

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 3

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Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007

## On-going

- 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](mailto:HighlandsBrownies@hughes.net). Booth sales start mid-February.

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

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

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

Jan. 19, 20 & 21 – Fri., Sat., & Sun.

- "Watercolor, Pure and Direct," a class for all levels of expertise.

## Saturday, Jan. 20

- How to use your digital camera – the first of a two-part digital photo workshop for beginners at Mill Creek Gallery & Framing with Cynthia Strain. 3-hour class for \$35. Classes will cover camera operation, white balance, exposure, composition, flash and lighting. For information call 526-9227.

## Sunday, Jan. 21

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

- Bolivian Mission Pizza Dinner Fundraiser, Delivery to your door, 2-8 p.m. Pizza will be delivered to your door during the Divisional NFL game playoffs. Call the Methodist Church at 526-3376 through Sunday to order. Cheese pizza - \$20, with one topping - \$25. "All the Way" - \$35 and special seafood pizza with alfredo sauce, shrimp, and crab (artificial) - \$50.

- Yoga Workshop All Levels, 4-6 p.m. at Highlands Yoga and Wellness on Carolina Way, focusing on Yoga Nidra or the Yoga Of Deep Rest for Body and Mind. Cost \$25 or \$20 with a class card. 526-8880.

## Friday, Jan. 26

- Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park, 11:30 a.m. It's free.

## Friday & Saturday, Jan. 26 & 27

- Highlands Community Players present the Carolina Murder Mysteries' dinner theater play, "Death by Chocolate" at PAC on Chestnut St. in Highlands. The dinner, catered by Holly Roberts of "Let Holly Do the Cooking" starts at 6:30 p.m. with wine and appetizers. The comedy/mystery, presented during the dinner, starts at 7. Only 56 diners can be seated each night. Tickets for the benefit are \$60 per person. Call 526-8084.

## Saturday, Jan. 27

- A Hot Dog & Blue Grass Benefit at the Satolah Fire Dept. for the Cleveland Owen family at 5 p.m. Music by Foxfire and Whetrock. Raffle for a 1994 Nissan Pathfinder.

## ETJ zoning still hangs in the balance

The long awaited outcome of the public hearing and presumed vote on zoning in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction area was deferred until Wednesday next week.

After hearing from several citizens and accepting into record several letters from those either

objecting to their zoning designation or asking for a change, commissioners decided they weren't ready to vote on the issue.

"We need to set up a time to discuss this and make sure everyone understands what we're doing," said Commissioner Amy

Patterson. "We need to take into consideration the comments and situations we haven't considered."

The board agreed unanimously it wasn't ready to vote on assigning zoning designations ranging from B5 to R1, R2 and R4 in the

• See ETJ page 10

## Health dept. under fire

By Susanna Forrester Hearn  
Reporter

The county's septic permit backlog was the hot topic at the recent Environmental Planning Board and Board of Health meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Board members wrangled with each other for several hours over the number of permits that are considered backlogged with original number being 187 year-to-date. This number was later changed to 271 to reflect the amount of actual permits still waiting to be authorized.

"It's going to give Macon County a bad disposition," said Realtor Keith Harvey. "We don't know what to tell people who want to sell their land because we don't know how long it's going to take. I'm here looking for a solution. Let's solve the problem."

According to Barry Patterson, environmental health specialist with the health department, permits from July and August have been completed and the department is starting on September. Since Dec. 15, they have been working on permits in the order they come in.

Patterson said that an influx of 100 fast track permits slowed down the process. "We are man-

• See HEALTH page 8

## Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
39-22°F	41-24°F	30-25°F

## Land trusts protect 1,000 acres in area



Conservation easements on property, such as this land in Horse Cove, are an effective conservation tool that allows owners to continue to own their property, protect it from future development, and earn a federal and a North Carolina tax credit. Nearly half of the 225,000 acres protected by Land Trusts in North Carolina are conservation easements. In Highlands and Cashiers, easements have led to the protection of nearly 1,000 acres. See story page 10.

## County wants \$400,000 to upgrade landfill

The landfill on Rich Gap Road is changing to a transfer station July 2007 which means big changes for Highlands.

"Nothing will be buried at the landfill from that point on," said Chris Stahl, director of the county's solid waste department. "Everything, construction and debris and garbage, will be transported down the mountain in tractor trailers."

Stahl said regulations mandated by DENR have made the landfill operation obsolete. He said the cost of changes to contin-

ue operations as they are at Rich Gap would be astronomical.

Consequently, the county has drawn up plans to convert the landfill to either just a construction and debris (C&D) transfer station or a co-mingled station to transfer both C&D and municipal solid waste (MSW). But that's only if Highlands wants to pay for the MSW part.

The cost to change the landfill to a C&D transfer station is \$700,000 and a little more than \$400,000 to include a MSW transfer station.

If Highlands doesn't want to pay for the MSW part of the co-mingled operation, it can do one of three things, said Stahl.

"It can truck its municipal garbage down the mountain to the MSW landfill in Franklin where the county pays to have it carted now; it can contract out with J&B Disposal to cart the garbage to Franklin; or it can build its own MSW landfill transfer station."

Stahl said the cost of building a transfer station, including

• See LANDFILL page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### Consider the good, not just the bad

By Kim Lewicki  
Publisher

How sad that Larry Gantenbein's legacy with Highlands will be his arrest and not the job he did as Zoning Administrator and Town Planner since 2002.

At Monday night's two-hour emergency planning board meeting, Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz said it would probably take two full time positions to fill Larry's one.

"He was a bit of a workaholic," said Betz. "He was always in the office 10 minutes before eight and he worked a long hard day."

Mayor Don Mullen told WLOS-Channel 13 that "Larry did a good job over the years with the town." Yet when asked, said the arrest wasn't the sole reason Larry was fired. The mayor said his termination "was due to a lot of things."

There are likely several people who didn't care for the way Larry approached his job. But with a lawyer's eye, he quickly saw through the many loopholes in the town's zoning ordinance and usually just as quickly saw ways to close them. Trouble is, when it comes to changing ordinances, zoning designations, agreeing on verbiage and intent, the town's boards move at a snail's pace.

That's not to say the town's zoning ordinance is bad. It's an excellent document and represented a lot of hard work on Betz's part, but by their nature ordinances often evolve as communities grow.

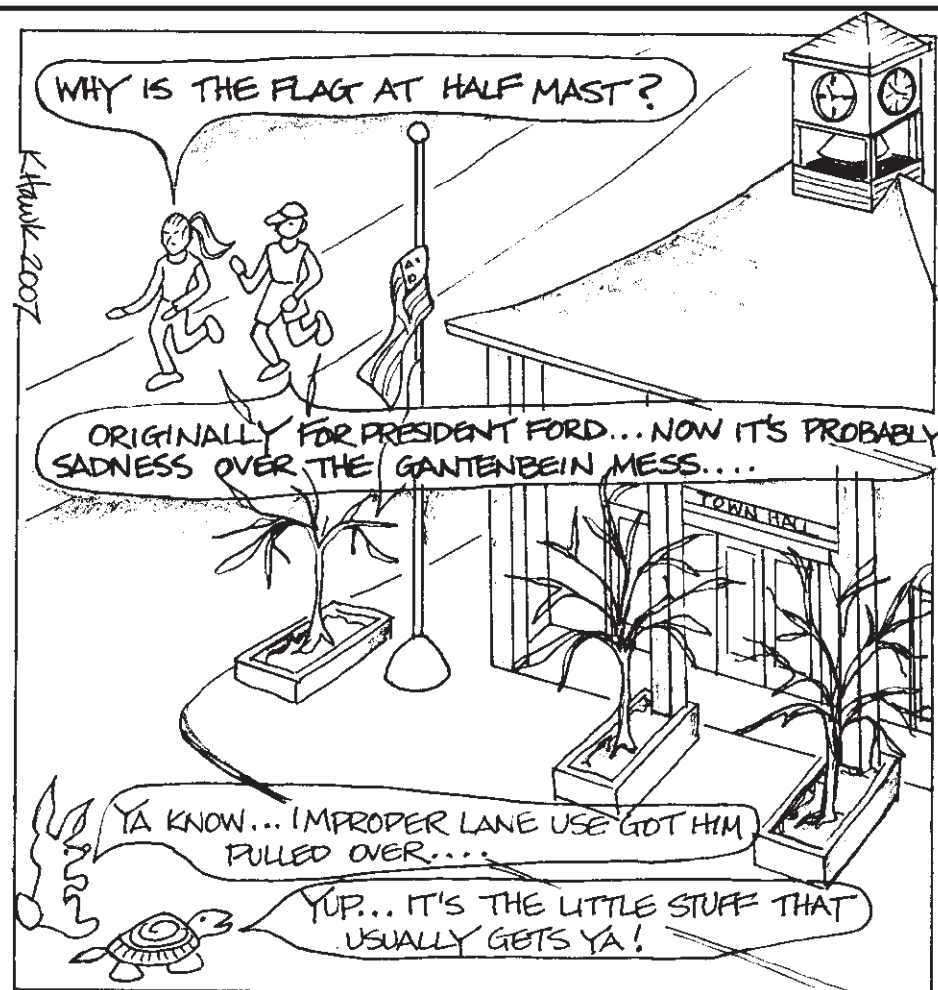
Larry worked hard to politically please the Town Board, members of the Appearance Commission and Planning Board, citizens, and developers while striving to avoid backlash from every sector.

The Planning Board amended the land use plan but instead of being a cure-all, not all Town Board members agreed with the Planning Board's vision or the suggested amendments. In fact, though adopted, the Town Board admitted there is much scrutinizing to be done concerning the land use plan.

Conditional zoning and residential development in B3 zones were seen as ways to control and guarantee suitable growth for Highlands, but not every member agrees on the desired outcome. Some say they want Highlands to be a pedestrian-friendly community sporting residential communities and businesses.

•See FORUM page 2

## • 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

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## From my perspective



Mayor Don Mullen

The big news in Highlands this past week was the arrest and jailing of our Zoning Administrator and Town Planner Larry Gantenbein and his son Michael in Louisiana, both accused of a major drug possession in their vehicle. I was informed about this on that Monday afternoon by Chief Harrell and immediately called an emergency meeting of the Board of Commissioners for early Tuesday morning. We all are grieved about this occurrence for there was no warning to us of problems in that direction. The community of whom Larry was a part also is in shock and concerned for him and his family.

On Tuesday morning the Board met and immediately went into closed session to discuss personnel matters. After a thorough review of several personnel matters in our closed executive session of the Board of Commissioners, we went into open session and voted unanimously for the termination of Larry Gantenbein as Zoning Administrator and Town Planner. By state law the town does not have to give reasons for this action.

