

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 5

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007

NOTE: Dr. Rick Spurling "Bully-Free School Zone" workshop has been rescheduled for Thursday, Feb. 8. See page 16.

On-going

- Every Tuesday, beginning Feb. 13, Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

- It's Girl Scout Cookie Time. Order Now. Delivery in February. Highlands Brownie Scouts Troop #219. See your local Brownie Scout or email to HighlandsBrownies@hughes.net. Booth sales start mid-February.

- Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

- The Macon County Art League exhibits work at the Bascom Louise Gallery through Feb. 15.

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

- Health Tracks classes at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Tuesdays-Wednesdays -- Osteoporosis preventive exercises, yoga, Pilates and more. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- 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 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.

Feb. 2

- Highlands Little League Baseball signups for ages 5-14 are at the Rec Park from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 for first child, \$45 for second child. Birth certificate mandatory. Call John Shearl at 526-2251 or Monica Vinson at 526-9107.

Saturday, Feb. 3

- Yoga and Juicing, One-Day Cleanse, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday night juice pick-up. All-levels. Call 526-8880 to register.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a four-mile moderate hike (with an elevation change of 700 feet) on the Georgia Bartram Trail near Clayton, passing a small waterfall near the start and a 45 foot waterfall along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, at 9 a.m. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations.

Sunday, Feb. 4

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on Forest Service roads in the Jones Creek area near Black Mountain, GA. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

County budget big topic at meeting

The business of running Macon County is getting more complicated requiring a clear path and mile markers every step of the way. On Saturday, commissioners attended a four-hour planning session to outline priorities and to plan for next year and into the future.

Funds needed for schools

With the Macon County Schools budget requiring 40 percent of the total levy by the county, the school system's needs were a big issue at the commissioners' planning session Saturday.

Superintendent Dan Brigman briefly outlined immediate and future needs for the school system which includes repairs, renovations and new construction county-wide.

Funding concerned commissioners — especially with new construction costs at the \$200 per sq. ft. mark.

Needs versus funding also spawned discussion concerning community versus consolidated schools and real versus perceived student growth in the county.

Instead of spending millions upgrading and repairing Iotla, Cowee and Cullasaja elementary schools and to alleviate crowding and prepare for growth, Brigman proposed combining Iotla, Cowee and Cullasaja into a K-5/6-8 "school-within-a-school."

"It will cost us millions to renovate those schools and bring them up to code. By using the school-within-a-school concept we can save \$1.2 to \$1.6 million a year in operating expenses," he said.

The two schools would be

• See SCHOOLS page 3

Weekend Weather:



future.

Though numerous subjects were discussed, with every priority dependent on money, the development and life of the budget was key and discussed at length.

"We need to discuss the budget process, the responsibilities of

commission liaisons and a revenue neutral position for 2007-2008 for setting the property tax rate after budgeting," said Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman. "We want the appeal process to be over before we set the

• See BUDGET page 15



Jessica Gagne maintains possession of the ball during the Blue Ridge game, Thursday, Jan. 25. Photo by Noel Atherton

Lady Highlanders beat Blue Ridge, drop tough game against Rosman

By Christopher Potts

The Lady Highlanders (13-11, 3-1) soundly defeated the Lady Bobcats of Blue Ridge on Thursday, 61-36. The ladies charged out of the gate with a solid first half, outscoring the Bobcats 29-16.

Highlands never let the Bobcats get into a rhythm, clamping down on the defensive end with

13 steals and 9 total deflections. Katie Bryson capped off a huge rivalry win with a stat-stuffed night, scoring 15 points, 9 rebounds, and 6 assists. Allison Winn followed 13 points and 7 assists with Toni Schmitt adding 12 points and 5 assists. Kate-Marie Parks posted 7 points and 7 rebounds, Brie

• See LADY page 10

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Housing talk spawns child care questions

By Susanna Hearn

Initial exploration into the need for affordable housing in Highlands has raised concerns about the availability and affordability of childcare and shopping.

The Affordable Housing Committee met at Hudson Library on Jan. 26 to discuss information gleaned from three major employers in the Highlands area — the Highlands Police Department, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and Highlands School.

"In my opinion this is a whole lot bigger than just affordable housing," said committee member Bill Nellis. "It gets into affordable community issues. If we look just at affordable housing we're doing it with blinders on."

According to committee members' survey of employers 90 percent of candidates are married in a dual income household with the woman usually making the commute to Highlands. The hospital also has a number of single mothers working on its staff adding to the childcare concerns.

Despite the concerns about affordability within the community employers are excited about the project. "One thing we asked the three employers was how many employees and how much their income is," said Ginger Slaughter. "They even gave us rough numbers for income. They were delighted we were doing this."

With the majority of employ-
• See HOUSING page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

The time for change has come



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

If our tax reval is any indication of anyone else's in the county, the value of our home is now 50 percent higher than it was three years ago and all it's gotten is older.

We can all rant and rave over the reval increase, but the truth is, the county is going to get its money and Highlands will continue to supply about 50 percent of the county's property tax revenue.

Like it or not, the county needs the money. I was at the commissioners' planning meeting Saturday and everyone has their hand out to the county these days.

The 2006 tentative property value pending adjustments and appeals is approximately \$8.3 billion.

So, maybe its time we rethink the tax process. Since real estate is the engine that runs the county, maybe a transfer tax levied each time a property sells would be a fairer way to tax.

Six counties in the state already do this and it takes the pressure off the general citizenry – especially those who are just trying to get by.

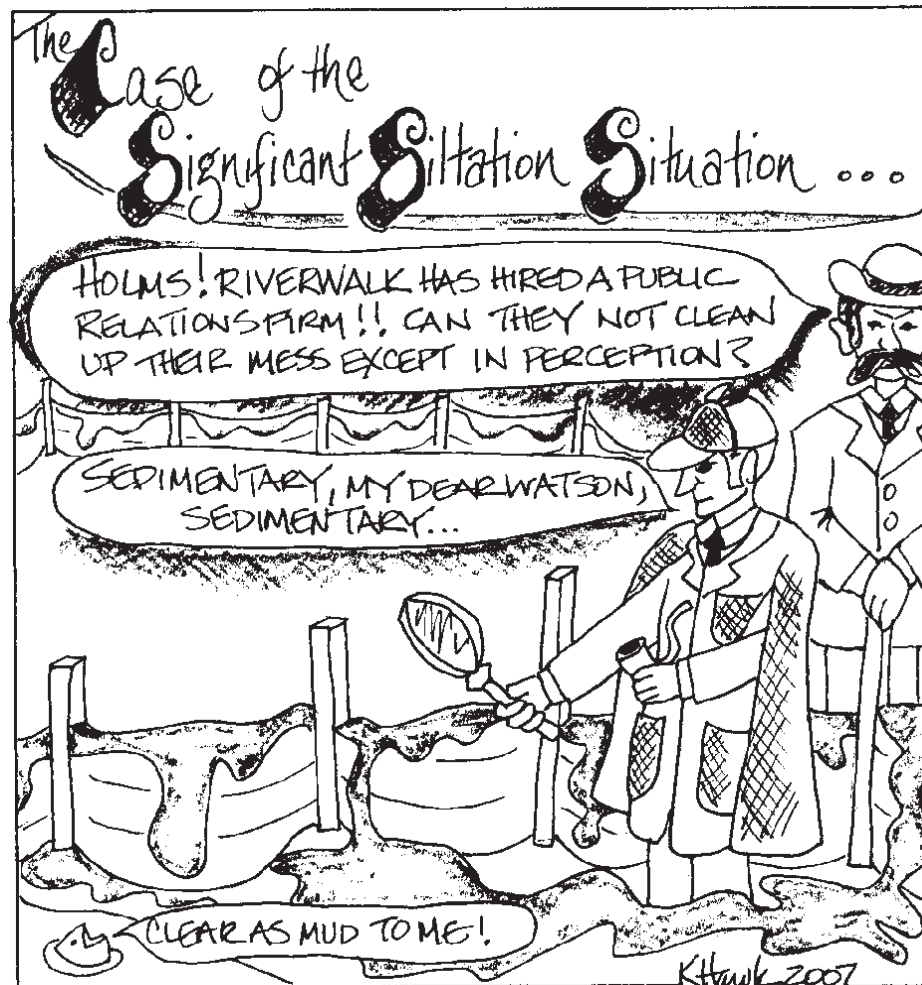
The county sets the transfer tax – say 1/2 percent or one percent of the selling price — and the buyer pays it at the time of the sale. The money goes to the county; the revenue is steady and property taxes could even decrease.

Now I know those who are liquid enough to buy houses often would be against this and I understand why. But why should normal working people who don't want to or can't own more than one home have to pay more in property taxes because they are surrounded by people who drive the real estate market value up by buying multiple homes or flipping them?

Remember, the county bases the reval on the current market value of property which keeps rising in Macon County.

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• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation 5,000; 100 distribution points

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• LETTERS •

A note to developers

Dear Editor,

Creativity is missing in the development of land (and IMPACT fees).

BMPs are just that: Best Management Practices. When it comes to building on steep slopes (or anywhere for that matter), let's put the onus on the developer — it either works or work stops.

Why must the town, county, or state come up with a way "to do it?" You figure it out at your expense and not at the expense of the taxpayer and the environment.

Karen Hawk
Highlands

It's a complex dilemma

Dear Editor,

Don Swanson's column, "What Happened...(Part 2)," in the Jan. 25 issue of Highlands' Newspaper tells the tired, neoconservative story that our schools have gone to hell in a hand basket since the good old days.

He says that if only we had God, prayer, and creationism in schools, things would be so much better. The extreme right literature he quotes supports the notion that schools are anti-Christian and when the ACLU, NEA, American Humanist Association, and John Dewey removed God from schools, everything bad happened.

Educators today are faced with problems we did not experience in the 1940s and '50s. Family breakdown, a population explosion with a variety of cultures and abilities, mass media, and much more have contributed to the differences in today's schools versus those of yesterday. I agree that schools are not doing as well as they should but don't blame "secular humanism."

I wonder if Swanson's explanation comes from the far right websites and not from experience. I have been privileged to work for many years with thousands of teachers in hundreds of schools and I have never seen anti-God teaching. Many things may be wrong, but schools and teachers are, for the most part, where positive values are taught and modeled.

John Dewey, by the way, was committed to learning that was active; that students needed to be involved in real life tasks and challenges; and that they should be problem solvers and learn to think. These are skills I would hope children acquire in schools and where our attention needs to be directed.

Dr. Bob Rothberg (retired professor)
Dillard, GA

•See LETTERS page 6

Sarah Houston

Sarah Houston, age 46, of Highlands, N.C. died Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Franklin, N.C., the daughter of Colie and Carrie Spires Shealy. She was a pharmacy technician and was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her husband of 29 years, William "Bill" Houston, two sons, Chris Houston and his wife, Mandy of Highlands, NC and Charlie Houston and his wife, Kristen of Marietta, GA; three sisters, Alene Tuitty of Henderson, NC, Betty Simons of West Columbia, SC and Annie Kirby of Pelion, SC; three brothers, Alvin Shealy of Henderson, NC Robert Shealy of Masses Lake, WA and Tommy Shealy of Columbia, SC. A number of nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 1 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Walter Wilson and Rev. William Wooten officiating. Burial will be in the Buck Creek Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Michael Houston, Larry Houston, Tommy Houston, Daniel Houston, David Simms, and Jim Simmons. Honorary pallbearers will be Sherry Simms, Madge Munger, Mae Ivester, Kay Billingsly, Nancy Tilson and Frankie Beck.

The family will receive friends Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands. Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... SCHOOLS continued from page 1

separate so school populations wouldn't mingle, but the same administration area, kitchen, cafeteria and media center would be used. "The long-term impact will represent a substantial financial savings," said Brigman.

To build the school within a school, a 20-30 acre tract of land is needed. Large tracts of relatively flat land are not only hard to come by in Macon County but expensive. "Land is an issue," said Commissioner Charlie Leatherman.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale said he favored community schools – small schools close to the communities they serve – over consolidated schools but did understand the financial ramifications. He suggested tearing down Iotla Elementary School which sits on about 32 acres and building the consolidated school there.

