

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 49

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

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
39 \ 22F	41 \ 27F	35 \ 12F

## Thursday, Dec. 9

- Rotary Bingo at the Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Macon County Law Enforcement's "Shop with a Cop" program. Cost is \$1 per card.
- HCP's Annual Holiday Reading at PAC at 7:30 p.m. It's free.
- A 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. Food, drink, and music.

## 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 p.m. Admission is free.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- At the Highlands Civic Center, La Noche Navidena from 6-9 p.m.

## Sunday, Dec. 12

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

- The final fundraiser for the Bolivian Mission for 2010 is at the Highlands United Methodist Church following the service from noon to 2 p.m. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from Bolivia will be on sale.

## MC Commission off to rocky start

Monday night, Commissioner Brian McClellan was elected to chair the Macon County Board of Commissioners, but the selection came following a derisive continuation meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2 as well as a derisive start to the Dec. 6 meeting — which may come to

signify a county commission drawn along party lines.

The back story.

Thursday's meeting was held in the large courtroom at the courthouse to accommodate more than 100 people who came to either show support for former Planning

Board member Al Slagle or newly appointed member Jimmy Goodman.

Planning Board chairman Lewis Penland requested the meeting asking two things: that Slagle be reappointed to the board and that from now on the chairman of the

• See ROCKY page 14

## Expansion needs heard by Zoning Board

Like the saying goes "One door closes and another opens," and so it is in Highlands.

On Wednesday night, the Zoning Board of Adjustment heard two Special Use Permit requests — one regarding expansion of the Sports Page and the other OEI's The Farm.

Bobby and Kristy Lewis, owners of Sports Page since 2006, have gleaned as much business as possible in the current configuration of the eatery on 314 Main Street.

Due to the limited seating and the way the kitchen and order area are set up, patrons literally line up and spill onto the sidewalk waiting to place their orders and to sit down.

By expanding into units in the building vacated by The Grinning Frog and the back room of the Christmas Cottage, the Lewis's will accomplish two things — expand their seating capacity and occupy one area of the building that has been empty for more than two years and another that is currently underused.

No exterior construction is necessary nor will the signage change so the Appearance Com-

• See ZONING BOARD page 15

## King & Queen for the night



Seniors Cord Strawn and Valerie Shelton were crowned at the annual Highlands School Homecoming Dance, Saturday, Dec. 4. See photos on page 8.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Consumers and retailers asked to fill out surveys

The December Main Street Program meeting focused on what people think of when they think "Highlands," as well as grant stipulations and two surveys now in circulation.

Facilitator Sherri Adams tried to finalize what people consider Highlands' strengths and weaknesses by asking specific questions. What does Highlands offer and how well does it do it? How do you use technology? Who are your people? How do the people in the community help? And, what are your values and philosophy?

Two surveys are also a component of the Main Street Program whose purpose is to help Highlands become more viable and sustainable as a year-round town for all citizens, even those who don't own businesses on Main Street.

Because many of those citizens aren't part of the downtown business community, they have been left out of the discussion, but they are important because they make up what is considered a real, sustainable town.

• See SURVEY page 14

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Barbaric hunting practices need to stop

Dear Editor,

It is time to bring an end to the barbaric practice of bear hound hunting in the woods of North Carolina. And, since I have no idea how to go about making this kind of change, I figured I would start with local newspapers. Now, before I begin, I want to go on record that I am not against hunting — I don't actually hunt, but I am certainly not against it. I am not saying people should not hunt — or that they should not hunt bear. I am not with PETA or any humane society. I eat meat, wear leather shoes, and everything — but, I am a human being and once I heard about the animal abuse involved in hunting bear this way, well, I had to do something.

Thursday, Nove. 11 was a beautiful day — the sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the temperatures were perfect. All my windows were open and it began, at 8:30 in the morning. Howling, baying, barking, and I knew immediately what it was, as I had heard it before. It lasted, no exaggeration, all day — until past two o'clock. That day I heard a total of four gunshots. In my quest to stop this, discovered that the dogs and the hunters were on property that belonged to Highlands Land Trust on Satulah; their vehicles were parked on private property belonging to the Land Trust, but, they were not in the town limits, so nothing could be done. The police did go out and drive up and down Highway 28 and even spoke to a hunter or two. I am even more upset to have heard that, though the police could do nothing to stop the hunters from letting their dogs run loose and be uncontrolled, and the police could do nothing to protect my peace and quiet, they were able to address someone in Brushy Face for removing the tracking collar from one of the hunting dogs that was unleashed and on her private property. I was also warned that it is a crime to interfere with a hunting dog — even if that dog is on my private property.

What takes place in the woods in this area each hunting season is disturbing, at best. The "hunters", who are actually not truly hunting at all, let loose their packs of dogs, who proceed to torment and harass the bears before killing them — for a trophy. Hound hunting is illegal in most states as it is inhumane to the dogs and the bears. In fact, by my definition, hound hunting is not hunting at all. It is a high-tech practice, using advanced technology — the dogs find the bears, they chase the bear and corner it — until eventually, the bear is exhausted and runs up a tree. The howling and baying and barking

is horrific.

The "man" then uses a GPS type tracking device to locate the dogs, finds the bear, trapped in a tree, and shoots it. Often times they shoot the bear in the knee or in the paw to cause it to fall from the tree still alive and fighting for its life. Once the live, but injured bear falls, the dogs engage in an attack — as this practice helps train the dogs to be better hunters. The "hunters" don't actually hunt the bear — they just track their dogs.

Sometimes the bear does not just run up a tree and give up — they turn and fight the onslaught of dogs to protect themselves and their cubs. Often times the dogs are maimed — check with the local vets who will tell you the condition in which these dogs arrive. Some of the dogs are actually killed by the bears. Bear cubs have been known to not run fast enough, and be attacked and killed — torn apart by the hungry dogs. And, the dogs are hungry. A couple weeks ago one of the hunting dogs found its way under my back porch — private property within the town limits. It was the day of our first snow, and there, hiding under my porch was a wet, cold, and hungry dog. She was emaciated — skin and bones. I have since learned that the hunters leave their dogs hungry during hunting season as a hungry dog makes a better hunter. Furthermore, the pens in which the hunters transport the dogs are tiny. They are often times kept in pens or chained up outdoors. They are treated as property — not living animals.

Supposedly there is not hunting in the town of Highlands, but it is happening all around us, and the hunters and their dogs are

going onto private property. Hunters let their dogs loose on Highway 28, just south of Manley's within the town limits. Then, they lie about it, and when discovered there, claim they are just looking for their dogs. However, if there are leash laws in this town, then they should be enforced and the hunters issued citations. If we make it difficult for them to hunt here, maybe they will go away. But, for me, that is not enough.

And through all of this, where is a game warden?

Anyone with any compassion for animals — dogs or bears should be irate at what is taking place all over the state of North Carolina. Hound hunting violates any sense of fair chase. It is inhumane to the dog and the bear. It is a danger to other wildlife and potentially to innocent people since they are hunting so close to residential areas. Hound hunting is nothing more than animal cruelty — for the bear and the dogs. Hound hunting is atrocious and the practice should be banned immediately — in Macon County, in the state of North Carolina, and in this country.

I would like the town to consider making Highlands an actual bear sanctuary and then work on strict enforcement of the laws — including the leash laws and noise ordinances. I am also trying to figure out how to change legislation and make hound hunting illegal period. I would welcome your comments to my email address humanehunting@messengermail.org.

Kate Messer  
Highlands, NC

### Will a death spur NC DOT to action?

Dear Editor,

As a Macon County native who learned to drive in these mountains more than 40 years ago, I have driven in all kinds of weather, with and without four-wheel drive. That was not usually by choice, but because I was scheduled to be at work.

Living just off US 64 between Highlands and Cashiers (less than a mile from the NC Department of Transportation maintenance shed), I now travel that stretch of road to town nearly every day — a route that takes me past Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

On November 4, shortly before 9 a.m., I was on my way to work in Highlands. There was a very thin sheet of ice on the highway, which is always especially dangerous in the area between our house and the town limits. Although I was driving cautiously, and my Subaru has new tires and all-wheel drive, I slid several times between our house and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. I finally came to a stop in a long line of traffic, which not only blocked the road into town, but more importantly blocked the only entrance to the hospital. Clearly, NC Department of Transportation crews had made no attempt to chat the road.

Eventually, a DOT truck arrived, and the line of traffic proceeded slowly towards town. By then, I was late for work, and I suspect others were as well. However, this letter is not about getting to work on time, but about saving lives. Because it provides the only access to the hospital, this part of US 64 is a critical stretch of road. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Similar situations occurred numerous times last winter, despite a promise by DOT to county commissioners

• See LETTERS page 20

### 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.

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...on this day from the History Guy

Dec 9, 1935

Walter Liggett, American newspaper editor, is killed soon after alleging links between the criminal syndicate of Kid Cann and the Minnesota governor, Floyd B. Wilson.

Don't mean to be too analytic, but there's a risk in being a critic.

See, newsman Walter Liggett wrote about crooks at the public spigot.

Don't want him to be discredited, but he went from being editor to being edited.

Can't prove for sure that those in the corruption were responsible for his interruption,

but on one thing you must make some admissions,

for Walter Liggett, there's no further editions.



