

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 9, Number 1

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Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011

<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
<b>32   16F</b>	<b>33   20F</b>	<b>27   24F</b>

## TB meeting postponed due to weather

Snow predicted for Wednesday night began to fall steadily around 5 p.m. and by six commissioners agreed to postpone the Wednesday, Jan. 5 Town Board meeting to Wednesday, Jan. 12.

It's likely the same agenda will apply and some issues will be perfunctory.

Once again the Highlands Police Department will be recognized by Triple A as a Top Traffic Safe Community.

It's likely the board will accept James Manley chief for 2011 and Olan Vinson as one of the town's trustees on the Firemen's Relief Fund's - as requested by members-

at-large.

Commissioners will select one of two bidders for the Greenway trail construction job on Big Bear Pen Mountain.

The board will likely sign a mutual aid agreement with Duke Energy to help with emergency

• See TOWN BOARD page 12

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**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
 • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 1.5 mile hike up Chimneytop Mountain in Sapphire. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977.

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

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

**Jan. 8-Feb. 12**

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

**Saturdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12**

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

**Sun., Jan. 9**

• The newly formed Concert Chorale of Highlands and Cashiers rehearsals for spring and summer concerts on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Interested singers may contact Grat L. Rosazza, conductor and musical director at 828-526-4278 for more information.

• At the Episcopal Church, "Beethoven at Incarnation" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger performing Sonatas 1, 2, & 4. Concerts are free. Donations accepted.

**Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15**

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

**Tuesday, Jan 11**

• The Highlands Dialogue resumes its Winter/Spring Discussion Series with Putting Away Childish Things by Marcus Borg (available through most on-line booksellers). E. J. Tarbox will coordinate the discussion at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more on the Highlands Dialogue e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

## More Snow on the Way!



To keep up with Highlands winter weather and activities go to [www.highlandsinfo.com/vwx.htm](http://www.highlandsinfo.com/vwx.htm)  
 Photo by Jim Lewicki

## 'Affordable Housing' comes up again

After more than two and half years, the subject of affordable housing in Highlands is back on the burner - scheduled for the Jan. 5 Town Board meeting at the request of Highlands Housing, Inc., but with the meeting postponed due to inclement weather until

Wednesday, July 12 at 7 p.m., it will be discussed then.

The last time a word was uttered was early August of 2008 - when the Town Board shot down the proposed Shortoff Woods facility on Buck Creek Road and again by the Workforce Housing

Task Force at its culmination meeting at the end of the month.

"We need to keep our eye on the purse and not let the personal issues that came into play affect the ultimate goal," said taskforce member Christy Kelly. "We do need

• See AFFORDABLE page 12

## Town works on drug policy

At the November 17 Town Board meeting, commissioners discussed working on a drug policy for town employees and Highlands Fire and Rescue volunteers because they are covered under the town's insurance policy.

Town Attorney Bill Coward directed commissioners to a website entitled "Elaws - Drug-free Workplace Advisor" where a custom-made policy can be generated based on answers to a questionnaire.

Commissioners were asked to go through the policy-generator prior to a worksession on Wednesday, Jan. 5, where the board ultimately clarified the breadth of drug policy as it applies to Highlands. Commissioners discussed exactly what they wanted included and instructed Coward to draw up the policy and present it at the first Town Board meeting in February.

The amended policy will apply to all applicants as part of the application procedure which will include mandatory passage of a drug test administered as a condition of employment. All employees will also be required to sign the drug policy document but won't be tested for drugs unless there is suspi-

• See DRUG POLICY page 6



Hiking  
 Waterfalls  
 Fly Fishing



Highlands  
 Cashiers  
 Glenville



Nature's  
 Website  
[HighlandsInfo.com](http://HighlandsInfo.com)

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### A 'locals' take on bear hunting and other issues

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Miss Etta Neely for stepping up to the bear hunting controversy in her letter-to-the-editor in the Dec. 23 issue. I've been reading all the hooplah and patiently waiting to see if any of our local bear hunters were going to speak up. Taking into consideration that most of the local people left in the area are the working-class, juggling jobs and family and keeping appointments, we don't have time for this crap. But thanks goes out to Miss Etta who found the time to speak up for us and now it's time for me to put my two bits in.

I've watched for many years, people coming into our area, putting their straw hats on and their overalls and boots, and all of a sudden they know everything about everything in these mountains. We call them "Wannabes"

First disagreement I had was their ideas that the rattlesnakes were extinct and we need to protect them. Being a chicken farmer and coming home and finding the slithering baby chicken thieves in the coop with the baby chicks in their mouths choking them down is something these people needed to see. I say to them "Get off the beaten path folks!" They hike a few trails and decide they're extinct. Get you a few chickens and really get down into these

mountains, then come talk to me. What really got my goat was teaching the children that they would rattle before striking. What a joke! I had one jump up out of the grass and strike my horse on the leg and didn't rattle until it had already bitten. Once had a baby rattler less than a foot-long strike from underneath the bush, more full of venom than a grown snake. No rattle until after striking and then it sounded like a bumble bee. What are you teaching your children? We teach ours to keep their eyes open! Like the locals, the rattlers hear so much noise and hooplah they just don't bother to rattle anymore.

And what's next ...don't kill the bats. Even though they carry rabies if they come in your house, don't dare hurt them. Protect them. But let's bring in the Peregrine hawks that can pick off a bat in mid-air. Hope you are enjoying watching them pick off the little defenseless Hummingbirds right off your feeders, too. Keep protecting and multiplying them hawks, though. After the rattlers and having bears tear my coops apart to have a free chicken meal I thought the chickens had a better chance free ranging. Not a chance since we're now protecting the hawks. So much for the farmers, eh?

Now it's the bear hunters! I think ALL of our bear hunters are being judged based on what and how a few may or may not be

doing. Adding to Miss Etta's statement "Get your priorities straight" it might help if you got your facts straight, as well.

Did you know? That most of the hunters today are not from around here but from out-of-town and even out-of-state? Not knowing the area they wouldn't know that your home may just be on the other side of that laurel thicket.

Did you know? That our "Local" hunters who know the area are rarely hunting anymore due to all the out-of-area hunters that are now hunting their turf?

Did you know? That when they do get to hunt and their dogs tree a bear that before they can get to their dogs someone else has gotten there and already shot the bear?

Did you know? That if our "LOCAL" hunters tree a bear and it's a female or a young bear or has cubs they won't shoot it. Instead they pull their dogs off and go home — dogs having had a good run and training session. Those females carry on their tradition.

Do you know? How much these "Out Of Area Hunters" are being paid by other "Out of Area" people just to go on a hunt to shoot a bear, put that notch in their belt and head on their walls. A few years back I saw a truck with a Tennessee tag going through Highlands Plaza parking lot with a tiny bear that couldn't weigh over 75 lbs. tied on top of his truck. Not in the bed of the truck but on top of the cab. True Wannabe, eh? I would've been ashamed to call myself a hunter. Our locals wouldn't even bother with one that size. As usual, our locals and their traditions are being shoved off the mountain to make room for the "Wannabes."

So go ahead, make Highlands your little sanctuary with your rattlers, your hawks, your coyotes and your bears. Feed them up real good in your driveways. When the bears start picking off your little dogs and the coyotes keep picking off your kitty cats, as they do, and when Mama bear charges out of the laurels and rips you apart for being too close to her cub when you didn't even know she was there, don't bother to call the locals and ask "What should I do?"

