

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 49

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Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
37 / 23F	33 / 28F	39 / 32F

This Week in Highlands

Thursday, Dec. 10

- Highlands-Cashiers Players annual free Holiday Reading at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12

- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 4 p.m.

- Holiday Innkeepers Tour featuring treats with a corresponding recipe card. Get directions and an empty cookbook at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street. Call 526-2112.

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Presents "Christmas Chamber Music with Santa" at 5 p.m. at PAC. Adults: \$20; children under 12 free. Call 526-9060.

- Various classes at The Bascom. For more information, call (828) 526-4949.

Sunday, Dec. 13

- At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 7 p.m. It's free.

- Auditions for HCP's winter play, "The Dixie Swim Club" at 3 at PAC. Scripts are at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Call: 828-200-9237.

Monday, Dec. 14

- Art class at The Bascom from 5 to 7 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is \$20/\$15 Call 526-4949.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

- A demonstration, "Holiday Floral Arrangement," at The Bascom in Highlands from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

- Holiday Fun with Literacy at the Peggy Crosby Center 1-4:30 p.m. Free.

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tempore policy explained

Questions have been posed regarding the town's policy for electing its Mayor Pro Tempore.

Each year, traditionally the first Wednesday night in December, a Mayor Pro Tempore is appointed by vote of the board.

The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as Mayor when the Mayor is not present at Town Board meetings.

Prior to the November 1997 election when the members of the Town Board were elected en masse every four years, the Mayor Pro Tempore was always the commissioner who gleaned the most votes.

However, staggered terms went into effect in Highlands during the 1997 election when after a 14-year run as mayor, John Cleaveland lost

to Buck Trott and after 18 years, Commissioner Donnie Calloway lost to Amy Patterson.

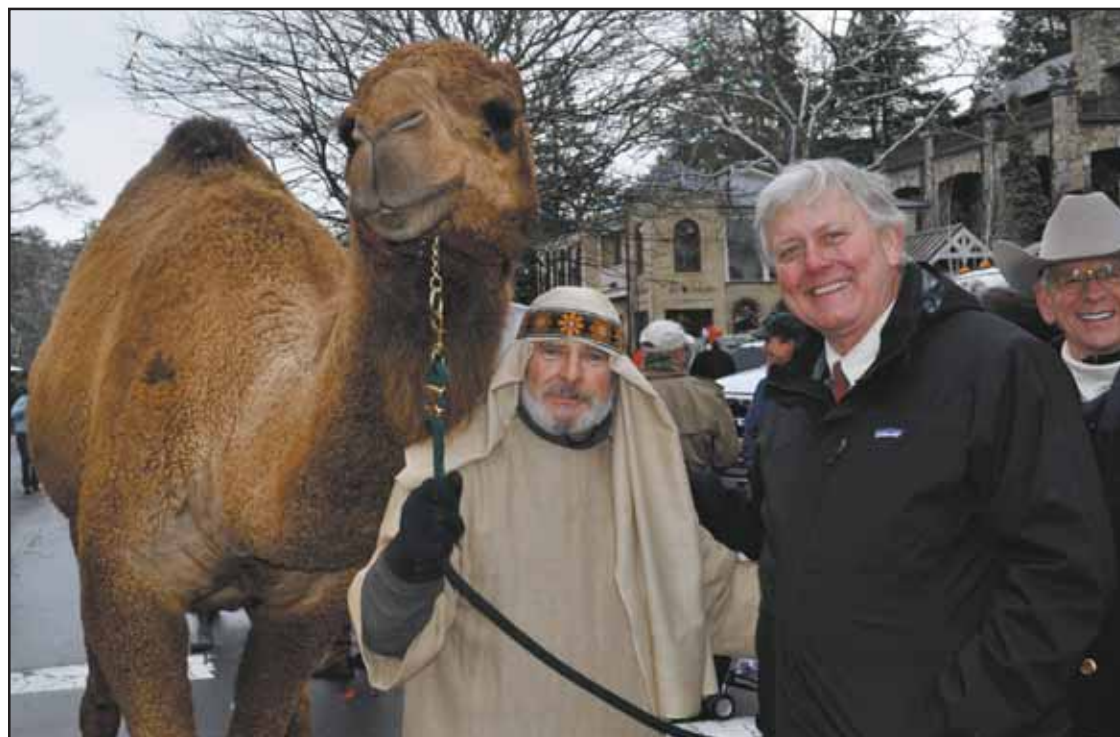
According to the minutes of the Dec. 3, 1997 Town Board meeting, when Mayor Cleaveland and Commissioner Calloway vacated their seats, Mayor Trott, opened the floor for nominations for Mayor

• See PRO TEMPORE page 3

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Camels steal the show at annual parade



Highlands' resident camel trader, Kenneth Knight with the new mayor of Highlands, David Wilkes and Dr. Carter Davis, the father of Highlands' Newspaper's newest columnist Gardner Davis. The camels are always a big hit at the parade -- a parade started by Highlands' first Merchants Association of which Wilkes and others were a part in the mid-80s. For more parade shots, see page 10.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

County H1N1 Vaccine clinics expanded

Due to increasing supplies of the H1N1 vaccine, the Macon County Public Health Center has further expanded its eligibility criteria to include anyone age 64 or under, individuals over 64 who have a chronic medical condition, and any child who needs their second dose of vaccine.

The next H1N1 immunization clinic is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 11 and is offered by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 349-2081 from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday - Friday.

Also beginning in December, school-based H1N1 flu shot clinics

will be offered to children enrolled in Macon County Public Schools. Information will be sent home with children before the shot clinics begin.

For more information, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081.

Property purchase near Zachary Field a 'no'

Following the closed session part of the Tuesday, Nov. 17 Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners announced that the county would not purchase land in the vicinity of Zachary Field as entertained in 2007.

In December 2007, the county entered into a two-year option contract with Lucille (Zachary) Potts concerning her 0.667 acre -- the remaining portion of parcel ID# 05-04314 which the county bought from her earlier for parking.

Potts had sold the front portion of the plot that joined Zachary Field but wasn't ready to sell the rest of the plot on which her home now sits. She asked for a two-year option with permission to reside on the property until then, said Commissioner Brian McClellan.

Lucille Z. Potts and her sisters were the owners of the Zachary homestead which they sold to the county for the creation of Zachary Field -- the only county sports complex on the plateau.

The need for extra land for future practice fields and parking at Zachary Field has always been a discussion point at county meetings, however, the turn in the economy coupled with the county's

• See ZACHARY page 9



Dr. Jim Rothermel, Principal Brian Jetter and Rotarian Ginger Slaughter.

Dental Health Project at Highlands School

The Rotary Clubs of Highlands and Highlands MountainTop have come together to offer a Children's Dental Health Program at the Highlands School to grades K-5. Modeled on a similar Cashiers Rotary program in Jackson County at the Blue Ridge School and Summit Charter School, the program provides a fluoride rinse to students once a week in the classroom and a visual dental check-up by a local dentist once a year.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said the NC Department of Regional Dentists endorsed the program and his teachers are enthusiastic about it, adding that parental approval is required and that letters are being sent to the parents of those students in grades K-5.

Dr. Jim Rothermel with Highlands Rotary said he and Jerry Hermanson of the MountainTop Rotary and director of the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, have spoken in depth with the director of the Cashiers Rotary program to model the Highlands project closely with it.

The Highlands School Children's Dental Health Program is free.

Scholarship fund growing



Mayor David Wilkes and Marc Bryson from the Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge presenting a \$267 check for Town's Scholarship Fund. Funds were raised from hot dog sales in October.

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Nobody gets it

Dear Editor,

I was stunned to read the article in the Dec. 3 edition of Highlands' Newspaper entitled "1.5-cent tax hike set for July 2010." In it I learned Macon County has raised our property taxes at a time when taxpayers can least afford it. Nobody seems to get it. We are in a deep recession and it's not getting better and won't for quite a while.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale says this is the best time to raise taxes. Is he kidding? This is the very worst time to raise taxes.

Whatever happened to "doing without" during hard times which are what taxpayers are currently doing to make ends meet. Many Macon County taxpayers will now have less food on their tables because of this inconsiderate decision.

Fred Wooldridge
Highland Taxpayer

Glad we're not France

Dear Editor,

I just read Ms.Brugger's column in the Dec. 3 issue entitled "Freedom equality opportunity" in which she appears to bemoan that we are not France.

In it she vastly understates the killings that were part of the French Revolution. It was more than mob anarchy. The leaders ordered the killings, often even of other leaders.

She ignores that France does not welcome immigrants, that France withdrew command of its less than awesome military forces from NATO even though it was American and British forces who died liberating France after it surrendered six weeks after Germany started toward France.

She ignores that France knowingly sold arms to Saddam in flagrant violation of the UN oil for food program.

She ignores that it was France that built the nuclear reactor for Saddam.

She is right that we are not France and many of us are truly grateful for that.

Mike Nims
Glenville, NC

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** 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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Macon County now part of Emergency Communications Network – CodeRED

Macon county has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system provides emergency officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire county.

One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database, which is an extremely important feature.

Although many telephone numbers are automatically in the system, no one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included. All individuals and businesses should log onto the Macon County website at www.maconnc.org and follow the link to the CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page.

Those without Internet access may call the Macon County 9-1-1 office at 828-349-2067 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to supply their information over the phone.

Required information includes first and last name, street address, (physical address not P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code and primary phone number. Additional phone numbers can be entered, too.

All businesses should register, as well as individuals with unlisted phone numbers, people who have changed their phone numbers or addresses within the past year, and those who use a cell phone or VoIP as their primary number.

CodeRED allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation.