## • OBITUARY •

### Rev. James Junior Jenkins

Rev. James Junior Jenkins, age 76, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, December 2, 2010. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Jim and Ethel Wilborn Jenkins. He was married to the late Constance (Connie) Elizabeth Baty Jenkins who died in 2007. He was a carpenter for over 60 years. He was called to preach in 1964. He was of the Baptist faith. He loved his family, music, and singing. He was a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by five children; three daughters, Ann Jenkins and Holly Higgs & Regan of Highlands, NC; and Angela

Passmore & Tony of Sylva, NC; two sons, Robert Jenkins and fiancée' Judy Fashing of Franklin, NC and Bobby Jenkins & Brenda of Highlands, NC; three sisters, Mary Baty of Highlands, NC, Effie Hunnicutt of Franklin, NC and Phyllis Pearson of Seneca, SC; four brothers, Donnie Jenkins and Billy Jenkins of Seneca, SC, Lewis Jenkins of Salem, SC and Tommy Lee Jenkins; sixteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Shirley Webb and Cindy Carver, three sisters, Louise Clark, Helen Henry, and Rita Baty and one great-

grandchild.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 4 at the First Assembly of God Church in Highlands, NC with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial was in the Miller Cemetery. Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, William Passmore, Justin Passmore, Wayne Carver, Walter Wilson and Roy Baty served as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 4 from 12:00-2:00pm at the First Assembly of God Church in Highlands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## • MILESTONE •

### Quin recognized for Greenway Trail work

At the American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, TN, on Nov. 16, Highlands Hillrie Quin, was given The State Trail Worker Award.

Quin is "an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and provided consistent support for trail planning, development, or maintenance on the Highlands Plateau Greenway. The award recognizes the commitment and efforts of a private or public sector individual working for enhanced trail recreation in their local area/state.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway is a non-profit organization that was created in 2005 by volunteers intent on connecting natural areas and historic sites in the town of Highlands, North Carolina, by walking and hiking trails to shopping, school, and civic destinations. Having just settled in Highlands, Quin assumed the leadership of this group by helping it focus on five goals of recreation, transportation, beautification, watershed improvement, and wildlife habitat enhancement. With the help of a National Park Services grant based upon their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, which he negotiated, the group created a conceptual map of proposed trails designed to incorporate botanical points of interest, historic sites, important birding areas, art, scenic overlooks, and other areas of natural beauty within the town.

In 2006, Quin convinced the Town Council to approve a budget allocation of \$100,000 over the next three years to be used for construction and maintenance of the proposed trail, and then he secured a generous grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. Work began with the local Audubon chapter, of which he was a member, to incorporate parts of the trail into the NC Birding Trail, a Greenway logo was created, a website was



Hillrie Quin on working on the trail.

established, and a quarterly newsletter began publication.

Early in 2008 Quin filed the forms to incorporate the Highlands Plateau Greenway as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. In the fall of 2008, he led the group in acquiring a trailer; trail building equipment; a powered, tracked wheelbarrow; and a Yanmar mini-excavator for use on the Greenway. These were purchased by the Town and with the assistance of another North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources grant and donations from area businesses. In September, 2008, volunteers began restoring an old half-mile trail and constructing a new half-mile loop trail through the forest behind the Town Recreation Park. This included placing large stone steps through several steep

areas, building a new bridge, and clearing brush.

In the spring of 2009, Quin spearheaded discussions with the Town Council about the inclusion of the Greenway in the Town Ordinance and in planning for new subdivisions. In the summer of 2009, he located and hired a professional stone mason, trail builder, and former Appalachian Trail Conference crew leader to guide volunteers in the construction of a new one-and-a-third-mile loop trail through Rhododendron Park, a large forested section of Big Bear Pen Mountain that was recently donated by him and his wife to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. In the end this would entail cutting three-to-four-foot widths through rhododendron and laurel thickets, pinning stone cribs, setting over 350 stone steps, and removing and replacing duff or organic layers for full bench construction on compacted mineral soil. About half the trail has been completed since the summer of 2009, and the rest has been planned and is well under way.

In the fall of 2009, a Greenway brochure and map were created, along with a booklet, describing partially completed and proposed trails within the Greenway plan, and Quin

• See QUIN page 15

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### The sky is falling! Has America gone mad?

If you don't think things are getting crazy then check this out.

Because of Sarah Palin's increasing popularity, political pundits Chris Matthews and Keith Olbermann are attending therapy on a regular basis. Our congress has been overrun with Tea Party members carrying funky flags depicting chopped up snakes and those dastardly, wild spending Republicans are back in control.

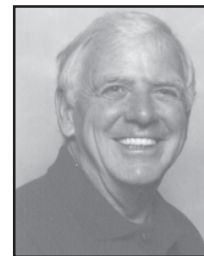
Palin is refusing to be interviewed by the left wing media who are dying to slice her up. She's even hinting at a run for president, making Democrats all over America crazy....and a truck dealership in Sanford, Florida, is offering a free AK 47 assault rifle with the purchase of any truck on his lot.

Has America gone mad or are the majority of us just plain ole fed up with it all?

While most Georgians figure they have cornered the market on kickin' poop, Sanford, Florida, folks think they have out poop kicked them with their own brand of "good ole boy" behavior, like dropping what they're doin' and rushin' over to a dealership to buy a truck just to get their hands on a free AK 47 semi-automatic assault rifle. Rumor has it, for an extra under the table installation fee, they'll mount that bad boy right smack dab in the middle of the truck's hood. Whoa!

First, a word of caution just in case you're packin' your duds and headin' for Sanford. They don't cotton to highfalutin' city folks...like from Highlands, with their two story buildings and fancy country clubs. Ya better take the "I love Highlands" plate off your car if you go. Sanford is down and dirty. Also, know that cars with Obama bumper stickers get keyed.

Here are a few fun things to do while visiting Sanford. For the price of one depreciated American dollar, you can get a beer and a bloody nose at Steele Arm's Sports Pub. If someone speaks to you, call them sir and doff your hat. And if you attend the "Hart Sisters Tea Room," you'll be required to wear your best jeans and t-shirt. Check your AK 47 at the door as they run a respectable joint....I mean tea house. Finally, if you take a slow ride down French Ave. you'll know you're not in Highlands anymore. Sanford is light



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!  
email:**

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

on boutiques, fancy restaurants and quaint shops.

Here's the scary part. The AK 47 the dealership is giving away was made by American workers not wearing union pins. Liberals should be very afraid of what's going on in America.

The AK 47, invented by the Russians in 1952, was typical of everything the Russians made, a piece of junk. After the rifle

became popular in the U.S., American manufacturers opened plants here and, of course, the quality and workmanship greatly improved. Today, the AK 47 is a fine, well made weapon that fits nicely under your bed.

And here's another word of caution. If you buy a truck in Sanford just to get your free assault rifle, don't mention you'd like to get it mounted on the hood 'cause they only do that for the local boys. In fact, asking for that service may blow the deal and get you run out of town. You see, the owner doesn't need your business 'cause his sales are already up 46% since he started this program. He calls it his AK 47 stimulus package. He surely doesn't need a city slicker from Highlands to improve his sales, so be careful with your conduct....and don't forget to doff your hat.

Here's a little tip that only a retired scoundrel lawman like me would know. I call it my ten/ten/ten plan. Caution: This plan could get you in serious trouble. Take your AK 47 home to your workbench, take it apart and lock the breach/chamber assembly in a vice. Drag your sharpest file across a small li'l gizmo called a retaining sear about 10 times and, puff, your rifle becomes fully automatic, spitting out 10 rounds of scaldin' hot lead per second. Yeah, that's 10 rounds per second. You'll also get 10 years in a federal penitentiary for possession if you're caught. Remember, 10 whacks, 10 rounds and 10 years. Are you writing this down?

Oh and here's another tip. Don't tell the dealership in Sanford about filing the sear 'cause I know they'll offer it for another extra fee. After all, the world has gone mad and the sky is falling.

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



# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Seasonal folk

The winter season has arrived along with spitting snow and frigid temperatures. The trees are bare; ridgelines visible beneath skeletal trees. The Floridians have fled and are snug in Florida. Town will shut down. There'll be parking aplenty on Main Street, and the businesses that do remain open through the winter season will shave their hours. It's a tough time for business owners. Highlanders resemble black bears. We'll hibernate, live off the fat of tourist season and reemerge in the spring hungry and haggard. We'll even welcome the return of the tourists, who are a mixed blessing.

I don't go downtown very often, so Main Street congestion isn't a problem. When I do go to the hardware store, I don't mind parking on Spring Street. If Lizzie and I want to eat out, there's always room in Clayton if Highlands' eateries are fully booked.

It's only on the roads that I notice the tourists. It is the rare tourist who drives our mountain roads like a native. Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon come to mind. The others cautiously break in anticipation of every corner. The creep up gentle hills and increase their speed only when approaching our rare passing zones. They drive like they own the road, or rather as if they were the only motorists using them. The main difference between them and us is that we have somewhere to go and a time to arrive.

We marvel that they don't seem to understand the fact that we are in a hurry. It's rare that a tourist, especially one with Florida plates, is courteous enough to pull aside and let us pass. We employ various strategies to encourage cooperation. Driving dangerously close to the rear bumper of the offending car is perhaps the most common, and least effective.

I think the tourists are actually afraid to get out of the way. They assume that if they pull over when they have the opportunity, we'll beat them with a jack handle; road rage, mountain style. Even if they don't fear personal attack, they're afraid if they do slow down, some redneck will rear end them. They are reduced to driving in fear of the car behind. They stare into the rearview mirror, mesmerized by the lurking danger, and unable to focus on the road ahead. The result is that they drive even more slowly, impede our progress further, and enrage us all the more. So tailgating is not an effective strategy. Some of us flash our lights or honk our horns, with the assumption that the



**Feedback is encouraged.**  
email:

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

slow moving motorist is aware of his surroundings and/or is wearing his hearing aid.

It's difficult, coping with the annual influx of summer residents and occasional tourists. They are gone for now. We have our little town to ourselves. We welcome the arrival of winter, if only to give us a reprieve from our often inconsiderate guests. In a few months, we'll begin to miss the money they bring, even if we don't miss them. It is the circle of life in a resort town; in-

undation with outsiders, followed by a period of peace before they descend on us again. We need them even though we're reluctant to admit it. We depend on them for our economic well being. We have nothing to sell other than the beauty of our hills and a pleasant summer climate. If it weren't for the summer folks, we wouldn't suffer those annoying delays, but then, we wouldn't have any place to go.

