

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 5, Number 47

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007

On-going

• November auctions at Scudder's Galleries Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 352 Main St.

• Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.

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

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

• "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402.

Every Monday

• Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Wednesday

• "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 6:15.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• CBC will offer the AWANA program for kids — K-5th grade non-denominational Bible-based program for kids — from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Every Saturday

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

Saturdays through Dec. 22

• Santa will be at Town Square to hear Christmas wishes and for photos, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 23

• Eastern Star Hot Dog and Pumpkin Cake Roll Sale in front of the Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Santa at Town Square to hear wishes and for photos 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24

• At Cyrano's Bookshop author Mary Kay Andrews signing three books from 1-3 p.m.

• At Instant Theatre Tree Lighting Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2.50 for children. No reservations are necessary. Call 828-342-9197.

• Peace Vigil, at Town Hall, 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by Untie/Unite and Progressive Democrats.

• Town Lighting at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Methodist church on Main Street. There will be caroling, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Monday, Nov. 26

• The Art League of Highlands and Summit One Gallery tour at 12:45. Call Caroline Cook at 828-526-2742.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

• Chamber of Commerce Fall Finale and annual business meeting 6-8 p.m. at Highlands Inn. Call 526-5841. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Cyprus now offers mixed drinks & beer

Another restaurant has joined the ranks of Peregrin's, Madison Restaurant and the Rib Shack. Come this weekend alcoholic beverages and beer will be available at Cyprus International Restaurant, too.

Due to their previous associ-

ation with Peregrin's Restaurant at Highlands Cove, Cyprus owners Nick Figel and Chris Gilbert were familiar with the required application and paperwork so the process was quick and easy for them.

Restaurants who wish to sell liquor and beer and who have pre-

viously sold wine can have their application upgraded within five to 10 days. If they're in a real hurry, they can drive to the North Carolina ABC Commission in Raleigh and between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. have their permit upgraded.

• See CYPRUS page 19

Boards discuss school facility funding tactics

School bond passage or not, the county is forging ahead with its facilities plan, the question is, what will be built first and how will it be financed.

At the Nov. 19 Macon County School Board meeting, the board agreed to transfer the East Franklin School property to the county so it could move forward with the \$2 million Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) bond financing with the Bank of America. The county learned it can't move forward with the financing until the school board conveys the property to the county.

The school board voted to enter into a 15-year lease with the county — the length of the QZAB no interest bond — for \$1 a year.

Twice a year for 15 years, the county will pay \$51,070.27 at 3.55% and when the bond matures in 15 years, the interest accrued will equal \$2 million.




"Basically, we will be getting \$2 million for \$1.5 million," said Commissioner Simpson.

County Finance Officer Evelyn Southard said by the time it comes due, \$2 million will be in the account.

The QZAB money is being

• See SCHOOL page 8

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
39-22°F	40-29°F	39-30°F

Santa in Highlands Fri. & Sat.



Santa Claus will be at Town Square on Main Street, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23-24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and right after the Town Lighting which takes place Saturday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m. He'll be listening to Christmas wishes and available for photographs every Saturday through Dec. 22.

Photo by Elizabeth Gordon

'Sex-ed' class starting Spring '08

Teen pregnancies continue to be a problem in Macon County so school administrators are ready to try a pro-active approach to the subject of sex education.

At the Nov. 19 Macon County School Board meeting held in Nantahala, the board voted to recruit a Healthy Living teacher to begin January 2008.

The administration has been investigating "healthy-living" curriculum in other counties to see how Macon County might integrate the subject into its curricu-

lum.

"We can model our program after programs in other counties or we can make this whatever we want," said Nancy Cantrell, curriculum coordinator with Macon County Schools. "We know it will have to be a teacher who can teach subjects other teachers are uncomfortable teaching."

The administration has accepted the fact that the PE teachers — those typically assigned the job of teaching sex ed or healthy

• See SEX ED page 11

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Zoning Board denies ATM, questions other projects

There wasn't much on the Zoning Board agenda last week, but before the meeting was over several hot buttons were pushed.

SECU ATM Kiosk

Until it's determined exactly what constitutes a building and exactly which buildings and businesses are bound by the 800 sq. ft. rule, there won't be an ATM kiosk erected in Highlands Plaza.

At the Wednesday, Nov. 14 Zoning Board meeting, members heard a request from Mike Wilson of the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) concerning the ATM kiosk previously discussed at the Nov. 5 Appearance Commission meeting.

Wilson said executives in Raleigh had agreed to the kiosk design as per a drawing submitted by Appearance Commission member Pat Taylor, minus the stone.

"They said we just can't build a kiosk that's going to cost \$30,000-\$40,000," said Wilson.

The Appearance Commission had requested a shed-like structure to mimic colors and materials of the Car Spa in the plaza "either with wood siding, stone or a combination there of."

The problem is, since the 92 sq. ft. kiosk building will have a foundation, electricity, a door into a compartment where two people can stand to service the apparatus, the Zoning Board believes it's a

• See ZONING page 15

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Why Aren't the Teen Pregnancy Rates Falling?

What are we doing right and wrong in North Carolina?

The North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics released the 2006 Teen Pregnancy statistics recently. The numbers indicate that teen pregnancy statistics have been virtually unchanged since 2003, with no significant rise or fall. "The numbers indicate that the gains we experienced in the past are not continuing," said Kay Phillips, Executive Director of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC), "This signifies the need for increased support from state funding or we are at risk of losing the ground we have worked so hard for." But the main question remains: Why have the rates stopped falling?

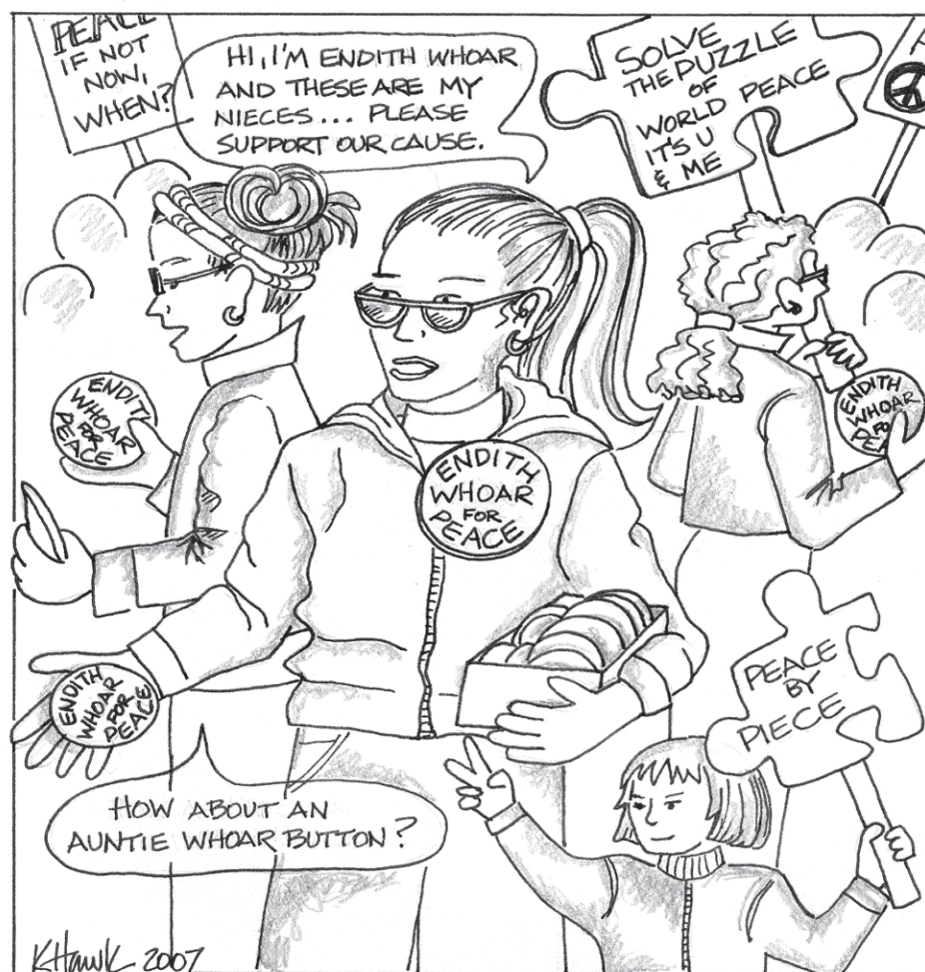
The plateau in rates may be due to a wide variety of factors. Funding for teen pregnancy prevention has been mostly unchanged since 2003. Currently that funding supports 63 teen pregnancy prevention and teen parenting programs across the state. (Prior to the cut in funds in 2002 there were 71 local programs funded.) While the General Assembly admirably allocated funds to prevent further cuts during the 2007 Session, an expansion of funding would allow more programs that work to be started and continued in North Carolina.

In addition North Carolina moved from a comprehensive sex education curriculum to an abstinence only curriculum in 1996. The first class of children wholly educated on abstinence only curricula began to reach the crucial ages of 15-19 in 2002-2003, the first year of the plateau. While no specific research has been performed in North Carolina, a national study chartered by Congress has shown that Abstinence Only sex education has no effect on the actual abstinence of the participants. Together with the loss of funding, these factors could combine to stop the decline in teen pregnancy.

But all hope is not lost in North Carolina. More can be done but much is being done right now to restart the fall of the teen pregnancy rates. Innovative programs, unconventional partnerships and new initiatives are being combined with scientifically proven interventions to improve the lives of the youth of North Carolina.

• See PREGNANCY page 31

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or 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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• LETTERS •

Thanks for reminding me

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in regards to Dr. Salzarulo's column in the Nov. 15 edition of Highlands' Newspaper.

It's been a long time since an article (Helping others feels good) has "touched my heart" so much.....I'm usually "kind hearted" and care about other people's feelings but I think I have put our Mexican brothers/sisters out of my mind....for exactly the reasons you so eloquently stated - "cursing the presence of aliens" and all the meaning that goes with just that one thought.

I appreciate your bringing me "back to earth."
Suzanne Sloan
Highlands

Let's help ITC

Dear Editor,

The Instant Theatre needs our help. Highlands is fortunate to have three theater groups and each has its own personality and purpose. Of the three, the Instant Theatre was derived from the old Highlands Community Theater of the 1940s, '50s and '60s. The Wilcox's were one of the families that created that first theater, and their daughter, Collin with her husband, Scott Paxton, have continued to present the same rich buffet of theater as the Highlands Community Theatre did long ago.

I can remember a Moliere play, three one acts of Chekov, Shaw, and Barrie to mention a few. The Instant Theatre has also tried to give us a varied diet that is on the cutting edge of theater in the short period of time that they have been in existence. A brilliant presentation of "Copenhagen" and a new play writer's play, "My Secret Weapon," and the most recent "The Diaries of Adam and Eve," are the most recent.

It has been the Instant Theatre's purpose to not only entertain, but widen their audience's appreciation of theatre. Collin and Scott have done this on a shoestring and now, to earn the right to win grants, they must find a way to financially continue for one more year. Please help them if you can. They need \$25,000 by the end of the year. If you can, donate, or please attend the White Elephant Sale on the first of December. Highlands can't afford to lose this wonderful theatre tradition.

Anne Major Doggett
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 22

Club decorates for community dinner



For the 11th year in a row, members of The Girls' Clubhouse decorated the tables for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at the Rec Park the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Pictured are Autumn Chastain, Jacky Reyes, Candance Dills, Alex Michaud and Cory xxx.

• OBITUARIES •

Cyndi Ann McCall

Cyndi Ann McCall died November 16, 2007. She was born March 7, 1973. She is survived by her Life Partner Zaneta Redfern and stepson Anthony Redfern, her mother, June Marie Webb, her biological father, Grover Ray McCall and her father Larry Madison Hunter, her brother Johnathan Ray McCall and wife Vandy, nieces Desiray, Katie and Gracie McCall. Also surviving is her sister Teresa Kay Zachary and husband Grant, nieces Kendall and Calli and nephew Bart, her brothers and sisters Stephen, Stephanie, Samantha, Chris and C J McCall. Her Grandparents are Doris and Richard Webb and Della and Ray McCall. She was well loved and will be dearly missed. Ms. McCall served WNC for people with disabilities.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM Sunday November 18th at Mt. Moriah cemetery with the Rev. John Rogers officiating. Memorials may be made to Irene Wortham Center, 916 West Chapel Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

Note:

June Webb and the family of Cynthia McCall would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers during their time of sorrow. It is very much appreciated.

Diane Shimsky

Diane Shimsky, died peacefully on November 20, 2007, after a long battle with ovarian cancer.

Devoted wife to Frank for 46 years, beloved mother of Darren Shimsky of San Diego, CA, and Susan Foster of Atlanta, GA she is the proud grandmother of Michael Shimsky, and Delainey, Kathryn and Christian Foster, sister of James and Richard Movinski.

A long time devotee to Jackie Sorenson's Aerobics, Diane was an inspiration to everyone in her classes. She will be remembered as someone who always put her family and friends above all else. To her daughter Susan, her best friend Kathy Moskovitz, and all of her close friends she was a pillar of strength who was always there when needed.

Funeral services will be Friday, November 23, 2007 at 1 p.m. at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Diane will be laid to rest in Highlands, NC, the place she loved the most. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Atlanta Humane Society at atlantahumane.org.

Patterson & Son Oglethorpe Hill Chapel, 4550 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, was in charge of the arrangements.

SALE

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Fawn by Petunia
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Perfect mountain styled home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Vaulted and beamed ceilings in the great room, high quality Kitchen Aid kitchen, separate dining room with wet bar and wine cooler, 2 BR/ 2BA on the main level plus a large family room and a 3rd BR and 3rd BA in the lower walk-out level. A 1 car garage and golf course frontage. \$695,000



Mountain contemporary home in Highlands Falls Country Club. A large great room with lots of glass, extra large vaulted kitchen, wet bar, master suite with attached office, his/ her baths, 2 private guest suites, 2 car garage plus a great deck. Did we mention the gorgeous mountain view? \$865,000.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

This is how it really happened Happy Thanksgiving

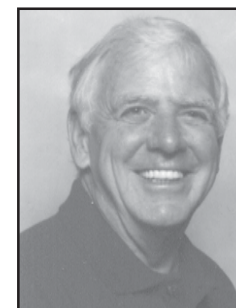
Gather round, all you young, gullible children and I will tell you a tale about America's very first Thanksgiving celebration. Sit in a big circle on the floor with your legs folded Indian style for greater effect.

Are you ready? Once upon a time there was a group of English people later called Pilgrims who were being persecuted and killed because of their religious beliefs. Yes, children, even back then people were killing each other in the name of religion. So in 1620, 44 soon-to-be Pilgrims got on a boat and headed for America, the land of naked savages. Oh, by the way, the "Naked Savage" is also a gay bar in Miami. Write that down. During the 65 day voyage, two factions of Pilgrims began to fight over religious differences but fortunately they spotted land just before they were about to kill each other. Phew!

After they landed, The Pilgrims feared they would be killed by the natives. As fate would have it, the Indians did not have religious prejudices and were friendly toward the Pilgrims. (Phew, again.) They taught them not to eat the poison ivy plant (duh) and not do other stupid things. They also taught them how to hunt and fish. The Indians named the Pilgrims "illegal immigrants" but decided not to arrest them or make them get green cards. Instead, they shared ideas, customs and foods for the betterment of everyone. They were very gracious. Unbelievable!

What did you ask? No, no, no, casinos had not been invented yet so Indian wealth came later. Anyway, on March 16, 1621, an Indian brave named Samoset walked into a Plymouth settlement and said "welcome." He had learned English from the many fishing boats that frequented the new land. Because of Samoset and his buddies, the October harvest was plentiful so they all decided to celebrate by having a feast. The Indians actually sat at the same table as the illegal immigrants.

Here's another shocker. Are you sitting down? Of course you are. Mashed potatoes (spelled potatoe if you're a Republican) had not been invented. There was no cranberry sauce and, believe it or not, no turkey. Read my lips. No turkey. Since this pig-out lasted a full



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback
is encouraged!
email:

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three days, we are not sure when this occurred. Do we care?

Instead of turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potato pie and all that good stuff, there was corn, fruits and vegetables. The entree was either roasted duck, not under glass; dried fish packed in sea salt, a delicacy, and dead deer. Lots of chewy dead deer! Yummy, yummy for our tummies.

