Purnell got the most out of his talent at Dayton, and will do the same at Clemson-however; he needs to get a few more athletes before Clemson is ready to compete.

8. Georgia Tech:

The Talent

Tech brings back a roster full of athletic guards. Marvin Lewis, BJ Elder, Jarret Jack and Will Bynum all can score and defend. However, the front court has little depth past center Luke Schenscher and forwards Robert Brooks and Anthony McHenry. Schenscher can be a force if he stays healthy, and



**Ryan Potts**

Lewis and Elder can both shoot and drive. Bynum is lightning-quick and will be eligible to play in December.

The Strategy:

Coach Paul

Hewitt loves to play up-tempo, and this team is perfect to do just that. Lots of athletes and depth in the

backcourt should allow the ramblin' wreck to create a lot of turnovers on the defensive end. Unfortunately, their front court is too thin to give them a chance in the ACC. 7. 7. Virginia:

The Talent:

Four of the Cavs top five players from last season return. Majestic Mapp and fellow senior Todd Billet will start at guard. Junior forwards Devin Smith and Elton Brown return as well. Sophomore Jason Clark showed flashes of brilliance, and coach Pete Gillen (who has the largest cranium since Cro-Magnon man) has brought in a talented group of freshmen. Devin Smith is a classic scorer who can fill it up from 3 and slash through the lane, but other than him, UVA lacks the athleticism that they have had in the past.

The Strategy:

Gillen loves to press and run fast break basketball. Unfortunately for him, this team is less suited to do so than his past squads. UVA will need to take advantage of their size in the post with Brown and Clark and work inside out to free their shooters. Billet especially must be more consistent for UVA to compete in the ACC. This could be the year that Gillen actually uses all of his timeouts in the first half.

6. Maryland:

The Talent:

Nick Caner-Medley, John

▪ See **SPORTS PICKS** page 12





## • Life Under Construction •

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, Nov. 21, 2003 - Page 9

### I'm Constructing Again...

Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

I am writing this column at 4:59 in the morning on the day of the closing of my home. Yes, I just sold the dream home that I built. The home I pulled my own building permit, B1955, and took on the task of the general contractor for the process. My post and beam home. The home I wrote about in my latest book, which by the way can be found just in time for Thanksgiving at Chapter 2 in Cashiers and Cyrano's Bookstore in Highlands.

I am thankful for the experience of building a home. Really I am. So many life lessons in such a short time frame. Actually I did build it from start to finish in seven months. I am also very grateful that it sold to the first person who walked into the door and understood the true charm of this mountain home. More about that later.

I am telling you this because once again this brings to the forefront the issue of downsizing. I moved to a smaller place only to find myself surrounded by way too much "stuff." Believe me when I say that I am not stretching the truth as I report this to you. Just ask any one of my friends that helped me move. Even the movers would concur and they got paid by the hour.

What's my point? I have several. The first is that I find a much smaller space works better for me at this time in my life. The more space I have, the more treasured "junk" I collect.



Let it go. Let it go. Let it go.  
(Sung to the tune of let it snow.)

While I am feeling pretty bad about some of the stuff I have clung to over the years, I did run into someone, whose name I promised I would not mention to protect the innocent, who told me a story of some of the items that were transported during a move. Not once, not twice, but three times! During the last move, a plain white ceramic toilet tank cover was discovered. It was moved it anyway. Now you know he's a man, don't you? He discovered two folding wood chairs identified as not sturdy enough to sit on, that he "borrowed" from the New York City Department of Public Works in 1969. And the last item he would admit to was a 15-year-old propane tank, which by the way is not refillable after 10 years. I was feeling a bit better after that conversation. By the way, thanks ZR.

As I write this, I am attempting to recover from my move. Not that I am counting, but there are 18 steps up to the front door of my new home and then one has to go back down as well. If you multiply

▪ See LIFE UNDER... page 16

Have you ordered your copy of *Life Under Construction*? Just call 828 743 9600 or email [melspeaks@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.ilovemountainrealestate.com). Her first book, *Random Thoughts and Mine Always Are. Conscious Detours to Creative Power* will make you laugh, cry, and think! Her next book, *Life Under Construction...A Work In Progress* is due out this month and can be purchased @ Chapter 2 in Cashiers or by visiting [www.maryellenlipinski.com](http://www.maryellenlipinski.com)

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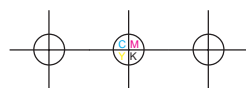


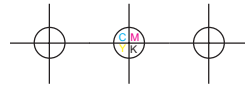
Adults: \$24.95  
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\$10.95

11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Roast Tom Turkey w/  
Southern Style dressing &  
gravy
- Stuffed Pork Loin w/apple,  
walnut stuffing & glazed  
fresh Granny Smith Apples
- Roasted Prime Rib of Beef  
w/Au Jus and garlic mashed  
potatoes
- First Course (Buffet Style)
  - Corn Chowder
  - Mixed green salad w/  
assorted veggies

- Caesar Salad
- Ambrosia
- Cranberry Sauce
- Fresh breads & butter
- Sweet Potato Souffle
- Desserts:  
Homemade Pecan Pie,  
Pumpkin Pie, Festive Bread  
Pudding w/whiskey sauce





# N.C. Historical Marker to Honor Prof. Harbison

By **Ran Shaffner**  
Contributor

**O**n Saturday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m., the Highlands Historical Society will host the unveiling of the first North Carolina landmark to honor a local Highlands citizen. A newly erected Highway Historical Marker will commemorate the life of Professor Thomas Grant Harbison. The public is invited to join the Society along with several of Harbison's descendants for a brief ceremony in front of Town Hall.

Professor Harbison, a pioneer in the study of Flora in the southeastern U.S., first came to Highlands over a century ago during the spring of 1886. He and his friend Elmer McGee had walked from Pennsylvania, studying the animal and plant life of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Soon after his arrival, Harbison became the principal of Highlands Academy. One of the first public graded schools in the State, it stood where Town Hall stands today and housed the original bell that currently serves as the Town clock.

Harbison was born in Forest Hills, Union County, Pennsylvania, on April 23, 1862. He began teaching at the age of 17, attending school during vacations, and received a Permanent Certificate from the State of Pennsylvania at the age of 22, the youngest to receive such a certificate, which certified him to teach in any public school of the State without further examination for life.