With the many activities regarding zoning and planning going on in our rapidly progressing community, this action puts a great burden on the administrative staff of the Town. Richard Betz, our town administrator, already has too much to do and is pushed to the limit by his responsibilities. However, he is a prior zoning administrator and fully knowledgeable regarding our ordinances and regulations in town. In fact, he wrote many of them. He has been appointed as the Interim Zoning Administrator in addition to the many other duties he has in our town. We have been fortunate to have others in the Town Hall who are rapidly coming up to speed to help him in this task. But our major task now is to find a replacement for Larry Gantenbein.

The search is on. The process is in place and hopefully soon we will have an experienced and efficient person to do the work that needs to be done in the area of

•See MULLEN page 15

## • MILESTONES •

### Reed - Rodenbeck marry

On July 23, 2006, Leah Reed, the daughter of John and Judy Reed of Stone Mountain, GA., became the wife of Rick Rodenbeck, son of Fred and Martha Rodenbeck of Highlands, N.C.

The bride is on the staff of Young Life which is part of Go Gwinnett in Atlanta. She befriends and mentors high school girls in her former high school of Parkview.

She is a graduate of Samford University.

Rick is a project coordinator for Laarhaven Design in Atlanta. He is a graduate of Highlands School and Carson-Newman College.

The couple met when on the summer staff of Look-Up Lodge Christian Camp. They have made their home in Lawrenceville Ga.



### Shearl makes Dean's List at WCU

Highlands School graduate class of 2005, Allen James Shearl, was named to the dean's list at Western Carolina University for the fall 2006 semester. He is the son of John and Lila Shearl of Highlands.



Allen Shearl

### ... FORUM continued from page 2

Others say they want less housing communities and more buildings for businesses.

This makes the job of Zoning Administrator and Town Planner a daily nightmare. Whom do you please, what good are out-of-date rules and regulations when you need to get the job done, how should the ordinance be interpreted when there are several possible interpretations?

The soil, erosion & sedimentation ordinance, recently amended, has been hung up in Raleigh for about four months. Subsequently, without the appropriate ordinance to back up town actions, development continues and citations are deemed null and void.

As part of its land use plan amendments, the Planning Board long ago recommended hiring more people in the

zoning and planning department.

Finally, the town hired Matt Shuler as GIS mapper and just recently expanded meter-reader Scott Houston's job to certified on-site inspector for construction sites. Meantime, a lot of water and silt has passed "under the bridge."

A few months back, Sonja Stewart was hired to assist Larry for 20 hours a week, which alleviated some of the paperwork generated in the office. Still, Betz said it will likely take two full-time positions to carry Larry's load.

Like him or not, agree with all his decisions or not, Larry was a very busy person in a very busy municipality that promises to get busier. He demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of zoning ordinance implementation and interpretation, was able to work with everyone and he had a very thick skin.

## CP COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Call Pam Taylor  
(cell) 342-6988, 526-9027, 526-2520



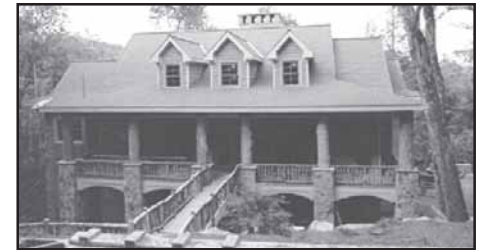
### 19+ wooded acres

\$2,150,000

Several streams, some view lots located about 3 miles from Main Street on the Cashiers Road just outside the Highlands ETJ. Some roads and utilities installed. Price includes engineering reports, plans, permits and other.

### Incredible Value at \$2.150 million

7,400 sq. ft. on 1.4 acres. The attention to detail is obvious from the entrance to the lower level living area. Complete with glass elevator, 2 kitchens, oversize 2-car garage, wood, Travertine & tile coloring, 3 fireplaces. In Highlands Point.



### Reduced to \$479,000

Tucked away in charming Highland Hills, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath is ready for occupancy after an extensive remodel. New front and back porches, wood floors, stone fireplace and garage. Offered at \$479,000 from \$499,000. Must see to appreciate!



### On Apple Lake!

5 lots - 2.16 acres. Plus, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on two levels. Cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, spacious decks, two-car garage and gorgeous landscaping. Offered at \$1.2 million.



### Three lots for sale:

- Lovely Lot in Webbmont. Close to Town. \$139,900.
- 4+ acres at Norton Ridge. 5 bed septic, well in. Ready to go! \$425,000.
- Beautiful 3/4-acre cleared lot in Highland Hills. \$179,000.

## Zoning Board OK's first commercial project in ETJ

Last week the Zoning Board OK'd the first commercial project in the new Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) area.

Having made it through the Appearance Commission preview last month, Bucky Meredith headed for the Zoning Board to request the necessary Special Use Permit for new construction. With the board's OK, the first phase is set to begin immediately.

The state-of-the-art, indoor access only, climate controlled, self-storage facility will go up on the 12+-acre tract of property that currently houses the Landmaster's office building on U.S. 64 east at Flat Mountain Road.

The Highlands Storage Village will occupy a portion of the front half of the property which is zoned B5 in the ETJ. The back part of the property is zoned R4 but Meredith has no immediate plans for that portion.

A 600-sq. ft. "Highlands-type" cabin will serve as the office at the gated key-pad registration entrance. The 3.8-acre complex will eventually include three 15,000 sq. ft. metal storage buildings clad with deep tan or brown Hardi-plank and topped with dark green metal roofs.

The first phase will include an office

## Wooldridge chills with locals in Dubai



Humorist/ columnist Fred Wooldridge is on vacation in Dubai. Here he yucks it up with some of Dubai's "good ole boys" at a local coffee house. Fred is the one wearing the weird outfit and smoking the Shisha pipe. Story to follow later.

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## • ANOTHER VIEW •

### 'Wellness' and 'responsibility go hand in hand

A number of years ago, I think it was the summer of 1979, I traveled to Stephens Point, Wisconsin. I was a student health doc at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, a dead-end job which served as temporary refuge from a dead-end life. It was "wellness" that drew me to Stephens Point and it is both unfortunate and revealing that 27 years later I still enclose the word in parentheses.

"Wellness" was a new word in those days, mysterious, radical, and hostile to American medicine, and it certainly implied more than the absence of illness. I wanted to know what the buzz was about so I made the trip. Actually, it was my boss who thought there might be something of value in "wellness" and sent me to check it out. I welcomed any trip that was funded by the university and got me out of a couple days of sore throats and class excuses.

I wasn't closed to the idea, but I was skeptical. There were very few doctors at the meeting, but a host of nutritionists, yoga instructors, aerobic teachers, psychologists, physical therapists, aroma therapists, massage therapists, therapy therapists, and various flavors of "new agers."

A few motivational speakers had been brought in for the event. Medical meetings which I had attended always included a preprinted name tag, "Dr. Salzarulo," with the registration fee. When I signed up at Stevens Point, I received a blank name tag, which permitted considerable creativity. Armed with a blank slate and a magic marker, I wrote "Spike," a warning to leave me out of the "hugging stranger" seminars, "well being through crystals" lectures, and "power of the pyramid" workshops. For the rest of the week, I intended to be "Spike."

I eventually tried to catch the fever. I joined a strange woman for breakfast. She refused to believe that Miami was in Ohio. I cited fact after fact in a determined effort to convince and thought that I had succeeded, but when her husband came to the table, she looked suspiciously at me, then pleadingly at him and said, "Spike here claims that Miami is in Ohio." I quickly excused myself, abandoned my granola and herbal tea and headed for the exit.

A little later something happened that immediately changed my approach to the practice of medicine and later altered my life. I hate the word "empower," never



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
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**[hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)**

use it. It is just too cliché. If I were ever to utter or write it, now would be the moment. What I learned empowered me. Maybe it will do the same for you. I was sitting in a lecture, probably thinking that sore throats weren't all that bad when the speaker asked a question. "Who," he asked, "is primarily responsible for your health?" Trained as I was in American medicine, my knee jerk silent response was, "My doctor," even though I didn't have one. He paused, then answered his own question. "You are. Each of you is

responsible for his or her own well being."

Of course, it was so obvious. Who cares more about me than me? So this is what "wellness" was really all about, self responsibility. One might approach it through diet, exercise, meditation, yoga, aroma or fumes, but in essence, it was this, self responsibility. A few companies including Kimberly Clark had jumped on the band wagon and were encouraging employees to eat more sensibly, exercise, and meditate a little in an effort to produce a healthier, more productive work force. Reduction in employee absenteeism, enhanced worker satisfaction, lower insurance premiums, and improved employee retention were supposed to more than offset the cost of providing gyms and jogging trails. That was the hope, anyway.

Little has changed since the high hopes of "wellness" more than a quarter of a century ago. Yesterday morning, while I was running on the tread mill, Dr. Sanjay Gupta was on CNN talking about the health crisis in America. Americans are fatter and less active than ever. Nearly 45 million of us still smoke. At least most of us are using seat belts. Dr. Gupta said that kids were too busy to eat a nutritious breakfast, that life style mandated fast foods.

Others have argued that those of lower socioeconomic groups can not afford healthy food or exercise facilities. Plenty of ghetto kids sport \$150 Air Jordans. I don't shop much, but I doubt that fresh food is more expensive than processed. We blame McDonald's, a corporate villain. McDonald's sells what people want to buy. Might as well blame belt companies for making 60" belts.

As a nation, we refuse to accept responsibility for our actions, our diets,

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 17

# • CP: OFFICE LINBACKER •

Calling audibles on sports and life

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## Officiating: What were they thinking?! (Part 1)

As many readers have seen within the past few years, I am not the big tall guy you're used to seeing with a witty headline following a story about sports drama in today's world. Ryan Potts, my brother, is now a proud teacher and father of a bouncing baby girl, and so he has (unknowingly) bequeathed the sports column (previously called Sports Picks) to me. I will be providing the Potts' viewpoint on the current landscape of college and professional sports from time to time.

Let's get started with something that incited a not-so-positive reaction from not only me, but the group of fans around me. I was at the men's game Thursday night and the overall reaction, like most sports games I attend is, "What in the world are these referees doing?" Actually, depending on the game, it usually involves a couple of choice words that shouldn't be repeated.

Being a referee is the worst job in the world. Other than being a lawyer or a police officer, who actually do things that save lives and careers, I cannot think of a group of people who are more detested than referees. I've refereed a few games, in both football and basketball. Your eyesight is questioned, your intellect is judged, and the very idea that a human could make a mistake is considered impossible by the man in the flannel shirt in the 3rd row. How about that excessively large half naked guy wearing blue paint on his face with the number 44 on his belly screaming obscenities at the zebras? I'm not even mentioning the cat calls and death threats that seem to follow some officials around, but that's beside the point.

Even in today's officiating, where replays for all levels of sports are used, mistakes are made. That's why both the NFL and college football have created a challenge system where the coach can challenge the ruling on a controversial play. The first play that came to mind was the game Oklahoma played against Oregon in the early weeks of the college football season.

Oklahoma led 33-20 with 3:12 left in the game. Oregon scored a touchdown with 1:12 left and planned for an onside kick. On the ensuing play, the ball must travel 10 yards from the point of kickoff for the team kicking off to be eligible to recover the football.

