

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 50

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Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

Wed., Dec. 14

• Pancake Supper Highlands Boys Basketball Team fundraiser before the PTO meeting and band concert, 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pancakes, juice and fruit \$5 for 2 pancakes or \$7 for all you can eat.

• Student Symposium at Highlands Biological Station when students will present their Internship projects. For more information, call 526-2602.

Thursday, Dec. 15

• HCP presents its annual free Christmas Reading at PAC at 7:30 p.m. A mix of serious and humorous.

Friday, December 16

• Audubon Christmas Bird County. Call 526-2775 for more information.

Sat. Dec. 17

• Mountain Fresh Grocery will give the Highlands School PTO 100% of its breakfast proceeds – all Breakfast Sales to the Highlands School PTO.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway monthly work trip Register with Ran Shaffner by leaving a message at 828-526-5622 or email [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com). Lunch is provided Bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them.

• La Noche Navidena at the Highlands Civic Center from 6-9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18

• Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of Tennessee Williams "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" Sunday at 3 p.m. at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC. There are roles for three men, ages 25 – 50 and three men, ages 50 – 70. Roles for women include four women, ages 25 – 50 and two women, ages 50 – 70. Call director Donna Cochran at 828-526-2080 or 770-317-6307.

• Luncheon to raise money for the Highlands Emergency Council's Fuel Program in Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church from, noon to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon includes pork tenderloin with cranberry chutney, twice baked potatoes, green beans almondine, garden fresh salad and assorted desserts. Reservations needed by Friday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. Call 526-3175. Donations accepted.

• At Highlands United Methodist Church, Choir Contata at 10:50 a.m. Featuring familiar carols and instrumentals with piano, organ, handbells, percussion, brass and quintet.

## Town to decide on 'form of government'

Thursday night at a special Town Board meeting, commissioners learned that as it stands now, the town isn't in compliance with the State General Statutes when it comes to the Council-Manager form of government.

At least that's the interpreta-

tion of Carl Stenberg with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government who made the presentation and Fleming Bell also of the School of Government.

Town Attorney Bill Coward still interprets the statute differently – and so the town's ordinance

which was amended for the hybrid form of the Council-Manager form where the Town Board hires and fires the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director but the manager oversees day-to-day activities of all departments – stands

• See GOVERNMENT page 18

## Planning Board OK's CD zone

The Planning Board OK'd draft ordinances regulating fences and commercial lighting in town and then considered again, the proposed Conditional District for multi-family structures.

The Fence ordinance deals with residential and commercial fences – their height, placement and design – whether fences are open or closed. It also regulates gates, and as currently written exempts temporary fences and subdivision/project entrances.

But instead of being on a project-by-project basis as in the past, board members wanted some stipulations outlined for subdivision/project entrances – the proximity to roadways, and the height of side branches of a gate/entrance configuration.

Outdoor lighting was discussed at length – the idea being that careless use of outdoor lighting damages the aesthetics of Highlands' nighttime environ-

• See PLANNING BOARD page 9

## Get photos with Santa every Saturday through Christmas Eve



Santa is ready for photos and to hear Christmas wishes in his special house outside the Visitor Center on Main Street every Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Christmas Eve.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Shuler earns CIO certification

Matthew Shuler, MIS/GIS Director for the Town of Highlands, has successfully graduated from the 2011 Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program™ at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's

School of Government.

The CGCIO™ program is the first local government specific program for CIOs in the nation and began in 2005. It is designed for local government Chief Informa-

• See SHULER page 9

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## Franklin teams & Lindamood-Bell subjects of BOE meeting

By Ryan Potts

The Macon County Board of Education met Monday evening in Franklin in their monthly business meeting. Highlights from the meeting included the honor of several Franklin High School sports teams including FHS Women's volleyball. The Lady Panthers finished with a record of 24-4 and lost in the NCHSAA semifinals to North Iredell. The Lady Panthers finished the season with a final ranking of 7<sup>th</sup> in the state of NC.

Also recognized at the December meeting were the FHS Women's Tennis and Golf teams. The Lady Panther tennis team featured six players qualifying for Regionals as well as the co-player of the year in Andrea Bell.

Next on the agenda was an update on the much-discussed

• See BOE page 11

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### In defense of WABG

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the letter to the editor submitted last week by Joni Wavra.

As Chair Elect of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Winter Arts and Business Group (a subcommittee of the Chamber), I pride myself in the work we do to entice visitors to come to the mountains in the winter months and slow season.

The group is comprised of energetic and dedicated business owners who have a love for Highlands and want to increase and support business in the winter. The group is open to all, and we welcome your participation.

Each year, we produce a calendar that is not only printed, but sent electronically to area businesses to send to their customers.

Every Chamber member is notified via email if they want to take part in this piece.

In addition, a notice was placed in the Highlander newspaper for three weeks and the Laurel Magazine issued an email seeking business support.

This year, one of our local businesses used the electronic medium and improved the quality of it by including local photography and ideas for visitors.

It was an oversight on our behalf that a local Christmas tree farm was mentioned, though not advertised. This electronic calendar was emailed to the business' clientele and was not a printed piece distributed by the Chamber.

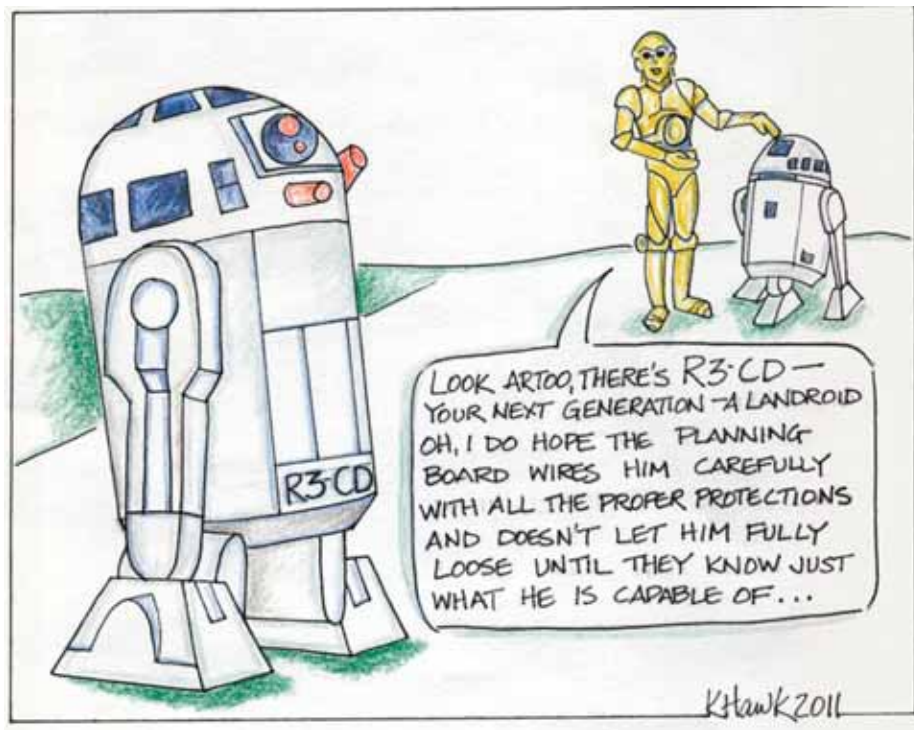
We apologize for this mistake and agree the name of the mentioned business should not have occurred.

We also thank those businesses who support the tireless efforts of all those folks involved in the Winter Arts and Business Group.

It takes special people who realize we are all in this together to make Highlands a year round, business-friendly town.

Brian J. Stiehler, Chair, WABG  
Chair Elect, Highlands Chamber of Commerce  
Bob Kieltyka, Executive Director

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



## 'Message' of letter edited out

Dear Editor,

I had good response from my letter that was in Highlands' Newspaper last week. Another business owner contacted me and totally feels the same way. However, I did find out that I have way too much trust in people.