Continuing his studies under professors from Bucknell University, he finished a full college course without attending any one year continuously. His specialty being botany, he analyzed and identified 350 plants, the normal requirement for the course being only 65.

After his arrival in Highlands and establishment of its first school, he also founded the Highlands Scientific Society, a precursor of today's Highlands Biological Station. It met regularly to discuss topics of general interest in the natural sciences. According to its stated purpose, it sought to educate the masses "to the point of observing intelligently the phenomena of nature as written in the soil, plant life, and rocks, thus making

experts of the farmer and the merchant."

During the first seven years that Harbison managed and taught at the Highlands Academy, he also completed a full four-year correspondence course from the City University of New York, leading to a Bachelor of Science degree but including such subjects as psychology, methodology, old Greek education, and old Hebrew education. At the same time he completed a correspondence course for a thesis in botany through the National University in Chicago and passed a rigid examination for his Ph.D. in 1888.

By his own choice, Harbison seldom, if ever, used any titles after his name. He eschewed being called doctor, so the townspeople and his students addressed him as Prof, and his neighbors in the countryside called him Mister. His education was certainly unconventional, for he spent countless hours in the classroom as a teacher but very few as a student. Essentially self-educated, he made himself a uomo universale with his wide-ranging erudition in both the arts and the sciences.

His library was extensive, for it contained over 1,000 volumes by the time he was 21. At 31 his collection was known as "the best school library in Western North Carolina." Throughout his life it continued to grow, and most of it is preserved today by the Highlands Historical Society.

In 1893 Harbison took a year's sabbatical to travel in Europe, where he studied the methods and results of schools in Norway, Sweden, Denmark,

Germany, and Switzerland. He studied at the University of Norway and also at the University of Leipzig.

In 1897 he accepted employment as collector of plants for the newly established Herbarium of George Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate. He and fellow Highlands resident Frank Boynton spent the spring and early summer of 1898 in North Carolina, studying and collecting plants, and the late summer and fall in the Rockies, the Cascades, and mountainous ranges of the West Coast.

They continued studying and collecting in the southeastern U.S. for the Biltmore herbarium until it closed in 1903. Including many rare and little-known plants that had never before been identified, their collection was described in their periodical, Biltmore Botanical Studies. When Vanderbilt died in 1914, his wife donated Harbison's and Boynton's collection to the National Herbarium in Washington, D.C.

In 1905 Harvard University employed Harbison as southern field botanist for the Arnold Arboretum, directed by Charles Sprague Sargent. The Arnold Arboretum intended to grow every species of tree and shrub in the world that would survive in its climate. Harbison was asked to find unknown and little-known trees and shrubs and to trace the distribution of the known ones.

For the next twenty-one years, from 1905 until 1926, he traveled over the southern states, collecting material for a revision of Sargent's indispensable Manual of the Trees of North America. Harbison's and Sargent's letters, covering their botanical and

arboricultural projects during this period, have been preserved by the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Among Harbison's discoveries of more than a hundred new species of perennial herbs, the best known is perhaps the large red Trillium vaseyi. He also discovered a species of willow that took his name, Salix harbisonii. Another was the Harbison Hawthorn (Crataegus harbisonii); and a third, a beautiful Linden tree now known as Tilia monticola.

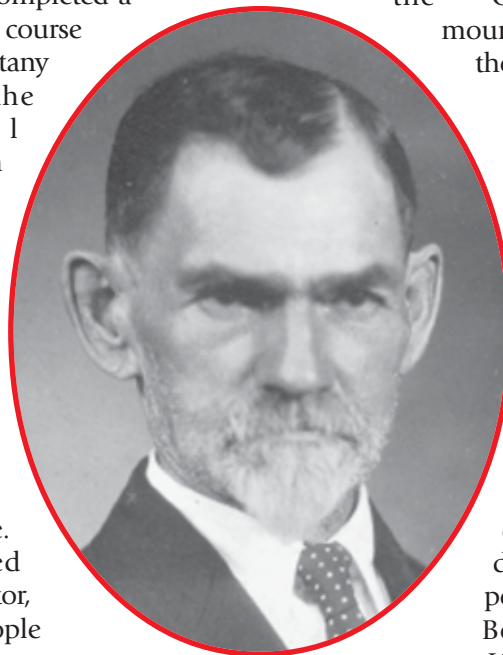
Within the corporate limits of Highlands, he found two hybrids. One was the chestnut and chinquapin. The other was the white oak and chestnut oak. But his insatiable drive to identify all the flora of the Highlands plateau never impinged on his determination to protect his finds from thoughtless explorers who didn't value them. "I believe," he would say, with a twinkle in his eye, "in keeping hogs from the woods."

Even while Harbison was traveling for Sargent, he kept his home base in Highlands. Indeed, from 1909 until 1911 he taught local students at the Emmons Industrial School at Shortoff community.

In 1929 Harbison did botanical work for the Geological Survey of Mississippi. In 1933, at age 71, he was hired by the University of North Carolina to assemble the W. W. Ashe Herbarium. The following year he was appointed Curator of the University of North Carolina Herbarium, a position he held until his death on January 12, 1936. Just before his death and in recognition of his contributions to the science of botany, the University of North Carolina chapter of Sigma Xi elected him to active membership.

Among Harbison's many contributions to education, he was a significant influence in the establishment of Western Carolina State Teacher's College, now Western Carolina University, at Cullowhee, N.C. He strongly advocated manual training, including a garden and workshop, as part of the elementary school curriculum.

After Congress passed the Weeks



**Thomas G. Harbison  
(1862-1936)  
Botanist and educator,  
pioneer in the study of Flora  
in the southeastern U.S.,  
made his home  
in Highlands, 1886-1936.**

■ See HARBISON page 11







## ... HARBISON from page 10



**Highlands Academy, the first Highlands School, built in 1878. Photo courtesy of the *Highlander*.**

Act in 1911, he became a pioneer in the acquisition of national forests for western North Carolina. But he was adamantly opposed to what he called "short-sighted" National Forest policies that valued trees primarily for their timber. He was an early promoter of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

His regard for the sanctity of nature accounted for his euphoria over the purchase of the top of Satulah Mountain by the Highlands Improvement Society in 1909. The Society wanted to preserve Satulah in its natural state for public use in perpetuity. Harbison praised the Society, exclaiming, the top of Satulah "is OURS, ours to keep forever. No money grubbing skinflint without any soul can ever acquire this top and then put up a toll gate to charge admission to what he the same as stole from God. I mean just what I say. No man has a right or can acquire a right to charge his fellow man toll to visit the tops of God's mountains."