## Macon County's 'natural inventory' the topic of 'League' talk on Thursday

On Thursday, Dec. 9, 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 examples of the state's natural areas.

For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NCNHP, 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 lwvmacon@wild-dog-mountian.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

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## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### What were they thinking?

The European Union was formed in 1993, then consisting of six countries, now expanded to 27. The member countries range from Malta to the United Kingdom, from Finland to Luxemburg. The reason for the amalgamation was to form a cohesive organization to compete economically primarily with North America, Asia and Japan. It also allowed free travel among the member countries and, in 1999, created a common currency, the euro, which eliminated exchange rate conversion between 16 countries participating in the eurozone.

There were many more contemplated advantages to unification.

While all this was unfolding in the '90s, I'm thinking, how on earth can you possibly combine many countries with diverse cultures, economies, historical animosities, political formats, legal systems, etc.? The two linchpins of the whole deal are France and Germany, and they haven't agreed on anything for centuries. Good grief, half the marriages, consisting of two initially harmonious participants don't last, and they have the advantage of sex to perpetuate the union.

The union seemed to work fairly well, as far as I was able to tell, and then the debt bubble burst. First, this past May, Greece was on the brink of insolvency due to their excessively liberal social structure. The EU agreed to throw 80 billion euros at the problem and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) contributed 30 billion in exchange for Greece agreeing to initiate an austerity program that would right their ship.

Faced with the threat with retirement age being raised from 60 to 62, and some pension and wage reduction in order to save them from extinction, the Greeks got off their chaise lounges and rioted at the thought that the party might be ending. Next comes Ireland, whose banks suffered whopping losses as the result of the collapse of the property market in 2008 and a serious reduction in deposits. Caused by different reasons, the result for the two is the same - Bailout.

A package of about \$120 billion, consisting of a combination of participation by the EU, the IMF and internal resources was announced as we speak. The irony of the Irish problem is that it resulted from too much economic growth. From Bloomberg: "Ireland was one of the poorest countries in Europe when it joined the EU in 1973. Even with European subsidies, unemployment in the mid-1980s averaged 16 percent.

In the 1990's, lured by a 12.5 percent corporate tax, companies such as Pfizer and Microsoft helped Ireland export its way into becoming the "Celtic Tiger." The jobless rate sank to 3.9 percent by 2001.



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

In the decade through 2006, Ireland grew at an average annual rate of about 7 percent, the fastest among euro-area countries." Easy credit ensued, home prices soared and then the implosion hit, causing the banking crisis now being addressed.

Who's next in the succession of needy nations? From Reuters: "Portugal is likely to need a rescue package of 45-60 billion euros from the European Union and the International Monetary

Fund and may not get through the year without seeking a bailout. Investors believe Portugal will be the next euro zone country after Greece and Ireland to ask for help as borrowing costs have risen above sustainable levels while its economy lacks competitiveness and growth is very slow."

Spain is said to be on the horizon and its needs would make the first three look like chump change. To its credit, they are taking stern measures to trim their budget and privatize services to avoid financial collapse. Facing privatization of the state controlled airport management company, air traffic controllers threw a wildcat strike crippling Spain's tourist industry at a high-traffic period when two state holidays make the airlines unusually busy. Not very helpful to a struggling economy.

So what is the big deal about someone else's problems? First, The IMF's funds are 17% supplied by the US. With the parade of bailouts likely to continue, we will be asked to pony up. You and I will pay for it. Second, it appears that the financial problems Europe is experiencing is similar to those prevalent here. Cross out the EU and replace it with the US, substitute Greece, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain with Illinois, New York, New Jersey and California, and you will see the forerunner of things to come to our shores.

The message is that unification does not work. You are seeing the sovereign assets of the strong, largely Germany and France, being depleted by tending to the weak, massively redistributing the wealth of the industrious, productive economies to the less successful. How do you think the average German feels seeing the fruits of his labor being sent to Athens or Dublin or Lisbon? You may well find out when Uncle Sugar soon starts sending your money to Springfield, Albany, Trenton and Sacramento.

The ultimate result of all this munificence is to lower the standard of living of some of us to raise that of others. Incentive is dulled, the productive are frustrated and apathy sets in. God had another idea.

Per Wikipedia: "According to the biblical account, a united humanity of the generations following the Great Flood, speaking in a single language and migrating from the

•See SWANSON page 21



# • JUST HERS •

## The Big Chill

In the end, it was the lima beans that made me cry. I'd gotten to my apartment in town, and was unpacking the food brought from home. With less space than the house, I have to bring the food over a little at a time. On this trip, the cooler was filled with crab cakes, shrimp, and frozen veggies. Unloading these items, I found the bag of lima beans.

My mother is a fabulous cook, so we grew up eating with gusto. Maman cooks vegetables the French way; she doesn't cook them until they are a tasteless, colorless lump. I love just about any vegetable you can name. The short list is the few vegetables I don't like – okra, beets, and lima beans. Oh, we got them at home, since my father loved them. We ate them the way we had to eat everything we didn't like - just a taste. That's how I grew to like asparagus and raw tomatoes. But lima beans? I never came to like them. Of course, I married a man who hated just about every vegetable, but corn and lima beans. It was a source of

joking and teasing between the two of us – one of those silly little shared things that make up a marriage.

So, there I was, in my new place, unpacking and trying to make a temporary home for myself and the cats. Things were going well, and I thought I'd gotten a handle on this moving thing. And then I found those stupid lima beans. John's lima beans. Suddenly, the fragile little world that I was building for myself came crashing down around my ears. I sat down with that bag of lima beans, and sobbed as if my heart was breaking. Which it was.

Last week was one of the windiest I can recall. Our 1916 house has always reminded me of a noble old ship, crashing headlong into the mountain weather. Year



Michelle Mead-Armor  
michiemead@aol.com

after year, I have watched, amazed, as the house braved wind, snow, sleet, and hail, keeping us safe and warm. This time, however, the wind howled down the chimneys, blowing out every fire I struggled to build. Time and again, the flames would catch, flicker, then die out. I raged in frustration. Finally, I bailed out, storming upstairs to crawl into bed, fully clothed, wearing my heavy winter bathrobe, a wool beanie, and gloves to keep me warm. I pulled two comforters on top of me, and cuddled up with the cats. I sniffed all night. The next morning, I made plans to move into town.

As fate would have it, the day I planned to bring the cats was the day we had over four inches of rain. I'd phoned ahead to en-

list the help of Sue, the world's best pet sitter. I'd also called Cousin Ann as my back-up, since Sue's car wasn't all that happy on our road in bad weather. That morning, I phoned the vet and got an appointment for later on that afternoon. I telephoned Sue to bring her up to date on my plans. Unfortunately, she had a bug, and was out of commission. I activated Plan B, and Ann was on board for the great cat caper. When two o'clock rolled around, I took out the tranquilizers, crushed them in the bottom of the bowls, and mixed them with food. Mean Mommy had not fed the cats that morning, just to make sure they would throw themselves on their chow like misery on the world. My cats are many things, but the term "dumb animals" doesn't describe them. Orion and Weasel took a few bites, turned up their noses, and walked away. Perhaps I should have been comforted. I had proof that my cats don't do drugs.

Unfortunately, this meant that both fe-

• See JUST HERS page 21

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### SportsPage



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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### November Rotary 'Students of the Month'



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the Highlands School Students of the Month for November at its November 30 meeting. Shown with Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, are middle school winner, Rachael Foster, elementary school winner, Anna Stiehler, high school winner, Robbie Vanderbilt, and Rotary President, Jodie Cook.



Rotary Club of Highlands recently supported the Highlands School PTO by becoming a \$500 sponsor. Treasurer, Hilary Stiehler, accepted the check on behalf of the PTO. Jeff Weller accepted a \$750 check from Highlands Rotary to support the Highlands School Booster Club.



### RBC Bank supports The Bascom



Sue Gorski, Branch Manager of RBC Bank in Highlands presents a check for \$10,000 to Debbie Fields, Finance Director at The Bascom in support of The Bascom's ongoing Capital Campaign.

## • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

### Summit Charter teachers learn CPR

Karen Hendricks, RN and Director of Educational Resources at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (right) demonstrates proper Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques to teacher Tyler Kittle (left) and teacher Marie Starkings during an educational course held at Summit Charter School in Cashiers, NC last Thursday. The course taught to teaching and administrative staff is part of an ongoing program of continuing education provided by HCH's education department. Hendricks, an approved provider of continuing nursing education, states "By becoming an approved provider, our facility can provide community members the convenient opportunity to obtain life saving certifications, increasing safety throughout." This CPR course is also open to members of the community as well as physicians and nursing professionals. In addition to the CPR training, HCH also offers



courses in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, First Aid, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and a variety of other courses related to nursing clinical practice. For a schedule of courses contact the Education Department at HCH. Please call: (828) 526 1243 or 526-1247.

### Hospital kicks off food drive

This season, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital staff members held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Food Drive, and the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents joined the effort by sorting and packing up the donated food for delivery.

"During the holidays, when it is tradition to gather around the table and enjoy seasonal meals, we sometimes forget how lucky we are and turn our head to those in need," said President and CEO Craig James.

During the month of November, donation boxes were placed throughout lobby areas on the hospital's campus. At the conclusion of the drive, FELC residents and staff helped sort the packaged food and deliver the products to the Food Pantry in Highlands and Fishes and Loaves in Cashiers.

"By spreading the word and encouraging participation, the drive brought in more than 300 canned and packaged food items," said James.

The food drive is a part of HCH's mis-



*Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents Edna Bowers (left), Rhett Hughes (Center) and Victoria Grabowski (Right) help participate in HCH's 1st Annual Food Drive.*

sion and collective effort to reach out to the surrounding communities.