How many lost dogs and cat posters do you see through the summer months? Notice how they diminish when the bear season opens and the bears and coyotes are scattered. Get a clue folks!

And do us a favor — if you are going to keep playing God with nature then keep your little sanctuary in the Highlands city

limits and don't dare try to expand the limits any further. If I sound "politically incorrect" then OK. I had Joe Biden as an example when he and the media taught our youngsters that we don't have to be "politically correct" anymore with "This is a big \_\_\_ing deal."

As for the meeting of WNC Wildlife Advocates to help educate "the hunters" and encourage responsible behavior, just who is educating the educators and the Wannabes?

And, YES, I do eat bear meat and YES, if Sarah Palin runs for President and can find a Vice like Etta Neely she will definitely have my vote in 2012. It's time to step up instead of lying down and rolling over.

Audrey Keener  
Highlands

### About a new Highlands Post Office

Dear Editor,

This is a letter to the USPS Planning Team.

My wife and I support enthusiastically your decision to accept Jane Woodruff's offer to build Highlands a new post office. We have never understood why the Cashiers post office is so much nicer than the one in Highlands. Sorry we missed notice of the public hearing or we would have been there to lend our support.

We have read and heard complaints about the difficult parking on the Highway 28 side of the building and they all have merit, but we have seen no public reports about the problem that snow and ice present when accessing the building in winter.

Today, I almost fell attempting to pass through the barrier of snow and ice between the parking spaces and the building's sidewalk. It is plied up to a height of 18 to 20 inches! I do not care what your age may be, it is very dangerous, and for the person of average age in Highlands it is a major hazard.

Please therefore in your planning for the new facility address this problem intelligently. There are a number of alternatives you might consider, but it seems to me the best for our Highlands weather may be heated sidewalks and parking spaces. I am sure that your architects know the best solution to this problem. Pushing the snowout of parking areas only to have it create

• See LETTERS 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.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARIES •

### David John Buck

David John Buck, age 58, of Highlands, NC died after a courageous battle with cancer, Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at his residence. Born in Buffalo, NY he was the son of the late Warner and Mary Casper Buck. He was assistant manager of the Highlands ABC store. David was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Wright Buck; one son, Marshall David Buck of the home; three daughters, Mary Beth Buck of Highlands, NC, Bailey McBride Buck of the home and Katina Kenton of Wyoming;



and one sister, Diane Correll of Orlando, FL. Five grandchildren also survive including Allie and Jonathan David.

Funeral services were Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC with Rev. Lee Bowman and Dr. Don Mullen officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family in care of First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 5- Highlands, NC 28741

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

### Hattie Sue Ledford Reese

Hattie Sue Ledford Reese "our loving Mama Sue", age 74, died Sunday December 26, 2010 at Memorial Mission Hospital. Sue was a native of Macon County and the daughter of the late Howard and Orpha Hastings Ledford.

She was a member of the Highlands First Baptist Church where she was active in GA's and Sunday school instruction during her youth. She also was a retired member of the Highlands Woman; Club at which time she helped co-found Fibber Maggie's Closet in Highlands, recognizing the need of second hand clothing, as a mother of four children.

Throughout her life she worked many trades to help provide for her family but in the end she retired with 23 years of service as manager and forefather of the Highlands ABC store. The job she enjoyed the most, however, was making her homemade jams and jellies which she sold at the Highlands Arts and Crafts Fair for 27 years. She had a passion for dancing, most especially the art of clogging, of which she traveled throughout the southeast as a clogging judge. Her most important role in life, that she took most pride in, was the love and care that she gave to her family and friends as her heart was never ending.

Sue is survived by four children, a son, Kevin Reese (Barbara) of Highlands, NC, a

daughter, Karen Reese of Highlands, NC; fraternal twins, David Reese of Highlands, NC and Donna Hoffman (Chris) of Carlsdale, CO; five grandchildren, Tara Reese (Chad), Devon Reese, Michael Reese, Alexa Reese and one great-grandchild Channing Ray; two sisters, Deanne Reese (Bert) of Franklin, NC, Jewell Drake (Tom) of Franklin, NC and one brother, Don Ledford (Susie) of Raleigh, NC as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years Robert L. Reese, Jr. "Dan;" one son, Michael Lee Reese and three brothers, Derold, Harold and Hewell Ledford.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 31, 2010 at 1 pm at Highlands First Baptist Church with Charles Harris officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were nephews, Howie Raby, Dwight Raby, Donald Ledford, Michael Ledford, Derrick Ledford, and Jonathan Sanders.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lewis Rathbun Welln Center, 121 Sherwood Ave., Asheville, NC 28802. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)



## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

a barrier between those areas and pedestrian walkways is the wrong approach.

Many thanks to Jane Woodruff for making the offer and your acceptance of it. The new post office will be great gift to this community.

W. Stell Huie  
Highlands

## Consideration needed for year-rounders!

Dear Editor,

We are year-round residents of Highlands. I moved here in 1971 – yes, 40 years ago. We live on Upper Clear Creek Road as "The Forgotten People."

The secondary roads are taken care of exactly as they were 40 years ago, i.e., not at all! Cell phone usage is laughable and non-existent in too much of Highlands.

We were snowed in for four days with the last winter blast. My husband drove me to work going the back way – Blue Valley. It was very icy and precarious at best.

If we were to screech for help, who would/could have helped? There is no cell phone reception! Even the main highway, NC 28, was a dangerous icy mess.

Do we not pay taxes, work and stay active giving of ourselves to a community we love

• See LETTERS page 6



## What's for Dinner?

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Each Dinner feeds a family of four

Mon	Buffalo Wings or Chicken Tenders and hand cut fries	14.95
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Wed	Chicken or Steak pot pie and a large salad	14.95
Thu	Roasted Meatloaf, homemade mashed potatoes, and a large salad	14.95
Fri	Wild fried shrimp, hand cut fries, handmade hush puppies, and coleslaw	18.95
Sat	In-house smoked BBQ, coleslaw, apple and bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls	16.95

Mon - Sat open at 7 am and Sundays at 8 am.  
Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 828-526-2400



...on this day from the History Guy  
Jan 6, 1838

Samuel Morse successfully tests the first electric telegraph.

The clever Mr. Samuel Morse  
has devised a new form of discourse.  
With it you can inquire  
of the news over the wire.  
Need some data on what your broker sold and bought?  
That can be delivered on the dot.  
New born baby stock market crash?  
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Updates that can make you cry or laugh  
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New additional block ad positions are available on  
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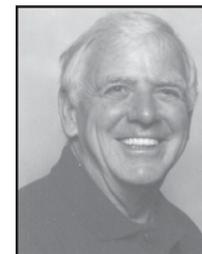
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Dang-nab-bit, I missed the bear  
But I nailed Grandma right between the eyes.

I never did get into the  
hunting and killing  
animals thing but I'm not  
opposed to those that do. For  
me, hunting humans was  
much more challenging and  
sometimes they shot back.  
Now that's a thrill few have  
experienced and it's not a  
good one.



Fred Wooldridge

Write this down! If you  
bought a handgun to ward off  
attackers, get rid of it ...  
immediately. Don't shoot  
'cause you'll miss and upset  
your attacker. You stand a better chance if  
you throw the gun at him and run.