Many estates in western North Carolina and in neighboring states owe their landscaping to Harbison's knowledge of native plants. He was landscape architect for the Thomas E. Hart House and Kalmia Gardens in Hartsville, S.C., which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. His ten-acre orchard farm on the southern slope of Satulah Mountain in Highlands served as a testing ground for the hardiness of many varieties of apples as well as many new crops developed by the South Carolina Agricultural College and Experimental Station at Clemson, S.C.

In 1901 he ran a small plant

business based in Highlands, called the Plant Exchange. It was grown from seeds collected from all over the southeast and Europe. He shipped wild plants on demand to many different states, including the extremely rare *Shortia galacifolia*, discovered by André Michaux on his first trip to the Appalachians in 1787. This distribution helped to assure the herb's survival in many areas, including Highlands, where it still grows today.

Until the last year of his life, when he was 74, Harbison could still climb steep mountain paths up to fifteen miles in a day. Indeed, during his lifetime by his own count he traveled by foot, from the swamps of Florida to the mountain slopes of Switzerland, the equivalent of three times around the world. By far the majority of these botanical excursions took place in the mountains, piedmont, sand hills, and coastal regions of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

It is entirely fitting and long overdue that a man of Harbison's stature and dedication to public service and the protection of much that is beautiful on the American continent, particularly in the Southeast, should be honored by the State that his work helped to protect and preserve. As an educator and pioneer in the study of native plants, his influence extended far beyond the confines of Highlands, while bringing honor to the town he proudly called his own.

**Ran Shaffner is the author of "Heart of the Blue Ridge Highlands, North Carolina" available at The Hudson Library and Cyrano's Book Shop on Main Street.**

## ... Q & A from page 1

**you may now be beholden to Williams — that you may allow things for the OEI group you wouldn't allow for others. What do you say to that?**

If my son had gone to Regions Bank to secure financing, would I have been beholden to Regions Bank? There are only two types of people making allegations. Those that don't know me and those that do know me and have a personal agenda or an axe to grind with the OEI project. Anyone who cares enough has come to me and asked me point blank. The bottom line is there are no favors for OEI. OEI meets or exceeds every regulation imposed on them by the town, county and state. Their attitude has always been "Tell us what is we have to do and we will do it."

**It's clear that the OEI project is changing the face of Highlands both on the surface and underground, so to speak. Can you tell us how the town is coming out on the deal as far as infrastructure goes?**

As far as sidewalks go, they have exceeded town sidewalk specs by putting in brick instead of concrete. In fact, it was their offer to brick that brought to light the town's need to readdress its master sidewalk plan.

On lower Spring Street – where all is required is a six-foot wide sidewalk to the right of way at road grade – they are going to considerable expense to maintain the mountain character of the town by saving trees and maintaining the terrain. They have also given the town license to trespass on two feet of their property to accommodate angled parking there. This means the spaces on Spring Street will be deep enough for safe coming and going.

Also on Spring Street between The Rib Country and The Kelsey-Hutchinson Lodge, they have given the town license to trespass where the current parking spaces encroach onto two feet of their property. If they didn't do that, the town would have to eliminate that parking because it wouldn't be deep enough.

On the Rib Country lot, at the

town's request, they agreed to install individual water meters to all the buildings instead of one main meter. In that case, there is the added expense of the individual meters and the installation of them.

Across from the ball field on U.S. 64 east, OEI is eliminating a section of the town's old pressure sewer and converting it to the more expensive gravity flow system. They are doing this to accommodate their own needs, which is to get their property on Ron Sanders Lane on the municipal sewer. But, this benefits the town because this type of line requires less maintenance. As far as the town is concerned, a gravity line is better whenever you can get it.

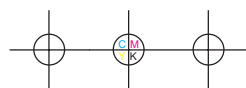
**Though the planning board, appearance commission and the zoning board have OK'd the OEI project each step of the way, some people think Williams has gotten away with something at the Rib Country lot — particularly when it comes to setbacks. Can you explain the thought behind the give and take there?**

First of all the entire project has gone through every single permitting process required by the town. On the lot there were several old buildings which have been used as employee housing by various companies over the years. Each of the old buildings had setback violations – two similar to the Main Street Inn where parts of the building are in the town right-of-way. Initially, they were going to tear them down and build new buildings around the perimeter of the lot with parking in the middle. But, the property is surrounded by streets on four sides with a setback requirement of 25 feet from the right of way.

The setbacks hindered their ability to develop the lot so they requested a setback variance. The zoning board denied the request. So then OEI decided to remodel the old buildings where they stood – which they can do under our ordinance.

Now two of the buildings – part of the Rib Country restaurant and the front of a building along Fifth Street actually stood in the town's right-of-way. The town jealously guards its rights-of-way to the fullest extent possible. With its rights-of-way clear,

▪See Q & A page 20







**Front row (L-R):** Barbara Branham, Anna Rish, Jenni Rish, Jan Ramirez, Jessica Hovis, Kristen McCall, Jake Brewer, Michael Russell, Noah Birchard, Cody Hervey, Travis Waldrop **Middle row (L-R):** Terry Atkinson, Amanda Bateman, Kathryn Campbell, Karri Matthews, Danielle Stickney, Sarah Gorski, Tyler Reece, Fay Chase, Kristina Phillips **Back row (L-R):** Chris Stamey, Scott Jones, Justin Boucher, Kelly McCall, Taylor Bryson, Megan Ehrenkauf, Susan Barnes, Brandi Monroe, Jamie Barnes, Caden Brown, Danielle Reese

## New Century Scholars Class of 2009 recognized

**By Jennifer Jones**

Community Service Coordinator

Recently, 49 seventh grade students at Macon Middle, Highlands and Nantahala schools were inducted into the New Century Scholar Program during a ceremony hosted by Southwestern Community College.