### Thanksgiving at Eckerd Living Center

The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital hosted its annual Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, Nov. 17. About 200 residents, family members, and employees joined the celebration. "Since many of our residents are unable to travel to see family during the holidays, we bring the holidays to their home, here at our living center" says Ava Emory, Chief Nursing Officer.

Orange table cloths and fresh floral arrangements transformed the dining hall. The floral arrangements were a special gift provided by Judy Fields. Roasted turkey, cornbread dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, cranberry sauce and biscuits were all on the menu.



Pumpkin cheesecake topped off the traditional meal.

Plans are underway for a Christmas Party on Dec. 21 which will include hors d'oeuvres, music, and a visit from Saint Nick.



## • COACH'S CORNER •

### The Library

The other day I was looking through my extensive library of sports books and I was looking to find something to read as quickly as possible. When this is the case, I go to the section of my library that features the "shortest books ever written" Here are a few of my more popular titles. Let me know what you think.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

*Winning football without Cam Newton:* by Gene Chizik

*Tips for a successful celebrity marriage:* by every celebrity...ever

*The Consummate Student Athlete — winning with upperclassmen:* by John Calipari  
*Unique Baby Names:* by George Foreman

*Practicing meaningful relationships:* by Tiger Woods

*A practical guide to positive thinking:* by William "Billy" Packer

*Stability: How to build a lengthy tenure:* by Lane Kiffin

*Southern Chivalry...how to treat a woman in the South:* by Ben Roethlisberger

*Intensity...how to give 110% on every play:* by Randy Moss

*The Art of the Press Conference:* by Jim Mora, Sr.

*Eloquence: How to use proper vocabulary at work:* by Michael "Coach K" Krzyzewski

*A Gentleman's Guide to a night on the town:* by Adam "Pacman" Jones

*Humility: How to coach a quarterback with inexperience:* by Steven O. Spurrier

*Clock Management: The Key to Success:* by Les Miles

*Articulation: How to sound like a champion:* by Lou Holtz

*Abstinence:* by Wilt Chamberlain

And finally...my all time favorite in the collection:

*Oh Yeah! Why recruits love the Kool-Aid Man:* by Sidney Lowe

*Don't look back in anger: How to control the rage inside you:* by Robert M. Knight

*Using your Inside Voice: How to vary your voice effectively:* by Richard Vitale

*The Man's Guide to a fuller, more natural looking head of hair:* by Eugene Keady

*Football Ethics:* by William Belichick (forward by Barry Switzer)

*Relaxation...a Coach's Guide:* by Gary Williams

*Eliminating predictability in the Spread Offense:* by Steve Addazio (soon to be former UF offensive coordinator)

*Soul Glow: Obtaining a natural looking Mediterranean tan:* by Roy Williams

*Retiring with grace -- a memoir:* by Brett Favre

*Photography and women-4 handy tips:* by Brett Favre

*Reading Secondary Coverage:* by Brett Favre

*Player-Coach Relationships:* by Brett Favre (sold conveniently in a "Favre Four Pack")

\*\*\*\* I have time for other than football: by Nick Saban

## • HS SPORTS •

### Highlanders split at Rosman

**By Ryan Potts**

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders traveled to Rosman on Tuesday night to renew their annual rivalry with the Tigers in what has been a very competitive series of games in recent years. However, the Lady Highlanders ensured early that their game with the Lady Tigers would be over quickly.

Highlands began the game on an 18-4 run and dominated the first half with their pressure defense against the Lady Tigers. The Highlander defense was stellar throughout the game, holding Rosman to just 24 points in a 57-24 victory. Emily Munger scored 14 for Highlands and Marlee McCall added 10. Taylor Buras secured 14 rebounds for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlanders looked poised to do much of the same against the Tigers, beginning the game on a 21-9 run in what

looked like it might be a blowout early. However, the Tigers crept back and were able to take the lead on several occasions in what was a nip and tuck game in the second half.

Things looked bleak for Highlands when Rosman scored and took a 2-point lead with just 1.6 seconds to play, but Cody St. Germain was able to find Josh Delacruz with a long pass at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

In the extra session, the Highlanders were able to fight back and tie the game after being down 5 points, but they could not take the lead and a couple of costly turnovers allowed the Tigers to capitalize for a 61-58 win.

Josh Delacruz led Highlands with 21 points. Highlands will face Swain County here in Highlands on Friday evening.



## What's for Dinner?

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

All served hot and ready to take home.

Mon - Sat pick up from 4 30 pm until 6 30 pm.

Each Dinner feeds a family of four

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|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Mon | Buffalo Wings or Chicken Tenders and hand cut fries                         | 14.95 |
| Tue | Premium in-house made soup large salad and dinner rolls                     | 15.95 |
| 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.  
Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 828-526-2400



# Highlands School Homecoming Dance Saturday, Dec. 4 at PAC

*“Welcome to Candyland!”*



Photos by Jim Lewicki





# 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 Cen-

ter 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 10-12. See EVENTS page 12

## A community Christmas Day Dinner at Highlands Country Club's Hudson House

Christmas is only three weeks away and it is time to make your reservation for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner. More than 100 of your friends and neighbors have already reserved their spot. Let us prepare your meal, do your dishes, and give you the gift of time with your loved one on this special day.

This dinner does not happen without the support of Highlands' Newspaper; The Highlander; The Laurel; WHLC; Macon County News & Shopping Guide; The Franklin Press; and The Crossroads Chronicle. Our local media is the glue of our community and without their generous support we would all lead more isolated lives. Our local media is at the heart of our village, and we thank you!

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner will be served in the quiet elegance of the Hudson House at the Highlands Country Club.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner will feature a mouthwatering buffet of traditional holiday fare lovingly prepared by some of Highlands's finest chefs. The cost is \$35 for adults; \$25 for children under 12; and children under 5 eat free.

All proceeds will go to three local nonprofits; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands; Garr's Kids program of Carpe Diem Farms; & R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. Dinner is served from 11 - 4.

Call Rick Siegel today for reservations. 828-526-5102.

## 'Shop With a Cop' Rotary Bingo



Highlands Rotary Bingo does save the best for last – Shop with a Cop Rotary Bingo. The Macon County Sheriff's Department, Highlands Police Department, Highlands Rotary and Santa Claus join forces to sponsor Christmas for well over 200 children who otherwise would not have much, if any Christmas.

Each child, selected by teachers or law enforcement officers, will be taken to Walmart by a LEO with \$100 to spend – and, yes, the officers will make a number of trips. What about the brothers and sisters of that child? They also go with the officer and have \$100 to spend. There's only one rule: they must buy a present for themselves and one other person – the remainder is then the child's choice which goes to necessities.

Shop with a Cop Rotary Bingo is today, Thursday, Dec. 9th, from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game

and there will be 15 games with the last Bingo being some serious money. Half of all Bingo money goes to Bingo players and the other half goes to Shop with a Cop.

Last minute? Oops? Can't make it? Okay – drop off a donation at Shop with a Cop Bingo; give your donation to any Highlands Police Officer, Macon County Deputy, Highlands Rotarian or drop it off at the Civic Center – we'll get your donation and 100% of these donations go to Shop With a Cop.

Free refreshments are served by Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207. Boy Scouts, Rotary, the Sheriff's Dept, Highlands PD and Santa – it doesn't get much better than this.

That small sound you may hear on Christmas day may be a child saying, "Thank you."

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

## Community Christian Chorale is Dec. 10 and 11 at First Presbyterian



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.





# On going and Upcoming Events

11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston [johngaston@aol.com](mailto:johngaston@aol.com) or Karen Hawk [hwknrcw@earthlink.net](mailto:hwknrcw@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.

## 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 home-school 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.

• 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.

## Through 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. 9

• Rotary Bingo at the Community Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Macon County Law Enforcement's "Shop with a Cop" program. Cost is \$1 per card. • 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 (NC-NHP) works to identify and protect the best examples of the state's natural areas. For the last two years Ed Schwartzman, inventory biologist with NCNHP, 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 [lvwmacon@wild-dog-mountian.info](mailto:lvwmacon@wild-dog-mountian.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

## Pick an ornament; buy a present

"Giving Tree Ornaments" for the children whose families have registered this year with the Highlands Emergency Council, can be picked up this year at the following locations: RBC Bank, Macon Bank., First Citizen's Bank, Bank of America, Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank

Gifts are to be returned to these locations by December 17th at the very latest, and should be unwrapped. Gift bags are acceptable.

Any questions can be directed to the Highlands Emergency Council at 526-4357, or the respective Manager's at the participating banks.

## Order your Dec. AngelFood now

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

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.

## Highlands-Cashiers Players's FREE Christmas Reading at PAC on Dec. 9



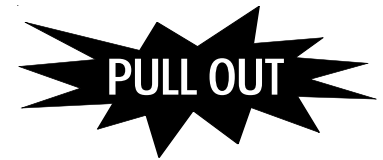
From left: Vangie Rich, Ethan Tate, Dr. Scott Baker and Bailey Baker.

Tonight, Thursday, Dec. 9, beginning at 7:30 at the Performing Arts Center, the Highlands Cashiers Players present their annual Holiday Reading Program, an evening of humorous, serious, and informative selections read by HCP actors and other talented readers, including children Taj and Sayla Roman interspersed with music by Michelle Hott and John Roman.

Ending the program will be a Christmas skit, written and directed by Vangie Rich, featuring the talents of the Wayne Coleman, the Futral children, Sarah and Ethan, and young Bailey Baker, singing "O Holy Night," accompanied on violin by her father, Dr. Scott Baker. No tickets are required — the program is free, fun, and appropriate for children of school age.



