

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 7, Number 46

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Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

FRI	SAT	SUN
53 / 37F	50 / 36F	44 / 34F

This Week in Highlands

Thursday, Nov. 19

- A drop-in reception to say "goodbye" to Hospital CEO Ken Shull at 3:30-5 p.m. in the Level 1 lobby of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

- Taize service at Our Lady of the Mountains Roman Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 20-21

- On Friday, Highlands High School Alumnae weekend basketball. Call Coach Lamb at (828) 526-2147.

Friday, Nov. 20

- Galax roses workshop at the Highlands Historical Society's Museum from 1-4 pm. \$15 to be donated to the Highlands Historical Society. All materials will be provided. Call Sue Potts at 526-3163 to register for the class.

Saturday, Nov. 21

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

- Greenway planting tree event. Call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385. Meet in the large upper parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m.

- Benefit Oyster Roast for Highlands and Cashiers Fire and Rescue Departments at Noel Atherton's home at 6355 Whiteside Cove Road – where the two districts meet. For directions call 787-1515 or 200-0490. \$5 per head minimum donation. There will be oysters, other edibles and beer. All proceeds to be divided between the two districts. DODs available.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

- HIARPT's Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26

- Thanksgiving Wilson Reunion at the Highlands Recreation Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. Call Anne Tate at 526-2840 or Stephanie McCall at 526-4449.

Town signs 20-year contract with Duke

At the last meeting of the Town Board with Mayor Don Mullen and Commissioner Hank Ross, the board made a major decision concerning the town's relationship with its wholesale power supplier, Duke Power.

Kevin O'Donnell, with NOVA Energy Consultants, reiterated some of what he explained in April but

included many more "final answers" concerning the relationship between Duke and Highlands.

With new energy sources the hot topic these days and with several small energy suppliers in the vicinity, in April commissioners asked O'Donnell to investigate if it would be financially beneficial for Highlands to deal with a different

supplier. They also asked him to find out if Highlands could sell renewable energy harnessed with green energy techniques back to Duke to offset its rate increase.

The short answer to both questions was "no."

Basically, no other suppliers are interested in Highlands because of

• See DUKE page 24

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Legendary Golfer Bobby Jones immortalized at Highlands Country Club



The Rogers crew -- Bud, Larry and Mark, with Edward Fielding, sculptor Alexei Kazantsev and Highlands Country Club manager, Greg Crawford.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Blight on cliff face exposed

With the leaves off the trees, folks traveling Horse Cove Road may notice a blight on the landscape under the brow of the Bowery.

Torrential September rains – the same rains that flooded areas in downtown Highlands – allegedly sent a wall of water down the cliff causing soil, trees and foliage to scour its face leaving the underlying granite exposed.

Jack Kuhne, property owner of the residence at 41 Split Rail Road – the apparent origination point of the mess – said what happened on his property is reminiscent of the slide responsible for the closing of a portion of I-40, even reminiscent of the Peek's Creek tragedy.

"We had something like 20 inches of rain in five days which is what caused this," he said. "This was a natural disaster."

Repair to his property is in the works and should be completed in a few weeks.

John Warren, owner of Natural Landscapes, Inc., is restoring an engineered and permitted boulder wall which his company built that broke during the rains.

"We don't know exactly what happened – whether this was an act of God or what because we only

• See BLIGHT page 2

County says 'no' to 2011 reval

With the slowing of the real estate market since 2008 – in fact, the instability of the market – 2011 is not the time to do a reval.

That's the word from County Tax Assessor Richard Lightner, and Monday night the commission agreed unanimously.

On Jan. 6, 1998, the county

adopted a four-year cycle for property revaluations beginning with the 2007 reval.

The reasoning behind the change in 1998 was to equalize the difference between the rapidly changing market values compared to assessed values.

"At the time, these values were

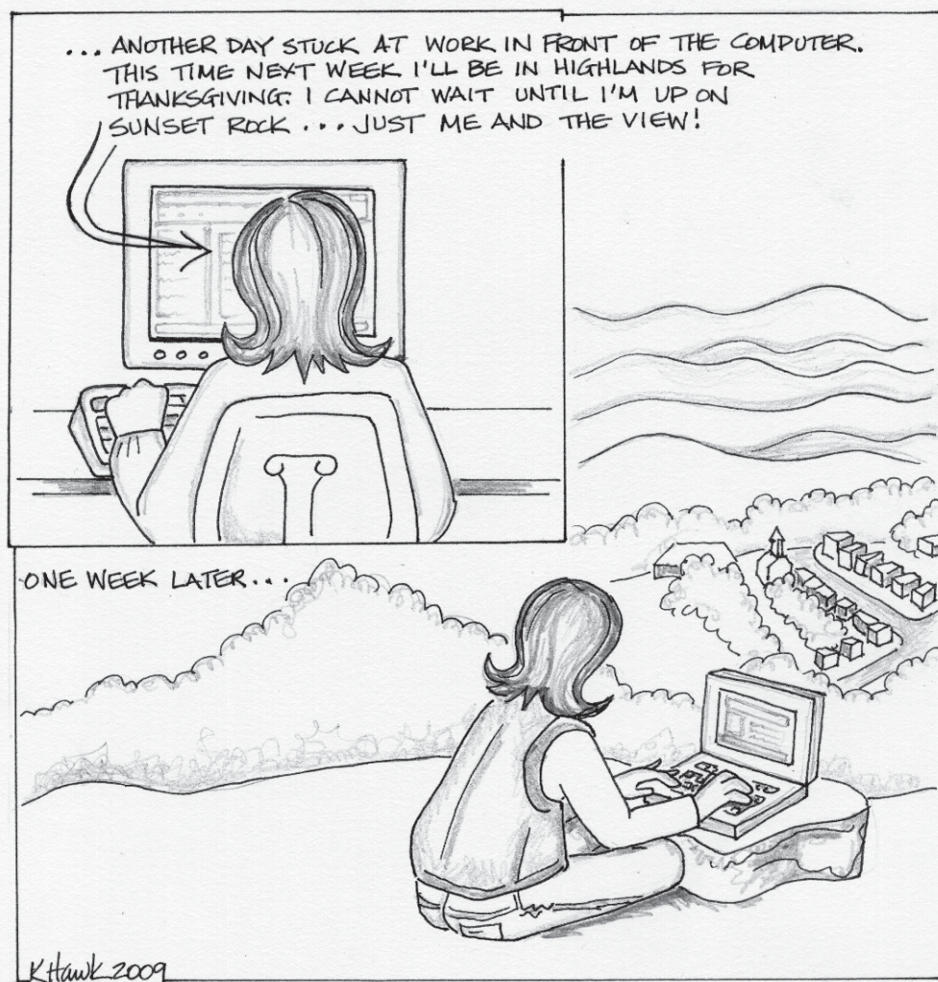
increasing between 10%-15% per year," said Lightner.

With such growth in market values compared to assessed values – which equals the sales ratio – counties were required to lower the tax bills of the utility companies af-

• See REVAL page 18

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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... HORSECOVE continued from page 1



Slope scarring in Horse Cove is reminiscent of the Peek's Creek catastrophe following hurricanes Ivan and Frances.
- Photo by Mitch Gurganus

found out about it after the fact. But we stand behind our work and are making sure nothing like this ever happens again."

The "natural" boulder wall was built at the edge of the property and Warren assumes that the rain-saturated soil around the wall gave way causing it to slide down the mountain with "most of the boulders stopping on Mr. Kuhne's property, though some may have fallen on USFS land, too," he said.

This time around, a concrete retaining wall has been constructed and pinned with rebar to the underlying granite with a second, tiered, 40-foot long masonry wall in front of that which will be covered with natural stone.

Two insurance companies that carry the policy for Warren's company won't cover the damage to the wall or the property saying it was caused by water or flooding due to rain.

Though Warren's company was not the only company responsible for the landscaping, grading, irrigation or construction, he is the only one willing to restore the property.

Kuhne has contributed some money, but most of the money associated with the repairs costing between \$50,000 and \$60,000 is coming out of Warren's pocket.

Damage done off the Kuhne property is another story.

According to Mike Wilkins, USFS Ranger for the Nantahala District, what happened "seems to be one of those classic avalanche

slides that occur up here."

"But it's possible that improvements made to the property above may have contributed to the occurrence in some way but we just don't know yet," he said. "We have a geologist that's going to take a look at it and we have a realty specialist who is going to contact the landowner, but it's too early to know anything, yet."

He said USFS technicians have visited the site and have reported the damage is pretty severe.

"Sometimes we clear this sort of debris up, and sometimes we don't because clearing it up can cause more damage," he said. "My technicians tell me it would be very dangerous to try to clear this up by hand because of the steep incline there, so we would need to build a narrow road and use a tract-hoe to get in there, so it gets complicated."

Some property owners in the cove allege soil run-off from the slide has polluted the creek that meanders through the cove and the Walkingstick area.

Wilkins said his fisheries biologist and hydrologist will be inspecting the stream to access damage, too.

He said it's too early to know if anyone other than nature is responsible.

"We're simply looking right now and not blaming anyone."

- Kim Lewicki

• THANK YOU •

Thank you to everyone who turned out Saturday, Nov. 14, to celebrate Pearle's 90th birthday. You made this special day even better.

We were completely thrilled with the number of friends and relatives who came to see her.

Especially, thanks for all the wonderful cakes, pies, cookies even a sack of potatoes, cards, presents and time everyone put into this day. What a great party thanks to all of you!

Pearle Rogers Lambert and her gang.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

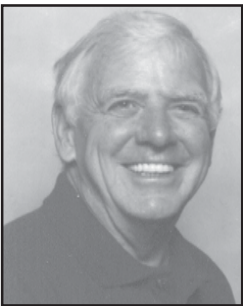
How big is your organ? And other small issues

I can guarantee you one thing. Your organ, if you even have one, doesn't come close to that nasty looking bad boy in Atlantic City, New Jersey, home of the biggest organ in the world. You should see that rascal. Go to: www.acchos.org and see for yourself, then write me if your organ is bigger. Years ago, while traveling, we checked out the one in Salt Lake City, used by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and on another trip to Italy, we sized up the Pope's organ at Saint Peter's Cathedral, but neither of them came close to that bad dude at the Boardwalk Theatre. I would call all those other organs "wimpy" compared to these pipes.

Is your organ "wimpy?" Inquiring minds want to know. And does the size of the organ have anything to do with performance? Ha, you bet it does. Research has proven that once you've experienced the largest organ in the world, there's no returning to the smaller ones. Hey, ya can't go back to the farm after visiting Gay Paree. It's like black and white TV after color or analog internet after high speed like regular coffee after latte like party bridge after duplicate stuff like that. Oh, I almost forgot, like reading another paper after experiencing the meaty Highlands' Newspaper. By the way, why do they call it "Gay Paree?" Do homosexuals live there?

Keep smelling salts nearby before reading this part. Shortly after returning to South Florida the li'l missus and I received a letter from Bank of America telling us they're unable to honor our change of address request on our account, something we've been doing for eons. Our status as US citizens is now in question. (I'm framing the letter)

The li'l missus and I became customers of Bank of America way back in 1958 (yes, that's 5-8) when it was called Financial Federal. We have stuck with them all this time. Now, almost 52 years later, they're questioning our status as Americans? They want us to report to a local branch with proper documents to prove we are not in the country illegally. Are they kidding? Half the country is here illegally! I hope they're not holding their breath. Hey, I'll produce my birth certificate when our president produces his. Maybe I should register as an illegal



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

and receive special ID, special treatment and incentives. This is what happens when a bank can operate with "free money." If you've forgotten, ole Bank of America is the same rogue bank that made parade organizers remove American flags from their property because they might be offensive to some like maybe Islamic terrorists watching the parade. The parade was being held to honor a young soldier killed in combat in Afghanistan.

