

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 47

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Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010



FRI: 48/24, SAT: 49/25, Sun: 52/28

Tuesday, Nov. 23

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It's free.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 26-27

- At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. \$40 Bascom members/\$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, the public is invited.

- At The Bascom, Artist's Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn. Featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists' works for Christmas, hostess and New Year's gifts.

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

Friday, Nov. 26

- Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 27

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

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. to the top of Yellow Mtn. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Winter Wonderland from 1-3 p.m. It's free.

- Town Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 6-6:30 p.m. Santa at Visitor Center following tree lighting.

Wed., Dec. 1

- 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.

\$200K available for area businesses

Since Highlands was picked as a Small Town Main Street Community, its businesses are now eligible for a special \$200,000 grant to spur business development.

The grant is distributed by the NC Department of Commerce and

is contingent on several items – mainly that a business owner have an idea that will grow business and jobs in Highlands.

It's also important to have both the town and the Chamber of Commerce back the business idea,

and the application for the grant funds must be submitted jointly.

Though Fatland said the grants are extremely competitive across the state, any business in Highlands is eligible to apply for the money.

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Town tree lighting is Saturday on Main St.



Main Street will be closed for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church, Saturday, Nov., 27. At 5:30 p.m., Main Street will be closed from 2nd to 4th streets and 3rd Street will be closed on the north side to Oak Street and on the south side to the Church Street alley. The ceremony opens with Christmas Carols at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. at which point the streets will be reopened.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Myriad of business at county meeting

Commissioners say good-bye to Commissioner Simpson, remember Commissioner Jay Dee Shepherd and accept Commissioner Davis's resignation

Monday night Macon County Commissioners paved the way for newcomers to the board and said good-bye to others before recessing the meeting to Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. when the official rotation will take

place and a new chairman will be named.

The board thanked Democrat Commissioner Bob Simpson, who lost the seat he held for eight years to Republican Ron Haven, for al-

ways holding Macon County in his heart and doing what he thought was best for the county as a whole.

Members also accepted Commissioner Jim Davis's resignation,

• See COUNTY page 2

USFS has new way to fight Woolly Adelgid

Since mid-October, the Forest Service has been using new approaches to protect hemlock forests under attack by the introduced insect pest, hemlock woolly adelgid.

The new approaches give forest managers a wider array of treatment options. Options include aerial application of an adelgid-killing fungus, use of the chemical dinotefuran in high-priority areas where trees are in immediate danger of dying, expanding the number of sites that will be treated, releasing new species of predator beetles as they are evaluated, and allowing the use of the longer-lasting chemical, imidacloprid, on all treatment areas as needed.

According to Marisue Hilliard, Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina, "We are very concerned about how many hemlocks have already been killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid. It is a catastrophic pest that is continuing to kill eastern and Carolina hemlocks throughout their range. We intend to use all appropriate

• See USFS page 21

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

The other side of the Post Office story

Dear Editor,

I feel that I must write about the Highlands Post Office "debate" to the citizens of Highlands — my hometown. I was born and grew up here in Highlands. Some of you know me but most of you probably do not. I will try to make this a short history of the Mitchell family and the history of the post office.

My parents moved to Highlands in 1933. I was an only child born after my parents moved to Highlands. Upon my Father's retirement he, Clarence (Doc) Mitchell, built Highlands Plaza in 1972, for the homeowners of the area. Daddy was a good and well respected business man. He felt strongly that the homeowners (full time as well as seasonal) need to be able to shop for their daily needs and not be burdened with trying to find parking on Main Street along with the tourist.

As my parents began to age, I became more involved with their business.

In 1994, I was approached by the United States Postal Dept about moving to Highlands Plaza. The Post Office had to be out of its then location on 5th

Street by a certain time. We (the USPS and I) had come to an agreement and were looking over their spec book. My father was admitted into the hospital very seriously ill. I called the USPS and told them I could no longer work with them on the building that they would have to look for another property. A few days later the USPS called me to tell me there was a company in Ohio that did land leases with property owners and it would build a post office and in turn would rent the building to the USPS. I told them I would be happy to do a land lease (my first and I might add the last I will ever do). My goal was to get the post office to the best location for our town's residents. I requested that NO PARKING be along Hwy 28. As you know, the company in Ohio, Carbone Properties, built parking along Hwy 28. I had no recourse.

Fast forward many years to this past spring.

Carbone Properties, with whom I had the land lease, was about to go into bankruptcy and they offered to sell me the building and land lease. I bought the post office building and land lease late March, 2010. The first thing I wanted to change was the parking off Hwy 28, but it was too close to "the season" so I decided to put that on hold until winter and spring of 2010 and 2011. Now, Mrs. Woodruff has decided to build a building and take away a tenant that has many more

• See LETTER page 3

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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... COUNTY continued from page 1



At Monday nights Macon County Commission meeting, Chairman Ronnie Beale presented outgoing Commissioner Bob Simpson with a plaque commemorating his eight years on the board. Simpson was also given a piece of artwork from the commission and Macon County staff. Simpson thanked everyone for their kind words and said he was proud to have served for eight years and "wouldn't have changed a thing." Fellow commissioners said Simpson held Macon County in his heart and strived to do the best he could for the county. Simpson said the calibre of staff at the county was unparalleled in the state. He also spoke directly to incoming Commissioner Ron Haven saying he was a good man and would likely have some surprises when he got on the board.



Also at Monday's MC Commission meeting, Chairman Beale presented Finance Director Evelyn Southard and her staff with the GFOA award – an award given to county finance departments for demonstrating fiscal responsibility and more. This is about the 20th time the Macon County Finance Department has been awarded the title. The one year it didn't receive it neither Southard nor any of her current staff was employed by Macon County. Southard thanked her staff and also said Chuck Young, "who moved to greener pastures" when he took the position as Highlands Accounting Supervisor, was also responsible for the department receiving the award this year.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

ffective Jan. 10, 2011, when he will begin representing District 50 in the State Senate. He served Macon County as a commissioner for 10 years. Kevin Corbin, who was appointed by the Republican party, will take his place on the board.

Chairman Ronnie Beale also asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of past Commissioner Jay Dee Shepherd who died Nov. 17 of a stroke.

"Everything he did spoke to his character," said Commissioner Beale. "He was a great man and served his county well."

Commissioner Davis, who served on the board with Shepherd for two years, and said "he was a great man, at great American and a great citizen of Macon County." He said his word was his contract.

The board also awarded Finance Director Evelyn Southard and her staff with the Government Finance Officers Association

(GFOA) award.

The GFOA's Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognizes contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The award stresses practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance.

The Macon County finance department has been awarded the designation every year since the award's inception except for one year when neither Southard or any member of her current staff was employed by the county.

Following the award ceremony, accounting firm Martin & Starnes presented the FY 09-10 audit declaring the county with an unqualified opinion – which is the best the firm offers – identified no material inter-

• See COUNTY page 10

• TB AGENDA •

DECEMBER 1, 2010 7 P.M.
Community Building

1. Call to order
2. Public Comments
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes of Nov. 3 & 17
5. Reports
 - A. Mayor
 - B. Commissioners
 - C. Committees
 - D. Town Manager
7. Revision to Sign Ordinance
 - A. Public Hearing
 - B. Consider Approval of Revision to Sign Ordinance
8. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore
9. Consider Approval for Renovation of Former ABC Store for Police Department
 10. Discussion of Grinder Pump Ordinance
 11. Consider Approval of Parking Study Recommendations
 12. Request from Shortoff Missionary Baptist Church for Water Hook-Up
 13. Resolution Adopting Code of Ethics for Elected Officials
 14. Adjourn

... LETTERS continued
from page 2

years left on its lease with Highlands Plaza.