The system works for cell phones, too, but an associated street address is required to provide relevant messages. The system can also send email messages and text messages.

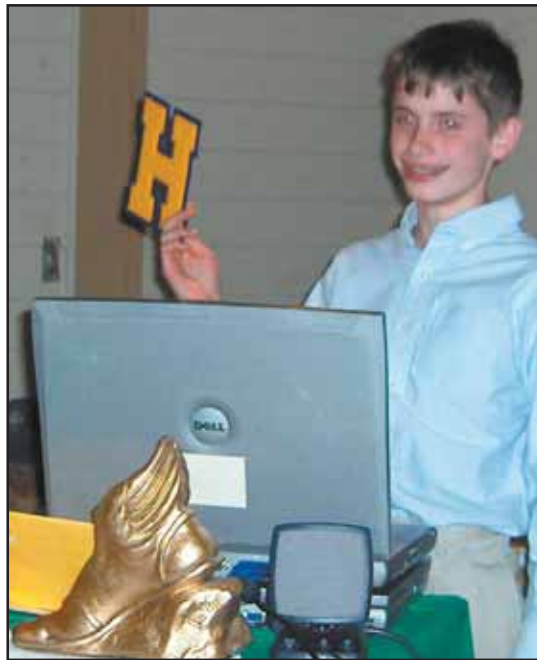
The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

Questions should be directed to the Macon County Management Office at 828-349-2063.

• MILESTONE •

Track star Hawkins is 'lettered'

At the annual Highlands Road Runners Banquet on Saturday night Corbin Hawkins was presented a Varsity Letter which he earned during the recently completed season. A major criteria for awarding a varsity letter in cross country is that the athlete was in the top seven runners on his team. Hawkins was the only runner on the Highlands School Cross Country Team so being in the top seven was not a problem. Results of the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship show that he placed within the top seven on every team in the conference which is unusual for a ninth-grader. Hawkins also was recognized as the Most Improved Runner of the Highlands Road Runner Club.



... PRO TEMPORE continued from page 1

Pro Tempore, explaining that the previous policy of electing the commissioner with the highest vote count to the position no longer applied since staggered terms had been adopted.

Commissioner Ron Sanders nominated Commissioner Herb James Mayor Pro Tempore and Commissioner Zeke Sossomon moved to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner James abstaining.

At the Dec. 3, 2009 Town Board meeting, Mayor David Wilkes began proceedings to name new commissioner Gary Drake Mayor Pro Tempore since he had the most votes, but was informed by Commissioner

Patterson of the town's policy which had changed back in 1997.

"The commissioner with the most votes used to be appointed Mayor Pro Tempore, but that changed when we went to staggered terms," she said.

With that, Mayor Wilkes took nominations and Commissioner Patterson was unanimously named Mayor Pro Tempore. She has been appointed to that position numerous times over the years.

The staggered terms for commissioners went into effect in 1997 as outlined in the Town of Highlands Code of Ordinances - Article III - Elections - Section 3.2.

- Kim Lewicki

New restaurant coming to ...the hill

The cry for "More Restaurants" has been heard and now the newest eating establishment could open April 2010.

At the Dec. 9 Zoning Board meeting, Thomas and Kay Craig requested a special use permit (SUP) to open a 43-seat restaurant at 292 S. Fourth Street.

The 882 sq. ft. space is currently occupied by Basketcase and The Laurel Magazine.

According to the application, the restaurant will serve lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., will feature a bar with stools and several tables, a 158 sq. ft. kitchen and two employees.

However, Thomas Craig said nothing is carved in stone at this point.

"Since we're thinking about a restaurant, we decided to go ahead and apply for a special use permit, because you need one for a restaurant, but it's very possible another retail shop could go there which doesn't re-

quire a SUP."

All new restaurants or change-of-use businesses in an established space require a special use permit.

Craig said he's still doing a budget forecast and determining renovation costs so it's too early to say if a restaurant will definitely go in the space. But if so, renovations could start Jan. 1, 2010 with an opening target date of April.

He said no name has been decided, but the restaurant will feature simple American fare. "We are definitely not planning on establishing a fine dining experience," he said.

In January, June Webb, owner of High Country Cafe, will begin renovations at the old Hill Top Grill next door which will be renamed "June's Place." Craig said he's looking forward to her opening because when it was open, that eating establishment drew customers up the street.

HCP
HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS
PLAYERS



Holiday Reading

Thursday, December 10 7:30pm PAC
Our Gift to the Community * Free

Raffle of 22-lb chocolate Santa to benefit Food Pantry



Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwin's with David Long, and Elaine Reynolds, co-director of the Food Pantry.

Jerry Moore of Kilwin's has joined local forces to raise money for the Food Pantry. Moore donated a 22-lb chocolate Santa which will be raffled off with proceeds going to the Pantry. Moore asked David Long, in the youth program at the Highlands United Methodist Church and other students from Highlands School to help sell raffle tickets. They are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Thursday, Dec. 24. To buy a ticket stop by Kilwin's on Main Street or call the church at 526-3376 or Long at 526-4394.

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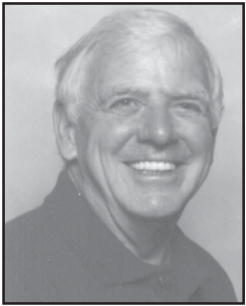
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Your guide to hunting, fishing and camping

Mounted on the front of my car is a decorative license plate of a magnificent buck sporting huge antlers. I get a lot of nods and smiles from hunters. What they don't realize is that I could easier shoot them than a defenseless deer. I take that back, if I'm starving, I'll kill a deer and not them. I'm told human flesh is not tasty.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

How to hunt: Buy a camera rifle with an accurate powerful scope. Hunt as usual using the skills you have developed through the years. From your tree-stand, spot your defenseless target walking toward you, not looking up because deer never look up. Raise your rifle and get those crosshairs right on his chest. While he's busy looking for food, squeeze the trigger until the camera fires, sending out a soft "pop" noise that startles your prey. Try to get more shots as he runs for safety.

Here's the best part. At the end of your hunt, take your best picture and develop it into a poster. Mount it in a frame over your fireplace. When your fellow hunting buddies drop by and ask if you shot that deer, wondering how you could get such a great picture, you can say, "Yep, I shot that buck from my stand using my new scope." You won't be lying and you can still maintain your testosterone level knowing one of God's most beautiful creatures is still alive. Life is good, killing is not.

How to fish: I'm not sure why it's important to get up early but it is. Call your buddies and see if they're also dumb enough to be awake. Hook the boat to your car and head out.

Buying the proper bait is important. I like live shrimp for saltwater fishing. Buying a case of beer is also essential for a fun day on the water. When your buddies arrive, head out for a day of fishing.

Now this part is important. First, cut the barb off the end of your hook. Take one of your live shrimp and run the hook up its backside until it goes to shrimp heaven. Now cast out and put your pole in a rod holder. Open a beer,

sit in your fishing chair and doze off, waking only to take an occasional sip of brew. When its apparent something is nibbling on your hook, do nothing until your beer can is empty. Then, lift your fishing pole to see what's on the line. If a fish was dumb enough to bite on a dead shrimp and can't get off a hook with no barb, take your empty beer can and push the fish off the hook, careful not to let it get in your boat and mess

it up. Grab another unlucky shrimp and start the process again. It's not essential to drink one beer per bite. Sometimes I go through three beers before realizing a smart fish has stolen my bait. This is good 'cause you don't have to get outta your chair. Of course, the fishing day is over when the beer runs out.

On your way home, stop at the market and buy a nice slice of farm-raised, lead-free salmon for dinner. Hose down any spilled beer from your boat and put the salmon on the BBQ along with any leftover shrimp. Get a beer from the frig. Again, life is good, except if you're a shrimp.

How to camp: Load everything you'll need for the trip into your camper. Drag your camper to a campground and pay a fortune for a campsite. Meet with your fellow campers and hoop it up, telling each other lies until it's almost dark. Then cook a sumptuous meal over a fire and let the world pass you by.

When it's dark, get into your car and drive to a Motel 6 and check in, paying less than you did for the campsite. While your camping buddies are all swatting mosquitoes and unable to sleep on a hard bed, you are snuggled in, watching TV, knowing the toilet is six feet away.

It's important to get up early and be back at the campground to make fun of your fellow campers who are now covered with chiggers.

While they itch and scratch and complain of a restless night, throw a slab of bacon on the gas BBQ and ask how many eggs everyone wants. Again, life is good, scratching is not.

PS - I just know you're going to save this.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Americans can't fathom such a faith

It's been more than eight years since the attack of September 11, 2001, more than eight years since we invaded Afghanistan. Our goals were to displace the Taliban and capture or kill Osama bin Laden. With the Taliban resurging and bin Laden at-large, earlier claims of victory seem exaggerated at best.

In 2001 the United States posted a \$25 million reward for information leading to the capture of bin Laden. No takers. We upped the ante to \$50 million in 2007. In a country whose average per capita income is \$800 per year, why did we think \$50 million would do the trick? The reward wasn't miserly. Rather it is a result of bin Laden's hosts adherence to Islamic law.

The Prophet admonishes followers to take care of guests, including strangers. To surrender a guest to authorities is a violation, apparently even when a 50 million dollar payout awaits. You have to admire that kind of loyalty. It's surprising that the guys at the State Department, CIA, or Department of Defense, whichever originated the idea of a bounty, didn't understand our enemy better.

Such devotion to religious ideas and cultural norms is startling to us in the west, who will sell anything is for sale if the price is high enough.

