

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 51

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

Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
39   25F	32   15F	25   10F

**NOTE:**

• Highlands Town Hall will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Mon., Dec. 27 and Fri., Dec. 31. In addition, there will be no garbage pickup those days.

• All recycle centers in Macon County will be closing at noon on Friday, Dec. 24 and closed all day Saturday, Dec. 25 and Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

**Saturdays**

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Great inexpensive wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person refundable with case purchase.

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

**Through Dec. 25**

• A 22-pound Santa from Kilwin's will be raffled off with all proceeds benefiting Big Brothers, Big Sisters, R.E.A.C.H., and Gar's Kids. The Santa will be at Kilwin's until Christmas Day. \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets.

**Sun., Dec. 25**

• Christmas Dinner at the Hudson House 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds to benefit nonprofits. Call Rick Siegel today for reservations. 828-526-5102.

**Sun., Dec. 26**

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile, easy hike, with an elevation change of 300 feet, on the Ranger Falls Nature Trail, featuring unusual plants and trees, a waterfall, an old settler's home site. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

**Sun., Jan. 2**

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-3 mile hike on the Bartram Trail loop from Wallace Branch. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

## Together 'Relay For Life' in Franklin, Highlands earn national recognition

**By Lisa Duff**  
**Relay for Life**

When it comes to the fight against cancer, not many can claim to make a bigger statement than

Macon County's Relay For Life volunteers.

The combined statement of Relay participants in Highlands and Franklin totaled nearly \$195,500

and once again resulted in a Top Ten in the Nation Award.

"We are so very proud of all our Relayers and for the effort they put

• See TOGETHER page 3

## New input about uses on Upper Chattooga River sought

**45-day comment period re-initiates**

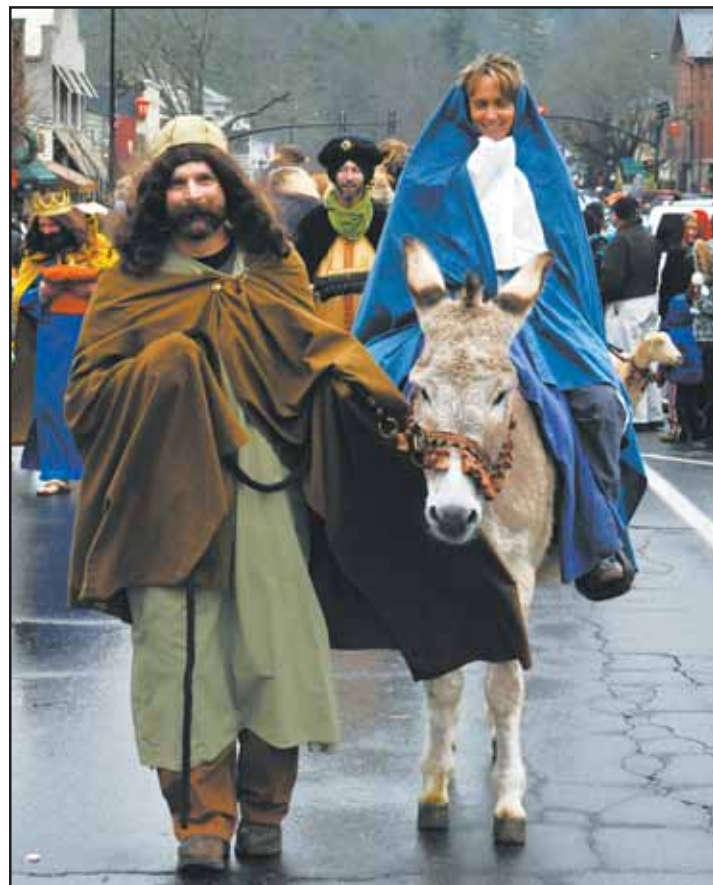
### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process

The Forest Service has re-initiated the NEPA process on recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River by scoping a proposed action. The agency is asking for any new information, such as recently released articles or publications or new concerns, that should be incorporated into the analysis or be part of the decision-making process.

"The most important thing we want people to know is that re-initiating the NEPA process does not mean we're starting over," said Paul Bradley, forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. "Any information submitted to the agency between 2005 and 2009 will be considered in the decision-making process and used to establish standing for ap-

• See CHATTOOGA page 2

## Remember the reason for the season. Merry Christmas!



Sammie and David Leffler were Joseph and Mary in the Highlands United Methodist Church procession during the Christmas Parade this year.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Planning Board sends final draft of UDO to Town Board

**OKs subdividing parcel for Police Dept.**

At the Dec. 20 Planning Board meeting, the board quickly OK'd subdividing the Town Hall parcel, which is the final step in securing financing for the ABC Store/Police Department renovations.

BB&T is funding the \$610,662 project with a 10-year loan at 3.07% interest with two payments per year.

However, the bank wants the ½ acre of land the building stands on as collateral, so the town has to go through its own subdivision procedure to separate out the parcel.

Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward said the process doesn't involve a zoning change, and the setbacks are correct. "This is only for financing," he said.

Originally, Town Attorney Bill Coward was going to see if the bank would encumber the ½ acre as described in the deed of trust contingent upon the loan being paid, rather than having to go through the

• See PLANNING BOARD page 8

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526-3910

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Highlands, a winter wasteland

I am a new resident and store owner of Highlands, and have always thought for the last 20 years, that this area is paradise. Not anymore. It is not because Mother Nature has brought us more snow and ice the past two winters, but how the town has (not) responded to keeping its residents safe.

All the roads in and around Highlands were better maintained two years ago. This year, you can easily drive downtown, but don't try to stop! Has anyone tried to park off Main Street lately? A little difficult when DOT dumps the snow in the parking spaces!

Those of us outside the "town" limits (i.e.: Horse Cove or Clear Creek) and work or own a business in town, can forget about opening on time, or at all. Due to budget cuts, county and secondary roads are now ignored for 3-4 days at a time. Since our past snowfall, a house burned to the ground because responders had no access via the impassable Horse Cove Road. Does it take this type of catastrophic event for the Town of Highlands (or Macon County) to "wake-up?" Those making these decisions may be saving money now, but it only takes one law suit to drain the town's pockets.

I hear the town-owned, wireless service in Highlands has been put on the back burner so that we can instead improve our image by way of a state grant for new banners, and tree-lined sidewalks. So if you need to make a phone call due to being stranded, or use your computer while on vacation, forget about it. Banners, trees, and lights are far more important.

Hospitality begins with making a town more hospitable with easy access to businesses and natural wonders. Guests or residents should not wonder if it is going to be a treacherous walk from store to store, or a nerve racking drive from waterfall to waterfall. Highlands in December, January, and February should be a Winter Wonderland, not a Winter Wasteland.

Here's looking to a smarter and safer New Year!

Cathi Mead  
Owner of The Bird Barn  
Highlands

### A different bear hunting POV

Dear Editor,

In response to Kate Messer's uneducated opinion about hunting and hunters' rights:

You may want to consult the North Carolina hunting rules and regulations – maybe concerning harassment to hunters.

As for our town of Highlands, our problem is outsiders putting their noses into the native Highlanders' business. If you don't like our country values and traditions, maybe you should go back to where you came from!

Instead of worrying about wild animals, how about people would try helping human beings, like the homeless and the unemployed.

In one article you admitted to telling the hunters to shot each other! So you would rather people kill people instead of animals? That's called murder and that is illegal.

Have you ever encountered an angry bear? Maybe this bear is trying to kill you. What would you do?

I guess you have a problem with slaughter houses killing cows, chickens, pigs; if you do, this is ridiculous.

I guess you don't go to steakhouse's or burger joints either.

Use common sense and get your priorities straight.

Etta Neely  
Highlands

### CHATTOOGA continued from page 1

peals. That's why we're asking folks to send any new information and not to resubmit any previously made comments.

"More specifically, we are asking for new information on proposed management actions that would allow for boating opportunities above S.C. Highway 28, use separation strategies to mitigate conflict, and establish visitor use capacities to manage use during peak-use times of the year," emphasized Bradley. "We're also seeking any new details on management actions that would limit overnight camping to designated campsites and incorporate adaptive management measures that will help us maintain desired use levels."

In August 2009, the three forest supervisors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia issued decisions selecting Alternative 4 in the Environmental Assessment (EA) titled Managing Recreation Uses on the Upper Chattooga River.

Alternative 4 emphasized year-round, high-quality trout fishing while providing boating opportunities on the main stem upper Chattooga River.

Specifically, from the confluence of Norton Mill Creek in North Carolina to Burrells Ford Bridge between December 1 and March 1 at flow levels of approximately 450 cfs or higher (Burrells Ford gauge).