The editor/publisher of The Highlander newspaper, Eric NeSmith, emailed me what I thought was my letter - I was in a rush in my very limited busy season and trusted them to run my letter as I sent it with only typo corrections.

Well, when it was published, I saw they completely left out all the parts about the "Corporation" that appears to be running things behind the scene.

What a shame.....I guess I thought they had integrity, but I am wrong. As far as I am concerned there is only one newspaper in town and that is this one. If we do any advertising next year it will be with Highlands' Newspaper.

Joni Wavra  
Ty-Lyn Plantation

## • THANKS •

### Nylund benefit a success

Many thanks to all the merchants, restaurant owners, and each individual who gave and/or came out to enjoy the fun evening in honor of Steve and Cindy Nylund.

A very special thanks to Dr. Richard Blue of the Blue Laser Group, who so graciously donated to auction, laser surgery for one eye, a \$2,400 value; Bryson's Food Store and The Farmer's Market for food and drinks; the Johnny Webb Band for the awesome music; and to each individual who took the time to bake all the wonderful breads, pies and cakes; Bobby Newton, auctioneer; John and Freida Munger, and Madison Dalton, for grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs. To everyone that pitched in, everyone is appreciated.

We live in a wonderful, loving community.

Caroline Keener Winn, John & Freida Munger, John & Lila Sherrill & Bobby Newton

### 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 Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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FREE every Wednesday on the street and on the web;  
Circulation 10,000  
Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-3228

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor- Tom Merchant  
Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki  
Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)  
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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# Help USFS and law enforcement solve rape case

Law enforcement officials encourage area residents to continue reporting any information they may have that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the man accused of raping a woman in the Nantahala National Forest on Sept. 25, 2011.

Investigators say they have received a steady stream of information, and they would like to see the trend continue. Posting signs and a description of the suspect can help. Investigators appreciate the public's help. As part of a multi-agency manhunt, law enforcement officials are aggressively working to solve the case by following up on leads and using numerous other investigative tools, including forensic evidence. Law enforcement officials are committed to finding the suspect and bringing him to justice.

The USDA Forest Service, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, and the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) are seeking information on the rape that occurred Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, at approximately 4:00 p.m. in Macon County within the Nantahala National Forest.

The incident occurred at the intersection of Forest Service Road (FSR) 711 and the Wayah Road, State Road 1310. A female driving through the area stopped to

render aid to a person she believed was incapacitated who was lying beside the road. At that time, a firearm was used to subdue the victim, and she was allegedly forcibly raped.

Law enforcement authorities seek information and assistance in identifying a possible suspect. Authorities are looking for a white male, 6'0", 200 pounds, between

the ages of 30 and 40, having brown wavy short hair, green to blue eyes, having a deep voice and a fair complexion. The suspect

• See RAPE page 8

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Good intentions were stupid, stupid, stupid.

The good intentions of Florida's Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson to help control the massive increase of anacondas and Burmese pythons eating children and small deer in the Everglades of Florida has backfired.

Because of his single-page letter to President Obama, pythons threw a party to celebrate the event. Fortunately, there were no children or deer around to be served as hors d'oeuvres. I'm sure these slinky critters would vote for Senator Nelson in 2012 if they could. And, of course, President Obama signed the order without reading it. Is anyone reading anything in DC?

WARNING: Do not bring your child or pet into the Florida Everglades, especially now.

This is about a stupid, stupid, stupid

politician acting without knowing what he's doing....like most politicians most of the time....like approving a healthcare bill without first reading it....like selling guns to drug lords and getting federal agents killed....like....well, you know the rest....maybe not.

I'm sure Senator Nelson meant well but that's not good enough when you hold a position of high authority and responsibility. The move was awful. Nelson should look up the word "irresponsible" and start looking for a job. The voters in Florida will not forget this brain-dead act.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
askfredanything@aol.com

You already know from my past columns Florida is crawling (pun) with pythons that swallow deer, family pets and small children. These critters are not native to this country. While wildlife officials are doing their best to eradicate the snakes, Nelson is unwittingly promoting them. DUH!

Instead of his one-page letter to Obama, Nelson could have written a bill placing a national bounty on both pythons and anacondas. Sometime back, Florida was overrun with alligators and the state put a temporary bounty on the critters. TA DA, end of problem. Hunters came from ev-

erywhere and alligator shoes and purses became the rage.

Instead of further wasting our tax money, congress should try to do something useful for a change, like killing dangerous snakes overrunning Florida. That's much too sensible for a congressman, besides killing snakes probably wasn't being pushed by a lobbyist with a fistful of money. America is so broken.

While wildlife officials are all for eradicating the scary snakes, they say Nelson's unintended consequences of banning the import and interstate transportation of these critters will lead to even more snakes dumped in our backyards. Now every pet shop in the state will be looking to dump these worthless snakes

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 6

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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Perks of exercising outdoors

I love walking Marley. I'd love it even more if it weren't a job. Marley is, to put it mildly, energetic. He needs daily exercise. Liz-zie and Bull acknowledge the need, but reject the task, so walking him became a job, my job. Things you have to do are less fun than things you want to do, even when they're the same. Freedom is the spice of chores. But I do love walking him, despite the fact that I don't have a choice.

I believe Marley appreciates the effort. There is no doubt he enjoys our walks. When I come home at night, he looks at me with piercing, pleading eyes. He knows a walk is on the agenda and campaigns to hasten it, but I think he appreciates it, too. There are times he knows I'd rather not walk; when it's cold or raining, when it's late or I'm tired. After a terrible day and I just want a few minutes for myself. He settles down in a few minutes, gracious in his disappointment. He doesn't pout when he realizes all the politicking in the world won't make me budge. On those days, we just go out for a few minutes, maybe to the neighbor's security light, maybe even less.

We walked this morning. It's impossible, to appreciate the beauty of a day from inside the house. Out on a trail or road, focus improves, senses sharpen. There is more to a day than can be seen through a picture window. There is the chill wind on exposed fingers that is both thrilling and painful. Finger-like twigs sprout from the slender branches of skeletal trees set against a vivid blue sky. The sound of gravel underfoot is magnified in the morning silence. A squirrel scampers over dry leaves, or a woodpecker drums on a distant tree.

I'm not sure why I go to the gym and mount the treadmill. Time spent at the gym is no more physically beneficial, and it is certainly less enjoyable. We seem to think exercise must be painful and unpleasant to be beneficial. When we're walking, I can stop at the top of a hill and draw a deep breath with none of the guilt that would accompany interruption on the treadmill.



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

When I'm walking with Marley, my mind wanders, even while my senses are keen. Financial News Network is usually playing at the gym. I guess if I were retired in this economy I'd be guarding my financial egg pretty closely, too. It doesn't matter if it's FNN, CNN, ESPN, or Life-time. The TV relieves the boredom of a boring activity and distracts our attention. We don't think on a treadmill. The point is to avoid thought, focusing instead on the vola-

tility of gold futures or the instability of Kelly's stilettos.

Sequential thoughts flow while we walk, loosely connected, more like an unknotted string of pearls than links of an iron chain.

The final thought on our walk today came within easy sight of our driveway. I decided that next week's column will not have a Christmas theme, nor will a list of recommendations or resolutions appear the following week. It's not important how I reached the decision. Suffice it to say it was a circuitous journey. I'll take a walk and something will come to me.

## Sign up today for 'Food for Fuel' luncheon!

### Reservation Deadline Extended

A luncheon at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands to raise Funds for The Highlands Emergency Council's Fuel Program.

Luncheon will be prepared by Joel Porter. Donations accepted. Make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church designated For The Fuel Fund. Reservations would be appreciated and need to be made by Fri., Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.  
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# • BACK DAYS IN HIGHLANDS – PART 10 •

By Herm Wilson  
8/23/1905 to  
1/6/1993

## The Clear Creek Boys

"The history of the true mountaineer will soon be lost forever. We don't know why our ancestors settled in the rugged mountains of Western North Carolina, but I am sure they had a reason.

