

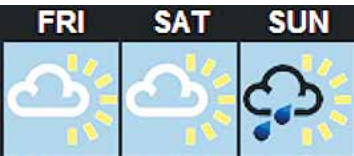
# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 48

PDF Version - [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010



**44 \ 23F 45 \ 29F 44 \ 23F**  
**Snow possible late Sat. night.**

**Thursday, Dec. 2**  
 • Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

• Areception at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation following the opening of the photo exhibit by Jim Loring about the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. Refreshments will be served. Exhibit is 6-7:30 p.m.

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3 & 4**

• At Paoletti's, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. \$20 per person. Refund with wine purchase.

**Saturday, Dec. 4**

• Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street

• 'Tis the Season "Alternative Gift Market" 11:45 until 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Right after the Christmas Parade. Make a gift to your favorite charity in someone's name.

• At Dusty's on NC 106 across from Cyprus, a Holiday Wine & Food Tasting from 103 p.m.

• Santa at the Visitor Center after the parade.

• At Wolfgang's, Winter Wonderland right after the parade. It's free.

• A "Carol Sing" at 2 p.m. - after the parade - at the First Presbyterian Church.

• Holiday Gift and Bake Sale from noon-4 p.m. in the front room at the Rec Park to help Donna Tew pay medical bills due to surgery after a stroke.

**Wed., Dec. 8**

• At The Bascom, Create a Holiday Wreath, 1:30-3:30 pm. Tuition: \$20 members/\$25 non-members (materials included). For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

**Thursday, Dec. 9**

• HCP's Annual Holiday Reading at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. It's free.

• A 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Food, drink, and music by Thea and the Green Man. Everyone is invited. (828) 526-0890 ext. 320 for more info.

## Police Dept. project finalized and more

**Board says 'no' to sign ordinance changes; considers Parking Study; elects Mayor Pro Temp**

Over the course of several board meetings, commissioners have discussed the scope of the ABC Store renovations to accommodate the Highlands Police Department. Plans have been reworked sev-

eral times to make the most out of the existing building and to keep the cost low, particularly since bids came in higher than the \$600,000 budgeted by the town. The lowest bid was from JT Turner Construc-

tion at \$719,000.

When asked to bring the cost down, Summit Architect and JT Turner returned to the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting with a "value engi-

• See POLICE page 17

### • Inside •

Letters .....	2
Obituaries .....	3
Wooldridge .....	4
Salzarulo .....	5
Conservative POV .....	6
Investing at 4,118 .....	7
Events .....	9
Health Matters .....	13
Coach's Corner .....	18

## Christmas Parade is Saturday, Dec. 4



Santa and lots of other characters will be in Highlands' annual Christmas Parade, Saturday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. on Main Street.  
 Photo by Jim Lewicki

## School funds sought for new activity bus & oven

Highlands School needs a new Activity Bus - the 1991 vehicle is on its last legs which has put Highlands' athletes and their coaches in perilous situations.

The issue came to a head Monday night while the bus limped to and from Hayesville, NC, with questionable brakes an issue in the dark and rain.

Because of capital expenditure budget cuts over the past few years, and due to that line item being zeroed out by the county this year, the four-year rotation of old activity buses for new has been put on hold.

The state pays to replace the regular yellow school buses, but it's the county's responsibility to buy the white activity buses.

Because of Monday night's problems on the road, Board of Education members are trying to get a replacement bus in the interim, while the county sees if it can find the \$81,000 for a new bus which if ordered now could be delivered by February.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said Country Manager Jack Horton is looking at the county's "revenue

• See SCHOOL page 8

## Many businesses can be on 'Main St.' grant

The good news is as a Small Town Main Street Community, a special \$200,000 grant to spur business development is up for grabs. The better news is more than one business can be recipients of the funds.

The grant is distributed by the NC Department of Commerce and is contingent on several items - first, that a business owner or a group of businesses have an idea that will grow sustainable jobs in Highlands and second, that the town backs the

idea as the lead agency in the grant process.

The \$200,000 grant is extremely competitive across the state, with only one grant given to any one town, but the one grant can be com-

• See GRANT page 8

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 at the Falls on Main



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Bear Hunters

Dear Editor,

Last Saturday night, I was surprised to see a mother bear crossing Cheney Lane; I stopped my car to watch her run into the woods and was amazed to see three cubs come running after her! What a thrill for me! I love bear sightings!

A week later on Saturday morning, while walking my dog, I heard a pack of dogs madly barking down in the woods. I hoped they had not 'treed' this mother or one of her cubs and wondered what happens when the dogs do tree a mother bear? How do the hunters know whether she has cubs somewhere or is female or does it even matter?

I am not opposed to hunting if it helps with overpopulation of that particular species. However, I don't call it hunting to have dogs tree bears so that hunters can then go shoot them. Really is there skill in that?

Is it a true and horrible fact that hunters shoot off the paws, as Glenda Bell recounted in her letter-to-the editor in the Nov. 18 edition of Highlands' Newspaper? Why aren't bear hunters required to kill on equal ground (with bow & arrow at least — a skill of some kind and way away from our neighborhoods?) and if there is ever any torture, they be held accountable for that?

I, too, want to know why this type of hunting is allowed in our state?

I was so glad to see Glenda's letter and hope that there will be responses to her question. I, too, want to know.

Helen Moore  
Highlands

### Proposed 28th Amendment to the US Constitution

Dear Editor,

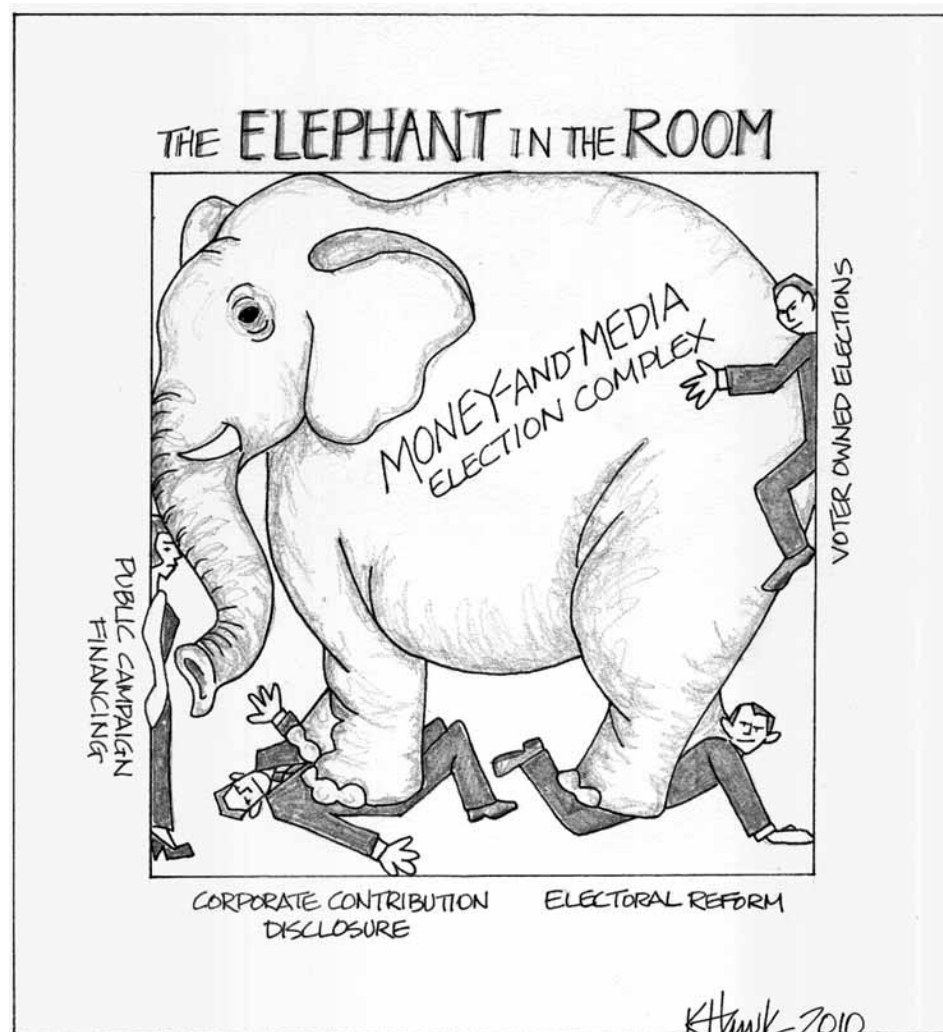
There will likely be 30 Republican governors after today. There will also likely be a majority of Republican state legislatures. So: The Time Has Indeed Come!

Governors of 35 states have already filed suit against the Federal Government for imposing unlawful burdens upon them. It only takes 38 (of the 50) States to convene a Constitutional Convention.

This will take less than thirty seconds to read. If you agree, please pass it on. An idea whose time has come!

For too long we have been too complacent about the workings of Congress. Many

## • 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.

citizens had no idea that members of Congress could retire with the same pay after only one term, that they specifically exempted themselves from many of the laws they have passed (such as being exempt from any fear of prosecution for sexual harassment) while ordinary citizens must live under those laws. The latest was to exempt themselves from the Healthcare Reform — in all of its forms. Somehow, that doesn't seem logical. We do not have an elite that is above the law. It doesn't matter if they are Democrat, Republican, Independent or whatever. The self-serving must stop.