Oregon kicked the ball, and an



**Christopher Potts**  
**Broker-in-Charge**  
**John Cleaveland Realty**

Oregon player touched the ball before it had traveled the necessary 10 yards. The play should have ended right there, but even after the illegal touch, the ball ended up on the ground, where an Oklahoma player picked up the ball and held it up for the official to see. Instead, the referees blew the whistle... and awarded the ball to Oregon. Even though Oregon did not have the ball in the pileup on the field, they were awarded the ball. Oregon scored a touchdown two plays later

to win the game.

I'm not a fan of either team. In fact, Oregon's uniforms look like baby vomit and I laughed really hard when Oklahoma lost the national title two years in a row because Jason White, then Heisman quarterback for OU, annoyed me for some reason I still cannot comprehend today. I am a fan of a good game though, not one tainted by such a blatantly biased call against one team. Yet, it seems to be happening more and more in all sports.

It's a tragedy when a game is changed not by the players on the court or on the field, but by the men and women wearing uniforms and whistles. It's not just the bad calls that affect the game anymore either. Why is that? Check out next week's article on how officiating has changed in the "It's all about ME" era of sports.

### County drug cards coming

Macon County has joined 510 counties nationwide in a discount drug card program to get underinsured and uninsured citizens 20% off prescription drugs.

All county residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage may use the cards. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescription isn't covered by insurance at any pharmacy anywhere.

Cards indicating the recipient is a Macon County resident will be distributed at all Macon County public libraries, Macon County Senior Services, Macon County Social Services in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala, through the Medication Assistance Program, Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Cards are expected to be available April 1, 2007.

## Channel 13 interviews mayor



On Thursday, Jan. 12, WLOS Channel 13 from Asheville, sent a newsteam to Highlands to interview Mayor Don Mullen about the arrest of Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. Mullen told the reporter the turn of effects was a shock to the community and very sad. He said Gantenbein had done a good job over the past several years with the town. The interview aired, Thursday night at 6 p.m.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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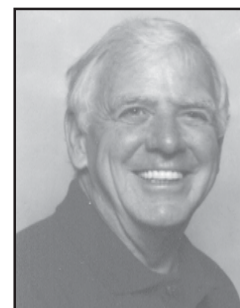
## MC health clinic open twice monthly

The Macon County Public Health Center offers an outreach clinic in Highlands at the soccer field facility off Buck Creek Road. Clinics are held the second and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For information about services, directions, or to make an appointment, call 349-2081.

## • LOOKING AT LIFE •

### Killing a war hero – part 1

*Note: Fred Wooldridge spent 7 of his 28 years as the Miami Beach police department's SWAT Commander. The events, although dramatized, are true. The names are changed.*



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback  
is encouraged!  
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

John Clements was an only child who lived with his parents on a small farm near Lincoln, Nebraska. Because John flunked one grade in grammar school, he had already turned 18 by the time he graduated high school. It didn't matter to John that he was a below average student as his only aspiration in life was to work the farm with his parents. John loved farming and he loved his parents.

In late fall of the following year, just after harvest, John received his draft notice to report for training. The Viet Nam war was in full rage. Dutifully, John reported for training and 12 weeks later, he was no longer a farmer but an advanced infantryman and expert with the BAR, the Browning automatic rifle, an incredibly lethal weapon. In past years, John had hunted often with his dad and his skill with a rifle proved helpful during his training. John grew from a boy to a man during those 12 hard weeks and by the time he was sent to Viet Nam, he was a trained killer.

After three months in 'Nam he wrote his parents and said, (allow me to paraphrase) "I love it here and I love the war. Killing the Cong is the first thing in my whole life I have done extremely well. I have a group of friends and we are closely bonded. I never want the war to end."

Early in his tour, John earned his first of several Silver Stars for his bravery in combat by saving his wounded CO and calling in an air strike on advancing 'Cong.

In time, most of John's close friends were killed or transferred back to the States. John fell in with a group of soldiers whose whole existence was dedicated to sleeping with prostitutes, drinking beer and smoking marijuana. Military leave in Saigon had become more important to him than fighting the enemy. His attitude and behavior began to change.

John was also beginning to suffer from battle fatigue. He was seeing flashes of light during night patrols where he envisioned the enemy right on top of him. It got worse. After accidentally firing

twice on American soldiers, Sergeant John Clements took his many metals and commendations and was sent home with an honorable medical discharge.

His parents were immediately aware that their son was not well. He woke up screaming often and would threaten his parents when they tried to calm him. They would find him curled up in the corner of their kitchen, naked, holding a kitchen knife in each hand. His parents feared for their lives. They sought help from the Veterans Administration in

Lincoln, but John refused to go.

Convinced it was only a matter of time before the authorities came to get him, he packed his duffle bag and, in the dead of night, pulled his hunting rifle from its place and left. He walked to the highway, hitched a ride to Lincoln and took a bus to Miami Beach. His parents would never see him alive again. He was only 21.

Using his military discharge money, John moved into a rundown South Beach hotel that had been converted into a rooming house. He got a job as a dishwasher while his disability checks piled up at the farm house.

After several arrests for bar fighting, a judge sent him to the VA hospital in Miami for psychiatric evaluation. He was diagnosed with severe post-war trauma and deemed a danger to himself and others. Miami's VA hospital recommended he be sent to Walter Reed hospital for treatment but there was no room for him. Incredible as it may seem, the overcrowded VA hospital in Miami released him while waiting for an opening at Walter Reed. John returned to his life as a dishwasher.

Two weeks later, John received a letter from Walter Reed informing him there was an opening. He was instructed to report to Miami's VA hospital where he would be transported to Washington. John stared at the letter in disbelief. He dwelled on the words "Viet Nam" and "report and transport to" In his convoluted mind, he thought he was being ordered back to Viet Nam.

He wrote the VA hospital in Miami and told them he had taken a hostage and any attempt to send him back would result in the hostage's death. After mailing the letter, John went by his job and quit.

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 17

# Updated flood damage prevention ordinance is one way to guarantee flood insurance in Macon County

By **Susanna Forrester Hearn**  
Reporter

With the county's flood insurance program in jeopardy, the county's watershed council has been working on updating its flood damage prevention ordinance.

Bob Wright of the Macon County Watershed Council explained the proposed ordinance at the Thursday, Jan. 11 League of Women Voters meeting in Franklin.

Wright said the ordinance is not meant "to stop people from making stupid decisions." Rather, it's about safety.

"We're trying to make it safer for you and people living near you. We all live downstream from somebody," he said.

The ordinance is meant to promote public safety first and foremost by protecting human life and health, minimizing need for rescue and relief efforts, minimizing damage to those downstream, and minimizing taxpayer expense associated with development in flood prone areas.

Macon County's flood history dates back to April 1791. The maps created by the federal government to indicate areas of special flood hazard — areas that have a one percent chance of flooding every year — were last updated in 1978.

"The areas defined on the maps fall woefully short of where flooding occurs," Wright said. "New maps are on the way, and a broader area will be covered and come under the ordinance."

According to Wright, two percent of land in Macon County is prone to flooding. All of this land lies along major waterways. Places such as Cartoogechaye Creek and the Little Tennessee River are not on the original map. Yet, both of these locations flooded

in Sep. 2004 during Hurricane Ivan.

Wright said that developers and others changing area streambeds is part of the reason for the ordinance. "They say 'we want to change it, straighten it, make it pretty,'" said Wright. "But a more extensive flood hazard is created when natural barriers are removed. Part of the objective is to make sure structures in the area are safe."

The current ordinance doesn't require base flood elevation, but the new ordinance would require builders to place their structures three feet above base flood elevation. The ordinance also prevents the use of fill material. During flooding, fill material can wash out and damage structures downstream. Also storage tanks must be anchored to keep them from washing downstream.

"The flood plain prevention ordinance will not prevent new development," Wright said. "Nor will it prevent new flooding, or prevent the flood plain from expanding."

He said the maps will be out of date next fall because the floodplain is constantly changing and expanding, so an area developed this year may not be considered a special flood hazard but it could be next year.

"It's a very simple ordinance. But it must be adopted by the time new maps come out or our community will lose the flood insurance program," said Wright.

He said response from the public has been positive. "Once it comes to the table it will pass," he said.

Those interested in seeing the new ordinance pass should attend the public hearings, Wright said. "What's important in public hearings is a body count — who's in favor of it and who's not."

## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### Century 21 top producers for December

The following CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles agents were top producers for their office during the month of December:

In the Cashiers office, top listing agent was Cathy Garren, managing broker, CRB, new construction specialist, fine homes & estates specialist. Top Sales Agent was Elizabeth Matej, broker associate, fine homes & estates specialist.

Garren was awarded the Masters Emerald award for her production in 2005. She also received the Top Listing by Volume award for her office last year. Elizabeth Matej received the Masters Ruby award for her production in 2005. Matej was also awarded the Top Sales by Units and the Top Listing by Units award for her office for 2005.

In the Highlands office, Managing Broker Gary Garren was named Top Listing Agent and Sherman Pope, broker associate, new construction specialist, fine homes & estate specialist was named Top Sales Agent.

Garren was awarded the Silver Producer award for his production in 2005. He also received the Top Listing by Volume & Units as well as the Top Sales by Volume & Units award for his office for 2005. Pope was recognized as "Rookie of the Year" for his office in 2005.

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### ... ZONING BOARD continued from page 3

building, and one 15,000 sq. ft. storage building and possibly a smaller wine/art storage facility adjacent to the office building. "But the wine/art storage area will depend on interest and a lot of other things," said Meredith.

Meredith said the major objective of the project is to preserve the natural characteristics of the site, which has a stream — the headwaters of the Cullasaja River — cutting across it and heavy, thick rhododendron growth.

There is the required 20-foot buffer

along U.S. 64 and there will be a 30-foot buffer of natural vegetation left along the stream as required.

The allowed built-upon is 70 percent but to keep the parcel as natural as possible, only 50 percent of the 3.8-acre tract will be built upon.

Zoning Board member Jimmy Tate said he wished all projects that come before the Zoning Board were as well thought out and presented as the Highlands Storage Village plan.

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### ... HEALTH continued from page 1

dated to do fast track permits within two weeks. After record influx in June and July we received 100 fast track applications. Each of those pushes another application back," Patterson said. "That group that's been pushed back has been justifiably vocal and angry."

"It took six months to get improvements permits," said Realtor Evelyn Owens.

I still have 10 outstanding applications and I've been waiting six months for those. Holding these up for six months is like holding our paycheck up for six months."

Client communication was stressed during the meetings with a proposal to publish in all local papers the date of the oldest application currently being worked. The notice would come out every Monday

## • THE CONSERVATIVE POV •

### Americans should pull up by their bootstraps

The following fictional account of action taken after a snowstorm in the Northern Plains of the United States was forwarded to me by a friend and I thought it was too good not to share.

...