# On going and Upcoming Events



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 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. Soup and sandwich lunch and items from Bolivia will be on sale. 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 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 Cathedral 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 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-10791

## Sunday, Dec. 19

- At Community Bible Church, The Stories of Christmas at 7 p.m. and carols at 6:30 p.m. Call 526-4685 for more information.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5-mile walk on an old road in the Blackrock Mtn.-Jones Creek area, with an elevation change of 300 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2:00 p.m. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

## 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.

## December brings holiday magic to The Bascom

What's happening at The Bascom this holiday season?

You can stop by the studio barn for a brief visit or stay a while and watch Pat Taylor and other area potters spin clay into lovely forms on Friday, December 10th.

Join Fayne Ansley for a demonstration of the art botanical watercolor with native seasonal evergreens from 1-1:45 pm or follow up with her workshop and paint your own holiday botanical from 2-4 pm on Saturday, December 11th.

Bring the family and create personalized ceramic ornaments at the studio barn on Saturday, December 11th from 9:30 am-12:30 pm or on December 11th and 18th from 10 am-noon, Christmas Crafts from Around the World welcomes children to participate and learn about holiday customs and traditions in other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts.

Plus, don't miss two remarkable shows



This year's top prize, "Best in Show," in The Bascom's juried exhibition went to Brian Boggs for his *Greenwood Side Chair*. Stop by and see The American Craft Today exhibition at The Bascom through December 18.

on display through December 18th:

*A Stitch in Time: Quilts* offers the opportunity to examine extraordinary quilts, true works of art, on loan from local collectors. The exhibition is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson, Sieglinde and Jack Gillfillan in memory of Jody Sitz and exhibition partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

With artists from sixteen states and Canada represented, *The American Craft Today* juried exhibition features forty-seven pieces of original craft works. The exhibition is sponsored by Frances Bunzl and Family, Julia and Bill Grumbles,

Charlotte Pippin (pip-in), Cary Saurage and Penny and Ed Mawyer.

Workshop registration is going on now. The Bascom is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 526.4949.

## December Festivities at The Bascom

### ■ Exhibitions through December 18

*A Stitch in Time: Quilts*  
*American Craft Today*



### ■ Workshops

Greg Newington, Photography, December 10-11

Ceramic Ornaments, December 11

Botanical Watercolor, December 11

Christmas Crafts Youth Art, December 11 and 18



Open Year Round  
[www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org)  
828.526.4949



## ... ROCKY continued from page 1

Planning Board be advised of appointments prior to selection.

In a surprise move at its regular Nov. 22 meeting, the commission voted 3-2 not to reappoint Slagle – with outgoing Democrat Commissioner Bob Simpson and Republican commissioners McClellan and Jim Davis voting first not to reappoint him and then voting 3-2 to appoint past Planning Board member Jimmy Goodman. Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Bobby Koppers voted against Goodman.

Beale said it was a surprise vote without discussion. At the Dec. 2 meeting, then-chair Ronnie Beale spoke first saying "Monday night's meeting was not business as usual as far as the county goes and I don't expect it to be business as usual in the future."

Because the county commission eliminated term limits a while back, reappointments to boards are usually pretty uneventful. If someone wants to serve again, they are reappointed. However, Beale said that when it was time for Goodman to be reappointed to the Planning Board, members asked the commission not to reappoint him because he was obstructing the work the board was trying to do.

However, when asked to speak on the issue on Dec. 2, commissioners Simpson, McClellan and Davis all said they voted for Goodman to "right a wrong" done him three years earlier – done they said purely because of political affiliation. Goodman is Republican and the majority of the members on the commission at the time were Democrat.

Simpson said he was sorry he voted against Goodman three years earlier because he promised constituents that he would never let party lines determine his vote on anything, but he did in Goodman's case. "So I voted for him to right a wrong," he said. "He needs to be on the Planning Board because his point of view represents that of a lot of citizens." He said he wasn't against Slagle, but admitted to pulling him off for political reasons.

McClellan said he would make no apologies for voting

for Goodman over Slagle's reappointment. "But I do apologize for the way it was handled," he said. "That is not the way we do business and we have a lot of things to do and we need to seek common ground. Concerning Goodman, I too, was trying to right a wrong."

Davis said "this was not the way he wanted to end his career as a Macon County Commissioner" but he voted for Goodman to ensure a wide diversity on the Planning Board. "But the way I did it was wrong," he said.

Commissioner Beale suggested beginning the process to amend the ordinance that governs the Planning Board to increase membership by two – from 11 to 13 at the regular Dec. 13 meeting — so Al Slagle could be put back on the Planning Board.

So, following the election of chairman, the ordinance was the subject of Monday's commission meeting. However, the election didn't go smoothly.

Kupper's made a motion to elect Beale as chairman to maintain the continuity of leadership demonstrated by Beale the past four years.

The vote tied 2 to 2 with newly seated Commission Ron Haven and McClellan voting nay. (Republican Commissioner Davis was at a mandatory "New Senator" meeting in Raleigh.)

Haven then made a motion to elect McClellan chairman "because we are the majority," he said, referring to their Republican party affiliation.

That motion tied 2 to 2 with Koppers and Beale voting nay.

After a brief recess, the commission tried again. Koppers

paved the way saying he would change his motion only because without a chairman no county business could ensue – in fact, the meeting would have to adjourn.

"With great reluctance and trepidation, I will make a motion to elect Commissioner Brian McClellan chairman," he said.

Beale said he, too, would support the motion because continuing the impasse will do nothing but hinder the business of the county.

The Planning Board ordinance was next on the agenda but the vote to instruct Attorney Chester Jones to begin the amendment process to allow for 13 members rather than 11 didn't come easy.

Commissioner Haven thought the board was moving too fast and suggested more deliberation on the matter.

However, Koppers and Jones explained that the process was still a lengthy one involving amended verbiage, acceptance of that verbiage, an advertised public hearing followed by possible adoption – likely in January.

On Beale's suggestion, Jones was also instructed to try to devise verbiage to handle situations that occurred three years ago – that is, to have some sort of mechanism in place so members of the Planning Board can request someone be removed if they are considered an obstruction to the Planning Board's work – even if their term isn't over.

Jones said that could probably be done, but would likely take longer than simply amending the ordinance to accommodate more members. "We may have to do this in two parts, but that's all right. We can amend the ordinance again," he said.

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SURVEY continued from page 1

Forgotten are the local families and children who attend Highlands School, the elderly who live at Chestnut Hill and in the Eckerd Living Center, as well as those who utilize the Civic Center and the hospital's Health Tracks.

So the consumer survey is aimed at them. Considered consumers, are all Highlands' full time and part-time residents who if utility customers, will receive the survey through the mail. Visitors are also being asked to fill out a survey, which is available at Town Hall, the Civic Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the post office, and online at [www.highlandscnc.org](http://www.highlandscnc.org). Adams asked that all surveys be return to Town Hall by Jan. 3, 2010.

Questions on the Consumer Survey are:

How often do you shop in your community's historic downtown commercial district; what is the primary reason you visit your community's historic downtown commercial district; what other activities do you engage in while in your community's historic downtown commercial district; in addition to or in lieu of your community's historic downtown commercial district, where do you do most of your shopping; in addition to existing businesses, list three types of new businesses or activities would you personally use if they were located in your community's historic downtown commercial district; where do you live in relation to your community's historic downtown commercial district; how do you find out about local businesses, shopping opportunities, special sales, and promotions in your community's historic downtown commercial district; how would you rate the following in regards to the shopping experience in your community's historic downtown commercial district; how important are the following to improving your community's historic downtown commercial district — maintaining historic character, cleanliness and maintenance, public improvements – streets, sidewalks, and landscaping, focusing on the needs of local customers, customer service, providing regular business hours, supporting local business hours, supporting local businesses, creating more jobs for locals, advertising, improving tourism, hosting more special events, parking.

Retailers have also been asked to fill out a survey whose results will be confidential. Questions revolve around how much money is grossed, how much square footage is occupied, do you rent or own, if you rent, how much do you pay, etc.

Some retailers are reluctant to divulge some information typically reserved for the tax man, but Adams says the information will help her team determine if rents are too high and if businesses owners are running their businesses properly, among other things.

The next Main Street Program meeting is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6 when survey results will be discussed.

– Kim Lewicki



Join us to *Celebrate*  
the Christmas Season  
at

**Highlands  
United Methodist Church**

**Sunday, December 19**

10:50 am

Christmas Cantata

**Christmas Eve Services:**

5 pm

Family-friendly

Candlelight Service

7-8 pm

Drop-in Communion

11 pm

Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 26**

10:50 am

Sunday Worship Service

315 Main Street / 526-3376

Pastor Paul Christy

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with Meditation, Music, and Candlelight.*



#### CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CHORALE

THIS SATURDAY, DEC. 11 AT 4:00 P.M. &

SUNDAY, DEC. 12 AT 5:00 P.M.

*Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.*

*Reception to follow Sunday concert.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

Christmas Music Program

*"Lessons and Carols"*

*Sunday Service featuring Guest Musicians and the  
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2010

*"CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE"*

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Valerie Whitcup, Harpist

Candlelight Communion Service

designed for the entire family at 5:00 p.m.

471 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 548, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741  
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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FFCHS.HIGHLANDS.ORG](http://WWW.FFCHS.HIGHLANDS.ORG)  
NURSERY PROVIDED



## ...ZONING continued from page 1

mission isn't required to see the plans. All expansion will be done within the current building via a plan designed by Summit Architecture.

Spaces 310B (the rear of the Christmas Cottage) and 310C (formerly The Grinning Frog) will become part of the Sports Page.

The Lewis's will move the kitchen and order area to the rear of the reconfigured space with an additional 49 seats filling the rest. Right now they have 54 seats; they look to have 103 seats.

Since the Sports Page is in the B1 Business District there are no seating/parking ratio requirements.