Students, their families and friends, and educational officials from Macon County and SCC celebrated the occasion with a cookout and awards ceremony.

The New Century Scholars Program, which began in 1995, is a collaborative educational effort among the public schools in Macon, Jackson and Swain counties and Southwestern Community College.

The New Century Scholars program targets "high potential" students at the end of sixth grade and provides extra support to those students through their middle school and high school years.

Students are nominated based on their potential for academic success, yearly promotion and leadership ability.

Selected students must display effort in the classroom and have a

positive attitude and desire for education. They must display good behavior and character and meet the county attendance policy.

Upon completion of high school, each student, who has successfully followed the contractual agreements with the schools and the parents, will be awarded a tuition scholarship for each of his/her two years at Southwestern Community College.

Western Carolina University has added a guaranteed scholarship that will enable students who complete the NCS program and earn an Associates Degree at SCC to continue their education at the university for two years and earn a Bachelors Degree.

In addition to maintaining good grades and behavior, students are required to perform 10 hours a year of volunteer service.

In addition to the 49 seventh graders, there are currently 163 New Century Scholars in grades 8-12 in the Macon County Schools. The Macon County Schools Class of 2002 was the first graduating class of New Century Scholars, with 20 graduates, and the Class of 2003 had 18 graduates.

## ... SPORTS PICKS from page 8

Gilchrest and Travis Garrison are the only experienced Terp players. Freshman Mike Jones is ready to contribute immediately, and Maryland's high profile freshman class also includes highly touted big men Ekene Ibekwe, Hassan Fofana and Will Bowers. DJ Strawberry will also see minutes, and opposing fans should have fun with him when he is on the floor.

**The Strategy:**

Gary Williams (also known as Captain Aneurysm) flex offense requires patience and precision to be effective, and I am not sure that will be the case with such a young team. Look for more zone pressure from the Terps this year and a lot of inconsistency. One night they will look like world-beaters and the next they will look like a middle-school team. By the end of the season they will be scary to play.

**5. Florida State:**

**The Talent:**

The Seminoles are led by senior guard Tim Pickett who was named to the preseason All-ACC First Team. Along with Pickett, senior forward Michael Joiner, senior guard Nate Johnson, senior big man Mike Mathews, junior forwards Anthony Richardson (The Turtle) and Adam Waleskowski and sophomore guards Andrew Wilson and Todd Galloway all contributed last year. Frosh Guard Von Wafer and forwards Alexander Johnson and Al Thornton are all highly touted recruits that will make the Seminoles extremely athletic.

**The Strategy:**

Starting to see a theme here? The ACC is all about athletes, and the Seminoles have plenty of them. If Wafer lives up to his hype then the Seminoles could actually finish higher than 5<sup>th</sup> in the league. One potential problem for coach Leonard Hamilton will be finding minutes for all of this talent, but if they can share and play defense they will be NCAA bound.

**4. Wake Forest-**

**The Talent:**

Wake Forest may be the deepest team in the conference. The Deacons feature guards Derek Gray, Taron Downey, forward Vytus Danilius and center Eric Williams (the man-child), junior forward Jamaal Levy, and sophomore center

Chris Ellis. Also, watch for freshman phoneme Chris Paul, who will be starting by the end of the year. Eric Williams is the key for this team-he has the size and touch to be the dominant post player in the conference, but he can't stay out of foul trouble.

**The Strategy:**

Coach Skip Prosser is under the radar as far as big name coaches go, but he can get it done. The Deacs have a ton of talent, but they lack the go-to scorer that an ACC team needs in crunch time. I look for Paul to develop into that player, but it won't be until next season. Also, note that Wake Forest runs some of the same inbounds sets as your very own Highlands Highlanders.

**3. NC State**

**The Talent:**

Julius Hodge is the star of this team. He is a streaky scorer and lockdown defender who can be special if his trap is shut. Hodge's support will come from senior forward Marcus Melvin and senior guard Scooter Sherrill. At 6-foot-10 junior center Jordan Collins is the biggest player on the team. Role players on this year's team include junior forward Levi Watkins, and sophomore Cameron Bennerman. The key for the Pack is forward Ilian Emtimov, who could be the most valuable big man in the ACC because of his passing ability.

**The Strategy:**

Coach Herb Sendek is on the hot seat, but since he installed the Princeton offense the Pack has been tough to beat. If Emtimov and Melvin can stay healthy then they will be the point forwards out of the high post and cause major matchup problems. Because State plays so differently than any other ACC team, they are going to be difficult to prepare for. Teams must execute in their halfcourt defense to defend the Pack's style of offense-and that will get State to the dance this year.

**1a. North Carolina-**

**The Talent:**

The Tarheels boast the nations best starting five with guards Ray Felton and Rashad McCants, Forwards Jawad Williams and Jackie Manuel and Center Sean May.

■ See SPORTS PICKS page 13





## ... SPORTS PICKS from page 12

What they do not boast is depth. Melvin Scott, David Noel (out with injury) and Byron Sanders are supposed to contribute, but Noel was the only bright spot last year and he is out for 6-8 weeks. If any of the Tarheels go down then they immediately drop a spot or two in the conference standings. Felton is the nation's best player-bar none. He is slicker than a defense lawyer and has only one weakness (inconsistent outside shot) that may have been corrected with a summer in the gym. McCants made waves last year as a frosh, but failed to impress me. His attitude and demeanor are not consistent with UNC basketball, and his defense is ridiculously bad. May is an enigma following his foot surgery-he is immensely skilled and has fantastic hands-making Felton's dribble penetration even more dangerous.

The Strategy:

The Tarheels want to go up tempo, as they struggled in the halfcourt last season. Manuel is their best defender, and Roy Williams will use him to blanket the other teams top perimeter player. The key for the Heels is if they can get the ball to May on the inside-if they can do this then it will make their halfcourt game better and it will open up the 3 point line for their shooters. Also, Cryin Roy MUST assert his authority early in the season. The inmates were running the asylum at the end of last season-and Williams cannot afford to have his players (i.e. McCants) causing locker room problems this season.

