

Highlands' Newspaper FREE

Volume 5, Number 48

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Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007

On-going

- December 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.

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.

Though Saturday, Dec. 15

- Macon County Boys Basketball sign-ups. Call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

Saturdays through Dec. 22

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

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 1 & 2

- HHS Christmas Showhouse, from 1-5 p.m. Tickets \$15 available at Country Club Properties, Cyrano's Book Shop & Macon Bank.

Saturday, Dec. 1

- Highlands Annual Christmas Parade, 11 a.m. on Main Street. Participants meet at 10 a.m. on Fifth Street.

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

- Free lunch with Christmas music after the parade at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

- 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.

- At the First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Carol Singing after the Christmas Parade at 2 p.m.

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

- Eastern Star Cream Cheese Pumpkin Roll & Pecan Sale from 10 to 12 pm. near 3rd & Main and 5th & Main, and at Bryson's from noon to 2 p.m. Pumpkin Rolls are \$10 each and \$7 for a 1lb bag of pecans.

Sunday & Monday, Dec. 2 & 3

- HCP auditions from 2-6 p.m. at PAC on Sunday and 5-9 p.m. on Monday. Scripts are available at the Hudson Library in Highlands. Call 526-5440.

County struggles over room tax committee

The final makeup of the county's Occupancy Tax Study Committee is still in the works.

At the Nov. 26 Macon County Commission meeting, the board took a stab at appointments but refrained from finaliz-

ing members from Franklin until the Dec. 10 meeting.

"There will be no action to-night," said Chairman Charlie Leatherman. "We will resolve this by the end of the week and take it up at the next meeting."

The structure of the committee as approved by the county commission includes nine members — two County Commissioners, Bob Simpson and Brian McClellan; one Town Board member

• See ROOM TAX page 8

Highlands blamed for school bond failure

A public hearing about financing \$2.6 million to purchase property for the new 5-6 school in Franklin initiated emotional discourse from the audience and commissioners Monday night.

At the Nov. 26 county commissioner meeting, first the public spoke — all against the idea — and then Chairman Charlie Leatherman and Commissioner Jim Davis spoke in defense of the board's inclinations.

First at the podium was Norm Roberts whose potentially lengthy dialogue was cut short when it strayed from the specific purpose of the public hearing.

"This is not a grandstanding event," said Leatherman. "This is a public hearing on an issue specified. If you can't limit your comments to that, we will go on to the next speaker."

Roberts skipped to the end of the speech asking the board to announce that it had made a hasty decision concerning the school bond; suggested a citizen steering committee be formed to give the county financial advice concern-

• See HIGHLANDS page 7

Weekend Weather:

FRI	SAT	SUN
47-27°F	50-30°F	51-32°F

Town prepares for parade



The school, churches, civic and nonprofit organizations and businesses will strut their stuff Saturday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. when the annual Christmas Parade takes place on Main Street. The parade begins at Main and Leonard streets and ends at Second Street. Photo by Jim Lewicki

School building discussed

With the bond dead, reprioritization of the school system's capitol building program is needed.

At the Nov. 26 Macon County Commission meeting, the school board and its architect Mike Watson explained how postponement of construction will affect the county's pocketbook.

"The bond didn't pass, but our needs didn't go away," said Schools Superintendent Dan Brigrman. "We still have health and safety issues, 27 portable classrooms and the need to take a look at the district as a whole."

With \$2 million in Quality Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) interest-free funding secured

through Bank of America, renovations at East Franklin are set to begin Dec. 17. But after renovations are complete, new bathrooms, a new gym and three new classrooms need to be constructed. The old "playroom" at East Franklin will give way to three new classrooms which means a gym is needed. New construction at East Franklin at today's rates will cost \$4.9 million.

Also planned is the 5-6 school across from Macon Middle School on Clarks Chapel Road. At Monday night's meeting commissioner agreed to fund \$2.6 million to purchase the five acres through

• See SCHOOL UNION page 10

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Credit union kiosk may be reconsidered

Though the Zoning Board of Adjustment denied the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Special Use Permit (SUP) application two weeks ago, the project may still be allowed.

The Zoning Board denied the application on the grounds that the 92 sq. ft. kiosk, to be erected at Second Street in Highlands Plaza, constituted a building and as such should have to comply with the minimum 800 sq. ft. building requirement with parking supplied.

At the Nov. 14 Town Board meeting that immediately followed, commissioners overruled the Zoning Board on the grounds that too many employees in town need the services of the SECU ATM kiosk — namely town, county and school employees.

Commissioners agreed to ask the Planning Board to consider an amendment to the ordinance exempting ATM kiosks from the minimum 800 sq. ft. building requirement.

At the Nov. 26 Planning Board meeting, members voted in favor of the proposed amendment of the zoning ordinance presented by Interim Zoning Administrator Richard Betz, with minor verbiage changes.

"Automatic Teller Machines, whether attached to building walls or free-standing, shall not be subject to the minimum of 800 square foot of floor space required

• See CREDIT UNION page 18

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Things aren't always what they seem



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

Perception is a tricky thing. People use it everyday and assume it represents reality. In fact, sometimes it does, but oftentimes it doesn't.

The result of misperception has been felt throughout Macon County lately.

- The Macon County School Board funded signs promoting passage of the school bond.

The perception? It blatantly defied the law thereby committing an illegal act.

The reality? Ignorance of the law.

- The Macon County Commission hired M.C. Horton to replace County Manager Sam Greenwood.

The perception? Horton had been illegally hired in a closed session.

The reality? Horton jumped the gun and announced his resignation prior to a final vote in the open session at the next regular Macon County Commission meeting and his employer jumped the gun by publicizing his new job.

- The school bond fails after the Highlands vote is tallied.

The perception? Failure of the school bond was Highlands' fault so Highlands doesn't care about education in the rest of Macon County.

The reality? Most of Macon County don't care about education or anything else to do with the future of Macon County because only 30% of eligible voters voted.

In the end, 135 votes that came in from Highlands defeated the bond but if Franklin's votes had come in after Highlands, then Franklin would have been blamed for its defeat.

- The sale of liquor and beer by the drink in Highlands passes at the polls.

The perception? Highlands cares about drinking liquor and beer but not about children's education.

The reality? The only common denominator between those two statements is the fact that they were both on the recent ballot.

• See FORUM page 23

• LETTERS •

Help solve hunger problem in Western NC

Dear Editor,

As most Americans prepare for Thanksgiving, 35 million Americans, including over one million in North Carolina struggle to put food on their tables, and food bank inventories nationwide – including MANNA FoodBank – are scarce. Please make the holidays a time to recommit to helping those who face hunger in Western North Carolina.

We've made it easy for you.

From now until the end of the year, you can donate food at any Ingles store in WNC; just look for the red MANNA barrels. And find the placard at the register that asks you to add a dollar to your grocery bill, and instantly, you will have made a difference.

Want to do more? Help reach our Senators Dole and Burr about a critical vote. The Senate stalled debate on a Farm Bill that could bring much needed hope to food banks and hungry Americans. Food banks are suffering as a result of a more than 70 percent decline in support from a federal food aid program in recent years. Strong agricultural markets have led to drastic reductions in food purchased and distributed by the Federal government.

Shelves continue to go empty every day that the Farm Bill is not enacted.

MANNA has 26 partner agencies in Macon County that served clients 20,397 times with a total of 386,621 pounds of food last year. To help more, we need a Farm Bill this year that provides increased funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and strengthens the Food Stamp Program. Specifically, we need at least \$250 million a year in mandatory funding for TEFAP, with the amount indexed for inflation to ensure that we can continue meeting the increased need for emergency food assistance in Western North Carolina.

The House of Representatives passed its version of a Farm Bill in July that would provide more than \$4 billion in new investment in federal nutrition programs. The Senate is expected to resume debate on its version of the bill following the current Thanksgiving recess.

Hunger is a solvable problem, but the charitable sector cannot do it alone. Please contact Senators Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole today and urge them to pass a Farm Bill and bring home a victory for our hungry neighbors in our community. You can contact the Senators via a special Farm Bill hotline (800-826-9624) or through their websites: dole.senate.gov or burr.senate.gov.

Kitty Schaller

MANNA Executive Director

• THANK YOU'S •

Thankful for prayers

Dear Editor,

Many of you have heard of me, a Highlands resident and business owner for 16 years. I was diagnosed by Dr. Heffington as having a "mass on the brain" on Saturday, Oct. 13.

It was a big shock to my doctor, to me, my wife, June, and to many of you now. He told me to see a brain surgeon ASAP. On Monday, Oct. 15, I met with Dr. Loomis at 8 a.m. He explained in detail that it appeared on the MRI that I had a tumor on the cerebellum right where the spinal column entered the skull. This caused an interruption in the passage of necessary fluids into the brain cavity. He said he needed to operate but because of my taking aspirin, my surgery was put off until Tuesday, Oct. 30.

My children and daughter-in-law came for a big dinner bash in Asheville before my surgery the next morning. It was wonderful!

I awoke sometime Tuesday afternoon to a bad headache, upset stomach and difficulty balancing – all of which I still have but to a lesser degree.

The thing is, I am amazed at the numbers of you who "heard" about me and my condition and wanted to pray for me. I know there are many of you, just as I know that if you heard then you believed and if you believed then God heard and answered your prayers. Prayers are the most powerful tool that God has given us. Thank you, God, for revealing that to me and to others.

As I slowly recuperated, I was overcome with how God has used little ole me, as weak as I am in my own faith and witness, to reach out to win so many to Himself! We have an awesome God who takes advantage of everyday life events to make Himself known and to give Himself the glory that He deserves!

God Bless you all who somehow participated with me, prayed, sent cards and called others to pray in my behalf.

Bill Hogue
Highlands

• See THANK YOU'S page 3

Burning ban lifted

The Macon County Fire Marshal's office has lifted the burning ban for fires located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling. Fires outside the 100 foot area of an occupied dwelling are still prohibited by the N.C. Division of Forest Resources. The burning ban may be reinstated if dry conditions persist.

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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... THANK YOUs continued from page 2



At the opening affair of the Highlands Culinary Event, Nov. 8, Macon County Commissioner Brian McClellan (District I) tried the fare at The Oak Street Cafe area compliments of Executive Chef Charles Emrick.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Culinary event off to a great start

Dear Editor,

THANK YOU – to everyone who helped make the First Annual Highlands Culinary Weekend such a huge success, and to everyone who participated in and enjoyed what's sure to be a not-to-be-missed event in the coming years.