Yes, this is the same fat-cat bank our president gave skillions of dollars to so they could pay their CEOs outrageous salaries and bonuses.... which they did and still do. When will this insanity end? Can anyone recommend a bank with common sense? Wait, never mind, can someone recommend a country with common sense?

In Moultrie, Georgia, a man walked into a nursing home and delivered an \$800 pair of brand new black leather shoes to a dying woman. Medicare was billed for the shoes. Please, sit down. Medicare reimbursed somebody \$622 for the shoes. I don't think the poor woman ever put them on or even knew of the scam. And where did the \$622 go? Who knows? Wait, it gets worse. The exact same shoes can be bought in any shoe store for \$50. Now the funny part not when US Rep. Jim Marshall was told of the incident he calmly said; "Some overhaul of the country's health care system is needed." No DUH, an understated revelation reaching epic proportions.

Then there's ex-president good ole boy Jimmy Carter who is one happy dude these days. Soon, he'll no longer be known as the worst president this country ever had. And can you believe Jimmy had the b.... well, you know, to call Rep. Wilson a racist for calling our president a liar from the floor of Congress. Jimmy wait stop what you're doing and go look in the mirror. The person staring back at you is a white cotton pickin' South Georgia plantation peanut farmer from the '40s and '50s era. Have you received a frontal lobotomy? Did you forget your upbringing?

The last time I checked, Jimmy still had lust in his heart. Hey, me too. It doesn't die easy, does it? Actually, I'm kinda proud that, at my age, I can still have lust in my heart. I'm bettin' Jimmy does too.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Can a good Muslim pick country over religion?

I'm not going to condemn the Muslim world for the actions of a single US Army psychiatrist who happens to be Muslim and happened to murder 13 of his colleagues at Fort Hood, Texas. Maj. Nidal

Hasan may be crazy, in which case it would be irresponsible to implicate his faith. He may have been doing what he believed to be Allah's will, which would suggest that he is a faithful Muslim.

The question then arises – Is it possible to be both a devout Muslim and a good American? It is a question that I have pondered since the attacks of September 11, 2001, in the wake of which not a single Muslim leader issued an unqualified condemnation of the action. No American Muslim, no European Muslim, no Middle Eastern Muslim. No Muslim. Period.

Many expressed regret, but each statement was conditional. The plight of the Palestinians was the most frequently offered justification for the heinous action. Whatever abuses the Palestinian people have suffered at the hands of the Israeli government, it is impossible for the non-Muslim mind to comprehend how one justifies the other.

Major Hason compared a suicide bomber with a soldier who dives on a hand grenade to save the lives of his comrades. It is an odd analogy. The soldier is motivated to save as many lives as possible by sacrificing his own. A suicide bombers willing offers his life, but his intent is to take as many lives as possible, in a hail of explosives and ball bearings. One might stretch the context and conclude that the bomber is trying to protect the greater Muslim population, but it is still a strange comparison, at least to the Western mind.

The doctor let us peek into his mind when he offered the view that Muslim Law trumps the United States Constitution. My outrage abated only slightly when I recalled a motto of the Marine Corps, "God, Country, Corps," presumably in that order, and remembered that several years ago, instructors at the Air Force Academy



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

were sanctioned for proselytizing fundamentalist Christianity to cadets.

It is true that our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs, but these same beliefs were used to justify slavery and subjugation of women. It's best that we maintain a wide separation between Church and State. It is only fair to add that Christians have demonstrated, with few exceptions, that there is no

conflict between being a good Christian and a loyal American. There may be many loyal American Muslims. I'm just not that sure.

Major Nidal fretted over aiding in a military action against fellow Muslims, even if his brothers were sworn enemies of the United States. He counseled his psychiatric patients that the path to heaven followed conversion to Islam. It would be comforting to believe that the Major's action were those of a single demented man. The alternative is that he was acting in accordance with his interpretation of his faith. The fact that he prefaced his attack with the exclamation, "Allah Akbar," is evidence enough for me to conclude that he was doing what he believed he was called to do. The question is how common is this belief among American Muslims, especially those in the military?

The 2003 grenade attack on American soldiers in Kuwait was launched by Sgt. Asan Akbar, a Muslim American.

Muslim attitudes invoke memories of Irish-Americans who contribute to the IRA. Jars were prominently displayed in bars in New York and Boston. Patrons, sympathetic to the cause, filled them with American dollars to finance terrorism and murder. Contributions to Islamic charities have been used to support similar terrorist activities.

I believe that a Muslim can be a loyal American, but I wonder if any devout, fundamentalist Muslim is capable of choosing his country over his religion. What this world, and this country need, is fewer Muslims, or more "Friday Muslims."

Age groups for H1N1 shots expanded

Due to increasing supplies of the H1N1 vaccine, the Macon County Public Health Center has expanded its age-based eligibility criteria. H1N1 flu shot clinics have been scheduled for Friday, November 20th for anyone age 24 or younger, pregnant women, and caregivers of infants less than six months of age.

These clinics are by appointment only and will be held in both Franklin and in Highlands. Clinic locations and times may be obtained when calling to schedule an

appointment with the health center at 349-2081. In addition, seasonal flu shots for children ages 6 months through 18 years old are also available on additional dates by appointment.

The public is encouraged to use the Macon County Public Health Center's flu information and appointment line to keep up-to-date on upcoming flu shot clinics and the latest eligibility criteria. This line may be accessed by calling 349-2081 and following the flu information instructions.

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• REFLECTIONS FROM TURTLE POND •

Recently I read an article about the new movie by Roland Emmerich, director of "Independence Day," with the theme of — what a surprise — the destruction of the planet. It's called "2012" and is based on the idea that the Mayan calendar "ends" in December of 2012 which means...something. In Mr. Emmerich's case that something is death and destruction. In the film a solar flare shoots invisible neutrinos into the Earth's core super-heating it until the earth starts bucking like a bronco and volcanoes erupt.

The *New York Times* review of the film is not flattering: "I know what I have against Roland Emmerich — 'The Patriot' for starters — but what does he have against us? He's bombarded Earth with alien death rays, big-footed it with a rampaging reptile and put it into deep freeze. Now in '2012,' his latest apocalyptic folly, he cracks the planet like a nut, splitting its crust, toppling its mountains and cities, and laying its every creeping thing

to inevitable tedious waste."

"This is my last, quote-unquote, action-disaster movie," Mr. Emmerich has said, "I know I can't destroy the world again. That would be kind of a joke."

Reading this I found myself wondering, "What is wrong with our culture? Why do we go to the movies to watch the end of the human race, or the end of civilization, over and over again?"

Filmmakers have devised many variations on mass destruction: alien invasions, nuclear wars, plagues, intelligent machines, meteors, and environmental collapse.

James Cameron brought destruction by intelligent machines in the "Terminator" series. The "Matrix" series followed on a similar theme, except instead of trying to exterminate humans, the machines in "The Matrix" exploited them.

Steven Spielberg famously envisioned global warming producing a flooded New York City in "A.I."

"Mad Max" was an Australian film from the early 1980s imagining an anarchic world after a nuclear war had ended civilization.

Some films use cataclysm in an attempt to warn us about our profligate ways. I believe "Wall-E" was an example of this but I couldn't make it past the first 10 minutes of that film so I have to take other people's word for it. But it's destruction all the same.

If you'd like to see a soberingly-long list of apocalyptic films, books, and television shows, visit: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doomsday_film

These themes aren't new of course — world-destroying monsters were a staple of the 1950s as people adjusted to the new realities of the atomic age.

Could this catastrophe-as-entertainment be a consequence of the Christian roots of our culture? Christianity is an apocalyptic religion; followers have been waiting for the end to arrive for 2,000 years now. The book of Revelations is full of all kinds of terrible monsters and catastrophes to mark the end of time.

But if you flip back through the Bible to the very first book, Genesis, there you find God ready to destroy all of humanity within a very short time after creating Adam and Eve. In the sixth chapter of Genesis, God says, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the Earth...for I am grieved that I have made them." God was intent on drowning everyone in a big flood because people had "become corrupted." He told Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because

of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth." But Noah was a good man so God allowed him and his family to

be saved while he drowned everyone else.

Is this love of destruction just part of the Judeo-Christian tradition then? The image of Godzilla lunges up in my mind — the Japanese seem to love to watch monsters stomping all over their cities destroying everything and everyone in their path just as much as we do.

Is it a human trait to think we're so bad as a species that we deserve to be wiped off the planet? Do we secretly want to be killed, so we don't have to do the hard work of solving our problems?

I have tried but I can't think of one film in which a happy or better future is portrayed. Some science fiction films show a future where humans are off exploring in space; the existence of a unified human race on Earth is implied, but never shown of course.

Is it a lack of imagination? Is it too hard to imagine how to portray a future that is positive?

When I was young I loved utopias. I read all I could find, until I finally got dissatisfied with a common feature: every book would portray a society that seemed to function much better than any contemporary examples, but there was never any indication of how to get from here to there.

The word "utopia" was coined by Sir Thomas Moore in a book he published in 1516 called "New Island Utopia" that described a place with perfect social, economic, and political systems (modeled on Plato's *Republic*). The word "utopia" is a blend of Greek roots that translate as "no place," perhaps implying that utopia is impossible.

Some might argue that a happy, peaceful world would be too boring to portray — films and novels thrive on conflict and need catharsis. But how about a story about the struggle to create a world in which every person has enough to eat and the chance to live a satisfying, productive life? Seems to me that story could have plenty of conflict and resolution.

As I understand it the Mayan calendar is a series of cycles — from the 28-day cycle of the moon to the 365-day cycle of the sun to much larger thousand-year cycles. A cycle doesn't end, it just begins anew. Why is no one making a film that portrays a transformative event happening at the turning of the cycle, a Berlin-Wall-collapse of such a huge magnitude the human race is never the same again?

• All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website: www.kathleenbrugger.com



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• FROM MY PERSPECTIVE •

The last word ...

Once again let me thank the people of Highlands for giving me the honor of serving as your Mayor over the past four years. It has been a position which I have not taken lightly, and I have worked hard to help accomplish what I believe is right for our community and, quite frankly, I think that has been a lot. I am very proud of what has happened in Highlands in the past four years and I would do it again. We must continue to move forward as we all work to improve our community together.

Secondly, I congratulate David Wilkes as Mayor-elect and have told him that I certainly am willing to help him all I can in this transition period. I also congratulate the electorate in the large turnout for this off-year election. You obviously had a lot to say in your voting and I accept that.

The mood of our country locally and nationally is anger and frustration currently. You could see it in the elections all over the country on Election Day. As a moderate, I was caught in the middle in a country and a town which is very polarized.

We, as a Board of Commissioners, have tried not only to enhance the beauty of Highlands but improve the infrastructure and government efficiency along with keeping folks safe without raising taxes. In order to do that, we went outside the town and raised funds successfully. In making Highlands better in this way we also strengthened the reason people come and enjoy Highlands, thus enhancing the business community. The town is in the best financial condition it has ever been in and plans for the future are positive.