The young people of today who grew up in the mountains don't have the slightest ideas as to what the true life of a mountaineer was because they were born into the jet age and our nation has changed so much in the last 50 years. I write the following parts of "Back Days in Highlands" so a record of that time can be kept."

– Herm Wilson

(Published with permission from his son Neville Wilson)

There were about 10 of us living on Clear Creek and in the Queen Mountain Community, about five miles south of Highlands. From high peaks around Highlands on a clear day you can see the Great Smoky Mountains about 50 miles away.

Us Clear Creek boys were lumber jacks, farmers, and raised sheep, hogs and cattle.

Though five miles away, Highlands was our little mountain home town. On Sunday evening, us boys would get together and walk to town. In those days you either walked or rode a horse.

We had gone to town one Sunday evening and were having a good time when two of the guys got into a cussing quarrel. One harsh word brought on another, and these fellows were first cousins.

Finally, one drew his revolver and shot six shots point-blank into his

cousin. I was standing by the fellow who was shot. He fell to the ground and would rise and fall again. He was wearing blue pants and a white shirt. He had been shot an inch from his heart and one bullet grazed his temple. One bullet went through his arm and hand. His shirt was crimson red. But he was a big strong man.

There was only one car in Highlands at that time, a Model-T Ford. We loaded the fellow who had been shot into the car and drove to the sanatorium.

There wasn't a doctor in Highlands at that time, but there was a registered nurse at the sanatorium. She did all she could for the man until doctors could come up from Franklin, about 20 miles away.



They saved his life and he is living today, about 84 years old and going strong.

Years later after he was shot, a surgeon removed one bullet just under the skin in his back.

• Herman "Herm" Wilson was one of the six men whose contributions to the

Town of Highlands were featured in the Highlands Historical Society's production of "Highlands Live!" in June 2011. Interest in him led his son Neville and daughter-in-law Kathleen to share some of Herm's writings that reflect the man's homespun humor, philosophy and patriotism.

### This Holiday Season ...

Take a child's winter garment -- gloves, mittens, caps, hats, scarves -- to Ruka's Table, Flipside or Highlands Smokehouse and get 10% off your order!

ALSO, take an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to The Pizza Place on Main Street and get 10% off your order.

## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

wherever they can find a place, like the Everglades, just a short distance west of the coastline of South Florida. Remember, pythons breed faster than Catholics and Muslims combined.

Wait, I've got to stop typing for a couple of hours to get my blood pressure down. I'll be back.

OK, I'm back. Last week I'm swimming in my pool with my Dubai kid and found a garter snake had joined us for a relaxing dip. So you'll know, the garter snake is a very small critter but the meanest snake on the planet. It thinks it's an anaconda but they're just too small to do anything dangerous.

The snake was not happy my son and I were swimming in his pool, but realizing it was no match for two giant humans, it cowered in the corner of the pool. Ya see, garter snakes are smarter than Senator Nelson. They pick their fights wisely. Soooo, using a small stick, we carefully lifted the little critter outta the pool to a nearby flowerbed. The little guy never stopped trying to bite us. It was upset 'cause it hadn't finished its swim. I'm sure it was a Republican.

Having two sons, we Wooldridge's grew up with caged garter and black snakes that lived in the huge climbing tree of our back yard. Neighborhood kids came often to play with the critters. Our house was the place to come and play for our whole neighborhood. Those were cherished moments of my life.

So I hope you realize by now I'm not down on all snakes, just the ones in Washington...and the ones not native

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 22

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# • COACH'S CORNER •

## 'Mile High Messiah' does it again.

Full disclosure here, I am sure that at some point we will all be sick of Tim Tebow (if you aren't already). I can understand the folks that say, "But Ryan, Ryan...you hate Brett Favre because of the media circus, why don't you hate Tim Tebow?"



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Those people do have a point as Tebow has become the center of a nationwide discussion, from the New York Times to Sean Hannity's show on Fox News. However, I think that two things are different in Tebow's situation. First and foremost, he is a complete underdog in the sense that most (if not all) true NFL guys thought he would be out of the league or converted to an H-Back at this point. Secondly...the way the guy is winning is truly amazing, perhaps one of the best stories that the NFL has ever seen in terms of truly seeming magical.

Back to Sunday for a moment...the Denver Broncos were down 10-0 with just 4 minutes to play. Despite Tebow's stat line being uglier than Newt Gingrich in drag, he hadn't played nearly as poorly as the media would like you to think. Despite this, it looked as though the magic had run out, as Denver WRs were dropping passes and Chicago's defense was stuffing Denver's option attack. Again, the circumstances looked bleak...and again, magic was in the air at Mile High. Tebow proceeded to go 7-7 in the final few minutes and bring the Broncos back to a 10-10 tie. Overtime was somewhat anti-climactic at that point, and Denver prevailed with a 13-10 victory and sole possession of 1<sup>st</sup> place in the AFC West.

The actual football analysis of the game is this...Denver is a team that wins by playing defense and not turning the ball over. Chicago had the exact same blueprint, and

both teams were playing for a war of attrition. Denver had three good scoring opportunities in the first 55 minutes of the game. On one, Tebow threw a pick...on another, Demaryius Thomas dropped what would have been a 60 yard TD pass. On the third, Denver had a field goal blocked. Chicago capitalized on their two scoring chances, getting a TD and a FG which is what resulted in the 10-0 score at the start of Tebow Time.

Football analysis notwithstanding, it is the analysis of the other facets of the game that are simply amazing. How is it that receivers who dropped 6 passes in the first three quarters suddenly catch everything during Tebow Time? How is it that a field goal kicker who missed a couple of easy 35 yarders earlier in the season suddenly is crushing 50+ yard FGs that would have been good from 70? How is it that a guy like Marion Barber III, who hadn't fumbled in over 350 carries, suddenly fumbles with the game on the line? Other than the Almighty Himself (who I don't think cares too much about a football game) the only explanation that I have is that Tebow's will is so strong that it affects both teams. Denver seems to play with superhuman ability late in the game because they believe that Tebow will not let them lose. On the flip side, the opposing teams never feel safe, regardless of their lead because of Tebow, and they sometimes do things that they wouldn't usually do and it works against them.

Will the magic run out this week against Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots? I'm not sure, but I know this much...if Denver pulls out another Mile High Miracle, I think it is high time that we tell Tim Tebow that cancer and world hunger are up 10 points and it is the fourth quarter, just to see what happens.



dinner to go

## What's for Dinner?

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Fri	Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies, and coleslaw	20.95
Sat	In-house smoked BBQ, coleslaw, apple and bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls	17.95

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Where did we go wrong?

I have made no bones about my disdain for pro football players who have hair down their back, giant diamond studs in their ears (WHILE THEY'RE PLAYING FOOTBALL) and celebrating a successful play like they just personally won the Super Bowl. Choreographed dances for heaven's sake. Johnny Unitas and his contemporaries must be turning over in their graves commiserating over the depths to which their sport has sunk.

Unitas notwithstanding, evidently somebody out there enjoys them since every game is sold out, and the networks have paid the league \$20.4 billion to telecast games through 2013. The cost to extend those contracts has risen to the point of challenging the national deficit.

But I digress. My point is the following. Rich Lowery, a fine young journalist, had a piece recently in the National Review Online entitled "What's Wrong With Tim Tebow?" "Tebow is respectful, wholesome, and a man of God. He has no obvious failings besides an inaccurate throwing arm. If Disney were to concoct the plot of a movie about an altogether

admirable young man who joins the NFL and is scorned by all the experts for his unorthodox style, yet wins week after week, Tebow would play the lead. In fact, at this point Disney could make it a documentary.

Nonetheless, Tim Tebow is considered controversial. It's now cutting edge to be a straight arrow. It's countercultural to be an outspoken Christian. A player who embodies everything meant by the cliché 'role model' is for his critics a figure of fun, or even hatred.