The previously selected alternative also called for limiting overnight camping in the upper Chattooga to designated sites and closing and/or rehabilitating a number of user-created campsites and trails.

The agency withdrew those decisions last December when inconsistencies were discovered between the Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment and the Decision Notices. More information is at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/>

Chattooga.php.

"We've been busy since the last set of decisions was withdrawn," said Bradley. "We have been not only reviewing our documents for accuracy, but also conducting additional analysis and considering other information such as recent scientific literature and court rulings."

New management direction would be established by amending the three national forests' land and resource management plans. The responsible officials (three forest supervisors) are proposing to establish new management direction for their respective forest plans that would:

- Allow boating opportunities on the main stem Chattooga above SC Highway 28.

- Manage social impacts by using separation strategies including zoning by space (river reach), time (season) and flow levels.

- Manage biophysical impacts to natural resources by limiting trails, campsites, group sizes and parking. User-created trails and campsites that violate current or proposed forest plan standards would be closed. Campsites and fire rings would be designated. Camping would be limited to three tents per campsite, except in designated group campsites.

- Manage large woody debris (LWD) recruitment and retention on the upper Chattooga consistently across all three national forests to assure that no LWD is removed to accommodate recreation within the river or stream banks.

- Protect and enhance the visitors' front-country and backcountry1 experiences by establishing visitor use capacities.

- Protect and enhance solitude and a sense of remoteness in the backcountry by limiting and/or redesigning and relocating trails and campsites, as well as limiting numbers of groups and encounters per day, group sizes and available parking.

- Maintain current use levels and protect natural resources by monitoring use and adopting adaptive management strategies such as indirect measures (e.g. signage or education) and/or direct measures (e.g. limiting parking spaces, permitting or registration).

Hard copy comments may be mailed to the Chattooga Planning Team, U.S. Forest Service, 4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, S.C. 29212.

Electronic comments should be e-mailed to [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us).

All submitted comments will become part of the project record and available for public review. The agency is asking that any new information be e-mailed or postmarked no later than January 24, 2011.

- *Frontcountry is defined as those areas of the Chattooga River within 0.25 miles of four bridges: Grimshawes/Sliding Rock Bridge; Bull Pen Road Bridge; Burrells Ford Bridge; and, Highway 28 Bridge. Backcountry is defined as at least 0.25 miles from roads and bridges and is referred to by stream reaches: Chattooga Cliffs Reach; Ellicott Rock Reach; Rock Gorge Reach; and Nicholson Field Reach.*

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

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Email: [HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor– Tom Merchant

Cartoonist – Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

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...TOGETHER continued from page 1



Relay For Life leadership volunteers from Franklin and Highlands gathered recently to display their Top in the Nation award for fund-raising achievement. The communities' combined donations of more than \$194,000 resulted in Macon County earning the No. 4 spot for Relay fundraising in its population bracket. Displaying the winning banner are, from left, Debbie Grossman of Highlands, Becky Ramey of Franklin, Michael Murphy of Highlands and Toby Blanton of Franklin. The 2011 Relay For Life event in Franklin is set for June 3, while Highlands' Relay will be held Aug. 19. Prior to these dates, both Relays are planning a shared event for participants in the spring. More details are expected to be announced early in 2011.

forth this past year," said Becky Ramey, co-chair of the Franklin event.

"Macon County Relayers are some of the best, biggest-hearted people I know," Toby Blanton, Franklin's co-chair, added.

The 2010 Relay season in Franklin and

Highlands netted a total of \$195,474, or \$5.92 raised for every man, woman and child in the county. With that total and per capita achievement, Macon County claimed No. 4 in its population bracket against all other Relays across the country.

## • OBITUARY •

### Georgianna Mae Ralston

Georgianna Ralston died suddenly sometime in the early morning hours of December 19<sup>th</sup>. The evening before, she and her husband Jack hosted a joyful family Christmas gathering for which, although well known to be somewhat challenged in her cooking skills, she prepared an excellent salad.

Georgianna lived in her beloved Highlands for approximately 13 years. She was born in 1943 to Franklin Schenck and Millie Richardson in Marion County, Indiana and grew up in Plainfield, Indiana. She had a successful career as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. She was also a nurse and was a longtime volunteer at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

In her last weeks, Georgianna visited her mother in Indiana, and she and Jack spent time with cherished friends in Europe. They also took their grandchildren on a wonderful trip to Disney World and Universal Studios.

Georgianna was a talented artist, especially a photographer and a quilter. Her photographs were often exhibited in the Highlands area and her quilts adorn many homes. She was also an avid reader and

member of the Highlands Book Club.

Georgianna is survived by her husband Jack, her mother Millie Richardson, her brother Tom Richardson, her sister Jacqueline Bryant, her step-children Lauren Hester and Christopher Ralston (Cristen), and step-grandchildren Anna Hester, Braden Ralston and Davis Ralston. She also leaves behind numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and her little dog Maggie Mae who will long be waiting for her at the front door.

Georgianna made close friends wherever she went. For all of us, a bright light has gone out this Christmas, but our memories of Georgianna will warm us through the winter and long after. A celebration of Georgianna's life will take place Monday, December 27 at 2 p.m. at the Highlands Presbyterian Church. Those wishing to make contributions in Georgianna's memory may make them to Friends For Life, P.O. Box 340, Sapphire, NC 28774.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

"A Top in the Nation award is something to be proud of," said Lisa Duff, American Cancer Society senior community manager. "We are so excited for Macon County's continued success in fund-raising and thrilled to see another national recognition for these hard-working volunteers."

The 2010 Top in the Nation recognition marks the ninth time in 10 years that Macon County Relay For Life events have achieved such credit.

"The money raised at both events helps support the society's mission of saving lives from cancer," said Sarah Bishop, ACS staff partner in Franklin. "Both events left volunteers exhausted, but happy that they could come together on two separate nights to fight for cancer's eradication."

"Through their hard work in preparing for the event, and by spending hours walking for the cause, residents of Highlands and Franklin certainly did their part to help the American Cancer Society create a world with less cancer and more birthdays," said Debbie Grossman, co-chair for the Highlands event.

"We were especially proud of those who used the website as a fund-raising instrument this year," said Michael Murphy, the 2010 Relay online chair in Highlands and the 2011 co-chair. "Highlands' Relayers were able to donate more than \$10,000 to the effort just by pushing a few buttons on their keyboards."

• See TOGETHER page 6

# ANNAWEAR



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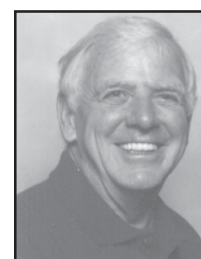
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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### I never got what I wanted for Christmas Soooo, bah humbug.

The winter of 1945 was not a good year for me. Even though Hershey bars were beginning to reappear at candy counters and gas rationing was coming to an end, none of that could offset the personal disaster I encountered that winter. Who cared about all that stuff? I didn't drive in '45 and I had no money for candy....soooo I said, "Bah humbug to Christmas." I had reasons.



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!**  
email:  
**askfredanything@aol.com**

It was the Christmas season of '45 when I broke off my two permanent front teeth in a biking accident. I'll never forget that day. I was only 9 years old. My friend and I were playing a game called "chicken" on our bikes at Saint Bridget's schoolyard in Louisville, KY.

I sat my front wheel on the long white line outlining the basketball court and signaled across the schoolyard to my friend. On his signal, we headed toward each other, peddling as fast as possible. The bicyclist who veered off the white line first was a chicken.

In '45, being labeled a chicken was worse than being called a sissy; there was shame. Since both my friend and I had poop for brains, (Duh!) our bikes collided and we both went flying, eventually crashing to the ground. My friend was lucky and went home with skinned knees and elbows. I took a giant bite out of the asphalt and broke off my two front teeth.

A year before, a second-grade school teacher named Don Gardner, inspired by his class, wrote a song titled All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth after he noticed half his class was missing front teeth. It took him 30 minutes to write the song. Don't ya just hate people like that?

When I got home, I was rushed to the dentist chair. While waiting in that scary chair, I could hear the Don Gardner song playing on the radio in the next room. I grew to dislike that Christmas tooth song a lot. The dentist looked in my mouth, shook

his head and told my ma, "Too bad. Those teeth were coming in nicely. And too bad they broke off snagged. The good news is there are no nerves exposed so let's do nothing until he's much older. Then we'll cap them."

"Much older," I thought. "I'll never make it to 'much older' I'm gonna get killed at school." Sure enough, when I showed up the next day, I was dubbed "Freddie snaggle tooth"

which remained with me through the eighth grade. This was also the year I learned to fight well.