"We already own the land; we'd have to get water and sewer out there but there are two good roads in and out of the area," he said.

All the commissioners said they needed information on current and future school population growth to justify a new school.

"I could be persuaded but I need to know more," said Commissioner Brian McClellan. "It makes sense to use property we already own. And I think children get just as good an education on one piece of property than another. But the statistics I've seen indicate that in the last 10 years the number of students in Macon County hasn't increased."

Sources claiming a decrease cite page 127 of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2006 – an audit report which says that in 1997 Macon County enrollment was 4,085 and in 2006 it was 4,072.

Brigman uses two sources to show enrollment increase – the actual Average Daily Membership (ADM) taken from first month of each year beginning 2001-'02 through 2006-07 and enrollment data tak-

en from the 2006 Statistical Profile Manual, Public Schools of North Carolina, from 2000-'01 through 2005-'06.

"Using the ADM figures, the overall six-year change from 2001-2006 shows an increase of 266 students or a seven percent increase," he said.

In 2001-02 there were 4,064 students; 2002-03 — 4,111; 2003-04 — 4,113; 2004-05 — 4,147; 2005-06 — 4,252; and 2006-07 — 4,330.

"Using the enrollment data from the statistical profile manual shows an increase of 158 students or a four percent increase," he said.

In 2000-01 there were 4,280 students; 2001-02 — 4,326; 2002-03— 4,315; 2003-04 — 4,332; and in 2004-05— 4,438. Districts don't have the data from the 2005-'06 profile, yet.

"During our research, we noted a slight variation in student enrollment when comparing the profile with our actual SIMS (Student Information Management System) data, which is typical," said Brigman. "The term enrollment data is all inclusive of any student who enrolled in our system during the academic year; therefore, these two figures will vary somewhat. Consistency is key as well as source of information to gain a better understanding of district growth," he said.

Brigman said the current school population is being served with the support of 27 portable classrooms housing greater than 12 percent of the student body.

"In reference to growth predictions, accurately predicting growth in any school system or community is virtually impossible due to the wide range of variables that impact growth," he said. "The best predictor we have to consider when planning and providing adequate space is historical growth data."

Commissioner Leatherman, a teacher, reminded the board that education today isn't like it was 20 years ago. "The state has

•See SCHOOLS page 18

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Laurel Branch at Skyline

This beautiful home in Laurel Falls at Skyline, is sophisticated yet charmingly rustic. Bright, open plan with top-line kitchen appliances, dining and great room with cathedral ceilings, open and covered decks, guest quarters, a master suite all on nearly 2 acres with 2-car garage with apartment. Offered at \$1,495,000.



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- Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. \$179,000.

... FORUM continued from page 2

County officials know of scenarios where part of a transaction is paid in cash and the other part mortgaged but the full transaction isn't always put on the deed or recorded at the courthouse. County Manager Sam Greenwood said the county can only go by the recorded figures when assessing market value.

The part-cash scenario is great for those who are liquid enough to pay cash for homes for the purposes of keeping their taxes low, but in the end everyone suffers because the county isn't getting the true fair market value figure.

A way around this practice would be to ask the General Assembly to pass a law requiring closing agents to disclose and record at the courthouse the full price of a transaction – cash paid and the price listed on the deed.

To pay for expanding schools, infrastructure, libraries, recreation facilities, animal shelters, law

enforcement, incarceration and increasing operating expenses, the county depends on proceeds from the property tax (among other fees and taxes).

At least a record of the full price of the transaction would mean everyone pays their fair share of property taxes. Silly, I know.

Whether full disclosure or a transfer tax, people will continue to flock to and buy real estate in Macon County. Life in urban and suburban America is getting crazier and crazier. People want what Macon County has to offer and they will continue to pay for it.

Market values in Macon County are only going to increase. Citizens can either request something be done about it or pay the consequences.

If this year's reval sent you reaching for a nitroglycerin pill, wait until 2009. It'll be far worse.

The time for change has come.

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Superintendent Dan Brigman with teachers at the Jan. 22 School Board meeting. Pictured are: Simeon Hickman at Highlands, Gary Buchanan at Franklin High, Melisa Cabe at Cullasaja, Josh Johnson at Franklin High, Sarah Lowell at Cartoogechaye, and Rena Sutton at South Macon.

Macon County teachers earn National Board Certification

On Jan. 9, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) announced that six Macon County teachers — Simeon Hickman at Highlands, Gary Buchanan at Franklin High, Melisa Cabe at Cullasaja, Josh Johnson at Franklin High, Sarah Lowell at Cartoogechaye, and Rena Sutton at South Macon — have achieved National Board Certification for the 2005-2006 school year.

This brings the Macon County total of National Board Certified teachers to 32.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession, and participation is voluntary. Teachers achieve certification through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes between one and three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers and counselors should know and be able to do. Certification is currently available to

educators in 27 fields.

Through the NBC assessment process, teachers document their subject matter knowledge; provide evidence that they know how to teach their subjects to students most effectively; and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning.

The NBC certification is reciprocal, which means once earned, a teacher can teach in any state without additional certification. As part of the process, teachers build a portfolio that includes student work samples, assignments,

An independent, multi-year study of North Carolina's National Board Certified teachers and elementary student performance released in March 2004 found that there is a correlation between certification and improved student performance. Gains

were particularly pronounced for younger and lower-income students.

This year's addition of 1,525 newly certified teachers and counselors — the largest class in the country — brings the state's total number of National Board Certified teachers and counselors to 11,343. Nationwide, 7,800 teachers and counselors earned certification this year, bringing the national total to 55,306.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization governed by a board of directors, the majority of whom are classroom teachers. Its mission is to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

For more information about NBPTS, please visit <http://www.nbpts.org>.

Last week's decisions and events...from my perspective

Last week, the Board of Commissioners began the approval process of the ETJ zoning map by accepting the R1 areas as R1-ETJ which is identical to R1 in town. We again listened to those who wanted variance from what is proposed in their areas. Even though we heard from many citizens at the public hearing the week before, we continued to have dialogue with them at this board meeting. The big issues involve home-based businesses and areas of commerce which have existed for many years.

Currently, several commercial areas on the map are zoned R4 which does not allow for expansion of the business, but they are grandfathered for use as the business now stands. Their requests are to be zoned B5 which allows permanent use of the land for commercial use and expansion if desired. They have a point in their request because they were there years before residential homes began to build up around them. However, the Planning Board and the Town Board need to further examine home-based businesses and occupations and define precisely what "grandfathering" means in regards to future expan-

sion or rebuilding. It's likely some changes are due in these ordinances.

The Board is trying to be fair to all those in the ETJ area and yet protect the community as a whole from unwarranted intrusions. In doing this we are all "locals" regardless of how long we have been here, and we want the best decisions for the community as a whole.

Members of the Town Board have also been in good discussions regarding reorganization of our activities at Town Hall. At the last meeting we voted to begin the search immediately for a new Zoning Administrator and a Code Enforcement Officer. To take care of some work immediately, we have temporarily hired an enforcement officer. He will fill the gap now and possibly even help later with enforcement of stormwater and other zoning regulations. We also are considering revamping the administrative and business area of Town Hall to make it more up to date and efficient. In that way, the Town Administrator,



Mayor Don Mullen

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... MULLEN continued from page 4

Richard Betz, will be freed up to manage more efficiently.

I doubt the board will go to a "Manager-Council" system which allows the manager to do all the hiring and firing. The board wants to maintain this responsibility. This is an ongoing process and because we will be hiring new people, we need more space in our tiny Town Hall. Soon we will be hiring an architect to design a completely new and efficient Town Hall.

The Board of Directors of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has recently made important changes in its bylaws which calls for a "Governance Committee" to oversee activities of the board, recommend new board members to the board and be involved in the on going education and appraisal of board members. To that end this committee, which I chair, has recommended and the board has approved three new members of the board. They are:

- Charles Sheehan, a seasonal resident with vast experience on hospital boards in Florida and who has been very supportive of our hospital through good times and bad;

- Griffin Bell, Jr., an attorney, a full time resident of Highlands, chairman of the Highlands Planning Board and board member on the Community Care Clinic;

- Dr. David Register, an anesthesiologist and past chief of staff at the hospital.

Each of these people has a deep desire for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital to be a vital full-service hospital.

Congratulations to John McCall and Bob Zoellner for being named "Firemen of the Year" at the recent annual Highlands Fire and Rescue Department banquet and award ceremony. I regret I was out of town and unable to attend this wonderful occasion. Both John and Bob retired after 20 years of superior service to the department.

We on the Highlands plateau are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers in service to their community. They train hard for the important work of protecting the community and each one of these people is to be commended for his dedicated work under the very capable leadership of James "Popcorn" Manley. I understand that the food catered by Nick Moschouris was outstanding.



Two of the FAC-tory Girls at Peak with their wares at Peak Experience.

The 'FAC-tory' Girls selling hand-painted solid cherry spoons

"The Young Adult Art Program" began a year ago at the Bascom-Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library. A Grassroots Grant from the Arts Council of Macon County made the start-up for this class possible. It was the vision of art teacher, Kathy Evans, to provide a class for adult individuals with disabilities to experience self-expression and artistic creativity through the use of various media. Each student worked independently on his or her art projects, and participated in the student art show last spring.

This fall the class was discussing what it would have to do to sell its artwork. It investigated the potential market and what might sell. From that small "seed" of an idea, "The FAC-tory (FAC, coincidentally, is the abbreviation of the new Fine Art Center scheduled for completion in 2008) Girls' cottage industry blossomed.

The class decided that a beautiful, utilitarian, souvenir gift from Highlands would be something that people would buy. An artisan spoon maker donated a variety of cherry wood spoons, forks and salad servers. These are then embellished with hand painted designs, sanded, sealed, signed and dated by the artists. The process of taking a simple idea and bringing it to fruition has been a lot of hard work that has produced some exciting results.

Peak Experience, located on N.C. 106, is selling the spoons in its shop with 100% of the sales going to "The FAC-tory Girls."

Peak Experience is open Saturdays and by appointment for the winter season. Call 828-526-0229 for further information.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking art classes at The Fine Art Center please visit the gallery Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. or call 526-4949.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Has OEI decided the issue on drink sales?

Dear Editor,

As a member of the Appearance Commission, I recently participated in the review of a new addition to the Rib Shack. Submitted by OEI, the current owners of the Rib Shack, the proposed addition will be a bar for the restaurant. Wine, beer, and mixed drinks can be served from the

bar. Under current North Carolina law, private sports clubs can operate a bar for its members and serve the general public. There is even a provision for operating a bar at a facility that is off the premises of the club. OEI's plan for a bar at the Rib Shack and its current bar at Madison's,

• See LETTERS page 8

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

She's kind of a one-hump gal!

Dateline: January, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

His name was Jeremiah and he could not take his big dark Arabian eyes off my li'l missus. Yes, I was nervous. When he thought I wasn't looking, he made provocative movements with his lips and let out a soft, seductive moan in her direction. Then, without warning, she embraced him and they headed out into the desert toward the Arabian Gulf, leaving me to finish my hummus and flat bread.

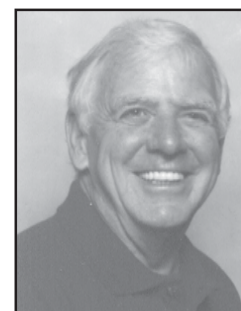
Of course, Jeremiah was a one-hump camel and the desert was the beach sand behind the Habtoor Grand Resort on the gulf in Dubai. I know you have been wondering, so let me tell you there are no two-hump camels in Dubai. Write that down.

Hello Highlanders, we are in the Middle East and guess what? I have just located 2.4 million friendly Muslims that like Americans....a lot. Of course, they think George Bush is a bonehead with an IQ of 50 but they have forgiven us for electing him....twice. As usual, we traveled off the beaten path and not once did we feel uneasy, not even when we were the only Americans, surrounded by thousands of Muslims at a scary place called Global Village.