A Constitutional Convention is a good way to do that. It is an idea whose time has come. And, with the advent of modern communication, the process can be moved along with incredible speed.

There is talk out there that the "government" doesn't care what the people think. That is irrelevant. It is incumbent on the population to address elected officials to the wrongs afflicted against the populace — you and me. Think about this:

The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18-year-olds) took only three months and 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple! The people demanded it. That was in 1971 — before computers, before e-mail, before cell phones, etc.

Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took one year or less to become the law of the land — all because of public pressure.

This is one proposal that really should be passed around.

Proposed 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution: "Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and/or Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the citizens of the United States." Pass it on.

Jim Whitehurst  
Highlands

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...on this day from the History Guy

Dec. 2, 1971

Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, Dubai, and Umm Al Quwain form the United Arab Emirates.

Here's a day that commemorates the United Arab Emirates.

A very important place, even crucial, these states, once known as Trucial.

if your business there you take, you are likely to get a fair sheik.

They're pretty rich and pretty able, compared to the neighbors, they are stable,

very smart, and quite bold

with oil, banking, and their gold,

but lately even they're confessing,

they're not immune from a recession.



## • OBITUARIES •

### Jerry BeulinTilson

Jerry BeulinTilson, age 55, of Highlands, NC, died Wednesday, November 24 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late John Beulin and Eva Arlecia Rogers Tilson. He was married to Laura Elaine Burrell Tilson for 37 years. He was a carpenter and builder; loved to work; was an avid sports fan and liked to hunt and fish. Jerry was a loving husband, father, friend and a devoted Christian. He was a member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church where he was a Deacon for 22 years and a Sunday School teacher.

In addition to his wife he is survived by two daughters, Jessica Tilson and Gabrielle Tilson both of the home; one son David Tilson of the home; one sister, June Manning and husband Bob of Tallahassee, FL; sister-in-law,



Georgetta Dixon and brother-in-law, Joe Dixon of Pensacola, FL and one nephew Jeff Dixon and wife Melody of Tallahassee, FL.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 27 at Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Everette Wilson, Rev. Matt Shuler and Rev. Rusty Wolfrey officiating. Burial

was in the Clear Creek Community Cemetery. Pallbearers were Charlie Hicks, Dennis Ivester, Donnie Edwards, Doyle Calloway, Jeff Dixon and Michael Wilson. Honorary Pallbearers were members of Highlands and Satolah Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Rd., Asheville, NC 28803-2426. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Randy Preston Laws

Randy Preston Laws, age 67 of North Carolina, died from cancer on Sunday, November 21, 2010 in Clayton, GA. Randy first started drawing before he was 4 years old.

At age 22 he began his career in the arts as graphic designer for a well-known regional chain store in Tennessee. After serving in Vietnam he returned to become their advertising manager. By age 32 he left advertising to pursue the fine arts specializing in portraiture and depictions of nature. In 1972 he founded the Tennessee Artists Association in Knoxville and was elected the first president.

After relocating to Highlands, NC, in 1983, he expanded his repertoire, working in new mediums and winning a juried art exhibition for his dry-brush watercolor. His careful and expert art restoration techniques were often in demand.

In 1987 he had a one man show at the First National Bank in Palm Beach and later



that year his trompe l'oeil creations for a home in Highlands were featured in Veranda Magazine. Being of English and Cherokee heritage, Randy was elected president of the Southern Band of Cherokees earlier this year.

He was preceded in death by father, Earl James Laws, Sr.; and grandparents John and Maggie Fox Laws and Lafayette and Martha York Branum.

Randy is survived by mother Bertha Branum Laws of Knoxville; brothers, James Laws and wife Ethel of Chattanooga, Gary Laws and wife Carolyn of Strawberry Plains, Dale Laws and wife Sandra of Maryville; several nieces and nephews; fellow members of the Southern Band of Cherokees, and numerous friends.

Special thanks to his caregiver and friend Daniel Winner of Clayton, GA and Regency Hospice of Georgia. Randy will be profoundly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

## • MILESTONE •

### Blake Meadows wins MOOT competition

Patrick Henry College has won the undergraduate Moot Court Championship, four of the last six years.

Freshman Blake Meadows and his partner Kayla Griesemer were the only all Freshman Team to compete and managed to beat teams from Duke, Liberty and Wooster to win the Mid-Atlantic Moot Court Competition which was held at Regent Law School on November 12-13. By virtue of their first place finish, they will be able to compete as one of the top 64 teams from across the country to vie for the National Championship which will be held at Tulane Law School, January 14-15.

Blake is the son of Mark and Debbie Meadows.




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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### We Floridiots shout, 'Go back to Highlands!'

**O**f all the columns I wrote last summer, none was more polarizing and volatile than the one titled "Go back to Florida" where I demanded all Floridians get out of Highlands and leave us mountain folks alone. Wow, did I get hate mail. One person wanted me fired and burned at the stake, then my ashes flushed down President Obama's urinal; probably a Democrat, ya think? Another reader suggested I be reincarnated as a urinal cake. Yuck! They called me the worse kind of racist. Huh? I didn't know Floridiots were a race.

When I write outrageous stuff like the Floridiot column, (Look it up on-line for July 15<sup>th</sup>) I try to make the piece so absurd that no one with an IQ of over 50 would take me serious. Ha; boy, was I wrong.

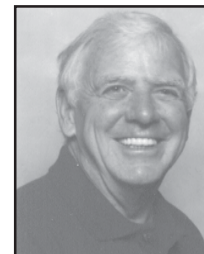
Of course, my regular readers and most summer folks from Florida knew I was just trying to be a good satire writer. I got kudos, further feeding my ego. Others said it was unfair because visitors that don't know me took me serious and got their shorts in a wad. They didn't know I write fiction. The amazing part is that most everyone knows I'm just poking fun but if I hit that one particular nerve on a sensitive topic, they have to be unscrewed from the ceiling. I'm continuously fascinated by that phenomenon.

Are you sitting down? Some other folks said I'm very bad and mean spirited for what I write, using my words to provoke a strong emotional response. Hey, isn't that what preachers try to do each Sunday morning?

Actually, back in my cop days, I spent part of my career purposely aggravating organized criminals with my words and got paid for doing it. Sometimes it got ugly. I must have done a good job because they also called me called me bad and mean spirited; also good for my ego....kinda.

So here we are, back in Florida, where the li'l missus and I spent our entire adult lives, working and raising our three Floridiot children who, by the way, turned out great in spite of all the drugs, crime, corruption and evil activities going on in Miami. We applied this little thing called "discipline."

As I said before, I don't miss Highlands



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback is encouraged!**

**email:**

**[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)**

as much as I miss the people of Highlands. We're currently going through culture shock. After six blissful months of driving around in the mountains, I have been honked at a half dozen times just this week. And they lay on their horns, not a friendly toot. There's no traffic courtesy down here and no letting me in their lane. There are a lot of angry people in Palm Beach

where Democrats reign....and I have no political stickers on my car. Hmmm. Anyway, through normal cultural adjustments, I'm slowly making the transition from happy and nice to mean and angry.

In a short while, our tourist season will begin and I'll get my revenge. Drivers from all over the country will wander around lost and I'll get to lay on my horn and shout at them. When I see a car with North Carolina plates, I'll honk, cut them off, and shout, "Go back to Highlands." Is that fun, or what? Hey, we must maintain our not nice reputation and be unfriendly South Floridiots.

Our traffic is at its worse during the Christmas holidays. For you pagan readers who might be wondering about what that means, it's also called the "holiday season" or even worse, "winter holidays." In the true South Floridiot spirit, I'll honk at out-of-towners who slow to gawk at the skillion Christmas lights on a passing 200-foot yacht. As I pass, I'll shout, "Move over, you North Carolinot, I'm late for a robbery." Now I'm having fun.

So, Highlanders, please know I love and miss you. I miss the quiet and peace of our mountain town but won't miss the cold and dreary days. Here, I swim outdoors all winter. And we have family here to hang out with. Sadly, we have no family in Highlands. Put a price on that!

In Highlands, I'm a well read, controversial writer who gets cursed or praised. In Florida, my ego is deflated and I'm just another out-of-towner gettin' in the way; a nobody. At least I'm less fearful of being shot at or my shins kicked; another tradeoff.

• Read Fred's column on-line all winter at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com), click on LOCAL NEWS.



## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### Have you lost weight? You look great!

I've lost 35 pounds in the past several months. You'd think someone would notice. The fact is only four people have mentioned my transformation and one of them asked me if I'd been sick. It's hard to understand. Unlikely as it seems, it's possible that folks haven't noticed. I get the idea that some people are jealous of my success. Somebody may actually think I have cancer, like the guy who asked if I'd been feeling OK. I can understand friends being reluctant to broach the subject, but about half the people I know, and a good many I've never met, would be overjoyed.