At one time the code of La Cosa Nostra was inviolate. Today many former members are in the witness protection program, selling medical supplies in Montana or cosmetics in Arkansas. Most of them violated the code of Omerta, informed on colleagues, in exchange for leniency and protection. There's even an Italian guy in Banner Elk who came to town with lots of money. He has bought businesses and developed condominiums, and everyone in town knows he is in witness protection. If ev-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

everyone in Banner Elk knows it, hasn't it occurred to the locals that some guy in New York or Newark has the same information?

It's easy to make a promise. Husbands and wives promise fidelity. Bose promises fidelity. It works out more frequently for Bose. Teenagers promise, often under some pressure from a youth pastor, to maintain virginity until marriage. Some promises are hard to keep, which makes it all the more remarkable that not one

Afghan or Pakistani from the tribal regions has come forward to claim the reward. Think about it. Most of us would betray our mothers for \$50 million, many for a lot less. The Muslim faithful aren't motivated by money. If the reward were increased to one billion dollars, the result would be the same.

It's hard, maybe impossible, for us in the materialistic Western world to understand such devotion. At least a few among the mountain tribes must disagree with bin Laden's methods, if not his goals. Yet no one has come forward. Mistrust and hatred of the Americans is widespread, but not one villager has overcome his suspicion and loathing to claim the prize.

Our enemy is a formidable one, a society that craves eight-century values more than 21st century conveniences, a people more concerned with Allah's eternal judgment, than instant wealth. It's hard for us to believe, even more difficult for us to understand, but that is the face of fundamentalist Islam.

Perhaps in time globalization, with promises of wealth and comfort, may yet seduce the Muslim world. Levi jeans and mp3 players, or central air and group health insurance, may secure a victory that our military cannot achieve. Short of annihilation of a billion or so Muslims, it seems our best hope.

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, PO 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 of a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.



Amount: _____

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Wednesday, Dec. 16

24-cent Digital Prints

• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Health Care reform end game

We're now in the end game of health-care reform, and it's looking like we'll actually see a bill pass, but opposition among Republicans and conservatives is still strong. Opponents are making a number of objections.

First, it's claimed that reform will be too expensive. They say, "With the federal budget deficit so high we can't afford to do anything

new." So I was interested to hear that after President Obama's speech on Afghanistan many of these same people claimed that there was no reason to worry about how to fund the extra troops.

For the last eight years our wars have been paid by special appropriations outside the federal budget so the cost is never accounted for....it's just added to the federal

debt. The government has already shelled out at least \$1 trillion since 2001 for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (part of the reason the federal debt doubled during George W. Bush's administration).

But this claim that health-care reform is too expensive is not true. *Not* reforming our health-care system is what would ruin this country (see my column "Health Care Reform II: Can We Afford to do Nothing?" August 2009).

Paul Krugman wrote last week ("Reform or Else") that "health care economists I respect are seriously impressed by the cost-control measures in the Senate bill, which include efforts to improve incentives for cost-effective care, the use of medical research to guide doctors toward treatments that actually work, and more. A letter signed by 23 prominent health care experts — including Mark McClellan, who headed Medicare under the Bush administration — declares that the bill's cost-control measures 'will reduce long-term deficits.' Over the next decade, the Congressional Budget Office has concluded, the proposed legislation would reduce, not increase, the budget deficit."

Another argument Republicans are throwing against reform is that it will mean cuts in Medicare. These same people know that if Medicare is not reformed it will become so expensive it will threaten the entire national economy and have to be eliminated (their real goal). Senator John McCain has been trying to scare people with the threat of "draconian cuts" in Medicare even though he proposed much deeper cuts last year as part of his presidential campaign.

Another argument is that it is unconstitutional to mandate the purchase of health insurance. Yet it was the Republican Party that wrote a Medicare drug bill in 2003 that not only mandated purchase of insurance but instituted a penalty if you didn't sign-up. This penalty increased every month you procrastinated — 1% extra per month delayed. If you put off signing up for a year you would pay a 12% higher premium for the *rest of your life*, and the money goes to an insurance company — pure profit based on nothing.

This fall I read *Money-Driven Medicine: The Real Reason Health Care Costs So Much*, by Maggie Mahar, a financial journalist since 1982. The title of her book says it all really; in too many cases the profit motive trumps the well-being of the patient in this country. There are so many examples in the book of what is wrong with our medical system I can only list some highlights here.



Katie Brugger
k-brugger@hotmail.com

A Dartmouth University study published in *Health Affairs* in 2004 showed that there was an inverse relationship between quality of care and money spent. That is, in regions where more procedures and tests are done the medical results are worse. The researchers concluded that one-third of American health care spending is wasted.

If you'd like to read about this issue in detail, read "The Cost Conundrum," by Atul Gawande, a fabulous article in the *New Yorker* in June of this year. Dr. Gawande writes, "In a 2003 study, another Dartmouth team, led by the internist Elliott Fisher, examined the treatment received by a million elderly Americans diagnosed with colon or rectal cancer, a hip fracture, or a heart attack. They found that patients in higher-spending regions received sixty per cent more care than elsewhere. They got more frequent tests and procedures, more visits with specialists, and more frequent admission to hospitals. Yet they did no better than other patients, whether this was measured in terms of survival, their ability to function, or satisfaction with the care they received. If anything, they seemed to do worse. That's because nothing in medicine is without risks. Complications can arise from hospital stays, medications, procedures, and tests, and when these things are of marginal value the harm can be greater than the benefits."

Other studies have looked at autopsy reports to assess whether a doctor's diagnosis matched what killed a patient. Former *Journal of American Medical Association* editor George Lundberg, who trained as a pathologist, said that despite extensive use of modern diagnostic imaging techniques, the studies reveal that misdiagnosis of terminally ill patients has not improved since at least 1938. The studies showed major misdiagnosis in about 40% of the cases, for example the patient was being treated for heart disease but really had cancer. A group of doctors at Harvard decided to test this research. When they looked at results of autopsies in their own hospital they found the same results.

Why are drug prices so high in this country? The pharmaceutical industry spends approximately one-and-a-half times as much on marketing and sales as it spends on research and development. From 1995 to 2002, pharmaceutical companies were the nation's most profitable industry, reporting earnings that ranged from 13% to 18.6% of sales each and every year. Over the same period, the average Fortune 500 firm posted earnings that averaged just 3.1% to 5% of

• See BRUGGER page 8

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• HIS & HERS •

Little Barry goes to school

By John Armor

It has been almost a year that little Barry What's-His-Name, the Kenyan-Indonesian-African-American lad has been going to school as President of the United States. This is an interim Report Card to his political parents, the voters of the United States.

English Comprehension:

Barry has the most extraordinary ability to speak in English than all but a small handful of students who have ever attended this school. However, this ability to speak in complete sentences, using words that seem appropriate to the subject at hand, is coupled with a near total lack of content in those speeches. A+ for delivery, F for content. As Benjamin Franklin observed, "Here comes the Orator! With his flood of words, and his drop of reason."

Social Studies:

With Barry's approval, one of his confederates, Little Harry Reid, spent \$300 million to purchase the one-time services of Little Mary Landrieu to vote yes to put the Health Care Bill on the floor in the Senate. But, it turned out that Little Mary thought it was only \$100 million. They paid 200% more than Little Mary was willing to go for. C for sizing up the situation. F for acting appropriately. As Oscar Wilde said, "A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing."

Science:

The very week that internal documents in a British university surface, showing that the scientists who most support global warming have falsified their data, Little Barry decides to take part in a meeting that assumes that those false data are true. Barry and his selected playmates persist in the view that science is decided by the number of scientists who hold a particular view, rather than which scientist has a theory which best fits the observed facts. F for comprehension of what science consists of. F for application of science in the real world. When Galileo was challenged on his theory that the Earth revolved around the Sun rather than the Sun around the Earth (the common belief of the day) he is reported to have said, "Eppur Si Muove" — "And Yet It Moves."

Economics:

Little Barry has shown a distressing tendency to equate borrowed money with earned money, that either can be spent for "investment" with equal effect. Even if there were no waste in the spending, and



Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor

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John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

no fraud in the counting of the results, the radical difference between borrowing which must be repaid, and spending of present, real money, would remain. F for understanding the basics. F for application in the real world. Milton Friedman from Free to Choose: "You can be sure that we'll all be able to find very good reasons why we should be the ones to spend somebody

else's money." Ben Franklin from Poor Richard's Almanack: "A penny saved is a penny earned."

History:

Little Barry has given several speeches in class about the conduct of warfare and the manner of ending a war successfully. Apparently, he has been neglecting his homework assignments. F for comprehension. F for application. As Vince Lombardi observed, and Winston Churchill also did before him, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Actually, that precise quote came from a John Wayne movie and was attributed to Lombardi.

There is no doubt, however, about Churchill's position. Spoken in Commons, "You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory — victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."

Conclusion:

Little Barry is not doing well here at the School. Not only do I fear that he will not be promoted at the end of this session, without serious private tutoring to fill in the gaps in his current knowledge, I do not think he can successfully complete the current year. The voters should come and see me, at their earliest opportunity.

Signed:

Miss Irmingard Sweeney, Sixth Grade, Unified School District of the United States of America

• About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, is available here: www.TheseAreTheTimes.us

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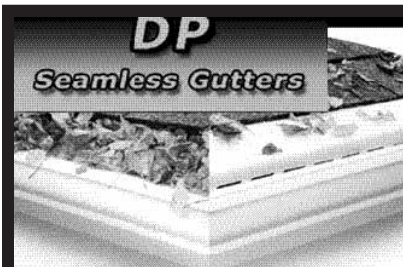
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... BRUGGER continued from page 6

revenues.