If the Town of Highlands and Mrs. Woodruff think that the parking on Hwy 28 is such a serious problem for the citizens of Highlands, then why hasn't anyone from the town ever asked to meet with us to come up with a better solution? We have always believed the parking design built by Carbone Properties is not desirable. Now with the possibility of the post office moving, our plans of changing that area has been put on hold indefinitely.

The present location of the Highlands Post Office has served Highlands well and helps to make Highlands Plaza a "one stop shop" place — which was my father's dream for Highlands. My parents and especially my Father did a lot for the town and the people of Highlands. I can go on and on about that. Our family certainly does not have the financial backing that Mrs. Woodruff has; however we feel that we do have the best interest in mind for our fellow townspeople.

Margaret Mitchell O'Donnell
Highlands

• OBITUARY •

Priscilla Ann Roulston

Priscilla Ann Roulston, nine-day-old daughter of Joseph Roulston and Palmer Lowery died Friday, November 19, 2010 in Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

She is survived in addition to her mother and father by one sister Arabella Swofford and two brothers Campbell Swofford and Hayden Swofford all of the home; maternal grandparents Shay and Jay Connors of Vero Beach, FL; paternal grandparents Cindy Roulston and great-grandmother Charlotte Roulston.

Graveside services were held at 1 pm Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at Woodlawn Cemetery with Rev. Paul Christy officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the SIDS Program, NC Department of Health and Human Services, 1330 St. Mary's Street, PO Box 29597, Raleigh, NC 27626-0597.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, NC is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Thanks, Lord, for all you've given me, especially Cracker Barrel

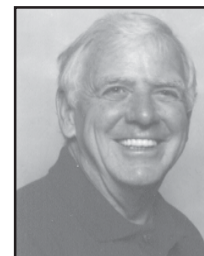
The insanity of the Thanksgiving holiday is finally here. Usually by this time, I'm already taking my Lithium to keep from strangling one of my grandkids for running through and ripping out our screen door. I'm certain our early settlers didn't put up with the grief of Thanksgiving like we do in the 21st century. The Indians brought the fowl and venison and the settlers brought the mutton and corn. No fuss, no muss. Everyone ate outside so what possible damage could the grandkids do — break a tree?

Not that many years ago, our sizable family always came together from the four corners of the globe to share a Thanksgiving dinner at our home and give thanks to the Lord for all our blessings. This meant the li'l missus and I would shop at Publix a week before the big event. Do we buy a fresh or frozen turkey? Will the yams be canned or fresh? Will our cranberry sauce be gel or berries? The marshmallows, don't forget the marshmallows. Decisions, decisions.

Then on the Tuesday before the big day, the li'l missus wakes at 3 AM, sits up in bed in a panic, grabs my arm and announces, "I'm out of Rosemary."

The next day, of course, is "put away" Wednesday. We childproof our home. Guns are gathered and locked up. The two beautiful sculptures on our oversized coffee table are put out of reach. The magnificent set of imported crystal wine glasses that cost me an entire paycheck and then some more are stored in a cabinet until just before the meal. We are, once again, shocked to see how many breakables there are. We scan each room looking for a possible disaster. "What can they break in this room," I mutter as I move from room to room.

At 6 AM on Thanksgiving morning, I drag a fresh turkey out of the refrigerator and remove the wrapping. I smell it just to make sure it doesn't have an odor. It smells like — turkey. Then I give it a bath, paying special attention to washing under its arms. When the turkey is blotted dry, I smell it again just to make sure it's still fresh. What is this thing I have with sniffing turkeys? Finally, I lift the bird, holding it by its wings and laugh. "Thanks, Lord,



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback is encouraged!
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askfredanything@aol.com

for not making me a turkey," I joke.

Later, when the li'l missus comes to the kitchen, she looks over my work, smells the turkey and begins further preparation. I'm the go-fer and pull seasonings, flour, etc. from the shelf on command. The bird is shoved back in the frig. Eventually it will get stuffed with traditional dressing and go in the oven.

Our kids arrive early and the grandkids head for the pool. The insanity begins. "Can I have another drink of water?" is asked over a dozen times, usually right in the middle of studying a complicated recipe for an appetizer called killer crunchy apple delight. "Grammy, I think Max is peeing in your pool," another announces.

In the interim, a rather long list of foods to be prepared and served is posted and the circus begins. Timing is everything. The rolls must turn brown at the same moment the marshmallows brown on the yams at the same time the turkey skin browns but doesn't get dried out at the same time all eight grandkids have washed their hands and are seated. Ahh-hh.

Hours have gone by and we haven't even had time to have a conversation with our kids about anything. Cooking, cooking, cooking. Finally, it's all set on the table, the blessing is said and 30 minutes later it's over for another year, except for the enormous job of cleanup which is almost as labor intensive as cooking. Is that dried yams smeared across the white upholstered dining room chair?

This Thanksgiving morning things will be different. We'll wake and read the paper over coffee. Then we'll loaf — then loaf some more. Then at 2 PM, the li'l missus and I will stroll into a nearby Cracker Barrel restaurant and announce, "Wooldridge, party of 16." Shortly after, our families will arrive and there'll be plenty of time to chat and get filled in on the latest news. We'll enjoy a sumptuous turkey dinner with trimmings and choice of three different desserts. After dinner, we'll linger for as long as we want and the restaurant doesn't care. And best of all, no one pees in our pool.

• Read Fred's column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.

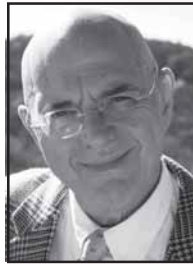
• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Sarah Palin for President!

Let's face it. Sarah Palin really could be our next president. The political world was shocked when John McCain, in a desperate gesture, added her to his doomed ticket. Both intellectuals and political analysts scoffed at her ill advised and inaccurate statements. She became a side show when she resigned her position as governor of Alaska, added to the frivolity with support of outlandish Tea Party candidates. She made millions writing, or ghost writing, a book or two. Incredibly, she became star of her own reality TV show. Sarah Palin committed numerous gaffes that should have ended her political career. She cited Alaska's proximity to Russia as an example of foreign policy experience. Not even Joe Biden could have survived that one.

And then a funny thing happened. Sarah Palin's outlandish candidates garnered more votes than snickers. Several won their races. Others came close. Even the losers seem to have political life for 2012. It is a new political season. There are 23 new members of Congress who had never been elected to any elective office. Experience doesn't count. The electorate, with some justification, took a look at the state of the country and blamed it on the guys with decades of political experience. The cynical might well equate decades of experience with years of perks, prestige, and payoffs. It's no secret that powerful lobbies have greater influence than ordinary citizens. It is well known that politicians shift position with the political wind. The contrast between the liberal Republican Governor of Massachusetts and the conservative candidate for the Republican nomination is a depressing example of a politician playing to his audience. There are others, many others. There are those who compromise their position so the country can move forward. Others abandon their principles to scavenge votes, or amass wealth.