I was the only 9-year-old in the second grade. You see, I flunked sand box in public school while in the first grade and they kicked me out after I threw a brick through my classroom window. (Could I make this up?) While the nuns at St. Bridget were busy whipping (literally) me into shape, they were also teaching me how to pray. Oh, by the way, the nuns of '45 were scary, scary people.

Since this was the Christmas season, the nuns told us that Jesus would listen to our prayers if we didn't ask for material things, like wagons or bikes. They never mentioned teeth. I felt this was definitely out of Santa's hands so every evening I prayed to Jesus for a new set of front teeth. I was tired of being made fun of and tired of fighting. Once a week, Eddie Crawley would beat me up and then call me "Fred-die snaggle tooth." So half way through my prayer, I would also pray for Jesus to allow me to beat up Eddie Crawley, something I could never do without His help. I was terrified of the guy.

So guess what? Christmas came and went and all I got was another Lionel train set. I never got my teeth and I never beat up Eddie Crawley. Worse, the friggin' kid was a year younger than I was. After Christmas, I was very mad at Jesus. Christmas?.... bah humbug.

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 13

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## THE VIEW FROM HERE

### A Christmas story



Feedback is encouraged.  
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

I guess I must have been 11 when I learned the truth. Until the moment of discovery, I had never had a doubt. Flying around the world in a sleigh powered by reindeer, sliding down the tightest chimney, gaining entrance even into buildings without a chimney, knowing every child's wishes, having the capability to grant those wishes; it all made perfect sense. Of course, I was raised Catholic so I was comfortable with miracles. If, as I suspect, doubt is an indication of intelligence, I am one dumb bunny.

Pete and I wanted baseball gloves for Christmas. I'd asked for a Gil Hodges signature first baseman's mitt. I was limited by both speed and arm strength, and was left handed to boot, so first base seemed an ideal position. It didn't hurt that Gil played first for my beloved Brooklyn Dodgers. When my police League saw me in tryouts the following spring, he had other ideas. He put me and my Gil Hodges signature glove in right field. There was no other position where my lack of athletic gifts was less likely to hurt the team. Few balls were hit to right. I stood in the field and silently prayed that there would be none. Sometimes my prayers were answered. Other times I made an error. But that's another story.

Pete and I were snooping in our parents' bedroom closet, hoping to discover our Christmas gifts. There in a Spaulding glove was the first baseman's mitt I'd asked for. The problem was that I'd petitioned Santa. I might have withheld judgment, waited for Christmas, hoped that Mom and Dad had asked Santa if they could give me my special present. Might have, but didn't. I knew immediately that my friends had been right about Santa, as surely as they'd been right about where babies came from. Yep. It's true. I believed David Gossett about human sexuality before I believed him about Santa. Not that I believed him right away. Unlikely as the stork story was, it seemed infinitely more probable than that my parents would engage in the behavior

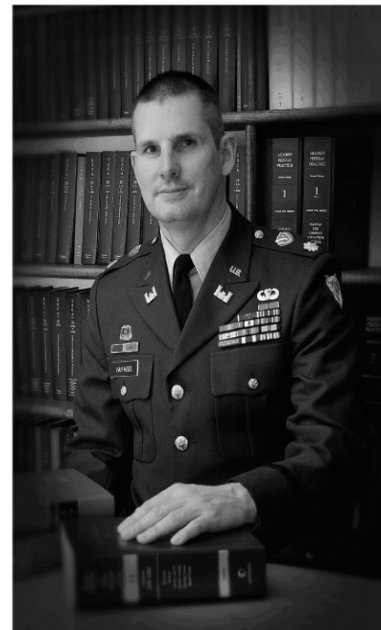
• See SALZARULO page 8

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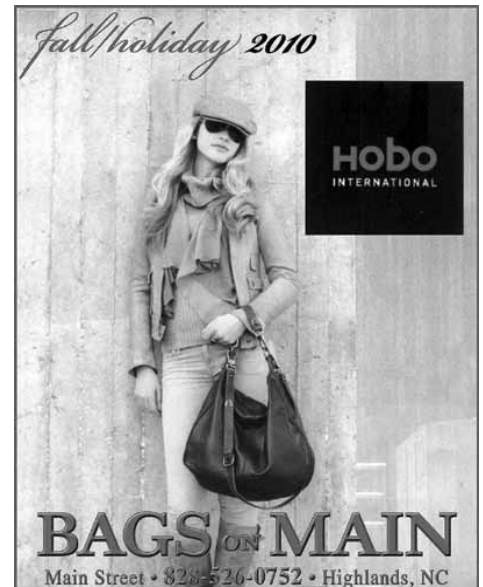
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**Highlands  
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**Christmas Eve Services:**

5 pm

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Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 26**

10:50 am

Sunday Worship Service

315 Main Street / 526-3376

Pastor Paul Christy



... TOGETHER continued from page 3

Top fundraising teams in both communities include Just For You in Highlands, which is lead by Team Captain Betty Fisher and raised just over \$30,000; and Macon Bank in Franklin, which is lead by Team Captain Sherry Sutton and raised some \$16,657.

As a way of working together to represent all of Macon County, leaders from both the Franklin and Highlands Relay For Life committees met recently to discuss a combined fund-raising effort in 2011. While details are still being worked out, the resulting fund-raiser will give participants in both communities an opportunity to shine.

The American Cancer Society combines

an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than 3 million volunteers, ACS volunteers fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community.

To learn more about Relay For Life of Franklin, visit [www.RelayForLife.org/franklinnc](http://www.RelayForLife.org/franklinnc).

To learn more about Relay For Life in Highlands, visit [www.RelayForLife.org/highlands](http://www.RelayForLife.org/highlands). To learn more about the American Cancer Society or to get help, call anytime day or night at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Joy to the World...

For those of us who live immersed in the doings of the day, those words are hard to summon. Try as I may to lift myself out of the dregs of reality, the weight of too much of man's stupidity keeps me mired in the muck. I think if I get some of it off my chest, the Christmas spirit will penetrate the veil of gloom.

Let's look back a couple of years, when I was sounding the alarm over the election of President Obama. We had just elected a man who came out of nowhere to lead the most powerful country on Earth. We thought he was a brilliant orator based on a few public speeches. Other than that, his qualifications to lead were non-existent.

His birthplace, allegedly Honolulu, has been in question for years. It is the subject of several lawsuits, all of which could be thrown out if he would produce a birth certificate. He has spent large sums to fight the demands that he produce it. Others have spent a great deal of money to prove otherwise. It seems to me that if concrete proof existed, the fire would go out and the smoke would go away. Hasn't happened.

I, for one, in the company of hoards of others, cannot understand how Obama enjoyed the platinum-level edu-



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

cation that he did. Occidental College for two years, then on to Columbia for his BA. How did a kid from a meager home and apparently no family wealth get into an Ivy League school, live in Manhattan, support an admitted romance with drug use, with no work on his resume, at the time, that I can find.

Harvard Law. Hmmm. How did that happen? An article from WorldNetDaily, written by Jack Cashhill, perhaps sheds some light. "In the summer of 2008, I was tipped to a story that the media were scrupulously ignoring. It involved the venerable African-American entrepreneur and politico Percy Sutton.

A Manhattan borough president for 12 years and a credible candidate for mayor of New York City in 1977, Sutton had appeared in the late March 2008 on a local NYC show called "Inside City Hall." When asked about Obama by the show's host, Sutton explained that he had been introduced to Obama by a friend.

The friend's name was Dr. Khalid al-Mansour, and the introduction had taken place about 20 years prior. Sutton described al-Mansour as 'the principal advisor to one of the world's richest men.' The billionaire in question was Saudi prince Al-Waleed bin Talal. According to Sutton, al-Mansour had asked him to 'please write a letter in support of Obama... a young man who has applied to Harvard.' Sutton had friends at Harvard and gladly did so.

Three months before the election it should have mattered that a respected black political figure had publicly announced that a crazed anti-Semite like al-Mansour, backed by an equally bonkers Saudi billionaire, had been guiding Obama's career perhaps for the last 20 years, but the story died a quick and unnatural death."

Another writer states that Obama was an "unspectacular" student in his two years at Columbia and at every stop before that going back to grade school. Another said "I don't think Obama did too well in college." As to Obama's LSAT scores, Jimmy Hoffa's body will be unearthed before those are, as will his grades at Columbia.

If these subjective statements are to be believed, how such an indifferent student got into law school whose applicant's LSAT scores typically track between 98 to 99 percentile and whose GPA's

•See SWANSON page 13

# • JUST HERS •

## The Red Ruana

In the end, I got the red one. The credit slip was good until February, but it had been one of those particularly awful days. Just looking at me the wrong way reduced me to tears. A pick-me-up was on the cards, and while I'm not a great believer in retail therapy, I was willing to try anything.