The medical device field is another major growth industry: "Just as Americans shell out far more for prescription drugs than the citizens of other countries, we also pay a premium for devices." An artificial hip that costs \$1270 in Europe would cost four times that here (just for the device). And the most amazing (disgusting?) fact of all: the medical-

device salesperson sometimes makes more on the commission than the surgeon makes on the operation to install the device.

Our system of health care and insurance is horribly broken and badly in need of repair. If you haven't called your Senators to urge them to vote in favor of the bill, now is the time to do it.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

My, it's getting warm in here, or... The really inconvenient truth

I know I said a while ago that I was going to lay off beating up on Al Gore and later I did it anyway and now I'm going to do it again. Since the news coverage on the subject is limited to a precious few outlets, I feel it my ongoing duty to inform you of this very important matter. Please stick with me until the best part; you'll know it when you read it.

From the Washington Times; "Researcher: NASA hiding climate data. The fight over global warming science is about to cross the Atlantic with a U. S. researcher poised to sue NASA, demanding release of the same kind of climate data that has landed a leading British center in hot water over charges it skewed its data.

"Chris Horner, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, said NASA has refused for two years to provide information under the Freedom of Information Act that would show how the agency has shaped its climate data and would explain why the agency has repeatedly had to correct its data going back as far as the 1930s. 'I assume that what is there is highly damaging,' Mr. Horner said. 'These guys are quite clearly bound and determined not to reveal their internal discussions about this.'"

This NASA information is not really news to this column's readers since we exposed James Hansen, head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as a liar and a fraud at least months and perhaps years ago. But I digress.

Phil Jones, the director of the British Climatic Research Unit, who was a party to the exposed emails besmirching their own data, has "stepped down" pending an investigation. The review will examine the matter to determine whether there is any evidence of the manipulation or suppression of data which is at odds with acceptable scientific practice.

Michael Mann, a scientist at Penn State University who is under fire for his involvement in the British e-mail exchanges, has been asked to resign from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This seem to fall into line with recent calls for the IPCC to be ended due to suspicions of the doubtful veracity of their findings.

I'm smellin' the smoke and I think there's a fire coming up. Must be Global Warming. Now it's getting good.

According to the LA Times (very



**Don Swanson
Feedback is
encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnnet.net**

liberal); "Two Hollywood conservatives, (yes, there are some) have called upon the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to rescind the prestigious profitable gold Oscar statuette it gave ex-Vice President Al Gore two years ago for the environmental movie 'An Inconvenient Truth.'"

In 2007, Hollywood's academy sanctified Gore's cinematic message of global warming with it's famous

statue, enriched his earnings by \$100,000 per 85-minute appearance and helped elevate the Tennessean's profile to win the Nobel Peace Prize despite losing the election battle of 2000 to a Texan and living in a big house with lots of energy-driven appliances.

When the LA Times turns up the heat on a liberal, he's cooked.

Here is my very favorite, so far. From NewsBusters; "Al Gore has cancelled a high-priced speaking engagement during the upcoming climate change conference in Copenhagen. As NewsBusters reported (last) Tuesday, the Nobel Laureate was slated to lecture about his new book "Our Choice" where attendees could pay over \$1,200 a ticket for the right to meet the Global Warmingist-in-Chief and have their picture taken with him.

"According to Danish newspaper Berlingske, this has been cancelled due to 'unforeseen changes' to Gore's schedule. Around 3,000 Danes had already secured a ticket for the Berlingske Media's, planned since August and should have taken place just two days before the climate summit. Exit question: Do the 'unforeseen changes' to Gore's schedule have something to do with ClimateGate and/or the fee being charged for his handshake?"

Forget Gore's financial misfortunes; forget the thought of polar bears floating around on ice cubes; forget that Miami will be 20 feet under water by the day after tomorrow. What's really important is the effect that all these inconvenient truths are having on the image of the only one that matters: OBAMA!

He has got to be stewing in his juice. First these would-be crazies bust his party thrown supposedly for the prime minister of India and grab the spotlight. Then Tiger flees the mansion barefoot, jumps into the Escalade and tries to knock down a tree, and the media can't get enough of the story. Now he has to go to Copenhagen in the middle of a monumental controversy. Boo hoo.

... ZACHARY continued from page 1

commitment to school construction, and the completion of the regulation-size soccer field at Highlands School, caused commissioners to rethink their options.

In a letter to Lucille Potts dated Nov. 23, 2009, the county exercised its option not to purchase the 0.667-acre parcel.

"After looking at the county's needs, the board of commissioners voted not to exercise its option to purchase the Lyman Zachary Road property," reads the letter by County Manager Jack Horton. "Accordingly, the county is terminating its contract with you and will not be exercising its option to purchase your property."

Commission Chairman Ronnie Beale said all along, the primary purpose for buying the Potts property adjoining the park was to eventually build a regulation-size soccer field and expand parking.

"The county did purchase part of the property and probably would have purchased the rest if the seller had agreed to sell at that time of the original purchase," said Beale. "We now hope that the new soccer field at Highlands School will relieve some of the pressure that has always been at Zachary Field during soccer season concerning scheduling games, upkeep and parking."

The change in the real estate climate and the availability of county funds has changed since the county first entertained ideas of pur-

chasing the plot. "This year we had to cut the county budget by 10% across the board," said Commissioner McClellan.

Beale said the county has offered to make a land swap with Potts, however.

"We did offer to swap a lot near the Potts property that the county owns so the county would not have to outlay over \$200,000 which was the agreed upon cost of the Potts parcel for which we had an option to buy," he said.

The land the county would be interested in swapping is a 1.74-acre land-locked tract in the same general area that isn't adjacent to the Zachary Field property.

"If you would like to discuss or consider an exchange of properties, please give us a call," ends the letter by County Manager Jack Horton.

Past Commissioner Ricky Bryson, who orchestrated the land dealings for Zachary Park is disappointed in the county's decision. "They may not need her property now, but what about 25 years from now?"

Commissioner Beale said perhaps in the future, if the seller is still willing to sell to the county, it might be interested, but not at this time. "Right now, the county is focused on its capital improvement efforts toward school renovation and construction," he said.

The county's option to purchase the Potts parcel ran out on Dec. 1. — Kim Lewicki

from the history guy ...

Dec 10, 1955

The Mighty Mouse Playhouse premiered on television.

"Hi, boys and girls! Here we go, rocketing into an exciting cartoon show!"

Tho' the explanation was far from cogent, this extraordinary rodent mixed it up with Oil Can Harry, who was always up to something contrary.

This super powered mouse, was known to rock the house.

I can not explain how or why, but he started out as Super Fly, and this diminutive hero went from really small to more than zero.

But what I really must try to convey is "Here he comes to save the day!"

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

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"SONGS OF EMMANUEL"

The Cantata, at the 11 am service will be directed by Orville Wike & accompanied by organist, Angie Jenkins and trumpeter, Brad Ulrich. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano, and Jim Hunter. Narrator will be Duncan Greenlee.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

"CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE"

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Valerie Whitcup, Harpist

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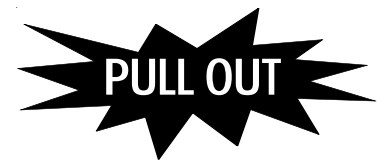
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Sat., Dec. 5



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Photos by Jim Lewicki



Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Ongoing

• Republican women from Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties have initiated the formation of a Republican Women's Association. The core group of organizers headed by Melisa McKim of Cashiers includes Carol Adams, Glenville, Dinah Davis, Highlands, Melinda Barber, Cashiers and Debbie Sanderson, Sapphire. All Republican women, permanent and seasonal residents, are invited to join and participate as the group gets officially underway. Announcements about meetings and events will be made through local publications and radio stations. For additional information please call 828 200-0437.

Week Long

• The 2010 Highlands Historical Society calendars are available for \$10 each, and if you buy 4 you get a free cookbook. The calendars feature scenes of Highlands from the 1800s to the early 1900s. Calendars are available at Cyrano's, The Highlander Newspaper, Country Club Properties (Wright Square location), and The Chambers Agency. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

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

Sundays

• Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. Call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.

Sundays beginning Jan. 3

Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Win-

ter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. 12/31.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

• Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

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

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays Zumba Gold/Beginner, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd 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.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. It is for people coping with serious mental illnesses (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Fridays & Saturdays

• At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Saturdays

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses

See EVENTS page 12

First Presbyterian Church to present Christmas concert



First Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Featured will be Valerie Whitcup, harp, Margaret McAllister, harp, Johnathon McAllister, boy soprano, and Mary Kay Bauer, soprano. Also featured will be Wayne Coleman, tenor, John Greene, tenor, Jim Hunter, tenor, Stell Huie, baritone, and The Highlands Male Chorus led by Orville Wike. Angie Jenkins will be accompanist.

Please make plans to attend for a delightful evening of beautiful music. Selections will include; "Ave Maria" by Schubert, "Mary, Did You Know," "But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming"

and "He Shall Feed His Flock" from Handel's "Messiah," "I Wonder As I Wander," "Gesu Bambino," "In the Bleak Midwinter," and "O Holy Night" which will be sung by 11 year old Johnathon McAllister with harp accompaniment by his sister, 13 year old Margaret McAllister. Also featured will be solo harp selections and congregational singing of familiar carols.

There will be a reception immediately following in Coleman Hall.

The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

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Sunday: 2, 4:30, 7

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Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:30, 7

PLANET 51

rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

Saturday: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

Sunday: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10

OLD DOGS

rated PG

Friday: 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

Saturday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15

Sunday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:15

Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15

THE TWILIGHT SAGA:

NEW MOON

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

Saturday: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

Sunday: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:05

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

es and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

- 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.