During the three day celebration, the Indians demonstrated their skills

with the bow and arrow by shooting apples off of Pilgrims' heads. Likewise the Pilgrims showed their skills with the musket by shooting apples off the Indians' heads. This custom was later dropped because more apples were surviving than people.

The Pilgrims had much to celebrate. They had established a foothold on this beautiful land. The Indians taught them how to have a bountiful crop which would last them through the long winter. Homes were being built and they had made peace with the Native Americans.

The following year, the harvest was not so great because growing corn turned out to be trickier than the Pilgrims expected. They also foolishly shared their limited food supply with new arrivals to the settlement and, by October, there was not enough to make it through the winter. The celebration was cancelled and many starved that winter. Remember, children, no good deed goes unpunished.

The third year was even worse. Hot days with no rain (Probably global warming.) had dried the crops and the threat of losing everything was imminent. Everyone dropped to their knees and prayed. God answered their prayers and brought rain. To celebrate the answered prayers, November 29th was deemed a day of thanksgiving for His generosity. That date is believed to be the real true beginning of Thanksgiving Day.

So don't let anyone tell you that Thanksgiving Day is not a religious holiday. It is a day where, regardless of your religion, you can give thanks to God for all that we have.

Next week, we can meet again and I will tell you how we illegal immigrants paid back the Native American Indians for all their generosity and kindness. Bring tissues.

• ANOTHER VIEW •

'Redneck' label isn't fair

I was completely unprepared when Bull asked, "Dad, do people think of us as a redneck family?" I've never before turned to Webster to help a column, but here is what Webster has to say on the subject, not necessarily as it applies to the Salzarulo family: "redneck, n. from the characteristic sunburned neck acquired in the fields by laborers. (Slang) a poor, white, rural Southerner, often specif., one regarded as ignorant, bigoted, violent, etc.: often a derogatory term." I wonder when it might be considered complimentary.

"Well," I answered, "we did have a pick-up truck once, but," I quickly added, "we sold it." I thought for a moment and added, "And I have a chain saw, but uncle Peter has to start it for me about half the time." I don't know if it matters, but it's German made.

I checked the liquor cabinet and found nary a Mason Jar. That made me feel better. There is the embarrassing history of a Ford pickup, but other than that, we drive German cars. I hate to admit it, but mine has a tiny spoiler on the rear deck. It was installed at the factory and the color matches the rest of the car, so maybe it's not too bad. I hate to keep coming back to the truck, but it was an F-350, dualie. In my own defense, let me mention that it was registered in Elizabeth's name. In our family's defense, I can honestly say that there was no gun rack.

We live in the south, and I wouldn't mind being a Southerner. I just don't know how. When I try to say "y'all," I sound like a guy who has never left the Bronx. It comes out, "you all." Counterfeit! Contrived! Condescending!

Bull will grow comfortably into dual citizenship, being equally at ease in a northern urban setting and a southern rural one. You might think that the fact that we call our son "Bull" is pretty strong evidence to support the notion that we are closet rednecks. His name is Henry Bulluck Salzarulo. Bull is just a nick name. We don't call him Hank Bull, or Bully Sal. I've never understood the Southern tendency to use double names for their kids. I guess



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

the rationale is that if you have both a first and middle name, why waste one? We weren't so thrifty with names where I grew up.

There is nothing wrong with working nor there is anything wrong with working in the sun. I've continued working after most of my peers have retired. The need to support Lizzie and Bull is only part of the reason. I like working. I suspect that I would feel far less

worthwhile if I didn't work. Besides, Lizzie would probably make me work harder at home, and for a lot less money. I don't work outside in the sun, so my neck isn't red, but I don't feel superior to those who do. There is nothing wrong with being poor. Some people are better at making and keeping money than others, but it doesn't make them better people. I hope that if socialized medicine were introduced tomorrow and we fell into the middle class, you wouldn't think less of us. We have chosen a rural life in the South, and I can't imagine moving back to Houston. From my perspective, there is nothing wrong with the rural South.

This brings us to the "ignorant, bigoted, and violent" part of Webster's definition. Here's where I have a problem. There is no need for violence in our homes, roadside bars, or fighting chicken pits. We can, if we choose, abolish ignorance with education and bigotry with accepting, open minds.

Redneck is a term incorrectly applied to many decent, hard, Southern families, by bigoted, ignorant, Northern (and Southern) elitists. I don't want to be painted with that broad brush, and I am unwilling to apologize for making the choice to bring my family to live in this wonderful land with its distinctive regional flavor. I see no need to throw us all in a blender and pour out homogenized Americans. It's like I finally told Bull, "If your name ends with 'O,' you're probably not a redneck. He might have said, "Dad, if you'd stop writing those columns, you might fit in better." I could do that, but I'd rather perfect my "y'all." Happy Thanksgiving, Y'all.

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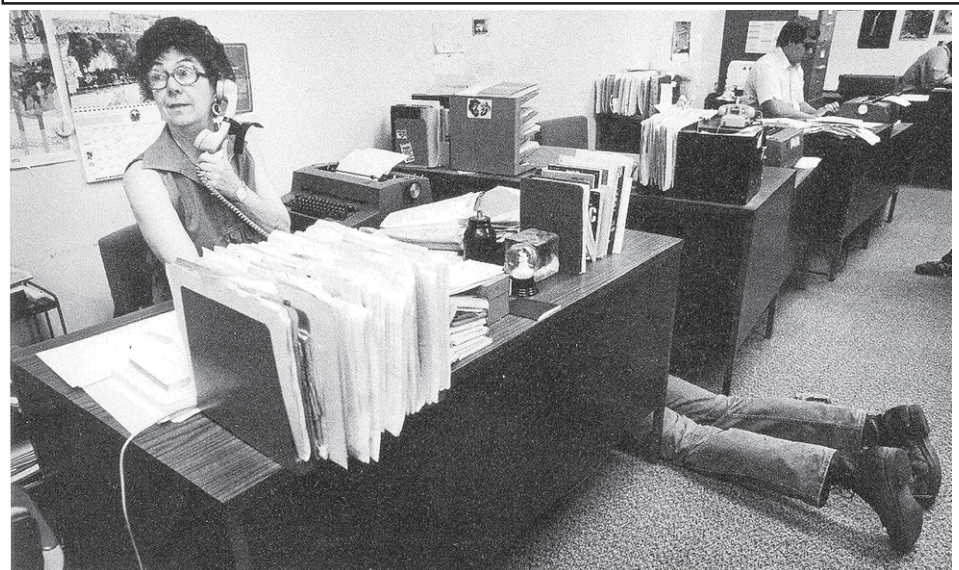


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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Giving Thanks

When I was growing up my family went to church every Sunday. We were Protestants. My mother was in the church choir. We were very involved in church activities. For whatever reason, (I guess I never asked) we did not say grace at meals.

But on Thanksgiving my parents would have everyone say something they were thankful for. We would go around the table, the five kids and my parents each giving thanks.

Two aspects of my personality are rebelliousness and stubbornness. I can remember one year when this happened being angry at the hypocrisy: we never gave thanks any other day of the year, so why, just because of some arbitrary date on the calendar, do I have to spout out some thanks? I can remember my mind being blank. I could not think of a thing to be thankful for.

Many of us can remember our mother forcing us to sit down to write thank-you letters and the struggle that would ensue to think of anything to say. I sometimes cringe at memories from my early adulthood when I was given something special and didn't say thank you.

In particular, I remember returning from a summer in Europe after my junior year in college. I stayed for three days at a friend's house, and I think I took at least a half-hour shower the first day I was there. My friend's parents fed me and housed me and when I look back I am sure I never wrote them to say thanks. The young person thinks "that's what parents do" but the mature person realizes what it takes to be that parent.

Perhaps learning gratitude is the journey we are all on, what life is all about. I liked this quote I found on the Internet: "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others. —Cicero, "Pro Plancio" [Roman author, orator, & politician, 106 BC - 43 BC].

Some years ago a friend told me a story about reincarnation. Once there was a wise guru. People came to him to seek enlightenment and truth. A monk came to him and said, "I have been meditating 10 hours a day for 20 years, surely I won't have to reincarnate." But the guru answered, "I am sorry my friend, but you do not understand. You have not escaped the wheel of death



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

and rebirth."

Another person came to the guru and said, "Look at all the good deeds I have done, surely I have burned up enough karma to never reincarnate." But again the guru answered, "I am sorry but you have not found the answer."

Every person who came to the guru got the same response, and his disciples became

anxious, "Was there no way to escape this world of woe?"

One day the guru and his disciples went for a walk and in a meadow came across a woman dancing ecstatically from the sheer joy of being alive. "There," the guru pointed. "There is a person who has escaped. She will not reincarnate."

All of the other people perceived life as a burden to be escaped; they believed that bliss was only attainable in heaven or somewhere other than this earth, this "veil of tears." But the dancing woman had no desire to escape; she was finding bliss in the experience of being alive in the present moment. She was grateful for life itself.

One of the ironies I love in this story is that the ones who wanted to escape were stuck but the one who had no desire to escape was free.

It is easy to fall into the trap of seeing life as a burden. We get so busy with work and family and paying bills and all the small details of life that it's not surprising so many people believe happiness is only possible by escaping their life — whether it be on vacation or in heaven (a sort of permanent vacation).

But how often when people reach the end of their life do they realize the preciousness of every bit of life, from the mundane to the painful?

Here's another relevant quote I found: "The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what it means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything." — Albert Schweitzer

This Thanksgiving, instead of being grateful for some thing or some one, consider being thankful for the whole shebang, for life itself.

And by the way, I decided that it was time to stop cringing about that family I hadn't thanked. I emailed the friend I had been traveling with to see if he can help me find their address.

• HIS & HERS •

The Descants of Life

The definition of descant is "a counter-melody above the melody." What a dry definition for such a magnificent reality. I reached an important conclusion during a descant by the choir at the Church of the Incarnation, a few months ago.

Descants are sung by the first sopranos.

Under the direction of the excellent Choir Master at that Church, some hymns there have a key shift up and a new instrumental introduction and then what was merely four-part harmony becomes five-part harmony. That top line soars and dances among the beams that hold up the roof.

As regular readers know, I don't wear my religion on my sleeve. For some folks, such a decision is expressed to other people. For others, myself included, that is a personal matter. So, all I'll say is I was a Presbyterian all my life, but I began looking for a new church home. At that moment, in that Church, the beauty of the moment was so clear and overwhelming that I knew I'd found my church home.

Oh, there were other reasons as well. The priest is an exceptional man. It is an engaging community of people. My fiancée sings in that choir. Almost fifty years ago, I sang in a choir, and still remember the bass parts, especially Handel's Messiah.

But when I thought about that moment, and that decision, I realized that all of us experience, occasionally, perfect moments. Let me offer a few of my examples. This may inspire you to define some for yourselves.

Try this scent for example. It is Thanksgiving. The house is filled with relatives. It is about an hour before the turkey will be served. The whole house is filled with the scent of a turkey and all the dressings. That one smell brings memories of dozens of Thanksgivings.

That smell promises a perfect taste as well. On a plate will be piled high several slices of moist turkey with a crackling baked skin, and real mashed potatoes (not instant) covered in gravy with melted butter also, and peas. The first bite from that plate of promise is a large piece of turkey, scooped into the mashed potatoes and peas, and dripping with gravy.

Of course, that process should be repeated until you reach a point of satiation – when you fall on the sofa, you cannot get up again without help. I saw



Michelle Mead & John Armor
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John_Armor@yale.edu

you smile. Most of you have been in that precise position, more than once.

Now, let's try a moment of a perfect touch. It is just past sunrise. A full sun in a nearly cloudless sky is streaming through an open window and washing over a butterscotch tabby cat. The cat is warm, comfortable, and just

barely awake. A cat that comfortable will roll over if you scratch his ears. A perfect touch is to rub that cat's soft warm belly fur as he purrs in total satisfaction.

That leaves the dominant sense for us humans, the sense of sight, to offer a descant moment. After six decades of seeing the world, there are so many candidates. I'll choose one from here in the mountains.

It was about 13 years ago. I was living alone in the family home, a turn of the century farmhouse, that I had just refurbished. From the top of Kettle Rock Mountain the view is 80 miles to the horizon, weather permitting. The view is to the south, and most storms come up from that direction.

A huge storm was coming up from the south. It was over Walhalla, South Carolina. The storm was so far away that I could hold up my hand and cover the whole of it. But it was nothing so slight for the people of Walhalla, Lightning was striking vigorously all about. The rest of the sky was absolutely clear, and this storm was all by itself.

I had read that most lightning strikes from any storm do not go to the ground. Instead, these electrical daggers stab from one part of the clouds into another, and never approach the ground. And so it was for this storm. Easily two thirds of all the strikes were within the clouds, and I could see all that.

So, I stayed on the porch, watching this late-night display, until the storm arrived on Kettle Rock, and what was once a whole display became the present reality of hard rain and lightning that knocked out the electricity to the house.

Each of these moments, and so many more, were perfect moments. Notice I did not offer any examples that directly involved people. It is my experience, perhaps yours as well, that nothing involving people is ever perfect. Excellent, exquisite, but not perfect.

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu He lives in the 11th District of North Carolina.

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Eight key points to know about Hospice

More than 1.2 million people were served by the nation's hospice programs last year. Yet for every person that received hospice care, it is estimated that another individual would have benefited for the services of hospice but didn't get this compassionate care at the end of their lives.

Highlands Cashiers Hospice, as part of National Hospice Month (November), wants to remind the public about the purposes & aims of all hospice programs.

There are eight key messages about hospice care that everyone, health care professionals and consumers alike, should understand.

- Hospice is not a place, but a special kind of care focusing on relief of pain, symptom control, and spiritual and emotional support. Care goes out to both the patient and family caregivers.

- The majority of hospice care takes place in the home, where the person can be surrounded by family and familiar settings. Yet inpatient services are available if symptoms cannot be properly managed at home.

- Hospice costs are covered by Medicare and by Medicaid in most states, and by most insurance programs and HMOs.

The expenses of all medicines related

to the life-limiting illnesses are covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

Hospice is not about "giving up," but instead focuses on quality of life, making the wishes of the patient and family caregivers a priority.

- Hospice provides support and care giving training to family members and loved ones in the home.

- Bereavement support is available to families for a year after the death of their loved one.

- The most common statement made by families who chose hospice for their loved on is, "we wish we had known about hospice sooner."

If a person isn't facing decisions

about care at the end of life for themselves or a family member, it's likely that a close friend, neighbor or coworker is struggling with these difficult issues.

If you would like more information for people facing life-limiting illness, Highlands-Cashiers Hospice would be pleased to provide additional input, and connect you with staff, volunteers, and family members that are personally familiar with the many benefits of hospice. For more information, contact Monica Crook at 828-526-4981 or visit the website of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at www.highlandscashiershospital.org.

Hospital Auxiliary quilt has new home



Sabrina Miller of Fletcher, NC, left, is this year's lucky winner of the Wildflower Quilt raffled off last month by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary. Auxiliary members, such as Jolene Niblack, right, draw and then embroider the panels throughout the year. They are assembled into an heirloom quilt by well-known local quilter Hazel Miller. Each summer the quilt being raffled that fall is displayed at Bank of America in Highlands, where this year's winning ticket was sold by Anita Chastain (second from left). This was the 16th year for the popular raffle.

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... SCHOOL continued from page 1

used for renovations to East Franklin Elementary School and can only be used for renovations within the footprint of the original building.

School Board Attorney John Henning, Jr., said in 15 years, the school board can buy back the East Franklin School property for the county for \$100.

He said once East Franklin renovations and expansion is completed, the school board could use it or another new or improved property as collateral against a loan to continue its schools' facilities upgrade plan.

Old Cartoogechaye School

At the Nov. 13 Macon County Commission meeting the board also voted 4 to 1 to give up its first right of refusal to the old Cartoogechaye School and to instruct the school board to sell the building.

A nonprofit group had asked the school board to lease the old school to them for a nominal rate to start the Miracle Children's Center, a nonprofit community-based childcare center.

"The building is no longer of use to the school system," said County Manager Sam Greenwood. "If the county doesn't want to enter into negotiations with the

• See SCHOOL page 16

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

I'm thankful, how about you?

Thanksgiving is a fascinating phenomenon, difficult to explain in today's me, my, mine philosophy. For those born in relative comfort and extravagance, it is an abstract concept, and the lack of it's understanding rarely bodes well.