1. Duke:

The Talent:

Duke is conferences' most talented team from top to bottom, with senior Chris Duhon, junior Daniel Ewing, and 6 returning sophomores. JJ Redick is the best

shooter in the college game and maybe beyond. Shelden Williams and Shavlik Randolph provide power on the inside, and reserves Mike Thompson, Sean Dockery and Lee Melchionni can all provide skills off the bench. Freshman Luol Deng was the top freshman not named LeBron, and is expected to start and perhaps be the next Carmelo Anthony. Of all this talent, sophomore Shav Randolph will be the lynchpin for the Blue Devils-if he can stay healthy and give Duke another inside presence then they will not have to settle for outside shots.

The Strategy:

Duke has been a favorite to win it all pretty much every year as of late (thanks to Dukie V's pontificating no doubt) but they haven't produced. Here is why. They shoot way too many three's and have been playing with less structure on offense-which let's their talent shine through, but doesn't win big games. I think Coach K has finally returned to the mantra that talent wins games but execution wins championships. Look for Duke to be more disciplined offensively this year and more focused on getting Shelden Williams involved inside.

There you have it — and for the record, I went with Duke just barely over UNC for the following reasons.

1. Duke's depth
2. UNC's thin bench and Noel's injury
3. I want to see Roy Williams cry some more
4. I am a homer
5. To provoke Dooley, Skip Keener and other assorted UNC fans

Correction:

In last week's column, I talked about Kayla Owens when I meant Kayla McCall. I apologize.

## Historical Society's Christmas Show House

The old Elliot House is the Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Show House this year. It will be open Dec. 5-7. Friday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Shuttle service will be provided from the Rec Park to the home. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Cyrano's Book Shop, The Chambers Agency or D&J Express Mart anytime after Thanksgiving Day. Tickets may also be purchased at the Rec Park prior to departure.

For more information, call 787-1050.



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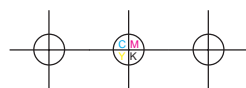
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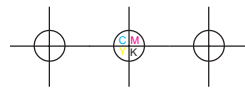
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## ■ Spiritually Speaking ■

### Encounters with God



**Community Bible Church  
Worship Pastor  
David Bee**

The old man walked slowly toward the tent. The people watched as he bent his well-worn frame to enter. They had seen him approach the tent many times, but each time they stood to watch. His wrinkled hands, still strong, parted the canvas as he stepped inside. And then it happened, as it always did. A large cloud, shaped liked a massive pillar, descended from the sky and positioned itself at the doorway of the tent. All the people stood in awe and began to worship. They knew what was taking place. They called it the "Tent of Meeting," for there a man could go to inquire of the Lord and meet with Him. But with Moses it was different. It was no mere "meeting;" with Moses God spoke face to face, as a man speaks with his friend (Ex. 33:11). And now as they watched the cloud-pillar at the entrance of the tent, they knew that God was with His friend.

You probably get goose bumps just thinking about it. I mean think of it: a man speaking with God face to face as a man speaks with his friend. I love the fact that we can be friends of God. It is one thing to call Jesus our best friend; it is quite a different thing for Him to call us His friend. We like knowing that He is always there, that we can call on Him anytime; but certainly, it is more amazing for Him to call on us to do His work, to share His heart with us. Yet this is the very thing that awaits us-the joy of being His friend. I am so grateful for the wonderful way that different ones in the Body of Christ have helped us recapture the childlike innocence in our approach to God. We have learned how to call Him Father, and to crawl up on His knee, so to speak, and let Him whisper His affections to us. I am thankful for the freedom we have rediscovered in our approach to God. In a personal and meaningful way, prayer and worship have become our conversation with God. Aspiring to be like Moses, we have learned to call Him our friend and to allow Him to make friends of us.

But there is one crucial point to bear in mind: Moses' relationship with God did not begin face to face. Do you remember the story? In Exodus chapter three, the young Moses, strong and well-built, trembled in the middle of the wilderness. As the voice boomed from the fiery bush, the grown man tried to hide his

■ See SPIRITUALLY page 15

## ■ 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.

### **Christian Science Services**

On the corner of Spring and Third streets  
526-2830  
Sunday: Morning Service – 11 a.m.  
Wednesday: Evening Service – 7 p.m.  
Tuesday & Friday: Study room open 2-4 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  
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.  
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo @ Hampton Inn – 8 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Supper and Program @ First Presbyterian Church – 6 p.m.  
Thursdays: Women's Cursillo Group @ Library – 9:30 a.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 p.m.  
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 a.m.  
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**

Pastor Allen Melton  
Sundays: Radio Program 1340 AM – 8:30 a.m.; School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m.; Evening – 6  
Aug. 31: Rev. Melvin Shuler, a Pentecostal preacher will preach. For more information call 526-3212.

### **Shortoff Baptist Church**

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

### **The Church in the Wildwood**

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### **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.







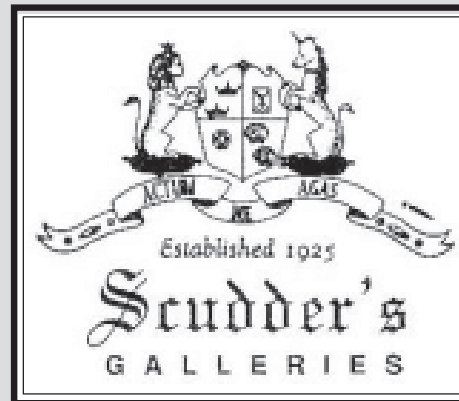
## ... SPIRITUALLY from pg. 14

face. Quickly, he unfastened his sandals, placing his bare feet on the hot desert sand. God had required him to remove his shoes by way of introduction. This was the prologue to a life-long journey of walking with God. There the former "prince of Egypt" stood, shaking and afraid. He hid his face. Why? Because he dared not glance upon the living God. Here we don't see friendship, or intimacy. This isn't "running through the field with Daddy God." This is fear, terror, awe. This is "O God, You are so holy....I'm nothing like You...Please don't strike me down!"