Through Friday, Dec. 18

- *American Art Today, Juried Work* exhibition at

The Bascom. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Gifts and donations for distribution through the Highlands Emergency Council should be dropped off at area banks or at the Highlands Emergency Council on Poplar Street.

- *The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design*

exhibition will open at The Bascom in Highlands and run through Dec. 18. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be Nov. 14 from 5-7 p.m. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Pottery workshop "Open Studio for Ceramics," by Patrick Taylor, will be held at The Bascom for intermediate to advanced students. Two sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m.; or Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost is \$375/\$350 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949.

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 10

- Highlands-Cashiers Players annual free Holiday Reading at 7:30 p.m.

- The December meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed.

Friday, Dec. 11

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12

- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 4 p.m.

- Holiday Innkeepers Tour featuring treats with a corresponding recipe card. The more inns you visit, the more cards you will receive to help furnish your Holiday InnKeeper's Cookbook. 1-6 p.m. Participating Inns include: 4 ½ Street Inn; Chandler Inn; Colonial Pines Inn B&B; Hampton Inn; Highlands House B&B; Highlands Inn; Highlands Suite Hotel; Inn at Half Mile Farm; Main Street Inn; Mitchell's Lodge & Cottages; Mountain High Lodge; and Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Directions and your empty cookbook shell may be picked up from the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street. For questions, call 828-526-2112.

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Presents "Christmas Chamber Music with Santa." at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center-Highlands. Christmas music, carol sing-along and treats for good listeners. adults: \$20; children under 12: free. Call 828-526-9060 for information.

- Art class "Ceramic Ornament," by Norma Hendrix, will be taught at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to noon. This is an intergenerational class for children and adults. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Bascom members. Call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Art class "Botanical Watercolor: American Hol-

ly," by Fayne Ansley, will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. For teens and adults. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- A demonstration, "Holiday Botanical Painting by Fayne," will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 1-1:45 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

HCP's Holiday Reading program tonight at PAC



This evening, 7:30 at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, the Highlands Cashiers Players present their 13th Holiday Reading Program. A line-up of fifteen actor/readers will gather on stage to read holiday stories and poems, some humorous, some poignant, some informational — all entertaining. Music and songs will be interspersed with the readings: professional harpist Valerie von Pechy Whitcup will provide heavenly harp music; Wayne Coleman will sing the "Boar's Head Carol," Michelle Hott, "The Christmas Song" (chestnuts roasting, etc.), and Melanie McKenna will add "What Child Is This" to complement Vanie Rich's reading of this year's children's story, "B Is for Bethlehem."

The actors/readers include several HCP regulars and a number of other talented readers of the community. Ann Schneider, Jody Read, Vangie Rich, and Diane Rosazza will read selections from the book by Marjorie Holmes, "At

Christmas the Heart Goes Home." Steve Hott will give "Holiday Eating Tips". Jim Gordon, Curtis and Vangie Rich will dramatize the touching story, "A Lesson from My Father." Betty Chesna will read a surprising true story, "Santa Rocks;" Stuart Armor, a humorous story, "Oy to the World." Dean Zuch, Wayne Coleman, and Kirk Howard will dramatize the story, "Night of the Magi," and winding up the evening will be the appearance of Rachael Hedden as the Lucia Bride, enacting and explaining a past and present Scandinavian tradition.

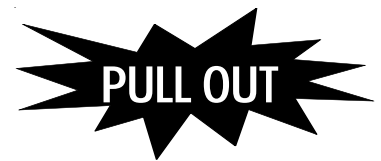
After the performance the audience is invited downstairs to the PAC reception area for homemade holiday sweet breads and hot cider furnished by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. The Holiday Reading program is the Players' annual gift to the community. There is no charge for the performance, no tickets are needed. Older children will enjoy the readings.

Votes sought this week for winners of Gingerbread Structure contest



A student in The Bascom's intergenerational gingerbread building workshop works at her creation, above. The workshop was held Thanksgiving weekend at the nonprofit art center and "was wildly successful," said Bascom Education Director Norma Hendrix. More than 80 gingerbread houses were built by an array of age groups in the class taught by Fayne Ansley, with volunteer help from Mary Guy Gunn, Nancy Pearson and Barbara Domingos. The community is invited to stop by The Bascom and cast a vote for their favorite of the 19 gingerbread houses entered in a Gingerbread Structure Contest. Votes will be taken through Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The winners of the contest will be announced in a free public celebration at 4 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 12. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



• Holly Springs Community Blood Drive at the Holly Springs Baptist Church at 8 am to noon pm. Please call 524-0908 for more information or to schedule an appointment. *All presenting donors will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of three*

A sweet ending for Christmas Day



Martha Porter has been tempting Highlanders with her fabulous baked goods and desserts for many years, and services many of Highlands's outstanding restaurants. This year she will bake her magic for the Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner.

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fresser's Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children under 10 and all proceeds will go to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands. It is an extensive buffet of extraordinary holiday cuisine.

Find these brownies and more Christmas Day! Call today: 526-8867 for reservations.

Melt together:

1 cup butter

4 1 oz bars unsweetened chocolate

In a medium bowl, beat together:

4 eggs

2 cups sugar

1 TBSP vanilla extract

Add the melted butter and chocolate

Fold in:

1 cup flour

½ tsp salt

Bake at 350 for 25 minutes (in 11 x 15 or 9 x 13 pan) 325 for about 40 minutes in 9" springform pan

Fudge Frosting

Bring to a boil in a saucepan:

1 cup sugar

¼ cup butter

¼ cup milk

Boil, stirring constantly, about 2 minutes remove from heat beat in ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips and 6 large marshmallows. (Double to frost 2-layer cake).

pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets!

Sunday, Dec. 13

• At the Community Bible Church, the annual Community Christian Chorale at 7 p.m.

• Auditions for Highlands-Cashiers Players winter play, "The Dixie Swim Club," by J. Jones, N. Hope, and J. Wooten will be held at 3 at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands NC. "The Dixie Swim Club" is a charming play featuring 5 female college friends and former competition swim club teammates and their friendship over 55 years. Performance dates are Feb. 25-28 and March 5-7, 2010. Rehearsals begin early January 2010. Scripts are at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Call: Rick Siegel, Director, 828.200.9237

Monday, Dec. 14

• Macon County Commission meeting at the courthouse boardroom at 6 p.m. There won't be a second meeting in December.

• The Macon County School Board meeting meeting is at 6 p.m. at the administration building in Franklin.

• Art class "Figure Study Sessions with a Live Model," by Laurence Holden, will be held at The Bascom from 5 to 7 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is \$20/\$15 Call 526-4949.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

• A demonstration, "Holiday Floral Arrangement," will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Watch Margie Shambaugh take native seasonal greens and with the help of a few embellishments, create a gorgeous holiday arrangement. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thursday, Dec. 17

• Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

• At the Literacy Council at the Peggy Crosby Center 1-4:30 p.m. Holiday Fun with Literacy. Free.

• Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with Matinees, Evening Shows and Refreshments for Purchase. call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

• The Highlands Audubon Society will have its annual Christmas Bird Count on Friday at 7 a.m. If you wish to participate please contact Edwin Poole at 828-526-2775.

• At First Presbyterian Church a "Christmas Concert" at 7 p.m. featuring soloists, instrumentalists and The Highlands Male Chorus. Reception immediately follows in Coleman Hall. For more information, call 526-0784.

Saturday, Dec. 19

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, The Magic of Music" A Braidstream Workshop at 3 pm. \$5. The talented

musicians of BRAIDSTREAM will teach you the art of the hammered dulcimer and other instruments as you learn how to make magical sounds with hallmarks of our mountain heritage. To purchase tickets, call 526-9047

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, Braidstream Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. \$20. From Celtic to Baltic, classical to the edge of jazz, BRAIDSTREAM is an eclectic mix of musical styles, backgrounds and cultures coming together to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts. To purchase tickets, call 526-9047.

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting 12:30-2p.m. \$20 per person refundable with wine purchase.

• At the Civic Center, La Noche Navidena, a Christmas Holiday Dinner & Santa Visit from 6-9 p.m. Free to Internationals. Pick up tickets at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Sunday, Dec. 20

• At First Presbyterian Church, a Christmas Cantata "Songs of Emmanuel" at the 11 a.m. service directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by organist, Angie Jenkins and trumpeter Brad Ulrich. Featured soloists will be Mary Kay Bauer, soprano and Jim Hunter. Narrator will be Duncan Greenlee. For more information, call 526-0784

Wednesday, Dec. 23

• Santa will be at Mountain Rarities on Main Street from 2-4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24

• Christ Anglican Church of Highlands-Cashiers will celebrate Christmas Eve with Holy Communion, including the singing of Christmas carols on Thursday at 8 pm at the Whiteside Presbyterian Church facilities, located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. All are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate our Savior's birth — as we look forward to Jesus' return.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 5 p.m. At 4:30 there will be a Harp Prelude by Valerie Whitcup, harpist. This is designed for the entire family. For more information, call 526-0784.

Friday, Dec. 25

• Christmas Dinner at Fresser's Eatery to benefit Highlands-Cashiers Hospice and Big Brothers Big Sister of Highlands. Contributing chefs include Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside); Debbie Grossman (Fresser's Eatery); Donna Woods; and Martha Porter. Seating times are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35 per person; \$25 for children under 10. Traditional holiday buffet. Make your reservation today. Call 526-8867.