Feedback is encouraged!  
email:  
askfredanything@aol.com

Lately, there's much ado about  
shooting bears in and around the  
Highlands area and, as usual there are  
strong feelings on both sides of the issue.  
I'm not sure how the bears feel but I'm  
guessin' they're not happy about gettin'  
thinned out. Sitting safely in Palm Beach  
where bear hunters are nonexistent, I could  
say, "Ha, ha, ha, you can't shoot me from  
here!" I won't because it'll get hunters'  
shorts in a wad. From what I've read so far,  
they're pretty sensitive when it comes to  
killin' stuff.

The really bad part about allowing a  
bunch of testosterone laden guys wearing  
John Deere caps permission to kill bears is,  
if they miss, where does the slug go? No one  
knows but hopefully not in Grandma's  
head. Why bears need to be thinned out is  
my question? By the way, if you're a hunter  
who eats his bear kill, my hat is off to you.  
Wow, you must have a steel lined stomach  
and be one mean dude.

And here's my warning to the everyday  
folks who live in the area or just came to  
visit for a while. Be very afraid of the hunter.  
While skilled hunters seldom miss their  
target, there are also a bunch of clowns out  
there who haven't picked up a rifle since  
last hunting season, if then. And here's  
another warning: It's not a good time to be  
wearing your fur coat, especially when  
you're passing garbage dumpsters.

Everyone, especially hunters, should  
watch the video of ex-convict Clay Duke  
open fire on the Panama City school board  
at point blank range. (See it on You-Tube -  
warning; it's graphic.). Clay came to kill  
school board members but wound up  
shooting himself in the head. Before Clay  
killed himself, he was wounded by a retired  
policeman who entered the room and put  
one round in him, dropping him to the  
floor. Just in case you're not the sharpest  
tool in the shed ... or maybe from Sanford

(ha), the message here is:  
one trained cop, one bullet,  
one hit. Also, the message  
is: one angry untrained  
clown, 10 shots and no hits.

The video is a perfect  
example of how inaccurate  
an unskilled shooter is  
when firing a weapon at  
point blank range and why  
an untrained citizen  
shouldn't have one. Watch  
the video, then take the gun  
from under your bed and,  
unless you fire the weapon

often with accuracy, unload it and get rid of  
it. You're going to miss your attacker and  
hit one of the kids ... or Grandma.

One of the greatest things I learned  
from attending the best SWAT school in  
the country was learning how inaccurate a  
small handgun is in the hands of an  
inexperienced person. That factor helped  
keep me alive my whole career.

Moving on, please don't tell Sarah  
Palin, but I don't eat bear, deer, caribou, elk,  
moose, buffalo, squirrel, opossum or  
rabbit. Sarah's an expert on identifying  
wild poop. She knows grizzly poop from  
caribou poop. Being a poop expert will  
come in handy if she becomes our  
president since Congress is full of ... well,  
you know.

Anyway, while killing bears might be  
the "in" fun thing this year, my question is  
what yahoo decided we had too many  
bears? And how many is too many? How  
many human deaths from bears did  
Highlands encounter this year? How many  
bear attacks have we had? Are our bears  
starving?

We could neuter bear cubs at birth like  
we do with our house pets but would  
momma bear's shorts be in a wad? Well, I  
guess we could shoot her first and hope the  
cubs survive ... nah; the dogs would tear  
them to shreds. Besides, there's nothing  
like havin' a cute li'l stuffed cub on your  
mantle.

Finally, here's my bottom line. Unless  
our bears start attacking and killing  
humans or we find them dead in the  
woods from starvation, leave them the hell  
alone. They are one of God's beautiful  
creatures.

PS - Chew on this! Is war God's way  
of thinning out the human herd?

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

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

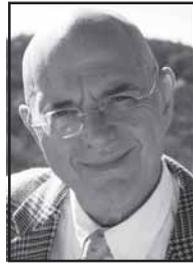
**Any day can be 'resolution' day**

**I** don't make New Year resolutions. Turning over new leaves is a good idea any time of year. There is always a rush on January 1. People identify their shortcomings and decide to rectify them. Nearly everyone who smokes would like to quit. Fat people want to be thin. Slugs want to get more exercise. Debtors long to escape the burden. The problem is that there is no compelling reason to choose the first of the year to turn a lot of leaves. Goals are desirable any time of year.

What is usually missing is the "teachable moment." Unfortunately, that moment may come too late. Coughing blood may be a powerful incentive for a smoker, but unfortunately it probably arrives too late to be of much value. Better to realize that time is short when walking to the mail box becomes a breathless chore, or when nicotine addiction has an unrelenting grip. When the doctor's office calls and says his patient needs a CT scan to follow up a suspicious chest x-ray, cigarettes lose much of their appeal, but the moment may have come too late. The cough that never clears, increasing shortness of breath, the need for a nightly nicotine fix are all clear warnings, and should alert a smoker that worse is on the way. If the New Year seems the moment to cast of the habit, that's fine; Happy New Year and Good Luck.

My gym wasn't crowded on New Year Day. It's anybody's guess if church services or hangovers were the reason. There were a few eager exercisers on January 2, but no waiting lines for the treadmill. Exercise is great as an aid to weight loss, to enhance cardiovascular fitness, maintain muscle tone and bone strength. It doesn't matter if a person starts on January 1st. The point is to start. I hope that at least one reader will start on January 6, 2011, immediately after reading my column. I would love to be your teachable moment.

It's a good idea to have a partner, someone to share the pain. It's even better to find a partner to share the joy. It's easy to call your training partner and offer an excuse. It's easier to make the call the second day. Pretty soon, you just stop calling. On the other hand, you may choose a dog as your aerobic partner. He



• **Feedback is encouraged.**  
email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)

won't take no for answer. He'll bark, or howl, or whine, depending on his breed and personality. He'll canter joyfully to the door and back to your bed, reminding you that it's time to get moving. He'll never be too tired for his walk, never offer excuses, nor have conflicting obligations. A dog is the ideal companion. He won't help your weight training, but it is easy to move to the weights after a brisk and lengthy walk. As time passes and fitness increases, you may decide to start jogging. You'll get no complaints from Fido.

There are lots of worthy resolutions and 365 days a year to initiate them. Decide to wear a seatbelt every time you get in a car. Eat a healthier diet. Drink less. Play more. Decide to spend more time with your family, be more pleasant at work.

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### ... DRUG POLICY continued from page 1

cion of use or to determine if a vehicle accident resulting in second-party property damage was due to drugs or alcohol.

"The test can protect us and the employee," said Commissioner Amy Patterson. "We may have someone accuse an employee of being under the influence at the site of an accident and if we have the test we can say 'no he wasn't'."

Using the policy builder, the board worked through 13 sections – each dealing with one main question and subsequent sub-questions so that in the end the policy gener-

ated will deal expressly with Highlands' needs.

The questions were: What is the purpose/goal of your policy?; Who will be covered by your policy?; When will your policy apply?; What behavior will be prohibited?; Will employees be required to notify you of drug-related convictions?; will your policy include searches?; Will your program include drug testing?; What will the consequences be if your policy is violated?; Will there be Return-to-Work agreements?; What type of assistance will be available?; How will employee confidentiality be protected?; Who will be responsible for enforcing your policy?; and How will your policy be communicated to employees?

According to the site, the purpose of a drug-free workplace policy is to send a clear message that the use of alcohol and drugs in the workplace is prohibited and it should encourage employees to voluntarily seek help with alcohol and drug problems.

"Our bottomline principle should be that the people who are spending taxpayers' money should get productivity out of employees and there should be a safe working environment," said Commissioner Patterson. "We should apply that statement to every question."