Construction is set to begin this week in 310C with all renovations hopefully completed by the end of February so the Sports Page can reopen the week of March 7.

OEI wants to add a weather-tight pavilion over the existing open-air patio adjacent to the barn facility at The Farm off NC 106. Enclosing the space with a timber-like pavilion designed and constructed by Lupoli Construction and Real Estate will both secure events in inclement weather and help with noise control. Over the years the patio was tented but weather and noise continued to be an issue.

The Appearance Commission OK'd the plans as presented at its Monday night meeting.

Three other components of the project include a covered porte-cochere and the expansion of the existing covered walks, which will provide covered access to both the existing barn and proposed pavilion.

OEI also requested permission to build

a storage cottage next to the pavilion for tables and chairs, as well as a changing area and private bathroom for event entertainment staff.

A new road with 10 additional parking spaces will also be constructed so event and entertainment staff can park and access the Event Pavilion separate from guests.

With the 10 additional parking spots there will be 90 spaces; 45 are required by code so they would be exceeding code requirements by 45 spaces.

"The number of parking spaces required for a place of assembly is 200 per square foot of gross floor space for patron use," said Josh Ward with the Highlands planning department. "The 45 spaces referred to is the amount required for the existing and proposed gross square footage located at The Farm. The 90 spaces will be in excess of what

is required."

OEI's The Farm is on 28.56 acres and as per watershed built-upon requirements, the impervious surface can't exceed 12%.

Existing impervious surface is 7.79%; proposed additions will add .65% for a total impervious area of 8.44% — well below the 12%.

— Kim Lewicki

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## ... QUIN continued from page 3

encouraged partnerships with the Highlands Biological Station, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Bascom Gallery of Fine Art, and the Town of Highlands, within an Adopt-a-Trail program that allowed adoption of sections of the trail for continual maintenance. Included in the Adopt-a-Trail Manual were lists of recommended Native Trees and Shrubs for preservation and planting as well as Invasive Plants to avoid, which were compiled from the Land Stewards, the Highlands Botanical Garden, and local garden clubs. Also included in the booklet was a checklist of year-round and summer birds in the area and over fifty historic sites that appeared on the National Register of Historic Places or were worthy of preservation.

Membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway in 2008 jumped from 22-44 individuals, and between November 1, 2008, and October 30, 2009, it rose to 73. Volunteer activity during the same 2008-2009 period involved 57 participants contributing 1,817 hours on 36 work trips.

At present Quin has his sights set on completing five miles of proposed trails and spurs over the next five years with continued funding by a grant request from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and \$50,000 from the Town of Highlands FY 2010. The completed trail will descend from Sunset Rock, a high granitic dome overlooking the town; through the Botanical Garden, a living museum of labeled native plant species; to Big Bear Pen, the largest current construction of switchbacks up a moderate to steep incline with a panoramic view of the mountains surrounding Highlands; down the Kelsey Trail, a 127-year-old trail, the oldest in the town, through an old-growth primeval forest; along the Mill Creek Trail, including its new loop, beneath towering hemlocks and pines; to the Bascom Art Center along a sculptured trail of native flora, a brook, and a waterfall; and continuing through a charming neighborhood to end at Mirror Lake, with a beautiful open view of

the water.

In May, 2010, the Secretary of Interior officially designated the Highlands Plateau Greenway as a National Recreation Trail, one of over 1,000 other trails nationwide that encourage people of all ages to get outside and use trails for exercise and exploration. It's to Quin's credit that, working with dedicated volunteers, the town of Highlands, and associated partners, he inspired the Highlands Plateau Greenway to accomplish a tremendous amount in a very short time, providing a valuable resource for the Highlands community.

**Musty Odor? It's Mold!**

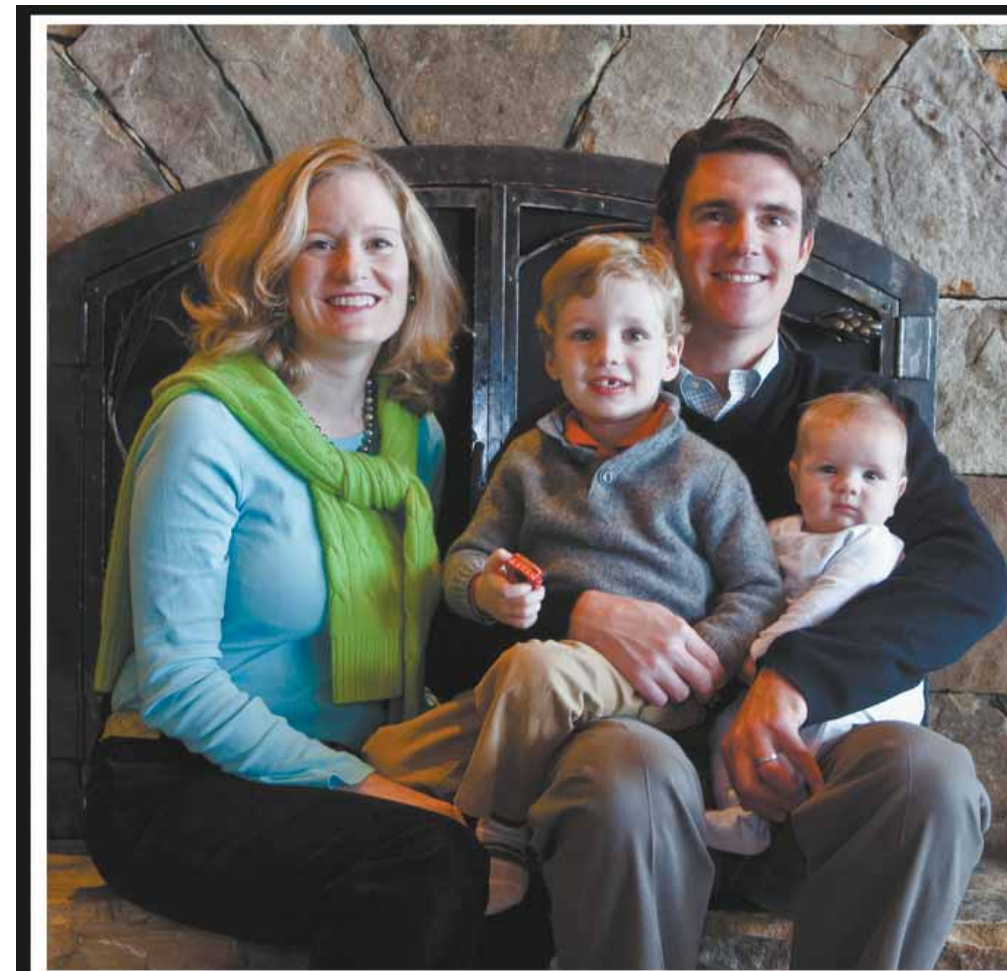


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Perpetual seasons:  
Advent and Christmas**



**CHRIST ANGLICAN  
CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy,

In “church-speak” we have entered into the Season of Advent, a four-week period of expectation and preparation. In so entering, we are hopeful in expectation of and busy with preparation for Christmas. Christmas was a historical event and is also time-honored season of two weeks duration wherein we celebrate and focus upon Emmanuel, literally, “God with us.”

Upon reflection, perhaps the Church, i.e., Christendom has done herself a disservice with the brief seasons of Advent and Christmas. Perhaps the diminutive nature (time periods) of the two seasons has led to a diminished understanding and appreciation of them and the importance they bear for living rightly the Christian life, proclaiming the Good News.

If we are to truly believe or observe Advent, we will live perpetually in a season of expectation and preparation. Yes, we expect and prepare for Christmas. However and perhaps more importantly, we also look forward to the Lord’s promised return. Indeed, we are called to live always in a mode of expectation and preparation for the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise. How can we be said to be living faithfully if we do not? How will the folks outside the church, see our faith if we live not expectantly nor in preparation for the second Advent? Can there be integrity in what we say (our message) if we’re not busy getting ready for Christ’s return?

In the same way, if we as post-Pentecost Christians believe the fact that God has come to live within each believer, we cannot credibly live our lives without the evidence of Emmanuel, God being with us. God is with us (Christians) in the person of his Holy Spirit. We are to live perpetually in that understanding as his ambassadors. When we ignore the fact of the Spirit’s indwelling presence, if and when we suppress that truth, we limit both ourselves and our witness to reality.

How much more exciting could these seasons, Advent and Christmas, be for everyone if we all dared to live in a perpetual state of expectation, preparation, and holy presence? It’s too easy—too unfaithful a thing to do so for just a series of weeks and be done with it. Let us, the church of Jesus Christ resolve to recapture the full life perpetually. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!

• 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 •

### What if dental plaque didn't stick to teeth?

**By Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S**

Scientists at the University of Gronigen have unlocked secret of the mechanism that makes dental plaque stick to teeth. Now that the structure of the glucansucrase enzyme is known, researchers can start looking for substances that combat the enzyme. Adding those substances to toothpaste, or even food products could help make dental cavities extinct. The results of the study were published in the journal of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dental cavities develop when bacteria attach to tooth enamel. They then ferment sugars which release acids that dissolve the calcium in the teeth thus causing dental caries (cavities). The researchers were able to uncover the unique structure of the enzyme by crystallizing glucansucrase. While the scientists are excited about the future possibilities of their discoveries don't toss the floss just yet, researcher Lubbert Dijkhuizen feels "it will always be necessary to clean your teeth."

Brushing and flossing are important for more than preventing cavities. Good brushing and flossing habits also help

prevent gum disease. Not only is gum disease the leading cause of tooth loss, it is also linked to heart disease, certain cancers, pre-term birth and poor blood sugar control in diabetic patients.