It shouldn't be too great a surprise that the American people are fed up. There is despair in the wind. Despite economists' proclamation that the Great Recession is over, unemployment remains near 10%. Billions have been spent, much of it misspent, in a effort to jump-start the economy. Corporate profits are soaring while the American Middle Class is shrinking. The gap between rich and poor has never been wider. There is a palpable malaise. When I was growing up, everyone was chasing the American Dream. There were guys just back from the war, eager to



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start their families and careers. There were jobs for high school graduates and better jobs for college grads. Unskilled workers could make a decent living and dream of a better world for their kids.

The new world is here, and it is not better. It is exciting. The technological advances are staggering. No hurdle seems too high, no goal beyond reach, except the goals to preserve the Middle Class, to provide jobs for all Americans, and to

restore America as the world's beacon of hope. In the eyes of the world, America has lost her innocence. Many Americans share that view.

Sarah Palin has emerged as the leader of those who believe that America can be restored by turning back the clock. If we fail to create jobs, and if the shrinking middle class doesn't feel the weight lifted from its back, the scene will be set. Anger, frustration, and hopelessness spawned the dramatic shift of power in Washington in recent midterm elections. The rage may grow in the next two years. If it does, the American people may say, "What the hell! We can't do any worse." and vote for Palin.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Beck versus Soros

I have no idea where this is going to end up, but here goes. In this corner, we have Glenn Beck. First, let me say that I respect him and what he's trying to do. Not long ago, Beck was a radio talk-show host who had, and still may have, a somewhat wacky style. He frequently referred to his listeners as "you sick, twisted freaks." He still does his morning radio show in addition to filling the five o'clock hour on the Fox News Network.

He has become extremely popular with the Tea Party people, stressing principles over politics and exposing the perils of government in general, a one-world government specifically and progressivism ballistically. He founded the 9-12 Project, that is named for nine principles and 12 values, which he says embody the spirit of the American people on the day after the Sept. 11 attacks. He has either sponsored or participated in several mass rallies with religious and patriotic themes.

In the other corner is George Soros, very wealthy hedge-fund manager and liberal political activist. Soros was born in Budapest and moved with his family to New York, where he was employed in the securities industry. His father was a writer and a strong proponent of a one-world government. Of Jewish birth, for political reasons (rising anti-Semitism), the family changed their name from Schwarz to Soros, which, in Hungarian, means "next in line" or "designated successor." This may be the genesis of Soros's apparent god complex.

After learning the ropes working in various stock brokerage firms, Soros formed the Soros Fund, an early-stage hedge fund, later called the "Quantum Fund." Acquiring the power of managing huge amounts of money, Soros's fund sold short more than \$10 billion (US) worth of British pounds, profiting from the Bank of England's reluctance to either raise its interest rates to levels comparable to those of other European Exchange Rate Mechanism countries or to float its currency.

Finally, the Bank withdrew the currency from the European Exchange Mechanism, devaluing the pound sterling, earning Soros an estimated \$1.1 billion. He was dubbed "the man who broke the Bank of England." Later, he pulled similar attacks on the Thai and Malaysian currencies, causing serious political unrest in both countries. My purpose in dragging you through this historical rhetoric is to demonstrate Soros's willingness in his dual pur-



Don Swanson
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swansonson@dnct.net

pose activities. He profits greatly and weakens capitalism, both tools in his life-long quest to create a one-world government.

I will now be quoting, on and off, from an article on the Guardian.co.uk news site, usually an objective source, written by Sadhbh Walshe (how on earth would you pronounce that?) who is critical of Beck's efforts. According to her, Beck is quoted as saying: "Eighty years ago, George Soros was born. Little

did the world know then that economies would collapse, currencies would become worthless, elections would be stolen and one billionaire would find himself, coincidentally, at the center of it all."

Beck contends that Soros has created a "shadow government" in the US. According to Bill O'Reilly, during his show, "the Factor:" "The Factor has been investigating far left billionaire George Soros, a man who wants to impose a radical left agenda on America, and under the radar, he is making great progress. Soros has set up a complicated political operation to do two things, buy people with influence among liberal politicians and smear people with whom he disagrees."

Soros puts his money where his mouth is. Quoting from Wikipedia, "In an interview with *The Washington Post* on November 13, 2003, Soros said that removing President George W. Bush from office was the "central focus of my life" and "a matter of life and death." He said he would sacrifice his entire fortune to defeat President Bush, "if someone guaranteed it." Soros gave \$3 million to the Center for American Progress, \$2.5 million to MoveOn.org, and \$20 million to America Coming Together. These groups worked to support Democrats in the 2004 election. That didn't work out too well for him; however, his efforts probably had a spillover effect in 2006 and 2008.

I find it interesting that the major news sources make a huge stink about the source of contributions to conservatism when rarely is heard a word about Soros' massive funding of extreme liberalism. Is he responsible for the rapidly devaluing dollar and the ultimate destruction it will bring? He knows how; he's done it before. We've made it harder for him with our vote.

All that aside, I am very thankful for my family and friends, my editor who allows this column, faithful readers and a gracious God.

...on this day from the History Guy

Nov. 25, 1947

Nov 25, 1947-Studio executives blacklist 10 screenwriters and directors who were jailed for refusing to testify at the House Un American Activities Committee.

In Hollywood, it's been detected that some of those who have directed spend their time doing more than screening,

in fact they may well be left leaning. And a few of those who write are red, at least that's what some have said.

Would you believe these Pinkos attempted


to indicate the Court was contemplated?

it's true, i tell you, it's no myth, they had the NERVE to plead the Fifth, didn't even try to be contrite,

I guess they thought they had that right.

Oh, wait a minute, I guess they do, so, by the way, do me and you.

Fall/Holiday 2010



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• JUST HERS •

Fair Game

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When I was a little girl, my father - a life-long Republican - had this joke about Communism. "Communism is when you have something someone else wants, and they want to share it with you." He was nobody's fool, and neither am I.

This is the time of year I always dread - hunting season. While we're hardly an animal sanctuary up here, we still have our fair share of wild critters. It's odd that folks who wouldn't dream of driving up your driveway, walking into your house, strolling into your kitchen, and grabbing a beer out of the fridge think nothing of coming on to your land, and killing everything that moves. As far as they're concerned, wild animals are to be killed, and if you, the property owner, aren't going to kill them, then it's open season.

Just once, it would be nice if these hunters would be honest. They would come up the driveway, get out of their pickup, ring the doorbell, and introduce themselves. "Hi, I'm Jim. These are my friends, Beau and Bill. We're hunters. We were wondering if we could have permission to hunt on your land." Except that's never going to happen. There's a Private Property sign at the bottom of the mountain, so just driving up to our house is a "no-no."

The hunters on our land aren't honest. They park their trucks on the turn-offs at the bottom of the mountain, and then run their dogs up the side of the mountain, sneaking up the back way. Should you catch them on your property, they play dumb, and swear, "No, M'am, we're not hunting. We're just chasing after a lost dog!" Give me a break. Your dog is here because you chased him onto my property. He's not lost. He's doing exactly what you want him to do.