Concerning who will be covered by the policy the following statement is automati-

cally included: any individual who conducts business for the Town of Highlands, is applying for a position or is conducting business on the Town of Highlands property is covered by Highlands' drug-free workplace policy. Specific positions selected were full- or part-time employees, volunteers, interns, and applicants. Contractors will be required to verify that all their employees and any subcontractors used also comply with drug-free workplace stipulations.

Standard is the following statement which is included in most organizations' policy so it will automatically appear in a policy generated by the program: It is a violation of the Town of Highlands drug-free workplace policy to use, possess, sell, trade, and/or offer for sale alcohol, illegal drugs or intoxicants. In addition, some organizations are addressing the rampant abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications in their policies.

Through the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 requires any employee convicted of a drug-related offense in the workplace notify the organization in writing within five calendar days of the conviction. Some employers not subject to the act can choose to incorporate the requirement. However, the town will require disclosure.

The 1988 Act doesn't require employers to perform searches due to legislation limiting and prohibiting them, but Attorney Coward and Police Chief Bill Harrell said searches of town property – vehicles, lockers, desks, etc., – are allowed, but not personal items in desks, lockers, etc., like lunch boxes, pocket books, or other personal affects. Commissioners agreed that searches would only be conducted if there is suspicion of drug or alcohol use.

Likewise the 1988 Act doesn't require employers to demand drug testing but it can

be required under other Federal regulations applying to safety-sensitive and security positions. But private employers do have the right to test for a wide variety of substances. As part of the application procedure and if an employee is suspected of using, the town will test urine for amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine and will follow the Substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration's standard procedures.

North Carolina has a "Controlled Substance Examination Regulation" codified at Gen. Stat. 95-230 et seq. The law purports to protect individuals from "unreliable and inadequate examinations and screening for controlled substances" and to preserve an individual's dignity to the extent practical, and focuses on chain-of-custody and laboratory testing procedures more than policy guidelines.

Commissioners were adamant about giving employees who test positive a chance to seek help through the town's insurance – though at the employee's expense – and to give employee's a second chance as long as they pass a Return-to-Duty test and sign a Return-Work-Agreement. However, they are reserving the right to terminate an employee immediately and to terminate if the employee tests positive for drug or alcohol use a second time.

Applicants who test positive for drug use won't be hired but will be allowed to reapply in a year's time.

Once the Drug-Free Policy is amended, all employees will receive a copy and the policy will be explained verbally during orientation and at safety and other department meetings. All supervisors will be trained to help recognize and manage employees with alcohol and other drug problems.

– Kim Lewicki

### ... LETTERS continued from page 3

year-round? We love our church, wonderful friends and our involvement in Highlands. This is a nightmare!

We would love to see Highlands be a year-round destination for visitors – as well as ourselves. Is it too much to ask for well-maintained roads in 2011?

I find this far more important than banners and fluff and new trees! I remember when we had trees on Main Street.

Make our beautiful town a safe one for ALL concerned.

Diane M. Rosazza  
Highlands

### Post Office update

Dear Editor,

Our planned Post Office is advancing with the United States Postal Service for a long awaited decision toward the benefit of the Highlands community citizens and visiting patrons.

USPS required a seven-day notice prior to the public hearing on December 22. Notice was published by the local Postmaster in the current Post Office on December 15.

After receiving nearly 300 positive letters during July and August, I believe that our anticipated wishes for a new improved Post Office are about to come true. Many thanks again for all of your letters and verbal encouragement helping me to continue pursuing this improvement for Highlands.

I look forward to the official notification from USPS very soon.

Jane Woodruff  
Highlands  
• See LETTERS page 12

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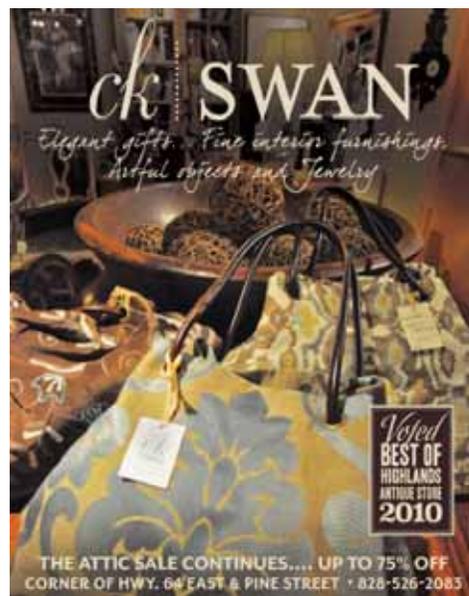
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## • JUST HERS •

**The not so blue Christmas**

**“**Is this the meat department?” the man on the telephone drawled. “The meat department?” I asked. “I guess I got the wrong number, huh?” The man sounded embarrassed. “No harm done,” I said cheerily. “Happy New Year!” I put down the phone. It’s come to this, I thought. I’m being



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

mistaken for the meat department. I approached the holidays with a mixture of dread and anticipation, not looking forward to my first Christmas and New Years without John. On the positive side, I was eager to hang out with Maman in Waynesboro, my old home town. It was tough to leave the cats for a week. Since Papa Cat wasn’t around anymore, Orion and Weasel had become particularly clingy and affectionate.

Dwight drove me to the Asheville Airport. I remembered all the times John had either picked me up there, or dropped me off. Still, it wasn’t the first time I’d been here since August, so the worst was over. My knee replacement had always made me a candidate for the great airport grope, or as I like to think of it, the “airport Macarena.” It hadn’t started off well. As I went through the scanner, the buzzer went off. Pulling my items aside to begin the inspection, the security lady asked, “Are you traveling alone?” To her astonishment, I burst into tears. “Yes,” I sobbed, “all alone.” The pat-down was much more thorough than it used to be, but I didn’t take it personally.

The flight from Asheville to Charlotte was thankfully short. The man who sat next to me had the window seat, and before the plane took off, had already claimed the arm rest and most of the leg room. His left elbow dug so far into my right boob that I swear it’s gone down a cup size. In the end, I sat sideways. My two hour lay-over in Charlotte meant that at least my checked-in luggage had a fighting chance of making it with me to my destination. Flying over Charlottesville is always a treat, particularly with the combination of mountains and snow.

Before I knew it, I was at Summit Square. I checked in at the desk with Brenda, got my key, and dropped the luggage off in my room. Picking up my red Santa hat, I set off to find Maman. After all, John might not be around anymore, but my mother was. You mourn the dead, but you take care of the living. Maman was having dinner in the dining room. Her face lit up when she saw me, and I knew this was exactly where

I should be for Christmas.

The week flew by. Frank, the activities coordinator, had a number of imaginative things planned. We played bingo. Groups came to sing. One day, a lady came to play the piano while we sang along. She chose tunes from a Christmas song book which contained both the usual

traditional carols and some more modern fare. “Oh, here’s one from Elvis that you probably know,” she said, and began to play “Blue Christmas.” “I’ll have a blue, blue Christmas without you,” the words went. Tears sprang to my eyes, and it took everything I had to not burst out crying. One of the nurses came over, and gave me a hug. She’d seen me from across the room, and came to my aid. Maman held my hand. It wasn’t going to be an easy time, this first Christmas without John, but at least I was with people who were caring and supportive.