Let me add that in those feelings of frustration many have shown in this election, there has been a great deal of negativity. There are those who



Mayor Don Mullen

can find nothing good and are filled with hate. There is no place for that in our town or our personal lives. Reconciliation rather than revenge was and is necessary to heal some wounds. I ask many of you to turn that negativity into a more positive energy and not try to reverse

some of the progress that has been made in our community. We have a lot for which to be thankful in Highlands and in working together with a more positive attitude we can move forward to continue to keep this place the best place in the country to live.

I personally look forward to continuing to do all I can to improve this town in which we all live and contribute as much as I can. But most of all I will be spending more time with my extended family. It is actually a relief not to have the responsibility of "having the buck stop" at my desk. Along with the deep spiritual activities of my life and my family relationships, my work has always been a close third, but over the past four years those relationships have suffered, and I intend to return to that more balanced life where priorities are in a proper order.

Finally, I look forward to returning to writing. I have been fortunate to have had many great experiences in this life both here in Highlands and around the world, spiritually, medically and politically, and it will be exciting once again to putting these opportunities on paper. This old soldier will not simply fade away.

Let us all search for the best in everyone and look ahead to a positive future in our town. I look forward to continuing to see you all around town as we move forward together in our quest to improve and grow Highlands while honoring not only our heritage but each other in spite of some of our differences. That, my friends, is what true democracy is all about.

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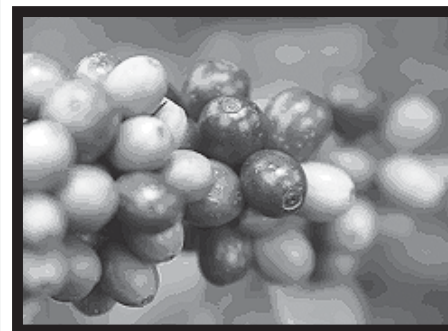
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• HIS & HERS •

Trulli, Madly, Deeply

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

Sailing out of Venice, we look forward to our first port of call, Bari, the second biggest city in Southern Italy. There are a number of excursions available to us, including visiting the ancient cities of Matera and Sassi (whose atmosphere so inspired Mel Gibson that he filmed *The Passion of the Christ* there). We decide to take an hour long bus ride through the Puglian countryside to the town of Alberobello, to see the famous

trulli. We also see the first of something which will reoccur during our trip - the remains of Fascist architecture, mostly used in municipal buildings. Mussolini seems to have been a great believer in combining propaganda and public works, and these buildings are mostly solid and utilitarian, with stylized decorations trying to show brave, hard-working citizens dutifully carrying out their civic duties.

Tourism isn't all shopping and eating,

and it's important to get a sense of history about the areas you visit. One incident I'd never heard about before was the 1943 chemical warfare disaster in Bari. In a tragic incident desired by neither side in World War II, Bari had the unwelcome distinction of being the only European city to experience chemical warfare. On the night of December 2, 1943, German bombers attacked the port of Bari, which was a key port for supplying the Allied forces. Among the Allied ships sunk was the Liberty ship, *John Harvey*, which was carrying mustard gas (some of which was already unloaded from the ship and waiting along the dockside for transportation) in case the Germans decided to initiate chemical warfare. The presence of the gas was top secret, and local authorities knew nothing about it. This lack of knowledge of what they were dealing with proved disastrous to the victims - and the medical staff, many of whom died from their unwitting contact with both the contaminated gas victims and their clothing. While some claim that sixty-nine deaths were the result of this unfortunate incident - most of the victims American merchant seamen - others put the fatalities at closer to over one thousand servicemen and an equal number of Italian civilians. The entire affair was kept secret for years, by common agreement of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Eisenhower, who ordered the records destroyed. While the few existing records were declassified in 1959, the incident did not really come to light until 1967. I'm sure this story will make folks uncomfortable, since many Americans don't like to hear anything which implies that we are not a perfect country, or that we are ever less than honest with our citizens. I recount this story because I think it's something which should be known.

Fortunately, we see a sweeter, more romantic side of Italy on the way to Alberobello - a town nearby is almost entirely devoted to making gorgeous, hand-made wedding dresses, mostly for the Japanese market. We don't get to see inside any of these wedding dress shops, however, as it is lunchtime. This is a pattern we see repeated over and over in Italy and Greece - these are not the countries with 24/7 opening hours. These are the countries where many shops close for lunch, and don't reopen until around 3:00 or 4:00pm, staying open until 7:00pm. Families often get together to have lunch, and in some cases, they even take - gasp! - afternoon naps. Either you see this as blatant laziness (How dare they not be open!



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

I want to buy a postcard!) or you can view it with a certain envy - people putting their personal and family lives ahead of their businesses and careers. Actually, it's surprisingly easy to get used to, and by the end of our trip, we catch ourselves saying, "Oh, it'll be closed for lunch" or "It probably won't be open. It's Sunday." This is one of those quality of life issues which either

maddens folks, or makes them pack their bags and move to Tuscany.

The bus ride takes us along charming country roads, and rocky fields filled with olive and fig trees. I've never seen an olive tree before, so it's a real treat. Many of the trees are over a hundred years old, with twisted, gnarled trunks. Our guide tells us the reason for the rocks littering the fields. A solid shelf of rock lies not far below the surface of the ground. Unfortunately, this meant that what little rain fell on the ground created an underground river, carrying the precious water away. In an attempt to keep the water on the land, the rocky layer was broken up, making the fields look like a rocky battlefield. Fortunately, much of this rock found good use in creating the *trulli*.

The closer we get to Alberobello, the more we start seeing these incredible structures, specific to the Valle d'Itria, in Puglia. So, what exactly is a *trullo* (the singular of *trulli*)? It's a stone building, typically a house or a storehouse, with a conical roof. The buildings are traditionally painted white, and constructed without mortar or cement. The roofs are topped by a keystone, also white. Many of the roofs have symbols painted on them - crosses, hearts, stars and crescents, and of course, the *malocchio*, the evil eye! The walls of the *trulli* are quite thick, providing marvelous insulation, making these buildings cool in hot weather and warm in winter. Most *trulli* have only one room under each conical roof, so a house with several rooms will have many cone roofs.

There is a marvelous story behind the *trulli*. Taxation has been the plague of every civilization, and people had many clever ways to avoid it. In places where they taxed the number of windows, many people simply boarded them up. In areas where you were taxed by the size of your ground floor, people constructed buildings where the second story would actually overhang the first. The story behind the *trulli* is that tax inspectors could only tax permanent structures, with fixed roofs. The *trulli* were constructed in such a

• See HIS & HER page 11

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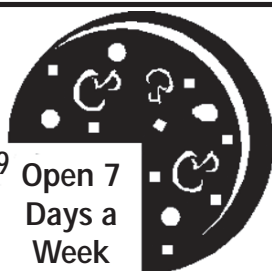
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• COOKING ON THE PLATEAU •

Sweet traditions holiday baking with pumpkin

Family gatherings ... favorite holiday decorations ... the wonderful smells of baked goods — the holidays are full of familiar rituals and special memories. Traditions are part of what make the season so enjoyable.

For many, this time of year means baking family favorites — how many times do people ask you to make Grandma's bread pudding or your special cookies? The holidays wouldn't be the same without them.

Pumpkin treats are perfect for holiday baking. The mellow, sweet flavor blends beautifully with spices, citrus and nuts. Pumpkin is a versatile and delicious addition to any holiday tradition.

For more ways to make baking with pumpkin a tradition in your home, visit VeryBestBaking.com.

Mini Pumpkin Whoopie Pies Makes 3 dozen cookies

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
2 large eggs, at room temperature, lightly beaten
1 cup Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Cream Cheese Filling
4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

For Cookies:

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Lightly grease or line four baking sheets with parchment paper.

COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter and sugar in large mixer bowl on medium speed for 2 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add pumpkin and vanilla extract; beat until smooth. Stir in flour mixture until combined. Drop by heaping measuring teaspoons onto prepared baking sheets. (A total of 72 cookies are needed for the recipe.)

BAKE for 10 to 13 minutes or until springy to the touch. Cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

For Cream Cheese Filling:

BEAT cream cheese, butter and vanilla extract in small mixer bowl on medium speed until fluffy. Gradually beat in powdered sugar until light and fluffy.

SPREAD a heaping teaspoon of filling onto flat side of one cookie; top with flat side of second cookie to make a sandwich. Repeat with remaining cookies and filling. Store in covered container in refrigerator.

Pumpkin-Oatmeal Raisin Cookies Makes 4 dozen

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/3 cups quick or old-fashioned oats
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup (2 sticks) butter or marg, softened
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup chopped walnuts
3/4 cup raisins

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Lightly grease baking sheets.

COMBINE flour, oats, pie spice, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar in large mixer bowl until light and fluffy. Add pumpkin, egg and vanilla extract; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in nuts and raisins. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 14 to 16 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned and set in centers. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

• All materials courtesy of Libby's



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Observations from the Far Side

We'll get to the serious subject of Obama in a minute, but first some observations that tell a story.

I had CNBC (financial news) the other morning, and was met by a two-man debate between Steve Forbes and Howard Dean. Forbes is the editor-in-chief of the financial magazine bearing his name and CEO of its publisher. He ran in Presidential primaries as a Republican in 1996 and 2000. Dean is the ex-Governor of Vermont, a medical doctor and the current Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He ran for President in 2004 and was defeated by John Kerry.

Forbes is a Conservative. Dean, although he governed Vermont as a fiscal conservative, at some point he took a hard left turn and champions the liberal cause. It was quite graphic – Forbes on half of the split screen, calmly stating his case with a smile on his face most of the time. Dean, on the other hand, talked through gritted teeth and his face looked as if he was undergoing an enema as he spoke. He will be long remembered for the primal scream he issued during a campaign speech in the 2004 campaign, which pretty well brought his Presidential pursuit to a close.

It made me think — is that a common theme? Speaking of John Kerry, have you ever seen him smile? Ever? And talk about a sour puss, how about Barney Frank. You'd think his "partner" just got busted for growing pot or something – again. Oh, he did? He's always in a snit about something. And Steny Hoyer, Democratic House Majority Leader, well, he's Mr. Pruneface. Working as closely as he does with Pelosi, it's understandable.

On the other hand, Conservatives such as the iconic late William Buckley, Jr. seemingly always had a wry smile as he spoke his wisdom. Always pleasant and under control as is Forbes.

Ronald Reagan was cheerful and optimistic, even when the times were the toughest. Then there is Mike Huckabee who seems to be cut from the same cloth. I believe there is a pattern emerging here. Remember when I told you about attending a forum held locally where the large majority of the folks were of liberal persuasion. With the exception of the moderator, they spoke in a snarky manner and seemed mad at everything, while the conservative group I am a part of,



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

FreedomWorks, the people, while serious, are, by nature upbeat and congenial.

The moral of the story is, become a Conservative and put smile on your face.

Now to the issue of the week. As you know, a health-care bill was narrowly passed out of the House and now it's the Senate's turn. Let's get practical about what's happening in the political landscape. Even though Obama claims he

"didn't notice" two million Conservatives on the Capitol's front lawn and everywhere as far as the eye could see, he lied. He noticed. And with all the bad mouthing of "tea parties," with their large turnouts, they were noticed. Nancy said they were "irrelevant," but she knew better. And the enthusiastic participation of Conservatives in Town Meetings held by those politicians brave enough to hold them didn't escape notice. And the hundreds of thousands of telephone calls to legislators' offices were heard, loud and clear.