Even a has-been, or maybe a never was, like Jake Plummer, retired mediocre quarterback for the Denver Broncos (Tebow's team) felt the need to slam Tim publicly the other day. "Tebow, regardless of whether I wish he'd just shut up after a game and go hug his teammates, I think he's a winner and I respect that about him. I think that when he accepts the fact that we know that he loves Jesus Christ then I think I'll like him a little better. I



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

don't hate him because of that (Jake, you are too gracious) I just would rather not have to hear that every single time he takes a good snap or makes a good handoff."

Jake, you wouldn't understand what it's all about, and nobody really cares if you are sick of hearing it or not. And I assure you; Tim isn't going to stop, whether you like him a little better or not.

Another problem I have is the singing of what passes for our National Anthem at pro games, and the response it brings from the crowd. Nine times out of 10, the vocalist stylizes it to the point where it is hardly distinguishable, and the more it deviates from the way it was written, the more enthusiastic is the reaction. Shame on both your houses.

As if the NFL couldn't lower its appeal to straight-arrow football fans any further, it has chosen Madonna to do the halftime show at the upcoming Super Bowl. For those of you who have followed her career, you know her to be the essence of filth, sacrilege, and a generally disgusting image. One would have thought that the selection of "The Who" to do the honors two years ago would have caused them to pause and think a bit. The group that performed that day could have appropriately been called "The What?"

Last year, the theme apparently was "more is better." Not only did the program consist of The Black Eyed Peas; Usher and Slash were added for additional noisemaking festivities. Among the classics, these high-class outfits offered some old favorites like *Boom Boom Pow*, *Pump It* and *OMG*.

This year (actually next year) Madonna! If Janet Jackson was a big hit with her wardrobe malfunction several years ago, can you imagine the length to which Madonna might sink to resuscitate her pathetic career. I dread to think. At 53, she should join a freak show where she would fit right in.

So why am I beating up on football when I am the consummate football viewer?

Twelve hours non-stop on college

football season Saturdays. I'm not down on football – it's the show biz garbage that the TV people feel somehow broadens the appeal of pro-football. I suppose it does, but Madonna and football?

What does it say about our culture when a God fearing role model like Tebow is chastised for expressing his love for his Lord and Madonna is idolized and adored for her scorn of everything decent and reverent.

Call me old-fashioned (and I'll take it as a compliment) but those WERE the good old days.

... RAPE continued from page 3



was last seen wearing dark blue jeans and a medium blue shirt. The subject is armed and considered dangerous and may be carrying a backpack. No vehicle information is available at this time. A composite sketch (below) was rendered to assist in identifying the assailant. The sketch is also posted online at: [https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5333376.pdf](https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5333376.pdf).

On the same date and approximate location, a motor grader was vandalized and diesel was stolen. Earlier the same day, three individuals were observed around the motor grader that may have information relevant to the case. These individuals or persons knowing these individuals' identities are asked to call law enforcement.

Persons having information to pass on to law enforcement may call the USDA Forest Service special agent at 828-231-0288, the Macon County Sheriff's Office at 828-524-2811 or the SBI at 1-800-334-3000.

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## ... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 1

ment.

The board considered a 25-ft. height restriction on pole lighting and shielding all other lighting so light doesn't bleed upwards to contaminate the night sky.

Initially, the ordinance was drafted for residential and commercial uses, but the board agreed residential lighting can be handled on a "complaint" basis but residents should understand that any lighting on their property can't illuminate or bleed onto a neighbor's property.

Input about both ordinances has been requested of the Appearance Commission prior to sending them on to the Town Board.

At the November Planning Board meeting, it appeared that a R3 (multi-family) CD (Conditional District) zone was poised for any zoning district in town, but

Monday night's meeting changed that.

Zoning/Planning Director David Claiborne opened the discussion saying the town could do one of three things concerning multi-family development in town. It could leave its ordinance as it is; it could amend its ordinance to relax stipulations on the R3 zone which currently requires two acres and allows only four multi-family structures; or it could add a R3-CD zone to its ordinance to address the perceived need for more multi-family configurations in town.

Member Linda Clark said she would be in favor of the R3-CD zone but only in the commercial zones in town – B1, B2, or B3.

"This would keep the denser areas in town which cuts down on the need for cars and enables people to live within walking distance of town," she said. "I would hate

to see this applied to areas currently zoned residential.

Conditional District Zoning is done on a case-by-case basis and doesn't set precedence for future projects and only height and watershed built-upon requirements of the underlying zone are required.

Incidental apartments are allowed in the commercial (B) zones in town now, but the number and size of apartments above commercial entities are regulated by the size of the lot; for instance, a 6,000 sq. ft. lot can only have two apartments above a business. The R3-CD zone would allow "custom" regulations for a particular lot that

wouldn't come under the town's traditional R3 regulations.

Member Mike Byrson initiated talk about allowing R3-CD for mixed-use purposes in residential areas – particularly those on the fringe of a commercial zone.

Members agreed this would work, but property owners wishing to have a residential plot rezoned R3-CD for a mixed use would have to have their property rezoned commercial before applying for the R3-CD zone. The board voted 5-1 to proceed with a R3-CD ordinance. Alan Marsh voted against the motion

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SHULER continued from page 1



**Matt Shuler**

vice-oriented IT professional," said Tufts. "Matt is a testament to everything that embodies a public servant and you should be extremely proud." Matthew Shuler is one of the 27 public sector leaders who successfully completed the course this year. Over the course of its existence, the CGCIO™ program has graduated over 600 public sector technology leaders across the nation.

tion Officers and Information Technology Directors whose challenging responsibilities require a broad understanding of management, leadership, legal, regulatory, and enterprise topics. The course is approximately 240 hours in length and course instruction covers strategic technology planning, communication, project management, emerging trends, risk assessment and management, acquisition management, change management, leadership, security, legal issues and financial trends.

The program's director, Dr. Shannon Tufts, has been recognized by Government Technology magazine as one of the 2010 Top 25 Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers for the creation and expansion of this nationally acclaimed program. The program seeks to elevate the position of the dedicated and talented cadre of public sector technology leaders who work tirelessly to serve the public good through strategic investments in technology.

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

### Predictions for the Highlands, NC Real Estate Market in 2012

The question I have been asked repeatedly since the beginning of Q4 this year is this: what does the future hold for the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market in 2012?

Let's have a look a few trends in the market environment and formulate a few predictions and winning strategies based on same.

Inventory. Heading into 2011, we had historically high levels of inventory across the market and across property types and price points. While we saw an uptick in sales this year, we also saw the proliferation of new properties coming on the market throughout the year. Given that sales were not robust enough to significantly thin out our inventory levels, we will see another year of high numbers of properties on the market.

Strategy: If you have a property on the market now, or are about to launch one in the coming year, work closely with your real estate broker to ensure your positioning in the market is spot on. Price is not the only differentiator! Savvy and laser-focused marketing efforts can greatly impact your ability to stand out amongst a crowded field. Your goal is to obtain top-of-mind status on Buyer prospect's lists, as well as on Buyer agents' showing lists.

Lending. Without question, the lending environment is challenging. I have personally witnessed Buyers whom I would consider to be a lender's dream (A+ credit, significant cash reserves and/or stocks, high income levels, etc.) struggle with obtaining financing. I certainly understand the need to have tighter credit standards than the days of prevalent "no doc loans" and sub-prime mortgages, but the lending standard pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. In my opinion, this is going to continue next year and beyond.

Strategy: If you plan to invest in real estate and need and/or want financing, begin a conversation with your lender very early in the process. Get clear on their new lending standards and requirements. Find out how the timeline works and what documentation you need.



**Susie deVille Schiffler, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group**

Check your credit reports for any blemishes and get them cleared up in advance.

Sales. Many times this year, I heard investors remark that they were tired of sitting on the sidelines, and that they were jumping back in the market. Their position was that smart money chases real estate in highly-desirable resort areas. Others told me they were weary of broiling temperatures in their hometowns during the summer months and wanted to be able to escape to cool mountain air whenever they wanted. And still others reported

they were new visitors to the area, attracted by community events, destination weddings, corporate retreats, cultural offerings, outdoor activities, and/or the shopping and dining experiences.

