

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 4, Number 49

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006

On-going

- Santa Claus in Town Square every Saturday through Christmas from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687. A new class is forming now.

- Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

- Live music nightly at ...on the Verandah every Friday and Saturday with Chad Reed.

- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30.

Dec. 8 - Friday

- Local writers' group to read selection to public at ITC's first "Writers-in-the-Round," Friday at 7 p.m. It's free.

Dec. 9 - Saturday

- The Methodist Church will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. Families are invited to come for a pancake breakfast, craft, story, and visit with Jolly Ole' St. Nicholas. Cost is \$10 per family. Reservations are needed. Call 526-3376.

- Christmas Show House sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society, at the Trapier-Wright-Prince House in the historical village on U.S. 64 east. 1-4 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

- Highlands Community Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert, at 4 p.m. at the Community Bible Church. It's free.

- Wooten Performance Company brings their giant puppets called "Woopets" for the enjoyment of children of all ages at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 7 pm. Call 828-342-9197.

Dec. 10 & 11 - Sun. & Mon.

- Auditions for HCP's "Caught in the Villian's Web." Needed: 5 women ranging in ages from 20-60 and 4 men ages 30-40. Auditions are held at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Chestnut St. Sunday from 2-4 p.m. and Monday, from 5:30-7 p.m. - if needed. For more info call: 526-2080.

Dec. 10 - Sunday

- Highlands Community Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Community Bible Church. It's free.

Dec. 12 - Tuesday

- Why I Am a Skeptic about Religious Claims by Paul Kurtz, *Free Inquiry*. Coordinator: Don McCormick. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

2007 revaluations to go out Jan. 15

Property revaluations are in the works for 2007 and commissioners are bracing for the traditional volatile backlash.

At the Dec. 4 Macon County Commission meeting, Tax Administrator Richard Lightner explained the regulations behind

the county's every four-year revaluation process, how revaluations are determined and how the appeal process works.

Citing several real estate sales in various areas of the county since 2003, he showed how the county's consistent growth and the ris-

ing market values of property will undoubtedly raise the tax base considerably in 2007.

Based on the 2003 revaluation, the county's adjusted tax base in 2004-2005 was \$5,572,174,261. Lightner said the

• See REVALUATIONS page 11

County to consider moratorium on Dec. 18

Commissioners have heard the outcry. Now, following the county planning board's lead, they are ready to invoke a moratorium on high-rise construction in the county.

The Dec. 4 Macon County Commission meeting was continued until Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. when commissioners will vote on adopting a six-month moratorium on high-rise construction of commercial or residential buildings over four stories or 48 feet high.

Between now and Dec. 18, County Attorney Lesley Moxley and County Planner Stacey Guffey will work on language for the moratorium. Moxley said the moratorium must be narrowly crafted and involve a reasonable amount of time to be legal and binding.

The prospect of a 10-story condominium complex on U.S. 64 east across from the Community Bible Church has sparked a county-wide grassroots movement to prohibit such building anywhere in the county.

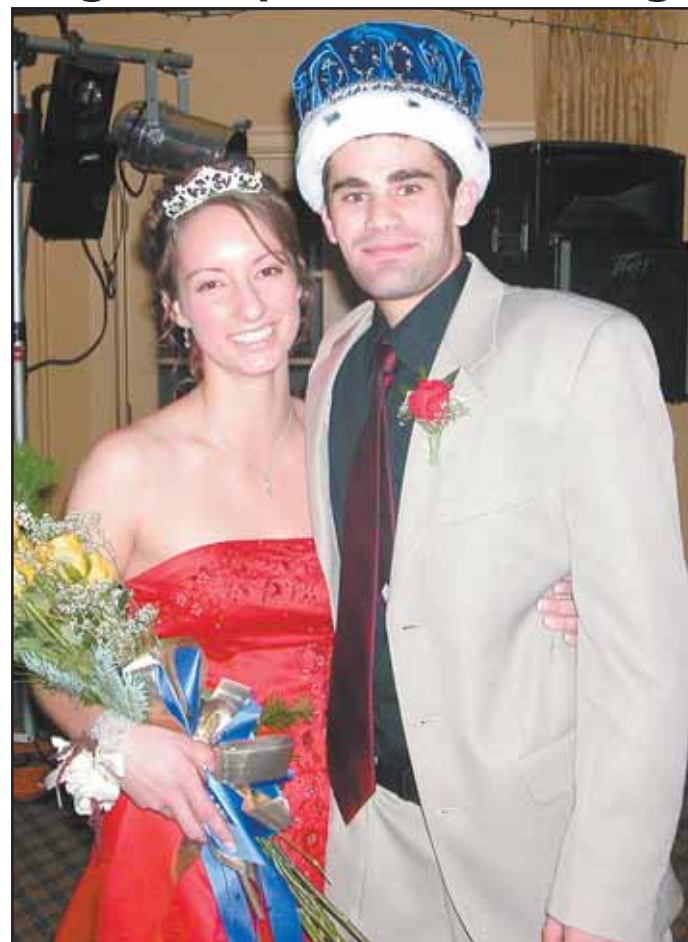
During the public comment

• See MORATORIUM page 4

Weekend Weather:



King and queen for the night



Seniors Sara Bates and Nick Kerhoulas were crowned king and queen of the homecoming court Saturday, Dec. 2 at the dance held at the Highlands Country Club's Hudson House. See photos pg. 12. Photo by Jim Lewicki

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Board fines RiverWalk \$400,000

After breaking twice for closed meetings on the subject, hearing impassioned pleas from homeowners, lawyers, and evidence from town employees, the Town Board moved to hold RiverWalk developers accountable for soil and erosion violations at its site.

Instead of signing the \$5,000 settlement resolution discussed at the Nov. 8 meeting with RiverWalk attorney Billy Clarke, at the Dec. 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to reject the previously discussed settlement that would wipe clean 10 violations dating from the summer through Oct. 24 - each for \$500.

"After hearing evidence to the substantial harm done and due to the significant amount of money it will take to remedy and rectify the harm done, I move that we reject the settlement and impose a \$400,000 fine for the two distinct areas where we've had violations," said Commission Amy Patterson.

Patterson was referring to two

• See RIVERWALK page 10

Commission makes plans for the future

New faces took their seats at the Macon County Commission table Dec. 4 and new titles assigned as Commissioners Allan Bryson and J.D. Shepherd left the table.

Vice Chairman Charlie Leatherman was unanimously nominated and elected chairman of the

commission. After several nominations were offered and withdrawn, newly elected Commissioner Ronnie Beale was named vice chairman.

"In light of our tradition of bipartisan leadership on the commission, I would like to nominate Commissioner Beale as vice

chair," said Commissioner Jim Davis, who had been one of the commissioners nominated for the position.

Chairman Leatherman was quick to put forth his plan for the commission over the next four years citing upcoming changes in

• See COMMISSION page 3

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

From my perspective



**Mayor
Don Mullen**

This past weekend the Town of Highlands had a joyful and festive time as we prepare for the Christmas season.

Not only was the tree lighting the week before a good time but the parade on Saturday was one of the best ever... even live camels and a donkey for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The people at the parade turned out in large numbers not only for the parade but, immediately following the parade, for the charity events displayed at the Presbyterian Church and over \$11,000 was raised for 15 very special charities. We have a "giving town" and it certainly showed that day. We hope this will become an annual event for the benefit of charity.

We are making progress in plans to remove the silt from Big Creek where all of Highlands' water supply comes from. At the past week's Town Board meeting the board made a first positive step by approving a \$16,000 study by Mountain Engineering to determine the final cost of dredging the entire Big Creek arm of Lake Sequoia.. We needed that estimate before making final plans for obtaining funding of the entire project. There is still a slight chance we will get a grant from the federal government but I am not optimistic about that. It depends on the final cost estimate as to which course we will take in getting this funding.

I feel very strongly that we must now move quickly to get this done sometime this winter before most of the people who live along the lake return for the summer. It will be a noisy project which will cause some inconvenience to the residents and the fewer people who are here, the better. The town's water supply depends on Big Creek and we simply cannot wait any longer to take care of this major problem in our community.

I was certainly glad to hear the

•See MULLEN page 14

Riverwalk was never 'on track'

Dear Editor,

Mayor Don Mullen stated in his Nov. 16 *From My Perspective* column in *Highlands' Newspaper* that the Riverwalk development was "back on track."

As the sole independent homeowner located in the Riverwalk development, we respectfully disagree with the mayor. To be "back on track" suggests Riverwalk had to be "on track" at one time. Riverwalk has never been "on track."

Our home is located in the center of the development and for the past year we have been surrounded by construction chaos. We have lived through three complete staff changes with each change following a period of gross mismanagement, fines and further construction delays. Riverwalk has promised us the moon and stars only to deliver cut power, phone, and water lines; a washed-out driveway, blocked access to our property; along with many other things.

However the worst of these offenses is their blatant disregard for the destructive amount of silt they are allowing to flow from their property into the Cullasaja River and ultimately Mirror Lake.

We have witnessed and

photographed Riverwalk's numerous silt spills, several of them intentional where workers released silt fences holding water and silt into the stream bordering our property which drains to the Cullasaja River.

In every incident we called the town to complain and they responded with the appropriate fines to the development. Unfortunately, this did not and has not dissuaded Riverwalk from committing the same offenses again and again. Riverwalk continues to arrogantly violate the laws of Highlands and North Carolina and they have made it crystal clear that they have complete disregard for its neighbors and the town of Highlands.

Therefore one can imagine our frustration when we learned the Town Board "settled" with the Riverwalk developers for a grossly inferior fine amount. Other fines prior to this date are still outstanding.

Whatever the circumstances surrounding the settlement, we trust that in the future the Board will refuse to negotiate with the developers. The Town Board approved this development and is ultimately responsible for the finished product. One can only hope it will be what the developers

promised...but beware Riverwalk has yet to live up to one of its promises.

We fear the town will be left with a monumental clean up project, one that all taxpayers will bear. Each rain brings additional silt runoff and at this rate there could be a land bridge damning the Cullasaja River.

The Town Board has two options: either fine Riverwalk to the full extent EVERY time they break the law; or be prepared to require them to restore the waters and land affected by their failure to minimize the detrimental effects of the sedimentation pollution.

Stop settling with the developers!

It is the Town Board's job, duty and obligation to ensure that the laws of Highlands are enforced. They need to remember the responsibilities they pledged to uphold when they were elected to public service.

There is nothing to be settled or negotiated, demand that Riverwalk follow the law.

**Bill and Liz Daughtrey
Highlands**

Highlands needs football!

Dear Editor,

Imagine a crisp, autumn, Friday night in one of our beautiful small mountain towns. Everything about the scene is ideal, except one thing, the fields are empty. A common thread in small town America is high school football on Friday nights and our dream is to see football come to the mountains.

We understand the problems associated with being a small school and the limited resources we all have which is why we are proposing a different idea. 8-man football is played all over America especially in areas with smaller populations and smaller schools.

It is played with significantly less people, on a smaller field, with fewer coaches, but with the same intensity and feel of 11-on-11 football.

There are schools playing 8-man football all over eastern North Carolina although they are in the private school sector. After talking to the manager of one of their leagues, Russel Leake of Northeast Academy, I was able to discover what it would cost to outfit a player and the amount of students it requires to have a healthy program. We learned that we can launch a program from scratch for under

•See LETTER page 14

LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please email letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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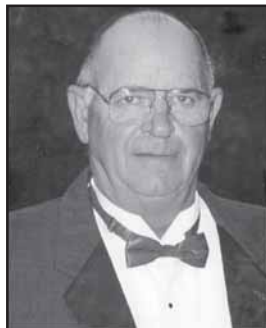
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James Howard Keener

Jamie Keener, loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, and friend of many died peacefully on November 28, 2006 at the age of 69. Born in Mt. Pleasant, Arkansas on October 17, 1937, he served in the U.S. Army before spending his career with Keener Brothers Construction Company in Highlands, NC. Splitting his time between Highlands and Raytown, Georgia, Jamie enjoyed family, friends, Pat's Store, fishing, deer hunting, barbecue contests, and cattle farming. He was chairman of Macon County School Board from 1978-1988.