But most significant of all were the Conservative victories in the Governors' races in Virginia and New Jersey. The results of those elections reverberated though the halls of Congress and in the office of Democratic Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid. Harry is up for election in 2010. Harry is trailing by double digits behind all Republican contenders. Harry is in deep trouble in Nevada and is rapidly becoming the third rail of the Democratic Party.

The healthcare legislation is a political nightmare. The numbers don't work and never will. Leadership has to lie to sell the program to the public and the voters are in no mood to hear any more lies. There are several Senators up for election next year who are vulnerable and they are getting very nervous. There is no way on Earth that any meaningful legislation will be coming out of the Senate that will be voted on this year. Next year is Election Year that changes the legislative culture dramatically making passage very doubtful. It will be political suicide to try to pass a comprehensive bill, this year or next.

We welcome J Lo to the Hall of Shame. Seems like her hubby took some home movies during their honeymoon that she would prefer didn't make a debut on Youtube. Good luck will that, girl. Disgraceful.

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Taylor to leave post at hospital

Skip Taylor, who has been director of Community Relations and a spokesperson for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital since 1996, is resigning in order to pursue his own business. His last day at the hospital will be Nov. 20.

A woodworker for more than 30 years, Taylor will operate Taylor Restoration and Squarewrights, which specializes in restoration of antique furniture and building of custom furniture.

"I'm looking forward to returning to working with my hands and doing something for which I have had a passion for many years," said Taylor. "With the hospital currently undergoing various changes in leadership in both administration and at the board level, this is a good time to change spokespersons as well."

Taylor operated an antique restoration business for five years before joining the hospital team.

"Skip has been fulfilling one of those behind-the-scenes roles that has been a key to improving the hospital's public image after some very challenging times," said outgoing president and CEO Ken Shull. "He's been a trusted source of information regarding the community, the hospital and its history, and he's provided valuable counsel during my four years here. His contribution to the hospital has not always been recognized or appreciated because many people aren't aware of how many things he does here. But I know he will be missed."

Robin Tindall-Taylor, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation and no relation, will serve as interim director of Community Relations. In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, she was also in charge of marketing efforts at Haywood Regional Medical Center before joining the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation.

In addition to restoration, Taylor also plans to offer woodworking courses to the public. While times and locations are still to be arranged, most of the subjects covered will involve working with hand tools.

"I've been interested in 18th and 19th Century finishing and woodworking practices for a number of years now, and many of those traditional techniques are of practical use to woodworkers today," says Taylor.

"The use of hand tools is on the rise across the county, encouraged by a revival in the manufacture of quality hand tools. As evidenced by the number of classes and seminars being offered around the country, there is a great deal of interest in learn-

ing how to use traditional tools. Hopefully that will be the case here as well."

As part of his interest in early woodworking, Taylor demonstrated 19th century tools and techniques during the Cashiers Historical Society's Founders Day at the Zachary Tolbert House two years ago along with Brian Coe, director of manual arts at Old Salem. Taylor recently presented the house with an exact reproduction of one of the plain style tables made for the house by Mordecai Zachary around 1850.

In addition to taking classes and seminars in the past that were taught by woodworking legends such as Tage Frid, Taylor has also attended a number of events specifically on early woodworking at places such as Colonial Williamsburg and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts at Old Salem in Winston-Salem. He recently returned from a retreat in the mountains of Virginia for refinishers and restorers from across the county that was hosted by Don Williams, senior furniture conservator at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC.

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... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

way that they could be dismantled when the local population got wind the tax inspectors were in the area.

Trulli have been protected under the UNESCO world heritage law since 1996. The citizens of Alberobello have another claim to fame, being people of deep courage and humanity. During World War II, many of them hid Jews in the storage areas of those

strange conical roofs, protecting them from deportation and almost certain death. For this, they were recognized and honored by Israel.

Fortunately, Alberobello has more to offer than just interesting architecture, and at the end of our walk around town, we are treated to sausage, orecchiette ("little ears") pasta and some of the delicious local wine at

• See HIS & HERS page 19

from the history guy ...

Nov. 19, 1998

The United States House of Representatives begins impeachment hearings against Bill Clinton, or "the Tale of a hoe and a rake"

If you please, I beg your pardon,
is something amiss out in the garden?
Perhaps there is some small mistake,
but that's not what I think of as a rake,
and this is somewhat apropos,
I've seen one before, and that ain't no hoe.
let's call a spade just what it is,
it's not complicated, there's no quiz,
and as to that, I take the position
that "is" does not require definition.
Instruments for garden tilling
rarely make stories that are this thrilling.
But will ask if instruments for cultivation
need be shown to the entire nation.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Thanksgiving or
Turkey Day?**



WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester,

In this nation we have a national holiday called Thanksgiving. This came from a historic event when this continent was first settled. The men and women who established the colony at Plymouth were all Christians. They left Europe because of persecution. Their first year in this new world proved to be a very trying time. They lost many souls during that first winter. But despite all the trouble and sorrow they persevered and planted crops in the spring and God blessed them. In the fall when the harvest was complete, they saw clearly God's blessing and they declared a day of thanksgiving. They lifted their voices in praise and adoration to their Creator.

President Washington declared a day of thanksgiving in his first term and with only a few exceptions every President following him did the same until 1941. During another great time of struggle for our nation the congress declared that we should have a day of thanksgiving every year and President Roosevelt agreed and signed the first standing proclamation for a day of Thanksgiving.

There is a tragedy unfolding in our land today with regard to this day of Thanksgiving. I hear more and more people calling it Turkey Day instead of Thanksgiving. The idea of being thankful to God is being left behind. Why is this happening? There is an explanation.

Thankfulness follows contentment, especially contentment of soul. A man that is discontented in his soul cannot be thankful. This tells us that true thankfulness is a branch of godliness. Only a man who is right in his relationship with God can be content and will be thankful.

The apostle Paul shows this very clearly in Ephesians 5:3-4 "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

To be thankful requires a contentment of the soul. Psalm 97:12 says, "Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name."

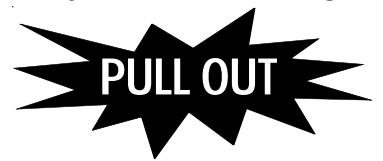
Only those who know his name can give thanks. We are in a nation today where far too many do not know his name, therefore this day of Thanksgiving has little real meaning thus they call it Turkey Day instead.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.
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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Father Jim Murphy: Office – 526-2320
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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
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Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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Pastor Gary Hewins
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Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am
Childrens/Family Program; 10:45 Worship
Tuesdays: 9:30am Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5pm Dinner; 6pm Pastors Bible Study
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.
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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.
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Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 – Adult choir
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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

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.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. M/W @ 7:30 a.m., Thur. @ 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. 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.

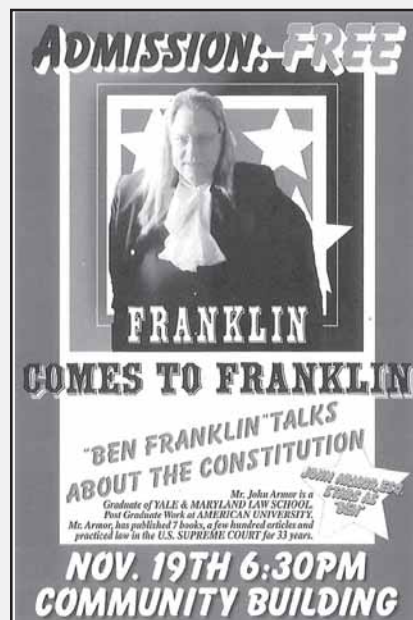
1st & 3rd Thursdays

• 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

• See EVENTS page 14

The Republican Party of Macon Nov. 19 meeting to feature 'Ben Franklin'



Macon County GOP regular meeting, usually held the third Thursday of every month, will not be held this month. Instead we are encouraging all members, and all citizens to attend the (free) "Franklin Comes to Franklin" at the Macon County Community Center, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin at 6:30 p.m. John Armor, Esq., author and Yale & Maryland Law School graduate, stars as "Ben Franklin" and will talk about our country's Constitution. A great free event for all Maconians to learn more about THEIR Constitution! For more information contact Gary Dills at 347-6275.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Nov. 20-26

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

2012

rated PG-13
Daily: 1:05, 4:00, 7:05, 10

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

rated PG
Daily: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10

THE BOX

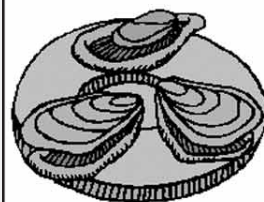
rated PG-13
* Final Show Tuesday 11/24 *
Daily: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

rated R
* Final Show Tuesday 11/24 *
Daily: 9:15

OLD DOGS rated PG

* Starts Wednesday 11/25 *
Daily: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15



"THANK YOU" OYSTER ROAST

[OTHER NON-OYSTER TASTY FOODS AVAILABLE]

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST - 4:30 PM UNTIL...

6355 WHITESIDE COVE RD—WHERE THE TWO DISTRICTS MEET

* TO THANK ALL THE MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF
HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS,
WHO RISK THEIR LIVES AND GIVE OF THEMSELVES DAILY
TRYING TO SAVE OUR LIVES AND PROPERTY

\$5 PER HEAD MINIMUM DONATION

WE ENCOURAGE CARPOOLING—DD'S AVAILABLE

CONTRIBUTIONS VERY WELCOME



Noel Atherton
828 787 1515
Gray Alexander
200 0490

ALL PROCEEDS
SHARED BETWEEN
TWO DISTRICTS



Highlands Fire & Rescue

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• 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 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.

• YOGA All Levels Class Saturday 9:30-11AM, Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880. (12/3)

Tuesday, Nov. 24

• Ashtanga Dynamic Yoga Study Group Form-

ing Meets Tuesday Early Mornings, Call Ashby Underwood for Details, 526-8880. (11/19)

Mondays Beginning Nov. 23

Yoga Class by Candlelight with Ashby Underwood. 5- 6:15 PM. Six-Week Series \$65/ \$13 drop-in. Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880. (12/3)

Through Tuesday, Nov. 24

• Applications for the Highlands Emergency Council Christmas Program. Call 526-4357 to register to be a recipient of gifts, donations and food.

Through Wed., Nov. 25

• Signups are now being accepted for the upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season at the Highlands Civic Center. New this year, the league is accepting six year olds, the age groups have changed, and the age cutoff date has been changed to Aug. 31. Players must be 6 years old by Aug. 31 to enter the league. The age of player as of August 31 will determine the age division in which he plays. The new age groups are 6 and 7 year olds in the development league, 8 and 9 year olds in the biddy league, 10 and 11 year olds in the junior league, 12, 13, and 14 year olds in the senior league, 15 through 19 year olds (must be in school) in the varsity league. Because of the overlap with the school season, players on school teams will not be allowed to play in the county recreation league this year. Players in the development league will play only on Saturday mornings in Frank-

lin. Teams in other divisions will play during the week, as well as on Saturdays in Franklin. There will also be games in Highlands on Tuesday nights for various age divisions. The cost is \$35 for the first family member and \$20 for the second. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. Drafts will be held in each age division beginning Saturday, December 5. More details on the draft times and days will be released at a later date. Anyone interested in coaching or helping coach must fill out a coaching application and additional paperwork available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551 or 828-342-3850.