It is amazing for me to see what started as a conversation between a few restaurant owners some years ago become a successful reality that brought together an entire community. A delightfully delicious opening night party; myriad classes, activities and symposiums; and, of course, inspired dinners and events throughout the weekend brought success beyond all our expectations.

Much of the credit for the event's success goes to the staff of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center – Bob Kieltyka, Jan VanHook and Laura Harison – whose dedication and hard work made the event happen. Thank you to the Town of Highlands, the Town Board and Mayor Mullen, the Highlands Police and Fire Departments, the event committee and all of the volunteers who kept things running smoothly throughout the weekend.

I appreciate the support and vision of our inaugural sponsors: The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, the *Laurel Magazine*, *WNC Magazine*, WHLC 104.5 FM, *Views Magazine*, Lakeside Restaurant, Log Cabin Restaurant, A Moment in Time Photography, Stözle-USA, Artsource, Inn at Half Mile Farm, Oak Street Café, Old Edwards Inn & Spa, ...on the Verandah Restaurant, Oxford Properties LLC, Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, 4 ½ Street Inn, Cool Cats Hot Dogs Boutique, Cyranos' Bookshop, Harry Norman Realtors, Macon Printing, The Instant Theater Company and The Old Rangoon.

And finally, a heartfelt thanks to all the participants: Cyprus Restaurant, Fireside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery, Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop, Lakeside Restaurant, Main Street Inn, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Oak Street Café, ...on the Verandah, Ristorante Paoletti, SweetTreats, The Log Cabin Restaurant, Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Appellation Wine Company, Beam Wines Estates, Billington Wines, Biltmore Estates Wines, Crew Wine Company, Dionysus, Empson USA, Frederick Wildman & Sons, Gallo, Grapevine Imports, Grapevine of North Carolina, The Grateful Palate Australian Imports, J Lohr Wine Estates, Laurent Perrier Champagne, Napa Ridge, Harlow Ridge and Salmon Creek, Olde World Wines, Pacific Southern Wines, Patz & Hall Winery, Ravenswood Winery, Rodney Strong Vineyards, Rosemount Estate, San Francisco Wine Exchange, SDG Selections, Skyland, Southern Slopes, Vin Divino, Vine Connections Fine Argentinean Wines & Japanese Sake, Vineyards Brands, Wilson Daniels, Wimbledon Wine Company, Winebow and Leonardo LoCascio Selections and Wisdom Beverage. I look forward to even greater success next year and in the years to come!

Marlene Alvarez

...on the Verandah Restaurant
Committee Chair, Highlands Culinary Weekend

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New Construction in the Mirror Lake area. Brand new 4 BR, 4.5 BA home. Each BR is like a master suite with private baths, granite tops and tiled showers. Great kitchen with double ovens and island. Breakfast room open to kitchen plus a separate dining area. Great wood work throughout. 2 car garage. For in-town, new construction this is a must have!! \$895,000



Nestled on the Cullasaja River in town of Highlands is this incredible Tom Chambers log home built in 2005. With a private dock, fire pit and canoe launch this home is the perfect Appalachian Mountain Home. 4 BR on the main level and 2 BR upstairs. Plus a den and magnificent covered deck. A charming two car carport, privately gated and impeccable landscaping. A real chef's kitchen with industrial grade appliances. Too many high end features to mention. \$1,995,000



Best Cottage in the bunch at Highlands Cove. Sitting at the very top offering huge views, great privacy, audio and video upgrades! Granite throughout kitchen and baths, European styled vessel sink in powder room, deck with fireplace. One car carport with a storage room. Great view!!



Wonderful home in Highlands Falls CC with soaring ceilings in the greatroom, kitchen and master bedroom. Large eat-in kitchen which opens onto an expansive covered and open deck. The fireplace is exceptional. This lot fronts the 13th fairway and with some trimming could have a great view of golfers making their 2nd shot. Already has a mountain view. \$759,000



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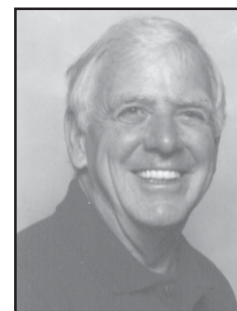
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

If you're oversexed, call me!

Warning: This column contains dastardly sexual material. If you are easily embarrassed, I suggest you have a friend blot out all the real juicy stuff before you read it.



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback
is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

I was elated to learn Macon County School administrators are ready to try a proactive approach to sex education. I am also happy that, in their infinite wisdom, they decided to use a healthy, living teacher. This will prove to be sooooo much better than the half dead one that taught me sex education.

She was real scary. Her name was Mrs. Crumb (I am not making this part up) and not only was she severely breast challenged, she was a snaggletooth babe who worn her hair in a bun and had bad breath. She was as mean as a snake.

On the first day of class she handed out coloring books with birds and bees on them. After coloring every picture in the book, we got down to the nitty-gritty....the subject of "pollen."

Here's how she explained it. Bees, while collecting nectar from flowers, get pollen on their little feet and hands, then they fly to another flower and, along the way, pollen falls off and pollinates with another flower. This, I found out later is called "flower sex." I am still not sure how this process got little Katy Jenkins pregnant in the 8th grade but I am sure a bee was involved.

Here's another fact you might want to write down. All the people who were taught sex education during that era went on to become "flower children" of the sixties and were actually "doing it" in flower fields at Woodstock and other places. Thank you, Mrs. Crumb.

Anyway, a year after completing my required birds and bees course, I met Larry Robinson. Larry gave me another version of the birds and bees theory on sex. Here is what I learned. First, you find a 9th grader who will give you a condom. You place the condom in your wallet and sit on it for many weeks until the imprint of the condom shows through the wallet. Then you proudly display it in front of the girls while paying for stuff. If they giggle, they are "ready to pollinate."

It is important to change out your condom every year as they become

dried out and start to disintegrate in your wallet. This can get real messy, so don't forget to put a fresh one in every January 1st.

I have suggestions for the Macon County School Board concerning their selection of a sex teacher. Do not, I repeat, do not pick a hot babe for this assignment. History has already taught us what problems hot babes at school can start. Also, be aware that your definition of a hot

babe may be different than a 9th grader. Surely you already know that male 9th graders can get sexually aroused even while dissecting a female frog. Any teacher with a semblance of breasts who wears a skirt is considered a hot babe. If she doesn't look like Mrs. Crumb, she is a hot babe.

You may want to go with a guy as your sex teacher, but, again there can be problems. I was a rookie cop during the sex craze of the 60s and once went to our local high school to teach driver's safety. After assembling in the auditorium, I learned I would be preceded by an expert on sex education. A young, handsome guy appeared on stage and began his lecture. Then it happened. Several senior hot babes wearing mini skirts and sitting on the front row, decided to give the teacher a thrill. He completely wiggled out, lost his concentration and had to leave. My point is this. Even if your guy teacher looks like Raul Castro with a harelip, your girls still may invite him to join them in the flower fields.

Here's another tip for the school board. Once you have selected your Mrs. Crumb look-a-like, distribute pictures of her to all your male students. I kept a picture of Mrs. Crumb in my wallet right next to my condom. If, by chance, I became sexually aroused in the back seat of a 55 Chevy, when I reached for my condom I had to first remove the picture of Mrs. Crumb. POW, that did it for me.

Oh, and before I forget, the reason I wanted you to call me if you're oversexed is I think I still have Larry Robinson's phone number and I hear he's still sexually active.

Going home? Read Fred's column all year at: <http://www.highlandinfo.com/newspaperdownload.htm>

• ANOTHER VIEW •

A hard loss to bear

A wonderful man died last week. Chris and Mandy Horne moved to Cashiers from Jackson Hole, WY just a few months ago, in time for Chris to assume his duties as director at the Summit Charter School.

Last Wednesday, Chris died in a tragic automobile accident while on a surfing vacation to Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Mandy is back in the states recovering from injuries suffered in the crash, one in which another car crossed the center line and struck the Horne's car head on. We wish Mandy a speedy and complete recovery and hope for her return to our community. Those of us who came to know and love Chris in such a short time cannot imagine the sense of loss that Mandy feels.

We met Chris when we enrolled Bull in the fifth grade at Summit. Mr. Horne was still settling into his office, but greeted us warmly as if nothing else in the world mattered except our concerns. I remember Chris as tall and thin, with a wide, slightly goofy smile that both welcomed and amused me. Chris and Mandy had decided to move east to be nearer their parents, her's in Tennessee and his in Virginia.

Chris was a remarkable man with the confidence to pursue his dream to teach and mold young minds. In a profession under-represented by strong men, Chris was a bastion. He was hard enough to be soft, assured enough to be vulnerable. His love of children was matched by his concern for the environment. He believed that if he could instill his love for the Earth in students, his effect would be multiplied. If each student and former pupil did his bit by protecting a bit of the planet, the bits would coalesce. Eventually these specks might grow enough to nurture rain forests to soak up carbon dioxide, build coral reefs to house marine life, and maintain Arctic ice to ensure the survival of the polar bear.

We took a fifth grade field trip to visit Clingman's Dome. Mr. Horne met us there, driving his hybrid Prius. I remember a bumper sticker which read, "Consider Conservation." Lizzie remembers it as "Consider Consumption." It doesn't matter. It's the same message, read through opposite sides of the window. Mr. Horne wouldn't get in



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

your face about conservation, or consumption. He led gently. He offered Bull a ride in the Prius, but told me that it might be a little slow compared to the cars he had seen me drive.

Bull loved Mr. Horne. He asked Bull for advice. Imagine a head master soliciting advice from the newest kid in school. Imagine a principal asking advice from any student. Ironically, we saw Chris and Mandy at the Atlanta airport just before

their departure for Cabo San Lucas and ours for Turks and Caicos. We talked about the total solar eclipse that passed over Cabo in 1991 and planned to view the one due here in a few years. We shook hands, each wished the other a Happy Thanksgiving, a safe and enjoyable journey. Lizzie hugged Chris for the first time. She's happy now for her openness. I wish I had said more about what he and the school had meant to Bull and us. When I was a kid learning to spell, I learned to distinguish between "principle" and "principal" because the principal is your "PAL." It never made much sense until now. Mr. Horne was our pal; his students, parents, faculty, staff, neighbors, Lizzie's, Bull's, and mine.

I asked Lizzie what she remembers most about Mr. Horne. He was standing in a drenching rain, clad in a yellow slicker, holding a bull horn to his lips and leading his 170-plus students in a recitation of the school pledge. "Each day in my words and in my deeds I will do my best to live by these seven virtues...Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Self discipline, Compassion, Perseverance, and Giving." The school couldn't have picked a better person to lead that pledge, a man who spoke it, believed it, and lived it. Thank you, Chris, for the time you spent with us.