Jamie is survived by his wife and lifelong companion, Mary Keener; daughters Sharon Manning and husband Mike of Charlotte, NC; son Tim and wife Donna of Raleigh, NC; son Michael and wife Stephanie of Zurich, Switzerland; daughter Melanie Miller and husband Buddy of Highlands, NC; and brother Johnny Keener of Destin, FL. He is also survived by his seven grandchildren, Christine, Kelsey, and Michaela Manning; Christian and Caleb Keener;



Jamie Keener

and Benjamin and Jonathan Miller. An eighth grandchild is expected in March.

Admired for his generosity, sense of humor, and kindness, Jamie touched the lives of many throughout his life. As a husband, father, friend, and mentor, he demonstrated integrity, courage, wit, and a ready smile that should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

A funeral service was held at Yellow Mountain Baptist Church in the Norton Community at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Officiating were Reverend Walter Wilson, Reverend Wayne Price and Reverend Keith Ashe. Interment followed at the Stewart Family Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tim, Michael and Don Keener, Buddy Miller, Mike Manning, David Sims and Gene Massey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Rd., Asheville, NC 28803.

Arrangements were by Bryant Funeral Home, Highlands, NC.



Macon County Commission Charlie Leatherman, congratulated outgoing commissioner J.D. Shepherd for a job well done over the last four years. He said he made history as the first black man elected to the commission and that he appreciated Shepherd's heart, which leads him in all he does.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

... COMMISSION continued from page 1

Macon County, which the commission will have to deal with, he said.

"Macon County is going to face more changes in the next five years than it's faced in the past 25," he said. "This board will face some of the most difficult situations and circumstances and face the hardest choices then ever before, but the people have put us here to do what's best for Macon County. The difficulty comes in sepa-

rating that from self-interests."

Leatherman said this term's board needs to put Macon County in a position so 10 years from now it can talk about how Macon County is, not was.

"Change is upon us, but we need to keep our traditional values while dealing with change. It's a delicate balance," he said. "There will be development issues. We need

• See COMMISSION page 10

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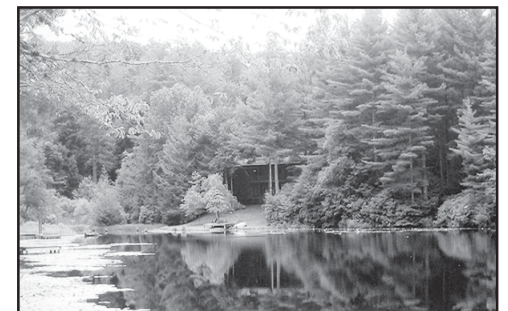


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Incoming chairman of the commission, Charlie Leatherman, congratulated outgoing chairman Allan "Ricky" Bryson for serving the county so well over the last eight years. He said even though he and Bryson didn't always agree he said Bryson always had an open ear and communication flowed.

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... MORATORIUM continued from page 1

portion of the Dec. 4 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners heard from several people who reiterated views expressed at last month's meeting against high-rise construction in the county.

"You are the only hope for the citizens

of Macon County," said Bob Wright, president of the Cold Springs Property Owners Association. "Our state legislators, various state agencies and the NC Dept. of Insurance have been contacted and they all said they have no jurisdiction in this

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Is that a banana in your pocket?

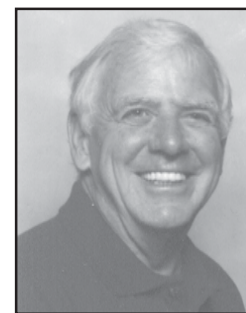
Before I even begin with this, I am going on record to confess I am a cheapskate. Done! Finished! Call me Mr. Cheapo, if you want.

It was not something in my genes, but a learned behavior. Raising three kids on a cop's salary and sending them to Catholic school was to blame. I simply took my paycheck, divided it in half and gave it to the school and my mortgage company. I worked overtime and off-duty details to buy silly stuff like food and clothes.

Once the kids started school the li'l missus worked mornings and I got lucky with promotions. Things started getting better and money was not so tight. As time went on and things got even better, I could not put down my old ways. I constantly bargain shop. I search the Internet for the best buys. I always put the generic brand in the shopping cart, but sometimes the missus will switch to a name brand if I'm not looking. No high priced spread in this house. Got the picture?

Years ago, there was a movie theatre in our neighborhood that let cops and their families in free. It was accepted practice in those days so one night I took the li'l missus to a movie only to find it was restricted with no passes allowed. Since I am too cheap to buy tickets, I told the cashier I would see another feature. Once inside the building, I made a quick stop at the rest room where I did nothing and a quick visit to the candy counter where I bought nothing. Then I looked around to see who was looking, grabbed an extremely reluctant wife and dragged her into the restricted show.

I was feeling real smug sitting there among a sea of people who had paid top dollar to be there. Just as the movie started, the theatre manager walked down the aisle and shined his flashlight in my eyes. "Excuse me sir, may I see your tickets?" I was speechless. Worse yet, as we were being thrown from the building, we met our teenage son walking in. He told a friend, "My parents are being kicked out of the movie. How cool is that?" He was so proud of us. Being a



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

cheapskate is very hard sometimes. Ask me if the li'l missus spoke to me for over a week. Ask me if I was on triple probation.

Have you priced candy at a movie theatre? No, I'm not talking about our Ruby Cinema but the big boys with 16 screens. I once bought a normal sized package of M & M's and the cashier said "\$3.25 please." I told her I didn't want the whole box but just one package but she insisted it was \$3.25. Once inside the darkened theater I counted the morsels and learned I

was being charged one cent each. What a rip off!

Now I smuggle food into the movies. It's easy using my new "movie pants" I bought, on sale of course, that have large cargo pockets at the knees. It's amazing how much food you can squirrel away in those pockets. Once I forgot about a sandwich I left in there and you should see what a peanut butter and jelly sandwich looks like after it's been through the wash. Wow!

I just know that, sooner or later, the theatres will come up with food detectors and I will be toast. Last week I thought they had when a ticket taker called me back and said, "Sir, is that a banana in your pocket?" I was shocked. How could she know? I walked back checking my zipper as she pointed at one of my cargo pockets. There, peeking out one corner, was the tip of my banana. Once we were seated the li'l missus asked if I was embarrassed. "Nah, she didn't find the cereal and small package of milk in my other pocket."

Since most of the movie theatres have been alerted that I am a food sneak, the missus and I go in separate cars. She doesn't want to be present when I am frisked. I have had to be more devious, like Oh Henry candy bars in my underwear and Milk Duds under my armpits. Once in the darkened theater I always ask the missus, "Want a bite of my candy bar?" and she always responds, "Ah, I think I'll pass."

• You can read Fred's column each week online at www.highlandsinfo.com. Scroll down and click on News.

case. This project and the others that will surely follow can only be regulated by you, our locally elected officials," he said.

He and others said high-rise development affects all the people in the county and affects everyone's property rights. "Ver-

tical development allows developers to stack "view" lots on top of each other and make millions of dollars, dollars they take south," said Wright.

John Cleaveland, who has served as

• See MORATORIUM page 5

When is war justified? Part 2

It must have been clear from the first part of this essay that I think war is seldom justified. The whole concept of "just war" is an anachronism, left over from the days of omnipotent monarchs, states controlled by religious entities, or the proto-adolescent passion of nationalism.

We can acknowledge that nations, like individuals, are entitled to use force in self-defense. Sometimes they will need to come to the aid of an ally who is under attack, or intervene in a genocide conducted by some other nation-state.

But always they must have honestly exhausted all diplomatic means before waging war. This is the tricky part. Politicians will lie, rationalize, exploit, and find a thousand and one excuses to do whatever they want to do; after all, they're human. And often what they want to do is clobber the enemy with every weapon in their arsenal as long as they think they can win; after all, they're human.

This is precisely what Israel did recently in Lebanon, or, for that matter, the U.S. is still doing in Iraq. It's no coincidence that both misadventures turned out badly for the perpetrators. The same weapons that can be used to kill thousands and even millions can be neutralized by urban and guerilla warfare.

Even the most powerful occupying force is often impotent in the face of hit and run tactics. The only exception to this rule are occupying powers that are willing to use draconic measures against the local population, like the Nazis and Soviets did.

A typical tactic was the mass execution of an entire village when a single soldier was harmed by guerillas. Fortunately, democratic societies seldom have the stomach for such reprisals. In a time of quickened world communication and reaction, it's almost impossible to get away undiscovered with such behavior,



Dr. Alex Redmountain
Feedback
is encouraged!

email:
redmountain8@msn.com

and to escape some kind of sanction..

I do believe that acknowledging our sometimes brutal nature is no longer an excuse for waging war (with the exceptions noted above) in the era of weapons of mass destruction. Distinctions between soldiers and non-combatants are extremely difficult to make, and armies are not well-suited for such subtlety. They are basically a conglomerate of individual killing machines, making up a far larger killing machine, like herds of hyenas or packs of wild dogs.

I think I know how wars among nations could be abolished, but it would take a presently unimaginable and revolutionary commitment to change by the major powers. First of all, every nation would have to give up some of its sovereignty to a central authority, like the U.N., or hopefully a better model, like the European Union. A military division would have to be formed, with personnel contributed by all nations. Gradually, national armies and possession of weapons would be prohibited. Given the hysterical reaction of many Americans to very minor abrogation of sovereignty, the chances of this happening are slim to none

So why am I even suggesting such a scenario? I'm not an idealistic dreamer, but I fully believe that eventually some such alternative to war will exist. It will probably take a number of ugly nuclear or biological wars before nation-states come to their senses, but it will probably happen—or all sensate life on this planet will be destroyed beyond redemption.

Barring this kind of change, there is little hope of eliminating war. Today we are also experiencing a new kind of conflict, against an enemy of loosely organized cells, a type of warfare more like attacks by criminal gangs. If I knew how to stop this terrorist activity, I'd offer it to the Pentagon.

... MORATORIUM continued from page 4

Highlands' mayor and on county boards, said planning and zoning has been talked about for 25 years in the county and it's time the county be proactive.

"You can't afford to be reactive when there's time to fix something ahead of time," he said. "The time has come to preserve what Macon County is all about. It's time to be proactive and preserve what we have

here. We don't need high-density development like this in Macon County."

Elaine Whitehurst and others said Macon County's asset is its natural beauty, environment, climate and sweet atmosphere. "People don't come here to look at high-rise buildings. The economy depends on real estate, construction and development but the county's biggest asset is its natural

beauty. High-rises will take away from that and affect the county's economy."

Leila Howland said growth is good, development can be good, but ill-conceived development that threatens a community is not good.

Commissioner Jim Davis said dealing with regulations about property rights causes him great angst. "But we have done well

without high-rises and I think we can continue to do well without high-rises."

The Dec. 4 Macon County Commission meeting has been continued Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. at the courthouse. The moratorium will be voted on at that time.

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So far it's 6-1

On Nov. 28, Highlands beat Rabun Gap-Nacoochee 65 to 54.

High scorer was Jason Aspinwall with 28 points, 11 rebounds and 3 assists. Next up was Alec Schmitt with 27 points, 6 rebounds and 8 assists. Aspinwall, Schmitt, Nick Kerhoulas and Arthur Reynolds were on court for 32 minutes.

On Nov. 30, Highlands beat Hendersonville 71 to 62.

High scorer was Alec Schmitt with 27 points, 9 rebounds, 10 assists and 2 blocks. Next up was Jason Aspinwall with 24 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists. Schmitt, Aspinwall and Nick Kerhoulas were on court for 32 minutes.

On Dec. 1, Highlands Homecoming Game, Highlands beat Andrews 51 to 46 in overtime.

High scorer was Alec Schmitt with 21 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists. Next up was Nick Kerhoulas with 12 points, 3 rebounds and 1 assist; and Jason Aspinwall with 9 points and 1 rebound. Schmitt and Kerhoulas were on court 37 minutes. Aspinwall was on court 29 minutes.

On Dec. 4, Highlands beat Robbinsville 68 to 50. High scorer was Alec Schmitt with 28 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists. He was on court 24 minutes. Next up was Jason Aspinwall with 16 points, 9 rebounds and 5 assists. He was on court 16 minutes. Darren Keener scored 11 points with 8 rebounds. He was on court 16 minutes. Nick Kerhoulas, on court for 24 minutes, scored 6 points, with 6 rebounds and 5 assists.