"Serves him right," they might think, "for all the un-American things he's said." Before I get a slew of mail under the heading, "Cancer is not a laughing matter," let me tell you that my family has suffered more than its share of cancer. My Mom had five different primary cancers, before the one that finally killed her, a tumor that was so aggressive the pathologist couldn't even identify the source. Lizzie's Mom died from a rapidly growing cancer, and my brother was eaten alive by an especially virulent form of multiple myeloma. So while having cancer isn't the least bit funny, not having it can be hilarious, and exhilarating. If I have it, I don't know it, and it would be a cruel joke since I've put a lot of effort into losing weight. I'd hate to think I could have enjoyed a steady diet of hot fudge, peanut butter milkshakes and been pretty much where I am today.

Even people who aren't exactly fans probably want to know my secret. My dog, Marley, deserves part of the credit. Regular readers may recall the Marley got in a little trouble last March when he killed a goat. We tried to find him a new home. A wonderful man named Possum took him home, but tearfully returned him a few days later. He explained that Marley refused to eat, and missed us terribly. I couldn't bring myself to tell Possum that Marley had shown no hint of loyalty or affection and I suspected he just didn't like what was being served. Marley could no longer run free, but needed plenty of exercise. I started walking him. I guess Marley and I have walked six or seven hundred miles since March. What started as an annoying chore has become a highlight of my day. But before all you fat people run out and buy goat eating dogs, realize that dog ownership is a big commitment, and there aren't many



Feedback is encouraged.  
email:  
hsalzarulo@aol.com

people as nice as Possum.

Speaking of commitment, weight loss is another big one. I decided I needed to lose weight on a SCUBA diving trip. It's not that I looked particularly obese. It had to do with buoyancy. Fat floats. The fatter the diver, the more lead weight is needed to keep him on the bottom. When I was 40, four pounds was plenty. In April I needed 12. Twelve pounds of lead without a wet suit is defi-

nately "fat boy" territory. Six pounds would have been OK, or even eight, but the extra lead was strong motivation. I did it without starvation or forced vomiting. The only time I was even mildly nauseated was when I saw a picture of myself from the trip.

The hard part will be to level off and keep it off. Two friends lost weight, but after a few months no one would have known it. Neither had any trouble finding it again. I wish I'd told them how terrific they looked. It might have helped them stay trim. I didn't for a minute think either of them had cancer.

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## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### Party on Nancy - not

**J**ust a week after House Democrats were swept out of power, Speaker Nancy Pelosi hosted a reception "honoring the accomplishments of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress."

Some cynics feel the fact that she was in a contest to become minority party leader had something to do with it, however, "It's just a thank you for the advocates. The reception is not for lawmakers. No taxpayer funds were spent"

Who might the "advocates" be? I assume lobbyists, although she never used the word.

And what might the accomplishments be? Obviously, ramin-jamin the Obamacare bill through the House. The fact that it is grossly unpopular with the majority of voters seems not to have dimmed the festivities. Evidently, the fact that the House failed to pass a budget didn't either.

From HumanEvents.com, posted on July 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year: "House Democrats 'Deem' Faux (French for phoney) \$1.1 Trillion Budget 'as passed.' Last night, as part of a procedural vote on the emergency war supplemental bill, House Democrats attached a document that 'deemed as passed' a non-existent \$1.12 trillion budget. The execution of the 'deeming' document allows Democrats to start spending money for fiscal year 2011 without the pesky constraints of a budget."

"The procedural vote passed 215-210 with no Republicans voting in favor and 38 Democrats crossing the aisle to vote against deeming the faux budget resolution passed. Never before - since the creation of the Congressional budget process - has the House failed to pass a budget, failed to propose a budget, then deemed the non-existent budget as passed as a means to avoid a direct, recorded vote on a budget, but still allow Congress to spend taxpayer money." Yes, Nancy, that's a record to be proud of.

And then there is the failure of the House to produce a tax bill that determines your income-tax rate for 2011. Surely you've heard the debate over whether of not to extend the Bush tax cuts, which will go away if nothing is done. This is equally as shameful as not passing a budget. Owners of small businesses won't hire needed additional staff, because they don't know what they will be paying in taxes. So much for job creation. Another feather in her cap.

Malfeasance, nonfeasance, getting "shellacked" in the election, you name it; Nancy has no cause for celebration.



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

So, without a subservient House, how is Obama going to accomplish the rest of the "changing of America?"

According to Dick Morris on his website recently: "Does President Obama plan to move to the center in response to his overwhelming rejection at the polls on November 2<sup>nd</sup>? No way! Instead, he is moving to implement, by executive action, two of the most controversial items on his agenda - a carbon

tax and pollution permit system and a ban on the use of secret ballots in union elections." Effectively, a Carbon tax and "Card Check."

"After he lost Congress in 1992, Bill Clinton resorted to executive orders to maintain his momentum as president. With Congress unwilling to pass anything he proposed, the president canvassed the administration for ideas that could be implemented by executive orders. A very productive period followed during which tobacco regulation, higher educational standards, affirmative action reform, and other key measures were implemented without asking the permission of Congress.

But Clinton's executive orders were on subjects on which Congress had not voted. They did not contradict the express will of the body. Obama is using the strategy to act in direct defiance of Congressional action. He is passing ideas Congress refused to pass, even when he had huge majorities."

Did the Constitution allow for bypassing Congress in lawmaking? According to Wikipedia: "An executive order in the United States is an order, issued by the President, the head of the Executive Orders are generally orders to staff of the executive branch and not to the citizens of the country. Article I, Section I of the US Constitution specifically reserves all federal legislative authority to Congress, not the president." So how do recent presidents get by with legislating through executive orders? Liberal judges.

"Obama will live to regret these moves. Republicans in the House will defund these actions and insert legislative language making it a crime to spend appropriated funds to implement them. By this strategy, all of the controversial Obama legislation will be at issue during the budget fight - taxes, Obamacare, cap and trade, and card check. The more these issues are inserted into the budget fight, the greater the chances of a Republican victory."

Following the lead of his ex-Speaker, he will bend and break whatever rules necessary to achieve his ideological aims.



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## Words of wisdom from a licensed home inspector



**Susie deVille-Schiffli**  
**Harry Norman Realtors**

**W**hether you are buying or selling a home, there are several salient things you should know. Mountain properties are rather unique, and one is well advised to become knowledgeable in what to look for when buying, or how to best prepare your home prior to listing.

I had the great pleasure of interviewing local home inspector, Patricia Nardy of Eagle Eye Home Inspection Services, Inc., based in Cashiers, and am happy to share an edited excerpt of our conversation.

Susie: What should sellers do to properly prepare their homes before they are under contract? In other words, what do you see as the top things sellers should check around their property when they are listing their property for sale?

Pat: The first thing I would recommend is for sellers to make sure their gutters are cleaned and that there are no loose or missing shingles, limbs, or other debris on the roof. You can do this safely by standing on the ground with a pair of binoculars and looking over the roof area carefully.

Next, I would make sure there is proper drainage all around the house foundation. That is, make sure the grade is going away from the house, and if not, dig out that area to get water to drain away from the foundation. You may check to see if you have a water drainage issue by looking in the crawl space with a bright flashlight to see if you see water stains, water puddling, and/or crickets on the foundation walls (crickets are a sign that there is moisture in that area).

Go ahead and clear debris from around crawl space vents, too. Inside, change your filters in the furnace and make sure they are working properly. Finally, secure access for the inspector for the attic and crawl spaces and make there is no debris in either location.

Susie: Do you think that sellers should have their property inspected before they list their property or soon thereafter?

Pat: Yes, then the sellers can let the inspectors find all the issues that would come up in an inspection before they have a buyer. Inspectors will give sellers a written list of suggested repairs, and then the seller can go ahead and have those issues repaired. Sellers

can give that list to prospective buyers and show them what they did to address those issues. Inspectors can also uncover any hidden safety issues that sellers should know about right away.

Susie: Since we have unique mountain

homes in our area, what should our buyers be especially aware of when they are looking at investing in a home?

Pat: Buyers should look for high humidity, mold, and mildew inside the home which is common in our area as we

are a rain forest and many homes are built next to springs, streams, and waterfalls. I recommend that home owners have a dehumidifier installed in the basement or crawl space to address any excess moisture in the home.

Also, many homes in our area were built years ago and were built as summer cottages and do not have proper insulation in the walls, ceiling, and crawl space. Many of these summer homes lack a sealed/enclosed crawl space; if you are planning on living in the house year 'round, you'll want to insulate your pipes and make sure the area under the house is sealed/enclosed.

• Susie deVille Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her blog at [www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com](http://www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com), or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.

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**See page 18**

### ... SCHOOL continued from page 1

streams."

Meanwhile, BOE member Tommy Baldwin suggested the school district try to pick up a retired yellow bus from a "flat land" district – one that may have a lot of miles on it but which hasn't been strained by mountain driving – and paint it white.

But it all comes down to money.

The school district only has \$20,000 in its capital outlay unrestricted fund balance which certainly won't buy a new bus.

To top it off, two 30-year-old convection ovens in the Nantahala and Highlands school kitchens are on their way out and must be replaced to the tune of about \$5,000 each. That leaves a mere \$10,000 in the unrestricted fund balance fund.

The fans on the convection ovens keep stopping which means someone has to put their arm in the hot oven to restart it – "totally unacceptable and a health and safety issue," said Baldwin.