I'm sure the small group that I mediate is sick and tired of hearing my sermon on how absolutely dumb-lucky we were to be born when, where and in the culture we were. Imagine living in Lenin's Russia (my mother and her family could have told you all about it). Or in the European dark ages when human life was described as being surrounded by deep gloom. Or being a woman in a Muslim controlled society. You can go on and on.

Before I get into the meat of the matter, I have a personal reason for extreme thanksgiving. A few months ago, while relaxing at home on a Saturday evening, I had a dissecting aortic aneurysm. I have learned that this is very serious, and if you survive, the odds are good one or more of your systems would be adversely affected. EMS responded to the call to 911, and their fine people got me more or less stabilized for the trip to Angel. I am extremely thankful to those angels who got me from A to B.

Angel's emergency room staff tested and tested, and, because these things are so rare, it took a while to diagnose the problem. Once they did, MAMA (medical transport helicopter) was call in and that's the last I remember. Their great staff did their thing and got me to Mission. The angels were still with me.

So, now it's nearing midnight and where do you find a crack surgical team on Saturday night? I have no idea but I know I got the best of the best. Eight and a half hours later, voila, there I was, good as new(almost). One would expect that having your chest split open, there would be some pain afterwards. I had none to speak of. As far as damage is concerned, I don't seem to have any other than my short term memory which was not so good before the incident.

So, personally, I am very thankful to God and His angels for pulling me through my challenge.

I was briefly laid up a while ago and a friend sent me a book to help me pass the time. It is entitled Material World and it describes the possessions of a typical family in 30 diverse parts of the world,



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

from Albania to Western Samoa.

It is eye-opening and it changed my outlook on those outside my immediate sphere of existence.

It describes a family of seven living in Soweto, South Africa, a suburb of Johannesburg. They live in a rented house that is 400 sq. ft., have an annual income of \$2,543 (they are employed). They own one radio, one television (broken), one

the main breadwinner takes to work is often boarded by machete- and gun-wielding thugs. When asked of his expectations of the future, he said "it will be bad."

In Bosnia, at the time he was interviewed a retired neurosurgeon and his family

of five lived holed-up by snipers in his 650 sq. ft. apartment. The building is pock-marked with shell-fire and his automobile in a casualty of shell-fire as well. Venturing out is an experience in survival and automatic weapons are as common as newspapers. While the constant gunfire has diminished, life is still miserable and the future is clouded.

Haiti...the very word brings forth visions of misery and poverty. The typical family featured (there are six members) live in a home no larger than many kitchens (and some walk-in closets). They own nothing and spend 80% of their \$374 annual income on food. Their minimal income cannot be attributed to laziness, the family works a collective 175 hours a week. The outlook for the future

is bleak.

I can tell you that after exploring the Material World a couple of times, my attitude of gratitude ratcheted up dramatically. Since my life has slowed down a bit, I've had time to look around at those around me with some level of insight.

It's downright algebraic that those who view life with a thankful attitude appear to be much happier than those who don't understand how good it is (and how bad it could be through no fault of their own).

Among many other things, I am thankful to the Highlands' Newspaper for being fair and balanced and allowing me to express my thoughts. HAPPY THANKSGIVING, y'all!!!

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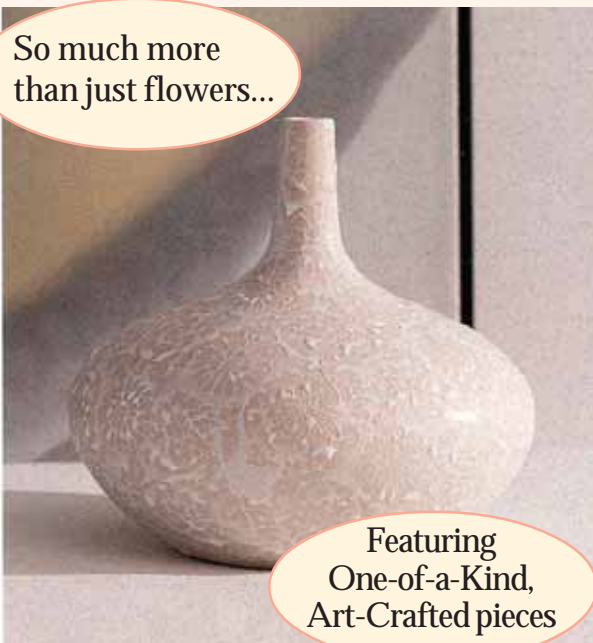
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Future plans for former Fruit of the Loom plant raises many questions for Highlands plateau

by Jenny Sanders and Joseph Gatins

Officials in neighboring Rabun County, GA, are trying to find prospects to re-open the former Fruit of the Loom textile plant in Rabun Gap. That is good news, particularly since so many of the former employees there were from North Carolina.

But their efforts raise a number of other sticky, and heretofore unanswered, questions about air and water quality and forest conservation that merit attention on both sides of the Georgia-North Carolina border and especially for the many residents of the Highlands plateau who have made a personal investment in preservation of the Little Tennessee River Valley. Among them:

How much treated sewage and what kind of sewage is going to be discharged into the Little Tennessee River, which flows due north into Macon County, North Carolina?

Since this portion of the Little Tennessee is already federally listed as an impaired waterway because of fecal coliform pollution, how will an increase in sewage effluent affect the river and the biodiversity there?

What sorts of contaminants are going to be present in the wastewater? If Rabun County persists in its efforts to buy this facility and upgrade it, then wouldn't it be appropriate to tailor those upgrades to whatever byproducts are being produced so that you are sure to remove them before discharge into the river?

Additional questions abound about the county's plans to try to purchase the water intake and sewer outflow capacity of the plant.

Has Rabun County secured the permits necessary operate and upgrade the water and sewer facilities?

Will these water and sewer plans involve inter-basin transfers of water, which by themselves, can cause a host of environmental problems?

Will the water temperature of effluent from the plant upgrade affect aquatic life downstream (i.e., in Macon County's part of the Little Tennessee?)

Plans to upgrade an existing co-generation electric power plant at the old textile mill also raise questions:

How much bigger will the new power plant be on the Fruit property, why does it need a 100-foot tall smokestack and how will this affect air quality in this border region?

How much power will it be generating and whom will it be sold to? Will resale of excess power here require a new transmission line, either in Georgia or into neighboring North Carolina?

Where will the co-generation power company trying to buy this part of the Fruit plant secure the 50-plus tractor-trailer loads of wood chips that likely will be necessary to fire the plant's boiler at peak capacity?

A spokesman for the new power plant interests has explained that such chips would be readily created from logging projects' slash and wastes within a 50-mile radius, chipped up to correct dimension by industrial-sized, movable chippers. Where exactly will this wood product be found and what long-term effect will the chipping have on nearby national forests, including the Nantahala National Forest?

It is really difficult to resolve these questions because the county apparently does not yet know whom Gibbs International, of Spartanburg, S.C., which bought the now-vacant property from Fruit, is going to move into the plant itself.

Maybe all these questions should be answered first before this deal is fast-tracked one slice at a time without full and complete explanation to taxpayers and interested citizens in both affected states.

The Rabun County Board of Commissioners is holding two back-to-back public meetings, on Thursday, November 29 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, December 4 at 1 p.m. to explain its water and sewer plans and take questions from the public. Both meetings are to be held at the Rabun County Courthouse, in Clayton, Georgia. Both the Little Tennessee Watershed Association and Georgia ForestWatch urge interested member of the public to attend.

• For more information contact: Jenny Sanders, Executive Director, Little Tennessee Watershed Association at www.ltwa.org; or Joseph Gatins, Chattooga River co-district leader, Georgia ForestWatch at www.gafw.org.

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NOVEMBER 26, 2007 CONTINUATION MEETING AGENDA

- 6 P.M. - Reconvene meeting
- Public hearing on financing of \$2,600,000 to pay costs of acquiring land for school construction per the attached.
- Occupancy Tax Study Committee appointments. (See attached memo)
- Presentation on expansion and upgrades at Senior Services Building.
- Bids on South Macon Recreation Park - Phase I Site Work Construction.
- Report from Sheriff on Recreation Park security.
- Budget revisions
- Discussion with schools on reprioritization of capitol building program.

First home game big affair at Highlands School



Friday, Nov. 16 was the first home game for the Highlands School Varsity Girls and Boys 2007 basketball teams. The Booster Club set up a hospitality room in appreciation of all banner sponsors and the varsity cheerleaders performed stunts and cheered the teams on. The game was against Hayesville. The boys lost 45-80 and the girls lost 33-40 in overtime. The next home games are three in a row: Tuesday, Nov. 27, against Rabun Gap; Thursday, Nov. 29 against Hendersonville; and Friday, Nov. 30 against Andrews. The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 p.m. There is also a JV boys basketball team this year. Their next home game is Friday, Nov. 30 also against Andrews at 5 p.m.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

... SEX ED continued from page 1

living – aren't comfortable teaching sex education and health-related matters to students of the opposite sex.

"The key is to find the right person who is comfortable talking to male and female students," said Chairman Donnie Edwards.

Initially, one teacher will travel to all the schools but eventually a second teacher will have to be hired. "One person can't

cover the entire school system, effectively," said Cantrell.

Board member Roberta Swank said the school system has to start somewhere. "We already have some pregnant students at Franklin High School," she said. "And we need to forget the term 'sex ed' It's more than just about sex; it's about self-esteem

• See SEX ED page 37

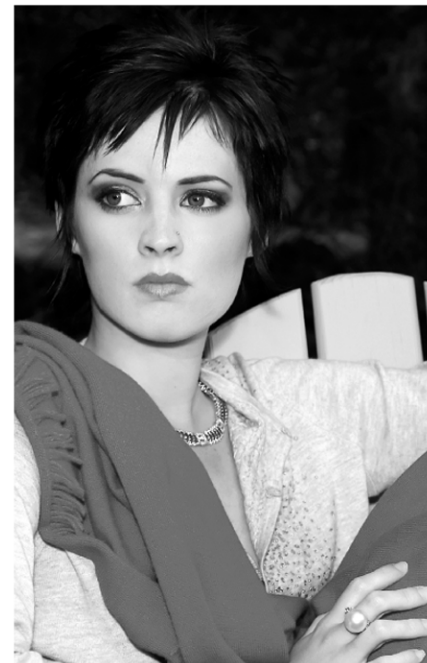


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Highlands School Homecoming Activites

At the Homecoming basketball game Friday, Dec. 30, members of the homecoming court will be introduced. They are: Freshmen, Sarah Power and Michael Shearl; Sophomores, Lacey Tucker and Will Mathiowdis; Juniors, Casey Jenkins, Marisol Ruiz, Michael Baty and Luke McClellan; and Seniors, Bailey Buck, Katie Pierce, Taylor Stinson, Sally Wheeler, Aus-

tin Brooks, Jake Heffington, Josh Hendricks and Greg Porter.

The Homecoming Court will ride in the Christmas Parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The Homecoming Dance is at PAC on Dec. 1 from 8-midnight. The King/Queen Crowning Ceremony will be at 10:30 p.m.



Twins Matthew and Jessica Campbell were two of the first children enrolled in Tales for Tots.

'Tales for Tots'

Tales for Tots is a program initiated and funded by a Highlands couple (who wish to remain anonymous) which provides a new book every month from birth until the age of 5 for every child born in Macon County.

Tales for Tots was begun six years ago and so far has enrolled eight hundred children, some of whom have already "graduated," having passed the age of 5. Currently over 500 books are mailed each month. The program is absolutely free to families; the entire cost — \$90,000 a year — is paid by the Highlands couple. Brochures about the program are mailed to new parents by the Macon County Public Health Center along with immunization information soon after a child's birth.

The program is open only to children born in Macon County and to children under five adopted by families in Macon County. If your child qualifies but is not currently enrolled, registration forms are available at the Hudson Library.

The first book sent to every child is "Read to Your Bunny" by Rosemary Wells, because the county librarians think that's a good introduction to the importance of reading with your children. Other books include "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown, "Make Way for Ducklings" by Robert McCloskey, "Sheep in A Jeep" by Nancy Shaw, "Millions of Cats" by Wanda Gag, "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss, and "Caps for Sale" by Esphyr Slobodkina.

Research shows that children do better in school when books and reading time are common at home. Frequent book reading

teaches children about sounds, letters, and vocabulary, and is a wonderful way for parents and children to spend time together. Studies have shown that the most important factor in developing a child's language and cognitive skills, which ultimately lead to educational success, is the stimulation parents provide at home. The best way to stimulate a child's intellectual development is to create an environment favorable to reading in the home.

How can parents help their children be better readers?

First and maybe most important is to be a reading role model. When children see their parents reading for pleasure they are more likely to do so themselves.

Create a family reading area with reading material for people of all ages. Read aloud everyday with your child.

Don't be afraid to re-read your child's favorite books regularly, and when you do read aloud, read with expression and give different characters different voices — don't be afraid to sound silly. This will engage your child's imagination much more effectively.

Go to the library with your child and let her select her own books.

Encourage your children to tell you stories. Write them down and have your child illustrate them, and re-read these "books" often.

Read when you are out with your child. In the car read road signs and play word games using signs. In the grocery store read labels together.

• See TALES page 16

Red Ribbon Essay and Poster Contest winners. Students hold a poster thanking RBC Centura Bank for donating the \$50 savings bonds that each student was awarded for winning the contest. From left, the high school winner Avee Graham; the grade 3-5 winner is Grace Brassard; middle school winner Xan Potter, and the grade K-2 winner Grace Crowe.

Red Ribbon Essay winners



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F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS

A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Dozier earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech and his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA. He completed his residency in general surgery at Atlanta's Georgia Baptist Medical Center and affiliated hospitals.

For the past 28 years he has practiced in Atlanta at hospitals such as Emory's Crawford Long and the Atlanta Medical Center, where he was formerly chief of general surgery and a member of the surgical residency teaching staff. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, and is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

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Emergency physician Dr. Tony Fisher, left, and ER nurse Paul Good, right, review some digital CT images in the hospital emergency room.

Hospital's ER sees busiest year ever, tops 4,000 patients

The emergency department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital had its busiest year on record last year, serving 4,001. It was the first time in the hospital's history that the number of ER patients topped the 4,000 mark – although barely.

Over the last four years, ER utilization at the hospital has increased a total of 16 percent. Last year's totals represented a 5 percent increase over the previous year. The hospital tracks statistics over the course of its fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

"We are always very gratified when people entrust their care to us in an emergency," said CEO and President Ken Shull. "We are doing all we can to be sure that we continue to earn that trust."

To that end, the hospital has made several changes to emergency room staffing over the course of the past spring and summer. In addition to adding a new medical director for emergency services, the hospital and its medical staff also implemented a new policy to ensure that an emergency room physician or his physicians' assistant is on site 24 hours, seven days a week.

In the past, the hospital has allowed physicians working the ER to leave the campus, as long as they were no more than 20 minutes away, and reachable by pager.

Emergency Medical Director Tony Fisher, MD, says paying ER physicians to be on site isn't always cost-efficient, but it represents a commitment to maintaining a high standard of care. "Minutes can count when it comes to many emergencies. Having the ER physician always on site is essential to providing quick, appropriate medical care in an emergency," says Fisher.

The hospital also bolstered its regular staff of physicians working the emergency room over the course of the summer, adding two new part-time physicians (in

addition to Fisher), who have extensive backgrounds in urgent care and emergency medicine. John C. Canon, MD, and Craig C. Moore, MD, FCCP, have both been filling in for regular ER physicians when the need arises. Canon has worked in urgent care and emergency departments since 1985, most of it in Western North Carolina. He received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Memphis in 1982, and performed his internship and residency at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. He has worked in urgent care and emergency medicine at both small and large hospitals from Murphy to North Wilkesboro. He currently works as an independent physician contractor in emergency medicine at Wilkes Regional Medical Center, Haywood Regional Medical Center and Pardee Urgent Care Center in addition to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He is board certified in both family practice and addiction medicine.

Dr. Moore earned his medical degree from the University of Rome (Italy) and performed his residencies and fellowships in internal medicine and pulmonary and critical care medicine at hospitals in New York. He has worked in urgent cares and emergency departments since the early 1990s, and currently works as an emergency physician at Transylvania Community Hospital, as well as here, and serves as the medical director of a private company providing trackside medical services on the American Le Mans Series automobile racing circuit.