When I walked into the shop, however, I wondered if I hadn't miscalculated. The bright colors and incredible selection of pretty things made me feel ugly and overwhelmed. Maybe I should make my apologies, and come back another day. After all, it was almost closing time. I walked through the store, willing myself to find some item of clothing that would fit, and make me feel better. Wandering through the aisles, I found lots of lovely things, mostly for the husband I could no longer shop for. The hat rack contained a duplicate of the hat we'd bought John last Christmas. Fighting back my tears, I murmured under my breath, "Why does it have to be so hard?"

Then, making my way toward the exit, I saw it. Surrounded by gorgeous clothing, it still beamed with glowing chic. It was the first in a rack of lovely ruanas, sleeveless poncho-type garments that wrap around, nice and toasty. All of the colors were beautiful – the warm brown; both a light and a dark gray, each elegant in its own way; a pretty maroon. Still, it was the red one that caught my eye, and my heart.

To be fair, I tried on both the red and the dark gray. After all, as the daughter of a French lady, I have the specter of elegance hanging over my shoulder like Marley's ghost. The red was, well, so red. A lovely, warm red, but red. I am, after all, a widow of four months, but the rules for mourning in America are so vague. Can I have a drink in a bar? Am I allowed to laugh and smile? What if I seem to be enjoying myself a little too much? Can I dance? It's all a social minefield. One thing I did know, though. Bright red was definitely a no-no. I looked at my image in the mirror, willing myself to prefer the gray ruana. The two salesladies watched my dilemma. One preferred the gray; the other the red. The decision was mine. I tried the crimson one again, shocked at the red, puffy eyes and pale face staring back at me from the mirror. Nothing would ever make me feel pretty again. Or would it? I remembered how John loved to see me in bright colors, how he hated all those black New York outfits I'd come down to Highlands lugging. Maman hated all that black, too. "Are you auditioning to be a widow?" she would say. How could she know?

"Do you love it?" the saleslady asked. "Yes," I said, "Yes, I do!" We all laughed, delighted that I'd finally made my decision. The tension broke. They folded up my red ruana, and slipped it into the carrier bag. I felt like I'd climbed Everest, swum the English Chan-

nel, discovered penicillin. How silly! After all, I'd just bought an article of clothing.

I haven't written my traditional Christmas letter this year. What do you write about the year your husband dies? It was all going so well, and then in April we found out John had cancer, in May, he had radiation and chemo, and in August, he had his surgery and died. Talk about the elephant in the living room! Remember the old, sick joke – "Besides that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you like the play?"

Actually, I'd resisted Christmas letters for years, remembering the dreadful epistles I'd read during my childhood. First, there would be the card - goofy, secular, or surprisingly religious. The signatures, often illegible, were no hint as to who sent the card. If the signa-



**Michelle Mead-Armor**  
michiamead@aol.com

tures were legible, they still left us totally in the dark. "Love from Buzzy, Biffy, CJ, and Muffy." Who were these people? Since folks often included the names of their pets, we were even more puzzled. Was Biffy a wife, a child, or a poodle?

The contents of the newsletters usually fell into two categories – the bragging ones and the organ recitals. Let me give you a slight example of each.

### Bragging Letter

It's been a busy year for the Snodgrass family. We want to share our marvelous news with you, so here it goes!

Bessie Mae was chosen as runner-up in the Miss Pasteurized Cheese Competition in Moosebreath, Wisconsin, for the second year in a row. While her baton twirling has defi-

nately improved, the fire trick went horribly wrong, singeing the eyebrows of the Michigan judge, and setting the curtains on fire. Still, runner-up is nothing to sneeze at. Dad and I think that spending the egg money on the electrolysis and remedial twirling lessons was money well spent.

Sammy's science project on recycling the gas from Aunt Ethel's cabbage dip was a great success! We weren't surprised that it came to the attention of the newly-appointed Energy Czar, but it was a thrill when the gentlemen showed up from Oslo. We've never had a Nobel Prize winner in the family!

### Organ Recital

Despite winning the lottery, it's been a real struggle this year. Grandpa's prostate has come back to haunt us. Billy Sam's acne is the worst they've seen in ages, and Florence has escaped again. I'm still being plagued by hot flashes, but at least they dropped the manslaughter charges. Grandma's dropsy has returned, and she's had to drop out of bowling.

• See JUST HERS page 16

## Highlands Eateries & SPECIALTY FOODS



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## ... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 1

subdivision process, but that didn't work out.

The subdivision request now goes to the Town Board. The town hopes to close on the loan in mid-January.

In other business, the board quickly verified that previous requests concerning verbiage, spelling, organization and clarification were made to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) draft, but then extensively discussed final changes in the Dimensional and Density Standards section concerning dormers on buildings in the B1 business district.

Because members agreed that the built-upon percentage of 70% and the per floor, square foot allowances in an attic would likely take care of someone trying to use dormers as a "built upon loophole," a change to verbiage was eventually made to clarify the allowance of dormers.

Chairman Thomas Craig initiated the

discussion — concerned that the verbiage in the ordinance actually disallowed dormers, when in his opinion and that of other board members, they should be allowed, not only to make the most use out of space but for aesthetic reasons. "They make a building more interesting," he said.

So in the end, verbiage was changed to "roof rafters shall sit directly on the attic floor system with the exception of dormers whose length shall not exceed 50% of its underlying wall structure."

With that final change, at its Jan. 5 meeting, the Town Board will consider the 283-page UDO document which incorporates all codes pertaining to zoning, subdivision, erosion control, stormwater, and floodplain into a more simplified, user-friendly document for the public and town staff to view and use — a document now void of redundancy and contradictions. — **Kim Lewicki**

# Musty Odor? It's Mold!

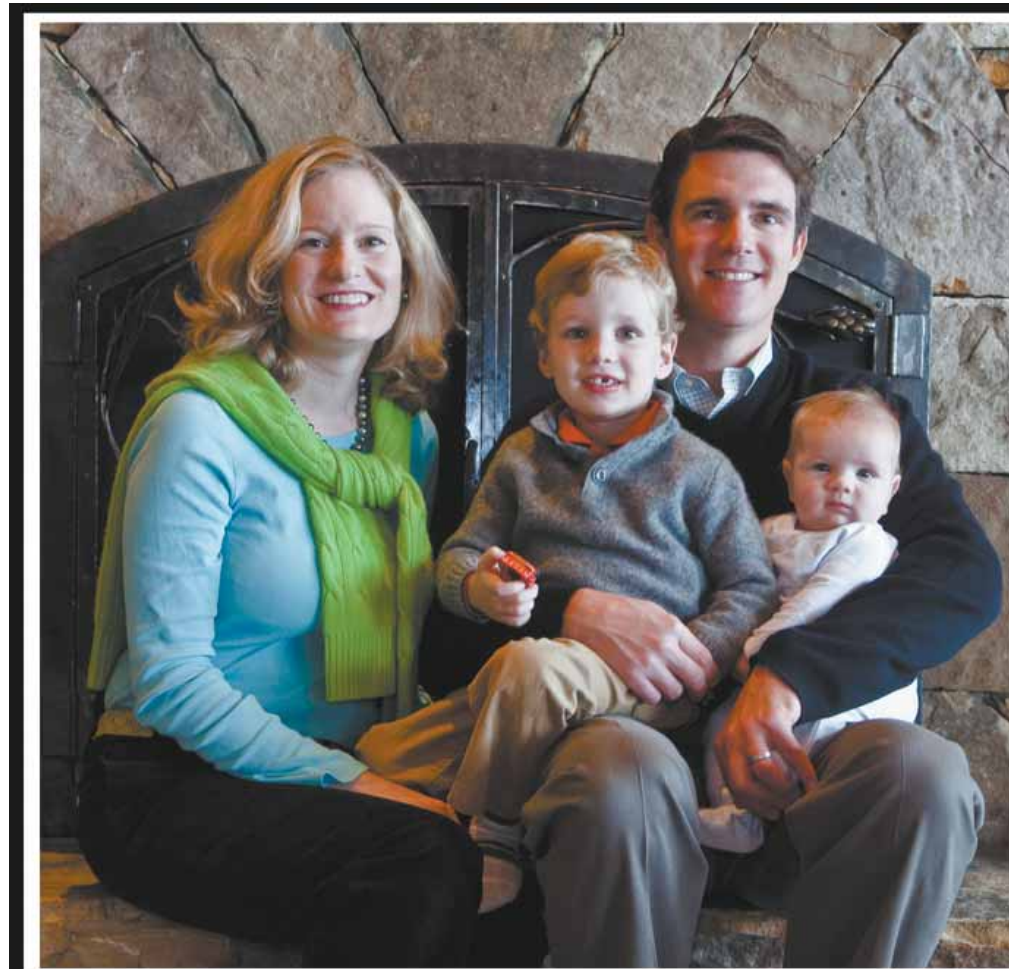


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## • THANK YOU •

### From 'Tis the Season

It is with a grateful heart that we thank both the local newspapers, WHLC and the entire community for their participation in 'Tis the Season. This meaningful project could not have been done without the help of the following churches: the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, First Presbyterian, Highlands United Methodist, Holy Family

Lutheran and Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church. Our thanks to the 13 non-profit organizations who set up interesting displays and explained their services. Please remember 'Tis the Season will continue to receive donations through the Episcopal church through the end of the year.