"The text is from a county emergency manager out in the central part of Colorado after yesterday's snowstorm.

#### WEATHER BULLETIN

Up here, in the Northern Plains, we just recovered from a historic event, may I even say a 'Weather Event' of 'Biblical Proportions,' with an historic blizzard of up to 44 inches of snow and winds up to 90 mph that broke trees in half, knocked down utility poles, stranded hundreds of motorists in lethal snow banks, closed all roads, isolated scores of communities and cut power to tens of thousands.

FYI:

George Bush did not come. FEMA did nothing. No one howled for the government. No one uttered an expletive on TV. Neither Jesse Jackson nor Al Sharpton visited. Our mayor did not blame Bush or anyone else. Neither did our Governor. CNN, ABC, CBS, FOX or NBC did not visit, or report on this cat five snowstorm. Nobody demanded \$2,000 debit cards. No one asked for a FEMA trailer house. No one looted. Nobody, I mean nobody, demanded the government do something. Nobody expected the government to do anything, either. No Larry King, no Bill O'Reilly, no Oprah, no Chris Mathews and no Geraldo Rivera. No Shaun Penn, no Barbara Striesand, no Hollywood types to be found.

Nope, we just melted the snow for water. We sent out caravans of SUVs to pluck people out of snow engulfed cars. Truck drivers pulled people out of snow banks and didn't ask for a penny. Local restaurants made food and the police and fire departments delivered it to snowbound families. Families took in stranded people, total strangers.

and allow those waiting on septic applications to see how close their application is to being handled.

Realtor Bill McGaha complained that no one would even give him an estimate on how long his applications would take. "We have to put in a date for closing. Time is of the essence. We need to be able to depend on you guys to be there," said McGaha.



**Don Swanson**  
**Feedback is encouraged. Email**  
**swandonson@dnet.net.**

We fired up wood stoves, broke out coal oil lanterns and Coleman lanterns. We put on extra layers of clothes because up here it's "Work or Die." We did not wait for some affirmative action government to get us out of a mess created by being immobilized by a welfare program that trades votes for 'sittin at home' checks. Even though a category five blizzard of this scale has never fallen this early,

we know it can happen and how to deal with it ourselves. In my travels, I have noticed that once one gets north of about 48 degrees north latitude, 90% of the world's social problems evaporate."

...

Hmmm. Sounds like cultural diversity hasn't visited the Northern Plains. Why should they get away with no looting, no shooting, no whining, no finger-pointing?

My solution is to ship as many victims of Katrina up to central Colorado and let the natives share in the wonders of progressive (read regressive) policies.

My wife and I visited Waveland, Mississippi a few weeks ago, and in the 12 or so hours we were in the area, New Orleans was receiving 1-3 inches of rain per hour and as we fled, NO radio was reporting flooding of dramatic levels, the pumps were not able to keep up and areas not flooded as a result of Katrina were flooding that morning.

Why we should spend one penny on that cesspool is beyond me. Where are the liberals who complain about spending our tax money on freeing 50 million souls when it comes to billions and more billions spent on fixing a hole on the Gulf?

Spend the money moving folks up to high ground and fill the "hole" up with the refuse and wreckage still cluttering the countryside.

I suppose that plan should wait until their religious observance, "Mardi Gras," is over. It's the right thing to do.

A motion was also passed to change the expiration date of a septic application from the date it was applied for to the date of first contact when the department begins working the application. This would give the clients time to get their work done once the application has been turned back over to them.

"I'm not here to fuss at any employee,"  
 • See HEALTH page 11

## • REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

### A rising tide of immigrants lifts all mega yachts

By Katie Brugger  
Columnist

Last fall I did a story for my TV show *Heart of the High Country* (show #330) about the International Friendship Center, which helps immigrants deal with the problems arising from being in a strange land with a strange language. As part of the story I interviewed a few people who had moved here from Mexico. In talking to them it became clear that these were good and decent people who had come to the United States to find a better life for themselves and their children. In Mexico life was extremely hard and opportunities were few.

Whenever the "illegal immigration" problem is discussed in the media it seems the debate focuses on the immigrants, the people, as if *they* are the problem. They're illegal, they're breaking the law, they're bad for this country. If somehow we could just round 'em all up and ship 'em back to Mexico everything would be fine again.

As soon as I got to know some of these immigrants as persons, it was clear "they" aren't the problem. They have done what you or I would do in their position: left a hopeless situation in search of a better life.

I believe they are being scapegoated: the true problem lies in economic and foreign policies that have decimated the economy of Mexico and this country.

Think about what Highlands was like 10 years ago. There were fewer than a dozen illegals in this town. I knew four who were harassed and chased out of town by the Highlands police. Now it seems there are immigrants everywhere, and the restaurant, hotel, and construction industries claim they couldn't operate without them. But we had restaurants, hotels, and construction 10 years ago. How did we manage to get along?

I have learned that a good way to solve problems is to start by asking whether something in the situation has changed. Often that will give you the key to a solution. What has changed in the last 10 years between Mexico and the U.S.? Eleven years ago the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed into law.

As I remember it, NAFTA was touted as an economic boon for both Mexico and the U.S. American companies would go to Mexico and open factories, providing jobs and improving the Mexican way of life, while inexpensive goods would keep the American lifestyle humming along.

Unfortunately it hasn't worked that way. Factories all over the U.S. closed to take advantage of the cheaper Mexican workforce, throwing Americans out of work. But now many of those Mexican factories have closed because the companies moved off in search of even cheaper labor in Asia. The factories that remain pay their workers a pittance.

"The Washington Post's report on the 10-year anniversary of NAFTA told the story: 19 million more Mexicans now live in poverty than before the pact was signed. Similarly, former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich points out, 'Mexico's real wages are lower than they were before [NAFTA]'. And because NAFTA included no provisions to force companies to improve Mexican working conditions, jobs that were created in Mexico still pay near-slave wages. For instance, the Associated Press noted this week that 'Many young [Mexicans] have manual jobs at the minimum wage of \$5 a day.'" [From SF Chronicle, "NAFTA and Immigration," April 9, 2006]

So NAFTA has had a negative effect on employment in both this country and Mexico.

I thought NAFTA would mean Mexican food would come this way, because I have lived in Mexico for a couple of brief episodes and food was incredibly cheap. Boy was I wrong. NAFTA has meant U.S. agricultural goods are streaming south. Our subsidized farmers sell their products for much less than they cost to produce and the cheap corn in particular is destroying farmers all across Mexico.

When I visited my mother in Nicaragua last winter I commented on how good their dairy products are. Everywhere you go you see cows grazing. She replied, "That won't last much longer. When CAFTA (the Central American version of NAFTA) is implemented cheap Costa Rican powdered milk will completely destroy the local dairy industry and as a result the rural Nicaraguan way of life."

NAFTA is clearly a failure as economic policy, but I also mentioned foreign policy. It seems obvious that a basic principle of foreign policy should be to pay close attention to the internal conditions of your neighbor, because your neighbor's problems become your problems simply by virtue of proximity. A foreign policy that was designed to help Mexico develop its economy would have the added benefit of creating a country whose people *don't want to leave* because

• See BRUGGER page 13

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## ... ETJ continued from page 1

ETJ area. A special meeting was called for Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Though commissioners didn't initially agree with the suggestion, in the end they did what Lee Hodges, a resident from the ETJ'd Blue Ridge Valley Estates suggested.

"Don't vote on the map tonight," she said. "There's too much confusion. You don't even know yourselves. This is not ready for a vote."

Her comment came after Commissioner Alan Marsh suggested pulling all areas not designated R1 from the vote equation – B5, R2 and R4 – as well as all property referenced by speakers during the public hearing and by letter. "All these need further study," said Marsh and Commissioner Hank Ross.

Some citizens like Liz and Patrick View asked that their property on Flat Mountain Road be zoned so they could continue their home-based businesses. Others wanted assurance they could expand their business.

Dale Sticka, who owns 23 acres in the Mirrormont area, asked that his property be zoned something other than R2 so that its use could remain agricultural and allow for the future outbuildings.

The Zahner family has farmed property off Billy Cabin Road for 33 years complete with livestock and a commercial growing operation. They wanted to make sure the new zone would let them continue as is, possibly build another building.

Larry Rogers, who owns a property on Shortoff, asked that it be zoned business because he bought it for business and uses it for business..

Rick Rawlins and Erin Bronk asked that their property on Owl Gap Road be zoned R4 or B5, not R1, so they could maintain their woodworking home-business in the basement and rent out the top portion.

Bob Naas, who owns Skyline Lodge and development asked that his 20 lots be zoned B-5 Mixed Use and not R1 as proposed because he intends to develop the remaining lots as rental units through the lodge.

Bill and Mary Anne Creswell asked that their property – part of which is in the ETJ – be exempt from ETJ. "We desire to be zoned under Macon County as is," they wrote in a letter.

All the requests exemplified what commissioners agreed upon – they weren't ready to vote on the map.

## Planning Board corrects ETJ map for hearing

At an emergency meeting of the Planning Board, Monday, Jan. 15, members corrected map and zoning designation errors on the ETJ map which was the subject of the Jan. 17 Town Board meeting.

The Skyline Lodge subdivision was mistakenly designated B5 and the Skyline Lodge property designated R4. The designation was reversed and the map corrected, but since the Town Board had previously ruled on those designations as such, the property wasn't included in the ETJ hearing and ruling at Wednesday night's meeting.

That was also the case with two residential lots mistakenly included in the Mountain Moorings condominium property on Zachary Road. Two lots on N.C. 106 however, though mapped wrong, were voted on by the Town Board as the correct R4 designation, so they were included in Wednesday night's consideration.

The Planning Board also voted 4 to 2 to proceed with the R1 designations on the ETJ map with the understanding that the board will work on a residential zone for the ETJ area called R5 that will include home-based businesses and home-occupations. Once a clear definition for R5 is developed there will be another public hearing for prop-



Right are Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz, and the Planning Board work on correcting the map. Photo by Kim Lewicki

erties previously zoned R1.

Mike Bryson and Mitch Gurganus voted against proceeding before the new residential zone was defined. Doug Campbell was absent.

## ... LANDFILL continued from page 1

acquiring the land would be much higher than the \$400,000 price tag.

He also said J&B's price would likely increase because the current price is based on carting C&D debris up for burial and MSW garbage down to the Franklin landfill. "It's a two-direction pull so they make money both ways," said Stahl. "The price to just haul down the mountain would probably double."

The county paid J&B Disposal \$17,640 in 2003; \$19,000 in 2004 and \$20,000 in 2005 to cart Highlands garbage.

"The costs born by the county to get Highlands MSW where it had to go was something the county doesn't bear for anyone else," said Stahl.

Highlands commissioners contend that since 45% of the county's tax revenues come from the Highlands area, the county should pay for the landfill upgrade.

"I know our situation is unique because we are a town and we are remote, but given the amount of taxes we send the county why should we bear additional costs?" asked Commissioner Hank Ross. "I know this is a political thing but as a citizen it bothers me."