... ZONING continued from page 1

building. As such, as per the zoning ordinance, there is a minimum 800 sq. ft. requirement.

Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz said he and Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward didn't consider it a building or they would have stopped SECU's plans in the beginning.

"It doesn't fit our definition of a building because there are no employees inside and the ATM machine is accessed from the outside," said Betz. "This sort of thing isn't specifically addressed in the ordinance."

After Oak Square was built, the town's ordinance was changed to require businesses to occupy a minimum of 800 sq. ft.

"The code was amended to keep mini-malls from popping up and to keep a handle on the parking," said Betz.

He said SECU had to come before the Zoning Board not because the kiosk is a building but because it is an addition to commercial property.

Since SECU is a new business taking up residence in Highlands Plaza, Zoning Board members said it should be bound by the same rules as all businesses.

"We could have kiosks with curly ice cream cones on top popping up," said Chairman Bill Rethorst.

Member Alan Frederick said these types of structures could be a thing of the future – coffee kiosks or blocks of vending machines under sheds. "There's a lot of profit to be made without labor costs," he said.

Betz said he and Ward didn't think much about the request because the Zoning Board already OK'd the RBC Centura ATM.

Member Tony Potts said RBC's ATM was an extension of an existing business and it was on RBC's property.

"Our consensus is that it's a building," said Potts. "It requires a permanent foundation and electricity."

Rethorst agreed. "If it needs a building permit, it's a building."

Members also questioned the ATM's parking requirements because it's not a drive-up or drive-thru ATM like elsewhere in town. Wilson said it was going to be at the top of Second Street where it used to enter the plaza. Patrons would have to park and walk over to it.

Newly elected Town Commissioner Buz Dotson, who recently completed a term on the Zoning Board, was in the audience and reminded the board that two years ago, when Cospers Flowers project was discussed, a plat of Highlands Plaza — delineating lot lines and specifying parking allocations — was required of Bolt and O'Donnell none forthcoming.

The board asked Betz to discuss it with the Town Board — specifically to amend the zoning ordinance to include minimum requirements for ATM's and kiosks of 800 sq. ft.

At the Town Board meeting which fol-

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lowed the Zoning Board meeting Wednesday night, commissioners said they would suggest amending the ordinance to exempt ATM's from the square footage requirement.

Commissioner Hank Ross said the SECU ATM is something needed in the community because all state employees — school, town, and county — use the credit union.

But Commissioner Amy Patterson said the board had to think about the entire situation. We need to think about this and and not amend the ordinance to exempt ATM's from building requirements just because someone needs it," she said. "It's a structure and we regulate structures."

If it's a full-service ATM, employees can make deposits as well as get cash instead of driving to Sylva or Franklin.

Wilson said he didn't know if the ATM proposed for Highlands Plaza would be full-service, but it would at least be an ATM where its members could withdraw cash without a service charge.

The Town Board decided to send the exemption request to the Planning Board to see if it thinks the ordinance should be amended to exempt ATM's from minimum building size requirements.

Liquor-by-the-drink

Now that liquor by the drink and beer can be sold at area restaurants, the Town

• See ZONING page 23

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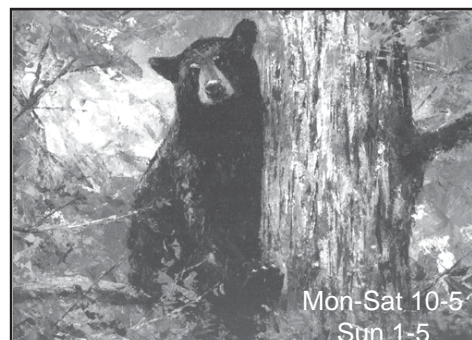
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... TALES continued from page 12

If you'd like more ideas, the Hudson Library has informational brochures filled with tips to help parents encourage their children to become readers.


Every year in the early fall the Macon County Library hosts a graduation party for the five-year-olds who have participated in Tales for Tots. This year parents reported overwhelmingly positive results from their

child's participation in the program. Many observed that as a result of reading their children had learned new words and word sounds and the children could tell the parent what happened in the story they read (important pre-literacy skills).

The library also issues questionnaires, and a sample comment this year is: "Our

• See TALES page 17

Highlands Roadrunners donates to HealthTracks



Yvonne Smith, MHS, RD, director of HealthTracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, right, receives a check for \$918 from Highlands Roadrunners Club President Richard Betz for the purchase of new exercise equipment. The running club raises money by holding its annual Mountain Lakes 5-K Run each May, and uses the proceeds to fund various community fitness-related programs. HealthTracks used the donation to purchase weighted balance bars for use by several of its exercises classes. Sponsors of last May's Mountain Lakes 5-K race were Koenig Homebuilders, Country Club Properties, Nellis Communities, Wilson Gas Service, Lupoli Construction, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Country Club, Highlands Decorating Center, Nantahala Tire & Car Care, First Citizens Bank, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

... SCHOOL continued from page 8

school board for the property, then it is considered surplus property and can be dispensed by bid."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale thought the childcare was a good thing whose services were needed by middle class working families.

"Macon Program for Progress only has four slots for families who are over the income threshold with 82 on the waiting list," said Beale. "This is a much needed service."

But Commissioner Jim Davis said the county was struggling to meet obligations it already has and didn't think purchasing the school or maintaining it for a childcare center would be a wise decision.

Commissioner Brian McClellan agreed. "We need to tighten our belts now. If the school board sells the building, it can service the debt incurred at the other schools," he said. "That's was the vote of the people. That's what they told us they wanted us to do and it's also the County Manager's recommendation."

Previous arrangements for the school site included a partnership between the Macon County School System and Southwestern Community College with a preced-

ing agreement between the Board of Education and County Commission to close the Cartoogechaye School at the end of the current academic year – June 2008.

County Commissioners have said they didn't want to maintain a school that was no longer viable for the school system but agreed to the temporary arrangement until the SCC Macon Campus was ready on Siler Road.

The school was abandoned by the school system when the new Cartoogechaye School opened a few years ago.

However, the school district requested a one-time allocation of \$35,000 from the county to maintain the facility for up to one academic year to cover utilities and site maintenance due to the agreement with SCC through June 2008.

"To remain true to that agreement with the county, we deemed the site surplus," said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman. "Following that action, the site was offered back to the Macon County Commissioners. Since the County Commission declined to purchase the property, the bidding process for sale of the

• See SCHOOL page 17

... SCHOOL continued from page 16

old Cartoogechaye School will be expedited through legal council."

At Monday's school board meeting, Attorney Henning said he would begin the process once an appraisal was complete.

Schools Facilities Program

Architect Mike Watson was at the school board meeting to give the board an update on the schools facilities program.

Using the new K-4 school at Iolita as an example, he said due to the rising cost of fuel, gasoline and inflation construction costs will increase six percent a year and within four years the cost to build the K-4 school will rise to \$4.168 million.

"If there are creative ways to work our financing, I urge the board to do so," he said. "I will do anything I can to help."

Meanwhile, his firm is proceeding with design work concerning the K-4, 5-6 and expansion of East Franklin schools.

At the Nov. 13 commission meeting, board members agreed to seek financing through the Local Government Commission (LGC) for a \$2.6 million low-interest loan to finalize the purchase of the land across from the current Macon Middle

School for the future K-6 school.

Financing through LGC is available for up to \$10 million a year. Under the LGC program, the county would have 10 years to pay the money back.

The issue will be the subject of a public hearing at the commission's Nov. 26 continuation meeting.

The school board will also be present to discuss and prioritize projects in the schools facilities program.

... TALES from page 16

child absolutely loves books and we really appreciate this program! Thank you!" In response to the question, "Has Tales for Tots changed how often you read together?" a parent said "Yes, we read together as much as possible...sometimes up to 4 books per night." In response to the question, "Has Tales for Tots made a difference in whether or not you think it's important to read with your children?" a parent said "Yes, it is such a joy to read to my children; I have one beginning kindergarten and I can't wait until she reads to me!"

Chamber donates to PTO



The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce would like to express gratitude to everyone who participated in this year's Halloween festivities. The evening was enjoyable, safe and successful due to the volunteer efforts of our community. Special thanks go out to Highlands Mountaintop Rotary, Rotary Club of Highlands, Highlands Police, Fire, & EMS, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and Bryson's Food Store. We would also like to commend Halloween Committee Chair, Johanna Snyder for all her help and support. Proceeds from this year's hot dog sale benefited the Highlands School PTO and totaled \$877.84! Thank you again for making this year's festivities such a huge success.

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Two years ago the Christmas Dinner was served at the Main Street Inn.

Restaurateurs to prepare Christmas Dinner

The Highlands Annual Christmas dinner is back by popular demand for a stunning repeat performance. After taking a break last year, the same old crew is ready to start anew! Come help us share in the joy of this beautiful day.

The location is the Log Cabin Restaurant, December 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is only \$29.95 for a mouthwatering buffet of traditional Christmas holiday fare and deserts lovingly prepared by Lakeside Restaurant; Fressers Eatery; Rene and Jim Ramsdell; and Blackberry Hill Bakery and Deli. Those who wish to purchase wine for that perfect pairing may do so through the wines generously provided by Wolfgang's

Restaurant and Wine Bistro. It takes a village to make Christmas in Highlands, and what a gift to our community; sharing a fine Christmas dinner through the collective efforts of these talented chefs we all know and love.

Reflecting the essence of giving on Christmas day, all proceeds will go to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands and The Literacy Council of Highlands.

For reservations call Farrel Zehr at 828-342-7586. Call early, as there is limited seating. We look forward to seeing everyone again, old friends and new. Stay tuned next week for more information about our history, our causes, our successes, and our plans!

... CYPRUS continued from page 1

ed on the spot.

If an existing restaurant with a wine license is adding liquor and beer to its alcohol menu, a permit must be signed by the county's building inspector and fire marshal and the town's zoning inspector. In addition, photos of the establishment, a copy of the menu, a list of the mixed drinks and beers to be sold and of course \$1,000 for a mixed drink permit and \$400 for a malt beverage permit much be included.

For new establishments, the process is a bit more involved. In addition to the above, they must also present a lease or a deed and a local government opinion form. "This gives the local government the chance to say whether they want an establishment serving alcohol in a certain zoning area in town," said a ABC Commission representative.

What some restaurant owners may not know is now that mixed drinks and malt beverage sales are allowed at restaurants in

Highlands, brown-bagging will soon be a thing of the past in Highlands.

"The brown-bag license in Highlands will expire the last day of April," said an ABC Commission representative. "Two licenses are not allowed."

A brown-bag license allows patrons to bring their own alcohol into restaurants. The lack of control over alcohol consumption was one reason proponents of liquor and beer by the drink wanted the option on the voting ballot this past election.

"Put control of how much people can drink while dining back in the hands of the establishments that are ultimately responsible and liable for alcohol consumption," said Marline Alvarez of ...on the Verandah Restaurant.

Another plus for liquor by the drink sales is restaurants are required to purchase their alcohol from the local ABC store whose profits go back into the community.

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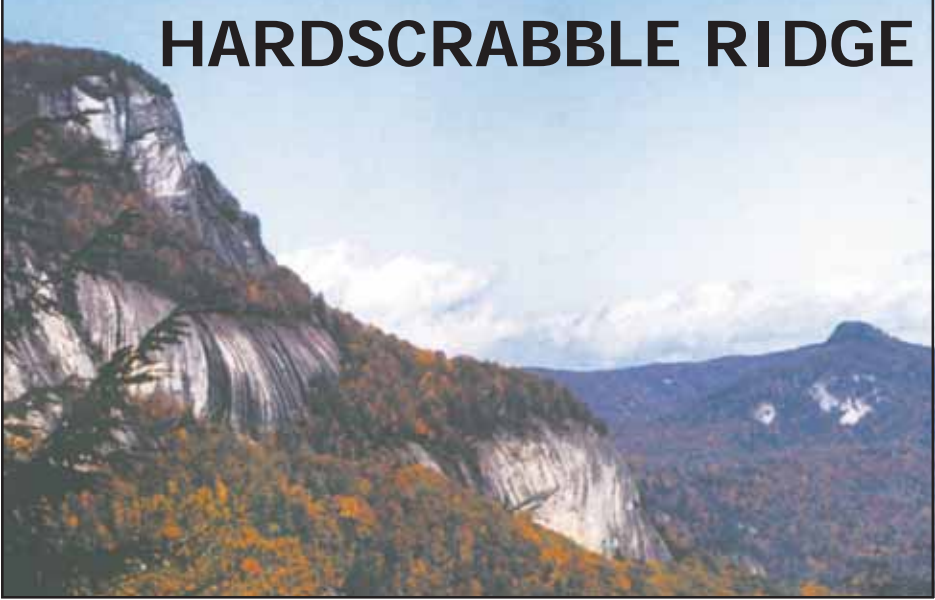
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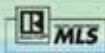
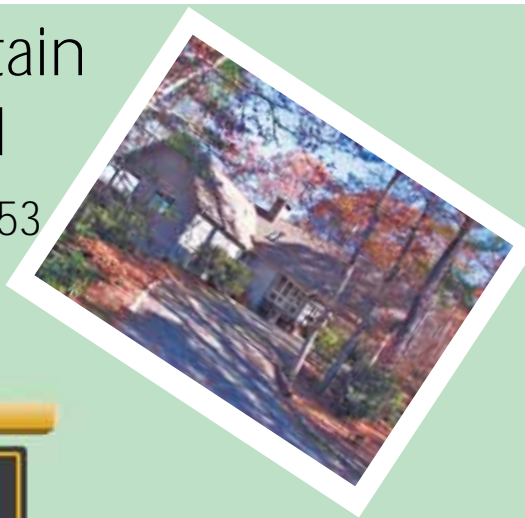


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Right: Former home of Highlands premier contractor Deadeye Potts. Wormy chestnut in living room, some hardwood under carpet. Wonderful pond in backyard with deck overlooking it. Private location, yet very close in. Downstairs basement area could be finished into more bedrooms and living space. Extensively remodeled in recent years. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Pond, privacy, excellent construction, in-town. Unoccupied and easy to show. Reduced 50K from 998,000 to 948,000



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... LETTERS continued from page 2 Understanding the bond defeat

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer a different per-
spective on the recent defeat of the county
bond issues. While it is pretty clearly the
“anti-tax” movement that turned out the
vote, there are many of us (and more
should have bothered to vote) who op-
posed the bonds in the belief that big ex-
pensive facilities are not the best solution
to many community needs.

See my very last comment – an idea
which could fit here at the end of your
opening paragraph. I have spoken have
spoken with some very dedicated teachers
who opposed the school bond because
they treasure our small community
schools and believe, with good documen-
tation to back up their opinion, that
small community schools “personal
schools” is not a felicitous phrase offer
the best education. Supposedly, it is more
expensive to bring a school like Cowee
“up to standard” than it is to build a huge
new building. One must ask: What stan-
dard? And is it the most important stan-
dard for education? What secondary You
don’t need both adjectives costs are there
in responding to traffic, environmental
impacts, or or changes in the communi-
ty? All too often it seems that such evalua-
tions come from contractors and engi-
neers, who may stand to profit from the
construction, or at least, may have a very
limited perspective. (We are encountering
the same sort of response on the issue of
replacing the historic McCoy Bridge in
Oak Grove. Not only have we been told
that it would be too expensive to repair
the bridge, but also that funds for mainte-
nance and construction are separate, and
that there’s money for construction but
not repair....)

Similarly, one of the main reasons
cited for needing a new senior care facility
is the lack of bathrooms. Surely, a couple
of bathrooms could be added on? And if
more space is needed, smaller facilities
that relate to the community would seem
to be preferable. If indeed we cannot keep
Cowee School functioning as a school,
why not have a senior center there, along
with other community activities? The
gym could perhaps make the construc-
tion of a big new recreation building a bit
less necessary. There could be a computer
lab in the old library. And there are other
such possibilities throughout the county,
in other existing buildings.

I would like to emphasize that the
de-centralization of locating small com-
munity facilities throughout the county,
in existing buildings whenever possible, is
not at all the same as the de-centraliza-
tion of constructing big new buildings,
intended for everyone, further away from
the population center, while giving up
more central ones, as in the new library
or health department. Smaller dispersed
facilities, intended for the near-by com-

munity, cut down on driving and are
more personal. Big facilities, intended for
the general public, are less convenient
and require more driving when they are
built less centrally.