You see, I don't think we can really know the friendship until we know the fear. We only truly understand and appreciate God's mercy and grace in the light of His awesome and terrible holiness. That is why when God initially reveals Himself the response is usually terror. In Exodus 19 we find God "introducing" himself to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai. Billows of smoke, peels of thunder and lightning strikes are His expression of choice. The people are so frightened that they begin to back away. Moses pleads with them, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Sadly, they didn't understand and rejected the invitation that God had extended. The book of Romans follows a similar progression in presenting the Gospel to us. (Remember the "Romans Road"?) Paul begins by stating that all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. He goes on to add that the wages of sin is death. Then he marvelously outlines the plan of God and the miracle of the salvation that has come to us through "one Man's obedience," and how by faith in Christ we share in His life. Salvation is only meaningful when we realize what it is we have been saved from. Actually, almost every Biblical account of an encounter with God chronicles the mortal human falling to his knees and hiding his face to avoid locking eyes with the One Who is called Holy. And almost every account shows God or the heavenly messenger reaching out to the human, calming his fear and calling him to relationship.

There is a kind of fear and awe that turns to love and grateful devotion when friendship that would otherwise be preposterous and presumptuous is suddenly offered. Let me illustrate. You would never dream of a friendship with the President of the United States or the Queen of England. This is because we hold a certain amount of fear and respect toward them. Yet were they to offer their friendship to us, we would gladly accept, and would quickly become their most devoted and loving companion. This is also because of our fear and respect for them. We are devoted because we value the friendship; we value the friendship because we never thought it possible; we never thought it possible because we respected them so much that we thought them to be too great for us. When something we never dreamed possible becomes a reality, it is of infinite value to us. We were never worthy to be God's friends, but He offered it to us: at the expense of His own life, while we were His enemies. Think of it.

To understand His transcendence is to appreciate His imminence. Psalm 25:14 says it best: "The Lord confides in those who fear Him." When God looks to share His heart with someone, He goes to the ones who fear Him. Just as it was in the life of Moses, so it is with us: the friendship begins with the fear.



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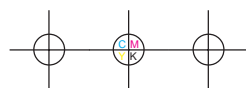
### **Brick Oven Pizza**

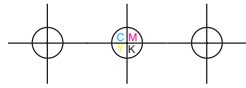
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## Highlands School student makes stage debut in 'Nick the Beard'

Chase Jenkins, is anything but your average High School Freshman. This straight A student at Highlands School is a member of the Chess Club, Art Club and the Interact Club.

This December, he has a starring role in The Instant Theatre Company's Christmas play, *Nick the Beard* by Collin Wilcox Paxton and Scott R. Paxton, which performs Dec. 4-7, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

"Chase Jenkins is a fine young man," commented ITC co-founder and playwright-in-residence Collin Wilcox Paxton, "and it is always exciting to watch beginning actors explore their creative potential."

Jenkins, who is 14, got his first taste of the theatre world as an acting student two years ago in the Highlands Middle School Drama Club, created by Sara Mayer and taught by ITC artistic director Adam Heffernan.

"From the very beginning, I knew Chase was a natural," said Heffernan. "His comic timing and relaxed nature onstage makes him a rarity among young performers. In

a showcase of scenes a few years ago, someone commented that he was a young Noel Coward, which is a perfect description of his intellect and wit." Jenkins continues his acting training with Heffernan in the ITC Theatre Education classes.

Jenkins plays "Jimmy" the young protege of the whimsical central character known as "Nick the Beard." Nick is Santa's devoted helper who assists in a series of last minute emergency situations. Nick describes those kind of situations as ones in which "someone does not mail their Christmas wish to Santa in a timely manner, or not at all!" Jenkins is joined onstage by three other students of Heffernan's, Sally Wheeler, Cara Hedden and Grace Brussard.

"I was a little nervous when I was asked to play Jimmy," Jenkins says, "but it's turning out to be a great and fun experience - working with Adam and the other members of ITC."

If you'd like to catch Jenkins in his stage debut, call up the ITC box office at (828) 342-9197 or stop by the office in The Peggy Crosby Center, in Highlands.



Photo Credit: Edwin Poole  
Audubon Volunteers Bill Hightower, Brock Hutchins, Edwin Poole, Mike Kaiser, and Gerry Doubleday with the Chimney Swift Tower they built and erected at the Highlands Biological Center.

## ... Life Under Construction from page 9

200 or so trips and multiply that by 18, that's a lot of stepping. Buns of steel I have. Well, not really.

And so I ask, how about just cleaning out one drawer? Usually it's a drawer in the kitchen with ... well you'll find out what's in it.

If you don't really love something to the point to where it makes you want to pause with a hint of delight, or if it doesn't

have a special meaning for you, let it go!

As I read over this column, I noticed that I said I had two points but only gave you one. You can draw your own conclusions for the second point. Frankly, I am a bit ragged around the edges and as is this column. And how can I say this eloquently? I can't remember my second point. I'm just too pooped!

### ■ Correction ■

In last week's paper, we misidentified two participants in the Highlands Falls CC Gala for volunteer personnel. From left are Dan Shomper, Fire Chief James "Popcorn" Manley, James Ramey and John Crowe.



## Audubon grand finale and wrap-up

The Annual Christmas Bird Count on Monday, December 15, will be the final activity of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for 2003. We'll gather early that morning and go out in teams to count birds in different areas. The Christmas Count is part of a three-week count covering the North America and provides valuable information on bird numbers and distribution. More information on the overall count is available at [www.audubon.org/bird/CBC](http://www.audubon.org/bird/CBC).

If you can participate in our local count, please let Edwin Poole (526-2775) or Brock Hutchins (787-1387) know as soon as possible, so they can organize teams.

This year, Audubon hosted six public programs, including the Owl Prowl in July, the final visit from the popular Eagle Lady Doris Mager in August, and the Birds of Prey presentation in September.

Members and guests participated in 10 Field Trips varying from local trips to journeys to the Blue Ridge

Parkway and Caesar's Head State Park, and a trip to the Battery Island Audubon Sanctuary near Wilmington, NC.

In addition, members built and erected a Chimney Swift Tower on the dam at the Highlands Biological Center/Nature Center. We're still looking for our first tenants.

During the winter, members are updating the checklist of birds most likely to be spotted in the Highlands, Cashiers, and Scaly Mountain area.

This handy list will be available in the Spring from Board members, at the Nature Center, and in other locations.

Plans for 2004 are already taking shape: the Second Annual Birdathon in May, two work days on the Highlands Greenway, local field trips, and programs including the Owl Prowl and nature photography and adventures of local Audubon members.

Mark your calendars first for the Christmas Bird Count on December 15 and keep watching the news for exciting events in 2004!