This country is on fire with growth and western culture. The Muslim people are polite and smile often. There's just a smidgen of middle class and the rest are the very rich and the very poor. Why would the richest Islamic country in the world act so friendly toward westerners? M-O-N-E-Y.

They have already built the tallest hotel and the tallest office building in the world and they're just getting started. This place reeks of money. When Dubai's oil supply runs out in a few years the country will thrive nicely on worldwide tourism and plans are in the works to lure Americans to their soil. The way things are looking, only the rich will make the journey. Maybe I'll publish a pamphlet titled, "How to survive in Dubai on only \$800 a day."

Moving on, one of the first things I noticed after arriving here was the incredible resemblance between the Baptist and Islamic religions. For example, both religions frown on drinking, dancing, cheating, watching pornography, general carousing and hanky-panky. Soooo, as you probably already know, when Baptists are so inclined to participate in such activities, they slip off to another town, like



Fred Wooldridge

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Highlanders sneak off to Atlanta. Well, guess what? Muslims slip off to Dubai for such shenanigans which might include libations, belly dancing clubs, not wearing their dishdasha and Gutra (typical robe and headgear). They may even entertain a Russian hooker (a shanda.)

Wait, there's more! Both the Baptist and Islamic religions frown on having sex standing up, but for different reasons. The Muslims are big on the procreation of children and are trying to outdo the Catholics. Having sex

standing up is not conducive to that endeavor. It's a gravity thing. Baptists, on the other hand, frown on having sex standing up because they fear someone might see them and think they're dancing.

Muslims also put Catholics to shame on kneeling time. Many Muslims drop to their prayer mats five times a day when an "Imam" sings the call to prayer from loud speakers in the towers of mosques, all spaced 10 minutes apart around the city. Would you believe at 6 a.m. each morning just outside our bedroom window? Oh, here's a flash; there are more mosques per square foot in Dubai than churches in Highlands.

I am truly astonished at Muslim's approval and acceptance of the Christian faith. During a mosque tour, our guide described Jesus as "a miracle sent by God" and they accept him as a great prophet but not the son of God.

This is scary. If you enjoy a glass of wine with dinner, then you better take a taxi to your restaurant or friend's home. There is zero tolerance for alcohol and any detectable amount gets you an automatic 30 days in the slammer. Deaths resulting from drunk drivers are non-existent. Taxis do a brisk business and fares start at 80 cents. Also, when the cab stops in heavy traffic, the meter stops.

Flipping the bird and using profanity in public will also get you an automatic 30 days in the clink. Instead of cursing, Muslims insult each other's mother when they argue. "May the fleas of a thousand camels nest in your mother's moustache" is my favorite. Did Johnny Carson get his material from the Muslims or did the Muslims watch the Johnny Carson show?

Next week I will report on how a retired Miami Beach cop on a fixed pension can afford to frolic in Dubai for several weeks without being thrown out of the country. Don't miss it.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

I hate it when we lose a war

In his State of the Union address George W. Bush stated that we must not lose the war in Iraq.

Mr. President, what the American people tried to tell you in November, what Congress is trying to tell you now and what I want to say is that we have already lost.

I hate it when we lose a war. I hated the loss in Viet Nam and I hate the loss in Iraq. We lost this one a long time ago. It was over before we lit up the sky above Baghdad. We had blown it by the time the first tank crossed the frontier. Long before the

Iraqi Army disappeared, only to reappear as insurgents, or we pulled down Saddam's statue, this was one that got away. The lesson of Yugoslavia should have been applied to Iraq. The death of strong man Tito and the dissolution of the Soviet Union provided a choice for the citizens who decided that they were not Yugoslavs after all. They formed six nations; Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia. A seventh, Kosovo, may soon gain independence.

Our defeat resulted from failing to recognize that success was impossible. We failed to realize that the Iraqis hated us more than the despotic Saddam, and that on their lunatic, zealous fringes, they hate each other almost as much as they do us. We failed to realize that there is no "Iraq" without the presence of a frightening man, strong enough to hold together what the international community caballed together out of peoples with little in common and deep rooted animosities.

We expected to be welcomed as liberators, but were attacked as invaders and occupiers. We expected the Iraqis to celebrate, as one, the overthrow of Saddam. I don't know where we got that notion. We failed because we thought that if we could get the Iraqis to write a constitution, that document would be a cherished symbol of nationhood. We thought that elections would create a government of nation unity. We thought that Iraq was, or could quickly become, a nation.

Our multiple errors and miscalculations spelled doom for the mission even before it began. We may never know if the administration and intelligence community really believed that Iraq had



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

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been involved in the September 11 attacks, that Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction, or that Iraq was a haven for Al-Quaida terrorists. President Bush, did your advisers really convince you that Iraq could be transformed into a beacon of democracy in the Middle East (see above), or was your real interest that Iraq boasts the world's second largest supply of petroleum?

There are only two possible, though implausible, paths to a stable Iraq, one a disaster, the other a pipe dream.

The first is the emergence of a Saddam-like leader who could hold the country together in a grip of terror. He would probably be Shia and would punish the Sunni minority in much the same manner as Hussein abused the Shia majority. This is loathsome outcome and one which would render the loss of American lives, American wealth, and American prestige a total waste.

Unfortunately further sacrifice of American military, dollars, and international standing will not change the eventual outcome.

The only other avenue to stability is the appearance of a charismatic, messianic leader who could transcend tribal, ethnic, and religious differences, present a vision of a unified Iraq, and convince the disparate population that economic development, unity, safety, and emphasis on this life are a better option than poverty, instability, constant danger and focus on the next life.

There must be millions of moderate Iraqis who would welcome such a vision, plain people caught between the warring factions, folks who pray at the appointed times and attend mosques regularly, but who want to raise their families in safety with clean water and a dependable supply of electricity, people who want a decent job, education for their kids, and a better life for the next generation. These are people who want to go to the market or answer the door without fear.

I wonder if are there enough of them, Sunni, Shiite, and Kurd with the will and the courage to link arms, march the troubled streets of Baghdad, and chant, "We are one!" I wish I could say that I believed it. I wish that I believed that they, and we, could win.

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Manning's mantra: DE-CAF!

Note: As a little aside to last week's article, how right was I on that officiating debacle during the Duke vs. Clemson game? Oliver Purnell should speak up a little more next time.

This upcoming weekend is the Super Bowl, and like the majority of football crazed fans out there, I will be parked in front of a giant screen TV somewhere with chips, cheese dip, and soda in hand. Usually everyone around me has things backwards: talking during the game while waiting for the commercials (which I hope are better this year because they haven't been the same since Terry Tate showed up) and trying to shush everyone when the Budweiser horses charge across the screen.

I'll be cheering on Peyton Manning and the Colts this year. So what if the Bears are in the NFC, they beat the Saints and I wanted a Saints vs. Colts match-up. Chicago has some good sports teams, and right now they have Rex Grossman, who goes from hero to goat in one play at least twice a game. Sorry Bears fans, you lost my vote after that game.

Enough complaining about the Saints (sound familiar anyone?), onto the topic at hand: Peyton Manning. 6'5, 230 pound quarterback. Laser, rocket arm. He has talent, personality, is funny... you get the picture. There's a reason all of those advertising executives hired Peyton for everything from phones to credit cards. Manning is a national icon right now, compared immensely to Dan Marino. Marino is a Hall of Fame quarterback who owns numerous NFL records that Manning is on pace to break during his career, barring injury. Marino is also considered to be the best quarterback to never have won a Super Bowl, while Peyton's critics proclaim he will never win the big game. Manning and Marino also share the same passion for



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advertising: Marino peddled Isotoner gloves for years, and now he pushes Nutrisystem meals and Hooters restaurants. Mmmmm, I can smell the irony, and it smells like wings.

Sports in general have these two categories of athletes: those who fill up the stat sheets and those who win championships. Stat stuffers include Alex Rodriguez in baseball, Tracy McGrady and Gilbert Arenas currently in the NBA, and LaDainian Tomlinson along with Manning in the NFL just to name a few. All are considered great players in their own rights, but compared to Michael Jordan, Babe Ruth, Larry Bird, and Tom Brady; they are missing the title of champion of the sport at least once.

Manning has the opportunity to win the big game and truly cement his status as a champion instead of a stat stuffer on

the football field. I'll be jumping up and down with glee if he pulls it off. Manning's the type of guy who deserves to win, just like Phil Mickelson did after years of coming up short. There is one bright side to all of this though. Even if he doesn't win... at least we have another year of Manning commercials to look forward to. "Let's go insurance adjusters, let's go!" Questions, comments? Email me at cpottswriting@gmail.com

... LETTERS from page 6

both off-premises facilities, fall within current law.

As an active and concerned citizen of Highlands, I wonder if the spirit of the laws governing the sale of alcohol is being compromised? Another provision in the laws regulating the sale of alcohol allows a community to hold a referendum as to whether the people of the community support the sale of liquor by the drink. By OEI operating bars at the Rib Shack and at Madison's, we now have the de facto sale of liquor by the drink in Highlands without the people having any say so about the issue. If OEI were operating a bar on the premises of their private sports club, I would not be raising any concerns; however, this is not the case. The bars in question are in public restaurants within the business district of Highlands. A concern I have is that OEI can continue to build, or acquire, other restaurants in the town and open new bars. I also worry about the implications for other restaurant owners in town. Will the other restaurants in town feel pressure to create "sports clubs" in order to offer the same alcoholic beverages?

Several decades ago, the community held a vote on serving wine in restaurants. Are we now at a point where a similar referendum needs to be held concerning liquor by the drink? This letter is not a position in favor or against the liquor by drink issue. I am simply asking that if one business has unilaterally decided that it is appropriate to serve liquor by the drink in Highlands, shouldn't the citizens and community organizations also have a voice as to its appropriateness for the community? I believe an open review and decision on this issue where civic, religious, business, legal and educational stakeholders in the community are able to express their views is in order.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

... HOUSING continued from page 1

ees at the police department and the hospital, commuting concerns about availability of workforce outweighed the affordability issue for some committee members.

"The police have only 11 employees. 90 percent commute up the mountain. What happens if we are cut off from the rest of the world?" said committee chair Mary Ann Sloan. "This is our service area here. We're up here and they're down there. It's a scary thought."

The next step in the committee's project is to distribute a written survey to employees at the HCP, Highlands School, and the police department to gauge interest and opposition to affordable housing. The surveys would be accompanied by a letter from the mayor and their employer. The next step would be focus groups.

Committee members hope to get a feel for the general location of commuters by using a map and color coded markers to record their locality by zip code. They would also like to know whether commuters are homeowners or renters.

The five-question survey is made up of mostly yes or no answers with a few comment sections which committee members are hoping will generate some feedback. One question will specifically ask why the employee would not

be interested in moving to the Highlands area.

"I want to put it in bold so people know to please, please give us your comments," said Nellis. I want to know why they wouldn't come here. Such as 'I own five acres in Franklin and I don't want to leave it' or 'My mom and dad keep my kids.'"

Committee members anticipate much of the feedback to relate to the childcare issue. "There's no licensed childcare on the mountain," said Sloan. "Childcare is birth to age five. In Franklin they have extensive care. There are 22 childcare businesses in Franklin."

According to Sloan, 50 percent of families who use the child development center in Highlands live and work off the mountain, and right now the center is full. With only five childcare centers in Highlands this creates a dilemma for any working parent considering a move to the Highlands area.

"Think about the people we're going to service and their income level," said Nellis. "A lot of them are barely making it and some of them aren't because they're in debt up to their necks. They're scraping every nickel."

The next Affordable Housing Committee meeting is Friday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. at the Hudson Library.

• THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

The Islamists are coming...

Sometimes I wonder if I'm crazy and everyone else is sane, but then I get over it and reaffirm that the reverse is true.