### ... GRANT continued from page 1

prised of several viable business plans – as many as the town wants to back.

So if five business owners come forward with five different ideas located in five different places in town – on Main Street, off Main Street on feeder streets – and if the town thinks they are all good ideas, they can all be included on the grant application.

Main Street Community representatives

sue," said Baldwin.

Meanwhile Activity Bus #8109 has been taken to the garage yet again, to patch it up until an interim solution is found or hopefully a new bus is ordered.

Among other things, the speedometer on bus #8109 has been replaced three times and as of Monday night it still wasn't working.

In other news, Highlands is the last connection on the WNC fiber loop linking all the schools in the district. Tim Burrell, IT director said the district is waiting for Duke Power to change out a few more poles on US 64 east. Once that's done, Highlands School can be hooked up which means connectivity it's never had before at no cost to the school.

Burrell said the district was aiming for Christmas break but it looks like it may be closer to the end of January, but at this point it depends on Duke Power. – KL



BOE chair Jim Breedlove and Superintendent Dan Brigman bid Bobby Bishop good-bye at the Nov. BOE meeting in Nantahala. Photos by Kim Lewicki



Nantahala School PE teacher James Bryan was named the states PE high school teacher of the year.

employees in a nine-month business season can be tough.

But since the town can back more than one idea and because more than one project can be listed on the grant proposal, not only is it more likely that eight jobs will be developed, but the "political" aspect of the procedure is removed from the scenario.

To be eligible, business propositions listed on the grant proposal must commit to spending \$2 for each \$1 given so if \$200,000 is awarded, one business -- or the community represented by several proposals -- must together commit to spending \$400,000 and must also show that up to eight new jobs will be created and sustained.

Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$25,000 per full-time permanent job retained or created per business. If only six positions are created or retained, then the total grant may be reduced to \$150,000 – or \$25,000 per potential employee. Part-time permanent jobs may not be added together to equal a full-time job.

The minimum amount of grant money requested can be \$25,000. And, funds are not eligible for projects that are currently under construction or underway.

Though the program is called the Small Town Main Street Project, the goal isn't just to further develop Main Street, but outlying areas, too, specifically those that might feed Main Street and downtown business interests with patrons for the long term.

The grant and the process to obtain it will be discussed at the next Main Street Program meeting at the Civic Center, Thursday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

If several proposals are considered viable by the town, when the time comes, program representatives will likely help the town structure the grant to best represent all proposals.

Applications are now available at Town Hall and must be submitted by close of business (5 p.m.) February 10, 2011.

– Kim Lewicki

## Time to get ready for Christmas at Bryson's Food Store

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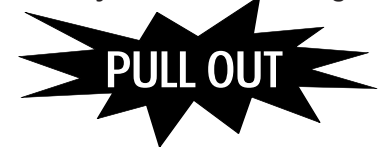
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# Upcoming and Ongoing Events



## Ongoing

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

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. \$2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.

• YOGA- Moonrise Yoga - The Highlands Dedicated Studio, 464 Carolina Way. Mon 5:15pm and Sat 9:30am. All Levels. Mats provided. Pre-register for Winter Series, 526-8880. More info at [www.yogahighlands.com](http://www.yogahighlands.com).

## Sundays

• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

• The High Mountain Squares will be having a dance workshop get-together on Sundays. This will include main/stream and plus levels. The caller will be Jim Roper from Cornelia, GA. The dances will be held at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin, from 3 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person. For information, call 828 349-0905, 828 369-8334, 706 782-0943.

## Mon. & Thurs.

• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Upper Level Jones Hall. Mon., and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (12/31)

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• 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 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

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

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

• The Highlands Dialogue Tuesday discussions

at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston [john.gaston@aol.com](mailto:john.gaston@aol.com) or Karen Hawk [hwkncrw@earthlink.net](mailto:hwkncrw@earthlink.net).

## Tues. & Thurs.

• Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925 or by email at [missolvera@yahoo.com](mailto:missolvera@yahoo.com).

• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Baldwin at 5:15 p.m. Fast moving free weight kinetic chain movement for 30-40 minutes. \$8 per class. Call 526-3556 or 526-4959 to reserve a spot.

• See EVENTS page 10

## Community Christian Chorale is Dec. 10 and 11



The Highlands Community Christian Chorale will present the annual Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow the Sunday performance. The group is directed this year by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins. The concert will consist of beautiful arrangements of many familiar favorites such as: "In the Bleak Midwinter," "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "O Holy Night," "I Wonder As I Wander," "Mary, Did You Know," and "The Hallelujah Chorus." Special guest musicians will be Margaret McAllister, harp; Johnathon McAllister, boy soprano; and David Landis, bagpipes. A nursery will be available. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street.

## A community Christmas Day Dinner



Are you still wondering what to do on Christmas Day? Give yourself the gift of calm, ease, and time with your loved ones. Come celebrate Christmas at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Dinner in the quiet elegance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. Treat yourself to a sumptuous buffet of holiday fare lovingly prepared by some of Highlands premiere chefs.

Chefs are Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); Martha Porter (Morningside B&B); Jan Zehr (Banana Pudding Goddess); and Donna Woods (Famous Dressing Goddess). The cost is only \$35 per person for adults; \$25 per person for children under 12; and children under 5 eat free. All proceeds go to R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County; Garr's kids program of Carpe Diem Farms; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands.

Let us prepare your meal, do your dishes, and give you the gift of time while you enjoy your loved ones; a fabulous meal; and the warm ambiance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. What make this extra special is that by doing so, you are contributing to 3 local non-profits benefiting local children and adults in the Highlands area.

Service is from 11 am - 4pm. For reservations call Rick Siegel at 828-526-5102.

## Photo exhibit at Episcopal Church



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is hosting a show of photographs by Jim Loring, who toured Haiti earlier this year, to record the stories of families and communities impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning Thursday, Dec. 2, concluding Sunday, Dec. 12. A reception, including refreshments, will be held at the church from 6 pm until 7.30 pm on Thursday, December 2. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets in Highlands. The exhibit will be hosted by Jane Chalker and "Friends of Haiti," a parish outreach committee.

The exhibit will be hosted by Jane Chalker and "Friends of Haiti," a parish outreach committee. Jane and her team have made dozens of trips to Cange and Tierra Muscody, Haiti, where work continues on new school and church construction, along with significant relief for earthquake victims and their families. Cange, located in the country's central highlands, is the site of Partners in Health's first clinic in Haiti, which continues to provide medical services to a large population of Haitians impacted by the quake.

Jim Loring has covered major human interest stories throughout the world over the past twenty years. In 1987, he covered the impact of Nicolae Ceausescu's resettlement policy in Romania; this soon led to other assignments, covering major relief and development agencies around the world. Jim has completed over 60 such assignments over the course of his career.

## First Presbyterian to hold Annual Carol Sing after parade



There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, after the Christmas Parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you won't want to miss this! Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Special guests will be the Highlands Male Chorus, led by Orville Wike. Everyone is invited! The church is located at the corner of Main and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. Handicap entrances are located on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and on Church Street.



**PULL OUT**

# On going and Upcoming Events

## An annual Christmas gift from HCP on Dec. 9



Sayla Roman (left) and Ronnie Spilton look over the funny "Naughty or Nice" Santa Claus quiz they will present along with Taj Roman for the Highlands Cashiers Players annual Holiday Readings program, Thursday evening, December 9, 7:30, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

Every year for the past 15 (except for one time when snow prevented), the Highlands-Cashiers Players have presented a program of holiday readings and music that has become one of the area's traditions.

The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 9, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Chestnut Street in Highlands. The readings will be presented by talented actor/readers and also by members of the community who might not be actors, but nevertheless have dramatic storytelling talents to bring the written words to life. The readings include humorous pieces, touching and inspiring stories, holiday jokes, and this year a Christmas playlet, written and directed by Vangie Rich.

The Players Holiday Program is complimentary, no tickets are necessary. Afterward the audience is invited to share homemade cookies, other delectables and hot mulled cider furnished by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Performing this year are Steve and Michelle Hott, Lee Lyons, Ralph Stevens, Stuart Armor, Diane Rosazza, Sue Feldkamp, Ronnie Spilton with Sayla and Taj Roman, whose father, John Roman, will play guitar. The Christmas skit that ends the program will feature children Bailey Baker, Sarah and Ethan Futral, along with adults Wayne Coleman, Vangie and Curtis Rich, and Dr. Scott Baker, who will accompany songs with violin.

### Wednesdays

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

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

- The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

### 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. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### Thursdays

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

### 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.

### Saturdays

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person.

## Cast your gingerbread house vote by Dec. 10



Now that the Gingerbread House designers have created their imaginative gingerbread houses, the public is invited to cast their votes for their favorite creation, Tuesday- Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am on Saturday, Dec. 11. Exhibitions at The Bascom are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 pm through December 18th. Beginning January 7th, 2011, The Bascom will be open on Fridays and Saturdays during the winter from 10 am-5 pm. For more information on The Bascom visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 828.526.4949.

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

### Wednesdays through Dec. 15

- Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. The group will meet in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30pm. The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.