### ... SALZARULO continued from page 5

David described. It was bad enough that my folks had engaged in such disgusting behavior. On top of everything else, they were liars.

On Christmas morning the mitt was under the tree along with other gifts from Santa. I feigned surprise. I didn't need to pretend excitement. I loved that Mitt. When I wore it, I became a Dodger, a team mate of Duke Snider, Pee Wee Reese, Preacher Roe, and of course Gil Hodges. Pete and I oiled our gloves to keep the leather supple. We inserted baseballs deep in the pockets, bound them tightly to form a trap from which no ball could escape. Then we waited for spring.

It might have been the first warm day when it happened. It was Saturday. The

grass was green. We asked, then pleaded with Dad, to go to the park with us to hit grounders and flies to us. He answered that he didn't have time, that there was grass to cut, that if we weren't so lazy, we would have cut the grass. The truth was that neither of us had the strength to push the reel mower through the dense spring grass.

While I relented, Pete took a stand. He defiantly threw his new mitt in the path of the mower, reasoning that Dad would have no choice but to stop, and having stopped, perhaps reconsider. I still shudder when I remember what happened next. Pete's new glove, his last gift from Santa, jammed the mower, but not before the blades had gashed through the leather to expose the padding inside. Then Dad scolded Pete for being careless with his things, actually blamed him for the destruction of the mitt.

It was years before I understood Dad's anger, the pressure he felt, his anxiety that we did not share his first generation passion. If I could have one Christmas wish, it would be to share one more Christmas with them. I'd hug them both. Dad would be uncomfortable, but I'd hug him anyway, and I'd say, "Mom, Dad, it doesn't matter about Santa. It doesn't matter about Pete's glove. I love you."

### Fund for Joiner family at First Citizen's Bank in Highlands

The community quickly responded when it learned that the Joiner family has lost everything in a fire that destroyed the home they were living in on Horse Cove Road last week.

They have received bags of clothing, which they originally requested, but now they are asking for cash and gift cards.

If interested in helping them further, please visit First Citizens Bank in Highlands. A fund has been set up for them there.



## • COACH'S CORNER •

### So this is Christmas

**O**K, so small confession here, after 30 years of life on this mortal coil, I don't believe in all that much anymore -- but I believe in a few things. And, much in the same way that Crash Davis believed in the soul, the sweet spot, etc., I believe in Christmas.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

While Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth (I'll get to that in a minute) at this point and time in our society it represents not simply a celebration of a Savior but also a celebration of the capacity of mankind for good. We speak of the "Christmas Spirit" as an entity that breathes goodness into the hearts of man, regardless of their previous behaviors. From the real life "Christmas Truce" in World War I to the fictional character of Ebenezer Scrooge, these people were enveloped with a spirit of goodness and kindness that occurred simply because of the example of others during this time of year.

Obviously, much of this can be attributed to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. After all, the entire concept of a Christ whose sole purpose is to become a sacrifice for the good of all mankind cuts to the very heart of giving.

While the celebration of Christ has given way in some respects to commercialism and political correctness — the idea of people giving of themselves and promoting goodwill has not.

As humans, we want to believe in this more than anything else, the capacity of all men to have love and goodness in their hearts. Our literature and film reflect this — those villains such as Darth Vader or the Grinch are full of evil to begin with but ultimately are won over by the love still left in their hearts. The "spirit of Christmas" is simply an embodiment of this love

and the holiday season gives us a chance to access it with the knowledge that others are going to return the favor.

While we desire good in our lives, we fear being taken advantage of. Our society trumpets "fairness" for all to the point that we are all so afraid to give of ourselves out of fear that we will be walked on or left behind-but Christmas provides us with an umbrella of protection against that fear.

It's precisely because of this lack of fear that I believe in the "magic" of Christmas.

While there is no good spirit floating through the air inhabiting us, there is certainly a change in our hearts at this time of year. Unfortunately, it's not a real change, but simply us allowing ourselves to stop worrying about what is fair and what "belongs" to us and instead focus on making ourselves happy by making others happy.

It's not simply about finding the appropriate gifts for one another — it's about holding the door open for someone, giving money to the Salvation Army, donating time to a local shelter so that everyone can experience Christmas, the tingly feeling you get inside when singing your favorite Christmas Carol, you get the idea. In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge ultimately finds happiness in the warmth of family fellowship and giving of himself, not simply monetarily but by appearing at his nephew's home for

So yeah, that's why I believe in Christmas. It's not because of the presents, or the fat guy in a red suit, or even mistletoe. It's also why I believe in Christmas in spite of garish holiday sweaters, inedible fruitcake and every annoying "Christmas Sale" announcer's voice. As Tiny Tim would say (insert joke about my first name here) Merry Christmas to all and "God bless us, every one."

### Highlanders dominate Blue Ridge

**By Ryan Potts**

After a snowy couple of days on the plateau the Highlanders were able to get back into action against the Blue Ridge Bobcats on Friday night.

In the girls' game, the Lady Highlanders started strong early thanks to their pressure defense and strong shooting from Junior Emily Munger. In the second quarter, the Highlanders were able to tighten up their D, holding the Lady Bobcats to just two points. The second half saw many of the Lady Highlander JV players see action in what turned out to be a 47-28 victory for the Lady Highlanders. Munger led all scorers with 18 points.

The nightcap featured the Highlanders trying to win their fourth home game of the season, and early on the Highlanders showed that they had come ready to play.

Using a 20-7 run to start the game the Highlanders dominated on the boards and were able to force their will on the defensive end. After the first quarter, the rout was on in what would eventually become a 73-25 victory. Josh Delacruz led all scorers with 21 points and Logan Schmitt and Clayton Lassiter scored 11 and 14 points respectively.

The Highlanders will return to action after Christmas in the Walhalla Apple Classic beginning December 28 at 4pm.



## What's for Dinner?

Highland's favorite lunch place now has  
homemade dinner to go.

All served hot and ready to take home.

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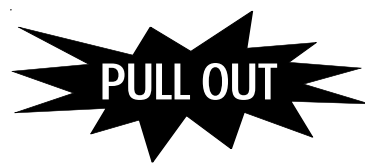
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| Wed | Chicken or Steak pot pie and a large salad                                  | 14.95 |
| Thu | Smoke roasted Chicken, flame roasted corn on the cob and a large salad      | 14.95 |
| Fri | Wild fried shrimp, hand cut fries, handmade hush puppies, and coleslaw      | 18.95 |
| Sat | In-house smoked BBQ, coleslaw, apple and bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls | 16.95 |

Mon - Sat open at 7 am and Sundays at 8 am.  
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# On going and Upcoming Events

## Saturdays

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Great inexpensive wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person refundable with case purchase.

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

• At The Bascom, Art Cinema and ongoing exhibitions. Call 526-4949 for more information

## Through Dec. 25

• A 22-pound Santa made with Kilwin's chocolate will be raffled off with all proceeds benefiting Big Brothers, Big Sisters, R.E.A.C.H., and Gar's Kids. The Santa will be at Kilwin's until Christmas Day. \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. The 22-pound chocolate Santa is being donated by Jerry Moore owner of Kilwin's in Town Square on Main Street.

## Sun., Dec. 25

• Christmas Dinner at the Hudson House 11 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Proceeds to benefit nonprofits. Call Rick Siegel today for reservations. 828-526-5102.