Happily, I see this trend not only continuing in 2012, but growing significantly. Simply, people want to spend time in our area. Once here, they do not want the experience to end. They want to be a true part of the community over the long term – they want to invest here and return frequently.

I also see the recovery in other market areas positively impacting our market. As sales in other areas of the south improve, Buyers will be able to cash out of those markets and invest in the Highlands-Cashiers market (something that a high number of my Buyer prospects tell me they are working toward).

Strategy: If you have been eyeing the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market and have been pondering when to jump in, I'd say to you that now is the time. Prices are not going to remain at current levels and will inch up, reflecting increased demand. Position yourself ahead of other investors and do what many of my smart Buyers do: create your own market.

All in all, I see a bright year ahead on the horizon for the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market. I believe that Buyers and Sellers alike will have great opportunities in the coming year as the economic environment improves and as our

• See INVESTING page 22



## ... BOE from page 1

Lindamood-Bell reading program that has been implemented by Macon County Schools. An overview was given about the training process for the teachers, as well as the status of each school in the county in terms of the program.

At Highlands School, the program seems to be having a positive effect both for the teachers and the students, but Principal Brian Jetter noted that the program's true effectiveness will not be able to be measured until the end of the school year. Jetter said that the program was enacted at Highlands in November, and students were given pretests to measure their abilities. Lindamood-Bell provides the pretests, and will also provide a posttest at the end of the school year to measure improvement.

Highlands School currently has six teachers trained in the Lindamood-Bell, and will have four more teachers trained in January. Jetter said that he is looking forward to both the Lindamood-Bell provided posttest as well as the North Carolina End of Grade tests to see the "true impact" of the program at Highlands School.

The latter half of the board meeting focused on the usual monthly business with the approval of personnel changes, several field trips being taken by Franklin High School and three posted vacancies within the school system.

Four school board policies were read, but none of the policies were up for a vote from the Macon County Board of Education during the December meeting.

The MCBOE also discussed the new Average Daily Membership (ADM) numbers given by the state of North Carolina and how realignment would affect Macon County sports teams and their conference affiliations in the 2012-2013 NCHSAA sports year. The BOE then finished up by going into Closed Session.

The MCBOE will meet again January 30<sup>th</sup> for their regularly scheduled business meeting.

# Think Christmas from Highlands!

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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

### HCPs Holiday Reading Program Thursday, Dec. 15



Baily Baker singing Gounods  
Ava Maria

A variety of short stories, some by notable authors and poets, as well as four pieces by local writers, will be presented as the HCP annual free gift to the people of the community. This year's production will include a "Living Madonna and Child" as depicted in a painting from the 1500s by Giovanni Bellini.

In addition, Bailey Baker, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Baker, will sing Charles Gounod's arrangement of "Ave Maria," accompanied by Melinda Womack on violin.

This promises to be one of the outstanding events of the Christmas season and is open to everyone as the Players' gift of appreciation for continued support during the regular scheduled season's productions. The Performing Arts Center doors will open at 7 p.m., with the performance at 7:30, open seating, on Thursday, December 15.

No tickets necessary. There will be a time of socializing and refreshments for everyone, immediately following the performance.

- Daily
- CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Carolina Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)
- 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



Join us as we Celebrate  
the Birth of Our Savior at  
Highlands United Methodist  
Church

**Sunday, December 18th**  
10:50am  
Christmas Cantata

**Christmas Eve Services:**  
5 pm  
Family-Friendly Candlelight  
Service

7 – 8pm  
Drop-in Communion

11pm  
Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day**  
Sunday, December 25th  
10:50am  
Join us for an informal worship  
service

315 Main Street - 526-3376  
Pastors: Beth Bowser  
Paul Christy

- Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.
- Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class \$5, second class free if you bring a friend! Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.
- Mondays**
- Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
  - Monday Madness at Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. \$5 burgers, \$1 off beers all day.
- 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.
- 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 am.
  - 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.
  - The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.
- Every Saturday**
- Ruka's Wine Tastings from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. Jazz begins at 7:30 p.m.
- Every Third Saturday**
- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

### Mountain Fresh Breakfast to Benefit Highlands School PTO on Sat., Dec. 17

Please come out and enjoy breakfast at Mountain Fresh Grocery in Highlands on Saturday, December 17, from 7-10:30 a.m.

The folks at Mountain Fresh are graciously donating all benefits from breakfast, not just proceeds, but 100% of income during these hours, to the Highlands School Parent Teacher Organization. These funds go directly back into the classrooms to purchase supplies and other necessities. With your help, we can make this a very successful

fundraiser.

The breakfast at Mountain Fresh is delicious and freshly prepared to order. If you haven't eaten there, you are missing out on a good meal. There is seating inside, as well as on the enclosed porch which boasts several tables and a fireplace.

If you're on your way out of town on Saturday, simply order your breakfast to go. Either way, don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting your Highlanders.

### Highlands-Cashiers Players hold auditions for 'Cat on a hot tin roof'

Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of Tennessee Williams "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" will take place on Sunday, December 18 at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC.

There are roles for 4 men and three women. The main roles of Margaret (Maggie) and Brick and the children have al-

ready been cast. The production will take place February 23 – 26 and March 2 – 6, 2012, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

Copies of the play are available for reading at the Hudson Library in Highlands and the Cashiers Library. For more information call director Donna Cochran at 828-526-2080 or 770-317-6307.



# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**PULL OUT**

**Wed., Dec. 14**

• Pancake Supper Highlands Boys Basketball Team fundraiser before the PTO meeting and band concert, 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pancakes, juice and fruit \$5 for 2 pancakes or \$7 for all you can eat.

• Student Symposium at Highlands Biological Station when students will present their Internship projects. For more information, call 526-2602.

**Thursday, Dec. 15**

• HCP presents its annual free Christmas Reading at PAC at 7:30 p.m. A mix of serious and humorous.

**Friday, December 16**

• Audubon Christmas Bird County. Call 526-2775 for more information.

• Atlanta Boy Choir performance at The Cathedral of St. Philip on 2744 Peachtree Road in Atlanta at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are \$20 and may be ordered by calling our office at 404.378.0064 or ordered online at [www.atlantaboychoir.org](http://www.atlantaboychoir.org) (major credit cards accepted).

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, December 16th, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Holye Grose from Asheville, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280, or [www.highmountainsquares.com](http://www.highmountainsquares.com)

**Sat. Dec. 17**

• Mountain Fresh Grocery will give the Highlands School PTO 100% of its breakfast proceeds --not profits, but all Breakfast Sales will be donated to the Highlands School PTO. The full Breakfast Menu will be available and Mountain Fresh will also be serving a special "Highlander's Blend" coffee at the Breakfast.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work trip this Saturday. Anyone interested in participating, please register with Ran Shaffner by leaving a message at 828-526-5622 or emailing [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com). We will meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. We will work on clearing the Ilges Trail to connect Lower Lake Road near Lindenwood Lake with Big Bear Pen Road. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Lunch is provided by Heather Magnum. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike from Deep Gap to the top of Standing Indian Mtn. at 5490 ft., an elevation change of 1200 ft. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 10 a.m.

## Christmas Day Dinner at HCC's Hudson House



Christmas Elves spread good cheer at the Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner.

Why come to Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner? Well, there are no menus to plan, there is no big grocery shopping to do, and no dishes to wash. There is just the gift of quality time to share the beauty and feeling of Christmas Day with those you love.

All proceeds of the Annual Highlands Christmas dinner go to local Highlands non-profits. Since the year of its inception (2000), this dinner has cumulatively raised close to \$70,000 which has been distributed to local charities, including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands, The Literacy Council of Highlands, The International Friendship Center, Hospice of Highlands, Carpe Diem Farms, and R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County.

The dinner buffet is prepared by Marty Rosenfield, Holly Roberts, Martha Porter and Donna Woods. It is traditional holiday fare including turkey, ham, beef tenderloin, and all of their savory companions. It is hard to save room for the desert table, but a sin not to.