Stahl needs an answer from Highlands soon so he can pull construction permits from DENR but commissioners said they want to talk with the county commissioners first.

Regardless of the town's decision, Highlands residents who don't have garbage pick-up can continue to take their household garbage to the landfill where it will be transferred with the C&D debris.

The county's landfill operations are supported solely by tipping fees of \$58 per ton and the landfill tax which all county residents pay.

## How to use conservation agreements to preserve land in Highlands & beyond

**By Mercedes Heller, HCLT president & Gary Wein, HCLT executive director**

The conservation agreement is an effective means of conserving land in North Carolina.

Because they have only recently become popular, most landowners are unaware of how useful this land protection tool can be. Conservation agreements enable landowners to preserve their land, maintain ownership of it, and usually realize significant tax savings and reduced property taxes.

### What is a conservation agreement?

A conservation agreement is a written agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization such as a Land Trust in which the landowner promises to keep the land in its natural condition and the land trust is granted the right to enforce the agreement and to monitor the property.

The conservation agreement is similar to a declaration of restrictive covenants in a subdivision. It contains a series of restrictions relating to various uses of land.

Conservation agreements are intended to preserve property in its natural, undeveloped condition providing a benefit to the public by conserving open lands, forests, farmland, streams and significant natural resources. Because of the public benefit, there are federal, state, and

local tax incentives for the landowner who donates a conservation agreement.

On August 17, 2006, President Bush signed into law significant new tax incentives for conservation agreement donations that increase these incentives. The new law which is in effect for only 2006 and 2007 raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation agreement from 30% of their adjusted gross income in any year to 50% and up to a 100% for farmers and ranchers; and increases the number of years over which a conservation easement donor can take those deductions from 6 to 16 years.

### What conservation purposes are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service?

To qualify as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes, a conservation agreement must be perpetual, be made to a qualified Grantee (usually a land trust), and meet at least one of the following conservation purposes: protect natural habitats of fish, wildlife, or plants; preserve of open space including farm and forest land; preserve of land for public outdoor recreation or education; preserve historically important land or buildings.

To know if land will qualify under one or more of these conservation purposes, a natural resource inventory including maps, photographs of existing buildings and

roads, a description of natural habitats, and a survey of wildlife should be prepared. The inventory allows the owner to decide which conservation purpose is met and will distinguish ecologically sensitive areas from other areas that might be appropriate for other uses.

**The land be subdivided, sold, mortgaged, or bequeathed after the agreement is granted,** however, the land will remain subject to the conservation agreement in forever.

In almost all cases, a conservation agreement will not require or allow entry by the public if they protect significant natural environmental systems, such as fish, wildlife, or plant habitat, or forestland and farmland. However, two types of conservation agreements do require either visual or physical access by the public to qualify as charitable contributions under the IRS Code. These are scenic and open space agreements, in which the scenic character of the land is critical to its conservation value (visual, rather than physical, access to or across the property is sufficient); and land areas set aside for recreation or education for the general public.

For more information contact (828) 526-9938 ext 250; hitrust@earthlink.net)

# Lady Highlanders win & lose, men fall but rise again

**By Christopher Potts**  
Contributor

The Lady Highlanders (10-8, 1-1) snapped a five game skid with a 35-33 victory over the Hendersonville Lady Bearcats on Thursday, Jan. 11. The game, characterized by runs and a very strong rebounding effort, featured a see-saw battle full of excitement.

The Lady Bearcats jumped out to an early 5-0, but the ladies responded with a 10 point run powered by a pair of 3-pointers from the corner by Katie Bryson to end the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

The girls headed into the locker room at the half 17-10 only to emerge to a flurry of Lady Bearcat baskets. An 11-4 run in favor of the Bearcats knotted the game at 21 all at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

In the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup>, the ladies jumped out to a 35-29 lead and cruised towards the finish line, only to survive a final scare. With less than a minute to play, the Lady Bearcats cut the lead to 4 on a lay up. An errant cross court pass stolen by the Lady Bearcats led to another lay up. The final seconds of the game featured excellent offensive rebounding off of the front end of bonus free throws.

Toni Schmitt led all scorers with 12 points and 7 rebounds, Allison Winn had 10 points and 7 rebounds, Katie Bryson scored 8 and pulled 11 rebounds, and Brie Schmitt scored 5 points to round out all scorers.

Together, the girls stole the ball 15 times and had 10 deflections. After the game, coach Brett Lamb commented, "It was a needed win and a good one to get us back on track and focused. The three seniors

stepped up and played aggressive basketball and did the needed things on the court. We need to take this win into Saturday and the games later to come."

...

The men's team did not fare quite as well as the women. The Highlanders (15-3, 2-0) lost 58-57 to Hendersonville on a buzzer beater from the baseline. The loss breaks the men's eight game winning streak..

The Highlanders jumped out to a large lead in the first half, outscoring the Bearcats 29-16 to lead at the break. Solid defense and excellent offensive rebounding led to a number of tip-ins for the Highlanders.

The second half led to a reversal of fortunes, as the Bearcats tightened up their defense and their rebounding efforts. Both teams traded baskets throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, but a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comeback by the Bearcats allowed them to take a one point lead in the final minutes of the game.

The Highlanders took the lead with six seconds remaining, only to see a lapse on defense snatch the victory away. An errant pass ended up in the hands of a Bearcat at the baseline, and a quick shot at the buzzer fell through to the jubilation of the Bearcat bench.

Alec Schmitt led the Highlanders with 21 points, 4 rebounds and 6 assists, Jason Aspinwall had 15 points and 9 rebounds, Darin Keener had 9 points and 7 rebounds, and Gray Alexander had 6 points. Both Nick Kerhoulas and Andrew Billingsley had 3 points apiece, but Kerhoulas pulled 9 rebounds while Billingsley had 1.

Coach Butch Smart could not be reached for comments after the game.

...

The men followed Thursday's loss with a strong performance against Rabun County with a 78-68 victory on Saturday.

The Highlanders' perimeter defense forced a 1-13 shooting night from outside the 3 point line and 8 steals against Rabun County. However, Rabun County kept themselves in the game with solid bench scoring and 48 points in the paint.

Alec Schmitt led all scorers with a triple-double, scoring 27 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. Jason Aspinwall and Gray Alexander both scored 13 points with 11 and 5 rebounds respectively. Nick Kerhoulas scored 12 points and pulled 5 rebounds, Darin Keener scored 7 points and 3 rebounds, and Andrew Billingsley added 4 points with 3 rebounds. Chris St. Germain and Kenny Robinson finished off the scoring with 1 point apiece.

...

The girls won Tuesday night's game against Nantahala 53 to 31. The boys lost 61 to Nantahala's 64.

Both the ladies and the men host conference opponent Blue Ridge on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 pm.

Photos by Noel Atherton



Above, Darin Keener makes a high-flying basket during the Jan 11 game at home against Hendersonville. Below, Allison Winn takes the ball down court during the Rabun Gap game, Saturday, Jan. 14. Highlands 31 to Rabun County's 47.



## ... HEALTH from page 8

but we do have a breakdown of communication," said Realtor Shelley Mason. "Our people read the paper and see we're eight to 10 weeks behind and then they want to know why it takes six months. We've lost contracts. It's an impact to me personally and to the county."

"The way we've been looking at the issue is very misleading," Patterson said. The oldest application is Sep. 1. We're several months out still. When we're fully staffed we have three registered specialists and four interns who are on a learning curve and will work slower. The biggest thing we need is staff."

Patterson said the type of sites his specialist are working have become more difficult as well.

"We're seeing more steep sites and sites in flood plains. It was determined last spring we needed seven people to the work. But it takes awhile to get people authorized to issue permits. Once the backlog is gone we can handle it with authorized staff," said Patterson. "Our timeframe has fallen apart this fall in light of the backlog and fast track."

Besides its request for more staff, the committee will report on its suggested proposals to the Macon County Commission at the February meeting.

Though not solutions, exactly, the suggestions will at least keep the lines of communication open between clients and the environmental health department.

At the January meeting, MC Commission Chairman Charlie Leatherman charged Health Department Ken Ring with the job of coming back to the commission in February outlining exactly what his department needs to do to solve the septic permit backlog once and for all.

## Ruby Cinemas

Franklin, NC 28734

**The Week of: Jan 19-25**

**WE ARE MARSHALL** rated PG

Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20

Sat & Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

Mon - Thurs: (4:20), 7

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD** rated R

Daily: 7

**BLOOD DIAMOND** rated R

Fri: (4)

Sat & Sun: (2), (4)

Mon - Thurs: (4)

**THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS**  
rated PG-13

Fri: (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

Mon - Thurs: (4:15), 7:05

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM** rated PG

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

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

Mon - Thurs: (4:10), 7:10

## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### "Any Room?"

Isaiah 9: 2-4; Luke 2: 1-7



**Rev. Hunter Coleman**  
First Presbyterian Church

**W**hen a baby is baptized here the attending elder's prayer includes a pledge that room will be made for the child:

"Almighty God: We are glad and grateful for the gift of this child who delights us and reminds us that you have not given up on your human family. We welcome her into this congregation and pray that we may love her, learn from her, grow with her..."

In the Christ child, God becomes vulnerable. His care is left up to human beings. We cannot help but shudder with awe when we realize the trust and the responsibility God has placed in our hands. The gift is given again and again, each time a child is born, each time our path crosses their path, each time they look to us, speak to us, reach out to us.

"There was no room for them in the inn, so Mary gave birth to her first son, wrapped in cloths and laid him in a manger." Will we have room for them, not just as individuals, but as a congregation? If we are about anything important here, we are about being the extended family to children, all children.

In this the richest country in the world, there is little room for children who live on the fringes of poverty, which is one in five. When these children don't find any room their wills die. Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund, writes about such a child:

"Poverty has taken its toll on 9 year old Robert who lives in a tiny rat infested apartment with his family in the rural south. His family has tried to move to improve their situation, but there are few jobs available. Robert talked about and listed the horrors he lives with daily - roaches, rats, mosquitoes, fleas, disease and chemicals. Asked how these made him feel, Robert replied, 'I feel like killing myself.'"

As bringers of the future, children are to be bearers of hope but they can't bare any hope when they don't feel like living. If hope is to thrive in the hearts of children, they need to find room with adults where respect, honor and dignity abound.

I read some years ago about a summer peace camp for Israeli and Palestinian children in the mountains of New York. Later, I heard a church in our Presbytery that invited Irish children, both Catholic and protestant, to their community to spend several weeks together as children of one God. Recently, I read a review of Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. His research shows that being in nature reduces a child's loneliness and depression.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 13

## • 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. Erbelding, Pastor

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastors 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 CHURCH

(Anglican)

The Rev. Thomas "Tommy" Allen • 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion: 2 p.m.