## Sun., Dec. 26

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile, easy hike, with an elevation change of 300 feet, on the Ranger Falls Nature Trail, featuring unusual plants and trees, a waterfall, an old settler's home site. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at the Cliffside Lake picnic area parking lot by the trailhead at 9:45 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

## Friday, Dec. 31

• The High Mountain Squares will be having a "New Years Eve Dance" on Friday, December 31st, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 9:00 p.m. to midnight. The square dance callers are Ken Perkins from Pelzer, SC, Tom Pustinger from Spartanburg, SC, and Jim Duncan from Otto, NC. We dance Western Style Square Danc-

ing. There will be main/stream, plus, and high energy level square dancing. There will be plenty of food for this special event. So come and dance, eat, and celebrate New Years Eve with us. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-349-8344

## Sun., Jan. 2

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-3 mile hike on the Bartram Trail loop from Wallace Branch. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

## Thursday, Jan. 6

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred. *All presenting donors have a chance to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets!*

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## Last chance to reserve your spot at the Christmas Dinner Table!



The Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner is served on December 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the quiet elegance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club (30 Hummingbird Lane). The cost is \$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.

In addition to a mouthwatering buffet prepared by area chefs, Jerry Moore of Kilwin's is raffling a 22-pound Chocolate Santa and the drawing will take place at the dinner.

Old Edwards Inn & Hospitality Group has donated a weeknight at the Inn and dinner for 2 at Madison's, all available for a drawing at the dinner itself. The "Christmas Tree" will add to the festive mood by providing a beautifully decorated tree to greet everyone at the door.

This amazing menu includes ham, turkey, squash casserole, scalloped potatoes, sweet potato soufflé, cranberry walnut tossed salad, sautéed French green beans, orange cranberry relish, dressing, gravy, & rolls. For a sweet ending, there will be a plethora of desserts on a magnificent sweet table.

Sign up today for a stress free Christmas while at the same time contributing to these wonderful causes serving our community. Make reservations with Rick at 828-526-5102. We are only 1 week away!

## The Bascom's Gingerbread House winner shines



Sarah and Gena Futral, shown working on their gingerbread creation, took first place at The Bascom's Gingerbread House Competition.

The votes are in! Using a delightful assortment of sweets, confections and creativity, Sarah and Gena Futral are the 2010 Bascom Gingerbread House Competition winners! On December 10th, the results of the judging, open to the public, were announced. Second place went to Grace Raulet with Charlie Raulet taking third place. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated.

Now open year round and welcoming visitors on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am - 5 pm, there's plenty to see and do at The Bascom in January and February.

• View *The Bascom Collection*, January 8-February 12, which includes 20th and 21st century American art in numerous media. Then, from February 19-April 2, Re-

gional Art Leagues will present their annual exhibition. Join us in celebrating the art and artists who offer a glimpse into the beauty of the plateau.

• Students will use their imaginations at Saturday Art School (January 8-February 12) for fun, hands-on, age appropriate art classes. Other winter art classes for young people include Friday morning's Pre-School Creativity Classes (January 14-February 18), Tuesday After School Art (January 11-February 15) and Thursday's Paint Like a Master (January-March 3).

The Bascom winter hours from January 7th to April 2nd, Fridays and Saturdays only, are 10 am-5 pm. For more details on all Bascom winter activities, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 526.4949.



# Upcoming and Ongoing Events



## Friday, Jan. 7

• NC Wildlife Advocates will meet from Noon to 3 p.m. at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. The meeting will convene after lunch which will be available at the noon for a fee of \$8.95. The focus of the meeting will be on two topics for discussion. First, NC Representative Ray Rapp will present his ideas for increasing funding and manpower for wildlife law enforcement officers. Second, the group will discuss the NC Wildlife Federation's Responsible Sportsman Doctrine as tool for educating hunters and encouraging responsible behavior. Everyone is invited – bear hunters and non-bear hunters. For information, email phyllisedwards@frontier.com

## Jan. 8-Feb. 12

• At The Bascom, view "The Bascom Collection:" 20th and 21st century American art in numerous media. Call 526-4949 for more information.

## Saturdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12

• At The Bascom, Saturday Art School for students. Fun, hands-on age appropriate art classes. Pre-school. Call 526-4949 for more information.

## Sun., Jan. 9

• The newly formed Concert Chorale of Highlands and Cashiers will commence rehearsals for the spring and summer concerts on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. If you enjoy singing classical, madrigals, art songs, show tunes from musicals and other forms of music, you will want to be a part of this group. Interested singers may contact Grat L. Rosazza, conductor and musical director at 828-526-4278 for more information.

## Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15

• At the Bascom, After School Art. Call 526-4949 for more information.

## Friday, Jan. 14

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 River-view Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred. *All presenting donors have a chance to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets!*

## Fridays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18

• At The Bascom, Pre-School Creativity Classes. Call 526-4949 for more information.

## Sat., Jan. 22

• At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring educators from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for more information.

## Fri. & Sat., Jan. 28-29

• At The Bascom, Photography for Lovers with Greg Newington. for more information, call 526-4949.

## Thursday, Jan. 20

• Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

## Tuesday, Jan. 25

• Macon County Public Library Blood Drive, 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 7 pm. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred. *All presenting donors have a chance to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets!*

## Feb. 19-April 2

• At The Bascom, view Regional Art Leagues annual exhibition. Call 526-4949 for more information

## Sat., Feb. 26

• At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring police, firefighters and EMS from 7-10 p.m. Tickets

are \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for more information.

## Sat., March 26

• At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring veterans from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for more information.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



‘Magic’ of the season

**Pastor Paul Christy**  
Highlands United Methodist Church

If the last week hasn't gotten you in the Christmas Spirit, I don't know what will. I mean how many of us do not like the 5 degrees and 8 inches of snow? This lets us know that not only winter has smacked us in the face, but likewise, it is that special time of year we call Christmas.

There is something special and almost magical about this time of year. People seem nicer and even friendlier, and yes people even seem more involved in the plight of others. We see gifts given to the needy, we see meals prepared for others and we see an attitude of peace of good will. There is something special about this time of year.

Several years ago when I lived in Morganton, for six years a man from my church named David and I went to Foothills Correctional Prison to teach a Bible study every Tuesday night from 6-8. Going to prison was a scary thing because the prison we were in was a maximum security prison. That meant that the men in our Bible study were in there for murder, rape, and all kinds of violent crimes. So it wasn't a Bible study with Boy Scouts, but David and I got to know them and we did become friends with many of them.

While most of the time we just did serious Bible study, there were two nights that we brought food in, the Tuesday before Christmas and the last session of class for the year. Those two nights we always had a big crowd. That always amazed me because most nights we would have six men, but those two nights we always had around 20. Go figure?

But on the Tuesday before Christmas in 2000, something very interesting happened. David and I walked in the prison, with pizza and tacos in hand, and the guards met us, frisked us like always, and while the guards never ate with us on our Christmas celebration, on this night something strange happened.

We went into our regular Bible study room and after all the prisoners had gathered we read the Christmas story from Luke and started eating. For a brief moment, I forgot that those men were in prison because we laughed and had a good time. When all the sudden two of the guards that had frisked us came into the room and Juan, one of the prisoners, went over to these guards and asked if they wanted something to eat. These two guards were always tough on Juan because they thought he was a trouble maker, but this night something strange happened. Juan and these two guards sat and ate together and laughed and talked like long lost friends, they broke bread together.

Now I know that most of the prisoners must have thought to themselves, this is a night for free food, for Juan and two prison guards — this was a night for a miracle — and a babe born in a manger brought them together. There is something special about Christmas.

I encourage you to find what makes this time of year special to you. Maybe it is a card, a present someone gives us out of love? Maybe it is a special visit with friends or family? Maybe it is word of encouragement you give or is given to you? Maybe it is a word of forgiveness given to you? Maybe it is the fact that God loves us enough to send His Son? All I know is that there is something special about this time of year, what do you think?

• 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



## ... SWANSON continued from page 6

range between 3.8 and 4.0 is open to conjecture.

Why do I continue to challenge Obama's background, his intentions, his actions? From before his election, people questioned who pushed his buttons, who

## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

Well, many prayers and many Eddie Crawley's have come and gone in my life since I took that bite out of the asphalt at St. Bridget's playground. I've learned a lot. This Christmas, I will not pray for teeth and other material things. Instead, I'll thank Jesus for being born and then dying to save my soul. Oh, and I just might ask Him for Eddie Crawley's current address.

Merry Christmas everyone.

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

was his backer, or backers, what were their intentions? Even the most fervent supporters of the President can't explain how a fellow can go from 0 to #1 in a few years.

Bush II had a family legacy, the experience of governing a large, industrious state and running a large business. Clinton, who came from humble beginnings, had several years of high-level governing experience including 12 years as Governor of Arkansas. Bush I was a successful businessman before he served for many years at the federal level of government. Even the disastrous Jimmy Carter had four years as Governor of Georgia.

Obama, aided by the most devious, destructive, traitorous congressional leaders I can remember, has taken us down a road most of us didn't choose to travel. The blessing is that God is in His Heaven, Christ is on the Throne, and all this really doesn't matter that much.