Highlander Jason Aspinwall shoots at the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee game.

Photo by Noel Atherton

• ANOTHER VIEW •

Let's cherish diversity

One of the things I noticed in Cape Town was the presence of a large Muslim minority. I didn't actually count Muslims, but there were many. How did I know they were Muslim? It wasn't because they were carrying explosives or slaughtering Jews and Christians. It was because many women were wearing the hijab, or head scarf. A few were wearing the burqua, which to my western eye, gave them a mildly sinister, ninja like appearance. A few of those wearing only the hijab reminded me of Jackie Kennedy or Grace Kelly. Or maybe it was Katherine Hepburn, but it was a good look in any case. The point is that they were walking around, attracting little notice, except from me. We even saw a few men dressed in traditional garb. Maybe they were clerics.

We, in the Western world, get in quite a snit about the hijab. It seems to me that women with bodies like mine wearing hip huggers and midriff revealing tops should evoke far more outrage. We assume that the hijab represents repression of women. I remember when nuns wore a garment that resembled burqua, but with the face exposed. The habit, as it was called, was a loose fitting head-to-foot shroud, and depending on the Order, featured an elaborate head covering.

When I was a boy growing up in the Catholic Church, women were required to cover their heads before entering the sacristy. I knew the world was changing when a young girl could simply pull a Kleenex from her purse, pop it on her head, and secure it with bobby pins.

When I was studying medicine, learning how to apply a Band-aid, nurses wore caps. The cap was awarded in a candle-light ceremony that marked the successful conclusion of the first year of nursing school, and as far as I knew, was worn with pride. Each school had its own distinctive design. Some were simple pill boxes. Others featured wings and racing stripes. Many required some assembly. They returned from the laundry starched stiff and as flat as a board. A crease here, a fold there, a strategically placed stud and a nursing crown was born. It was sort of like origami. I loved them all. Major



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

medical centers attracted nurses, and their caps, from around the country. It provided a pleasant illusion of diversity and individuality.

Nursing caps, hats in Catholic services, and elaborate habits for nuns have all disappeared, victims of a number of factors; fashion, comfort, and feminism. But they were present, common, accepted, and expected just a few decades ago.

Both the French and Canadians have taken steps to ban the hajib in schools. Even in Canada, a country

with relatively few problems, I would suspect that there are bigger fish to fry. And there is nothing that makes the scarf more attractive to a Muslim than attempts to interfere with the religious freedom to wear it. The scarf means different things to different people. It may be a symbol of modesty and devotion. In some cases it is a mark of Muslim pride. Wearing it has become a political statement. When it is required by Muslim imam, it may indeed be repressive, although there are far more tangible and troubling signs of male dominance in the Muslim world. Wearing of the scarf in the western world may represent defiance in the face of anti-Muslim sentiment, while refraining from displaying it may defy the wishes of family and mosque.

Maybe we would be less leery of Islam and its outward manifestations were it not for the events of September 11, 2001. My view is that this melting pot that we call America has a good many lumps, and these lumps make for a far more interesting country, kind of like chunks of ham in split pea soup. We attempt to homogenize America. I'm all for unity and assimilation, but I'm also all for religious freedom and individuality.

A cowboy moves from Texas and persists in wearing his boots. He pretends that it is for comfort but we know that it is because he is a Texan, and proud of it. We have exempted sushi, pizza, pad Thai, and burritos from the requirement for a bland nation. I find multicultural societies both exciting and reassuring. We don't pluck the golden threads from a rich tapestry to make it uniform. In like manner, we should celebrate our

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 14

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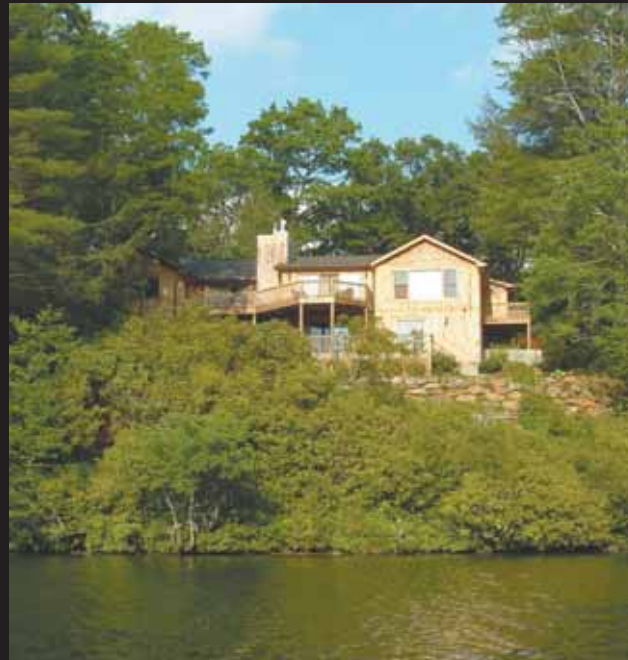




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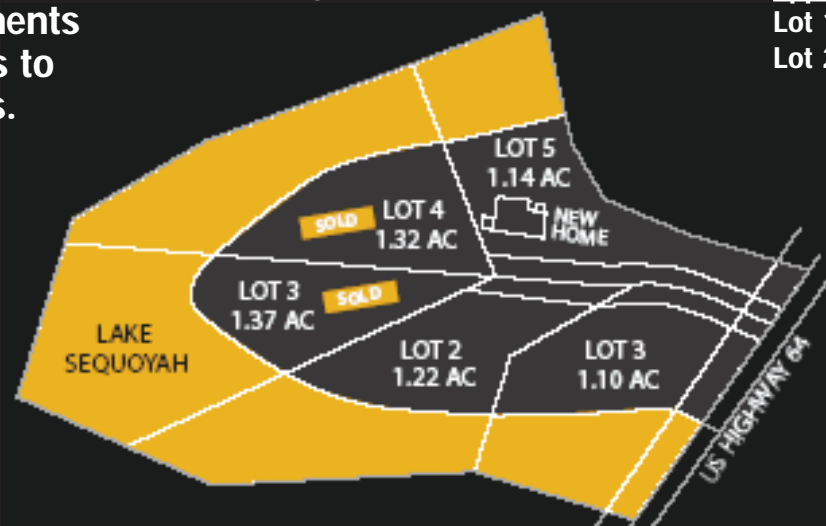
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Girls record 5-2

On Nov. 28, Highlands beat Rabun Gap-Nacoochee 38 to 27. High scorer was Toni Schmitt with 18 points. Next was Katie Bryson, Allison Winn and Brie Schmitt with 10 points each. Toni Schmitt led with 4 rebounds. The team had a total of 11 assists, 8 steals, and 5 tip/deflects.

On Nov. 30, Highlands beat Hendersonville 53 to 49. Top scorer was Allison Winn with 20 points, then Katie Bryson with 12, Toni Schmitt and Kaylie Buras with 8 each and Brie Schmitt with 5. Katie Bryson led with 8 rebounds. Toni Schmitt followed with 6. Allison Winn led with 5 assists and Katie Bryson had 4. The team had 15 steals.

On Dec 1, Highlands Homecoming game, Highlands beat Andrews 51 to 39. Top scorer was Allison Winn with 20 points. Next up was Toni Schmitt with 12, Katie Bryson with 11 and Becca Wyatt and Brie Schmitt each with 4. Toni Schmitt led with 5 rebounds, Becca Wyatt followed with 4. Toni led with 6 assists and Brie had 4 steals.

On Dec. 4, Highlands suffered its second loss of the season this time to Robbinsville. The score was 34 to 64. Top scorer was Allison Winn with 17 points.



At the Hendersonville game, Brie Schmitt manages to keep control of the ball. Highlands won 53-49. The next home games are Saturday, Dec. 9 against Rabun County. The girls play at 6 p.m. and the boys play at 7:30 p.m. Photo by Noel Atherton

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

We haven't hit bottom yet

My wife and I made our annual trek down to South Florida to spend Thanksgiving with our sons. In addition to the enjoyment of visiting with them and their ladies, I like the warm weather that usually prevails (it was in the low 40s and blowing like crazy when we got there) and there's a lot of nostalgia.

And then, there is always something political or some kind of public excitement going on; some public official is always getting canned or going to jail or whatever.

This trip we managed to be in Miami the night Larry Coker, the Miami Hurricane head football coach, got fired, and deservedly so. He managed to take a world-class football program and run it into the ground in six years. But I digress.

The night of his firing, University of Miami president, Donna Shalala, one of Bill Clinton's smurfs (but a pretty capable administrator, I understand), made a magnificent statement regarding the search for Coker's successor. She said that outside consultants would be called in, blue-ribbon committees would be empanelled and no stone would be unturned to find the absolutely perfect, most excellent in all respects, replacement. An admirable position and I applaud it.

On the other hand, another leader has been faced and will continue to be faced with many replacement choices. Of course, I speak of Nancy Pelosi, evident newly crowned leader of the free world. Perhaps she should have adopted Shalala's high-road approach to her job search efforts.

Her first faux pas was the contemplation of John Murtha as House Majority leader. Murtha sort of refused a bribe offered in the ABSCAM sting operation (get back to me later) and was the recent poster boy for the cut-and-run element of the lunatic left. Saner heads prevailed (I guess) and Murtha failed to make the cut.

Next, she felt Alcee Hastings, impeached and convicted federal judge (bribery again; do I spot a pattern here?), would make a fine Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. After all, the safety of \$300 million or so deserves the very best and I'm told he's the best money can buy.

At the time of this writing, she may be reconsidering her options. One wonders why she passed up Jane Harman, top ranking Demo on the Committee, and a sister Californian? Who knows.

One blessing in an otherwise murky political environment is that the Senate,



Don Swanson
Feedback is
encouraged. Email
dswanson@dnet.net

not the House, confirms the next ambassador to the UN. I certainly hope the Senate doesn't feel the need to have Pelosi advise them in the selection of John Bolton's replacement. (He won't be confirmed; he's far too wuff and tuff on those wonderful folk with whom he has to deal).

In a line of brilliant choices, Nancy would see Sandy Berger, Clinton's National Security Advisor and convicted critical document

thief as the perfect replacement. I cannot find any bribery in his background, but his other credentials seem sufficient to qualify him. Let's hope the Senate can suppress the impulse to resuscitate Sandy from the Archives.

So, I find myself defending a liberal university president and her over-the-top effort to replace a football coach in contrast with a liberal who is staffing a ruling body of the most powerful country on earth. A chilling thought which was widely aired prior to the election is that Ms. Pelosi, the San Francisco treat, will be two heartbeats away from the presidency. Can you imagine the disastrous appointments she might make?

If you are a praying person, no matter what you think of President Bush, I suggest you pray for his well-being, especially considering VP Cheney's health history. If you are one who thinks things have reached bottom, just look down.



Show House open

More than 100 visitors and residents have enjoyed a walk into the past at the Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Show House.

The newly restored Prince House in the Highlands Historic Village across from Bryant Funeral Home on U.S. 64 east opened to the public at the end of November and will be open two more Saturdays, Dec. 9 and 16, from 1-4 p.m. The photo is of visitors in the kitchen. Tickets are \$10.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Problem of Evil

Our culture has a problem with Christianity. One objection to Christian belief is the problem of evil and suffering. It is a very formidable problem not only for the Christian to answer, but for the non-Christian too.

The problem goes like this: "If God allows evil/suffering to continue because he can't stop it; then he might be good, but not all powerful. If God allows evil/suffering to continue because he could stop it, he may be all powerful, but not good." This is indeed a problem which dates as far back as Epicurus's old questions.

In 1 Peter 1: 3-12, St. Peter addresses the issue persuasively. "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." For the Christian, evil and suffering doesn't have to weaken faith!

Peter is simply saying that abandoning belief doesn't help us in understanding evil and suffering. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" said if there is no higher law, then how do we know if a human law is unjust. Like Peter, Martin Luther King, Jr. knew that in order to beat the man-centered laws of segregation, he would have to appeal to a higher transcendent law than that of man. During the most haunting times of his life, Martin Luther King appealed to his fellow man by looking to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If there is no God, no higher law to determine that something is unjust, then we're stuck in a predicament. If there is no God, then how can we say any historical event is unjust? If there is nothing but nature, then there is nothing more natural than violence wrote Jeane Paul-Sarte in his essay entitled "Existentialism." Fyoder Dostoevsky wrote: "If God did not exist,

then everything is permitted."