Maybe too many words, but here
could you expand on how the two things
are different, i.e. 1) decentralized facilities
spread around the county cut down on
driving time (cost, danger, pollution)
while “centralized” facilities which are in
fact dispersed increase the need to drive,
2) presumably lower cost to adapt exist-
ing buildings. Also, the old health de-
partment building was not abandoned.
Better example? As our commissioners
face the challenge of addressing the
needs of our county, I hope they will
think creatively and comprehensively
fine with me, but is this a hippy wabout
the life in our communities and how to
enhance that, rather than just follow the
typical pattern of bigger and glossier.

We need good schools with space for
our growing population, and good care
for our elderly citizens, and good librar-
ies, and opportunities to participate in
sports and recreation. But construction
of big new facilities is only one option
for addressing community needs, and
even if it’s the right one in some cases, it’s
only a beginning. Maybe our goals could
be to lower the student/teacher ratio, to
have warm caring centers for seniors in
their own communities where kids are
coming in to use the computers and play
a game of basketball. Maybe we could re-
evaluate the possibilities of adding on to
existing schools, and if more space is
needed, creating more small community
schools. Maybe we could make our exist-
ing facilities more open to the communi-
ty for multiple uses. Maybe we could en-
courage our kids to organize some of
their own activities in their local commu-
nities rather than going to a mega-com-
plex. Maybe some of our needs can and
should be filled by local businesses. May-
be we could work toward some good
public transportation (including more
school buses) to cut back on our one car
one person orientation to everything so
that what’s happening in the buildings is
more important than the number of
parking spaces. Maybe its time to talk
about how efficient use of public money
and real community development can go
together and to come up with better, pos-
sibly cheaper, and more environmentally
and community friendly decisions.

Franklin You may not need a new
close, so much as an add-on. I see what’s
happening as maybe beginning, in some
minds with a perceived need which may
be real (in education, recreation, senior
care, what have you) but not evolving
through a careful process of considering
solutions; i.e. leaping to construction

• See LETTERS page 24

... ZONING continued from page 15

Board is considering capping restaurant hours.

At the Wednesday, Nov. 14 Zoning Board meeting Chairman Bill Rethorst suggested an amendment to the zoning ordinance to define hours of operation for restaurants serving liquor.

"We need an expanded component to the ordinance to define business allowances as they apply to alcohol," said Rethorst.

The board was concerned about "bar-like" atmospheres developing in restaurants particularly those adjoining residential areas.

"There's even one on the lake," said Rethorst. "And noise carries on water."

Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz said there isn't anything in the zoning ordinance concerning hours of operation for restaurants and said the restaurants already have their Special Use Permits.

But Rethorst said nothing should be grandfathered, and a previous Special Use Permit doesn't entitle a business to do an all new thing.

Member Tony Potts said the N.C. ABC Board specifically spells out what's allowed.

"For instance, restaurants serving alcohol can't stay open past midnight on Saturdays," he said.

Once restaurants obtain a permit to sell alcohol which costs \$1,000 for liquor-by-the-drink and \$400 for malt beverages, the town, county and fire marshal must also sign off on the request.

But Rethorst suggested permits not be granted or signed until hours of operation are addressed and the ordinance amended. Since such a move would constitute a moratorium, the legality was questioned.

As requested by the Zoning Board, at the Town Board meeting that followed, Betz reported on the hours-of-operation cap requested by the Zoning Board.

Mayor Don Mullen said the town needed to look at the state law and see what it could or wanted to do beyond the state law.

"But there is a potential for restaurants to turn into neighborhood clubs or bars," he said. The suggestion was made to send the question to the Planning Board, but Commissioner Hank Ross said not to.

•See ZONING page 24

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... ZONING continued from page 23

"I'd rather the Town Planner look at the big picture rather than constantly sending items to a seven-person board who doesn't have the resources or the background," he said.

Highlands Plaza

The façade of Highlands Plaza continues to haunt Highlands' boards.

At the Wednesday, Nov. 14 Zoning Board meeting, members asked Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz what the town could do to remedy the situation.

Betz said he didn't think there was much the town could do at this point, that the facelift that took place "slipped through the cracks."

Basically, the stucco-like material on the façade is more than the allowed 30% and work was performed without a zoning certificate.

When Al Bolt, whose mother Margaret O'Donnell owns the plaza, first approached the Appearance Commission and the Zoning Board about giving the plaza a face lift, changes were going to mimic the Car Spa in color and material – that of stone and fiberglass shingles.

Also discussed at the time was a *porta cochere* attached to Bryson's Food Store.

Time went by before anything was done and eventually the Special Use Permit granted for the changes ran out.

Bolt said they rethought the changes and realized the plaza façade structure wasn't strong enough to hold the stone and fiberglass shingles and the *porta cochere* ended up being too expensive an endeavor.

But commission members say instead of returning to the Appearance Commission or any other boards, Bolt moved ahead with plans to re-dress the plaza and applied a stucco-like material on the façade.

Zoning Board members were satisfied with Betz's explanation.

"So basically since we just denied the (SECU) ATM if he goes ahead and builds it without our permission, there's nothing we can do about it?" asked Tony Potts.

Betz said that wasn't likely to happen and that no, it wouldn't be allowed. He said the Zoning Board could take its question to the Town Board or the town attorney but no directive was made.

... LETTERS continued from page 22

and, really, substituting "construction" as the "need" when in reality construction is no more than one of the possible alternatives toward a solution for the original need; i.e. I think the citizenry needs to be provoked into thinking about carts and horses.

And maybe you could talk about how this intersects with the anti-tax sentiment (acknowledging that nobody LIKES to pay taxes) by suggesting it might lead to solutions which are both better and cheaper.

Susan Ervin
Franklin

'Good Samaritans' save dog

Dear Editor,

Isn't it wonderful that we have so many caring people here in Macon County! The story of "Willie" – the 9-month-old hound/shepherd mix is one such story.

According to news accounts someone deliberately tried to run over the dog after having previously hit it. Then the caring people came to the rescue.

First a "Good Samaritan" stopped the truck driver from running over Willie again, followed by the people at the Macon County Humane Society who took over and got the dog veterinarian

care.

Then there were those who helped provide transportation for Willie out to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Angel Canyon, Utah. My husband and I are ardent supporters of Best Friends – as are our children and grandchildren. We are very familiar with the wonderful work this organization does for animals all over the world. Willie will have the proper care and be able to live a full and happy life in their Guardian Angel program -- all because of you who helped this innocent dog – one of God's wonderful creatures. Thank you.

Penny Lavery
Franklin

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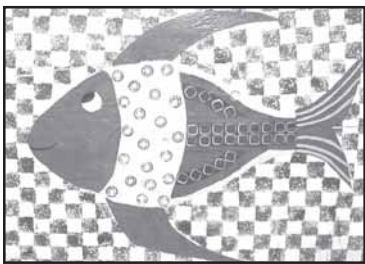
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Is she the "Mother of God?"



Pastor Todd Strubel
Highlands United Methodist Church

Every year about this time – right after Thanksgiving – a biblical figure appears on the scene that is basically ignored the rest of the year. And for good reason: if you pay too much attention to her, you'll be committing the sin of idolatry, of worshipping a false idol.

I am talking, of course, about Mary, the mother of Jesus. If you're a good Roman Catholic, I may have already offended you with the manner in which I have just identified her. It should read, "I am talking, of course, about The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God."

When I was completing my seminary studies, I had the privilege of attending a Jesuit (Roman Catholic) Seminary: Weston School of Theology. I was the only Protestant in the whole student body. I can't say that I stuck out like a sore thumb, but I just was out-of-touch with all the attention given to the BVM (that's shorthand for Blessed Virgin Mary). I did not own a set of prayer beads, a rosary, blessed by the pope. I grew up believing that praying to Mary (or anyone else, for that matter, except to Jesus) was a terrible sin. And we had these tracts – little pamphlets with some story of salvation – with one of them entitled, "Why Is Mary Crying?" She is crying because the devil has deceived millions upon millions of Christians into praying to her, rather than to her Son, Jesus, it said.

I grew up in a church almost afraid of Mary. We were told plainly that she could not intercede for us, not a "mediatrix," and, therefore, we must not pray to her. We were taught that Mary cannot answer our prayers even if we do pray to her. With fear and trembling, we learned that millions of so-called "Christians" were going to hell for believing Mary to be the Queen of Heaven, the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God. Just so we're clear here, though: Roman Catholics do not "worship" Mary, they "venerate" her. Admittedly, something hard for Protestants to understand, but Catholics have a three-tiered hierarchy of worship: worship, veneration, and adoration. Catholics "worship" Jesus. Catholics "venerate" Mary. Catholics "adore" the saints. Enough said.

The only time Mary was allowed out of her confined space in our Protestant belief-system, our theology was once a year...for about a month. She could come and sit next to baby Jesus in the nativity scene. She always looked down at Jesus from a safe distance. I always found that rather odd. Every mother I've ever met has always been holding her baby...almost clutched in joy and protection of her newborn baby.

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 26

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8:30 A.M. - Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 P.M. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 A.M. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

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Frank Scudder presenting a check to Russell Harris, director of Highlands Cashiers Hospital Foundation, from proceeds of the auction of a Carl Kauba bronze. In last week's edition we reported that Jane Woodruff's friend purchased a bronze whose proceeds were donated to Summit Charter School. It was Jane Woodruff who purchased the bronze.



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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 25

It's a shame that Mary has been relegated to such a minor role in our faith (speaking for Protestants here). After all, she really was the first disciple, wasn't she? She was the first to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Savior of the world? That should count for something...something more than a plywood cutout of her placed at the side of baby Jesus in his manger. Heaven forbid that Mary might actually touch the boy, let alone hold him, to show him her love and affection.

And isn't it funny how Mary is often portrayed in our nativity scenes? Sometimes with blue eyes and blond hair – you know, looking like a real Jewish girl. Truth be told, she was probably well-under five-feet tall, long black hair, dark eyes, dark complexion, and around 14 years old when she gave birth to Jesus. The reason she had to go to Elizabeth's house probably had to do with public scorn toward Mary, a poor and out-of-wedlock pregnant teenager. And Jesus was probably born in a cave and not a barn, but that's a whole 'nother story.

Whenever my faith is a quart low, I don't turn to Paul. He's always yelling about something. It hurts my head to read his letters. No, I often turn to those few pages at the beginning of Luke's

Gospel that talk about Mary and what she had to endure to cradle and nurture the Savior of the World. Traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem, by foot and donkey – look at the distance on one of those maps at the back of your Bible. Amazing how she made that trip.

We tend to imagine Jesus being born in the dead of winter, but many scholars think the birth took place in early spring. Either way, the air could be bitterly cold and pierce right through you. And she walked all that way and had to give birth to her son in a cattle stall, with the fumes of dung and the musty mildew of a cold cave surrounding her. And then she no more than settled in – I wonder what kind of crib Joseph made for Jesus? It had to be beautiful. But Mary finally got the corner of their one-room house fixed into a nursery when the message came for them to flee to Egypt.

We don't hear much more about Mary after the return from Egypt. Actually, her portrayal in the Gospel of Luke skips from her having the blood of Jesus' birth on her hands right to her having the innocent blood of her crucified Son on her hands. Yes, for all you biblical literalists out there, there is

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

no actual scene of Mary clutching the dead corpse of her Son after he is taken down off the cross. But can't you put a little common sense into your reading of the Bible? I just can't imagine the last scene of the crucifixion other than as portrayed in Michelangelo's *Pieta*, where Mary solemnly holds the bloodied body of her son in her lap.

In her book, *Portrait of Mary*, Nikki Grimes expresses Mary's feelings after the birth in this way: "I touch him.

These fingers that have kneaded bread and stirred the midday pot now trace the contours of the face that I am told is the Son of God! I take him in my arms, this tiny miracle conceived in me...I wrestle with the memory of my neighbors' stinging gossip [about me], then I recall the angel Gabriel's words of prophecy. *What do those gossips understand of Jehovah's plans?* I ask myself. Then, staring into the face of God's own son, I wonder, *What*

do I? What do I?"

As you go forth into this Christmas season, remember Mary. Allow her witness to encourage your own. Let her faith give strength to your own faith. Let her story remind you that we are all like her – when you really get down to it – because the true meaning of the word "Christian" is "little bearer of Christ."

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. And, thanks be to God, with us, too.

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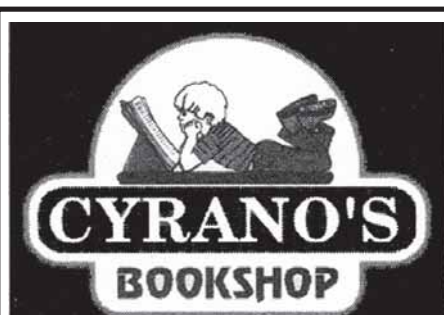
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Yoga at the Rec Park, 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 526-4340 for information.
- November auctions at Scudder's Galleries Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m. Viewing from Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 352 Main St.
- Live music at Fressers in Helen's Barn with Cy Timmons Wed-Sat 6 p.m. until.
- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at



390 Main Street • 526-5488

Upcoming Book Signings

Author Mary Kay Andrews
signing three books
from 1-3 p.m.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin
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Nov. 21-29

ENCHANTED rated PG

Mon – Thurs: (4:10), 7:05

Fri: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

Sat & Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10

BEOWULF rated PG-13

Mon – Thurs: (4:30), 7:20

Fri: (4:30), 7:20, 9:30

Sat & Sun: (2:20), (4:30), 7:20, 9:30

FRED CLAUS rated PG

Mon – Thurs: (4:15), 7:10

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

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

BEE MOVIE rated PG

Mon – Thurs: (4), 7

Fri: (4), 7

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

AMERICAN GANGSTER rated R

Fri: 9

Sat & Sun: 9

the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365 or go to the website: www.ncmana.org.

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

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

- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes. Call Jeanette Fisher at 828-526-1FIT.

- "The Circle of Life" support group continues at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at the Jane Woodward room 201. It is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. 10 a.m. until noon. Call Barbara Buchanan at 526-1402 or Florence Flanagan at 743-2567.

Through Nov. 25

- Antique Estate Silver Show at Bryant Art Glass on 216 S. 4th Street. Call 526-4095.

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Every Monday

- Recreational Bridge 1 p.m. at the Rec Park. \$3 per person.

Every Tuesday

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

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

- 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.

Every Wednesday

- "The Bible Tells Me So" at 6:15 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. The study will meet in the Fellowship Hall — beginning promptly at 6:15 and will last approximately one hour.

- Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club meets at the Highlands Conference Center at 7:30 a.m.

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

- CBC will offer the AWANA program for kids — K-5th grade non-denominational Bible-based program for kids — from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Every Third Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Every Thursday

- Al-Anon Meetings, noon in the First Presbyterian Church basement at Fifth & Main Street.

Every Saturday

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant in the Dillard Village Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m. \$10 cover.

- Children's classes ongoing at Bascom-Louise Gallery — cost is \$5 per student.

Saturdays through Dec. 22

- Santa will be at Town Square to hear Christmas wishes and for photos, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every Friday

- The Girls' Clubhouse meets in the school cafeteria 3-4:30 p.m. All 6-8 grade girls are welcome. Come have fun while serving others. For more information, call Kim Lewicki 526-0782.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Civic Center at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 22

- High Mountain Squares will dance this Wednesday, November 28th at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. All are welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, or 706-782-0943.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 23-24

- The third annual Sapphire Valley Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival will be held indoors Friday and Saturday at the Sapphire Valley Community Center from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The center is located three miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads. The show will feature 20 selected artists and crafters who will display art, photos, woodcrafts, holiday items, pottery, jewelry and other hand-crafted items. Admission is free, and there is ample parking.

Friday, Nov. 23

- Hot Dog and Pumpkin Cake Roll Sale in front of the Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Eastern Star.

- Santa at Town Square to hear wishes and for photos, too, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24

- At Cyrano's Bookshop author Mary Kay Andrews signing three books from 1-3 p.m.

- At Instant Theatre the second annual Tree Lighting Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2.50 for children. No reservations are necessary. Call 828-342-9197 for further information. Refreshments are sold at each event.