Saturday, Dec. 26

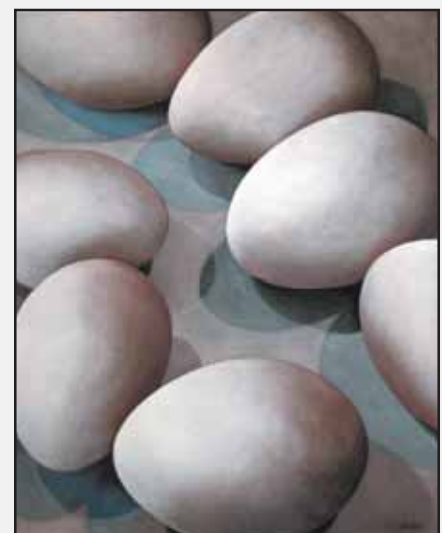
• At PAC on Chestnut Street, FREE Festive Film Days with Matinees, Evening Shows and Refreshments for Purchase. call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

• Highlands New Year's Eve Ball 8 p.m. until. Details to follow.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

• See EVENTS page 14

Three exhibitions at The Bascom through Dec. 18



Art lovers have one more week to view three top-notch exhibitions at The Bascom, a center for the visual arts. The Bascom offers education programs year-round on the ground floor of its main building, but exhibitions, the shop and the first and second floors of the building close Dec. 18 until the spring. Admission is free, and exhibitions include "American Art Today, Juried Works," featuring more than 40 pieces like these images, above, from artists across the nation; "The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design," featuring a collection of historical bag samples from the Newark (N.J.) Public Library; and "Enchanted Forest," featuring creations by The Bascom's youth art students. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• HIARPT's Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. "Theological Implications of Darwin," by Jim Costa. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan 26

• At Hiart, "Against Grand Narratives, Part 1 & 2, by Shadia B. Drury. Will be distributed by email. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

• At Hiart, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner. Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

• At Hiart, "Batter My Heart" will be distributed at previous meeting. Coordinator: Martha Porter Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

• At Hiart, *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn. Coordinator: Karen Hawk. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

• At Hiart, "The Things People Say" by Elizabeth Kolbert and "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" by Richard Hofstadter. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Chamber music Christmas program featuring the 'best of the best' for the holidays!

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival offers a beautiful gift to the twin communities with its Christmas Program, slated for 5 p.m. Saturday, December 12th, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

The performance features gorgeous Christmas music preformed by violinist Kate Ransom, cellist David Hancock and pianist William Ransom. In this program for audiences of all ages, Santa will be on hand to comment on the music and to hand out treats to good listeners. Vivaldi's "Winter" from his ever-popular "Four Seasons," Tchaikovsky's "Noel" from his own "Seasons", some Chopin for solo piano, Christmas Carols for trio and a fun sing-along of Christmas songs will make this a perfect prelude to the holidays.

This unabashedly festive program is \$20 for adults, and children under 12 are free. For more information or tickets, call (828) 526-9060.

An internationally-recognized chamber musician and recitalist who's been a favorite of Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival audiences for her passionate performances, Kate Ransom is currently violinist with the Serafin String Quartet. She was a founder of the Alexander String Quartet and has charmed audiences in chamber music concert halls around the world.

David Hancock came to Atlanta in 1991 as cellist with the Atlanta Chamber Players. Since 1993, David is the Principal Cellist of the Nashville Chamber Orchestra (recently renamed Orchestra Nashville), a group committed to programming new "cross-over" works in concert with traditional masterpieces. He is soloist on the group's debut compact disc, "Conversations in Silence". David earned the Master of Music degree in conducting from Southwestern Theological Seminary

in Texas. His extensive study of solo and chamber repertoire placed him under the coaching of Lynn Harrell, Claus Adam, Leonard Rose and Samuel Mays. David received the Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, where he studied with Fritz Magg. Since coming to Atlanta, David frequently performs in the Southeast as soloist, and chamber musician where he also serves as pedagogue, composer and arranger. He recorded as soloist and chamber musician on several CD recordings and has also recorded with Trey Anastasio, Steve Green, Michael W. Smith, Amy Grant and others. In 2005 he founded the Elysium Chamber Orchestra and Chorus and serves as its Artistic Co-Director. David is the co-founders of Chamber Music Atlanta.

Pianist William Ransom, who serves as artistic director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, has appeared in recital, as soloist with orchestras, and as a chamber musician in Eastern and Western Europe, Japan, Korea, South America, Mexico, and throughout the United States. He has performed in New York's Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, and Merkin Hall; in Orchestra Halls in Chicago, Detroit, and Atlanta; at the National Gallery in Washington D.C.; and in Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, Dallas, and Los Angeles. He has performed for the American Ambassadors to Japan and Ireland, and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio and Television in the United States, Japan, Korea, Argentina, and Poland. His recording of "Enoch Arden," by Richard Strauss, "The Music of Alfredo Barili," and "Chamber Music of Johannes Brahms" were released on the ACA label. Ransom can also be heard on "Heartkeys," from Rising Star Records.

Literacy Council hosts Holiday event

The Literacy council of Highlands will be hosting its Holiday Fun with Literacy event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, in the Peggy Crosby Center. All children are invited to participate in holiday-themed arts and crafts, and listen to a read-aloud of a holiday-themed book. "Kids love Christmas, and it's a great opportunity to read aloud to them. There are so many great holiday-themed children's books to share with them," said Laura Miller, programs coordinator.

Holiday Fun with Literacy is a free event. Snacks will be provided. Call Bessie Dietrich Goggins at The Literacy Council of Highlands by telephone at (828) 526-9938 extension 240.

Literacy Council needs fiscal help

The Literacy Council of Highlands has been awarded a \$10,000 challenge grant by the Hayes Family Foundation of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to maintain the position of programs coordinator.

The funds raised from this campaign will allow the programs coordinator to continue as a full-time staff member for the Literacy Council, which offers seven ongoing programs throughout the year.

The Literacy Council asks that anyone who would like to donate to the Great Literacy Challenge can contact Goggins via e-mail at highlandsliteracy@juno.com or by telephone at (828) 526-9938

Sheriff Department asks community for monetary donations for annual 'Shop with a Cop' program

It's that time of year again when the Sheriff's Office are preparing for its annual "Shop With a Cop" and as always the department is asking the communities to help! Thanks to monetary donations from the community, officers can pick up local children at their homes and take them Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. Afterward they have lunch with the officer compliments of Burger King and Wendy's. The officer and his new little friend then go back to the Sheriff's Office or Police Department and wrap their Christmas gifts.

As always the only requirement is that before the child finishes shopping they must buy one small gift for anyone the child wishes to buy one for.

This year's event will include officers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office, Franklin Po-

lice Department, Highlands Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, NC Wildlife Commission, United States Forest Service, and the NC State Bureau of Investigations.

"This year we hope to bring big smiles

to more Macon County children than ever before," said Sheriff Robert L. Holland. "This annual event is always a special time and the officers always look forward to participating. With your contribution you can make this year's event a huge success and help give a family a Christmas they'll remember for years to come."

Please send checks by Dec. 14th to:

Macon County Sheriff's Office
1820 Lakeside Drive
Franklin NC 28734

Please make

checks payable to: MCSO "Shop with a Cop"



Zack, age 9, shopped at Wal-Mart with Santa and Detective Don Willis, as part of the Sheriff Dept.'s "Shop With a Cop" program. Zack's younger brother and sister were shopping with two other officers also at the store. With Zack is Sheriff Robbie Holland and Santa "Buck Trott" Claus from Highlands.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

• HS HOMECOMING BASKETBALL & ACTIVITIES •

Highlanders drop hard fought Homecoming games to Cherokee

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders celebrated homecoming on Friday night, Dec. 4, unfortunately, the Cherokee Braves came to play the role of spoiler.

The Lady Highlanders started slowly against the Lady Braves, struggling somewhat with their size on the interior and trailing by 12 at halftime. However, the third quarter saw the Lady Highlanders constant pressure defense finally start wearing down the Lady Braves, and Highlands crept to within a single basket at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Lady Highlanders had two possessions to either tie or

take the lead, but could not capitalize and Cherokee's superiority on the offensive glass allowed them to push the lead out and prevail 67-56.

Emily Munger scored 23 points for the Lady Highlanders, Taylor Buras added 12 and Kate-Marie Parks scored 14.

The nightcap saw the Highlanders face the Braves in a rematch of last year's state tournament game.

Cherokee came out strong early behind 6'7" sophomore Jordy Sequoyah and 6'3 Senior Storm Sequoyah. The Sequoyah's (fittingly) dominated the paint early and pushed the Braves out to a double-digit lead.

The Highlanders fought back late in the second half to tie the game at 29 at the break. In the second half, Cherokee jumped out early, but again the Highlanders closed to within a basket despite being in heavy foul trouble.

In the fourth quarter, the war of attrition came to a head, as the Highlanders had 3 players foul out and ultimately succumbed to a 61-47 defeat. The Braves shot 41 free throws to the Highlanders 15.

Logan Schmitt scored 13 points for the Highlanders and Josh Delacruz scored 16.

The Highlanders next home game is Friday, when they will host the Rosman Tigers. Varsity Girls start at 6 pm.



Above, Highlander Cai Roman holds his own against Cherokee. below Cody St. Germain shoots.

Photos by Noel Atherton



Though the annual Homecoming Dance was cancelled due to pending inclement weather, Highlands School Homecoming Court was showcased in the parade on Saturday.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands School Homecoming Court

At Friday night's Homecoming Basketball game against Cherokee, the 2009 Homecoming Court was named. The dance was cancelled due to pending weather, but it has been tentatively scheduled for Jan. 23, 2010. At that time, the Homecoming King and Queen will be

named.