Through Tuesday, Dec. 1

• Operation: Patriotic Pen: Mrs. Sizemore's first grade class at Highlands School would like to invite everyone (students, clubs/organizations, churches and the local community) to help us collect at least 2,000 Christmas cards, letters or small holiday craft items for our "Operation Patriotic Pen" project. These items will be sent to soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, other locations and in military hospitals. The soldiers who receive them will be asked to pass them out to other soldiers in their units. We want to let as many soldiers know that we honor them for their sacrifices. Our deadline for this project is December 1. Please help us find out the names and complete military address of some soldiers that are presently serving in full-time military service and will be away from their family during the holidays. The person submitting the soldier's name and address should also include their name and address or phone number, in case there is any question about the address, etc. If you have a picture of the soldier, we will post it on the wall in the main hallway. If you have unused Christmas cards you would like to donate for students to use for this project, these can be sent to the school. To contact Mrs. Sizemore: Email: donna.sizemore@macon.k12.nc.us. Phone: Home: (828) 526-3212 School: (828) 526-2147, voice mailbox #415; School Fax: 828-526-0615 or write to

Highlands School, PO Box 940, Highlands, NC 28741, Attention: Mrs. Sizemore.

Through Friday, Dec. 18

• *American Art Today, Juried Works* 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.

Thursday, Nov. 19

• A drop-in reception to say "goodbye" to Hospital CEO Ken Shull at 3:30-5 p.m. in the Level 1 lobby of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus.

• Taize service at Our Lady of the Mountains Roman Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

• The Thursday Library Movie Matinee: "My Life in Ruins." Nia Vardalos, from "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," stars in this really funny comedy. She plays a college professor in Classical Greek Studies who has lost her job and has to take a job as a tour guide. She find the tourists, mostly American, to be most annoying and only interested in shopping, not in the history and beauty of Greece. The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. The movie and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

• Youth Talent Show at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin at 7:30pm, 52 acts by the area's youth will grace the stage. Catch the Spirit of Appalachia will present children from age 6 to 18, from four counties in North Carolina and from the mountains of Georgia, with talents in fiddle, cello, piano, mandolin, banjo, guitar, standup bass, poetry,

Galax Rose Workshop Nov. 20th to benefit Historical Society



Carter Potts in a patch of maroon galax.

All signs tell us that the Holiday Season is coming. Houses are decorated in mountain greenery and one of the most popular is the galax. The galax a shiny green heart-shaped leaf is in abundance in the forest. Sue Potts will teach a workshop on making galax roses on Nov 2 at the Highlands Historical Society's Museum from 1-4 pm. The workshop will cost \$15 and is donated to the Highlands Historical Society. All materials will be provided and each attendee will be able to take a rose home. If you would like to make more than one please bring some galax with you. Please call Sue Potts at 526-3163 to register for the class. If not available please leave a message and she will call you back.

Art League Gallery tour and meeting set for Nov. 30



"Round the Clock" is the title of this 48 by 96" painting by Dan Quigley. An Art League of Highlands member

Fay Gold Gallery will be conducting a gallery tour on November 30 as part of the Art League of Highlands lineup. The Art League of Highlands will hold a meeting at noon at the Civic Center. Soup will be served before heading over to the gallery around 1p.m. Guests are welcome to attend. For further information contact president Dottie Bruce at 743-7673.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

and vocals. There will be solo performers, duos, trios and groups performing traditional, country, gospel, bluegrass, folk, hymns, and the spoken word. Emcee will be storyteller Amy Ammons Garza. This inspiring night will celebrate and salute the abundance of talent in our area. Some of the contestants will be those who have participated this past year in the talent shows presented by Catch the Spirit of Appalachia at area festivals — the McQuitty Family, Nathan Parrish, and the Byrd Family from Macon County, the dancing Gatti brothers, Cullowhee Valley Cloggers, Kevin Ray Bryson, and the Rye Holler Boys from Jackson and Swain Counties. With 52 entries, this will be the largest, most varied and exciting talent show ever produced by Catch the Spirit of Appalachia. Come out and support these brave and talented up and coming entertainers. Call 828-631-4587 for more information.

• Ben Franklin (a.k.a. John Armor) will talk about the constitution at the Community Building in Franklin at 6:30 p.m. The event is free.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 20-21

• On Friday, Highlands High School Alumnae weekend basketball. Hosting Rabun County with junior varsity girls at 4 p.m., junior varsity boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 7 p.m. and varsity boys at 8:30 p.m. Hospitality Room for alumnae. On Saturday it's a HHS Basketball Alumnae Game at 4 p.m. ABBQ dinner will be served and raffle tickets will be sold \$1 for a ticket or \$5 for six tickets for original pottery, gift certificates at Exxon of Cashiers, Sports Page, High Country Photo, Kilwins, Annawear, Pescados, Sweet treats, the Car Spa, Log Cabin Restaurant, the Farmer's Market or Citgo and manicure and pedicure at Mountain Rayz. All proceeds to benefit the HS Varsity girls Christmas Tournament trip to Disney Sports Complex in Orlando Florida. For more information, contact Coach Lamb at (828) 526-2147 or email brett.lamb@macon.k12.nc.us

Friday, Nov. 20

• Sue Potts will teach a workshop on making galax roses at the Highlands Historical Society's Museum from 1-4 pm. The workshop will cost \$15 and is donated to the Highlands Historical Society. All materials will be provided and each attendee will be able to take a rose home with them. If you would like to make more than one please bring some galax with you. Please call Sue Potts at 526-3163 to register for the class. If not available please leave a message and she will call you back.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, November 20th at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 South from 7-9 p.m. Jack Howie from Greenville, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, Nov. 21

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

• Greenway planting tree event. need: Tree planting experts — 2 people; Tree planters — 20 people; Operating CanyCom tracked wheelbarrow — 1 person; Operating Yanmar mini-excavator — 1 person. Lunch provided, so please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. We will still meet in the large upper parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session and then carpool to the different areas for tree planting. Participants will be

furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment and lunch. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a hike to two waterfalls: a 2-mile moderate hike to Kings Creek Falls and an easy 1-mile hike to Spoon Auger Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Benefit Oyster Roast for Highlands and Cashiers Fire and Rescue Departments at Noel Atherton's home at 6355 Whiteside Cove Road — where the two districts meet. For directions call 787-1515 or 200-0490. \$5 per head minimum donation. There will be oysters, other edibles and beer. All proceeds to be divided between the two districts. DODs available.

Monday, Nov. 23

• The Macon County School Board meeting is at 6 p.m. in Nantahala.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

• HIARPT's Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. "Obama's Faith Based Program," Coordinator: Creigh-

ton Peden. To be circulated by email. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

• November's Ladies Night Out program will be at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria at Angel Medical Center. Program topic will be influenza and other winter illness prevention. Speakers include Dr Jimmy Villiard, MCPHC's preparedness coordinator and Dr Fred Berger, Pediatrician. Come learn how to keep you and your family healthier this winter. Join us as we make new friends, win door prizes and learn important health information. For more information, call Jennifer Hollifield at 349-2439.

• A Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at Cashiers United Methodist Church (CUMC), pictured above. Rev. Scotty Patrick of Cashiers Baptist Church will preach. For more information, call CUMC at (828) 743-5298 or visit www.cashiersumc.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

• Highlands Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Civic Center at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26

• Thanksgiving Wilson Reunion. Family members of the Herman, Hubert, John, and Mack Wilson families are invited to celebrate Thanksgiving together at the Highlands Recreation Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Tate at 526-2840 or Stephanie McCall at 526-4449.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 27-28

• At PAC on Chestnut Street, "A Christmas Carol Revisited" Friday at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15. After the play the cast will lead the audience in a medley of Christmas Carols. On Saturday free Mask-Making workshop for kids from 2-4 p.m. Both events will be presented by "Once Upon a Blue Ridge" Theater Company from Meadows of Dan, Virginia. To purchase tickets, call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

Friday, Nov. 27

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant "Winter Wonderland"

• See EVENTS page 16

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Methodist Church is set for Sat., Nov. 28 between 6-6:30 p.m.



Last week town crews began dressing the town for the Christmas season. It takes a cherry picker to decorate the town Christmas Tree in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the church will be between 6-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28. Santa will be at the Visitor Center next to the Main Street Inn and Bistro immediately following the lighting to hear Christmas wishes and for photographs.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Preschool creativity classes continue at The Bascom



Parents and their preschoolers, like this pair above, are invited to attend The Bascom's weekly "Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (Ages 2 1/2-5)" on Wednesdays from 11-11:45 a.m. Cost is \$40 for an eight-week session, with all materials included. The Bascom is currently accepting late enrollment for the first session. The second session begins Jan. 13. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

1-3 p.m.

- Free Yoga Community Class. 8-9 am. All are Welcome. Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way, 526-8880.

Saturday, Nov. 28

- Highlands annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Methodist Church 6-6:30 p.m.
- Santa at Visitor Center after tree lighting.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 700 feet in Panthertown Valley to Blackrock Mtn, Warden Falls, Granny Burrell's Falls, and Salt Rock Gap. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

'Shop With a Cop' Rotary Bingo



The name about says it all – Highlands Rotary will be joining forces with Highlands Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's Department to offer Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.

Shop With a Cop has been championed by the Macon Co. Sheriff's Dept. for over ten years to provide \$100 of Christmas presents purchased at Wal-Mart by children who otherwise just wouldn't have a Christmas. Last year accompanied by law enforcement officers from Highlands Police Department and the Sheriff's Department 213 children from Highlands and Macon County saw Christmas through Shop With a Cop.

Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo will have the Sheriff, Police Chief and, you guessed it, Santa himself there. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games. While each game's prize depends upon the number of players, most Bingo games pay \$40-\$70 with game 15 being some serious money. Half of all Bingo money goes to Bingo players and the other half goes to Shop With a Cop.

Play as many cards as you like, enjoy a zany night with law enforcement, tell Santa what's on your Christmas list and help a kid have a Christmas.

Free refreshments will be served by Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is a licensed operator of Bingo in North Carolina.

- Macon County Planning Board Public Input meeting. At the Upper Cartoogechaye community center at 7 pm.

Sunday, Nov. 29

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Skitty Creek and Cliffside loop trails. Meet at the Bi-Lo Center in Franklin at 2 p.m. or, if coming from Highlands, call leader for alternate meeting place. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Nov. 30

- Art League of Highlands. Meet at Civic Center at noon for soup. Then proceed to Fay Gold Gallery, 211 South Fourth Street, "on the hill" for tour of gallery.

Annual Cashiers Community Thanksgiving Service set for Tuesday at CUMC



Every year, the people of Cashiers come together to give thanks and celebrate America with the annual Cashiers Community Thanksgiving Service.

This year's Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at Cashiers United Methodist Church (CUMC).

Rev. Scotty Patrick of Cashiers Baptist Church will preach, and other local ministers will share in worship leadership. This will be the first opportunity for many people in the community to meet Randy Harry, CUMC's new senior pastor. CUMC will provide light refreshments.

A special offering will be accepted for United Christian Ministries of Cashiers, a shared ministry of local churches that assists families in need with home heating, medical and pharmacy bills. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call CUMC at (828) 743-5298 or visit www.cashiersumc.org.

This year's Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at Cashiers United Methodist Church (CUMC), pictured above. Rev. Scotty Patrick of Cashiers Baptist Church will preach.

Guests always welcome. For info call President Dottie Bruce, 743-7673.

- Tickets to see An acclaimed author, storyteller, humorist and musician, Keillor will take center stage in Monday, March 8 at WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets for "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" are \$25. For information or tickets, contact the FAPAC box office at (828) 227-2479 or online www.wcu.edu/fapac.