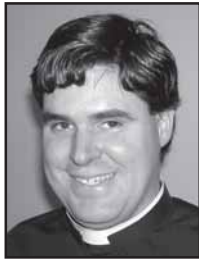
On what possible basis can a culture reject that God doesn't exist based upon evil? We might have personal feelings that something is evil or unjust, but how do we ultimately know this apart from our emotions? If all there is is the natural order of things, then why do people complain about evil and suffering? It seems only natural. In a Naturalistic universe, it's just the strong eating the weak. What's scary is that some people actually live their life like this.

I in no way discount that evil and suffering is a problem for Christianity and belief in God. However, it is a bigger problem for those who disbelieve in God. Here's why. On what basis can we ask for a better world? So, how can we face evil and suffering? The cross of Christ.

Christianity cannot answer the question of evil and suffering any better than the non-believer. However, what I can say with certainty is this: I don't have the answer as to why evil and suffering happens; I can only say that it isn't because God doesn't love us.

In the cross of Christ, in the Divine sacrifice for the world, we see God emptying himself out for his people. If you're a political prisoner, then God is there. Jesus was lynched before the ruling authorities. If you feel abandoned, God is there. We see the Son crying out to the Father, "Why, why." If you have lost a loved one, God is there. He saw the Son die. God died in and through the death of Jesus Christ and tasted death infinitely more than we ever will.

This is the grand mystery of Christianity which is the inherited promise of the prophet Isaiah, "Surely our grief He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed." (Is. 53: 4-5).



Fr. Tommy Allen
Christ Church

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 22: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "New Image" from Alto, Ga.
Oct. 29: 10 a.m., 5th Sunday Singing & Dinner featuring "Promised Land."
Nov. 26: 7 p.m., 4th Sunday Singing featuring "The Marks Men."

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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(Community Bible Church)
Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon
Wednesday:
Mens Bible Study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
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Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Womens Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);
5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice
• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968
Sunday: 8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist-Rite 1; 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Childrens Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Monday: 4 p.m. - Womens cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Womens Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. - Interlude; 6:30 p.m. - Choir
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group Meeting; 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study
• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Wednesdays: Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir - 7
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m. & 5

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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
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Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis
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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.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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... COMMISSION continued from page 3

to keep an eye on our future and we need a plan and a vision to follow and not be reactive."

He said there's a lot of emotion attached to people's roots in Macon County and people born in the county or whose families have been county residents for generations often feel differently about the county as a "place" than those who moved to the area.

"For those of us who were born here, our appreciation for Macon County may be likened to the appreciation one has for a home versus a house. The same activity takes place in both of those but they have a different meaning due to the passion attached to them," he said. "It's about the appreciation versus the value. We have to be

sensitive to that."

Leatherman assigned each commissioner to county boards as commission liaisons while outlining areas of concern.

"Fifty-percent of the county can be developed and that's where the impact will be," he said. "We need to continue working on ordinances with the planning board." Leatherman asked Commissioner Ronnie Beale to continue his work with the planning board, this time as liaison. As a previous planning board member, Beale saw the high-impact ordinance pass and worked on the subdivision ordinance.

"Mr. Beale will act as the liaison for the commission because his approach is saturated in common sense, but as we have seen common sense isn't so common. We just have to see things as they are and do things that need to be done," said Leatherman.

Saying children are the most important resource the county has, Leatherman named Commissioners Bob Simpson and Jim Davis liaisons to the Macon County School Board.

He said the county has a new superintendent, a new school board and new school programs like the Early College High School that all represent change and growth in the school system – issues the board has to meet head-on.

... RIVERWALK continued from page 1

violations issued – one on Oct. 24 when silt fences were allegedly opened to release silt buildup and one on Oct. 26 when silt ponds were allowed to fill with silt so that pipes meant to release clear water could only release silt-laden water.

Mayor Don Mullen said the seven violations prior to Oct. 24 are "still out there." Those are \$500 each. The fine was changed later to \$5,000 per day per violation.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said it's up to RiverWalk's attorney to pursue the citations prior to Oct. 24 totaling \$3,500.

Proceeds from the \$400,000 fine will go to the state, as is the law. Mayor Mullen said the town will pursue measures to obtain a stabilization bond to "repair the property."

RiverWalk developers have hired a new contractor to hopefully move the soil and erosion plan and subsequent development toward the finish line but General Manager Lingos admitted that the project has suffered immensely.

"Exposing the deficiencies in the original soil and erosion design and fixing that has cost us \$800,000 just for the engineering and design," he said. "We've angered the neighbors, the town and we probably never will regain our reputation."

The original erosion plan failed to take into account the water that comes onto the site off U.S. 64 and its related springs – water that is largely responsible for the erosion on the site.

Bill and Liz Daughtrey, owners of the home adjacent to RiverWalk, hired Attorney Doug Wilson from Asheville. He said

"I know there are people who have moved here and are retired who may be reluctant to be a part of Macon County's growth, but we have to do the right thing for our kids and our teachers," said Leatherman. He said he wants open lines of communication between the two boards.

Economic development was cited as a major concern for the county. "We need jobs with benefits," said Leatherman. "Competition is keen and we need to come up with a plan that brings industry to Macon County so there are jobs for our kids so they can stay here."

He said when the youth of a county has to leave it to find work in the long run the county fails.

He assigned Commissioners Jim Davis and Brian McClellan as liaisons to the county's Economic Development Commission.

The board is planning a retreat in January and Leatherman asked each commissioner to come to the table with five top issues important to Macon County.

"We must lay out a positive approach for growth in Macon County," he said. "I know it's hard to work hard at something and fail, but it's worse not to try to succeed."

The Dec. 4 commission meeting has been continued to Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. The first meeting in 2007 will be Monday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.

the town's ordinance provides for fines per day, not per violation and when it's all added up the potential fine could be \$675,000.

Even though the Daughtreys have suffered power outages, cut cable and phone lines, access to their home blocked, the creek on the property filled with silt, Attorney Wilson said they don't care about the money they just want compliance.

"They want these people to understand they absolutely must comply. They're ignoring the law even after they've been told what to do," he said.

He strongly suggested that board not accept the settlement. "Enforce the law and require them to work directly with Mr. Gantenbein (Watershed Administrator) on a specific, consistent schedule so everyone knows what's to be done, then issue a per day citation if there are violations," he said. "Unfortunately, the threat of a fine is what brings people into compliance. Five thousand dollars wipes all this away and opens the gate for more violations to come."

He also suggested the town insist that RiverWalk be required to spray flex terra on the site to stabilize the area and he suggested the town pursue a stabilization bond which could be used to repair the erosion damage.

"I've seen people walk away from things like this. You need a bond particularly due to all these people have done," he said.

He reminded the board that the law says when someone disturbing the land fails to comply with the law, "the town shall initiate an enforcement action."

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... REVALUATIONS continued from page 1

expected income growth in 2007 from property values is a minimum of \$150 million.

"The county's growth has led Western North Carolina for the past 20 years and the county continues to lead Western North Carolina in sales growth," he said. "Every indication is that the population will continue to rise like it has since the 1980s when it was 20,000 to 30,000 in 2000 to 50,000 in 2020."

On one hand Macon County is lucky because 50% of the county is owned by the USFS and will never be developed, but on the other hand land is a precious commodity with values skyrocketing and large parcels all over the county being subdivided. "In 1991 we had 32,000 parcels in the county; in 2006 we have 43,000," said Lightner.

The building per-square-foot price has increased dramatically over the years, too. "People are willing to pay what it takes to get a builder to their site," he said. "In the 1980s the cost per-square-foot was \$38; now it's \$125 per-square-foot."

Though property values county wide have increased dramatically since 2003, Highlands and Nantahala are seeing the highest percentage increase.

A Highlands property valued at \$214,800 in 2003 sold for \$460,000 in 2005 — a 114% increase in value, said Lightner. Another valued at \$1,035,760 in 2003 sold in 2005 for \$3,850,000 — a 272% increase. Another valued at \$557,970 in 2003 sold for \$1,475,000 in 2005 — a 164% increase. Another valued at \$111,140 in 2003 sold for \$433,000 in 2005 — a 290% increase.

Nantahala — destined to become the next Highlands, say some — saw large percentage increases, too.

A home valued at \$249,850 in 2003, sold for \$330,000 in 2005 — a 33% increase. Another valued at \$96,780 in 2003, sold for \$300,000 in 2005 — a 213% increase. Another valued at \$186,550 in 2003, sold for \$1,200,000 in 2005 — a 543% increase. Large parcels — 47.72 acres valued at \$488,190 in 2003 sold for \$1,325,000 in 2005 — a 172% increase. Another 37.16 acre parcel was valued at \$92,130 in 2003 and sold for \$350,000 in 2005 — a 280% increase.

"Location, location, location is still what drives the market values and sales prices up," said Lightner. "Not all properties will increase the same percentage county-wide. Location is still very much a factor."

He said view property and property on water like on the lake in Nantahala are high dollar properties.

The property revaluation process is driven by state laws — NC 105-286 and NC 105-283 — which require counties to establish property values at or near 100% of the current market value thereby reflecting changes in the real estate market.

His department establishes the market value by collecting and reviewing recent sales, reviewing the sales to comparable properties and developing a schedule of values.

He said they use three approaches to setting the value: a Comprehensive Sales

Approach where the property is compared with similar properties that recently sold; the Income Approach which is used for commercial businesses and involves the income derived from a similar business in the area; and the Cost Approach which involves construction costs less depreciation.

The market value is defined as the most probable selling price that a property will bring in a competitive and open market with both the buyer and the seller being motivated and well-informed.

"Things that affect the value are additions and remodels, supply and demand of the property type, the local economy and the cost of replacing or building a similar structure," said Lightner. "But the value may or may not be what the owner has invested in the property."

When it comes to appeals, the North Carolina courts have ruled that tax assessments are assumed to be correct and are accepted until proof is provided to the contrary. Lightner said only four cases have been heard in his 22 years as tax assessor.

"That's where the appeal process comes in," said Lightner. "First there is an informal appeal where the property owner tears off the part of the first notice and sends it back identifying the area of concern. If we adjust the assessment based on the concern, we send a second notice. If the owner still wants to appeal, a formal appeal process is started with the Board of Equalization."

Lightner said the burden of proof is with the taxpayer to show that the property is exceedingly over valued. "Property owners have to show solid proof and a reason why the revaluation is wrong," said Lightner. "If the proof is solid, like it's a clerical error on our part or something else, we might lower it, but sometimes we increase it. We don't like to do that, but sometimes it happens."

Tax revaluation notices will begin to go out Jan. 15, 2007. He warned commissioners to be ready. "Remember that when your phones start ringing please encourage people to go through the appeal process," said Lightner.

"During the 2003 revaluation, we had several people who appealed saying their value was too high when they actually had a sales contract on the property for a higher price than the value," said Lightner. "In one particular case, the property was valued at \$262,710. The owner said the new value was unreasonable and all the time had a contract on the property for \$300,000."

Commissioners said the tax rate will be set in July after they determine the amount of money they need for the fiscal 2007-2008 year. For a few years, commissioners have invoked a "Revenue Neutral Tax Rate" but they said it's too early to know what will be done for the next fiscal year.

"Valuation is determined by the market, not us, said Commission Chair Charlie Leatherman. "We determine the tax rate based on the county's needs not the other way around."