I have watched for decades Islamists attack U.S. interests all over the globe and our officials treat these incidents as offhandedly as mosquito bites. Perhaps it can be rationalized that up until the first attempt to destroy the World Trade Tower, these attacks occurred overseas. Why they should have been ignored as they were, no matter where they happened, is beyond me.

Whether it was the Beirut barracks bombing in 1983, the hijacking of Pan Am flight 73 in 1986, the embassy bombings in Africa in 1998, the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, or whatever, the response has been tepid or non-existent. Reagan pulled the Marines out of Beirut because "we didn't understand the Arab mind."

That may have been the case then, but we certainly can't use that excuse now.

Radical Islam has made clear, in no uncertain terms, that they are the enemy and that we infidels must convert to their way or die. Their actions support their words. Attacks on New York, London, Madrid, Bali, and elsewhere demonstrate that they have the will and the means to create chaos, death and destruction.

So why are the liberals so dead set on trying to make it more difficult to face up to the reality that we are at WAR.

Whining about the treatment of prisoners held at Gitmo, dismantling the Patriot Act, passing resolutions to undercut Bush's effort to clean up the mess in Iraq; I have a difficult time following their reasoning.

Pre- and post-9/11, we are told by every vocal politician, foreign and domestic, that Saddam had WMDs and must be taken out. Then we diddle in Congress for months while he ships his weapons to Syria, we give the UN inspectors more and more time to chase their tails, we finally storm Bagdad, help the Iraqis form a democratic government, chase down Saddam in a hole, he's tried, convicted and hung by his own people and the libs want a change in direction.

I know this is not a popular subject and I am not disrespecting those who have given their lives to further freedom in Iraq, but this mantra which says "we're not going to send one more of our best and brightest to die over there" as an argument to withdraw before the job is



Don Swanson
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done doesn't fly with me. Where is the outrage over 1,300,000 annual deaths due to abortion? Why do we allow people to smoke when it kills 400,000 every year?

According to the best information available, 823 U.S. military personnel died in Iraq in 2006. According to the most recent information available, in 2005, 874 people were murdered in New York state, 883 people were murdered in Florida, and in

Los Angeles and environs, over 1,000 were murdered. The ongoing effort to end murder hasn't been all that successful lately, but do we clamor to send law enforcement personnel home? Of course not.

So why do many of our brilliant legislators insist that our troops must be withdrawn? Why do others suggest that we need to sit down and seek advice from Iran and Syria? Why did Neville Chamberlain come back from a "talk" with Adolph Hitler proclaiming everlasting peace six months before it hit the fan? Because he was a fool just as those who advocate "talking" or "negotiating" with our enemies are fools.

These people are out to kill us. You and me. It is their religion, it is in their blood, it is in their hearts. Their entire existence revolves around dying for the cause, that is, killing the infidels. You and me. They teach their small children to chant "Death to the US" - "Death to the UK" - "Death to Europe." They teach their children to hate you and me. They will lie to achieve their goal, they will lie to stall us so they can build their strength, they lie because it's accepted in their culture.

For years, President Bush heard "we need more troops on the ground, send in more troops, our manpower is stretched to thin." Upon the advice of his top military advisors, he agrees to send more troops to Iraq, with a specific measurable purpose, and is met with widespread opposition in Congress. We must change our "stay the course" strategy, they cry, so Bush increases troop strength and they say it won't work. It seems the only choice left is to cut and run.

We tried that in Viet Nam, and we should have learned the consequences of letting Washington politicians run a war. Didn't work then, won't work now.

Iraq is the focal point of the war at this point, but it is far from the only place where we should be concerned. We are facing World War Three, and being in denial is suicide.

• HS BOYS BASKETBALL •

Highlanders demolish Bobcats, survive late Tiger charge

By Christopher Potts

The Highlander Men routed the Blue Ridge Bobcats Thursday night 95-40. The Highlanders stepped on the throat of the Bobcats early and did not let up.

Darin Keener started the offensive rally with 8 of the team's first 10 points. Constant pressure on defense forced several turnovers against the Bobcats and crisp passing led to numerous uncontested shots on the offensive side of the ball for Highlanders. Most of the Blue Ridge offense came in the 4th quarter after Coach Butch Smart pulled his starters.

Alec Schmitt made the highlight of the night with a dribble drive into the lane, where a triple team allowed him to deliver a behind-the-back pass for an easy lay-up. The Highlanders had 4 players in double digit scoring led by Darin Keener and Nick Kerhoulas with 16 points apiece. Jason Aspinwall followed with 15 points, Alec Schmitt had 14, Arthur Reynolds scored 9, and Andrew Billingsley scored 8. Luke McClellan added 6 points, Ezra Herz had 5 points, and Adam Hedden, Chris St. Germain, and Hunter Leffler each contributed 2 points each in the runaway victory. Daniel Plotts and Ryan Milkey were the high scorers for the Bobcats with 16 and 13 points respectively.

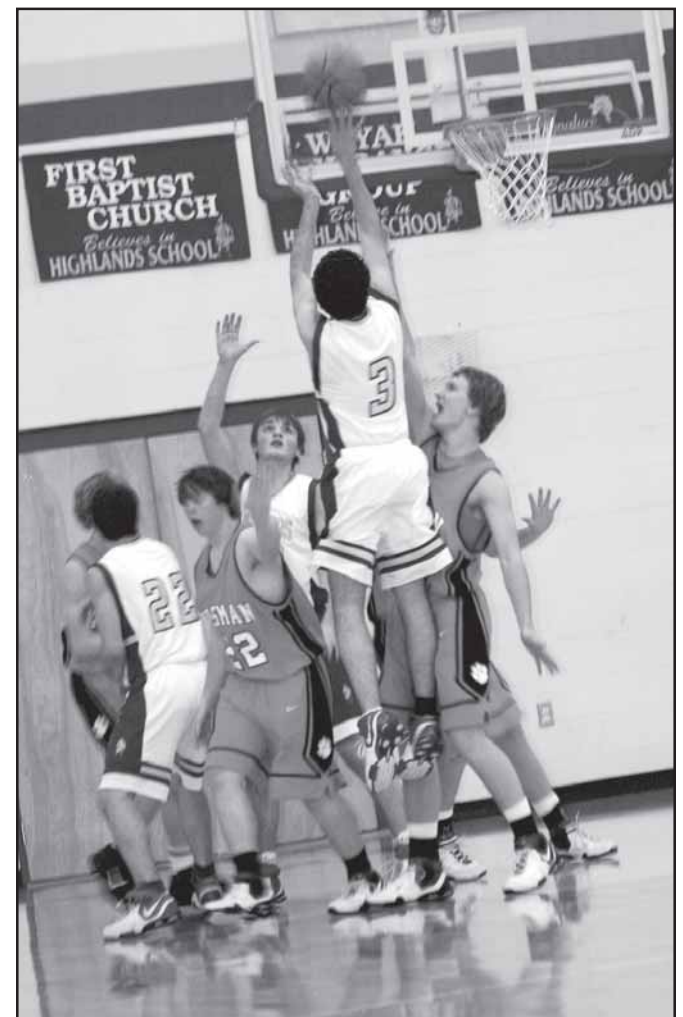
The Highlanders followed their success with a tough victory against the Rosman Tigers, 48-44. The boys had a tough first quarter, unable to find the bottom of the basket while the Tigers outscored them 9-4. The Highlanders came out rolling in the 2nd, pounding the Tigers for 20 points while forcing several turnovers to keep Rosman out of any offensive rhythm.

After another quarter of staunch defense and a solid offensive effort, Highlands looked to coast to a victory. Rosman stormed back in the 4th on the legs of guard Whit Galloway. Rosman cut the score to 46-41 in the final minute of play and forced Highlanders to win at the

free throw line. Rosman would only cut the lead to 46-44, failing to capitalize on two sets of empty free throw trips by the Highlanders.

Alec Schmitt swished 2 free throws with seconds left on the clock to end any chances of a comeback. Schmitt notched 18 points, 7 assists, 6 steals, and 4 rebounds on the night. Jason Aspinwall followed with 11 points and 8 rebounds, Nick Kerhoulas scored 10 points and 3 rebounds, and Arthur Reynolds added 4 points and 2 rebounds. Andrew Billingsley added 3 points and 2 rebounds while Darin Keener had 2 points, 2 rebounds, and 2 blocked shots. Galloway led the Tigers with 22 points and Charlie Bradley scored 8 points.

The Highlander Men played Swain Tuesday, Jan. 30. See next week's paper for the story.. The boys will face conference foe Hiwassee Dam Friday, Feb. 2 at 8 pm. A win for the Highlanders will keep them atop the conference standings.



Nick Kerhoulas flies to the basket to make a shot during the Rosman game. Photo by Noel Atherton

... LADY continued from page 1

Schmitt had 6 points, and Kaylie Buras scored 5 points with 5 rebounds. Danielle Reese chipped in 3 points while Ali Lica and Jessica Gagne contributed on the defensive end in 4th quarter action.

Stephanie Nichols scored a game high 21 points for the Bobcats, with Mary-Ashley Cole and Tori Ferguson adding 8 and 7 points respectively.

"It was a win that we needed. We had individuals that stepped up and lead us on the floor when we needed them to. It also gave our team a chance to have other players on the floor continuing to learn and get more experience," said Coach Brett Lamb. "We still need to continue to make those necessary shots and block out. This win helps us reach our goal, of winning conference, and gives us some confidence to take into the game on Friday against Rosman."

...

The Lady Highlanders took on a tough opponent in the Rosman Lady Tigers on Friday, Jan. 26, but came up short in a defeat of 43-55.

The ladies had no answer on the defensive end for Rosman's Emily Parrish, who scored a game high 30 points. Most of Rosman's offense went through Parrish, either off lay-ups or dish passes to her teammates when double-teamed.

The Lady Highlanders climbed back into the game in the 4th, cutting the Ros-

man lead to 5 with 1:30 remaining. Highlands could not capitalize on their last possessions and Rosman iced the game with 7 straight free throws. Allison Winn led the ladies with 15 points, 5 assists and 4 rebounds. Toni Schmitt dropped 11 points, stole the ball 7 times, and grabbed 4 rebounds. Katie Bryson scored 9 points and 6 rebounds, Kaylie Buras had 4 points and 7 rebounds, and both Brie Schmitt and Kate-Marie Parks scored 2 points. Rosman's Hope Aiken scored 13 points to trail Parrish for top scoring honors.

"It was a tough loss for the girls. The girls played a great game — against the number eight team in the state," said Coach Lamb. "We need to just to make our foul shots, limit our turnovers, box out and we win. All the girls worked through some conflict and pulled through when we were down for a while and worked hard to get back into the game. We need to continue to grow and take more confidence into next week's game at Swain."

...

The Lady Highlanders play Swain Tuesday, Jan. 30. Watch next week's paper for that story. The ladies also take on conference opponent Hiwassee Dam on Friday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. This game has conference title implications, as a win would place Highlands and Hiwassee Dam in a tie for first place.

Dr. Toby Lindsay to reopen medical practice in Cashiers

Family physician Toby Lindsay, MD, who has been working full-time in the emergency room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, is reopening his medical practice in Cashiers next week.

The new offices of Cashiers Medical Associates will be located in Suite A 4 of the Mountain Laurel Shoppes complex off Slab Town Road in Cashiers. Dr. Lindsay will begin seeing patients at the Cashiers office on Tuesday, Jan. 30, and appointments can be made by calling 743-7826.

Lindsay, who practiced in Brevard for 14 years, opened an office in Cashiers in April 2005, but closed his offices in January of 2006 and became a full-time physician in the hospital's emergency room. He will continue to work part-time in the hospital's ER after resuming his primary care practice.

"We are very pleased to have another primary care physician in regular practice in the area," said Ken Shull, CEO and President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. "The community survey conducted by the hospital two years ago, as well as what we've been hearing from many area residents, clearly tells us that the area needs more primary care physicians. We are pleased that Dr. Lindsay is answering that call by reopening his practice."