Tues., Dec. 1-Fri., Dec. 18

- 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 pm. Cost is \$375/\$350 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

- Winter Botany Walk with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Call 526-111 for tickets. Reservations required.

Thursday, Dec. 3

- Rotary Bingo proceeds will go toward the Macon County Sheriff Depts. "Shop with a Cop" program to benefit 213 children this Christmas. Bingo at the Highlands Community Center is 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$1 per card and 15 games.

- Taize service at the Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m.

- A demonstration, "The Ancient Art of Spinning," by fiber artist Carol Singletary will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 2-4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- An American Red Cross Adult and Child CPR/AED and Infant CPR course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center

before Monday, November 30, 2009. For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Fri., Dec. 4-Sat., Dec. 5

- Art class "Knit a Christmas Stocking" by Carol Singletary will be taught at The Bascom in Highlands from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$135 for the general public and \$125 for Bascom members (supplies included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Through Dec. 4

- The Historical Society is also selling fresh-cut Fraser fir Christmas trees this year. 6' -7' trees are \$55 each, and 8'-9" trees are \$70. Place orders now by leaving a message at 787-1050. Trees that have been ordered may be picked up at the Historic Village next to the Rec Park on North Fourth Street on December 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

- At PAC on Chestnut Street, "The Christmas Letters" with Barbara Bates Smith at 7:30 pm, \$15. From Off-Broadway . . . to Edinburgh. . . across the country to you: Barbara Bates Smith brings you stage adaptations of works by prizewinning authors such as Lee Smith, plus a variety of original scripts, with musical accompaniment by Jeff Sebens. To purchase tickets, call the Performing Arts Center at 828-526-9047.

- At Community Bible Church, the Daraja Children's Choir at 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 5-6

- Christmas Showhouse sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society at the Stewart House, ca. 1890, at 425 Brock Court opposite the ballpark on Hickory Street. Showhouse hours will be 1-5- p.m. \$15. Shuttle from the Community Building on US 64. An added feature this year will be a raffle of a set of six art glass plates from Bryant Art Glass. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Alternative Giving Christmas at Highlands Methodist Church this year Sat., Dec. 5 after the parade

'Tis the Season . . .

Alternative Giving Christmas, right after the Christmas Parade at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Free lunch and visit booths to see what the local non-profit agencies are doing in our community. There will be information showing what any size donation can do for the needy in this area. There will be attractive gift cards which will show what has been done in the recipient's honor. What a wonderful way to honor those who have so much by giving for the benefit of those who have much less!



• COACH'S CORNER •

An alphabetical recap of the weekend in sports

A, as in awesome, which refers to TCU's massive beatdown of Utah in Fort Worth on Saturday night. TCU's ready for the spotlight-it's your move BCS.

Barnes, Harrison Barnes. He not be a Dukie-he's going to UNC. Killer blow to Duke's recruiting class next year and the collective psyche of Blue Devils everywhere.

CJ Spiller...man, or roadrunner? Defense, saving Florida from yet another close game on the road in the SEC.

Evil genius-what Spurrier used to be before the NFL took away his swagger.

Fired-the official status of Charlie Weis after this season. So much for that "decided strategic advantage" that the Irish were going to have.

Going for it on 4th and 2 from your own 28 against Peyton Manning...yikes.

Huckleberry Hound-Roy Williams still looks like him.

Injuries...there were a lot of them this weekend. Michael Turner for the Falcons, Jordan Gross for the Panthers, the entire New Orleans secondary, Kyle Orton. Not a good week for playoff contenders.

Jennings, Brandon. Bucks rookie put up 55 points in a game this weekend and is making European ball look like a better option for one and done players than college hoops.

Kyle Orton-his neckbeard will be missed as Chris Simms continues to throw passes to no one in particular.

Leaving Memphis-best move for Allen Iverson. Next stop-New York City.

Michigan...not the best fit for Rich Rodriguez. Perfect fit=Jim Harbaugh, who pulverized Oregon and USC with a Big 10 style smashmouth attack.

Neyland, General-rolling in his grave after Dexter McCluster ran for 282 yards and 4 TD's against Tennessee. McCluster weighs 170 pounds.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Ol' Roy-admittedly kicking Coach K's butt right now. Coach K spent 2 years wooing Harrison Barnes and Roy picked him up in a matter of months. Give Roy his due-he's the premier recruiter today and has restored a juggernaut in Chapel Hill.

Pale Force 5-my new nickname for the Duke Basketball team. There

were several times this weekend where they threw out a total whitewash (5 white guys).

Quixotic-the very definition of NC State fans.

Recruiting-where championships are won these days. Look at the top teams and they all have the same thing in common.

Saints-still undefeated, but beat up and winning ugly. I have a feeling that the Patriots are going to end all of the 16-0 talk next Monday night.

The real Ginger Ninja-TCU quarterback Andy Dalton-who eviscerated Utah's defense Saturday night before heading back to Aunt Bea's for some homemade apple pie.

UCLA, upset in double OT this weekend. Looks like Ben Howland's group is on a slow decline.

Virginia-rough time for Cavalier athletics. Grohmentum has stalled in Charlottesville and new bball coach Dick Bennett took a beatdown in the opener.

Wall, John. Heralded recruit saves Kentucky's bacon in his first ever game as a Wildcat. Now we know why he was so sought after.

XXX-the type of bottle Cleveland Browns fans need to be drinking out of right now.

You win Johnny-I'll mention Miami in this column...for taking a dive against UNC. Jacory Harris is still a great talent though.

Z (This useless white space is in honor of Duke center Brian Zoubek)

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.



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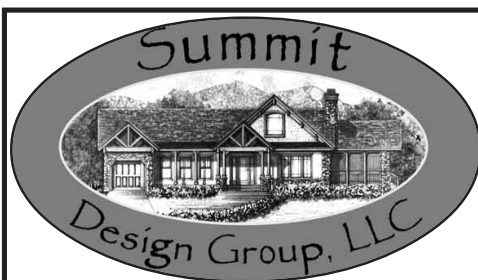
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... REVAL continued from page 1

ter the ratio dipped below 90%.

"Thus the sales ratio standard of 90% was established and when a county reached 90% a reassessment was supposed to be scheduled for completion within two years," he said.

Since Macon County's Sales Ratio has been in the mid- to upper-90 percentile for the past three years – in fact at 98.17% for 2009 – Lightner and County Manager Jack Horton said a reassessment is not warranted.

"Unless sales change dramatically in the early part of 2010, Macon County will not need to look at a reassessment until 2013. Right now there is no marketability," said Lightner.

In fact, he said if the county proceeded with the scheduled 2011 reval, land developers and land speculators of raw land would see a lowering of their tax liability at the expense of the average residential homeowners who would end up carrying the tax burden caused by the speculators.

"When you throw out the bad sales, like the raw land we're seeing at Ultima's Wildflower development, the most stable value is the occupied residential homes which represent 90% of the properties in the county," he said.

"Doing a reval at this time, won't help the majority of the people," said Horton. "So, for now we will do a 6-year cycle."

State statute says the county has to do a reval every 8 years, but it can be done in fewer years, which has been the case up until now, "but there haven't been enough sales to build a scheduled value so it's best to put it off until 2013," said Horton.

Commissioners were also concerned about a reval in 2011 because with dropped property values, it could have been necessary to raise taxes to be revenue neutral.

"In other words it's likely we would have to raise the tax rate to bring in the same amount of money as the year before," said

Commission Chairman Ronnie Beale.

Lightner also explained that it's not legal for a county to assess tax value based on the price for which a property.

"Assessed tax value is what you pay taxes on not what a property sells for," he said. "We can't lower taxes or increase taxes based on the sales price. If a property sells for more than it is assessed, we can't tax on that amount just like we can't tax on the amount it sells for if it sells below the assessed value."

Along these lines, the commissioned agreed unanimously to release \$15,908.37 in property taxes for Ultima/Wildflower properties based on the fact that the properties are raw.

Lightner compared the Ultima/Wildflower case to the one presented in 1991 by the Cullasaja Club in Highlands which requested tax releases on unsold lots.

The county said no because though the properties weren't sold yet, they did have infrastructure attached to them including water, sewer, and utilities which added value.

"The majority of the 1,300 acres of Wildflower lots don't have any of that, yet they were sold for \$120,000 to \$300,000," said Lightner. "We can't measure the value due to the lack of data and we have to recognize it compared to other like properties."

He said the decision to release Ultima/Wildflower is based on past court cases – particularly in Brunswick County. "The courts ruled that the value is due to amenities not the things people were promised but didn't receive like water, septic and paved roads," he said.

In 1991 Cullasaja Country Club wanted a tax release due to the economy, "But we can't do revals based on whether the economy goes up or down," said Lightner.

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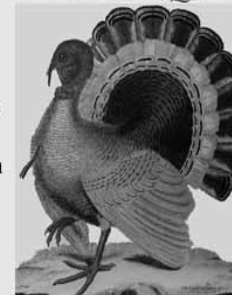
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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Well respected gynecologist to relocate practice to Highlands

One of the most respected obstetricians and gynecologists in Western North Carolina will be relocating his practice to Highlands this January.

James Clayton Smallwood, MD, FACOG, who practiced for 22 years in Sylva, and who has been a member of the teaching staff at the Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville for the last three and a half years, will become part of the medical staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. His practice here will focus exclusively on gynecology, since the hospital is not large enough to offer an obstetrics program.

"This is a major development for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Dr. Clay Smallwood has an outstanding reputation and a tremendous following of patients across Western North Carolina, including many patients in the Highlands-Cashiers area, and we are extremely pleased that he is coming to practice here," said hospital President and CEO Ken Shull. "We have been looking to bring a viable gynecological program back to the hospital for the last several years, and we could not have found a better qualified, more respected physician to help make that happen."

If past loyalty is any indication, Shull said the hospital expects that many of Dr. Smallwood's patients from surrounding communities will follow him to his new office in Highlands. Word of his coming to Highlands has already been generating excitement on various social networking sites.

"We hope that the addition of those patients to the base of women who already here who need GYN services will make this a viable program for us. It will also strengthen our surgical program overall," Shull said. "Along with the highly respected physicians that are here in family practice, general surgery, gastroenterology and several other specialties, the addition of someone of Dr. Smallwood's reputation places Highlands-Cashiers Hospital once again at the top of the list in the region for places to find great medical care."

Smallwood said he is looking forward to focusing solely on gynecology, even though he realizes that will disappoint many of his patients who have turned to him over the years to deliver their children. While he doesn't have an exact count, he estimates that

over his career in Western North Carolina he has delivered between 4,000 and 5,000 babies, including several generations right here in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

He will open his practice Jan. 4, seeing patients four days per week (Monday through Thursday), and performing surgery in the hospital's surgical center. His new offices will be located in Suite 202 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the hospital campus. Appointments can be made by calling (828) 526-5045.



Dr. James Clayton Smallwood

Smallwood says he is looking forward to practicing in the Highlands-Cashiers area again. Back in the mid 1980s, he actually used to see patients on a visiting basis at both the offices of Drs. Mark Heffington and David Wheeler in Cashiers, and in Highlands at the offices of Drs. John Baumrucker and Carlyle Mangum.

The new office here will also be more convenient for many of his patients than his offices in Asheville.

"I feel the patients I have in Franklin, and certainly those who are here in Cashiers and Highlands, will find the new location much more convenient," he said during a planning visit to the hospital last week. "Both the office and the surgical facilities here are certainly very nice, and I know my patients will appreciate that as well."