**... HIGHLANDS
continued from page 9**

The board voted unanimously to accept BB&T's RFP and to proceed with the purchase of the property for the new 5-6 school though it will not be built until after renovations and expansion is completed at the East Franklin Elementary School.

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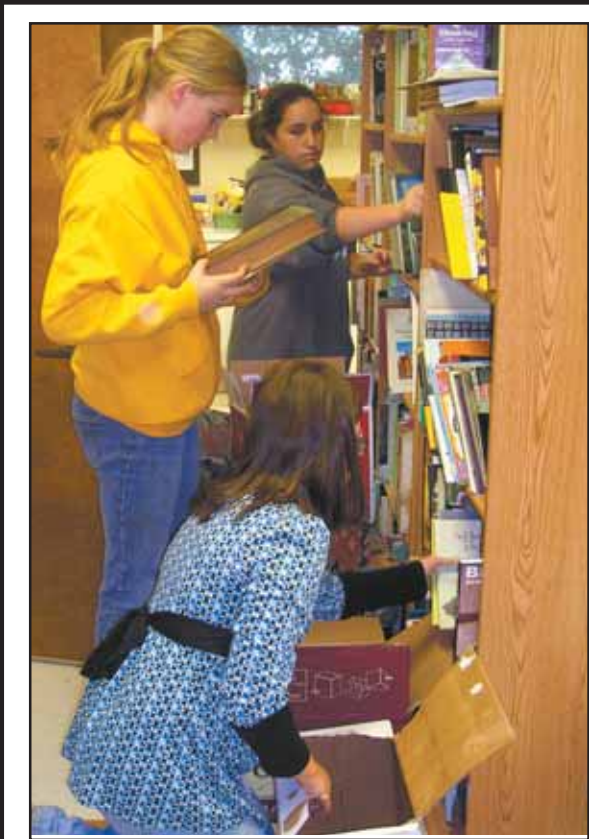


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Club helps Bascom-Louise Gallery pack for move

The crew at the gallery is having to move out of the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall since a new hall is in the works. To prepare, office space at the Hudson Library will be reconfigured to fit the administration staff and the creative staff of the gallery. A few weeks ago, members of The Girls' Clubhouse started packing up books and supplies. The club meets each Friday afternoon for community service projects.



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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Produce your own time capsule

A few months ago my husband transferred some old videos to DVD. A couple were marked T&T's house — meaning his parents — and we looked forward to watching those as both his parents had passed away a couple of years ago.

In one Arthur was filming their cat playing and we could hear the sounds of breakfast being cooked in the background.

Then the camera turned and there was Teena and Troy at the stove, cooking grits and eggs. For a brief moment the camera glanced down into the biscuit bowl and Teena's hands cutting in the shortening and I cried out "No, come back" as the camera moved away again, because that brief moment brought a flood of memories of Teena. I had spent many an hour in the kitchen with her.

So many of us have digital cameras and video cameras now but when do we use them — special events, birthdays, Christmas, etc.? We seem to think ordinary life isn't important enough to document, yet I learned in that brief glimpse of the biscuit dough that it is the ordinary moments that are most precious in memory.

It's an old cliché that parents take a ridiculous number of photos of their babies, and then every year that goes by there are fewer photos. My whole family was here for Thanksgiving and I saw the process then: the first day I took 100 pictures, the second day 12, and then 0 on the third day! (Although I was shooting video).

I remembered the biscuit experience while my family was here and I videoed my five-year-old nieces painting pictures (for 20 minutes so they completely forgot I was there), my brother cooking bratwursts, the scene one afternoon as everyone relaxed in their own way — a brother at his computer, a sister in the kitchen, another sister in front of the fire, a niece in front of the television. Maybe what I'm looking forward to seeing most is the dinner I filmed. I set the camera up so it could see the whole family, told them I had turned it off, and then we sat down to eat. Captured there will be all our family dynamics.

My husband and I call our video business Time Capsule Video because we have seen that capturing an image on video is like creating a time capsule. Photos are nice for the people who have taken them, but after a generation or two no one can quite remember who that lady in



Katie Brugger
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the back of the family photo was, much less what she was like. With video on the other hand, you can see and hear a person and really get a sense of who they are/were.

After I filmed a nine-year-old boy for our TV show this year, he asked me why my company was named Time Capsule Video. He had sung a song, so I said, "You are going

to be able to save this DVD and one day when you have grandchildren, you will be able to play this DVD for them and say, 'See, this is what I was like when I was your age.'"

... HIGHLANDS
continued from page 1

ing school expansion; and finally asked for no tax increase.

Don Swanson asked what had happened to the \$1 million the county had in reserve to expand the North Macon ball fields. "Now that the public has spoken, that money isn't needed so I don't understand why you can't use that," said Swanson. "I don't think the public said it didn't want new schools, they just didn't want you to borrow money to do it."

Swanson suggested the county take money from its fund balance to pay for land purchases and school construction. "Why don't you just write a check? Why incur more interest and more debt?"

Charlie Cowee asked why the county needed bigger schools. "Is bigger better? What does the public want?" he asked.

Bob Leavry said according to the June 2006 audit, the county had \$4.4 million over the 25% undesignated fund balance the state suggests county's maintain. "Use that extra for school construction and land purchases until you get back down to the 25% mark," he said.

Later during the evening Finance Director Evelyn Southard explained that the extra money is no longer available.

Before the county moved to the business of financing, Leatherman spoke.

"The school bond passed until the Highlands district came in and just 135 votes defeated it. Highlands has the newest schools, the newest gym, it has what it wanted. It doesn't care about the rest of the county.

"Furthermore, 70 percent of the people of Macon County didn't vote. Only 30 percent voted — 10% for it and 10% against it. It was that final 10% that made the difference.

"It is incumbent upon this board to pro-

•See HIGHLANDS page 9

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... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

from Franklin and one from Highlands; one member each representing occupancy tax-generating businesses in Nantahala, Franklin and Highlands; and two non-voting representatives from each of the chambers of commerce – Franklin president Ric Neal and Highlands Executive Director Bob Kieltyka.

In his written report to the commission Monday night, County Manager Sam Greenwood suggested Neal's and Kieltyka's

terms of office end once the final report of the study committee is presented to the county commission. There's no word on how long the study committee will be in existence or what will happen after it's dissolved. Both chambers of commerce suspect they will receive less room tax money than in the past but no one knows who else will receive the money. "All that should be decided before the study committee dissolves," said Commissioner McClellan

Though neither chamber heeded his request, at the Nov. 13 county commission meeting, McClellan requested the lodging nominees from Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala represent a multi-faceted business that include a lodging and a restaurant.

The only three nominees accepted to the committee Monday night were, Highlands Town Board commissioner Hank Ross, lodging representatives Ron Baker of Nantahala and Rick Siegel, Highlands Chamber board member and owner of the 4 1/2 Street Inn, a 10-room bed and breakfast.

"Our executive committee voted to nominate Mr. Siegel and then our board voted to do the same," said Kieltyka.

At the end of Monday night's meeting, McClellan said CEO of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, Mario Gomes, would have been a good Highlands lodging spokesman. Gomes represents a hospitality group of lodgings, restaurants and retail shops that pays the most room tax in Highlands.

Confusion arose when it came time to decide who would represent Franklin and Nantahala because nominations were made by both the Franklin Chamber and Greenwood who was absent from the meeting.

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce nominated a board member to represent lodgings, Candy Arvey, general manager of

the Hampton Inn of Franklin. "This is our largest accommodation business in Franklin," said Executive Director Linda Harbuck.

Josh Drake was the lodgings representative nominated to the study committee by Greenwood as was Sissy Pattillo from the Franklin Town Board, but Harbuck said Franklin Mayor Collins had indicated to her that Mike Gruberman would be the Town of Franklin's representative.

Harbuck said the Franklin Chamber is working on getting its nominee on the committee instead of Josh Drake and it's her understanding that Mayor Collins is working on getting Mike Gruberman on the committee instead of Sissy Pattillo.

In the end, Chairman Leatherman said Franklin nominees weren't finalized because Greenwood was not present to explain the reasons for his nominations. He said he wasn't sure if conflict of interest issues would come into play concerning the Franklin Chamber lodging nominee Candy Arvey and the Highlands Chamber lodging nominee Rick Siegel because both sit on their respective chamber boards.

Since the understanding is that executive directors as representatives of the chambers should be non-voting members due to "conflict of interest concerns" Leatherman said the board needs "to hear from Sam to understand the reasons behind his nominations."

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• See ROOM TAX page 18



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... HIGHLANDS continued from page 7

vide for the students of Macon County. I have been quoted as saying I won't be held hostage to a revenue neutral tax rate and that's true.

"I am going to give the volunteer fire departments what they need to do their jobs. Emergency Services? Same thing. Whatever law enforcement needs for the protection of our citizens, I will support it.

"I don't agree on every aspect of what the school board does, but I will support our children. And if that means raising taxes for that, we will do it. The voters didn't send a strong message. Seventy percent of them didn't vote! If I am defeated in an election because I supported education, so be it. That's my legacy.

"The Land Transfer Tax was misconstrued and misrepresented and it could have kept property taxes low. The voters took these options away from the board.

"You said 'no' to the bond referendum but the board has not said 'no' to the school system. We will proceed to handle the needs of this county.

"Those who have moved here in retirement built schools somewhere else. They have come here to an emerging, developing county and our children and our schools have needs."

Commissioner Jim Davis spoke about the affects of the bond defeat.

"There are a lot of ways to read the bond failure. I think the School Board screwed up. It made an innocent mistake, and I do

believe it was an innocent mistake, when it violated the laws of North Carolina which didn't help us at all.

"There was nothing for Highlands in the bond and I think that's why they shut us down. But we have to deal with critical needs in other parts of the county. Highlands' needs have been met.

"Failure also points to a problem in our school district. We have some teachers who voted against the bond because they didn't want to lose their small schools. East Franklin is considered our minority school which brings with it requirements from the state that makes everything harder and some teachers didn't want to have to deal with that.


"But I campaigned to build at least one new school and if I lose at the next election, so be it. I have a day job."

The board then asked Southard for her report on the Request for Proposals (RFPs) the county requested to finance the \$2.6 million needed to buy the property across from Macon Middle School on Clarks Chapel Road.

Southard said six banks responded – Bank of America, BB&T, First Citizens, Macon Bank, RBC Centura and Wachovia.