When we were growing up in Waynesboro, we had a family tradition – every year Daddy would pile us into the car at night, and drive all around town to look at the Christmas lights. Since Waynesboro had a population of fewer than 20,000 at the time, the tour could easily take in the whole town. The poorer section often had the most lights, and we wondered how they could afford the electric bills. The richer section of town often boasted large mansions with elegant columns – one single light in every window and a huge wreath tied with an elegant red bow on the front door. We always came back from that ride with stars in our eyes, and Christmas in our hearts.

We found out that Clyde, the driver at Summit Square, was taking a bus around to see the Christmas lights, so we signed up. Clyde had a special treat for us. Every year, one house is decorated to the hilt with lights which are timed to go on and off to a soundtrack of music available if you tune in to a particular radio frequency. We stopped to watch the entire program, which took about ten minutes. Call it delightful or tacky. The entire bus was grinning and swaying to the music. Although there probably wasn’t a person among us under the age of 60, we were all kids again.

We did get our White Christmas, but much less of it than the rest of the East Coast. The cheesecake from Junior’s in Brooklyn arrived – Maman’s favorite – and I’d gotten her fresh raspberries and chocolate, too. We ate a delicious meal in the

main dining hall, and watched Rick Steve’s European Christmas DVD in the Gallery, where we’d listen to a hand bell choir the next day.

Before we knew it, I was packing my bags for the return to Highlands, a trip full of adventure. Getting to Charlottesville Airport, I found out that there was no seat for me on a flight from Charlotte to Asheville. The recent snow storms had left planes and crew scattered all over the country. If I could only wait until the next day, they could confirm an 8 a.m. departure. I was adamant. The cats had gone two days by themselves, due to the snowy roads in Highlands. The charming man behind the counter at US Airways, a pet lover himself, came up with a solution. He gave me a voucher for a cab to drive me and another passenger from Charlotte to Asheville. I spent the day with the best traveling com-

panion ever – Deb, from Outward Bound in Bat Cave. We got our taxi – and its rather surly driver, who managed to get stopped for speeding. The cop must have seen our stricken faces, and let him off.

My friend, Lee, sent me Mark, a knight in shining armor, or rather a Jeep, to pick me up in Asheville, and while the roads were pretty clear most of the way, there was still lots of snow in Highlands. I tramped up the long flight of stairs to my new home, and threw open the door. Two very puzzled cats looked at me, not sure of who I was. “Mama’s home,” I cooed. They weren’t so certain. Several hours later, however, life was back to normal. The snow glistened; the Christmas lights on Main Street sparkled. I settled down to watch TV. Orion was perched on the back of the sofa, with his head on my shoulder; Weasel was asleep on

• See JUST HERS page 12

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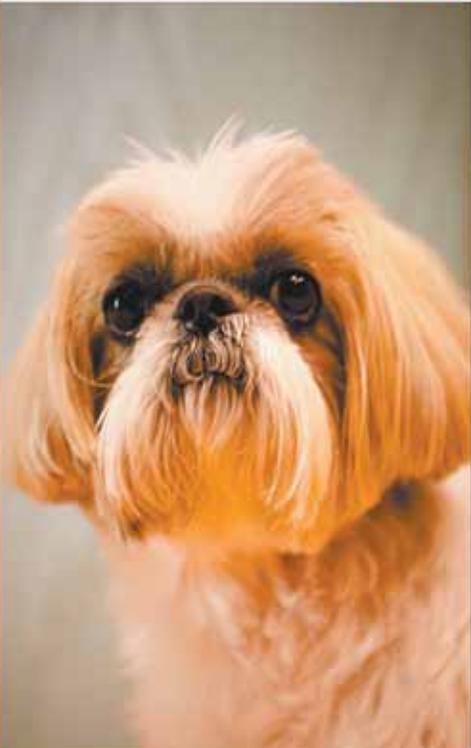
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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### New Year's Resolutions

Every year at this time many Americans look forward to a new year by making some resolutions to follow. In that respect, I am looking forward to a terrific 2011 and have made the following resolutions to adhere to.



**Ryan Potts**  
[ryanpotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanpotts@hotmail.com)

I resolve to cheer for the Atlanta Falcons in the event that the New Orleans Saints do not make it to the Super Bowl. Actually, no I don't. If I could just cheer for the Falcons themselves it would be fine, but Falcons fans have turned out to be even more annoying than I originally imagined. Therefore, I resolve to cheer for Michael Vick and Philadelphia Eagles in the event that my Saints do not complete the "Two Dat."

I resolve to continue hating Brett Favre with every fiber of my being. (By hate I mean "sports hate" not "I hope something bad happens to him" hate) Not only did he completely embarrass himself this year with his lackluster performance on the field, but now he is caught up in two scandals involving inappropriate treatment of women. Normally at this point, I would begin to feel sympathy for Favre and lay off the old man, but all I have to do is just re-imagine Joe Buck slobbering all over him during last year's NFC Championship game and I instantly recharge the sports hate flowing through my veins.

I resolve to no longer feel empathy for UNC fans, as now that they have won three straight games against terrible teams they have climbed back aboard the bandwagon. Note to self UNC fans: you aren't supposed to throw Roy under the bus until AFTER he goes 8-20 like Matt Doherty did. UNC will be a force by the end of the year, and most of the bandwagoner UNC fans will jump back on the high horse — but the ones who stuck by their team all along will be the ones who feel most vindicated — and rightly so.

I resolve to watch as much of Blake Griffin as possible. Seriously, do yourself a favor and go youtube some of Blake Griffin's highlights. The man is not just a dunking machine (although he is on par with guys like Vince Carter and Dominique Wilkins in that department) he plays with an energy that is not often seen in the NBA these days. Griffin has the power of a young Shawn Kemp but can handle the ball and even plays some defense for a LA Clippers team that is dreadful in most other departments. Speaking of the Clips, they have some nice young players in Griffin and Eric Gordon, but they will never be any good as long as Donald Sterling is holding the purse strings.

My final New Year's Resolution is to end the BCS once and for all. I will be going to Washington DC with a group of students next weekend, and I hope to have the opportunity to sit down with President Obama and fig-

ure out a way to end the BCS once and for all. It's ridiculous that a team like TCU can go undefeated, beat the hottest team in football in the Rose Bowl and still have no chance at a National Championship. Who wouldn't want to see TCU's defense up against the winner of Auburn and Oregon?

Have I mentioned that TCU's defensive coordinator is named Dick Bumpus? That in and of itself should explain the strength of TCU's defense in that no one makes fun of that guy at all, but instead wants to hire him to coach at their school!

### Highlanders participate in holiday tournament

By **Ryan Potts**

Over the Christmas holiday the Highlanders and Lady Highlanders traveled to Walhalla, SC to participate in the Apple Classic tournament held annually at Walhalla High School.

On the girls' side, the Lady Highlanders took home a 2-1 record with victories over Upstate and Easley and a loss to Habersham Central.

Against Easley, the Lady Highlanders pulled away in the second half for a 53-34 win. Taylor Buras scored 11, Courtney Rogers scored 12 and Emily Munger scored 17 for the Lady Highlanders.

Against Upstate, the Highlanders pulled away early and finished with a comfortable 50-37 win. Munger led all scorers with 25 points for Highlands.

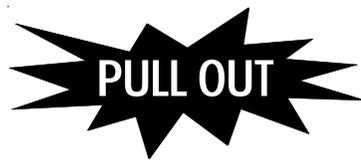
In the boys' bracket, the Highlanders finished 1-2 in the tournament with losses to Habersham Central and Upstate and a win over Greer Charter School.