- Peace Vigil, at Town Hall, 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by Untie/Unite and Progressive

Hurricane Creek Dance at ITC



At Instant Theatre the second annual Tree Lighting Dance at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2.50 for children. No reservations are necessary. Call 828-342-9197 for further information. Refreshments are sold at each event.

Saturday, Nov. 24, The Instant Theatre Company presents its second Tree Lighting Dance with the ever popular Hurricane Creek. The band will strike up their merry tunes immediately following Highland's annual Christmas Tree lighting and choral singing on the steps of the Methodist church. The Studio on Main is directly across from the Methodist church, upstairs at Oak Square. You will hear the music!

Put on your dancing shoes and dance your way into the holidays. Carolina Eyes in Highlands is Sponsoring this seasonal dance, making tickets for adults at the low price of \$10 and \$2.50 for 17 and under. General Admission.

For further information call the ITC box office at 828-342-9197.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Democrats.

- Santa at Town Square to hear wishes and for photos, too, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after the Town Lighting, too.

- Town Lighting at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Methodist church on Main Street. There will be caroling, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 8-mile strenuous hike from Beech Gap

to the Appalachian Trail and Timber Ridge. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations. No pets

- The Nantahala Hiking will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to several waterfalls and Little Green Mtn in

HHS Christmas Showhouse full of memories

"Oh, the stories this old house could tell!" Virginia Talbot says to Mary Berry, who will decorate one of the rooms in the house that will serve as the Christmas Showhouse, sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. The other decorating will be done by Highlands merchants Cospier Flowers, The Dry Sink, Jackson-Madeleine, Basketcase and the Chambers Agency. The Showhouse will be open from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 1-2, with shuttles from the Civic Center to the house on Big Bearpen Road. Tickets are \$15 each with proceeds benefiting the Historical Society.



Virginia Talbot, left, whose parents Frank and Helene Talbot, owned the house that will be the Highlands Christmas Showhouse Dec. 1-2, recounts some of her memories of happy times in the home for Mary Berry, a former president of the Highlands Historical Society, sponsor of the Showhouse.

The house featured as this year's Christmas Showhouse sits on land that was purchased by N. T. Ragland of Hialeah, Florida from Prioleau Ravenel on July 2, 1925. Shortly thereafter a log structure was built by Highlands' best known builder of log cabins, Joe Webb. The Raglands retained the house for 25 years, then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Reschke of Coral Gables, Florida. It was the Reschkes who sold the house two years later to the Frank Talbot family, who enjoyed the home for 10 years, until 1962.

Virginia Talbot fondly remembers riding up from the family home in Macon, Georgia each summer to enjoy the cool temperatures of Highlands. She laughs as she recalls riding in a station

wagon, pulling a trailer carrying a horse and various other pets, including several chickens, all the way from Middle Georgia. But by 1962 all the Talbot children had grown up and left, so Mr. and Mrs. Talbot, who had almost doubled the size of the home to provide extra bedrooms upstairs and more living area downstairs, sold it to Mr. and Mrs. John Spottswood of Key West, Florida. Virginia remembers how heart-broken the five Talbot chil-

dren were when they learned of their parents' decision to sell the house. "But what could we say? It was the most reasonable thing to do under the circumstances," she adds.

The Spottswoods kept the house six years, then sold it to a couple whose primary home was in the Canal Zone, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Walker. The Walkers only kept the house three years before selling it to the family most present-day Highlands associate with ownership of the house: the Turner Goldsmith family. The Goldsmiths retained ownership from 1971 to 2006 when Tommy and Vickie Chambers bought it. It was they who offered it to be used by the Historical Society as the Christmas Showhouse. Their relatives will use all six bedrooms in the house this weekend when they come to Highlands for a family wedding.

Tickets for the Showhouse are available now at Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Bookshop and Macon Bank.

Town Lighting, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.



Carolers and Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be on hand at the annual Town Lighting on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Methodist Church on Main Street.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Panthertown Valley. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 8:30 a.m., returning 2-3 p.m. Drive 15 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20 people. Call leader Walter Taylor, 743-697, for reservations. No pets please.

Monday, Nov. 26

- The Art League of Highlands and Summit One Gallery on South Second Street in Highlands have arranged for a special tour of the gallery on Monday at 12:45. Meet at the Recreation Park at noon where a light lunch will be provided prior to traveling over to Summit One. Director Mary Adair Leslie will speak on the current "Invitational Exhibit" which features Norma Smith, Mark W. Hutchison and Sara Morgan Wingfield. Members of the Art League of Highlands who are represented by Summit One Gallery are Neal Adams, Kathie Blozan, Priscilla Flowers and Rosemary Stiefel. For further information call ALH President Caroline Cook at 828-526-2742. Guests are welcome for lunch at the Rec Park and the Summit One Gallery tour.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

- Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce Fall Finale and annual business meeting will take place from 6-8 p.m. at Highlands Inn. All Chamber members are invited to attend. Advance reservations can be made by calling the Chamber at 828-526-5841. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Saturday, Dec. 1

- Highlands Historical Society Christmas Showhouse, Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

Tickets \$15 available at Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Book Shop and Macon Bank.

- Highlands Annual Christmas Parade, 10 a.m. on Main Street.

- "I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Sale" in the Instant Theatre Studio, noon to 4 p.m.

- The Highlands community is invited to a free lunch with Christmas music, celebrating the true Christmas spirit, after the parade on Saturday at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Highlands charity organizations will have booths set up to offer information and receive donations.

- Art & Crafts sale by the Artisans of the Highlands Plateau at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field on the Cashiers Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- There will be Christmas Carol Singing after the Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Come sing your favorite carols. Special guests will be the Highlands Male Chorus under the direction of Orville Wike and bagpiper David Landis who will perform with organist Angie Jenkins at the Wicks Pipe Organ. Song leader will be Stell Huie. The church is at 471 Main Street.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5-mile hike to the south face of Whiteside Mtn., descending with extreme caution on the rough and rocky path that the climbers and rappellers use and climbing out by the same steep trail. We will walk beneath the rocky cliffs of the

• See EVENTS page 30

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

mountain, looming spectacularly above, an awesome experience, but NOT FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Highlands Bank of America or at the Whiteside Mtn. parking area at 9:45 a.m. Drive 10 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear gloves and hiking boots. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader, Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. No pets, please.

• The McKim Family invites the community to its Christmas Open House, Saturday from 6-10 p.m., at 181 Chestnut Lane in Highlands, 526-5273.

Sunday, Dec. 2

• Highlands Historical Society Christmas Showhouse, Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Tickets \$15 available at Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Book Shop and Macon Bank. • Highlands Annual Christmas Parade, 10 a.m. on Main Street.

• HCP auditions from 2-6 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Scripts are available at the Hudson Library in Highlands. For questions or more information please call: 526-5440.

mation please call: 828.526.5440.

• East Coast Girls Volleyball showcase for 9th-12th grade girls at the Greensboro Sportsplex from noon-4 p.m. \$40 per player before Nov. 5; \$60 per player thereafter. Call Lucky Dog Volleyball at 877-665-6661.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Kimsey Creek Trail at Standing Indian Camp Ground. Drive 45 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. No pets, please.

Monday, Dec. 3

• HCP auditions from 5-9 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Scripts are available at the Hudson Library in Highlands. For questions or more information please call: 526-5440.

Saturday, Dec. 8

• The Highlands Community Christian

This year for Christmas give to a nonprofit organization

On Dec. 1, after the Christmas Parade, the Highlands community is invited to a free lunch with Christmas music, celebrating the true Christmas spirit, after the parade on Saturday at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Highlands charity organizations will have booths set up to offer information and receive donations.



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Chorale Christmas Concert is at 4 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 9-mile hike on the GA Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell picnic area to Sandy Ford Road with a car shuttle of 10 miles, partly on a dirt road with one stream to ford. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 60 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Doug Deane, 864-718-9265, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Breakfast with Santa at the Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m.

• Mountain Christian Singles will host a Christmas Party on Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin, NC. The turkey/dressing, ham, paper goods, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish in keeping with holiday tradition. Also, we are asking everyone to bring an Un-wrapped toy (\$10 value or more) for Toys for Tots. This is also a 'game night' so bring your favorite board game or cards. Mountain Christian Singles began just over a year ago for the purpose of fellowship and recreation. The group is open to any singles (whether still single, or single again) from high school on up. Activities vary to try to cover everyone's interest. Check out our website @ www.mtncls.org or call Cindi @ 369.7311 for more information.

Sunday, Dec. 9

• The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert is at 7 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church.

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... PREGNANCY from page 2

APPCNC is spearheading an effort to assess the needs and resources for adolescent youth in North Carolina around the issues of adolescent health and adolescent pregnancy prevention/education. This effort is being done in conjunction with the NC Department of Health & Human Services as well as other statewide groups and universities. As part of the project, APPCNC will be gathering information from across the state and compiling a directory of existing resources as well as a catalogue of unmet needs in the communities across North Carolina. Armed with this information, health care providers will be better able to target populations of teens that are underserved or unserved today.

North Carolina's youth deserve to be educated about their health. APPCNC supports a return to comprehensive sex education in public schools. If our current lack of education is contributing to the rate stagnation, then we must turn to what has been proven to work. Comprehensive sexuality education has been scientifically evaluated to produce results. North Carolina needs to abstain from wasted opportunities and embrace proven, effective programs.

During the 2007 Legislative Session, lawmakers took great strides to ensure that pregnancy prevention programs would not be cut. Now it's time to expand those programs. New funding would allow new programs to be started in areas that have greatest need, as well as among populations with traditionally higher teen pregnancy rates. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives (TPPI) grants support curricula that have been scientifically evaluated to work. Now this program needs to be expanded. Every program started is another program that can prevent teen pregnancies.

Studies have shown that parental involvement in the life of a teen is a protective factor in prevention of teen pregnancies. APPCNC advises that parents begin speaking with children about sex by the age of 7, giving them accurate and age-appropriate information. As the children grow, so should the information they're given. APPCNC also advises parents to be "askable," to show the child that you are open and honest about the questions they ask.

"Clearly there is a great deal of work to be done. But we're confident that North Carolina can do it," said Phillips, "North Carolina can once again be a leader in the field of teen pregnancy prevention."

• **About the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina** The prevention of adolescent pregnancy is the business of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC). Please visit www.APPCNC.org for statistics and info.

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Friday, November 23th – 8am – 6pm

Saturday, November 24th – 8am – 6pm

Sunday, November 25 – 11am – 6 pm

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HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEEDED AT THE CASHIERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY a non-profit organization, focusing on preserving the heritage of Cashiers Valley, NC. It owns and operates a House Museum, the Zachary-Tolbert House (circa 1850) in a small mountain resort community in Cashiers, NC. It is an advocate for smart growth, in its role of preserving the past as a guidepost for the future. The ideal candidate will combine excellent communication (oral and written) and leadership skills with the ability to plan and implement programs. An interest in history is also paramount, as well as organizational and human relations skills, computer proficiency and accounting knowledge. A bachelor's degree is necessary and salary is commensurate with experience. This position is 30/hour week (negotiable) with duties including, but not limited to, the following: The Executive Director will oversee the Strategic Plan and programs of the Society. The Director will participate in Marketing the work of the Society and in Fundraising efforts, along with the Board of Trustees. The Director must be able to produce well-written correspondence and newsletters for the Society. The Director must be able to work well with others, as well as being a self-starter. Send cover letter, resume, and contact information for references to zacharytolbert@aol.com

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS seeking waitstaff. Benefits, pre-employment drug screening and background check. EOE. Apply in person at 64 Clubhouse Trail. Highlands, NC 29741. (828) 526-5251.

COMPUTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT ART CENTER — Calling all techies: the Bascom-Louise Gallery is in need of a volunteer to help the nonprofit art center with its computers. From networking to printer issues to backing up their computers, the art center could use an extra person to volunteer his or her time to help. The art center also needs a wide range of other volunteers to help with several different areas: gallery docents, hospitality workers, gallery shop workers, clerical assistants, visitor services, library assistants,

teaching assistants and Movers and Shakers (those who help with prop building, landscaping and other indoor and outdoor physical activities). For more information on volunteer opportunities, call (828) 526-0207.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time, Tuesday through Saturday, position. Responsibilities include storing and distribution of medications, supplies and products, under the supervision of a registered Pharmacist. Responsible for routine audits and maintaining records. Previous experience in purchasing and inventory control preferred. Current licensure is required. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time position. Hours are from 7:00am to 3:30pm. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays. Experience in hospital cleaning preferred. Other cleaning experience helpful. Must be able to communicate and follow instructions in English, both oral and written. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full, Part-time and PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Mandy Talley at 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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WORK WANTED

LOOKING FOR A HOUSEKEEPER? Call: Manuela at 526-9586 (Highlands) Raquel Dugan at 524-4052 (Franklin) also, Experienced Truck Driver Seeks Full Time Employment: Please call 828-524-4052, or call the International Friendship Center to see how we can help! 828-526-9938 x 290.

IN-TOWN APARTMENT — one bedroom, one bath, full kitchen, washer/dryer. Heat & air. \$750 mo. plus utilities. Call 526-2598.

IN-TOWN APARTMENT — 800 sq. ft. one bedroom, one bath. Full kitchen. \$600/month. Call 770-827-0450.

ON MIRROR LAKE — Charming 3 bed, 2 bath. Huge sunroom, stone fireplace, 3 decks, canoe, furnished. Available Nov-May. \$1500 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.

COTTAGE FOR RENT — 1BR, 1BA in town @ Chestnut Cottages. Private, screen porch, Heat/AC, FP, extra sleeping loft, furnished or unfurnished. 6 month lease - \$800. monthly plus utilities. Call 526-1684.

HOUSE FOR SALE WITH "RENT TO BUY" OPTION — In town. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 decks. \$975/month. Sales Price: \$259,000. Ownership arrangement negotiable. Call Jimmy at 970-819-3815.

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HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB — Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. \$2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

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THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE — Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, 3-day min. Call 828-342-2302.

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH — Three master suites with jetted tubs and showers, sleeping nook with private bath, 4 fireplaces, 2 living areas, newly renovated. Private dock with canoe and firepit. Call 828-342-2302.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

UPPER CLEAR CREEK ROAD AT CORNET LANE 1.20+ acres less than 4 miles to Main Street. Paved Access. Some winter views 3 sided corner lot has old logging road as your driveway. \$62,500 Call 526-9021 or 787-2307.

BUCK CREEK; 1600 sq.ft. finished basement, creek front. Handicapped accessible w/elevator; 3 BR 2 large BA. \$329,000. 828-524-6038

UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY on 100 acres in picturesque Mountain Grove, (1A5) Macon County, NC. Combine the pleasures of a secluded mountain valley and high mountain real estate. Live on your own farm with 30 acres of pastures, two barns, a remodeled main house, and a new log cabin for guests. Develop the rest. Or create one spectacular community. Streams and creeks throughout. All this within 20 minutes (via a soon to be paved State Road) of the historic downtowns of Sylva and Franklin. Nothing like it in the whole region. Call or email Tim Ryan at 828-349-4465 for more information. TimRyan@sanctuarync.com - www.Sanctuarync.com

FREE '07 HUMMER 3 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS NEWLY REMODELED HOME — 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH HOME WITH BEAUTIFUL LONG RANGE VIEWS, 2 LIVINGROOMS, RECREATION ROOM, GRANITE KITCHEN, FIREPLACE, GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, CAN BECOME A DUPLEX! \$369,000. CALL 305 458-0033

BEAUTIFUL RV/PARK MODEL LOT — Falls View Resort. Dillard, GA. \$72,000 706-746-0002

LOT — COWEE RIDGE ROAD, Highlands (off Hwy. 64). 4,500 ft. elevation. Great views, Two acres. Southern exposure. 4 bedroom septic installed, community water, paved road, gated community. \$300,000 Firm. Call 478-741-8818. FSBO.

RV LOT — North Carolina Mountains: At Lake Toxaway Lot and 1/2 Beautifully Landscaped with Stone Work and Plantings Yearly Fees \$350. \$120,000. 863-651-1411

COACH CLUB HIGHLANDS NC — Chestnut Street. Gated Motor Coach resort lot in town Very nice 200 sq. ft. Lindal Cedar Coach House. Fully Landscaped with Extensive patio area. Outdoor kitchen, gas fire pit, overlooking 85 ft of stream Rare find. 828-787-1014 or 352-258-4187

CREEK IS FREE! — With the purchase of one or both of these wooded parcels, just off Highway 28 in the NE Georgia mountains within 15 minutes of Highlands. 1.09 acres and/or 1.10 acres on a county-maintained road. Serious inquiries only. Please call 864-710-4577 for information.