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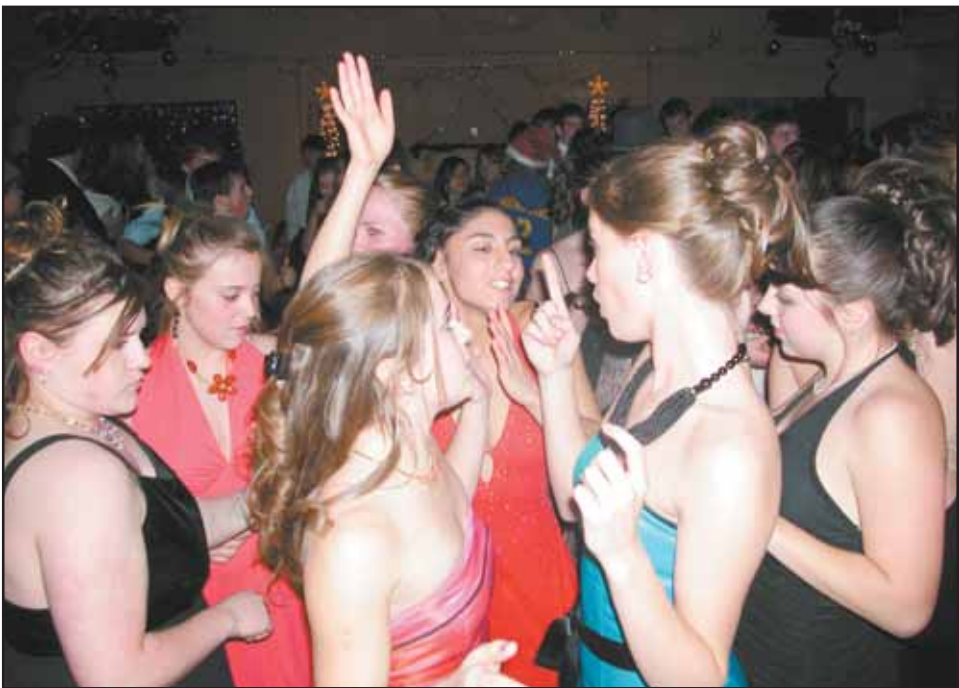
Hospital Auxiliary Tree

Bells in honor of living friends and loved ones, stars in memory of deceased friends or loved ones, will be placed on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree in the hospital lobby. Bells or stars are \$10. Complete the form below and mail to: Attn: Tree of Lights, P.O. Box 742, Highlands, NC, 28741. Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary.

Proceeds go toward scholarships for qualifying candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital's team for a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.

Amount: _____
Circle one: _____ In Honor of — In Memory of
Name: _____
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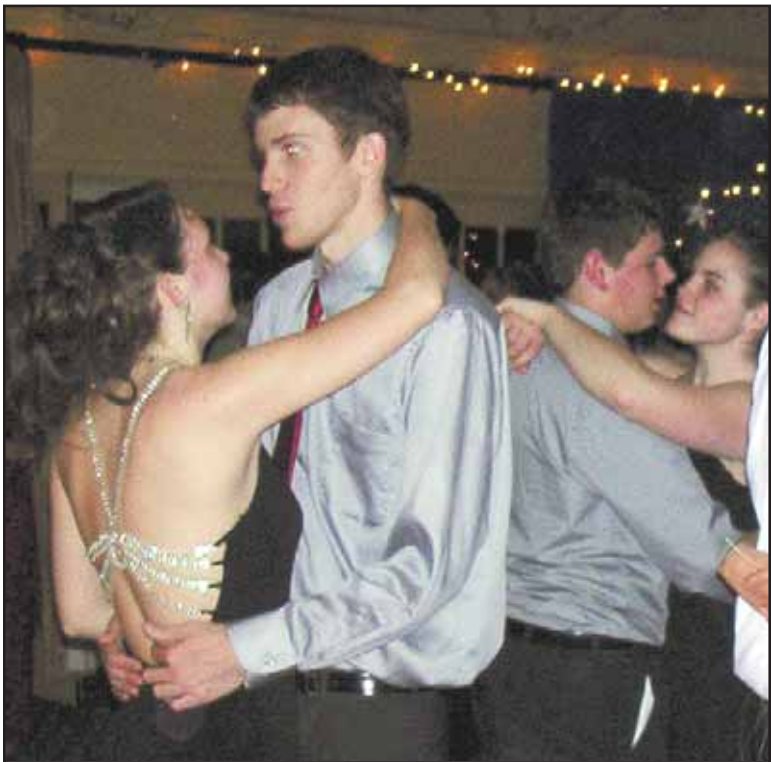


'Dance Like Nobody's Watching'

Highlands School high-schoolers did just that...danced like no one was watching, at the Homecoming Dance held at the Highlands Country Club's Hudson House, Saturday, Dec. 2.

Sara Bates and Nick Kerhoulas were selected as king and queen of the Homecoming Court at the dance. Seniors in the running were Alec Schmitt, Nick Kerhoulous, Jason Aspinwall, Grey Alexander, Allison Winn, Brittany Dryman, Katie Bryson, and Sara Bates. The court also included juniors: Greg Porter, Jake Heffington, Sally Wheeler, and Jessica Dryman. Sophomores were Hunter Lefter and Marisol Ruiz. and freshman were Matthew Potts and Ladonna Rodriguez.

Photos by
Jim Lewicki



Highlands Christmas Parade 2007

Long ago, it was big news when the circus came to Highlands trailing elephants up the mountain roads.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, history was made again when the Highlands United Methodist Church brought camels to town as part of the ecumenical float in the Christmas Parade. Mary and Joseph led the procession of shepherds, sheep, wise men and of course lots of children.

Crowds four people deep lined Main Street to watch the Highlands School band, cheerleaders and basketball teams; civic groups and churches dress the part as they heralded in the 2007 holiday season.



Photos by Jim Lewicki



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... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 6

differences as much as we cherish our equality.

South Africa is a long way from a perfect state, but for a country which has been experimenting with majority rule for less than 15 years, they are doing well. Nelson Mandela walked out of 27 years of unjust imprisonment and said to his captors, hey guys, let's build a country.

They avoided the massacre of whites which characterized the post colonial period in the Congo. They have refrained from confiscation of white owned land, such as took place in

Zimbabwe. They suffer a high crime rate and a frightful incidence of AIDS/HIV. They cope with tribal hostility and corruption. They are attempting to accommodate all the elements of their diverse population. They boast 11 official languages, and the constitution mentions several others from Portuguese, to Hebrew, to Sanskrit. And a woman can wear the scarf without inciting fear or incurring ridicule.

We, the greatest nation and first democracy, a country founded both on unity and on individual freedom should be able to do as much.

... LETTER continued from page 2

\$10,000!

Eight-man football teams most commonly consist of 15-20 players, Coach Leake recommended that a team needs 12 at a minimum but it has been done with as few as nine. That translates into fewer than five athletes per class! It is not uncommon in 11-man football for athletes to play both offense and defense, so it would be expected that the same may happen in 8-man as well. One of the major similarities between 8-man and 11-man football is that the equipment is the same. Based on his experience we can outfit our players with their equipment (excluding shoes) for \$200 - \$225 dollars. He also shared that they try to add two or three new pairs of pads a year while eliminating the same to keep costs down

and equipment up to date. I'm sure that principle could be applied to helmets as well.

The process is simple, we need to hear from each athletic director as confirmation that their school would like to go forward in this endeavor. Once we have support from enough schools we would make a formal proposal to the Little Smokey Mountain Conference, and upon their consent, they would petition the NCHSAA to allow us to begin to play.

Our goal is to ignite excitement and a sense of community by beginning full contact 8-man football in the fall of 2007!

**Ryan Sprague, Scaly Mtn.,
Florida State University 1996-2000
Pittsburgh Steelers 2000**

... MULLEN continued from page 2

county is taking seriously the desire to stop construction of a high rise unit on the Cashiers Road. The County Planning Department made the first step in the process by submitting a request to the Macon County Board of Commissioners for a temporary moratorium on construction of high-rise buildings over 38 feet. On Monday night, the Board voted to request the County Attorney and the County Planner to work on language authorizing a six-month moratorium on high-rise construction over four stories or 48 feet in height. This will be a temporary answer to the larger problem of zoning within Macon County, and I hope this is a wake-up call for them to act on a permanent basis to limit unacceptable construction in our pristine area.

The Town Board of Commissioners also approved McGavern Engineering's proposal to help the town engineering department in its ongoing program of improving our utility poles. With the change in state law regarding franchising cable companies it certainly is an appropriate time to push forward with this as we continue our program of pole change-outs. The state has taken over the franchising of cable companies from the cities and towns in NC which will allow other companies to become active in Highlands under a state franchise agreement. We are not sure of the

wisdom of this change but we have no choice but to go along with it.

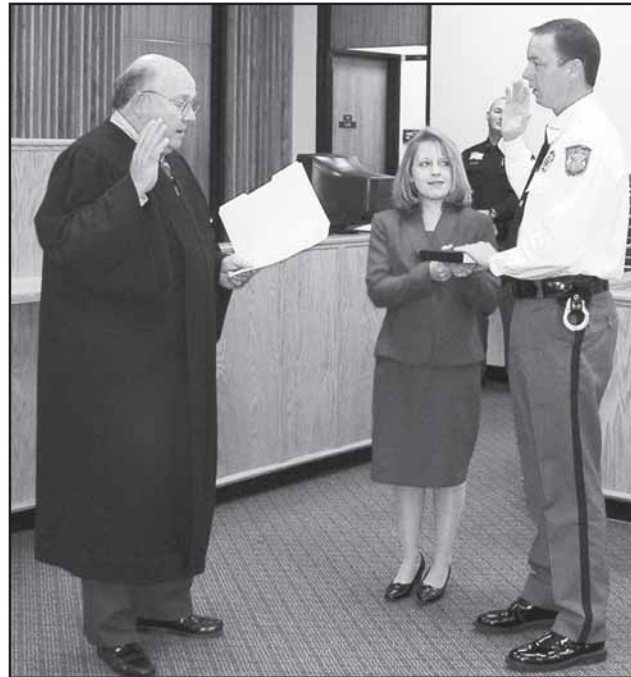
In another move the Town Board has approved a five year lease agreement with the Rotary Club to operate the Highlands Community Building and be in charge of scheduling events at the facility. The Town will continue the upkeep of the building. In fact, much maintenance work needs to be done on the building and this will begin soon.

Good news at the hospital. The Board had approved the purchase of important new diagnostic equipment recently and the first of this equipment has arrived. When I was doing cardiac surgery, we depended on good ultrasound equipment. Since then the equipment has come a long way with much improvements in the clarity of the images. Now the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has a state-of-the-art ultrasound unit and both our cardiologist, Dr. Curtiss, and our radiologist, Dr. Stinnett, are quite pleased with the quality of the equipment. The addition of this unit greatly improves the diagnostic abilities of not only heart imaging but blood vessel and abdominal procedures. Our hospital is making great strides in not only our ability to care for people in our area but also in management and governance of our great facility.

2006 Swearing-in Ceremony takes place at courthouse



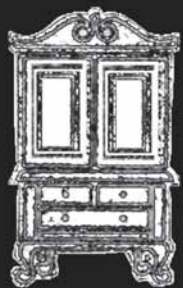
Superior Court Judge for District 30A Judge James U. Downs swore in the winners of the Nov. 7 election at a swearing-in ceremony in Courtroom A at the Macon County Courthouse, Monday, Dec. 4 at 8:45 a.m. Center: Sheriff Robert Holland was first and was accompanied by his wife Marci. Above left: Downs swore in the new Macon County Com-



mission members: incumbent Bob Simpson, Ronnie Beale and Brian McClellan, all accompanied by their wives. Above: Downs swears in the Macon County School Board members incumbent Tommy Cabe and Guy Gooder both with their wives by their sides.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

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From left are Jodie Zahner, Molly McKim, Jeremy Bishop, Emily Giardina, Daniel Burns and Micah Dingler.

Incarnation soloists to be featured in 'Christmas Oratorio'

Six of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation soloists will be featured in the upcoming presentation of Camille Saint-Saens' beautiful "Christmas Oratorio" on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

The choir, under the direction of Grammy Award winning conductor Fletcher Wolfe, will be accompanied by organist Barbara Luhn and internationally renowned concert pianist Robert Henry.

Mr. Henry, first-prize winner of many of the world's professional piano competitions, appears frequently as a soloist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The performance is free and open to the public and everyone is invited to attend a gala reception following the program.

'Jesus Our Treasure' at First Baptist Dec. 15 & 17

First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra invite you to join its congregation for the Christmas Musical Drama, *Jesus, Our Treasure*. The presentations will be Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Music has a big place in the celebration of Christmas. This year at First Baptist Church, drama will have a very meaningful part of the Christmas presentation. We will be presenting A Musical Drama for Christmas called *Jesus, Our Treasure*, created by Mike Harland, arranged and orchestrated by Camp Kirkland and scripted by Lawrence Kimbrough.