The lowest bidder was BB&T at 3.69% for 15 years. "I recommend we go with BB&T," she said. "There's no prepayment penalty if we want to refinance. That's my recommendation."

•See HIGHLANDS page 5



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... SCHOOL continued from page 1

BB&T but didn't discuss funding for construction.

"Sixth-graders from Macon Middle School and fifth-graders from Cullasaja and Cowee will be moved to this new setting

which will eliminate crowding at Macon Middle School and will put fifth-graders in a more age-appropriate setting aligned with their developmental requirements," said Brigman.

Finally, Brigman said construction of the K-4 school at Iotla will alleviate crowding at East Franklin and 27 of the county's 28 portable classrooms.

He said overall the new schools will improve operational effectiveness which translates into money for the school district and the county.

Commissioner Brian McClellan asked if the school board might go back to the drawing board and rethink the community schools concept.

"I think there is support among parents and teachers in keeping community schools," he said. "Why can't we refurbish the small schools and keep the community concept?"

Commissioner Jim Davis said the board faced the same issue back in the 1990s when it began building schools.

"Operating older, smaller schools like the old Cartoocehay School costs more per student," he said. "Plus, the cost to refurbish and bring schools up-to-date is prohibitive because it means retrofitting and satisfying new requirements for security, water and sewer and OSHA."

Brigman said expansion is needed at Cullasaja and Cowee but there is no land for expansion at those sites. In addition, he said classrooms are too small and once renovations begin everything must be brought up to code which is very costly.

"For instance, law requires kindergarten rooms to be 1,200 sq. ft.; Iotla has 700 sq. ft. per classrooms. You have to consider new space requirements and cost requirements," he said.

Davis said in the end the county will get new facilities with a better capital plant for less money than if it renovates old schools.

McClellan said if the county moves forward with the school construction plans he wants the old schools to be sold and the money used to retire the debt the county is going to incur.

School board members said they would consider that, but also said money is needed to make repairs and renovations at other schools in the system.

School Board Chairman Donnie Edwards said money from the sale of the Otto School was used to purchase generators, air-conditioners and other capital outlay expenses for various schools in the system.

School Board member Robeta Swank said upkeep throughout the district has to continue while new construction is going on. "If we sell a school and use the money to pay off debt, we'll still have to have capital outlay money to keep up everything else," she said.

Commission Chair Charlie Leather-

• See SCHOOL page 15

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• HIS & HERS •

Death by Turkey

Thanksgiving has come and gone. I hope that all of you had as good a time as we did. We got together with my family in Acworth, GA, where my Cousin Philip lives with his incredible wife, Kaye. These amazing folks put together a fabulous meal for 20 people, and did it graciously, and with amazing good humor.

It was far from the scene I recall in New York, when someone referred to eating at Mama Leone's and said "You know, it's family-style dining." Another friend quipped, "And you know what that means; an argument at every table!"

I'm always intrigued by how Thanksgiving seems to be defined by two stalwarts – overeating and watching football. If you front up to the turkey and mashed potatoes, and only have one plate, you're positively un-American. No — you must go back over and over, eating yourself into a stupor, until you unbutton your clothes, and declare to the gathered throng, "Boy, did I eat too much!" Everyone nods in unison, adding their own comments about how they overdid it on the stuffing and gravy, and how they will never eat again.

I decided to do an experiment this year, and had only one plate of food. OK, it was on the heels of the champagne and *fois gras* which my French Aunt Francine brought. And, no, I'm not kidding myself into thinking that that's what was served on the first Thanksgiving, although I'll bet that if it had, relations between the settlers and Native Americans might have remained happier.

So, I had my one plate of turkey and all the trimmings, took a nice break chatting with folks, and when the pies came out (Phil made five!) I had a sliver of pumpkin and a piece of the cherry. Oh, yeah, and a bite of John's pecan. All in all, I was a model of restraint. For Thanksgiving, that is.

I've heard it said that Thanksgiving is the day that Americans eat as well as French people do every day. It's a flattering statement to the French, but not altogether true. Americans can, and do, eat amazingly well. Where they have a tendency to fall down is in confusing quality and quantity. France has wonderful food, but not very many "all you can eat" places. And there is no French expression for "doggie bag," because in France, the portions are much smaller, and you generally finish what's



Michelle Mead & John Armor
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John_Armor@yale.edu

in your plate. Years ago, a woman asked me what the French eat for Thanksgiving. "It's an American holiday," I replied. "They don't celebrate it in France." "Don't be ridiculous!" she replied, all huffy. "Everyone celebrates Thanksgiving!" Boy, that sure showed me, huh?

Then we get to the second half of

Thanksgiving. I've never been to a Thanksgiving meal that did not end in the menfolk bailing out to watch endless games of football, and the womenfolk cleaning up. Well, this time, it wasn't the case. The cleaning and clearing were done with a great sense of fun. Karaoke music was put on, and people were literally singing and dancing in the kitchen. The TV remained in Christmas carol mode, and everyone else sat in the living room chatting. A few of the younger men would disappear downstairs, coming back up to shout incomprehensible football jargon, but it was hardly the orgy of football the holiday usually entailed.

Several months after I moved to Highlands, I was asked by a friendly lady at a party, "What's your team?" I was puzzled by this. Team? I attended Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia (now The College of Mary Washington) my first two years of college, followed by another two years at Goucher College near Baltimore. At the time, both schools were single-sex women's colleges. Since then, both have gone coed, but in my days there, they were hardly dens of gridiron glory. Interestingly, when I attended a reunion at Goucher years ago, we all stood up and cheered when the dean insisted that while we might be taking men now, but we haven't lowered our academic standards to do it. For those readers who may be puzzled by this comment, it means that we require the same grade point average of all students. If they want an A-/B+ student, they don't take a C+ guy, just because he can throw a football. And you may be less than impressed by the Goucher mascot. In the pigskin world of hawks, eagles, panthers, and lions, our mascot is a gopher. I won't even go into the mascot of New York University, where I did my master's. It's probably a theater critic named Irving.

We had another big event in the family this year. Actually, we had several. My brother Eric turned 60, his son Mark turned 40, and the real biggie, my mother

• See HIS & HERS page 20



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Happy Thanksgiving?

When I was invited to write this column originally, I asked what the parameters were since I had no journalism experience whatsoever. I was told to stay away from local issues and restrict my comments to state, national and world issues.

Fine with me. The point is, I'm not commenting on the state of the educational system locally, and local educators should not take my comments personally.

Just as I was getting the warm fuzzies you're supposed to get at Thanksgiving time, a news item tried to rain on my parade. It dealt with Seattle school officials telling teachers that Thanksgiving is a time of mourning. It instructs teachers that the popular conception of Thanksgiving consists of myths and the truth is that the evil white man has betrayed Native Americans and should flog themselves instead of celebrating the blessings we enjoy.

Now, I realize this is an isolated incident, but hair-brained activity by school boards isn't. They have endorsed textbooks that rewrite American history, they have allowed sex and homosexuality promotion to invade the classroom, they have banished prayer, eliminated God from schools and spend



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

more time on their culture-changing agenda than instructing students in subjects necessary to their future well-being.

Two activities that involve schools defy my ability to understand them. The first is female teachers having sexual relations with young male students. It is no secret that publicity about this activity tends to exaggerate its occurrence however there is no lack of incidents to keep

this fire fueled.

A WorldNetDaily report says that "According to a major 2004 study commissioned by the U. S. Dept. of Education, nearly 10 per cent of U. S. public school students have been targeted with unwanted sexual attention by school employees. More than 4.5 million students are subject to sexual misconduct by an employee of a school sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade."

While many judges treat female teacher misconduct lightly, the Queen Mother of sleazy teachers, Mary Kay Letourneau, was not so fortunate, at least at first. Mary Kay was tried and convicted for statutory rape for frolicking with a 13-year-old student, Vili Fualaau, and sentenced to 89 months in prison, but all but six months were suspended. She was

•See ANOTHER VIEW page 20

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• VIDEO GUY •

The 2005 French military drama, starring Benno Fürmann (My House in Umbria), Guillaume Canet (The Beach), Diane Kruger (National Treasure, Troy), written and directed by Christian Carion. Based on the true stories of the 1914 WWI Christmas ceasefires along the Western front. In French, German, English, rated PG13, mostly for violence

The Storyline: Several stories take place, as we see, briefly, parts of the lives of half a dozen people whose lives, loves, and careers are impacted by the events of extended trench warfare in France during the War to End All Wars, or, as it later became more popularly known, the First World War.

The trenches of the opposing forces were often close enough to be able to hear and recognize each other's voices, and on at least one occasion, use the same alarm clock. Several of the characters portrayed are historically accurate, such as opera star tenor Nikolaus Sprink (played by Benno Fürmann, singing voice

Joyeux Noël



Stuart of
The Movie Stop

done by Mexican tenor Rolando Villazón), who served as a private in the German army, his lover Anna Sörensen (acted by Diane Kruger, singing voice supplied by famous French soprano Natalie Dessay), who apparently against all protocol did end up on Christmas Eve in the "No Man's Land." singing Ave Maria, to

German, French, and Scottish troops (a scene and sound guaranteed to bring a tear to your eye).

Several characters are montages of several different peoples (it was quite common that senior officers had sons with ground commands in combat, and this comes up in the story) and apparently it was not uncommon that small town clergy would often volunteer to be chaplains or stretcher bearers serving with the boys from their home towns.

So, if you haven't guessed, the story line leads up to the time when, without consulting superiors, the troops on the ground spontaneously declared a bi-lateral cease fire and truce on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and provides some of the details, apparently authentic, of the consequences that befell some of the participants.

A very compelling drama, hopefully equally as fascinating to students of the era and events as well as to those who know little about WWI and the particu-

larly brutal conditions encountered during trench warfare. While the events seem

• See VIDEO GUY page 18



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Chris Gilbert, Brad Cole and Dillan Bates in ceremony held August 11th.

Local black-belt teacher to fight with Chuck Norris Dec. 1

Mixed martial arts continues to grow in popularity as a sport across the U.S. and abroad. Any given night you will find a televised MMA (Mixed martial arts) fight on cable or satellite.

Dustin Chovanic, a 5th degree black belt in American Kenpo Karate, is now climbing the ladder in the MMA sports arena. Chovanic has been training extensively in Atlanta for the past two years in grappling and Ju Jitsu.

Chovanic was already established as a leader in sport karate and was recently inducted into Joe Corley's Battle of Atlanta hall of fame.

Having won his last fight by submission, he competed in Atlanta on September 14 and is currently fighting UFC and fighting for Chuck Norris in Atlantic City, NJ on December 1.