IN TOWN — 3 bedroom, 2 bath, stream, large level yard. Easy walk to Main Street. \$450,000, by owner. Call 828-226-6123. 12/21

HOUSE FOR SALE (ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA) — Two bedroom, one and 1/2 bath conch house for sale at Mile Marker 86, near Founders Park on Oceanside. House sits on a 8,520 square foot lot in a great subdivision with a public boat ramp on the next street over. Founders Park, which is across the street, has a park with a boat ramp, marina, pool, beach, tennis courts, etc. Great deal — owner moving out of state. \$475,000. Call 305-852-4369 for more info.

OCEAN FRONT — Beautiful home in Surf City, N.C. zoned residential/commercial. Walk to pier and town. 7-bed, 4 full baths. Separate apartment. Good rental income. Call 919-340-2280.

LAKEFRONT ACRE IN SCALY — \$25,000 OBO. Details. P.O. Box 260789, Pembroke Pines, FL, 33026.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE — Log cabin at crossroads in Cashiers for sale or lease. Call 526-4154.

COMMERCIAL FOR SALE — 3 acres. U.S. 64 frontage, cashiers Road. 2 acres, 3 warehouses, good income. Call 526-4154.

HOUSE FOR SALE — HFCC 2 story split, 3/2, large lot, lake, golf course, mountain views, membership available but optional. \$795,000. Call 526-4154.

LAND BY OWNER — 3/4 acre lot. Close

• CLASSIFIEDS •

to Toan. Very, very, level building lot. Community water available. \$79,000. Call Ginger at 828-526-4959.

OCEANFRONT LOT KEY LARGO, FLORIDA – Cleared, buildable with all services. Last unimproved lot in Silver Shores subdivision. \$599,900. For information and photos call Frank (954) 964-7649 or email fl442@bellsouth.net.

NC, OTTO, 38 ACRES 10 miles from Georgia State line, high elevation, big views, driveway and homesite cleared call owner, 770-952-9100

NEW HOME/CHALET – 10 minutes from town off Turtle Pond Road. 2/1 with loft, .897 acres, 1,177 sq. ft. \$189,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

IN TOWN — 3/2.5 log home. The cottages lakeside at Harris Lake. Less than 2 years old. \$329,000. Call Ty at 828-577-9261.

PINE GROVE TOWNHOUSE CASHIERS. Two bedrooms two and ½ bath. Walking distance to crossroads, restaurants and shopping. Large deck overlooking green lawn \$229,000. Call Manuel de Juan 828-743-1021. Owner broker. Visual tour at www.pixelitvideos.com/townhome

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasee Village: 2.1 acre Lot 48, great building site, adjoins horse farm. \$364,900; and THE premier view Lot 34, best view lot development. \$799,900 Call HUTCH (706) 831-0892 owner/agent.

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

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

BARBOUR COAT Burghley Duster. \$350. Call 526-9027.

MASSEY FERGUSON DIESEL DELUXE 35 WITH POWER STEERING. Completely rebuilt, repainted, new tires. Includes scrape blade, and an 8,000 lbs. tandem axle trailer. Sharp Package! \$7,500. Call (828)526-1684 and leave message.

GENERATOR, portable Briggs & Stratton 10,000 Watt 18 HP 8 Gal Fuel Tank 3 years old. never used. New \$2,199. Now. \$1,000. Call 828-526-4784 or 404-255-4894.

SEII BUNK BED SET – Very Nice Desk; One 11X15 rug, Lt. in color, very good condition; Mountain Bike w/car carrier, helmet. Call 828-526-4064.

ANTIQUA ORNATE WALNUT Victorian gold velvet sofa and blue chair. Call 369-0498 and leave message.

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTURES: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4.50 per board foot. Wormy white oak flooring (milled w/ a t&g), 6-12" widths, \$8.00 per ft.

Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Wide barn siding, \$3/ft. Also historic log cabins and barns ready to reassemble. 215-529-7637. Delivery available.

FREE STANDING WOOD-BURNING STOVE – with blower. \$200. Call 828-349-3534.

FRIGIDAIRE UPRIGHT FREEZER. Excellent condition. \$100.(828) 526-9107.

DINING ROOM TABLE & 8 CHAIRS – (7 w/o leaves) Great for Mountain Home. Nearly New. Good Condition. Leather & Upholstered chairs. \$1,000. Call Linda at 526-1517.

KING-SIZE HEADBOARD, \$40; new glass fireplace screen, (still in box,) polished brass finish, fits fireplace opening Height 24 3/4" - 29 3/4". Width 30" to 37 1/2," \$125. Call 828-371-2999

LATE KENMORE FLOOR MODEL VACUUM 5.0 power with 2-motor systems. \$149. Call 526-4077.

MEDICAL LIFT CHAIR – Used one week. Paid \$615, asking \$500. 526-5558.

ANTIQUA CHERRY DINING TABLE from Estate Sale. Double drop-leaf. Rope carved legs. Seats 4-10 people Extends to 4x10 ft \$2,200. obo 828-787-1515

LARGE BIRDCAGE – 2 1/2 feet high by 1 foot 3 inches wide by 1 foot 2 inches deep. With feeders. \$40. Call 526-9245.

DOG KENNEL. 10' x 10' x 6', heavy gauge chainlink. Like New. \$175, was \$270. call 828.389.2722 Hayesville, NC

DELUXE VENTED GAS heater high btu, slightly used, \$100. 524-6038.

CUSTOM DECK SET – Painted aluminum Love seat & club chair with laminated waverly cushions. \$125. Call 526-1078.

MAHOUGHANY CHINA CLOSET, 6-ft plus, mirror back, 4 glass shelves. Must see. Call 787-2307.

ARMOIRE & DRESSOR W/ 3 WAY MIRROR. Light Maple color. Excellent condition. \$600 for both or will sell separately. 526-9107.

VANITY TOP SINK – 22"x37" with 4" back splash cream color, \$59. Call 526-4077.

NEW SHOWER DOOR – Still in box. 27" wide, gold color. Call 526-4077. \$79.

CHINA CABINETS desk, rope-bed, trunk framed artwork, quilts, and more. Call 828-526-3836.

ANTIQUA BEAMS, FLOORING AND STRUCTURES: Hand hewn beams in oak and yellow pine. Beautiful material, large faces, \$3.50-\$4 per board foot. Original, reclaimed white and yellow pine flooring, random wide widths (6-16") \$6/board ft. Also selling entire log and timber frame structures. 215-529-7637 (www.jcwoodworking.info)

BEAUTIFUL FLOORING: Wormy white oak flooring, resawn, milled and ready to lay w/ t&g, 6-12" widths, \$8/sq. ft. 215-529-7637

LOG CABIN KIT – 32 x 24 8 1/2 inch yellow Pine logs. Walls only. \$9,999. Call 526-0241.

TIME CLOCK, Acroprint Model 125, and time cards. See Bob at SweetTreats, 526-

9822.

BISTRO TABLES, 21" round (black and white), 2 black chairs. (4 sets @ \$125 per set). See Bob at SweetTreats 526-9822.

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

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

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

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

MITSUBISHI 2006 RAIDER PICK-UP TRUCK – 4WD, Tool Box, 10,5000 miles. \$18,000. Call 526-0539.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR SALE – 2002 Discovery – 38P Cat 330 HP. Immaculate. Double Slide. Smoke/pet free. Original owner. All options Electric awnings. W/D. Six new batteries. Extended warranty. Brake Pro. Falcon Hitch. 27,000 miles. \$90,000. Call 743-5593.

1991 HONDA PRELUDE – 190K miles. Runs Good. Looks Good. \$800. Call 200-9824.

2006 SUZUKI DR 200SE MOTORCYCLE – 29 miles, only, perfect condition, 1-cylinder, 4-stroke, 199cc. \$3,000. Call 828-342-6789 or home at 828-526-5507.

HANDICAPPED VAN – Dodge Grand Caravan, wheelchair accessible, automatic ramp, hand controls, 43,900 miles, \$16,000.00 526-9769.

1966 MUSTANG – 2-door coupe. \$12,000. Call 828-883-4214.

1999 CAMARO – New tires, low mileage, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, excellent condition. Call 828-369-3619.

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.

SERVICES

CULLASAJA MASONRY Stone Work -- landscaping with stone, culture stone and rock walls, piers, etc., indoor and outdoor; fireplaces, foundations - block and brick. Guaranteed, Fully Insured. Call 828-342-8132 or email cullasajamasonry@dn.net. 12/13

FIREWOOD "Nature Dired" Call 526-2251.

CUTTING EDGE TREE SERVICE - "Let us go out on a Limb for You." We specialize in tree removal, trimming, Lot/View clearing, under brushing and stump grinding. Quality work and Fully insured. For Free Estimate call 524-1309 or 421-2905.

TREE SERVICE – From view clearing to the most complicated tree removal, under brushing, stump removal/grinding/brush chipping/hauling and storm clean-up. For good quality, dependable services, fully insured, give us a call at 828-526-2251.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID TREATMENT – By J&J Lawn and Landscaping services. NC Licensed Applicator, Highlands, NC 828-526-2251.

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – complete lawn and landscaping service, spring cleanup, gutter cleaning, under-brushing, tree removal, lot clearing, storm cleanup, rockwork, retaining walls, flowerbeds, firewood. 828-526-2251.

SHIPPING SERVICES - STORK'S WRAP, PACK & SHIP UPS Ground & Next Day Air services and large furniture shipping available. Packing services and/or supplies. Gift wrapping and fax services. 323 Hwy 107 N., Cashiers, NC (1/2 mile from crossroads) (828) 743-3222.

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.

MARK'S SEDAN DRIVING SERVICE – All airports – Atlanta, Asheville, scenic tours, parks, special occasions, restaurant trips, auto delivery. Town Car. Call 828-524-0424 or cell (239)-292-3623. 10/25

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

UNIQUE BUSINESS FOR SALE in Highlands. Established Market. Call 828-200-0061.

LOST

LOST DOG IN SHORTOFF ROAD AREA. Australian Shepherd. Blue Merle. Female. No tale. No Collar. Needs seizure medicine. Reward. Call 704-560-2911 or 704-365-9614.

PUPPIES FOR SALE

BOXER/BULLDOG/SHEPHERD PUPPIES: 2 male puppies for sale. One of a kind dog that can box, fight bulls, and guard your house! Mother is CKC boxer/bulldog and father is German Shepherd. \$200. each. Call 526-2465 after 5 p.m.

NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS – 6 male and 4 female - each weighing in at about 1 lb. at birth. Pups should be available to new homes by Dec. 15. noel@atherton.com

Highlands Scholl Girls Varsity Basket Ball Team

The next home games are three in a row:
Tuesday, Nov. 27, against Rabun Gap;
Thursday, Nov. 29 against Hendersonville; and
Friday, Nov. 30 against Andrews.
The girls play at 6:30 p.m. and the boys play at 8 p.m.
There is also a JV boys basketball team this year. Their next home game is Friday, Nov. 30 also against Andrews at 5 p.m.



Head Coach:
Brett Lamb
Assistant Coaches:
George Schmitt
Keri Raby
Stephanie Smathers



Tawny Perez



Taylor Buras



Courtney Rogers



Jessie Johnson



Bobbi Jo Talley



Sarah Power



Brie Schmitt



Devon Potter



Marlee McCall



Kate-Marie Parks



Jessica Gagne



Manager:
Elizabeth Gordon

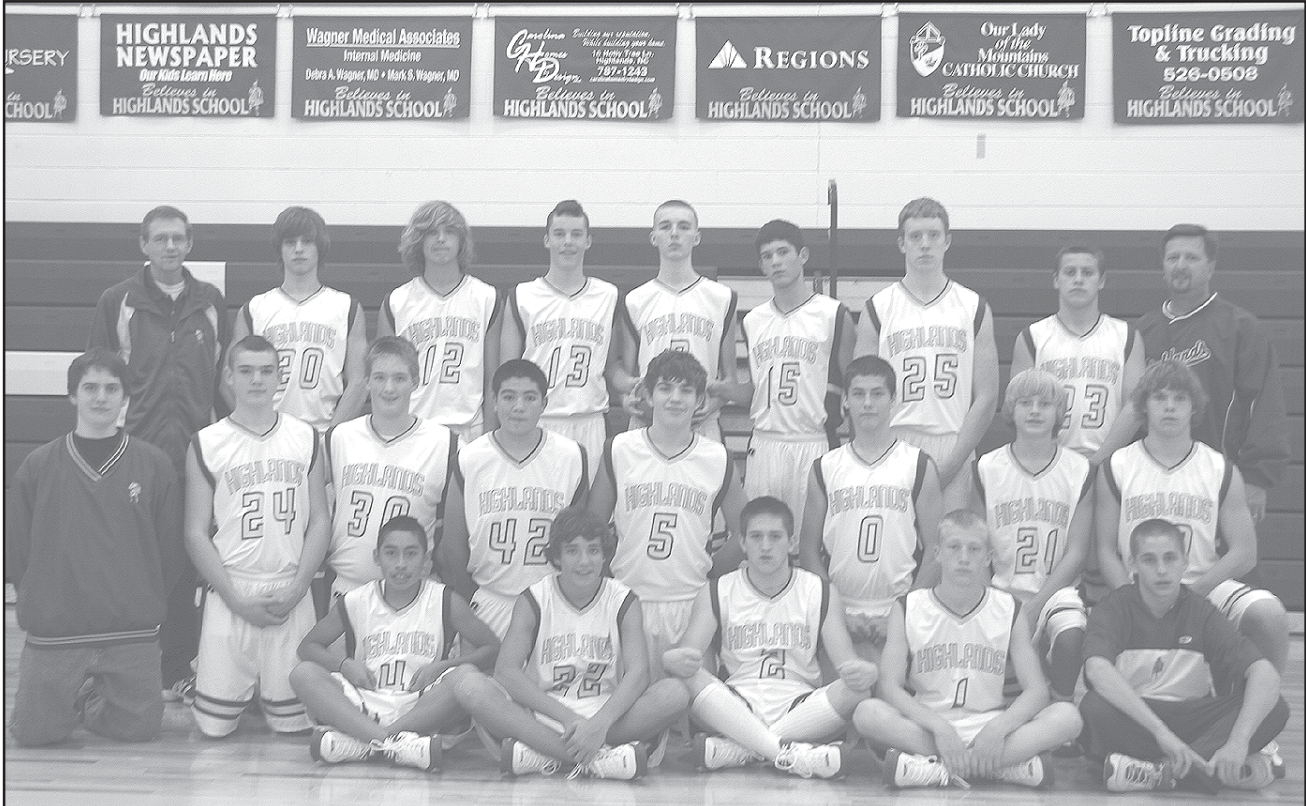
Highlands School Boys Basket Ball Team



Mikey Lica



Chris St. Germain



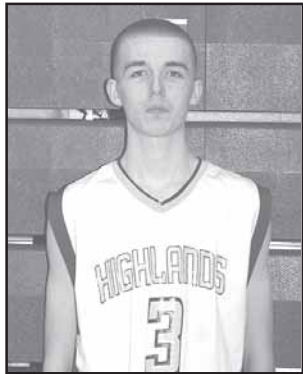
Adam Hedden



Jose Feria



Justin Watson



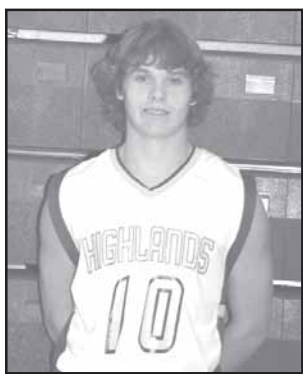
Luke McClellan



Jake Heffington



Ezra Herz



Andrew Billingsley



Michael Baty



Samuel Wheeler



Casey Molinary



Michel Shearl



Robbie Vanderbilt
Austin Brooks



Next three home
games at 8 p.m.:
Tues., Nov. 27
Thurs. Nov. 29
Fri. Nov. 30

Manager:
Aaron Burton
Asst. Coach & Trainer:
Pam Ross
Asst. Coach:
Noel Buras
Head Coach:
Butch Smart

Clayton Lassiter
Josh De La Cruz

Hospital Auxiliary Tree

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

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

Amount: _____

Circle one: In Honor of — In Memory of

Name: _____

Given

By: _____

Address: _____

Send Acknowledgments to: _____

Address: _____



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• STATE & FEDERAL POLITICS •

House bills explained

By Congressman Heath Shuler

Last week the House of Representatives had a busy week, as we finished work before the Thanksgiving District Work Period. We considered several major pieces of legislation to protect our nation, our families, and our children.