Against Greer Charter the Highlanders never trailed and dominated throughout in a 71-35 victory. Robbie Vanderbilt led all scorers with 19 points.

In their third game of the tournament, the Highlanders came up a few points short against Upstate in what was one of the best games of the tournament. While Upstate led the majority of the first half, the Highlanders came back to take the lead in the third period.

After Upstate regained the lead late in the fourth, a frantic Highlander comeback was derailed by two untimely turnovers and some questionable officiating. Logan Schmitt and Josh Delacruz each had 14 points for the Highlanders, and Vanderbilt added 12 in the 59-55 defeat.

The Highlanders travel to Nantahala and Rabun Gap this weekend before returning home on Jan. 18 to face the Rosman Tigers.



# On going and Upcoming Events

## Beethoven at Incarnation

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will host many exciting concerts this spring.



In a two-concert series, pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's complete Sonatas for piano and cello. The first concert is Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., and will feature Sonatas 1, 2, and 4. The second concert is Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., and will feature Sonatas 3 and 5.

"This is a rare opportunity for lovers of good music to experience all five Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Cello," explains Robert. "I think these sonatas offer the same sort of musical biography as do the complete symphonies or the 32 piano sonatas. Everything is here, from the youthful bravado and classical lyricism of his early works to the mysticism and inward-looking spirituality of his late period — it's all packed into five sonatas."

With critically acclaimed debuts at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center under his belt, pianist Robert Henry is Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University. Gold Medalist in four International Piano Competitions, he has been hailed as a "consummate artist — brilliant, formidable, elegant, and the epitome of poise and control." Dr. Henry released his award-winning debut CD, *Twelve Nocturnes and a Waltz*, in 2010.

Cellist Charae Krueger is Principal Cellist for the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. She is the Cello Artist-In-Residence and professor at Kennesaw State University and performs with the KSU String Trio. She received her Bachelor of Music Performance degree from New England Conservatory in Boston. She also holds an Artist Diploma from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge MA.

Future concerts at Incarnation include Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, BK I (1-12), to take place on Sunday, February 20 at 2 p.m., with pianist Robert Henry.

All concerts are free. Donations accepted.

### Ongoing

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

• AI-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 am. 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 pm. Great inexpensive wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person refundable with case purchase.

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

### Thursday, Jan. 6

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred. All presenting donors have a chance to win one of two pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets!

### Friday, Jan. 7

• NC Wildlife Advocates will meet from Noon to 3 p.m. at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Everyone is invited – bear hunters and non-bear hunters. Email phyllisedwards@frontier.com.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South, from 6:30-9 p.m. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Workshop from 6:30-7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905 or 828-369-8344.

### Saturday, Jan. 8

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 1.5 mile hike up Chimneytop Mountain in Sapphire. The climb is quite steep near the summit with a 360 degree view. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m.: Drive 6 miles round trip, returning to Cashiers between 12 to 1 p.m. Bring water, a snack, a walking stick; wear sturdy hiking shoes. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977.

### Jan. 8-Feb. 12

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

### Saturdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12

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

### Sun., Jan. 9

• The newly formed Concert Chorale of Highlands and Cashiers will commence rehearsals for the spring and summer concerts on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Interested singers may contact Grat L. Rosazza, conductor and musical director at 828-526-4278 for more information.

• At the Episcopal Church, "Beethoven at Incarnation" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger performing Sonatas 1, 2, & 4. Concerts are free. Donations accepted.

### Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15

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

### Tuesday, Jan 11

• The Highlands Dialogue resumes its Winter/Spring Discussion Series with Putting Away Childish Things by Marcus Borg (available through most on-line booksellers). E. J. Tarbox will coordinate the discussion at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more on the Highlands Dialogue e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

### Friday, Jan. 14

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 Riverview Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### Fridays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18

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

### Sunday, Jan. 16

• At the Episcopal Church, "Beethoven at Incarnation" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger performing Sonatas 3 and 5. Donations accepted.

### Sat., Jan. 22

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

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

• At The Bascom, Photography for Lovers with Greg

## This winter, come join us at The Bascom!



Greg Newington's will instruct "Photography for Lovers" and exhibit *Out Back and Down Under* at The Bascom in Highlands. Pre-registration is required. Call 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

Enjoy The Bascom year-round! In January and February, enjoy exhibitions, classes and Winter Barn Dances.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, from 7-10 pm, we'll celebrate the service of our educators to the community. Enjoy the music of Highlands' own "4118."

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased by visiting calling 828.526.2112. Admission for honorees is complimentary.

Greg Newington returns to The Bascom on January 28-29 for *Photography for Lovers*. Part of Highlands Romance Weekend, learn how to add a sense of romance to your photos using light, filters and Photoshop.

Three exhibitions will be featured at The Bascom this winter.

• *Out Back and Down Under*, Jan. 7-March 25 - Recent works by photographer Greg Newington are featured. Works included will be from his recent Aussie tour, down under, and images from, out back, on our mountain plateau.

• From Jan. 8-Feb. 12, view *The Bascom Collection* featuring 20th and 21st century American art in numerous media.

• From Feb. 19-April 2, Regional Art Leagues will present their annual exhibition. Join us in celebrating the art and artists who offer a glimpse into the beauty of the plateau.

Youth Art classes this winter include

• Saturday Art School (Jan. 8-Feb. 19) for fun, hands-on, age appropriate art classes.

• Friday morning's Pre-School Creativity Classes (Jan. 14-Feb.18)

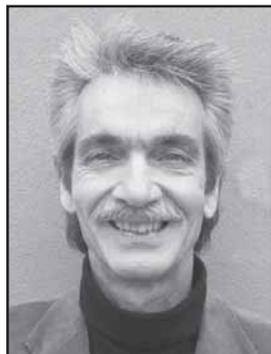
• Tuesday After School Art (Jan. 11-Feb. 15)

• Thursday's Paint Like a Master (Jan. 13-March 3)

The galleries and The Shop are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am-5 pm.

## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### The practice of seeking God



**Pastor Dan Robinson**  
Highlands  
Central Baptist Church

There is an incredible verse of scripture found in Acts 17:26-27. It reads like this:  
"From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him."

Theologians call this the doctrine of sovereignty. Clearly, the questions about sovereignty are many but the bottom line is simple. Namely, God loves the human race so much that He is acting, moving, changing and rearranging our "comings and goings" toward the end goal that we would see Him.

In my case, this meant a very brief move to San Diego in 1963. It was then and there that I became a Christian. God determined the time and the place where I should live. To view this doctrine from another angle, one writer puts it like this:

"What we owe to the unexpected and unplanned providences (sovereignty) in our lives is incalculable."

The writer illustrates this by referencing the journal of David Brainerd:

"The list of missionaries who testify to the inspiration of Jonathan Edwards's influence through the labor of love he expended in writing "The Life of David Brainerd" is longer than any of us knows: Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, William Carey, Henry Martyn, Robert Morrison, Samuel Mills, Fredrick Schwartz, Robert M'Cheyne, David Livingstone, Andrew Murray. A few days before he died, Jim Elliot, who was martyred by the Aucas in 1956, entered in his diary, "Confession of pride - suggested by David Brainerd's "Diary" yesterday - must become an hourly thing with me." For 250 years, Edwards has been fueling the missionary movement with his biography of David Brainerd."

Again, God determined the time and place where Brainerd should live.