Freshmen:

Elizabeth Strawn and Parker Sims

Sophomores:

Danielle Shomper and Isaac Beavers

Juniors:

Taylor Buras and Jose' Feria and Katie Nix and Collin Taylor

Seniors:

Jessica Gagne, Shelby Johnson, Kate Marie Parks, Bobbi Jo Talley, Jamie Bolt, Brice Jenkins, Will Mathiowdis, and Chris St. Germain.



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Get your Emergency Council 'angel' now

This year all banks, except for Regions Bank, each have a Christmas tree in their lobby with ornaments bearing the items needed by a person from a family who has sought aid from the Emergency Council for Christmas.

Please stop by and choose an ornament to help make someone's Christmas just a little brighter this year. All gifts must be returned unwrapped (gift bags may be used) to the banks by close of business Friday, Dec. 18. Any questions can be directed to the Highlands Emergency Council or any of the banks involved.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

'House of Spears' is in the Heisman house



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

As I was watching Alabama dismantle Florida on Saturday night in the SEC Championship, I was listening to the commentators talk about Alabama nose tackle Terrence "Mount" Cody.

The commentators pointed out that most fans do not notice the nose tackle because their job is to eat up blocks and free the linebackers. Cody did a terrific job of this taking on double teams and allowing LB Rolando McClain to dominate the football game. However, Cody himself was not easily noticed by the casual observer.

Later in the evening, while tuning in to the Nebraska-Texas Big 12 Championship, I noticed someone. In fact, it would have been hard NOT to notice the 300+ pound behemoth that continually found his way into the Texas backfield.

Ndamukong Suh (pronounced En-Dam-ah-ken Soo) dominated that game in a way reserved for defensive tackles named Warren Sapp, and it soon became obvious to even the most casual of observers that Suh was the best player on the field.

At 6'4" and 300+ pounds, Suh is projected as the number one pick in the NFL Draft as either a 4-3 tackle or a 3-4 end. His name means "House of Spears" in Cambodian and his presence on the field has been every bit as foreboding as his name for opponents this year.

Suh has collected 12 quarterback sacks and 21 QB hurries this season, which is a tremendous number for a tackle. (Compare that to the stats of Terrence Cody, who has no sacks this

year and 3 QB hurries. In fairness to Cody, he is projected as a 2-gap lineman in the NFL and his job is to command a doubleteam each play)

What really stands out with Suh (aside from the chants of "Sooooooo" that were heard numerous times throughout the Big 12 Championship) was how he brought it during

the biggest game of the season — 4.5 sacks of Colt McCoy to go along with 13 tackles in what was undoubtedly supposed to be McCoy's Heisman moment.

Suh's domination should have solidified his Heisman vote; seeing as the Heisman is supposed to go to the best football player in college.

Unfortunately, the last time that a college defender won the Heisman was all the way back in 1997 when Charles Woodson won the award as a defensive back. No interior lineman on either side of the ball has ever won the Heisman, despite interior lineman having been #1 draft picks in many NFL drafts.

There has long been a complaint about the inherent offensive bias to the Heisman award, but I would argue that it is understandable, particularly considering the focus on offense in today's game.

Highlight packages rarely feature anything defensive unless it is a big hit or an interception, but last Saturday's highlight package for Texas-Nebraska was an exception. Suh's domination in such a high profile game propelled him to a Heisman invitation in New York, and if the voters carefully consider the criteria then Suh should be the choice.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Losing the nerve to believe



The Rev'd Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

It has happened gradually. Over the course of the past several generations, many folks have lost the nerve to believe in God. Millions of people have either decided to disregard much of human history or they have become ignorant of an entire dimension of human existence which heretofore was a ubiquitous fact of life: Faith in the almighty God.

The controversies we hear about during this time of the year concerning Nativity scenes, what to call the Christmas Season or the trees we decorate, are not rooted in some chivalrous notion of inclusivity or even scientific enlightenment. Rather, they find their genesis in a decidedly vapid reluctance to believe, in a fear of trusting another's word. If we modern people cannot lay hold of God or of whatever, so as to examine, understand and master it, then we tend to not believe or imagine or wonder.

Jesus, the one whom Christians remember, celebrate, and seek after as the already but not yet come Son of God — said, to those who have the courage to believe, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10, NIV) Faith is not for the faint of heart. Belief takes courage so as to trust in another's Word and to abandon our self examined, seemingly secure little lives. Yet when belief truly comes, it reopens that lost dimension of life. Indeed, it opens the gate to genuine life, the full life that Jesus talked about, here and for eternity.

The Bible teaches that the "righteous will live by faith." This means that life lived to the fullest extent can only come through faith-full living. Our best life only comes by loving, by trusting another's Word completely. Believing in the author of life, Jesus, allows Christians to move beyond the confines of the mono-dimensional life that the modern world peddles as it lacks the nerve to believe. Faith in the Son of God allows us to truly live.

How much more exciting could Christmas be for everyone if we all dared to be courageous and to believe in him? It's too easy — small minded and boring — to not believe. Let us regain our nerve and resolve to recapture the full life. Merry Christmas!

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Chapel of Sky Valley

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

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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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Father Jim Murphy: Office – 526-2320

Sunday: Holy Communion – 11 a.m.

Highlands Community Center

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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am

Childrens/Family Program; 10:45 Worship

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: 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.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30
a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6
p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, 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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• BUSINESS NEWS •

After-Parade wine tastings at Wolfgang's and Paoletti's on Saturday, Dec. 5



December Rotary Bingo winners

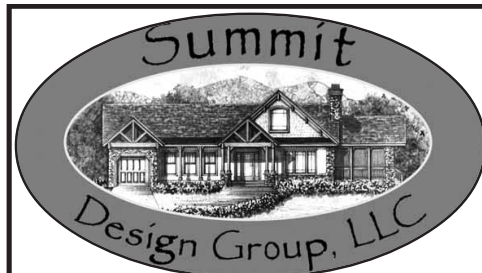
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Last week, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's Department to sponsor "Shop With A Cop Bingo." Net proceeds of more than \$4,000 were donated to Shop-With-A-Cop. This program pairs officers with local children who might not have a happy holiday. Each child is given \$100 to spend on gifts for themselves and family and is paired with an officer for shopping and fun. Sheriff Robbie Holland, Joy Wood, Cecelia Schmitt and Ivy Satterwhite won the final Super Bingo game. They are shown with Rotary member and Bingo caller Tay Bronaugh.

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Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm

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your Holiday entertaining fun and
easy!

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the fun for you!

Tell us "Santa Sent You" and save
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Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
493 Dillard Road
(828) 526-2762

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Nov. 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 20

• At 3:06 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hicks and Mirror Lake.

Nov. 25

• 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at N. 5th and Carolina Way.

• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 28 and South Street.

Dec. 1

• At 1:58 a.m., officers were called to a residence at N. 1st Street concerning a domestic dispute involving a knife. Vidalia Ovando, 28, of N. 1st Street was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. No bond was set. Also arrested was Jose Alberto, 20, of N. 1st Street for simple physical assault. No bond was set.

Dec. 2

• At 5:55 p.m., officers responded to a call of injury to property by a couple who said they had to jump out of the road in front of the Peggy Crosby Center to keep from getting hit by a pick-up truck that was traveling too fast so they dropped and damaged their computer valued at \$1,150.

Dec. 5

• At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to a call of an assault on a female and injury to property valued at \$100 at Mountain High Lodge.

• At 9:30 p.m., Roman De Dias Tosca, 43, of Highlands was arrested for assault on a female, injury to property and resisting arrest. There was no bond set.

Dec. 7

• At 2 p.m., employees of the ABC Store reported receiving a returned check on a closed account totalling \$81.86.

• At noon, Bryson's Food Store reported nine checks written between Nov. 23-28 totalling \$788.57 were returned stamped "closed account."

• At 3 p.m., officers took a report from a woman claiming she was being stalked by a man in town.

• During the week, police officers responded to 9 alarms and issued 3 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 2:

Dec. 2

• At 9:24 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the Playmore residence on Horse Cove Road. It was false..

Dec. 4

• At 9:17 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Point Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands School where a student had been injured on the basketball court. She was taken to the hospital for neck pain but was released.

Dec. 7

• At 10:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at the landfill on Rich Gap Road where a worker was experiencing medical problems.

Dec. 9

• At 8:45 a.m., the dept. was called to a possible structure fire at a residence on Crescent Trail. There was a malfunction of the propane gas feed into the wood-burning fireplace.

LEGAL

Bryson Enterprises Ltd. Is requesting bids from Certified Female Contractors/Suppliers and Certified Minority Contractors/Suppliers for Pine Street Park Stormwater for the Town of Highlands. Bids are requested by 9 a.m. on December 15, 2009. Plans are available at McGill and Associates, 55 Broad Street, Asheville, NC 28801 or by contacting Bryson Enterprises office, 2939 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC 28741. (828-526-9348).

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

HELP WANTED

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.

Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

CNA OR CNA II AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human

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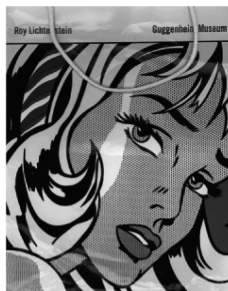
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- *The Shopping Bag: Exemplary Art and Design*
- *Enchanted Forest, youth art*

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Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE AT

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL in one of our Physician Offices. Full Time and part time position available. 3-5 years of experience preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 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 Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

UNIT CLERK AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time weekend shift position. Medical terminology and typing skills a must. C.N.A. certification preferred. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full time, 90% out-patient care with potential planned upward mobility. Strong orthopedic skills desired. Professional independence encouraged. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

WANTED

WANTED TO RENT – Quality 3 or 4-bedroom home close to town. Upgraded kitchen, flexible on

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 20

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

furnishings, easy access. Small, clean dog allowed. Long term lease. Possibly interested in option for the right home. Call 828-200-0815. (st. 12/10)

HARDWORKING COUPLE LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING AND YARDWORK AND HOUSE-CLEANING WORK – Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

15-ACRES OF WOODED ACREAGE FOR SALE – NE Georgia Mountains at NC/GA state line. Across from Sky Valley Golf. Includes Spring-fed creeks. \$100,000 per acre. Call 706-782-7396. 12/31

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck.