Results of a mail survey of 11,000 area residents conducted by the hospital showed that one quarter of year-round residents in the Glenville-Cashiers-Sapphire communities say they don't have a local physician and 34 percent said they leave the area for all or part of their primary physician care.

"I'm looking forward to getting back to serving the primary care needs of people in Glenville and Cashiers, now that my wife and I are living in Cashiers and getting involved in the community," Lindsay said. "I hope I will be able to fill an unmet need for more primary care physicians in area and develop long-lasting relationships with patients in the years to come."

April Lindsay, a specialist in early childhood education, is director of the Hampton School in Cashiers. The couple moved to Cashiers from Brevard last fall.

A native of High Point, NC, Dr. Lindsay earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1988 and completed both his internship

and residency in family practice at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, finishing in 1991.

He joined Brevard Family Practice in Brevard later that same year, and practiced as part of that group until 2004, when he opened an independent practice, Davidson River Family Medicine. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Lindsay has also worked as a part-time emergency room physician throughout his career; first at Swain County Hospital in Bryson City and later at Angel Medical Center in Franklin, as well as at Transylvania Community Hospital in Brevard.

He is an adjunct instructor with the Department of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He is board certified in family practice and a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practice.



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Jose Feria and Spencer Houston
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• HIS & HERS •

I'm not running for President

John Kerry announced this week that he will not run for President in 2008. I don't think any capable observers who pay attention to details such as political appeal and fund-raising strength thought that he had a snowball's chance anyway. But since my long-time acquaintance, John Kerry, has taken himself out of the race, I thought I should do the same.

I met John Kerry in Woolsey Hall at Yale, in 1963. I was a junior, and an officer of the Yale Political Union, when sophomore Kerry showed up to join the Union. He was a year older than me, but a class behind me. That's because I'd skipped the 1st grade, and he'd repeated the 12th grade.

Kerry came to the Union to make a name for himself. He was dressed like an assistant professor with leather elbow patches on a brand-new jacket. And he made sure everyone knew that he'd been educated in Europe and spoke fluent French. Given his style, I didn't bother to mention that I spoke French, also.

He did make a name for himself. It was "insufferable." The principal differences between Kerry then and Kerry now, is he has more wrinkles and more money. Otherwise, he's the same. It's a sad commentary that this hollow social climber came so close to becoming President in 2004. It's good he's out of the 2008 race, although other candidates remain in the race who shouldn't get near the White House without a visitor's pass.

Still, his example of announcing the obvious, that he's not running in 2008, encourages me to do the same.

I'm out of the 2008 campaign. To eliminate any wiggle room in this declaration, I add Sherman's words: "If nominated, I will not run. If elected, I will not serve."

What are my reasons? These items disqualify me from running:

I do not have a single "friend," in the U.S., or elsewhere including China, who would donate \$1 million to my campaign, or would hustle that amount of money from other "friends," who are interested in certain favorable decisions by the White House. Furthermore, if anyone offered me \$1 million, and obviously had an ax to grind in some public issue, I'd tell them to take a hike. (That is exactly what I did, 30 years ago, when a multi-millionaire sought



Michelle Mead & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

to purchase my services with a shady "contribution.")

Although I've spent the better part of 40 years making presentations and speeches in public, I have never told a bald-faced lie in public – not since I ceased doing criminal defense work 35 years ago. (As all lawyers and

many laymen know, it is the obligation of any defense lawyer to present whatever defense might help the client beat the rap.)

I have never attempted to fashion a statement on any issue to offer soothing words apparently to groups on different sides of the issue. Instead, in speaking and writing on public issues my whole adult life, I've always stated my opinion in plain English, plus the reasons for it. I've never pulled my punches to avoid offending individuals or groups to whom I was speaking.

And, on those occasions when age, maturity or additional facts caused me to change my opinion on any subject, I did not pretend this was somehow a continuation of my old position. Instead, I explained in plain English why I was wrong before, and why I think my current position is better.

I have never changed my position on any public issue because large numbers of people disagreed with me. I respect Galileo. Pushed to recant his conclusion that the Earth revolves around the Sun, he agreed to stop saying that. But he added, "And yet, it still moves."

I have led an ordinary life, which means there are events in my life which would cause harm to me, or to my family, if they were trumpeted about by opponents as if those mistakes were all there was to my life.

So, my conclusion on running for President is obvious. I am ill-equipped to run. If I ran, I would be defeated. Therefore, I won't run. Still, it is galling to me to see people run for President who have less knowledge, experience, and integrity than I and tens of thousands of other Americans have. We would have better public officials if fewer candidates offered only "talents for intrigue and the little arts of popularity," as Hamilton, Madison and Jay warned in the Federalist. But that's a story for another day.

• About the Author: John Armor is a lawyer specializing in constitutional law, who may again be a candidate for Congress in the 11th District of North Carolina. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu. He and Mead will alternate columns.

Valentine's Day cards for the elderly



Members of The Girls' Clubhouse display the 84 Valentine's Day cards they made Friday afternoon for residents of the Eckerd Living Center. They will deliver them to the residents tomorrow. Thanks goes to art teacher Sallie Taylor for the use of her room at the school.

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Students in Macon County asked to compete for five free semesters at SCC

Win a \$4,500 scholarship to Southwestern Community College in the college's Academic Challenge which will be held Thursday, March 15, on the Jackson campus. First-place winners will receive five semesters free at SCC, along with a \$1,000 book budget, for a total value package of \$4,500.

The competitive challenge consists of two separate events – one for high school juniors and seniors from 8:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. and one for adults beginning at 5 p.m.

Part one consists of an academic test in writing where students will be given a 30-minute writing assignment. That is followed by multiple choice tests in math, natural science and computer knowledge, with 20 questions in each section.

Participants can then select a fifth testing area which will also consist of 20 questions. The subject areas or concentrations to choose from are automotive, business/accounting, computer engineering, culinary, early childhood, health science, his-

tory and literature.

The top five winners from the academic component will move forward to the interview process where a five-person panel will ask questions to gain insight into the winners' career goals, interest in SCC, and how SCC can be a part of their education future.

Second-place winners in both the student and adult category will each receive tuition and fees for one semester (\$700 value), third-place winners each receive a \$250 SCC scholarship, fourth-place winners receive a \$100 gift certificate to the campus bookstore and fifth-place winners receive a \$50 gift certificate to the campus bookstore.

Residents of Jackson, Macon or Swain counties, or the Qualla Boundary are eligible. Registration information is on the SCC website at www.southwesterncc.edu/academicchallenge.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Guertin at 586-4091, ext. 377.

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Small town living as spiritual practice

One day I found myself yelling at a customer service person on the telephone and it occurred to me that the anger I was expressing was way out of proportion to the problem I was complaining about. I realized I was taking out my angers and frustrations about a whole host of other problems on this poor anonymous person. I would never have spoken that way to someone I knew, or even to a stranger right in front of me. But the anonymity of the telephone and modern systems such as call centers removed the humanity from this person (in my mind at least).

When I contemplated moving to Highlands almost 19 years ago, the thought of living in a small town scared me. I spent the first half of my life in cities: St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco. I was used to the anonymity of cities where no one knew you. Small towns are famous for their gossip — I hated the idea that people I didn't know would be privy to intimate details of my life.

As the years have passed I have come to think differently about the lack of privacy in a small town. I believe that living in a small town can be a spiritual practice.

In a city I can go into a supermarket or a bank and act like a jerk because that person doesn't know who I am, and chances are I'll never have to interact with that person again, so who cares what they think about me and how I'm behaving?

But in a small town that anonymity doesn't exist. If I am rude to the checkout person at Bryson's, I will see that person next week, and the week after that. Or if I am angry dealing with the clerk at the post office, I will see that same person over and over again every time I need to mail a parcel.

In Highlands you're being observed even when you're driving! Surely one of the safest places in modern life to vent frustrations is in the car (based on observations of people's hand gestures while driving the highways). But here people know your car and if you are careless or rude you can be sure someone will notice.

Living here has made me aware of how my words and actions impact other people's lives. It has made me aware of how I am affected by my emotions: if I'm in a bad mood I treat everyone and everything indifferently at



Katie Brugger

best, but if I'm in a good mood I am engaged and interested. The highest praise I have heard about a person is that they are consistent in their behavior towards others; no matter what is going on in their lives they are gracious and thoughtful. This is the standard to which I aspire, and living in Highlands is helping me.

In the book *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, author Azar Nafisi writes about how great novels unveil the complexity of human nature: "A great novel heightens your senses and sensitivity to the complexities of life and of individuals, and prevents you from the self-righteousness that sees morality in fixed formulas about good and evil..."

She also has a fascinating theory of what it means to be a villain in a novel:

"It is not accidental that the most unsympathetic characters in Jane Austen's novels are those who are incapable of genuine dialogue with others. They rant, they scold. This incapacity for true dialogue implies an incapacity for tolerance, self-reflection, and empathy. Later, in Vladimir Nabokov, this incapacity takes on monstrous forms in characters such as Humbert Humbert in *Lolita*... Thus, Dr. Sloper [a character in Henry James' *Washington Square*] commits the most unforgivable crime in fiction — blindness. Pity is the password, says the poet John Shade in Nabokov's *Pale Fire*. This respect for others, empathy, lies at the heart of the novel... This, I believe, is how the villain in modern fiction is born: a creature without compassion, without empathy."

In a small town we see each other's strengths and weaknesses; we learn firsthand the complexity of human nature. And, rather than fodder for juicy gossip, it can be fuel for the learning of compassion and understanding.

Little League sign-ups Feb. 2 & 9

Highlands Little League Baseball signups for ages 5-14 are at the Rec Park from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 for first child, \$45 for second child. Birth certificate mandatory. Call John Shearl at 526-2251 or Monica Vinson at 526-9107.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Bible Reading



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

The Bible is the Word of God and it should be read by all men to learn of their Creator. We declare this because the Bible is not just another book. It stands by itself before men because of its author. Christians hold that the Bible is the Word of God, infallible and inerrant in its original autographs.

It is God that stands behind the human writers and so, we must take special care in reading the Bible. There are those books that deserve no more than a scanning. They are simply frivolous and full of nothing but pure foolishness. These types of books don't change our lives, and failing to read them, loses us nothing. However, the Bible deserves our most careful attention and close study, because it brings us the Word of God and the plan of salvation.

When you begin to read documents that have an impact upon your welfare, your family, your freedom, or your estate, you look them over and read them with attention to every detail. What about the Bible, which deals with your eternal destiny, how do you read it, only at the last hour of the day when you are tired and unable to give it your undivided attention? Is this not the book that deals with the rules of life, the reasons for death, and lights the path to heaven?

All other books are the works of men alone. They are filled with the limited knowledge of frail men and are full of the errors of the carnal mind. When we read them, it is important that we consider their ideas with great care. Not all therein is truth. Not everything in their covers comes from wisdom. Not all on their pages is profitable. The Bible, however, was written by men who wrote "as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." My friends, there was no ordinary human inspiration involved here, but a supernatural intervention. What we received in the Scriptures was not the words and ideas of men but the word of the living and true God. This should cause us to read it with the greatest of confidence. We should understand; to distrust it, is sin, and to reject it, is contempt of heaven.

What is the Bible but the word of truth and the light of life. From its pages comes freedom for all that will receive it; it is the only source of wisdom for fools and understanding for the simple. It is in the Bible, we find strength in times of trouble and comfort in times of adversity. In its pages is found the light needed to walk through this life and the words of comfort most appreciated when death comes.

How much should you read the Bible? You must read it regularly and with great frequency, read it until it is so ingrained in you and is a part of your heart. When you have committed yourself to such reading, you will echo the same sentiment the prophet Jeremiah did when he said, "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty" (Jeremiah 15:16).

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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.

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Office – 526-2320
Sunday: Holy Communion -- 2 p.m.
(Community Bible Church on U.S. 64 between Highlands and Cashiers)
Tuesday: Women's weekly Bible study at 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Supper last Sunday of each month.
All are Welcome!