Frankly, one might be tempted to shun this doctrine as foolish. Yet God says it's true. And if I believe this truth, then I must draw a conclusion that says something like this: "If God has determined that I should live in Highlands as this time in my life, then "why?" Or, "What is His purpose in doing so?"

The Acts verse gives the answer: "God did this so men would seek Him." How clear. How simple.

So friend, in all of your doings, seekings, plannings - don't forget the most important thing - seeking God.

Do that through prayer, reading the Bible, confessing your sins, going to church and giving yourself to Jesus Christ without reservation. The result of that kind of life really is incalculable.

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastors residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian - 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Mens Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
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. High School  
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968  
Reverend Denson Franklin  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

### WEDNESDAYS - CHOIR - 7 HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7  
**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
221 N. 4th Street

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.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group  
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704  
Independent Bible Church  
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.  
**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor  
Parish office: 526-2418

Mass - 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri  
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis  
Sundays: School -10 a.m.; Worship -11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Most popular cosmetic surgery procedures

By Dr. Robert Buchanan  
Center for Plastic Surgery

Plastic Surgery continues to grow in popularity. Last year alone there were 12,500,000 procedures performed by Board Certified Plastic Surgeons in the US. One and a half million of them were surgical procedures. The other 11,000,000 were minimally invasive ones, such as Botox®, fillers and peels. Because many other physicians are attempting to do many of these procedures, especially the minimally invasive ones, and there is no way to track them, that number does not include what they do.

The total number of cosmetic procedures is up 69% since 2000. Minimally invasive procedures are up 99% over the same period. What is most popular varies from one part of the country to another. Here are the most popular surgical procedures, arranged in order for our specific area with national numbers from last year in parentheses:

1. Eyelid surgery (203,000): also called blepharoplasty, drooping upper eyelids and/or bags below the eyes are corrected by removing excess muscle and skin and rearranging fat. Women choose this far more often than men, though it is one of the most frequent procedures in men also. Recovery takes a week to 10 days.

2. Facelift (103,000): Although the older procedures really pulled rather than lifted, newer procedures finally live up to the name and lift the tissues back to where they were naturally. They are now also longer lasting and have a recovery of only several days to a week or so. Nationally, this is # 5, though it is more popular in the south.

3. Tummy Tuck (115,000): The abdomen is flattened during the surgery when extra fat and skin are removed, the muscles tightened, and the waist thinned. Although this was a procedure for women after childbirth, it is now very popular among men and women who have lost significant weight. Full recovery takes two to four weeks.

4. Breast Lift (87,000): This procedure, also called a mastopexy, raises, reshapes and firms sagging breasts. It removes extra skin and repositions the remaining tissue and nipples into a perkier position. Recovery is relatively rapid.

5. Breast Implant Revision (20,000): Although our revision rate is only 2%, nationally it is about 20%. This can be for many reasons including deflation, hardening, or change in attitude.

6. Liposuction (198,000): Just as the name implies, fat is sucked through a tube inserted beneath the skin out of areas where you don't want it using a vacuum-like device. The neck, abdomen, buttocks, hips, thighs, and upper arms are frequent beneficiaries. We use this frequently with other procedures including facelift and abdominoplasty. Re-

covery times range from several days to a week or so, but it may take several months for all the swelling to go down.

7. Breast Reduction (78,000): Although many of these procedures are reconstructive, most of the ones I do are cosmetic since they do not fit the arbitrary weight removed criteria set by the insurance companies. In spite of this, they are among the happiest patients I have. Recovery is rapid.

8. Male Breast Reduction (17,000): Removal of male breast enlargement, called Gynecomastia, takes many forms, depending on the amount of breast growth. This can be as large as that of a well-endowed woman. The numbers done do not reflect the relatively common occurrence of the problem.

9. Breast Augmentation (289,000): Nationally this is the most popular surgical procedure. Most are now done using the new form stable silicone implants. The way I do it, recovery is only a day or so.

10. Nose Remodeling (256,000): Called Rhinoplasty, this is nationally the second most common procedure. It is the reshaping of the nose to make it bigger or smaller, to narrow the span of the nostrils, thin the tip, or to change the angle between the nose and upper lip. Rhinoplasty is popular with men and women. Recovery is rapid, though you have a protective splint over the nose for 7-10 days and it takes 6 -12 months for all the swelling to completely go down.

Though the surgical procedures take the spotlight, the non-surgical, minimally invasive ones account for most of the procedures done. This is due to their having essentially no down time and minimal expense. Our numbers reflect those nationally.

1. Botulinum Toxin (4,795,000): This injection blocks muscle action that causes wrinkles. It is most popular between the eyebrows, lateral to the eyes and in the forehead,

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 12

Turn back the Clock  
in the  
New  
Year



Facial Reshaping • Liposuction  
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Tummy Tuck • Botox  
Center for Plastic Surgery

Robert T. Buchanan, MD

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Highlands, N.C. 28741  
www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com

## AREA HEALTH SPECIALISTS

1 20/200

2 20/100

3 20/70

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- and of course Fillings and Cleanings!  
(IV Sedation, too)



*anchored*

## ... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 11

though useful anywhere a muscle is causing a wrinkle.

2. Soft Tissue Fillers (1,722,000): These are natural substances injected into wrinkles, depressions or contour irregularities to correct them. The most common manufactured ones I use are Juvéderm® and Radiesse® because of their exceptional longevity. I also use a significant amount of fat. Though you have to harvest it, it is a permanent solution.

3. Chemical Peels (1,143,000): These are also quite varied. We use them to freshen the skin, remove spots, and to eliminate

wrinkles and severe sun damage. I probably use them less than nationally, since we concentrate on other, less drastic, methods of skin rejuvenation.

4. Microdermabrasion (910,000): This painlessly removes the thickened outer dead cell layer of sun-damaged skin to freshen it.

5. For more information on these or other procedures, contact the Center for Plastic Surgery at 828-526-3783, or go to [www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com](http://www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com).

## ... JUST HERS continued from page 7

my lap, snoring. It was a scene that would have made John smile, and just knowing that made me smile, too.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near

Highlands with her precious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. Michelle thanks all of her readers for their kind comments and good wishes. She joins with her cats, Orion and Weasel, in wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year. The cats know why "not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse," but they aren't telling

## ... AFFORDABLE HOUSING continued from page 1

to keep the taxpayers in mind and perhaps we should open our circle a little wider and ask people in the real estate community and others for help. We need to know what they know and we don't."

"Personal issues" included the opinions of the Chestnut Hill Retirement community homeowners who opposed the proposed location of apartment complex on Buck Creek Road and the "views" were of Highlands' taxpayers who want water and sewer offered in town before it is given outside town.

Paramount to the proposal's success was water and sewer connections when supplying such outside the town limits has been limited to the hospital, Zachary Field

and most recently to Shortoff Baptist Church.

Then-Mayor Don Mullen told the taskforce not to get discouraged. "We didn't anticipate the complaints. I naively thought everyone would hop on the band wagon but they didn't," he said. "Every town similar to Highlands is working on getting or has some sort of affordable housing project including Breckenridge and Aspen, Colorado and Flagstaff, New Mexico. This issue is sweeping the country."

Due to the postponement it's not known exactly what Highlands Housing, Inc., was going to request or propose.

The Wednesday, Jan. 12 Town Board meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Community Building.