Chovanic has also been busy the past few years training Black Belt hopefuls here in Macon County. Recently, Brad Cole of Franklin and Chris Gilbert of Scaly Mountain earned their Black Belts in American Kenpo Karate. Dillan Bates of Franklin earned his 1st degree.

What is Kenpo Karate? Although the art can be traced back to Japan and China, Kenpo literally means "Fist

Law." Kenpo Karate in America was founded by Professor William Chow in Hawaii after Pearl Harbor.

Grandmaster Ed Parker brought Kenpo from Hawaii to the mainland U.S. where it evolved and became known as the true American fighting art. It is still being taught in police academies and in the military to this day. Famous alumni of Parker's programs include Elvis Presley, who Parker personally trained and worked with as head of security, and Jeff Speakman who starred in "The Perfect Weapon."

Parker also appeared in "I Love Lucy" and "Pink Panther" movies and credited with "discovering" Bruce Lee in the U.S. at his karate tournament in California in 1967. The media has brought a welcome interest to this often misunderstood sport which offers discipline to youngsters, real self defense, and exercise for the body and mind.

Dustin Chovanic operates three karate schools in the southeast, two of which are in Macon County. The headquarters is located in Franklin and

• See BLACK BELT page 17



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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.

FOR APPOINTMENTS, CALL 828 526-2371

• COACH'S CORNER •

College football never ceases to surprise

This College Football season has been one of many surprises. From the first week of the season where Appalachian State University knocked off the Michigan Wolverines in the Big House to last week's titanic clash

between...gulp...Kansas and Missouri -- this season has been equal parts excitement and mystery. While the national championship picture is not exactly clear at this point, one thing that is for certain is that...nothing's for certain.

While certainty has been in short supply this season, one thing that has been consistent throughout the year has been the play of Florida sophomore Tim Tebow. Yeah, Tim Tebow -- you may have heard of him (that was sarcasm). You know, the guy who inspired Timtebowfacts.com. (Hilarious website. My favorite example being "Life doesn't give Tim Tebow lemons, life asks Tim Tebow which fruit he prefers.") The guy who set a NCAA record this season with over 20 rushing touchdowns and 20 passing touchdowns. The "kid" who has been over two thirds of the offense for a top-10 team this year that lost almost their entire defense from last season and needed offensive firepower to be able to stay in games.

What Tebow has done this season in Urban Meyer's spread offense has been nothing short of remarkable. He has thrown for 29 touchdown passes and run for 22 (which ties the NCAA record for rushing touchdowns in a season set by Air Force's Chance Harridge). Tebow has also thrown for over 3,000 yards and rushed for over 800 yards. (In reality, Tebow has rushed for well over 1,000 yards for the season, but the NCAA subtracts sack yardage from rushing yardage-- which is the reason for Tebow's lower rushing statistics)

While the sheer numbers from Tebow are astounding -- his efficiency is also incredible for such a young player. Tebow has only thrown six interceptions the entire season, and his completion percentage sits just below 70 percent for the year -- which is better than every NFL starting quarterback not named Tom Brady.

While Tebow's statistics can be overwhelming to the naked eye, in the day of complex college offenses and the spread offense, statistics don't tell the true story of how impressive Tebow has been this season. At 6'3" and 235 pounds, Tebow is built more like a linebacker than he is a quarterback.

Last year, the Gators won a national



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

championship by using Tebow as a hammer down in the red zone-but many assumed that this would change once Tebow became the full time quarterback. However, Tebow has ran more this season than all of last year, primarily because he is the Gators only significant power runner and possesses the strength and toughness to plow over defenders into the end zone.

With the amazing season Tebow has put up, he has earned the respect of many and the mantle of perhaps the best player in college football this season. Unfortunately, there are some who will not nominate Tebow for the Heisman Trophy (which is supposed to go to the best college player, but rarely does) simply because he is an underclassman. While the Gators have struggled at times defensively, they are where they are due to the play of their quarterback, and regardless of what happens in the Heisman Trophy race -- the Gators will certainly be a pre-season favorite next year due to the presence of Tebow.

P.S. Tim Tebow would not have written this column, the words would have simply flown together out of fear.

... SCHOOL continued from page 10

man said he understood the concept because once interest rates are locked in the debt price is steady versus the raising costs of construction and repairs.

Watson said the cost of construction increases six percent a year even though inflation averages three percent because the materials used in construction -- commodities like steel, copper and concrete -- are on the rise especially since China and other emerging countries are now in the market for the same materials.

Using the K-4 School as an example, Watson said putting off construction just one year will increase expenses \$952,824; \$1,961,937 in two years; \$3,033,409 in three years and \$4,168,236 in four years. He said one way to defray costs is to purchase supplies in advance of school construction which would lock in prices.

Commissioners didn't commit to anything but discussed funding options.

Finance Director Evelyn Southard said the county needs to have \$5 million in hand to borrow \$10 million at low interest rates. "We can borrow more than \$10 million a year, we'll just pay more for it," she said. "Only \$10 million is tax-exempt to the bank so that's why the county gets lower interest."

Pam Taylor

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• CULTURE ARTIST •

Living in the Woods, Part I

By Chuck Hall

In my latest book, *Green Circles: A Sustainable Journey from the Cradle to the Grave*, I devoted a chapter to my experiences living in the woods of the Appalachian foot-hills.

At that time I had gone into the woods on a quest of self-discovery. I built a small cabin on a three-acre parcel I owned, and lived off the natural resources around me.

As I became adjusted to this lifestyle, I noticed that my perceptions about the world underwent several permanent and life-altering changes. I learned a great deal about myself, about the natural world around me, and about what it means to live as a spiritual being having a human experience.

A lot of people began their spiritual journeys by going off into the woods. Buddha did it, Jesus did it, Mohammed did it, Moses did it, the Native Americans did it, and so did most of the great spiritual leaders throughout history. There is something about seeing the wild places firsthand that awakens our deeper, more intimate and personal levels of awareness.

Science in recent years has begun studying the psychological aspects of wilderness experiences. In a 2005 study, van den Berg & Heijne researched some of these characteristics. The study, *Fear versus fascination: An exploration of emotional responses to natural threats*, explains that there are two basic types of attentional focus: *focus* and *fascination*. *Focus* is the type of attention we experience most often in artificial environments. Human hands make most of the things we see indoors. Since we evolved in the wilderness, but have only been living in artificial environments for a few thousand years, our brains are wired to be 'on guard' in unfamiliar surroundings. The more primitive parts of our brains recognize artificial places as somehow alien. Because of this, we tend

to use more energy to focus our attention while indoors in order to avoid these man-made distractions.

Fascination is the type of attention we tend to experience more outdoors.

The deeper, older parts of our brains recognize natural environments as something familiar, so we tend to use less mental resources for focusing attention.

This means that more mental energy is available to generate more meditative states. So unless a bear is chasing you, you're calmer and more relaxed in the woods or on a beach.


Serenity is a prerequisite to spiritual events, so experiencing nature is highly conducive to spiritual awareness.

While nature helps you to achieve serenity much more easily, it's hard to be serene when you're cold and hungry. Many of the people who've read my book have written to ask about the practical aspects of living in the wilderness. They want to seek their own spirituality in nature, but they're not sure how they would manage to survive in the meantime, so I thought I'd address some of the more mundane tasks of having your own Walden experience.

Next week we'll look at how to prepare yourself for your own journey of discovery in the wilderness.

• Chuck Hall is a graduate student and author. His latest book, "Green Circles: A Sustainable Journey from the Cradle to the Grave," is now available at the Culture Artist Web site at www.cultureartist.org. You may contact him by email at: chuck@cultureartist.org.

He is currently a graduate student in Marriage and Family Therapy. His primary field of independent research is in *Ecopsychology*: the impact of the natural environment on mental and physical health.




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... BLACK BELT continued from page 14



From left, Walter Summerville (7th degree), promoted Chris Gilbert black belt and Dustin Chovanic 5th degree black belt.

offers a range of programs that fit everyone's needs — cardio workouts, kids and adult kenpo training, private lessons, and MMA training. It's open five days a week and includes all curriculum options.

Highlands offers classes to kids and

adults on Mondays and Wednesdays, including kenpo classes and cardio workout at 5 p.m. for children and 6 p.m. for teens and adults. Call (828) 421-3161 in Highlands and 349-3346 in Franklin for more information.

'The Last Person In'

By Mercedes Heller

Would the last person in please close the door?

Except for those who live on boats, all of us have homes built on property that not too long ago was a wooded area, or farmland, or a mountaintop. Just a few generations before that was dense forest and marshes crisscrossed by hunting trails forged by Native Americans.

Yet, there is something about each of us that, once we have settled in whatever we deem to be a paradise, wants to keep others from coming in and ruining what we have — perhaps forgetting that those who were here before us thought the same thing about us.

Still, most agree that we should save some lands, some places, some traditions and culture that will be passed on to future generations. Just what to save and how to save it is a question with which the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust is grappling. Considerable success has been realized by enlisting large numbers of people who care enough to contribute both time and money by becoming members of HCLT.

Among HCLT's ongoing accomplishments are:

- Saving tracts of undeveloped land, some for public access.
- Limiting or stopping development of tracts of privately owned land by granting easements that give tax relief to owners.
- Working with programs that improve ground water and stream water quality.
- Preserving valuable property when new developments are being built by helping provide conservation design.
- Spreading the use of native flora through both individual gardens and woodland plantings.
- Helping preserve working farmland.
- Educating the general public through programs and classes.
- Enlisting volunteers and raising funds for various programs.
- Lobbying local government to further conservation goals.

Combined, these actions help provide a valuable will and testament by using some resources now while saving others for future generations. We invite you to help save the places you love by becoming a member. More information is available by calling 526-1111, emailing hitrust@earthlink.net, or by checking the website at hicashlt.org.

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... ROOM TAX continued from page 8

in the works, the amount of room tax money Highlands will receive beginning July 1, 2008 is unclear.

According to figures submitted by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce, room tax collected countywide for 2003-

04 was \$434,334; \$416,15 for 2004-2005 and \$438,202 for 2005-06.

"Using current year budgeted figures, it appears Highlands collects about 60% of the room occupancy tax in the county," said Kielyka.

Though final figures aren't in, it's estimated that for 2007, Highlands will receive

about \$280,000 and Franklin will receive about \$180,000 for a total of \$460,000. Room tax proceeds can only be used to promote travel and tourism.

Highlands receives whatever occupancy money is collected in Highlands, Sugarfork and the Flats (Scaly) minus a 15% administrative fees retained by the county.