This season, I've been crossing my fingers. After all, I don't have my Big Guy to face the hunters, and read them the riot act. I'm on my own on this one, a single woman up against a bunch of guys in camouflage, armed to the teeth, with their packs of snarling dogs. What do you think of my odds?

Since John has died, I don't sleep well to begin with. I'm just beginning to get back to some semblance of normalcy. You can imagine how much I resented four solid days of barking dogs, going on as late as 10 pm. Finally, at 8:30 pm one night, I called 911. "There are hunters on my prop-



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

erty, and the barking is driving me crazy. I can't take it anymore." About 40 minutes later, a car from the Sheriff's office arrived. The 26-year-old officer was kind, polite, and helpful. He calmed me down, and defused the situation. What he did suggest was that I call the fish and wildlife officer the next day. After all, while trespassing

was his job, the whole hunting thing had its own department.

Sure enough, I hit the phone the next day. My first call was answered by a particularly unhelpful woman. "Well," she drawled. "The area around Highlands is one of only two areas in Macon County where you don't have to have the permission of the owner to hunt." Excuse me? That's a complete contradiction of my editor, Kim Lewicki's recent article. She gave me another number to call. I left two messages on the warden's cell phone, and that evening, he returned my call.

I explained the situation - hunters on my property, baying dogs until late at night. "Are you from around here?" he began. "Excuse me?" I replied. Oh, here we go. I'm not from around here. I don't know beans. "No, I'm not from around here. I'm from Virginia. But I do know about hunting. My great-grandfather, grandfather, and brother were all hunters. I'm not some squeamish Bambi-hugger." The warden proceeded to ramble on about the long-standing local hunting culture. Did I know that hunting was a way of life around here? To my astonishment, he told me that the local hunters were better conservationists of my property than I was. You mean if a hunter has two deer in his sights - a healthy buck with huge antlers and a sick, scrawny specimen, he'll going to kill the sick one for the good of the breed? Maybe he doesn't believe in evolution.

Hunting late at night? Oh, that was just coon hunters who had to wait until nightfall to tree the coons. They're not illegally hunting bears. Dogs on my property? Why, they were just lost, that's all. Dogs just go where dogs want to go. The dogs don't know its private property. Have I posted signs on my land? So that the hunters can shoot them up? Since they don't come up the road, of course, so it would mean going out and putting a sign on every tree, as road signs would be useless.

I got mad. I yelled at him. People talking nonsense do that to me. He told me I was disrespectful. I was. So was he. He

• See JUST HERS page 21

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• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

HCH Foundation Launches "Holiday Hope" Fund Drive



Volunteers prepare mailing.

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation launched its "Holiday Hope" fund drive this week to raise funds for capital improvements and equipment needed at the hospital in the months ahead. Gifts can be designated to any of eight top priority areas, or for the hospital's unrestricted fund. Gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of a loved one.

Some of the "Holiday Hope" items involve efforts to update or advance the hospital's medical technology. Included in the list is new surgical and lab equipment that will allow the hospital to keep pace with the latest standards, and improvements to the hospital's computer infrastructure that will position the hospital to complete its transition to electronic medical records throughout the organization. Other top priorities include essential improvements to the hospital's physical infrastructure, such as a hot water heater replacement.

"The Holidays are a special time of year when it is traditional to give thanks for our blessings, and we would like to thank our community for their steadfast support of the Hospital. Without charitable support, we would not be able to provide the quali-

ty of care or range of services for our communities," said Robin T. Taylor, Executive Director of the HCH Foundation. "We have to be a full-time hospital, yet we serve a largely part-time population. We are grateful for the continuing support from the community so the hospital can remain a quality facility with great physicians and staff."

This past year, the hospital served more than 15,000 inpatients and outpatients. There were nearly 5,000 emergency visits, 8,000 radiology exams, 1,000 surgeries and 40,000 lab tests. And the personalized care provided at HCH continues to generate fan mail from patients and family members.

"The hospital we have today is a testament to what we can do when donors empower us. That's why we are asking our community to please consider HCH in their year-end giving."

Year-end gifts play an important role in the hospital's annual fundraising efforts, Taylor said. "On behalf of our patients, staff and from all of our hospital family, we are thankful for each and every gift, which ultimately helps HCH to save lives."

For more information or to make a gift, please call 828-526-1435.



From left, with his mother Sharon holding tight, Highlands's youth Joey Harris receives his flu shot administered by Employee Health Coordinator and Registered Nurse, Cindy Barloga, during the Annual Community Influenza Clinic, which offered the combination seasonal and H1N1 vaccination, provided by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH). The clinic was held Wednesday, Nov. 17. HCH provided over 80 flu immunizations to residents free of charge. Additional clinics in the near future. For more information, please call 828-526-1489.

... \$200K continued from page 1

However, business or project ideas don't have to reside on Main Street.

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

About \$1,375,000 will be awarded six to 10 businesses in as many Small Town Main Street Communities in North Carolina – applications are due February 10.

The money is a reimbursable, matching grant from which the Department of Commerce and the North Carolina Main Street Center are authorized to award grants totaling up to \$200,000 to each eligible local government/small business.

To be eligible, the business must commit to spending \$2 for each \$1 given so if \$200,000 is awarded, the business owner must also show that up to eight new jobs will be created. The minimum amount of grant money requested can be \$25,000. And, funds are not eligible for projects that are currently under construction or underway.

Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$25,000 per full-time permanent job retained or created per business. Part-time permanent jobs may not be added together to equal a full-time job.

So, for a community to receive the maximum \$200,000 in grant funds, it must retain or create eight full-time permanent jobs in the businesses that will directly benefit from the funding; commit \$400,000 in non-state or federal funding to match the grant award; and spur private investment.

For instance, if only six positions are created or retained, then the total grant may be reduced to \$150,000 – or \$25,000 per potential employee.

The goals of this program are to provide direct financial benefit to small businesses; to retain and create jobs in association with small business and to spur private investment in association with small businesses.

A Small Business is defined as an independently owned and operated, business with less than 100 employees and with annual revenues less than \$6 million.

Likewise a Private Investment could apply defined as a project or a group of projects in a designated area that will spur private investment and improve property. However, a project must be owned and maintained by the private entity and must provide a direct benefit to small businesses.

Eligible activities for the money are defined as downtown economic development initiatives; historic preservation initiatives outside the downtown core area; public improvement and public infrastructure projects outside of the downtown core area; and inter-local small business economic development projects.

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

The idea is to use the money to initiate projects that will have a direct benefit to small business retention, expansion or recruitment; retain or create jobs in association with small business; foster long-term property improvements and/or provide operating capital with direct benefit to small businesses.

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

Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward attended the workshop in Raleigh announcing the program recently so he can answer specific questions about the grant process. Applications are now available at Town Hall.

According to Town Manager Fatland some local businesses have already inquired about the grant.