\$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

LOT WITH A VIEW OF SATULAH MOUNTAIN, Hidden Springs Road, Highlands. Approximately 1/3 acre. Excellent neighborhood. Lynda Hamilton (912) 481-0174.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BUY, LEASE WITH OPTION TO BUT OR RENT. 3Br 2Ba great view, desirable neighborhood in Highlands \$750,000 or \$1,700 month. Call 706-746-3558. (12/31)

ONE BED, 1 BATH, plus den with trundle beds – fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. \$950/month. Call 813-428-2359.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Fully Furnished with W/D, \$750 a month. 787-2423. (st. 11/12)

SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT. full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 11/5)

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN – 535 N. 4th Street. \$600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. Pets negotiable. \$900/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 10/22)

APT. FOR RENT – Fully Furnished. Including W/D. Minutes from Hospital and downtown. \$475/month plus utilities. Call 787-2423. (st. 10/22)

2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Few minutes from downtown Highlands and the hospital. fully furnished included w/d. Call 787-2423. (St. 9/24)

\$325/MONTH, one bedroom in 5-bedroom house. Utilities divided equally. Walk to hospital. Call: 828-200-1064. (st. 10/1)

FULLY FURNISHED 4-ROOM CABIN SUITE off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person. \$700/mo. includes electric, heat, satellite TV and wifi. Visit [http://](http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/)

highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/ for virtual tour. Phone (828) 421-7922. (st. 11/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - \$100/week - call (828) 787-1515

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - \$50/week - call (828) 787-1515

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. \$795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

GREAT 2/1BATH APARTMENT – Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

SMALL FURNISHED COTTAGE suitable for (1) occupant conveniently located @ 674 Chestnut Street. Queen bed, Living area and kitchen combined. Nice screen porch with sleeping loft. Quiet and private. No pets and no smoking. \$800. monthly plus \$300.

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

security deposit with 6 months lease and references. Includes all utilities & satellite TV. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645.

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FOR SALE – BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. (St. 4/16)

VACATION RENTAL

RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN — Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestrnutcottages@yahoo.com (ST. 11/5)

THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE – Fish or canoe from deck. Available weekly, monthly, No min. Call 828-342-2302.

PUPPIES FOR SALE

VERY SMALL AKC YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES. – Will be ready for Christmas! \$950 Very small AKC Yorkshire Terrier Puppies for sale. Will be ready for Christmas! \$950. -\$1,050. Call 828-371-2010. (st. 12/3)

2 DOGS FOR ADOPTION — 1 A.K.C Teacup Yorkshire Terrier (female) and 1 A.K.C English Bulldog (female) \$350 each. Puppies for Adoption (M/F). Contact james.wallace09@rocketmail.com (12/17)

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KITCHENAIDE SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR. Stainless steel with in-the-door water and ice. \$1,000. Call 828-506-3138. (st. 12/10)

COWHIDES (2) approximately 80"x68" and 88"x76". Originally \$400 each. Will sell for \$225 each. Call 526-0498.

GOODYEAR WRANGLER TD TIRES – size 265 75R 16 with black spoke rims. Bought new. Less than 100 miles on them. Selling for \$800. fits Toyota, Nissan & Chevrolet. Call 526-3824. (st. 12/3).

LOVE SEAT SOFA. Light Brown. Only 1 yr. old. Looks brand new. Reclines on both sides. \$425. 526-9107.

UGG PONCHO – Warm, carmel-colored, leather and fleece. Perfect condition. Cost \$400. Asking \$250. Great Christmas gift. Call 828-526-0518.

CAST IRON CLAW FOOD CIALIS BATHTUB. Large enough for two \$400 OBO. Call 526-3824.

89-INCH SOFA, soft floral print, great condition.

\$250. Also, 8-ft 4-inch x 5-ft 8-inch floral hooked rug that goes well with sofa. \$85. Call 526-3647.

EMPIRE GAS LOGS, 28 wide, ventless, remote controlled, 20-38M BTU, imitates real fire very well, \$150. 526-4594

LADIES MOVADO WATCH - Never worn. Asking \$400. Call 828-421-6198.

WESLO CARDIO GLIDE – Like New. \$75. Call 526-5462.

ORIGINAL SYRACUSE CHINA FROM NOW CLOSED "AUNT FANNY'S CABIN" IN ATLANTA. 19 plates, 18 bread and butter, 18 dessert. All for \$295. Call 526-0498.

RECLAIMED BRAZILIAN CHERRY DINING TABLE. One of a Kind. \$1,200. 828-526-9012. Randy. (st. 10/22)

PIANO — Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates Plays Beautiful \$7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

EMPIRE GAS LOGS, 28 inches wide, ventless, with remote control and ember material. \$250. 526-4594.

FIREWOOD 2 YRS OLD, split & dried hardwood plus cut kiln-dried kindling close to a cord U-Haul \$200. Can divide. 828-342-7028.

TVS FOR SALE – Remodeling makes these slightly used bargains possible. 25" -- \$140, 27" \$160, 32" \$260. Call 526-5992.

FURNITURE – 1 cream tweed sofa (89" long) \$500; 1 sofa/loveseat combo in cream stria-suede \$500 set; 2 brown fabric w/ color stripe custom swivel chairs \$300 each; 2 small green fabric swivel chairs \$150 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/ beveled mirror and 6 drawers \$300; 2 matching nightstands \$100 for both. Will e-mail photos if interested! 828-743-3071 or 828-787-1900. (st. 9/3)

TWO MATCHING QUEEN ANNE CHAIRS. Cranberry Red. Walnut legs. Excellent condition. \$300 for both. 828-226-2027.

COLLAPSIBLE LADDER – \$270. Call 526-5025.

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR. \$500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

PALLADIUM STYLE WINDOW — Mahogany two section 1-3/4" thick x 42" H x 70-1/2" W. \$160, OBO for photo call 828-526-2671.

WOOD BURNING STOVE W/ELECTRIC BLOWER. \$200. 342-3234.

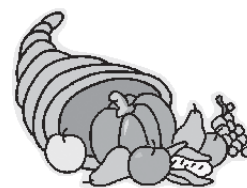
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OLD BRASS BALL FIREPLACE AND IRONS WITH ACCESSORIES. Asking \$500 but negotiable. Call 526-0439.

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GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. \$185 Call 787-2232.

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BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE with extra spools of thread. \$200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Wildcat Ladies hold '2nd Annual Party with a Purpose'

The Holiday season is a journey of the heart to help us remember that giving to others can bring the greatest joy.

To bring a little joy to the less fortunate children in the Highlands community, the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club ladies donated more than 50 presents to be given out by Santa this Christmas season.

On Dec. 3, Wildcat hostesses Linda Arnold, Nancy Temple, Midge Rothermel, Claire Vaughn, and Pegi Williard held a luncheon at Pegi's house for all the winter Wildcat Ladies.

The admission ticket to the luncheon was a child's toy. The event was filled with singing, laughter and good food but the real joy was knowing that we were doing something special for children. It was indeed a "party with a purpose."

Wildcat Ladies: Starting from the left and going around the table: Pegi Williard, Midge Rothermel, Jane Grimes, Veda Sherard, Nancy Temple, Susan Murphy, Linda Arnold, Claire Harrington, Linda Shearon, Jane McDade, Margaret Heinlein, Candyce Field, Pierrette Phillips, Ruth McDivitt, Mary Jane Highsmith, Cecil Hines, Suzy Mosely, Debbie Hodges, Claire Vaughn, Barbara Domingos, Diane Rethorst.



Two area churches to share facilities beginning Jan. 3

Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717.

The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Nursing degree possible in one year through WCU's ABSN program

A career in nursing can be just a year away for individuals who enroll in Western Carolina University's new 12-month Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

The ABSN Program allows those who already hold bachelor's degrees, or higher degrees, in any field to transition to a career as registered nurse. The program is designed for nonworking full-time students who are willing to immerse themselves in a full year of intense academic study, said Shelia Chapman, assistant professor at WCU and coordinator for the program.

Previously, WCU's School of Nursing admitted just one group of students into the ABSN program each May, and those students completed the program in 16 months. Beginning in 2010, new classes of students will be enrolled in both January and August, and those students will be able to complete the program in 12 months, making them eligible to take the state's licensing examination to become a registered nurse.

WCU's nursing faculty is currently interviewing candidates for January enrollment, and no new applications are being taken for that class, which will be full, Chapman said. However, an application packet for the August class will be posted online on Feb. 1. The deadline for submission of that application is May 15.

Course requirements for the ABSN are the same as those for a traditional bachelor of science in nursing degree, and prerequisites are required. Classes are held full time on the Enka campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and there are no semester breaks, Chapman said. Students typically attend classes for eight hours a day, five days each week.

Earlier this year, WCU's School of Nursing and the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville announced a new partnership designed to increase the number of nurses qualified to serve the region and its veteran population. A federal grant of \$1.5 million is being used to increase the number of students in WCU's ABSN program. The partnership is part of a five-year, \$40 million federal program that began in 2007.

For more information about the ABSN, visit <http://www.wcu.edu/10421.asp> on the Web. The Web site includes information on scheduling an advising session. Information also is available by contacting Shelia Chapman at (828) 670-8810, extension 228.

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