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... CREDIT UNION continued from page 1

by this Section."

Now the proposed amendment goes to the Town Board Dec. 5 and if adopted, a public hearing will be set – a requirement when the zoning ordinance is amended. Due to the upcoming holiday schedule, the earliest possible date for the public hearing is Jan. 2, 2008. Following the public hearing, the board could vote to adopt the amendment. If it is approved, SECU could re-apply to the Zoning Board for a Special Use Permit at its Jan. 9 meeting.

The standard for re-hearings for the Zoning Board is in Appendix B, VII (E): "Rehearings. An application for a rehearing may be made in the same manner as provided for an original hearing. Evidence in support of the application shall initially be limited to that which is necessary to enable the Board to determine whether there has been a substantial change in the facts, evidence, or conditions in the case. The application for rehearing shall be denied by the Board if from the record it finds that there has been no substantial change in facts, evidence, or conditions. If the Board finds that there has been a change, it shall thereupon treat the request in the same

manner as any other application."

"The provision is intended to prevent applicants who are denied SUPs or variances from re-applying month after month with only minor changes made to the application, or perhaps gambling on a better board make-up if new appointments have been made," said Betz.

In cases like this in the past, the Zoning Board has conducted a two-part proceeding, first deciding whether there has been a substantial change, then hearing the SUP again.

"Of course, amendment of the ordinance exempting kiosks from the 800 sq. ft. minimum would be a substantial change," said Betz. "The Zoning Board could then move to part two and make a finding that the SECU ATM now meets all required conditions and specifications — the only one of the four findings the application failed to meet at the Nov. 14 hearing."

However, the Town Board may not vote in favor of the ordinance amendment at its Dec. 5 meeting, in which case, the SECU ATM wouldn't be allowed unless it met the 800 sq. ft. minimum building requirement.

... VIDEO GUY continued from page 13

accurately portrayed, the conditions are defiantly sanitized (it is a PG 13 rated film). It is neither as grim, nor as saccharine, as it could have been. It is also not as uplifting as it may have been intended, though I can't say for sure because I don't know what was intended.

It does cover the expected basics (war is hell, all soldiers are brothers under different uniforms, and all the decisions made about killing and dying are made by people who are never in danger) but also points out that individual opinion and personal action are often disconnected in the real world.

A well done drama, overall, and well worth seeing.

A few more in a similar vein are Monsieur Ibrahim (French), No Man's Land (Serbian) House of Fools (Russian), Divided we Fall (Czech), Marooned in Iraq (Kurdish), Lina Park (Russian), and L'Enfant (French). These and more are available for sale or rent at Movie Stop Video, stocking the largest foreign film collection in western Carolina, stop on by and give them a look.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

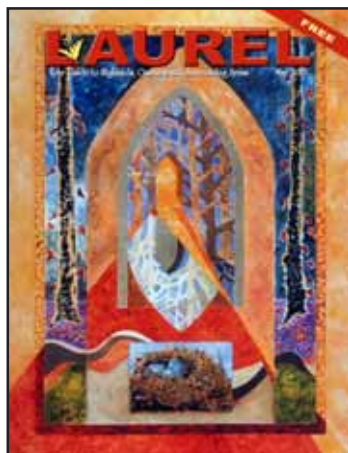
From canvas to cover 'Cover Art' exhibit opens at Bascom-Louise Gallery Dec. 1

The latest exhibit at the Bascom-Louise Gallery will feature an array of glorious cover artwork from the community's *The Laurel* magazine.

The show opens this Saturday, Dec. 1, and features a variety of two-dimensional media, including oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor, drawing and photography, both digital and 35mm. Many of the area's most outstanding artists will be showcased, including Laura John, Madeline Epp, Bonnie Adams and Carol Rollick.

Each artist has his or her own unique interpretation of local icons, such as mountainsides, waterfalls, wildlife and popular vistas. This exhibit provides an opportunity to revisit those scenic panoramas and experience a retrospective of the region's best.

Laurel owners Marjorie Fielding and Janet Cummings said they were thrilled when Kaye Gorecki, Bascom-Louise artis-



This painting, by Rosemary Stiefel, appeared on the magazine's May 2005 cover.

tic director, approached them about partnering in an exhibit featuring their magazine's cover art.

"*The Laurel* and The Fine Art Center share a passion for supporting fine art and craft in the region," Fielding said. "This is a great way to showcase that collaboration."

"The original artwork and *The Laurel* covers will be presented side-by-side so that viewers can experience a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how fine art becomes commercial art," Gorecki said.

A free, public opening reception will be Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the gallery, located inside the Hudson Library on Main Street in Highlands. The exhibit continues through Dec. 20. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more details, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4#.

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Left: Walk to downtown Highlands from this new log home with lots of charm. Three bedrooms, 3 baths, hand-hewn logs, two-story rock fireplace, Pine floors, professional landscaping, outdoor fire pit. Can have additional privacy or build additional homes on adjoining 3 acres. Offered for \$849,000 with additional land also available.

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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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Russell Harris elected to Board of Association for Healthcare Philanthropy

Russell M. Harris, executive director
of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foun-
dation in Highlands, N.C., has been elect-
ed to the board of direc-
tors of the Association for
Healthcare Philanthropy
(AHP). He will serve as
vice-chair for regional af-
fairs. AHP represents ex-
ecutives of philanthrop-
ic programs in not-for-
profit hospitals, clinics,
health care systems and
related facilities through-
out North America.

A healthcare philan-
thropy professional for
more than 16 years, Har-
ris was president and
chief executive officer of
Partners for a Healthy
Community in Ander-
son, S.C., from 1996 to 2006. From 1992
to 1996 he was director of development
and volunteer services for the Anderson
Area Medical Center, now AdMed Health.

Harris holds credentials from AHP
both as a Certified Fund Raising Execu-
tive (CFRE) and as a Fellow of the Asso-
ciation for Healthcare Philanthropy
(FAHP), the association's top level of

achievement in the field of health care
resource development.

"Russell Harris brings
a proven record of accom-
plishment to AHP's board
of directors," said Will-
iam C. McGinly, Ph.D.,
CAE, president and CEO
of AHP. "He has demon-
strated leadership and
genuine commitment to
promoting health care
services in North and
South Carolina."

A graduate of Erskine
College in South Caroli-
na, Harris served as presi-
dent of his alma mater's
alumni association and
was a member of the
board of trustees for nine
years. He is a past chair of

the South Carolina Association of Non-
profit Organizations, and Elder in the
Presbyterian Church and a member of
Rotary.

The Association for Healthcare Phi-
lanthropy, established in 1967, is a not-
for-profit organization whose 4,600



Russell Harris

•See HARRIS page 22

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 12

cautioned to stay away from Vili upon
her release but the genius immediately
jumped into the back seat of a car with
Vili, was caught, and returned to prison
to serve the original sentence.

Oh yes, Mary Kay delivered a child
fathered by Vili prior to her first
incarceration and enjoyed the feeling so
much she did it again early in her second
stint in the clink.

Now, I'm not bringing all this up to
disgust you and here's the point. I'm sure
Mary Kay wasn't bright enough to figure
out this scheme beforehand but it worked
out all right. While in the can the second
time, she sold book rights to her story for
\$200,000. After she served her full
sentence, she married Vili, now 21, and
sold exclusive film rights of the wedding
to Entertainment Tonight for \$750,000. I
guess it beats teaching school for a living.

Is this motivation to spawn a rash of
copy-cat trysts? I don't know, and I don't
care. No matter what liberal judges think,
I think it's sick.

The second activity involves school
shootings. Now, I understand students
aren't taught to shoot up their classmates
and teachers. But the 36 reported such
occasions in the U. S. in the past 10 years

seem to indicate that the conditions that
put the idea in the shooters heads came
from the schoolhouse.

Two things seem to be common in
most shootings. The shooter has been
bullied in school and feels there is no
other way to stop the misery; and, the
shooter has suicide on his mind. To think
that we should expect that school
personnel to control the bullying is as
likely as their controlling rampant sex in
school. And the concept of suicide has
been widely introduced into various
elements of curriculum.

There was a time when our education
system was as effective as any in the
world.

I personally received an excellent
public education that has served me well
all my life. Then the national education
hierarchy concluded that to exert their
power politically was more important
than doing what they are paid to do. The
National Education Association (NEA) is
the largest and most powerful union in
the country and wields its power only to
further its own ends.

Some say we have more to fear from
the NEA than Islamic terrorists. Seems
crazy, doesn't it? Well, doesn't it?

... HIS & HERS continued from page 11

is turning 80 at the end of the month. As she gets older, I realize that it isn't just being a certain numerical age. It's also whether or not you're in good health, have a roof over your head, and are surrounded by people who love you. I see how her eye medicine costs \$85, and I'm grateful that she doesn't have to make the

choice between her health and heating the house. A lot of folks don't have that luxury.

So, here's hoping your Thanksgiving was special, and that you, too, had the joy of being surrounded by people you care about – be they family or friends. We

spend so much of our lives complaining about things, that it's good to take the time to count our blessings. They often number more than we can imagine.

• About the Author: Michelle A.

Mead is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, VA, before wasting her

youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. Michelle is a member of the Highlands Writers Group. She lives on top of a mountain near Highlands, with two cats and a lawyer. Michelle is not suffering from a turkey hangover or cranberry withdrawal.

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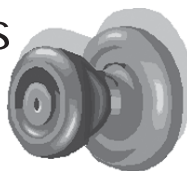
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... HARRIS continued from page 20

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other health care services. The association represents fundraising professionals, development staff, public relations professionals, trustees, marketing professionals, administrators, and executives interested in health care fundraising. To learn more, visit the AHP Web site at www.ahp.org.



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Hospital hospice team honored



Highlands-Cashiers Hospice is honoring all of its staff and volunteers during November, which is National Hospice Month. Those gathered for the group's November meetings were from left, April Duvall, Effy Burns, Vivian Brewer, Patsy Mullen, Terry Potts, Barbara Buchanan, Willeen Stiwinter, Monica Crook and Cindy Barloga. In all more than 35 professionals and volunteers make the local hospice team. If you would like to become a hospice volunteer or know someone who may be in need of hospice service, call Highlands-Cashiers Hospice at (828) 526-1402 for more information.



Christ Anglican Church

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Sunday, Dec. 2
Holy Communion
11 a.m.

Outreach opportunities: Coat Drive for Emergency Council, Bright Hope International Med Pack program, Smokey Mountain Pregnancy Center, and the Food Pantry. If you are interested in participating with us in any of these projects, please drop by our church on any Sunday at 11 a.m. for worship services (Highlands Conference Center) or stop by the office at the Peggy Cosby Center.