### Thurs., Dec. 2-Sun., Dec. 12

- The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will host a showing of photographs by Jim Loring, who toured Haiti earlier this year, to record the stories of families and communities impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets in Highlands. The exhibit will be hosted by Jane Chalker and "Friends of Haiti," a parish outreach committee.

### Thursday, Dec. 2

- Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

- A reception at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation following the opening of the photo exhibit by Jim Loring about the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. Refreshments will be served. Exhibit is 6-7:30 p.m.

### Fri. & Sat., Dec. 3 & 4

- At Paoletti's, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. \$20 per person. Refund with wine purchase.

### Saturday, Dec. 4

- Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street

- 'Tis the Season "Alternative Gift Market" 11:45 until 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Right after the Christmas Parade. Make a gift to your favorite charity in someone's name.

- Santa at the Visitor Center after the parade.

- At Wolfgang's, Winter Wonderland right after the parade. It's free.

- A "Carol Sing" at 2 p.m. - after the parade - at

the First Presbyterian Church.

- Holiday Gift and Bake Sale from noon-4 p.m. in the front room at the Rec Park to help donna Tew pay medical bills due to surgery after a stroke.

### Sun., Dec. 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike thru fields and woods on Tessentee Farm trails, an area where the Land Trust is restoring the old farm house and plantings of river cane. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center on Hwy. 441 in Otto NC at 2 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome but no pets please.

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Sunday, December 5th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 2-5 p.m. Jim Duncan from Otto will be the caller for our special "Toys for Tots Dance." We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a gift for the children. Call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344 for info.

### Wed., Dec. 8

- At The Bascom, Create a Holiday Wreath, 1:30-3:30 pm. Tuition: \$20 members/\$25 non-members (materials included). For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

### Thursday, Dec. 9

- HCP's Annual Holiday Reading at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. It's free.

- A 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Food, drink, and music by Thea and the Green Man. Everyone is invited. (828) 526-0890 ext. 320 for more info.

- The League of Women Voters of NC will sponsor a program on the Natural Areas Inventory of Macon County. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) works to identify and protect the best

## Llamas and more in the parade on Saturday



Critters of all kinds take to Main Street during the annual parade. The fun starts at 11 a.m.

Photo by Jim Lewicki



# On going and Upcoming Events



examples of the state's natural areas. For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NC-NHP, has been working in Macon County, exploring the peaks and valleys looking for unique places and documenting them in order to promote their conservation. From the high summit of Standing Indian to the granite domes of Highlands and across the Cowee Mountains to the Little Tennessee River valley, Ed has turned up populations of rare plants, animals, and unique habitats such as bogs and old-growth forest. He will show pictures and tell us about these special areas, and how landowners, researchers, and the public benefit from knowing about them. The program will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon, by reservation. Call 371-0527 or email [lwmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info](mailto:lwmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info). The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

## Fri. & Sat., Dec. 10 & 11

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. \$20. Refundable with wine purchase.

## Friday, Dec. 10

- At The Bascom, Wheel Throwing with Pat Taylor and other regional potters, 2-4 pm. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).
- Highlands Community Christian Chorale at First Presbyterian Church. 4 p.m. on Friday and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

## Saturday, Dec. 11

- Breakfast with Santa, 8:30-10 am at the Highlands United Methodist Church.
- Highlands Community Christian Chorale at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3.7-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail from Rock Gap to Winding Stair Gap with an elevation change of 700 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 35 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.
- At The Bascom, Fayne Ansley, Botanical Painting of Native Evergreens, 1-1:45 pm. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).
- At The Bascom, Ceramic Ornaments. This intergenerational class, for children and adults, will be taught in The Bascom's Studio Barn. \$25 Bascom members/\$30 non-members (materials and firings included). For information, call 828.526.4949..

- Santa at the Visitor's Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Toys For Tots Toy Drive Concert "The 2nd Annual Musicians For A Clause" 6 am til at The Promenade Of The Arts on Hwy 441 (behind the Dollar General) in Mountain City, GA.) The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

- At The Bascom, Botanical Watercolor Demonstration from 2-4 p.m. \$20 for members. \$25 for non-members. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.
- At the Highlands Civic Center, La Noche Navidena from 6-9 p.m. Call 526-0890 ext. 290/252 for more information.

## Sunday, Dec. 12

- Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m.

- The final fundraiser for the Bolivian Mission for 2010 will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church following the service from noon to 2 p.m. Bolivian Mission 2010 fundraiser at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from Bolivia will be on sale including jewelry, clothing and artisan items as well as pens and corkscrews, made by the boys at the foster home. Sherry Janes will have a large selection of affordable "gift" items from the Mary Kay Cosmetics collection Christmas packaged-ready to place under the tree - as an option. 25% of all Mary Kay sales will go to the mission and help fund other projects.

## Tues., Dec. 14

- Macon County Democratic Women will meet

## Order your Dec. AngelFood now

The December *AngelFood* Menu is now available at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Three special Christmas Boxes are available for immediate order. Special #4 is the featured Christmas Box for \$36 and the last day to order this box is Dec. 8. The box includes a Perdue Roasting Hen, Boneless Ham, Stuffing Mix, Frozen Cranberries, Mini Corn Cobettes, Green Beans, Diced Sweet Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Brown Gravy Mix and a Dessert. Special #5 is the popular Christmas Meat and Cheese Box for \$18 and contains 1 beef summer sausage, 1 beef salami, 1 summer sausage and 3 Wisconsin Cheese Bars (1 cheddar, 1 swiss and 1 smoked). There is a limited supply of this box so order early! Special #6 is the Assorted Christmas Fruit Special for \$26 and includes 4 varieties of apples (16 total), 5 pears, 6 oranges, 4 tangerines, 4 tangelos, 6 sweet juice oranges, and 5 ruby-red grapefruit.

This month's menu also offers the regular monthly items: Bit O' Blessing Box (\$21), Signature Box (\$31), Bountiful Blessing Box (\$41), Convenience meals for \$28 (10 ready-to-eat meals), Just 4 Me After School Box (\$24), Allergen Free Food Box (\$25), Ribeye Steak Special (\$25), and the Fresh Fruit & Veggie Box (\$23).

Stop by the Church of the Incarnation, 5<sup>th</sup> & Main, and place your order! The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 12. Distribution day is Saturday, Dec. 18 from 8-9 am. Reminder: Special #4 needs to be ordered by Dec. 8 and there is a limited supply of Special #5 so place your order soon! Distribution will be Saturday, December 18 from 8-9am. For questions, call 526-2968, 526-9191 or 526-9889.

on at 5:30 PM at the library on Siler Road in Franklin for installation of officers and a Christmas party. Please bring a covered dish of finger-foods and non-perishable items for Care-Net. Outgoing Commissioner Bob Simpson will be honored. Men are invited. Call Elizabeth Cabe at 524-6859.

## Fri. & Sat., Dec. 17 & 18

- At Paoletti's Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. \$20. Refundable with wine purchase.

## Friday, Dec. 17

- The Atlanta Boy Choir Annual Holiday Concert With All Choirs Participating at 7:30 P.M. at The Cath-

edral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA. Tickets are \$15 each and may be ordered by calling 404.378.0064, Please make checks out to the Atlanta Boy Choir.

## Saturday, Dec. 18

- Santa at the Visitor Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 2.2-mile easy hike to Kings Creek and Spoon Auger falls, with a modest climb to view each fall. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-10791



**Valentine's Photo Studio**  
**Holiday Portrait Photographer**  
**Sarah Valentine**



located on the "Hill" @  
**Greenleaf Gallery**  
**211 S. Fourth St.**  
**Highlands, NC**  
**828.342.1995**

[sValentinePhotos.com](http://sValentinePhotos.com)  
**Call Now, Sessions are filling FAST**

## Photos with Santa after the parade on Saturday



Santa and his helpers will be at the Highlands Visitor Center for photo opportunities immediately following the parade on Saturday and every Saturday until Christmas from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Photo by Jim Lewicki



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Have you  
seen  
‘Secretariat?’

Pastor Gary Hewins  
Community Bible Church



We as a family went to see the Disney version of Secretariat's life on the big screen over the Thanksgiving break. For those who are not aware, Secretariat is considered to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest racehorse of all time. He made the cover of Sports Illustrated, Newsweek, and Time during a very controversial season in our nation's history. He was named one of the top 100 "athletes" of the century and his passion for the finish line became a welcome diversion from the divisiveness of Watergate and the Vietnam War.

I was 11 when he raced. I didn't quite understand the immensity of this horse's accomplishments. He came out of the gates at Churchill Downs in the Kentucky Derby dead last. He stayed there for a while until he decided to pass the entire field and win the first leg of the Triple Crown. His Preakness race wasn't all that different. Yet in the Belmont Stakes, the longest of the Triple Crown he did something few if any believed could happen, though they were seeing it transpire right before their very eyes.

His trainer ran him hard prior to this long race rather than resting him up for such a demanding challenge. He had never raced such a distance. He was supposed to be tired. He was supposed to shut down. He was supposed to be overwhelmed with three huge races in such a short period of time.