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## Highlands Historical Society Christmas Showhouse set for Dec. 5-7



The old Elliot House on Satulah

The showhouse is open Dec. 5-7, Friday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Cyrano's Book Shop, The Chambers Agency or D&J Express Mart anytime after Thanksgiving Day. For more information, call 787-1050.

## Highlands' Newspaper

Advertise your business each week in a "fresh package" to 5,000 potential buyers in Highlands, Cashiers, Scaly Mtn., Franklin, Dillard and Lake Glenville who don't have to buy the paper to see your ad.

## Thanksgiving Day Buffet



### Menu:

<b>Turkey &amp; Dressing</b>	<b>Southern Cream Corn</b>
<b>Baked Ham</b>	<b>Waldorf Salad</b>
<b>Prime Rib</b>	<b>Tomato-Cucumber Salad</b>
<b>Squash Casserole</b>	<b>Fresh Baked Bread</b>
<b>Sweet Potato Casserole</b>	<b>Choice of Dessert</b>
<b>Country Green Beans</b>	<b>• 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. •</b>

**Adults: \$23**

**Children: 5-14 \$14**

**Under 5: FREE**

**Plus tax and gratuity**

**Call 526-3380 for reservations**

## • Cooking on the Plateau •

### Maple Pecan Pumpkin Pie

from Thea's Kitchen

copyright 2003 Thea

#### Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups cooked pumpkin, pureed  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1/2 cup pecans, minced  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup maple syrup  
3 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
You will also need one 9-inch, deep dish, whole wheat pie crust.

Blend all ingredients. Pour into pie shell and bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake for an additional 50 minutes or until

knife comes out clean.

This is an original recipe developed over time out of an undying love of pumpkin pie and a desire to reduce my sugar intake. If you like a completely smooth pie, eliminate the pecans. Since whole wheat pie crusts are not easy to make, I always make at least two at a time and double the recipe for the filling.

You can also buy very good whole wheat pie crusts already made in the freezer section of your health food supermarket. Blessings.



## Local poet wins for sonnet

Local Virginia Fleming received first place for her sonnet, "Sea Escape," at recent ceremony by the N.C. Council of Poetry.

The Annual Poetry Day Awards meeting was held at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C., on Sept. 27 and both Virginia and her husband Hank attended.

Her sonnet won in the Archibald Rutledge Sonnet category.

Fleming's children's book, "Be Good To Eddie Lee" is in its tenth

year of publication by Putnam Penguin Group and recently sold subsidiary rights to be published in Korea, making it now available in seven different countries.

The story of a little boy with Downs Syndrome, it has become of interest to teachers of Special Education.

Fleming is currently working on compiling a book of her award-winning poetry.





## • Police & Fire Report •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Nov. 12-19. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

### Nov. 14

- At 5:50 a.m., a motorist was cited for driving with expired inspection sticker.
- At 10:45 p.m., officers responded to a bear call from a resident on Big Bear Pen.
- A little past midnight officers responded to an alarm at Fireside Restaurant. All was secure.

### Nov. 15

- At 7 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 53 mph in a 35 zone at N.C. 106 and Cobb Road.
- At 8:25 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at First Citizens Bank. All was secure.
- At 9:05 a.m., officers responded to an accident at U.S. 64. There were no injuries.
- At 8 a.m., officers responded to a complaint of construction noise on Saturday at the Highlands School.
- At 9 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Rosenthal's on Main Street. All was secure.
- At 10 a.m., a driver coming up Horse Cove Road found a tool box on the road. It was turned into the police dept.
- At 3 p.m., a motorist was cited for driving without a license at Oak and Third streets.

### Nov. 17

- At 6:45 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 51 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 and Webbmont Road.

### Nov. 18

- At 4:30 a.m., a resident reported receiving harassing phone calls. Officers instructed him to talk to the magistrate.
- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of a cat locked in a house on Biscuit Rock when a family returned to their full-time home.
- At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a call of a missing person on Webbmont. He was found walking on U.S. 64 west.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the weeks of Nov. 15-19.

### Nov. 15

- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east and Little Bear Pen Road. There were no injuries.
- The dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Williamsburg Court. The victim was transported to the hospital.

### Nov. 17

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a home on Flat Mountain Road. It was set off by workers.
- The dept. responded to a logging skitter on fire in Blue Valley.

### Nov. 18

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Lane. There was no fire.
- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. It was set off by workers.
- The dept. responded to a call of a missing person, but he was found by the time they arrived on the scene.

## Soccer Champs



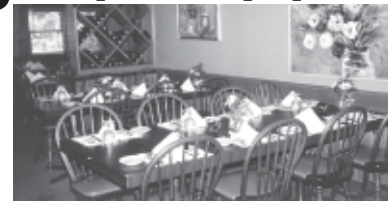
**Highlands U-13 Co-ed Rec. Team finished the regular season undefeated and took first place in the Macon County Soccer Club Tournament. Front from left: Will Mathodis, Devin Deholl, Brie Schmitt, Sally Wheeler and Kasey Chambers. Back from left: Lacy Tucker, Coach David Deholl, Scotty Vos, Ezra Hertz, Taylor Parrish, Nate Brooks, Coach David Parris and Greg Porter.**

## • Fine Dining & Dining with a View •

### Nick's

"Fine food for particular people."

- Brunch & lunch 11 a.m.
- Dinner - 5:30 p.m. Wine List (Liquor brown bagging permitted)



- Prime Rib daily
  - Fish specials
  - Pasta
  - Hand-cut veal & steaks
- Corner of U.S. 28 & Satulah Road  
526-2706

### Hand-Cut Steaks - Fresh Seafood - Wild Game Specials - Pasta - Chicken

Open 7 days 5:30 - until...  
Reservations appreciated

"Fireside dining"  
As Seen in Southern Living Magazine

(828) 526-3380

Directly behind  
Hampton Inn off Hwy 106



Jim White's

Restaurant

*Pesce*

Serving lunch

Tues. - Sun. 11:30-2:30

Serving dinner Mon.-Thur.