All services are at the Highlands Community Center on Highway 64 next to the ballpark. For more information, call the Christ Anglican Church office at 526-2320

office@christanglicanchurch.com
ALL ARE WELCOME!

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles welcomes new agent



Jerry Hudson

CENTURY 21 Mountain Lifestyles is pleased to announce that Jerry Hudson has joined its firm's Highlands office as a sales associate, specializing in residential sales.

A South Carolina native, Jerry has lived eight years in the Scaly Mountain/Highlands area. He is a multi-million dollar real estate producer with over five years experience in real estate. Jerry has taught school in Oconee County, SC, has served in the U.S. Army (First Lieutenant) and has worked as a flight attendant for 25 years with Delta Air Lines in Atlanta.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Steigleder joins Bascom-Louise staff as new Executive Director

Culminating a search of more than a year, the Bascom-Louise Gallery has just hired an executive director to take its art center toward its bright new future.

Linda Steigleder, director since 1999 of the acclaimed Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, will take the helm on Jan. 7. Steigleder holds more than 20 years of experience in the administration of art institutions, and she graduated from the Museum Management Institute, sponsored by the J. Paul Getty Trust and University of California, Berkeley. She holds a master's degree in museum studies and art history, Syracuse University, and a bachelor's degree in art history, The College of William and Mary.

"Linda provides us with the institutional art experience and credentials we need to reach our potential as a first class art institution in our own right," said Bob Fisher, chairman of the art center's board. "Now, we will not only have fabulous facilities in a unique location; we will also have the artistic vision and professionalism needed to create a truly excellent organization. I feel very good about the staff we already have in place that Linda will inherit. Linda has made a big decision to leave the very successful environment that she has helped to create at the Hill-Stead, and that is a testament to the potential she sees at the Bascom-Louise."

The art center has been without a permanent executive director since the spring, when former director Kaye Gorecki shifted to the artistic director position. Fisher has been serving as the center's acting executive director since then.

Prior to directing Hill-Stead, Steigleder served as the department head of the Museum Administration Graduate Program at Framingham State College, Mass.; director of the Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham; assistant director of the Storm King Art Center in Hudson Valley, N.Y.; acting director and registrar of the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Ga.; and registrar of the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, N.Y.

Growing up in Tidewater, Va., her interests focused on landscape design, math and economics.

"But one look at a Paul Cezanne Mount Saint Victoire painting at the National Gallery turned all that on end," Steigleder said. "During my second year in college, I began focusing on art history, studying with curators at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and volunteering at The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum."

For 20 years, she has attended a winter seminar, "Legal Issues in Museum



Linda Steigleder

Administration," offered by the American Bar Association in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute.

"My value as a museum professional has grown from that experience and also through my work as a Peer Reviewer with the American Association of Museums," she said.

Steigleder said she is thrilled to be assuming the leadership of the Bascom-Louise, which will soon have a top-notch visual arts facility impacting the region and beyond.

She is married to Clark Allen Wiedmann, a financial planner and former mutual fund manager. In their spare time, the couple enjoys visiting museums and historic sites, as well as gardening, hiking and traveling.

... FORUM continued from page 2

lot.

- The Land Transfer Tax is defeated at the polls.

The perception? The tax was a home tax meant to penalize homeowners.

The reality? It was a tax to be levied when a house sells with proceeds used by the county to pay for infrastructure and services because costs and needs increase as retirees and second-home owners flock to Macon County.

- The county commission is moving ahead with several capital projects even though the bond failed.

The perception? The county commission is disregarding the vote of the people.

The reality? Only 30 percent of eligible voters voted. The people only whispered. The county continues to emerge and develop so money will be spent to build infrastructure, schools, roads, fund law enforcement, fire & rescue, emergency services, health and senior services and yes, taxes — in some form or another — will increase.

Perception. It's a tricky thing held in the eye of beholder.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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A letter from God



This is one of the kindest things I've ever experienced. I have no way to know who sent it, but there is a kind soul working in the dead letter office of the US postal service.

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

"Dear God,
Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her. You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her. Love, Meredith."

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, "To Meredith" in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, "When a Pet Dies." Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

"Dear Meredith,
Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much."

By the way, I am wherever there is love. Love, God

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

- BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
- BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.
- CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
Sky Valley, Georgia
The Right Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding, Pastor
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service
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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
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Monday: Evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible study at 8 a.m.
at First Baptist Church
Pot Luck Lunch last Sunday of each month.
- CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.
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Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6:30 p.m. High School Group
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Supper (free for kids 8th grade and under); 6:15 p.m., Adult Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. programs for students.
Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
- EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: 8 A.M. - Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Chapel
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)
10:30 A.M. Daughters of the King
- Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
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Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;

- Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Rev. Mark Kayser, Interim Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun.School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – Seekers
Choir – 7
- HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
- HIGHLANDS 7TH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**
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Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474
- HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Senior Pastor Todd Struble; Asst. Pastor Mike Harris
526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.;
5 p.m. Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 6:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.
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- SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Rev. Wayne Price
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
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Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.
- WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Christmas Showhouse open Dec. 1 & 2



Decorators such as Liz View are preparing the Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Showhouse for viewing Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2 from 1-5 p.m. This year's Showhouse, built by Joe Webb in 1925 and occupied continuously since then, is being decorated by Mary Berry, Debbie Gibson, Liz View and staff members of Basketcase, Bedroom and Bath Design, Chambers Agency, Cosper's Flowers, and The Dry Sink. Tickets are \$15 each with proceeds benefiting the work of the Historical Society. They will be available on the days of the tour at the Civic Center from which shuttles will run to the Showhouse.

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 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.

- 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.

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxil-

iary 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 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.

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.

Though Saturday, Dec. 15

• Macon County Boys Basketball sign-ups are currently being taken for the 2008 season. Boys

• See EVENTS page 26

Shop for ITC on Dec. 1

I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale will be held at the Instant Theatre Company's Studio on Main Saturday, December 1st. All proceeds from the sale go to benefit the ITC so their non-profit company can stay in the Studio on Main.

This sale has been very generously donated to by businesses and community members who wish to see the ITC continue in the Studio. Among the businesses who have donated items at this writing are: Kent LTD, Shiraz Oriental Carpets, Drakes Diamond Gallery, Why Knot Knit, On The Veranda, The Old Rangoon, McCulley's Cashmere, Summit One Gallery, The Dry Sink, Oak Street Café, Stone Lantern, House of Wong, Mountain Heritage, Dutchman, Pizza Place, and Cool Cats & Hot Dogs.

At the I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale you will find wonderfully useful items. Treasures.

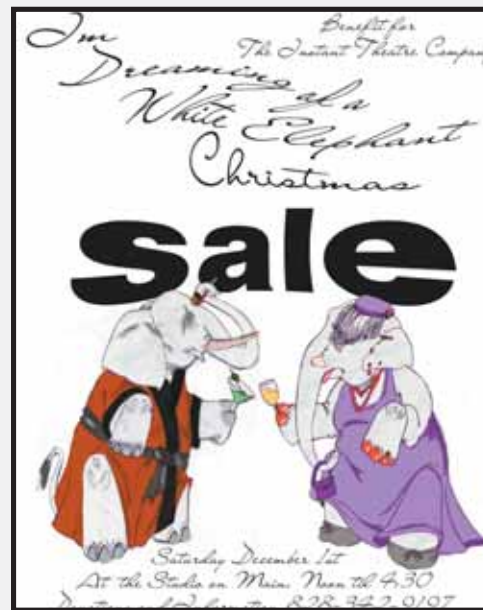
Great Deals on items Priced to Sell! All items to be sold are guaranteed to be of good quality and in good repair. This eclectic sale includes an extremely wide range of items, from sporting goods to

collectibles, boutique items and Gently Used Retro Clothing, books and antiques, furniture, teak opium coffee table, large storage ottoman, art work, framed prints by artist Julyn Davis, electrical items, table ware, dishes, lamps, linens, dishwasher, microwave, home décor household items and crafts, carpets, hard backed books, cashmere, jewelry and accessories,

antler candle sticks, unique and rare objects d'art, and much, much more.

The sale starts after the Highlands Christmas Parade concludes at 12 noon and will run until 4:30 p.m.

For further information, or if you wish to donate an item to the I'm Dreaming of a White Elephant Christmas Sale, please call 828-342-9197.



'Tis the Season 2007
This year, instead of giving more things, give more meaning:

Highlands Alternative Gift Market

Saturday, December 1st

after the Christmas parade until 3:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church

corner of Main Street and 5th Street

Join us for a FREE lunch, and the celebration of the true Christmas spirit!

FREE LUNCH!

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

ages 7-18 are eligible to play. A minimum of 8 players are needed to make a team in any respective age division. The cost is \$35 per player. Players must be age 7 by December 31, 2007. No signups will be taken after December 15. To sign-up you must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate. Sign-up forms are available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information or if you are interested in coaching, please call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

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. 30

• Annual "Voices for Peace Vigil" in front of the Macon County Courthouse in Franklin, 5-6 p.m. Bring signs and a candle.

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, 11 a.m. on Main Street. Participants meet at 10 a.m. on Fifth 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 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.

• Pumpkin Roll Sale — The Highlands Chapter of Eastern Star will be having its annual PUMPKIN & CREAM CHEESE ROLL and PECAN Sale from 10 to 12 pm. near 3rd & Main and 5th & Main. Pumpkin Rolls are \$10 each and \$7 for a 1lb bag of pecans. They also will be selling in front of Bryson's from 12 to 2 p.m. To place an order, call 526-9191. Proceeds from these sales will go to local charities.

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.

• 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: 828.526.5440.

• 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.

Sunday, Dec. 2

• High Mountain Squares will host their 6th Annual Toys for Tots Dance this Sunday at the Macon County Community Building from 2-5 p.m. Entrance fee is a new unwrapped toy from infants through teens. They will be collected by the U.S. Marine Corps League during the dance. The public is welcome to participate in the gift giving and watch the dancing. Willis Cook from Carnesville, GA will be the caller.

Highlands Community Chorale to perform



The Highlands Community Christian Chorale gave the public a sampling for their upcoming program at the Town Lighting Saturday night. It will be performing Saturday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Methodist Church and again on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church. It's free. Photo by Jim Lewicki

We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

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.

Friday, Dec. 7

• "Window Wonderland" Open House at the Little Tennessee Land Trust office at 88 E. Main Street, just upstairs of the Tartan Museum, from 5-7:30 p.m. A raffle of a Cowee grown Fraser Fir Christmas tree – proceeds to support the Rickman Store. Hot Cider and cookies will be served and you can also purchase Little Tennessee River Valley calendars or LTLT ball caps.