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church)
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's 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. - Children's Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Monday: 4 p.m. - Women's cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Men's Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting
Wednesday: 2 p.m. – Interlude; 6:30 p.m. – Choir
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Men's 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. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: noon – Men's Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 – Children's choir and handbells; 5:30 – Supper; 6 – Adult Handbells; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 7:15 – Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Tien, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

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

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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FIRST-CLASS CARPENTER NEEDED – Mature self-starter with some skills in multiple trades. Work with a company that has a five-star reputation. Compensation commensurate with experience and ability. Friendly, substance-free workplace. Leave a message at 828-421-3002. We will get back to you.

2/16

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT THE REC PARK – Needed, lifeguard and rec counselors. Call the Rec Dept. at 526-3556 for an application or pick one up at the front desk at the Rec Park.

HIGHLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT: one (1) Police Officer and two (2) Auxiliary Police Officers. Salary for police officer \$25,305, DOQ, salary for auxiliary officers (2) \$10.50/hr. Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver's license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. Contact: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester or Capt. T. Ensley, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741, (828) 526-8734.

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.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. PRN position available. Experience in hospital cleaning preferred. Other housekeeping experience helpful. Full benefits available after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online through our website, www.hchospital.org.

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CNA OR CNA II 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 benefits after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 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.

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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.

OPPORTUNITY

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S PROGRAMS in elementary education, special education, birth-kindergarten, psychology and educational leadership are developing adjunct professor pools for teaching in the region. Masters degree in the discipline area is required, doctorate preferred. Send vita to Amelia Schlott, 220 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ESTABLISHED ELECTRONICS STORE with excellent growth history for sale in Highlands. Rare business opportunity. Call 526-8534.

FOR RENT

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL PRIME OFFICE SPACE — 900 sq. ft of renovated space with new central heat and air, hardwood floors, kitchen/full bath, separate entrance through courtyard garden, some office furniture available. There phone lines/DSL ports for office. Very roomy with lots of natural light, great walkout balcony with bistro table off office space. Great for non-smoking entrepreneur who is seeking good downtown Highlands location. Available immediately, for rent & terms contact (828) 526-9990.

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, spacious, fully furnished, 1/1 apt right on Main St. Balcony, walk in closet, new carpet, and small pets are allowed. This won't last long so call 526-3363.

2 BED, 2 BATH — in Mirror Lake area. Newly remodeled. Wood Floors, wood-burning fireplace. Annual Lease. \$900 a month. Call 828-342-2302.

FARM HOUSE - 3/Bed 2/Bath renovated farm house in Scaly on Buck Knob Rd. \$1,100 + utilities monthly. Call 526-4646.

NEW SPACES FOR LEASE IN HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION — Lease now for the 2007 season in Highlands Plaza. 600 sq ft — 8,000 sq ft available in new lower level or 1,200 sq ft on main level near Bryson's. Call 864-630-0808 today to lease your space in "The Most Visited Location In Highlands."

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DREAM CABIN! 5 minutes from Highlands in Scaly Mtn. New appliances, new carpet, with amazing view! Stone/Wood Cabin with carport and separate workshop and wonderful landscaped property! \$825 per month. Annual Lease. Call 423-894-9566

COTTAGE OFF NORTON ROAD — (seasonal or yearly) — 1 bed, 1 bath cottage — great view — quiet location — only 1 mile off of U.S. 64. Close to Highlands and Cashiers. \$700/month. Call Kelsey 404-788-1304.

VACATION RENTAL — The Lodge on Mirror Lake, fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR LEASE

BEAUTIFUL CHALET for you in downtown Highlands. Two blocks off downtown Main St. Wonderful wide porch for entertaining on Highlands Creek. Beautiful new tongue-n-grove in kitchen and bath. 2 bd/1full bath. 1500 sq ft with additional 900 sq ft basement for your office or storage needs. Beautiful brand new furniture, new carpet, new wood floors in kitchen. Fireplace. Awesome location. 1 year lease, negotiable. \$1395. (772) 631-2602 or (772) 919-2384.

RENT OR RENT TO OWN THIS 3BED/2BATH HOME IN TOWN. Rental rate is \$995 a month/with a portion going towards purchase. For details call (828) 421-3161.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

1600 SQ. FT STORAGE/OFFICE SPACE. Two units left. Each unit has; 11 ft. doors, Heat/AC systems, bathrooms. Close to downtown Highlands. Priced at \$225,000 per. Call Jim Tate 828-371-0773 or Chris Gilbert owner/broker 828-421-3161. ALL RETAIL UNITS ARE GONE.

UNUSUAL RIVERFRONT PROPERTY. Two bedroom, 2 baths, 3-car garage, workshop, carport, concrete driveway, covered porch over looking Culla-saja River, gazebo, spiral stairway up to foyer entrance, washer and dryer, 2-door refrigerator with ice and water dispensers, smooth top range, dishwasher, plus efficiency apartment, much more. On almost level 1/2-acre on scenic Highlands Road only 5 miles from Franklin. Phone owner 828-369-2278 for appointment. \$395,000.

ON MIRROR LAKE — 3 bedrooms, 3 bath, plus cottage. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH — Fabulous lake views. All newly remodeled executive home. 3 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths, 4 fireplaces. Call 828-342-2302.

BY OWNER ON MIRROR LAKE — Cute 2/2 on Wyanoak. All Newly remodeled. \$399,000. Call 828-342-2302.

MOTOR COACH SITE — Private, luxury motor coach site available for purchase. Downtown Highlands. Corner of Fifth St. and Chestnut St. Gated, restricted. Call 828-526-5333.

BY BUILDER — 4/3, new construction. Executive home. 1.5 acres, bordered by 2 creeks and a pond in a new up-scale subdivision less than 5 minutes from downtown Franklin. \$485K. Call 371-3669.

PRIVATE, WOODED LOT ON HIGH RIDGE — Cashiers area; Sapphire Valley Resort amenities (golf, boating/fishing, swim & tennis, skiing, horseback riding). \$45,900. By owner. Call Eva (404) 819-8300.

QUAINT — Newly remodeled farm-style home. 1 acre, 2 stories, 3 bed, 1 bath, hardwood & carpet floors. Close to Cashiers area golf courses and Lake

Glenville. Quiet neighborhood. Asking \$180,000. Call Linda. Day: 828-743-2948. Evenings: 828-743-2654.

ADORABLE 3 BR/2 BA COTTAGE with wonderful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands. \$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

THREE BEDROOM — 2 bath ranch home on approx. 3/4 acre. 2 miles from Highlands-Cashiers hospital. \$240,000. Will consider offer. Ask for Anna. Country Club Properties 828-526-2520

ITEMS FOR SALE

DINING ROOM FURNITURE. Very nice. Rectangular with two leaves 6 chairs, 2 with arms. Maple with upholstered seats. \$326 all inclusive. 864-972-8525 or cell 864-723-4101

SHE IS AKC FEMALE YORKIE REGISTERED. She is very sweet and pre-spoiled. Given lots of attention. She will be an estimated 3.5-4 pounds at her adult weight. She has an excellent temperament. She is raised in the house. She has been well socialized with...and ready for her new home now. She comes with health guarantee and shipping is available. For more information contact me on my email. susan_755007@yahoo.com 2/8

SPA (FLORES 6-3 SERIES) — From Rec Warehouse, 6-8 seats with 38 jets including a waterface and 4 shoulder jets. The size is 93" x 93" x 41.25". Brand new, still in container. Original price \$6,500, will sell for \$5,000. Can be seen at Long Transfer Company. Call Mariette at 770-503-4433.

HILTI TE 805 DEMOLITION HAMMER. New. Case & 4 bits. \$500. 828-526-2700 or 828-421-7886

1958 ALBATROSE TRAILER WITH COVER AND PORCH. Maple interior. Good condition. \$1,000. Can be seen a Carolina Court. 526-5939.

JENNY LIND BABY BED — light stain, excellent condition, mattress, all linens, originally \$375 asking \$225. Call 526-0498.

NINE OLD DOORS — original paint, 4 and 5 panel, 7 interior, 2 exterior, good condition. All for \$375. Call 526-0498.

AKC BLACK LAB PUPPIES — Very healthy, home-raised, loveable. 2 female, 1 male. Call 828-389-9737.

IKEA STORAGE LOFT QUEEN BED WITH DESK, BOOKSHELVES & DRAWERS — Solid Pine/ Hardware & Instructions Included 63" w x 84" h x 86" l \$400, OBO. 828-524-1172.

SLEEPER SOFA — Neutral Plaid. Like New. \$145. Call 864-972-8525.

MICROWAVE — GE spacesaver, 19"x12"x12", black. \$50. 526-5834

ENGLISH & AMERICAN ANTIQUES — 18th & 20th Century. Private Estate Sale by Appointment only. Call 828-452-4888.

1 LADIES 26" BICYCLE . 6-speed, very good condition. \$25.00 828-349-3320

HEAVY BRASS ELECTRIC HANGING FIXTURE — Six green, glass panels, 4 feet of matching chain. 22-inch diameter. \$975. Call 526-1773.

ALL WOOD LARGE (6' TALL X 7' LONG) ENTERTAINMENT CENTER. — lighted with stained glass upper doors, wood doors on bottom, has open shelves too, very nice \$450 obo, King size bed frame with brass headboard \$75 obo, please call 828-369-2223 or after 5pm 828-331-8422.

AKC REGISTERED SHELTIES. Sable Merle & Blue Merle. \$300. Call 706-982-9325.

RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER, excellent condition with all accessories, \$925 call Dee

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SOLID DARK OAK DINETTE CABINET. 19"x64"x84". 3 glass windows on top. 3 drawers on bottom. 2 bottom doors with keys. Imported from Belgium. Excellent condition. \$1,500. Call 369-3250.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.0 – Excellent condition. 98K miles. Still under warranty. \$15,000. Call 828-243-6447.

ANTIQUE 1926 MODEL T FORD TOURING CAR – Fully restored. Needs a new starter. Selling for health reasons. \$15,000 but will discount cost of starter and ignition work. Great car and lots of fun. Call Horace Duncan at 526-3760.

2003 DODGE STRATUS – red exterior, gray interior, 30,000 miles, AM/FM cassette, A.C. PW, PS, PB, clean. \$8,000 OBO 828-526-3257.

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

CAREGIVER/COMPANION – Private Duty, days & overnight. References. Call 828-421-5940 or 828-399-1749. 2/15

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WINTER CLEANUP – Yards, landscaping., STORAGE ORGANIZATION -- garages, attics, storage rooms. Call 526-0241. 1/25

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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

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... BUDGET from page 1

rates because the reval doesn't always take into effect what's needed in the budget."

The commissioners agreed to move up the budget deadline so the public can be more involved. "The public needs time to look at the budget and to express their concerns," said Commissioner Jim Davis. "We have to be more open to the public."

County Manager Sam Greenwood will present a "revenue neutral" budget to the board in May 2007. It will likely be available to the public shortly thereafter

"The property tax revenue projected for this fiscal year will be the basis for next year and the tax rate will be adjusted downward to reflect that revenue amount," said Greenwood. "This means that for county operations and major agencies supported in part by the county such as the schools, the only additional property tax revenue will come from the yearly growth in the tax base not associated with revaluation."

Greenwood said county departments will begin working on their budget in March and he'd like to have a working budget in place the last two weeks of June so it can easily go "live" July 1, 2007.

Capital facility expansion throughout the county has commissioners considering

going to the public with a bond referendum to raise the funds needed. Commissioners have been assigned as liaisons to county departments to help them determine their capital projects needs.

"The commissioners plan to move rapidly on the facility planning process to be ready for the next retreat in July 2007 which is set to address prioritization in preparation for a possible bond referendum," said Greenwood. "Each department will begin development of its major capital needs defined as new buildings, renovation, additions, and equipment costing more than \$100,000. Operating capital outlay will be addressed through the regular budget process."