Mike Harland takes the idea of looking back at Christmas through the eyes of an old shepherd's still fresh memories from 40 years before. He shares these memories with his granddaughter who loves to hear how her grandfather was one to whom the angels spoke and actually saw the Lord Jesus in the stable where he was born.

Playing the part of Jacob, the grandfather, is Rick Trevathan. The granddaughter, Miriam, is played by Ali Cutshaw. Other characters are Mary and Joseph portrayed

by Kirsten and Keith McKim, the boy Jesus, by Elias McKim, Herod by Bill Hogue, other shepherds by Chase and Brice Jenkins, and possibly others. The Wise Men are played by Dennie Davis, Bruce Oliver, and Jerry McGill.

Directors Elizabeth Loosier and Pam Powell are assisted by Sherry Gray and Shirley Layow. Others who are participating or who have contributed in various ways are: Lara Gibson, Jessica Dryman, Hannah Oliver, Greg Porter, Wendy Latta, Alice Dyer, Cindy Trevathan, Seth Robinson, Roy Potts, Marie Davis, Crystal Dempsey, Chris Cutshaw, Robby Reed, Casey Jenkins, and possibly some that are not listed.

Accompaniment will be provided by Anne Porter and June Hogue along with the First Baptist Church orchestra under the direction of Joe Powell. These, as well as the choir, have been working hard and long to make this possible.

We hope you will come and invite all your friends and relatives to celebrate with us on one of the above dates. God wants us to be active in telling His story.

Auditions for HCP's 'Caught in the Villian's Web' Dec. 10-11

The Highlands Community Players are ready to begin work on its next production "Caught in the Villian's Web."

Auditions are Sunday, Dec. 10 and Monday, Dec. 11, if needed.

The group will be casting, five women ranging in ages from 20-60 and four men ages 30-40.

Auditions are held at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Sunday from 2-4 p.m. and Monday, from 5:30-7 p.m.- if needed.

Performance dates are February 22-25 and March 2-4, 2007

For more information please call: 526-2080. "Overactors" are preferred.

Scripts available at the Hudson Library.

HCP annual tradition continues with free Christmas presentation

The Players are presenting their free Christmas reading Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center with many of the same performers from last year and several new faces. The program is a mixture of poetry, prose, and music—some humorous, some serious, some inspirational—all entertaining and performed by talented readers and musicians.

For instance, brothers Chad and Brandon Price will sing several favorite Christmas songs; Ron Leslie will be reading "Christmas in Ten Pieces," a hilarious account of a father trying to put together a toy for his son on Christmas eve; Elaine Whitehurst will read a touching account of a school Christmas play entitled "Trouble

at the Inn:" and Dean Zuch will describe some of the celebrations associated with the Winter Solstice, introducing "the Mumpers," who will perform a centuries old Mumpers' play, "A Tale of Old Christmas."

This is just a sampling of the fun to be had at the Community Players' traditional Holiday program, a gift to the community, requiring no tickets, no reservations—just an audience.

It's suitable for the whole family, and afterwards there'll be hot cider provided by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and homemade goodies provided by the Players.

For more information, leave a message on the Players' answering machine, 526-8084.

Writers to read for the public

A local group of very talented writers is opening their December meeting to the public in the hopes that this will become a monthly event.

Ann Doggett, leader of the Highlands Writers' Group invites the public to attend the first ever Writers – in – the Round to be held on Friday, Dec. 8 at the Studio on Main at 7 p.m.

This group of writers includes published and non-published authors of various genres: poetry, short stories, novels and even an intrepid songwriter, all of whom will be sharing from their own original works.

Ms. Doggett encourages lovers of the written word to attend this reading and will be glad to answer questions of anyone interested in joining the group. This group has been together for over 10 years and meets weekly in Highlands.

The reading is free and will be held at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main that is located at 310 Main Street, upstairs at Oak Square in Highlands. The studio has ample parking and easy elevator access to its intimate upstairs

theatre.

For more information call Ms. Doggett at 526-8009 or visit the ITC website at www.InstantTheatre.org

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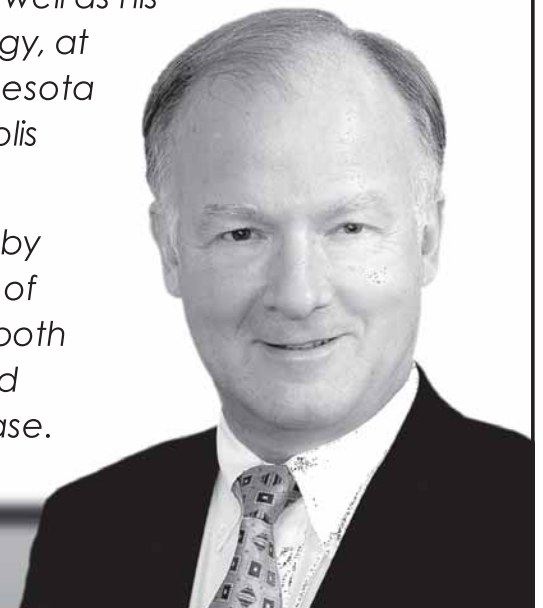
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A Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Curtiss earned his medical degree from Ohio State University's College of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine, as well as his fellowship in cardiology, at the University of Minnesota Hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both internal medicine and cardiovascular disease.



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- Yoga Classes at the Rec Park. Mondays and Wednesdays. Bring your mat. \$7 per person per class or \$50 for a monthly pass.

- FREE improv classes at Instant Theater on Main Street. Call the ITC office at 828.526.1687. A new class is forming now.

- Angie Jenkins on the piano at the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton on Fridays and Saturdays for dinner.

- Beginners Clogging class Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Come have lots of fun and exercise. Call 743-7663.

- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will have Osteoporosis prevention exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free with HealthTracks Membership or \$8 per class for non-members. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a total body and muscle-toning workout exercise class at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free with Health Track Membership or \$8 for non-members. An advanced class will also be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

- Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is holding Pilates classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Cost of the class is \$10 per session or \$8 (each) for 10 sessions. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

- A Grief Support Group is held every Friday from 10-12 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for anyone who has lost a loved one through death or is dealing with a progressive illness with a loved one. If interested in attending, please contact Helen Moore (Hospice) 526-0727 or Martha Porter (Chaplain at HCH) at 787-1463.

- Every Tuesday Weight Watchers meets at the Highlands Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 5:30. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

- Live music nightly at ...on the Verandah every Friday and Saturday with Chad Reed.

- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn. featuring Cy Timmons Wed. through Sat., 6 p.m. until.

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30.

Dec. 8 – Friday

- Local writers' group to read selection to public at ITC's first "Writers-in-the-Round," Friday at 7 p.m. It's free.

Dec. 9 - Saturday

- Highlands United Methodist Church will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. Families are invited to come for a pancake breakfast, craft, story, and visit with Jolly Ole' St. Nicholas. The cost is \$10 per family and reservations are needed. Call 526-3376.

- Gem City Toastmasters will be closing their doors after eight years in Franklin. A Gala Farewell Party will be held at the home of Ed and Barbara Morris at 6 p.m. All former members and present members are invited to attend. For more information call Jean Logan at 369-3022.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.6 mile hike with an elevation change of 300 feet from Big Bend Road to the trail along the Chattooga River past beautiful stretches of rocks and rapids. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:55 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear

sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader: Mo Wheeler at 743-9560 or 743-9579 for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Christmas Show House sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society, at the Trapier-Wright-Prince House in the historical village on U.S. 64 east. 1-4 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

- Highlands Community Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert, at 4 p.m. at the Community Bible Church. It's free.

- Wooten Performance Company brings its giant

available at the Hudson Library.

Dec. 8-10 – Fri., Sat., Sun.

- The North Georgia Community Players announce auditions for "The Curious Savage," an adult play written by John Patrick. The cast is made up of 5 men and 7 women. Auditions will be held at the Dillard Playhouse, Dillard, Ga. on Friday Dec. 8 from 6-8 p.m. Saturday from 2-4 p.m., and call backs on Sunday at 2 p.m. Mike Ciochetti Sr. is the director. The play will open on March 16, 2007 for 2 consecutive weekends. Call: (706)212-2500 for information.

Dec. 10 -- Sunday

The Woopets are coming to town!



Mary Wooten and her giant puppets at Instant Theater on Dec. 9.

The enchantment and magic of the Woopets is coming to Highlands Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at The Instant Theater's Studio on Main.

Earlier this year, Mary Wooten brought her Giant Puppets, called Woopets to The Studio on Main for a children's theatre workshop and won the hearts of young and old. The Instant Theatre Company is bringing the Woopets back for a special winter performance that will delight and entertain everyone.

This holiday show consists of two different themes. Peter and The Wolf will feature a "real" full-bodied wolf and the Faerie Ring stars real live fairies. Children of all ages will be enchanted by the imagination and creativity the Woopets bring to the stage and there will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation, as well.

The show begins at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 17. No reservations are required. For more information call the Instant Theatre Company box office at 342-9197 or visit the website at www.InstantTheatre.org

The Studio on Main is located upstairs at Oak Square, 310 Main Street in Highlands. There is ample parking and easy elevator access to its intimate upstairs theatre.

puppets called "Woopets" for the enjoyment of children of all ages at The Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main. 7 pm. Call 828-342-9197.

- Cashiers Christmas Parade at 1 p.m.

Dec. 10 & 11 – Sun. & Mon.

- Auditions for HCP's "Caught in the Villian's Web." Needed: 5 women ranging in ages from 20-60 and 4 men ages 30-40. Auditions are held at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Sunday from 2-4 p.m. and Monday, from 5:30-7 p.m. - if needed. Performance dates: February 22-25 and March 2-4, 2007 For more information please call: 526-2080. "Overactors" preferred. Scripts

- Highlands Community Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Community Bible Church. It's free.

Dec. 12 -- Tuesday

- "Why I Am a Skeptic about Religious Claims" by Paul Kurtz, *Free Inquiry*, June/July, 2006, pp. 30-33. Coordinator: Don McCormick. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

- The Franklin Christian Women's Club Decem-

ber "Putting Your Best Face Forward" luncheon and program is Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Factory meeting rooms in Franklin. Amber Smith of Spa Siobhan will present tips on making us look our best. Music will be sung by Rosemary Wilson. June James of Franklin will speak on "Have you ever seen a miracle?" For reservations, call Gail at 349-8938 or Georgann at 369-9117 by 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8. Cost is \$10 all inclusive.

Dec. 15 – Friday

- First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra invite you to join our congregation for the Christmas Musical Drama, *Jesus, Our Treasure*. The presentations will be Friday at 7 p.m. at 6:30 pm. It's free.

Dec. 16, Saturday

- At Cyrano's Book Shop, a book signing from 1-3 p.m. Carl Smith "Louisiana Burn."

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-5-mile hike along the Horsepasture River passing Bust-er-butt, Turtleback, Rainbow and Stairstep Falls. The trail has several short, steep rocky sections. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. Drive 18 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Arts Council will sponsor a five-hour basketry workshop on Saturday at 10 a.m., in the Franklin High School Careers Center. Instructor Joanne Nolen is a skilled weaver and basket-maker with many years' teaching experience. Participants will construct a multi-purpose, decorative basket with 10" diameter open top, 5" high sides, and color accents. No experience is needed. Pre-registration is required; phone the Arts Council at 524-7683 for registration information and a list of common household tools you should bring. The Careers Center is adjacent to the Fine Arts Center on the Franklin High School campus. This project is supported by a Grassroots Arts Program grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

Dec. 17, Sunday

- "Christmas Oratorio" presented by six of the Episcopal Church's soloists and conducted by Fletcher Wolfe, Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. The concert is free and followed by a gala reception.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3.5 mile hike from Winding Stair Gap on Forest Service roads, returning on the Appalachian Trail to the Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Drive 33 miles round trip. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader: Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- First Baptist Church choir, drama ministry, and orchestra invite you to join our congregation for the Christmas Musical Drama, *Jesus, Our Treasure*. The presentations will be Sunday at 6:30 pm. It's free.

- "Christmas is Jesus" musical at 10 a.m. at Grace Community Church in Cashiers. Featuring the Grace Christmas Choral Group. For more information, call the church at 743-9814.