Saturday, Dec. 8

• The Highlands Community Christian 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.

Thursday, Dec 13

Buy an ornament for the Hospital 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: _____

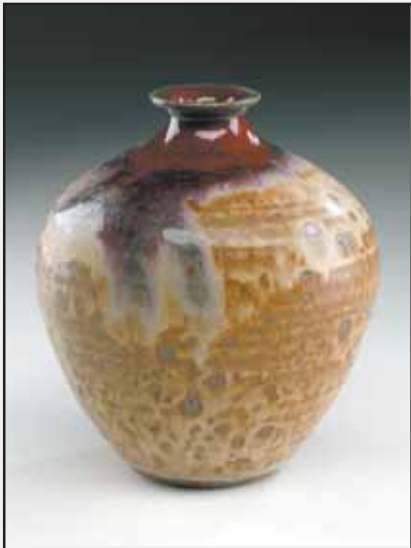
Send Acknowledgments to: _____

Address: _____



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Plateau artisans to sell their wares Saturday, Dec. 1



Shop for handcrafted goods this Christmas, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field on the Cashiers Road.



• Highlands Community Players Annual Holiday Readings program, 7 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Featured are a variety of readings - some humorous, some joyous, some sentimental - along with appropriate music. It is a free program appropriate for the whole family. No tickets are

needed.

Saturday, Dec. 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike up Osage and Rocky Knob mountains with nice view from both, and elevation gains and descents of 200-300 feet each. Meet at the Scaly Mtn. post office on Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Drive 4 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hikes are limited to 20. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Dec. 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike over fields and old roads on the Tesselee Historic Farm near Otto. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center on Hwy. 441 at 2 p.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. 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 or more information. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Saturday, Dec. 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-hike, with a 500 foot elevation change, to the lower Whitewater Falls from the Bad Creek Reservoir parking area. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Tuesday, Dec. 25

• Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner will be at the Log Cabin Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$29.95 per person for a buffet of traditional Christmas fare and desserts prepared by Lakeside Restaurant, Fressers Eatery and Blackberry Hill Deli with wine donated by Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Proceeds will benefit the Highlands Literacy Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands. For reservations, call Farrel Zehr at 828-342-7586.

Ruby Cinemas

Hwy. 441, Franklin

524-2076

Nov. 20 to Dec. 5

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

WE OWN THE NIGHT rated R

Mon - Thurs: 7

Fri: , 9:05

Sat & Sun: 7, 9:05

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

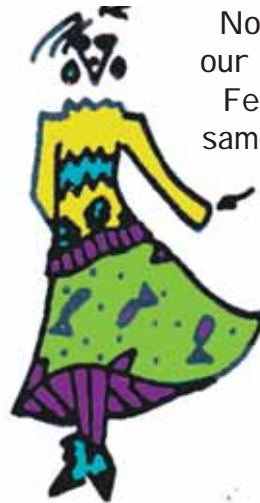
BEE MOVIE rated PG

Mon - Thurs: (4)

Fri: (4)

Sat & Sun: (2), (4)

APPAREL



Now Open for our 21st Season!

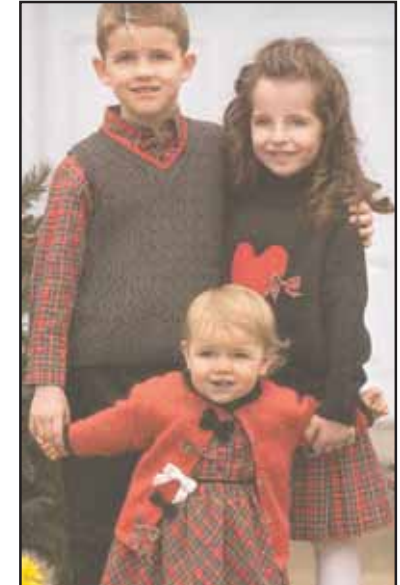
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Come see our Fun Line of Sweaters and Coats

Hard Tail • Junk Food
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Necessary Objects
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Firs cut fresh this week,
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Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. 'til dark"

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828-526-0782

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 assis-

stants 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.

CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full-time, Part-time, and PRN positions for day and night shifts. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 30 days of employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mandy Talley, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

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.

FOR RENT

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.

MOVING SALE

FURNITURE AND VARIOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. Call 526-2671 or 626-5950 for times and place.

VACATION RENTAL

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

CUTE 3 BED/2 BATH Mirror lake home \$1,350-\$1,550 + utilities a month, less than mile from Main Street. Call 770-977-5692

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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 ft442@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/town-home

LOTS – Exclusive RiverRock, Tuckasegee 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. Downton 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

NEW QUEEN FUTON BED – Cherry Frame, upgraded mattress, purchased as guest bed but never used. \$500. Call 526-4340 after 8 a.. and before 8 p.m.

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.

SEIL 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.

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

BEAMS, FLOORING AND ENTIRE STRUCTERS: HAND HEWN BEAMS. Beau-

tiful 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.

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.

ANTIQUE 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. \$25. 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.

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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

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HIGHLANDS RADIO SHACK IS FOR SALE! Own a successful year-round business on Main Street. Asking \$399,000. Call Thea or Chuck at 828-526-3350.

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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Christmas Dinner with all the fixings!

Ho, Ho, Ho! It's back! Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner! In 2001 there were literally no restaurants open for either Highlands' residents, or visitors to have Christmas dinner.

A group of ambitious innkeepers agreed to pull their culinary resources together and provide Christmas dinner to all in Highlands who wanted to come; giving birth to the first Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner. There was a minimum cost to enjoy the magnificent meal and all proceeds benefited Habitat for Humanity.

Over the years the Christmas Dinner grew to include more restaurants and local businesses participating in both the preparation and serving of the bountiful buffet which in its last year (2005) served over 250 people. From 2001-2005 The Annual Christmas Dinner raised over \$20,000 for Habitat for Humanity; a true win-win for everyone involved.

After taking a year off, the same Christmas Elves (lovingly calling themselves the Christmas Masochists) wanted to give their gift of Christmas dinner again to all of Highlands to enjoy!

The Elves include Blackberry Hill Bakery and Deli making luscious deserts; Lakeside Restaurant, Fresser's Eatery, Jim and Rene Ramsdell cooking the scrumptious meal; and Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro appointing the day with select wines. Serving will be Nancy's Fancy's and the Exchange; 4 ½ Street Inn; Highlands Rentals; Tranquility Cove Massage; and Mountainque. It takes a village to make Christmas, and we are all grateful to the Log Cabin Restaurant for offering their beautiful restaurant to support this most special occasion.

In the true essence of Christmas giving, all proceeds this year will benefit the Literacy Council of Highlands and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands. Please join us in this warm spirit of giving and love. The details are: December 25; 11-4; \$29.95 per person; The Log Cabin Restaurant. Please call for reservations early, as there is limited seating. For reservations call Farrel Zehr: 828-342-7586.

Town Lighting kicks off the season



On Saturday night, Main Street in front of the Methodist Church filled with folks who turned out to view the annual town lighting, first appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus and entertainment by the Highlands Christian Chorus. When Santa gave the signal all the Christmas lights on lightpoles, and trees, came on.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

• POLICE & FIRE •

The following is the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 23-26. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 23

• At 4:30 p.m., a person selling dogs from the back of a truck parked in the Mountain Fresh Fine Foods parking lot was issued a ticket.

Nov. 24

• A motorist was cited for speeding 48 mph in a 35 zone on N.C. 28..

Nov. 26

• At 3 p.m., \$300 worth of building materials were stolen from a residence on Hickory Hill Road. The case is under investigation.

Warnings

• Over the past week, officers issued five warning tickets.

The following is the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Nov. 22-27.

Nov. 22

• The dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Sassafras Court in Highlands Falls Country Club.

Nov. 23

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a victim who had fallen at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. EMS transported to the hospital.

Nov. 24

• The dept. responded to the smell of propane at a residence on Horse Cove Road. Nothing was found.

Nov. 25

• The dept. responded to a stove fire at a residence on Carl Chastain Road. It was extinguished while the crew was en route.

Nov. 26

• The dept. responded to an accident on N.C. 28 where a vehicle went over an embankment. There were no injuries.

Nov. 27

• The dept. provided mutual aid to assist Scaly Fire & Rescue at a structure fire on Chastain Road.

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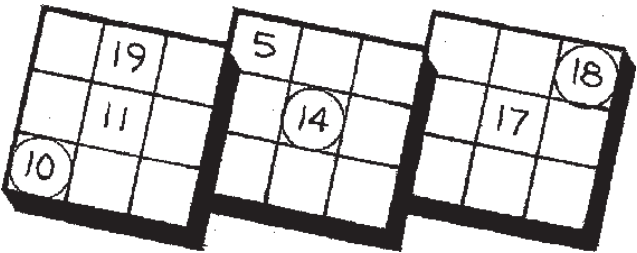
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• FUN & GAMES •

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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.

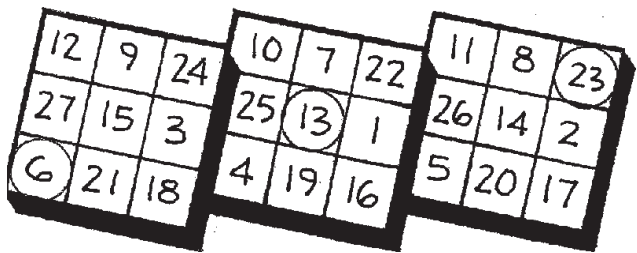
THE CHALLENGE:

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 #BZ1C in Nov. 22 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

"Half of Ten Dollars"

Across

1. — and call (4)
2. Vibration (abb.) (4)
3. Male deer (4)
4. Lie (3)
5. Yuck (3)

Down

5. Conjunction (2)
6. Signal (3)
7. We (2)
8. Intravenous (abb.)(2)
9. Roman numeral '6' (2)

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. 22 puzzle

T	O	P	E	N	L	M	I	S
I	E	S	M	T	P	N	L	O
M	L	N	S	O	I	E	P	T
P	T	E	O	M	N	I	S	L
S	I	M	P	L	E	T	O	N
O	N	L	I	S	T	P	M	E
L	S	T	N	P	M	O	E	I
N	M	I	L	E	O	S	T	P
E	P	O	T	I	S	L	N	M

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10	Rib Shack	10	Village Kids	3	Twigs
11	Wolfgang's	11	Wholesale Down	4	Summit One