– Kim Lewicki

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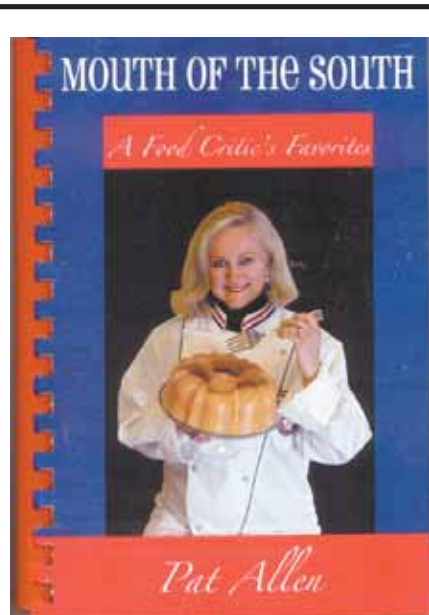
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## ... COUNTY continued from page 2

nal weakness controls and said the county was in good fiscal shape. "You have had a good year despite the economy," said the firm's representative.

The board gave a preliminary OK to a draft lease for the construction of a viper tower for NC Highway Patrol on a county owned water tank site off Addington Bridge Road. This means the previous site in the town of Franklin will not be used and the tower off Addington Bridge Road will be about 100 feet shorter than the tower originally requested.

Highway Patrol is also considering a site between Highlands and Cashiers in Jackson County but details were not available.

Viper towers enable emergency personnel to set up "talk groups" that can communicate continuously without having to wait for someone to get off a frequency, which was a problem during the Peek's Creek tragedy.

The board also unanimously approved the continued franchise with Northland Cable in Highlands. Northland is undergoing refinancing which requires the sign-off from the county.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to help fund Macon County's comprehensive cancer program - Ladies Night Out - by putting up \$10,000, contingent upon Congressman Heath Shuler's ability to get the program \$30,000 which will be used for its breast cancer detection program.

Commissioner Beale said following a meeting he had with Shuler a promise was made to help fund the program which is administered by Angel Medical Center in Franklin.

In 2010, the NC Comprehensive Cancer

Program estimates that 42 MC women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and seven MC women will lose their battle with the disease.

"With all the advances in healthcare, these seven women don't have to die," wrote Angel Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Tim Hubbs in a letter to the board. "Unfortunately, many women in Macon County aren't receiving crucial screenings due to being uninsured or under-insured."

Hubbs said if breast cancer is detected in the early stages through mammograms or other diagnostic screenings, survival rate reaches almost 100%.

The \$40,000 earmarked for the breast cancer detection at Angel Medical Center will enable 200 women who can't afford mammograms to get them for free.

The cost of a digital mammogram is \$200 which includes the screening and the diagnostic reading.

To date, the Ladies Night Out program has paid for 13 mammograms for 12 women and one man. Two of the women were diagnosed with breast cancer.

The county's portion will be paid out of contingency funds and will only be used if Shuler comes through with the \$30,000 match.

And finally, Republican Jimmy Goodman was selected to replace Democrat Al Slagle on the MC Planning Board whose term expired on Nov. 1. Slagle was recommended for reappointment but was voted down 3 to 2. Goodman was selected on the 3 to 2 vote. The MC Planning Board is busy working on the Steep Slope ordinance.

— Kim Lewicki

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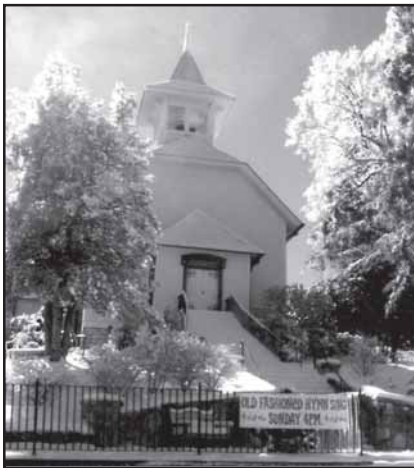
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# On going and Upcoming Events



## First Presbyterian to hold Annual Carol Sing after parade



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

### Through Jan. 2011

- The Green family is collecting coke can tabs to give to the Shriner's Hospital which turns them in for funds which helps the organization buy supplies. Please drop off coke can tabs at the Citgo Station across from the Rec Park (the old Stop n' Shop). Leave them with Ann or Trysta Green.

### Through 2010

- At The Bascom, Do Tell environmental sculpture: Patrick Dougherty. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org). Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

### Through Dec. 18

- At The Bascom, American Craft Today, Juried Exhibition, Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org). Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

### Through Sat., Nov. 27

- At The Bascom, Recent Works: Aaron Yakim and Cynthia Taylor. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org). Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

### Through Wed., Nov. 24

- Signups are now being accepted for the upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season at the Highlands Civic Center through Wednesday, November 24. The age groups are 6- and 7-year-olds in the development league, 8 and 9 year olds in the biddy league, 10 and 11 year olds in the junior league, 12-, 13-, and 14-year-olds in the senior league, 15 through 19 year olds (must be in school) in the varsity league. The division your child will play in is determined by their age on August 31, 2010. The cost is \$35 for the first family member and \$20 for the second. Please

bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. Drafts will be held in each age division to be scheduled after signups are completed. Anyone interested in coaching or helping coach must fill out a coaching application and additional paperwork available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551 or 828-342-3850.

### Ongoing

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

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

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

### Sundays

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

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

For information, call 828 349-0905, 828 369-8334, 706 782-0943.

### Mon. & Thurs.

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

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.
- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

### First Mondays

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

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
- Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- The Highlands Dialogue Tuesday discussions at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, e-mail John Gaston [johnngaston@aol.com](mailto:johnngaston@aol.com)

• See EVvENTS page 12

## Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner is a philanthropic endeavor

In 2001 there was not a single restaurant in Highlands open for Christmas. A group of concerned innkeepers organized volunteers to make a pot luck dinner for guests and local families. Because they charged for the dinner, they wanted the proceeds to go to a non-profit. This dinner became the Habitat for Humanity dinner at the Main Street Inn, and continued there until 2005. In its final year, the dinner raised in excess of \$11,000 and served over 200 people. Over the five years it raised \$23,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

After taking a year off, in 2007 Marty Rosenfield and Rick Siegel wanted to continue the dinner as a fundraiser to support local non-profits, and it became the Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner.

The beneficiaries are always local non-profits that serve Highlanders. In 2007 the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/ Big Sisters and The Literacy Council of Highlands; in 2008 the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/Big Sisters and The Friendship Center; in 2009 the beneficiaries were Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Hospice; in 2010, the

beneficiaries are Garr's Kids program at Carpe Diem Farm; R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Over the years the Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner has collectively donated over \$60,000 to local non-profits serving Highlanders.

The Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner will be at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club on December 25th. Dinner is a bountiful buffet of mouthwatering holiday fare prepared by some of Highlands finest Chefs including Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); Martha Porter (Morningside B&B); Jan Zehr (Banana Pudding Goddess); and of course we all spend a year in anticipation of Donna Woods' (worth every bit of the calories) dressing.

The cost is \$35 for adults; \$25 for children under 12; and children under 5 eat free. All proceeds go to the three local non-profits mentioned earlier. Come dine in the elegance of the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club on Christmas Day. For reservations call 828-526-5102. Call today!

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# On going and Upcoming Events

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## 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.

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

## Wednesdays & Fridays

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

## Every 3rd Wednesday

- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be

served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

## Thursdays

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

## Every Third Saturday

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

## Saturdays

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

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

- At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Parade day). Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

## 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 par-

lor, from 6:15-7:30pm. If you want to come early and join us for supper, \$5 per person or \$12 per family, call the church office by Monday of each week. (526-3376) The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jame Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.

## Tuesday, Nov. 23

- Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It's free.