Seatings at the Highlands Country Club's Hudson House are from 11a - 5p and are by reservation only. The cost is \$35 for adults; \$15 for children under 11; and children under 5 eat free. All proceeds go to Big Brothers/Big Sister of Highlands and R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County.

Call Rick Siegel today to join your friends and neighbors in celebrating and rejoicing this Christmas Day.

Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations.

• La Noche Navidena at the Highlands Civic Center from 6-9 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 18**

• Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of Tennessee Williams "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" will take place on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC. There are roles for three men, ages 25 - 50 and three men, ages 50 - 70. Roles for women include four women, ages 25 - 50 and two women, ages 50 - 70. The main roles of Margaret (Maggie) and Brick have already been cast. There are also three roles for children under 12 years. The production will take place February 23 - 26 and March 2 - 6, 2012, at the Performing Arts Center

in Highlands. Copies of the play are at the Hudson Library in Highlands and the Cashiers Library. For more information call director Donna Cochran at 828-526-2080 or 770-317-6307.

• Luncheon to raise money for the Highlands Emergency Council's Fuel Program in Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church from, noon to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon includes pork tenderloin with cranberry chutney, twice baked potatoes, green beans almondine, garden fresh salad and assorted desserts. Reservations needed by Friday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. Call 526-3175. Donations accepted.

• At Highlands United Methodist Church, Choir Contata at 10:50 a.m. Featuring familiar carols and instrumentals with piano, organ, handbells, percussion, brass and quintet.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS



*Cordially invites you to a Christmas Season filled with Meditation, Music, and Candlelight.*

**LESSONS & CAROLS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011  
AT 11:00 A.M.**

*with guest musician  
Larry Black, trumpet*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011  
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.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011  
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
9:30 a.m. Church School  
Cancelled Christmas Day  
11:00 a.m. Communion Service  
Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman**

471 Main Street, PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-3175 Fax: 828-526-0784  
e-mail: [fpch@frontier.com](mailto:fpch@frontier.com)  
Visit us on the web at [www.fpchighlands.org](http://www.fpchighlands.org)  
Nursery Provided

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS • with Ryan Potts

Lady Highlanders win 2, Coach Smart remains at 699

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders traveled to Swain County on Tuesday night to face the Maroon Devils in preparation for their first conference matchup of the year.

Against Swain, the Lady Highlanders came out hot early, with Senior Emily Munger doing most of her damage from behind the three point line. Munger finished 5-9 from behind the arc with 23 points. The hot shooting of Munger combined with the pressure defense of the Lady Highlanders was too much for Swain County, and Highlands prevailed 62-52.

Friday evening, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Lady Eagles from Hiwassee Dam in the first Little Smoky Mountain Conference game of the season for Highlands. Whereas Highlands used the three point shot with effectiveness against Swain, against Hiwassee Dam it was the interior presence of Sophomore Emily Shuler that gave the Lady Eagles fits. Shuler finished the game with 24 points and 11 rebounds, and the Lady Highlanders improved to 1-0 in conference with a 54-41 victory.

Highlanders

On Tuesday night the Swain County Maroon Devils were coming fresh off of a 1-AA NCHSAA Championship in football, and it showed in the first quarter against the Highlanders. Swain blitzed the Highlanders with extremely physical play and pressure defense and built a 22-4 lead at the end of the first quarter. Despite the deficit, Highlands was able to weather the storm somewhat and cut the Swain lead to 10 points at the half. In the second half, the Highlanders were able to get as close as 4 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but a missed layup doomed the Highlanders and they fell 61-48. Dax Lloyd led the Highlanders with 32 points.

Friday evening, the Highlanders looked to bounce back and get their first conference win of the season.

•See HS SPORTS page 19



Lady Highlander Stephanie Smart at Hiwassee Dam. Photo by Noel Atherton

Think Christmas from Highlands ...on the hill!

Tree of Lights

This December At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend with a gift of \$10.00 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible donation will go toward scholarships for students entering the health care field.

Given in memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been made by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Donor)  
(Address of Donor)

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation

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212 S. 4th Street, Highlands  
526-3687

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Comfortable Clothing for Women

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526-8878

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526-4473





## Baby in Waiting

**Chaplain Margaret Howell**  
**Holy Family Lutheran Church**

Just got the news the other day — the son of a dear friend and his wife are expecting a baby in the spring. His younger brother and his wife just celebrated the first birthday of their little daughter, Ellie, the spitting image of her grandmother, my friend Carol who passed away in 2007 from breast cancer.

Carol was an amazing woman. She fought it hard for 10 years, never giving up. Her courage, humor and vitality of spirit were truly wondrous. I still miss her terribly. We all miss her terribly.

It is so bittersweet, the coming into the world these precious little ones. They bring great joy and hope for the future, a future that as I age, I realize I will at some point no longer be a part of.

Carol's eldest son was only four and the younger only six months old when I first met her. I have been an "Aunt" to them their entire lives, and now, here comes the second wave to love and watch grow. The little ones born today will most likely remember me as "old Aunt Maggie" the great spoiler and bringer of musical toys whose racket will drive their parents insane.

Jon and I visited Carol's husband, Lee, back in October. Little Ellie was just learning to walk and saying her first words. I sat for hours and watched her playing, fascinated. At one point, he turned her little head and looked at someone sideways and in that instant, she looked just like Carol. I shed a tear, wishing that Carol was here to see it. She would have loved to be there for these little ones, to hold and hug them. So it falls to me, "Aunt Maggie" to tell them stories about their grandmother and help the family keep her love and memories alive.

It is a role I am not worthy to fill, yet, out of love for my dear friend and her family, I do it gladly, feeling more and more blessed every day. And now, we all await the advent of little Teddy, so longed for, so loved even before he emerges into the world.

We are in the midst of the season of Advent in the church calendar.

The word "advent" is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the societies of the Roman empire, the word *adventus* referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power — a king, emperor, or even one of the gods.

For Christians, Advent is the time when the church patiently prepares for the coming of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This past Sunday, also known as Gaudete Sunday, we lighted the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath, a symbol of joy and celebration and anticipation.

Gaudete means "Rejoice" in Latin. and now is he time to do just that. In the dark and cold of winter, our baby, the light of our life, is coming! Rejoice!

Peace and Blessings for Advent and Christmas.

John 3:16

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

### 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  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,  
Cashiers

Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's  
Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian  
Church; Healing Service at noon

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program, . Worship  
Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS  
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968 • Reverend Denson Franklin  
Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite, 8 a.m., Breakfast; 8:30-9:30 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; Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Reverend Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Evening Worship  
6:30

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,  
Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 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

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Rev. Carson Gibson  
Sunday School – 10 am  
Worship Service – 11 am  
Bible Study – 6 pm

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor  
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship – 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening  
Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 10:50 a.; Youth 5 p.  
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 Roy Lowe, (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 Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge  
Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat: 4 p.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

### 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 • 526-3212  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6  
p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

### 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 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

# • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Urologist opens practice in Highlands

Area residents now have access to urology services as Brevard Urologist opens practice in Highlands.

Board Certified Urologist, Barry H. Bodie, MD, has begun seeing patients at Mountain Medical and Surgical Group at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Dr. Bodie, will be available to consult with patients on Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is pleased to be able to work with Pisgah Urology and Dr. Bodie to bring the services of an urologist to our communities," said Craig James, President and CEO of the Hospital. "Urology is a medical specialty that is of interest to a growing number of residents in the area, and the hospital recognizes that need. We are fortunate that Dr. Bodie was looking to extend his practice and was willing to consider joining us in Highlands."

For the past 15 years, Dr. Bodie has been with Pisgah Urology in Brevard, NC. He specializes in all aspects of urological care

including enlarged prostate; incontinence; cancer of the kidney, bladder and prostate; voiding dysfunction; kidney stones; sexual dysfunction in men and women; male infertility; and urinary system trauma. The group's office is accepting appointments for Dr. Bodie.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (828) 883-5858. Dr. Bodie's office at HCH is located at Mountain Medical and Surgical Group in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 301.