In August the Congress passed a short-term extension of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This extension was meant to give Congress the time to necessary to update and improve the permanent FISA statutes to ensure it protects our country and our Constitution simultaneously. H.R. 3773, the Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective (RESTORE) Act, is that improved legislation.

The RESTORE Act will provide our intelligence agencies the latitude and resources they need to track, find, and destroy al Qaeda or any terrorist organizations that wishes to attack the United States, while preserving the vital freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. The RESTORE Act will also ensure the safety and security of American servicemembers. It also clarifies that no court warrant is required to intercept communications between non-U.S. citizens when both parties are outside the United States.

The RESTORE Act passed the House with bipartisan support, 227-189.

On the homefront the House debated and voted on legislation to address the issue of predatory home loans. These predatory loans are causing a crisis in the mortgage industry, threatening the stability of the overall housing market, and leaving thousands of families without a home.

H.R. 3915, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, is comprehensive legislation that will help stop these bad loans from being made in the first place. H.R. 3915 will make sure that consumers get mortgages they can repay, strengthen consumer protections against reckless and abusive lending practices, and give consumers the ability to seek assistance if they are the victim of a predatory loan.

The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act also creates an Office of Housing Counseling within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist families looking to purchase a home, including the certification of computer software programs for consumers to use in

evaluating different mortgage proposals.

H.R. 3915 passed with strong bipartisan support, 291-127.

The House also passed the conference report for H.R. 1429, the Head Start for School Readiness Act, with overwhelming support from both parties. This bill, which will reinvigorate the Head Start program and help more children begin kindergarten ready to learn, passed 381-36.

The conference report is the final draft of a bill. It is the version agreed to by both chambers of Congress, and the version that the President will sign into law.

The Head Start for School Readiness Act will improve teacher qualifications by ensuring that half of the teachers nationwide will have a college degree by 2013; help more programs operate full day and year-round; and improve coordination between Head Start programs and local early education programs to better meet the needs of working families.

Finally, the House passed a series of bills to strengthen the laws protecting our children from Internet predators and to more effectively prosecute those who produce, buy, and sell child pornography. Included in that series was the H.R. 3845, the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats (PROTECT) Act.

The PROTECT Act will authorize the largest increase ever in funding for state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate child exploitation, through the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force program.

Expanding the ICAC program will build state and local capacity and also modernize the way U.S. law enforcement at every level investigate crimes against children.

Current technologies have assisted local law enforcement to identify over 500,000 individuals trafficking child pornography. However, without the necessary resources, local law enforcement officials have only been able to investigate 2% of these cases.

The PROTECT Act would provide our law enforcement officials the tools and resources to investigate and prosecute these offenders.

I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. The PROTECT Act passed with near unanimous support 415-2.

Both houses of Congress are now in recess until December 3rd.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

New York Times Best-selling author Mary Kay Andrews at Cyrano's on Saturday, Nov. 24

Mary Kay Andrews, author of the hilarious "Hissy Fit," "Little Bitty Lies" and "Savannah Breeze," will autograph copies of her books at Cyrano's Bookshop on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 1-3 p.m.

Andrews's entertaining novels are perennial bestsellers at Cyrano's, not to mention on the New York Times fiction list, and she is a particular favorite of owner Clair Simpson, who is excited to have her signing on Thanksgiving weekend.

The Nashville Tennessean called "Hissy Fit" a "good old-fashioned romp with a modern Southern belle taking no prisoners" and said it "entertains on many levels." The night before her wedding, in the middle of an oh-so-smart rehearsal dinner, interior decorator Keeley Murdock chances upon her fiancé and her maid of honor in a very compromising situation. Keeley pitches the hissy fit of the century, storms out and earns herself instant notoriety in her tiny hometown of Madison, GA.

What follows brings a kind of redemption through antiquing as Keely gets a new, eligible client who wants his ante-

bellum mansion redecorated. "Savannah Blues" and "Blue Christmas" take place in the historic Georgia port and "Savannah Breeze" on Tybee Island and involve more adventures of "antique-picking" heroine "Weezie" Foley.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, who has been a reporter in Savannah and at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the author and her husband currently live in Atlanta. But Mary Kay Andrews is a pen name; her real name is Kathy Hogan Trocheck, and under this name she has written 10 mysteries, including the Callahan Garrity mystery series, featuring cleaning service owner-and-operator Callahan (a former Atlanta cop) and her mother. "Midnight Clear," "Strange Brew" and "Happy Never After" are some of the titles. The St. Petersburg Times wrote that "Midnight Clear," is "Suspenseful...Delivering plenty of her trademark wit and sharply drawn New South characters, Kathy Hogan Trocheck packs an even more emotional punch than usual." Under either name, Andrews/ Trocheck is a talented writer.

Cyrano's Bookshop is located at 390

Main Street in Highlands, North Carolina. Books can be reserved for autographing by calling (828) 526-5488 or send-

ing an e-mail to cyranos@nctv.com; to learn more about our store please visit www.cyranosbooks.com.

Sapphire Valley Christmas Craft Show

Friday, November 23
Saturday, November 24
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for this juried indoor show at the
Sapphire Valley Community Center
Route 64, 3 miles east of Cashiers

Friends for Life Benefit Bake Sale

FREE ADMISSION and PARKING
For more information, call 828-743-1163

Century 21 welcomes new agent

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is pleased to announce that Jerry Hudson has joined the Highlands office at Falls on Main as a sales associate, specializing in residential sales.

A 40-year resident of the Cullowhee/Sylva area, Tom has worked in real estate since 1997. A graduate of Western Carolina University, he worked 20 years for WCU as director of athletics fund raising. Tom has served on REACH Board of Directors and the Presbytery of Lifeway Community Church. He has been married to his wife Donna for 38 years, has 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and hiking.



Jerry Hudson

... SEX ED continued from page 11

and healthy living."

Edwards said the program will be phased in beginning with the ninth-grade students this coming spring semester.

However, students can't take the course without parental permission. "We don't

want anyone to think we are cramming this down their children's throats," said Swank.

Initially, the teacher will be paid out of the school system's \$500,000-plus fund balance. Next year, funding for the course and teacher will be budgeted.

"Heart of the High Country"

Highlands' Own
TV Show...on Northland
Cable Channel 14.



Everyday at 8 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 7 p.m.,
10 p.m., & midnight.
The Visitor Information Program
airs at 7 am, 9 am, 4 pm, 6 pm,
9 pm, and 11 pm.



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Golf PEBBLE BEACH for FREE!

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BLOW OUT SALE!**

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50% Off all other brand clubs

7 Days A Week 24 Hours
A Day...Even Holidays

We will locate, excavate and pump it!



Mention this ad & SAVE \$25

Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning of Highlands and Cashiers now offers septic tank pumping, drain field cleaning and septic field location.

Think your drainfield needs replacing?
The majority of drainfield problems occur due to build up in the drain lines. Roto-Rooter can clean lines, saving you thousands of dollars when compared to replacing lines.

Based in Highlands • Call 526-8313 • Free Estimates

• THANK YOU'S •

Community makes Fall Festival a success

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Highlands School PTO I would like to express my gratitude to the many individuals and businesses that helped make our Fall Festival a huge success.

Thank you to the senior class, senior parents and senior sponsors for all their hard work to put everything together, to all the teachers and staff members that volunteered, to all the parents that donated time and energy; Debbie Lassiter, Brit Iannacone, Debbie Holt, Mandy Underwood, Carla Gates, Monica Calloway, Renee and Al Bolt, Tamara and Tay Brounaugh, Marjorie Crowe, Laurie Walsh, Selwyn Chalker especially Dr. Patti Wheeler for coordinating the Haunted House and Bessy & Noel Buras with the help of Mike Murphy for giving us a new exciting game of basketball. Much appreciation goes to Steve and Kim Chenoweth who although their children have graduated, still donate their time to make the cake walk our most popular feature. Thank you to the Highland Rotary Club for hosting our Bingo, the Highlands Mountain Top Rotary Club for lending lots of extra hands in the kitchen, the Highlands United Methodist Church for supplying the balloon booth and the castle bounce and volunteers to staff each station all night, Selwyn Chalker and the Highlands Recreation Park staff for the lending of sound and Bingo equipment, the Highlands Police Officers who supervised and The Girls' Clubhouse for helping us sell raffle tickets.

We were very fortunate to have so many wonderful sponsors this year! Thank you to our \$500 Maple Sponsors; Gates Nursery, Wilson Gas, Country Club Properties, Subway, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Yates, JW Underwood Construction, Highlands Pharmacy, and Annawear, our \$250 Birch Sponsors; Tate Landscaping, Laughridge Golf, The Dry Sink, Cleaveland Realty, Topline Grading and Trucking, Edwards Electrical, Highlands United Methodist Church, Highlands Medical Associates, our \$125 Dogwood Sponsors; Bed & Bath Designs, Carter Potts, The Buras Family, Edward Jones Investments, The Diamond Family, DeWolf Architecture, Schmitt Building Contractors, Highlands Gem Shop, House of Wong, Whole Life Market, CK Swan our \$75 Poplar sponsor; Jack Mayer, our \$50 Oak sponsors; Highlands Office Supply, The Custom House, Starpony Electronics, the Gomes Family; our \$25 Hickory sponsors; Wholesale Down Comforters, Chambers Agency, Kilwins, Highlands Wine & Cheese Shoppe To the business's that donated raffle prizes; Bryson's Food Store, Reeve's Hardware, RBC Centura and High Country Photo.

Most of all thank you to each of you who attended. Your support of our school does make a difference. I am so grateful to be part of such a generous community. Thank you again,

Andrea L Chalker
PTO

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• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 12-21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

- Nov. 12
 - At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza. There were no injuries.
- Nov. 16
 - At 5:15 p.m., a larceny from a car at South Street and Satulah Road was reported. A wallet and the cash and VISA and Discover credit cards were stolen.
- Nov. 17
 - At 4:45 p.m., a motorist at Dogwood Lane and Azalea Circle was cited for reckless driving at the scene of an accident. No one was injured.
- Nov. 19
 - A little after midnight, the New York Times

and The Highlander newspaper coin boxes outside Main Street Pharmacy were broken into. \$200 was stolen from the New York Times box and \$12 was stolen from The Highlander box.

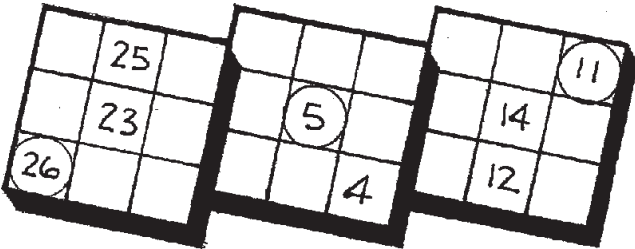
- The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 14-20.
- Nov. 14
 - The dept. responded to a call of a transformer on fire at Mirror Lake Road and U.S. 64 west. The town crew took care of it..
- Nov. 15
 - The dept. responded to the call of a small brush fire at a residence on Cole Mountain Road. It was extinguished.
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Spring Street. There was no transport.

- Nov. 17
 - The dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Mountain Shadows Road. The dept. cleaned out the fireplace and extinguished the fire. There was no damage.
- Nov. 19
 - The dept. responded to a power pole problem on Mac Wilson Road. The call was cancelled en route.
 - The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a fire at the Carolina Smokehouse, but the call was cancelled en route.
- Nov. 20
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mac Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.
 - The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cherokee Drive. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• FUN & GAMES •

PseudoCube[©]

#BZ1C - Level of Difficulty - Easy

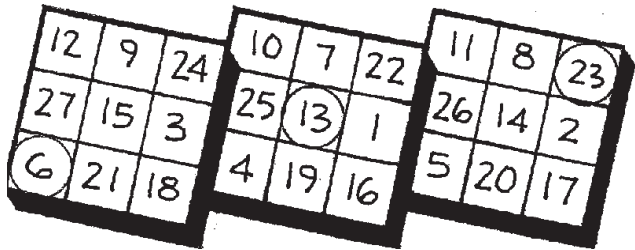


THE SETUP:
The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running 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 the other numbers given. Now pour a cup of coffee, pick up a pencil and eraser and try to figure out where the other numbers belong. Good Luck!

The first correct solution emailed earns a coupon for a FREE cup of coffee from Buck's Coffee Cafe on Main Street.
Email: pseudocube8@aol.com

Solution to #AZ3C in Nov. 15 issue



N-Cryptoku[©]

Object: Assign 9 different letters to each cell of 9 columns and 9 rows. In addition, nine 3 x 3 cells in the layout have the same nine different letters (this is similar to Sudoku but uses nine letters instead of nine numbers). A 'mystery word or phrase' using all nine different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different 'mystery word or phrase' (no spaces).

How to Solve: Determine the nine different letters among those given. Try to solve the mystery word using the clue given and write it in. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these ACROSS/ DOWN words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in all blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a line, column or 3 x 3 cell.

- Mystery Word**
"A Fool"
- Across**
- Highest point (3)
 - Large weight (3)
 - Roster (4)
 - _____, the lion (3)
 - It is (abb.) (3)
- Down**
- Boy's name (3)
 - Drench (3)
 - A few (4)
 - Fasten (3)
 - End of stick (3)

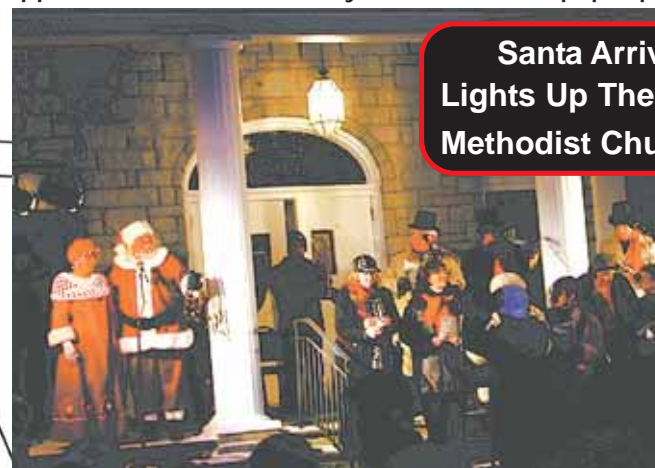
1	O			N			I	
I		S	M	6	P	N		O
	L		7	O		P		
P		E	O			I	8	L
	I		9	L		2	O	
O		3	I		T	P		10
	S			P		E		
N		I	4	L		O	S	P
	P		5	I			N	

Solution to Nov. 15 puzzle

U	C	E	A	N	W	O	M	R
N	M	O	R	C	U	A	E	W
W	A	R	E	M	O	C	N	U
M	N	U	O	E	R	W	C	A
C	O	W	M	A	N	U	R	E
R	E	A	W	U	C	M	O	N
O	W	N	U	R	M	E	A	C
A	U	C	N	O	E	R	W	M
E	R	M	C	W	A	N	U	O

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[illegible]

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Community Players



Madison's Wine Spectator

Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals

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DINING

Shopping

Real Estate

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Cyprus | 1 | Acorns | 1 | Buyer's |
| 2 | Fressers | 2 | AnnaWear | 2 | Century 21 |
| 3 | Golden China | 3 | Bear Mt. Outfit. | 3 | Chambers |
| 4 | Log Cabin | 4 | Bungalow | 4 | Country Club |
| 5 | Madison's | 5 | Dry Sink | 5 | John Schiffli |
| 6 | Main St. Inn | 6 | Elephant's Foot | 6 | Meadows Mtn. |
| 7 | Oak St Cafe | 7 | Raspberry Fizz | | Galleries |
| 8 | Paoletti | 8 | Silver Eagle | 1 | Bryant Art Glass |
| 9 | Pescado's | 9 | Stone Lantern | 2 | Tino Gallery |
| 10 | Rib Shack | 10 | Village Kids | 3 | Twigs |
| 11 | Wolfgang's | 11 | Wholesale Down | 4 | Summit One |

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