Merry Christmas.

## Athletes named 'All Conference'



Volleyball Little Smoky Mountain Conference awards were given to four Highlands School seniors. Named All Conference were Courtney Rogers, Taylor Buras, Stephanie Puchaz, and sophomore Jenny Coram. Player of the Year is Marlee McCall. Not pictured is Jenny Coram.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

...on this day from the History Guy

Dec 23, 1983

**Discovery of the first modern coelacanth, thought to have been extinct for 65 million years.**

This creature has the distinction of being found after its extinction. You might have been sad and stoic about its disappearance in the Mesozoic, but I think we can now surmise there were premature reports of its demise.

but I must be an apologist for the profession of paleo-ichthyologist, cause no one had the slightest notion one could be found in any ocean, so it wasn't any one's specific mission to look for one by going fishing. but it still remains a subject acanthic, this finding of something live that's coelacanthic.

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**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)

**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)

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**COMMERCIAL – MAIN STREET EXPOSURE**, 800 sq ft. with storage space. Small kitchen area. Great for retail or small office space. handicap access. Call for details. 526-3363

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**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. (3/31/11)

**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. Call 828-421-1157. (st. 9/23)

**SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT 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

**3BR/2BA HOME**, In Town, Hickory St, level landscaped lot, 24x36 2-car garage/workshop, \$595,000, offers welcome. 352-494-1531 (Jan 6)

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

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## Highlands Police & Fire Reports

**Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 15** Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### Dec. 15

- At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Poplar and the town shed.

### Dec. 19

- At 6:59 a.m., officers assisted EMS with a patient at a residence on Raoul Road.
- At 5:15 p.m., officers assisted another agency with a domestic dispute at a residence on Ashwood Circle.
- During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 3 citations.

**Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Dec. 15:**

### Dec. 15

- At 6:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### Dec. 16

- At 9:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street. It was cancelled by the alarm company.

### Dec. 17

- At 5:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands View Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### Dec. 19

- At 6:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Raoul Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### Dec. 21

- At 1:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Clubhouse Trail. It was set off by workers.

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## ... JUST HERS continued from page 7

one of her few pleasures left in life, once they closed down the cow pat bingo at Cousin Fern's. Fortunately, they let the twins out on parole to attend their Grandpa's funeral, him being run over by the tractor and all. Still, it would be wrong not to count our blessings.

I miss all those Christmas newsletters, which were the source of great mirth and entertainment. It gave us a rare insight into people who otherwise seemed almost normal.

If you are spending the holidays with loved ones, enjoy your time with special people. If you are alone, be kind to yourself. If you are Buzzy, Biffy, CJ, and Muffy, the Meads remember you fondly. Watch for that shameless widow in the pretty red ruana. And whatever you do, keep a look out for Florence. She's still on the loose.

•About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. While this will be a difficult

Christmas, Michelle is particularly grateful to all of her family, friends, and readers who have been so kind and supportive. They are truly her greatest gift this year.

## Bear hunters and non-bear hunters invited to special meeting

On Friday, Jan. 7, the WNC Wildlife Advocates will meet from noon to 3pm at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. The meeting will convene after lunch which will be available at the noon for a fee of \$8.95.

The focus of the meeting will be on two topics for discussion. First, NC Representative Ray Rapp will present his ideas for increasing funding and manpower for wildlife law enforcement officers. Second, the group will discuss the NC Wildlife Federation's Responsible Sportsman Doctrine as tool for educating hunters and encouraging responsible behavior.

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# • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Hypertension; Anxiety and Depression

First, hypertension.

Hypertension is one of the most common medical problems treated by physicians as well as one of the most commonly overlooked.

It's estimated that well over 30 million people in our country have hypertension which is not being treated, leading to heart problems, heart attacks, vascular disease, and cerebrovascular disease or strokes.

Monitoring one's blood pressure is extremely important. Normal blood pressure is considered below 130/90. Any reading between 130 - 140 systolic (the top number) is borderline hypertension. Any reading over 140 is considered hypertension.

Please see your doctor if you find that your routine blood pressures stay above 140/90 and have this evaluated and treated. This is a very easy and typically inexpensive medical problem to treat which will extend your life and prevent medical problems in



**Dr. Richard S. Matthews**

the future.

Following are five basic anti-hypertensive medications commonly used to treat hypertension and their side effects:

1) Diuretics such as hydrochlorothiazide work by lowering the amount of fluid volume in your body to lower your blood pressure. Dizziness, muscle cramps, dehydration, raised blood sugar levels, and raised uric acid (which may lead to gout) are some side effects from the

use of diuretics.

2) Beta-blockers (Lopressor, Toprol, metoprolol, atenolol) lower the blood pressure by slowing down the heart rate and are, therefore, regularly used to treat palpitations and irregular heartbeat as well. Beta-blockers can have side effects of fatigue, shortness of breath, slow heart rate, slightly elevated triglycerides and can sometimes have a mildly adverse effect on lipids or cholesterol levels in the body.

3) ACE inhibitors (Vasotec (enalapril),

Zestril (lisinopril), benazepril, quinapril) are probably one of the least expensive and have the fewest side effects of all of the antihypertensives. Many times, ACE inhibitors are combined with diuretics. These work by dilating the capillary bed throughout your body; therefore, lowering your blood pressure. Side effects can include dry cough and may occasionally lead to impotence, elevated potassium levels, or fatigue.

4) ARB's or Angiotensin Receptor Blockers are medications that work very similar to ACE inhibitors by dilating the capillary bed and small blood vessels in the body. The most common side effect of ARBs is occasional fatigue.

Alpha-blockers (Hytrin, terazosin, Cardura) are medications that cause dilatation of the small vessel capillary bed

and large arteries. They can have side effects of dizziness, lightheadedness, and orthostatic hypotension, which is dizziness when you bend over or stand up. These drugs are commonly used for people who have severe hypertension and need a stronger agent and also help as a side effect to relax the prostate so many men take these drugs for prostatism.

### – Anxiety and Depression –

Over the years I have seen many patients that have come in for complaints of anxiety and depression. This can be work-related, relationship-related, lifestyle-related, as well as inherited. I try to explain to patients that they should first make sure that they have a job that is worthwhile and that they can enjoy. Also, I try to get everyone to work on improving their friendships, relationships, and intimacy. Everyone needs someone to talk to and confide in. When people get depressed they tend to withdraw from their friends and family, making them feel worse. Next, I try to talk to people about having a healthy lifestyle. This includes eating three healthy meals a day, getting exercise three or four days a week, sleeping enough without taking sleeping pills or using alcohol regularly. I also talk to people about having some fun on a regular basis since many middle-aged people tend to go to work, go home, and just do not have any fun in their life. I explained to people that this is a 1-2-3-4 approach to happiness and reducing depression. To explain this, I mean:

1. Work on having a happy work environment. Everyone needs to have something to get up and do everyday. If you have a job that you really hate or do not enjoy, it will make it very hard for you to be happy in your life.

2. It is important for everyone to have friendship, good relationships, as well as intimacy in their life. It is very important to have someone to talk to, someone to be inti-

mate with in your thoughts, feelings, and sexuality. I believe being able to be close to someone and say what you think without fear of reprisal is very important.

3. It is important for you to have a healthy lifestyle. This would include exercising for 30-45 minutes a day or every other day, eating a healthy diet, and sleeping enough so that you feel well. Taking sedatives or alcohol every night, to sleep, can cause a mild chronic depression, as well.

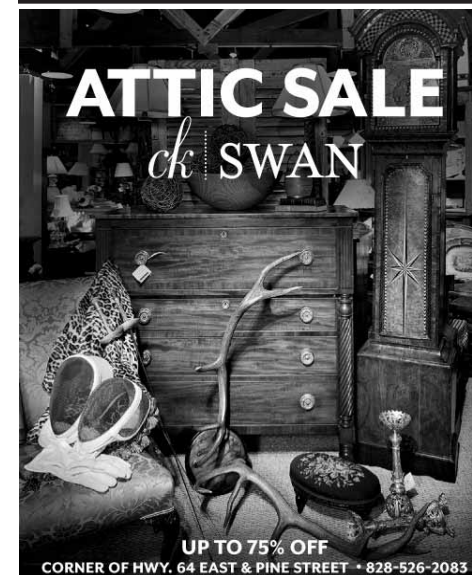
4. One of the most important things is to have some fun on a regular basis. This means whether reading a book, watching TV, playing a game, or talking to a friend that makes you laugh, you should have some fun everyday.

These are four things that will go a long way toward your mental health and happiness in the future.