Dec. 19 – Tuesday

- Barbara Ehrenreich's book, *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of The American Dream*. Coordinator: Fia Scheyer. All sessions are on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. You may come to the sessions that interest you or when you are in town, as well as be a regular participant. If you have any questions, call or email Creighton Peden at 526-4038.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER MEALS – Needed on Fridays. Must pick up meals at the hospital and deliver to individuals at their homes. Call the Rec Park Office at 526-3556 or Teresa Curtis at the Macon County Dept. of Aging at 349-2058 or 349-2235.

OFFICE MANAGER/DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR — Duties for this full-time position include membership development, book keeping, and office management. Candidate should have excellent computer, interpersonal, communication, and writing skills. Experience with non-profit organization a plus. Interested parties should mail resume and names of three references by December 31, 2006 to Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 29741 or email to hitrust@earthlink.net.

LOOKING FOR LABORERS to clear land and landscape for December, January and February. Must speak some English. \$10 per hour. Call Charlie @ 526-5939

HIGHLANDS AREA LUXURY INN looking for breakfast chef. Call 828-526-8170 or fax résumé to 828-526-2625.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN! – Are you interested in a new career? Become a Certified Nursing Assistant for Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. We are now accepting applications for the next class beginning January 23, 2007. Students will be paid while in class Mondays through Fridays for 6 hours a day. Upon graduation, students will become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will receive a substantial increase in pay. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic health-

care team, call Judy Miller at 828-526-1317, or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

ADMINISTRATOR FOR FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Must be a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in North Carolina. Minimum of three years experience preferred. Must have knowledge of regulations established by DFS and JCAHO. Responsibility includes overall management of the center and ensuring compliance with all standards, applicable laws, and State/Federal regulations. Excellent salary and full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. R.N. licensed in N.C. Masters Degree preferred, but not required. Responsible for patient care, management, resource management, and fiscal management of Acute Care, Emergency, Respiratory Therapy and Outpatient Procedure Clinic. Also responsible for ensuring compliance with all standard applicable laws governing nursing and clinical practice in N.C. and for the 24-hour management and operation of the departments. Excellent salary and full benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

CNA OR CNA II Interested in working in an environment where you can truly make a difference to those whom you care for? We have available Full, Part-time, and PRN positions at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for day and night shifts. Our NEW WAGE SCALE for CNA's is \$11 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full ben-

efits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

ACCOUNTING CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Responsible for Accounts Payable. Will assist in payroll, general ledger, and fixed assets. You will also assist human resources in clerking duties as needed. Full time position Monday - Friday. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301, or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RNS AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Our current wage scale is \$19 to \$27.74 per hour, depending on experience, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

COOK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, year-round employment; 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days of the week. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Competitive salary and full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org.

DIETARY AIDES AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., various days. Must be able to work weekends and be able to read and speak English. Salary depends on experience. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website,

www.hchospital.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Experience in management of Housekeeping, Floor Care, and Laundry is preferred as is knowledge of State and Federal regulations. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through website, www.hchospital.org

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NEW RETAIL/STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE. BEST PRICES IN TOWN. — All units individually climate controlled with bathrooms. 1,600sqft secure storage \$950 monthly, no maintenance fees. OR, 2,300 sq. ft. new retail \$1,750 monthly, no maintenance fees. Call (828)526-5296 or (828)421-3161. Limited space.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

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furnished. \$700 per month; \$700 security deposit. All homes require interview, rental application, credit and/or background check. Please come by The Chambers Agency, 401 N. Fifth St. or call 828-526-3717

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1/01/07

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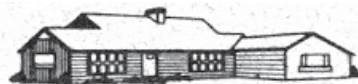


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1995 GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO, loaded, V-8, 4WD, new tires, new brakes, leather, PW, PL, 168K, priced to sell, \$3,900. Cell: 200-0013.

1991 SUBURBAN 3/4 TON, 130K miles, 20K on Tranny, 350 V8, lift w/wheels & tires, good condition, never off-road, white/blue \$4350. Call 200-0013.

GEM ELECTRIC CAR – Excellent Condition. Has two motors and will cruise at 40 mph. Many extras including new tires. Great for gated communities, golf courses, and senior citizen communities. Asking \$6,500. email gem603@prodigy.net

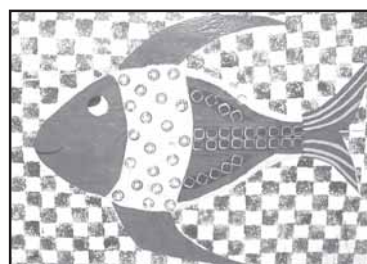
UNWANTED ITEMS in good condition for a family of five. please call Tony @ 828-779-1765.

SERVICES

FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, dry-

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

HIGHLANDS EATERIES



Pescado's Burritos

In the middle of 4th St.
Open for lunch and dinner
Mon-Sat. • 526-9313

High Country Cafe



Down home favorites everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch
6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday through Friday;
Saturday, 7 am.-1 p.m.

526-0572

Cashiers Road next to the
Community Bible Church

Buck's Coffee Cafe

Open 7 days a week
7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Coffee, tea, wine,
pastries, sandwiches
384 Main Street



Great Food - any time of day
Coffee, Cappuccinos, Lattes
Wine
Delectable Desserts
Incredible Ice Cream & Yogurt
Wireless Hotspot

Open Daily 9am - 9pm
Mountain Brook Center
(one block off Main St. on Hwy 64)
(828) 526-9822



"Quick Service Not Fast Food!"

Hamburgers & Fries
Sandwiches & Salads
Ice Cream & More!
Open for lunch Mon.-Sat.
Now Trans Fat FREE

At 4th & Spring streets...on the hill



526-5916

\$10 minimum with credit card



Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs,
Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other
Southern favorites that'll have you
coming back for more.



Catering
Available

LUNCH
&
DINNER

461 Spring Street • 526-2626

• CLASSIFIEDS •

wall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.

D.P. PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – Interior and exterior painting. Quality Work. References. In business since 1984. Dennis Perkins. 526-3542 or 371-2277.

YARD WORK & PRESSURE WASHING – Yard and property maintenance. Pressure Washing and odd jobs. Call Bruce at 828-369-3168 or 828 371-2766. 8/18

H & D HOUSE CLEANERS – We're the team for minor cleans. Dishes, bed, floors, & baths. Give us a call 'cause we are the Best! 706-982-1994 or 706-782-0376

SCOTTS CONSTRUCTION 'ME FIX IT' – Decks, roofs, pressure washing, painting, lawn service, small electrical, floors, carpet cleaning, house cleaning! No job too small. 30 yrs. exp. Call David at 828-369-5886 or 828-347-5051.

C&C CONTRACTING – WE GET IT DONE – SMALL OR LARGE – Remodeling, decks, doors, windows or the whole house! Call Art Doughty at 828-508-1360 Workmen's Comp, General Liability, References

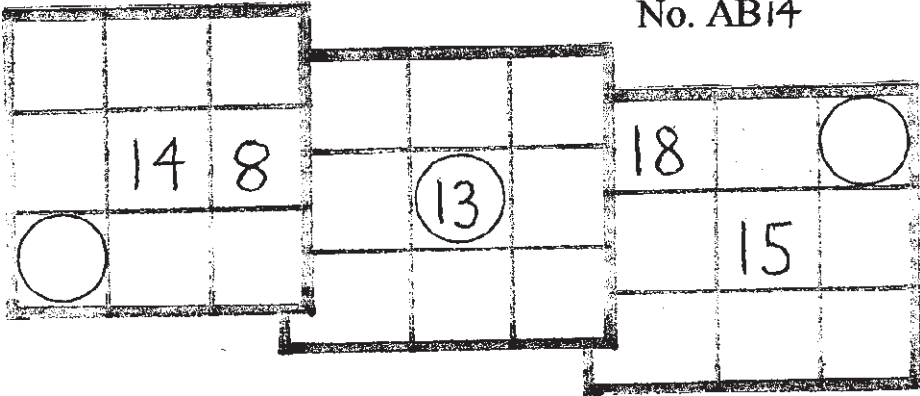
HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

LOST DOG

TWO DOGS. Italian Pointer neutered male, tan and white, wearing an orange collar, 90 lbs., and female Weimaraner, silver-gray, wearing a pink collar. May be seen together. Last seen in Highlands, NC. Very upset child waiting for their return. Please call with any information or if you have seen either one. REWARD OFFERED!! 828-526-2197.

Pseudocube © 2006
a new mind game

No. AB14



THE SETUP:

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

THE CHALLENGE:

Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

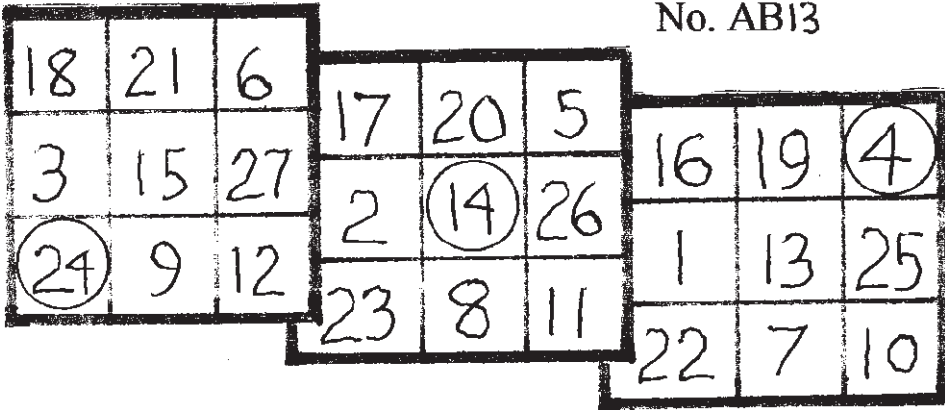
The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution for puzzle # AB13 in the Nov. 30 issue

Pseudocube © 2006
a new mind game

No. AB13



FIRE & RESCUE REPORT

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 3-6.

Dec. 3

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Chestnut Hill. The person was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 4

• The dept. responded to a vehicle fire on U.S. 64 west at Lake Sequoyah. The vehicle was destroyed.

• The dept. responded to an alarm at a home on Flat Mountain Road. It was un-

founded.

Dec. 5

• The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

• The dept. responded to a call of a brush fire at N.C. 28 south and Rich Gap Road. A construction burn got out of control but there was no damage to nearby houses.

Dec. 6

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Mountain Living Center on N.C. 106. The patient was transferred to the hospital.

2007 fire & rescue officers elected

At its Dec. 3 meeting, Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. volunteers elected officers for 2007.

James "Popcorn" Manley was elected Chief; Allan "Ricky" Bryson was elected Assistant Chief; Robbie Forrester was elected Captain; Wayne Henry was elected

1st. Lt.; Roger L. Wilson was elected 2nd. Lt.; Jimmy Tate was elected Rescue Captain; Eric Pierson was elected Rescue Lt.; Terry Watson was elected Treasurer; Lenny Metrick was elected Secretary and Chief Manley appointed Buddy Miller as Chaplain.

• THANK YOU NOTES •

On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for the cards, flowers, food, visits, thoughts, and prayers that were brought forth during the loss of our loved one. Please know that we appreciate all that has been done for our family. We are so blessed to live in such a great community. May the legacy of our dad, husband, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend live on forever.

Melanie Miller and The Family of Jamie Keener

In all the excitement of the best Christmas Tree Lighting ever, somehow we forgot one of the most important elements. Yes, the decorations were fabulous, the weather was superb, the hot chocolate was great, the sweatshirts, the singers, the committee, and on and on. But it would not have been in any way, shape or form possible without the kindness and generosity of the Highlands United Methodist Church. We used their grounds and their tree, and for all practical purposes, we are guests in their house of worship. We owe them a great debt of thanks for allowing Highlands to celebrate in their house.