Greenwood said the county is at critical budgeting crossroads. "Our needs are exceeding the growth in our tax base every year and we have to look at other means to finance capital projects," he said. "In the past we had some flexibility because we were able to take money after a debt is retired and use it for future appropriations. Our debt service is decreasing and will be largely retired by 2013."

Future county capital facility projects including school needs are estimated at \$30 million.

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Commissioner Brian McClellan suggested the county consider a zero-based budget approach to force departments to justify their funding every budget year.

"You go back to square one with the process instead of basing what's needed on the previous year," he said. "Instead of taking the budget and adding a percentage increase, you take a look at each department and decide what is needed."

He said the process can't be done by every department every year, but it could be phased in a couple of departments a year on a rotating basis.

Commissioners discussed beginning the zero-based budget process with the Environmental Health Department. "Considering the septic approval process mess, we should start there first and go line by line, position by position to see what areas need more and what needs less," said Commissioner McClellan. "Pick a department each year and from that basis we can justify to the public what we're doing with the budget."

Greenwood suggested a trial run this year with the Environmental Health Department. "Then in July, you can sit down and see how the run went and decide if you want to do it for all departments."

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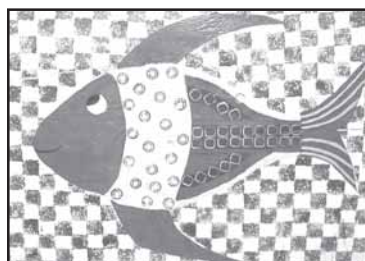
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

Every Tuesday, beginning Feb. 13, Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's study of Daniel at Community Bible Church Fellowship Hall. All ladies invited. Call the church at 526-4685 to order your book.

• It's Girl Scout Cookie Time. Order Now. Delivery in February. Eat 'em, freeze 'em or donate 'em. Highlands Brownie Scouts Troop #219. See your local Brownie Scout or email to HighlandsBrownies@hughes.net. Booth sales start mid-February.

• Step Aerobics at the Rec Park, 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. \$5 per class.

• The Macon County Art League exhibits work at the Bascom Louise Gallery in the Hudson Library through Feb. 15.

• Beginner Classical Yoga Group meets On Mondays, 5:45-7 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness, 464 Carolina Way. Mats and blankets provided. Learn the basics and improve your health. Other classes available. Call 526-8880 Ashby or Chad.

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

• 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. Contact Health Tracks at 828-526-1FIT.

Ruby Cinemas Playing Feb. 2-8

BECAUSE I SAID SO rated PG-13

Fri: (4:10), 7, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:10), 7, 9:10

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7

THE QUEEN rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

EPIC MOVIE rated PG-13

Fri: (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:05), 7:05, 9:05

Mon – Thurs: (4:05), 7:05

WE ARE MARSHALL rated PG

Fri: 6:50

Sat & Sun: (2), 6:50

Mon – Thurs: 6:50

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM rated PG

Fri:(4:20)

Sat & Sun:(4:20), 9:20

Mon – Thurs(4:20)

• 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 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.

• Children's classes resume at Bascom-Louise Gallery – cost is \$5 per student. Mondays: For Homeschoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2nd to 5th graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1st grade, classes are 3:15-4:15 p.m. and for young adult independent study, classes are from 1-2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays classes are for middle school students from 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday

• Open Studio Night Figure Drawing Informal instruction available for beginners. Bring your sketch pad or paint box for a leisurely session of figure drawing/painting. Cost is \$12, \$10 for "Friends" of the Gallery.

Friday, Feb. 2

• Highlands Little League Baseball signups for ages 5-14 are at the Rec Park from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 for first child, \$45 for second child. Birth certificate mandatory. Call John Shearl at 526-2251 or Monica Vinson at 526-9107.

Saturday, Feb. 3

• Yoga and Juicing, One-Day Cleanse, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday night juice pick-up. All-levels. Call 526-8880 to pre-register.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a four-mile moderate hike (with an elevation change of 700 feet) on the Georgia Bartram Trail near Clayton, passing a small waterfall near the start and a 45 foot waterfall along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, at 9:00 a.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Drive 58 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy three-mile hike on Forest Service roads in the Jones Creek area near Black Mountain, GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, at 2:00 p.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. 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.

Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 7 & 8

Hurricane Creek at Instant Theatre Feb. 10



Saturday night, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. downtown Highlands will be hit by a Hurricane. A category 7 storm of Rhythm and Blues, and Rock and Roll that will turn those numb, cold tootsies into happy feet, will be rolling into The Instant Theatre Company's (ITC), Studio on Main, 310 Main Street, Oak Square. This freak winter storm is called Hurricane Creek, already famous for blowing away those cabin fever blues, and renowned for making the faint of heart and leg get up and dance. This is a warning to make your plans now to get out and get down. Just \$20 will get you a space. Once you are in the eye of the storm you get complimentary wine, beer, and mixed drinks, and a dance floor complete with euro-tech lighting and the best R & B, blues and classic rock anywhere around. Call 828-342-9197 for recommended reservations (only 75 thrill seekers permitted), or for more information. Check www.instanttheatre.org for all things ITC.

• Southwestern Community College will sponsor an American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Professionals (CPR) class from 6-10 p.m. at SCC's Public Safety Training Complex in Franklin. Attendance at both nights is required. The cost is \$50. Call the PSTC at 828-360-0591 to pre-register.

Thursday, Feb. 8

• Dr. Rick Spurling "Bully Free School Zone" workshops have been rescheduled. The educators' workshop will be held at Macon Bank Corporate Center from noon to 3 p.m. (lunch provided) and the parents' seminar will be held at Franklin High School Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9

• Highlands Little League Baseball signups for ages 5-14 are at the Rec Park from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 for first child, \$45 for second child. Birth certificate mandatory. Call John Shearl at 526-2251 or Monica Vinson at 526-9107.

• Angel Medical Center is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive from 10:30 am to 3 p.m. The hospital is located at 120 Riverview Drive in Franklin, NC. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, Feb. 10

• Hurricane Creek at Instant Theatre on Main Street in Oak Square at 8 p.m. \$20 per ticket includes complimentary beer, wine and mixed drinks. Call 828-342-9197. Only 75 tickets available.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-4 mile, easy-to-moderate hike to Rough Run and High Falls. The hike is mostly on level ground except for

the last 200 yards where some scrambling over rocks is necessary which could be icy. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:00 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Walter Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 & 17

• Instant Theatre Company presents a Highlands first at 8 p.m. The EMan is coming to town. Al Ernst is the EMan, the big E, the King of Comedy guaranteeing to lighten your load. Straight from Las Vegas, comedy clubs and the Carnival Cruise lines, Al brings you an "All You Can Eat Comedy Buffet." Only 2 shows, 65 seats a night will be available. Complimentary wine and cocktails will be offered as well as EMTs will be standing by with oxygen. Make the call and reserve your space at the Laugh Buffet.

Saturday, Feb. 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a seven-mile, moderate-to-strenuous hike on the Ellicott's Rock Trail through beautiful forest to the west bank of the Chattooga River. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, February 18

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate hike on trails and backcountry roads near

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Ambassadors to challenge local 'All Stars' Feb. 27

Having delighted and dazzled local audiences last winter, the internally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors basketball team will return to Highlands later this month to challenge a special team of local all-stars.

The Ambassadors, which tour Europe and Asia, as well as North America, will make a stop at the Highlands School Gym on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The show will start at 7 p.m. and advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets will be \$15 at the door, and kids under four are free. Due to setup requirements, the doors will not open until 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the event go to the Mountain Top Rotary Club of Highlands, which uses the proceeds to fund a number of projects throughout the community. Advance tickets are available from any club member, at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Drake's Diamond Gallery, and Fressers Eatery.

The show features high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball handling and comedy routines led by Ladé Majic, queen of the show, and the only woman player/coach of an all men's professional team. She has played in more shows than any woman in history and competes against male players on a nightly basis.

Moss says the team actually covers more of the globe than the other famous

"Harlem" basketball team with "globe" in its name. They do not travel with a pre-selected opponent, nor do they present a choreographed show. Dealing with unknown opponents insures that team members will not know exactly what's going to happen and that creates a show that is loaded with spontaneous, improvisational humor, he said.



The Hometown Heros' player Ken McKim shoots a basket at last year's game.

The Ambassadors Tour has taken the team to 39 states and 19 foreign countries. The team is the leading provider of entertainment to the United State military, having performed at more than 120 different

bases worldwide, and for troops in the front lines in both the Balkans and Korea. The Ambassadors have also put on shows recently for Marines guarding prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"We are extremely proud of our relationship with the military," Moss noted. The Highlands Hometown Heroes team, will be composed of former Highlands School players, local community leaders and others. The night of fun will also feature a raffle for the game ball used that night (to be awarded at half time), and team souvenirs will be on sale. The Highlands PTO will be selling refreshments.

Corporate sponsors for the event are Mitchell's Lodge and Cottages, Fressers' Eatery and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Coweeta Lab. Meet at 2 p.m. at the old Winn Dixie super market in Franklin Plaza on the 441 bypass. Drive 18 miles round trip. Bring a drink, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations

Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Sun, Feb. 22-25

• "Caught in the Villian's Web," an old-fashioned melo-drama by the Highlands Community Players, evenings 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee 2:30 p.m. Call 526-8084 for tickets and reservations.

Saturday, Feb. 24

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.3-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Wine Spring, with an elevation change of 1000 feet, and then on the Bartram Trail to Sawmill Gap. Great views along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, at 10 a.m. Drive 25 miles round trip with car shuttle. Bring a drink, lunch and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20; reservations are required. Call leader Bill Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• Highlands Annual Chili Cook-off, Salsa, and Cornbread Competition will be held at the Conference Center from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Hurricane Creek.

• The Holly Springs Community is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive from 8 a.m. to

12 p.m. The blood drive will be held at Holly Springs Baptist Church, located at 366 Holly Springs Church Road in Franklin, NC. Please call 524-5200 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

• The Harlem Ambassadors return to play local basketball stars 7 p.m. in the Highlands School gym. Advance tickets are: adults \$10, students and seniors \$5, available at Fressers, Drakes Diamond Gallery, the chamber of commerce. \$15 at the door.

Fri., Sat., & Sun., March 2-4

• "Caught in the Villian's Web," an old-fashioned melo-drama by the Highlands Community Players, evenings 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee 2:30 p.m. Call 526-8084 for tickets and reservations.

Thursday, March 5

• Win a \$4,500 scholarship to Southwestern Community College in the college's Academic Challenge which will be held Thursday, March 15, on the Jackson campus. First-place winners will receive five semesters free at SCC, along with a \$1,000 book budget, for a total value package of \$4,500. Participation in the Academic Challenge is for anyone residing in Jackson, Macon or Swain counties, or the Qualla Boundary. Registration information is available on the SCC website at www.southwesterncc.edu/academicchallenge. For more information, contact Elizabeth Guertin at 586-4091, ext. 377.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 24-31 Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

Jan. 24

- At 9:50 a.m., a motorist on Main Street was cited for driving with an expired registration..

Jan. 26

- At 9:05 a.m., a motorist at N.C. 106 and Main Street was cited for driving with an expired license plate.
- At 8 p.m., a breaking and entering with burglary of \$3,850 in radio, TV, and stereo equipment was reported by a resident on Webbmont.

Jan. 27

- A little past midnight, a motorist at U.S. 64 west and N.C. 106 was cited for driving with an expired license plate.

Jan. 28

- At 6:45 a.m., a motorist at Main and Second streets was cited for driving without a license and driving left of center..
 - At 12:49 p.m., damage valued at \$200 was reported at Highlands School.
- Over the week, officers responded to three alarms.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 24-31

Jan. 24

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. There was no transport.

Jan. 26

- The dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire Dept. It was cancelled en route.

Jan. 27

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital which was set off by a smoking belt in a washing machine.

Jan. 28

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail where a person had fallen. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Jan. 29

- Twice, the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

Jan. 30

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Buck Creek Road. The victim was DOA.
- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the Farmer's Market. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Jan. 31

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

• REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

Town of Highlands

- 0504508, 510 N 5TH ST UNIT 3A PINEBROOK, GROSSMAN DEBRA G, 1/3/2007, 215000., LIGHT CAROLE S, \$205,580.