### Upcoming rehearsals

On Sun., Jan. 9, the newly formed Concert Choral of Highlands and Cashiers will commense rehearsals for the spring and summer concerts on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. If you enjoy singing classical, madrigals, art songs, show tunes from musicals and other forms of music, you will want to be a part of this group. Interested singers may contact Grat L. Rosazza, conductor and musical director at 828-526-4278 for more information.

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This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home is situated atop 12.6 acres and has one of the highest vantage points in the area. Breathtaking views of Whiteside, Yellow and Short-Off mountains along with Lake Glenville. Stacked-stone fireplace in the living room, kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless appliances, huge wrap around deck. Offered at a greatly reduced price of 1,250,000.



Charming cottage with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths. Newly updated kitchen, wood floors, spacious deck with mountain and Lake Sequoyah view. Great curb appeal and off street parking make this a great seasonal or year round home. Priced at 325,000. MLS#70210



Residential or Commercial location with loads of potential. Total renovation in 2008. 0.59 +/- acre zoned B-3 small duplex building. Offered at \$349,500. MLS# 69329



Cold Springs. Great condition and recently updated! Main floor has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, open kitchen and living room with wrap around decks that have some view of the lake. Lower level has family room with fireplace, bedroom, bath and large workshop. Offered at \$ 576,500. mls #69961



Whiteside Cove. Perched in the treetops and flanked by 2 babbling brooks, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with native stone fireplaces. Home is wheelchair accessible with mother-in-law suite. Nearly 4 acres, ponds, organic gardens, outdoor living spaces and decks. Priced to sell at \$298,500. MLS #70915. Adjacent 2.68 acres is also available for \$75,000.



One of the nicest 3/3 condos at The Views at Highlands Cove. Great mountain view, easy walk-in access. Lots of upgrades. 2 fireplaces, screened porch, hardwoods, granite counters, crown moldings, 10ft ceilings, built-in wine cooler, 2 master suites and more. Priced at \$695,000. MLS# 69876



Artists Retreat Cabin in Horse Cove: 2 BR, 1.5 bath cabin, kitchen/DR/LR combo, studio. Loft, sleeping porch, outdoor tiled shower and sauna. Light and bright. 9.06 +/- acres w/waterfall on property. Great view of Fodderstack and Satulah. MLS #70551 Offered at \$329,000.



Wright Square. Excellent rental property. 2 commercial shops in lower level, 3 rental offices upstairs. Offered at \$799,000.00. MLS #68722



Close to town tucked among the trees and rhododendron this secluded property has an extra bonus - a superb five year rental record. Call today to see this second home/rental investment. Offered at \$439,000. mls #71990



Great neighborhood close to town with unrivaled views of Blue Valley. Home sits on 1.3 acres which backs up to National Forest. Priced to sell at \$443,000. MLS# 69207



Sagee Woods. Excellent neighborhood and the most reasonable house in this area. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, sunroom, fireplace, fresh paint, Low maintenance roof. Two car garage, large storage shed. Great privacy with possible additional building site. Offered at \$795,00.00. mls #69625 virtual tour



Rocky Knob. The epitome of a lake-side cabin. Located on over 2 acres. This well built Hearthstone Cabin features 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, heavy beam work in living room, full glass sun porch. Additional deck for entertaining is almost on the shoreline, large dock on deep water. Possible additional building site. A great offering from the original owners. Priced at \$775,000.00. mls #70289



Cold Springs Saddle and Tennis Club: Post & Beam home on wooded .75 acre backed by USFS. 3BR/3Bath. Galley kitchen. New metal clad windows. 2/car garage w/bonus room above. Full dry basement w/bath, ID/OD entry, easy to finish. FH Generator. Cedar shakes siding. A good investment at \$375,000. mls # 72017



Shelby Place. Cozy two-bedroom cottage next to green space, tennis courts and clubhouse. Wood burning fireplace, wooded lot, wrap-around deck, screened porch and one-car garage. City water and sewer. Motivated seller. Offered at \$279,000. MLS# 70603



7 acres with a barn, garage with guest quarters above, and wonderful mountain view. Large rooms, five fireplaces, stone floors in living room, wood floors and custom wood paneling. Offered at \$3,500,000. MLS# 66714



17 acres with waterfalls, trout pond, house and barn. This house has a stream running under the entrance decks and side decks. There are vaulted ceilings and wood floors. Great kitchen open to the dining room and great room. On the Atlanta side of Highlands in beautiful Highlands Gap. Offered at 1,295,000. mls #71030



Commercial Building in Wright Square in lower level with excellent prior rental history, 3 bedroom apartment in upstairs that is currently rented. Corner location and in good condition! Offered at \$775,000. MLS #68720



Highlands Country Club. "Apple Hill" (circa 1850) is a gardener's delight. Overlooks the 5th fairway on the Donald Ross-designed golf course. Four bedrooms and four and a half baths, garage apartment, and a screened porch. Club membership subject to approval. Offered furnished at \$1,599,000. MLS #70675



Located in Mirror Lake Area, this 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home has been updated in excellent taste, fireplaces in the living room and master bedroom. Wood floors in main areas, cute court yard and private sitting area in rear of house. Offered at \$475,000



Sequoyah lakefront on the end of a peninsula and adjacent to a wooded park. The dwelling is a 3 bedroom 3 bath home, plus a family room, den, 2 car garage, and workshop. Huge porch and open deck, with stairs that lead down to a boathouse with electric hoist. Offered at \$1,395,000. mls #70123.





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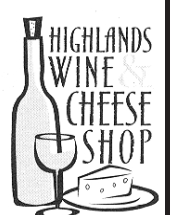


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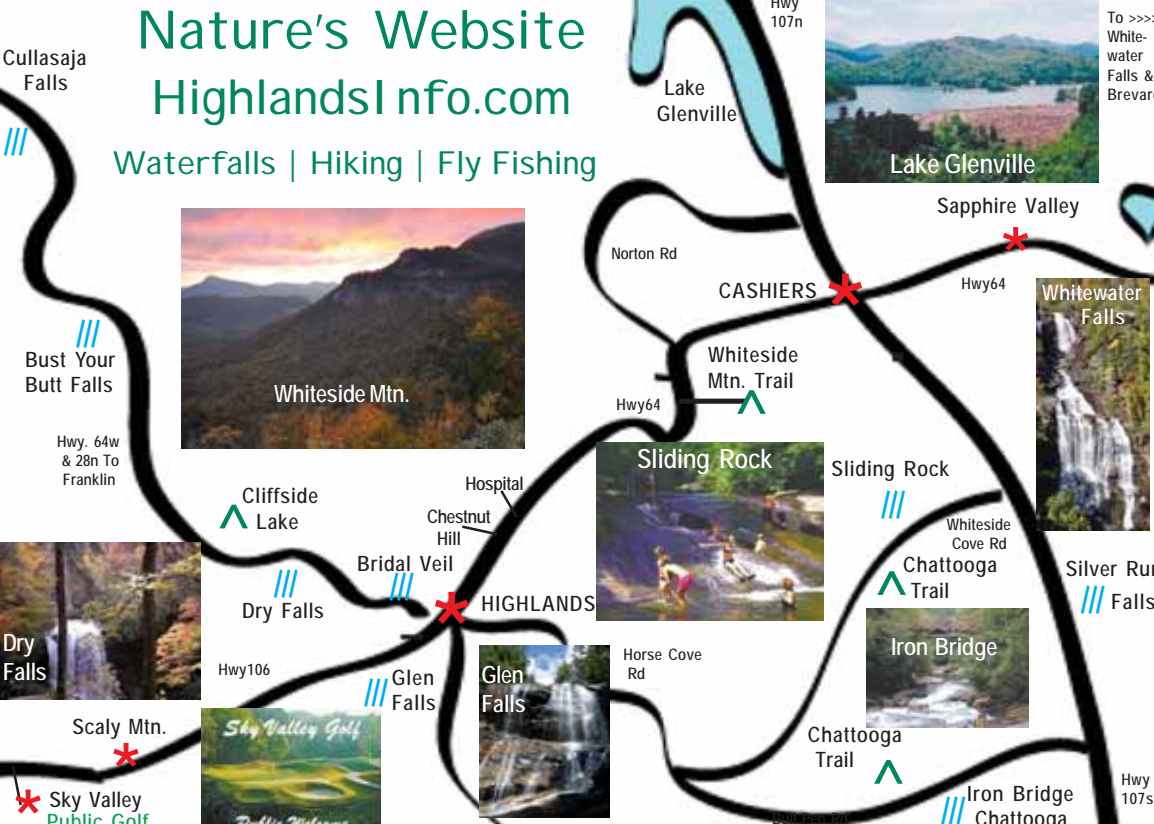



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