## Fri. & Sat., Nov. 26-27

- At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. \$40 Bascom members/\$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, Nov.30-Dec.10, 10 am-5pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am, Saturday, Dec. 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828.526.4949.

- At The Bascom, Artist's Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn Featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists' works for Christmas, hostess and New Year's gifts. For information, call 828.526.4949.

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

- Hard Candy Christmas Art & Craft Show at

WCU Ramsey Center in Cullowee, NC. 10 a. to 5 p. Adults, \$3 children under 12 free.

## Friday, Nov. 26

- Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Sat., Nov. 27

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. to the top of Yellow Mtn., highest in the Highlands area at 5,127 feet, with a tower providing a 360 degree view. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 33 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.'

- Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Winter Wonderland from 1-3 p.m. It's free.

- Town Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 6-6:30 p.m. Santa at Visitor Center following tree lighting.

## Thursday, Dec. 2

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

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

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

## Nog Off and A Stitch in Time: Quilts Exhibition Shine at The Bascom



The People's Choice for outstanding egg nog during The Bascom's Nog Off competition went to Kent and Alice Nelson's family recipe, prepared by Sallie Taylor, exhibition coordinator at The Bascom. Joe Baird, Mary Collany, Eric NeSmith and Britt Ammann also submitted wonderful recipes that delighted all in attendance.

The evening's festivities also served as the opening for the A Stitch in Time: Quilts exhibition. The quilts, on loan from local collectors, will be on view through December 18. The exhibition is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson, Sieglinde and Jack Gillfillen and exhibition partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

This weekend, don't miss what's

happening at The Bascom. On Friday and Saturday, November 26-27, put your holiday gift shopping behind you at The Bascom's Artists' Marketplace, explore our White Elephant Sale or register to be a part of our second annual Gingerbread House Workshop. The public is invited to cast their votes for their favorite gingerbread creation, Tuesday- Saturday, November 30- December 10. The winners will be announced at 10 am on Saturday, December 11.

All Bascom exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Workshop registration is going on now. For more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949.

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**"HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS"**

**Art & Craft Show**

**November 26-27, 2010**

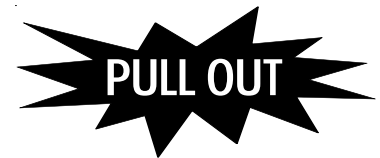
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# On going and Upcoming Events



## Saturday, Dec. 4

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

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

• Santa at the Visitor Center after the parade.

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

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

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

## Sun., Dec. 5

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

## Wed., Dec. 8

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

## Thursday, Dec. 9

• HCP's Annual Holiday Reading at the Perform-

ing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. It's free.

• A 10th 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.

## 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).

## Saturday, Dec. 11

• 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 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

• 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.

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

• At Paoletti's Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1



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## A November to Remember at The Bascom

- *A Stitch in Time: Quilts Exhibition*  
November 13-December 18
- **Gingerbread House Workshop**  
November 26-27
- Gingerbread Contest**  
November 30-December 10  
Cast your vote for your favorite creation
- **Artist Marketplace and White Elephant Sale**  
November 26-27  
Purchase one-of-a-kind, affordable, hand-crafted gifts.






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A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS  
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# COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

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Old time Highlands charm in this classic home that overlooks Mirror lake. Great family compound or possible B&B with a usable yard. 3 bedrooms 2 baths in the main house, with updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, and a native stone fireplace. The annex has 2 one-bedroom, one-bath apartments, each with private entry. Offered at \$599,000. mls #66770



Magnificent home with magnificent setting close to town. Screened porch, outside patio with fireplace, Master on first floor with 4 bedrooms up or appropriate for a large media room and 2 bedroom suites and an office. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #70726



Fabulous views of Whiteside and beyond. State of the art movie theater, a 3,000 bottle wine cellar, custom stair case, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, great room and bar. Offered at \$5,900,000. mls #68561



VZ Top Townhouse living. Enjoy one of the most spectacular Mountain Views in this area for the bargain price of \$249,000. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, fully renovated and ready to enjoy. mls #67460



Nearly new mountain cottage is fully furnished. Charming property with lots of trees. Three bedrooms, with large master upstairs for added privacy. Wonderful screened porch overlooks small stream. Wooded area with little yard maintenance. Offered at \$469,000 mls #68894



Fully furnished Highlands in-town condo. Second level, back of building, corner unit. Interior stairs with chair lift. Walk to town. Move in condition. Or, 12-month rental. Offered at \$165,000. mls #69351.



Charming log cabin sits on over one acre and backs up to Land Trust Lands. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Massive stone fireplace in the living room. Covered porch with outdoor living room with fireplace. Custom kitchen. Large deck that overlooks Koy pond with waterfall and gardens. Offered at \$765,000. mls #68834



Exceptional view of Shortoff Mountain! Great price! Each living level is all open to the deck and view, wood burning fireplace. Lower level has second kitchen, pool table, fireplace and two bedrooms. Offered at \$775,000 mls #68780



New construction on great view lot in Woodland Ridge. Open living spaces with soaring vaulted ceiling. Large screened porch with fireplace and long mountain view. Separate guest suite over garage. Offered at \$1,295,000 mls #69334



Great home on desirable Foreman Road. Walk to town. Quality finishes throughout from this 6 bedrooms and 5 1/2 bath home. Two fireplaces and lots of built-ins. Large pond. Great kitchen and family room. 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,395,000 mls #69424



Little Bear Pen 2 bedrooms, 2 baths Old Highlands Charm Flat usable yard Great location with a pretty setting! Offered at \$500,000. mls #68338



This builder's home has a great floor plan and loads of great custom extras. Open living room with cathedral ceiling and heavy beam work. Large dining room and huge storage and butler's pantry. Large office and a large master suite with his and her baths and closets. Upstairs level has family room with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Lower level has family room game room, bedroom and bath. Tons of storage! Detached 2 car garage with breezeway. Offered at a great value of \$1,490,000. mls #68814



Wonderful new home under construction in Woodland Ridge. This cottage style home sits on a hill with a great long range mountain view. Great porch with fireplace. Large open living spaces, walk-in pantry and master bedroom on main level. Offered at \$1,295,000 mls #69335



Commercial – Office – Professional – Residential. Great location on Harris Lakes features reception and waiting area, with 2/3 offices and bathroom. Room for expansion and a wonderful setting. Could also be used as residence – great for home office. Offered at \$750,000 mls #67077



Great Mirror Lake Location on Chowan Drive! Almost new, this lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath cabin sits on a hill and is in immaculate condition! Large covered porch and open deck, spacious open living room with fireplace. Offered at \$595,000. mls #69266



Fabulous Blue Valley view! Cathedral ceilings, screened porch, built in gas grill on deck and garden tub in MBA. Faux finishes, wonderful landscaping and rock work. Dining area off kitchen, full house generator. Offered at \$775,000 mls #68526



Commercial location at Carolina Way. Spacious office or bank building has many possibilities. Great office space with fixtures in place. A great opportunity in a good location! Offered at \$895,000 MLS #65504



North Old Walhalla Road. Located on over 4 acres, this cute cabin is the perfect retreat. Property backs up to Highlands Land Trust lands and has views of Blue Valley. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, stone fireplace and woodstove. 2 large covered porches and a small matching storage shed. Offered at \$599,000. mls #688



Tuscan Inspired Mountain Escape. Beautifully constructed home in gated community in Cashier. Sits on a fantastic lot with 3.56 acres with additional acreage which could be added for even more privacy. This lovely 3 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home was completed in 2006. Reduced for quick sell at \$1,199,000. mls #68619



Good location near the hospital with this one bedroom, one bath fixer upper that has new electrical and heating system and great bones. Nice yard with additional storage shed. Great entry level into Highlands. Offered at \$85,000. mls #69404

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### The highest and best in today's market

Change does not come easy for most of us, but it is one thing we can always count on. Those of us living in Highlands for many years had reason to believe we were uniquely "recession proof." Facing the harsh reality to the contrary has been a process. Nothing clarifies the current state of the economy better than our real estate market.