"All of us at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital are proud to have Dr. Bodie serving the medical needs of the residents of the Highlands-Cashiers and surrounding areas. His special training will bring an added dimension to the wide range of medical services we are able to offer the communities," said James.

### Background

*Dr. Bodie is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and has 25 years of active medical practice. He is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina and*



**Dr. Barry Brodie**

*completed residencies in both general surgery and urology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio. Dr. Bodie is a member of the International Continence Society and the American Urological Association. He is the past president of the North Carolina Urological Society and has been an active urologist in Western North Carolina for the past decade.*

# • POLICE & FIRE LOGS •

Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### Dec. 2

• At 4:20 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on Thistle Drive. All was OK.

• At 7:10 a.m., officers assisted a driver whose vehicle was out of gas on NC 106.

• At 12:35 p.m., Brantley David Potts, 27, of Highlands, was arrested for larceny and possessing stolen property relating to an incident in Jackson County.

• At 2:04 p.m., a motorist reported that when he returned to his vehicle parked on Main Street, he found hydraulic fluid had been sprayed on the vehicle.

• At 3:20 p.m., officers assisted another agency on the Gorge Road where a motorcoach was stuck on a rock wall.

### Dec. 3

• At 4:30 p.m., a purse found at Santa's house at the Visitor Center was turned into the police. The owner was located.

### Dec. 4

• Officer received a call about a women's Facebook account being hacked. She was told to notify Facebook.

### Dec. 7

• At 5 p.m. a breaking and entering was reported at a residence on US 64 west. It is under investigation.

### Dec. 8

• At 2:35 p.m., Juan Carlos Mendoza-Santillan, 246, of Highlands, was arrested on Spruce Street for driving without a license.

### Dec. 9

• At 11:48 p.m., James Russell Ogle, 43, of Spartanburg, SC, was arrested for simple assault on South 4th Street.

• During the week, police officers issued 10 citations and responded to 9 alarms.

### Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Dec. 2

### Dec. 2

• At 6:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106. The person was taken to the hospital.

### Dec. 3

• At 3:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Biscuit Road where a 90-year-old man had fallen. He was taken to the hospital.

• At 9:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Cullasaja Drive, but it was the smoke was due to an ash dump containing hot coals.

### Dec. 4

• At 9:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call to the Cashier FD for a structure fire on Big Ridge Road, but the call was cancelled en route.

• 2:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Road. It was false.

• At 7:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call to the Cashiers FD when a structure fire on Big Ridge Road reignited.

### Dec. 5

• At 1:24 p.m. the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 west. One person was injured and taken to the hospital.

### Dec. 7

• At 7:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Manor.

### Dec. 9

• At 11:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Old Edwards Inn regarding a domestic disturbance with injury.

### Dec. 10

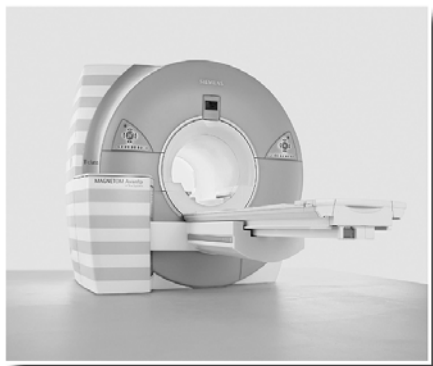
• At 1:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Village Court. It was false.

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Walkingstick Road. It was due to burning breakfast.

• At 9:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Mack Wilson Road. The person was taken to the hospital.

## State-of-the-art diagnostic testing without traveling off the mountain...



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# • HEALTH MATTERS •

## Holiday wishes from Dr. Blue

On behalf of myself and Blue Laser Group, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and confidence in us. What a wonderful year it has been! Being a part of this community has been a rewarding and enriching experience.

Our practice brings 25 years of experience with truly remarkable technology so that we deliver to you the very best in eye care. We are pleased to provide comprehensive care including routine eye exams, glasses and contacts, advanced diagnostics for the treatment of eye diseases and surgical eye care including LASIK.

Lasers are used in nearly every aspect of care at the Blue Laser Group which allows us to do remarkable things for you. Diagnostic lasers allow us to identify macular degeneration, glaucoma and other eye diseases producing early diagnosis and treatment.

Treatment lasers can in many cases prevent damage and restore sight. Laser treatment for glaucoma can eliminate the need for expensive, irritating eye drops for some patients and laser vision correction (LASIK) gives patients the opportunity to say "goodbye" to glasses and contact lenses.

This beautiful region has become my second home and I would not want to be anywhere else in the world. I have been welcomed with open arms and for that I sincerely thank you.

Your support not only within my practice but for me personally, has been overwhelming. So for each and every one of you I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and a Happy New Year. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming year!

**Warmest Wishes,  
Richard Blue, MD**

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## Ask Dr. Blue

**"Does LASIK cause Dry eyes?"**

- Betty from Franklin, N.C.



Betty, the Lasik procedure does not cause dry eyes. The majority of people who come seeking Lasik already had Dry Eyes and didn't even know it. Many times we'll perform Lasik and also treat the Dry Eyes. Those patients often say, *"I had no idea my eyes could feel this good!"* Whether you are interested in LASIK or not, if you experience symptoms of burning, redness, stickiness and blurry vision, I encourage you to see an Ophthalmologist. As simple as it is to treat Dry Eyes, there's no reason to live with the condition.

~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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... **GOVERNMENT** continued from page 1

for now, at least until the board decides whether to adopt another form of government.

Though Stenberg said he doesn't agree with Coward and admitted that attorneys often disagree with the School of Government – he believes the General Statute prevails over the town's ordinance though amended for the hybrid form.

The form of government choices are the boiler-plate Council-Manager form, Highlands' previous form of Mayor-Council-Administrator, or through a Local Act, the town can request to keep its current hybrid form of Council-Manager.

To be in compliance with the General Statute, the hybrid form can only be requested through a Local Act which is an act of the General Assembly that can be-

come a law that applies to one or more specific local governments. Local governments derive all of their authority from state legislative enactments and most of the enabling legislation comes in the form of general laws. Local acts modify the general law by adding to the authority granted under those laws, or by creating exceptions to the requirements contained in those laws.

"Municipalities tend to have good track records concerning Local Acts if there is delegation support," said Stenberg.

According the Frayda Bluestein who writes a NC Local Government Law blog, by long-standing practice, a legislative "courtesy" system provides that local bills will almost always win general approval in each house as long as they have the support of the legislators who represent the

jurisdiction(s) involved.

Stenberg stressed that the form of government best suited for Highlands is totally up to the board and depends on how involved the board wants to be in the town's dealings. He said in many municipalities – especially, in municipalities the size of Highlands — citizens believe the people they elected to office should be hands-on.

According to statistics Stenberg presented, of the 139 municipalities in North Carolina with a population below 500, 124 use the Mayor-Council form of government; six use the Mayor-Council-Administrator form and nine use the Council-Manager form.

In the 99 municipalities with a population of 500-1,000 – which is where Highlands falls according to the 2010 Census (ranking in the 500-999 population group in the corporate limits, to be exact) – 66 use the Mayor-Council form, 20 use the Mayor-Council-Administrator form and 13 use the Council-Manager form.

In the 118 municipalities with 1,000-2,500 in population, 35 use the Mayor-Council form, 26 use the Mayor-Council-Administrator form and 57 use the Council-Manager form.

In municipalities with a population of 2,500-25,000 and above, the Council-Manager dominates.

"The bottom line is how much involvement do you want?" asked Stenberg. "Do you want to be at arms-length or do you want to be in the fray?"

Citizen Pat Taylor said the Joe Cooley (Zoning/Planning director) fiasco last year questioned the board's authority over the Town Manager's authority and the outcome was that most people wanted more checks and balances when it came to hiring and firing instead of empowering one person. This passed the Town Board with at 3-2 vote.