(Community Bible Church)

Tuesday: Bible Study in Cashiers at noon

Wednesday:

Mens Bible Study at 8 a.m. at First Baptist Church

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. Womens Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:15 p.m. Students' Dinner (free for kids in 8th grade and younger);

5:30 p.m. Supper; 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 pm Small Groups for kids Pre-K through 8th; 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Adult Bible Study 6pm-7pm Choir Practice

• Small Groups are offered for all ages throughout the week, see our website or call for more info.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan - 526-2968

Sunday: 8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist-Rite 1; 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast; 9 a.m. - Sunday School; 9:45 a.m. - Choir Practice; 10:30 a.m. - Childrens Chapel; 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Monday: 4 p.m. - Womens cursillo Group; 5:30 p.m. - Womens Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group; 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 2 p.m. - Interlude; 6:30 p.m. - Choir

Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - Mens Cursillo Group Meeting;

10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with healing; 10:30 a.m. - Daughters of the King Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship - 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;

School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.;

Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;

Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun.School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Mens Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - Seekers

Wednesdays: Supper - 6 p.m.; Choir - 7

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m.& 5

### 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 - Mens Emmaus Reunion Group; 4:45 -

Childrens 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 - Womens 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. Cyprians 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

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

"Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of God." I have a dream for a ministry to children that matches the needs of urban children and the natural resources of our hamlet nestled in this piece of Eden. We could be the catalyst for bringing children like Robert and his counterparts from a large urban center like Atlanta here to Highlands. The Ex Sec of Atlanta Presbytery, is a close personal friend of mine so the connection is only a phone call away. Children from inner city churches in Atlanta would stay in our homes, eat at our tables, sleep in our beds, walk the trails, see the mist, hear the rivers, smell the evergreens, learn the names of the plants.

An annual, summer camp for children who live on the fringe, children who have never even seen a blade of grass. This might offer them the hope and joy that comes from being close to the beauty and grandeur of mother earth. Heaven only knows what hope, us making room, might work in our hearts.

"Angels' Ashes" is Frank McCourt's memoirs of growing up dirt poor in Ireland. His father, a hopeless alcoholic, left Frank's mother and her children, at best, on the dole, wards of the state. At worst, beggars. Their poverty never hardened her to the plight of others. He writes:

"You never know when you might come home and find her sitting by the fire chatting with a woman and a child, strangers. Always a woman and child. She

finds him wandering the streets. If they ask, 'could you spare a few pennies, miss,' her heart breaks. She never has money so she invites them home for tea and a bit of fried bread. If it's a bad night she'll let them sleep by the fire on a pile of rags in the corner."

"Behold," said Jesus, "I stand at the door and knock." Jesus' life was bracketed by no room. No room when he was born, a makeshift stable had to do, no room when he died. Buried in a tomb lent to the family by Joseph of Arimathea. No room, the years of his public ministry. "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but I have no place to lay my head." Undeterred, he comes to give us a room, "in my father's house are many rooms." A lesser god would have given up long ago. On this the two thousand and sixth year of our Lord, the door of the inn is the door to our hearts. The innkeeper is you. Do you have any room? If you invite Jesus in, you will have a big heart. There will be plenty of room for children, even if it's inconvenient, costly, & risky. The prospects for a better tomorrow for them and their children will burn brighter.

Jesus is here as he promised. He's doing more than 'twiddling his thumbs' waiting for us to make the first move. He is knocking at the door to our hearts. You will know when you have invited him in, not for a visit but to stay. It will be more than a warm fuzzy feeling. You will have room for children, "...red and yellow, black and white...."

## ... BRUGGER continued from page 9

they have what they need in their home country.

The best way to stop illegal entry into our country from Mexico is to decrease the need of Mexicans to come to this country for work.

The dirty secret is we like it this way. The unspoken U.S. domestic economic policy encourages the existence of a large pool of workers willing to work for pay below a livable wage.

The free-market philosophy that has dominated this country and consequently the globe for the last 25 years has left wreckage and waste in its path. It is a race to the bottom with greed enshrined as a virtue. Human life and the health of the planet are completely written out of the

equations, and the only thing left is money. The rising tide of illegal immigrants is the dark underside of the mushrooming wealth of the super-rich.

How rich? I think the surging popularity of mega-yachts is a good window into the life of the super-rich. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen has a yacht that is the third-largest in the world. "Octopus" cost \$200 million and is 414 feet long. Visit [www.powerandmotoryacht.com](http://www.powerandmotoryacht.com) and search for "World's 100 Largest Yachts 2006."

Next time you hear about the "explosion of illegal immigration," think about the explosion in the popularity of mega yachts.

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Contact: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L.  
Forrester or Capt. T. Ensley, 310 Oak Street, Highlands,  
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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 TO OWN THIS 3BED/2BATH HOME IN  
TOWN.** Rental rate is \$1,150 a month/with a portion go-  
ing towards purchase. For details call (828)526-8422 or  
(828)421-3161. Ask for Jimmy.

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**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.

**HOME FOR SALE** — Classic Country Home be-  
tween Cashiers and Franklin, near Lake Glenville; 3,800  
ft. elevation; 4 bed, 3 bath with 2,900 sq. ft. living area,  
plus garage and shed; 1,500 sq. ft. deck on 4.2 acres  
with perenniel landscaping. Many extras. \$399,000. Bro-  
kers Welcome. Call 828-743-5788.

**LOTS 21 & 23.** A total of 3.65 acres in heart of  
Pilot Mountain in Cashiers. Mountain views, beautiful  
hardwoods, sounds of stream echo below. Call for price.  
(828) 693-9918 or (828) 243-1503.

1/19/07

**HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN** — Creekside, 3 bed, 2  
bath, owner relocating. Completely renovated. For sale by  
owner. \$550,000 OBO Call 828-226-6123.

**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 down-  
town 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 wonder-  
ful mountain view. One mile from Main Street. Highlands.  
\$275,000. By Owner. For Appt. 828-526-1085.

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

### ITEMS FOR SALE

**DINING ROOM FURNITURE.** Very nice. Rectan-  
gular 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 pan-  
el, 7 interior, 2 exterior, good condition. All for \$375. Call

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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.

**4 WINTER COATS** – 3 Ladies (size 12) Woolrich (\$15), 2 John Weitz (100% Camel Hair \$30 each), 1 Men's Coat L.L. Bean (lined) \$30. Call 526-5367.

**GUITAR AMP CRATE** GLX212 w/ 16 built in effects, 3 channels, Free footswitch \$300. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

**GUITAR DISTORTION PEDALS** Digitech - Metal Master (distortion pedal) Death Metal - DOD (distortion pedal) AC Adapters Free \$30 or \$50 for both. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

**LINE 6 SPIDER II HD HEAD** 150W , AC Adapter and free guitar cable Price \$100 or make me an offer. dcd1982@aol.com or 526-1536

**KING SIZE WATERBED FRAME** – Wood, Lighted pannels and shelves in headboard, underbed storage, mattress possibly available, too. \$300. Call 828-371-8677.

**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.

**ANTIQUE FURNITURE**, beds, love seats, chairs, tables, lamps, curio cabinets and collectible paperweights, Royal Daltons, Hummels, etc. By appointment only. 828-526-3258.

**11-INCH METAL PLATE** – handcrafted, drama-scene by Reid & Barton 1975. Title: "Indians Discovery Lewis & Clark" by Charles Russell Limited Edition of 2500 – #1623. Good Condition. \$100. 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.

**OAK ROCKER**, over 100 years old. From E.B. (Ted) Mell Estate in Athens, Ga. All original including leather seat. Call 828-349-4581.

**RAINBOW E-SERIES VACUUM CLEANER**, excellent condition with all accessories, \$925 call Dee @ 828-369-8928.

**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.

**2000 PONTIAC MONTANA EXTENDED VAN** – Well maintained. Cruise. Electric. \$6,100. Call 342-9475

days, 526-4876 Evenings.

**1992 FORD 150 PICK-UP TRUCK** – Extended cab, with covered top, 100,000 miles. Cherry condition. \$3,500. Call 526-0539.

**1993 CADILLAC 60 SPECIAL** – 4-door, DeVille chassis, 4.7 V/8, 16 city/24Hwy. Beautiful Artic white with flawless red leather, ABS Brakes, Air bags, sun roof, Bose CD sound system, new Michelin tires. Two owners, Florida car. Like new. Non smoker. \$4,750. Call 828-787-1563 or cell: 828-200-1563.

**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

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

**FIVE STAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE** – Light and detail cleaning, concierge services, openings and closings, grocery shopping, personal shopping, personal chef and table service, house repairs, improvements: lighting, plumbing, fixtures, tile, drywall repairs and more. Call 828-332-7201.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ... MULLEN from page 2

zoning and planning. A committee of commissioners has also been appointed to look at the overall administrative activities of the town to determine what future direction we will take regarding managing and administering the activities of the town and its employees. Amy Patterson and Hank Ross along with Herb James will be looking at this and we intend to seek outside consultation with the NC League of Municipalities and the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill..

The Affordable Housing Task Force chaired by Mary Ann Sloan held its first meeting on Monday and the process of studying the situation in our town and adjacent surrounding county was begun. In spite of some skepticism in the community, I truly believe that we can come up with some solutions to this major problem. Other communities have done it quite well even in high price land situations, and we need to review how they have accomplished it and come up with a system and a process which meets our own particular needs. I consider this on the top of my list of important issues in the coming year.

## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

### High Country Cafe



Down home favorites everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch  
6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday through Friday;  
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Cashiers Road next to the  
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Stop in for slow-cooked BBQ, Ribs,  
Fried Chicken, Hot Wings and other  
Southern favorites that'll have you  
coming back for more.



461 Spring Street • 526-2626

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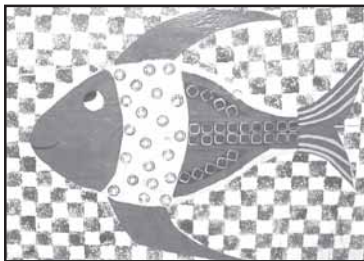
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Sweets for your Valentine!  
Come in and sample these  
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**Now Trans Fat FREE**

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



**526-5916**

\$10 minimum with credit card



### Buck's Coffee Cafe

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



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

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

### HCP's 'Death by Chocolate' Dinner Theatre Jan. 26

"Death By Chocolate," to be presented by the Highlands Community Players, Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27, at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Call 526-8084 for tickets, \$60 per person. Space is limited to 56 each night. Catered by "Let Holly Do the Cooking."

#### On-going

- 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.

- 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 Home-schoolers, classes are from 1-3 p.m. For 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders, classes are from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesdays: classes for pre-school are 11-11:30 a.m.; for kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Jan. 19, 20 & 21 - Fri., Sat., & Sun.

- "Watercolor, Pure and Direct," a class for all levels of expertise, Evening introductory lecture January

18th. Learn the heart and soul of watercolor, no gimmicks, no tricks.