Secretariat did something very uncharacteristic. He broke early and took the lead. Each quarter of this long race was faster than the previous quarter. Secretariat won the Belmont and thus the Triple Crown by 31 lengths. The crowd that day witnessed something they knew they were not supposed to see. They experienced something they knew they would never experience again. Spectators with winning tickets didn't even cash them in, because it was more meaningful to keep them as a souvenir.

His jockey never used the whip. He only spoke to Secretariat. A whip would have been insulting to this horse. He had more motivation to run than anyone could provide beyond him. Secretariat had passion! He loved the crowds, the noise, the lights, and the winner's circle. It was in him. An autopsy discovered something unique about this animal. He had a heart twice the size of other racehorses. He was a galloping perfect storm for victory.

Secretariat teaches us something about running this race we call life. Life is to be driven by passion. We each run our unique personal race toward one common finish line, namely death. How we run is up to each of us. Jesus summed up all 66 books of the Bible with a simple understandable statement. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."

Run your race without the whip of religiosity and legalism. Stay in a meaningful, passionate, life changing relationship with Christ. Start out slowly if you must, but fin-

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers  
Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian – 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
Pastor Gary Hewins  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group.  
10:30 am: Children's Program (Pre-K – 5th Grade), Merge for 6th Graders. 10:45 am: Worship Service. 5 pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.  
Tues.: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.  
Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner. 6pm: Children's Program

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
526-2968  
Reverend Denson Franklin  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
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

**FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**  
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.  
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast  
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sixth Street  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir  
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704  
Independent Bible Church  
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor  
Parish office: 526-2418  
Mass: – 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri  
Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.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



## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Regaining your vision; resuming your life

According to the National Eye Institute by age 80, more than half of all Americans either have a cataract or have had cataract surgery. A cataract is clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision. Most cataracts are related to aging so they are very common in older people. As we age, some of the protein may clump together and start to cloud a small area of the lens. This is a cataract. Over time, the cataract may grow larger and cloud more of the lens, making it harder to see. A cataract can occur in either or both eyes but cannot spread from one eye to the other.

The most common symptoms of a cataract are: Cloudy or blurry vision, colors seem faded, glare, headlights/lamps or sunlight may appear to bright, halo around lights, poor night vision, double vision or multiple images in one eye. (This symptom may clear as the cataract gets larger.) Frequent prescription changes in your eyeglasses or contact lenses. These symptoms also can be a sign of other eye problems. If you have any of these symptoms, check with your eye care professional. The symptoms of early cataract may be improved with new eyeglasses, brighter lighting, anti-glare sunglasses, or magnifying lenses. If these measures do not help, surgery is the only effective treatment. Surgery involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial lens. Many people who need cataract surgery also have other eye conditions, such as age-related macular degeneration or glaucoma.

Wearing sunglasses and a hat with a brim to block ultraviolet sunlight may help to delay cataracts. If you smoke, stop. Researchers also believe good nutrition can help reduce the risk of age-related cataract. They recommend eating green leafy vegetables, fruit, and other foods with antioxidants.

When to consider cataract surgery  
Talk with your eye doctor about whether sur-

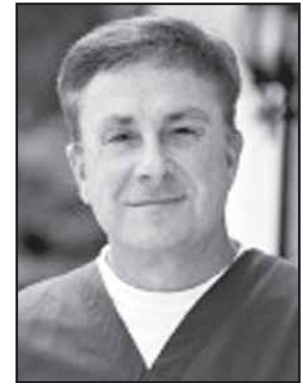
gery is right for you. Most eye doctors suggest considering cataract surgery when your cataracts begin to affect your quality of life or interfere with your ability to perform normal daily activities, such as reading or driving at night.

You may need cataract removal in one or both eyes and there will be a period of adjustment. But if you are like most who have had cataract surgery, you will be surprised at what a great improvement there is in your vision.

The first day; Many patients have excellent vision the first day after surgery. As your eyes and brain adapt, your vision should continue to get better over time. Returning to the activities that you engage in every day will help your eyes and brain adjust to life after cataract surgery. But you will likely find your

vision so improved that you are motivated to resume activities or hobbies that you haven't been able to do for a long time. And you may even find that you'd like to take up a few new ones. Here are a few suggestions for activities that might help speed your healing and adjustment. Always remember, however, to follow the advice of your physician as you learn to adjust to your new vision. You will also notice that everything is brighter and colors are richer with your new lens.

If you are age 60 or older, you should have a comprehensive dilated eye exam once every year. In addition to cataracts, your eye care professional can check for signs of age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other vision disorders. Early treatment for many eye diseases may save your sight. Dr. Blue is available to see you for any of your eye



Dr. Blue

issues.

The National Eye Institute (NEI) is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is the Federal government's lead agency for vision research that leads to sight-saving treatments and plays a key role in reducing visual impairment and blindness.

## AREA HEALTH SPECIALISTS

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1 20/200

2 20/100

3 20/70

I  
HAVE  
BLUE EYES



### Hard to tell in a black & white ad, huh?

Actually, "Blue" refers to how clear my world is after having LASIK vision correction at the Blue Laser Group. If you have ever imagined a life without glasses or contacts, call their Highlands office and ask how you can earn a **\$1000 credit** toward the procedure!

Go on and make those bad eyes Blue.



295 Dillard Road Highlands, NC  
(888) 237-2583  
[www.bluelasergroup.com](http://www.bluelasergroup.com)

### Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

278 East Doyle St. • Toccoa, GA  
**706-886-9439 • 800-884-9439**  
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You are only 50 miles away from 30 years experience in top-notch, high-tech, one-stop dentistry known for its gentle touch.

- Dental Implants
  - Root Canal Therapy
  - Single Visit Crowns
  - Orthodontics including Invisalign
  - Wisdom Teeth Extractions
- and of course Fillings and Cleanings!  
(IV Sedation, too)





• CLASSIFIEDS •

\$5,000 REWARD

For information leading to the arrest of the person(s) involved in the theft of items taken from the Home of Lois Hawkins on Clear Creek Road.

Any information will be kept confidential. Call 828-526-5899 or 828-421-1403, Bill or Sabrina  
Calls may also be made to CrimeStoppers at 828-349 2600

HELP WANTED

PART TIME MANAGER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT RETAIL APPAREL AND GIFT STORE. Flexible hours and benefits. Please reply to PO Box 2366, Highlands NC 28741 or e-mail mountainstar1@verizon.net. (st. 8/5)

WANTED

LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK. Have tools. Please call Alferdo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

LOOKING FOR HOUSECLEANING WORK. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

SKY VALLEY – 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2-car garage. View. Single level home. Small yard, 8 years old. 706-746-3551. Leave Message. (12/30)

166327



**Highlands-Cashiers**  
**HOSPITAL**

Fidelia Eckerd Living Center  
US 64 Between Highlands & Cashiers, NC

Positions Now Available

Respiratory Therapist (PRN)  
Scrub Tech (Full-time)

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 substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376, or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

CLASSIC 40'S CABIN in Webbmont area w/ 1+ ac. 2/2.5 w/ wormy chestnut walls. Completely renovated in 2000. Below REA at \$439K furnished. By appt ONLY. 526-0974

\$103,000!!! LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. .55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2/bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 11/11)

\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLAS-SIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

WATERFRONT HOME – Mirror Lake. One mile from town. Furnished, 3 BR, 2 BA, LR/DR/Sunroom, gas heat/fireplace, W/D, dock, decks, porch, canoe, storage. Now through May. \$1,000/mth, plus utilities, 770-435-0678 (12/30)

NICE 1BR CABIN CLOSE TO TOWN ON SMALL HORSE FARM. Private, well insulated, pretty view, W/D and gas heat/fireplace. Can provide some optional rent relief with occasional property maintenance. \$600/mo. 421-7922. (st. 11/18)

CHARMING CABIN FOR RENT – \$750/mth., 2 bed/2 bath. Wonderful yard. w/d, carport. 61 Chapin Road, Scaly Miountain. Call 423-715-7757. (12/2)

1 BED/1 BATH APARTMENT, unfurnished, next to H-C Hospital. 828-200-1064. (St. 11/11)

2-BED, 2 BATH, loft, finished basement. Central heat. Long view. Near boat dock. 828-508-2542. (st. 11/4)

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. \$795/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 11/4)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/3BATH HOME. Stunning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only: deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31)

COTTAGE ON TURTLE POND ROAD NEAR DILLARD ROAD. 2/2, unfurnished, \$600 a month plus utilities. Call 526-5838 ext. 230 (st. 9/30).