Bob Frye, the town's new Town Manager, who will be on the job Jan. 17, said he has worked under both scenarios – the Mayor-Council-Administrator and Council-Manager form of government — and though there is a "charter" difference regarding authority and in hiring and firing between each form, the reality is no Administrator or Manager would hire or particularly fire someone without direct input from the council, he said.

"The General Statute says in the Council-Manager form the Manager has ultimate authority, but I believe when it comes to department heads which are key positions, it's important that the council be involved," he said. "I don't know any manager who would hire someone the board doesn't want or terminate a department head without council approval and complete understanding."

He said it's a matter of securing one's own job so typically managers and administrators work closely with boards when it comes to hiring and firing.

"In both scenarios, the council can be as involved as it wants to be," he said. And he said in both scenarios there is a possibility of political influence contaminating the process.

"In smaller towns the administrator has no authority over department heads who are basically free to ignore guidance from the administrator and who can befriend certain council members to their advantage," he said. "Likewise, a manager can befriend a department head or employee and paint a picture to the council about an employee or department head that isn't true."

Commissioner John Dotson said trusting in the personality of the person the board puts in the manager position is of utmost importance when conveying every bit of authority to a manager.

He said what happened last year concerning the Zoning/Planning Director is why the town didn't want to release authority over certain department heads.

Stenberg said a Local Act could take care of that, but asked about other department heads. "What if something happens later to them and you feel you need more oversight there, too? Perhaps what you may want is the Mayor-Council-Administrator form of government, which offers you more flexibility where duties of the Administrator aren't mandated by law."

A town manager has the power and duties that are outlined by General Statute while a town administrator doesn't have statutory authority, but instead works under the direct supervision of the board of selectmen, which retains all of its statutory authority.

According to Bluestein, there are no specific statutes that describe town administrators or delineate their powers because a town administrator is a position created by the governing board in mayor-council cities. In a mayor-council city, the council has the legal authority to appoint employees and has broad authority to organize the government.

In addition, in mayor-council cities, G.S. 160A-155 specifically authorizes the council to delegate to any administrative official or department head its authority to appoint, suspend, and remove employees. Under this authority, the council may create the position and hire an administrator to perform functions similar to or even identical to those that a manager in a council-manager city would perform.

• See GOVERNMENT page 19

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## ... GOVERNMENT continued from page 19

In addition to supervisory authority, councils may delegate to administrators authority for things like approving contracts and other expenditures, and in some cases, cities confer upon the administrator the duties of clerk or finance officer, as Highlands has done for many years when Richard Betz was Town Administrator.

Basically it's about flexibility. The council can delegate to an administrator any of its powers or duties as it chooses, as long as no statute requires the power or duty to be exercised by the board itself so, the difference between a manager and an administrator is determined by state statute.

Bluestein says in a council-manager form of government the manager's powers and duties are set by state law (G.S. 160A-148).

The council has no authority to modify the manager's powers, except perhaps to add to those listed in the statute. An administrator's powers, on the other hand, are delegated by the council and can be

defined, modified, or even completely eliminated, in the council's discretion.

In reference to Commissioner Dotson's concerns, Mayor David Wilkes said it's not about trusting the personality of the person the town puts in the manager position, it's about trusting the form of government.

"It's up to the board to not only believe in the Council-Manager form of government but to hire the right person for the manager position in the first place and then trust him. We didn't trust the personality or the body in the previous position and that's why we are in the position we are in now. But we shouldn't adjust the form of government; we should enforce the Council-Manager form by directing the person we put in that position."

Commissioner Dotson wasn't convinced.

"But we put all our faith in the position, the person, and the personality last time and situations arose that caused us to re-evaluate what was going on; we realized,

too, we had a problem in the form of government charter in that it didn't match what we thought we had and so the negatives of that 'form' came to light," said Dotson. "It may be that the straight black and white Council-Manager form government isn't the perfect model."

Dotson said another reason the hybrid form of Council-Manager was pursued was because the Police Chief and the Zoning/Planning Director must make legal decision in application of the law which directly affects citizens.

Bluestein reiterated that if a town decides it wants to have more flexibility in defining the authority of its manager this can be done by a local act of the General Assembly.

The North Carolina General Assembly enacts legislation in one of two ways: Either by general law, or by local act. General laws apply, in the context of local government law, across all local governments or specific categories of local governments. Most of the sections of Chapters 160A (cities) and 153A (counties) are general laws.

Local acts are introduced as bills in the legislative process much like any other piece of legislation. A local government seeking

local legislation must contact the legislators who represent the jurisdiction, and the bill must be submitted to the drafting office for preparation and introduction just like any other piece of proposed legislation. Local acts are separately designated as local bills in the drafting process, and are handled under a separate calendar, but otherwise they follow the same process, being referred to committees and passed on three readings in each house.

To recap:

The board has three options. One, to request a Local Act to bring what is currently being done into compliance—where the Police Chief and Zoning/Planning Director are hired and fired by the Town Board but the manager oversees the day-to-day operations; two, go to the Council-Manager form where the manager has ultimate control over hiring and firing and all other town business as outlined in the General Statute or three, go back to more flexible the Mayor-Council-Administrator form of government.

The board adjourned the meeting noting it had much to consider. The next Town Board meeting is Jan. 4.

— Kim Lewicki

## ... HS SPORTS continued from page 14

Things looked positive for Highlands after the first quarter, as the Highlanders led by 11 points in the first minute of the second quarter. Unfortunately for Highlands, things went downhill from that point as a combination of missed layups, poor defense and inconsistent officiating led to Highlands trailing by 5 at the half.

In the second half the disappointment continued, as missed shots and foul trouble led to an increasing deficit and ultimately a 70-47 blowout loss that will result in a great deal of soul searching for the Highlanders. Taylor Osteen, Isaac Beavers and Cody St. Germain were all in double figures for the Highlanders.

Highlands hosts Franklin this Saturday at the Highlands School, with tip-off for the Lady Highlanders at 6PM.



Cody St. Germain at Hiwassee Dam.  
Photo by Noel Atherton.

## Highlands School Fundraiser!

Sat. Dec. 17

• Mountain Fresh Grocery will give the Highlands School PTO 100% of its breakfast proceeds—not profits, but all Breakfast Sales will be donated to the Highlands School PTO. The full Breakfast Menu will be available and Mountain Fresh will also be serving a special "Highlander's Blend" coffee at the Breakfast.

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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Republicans go to 'Meet and Greet' in Brasstown

About 11 members of the Macon County Republican Party made the trek to Brasstown in Clay County Thursday evening, December 8, for a Meet & Greet featuring NC House Speaker Thomas Tillis.

MC GOP Chairman Chris Murray, Commissioner Kevin Corbin, Jimmy Tate, recently selected by the GOP to fill the District I vacancy, former commissioner Harold Corbin, Helen Carpenter and others attended the event which turned out to be more of a Town Hall Meeting than a Meet & Greet.

For about two hours Speaker Tillis answered questions from the audience and provided a wealth of information about House Bills and activity and the future of North Carolina.

Representative Roger West, who had invited Chairman Murray and other members, was pleased to see such a large delegation from Macon County.

"I had not met the Speaker previously but was impressed with the vigor and passion that House Republicans are trying to get our state's fiscal house in order," said Murray. "If they keep that up, our state will be in good financial shape for decades to come."



From left: Chris Murray, Kate Robb, Jimmy Tate, Thom Tillis, Helen Carpenter, Roger West, Kathy Hildreth, Tommy Hildreth, Bill Futral, Rich Robb. Not shown: Kevin Corbin, Harold Corbin and Mary Jane Lofton..

### Northland Cable adjusting rates in Jan.

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### ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 6

to the U.S. There is a place in America for rattlesnakes and copperheads, for coral snakes and water moccasins. Let's pack up all our anacondas, cobras and pythons and mail them to Senator Nelson. Snakes would be right at home with our congress these days.

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### ... INVESTING continued from page 10

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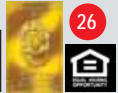


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