5:30-9:30; Fri. & Sat. 5:30-10

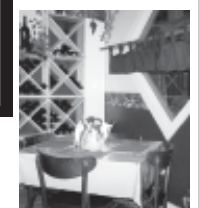
Seafood - Pasta - Steak

Call 526-1032 for dinner reservations.  
3601 Cashiers Road

In Historic  
Helen's Barn  
3 generations  
of Fine Italian  
Cooks

The Gaslight Café

Dinner Mon.-Sat. 5:30-until  
Call 526-4188 for reservations



Hand-cut Steaks - Chicken - Seafood - Italian Specialties - Complete Wine

## 'Christmas Fling on Cashiers Green'

If you're interested in starting the holiday season with high spirits, go to the Cashiers Holiday Fling.

The Fling, now in its third year, will be the biggest ever, according to organizers. It will be held on The Village Green in the heart of downtown Cashiers, where Highways 64 and 107 cross, beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, and continuing until 5 p.m.

The 2003 production will feature an arts and crafts show, the sale of many original wreaths, live music, Santa Claus, and food and beverages.

A number of "carefully selected"

arts and crafts vendors will set up shop inside a 40x120-foot tent, Boswell said. Many of them will be from the Highlands-Cashiers area. Other artists and crafters will be coming from as far away as Savannah, GA, and Alabama.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive around 1 p.m., and he'll be looking forward to spending some time with the youngsters. Since it's close to Christmas, he'll have to leave around 2:30 p.m. At 4 p.m., local singer Linda Harness will lead a sing-along. The day will end when The Village Green Christmas lights are turned on.



## ● Upcoming Events ●

### Through November

- Marilyn Hughes, the Postmaster at Scaly, would like children and adults to come in to the post office for a leaf made of construction paper. On the leaf, please write what you are thankful for and these will be posted up in the post office.

### Nov. 21

- Highlands School junior class is sponsoring spaghetti supper from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the school cafeteria. Each plate cost \$6 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and a desert. To-go plates will be available. This fundraiser helps pay for the junior/senior prom in May.

### Nov. 25

- The film, "Miracle on 34th Street" will be shown at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

### Nov. 27

- The Macon County Landfill and all recycling centers will be closed on Thanksgiving.

### Nov. 28 & 29

- Santa will be hearing wish lists and posing for photos in Oak Square on Main Street Fri. and Sat.
- The annual Christmas Tree Lighting is the Saturday after Thanksgiving in front of the HUMC.

### First Week of Dec.

- The Scaly Community is helping the **Franklin 210th Troops** serving in Iraq. They need soap, shampoo, shaving cream and

writing paper as soon as possible. Take donations (or money to buy these supplies) to Cabe Realty in Scaly or to the Scaly Mountain Church of God. **The deadline is the first week of December for Christmas delivery.** For info, call Cabe Realty at 526-2475.

### Thru Dec. 3

- If you would like to order or re-order Sally Foster products, Highlands School will receive 50 percent of your purchase through Dec. 3. Visit Sally Foster.com and use Highlands School Account number - 605265

### Dec. 4

- Highlands School PTO Christmas Program for Grades Kindergarten through Fifth in the gym at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 5

- The film "A Christmas Carol" will be shown at the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

### Dec. 4-7

- "Nick the Beard" will be performed at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center December 4-7. Show times are 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for children under 18 and \$15 for adults and can be purchased by calling (828) 342-9197 or visiting the ITC office at the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street in Highlands. The production is being sponsored by The Christmas Tree "On the

Hill" in Highlands.

### Dec. 6

- The annual Christmas Parade through Highlands. Begins on Main Street at 11 a.m.

- The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation invites the community to an Open House on Saturday Dec. 6 from noon to three. Come by after the parade, have a cup of cider and take a tour of the new building.

### Dec. 5-7

- Highlands Historical Society's annual Christmas Show House will be open Friday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Shuttle service will be provided from the Rec Park to the home. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Cyrano's Book Shop, The Chambers Agency or D&J Express Mart anytime after Thanksgiving Day. Tickets may also be purchased at the Rec Park prior to tour. For info, call 787-1050.

### Dec. 7

- HUMC Youth are giving a Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for their trip to Bolivia. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

### Dec. 11

- Highlands School Christmas Band concert is at 7 p.m. in the gym.

### Dec. 12 & 13

- The North Georgia Community Players will present "Miracle on 34th Street, on Friday Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., Saturday Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m., and on Sunday, 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 & 14

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will perform at the First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m., Saturday and at 7 p.m. on Sunday. It's free.

### Dec. 15

- The Annual Christmas Bird Count on Monday, December 15, will be the final activity of the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for 2003. For More information on the overall count is available at [www.audubon.org/bird/CBC](http://www.audubon.org/bird/CBC).

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous 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 line-up: 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.

## ... Q & A from page 1

the town can add sidewalks, parking, curbs and gutters and infrastructure, if needed without problems. If we have a chance to fix a right-of-way trespass and don't do it, it just gets more complicated later.

So we asked OEI to tear down the wall of the building along Fifth Street where it encroached and pull the footprint back about five feet on to private property and out of the town's right-of-way. They agreed to do that but it meant that they changed the original footprint of the building. It was a trade-off and an interpretation of the ordinance allowed to be made

by Richard Betz, town administrator, and myself.

**Though OEI hasn't said the Rib Country complex of three new hotel-motel efficiency buildings, and several remodels of old cottages is meant for employee housing, people think that request is forthcoming. In the B-3 district, incidental housing is allowed as long as the majority of the property is used for commercial purposes. In the case of the Rib Country lot, that would be hotel/motel use. But legally could the entire complex be used for**

### employee housing and why?

The short answer is "yes." Any hotel/motel in town can rent to anyone. There is no difference under the law between employees or a family from Atlanta. We can't legally do away with someone's legal right to rent their property.

We have been told the Rib Country lot will be mixed-use - retail space, restaurant and hotel/motel - all allowed. As such, incidental housing is allowed in 14 of the units on the 1.94-acre tract because that meets the 6,000 sq. ft. density requirement per efficiency with the majority of the

property being used commercially.

However, all this points to a problem. In my opinion, the town must deal with the dichotomy of multi-family housing versus employee housing. Multi-family housing is specified for the R-3 district but there isn't any land open for development in R-3 districts. The only R-3 we have is what's already there.

### Is there anything you want to say to the people of Highlands?

For the past two years I have had an open office where anyone can come in and talk with me about anything. I'll always shoot straight.