Let us help you have the healthiest mouth possible by contacting Wilbanks Smile Center today at 706-886-9439. Until the magic day comes that dental plaque doesn't stick to teeth you can rely on our hygiene team to help you learn proper brushing and flossing techniques and to keep your smile in tip-top condition. Please call for your appointment today.  
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(IV Sedation, too)



### Soccer players named All-Conference



The Highlander Soccer team was honored this week for having 7 players recognized for outstanding performance by the Smoky Mountain Conference. Defender Robbie Vanderbilt and Midfielders Samuel Wheeler and Andrew Renfro were named to the All-Conference team, and Midfielder Tucker Bates and Fullbacks Justin Watson and Cord Strawn were All-Conference honorable mentions. Senior Michael Shearl was named the Player of the Year in the Smoky Mountain Conference. The awards are voted on by the opposing coaches in the conference. Pictured Front from left are: Michael Shearl, Andrew Renfro, Cord Strawn; Back from left: Robbie Vanderbilt, Samuel Wheeler, Tucker Bates (Not Pictured is Justin Watson)

Photo by Ryan Potts

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# • 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)

**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. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME,** 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

### LOST and FOUND

**BROWN CAP WITH FISH ON FRONT,** heirloom. Call 772-321-0881 or 526-5669.

### RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**ENTIRE UPPER FLOOR,** 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 sw. ft. Next to Highlands Hospital. Call 828-200-1064. (12/16)

**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

**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)

**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. (3/31/11)

**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

**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

[woodlandsvie@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodlandsvie@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 LEASE OR SALE** – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.

**FOR SALE/RENT – BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS** – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$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)

**PIANO** — MAKE OFFER! Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates. Plays beautifully \$7,000 invested, worth way more. Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,100. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

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

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**COLLECTORS!** '65 Sunbeam Tiger with hardtop. Red. Excellent brakes, wheels. All new front end. Records. Original parts available. Serious inquiries only. Call 404-966-0283. (12/23)

**MERCEDES BENZ 1995, C220,** \$5,900. New tires, brakes, battery, hoses. Garaged. Perfect, dependable, exceptional, 32 mpg regular gas, 182,000 miles. 706/745-3993 or 404/520-0852. (st. 6/17)

**2003 NISSAN FRONTIER** – 4 Door, 60,000 miles, Excellent condition, \$9,000 OBO. 526-9180. (st. 5/20)

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## Highlands Police & Fire Reports

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

Nov 20

• At 7:30 a.m., a resident on Raoul Road reported property damage due to a vehicle accident that occurred in his yard during the night.

Nov. 22

• At 4 p.m., a report was logged regarding littering and 2-3 a.m. noise complaints by residents and business owners in Wright Square against Ruka's.

Nov. 24

• At 10:35 p.m., officers were called to the Mountain Fresh vicinity concerning a possible domestic dispute, but the call was unfounded.

Nov. 26

• At 10:13 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

Nov. 27

• At 4:03 p.m., officers were called to assist EMS at a vehicle accident on NC 106.

Nov 29

• At 4 p.m. the officers were called about two suspicious people wearing hoods running behind the Fire Dept. The call was unfounded.

Dec. 5

• At 3 p.m., officers were called to Hampton Inn concerning an alleged hit and run in the parking lot.

Dec. 6

• At 2:15 p.m., officers were called to assist EMS with a resident on Oak Street.

• During the week, police officers responded to 10 alarms and issued 6 citations.

Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Dec. 1:

Dec. 1

• At 1:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane where the resident had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 8:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cole Mountain Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Dec. 2

• At 10 a.m., the dept. responded to a report of smoke at Highlands Country Club but it was due to a controlled burn.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive where someone had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Dec. 3

• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. controlled traffic at the site of an accident at US 64 and Dry Falls. An injured person was taken to the hospital.

• At 2:37 p.m., the dept. was called to the Osage overlook on NC 106 to help the Scaly Fire Dept. search for a missing person. He was found in Blue Valley.

• At 9:49 p.m., the dept. controlled traffic at an accident with no injuries at N. 4th St.

Dec. 4

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. assisted EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 8:56 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive when a water line broke.

Dec. 6

• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. assisted the Cashiers Fire Dept. search for overdue hikers. They were found and returned.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

to give this stretch of road priority during bad weather.

Last Wednesday morning on my way to work, I turned onto Highway 64 toward Highlands. As soon as I got onto the highway, a vehicle coming towards me flashed its headlights. I slowed down, rounded the curve, and saw a vehicle flipped on its side. The driver had apparently hit a patch of ice. A fire truck and ambulance were at the scene. Once again, DOT failed to address the dangerous road conditions.

What will it take before our NC DOT realizes that this particular stretch of road is usually icy, even when other areas are not? What will it take before they realize that most of us who travel that road are on our way to work early in the morning? What will it take before they realize that, if traffic is blocking the entrance to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, essential personnel and emergency vehicles cannot get through?

What will it take — a life-threatening emergency or a fatal accident on the highway? I hope not.

MaryAnn Sloan  
Highlands

## Politics vs. Planning

Dear Editor,

The anti-Planning Board bleatings during the past election campaign as well as the most current attempts to cripple Planning Board processes and activities, are nothing short of appalling. These attempts included the study to develop a reasoned plan for Steep (Safe) Slopes, and are a portion of work in progress for a Comprehensive Plan package that will be of total benefit to Macon County's future.

Particularly dismaying were the ill informed, extremely negative ads designed to capture the attention of the easily led who choose not or won't bother to check the real, readily available, facts about steep slopes for themselves.

Let me try to fill in some gaps and help them out with that little attention-deficit problem.

About 20 months ago discussions of a steep slope ordinance were begun and a committee established to determine a list of potential (note the word-potential) recommen-

• See LETTERS page 21

\$17 weekly

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## ... LETTERS continued from page 20

dations for an ordinance. The committee researched the needs for such an ordinance, possible topics to be addressed, and the impacts an ordinance would have for the safety of persons, protections of property, the environment and our economy.

The committee, chaired by the very able Mr. Al Slagle, consisted of local citizens well versed in building, real-estate, soil, and other topographical concerns, took their meetings to the many communities of our county. They listened to community concerns, with intent to incorporate the peoples input into the (as yet un-written) still pending ultimate ordinance.

## ...SWANSON continued from page 6

east, came to the land of Shinar, where they resolved to build a tower "with its top in the heavens...lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the Earth." God came down to see

## ... JUST HERS continued from page 7

lines were as wired as their Mommy. Rounding up your felines and getting them into pet carriers must be one of those big stress events, like a death in the family, or an IRS audit. Fortunately, I had the element of surprise with Weasel. She hadn't been in for a check-up since I'd moved to Highlands, so the old "snatch and grab" wasn't something she was used to. I grabbed her, and stuck her in the carrier before she knew what was happening. Orion was a different story. His cancer surgery two years ago made him a veteran of the whole cat carrier process. Who knows what a cat remembers, or if he could even recall his three hour car rides to the wonderful Upstate Veterinary Clinic in Greenville, or any of his two-week stay, when they cured his cancer. The taste of the tranquilizer must have clued him in. Orion took off up the stairs. I took off after him, cat carrier in hand. He bolted. I sprinted. He struggled. I held on. At one time, all I could hold on to was a back leg, terrified that I was hurting him. I knew if I let go, that would be the end of it. I'd have to leave him alone in the house, and start over again the next day. Holding on to the back leg, I reeled him in, finally getting a better grip, as I lifted him into the cat carrier and closed the door. I don't know how he felt about it, but I was exhausted.

Ann showed up in her car, and we loaded up the cats into the back. Weasel protested enthusiastically, but Orion had taken more of the drugs than I thought. He snuggled up in this carrier, snoring loudly. Ann backed us up into the parking lot of the Animal Wellness Hospital of Highlands, and in the downpour, we brought in the cats. Weasel meowed piteously in her carrier, especially when a very well-behaved, but curious, dog arrived in the waiting room. Orion snoozed away, oblivious to everything.

When our turn arrived, both cats were taken into the examination room, and the

There was a flurry of well publicized discontent by a group who thought all the meetings in each community should afford them a public forum to proclaim their own self-interests and their obvious hopes to recruit others to their cause. They failed to note that the established reason for these meetings was not for open-end discussions or debate, but to listen to the concerns of the people in each respective, specific community. To claim these costs will be prohibitive when there isn't even a plan completed, presented, debated, voted upon or in place, is simply out of line.

Obviously, there is need for a plan as prov-

what they did and said: "They are one people and have one language, and nothing will be withheld from them what they propose to do. So God scattered them upon the Earth,

doors to their cages opened. Orion continued to sleep, but Weasel got out and started exploring her surroundings. The cats were thoroughly checked out, weighed, blood drawn, nails trimmed. Both cats were declared well-behaved, and I glowed like a proud mother. Pride turned to concern once the cats arrived at their new home. Instead of bolting out of their cages and exploring the apartment, Orion crawled into Weasel's carrier and clung to her. The two of them looked like orphans. Hours later, they were out of the carrier, but huddled together for comfort, hiding under a kitchen cabinet. I was as miserable as they were.

The next day was even worse. For hours, I couldn't find either cat. Finally, I realized that they had crawled into the box spring of the bed, where they hid out most of the day. I phoned the vet's office in a panic only to be reassured that cats – highly territorial – do not take well to change. At last, by dinnertime, the cats were reconciled to their circumstances, and after a light supper, settled down on the couch with me to watch TV. They particularly like *Law & Order*.

Change doesn't come easily to any of us – widows and cats alike. Sometimes it comes to us in a howling wind, and sometimes it comes quietly, on gentle cat paws. The wild birds enjoyed the lima beans, but they'd better not get used to them. Even nostalgia has its limits.

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. Michelle figures that if she can deal with Midtown Manhattan, Midtown Highlands should be a cinch. The cats are still undecided.

en by the many documented geological occurrences these past few years. We may not stop them, but we can certainly PLAN to avoid or lessen their potential terrible impact. Such a plan is not designed to stop development in Macon County; it is to insure that development will be safe and not be a detriment to its residents. It is to insure that there is resource for builders and home owners alike.