1 BEDROOM/1 BATH, in-town furnished apartment, totally renovated, 2 decks, hardwood floors, granite countertops, washer/dryer. Call: 526-9523 (st. 9/30)

1/BED/1 BATH APARTMENT. Furnished. Clean. No smokers, no pets. \$450 per month plus utilities. Call 828-200-9360. (10/ 7)

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 BATH, central heat/air, dishwasher, wood floors at Oak Square Apartments on Main Street, Highlands. Washer-dryer access. Competitive rental price Available NOW. Call 828-421-1157. (st. 9/23)

FOR LEASE – LARGE, 2 STORY, 5 BEDROOM HOME with decks. Available for immediate occupancy Near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SECLUDED AND ONLY MIN-UTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet. Available seasonal through November. All utilities included AC and Heat. \$1,200 month. Call 526-3608 (Spoiled Rotten) or evening, 526-2694, (st. 4/29)

SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHEST-NUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. \$650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: [chestnutcottages@yahoo.com](mailto:chestnutcottages@yahoo.com) or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

A STEAL ON GORGEOUS 3 BED/3 BATH – Monthly rental (or weekly) – Beautifully furnished home on 1.5 acres in a private community just off Hwy 64, between Cullasaja Club & Lake Osseroga. Central heat/air, lg. stone fireplace, large open living design, 1000 ft. deck, garage,

many extras. (561) 212-2148 or (561) 239-2424 [woodlandsvievw@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodlandsvievw@bellsouth.net) or see our place on [www.vrbo.com/99644](http://www.vrbo.com/99644). Contact for special low monthly rates. Tell us you heard about it from this ad ... house is also for sale(12/16)

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEAST OR SALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.

FOR SALE/RENT – BEST ‘COMMERCIAL’ BUY IN HIGH-LANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom base-ment apartment. \$299,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

GLASS TOP TABLE WITH 4 PARSONS CHAIRS – paid \$1,500 will sell for \$650; Bissel Steam cleaner – \$100; Service for 8 Mikasa \$45; Service for 4 Portuguese dinnerware \$35; Set of golf clubs with bag \$200. Call 349-0284. (12/9)

HUGE LOT OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLOTHES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. Boys sizes Newborn to 4T — Sleepers, shirts, jeans, coats and more — Over 130 items: \$135; Girls sizes Newborn to 2T — Sleepers, leggings, pants, dresses — Over 128 items: \$125; or both for \$220. Please call 828-526-8709 and ask for Lisa. (12/9)

2009 CAMOUFLAGE ATV 250 CC BRAND- KAYAK has front and rear racks with helmet and trailer only 20 miles. Great Christmas Present or Great for Hunting Season! Paid \$5,000, will sacrifice for \$1,895 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-371-2129. (st. 9/9)

AFGHANISTAN-VINTAGE RIFLE very rare. Collector's Dream. Saw one at gun show for \$7,000-\$10,000. Great for Christmas for REAL gun collector. Over 100 years old. Will sacrifice for \$1899 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-524-7233 (st. 9/9)

BALDWIN ORGAN \$100, Gulbransen Spinet piano \$250. 828 526 4818 (st. 8/26)

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## Police & Fire

Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 17  
Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 17

• At 2:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the vicinity of Wright Square and NC 106.

Nov. 19

• At 10:14 p.m., officers assisted EMS with a call at a residence on Crowe Drive.

• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 5 citations.

Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Nov. 21:

Nov. 21

• At 10:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buttermilk Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 26

• At 9:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 27

• At 3:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106. The victim was taken to the hospital,

Nov. 29

• At 4:41 p.m., the dept. responded to an vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road. There were no injuries. The driver was helped out of the vehicle and taken to the hospital because of being a minor.

Nov. 30

• At 7:54 p.m., members of the dept. drove low lying areas on the plateau looking for flooding due to the rains.

Dec. 1

• At 8:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 east due to ice on the road. There were no injuries.

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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### First Baptist Highlands calls interim pastor

Dr. Charles H. Harris, a retired pastor and NC Baptist Convention employee has accepted the call to serve as Interim Pastor at First Baptist Highlands. Dr. Harris served as a senior pastor for 23 years and was a director of Caraway Conference Center and Camp, Asheboro, NC for 18 years before retiring in 2006.

He has an earned doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY. He is certified to serve as an Intentional Interim Pastor by the NC Center of Congregational Health, Winston Salem. His last pastorate was First Baptist Church, Durham, NC, where he



served as a senior pastor for 10 years. This is his 15<sup>th</sup> Interim Pastorate.

He has been married to Nell Doris Tyson Harris for 46 years and is the father of two daughters and the grandfather of four grandchildren. His hobbies are golf, traveling and fishing. He and his wife live in Mt. Airy, GA which is 50 miles from Highlands. He will be preaching Sunday mornings and evenings and conducting an in-depth, yet practical Bible study on Wednesday nights and

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## ... POLICE continued from page 1

neered" proposal of \$660,000.

The firms were asked to return to the Dec. 1 Town Board meeting with costs associated with a new floor plan which makes use of the space downstairs instead of expanding it – hoping to bring the cost closer to \$600,000 – it came in at \$610,662, "Skimmed down about as far as we can do," said Jeff Weller with Summit Architecture.

After much discussion, the board voted unanimously to fund they project with a 10-year loan at 3.07% interest from BB&T with two payments per year.

Originally, the board considered funding the project with Build America Funds administered and financed through RBC Bank at 2.898% after rebate from the Federal government in an amount equal to 35% of the interest paid on the bond.

However, given the state of the economy and the possibility that the Build America Bond program may not last, the board agreed to go with a standard loan from BB&T.

The quote is good for 45 days which means the town can close mid-January. Since the bank wants the ½ acre of land the building stands on as collateral, Town Attorney Bill Coward is going to see if the bank will encumber the ½ acre as described in the deed of trust contingent upon the loan being paid, rather than having to go through the town's subdivision procedure to separate out the parcel. But if it does have to be separated out and recorded as such, Coward said there is still time prior to closing.

After an extended discussion centering around who actually needs Open House directional signs, the board voted 4 to 1 (with Commissioner John Dotson voting no) not to change the sign ordinance to allow for Open House signage around town.

The Planning Board and the Town Board were under the impression that the signs would be directing the general public to open houses, but learned open houses in Highlands are generally for real estate agents who are showing their wares to each other and as such signage isn't really needed.

Though Planning Board member Alan Marsh voted against the motion, the Planning Board had voted to allow Open House signs with numerous stipulations including a permitting and penalty process, timeline and size restrictions, and that recommendation had been sent to the Town Board.

At the Dec. 2, 2009 Town Board meeting, the board put to rest questions about the town's policy concerning election of the Mayor Pro Tempore when it adopted a new policy of electing the Mayor Pro Tempore from the commissioners at-large on an annual basis.

Since there was no municipal election this year, the selection of the Mayor Pro Tempore was done at the Wednesday, Dec. 1 meeting – the first regular meeting in December, and the commissioner selected serves until the next regular meeting after the November election.

Mayor David Wilkes asked each board

member for a vote; when tallied, Commissioner John Dotson was elected Mayor Pro Tempore with two votes; Commissioners Amy Patterson, Gary Drake and Dennis DeWolf each got one vote.

Though tabled for more than a year, the Town Board is now talking in earnest about implementing some of the Parking Study Improvement plan. They considered the recommendations of the Planning Board as well as staff on several aspects but agreed to have another worksession on the subject in mid-January.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix had priced out several items that could be paid for and completed by April 2011 once the board agreed on particulars.

He said sidewalk improvements in the vicinity of Highlands Hill Deli and the Stone Lantern were in the works; that the plans to construct 11 planters and plant 11 trees down the center of Main Street at the tips of opposing parking spaces have been on the shelf for three years and that materials were in storage. If the board wants to move ahead with that recommendation, it could be done rather quickly at the cost of \$55,000; a sidewalk on the north side of Main Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> streets would also cost \$55,000 but Commissioner Amy Patterson asked that if it's done the town consider using something other than concrete to decrease the amount of impervious surface in town; converting Spring Street to one-way east bound and to construct a curb and gutter sidewalk for \$110,000, were also discussed.

Another project involved the installation of a traffic circle or some configuration at 4<sup>th</sup> and South streets to act as a gateway into town and to eliminate the confusing intersection.

At the start of Wednesday night's meeting, Commissioners John Dotson and Dennis DeWolf asked that the board hold a special meeting to consider the 14 applicants for the Zoning/Planning Administrator. "We need to begin the weeding out process," said Dotson. A meeting was set for Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

Commissioner Dotson also requested that the board go through the Town Manager Performance Evaluation procedure which the board began considering a month ago. "I think what we have is a good format and we don't need this to slip through the cracks," he said.

Commissioner Patterson agreed saying the process needed to be formulated sooner than later.

Commissioner Gary Drake also asked that the board have a worksession Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. to discuss the town's drug-free policy workplace builder – a program submitted by Attorney Coward.

Interim Town Planner Mark Maxwell said the GA DOT will be doing work on a bridge deck and guardrail on NC 106 over the Little Tennessee River which will cause traffic traveling from Dillard, GA to Highlands to be detoured along Kelly Creek Road for about 2.1 miles for February and March of 2011.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

ish strong. Break away from the worldly way of living and pace yourself by God's unique will for you. Train hard when others are resting and rest when others are burning themselves out. Take someone else along for the ride. Enjoy the notoriety and attention, but don't let it become a hindrance. Allow someone else to speak into your life as you run. Ask God to form in you a heart twice the size of those around you.