#### Saturday, Jan. 20

- If you got a new digital camera for Christmas and aren't quite sure how to work it, here's your chance to learn. The first of a two-part digital photo workshop for beginners is set for Saturday in Highlands. Cynthia Strain, a professional photographer and owner of Mill Creek Gallery & Framing, is offering the class. The class is three hours and costs \$35 per person. A second class will also be scheduled. The classes will cover camera operation, white balance, exposure, composition, flash and lighting. For information call 526-9227.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Long Branch and Appalachian trails to Rock Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10 a.m. For reservations are required. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

#### Sunday, Jan. 21

- Bolivian Mission Pizza Dinner Fundraiser, Delivery to your door, 2-8 p.m. Here is your chance to have a special pizza delivered directly to your door during the Divisional NFL game playoffs. Call the Highlands United Methodist Church at 526-3376 through Sunday, Jan. 21 to order. Cheese pizza - \$20, with one topping - \$25. "All the Way" - \$35 and special seafood pizza with alfredo sauce, shrimp, and crab (artificial) - \$50. Try this one, you'll like it!!

#### Tuesday, Jan. 23

- The Franklin Women's Connection (formerly Christian Women's Club) "Ladies Night Out" dinner and program 7-8:30 p.m. in the meeting rooms at The Factory in Franklin. There will be a fashion show by Peebles, sporting the latest fashions. Erica Washington will sing her latest tunes and the speaker will be Paige Kolb from Norcross, Ga., presenting "A Cinderella Story." Cost is \$10 inclusive. For reservations, call Gail at 828-349-8938 or Georgann at 828-369-9117 by 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

#### Friday, Jan. 26

- Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Rec Park, 11:30 a.m. It's free.

#### Friday & Saturday, Jan. 26 & 27

- Highlands Community Players present the Carolina Murder Mysteries' dinner theater play, "Death by Chocolate," Friday and Saturday evenings at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The dinner, catered by Holly Roberts of "Let Holly Do the Cooking," starts at 6:30 p.m. with wine and appetizers. The comedy/mystery, presented during the dinner, starts at 7. Only 56 diners can be seated each night. Tickets for the benefit are \$60 per person and must be paid by cash or check (no credit cards). To buy tickets, stop by the Performing Arts Center, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to ask about seating availability, leave a message on the Players answering machine, 526-8084, for a call back

#### Saturday, Jan. 27

- A Hot Dog & Blue Grass Benefit at the Satolah Fire Dept. for the Cleveland Owen family at 5 p.m. Music by Foxfire and Whetrock. Raffle for a 1994 Nissan Pathfinder and a new mini camcorder. Tickets are \$10 for one or \$50 for six. Available at Bank of America, any Satolah Fire Dept. officer or by calling 828-200-0146.

#### Thursday, Feb. 1

- Dr. Rick Spurling will present his "Bully-Free School Zone" workshop on Thursday, February 1 at 7 p.m. the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center. All parents, school faculty and staff, and community members are invited to attend.

#### Saturday, Feb. 24

- 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. For applications to enter or information, call or email the Chamber.

## Library hosts art show

Beth Bowser and Kathie Blozan try to avoid being caught in the nearly invisible fishing line while hanging an art show in the Meeting Room of the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library. Not pictured are Ken Bowser and Carl Blozan who also helped install the show.



## Check it out...

The exhibit on view at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library will change periodically to represent original work by artists in the Fontana Library System. The idea for the project was suggested by Marilyn Staats. Artists represented at this time are Hayes Mayer and Karen Taylor of The Lamb Gallery in Cashiers, and Ken and Beth Bowser whose work is also found at Blue Valley Gallery in Cashiers. Kathie has a few watermedia in the library and is represented by Summit One Gallery in Highlands. Sales in the library are handled by the individual artists.

## Morning club growing



Al Bolt, pictured with Dixie Barton, is the newest member of Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club. Al is the owner of Mitchell's Lodge as well as the Highlands Car Spa and is a 20 year resident of Highlands.

Highlands MountainTop Rotary welcomes Skip Taylor as a new member of its morning club. Skip is the Director of Marketing and PR at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.



## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### OEI announces service champions awards

Old Edwards Hospitality Group is pleased to announce Service Champions for December 2006. The Service Champion Program rewards and recognizes associates who go above and beyond the call of duty to meet and exceed the resort guests' expectations.

The most qualifying nominations are awarded gold, silver and bronze awards with monetary prize equivalents of \$250, \$100 and \$50 respectively. At the end of the year, three Champions are selected from these recipients and prizes are awarded in the gold (\$1,000), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$250) categories. 2006 Service Champions:

Gold – Bruce Burnell, front office-bellman-concierge; Silver – Eneida Pacheco, housekeeping supervisor; Bronze – Jay Kulaskofsky, server (Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden)

Winners were recognized at the year-end associate appreciation gathering in late December 2006.

### OLD CLAYTON INN



60 S. Main Street –  
Clayton, GA  
706-782-7722 for  
reservations

Open for a leisurely breakfast and lunch every day. Friday and Saturday it's our special Prime Rib Dinner Buffet with Broadway piano music by Angie Jenkins, the specialty of the house.

Karaoke Saturdays 5 to 11 pm.

January 26-28 Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Weekend "Death and Deceit on the Nile" weekend package \$325 per couple, dinner and show \$90 per person.

Valentine's Dinner with all the trimmings \$19.95 for your special Valentine, Feb. 14.. Please call 706-782-7722 for reservations.

### ... WOOLDRIDGE from 6

On his way out, he stole a large kettle from the kitchen, went home, loaded his rifle and waited for an unsuspecting victim.

That evening, Larry Steinberg, a 15 year old runaway from Coral Gables, Fl., entered the hotel and headed for his room just down the hall. John accosted him at gunpoint and dragged the teenager into his room. After tying the boy to a chair, John filled the large kettle with water and set it on the burner. Then he waited.

John Clements, decorated war hero and farmer from Nebraska, was about to become my responsibility.

• Continued next Thursday.

• Read Fred's column while you are away at: <http://www.highlandsinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

### ... ANOTHER VIEW from 4

our habits. We refuse to embrace the core concept of "wellness." I see inactive, obese patients every week in my pain clinic who want me to cure their back pain. Suggestions that they can do more for themselves than I can do for them fall on deaf ears. They don't feel empowered. They feel that I'm a kook. We can do better. We can start by stopping. We can stop blaming bad luck, busy schedules, bad genes, poor doctors, and fast food outlets. Each of us can be captain of our own ship. We can then experience the satisfaction that accompanies accepting responsibility. We can, if we choose, feel the power.



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- Fun and whimsical gifts
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## • POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Jan. 9-16 Only the names of persons arrested or public officials have been used.

**Jan. 9**

- At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at Horse Cove Road and Lower Lake Road..

**Jan. 12**

- At 11:19 a.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at Morewood Circle.

**Jan. 14**

- At 8 p.m., a driver a Main and Fifth streets was cited for reckless driving.

- At 8:05 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at Main & Fifth streets..

- At 9 p.m., officers responded to a two-car accident at U.S. 64 east and Sherwood Forest..

**Jan. 15**

- At 5:30 p.m., Tammy St. Germain, 43, of Highlands was arrested for submitting a worthless check at Bryson's Food Street. She was released on a \$500 unsecured bond.

**Jan. 16**

- At 7:50 a.m., officers responded to a call of damage to property at Highlands School where someone had shot a side door with paint balls.

Over the week, officers responded to one alarm.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Jan.. 11-17.

**Jan. 11**

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

- The dept. responded to a two-car accident at Morewood Circle. The victim was transported to the hospital.

**Jan. 12**

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire Department. The call was cancelled en route.

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the Highlands Country Club. It was set off by sprinklers.

**Jan. 14**

- The dept. responded to a call of "the smell of gas" at a residence on Falls Drive at Highlands Falls Country Club. There was no problem.

- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main Street and Hudson Library. The victim was transported to the hospital.

**Jan. 15**

- The dept. responded to an alarm at Highlands Country Club. It was set off by the sprinkler system.

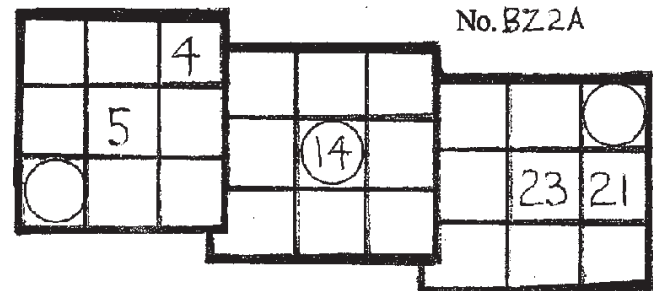
**Jan. 17**

- The dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Lost Trail. There was no problem..

## Pseudocube © 2006

a new number game

No. BZ 2A



### 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.

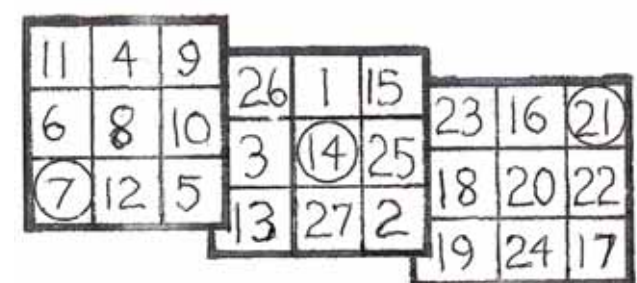
### THE CHALLENGE:

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](mailto:pseudocube8@aol.com)

## Solution for puzzle # CZ4A in the Jan. 11 issue



## • REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS •

### Town of Highlands

- 0501966, 153 MIRROR LAKE RD., LINES RAYFIELD E., 12/22/2006, \$230,000., LINES RAYFIELD E., \$258,350.

- 1441416, 274 FOREMAN RD., WALSH THOMAS, 12/28/2006, \$0., WALSH THOMAS, \$298,870.