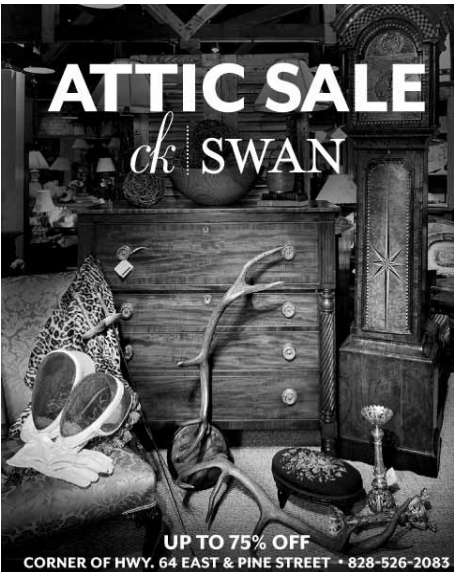
I certainly hope that our county commissioners see the value in retaining the dedicated services of Mr. Al Slagle and his committee. Indeed we must retain all Planning Board members and sub-committees working on our Comprehensive Plans.

It is my fervent hope that misguided political party values be put aside during our

and confused their languages, and they left off building the city, which was called 'Babel' because God there confounded the language of all the Earth."

I think the problems facing Europe are indicative of the inevitable impossibility of forming a one-world government. It isn't what we were created to do.

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County Commissioners future meetings in favor of obvious values to Macon County; that Mr. Beale's ordinance proposal to increase the size of the Planning Board by two additions — one assuredly being the knowledgeable Mr. Slagle — be presented and passed; and, that this be done with expediency in order that past planning board efforts do not go to waste.

We must pay particular attention to the motives of any single person who has avowed there is no need for planning! Yes, there is a need.

Shirley Ches  
Franklin

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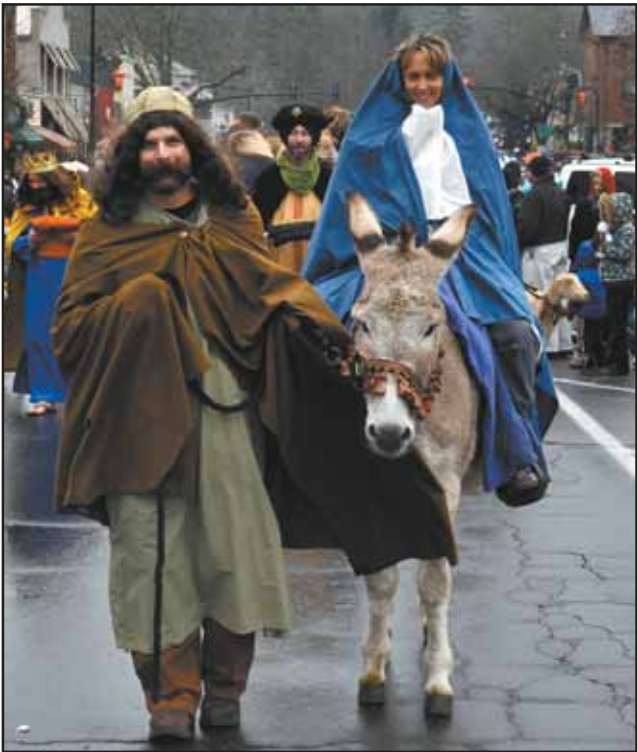
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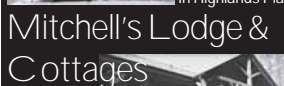


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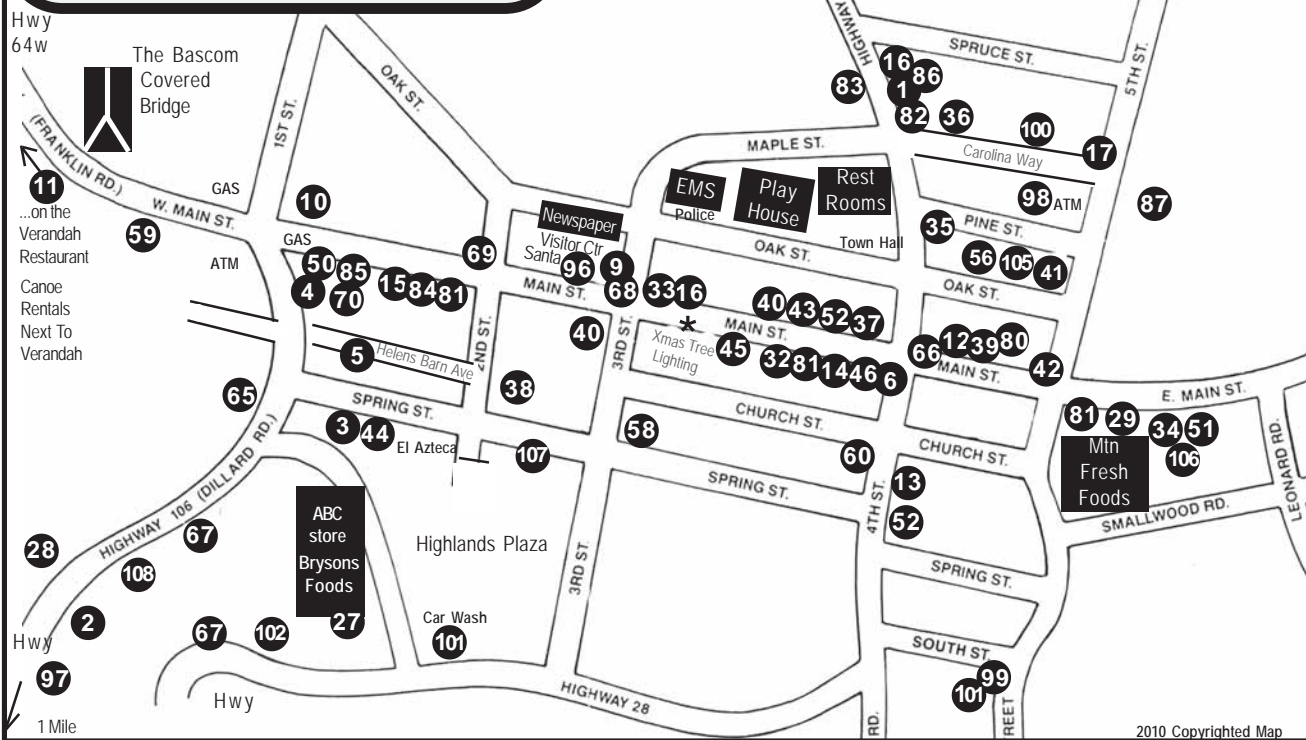
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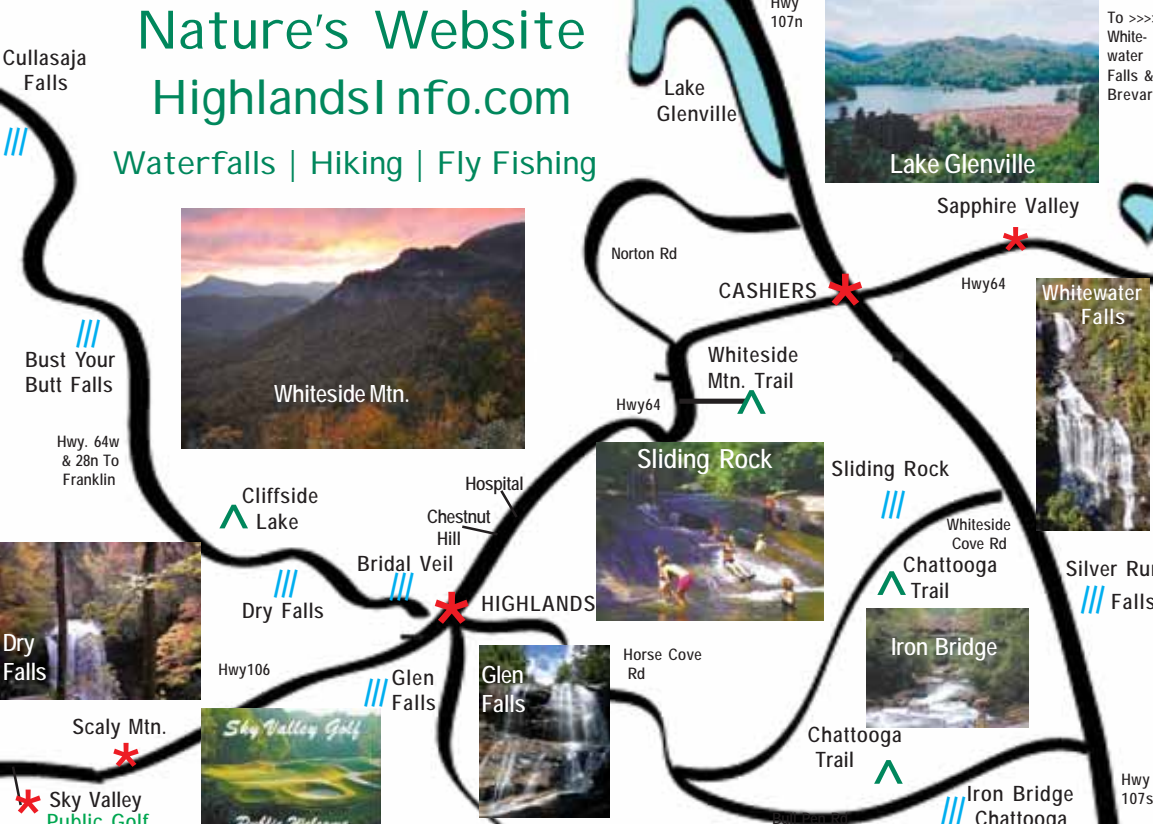
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