He's also looking forward to working again with general surgeon William J. "Billy" Noell, MD, FACS, who moved his practice to Highlands a year and a half ago. "He and I have worked on a lot of cases together over the years in Sylva, and I'm looking forward to collaborating with him again on cases where a second surgeon is needed," he said.

Apart from the absence of obstetrics, Smallwood says he does not believe the move to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will change the nature of his practice. "I will still be able to do all the gynecological procedures that I did at WestCare (now MedWest) in Sylva, or that I have been doing at Mission Hospital. I know I'll miss working with the residents at MAHEC and the teaching aspects, but I won't miss having to be on call, which involved being away from home so much."

Smallwood joined the staff at MAHEC in June of 2006 as a clinical assistant professor of medicine in the Department of OB-

GYN of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He was also on the medical staff of Mission Hospitals in Asheville. He was awarded MAHEC's Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award for the 2006-07 year.

He earned his medical degree in 1975 from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, where he was a classmate of F. Augustus "Gus" Dozier, MD, the other general surgeon now on staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (the two have kept in touch over the years). Dr. Smallwood completed his internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the United States Air Force Medical Center at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, and he worked at medical centers at two other Air Force bases in the early 1980s, including serving as chief of obstetrics and gynecology, before entering private practice in Sylva in 1984.

He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and accredited in advanced operative laparoscopy by the Accreditation Council for Gynecologic Endoscopy. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He is a member of the North Carolina Medical Society, the North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecologic Society, the American Medical Association, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists and the Southern Obstetric and Gynecologic Seminar, Inc. He also serves on the Committee on Practice Bulletins - Obstetrics for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, based in Washington, DC.

... HIS & HERS continued from pg 11

a local *taverna*. This is typical of the local, earthy fare for which the region is famous. Most of our group pick up bags of the *orecchiette* to take home, but John and I hit a gelato stand instead, determined to try every flavor available before we return to the States.

We return to the ship absolutely enchanted with our visit of the area, even more determined to return to Italy for a longer visit. I've found from research on the Internet you can rent a *trullo*, and would love to spend a week or two in the area. While I don't need any of those lovely wedding dresses anymore, it would be lovely to sit in an outdoor tavern, sipping a glass of local wine while chomping my way through a plate of home-made *orecchiette* - followed by gelato, of course.



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Where there's a rock, there's a way ...

By Kim Lewicki

If not for his mother's insistence, life could have turned out very differently for sculptor Alexei Kazantsev.

At 14 and just out of middle school, Alexei was headed for the car mechanic business when his mother made a decision that sculpted his life.

"She said, 'I don't want you lying on your back in the mud all day. Go to Moscow. Work with your uncle,'" said Alexei, 43. With that Alexei left Alexandrov, Russia, and headed for Moscow to apprentice with acclaimed sculptor, his uncle Sergei Kazantsev from 1981 until 1985.

While in Moscow, he worked with his uncle during the day and earned his GED in the evenings until he was accepted to the Moscow State Art Institute from 1985-1991 where he earned his BFA and MFA.

From 1991-1992 he was enrolled in the Ph.D program in sculpture at the Russian Fine Arts Academy in Moscow and after that it was on to America.

"After 12 years working under my uncle, it was time for me to split out on my own," he said from his "studio" among the boulders at the Larry Rogers Construction lot on Hicks Road.

Since Alexei hit America's shores he's been busy creating sculptures almost non-stop.

In Marshalltown, Iowa, he met, fell in love with and 2 ½ years later married Catherine Fritz in 1995, a violinist. They have two boys, Jayden, 6 and Jasper, 8, who are more inclined to music than sculpting, but "It's still early," said Alexei. The family lives in Washington State but as the major bread winner, Alexei travels the country to wherever the work is. Prior to children, Catherine traveled with him, teaching violin and viola.

Alexei came to Highlands by way of Covington, LA, where he had carved a marble angel for placement in a cemetery owned by Edward and Rebecca Fielding, also of Highlands, named Pinecrest Memorial Gardens.

While Alexei sculpted, Catherine taught Rebecca Fielding the violin and a family friendship was forged.

Much of his work has an old world feel to it, a feel common in places like France, Russia, Scotland

and Italy, which in fact, display his work, but a feeling novel here in the states.

So in various private collections, mausoleums, cemeteries, sculpture gardens and churches in America he has brought the old art of sculpting massive pieces to life.

In love with his work, the Fieldings commissioned Alexei to carve a rendition of golfer Bobby Jones which they had originally planned on erecting in the backyard of their Cullasaja Club golf villa. However, at the suggestion of Mike "Bud" Rogers, they opted instead to donate it to the Highlands Country Club – the club that was home to Bobby Jones when in Highlands.

Once the subject was decided upon, the search began for a slab of stone that would become "Bobby Jones."

An 11-foot by 5-foot piece was quarried from the Cherokee reservation and carted back to Highlands – to the Rogers lot on Hicks Road – where Alexei set to work all summer.

The pose chosen was the one immortalized by Jones when he won the Grand Slam in 1936 at the U.S. Amateur Tournament on the 12th hole at the Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA.

Except for his new line of stone benches which are Alexei's love right now, most of his work is done on a commission basis.

Though most artists dislike working on commission – that is, creating something a patron commissions rather than creating for the sake of creating – Alexei says he loves it. For one thing, the money is guaranteed – he gets between \$1,000-\$5,000 per piece – but he said he's lucky because so far his clients have given him the freedom to create.

"Working with a patron is like making a child," he said. There is an idea and this energy that ignites while I turn their dream into reality."

Alexei can work in anything – marble, granite, basalt, concrete even bronze – each requiring a modified technique, but each yielding to its potential under his skilled hand.

"Sculpting is like beauty – the stone has energy. There is the excitement of discovery as something emerges," he said.

Like most artists, Alexei begins

with a drawing derived from the depiction of a patron's dream. "First they dream it, then they propose the idea and I make what they relate to me," he said. "It's a good process."

A friend's yen for creating creatures with a chainsaw and a stump, ignited another idea for Alexei. "If he can carve stumps, why not boulders?"

Now he's busy creating artistic rock benches like the one that will sit beside Bobby Jones at Highlands Country Club – shaped, polished and inviting – displaying a plaque explaining the life-size rendition of the golfer that made Highlands Country Club famous.

"This sculpture of Bobby Jones was donated to Highlands Country Club by Edward and Rebecca Fielding of Covington, LA, and Highlands, NC, and sculpted by Alexei Kazantsev."

Next up? As suggested by his good friends Bud and Tina Rogers, perhaps a life-size Highlander to be erected at Highlands School.

If Alexei can find someone to help foot the cost, he would like to begin the job in January.

To see more of Alexei's work go to www.aksulpt.com.



Alexei Kazantsev with the angel he sculpted for the Fieldings' Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Covington, LA.



Below, the Rogers' crew erects Bobby Jones at Highlands Country Club.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

LEGALS

NORTH CAROLINA
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT REVIEW
NOTICE OF EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is currently reviewing the project identified below to determine whether assistance should be granted therein. The project has been submitted by the Town of Highlands for funding under the Federal Mitigation Grant Program.

Name of Project: Town of Highlands Culvert Upgrade
Location of Project: Town of Highlands

Project Description: The proposed project entails upgrading three culverts on streets in Highlands. This action is intended to reduce or eliminate potential property damage from future flooding events.

According to the Flood Insurance Study and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the project activities are located in the special flood hazard (100-year floodplain) area along Mill Creek in Highlands. The culvert crossings to be upgraded are on Spruce Street, Laurel Street and Fifth Street.

Comments of this proposal are invited and welcomed for fifteen days from the date of this notice. Comments should be made in writing, addressed to: Jim Fatland, Town Manager, Town of Highlands, P.O. Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. If additional information is needed, please call Mr. Fatland at 828-526-5266.

Public comments are requested until 15 days past the date of first posting.

Publish: November 19, 2009

HELP WANTED

RN's at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg Nurses needed in Acute/ER department. Strong leadership skills is a must. PRN positions available for 12 hour day and night shifts. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

CNA or CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RN needed in the Emergency Room at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full Time position available. ER experience required. 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.

C.N.A II needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Acute Department. Full-time and PRN positions available, night shift. Med/Surg experience preferred. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 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.

RN needed at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full time position, requiring every other weekend shift. 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.

RECEPTIONIST needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in one of our Physician Offices. Full Time position available. 3-5 years of physician office experience required. 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.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/NURSE needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in one of our Physician Offices. Full Time position available. 3-5 years of experience required, GYN office 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.

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.

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

GREAT HOME FOR RENT. \$750 per month. 3 bed, 3bath, great room with fireplace, deck, big yard in Scaly Mtn behind Cabe Realty, utilities not included, no pet. Call Becky 828-526-2475. (11/19)

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ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN – 535 N. 4th Street. \$600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)
BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM CHALET FOR RENT. \$750 per month INCLUDING utilities. Two bed/two bath/screened porch/gazebo. Minutes from Highlands. Call Jeannie Chambers 526-3717 (office) or 526-8225 (cell). (st. 10/22)

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ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9675 or 770-639-2682.

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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)

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

89-INCH SOFA, soft floral print, great condition. \$250. Also, 9-ft 4-inch x 5-ft 8-inch floral hooked rug that goes well with sofa. \$851. Call 526-3647.

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See CLASSIFIEDS page 23

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1997 NISSIAN PICK UP. – 5 speed. 140,000 K, 4-cyl., Great on gas! \$1,500. Call 526-4741.

2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT – olive green, beige leather, 72,000 miles, Excellent condition, V-8 5.4 liter. \$13,500. Call 828-526-4707.

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

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POLICE, FIRE DEPTS. WEEKLY LOG

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Oct 27. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 27

- At noon, officers took a report of \$600 worth of household goods, building materials and office supplies stolen from a storage unit.

Nov. 8

- At 10 a.m., the breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a business on Carolina Way where a heater and lamp valued at \$90 was missing.

Nov. 10

- At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of suspicious activity at a resident on Holt Circle involving a mental patient.

- At 7:45 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on U.S. 64.

Nov. 11

- At noon, officers responded to a call of a burglary at a residence on Harris Drive.

Nov. 13

- At 3:30 a.m., officers on patrol found an unsecured door at a business on Main Street.

- At 2 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at S. 3rd and U.S. 64.

- At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main and 4th St.

- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th and Dillard streets.

Nov. 14

- At 11 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Paul Walden Way concerning a domestic disturbance but everything was OK.

Nov. 15

- At 4:45 p.m., officers were called to Highlands Emporium about potential counterfeit \$20 bills. They weren't counterfeit.

- During the week, police officers responded to 10 alarms and issued 7 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov 11:

Nov. 11

- At 6:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to



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• HS BASKETBALL •

Eagles Hammer Highlanders in opener

By Ryan Potts

The Rabun Gap Eagles have been working hard the last few years to build up their basketball program, and the results showed against Highlands on Tuesday night.

The Lady Eagles came into Highlands Gym and came away with a blowout victory. Highlands trailed early after a competitive first quarter, but the Lady Eagles opened up a double digit lead after some poor shooting from Highlands and never looked back, winning with a final of 58-35. Sophomore Emily Munger led the Highlanders with 9 points.

Unfortunately for the Highlander boys,

they did not start with a competitive first quarter. Rabun Gap dominated from the opening tip, beginning the game with a 33-1 run in which the Highlanders struggled in every stage of the game. The Highlanders were never able to get their offense going, scoring only 35 points in a 74-31 final. Samuel Wheeler was the only Highlander in double figures, scoring 11 points.