Rick Siegel

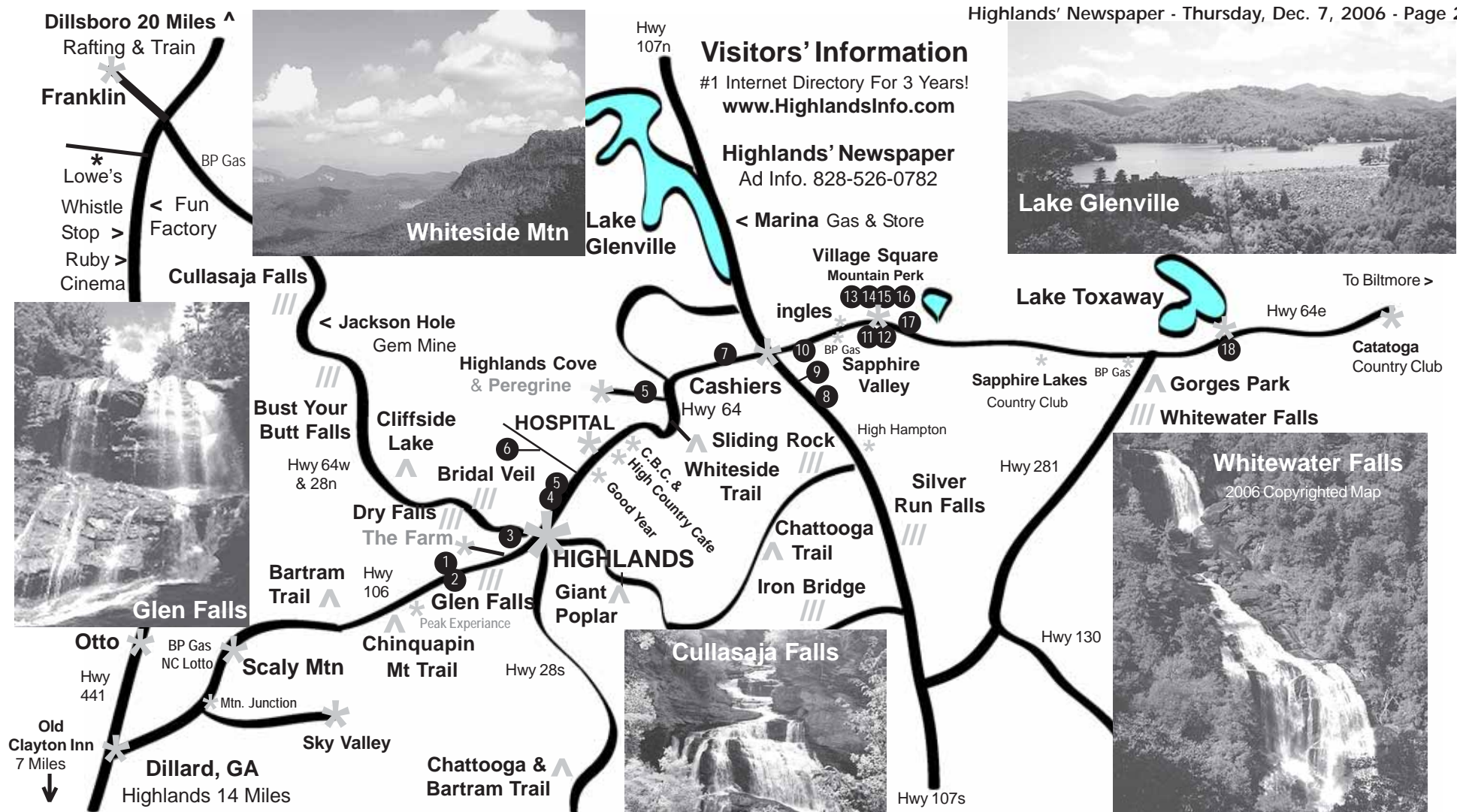
Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center

First Pseudocube winner announced

Blanche Pavlis enjoys her free cup of coffee at Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street as the first winner of a correct entry for Pseudocube puzzle number 12. Blanche, spry at 82, is a grandmother of 12, a year-round resident at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club and loves doing mathematical puzzles.



Photo by Pete Sargeant



CALL NOW Area Code 828		1 Summer House 2 Tin Roof Gallery 3 On The Verandah	4 Outdoor Tool 5 Signature Prop. 6 Skyline Lodge	7 Century 21 8 Mtn Golf Properties 9 Buyers' Real Estate	10 Macon Bank 11 Fairfield Realty 12 TUBBY Tubing	13 Grinning Frog 14 Rand Soellner Arch. 15 HomePlace Blinds	16 SMC Realty 17 Hampton Inn 18 Brew Bird Cafe	19 20 21							
ANTIQUES Elephant's Foot Highlands, 526-5451 Shiraz Oriental Rugs Highlands, 526-5759 ART GALLERIES Bryant Art Glass Highlands, 526-4095 Hubert Shuptrine Highlands, 787-1123 John Collette Highlands, 526-0339 Mill Creek Highlands, 787-2021 Robert Tino Highlands, 526-0667 The Very Thing Highlands, 526-2333 Tin Roof Highlands, 526-3900 BEAUTY & SPA All Seasons Salon Highlands, 526-0349 Creative Concepts Highlands, 526-3939 Images Spa Highlands, 526-8832		BEAUTY & SPA Mountain Magic Highlands, 526-4049 Old Edwards Spa Highlands, 526-8008 Pro Nails Highlands, 526-8777 Taylor Barns Salon Highlands, 526-4192 The Very Thing Highlands, 526-2333 BOUTIQUES Acorns Highlands, 787-1877 AnnaWear Highlands, 526-4660 Bear Mtn Outfitters Highlands, 526-5784 Bungalow Boutique Highlands, 526-8555 Cabin Casuals Highlands, 526-3320 Coolcats Hotdogs Highlands, 526-9990 McCulley's Highlands, 526-4407 Nancy's Fancys Highlands, 526-1029 The Exchange Highlands, 526-1029		BOUTIQUES Village Kids Highlands, 526-5799 Vivace Highlands, 526-1880 Wits End Highlands, 526-3160 DAY TRIPS Adventure Depot Cashiers, 743-2052 Dillsboro River Co. Dillsboro, 866-586-3797 Family Float Trip Dillsboro, 888-593-5050 FOODS August Produce Highlands, 526-4617 Bryson's Foods Highlands, 526-3775 Dusty's Market Highlands, 526-2762 Ingles Food Store Cashiers, 743-3801 Mountain Fresh Highlands, 526-2357 Rosewood Market Highlands, 526-0383 The Hen House Highlands, 787-2473		FOODS Whole Life Market Highlands, 526-5999 Wine & Cheese Highlands, 526-5210 GIFTS Bird Barn Highlands, 526-3910 Christmas Tree Highlands, 526-3687 Grinning Frog Highlands, 526-9033 Needlepoint Highlands, 526-3901 Radio Shack Highlands, 526-3350 Speckled Hen Highlands, 526-3910 HOME DECOR Amer. Upholstery Walhala, 864-638-9661 Black Bear Furniture Highlands, 526-9933 Dry Sink Highlands, 526-5226 Furniture Buy-Trips Highlands, 526-2973 Highlands Cabinet Highlands, 526-8364		HOME DECOR Highlands Cust Cov Highlands, 526-4226 Highlands Decor Ctr Highlands, 526-3571 Highlands Hardware Highlands, 526-3719 HomePlace Blinds Sapphire, 743-5451 Old Rangoon Highlands, 526-8288 Southern Shutters Clayton, 706-782-5212 The Summer House Highlands, 526-5577 Wholesale Down Highlands, 526-4905 JEWELRY Acorns Highlands, 787-1877 Drake's Diamonds Highlands, 526-5858 Highlands Gem Highlands, 526-2767 Highlands Fine Art Highlands, 526-0656 Kent LTD Highlands, 526-1960 Silver Eagle Highlands, 526-5190		LODGING Chambers Rentals Highlands, 526-3717 Main Street Inn Highlands, 526-2590 Mitchell's Lodge Highlands, 526-2267 Old Clayton Inn Clayton, 706-782-7722 Old Edwards Inn Highlands, 526-8008 The Lodge Highlands, 526-8008 Skyline Lodge Highlands, 526-2121 RESTAURANTS Brick Oven Pizza Highlands, 526-4121 Bucks Cafe Highlands, 526-0020 Cafe 460 Highlands, 526-8926 Cyprus Highlands, 526-4429 Don Leon's Highlands, 526-1600 Fressers Eatery Highlands, 526-4188 Fressers Express Highlands, 526-8867		RESTAURANTS Golden China Highlands, 526-5525 High Country Cafe Highlands, 526-0572 Hill-Top Grill Highlands, 526-5916 Lakeside Highlands, 526-9419 Madison's Highlands, 526-5477 Mountain Perk Sapphire, 743-7889 On The Verandah Highlands, 526-2338 Peregrine Highlands, 787-2465 Pescado's Highlands, 526-9313 Pizza Place Highlands, 526-5660 Rib Shack Highlands, 526-2626 Ristorante Paoletti Highlands, 526-4906 Rosewood Market Highlands, 526-0383 Skyline Restaurant Highlands, 526-2121 SportsPage Highlands, 526-3555		RESTAURANTS SweeTreats Cafe Highlands, 526-9822 Wolfgang's Highlands, 526-3807 REAL ESTATE Buyer's Realty Highlands, 526-0988 Catatoga C.C. LakeToxaway, 877-6270 Century 21 Highlands, 787-2121 Chambers Agency Highlands, 526-3717 Country Club Prop. Highlands, 526-2520 Highlands Cove Highlands, 526-4185 John Schiffl Highlands, 526-5750 Keller Williams Highlands, 526-9520 Meadows Mountain Highlands, 526-1717 Architect - Soellner Sapphire, 743-6010 Builder - Warth Highlands, 526-4929 Builder - NBG Highlands, 526-4780	

10 CYPRUS

18 Main St. Inn Wine Bar

SweeTreats 28

Instant Theatre

NIGHT LIFE

Fressers 12

30 Wolfgang's

On The Verandah 20

Wine Garden 17

- LODGING

01) Main Street Inn

02) Mitchell's Lodge

03) Mtn High Lodge

04) Old Edwards Inn

05) Skyline Lodge

06) The Lodge

● DINING

07) Brick Oven

08) Bucks Cafe

09) Cafe 460

10) Cyprus

11) Don Leon's

12) Fressers

14) Hill-Top Grill

15)

16)

17) Madison's

18) Main Street Inn

19) Nick's Restaurant

20) On The Verandah

21) Pescado's

22) Pizza Place

23) Rib Shack

24) Ristorante Paoletti

25) Rosewood Market

26) Skyline Restaurant

27) SportsPage

28) SweeTreats Cafe

29) Fressers Express

30) Wolfgang's
- REAL ESTATE

31) Buyer's Realty

32) Century 21

33) Chambers Agency

34) Country Club Prop.

35) Houston Realty

36) John Cleaveland

37) John Schiffli

38) Keller Williams

39) Meadows Mtn.

40)

● HOME DECOR

41) Acorns

42) Black Bear Furn.

43) Custom Coverings

44) Dry Sink

45) Highlands Cabinet

46) Highlands Decorat.

47) Old Rangoon

48)

49) Summer House

50) Twigs

51) Wholesale Down

● GIFTS

52) Bird Barn

53) Christmas Tree

54) Grinning Frog

55) Needle Point

56) Shakespears

57) Speckled Hen

58) The Hen House
- BOUTIQUES

60) AnnaWear

61) Bungalow Boutique

62) Cabin Casuals

63)

64) Coolcats Hotdogs

65) Jolies

66)

67)

68)

69) Nancy's Fancys

70) Shops of O.E.I.

71) The Exchange

72) Village Kids

73) Vivace

74) Wits End

● JEWELRY

75) Drakes Diamonds

76) Highlands Gem

77) Highlands Fine Art

78) Kent Ltd

79) Silver Eagle

● BEAUTY & SPA

80) #1 Nails

81) All Seasons Salon

82) Creative Concepts

83) Images Salon/Spa

84) Mountain Magic

85) Pro Nails

86) Taylor Barns Salon

87) The Very Thing
- ANTIQUES

90) Elephants Foot

91) Mirror Lake Antiques

92)

93) Shiraz Oriental Rugs

● ART GALLERIES

95) Hubert Shuptrine

96) John Collette

97) Mill Creek Gallery

98) Robert Tino

99) The Very Thing

○ SERVICES

100) ComputerMan

111) Curves Fitness

112) Drug Stores

114) Dry Cleaners

115) Highlands Office

116) Jack Mayer

117) Nantahala Tire

118) Zek Sossoman

119) Woodworks

○ OUTFITTERS

120) Bear Mountain

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com



Out On
A Limb
&
Twigs
50

MILL CREEK GALLERY
Village Square



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