Change is something we have no control over. What we do have control over is our attitudes and our choices. These are times of sacrifice, but also times of great opportunity. They go hand in hand.

Here's an example: A friend of mine shared her experience in selling a vehicle. Although she had not wanted to sell, she needed the money. The SUV had much greater value before the recession. Now there were multitudes of SUVs on car lots and in newspapers with much lower prices. Instead of lamenting over how much she "could have" sold it for, she priced it under the current competition and it sold immediately. My friend was relieved to have the money to pay her bills and genuinely grateful to have a buyer. The buyer was happy to have a quality SUV and thankful to have it at a reasonable price. Together, their needs were met.

We all have needs. In matters of high ticket items such as real estate, both buyers and sellers will be better served by a professional with experience and knowledge of the local market.

A seller's motivation is not always due to financial issues, but their desire to sell may be of equal importance. This is especially true in the Highlands market. However, there are many more sellers than buyers.

If a seller is not substantially motivated,



**Lynn Kimball**  
Signature Properties

we recommend waiting for a more opportune time to sell. In today's market, appreciating the VALUE OF A BUYER is the key to selling. Those who are willing to step out and buy in these uncertain times naturally want to buy the nicest property at the best price. In order to attract these potential buyers, sellers will gain their attention by pricing at the low end of their competition.

I trust that readers will receive this article in the spirit for which it is intended — not es-

entially about automobiles or real estate. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. The desired result is to have our needs met. Let's consider choosing to count our blessings, not only for what is good for US, but for the benefit of ALL concerned.

We have so much to be thankful for. We live in one of the most beautiful places in God's creation. And let's remember — Highlands' greatest natural asset is the warm and loving spirit of the people who make up our community.

Signature Properties has been serving Highlands and Cashiers for over 25 years. Our agents would be honored to apply for the position as your Realtor and would be grateful for the opportunity.

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The Signature Properties' family wishes you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season.

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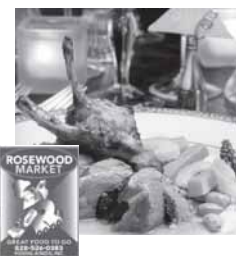
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## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Facial rejuvenation

**W**e all age. Our genes and life styles determine how we do so. Since our faces are our most visible area, it is the area where we are most concerned with hiding the effects of aging. As a specialty, we have developed multiple means of doing this, but the method providing the best reversal of the signs of aging is surgery. Surgical rejuvenation is undergoing dramatic changes as I, at the Center for Plastic Surgery, and others recognize the shortcomings of our previous techniques. Older methods tended to pull tissues in unnatural directions. They also removed fat that was already sparse. All this tended to give an unnatural, pulled and flattened look. Newer techniques return the tissues to a more natural position and preserve or restore volume to the face.

Initially, when we began using surgery to reverse aging, we dealt only with the skin that appeared to become loose with the passage of time. We attributed this to a natural loss of tissue elasticity and the effects of gravity. New studies have shown that what we see is actually a very complex interaction of many factors and at many levels within the face. Yes, gravity and loss of elastic rebound do play a role. The nutrition of the tissues, muscle action on them, underlying attachments to other tissues and bone, the natural loss or accumulation of fat, and even loss of muscle and bone also play significant roles. As our understanding of all these factors has evolved, our methods of reversing the signs of aging have also changed dramatically.

Starting at the top, the brow is an excellent example of radical changes in our approach to rejuvenation based on new knowledge. Early in my carrier, I refused to do browlifts because they made every-

one look strange. The approach was to remove the forehead muscle and tighten the skin to, thus, smoothing the brow. We now know that the forehead lines are just a response to descent of the forehead and, that by repositioning the tissues naturally, the lines go away but let you still express yourself. The old method also elevated the brow evenly, also causing strange looks. We now elevate the lateral brow more than the central brow, and pull the temple up and lateral to reverse the uneven descent due to the central



**Dr. Robert Buchanan**  
Center for Plastic Surgery

brow fixation near the nose. This has now become one of my favorite procedures, since it has almost no down time, and, not only rejuvenates the brow naturally, but also corrects the upper eyelids and the lateral crow's feet. We also eliminate the need for Botox® by removing the abnormal, hypertrophied muscles between the brows.

We have also changed dramatically our approach to the lower eyelids and cheeks. Surgery for the lower lids was

done by removing some of the muscle, fat and skin and elevating the tissues straight. This really did not get rid of the

indentation under the eye, created a further hollow that got worse with time, and risked deforming the shape of the eye. It and a facelift did not correct the other problems in the cheek including loss of upper cheek fullness, lower cheek depression, and increase in the "parentheses" between the cheek and the lip. Once we understood what caused the problems, surgery dramatically changed. Although there are different approaches, I prefer to lift both the eye and cheek at the same time, as this corrects the entire midface. I now remove very little skin below the eye; most of it comes out laterally. This, and taking the eyelid attachment off the bone under the eye, allows elevation of the whole cheek, and stabilization

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 19

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## ... HEALTH MATTERS continued from pg 17

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Although our genes play a pivotal role in our aging, they are only one factor. Studies of twins have demonstrated that our lifestyle may have an even a greater influence on how we age. The two things that had the greatest influence in differentiating how each individual twin aged was smoking and sun exposure. The more the sun exposure, the faster the aging. Smoking accelerated aging even more.

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### Giving back in thanks

Cullasaja Women's Outreach donates more than \$80,000  
to Highlands-Cashiers Not-for-Profits

Cullasaja Women's Outreach (CWO) recently announced the results of its 2010 fundraising for charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the Highlands and Cashiers communities. More than **\$80,875** was raised and awarded through a combination of CWO grants and individual member-directed donations.

More than \$47,000 was raised at the CWO progressive dining experience — *Rockin' at the Top of the Rock* — last summer. The fundraiser was attended by 154 members of the Cullasaja Club. Funds raised were awarded to 17 area organizations in grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each, following a sophisticated grants process headed up by CWO Grant Co-chairs Karen Leabo and Brenda Manning.

This year's grant recipients included: *The Bascom*, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Blue Ridge Mountain Health Project, Cashiers-

Highlands Humane Society, Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Girls on the Run of Western NC, Highlands-Cashiers Community Child Development Center, Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Hudson Library, International Friendship Center, IFC Food Pantry, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Literacy Council of Highlands, and the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center.

Working with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the CWO setup a CFWNC-CWO Charities fund. This special fund allows members to designate the recipients of their donations directly, or to make donations to the CWO Charities General Fund, which are disbursed each fall when the organization completes its annual grant process.