The Highlanders host Rabun County tomorrow night, and Saturday the Lady Highlanders will be presenting the Highlander Alumni game and fundraiser to contribute towards their trip to Orlando, FL in December.

Highlands Police Dept. instrumental in catching suspect in church arson

On Nov. 15, Highlands Police officers on patrol spotted a suspect wanted in con-

nection with a church arson and burglary walking on U.S. 64 west near ...on the Veranda Restaurant.

He matched the description of Douglas Edward Miller wanted in connection with the Transylvania County crime.

In response to a 9-1-1 caller who claimed seeing the man walking toward Franklin, Highlands Police stopped the man and questioned him.

He matched the description issued in the BOLO put out by the Transylvania County Sheriff Dept. and was carrying a Takamini guitar that matched the description of a guitar taken from the church.

He was taken to the Highlands Police Dept. and shortly thereafter picked up by the Transylvania Sheriff Dept. who arrested him for breaking and entering and arson.

... DUKE continued from page 1

its size – just a 12 megawatt load. "Interest starts at the 40 the megawatt load," said O'Donnell.

State Statute 2007-397 mandates that a certain amount of a municipality's power come from renewable resources but it's a complicated business, he said.

As per the contract with Duke, the use of Renewable Energy Portfolios (REPS) is an either-or situation.

"Highlands can get into the business of generating and selling REPS but due to its size it wouldn't generate much and Duke won't let Highlands sell it back to them to offset its rate increase at peak times because it is during the peak hours they make the most money," said O'Donnell.

He said the reason Duke took so long to increase Highlands' rates is because Highlands is so small it wasn't worth dealing with,

but now that Duke has to pay for its new Cliffside Coal Plant and its new nuclear plant every little bit counts.

The big question of the night was whether to sign up with Duke for 12 years or 20 years.

A 12-year contract meant Highlands would be in sync with Western Carolina University and Haywood EMC whose contracts with Duke end in 12 years.

At that point, the three entities might be able to lobby as a block, but all also risk losing Duke completely if it decided it didn't want to supply any of them. "Duke could also decide to charge to supply power incrementally instead of the more cost effective way it does it now," said O'Donnell.

"I like the 20-year idea, because I don't want to have to worry about what's going to happen at the end of 12 years," he said. "You

just don't know what could happen and I've seen small town's be on the verge of losing a supplier in four months and that's a scary place to be."

Even though Duke is the only game in town, its rates are low compared to other suppliers in other regions, he said. However, based on what Highlands has been spending for wholesale power in the past, the new contract will be expensive.

Each year, Highlands will forecast its monthly needs and give that information to Duke who will charge Highlands accordingly. Highlands' forecast will be determined December of each year, but Duke won't know if it charged enough based on the forecast until June of the following year.

"That's when we 'true up' said O'Donnell. "At that point, Highlands could get a refund, or it could get an additional charge due that month."

Town Manager Jim Fatland said that's why the board ruled to raise electric rates in May of 2009 even though the new Duke contract won't go into effect until March 2010. "We will have a cushion of money in the Rate Stabilization Fund for use in June 2011

for that first time we 'true up' with Duke," he said.

Wholesale costs are expected to increase roughly 16% per year for the next three years and then about 5% per year through 2019 so Highlands' retail rates will increase another 9%-10% over the next three years.

Another unknown is the transmission bill. Under the town's old Duke rate, the cost of transmission was built into a combined rate.

Duke is still paying for the \$1.6 million transmission plant it built five years ago and now Highlands will receive a separate transmission bill to help offset that cost. O'Donnell said Duke won't give the new transmission price until it has a contract in hand and Highlands would have to pay that bill whether or not it picked Duke as a supplier.

In the end the board voted unanimously to enter into a 20-year contract with Duke. It needs to be signed and delivered to Washington by Jan. 1 where it will stay for 60 days before it goes into effect March 2010.

The next Town Board meeting is Dec. 2.
– Kim Lewicki

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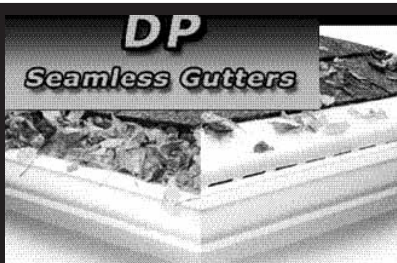
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

RBC Bank supports The Bascom's capital campaign



RBC Bank Manager Sue Gorski, left, hands a \$10,000 donation from the bank to Bascom Executive Director Linda Steigleder to support the center's capital campaign.

This is the bank's second payment towards a \$50,000 pledge made for the art center's expansion and new campus construction. The Bascom has secured \$9 million of its \$13 million campaign goal, with \$4 million more to raise.

"Economic development in the region is being positively affected by The Bascom's growth as a destination and educational service provider," Steigleder said. "In 2009 to date, we've served 23,000 individuals with instruction, training, classes and more — up from one-third of that a year ago. Our audience is patronizing other area businesses when they come to town for a

Bascom visit and experience. We are enormously grateful for the generous support of RBC Bank and hundreds of other area businesses and families."

Gorski said the bank committed early to The Bascom project. "It could have come across as a pipe dream, but it was something we saw merit in, and we sought cooperation from the very top ranks of RBC Bank in Canada," Gorski said.

For more information on donating to The Bascom, visit www.thebascom.org or call Jessica Connor, director of marketing and development, at (828) 526-4949 ext. 121.

Pastor Randy Harry named new senior pastor at CUMC



New CUMC Senior Pastor Randy Harry shares a smile with his wife, Kristen, and daughter, Wren.

Cashiers United Methodist Church (CUMC) is getting a new senior pastor. Randolph (Randy) Harry, who most recently served at St. Timothy in Brevard, begins at CUMC Sunday, Nov. 22. He replaces long-time senior pastor David Beam, who was transferred to Harrison United Methodist Church in Pineville last month.

"We are thrilled to have Randy and his family with us," said CUMC Pastor Matt Smith. "We hope the whole community will make a special point to introduce themselves and welcome him to Cashiers. This is going to be a very exciting chapter as we discern God's leading."

Harry completed his theological studies at Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, S.C., and has served churches in Ellenboro, Bessemer City, and Brevard. He served at St. Timothy in Brevard since 2006.

Harry is chairman of the board of directors and a founding board member of Wesley Community Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation affiliated with the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) that builds affordable energy-efficient housing. He is also vice chair of the board of directors of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries, Inc., a non-profit organization overseeing the United Methodist's Disciple Bible Study program in North Carolina prisons.

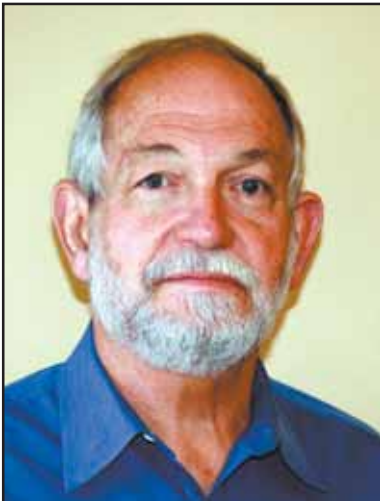
Prior to experiencing his call to ministry, Harry earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He practiced law for 12 years in Norfolk, Va.

When away from the church, he enjoys hiking with his wife, Kristen, and daughter, Wren, as well as photography.

All are welcome to attend Cashiers United Methodist Church, meet the new pastor and welcome him to the community. For more information, call CUMC at (828) 743-5298 or visit

www.cashiersumc.org.

Harry Norman, Realtors welcomes Jim Kinard



Jim Kinard

Former Highlands resident Jim Kinard has become a member of the Harry Norman, Realtors team of professionals.

Many may remember Jim from his years at Highlands Country Club where he was the assistant general manager and sales director in the early 1980s. Jim's extensive experience in country club development in Highlands, Cashiers and Banner Elk is a valuable addition to the Highlands' office.

Jim and his bride of 33 years, Cynthia, currently reside in Franklin where he is the Pastor of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church.

To all his old and new friends and acquaintances, Jim invites you to come by the office in Mountain Brook Center, "sit a spell" and share some "tales".

Artist Dwight Bryant helps Hospice



In response to the current effort to save Hospice here in the Highlands-Cashiers area, local artist Dwight Bryant has generously donated a set of signed glass poinsettia plates. Volunteers will be selling chances in a variety of locations to raise funds before the holidays. The chances are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will take place (December 5th), the day of the Highlands Christmas Parade.

• THE PUZZLERS •

Hex-a-Ku[©] 2009

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:

A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

How to Solve:

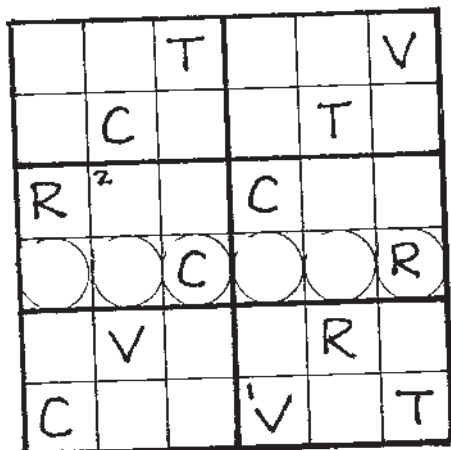
Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these Across/Down words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row, column or cell.

Mystery Word: Mathematical Direction

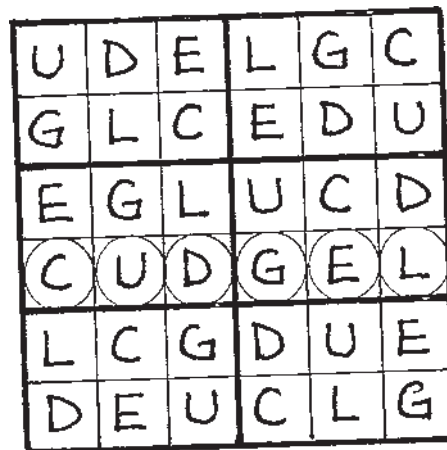
1. Veteran (Abbr.) (3)

Down

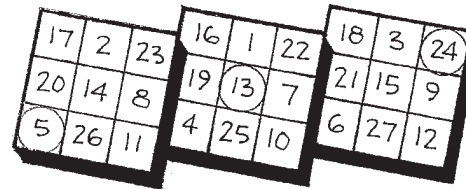
2. TV recorder (Abbr) (4)



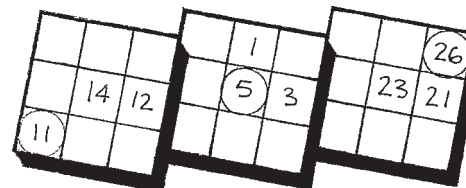
Solution to Nov. 12 Hex-a-Ku



Solution to #AN3B Pseudocube in Nov. 12 issue



#xBN3B PseudoCube Level of Difficulty Moderate



PseudoCube[©]

by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

THE SETUP:

The cube has 27 consecutive numbers in it, arranged in three layers with 9 numbers each. These numbers are arranged in a special pattern: For each layer, the sum of the three numbers in each row, column or diagonal, is 3 times its center number. Eight diagonals connect all 3 layers by running through the center number of the middle layer. Each diagonal contains 3 numbers equalling the total of the three center numbers. One of the diagonals is shown with circles.

THE CHALLENGE:

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

Email: thepuzzlers@yahoo.com.



Happy Thanksgiving From All Of Us!

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