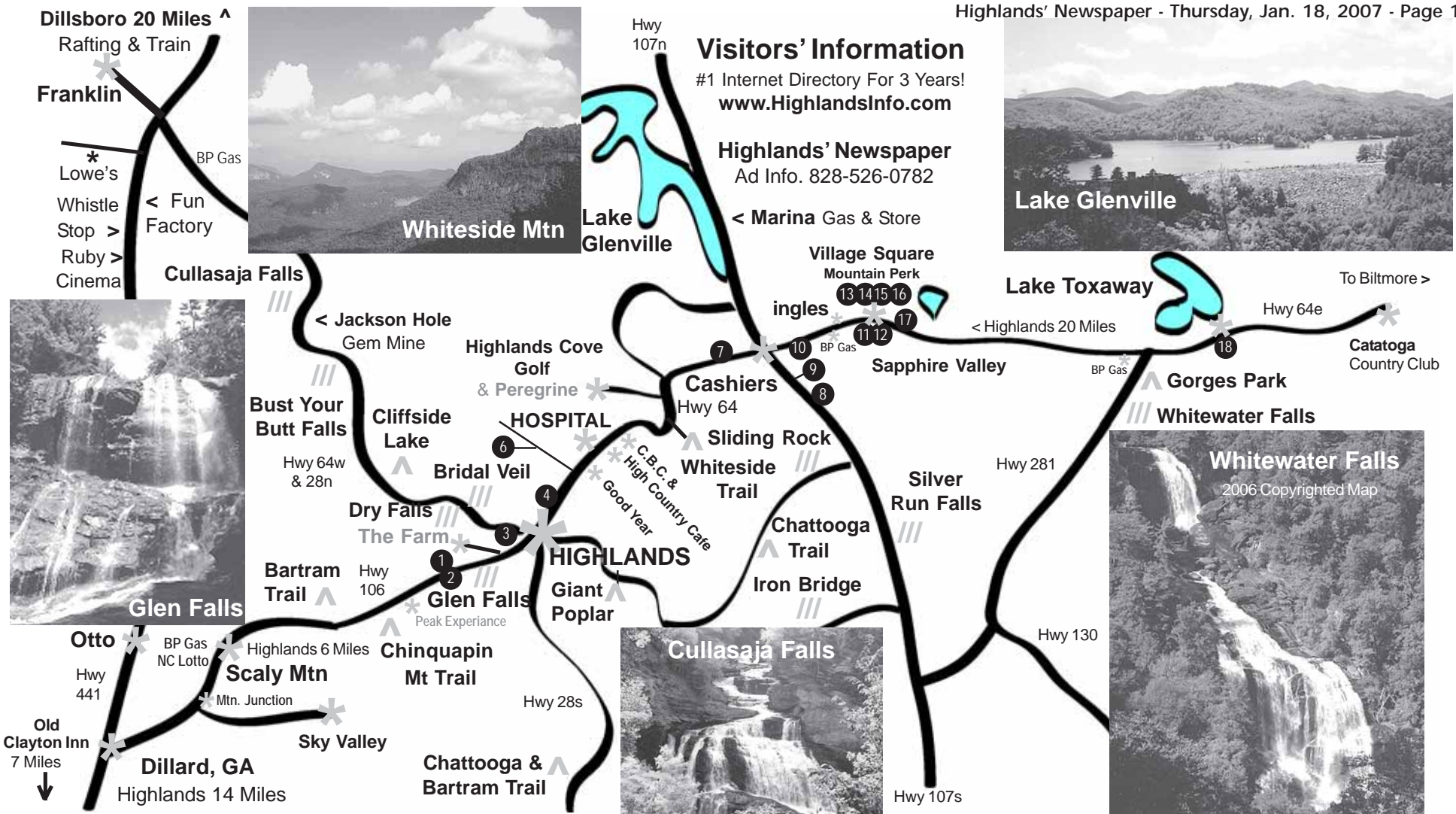
### Highlands Township

- 0501610, 201 APPLE MOUNTAIN CIR., MATHESON JORDAN, 12/27/2006, \$350,000., HAMMOND JANET DUNN, \$290,250.

- 0536587, 100 BLACK BEAR TRCE LOT 4 TWIN FALLS, MERRILL RANDY, 12/20/2006, \$1,200,000., RAGAN PAUL M., \$690,770.

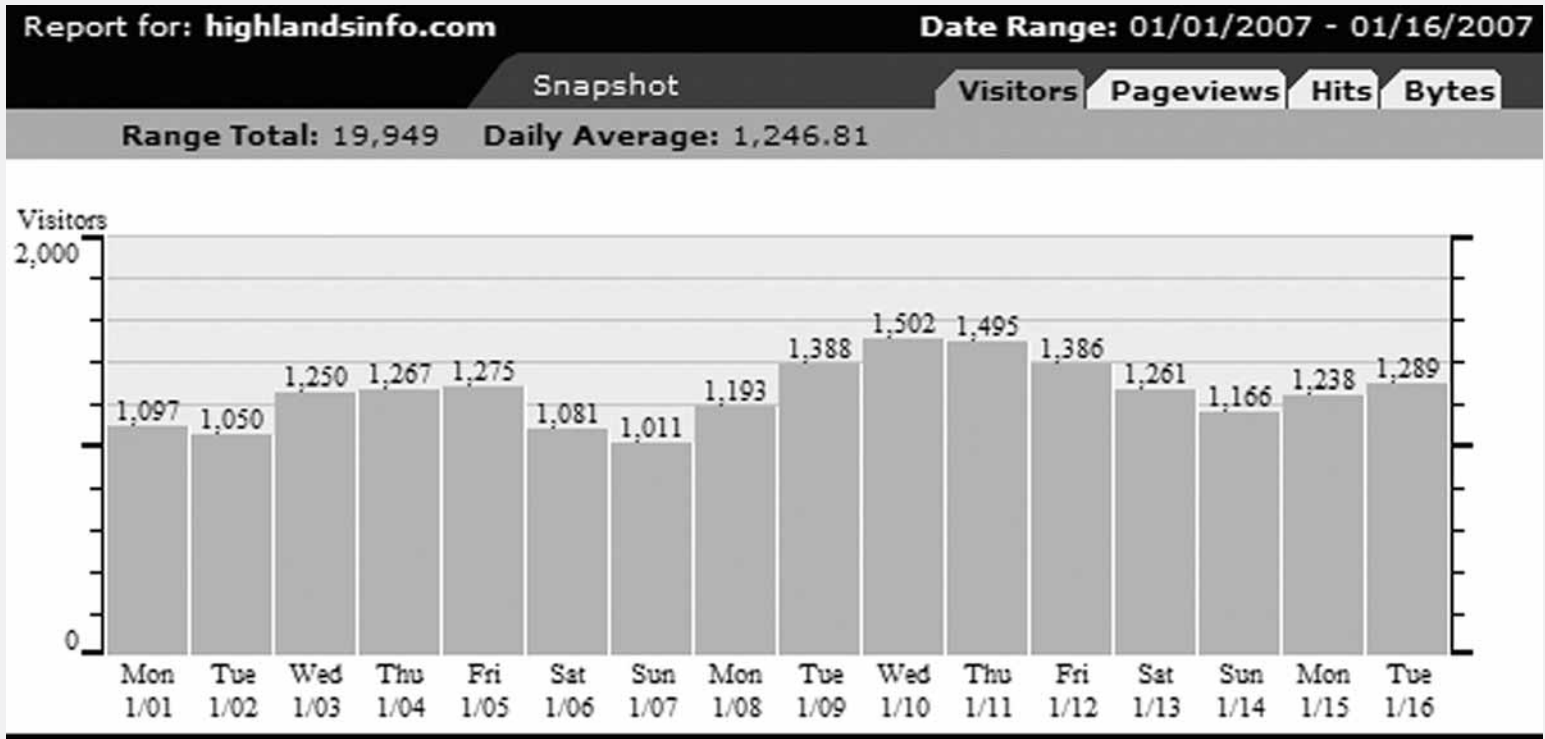
- 0542456, DILLARD RD LOT 11 HIGHLANDS POINT, TREADWAY ANTHONY SHEA, 12/20/2006, \$110,000., TREADWAY GLORIA S., \$110,000.

- 0526849, BEE TREE LANE LOT 41A CULLASAJA CLUB, MARTIN-CULET LOUIS W., 12/21/2006, \$375,000., GREEN KATRINA, \$110,880.



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

# Jan. 2007 - Record Breaking Levels For HighlandsInfo.com



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

# Four Seasons Of Fun

The businesses on this map are open in winter.

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>LODGING</b><br>01) Main Street Inn<br>02) Mitchell's Lodge<br>03) Mtn High Lodge<br>04) Old Edwards Inn<br>05) The Lodge<br><br><b>DINING</b><br>07) Brick Oven<br>08) Bucks Cafe<br>09) Cafe 460<br>10) Cyprus<br>11) Don Leon's<br>12) Fressers<br>14) Hill-Top Grill<br>15)<br>16)<br>17) Madison's<br>18) Main Street Inn<br>19) Nick's Restaurant<br>20)<br>21) Pescado's<br>22) Pizza Place<br>23) Rib Shack<br>24)<br>25)<br>26)<br>27)<br>28) SweetTreats Cafe<br>29)<br>30) Wolfgang's | <b>REAL ESTATE</b><br>31) Buyer's Realty<br>32) Century 21<br>33) Chambers Agency<br>34) Country Club Prop.<br>35) Houston Realty<br>36) John Cleaveland<br>37) John Schiffl<br>38) Keller Williams<br><br><b>HOME DECOR</b><br>41) Acorns<br>42) Black Bear Furn.<br>43) Custom Coverings<br>44) Dry Sink<br>45) Highlands Cabinet<br>46) Highlands Decorat.<br>47) Old Rangoon<br>48)<br>49) Summer House<br>50) Twigs<br>51) Wholesale Down<br><b>GIFTS</b><br>52) Bird Barn<br>53) Christmas Tree<br>54) Grinning Frog<br>55) Needle Point<br>56) Shakespears<br>57) Speckled Hen<br>58) The Hen House | <b>BOUTIQUES</b><br>60) AnnaWear<br>61) Bungalow Boutique<br>62) Cabin Casuals<br>63)<br>64) Coolcats Hotdogs<br>65) Jolies<br>66)<br>67)<br>68)<br>69) Nancy's Fancys<br>70) Shops of O.E.I.<br>71) The Exchange<br>72) Village Kids<br>73) Vivace<br>74) Wits End<br><b>JEWELRY</b><br>75) Drakes Diamonds<br>76) Highlands Gem<br>77) Highlands Fine Art<br>78) Kent Ltd<br>79) Silver Eagle<br><b>BEAUTY &amp; SPA</b><br>80) #1 Nails<br>81) All Seasons Salon<br>82) Creative Concepts<br>83) Images Salon/Spa<br>84) Mountain Magic<br>85) Pro Nails<br>86) Taylor Barns Salon<br>87) The Very Thing | <b>ANTIQUES</b><br>90) Elephants Foot<br>91) Mirror Lake Antiques<br>92)<br>93) Shiraz Oriental Rugs<br><b>ART GALLERIES</b><br>95)<br>96) John Collette<br>97) Mill Creek Gallery<br>98) Robert Tino<br>99) The Very Thing<br><b>SERVICES</b><br>100) ComputerMan<br>111) Curves Fitness<br>112) Drug Stores<br>114) Dry Cleaners<br>115) Highlands Office<br>116) Jack Mayer<br>117) Nantahala Tire<br>118) Zek Sossoman<br>119) Woodworks<br><b>OUTFITTERS</b><br>120) Bear Mountain |
|--|--|---|---|

HighlandsInfo.com - #1 Directory For 4 Years

# Highlands Map

www.HighlandsInfo.com

2007 Copyrighted Map

**Main Street Inn**  
Open All Year

**MILL CREEK GALLERY**  
Village Square

**Breakfast & Wine Bar**  
Open To The Public

**Mountain Fresh Foods**

**Madison's**

**Wine Spectator**