Highlands Township

- 0531258, 3352 CLEAR CREEK RD, PERKINS PROPERTIES LLC, 1/4/2007, \$0., PERKINS GILES G, \$382,640.
- 0516895, 134 LAURELWOOD DR UNIT 22 LAURELWOOD, TAYLOR H GRANT, 1/5/2007, \$539,000., BENSON ROBERT T JR, \$554,360.
- 0517276, 441 WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN RD, HORVATH INC., 1/5/2007, \$950,000., BERRY ROBERT ANDREW, \$1,356,240.
- 0448859, 544 WESTERN RHODES DR, BLAIR SUSAN MARIE, 1/3/2007, \$0., CDF LLC, \$235,500.

... SCHOOLS from page 3

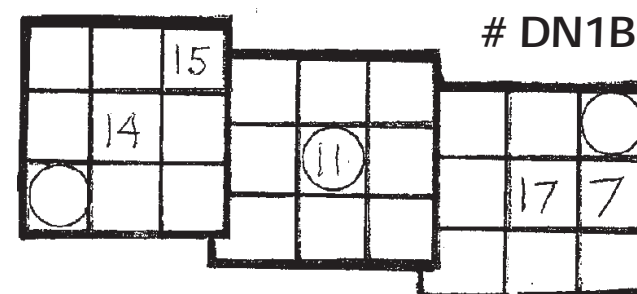
mandates which we must follow including the number of students allowed in a class. Years ago you could have 42 students in a class. You can't anymore. Plus, there are special populations the state mandates we service. That means more classrooms and more teachers. So even if the population isn't increasing we need more classrooms which translates to bigger schools," he said.

Commissioners also heard results of a school board work session Jan. 8, which prioritized immediate needs and ways to fund them. Funding would come from proceeds of the Otto School sale of \$525,400; use of the unallocated balance of the public school building fund of \$335,305.34 with a 75-25 match from local government of \$111,667; \$77,099 from the NC Lottery and \$2 million in QZAB to partially fund East Franklin renovations and expansion. Even with the public school funds and county match another \$18,333 would be needed.

Commissioners will discuss school needs and trends during a combined commission and school board meeting, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at Shoney's in Franklin.

PseudoCube®

DN1B



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 equaling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

THE CHALLENGE:

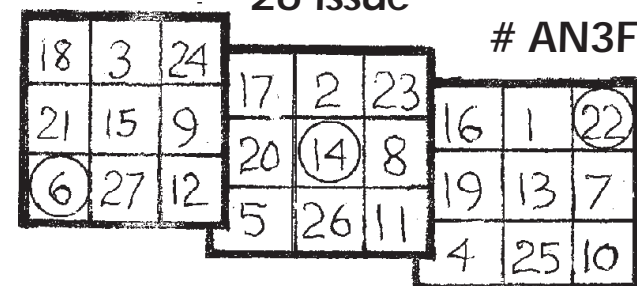
Start with the three center numbers for each layer and two other numbers. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other 22 numbers belong. Good Luck!

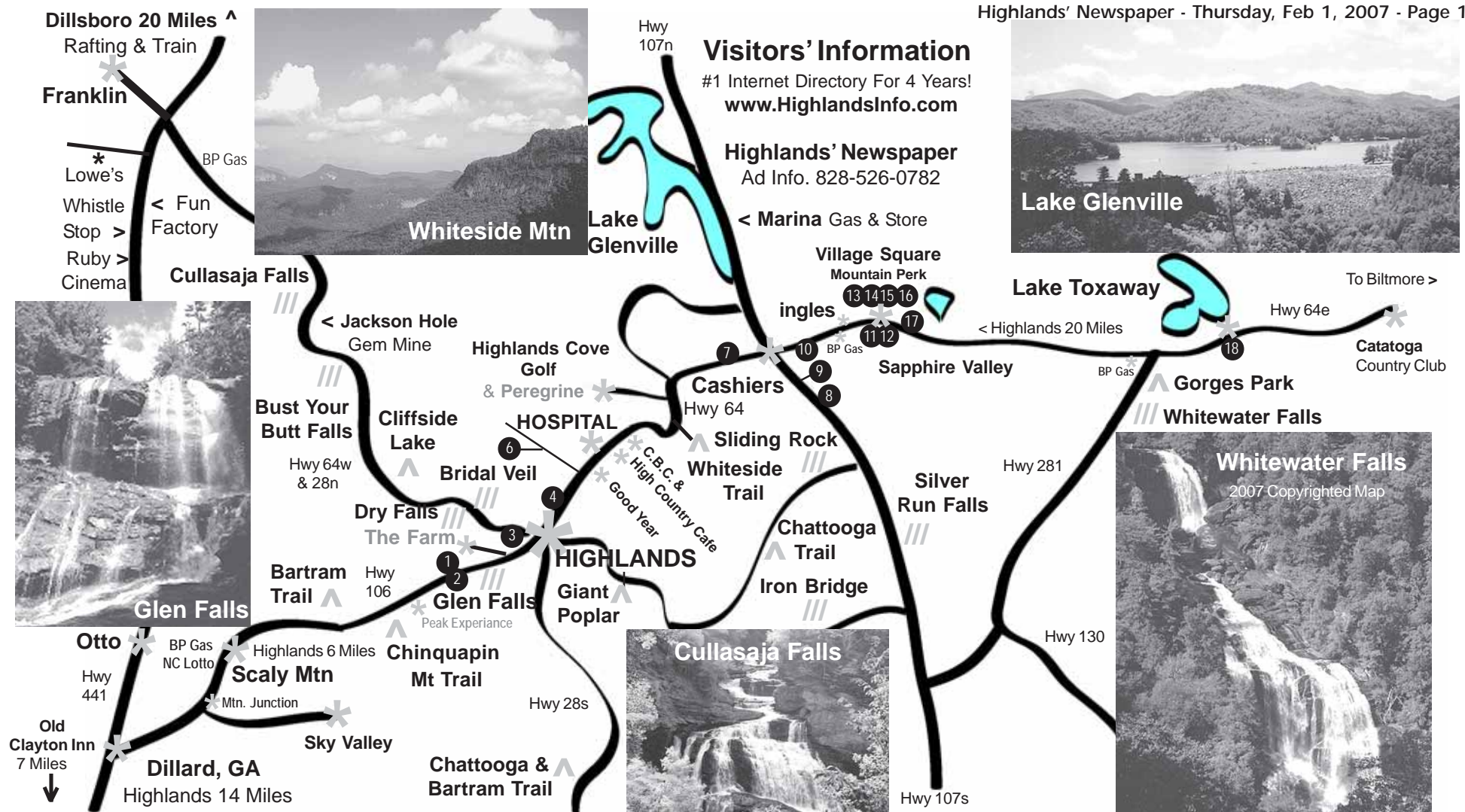
The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.

Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution for puzzle in the Jan. 26 issue

AN3F





CALL NOW	1 Summer House	4 Outdoor Tool	7 Century 21	10 Macon Bank	13 Grinning Frog	16 SMC Realty	19 New 2007
Area Code 828	2 Tin Roof Gallery	5	8 Mtn Golf Properties	11 Fairfield Realty	14 Rand Soellner Arch.	17 Hampton Inn	20 Updates
	3 On The Verandah	6 Skyline Lodge	9 Buyers' Real Estate	12 TUBBY Tubing	15 HomePlace Blinds	18 Brew Bird Cafe	21 Coming Soon

Jan. 2007 - Record Breaking Levels For HighlandsInfo.com

The Portal To Highlands - Upscale Lodging, Fine Dining, Unique Shops, Best Realtors, Weather & WebCam

Report for: **highlandsinfo.com**

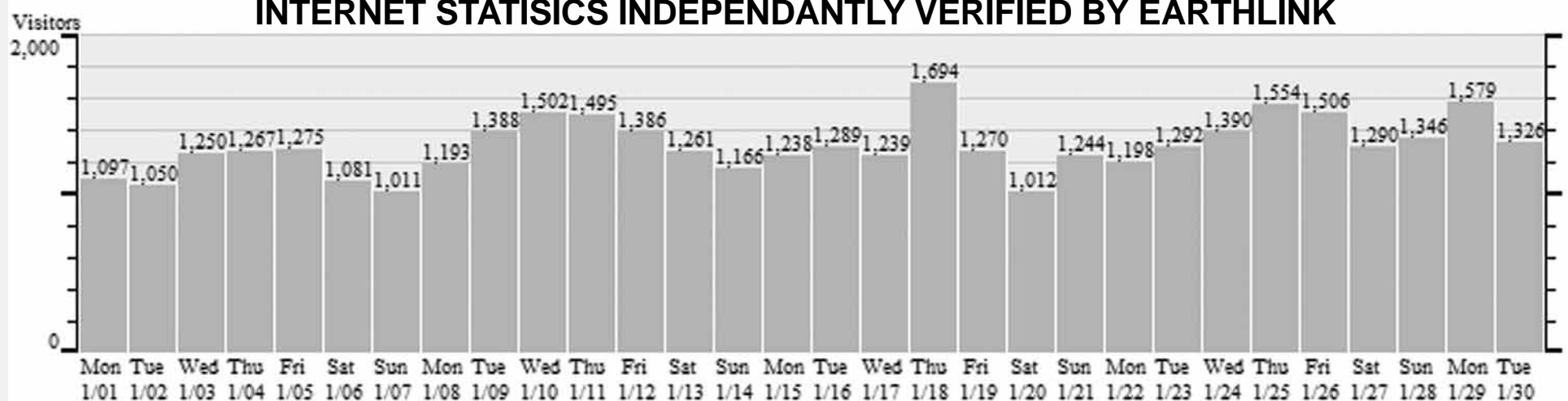
Date Range: 01/01/2007 - 01/30/2007

Snapshot

Visitors Pageviews Hits Bytes

Range Total: 38,889 Daily Average: 1,296.3

INTERNET STATISTICS INDEPENDANTLY VERIFIED BY EARTHLINK



Highlands' Newspaper continues to be our areas most read publication - Hardcopy and/or Internet PDFs. Everyday people download back editions of Highlands' Newspaper - Your advertising goes a very long way.

Four Seasons Of Fun

Make Reservations Now For Presidents Day Week End

- LODGING**

 - 01) Main Street Inn
 - 02) Mitchell's Lodge
 - 03) Mtn High Lodge
 - 04) Old Edwards Inn
 - 05) 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)
 - 21) Pescado's
 - 22) Pizza Place
 - 23) Rib Shack
 - 24)
 - 25)
 - 26)
 - 27)
 - 28) SweetTreats Cafe
 - 29)
 - 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 Schiffl
 - 38) Keller Williams
- 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
 - 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
 - 95)
 - 96) John Collette
 - 97) Mill Creek Gallery
 - 98) Robert Tino
 - 99) The Very Thing
- ART GALLERIES**

 - 100) ComputerMan
 - 111) Curves Fitness
 - 112) Drug Stores
 - 114) Dry Cleaners
 - 115) Highlands Office
 - 116) Jack Mayer
 - 117) Nantahala Tire
 - 118) Schmitt Builders
 - 119) Woodworks
 - 120) Bear Mountain
- SERVICES**

 - 100) ComputerMan
 - 111) Curves Fitness
 - 112) Drug Stores
 - 114) Dry Cleaners
 - 115) Highlands Office
 - 116) Jack Mayer
 - 117) Nantahala Tire
 - 118) Schmitt Builders
 - 119) Woodworks
 - 120) Bear Mountain
- OUTFITTERS**

 - 120) Bear Mountain

Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com

Main Street Inn
Open All Year



Breakfast & Wine Bar
Open To The Public

MILL CREEK GALLERY
Village Square

Performing Arts Center

Community Players

Madison's

Wine Spectator

Mountain Fresh Foods



HighlandsInfo.com - #1 Directory For 4 Years