"Since its inception in 2006, the wom-



The grant committee.

en of the CWO have invested more than **\$344,000** into our community," noted 2010 President Lana Jordan. "This is absolutely incredible considering that we're a grass-roots organization. Today, we are about 70 women strong — with a shared mission of reaching-out to each other and to the community through philanthropy, volunteerism and friendship. Together, we're working to build a better world, starting here in our own backyard."

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## ... USFS continued from page 1

tools in conserving hemlock for future generations."

In 2005, the Forest Service identified 159 eastern and Carolina hemlock areas that were distributed throughout a conservation network designed to represent genetic diversity within the distribution of known hemlock stands.

These areas were part of a larger conservation network of areas being treated in surrounding states. Initial treatments focused

primarily on release of certain predator beetles and treatment of high-priority areas with imidacloprid. Follow-up monitoring has shown that a number of the conservation areas have suffered mortality, and can no longer function as genetic conservation areas for the hemlock.

Forest Supervisor Hilliard decided in late August to allow expansion of the treatment areas, both to replace those that were lost as well as to add more areas overall.

In addition, the wider range of allowed treatments helps forest managers select the treatments best suited for a specific area. The recent decision also gives the forest access to new treatments and predator options in the future.

The forest analyzed three alternatives, including continuing current treatment, expanding treatment but without using the new chemical, dinotefuran, and expanding treatment options to include dinotefuran. Dur-

ing the public comment period last spring, 13 comments were received, most of which supported the alternative that was eventually selected.

For more information about National Forests in North Carolina hemlock conservation, please go to the website: [http://www.csu.edu/nfsnc/nepa/final_hwa_ea_2010.pdf](http://www.csu.edu/nfsnc/nepa/final_hwa_ea_2010.pdf), or contact David Casey, Silviculturist, at [dmcasey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmcasey@fs.fed.us).

## ... HIS & HERS continued from page 8

thought he was dealing with a stupid city woman whom he could sweet talk with his good ole boy logic. Was he barking up the wrong tree! Since it was dark outside, I guess it was just those coon dogs.

Hunting season is going to be taking a break for a while, before the next onslaught. It'll be nice to have a breather. It's discouraging when the people who are supposed to protect you are instead protecting

the right of people to invade your privacy and your property. I don't know what the solution is, but from where I stand, it sure seems like a losing battle.

• 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. When Michelle was 2 ½ years old, she was attacked by a hunting dog, which ripped open her right knee. To this day, she has a healthy respect for all dogs.

### Sheriff deputies complete CIT Training



Sheriff Robert L. Holland and 15 officers from the Macon County Sheriff's Office have now completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The second CIT class at Southwestern Community College's Jerry Sutton Public Safety Training Center in Macon County was held October 25th-29th. Other participants included officers from the Franklin Police Department, NAMI and the Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging. The objectives of the training were to increase law enforcement's knowledge about mental illness; to learn about community resources; to learn how to connect mental health clients to the appropriate resources; and to avoid incarceration and involuntary commitments when such action is appropriate.

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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Things I am thankful for 2010

**T**ime for the annual Thanksgiving column, and this year is certainly a special one because 2010 has given me a lot to be thankful for. Therefore, without further ado, here is my list for 2010.

I am thankful for both myself and the city of New Orleans that our years of faithful suffering were rewarded with a Super Bowl. The celebration afterwards was amazing, and it was incredible to see the happiness in the city as well as among the players and fans.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Special thanks go to Drew Brees, who has been remarkable in the way that he represents the team and the city without reserve.

I am thankful for Coach K—not only the captain of my preferred team, but also the leader of Team USA. Amazing when one considers that he was won

a championship in three different decades in addition to winning a gold medal in two different decades as well. Despite his flaws (foul language, obvious hair dye job, pretentiousness) Coach K is

truly one of the legends of the sport. (PS—I'm thankful that Gordon Hayward's half-court shot was just a tad off on that fateful day in April)

I'm thankful that this will be Brett Favre's last year playing football in the NFL. Despite numerous attempts by announcers to make me feel sorry for the guy, I just can't do it — especially not since he got a fat contract to throw interceptions for Minnesota this year.

I'm thankful for TCU and Boise State — two supposed “have nots” that will have the opportunity to change college football this year. If we can just get one of these guys in the BCS Championship and have them win it, then maybe the greedy folks in charge of college football will finally succumb to the public clamor for a playoff.

I'm thankful that the Miami Heat are a middle of the road team right now. If anything it proves that the “team” concept still holds some weight in the NBA. While I am sure that LeBron, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh will eventually become a more cohesive unit as the year progresses, it is nice to see that it takes more than just a couple of superstars to win games on the professional level.

I am thankful that Lou Holtz is not my personal physician. While he may be a decent pop psychologist, I definitely do not want him showering me with spittle during a consultation.

I am thankful for Steve Spurrier, who taught me that it is my job to stop the other team, not to have them stop themselves by putting in second string or laying back. Spurrier's boys will play for the SEC Championship later this season, and I will certainly be pulling for them in that game.

And finally, while I must preface this statement by saying that I am certainly biased, I am thankful that Highlands School has been the home of a man the caliber of Butch Smart. I was part of Coach's first team ever at Highlands School, and while I was too young to appreciate it at the time, he taught me the value of character, integrity and commitment during my years as a player.

Later, as a mentor, he has taught me about loyalty, perseverance, and more than anything else, he has taught me about courage. Our community is very fortunate to have such a man working

with our young people. Once you play for Coach, you are a member of the Highlander basketball family. With that being said, I hope everyone is able to enjoy plenty of time with their families this Thanksgiving.



Highlands' Emily Murphy at the game against Andrews.



Highlands' Cai Roman at the game against Rabun.

Photos by Noel Atherton

## • HS SPORTS •

### Highlanders get first win of season

By Ryan Potts

The Highlander basketball teams opened the season with several tough non-conference opponents to start the season. After playing several 2A schools to begin the year, the Highlanders hosted 1A Andrews on Monday night and earned their first wins of the season.

The Lady Highlanders struggled early against the Lady Wildcats, committing several mistakes in the first half and uncharacteristically turning the ball over. Despite a sloppy first half, the Lady Highlanders managed to lead by 3 at the half, but several half-time adjustments allowed Highlands to open the third quarter with an 8-0 run to extend the lead.

The Lady Highlander lead ballooned to as many as 21 before a late Andrews run narrowed the final margin to 51-42. Junior Emily Munger scored 18 for Highlands and

Senior Taylor Buras added 11.

The Highlanders also struggled early against Andrews, as the Wildcats fell back into a tight 2-3 zone and the Highlanders were unable to hit jump shots early. The cold shooting of Highlands allowed Andrews to control the tempo and take an 18-16 lead into the half.

In the second half, the Highlanders were able to wake up on defense and get some easy baskets off of turnovers. Highlands led throughout the second half, but was not able to pull away until midway through the fourth quarter when they used a 12-0 run to put the game out of reach.

Junior PG Logan Schmitt led the Highlanders with 17 points, and seniors Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz scored 12 and 14 points respectively.

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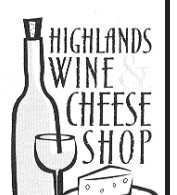
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