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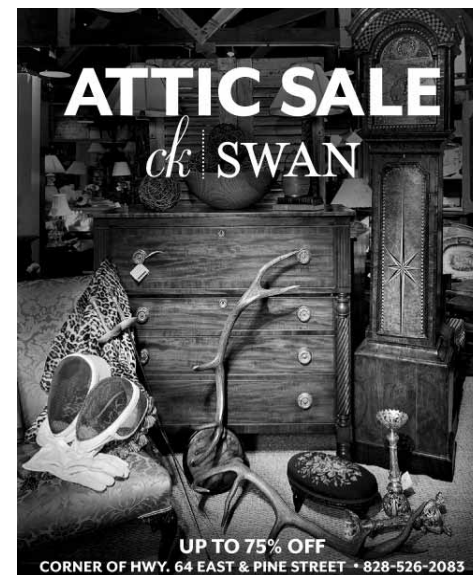
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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### What is wrong with UNC?

The question has already been asked several times this year. First after an early victory over Lipscomb where the Tar Heels struggled somewhat. Then came losses to Minnesota and Vanderbilt in which UNC fell out of the Top 25. A close home win over the College of Charleston helped ease some of the burden, but then Tuesday night the Heels dropped a game to Illinois in which they appeared to never threaten the Illini. Now, UNC fans are a restless lot, blaming everyone from Roy Williams to Larry Drew, but in watching UNC several times this year I



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

can honestly say that there is no reason to panic for Tar Heel fans — as long as they keep their expectations in perspective.

Perspective can be a valuable tool for fans everywhere, but it is often the most difficult to obtain. The reality of the situation for North Carolina is that they were a 20-17 team last year and lost 5 contributors from that team. Ed Davis and Marcus Ginyard finished up their careers at UNC, the Wear twins transferred and leading scorer Will Graves was dismissed from the team. For a team to lose than much and then try and replace it with

freshmen is a tall order.

Speaking of the freshmen, another explanation for UNC's struggles is that with #1 recruit Harrison Barnes, Tar Heel fans thought that they were getting the next Derrick Rose or John Wall. However, if they had read the scouting reports on Barnes properly, they would have seen that Barnes is not that type of impact player. The words used to describe Barnes were "fundamentally sound," "hard working," and "does everything well." Barnes is not a superior athlete, so it is going to take some time for him to adjust to the physicality of the college game. Thus far, he has been unable to get to the rim with ease and has settled for jump shots.

Of the freshmen that UNC has brought

in, I would say that SG Reggie Bullock has looked like a possible big time contributor, but his knee has been balky and therefore his playing time has been somewhat limited by that nagging injury.

The third reason for UNC's struggles has been some of the strategy from Roy Williams. Williams is a hall of fame coach and is above the usual pettiness that fans can bring up when a team is struggling. However, his inability to recruit a replacement to Tywon Lawson at the point has been the major reason that UNC has struggled. It's hard to blame a coach for the recruiting decisions of 18 year old kids-and that is not the issue here.

The issue is that Williams runs a system that is at its best when it has a dominant point guard running the show. With the current group of players that he has now, Roy may be best served to change things up a little bit until he can obtain another Lawson or Raymond Felton type player — whether he does so or not remains to be seen.

Fear not UNC fans, the next stretch of games is going to be a difficult one, but once UNC gets into a down ACC they will be able to compete night in and night out. Ultimately, Barnes is the type of player that will improve as the year progresses, and once Bullock's knee is healthy they will have enough scoring to be dangerous.

## • HS SPORTS •

### Both Highlander teams split games

The Lady Highlander and Highlander varsity basketball teams split a pair of games last week with local foes Hayesville and Franklin.

Last Tuesday night the Highlanders hosted county rival Franklin in front of a packed house at Highlands gym. The Lady Highlanders got the crowd involved early, beginning the game on a 7-0 run in what was a very competitive first quarter against the larger Panthers. However, as the game progressed Panther star Lindsey Simpson asserted herself and the deeper Panther team wore down the Lady Highlanders. The fourth quarter saw Simpson continuing to score despite the game being well in hand, and the Panthers were able to run up the final margin to 74-45. Emily Munger led the Lady Highlanders with 15 points and Taylor Buras added 11.

The nightcap featured the Highlanders versus the Panthers in what looked to be a physical mismatch. The Panthers front line measured 6'10 and 6'5 versus the smaller Highlands front line. With both teams looking to slow the pace, it was a very back and forth first half with the Highlanders headed into halftime clinging to an 18-17 lead. In the second half the game opened up a little bit, but both teams struggled to score the basketball. The turning point for the Highlanders came at the end of the third quarter when they were able to push out their lead to 5 points and were then able to hold onto that margin for the entire fourth quarter. The 44-38 victory for Highlands was their first over Franklin in 5 years, with seniors Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz posting double doubles of 16-11 and 15-15 in the win.

Monday night both teams traveled to Hayesville to face the Yellow Jackets in a SMC matchup. The Lady Highlanders were able to build an early lead, holding a 9-2 margin at the end of the first quarter. The game looked to be well in hand until the fourth quarter, where a series of Lady Highlander turnovers and some questionable officiating allowed the Lady Jackets to tie the game and force overtime. The game looked to be headed towards double OT, but with just 6 seconds left in OT senior Courtney Rogers buried a three pointer from the left corner to give the Lady Highlanders a thrilling 46-43 victory. Taylor Buras and Emily Munger both tallied double-doubles in the victory. Buras scored 13 and had 11 rebounds while Munger scored 13 and dished out 10 assists. Rogers scored 11, including the game winner.

The Highlanders faced Hayesville in what has always been a tough environment on the road. Monday night was no different, as the Highlanders turned the ball over 15 times in the first half against the relentless Hayesville pressure and trailed by 11 at the break. In the second half, the Highlanders were able to settle down somewhat and take advantage of their size in the post, but could get no closer than 7 points in what turned out to be a 59-47 defeat. Josh Delacruz scored 18 for the Highlanders and Robbie Vanderbilt added 13.

Friday night is homecoming for the Highlanders, who will host Rabun County. JV girls start at 4pm.

### Parks plays on



Highlands School Class of 2010 salutatorian Kate-Marie Parks completed her first varsity season with the Bryan College women's soccer team. Parks is pictured playing defense in a victory over Bluefield College. The Lions went 8-8-1 and lost in the AAC (Appalachian Athletic Conference) Playoffs in the 1st round to Reinhart College.

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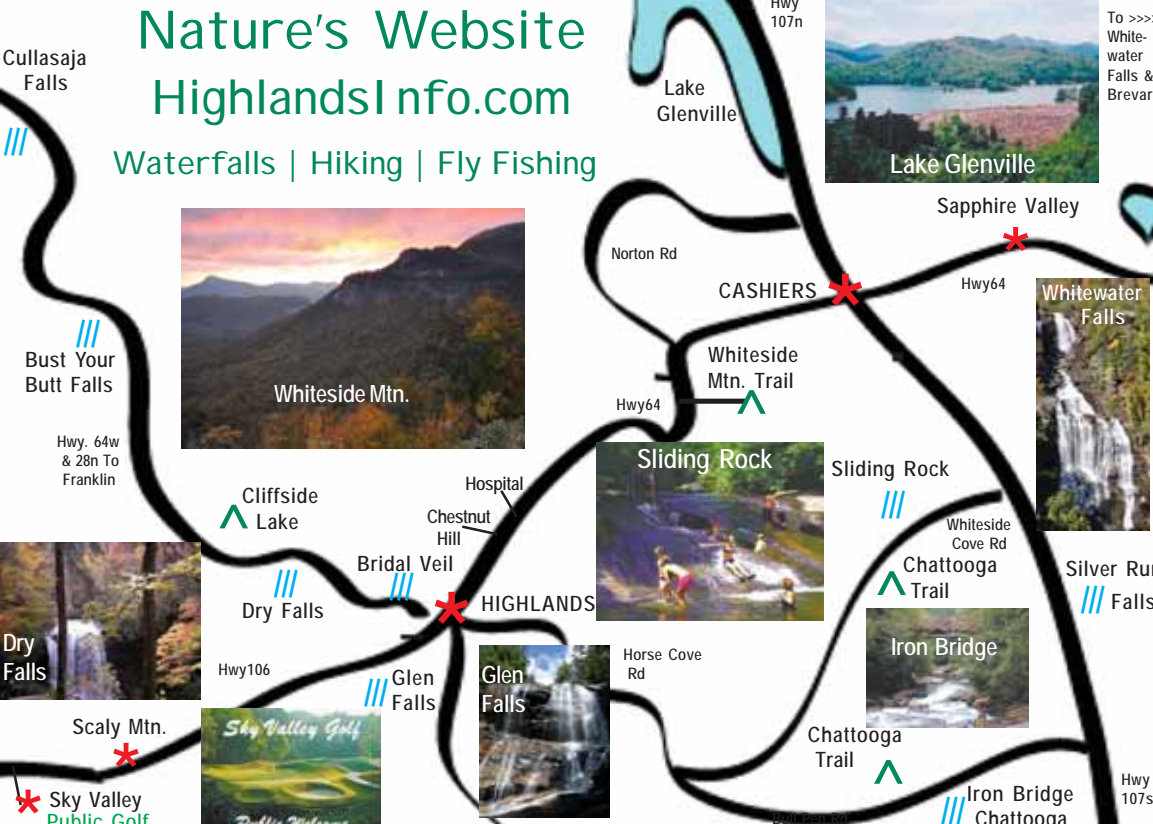
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