## ... LETTERS continued from page 6

### Dog owners beware

Dear Editor,

We would like to share our story with your readers with the hope that other pet owners will avoid the incident that we experienced over Christmas weekend with our dog, Jacob.

Innocently, we fed him a small pieces of fat from a beef roast and then on the next morning we gave him a small pieces of fat from a country ham.

He began to act sick a few hours later, then vomited and was very listless. This was on Monday.

We took him to see Dr. Brad Smith at the Wellness Animal Clinic on Tuesday and he immediately diagnosed a problem with his pancreas due to the ingestion of the fat, even though it was a very small amount. Jacob's body was unable to process the fat and due to the involvement of the pancreas and without Dr. Smith's correct diagnosis, we could have lost him if we had waited another day.

Jacob was put on an IV drip for 24 hours and now we are giving him a special dog food for a few days along with antibiotics. He is now recovering and we are so thankful.

This letter is to warn pet owners to be careful in feeding your animal from the table, especially anything such as pork or beef fat.

Bill and June Hogue  
Highlands

## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### I hereby resolve....

I made a New Year's resolution and like all NYRs, it didn't last very long. Maybe 15 minutes. I know you are bored with the Global Warming/Climate Change issue, and I know you thought it was laid to rest after being debunked, but this is not the case. I'll get to the current problem, but first, a little fun.



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

From Environment News Service in December, 2009: "Snow and Ice across the planet are melting much faster than anticipated, and the cryosphere – the Earth's ice and snow cover – is very vulnerable to climate change, finds a new report presented today at the United Nations Climate Summit by former U. S. Vice President Al Gore and Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store. Snow cover is diminishing, and glaciers from the Himalayas to the Alps are melting rapidly, with the reductions in the Andes and the Rockies, the report shows."

Perhaps Al should have sat with me the other day and watch nine inches of Christmas cheer fall on our property. I know, meaningless. But the folks in the northeast, specifically NYC and New Jersey, would tell you the 20-30 inches they got wasn't particularly insignificant. In the greater scheme of things, however, it doesn't prove much. Xinhuanet.com would have you know that "German capital Berlin has experienced more snow this month than any other December of past 100 years, as more bitter cold is expected in the country's east."

Isn't interesting that in heavily populated areas, for the past several years, catastrophic winters have occurred for all the world to see, but the areas Gore points to as evidently enjoying unusually balmy weather are viewed by polar bears and a handful of "scientists" financed, I'm sure, by Gore. How inconveniently convenient.

Maybe one of the most telling events of 2010 in the GW/CC arena is the fact

that Al and Tipper Gore in the spring of 2010, bought an oceanfront villa in Montecito, CA for a paltry \$9,000,000 +/- . Now, I can't find just how close to the ocean the news digs sit, but in view of the fact that Gore predicted the oceans would soon rise enormously, it seems strange that he would trust the waters to part and not affect his property. Maybe Tipper wasn't in on the decision and decided a couple of months after the purchase that their 40-year love affair was over. Who knows?

Getting back to the problem, even though Harry Reid couldn't muster enough

## ... TOWN BOARD continued from page 1

readiness and operational issues during and after storm events.

At least two other items – affordable housing and revision of town ordinances for con-

votes in the old Senate to jam through cap-and-tax, and the new Senate would less inclined to do so, FoxNews.com says "After failing to get climate-change legislation through Congress, the Obama administration plans on pushing through its environmental policies through other means, and Republicans are ready to put up a fight.

On Jan. 2, new carbon emissions limits will be put forward as the Environmental Protection

Agency prepares regulations that would force companies to get permits to release greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Critics say the new rules are a backdoor effort to enact the president's agenda on global warming without the support (or consent) of Congress, and would hurt the economy and put jobs in jeopardy by forcing companies to pay for expensive new equipment."

Remember the big flap about "death panels" and the licking that Sarah Palin took when she (and others) sounded the alarm during the Obamacare debate? From The New York Times: "When a proposal to encourage end-of-life planning touched off a political storm over "death panels," Democrats dropped it from legislation to overhaul the health care system. But the Obama administration will achieve the same goal by regulation, starting Jan. 1.

Under the new policy, outlined in a Medicare regulation, the government will pay doctors for end-of-life care, which may include advance directives to forego aggressive life-sustaining treatment." Now here is the point. "While the new law (Obamacare) does not mention advance care planning, the Obama administration has been able to achieve its policy goal through the regulation-writing process, a strategy that could become more prevalent in the next two years as the president deals with a strengthened Republican opposition in Congress."

Charles Krauthammer writes in the Washington Post: "These regulatory power plays make political sense. Because Obama needs to appear to reclaim the center, he will stage his more ideological in yawn-inducing regulatory hearings rather than in the dramatic spotlight of congressional debate. How better to impose a liberal agenda on a center-right nation that regulatory stealth?

The promises of open and transparent government have long ago been proven to be nothing but the same old campaign lies. Did you expect anything else?

sistency with the town charter amendment for council-manager form of government — will require discussion and more explanation.

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**KITCHEN MANAGER FOR HIGH-VOLUME, HIGH-QUALITY GRILL, DELI AND PREPARED FOODS IN THE HIGHLANDS/CASHIER AREA;** seeking positive, reliable, detail oriented & organized person to manage operations, inventory & staff and become part of our management team; we are seeking a manger with hands on experience; extensive experience a must, pay commensurate to skills. Please email resume and salary expectations to jobs828@gmail.com

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**HOSPITAL**

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ders National Forest. 2005 2/bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 11/11)

## LOST and FOUND

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

## RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**3 BED, 2 BATH APARTMENT ON SECOND FLOOR OF HOME NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL.** W/D and wood burning fireplace. Call 828-200-1064. (st. 1/6)

**PRIME MAIN ST FRONTAGE COMMERCIAL RENTAL.** 800 sq. ft. can expand into 1600 sq. ft.. Large window display and good storage. Call 526-3363.

**TURN-KEY FURNISHED 1 BED, 1 BATH COTTAGE.** Freshly painted, new carpet and appliances. Includes two TVs plus TEVO. No smoking. No pets. All utilities included. 2.5 miles from town on cashiers Road. \$650/month plus one-month deposit. Call 828-526-1566. (st. 1/6)

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

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

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

**ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/3BATH HOME.** Stunning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31/11)

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

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

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

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

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

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

large open living design, 1000 ft. deck, garage, many extras. (561) 212-2148 or (561) 239-2424 woodlandsview@bellsouth.net or see our place on www.vrbo.com/99644. Contact for special low monthly rates. Tell us you heard about it from this ad ... house is also for sale(12/30)

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

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE

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

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

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## VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

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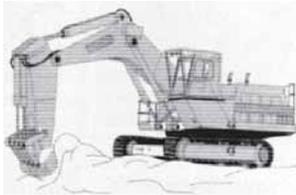
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## • POLICE & FIRE DEPT. REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 23 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 23

• At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint concerning the Highlands Smokehouse. The owner was issued a \$50 civil citation.

Dec. 24

• At 7:35 p.m., officers responded to a call about a vehicle parked in the road on S. 4th St. The owner was found and told to move the vehicle.

Dec. 25

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Hudson.

Dec. 27

• Officers were called to assist another agency concerning a possible burglary in progress at a home on Billy Cabin Road. A window was broken, furniture was overturned and there was other damage. Due to claw marks and droppings, it was determined that a bear had been in the house for several days.

Dec. 29

• At 7:48 p.m., the Sapphire Public Safety Chief reported a female in the area might have TVs stolen from several houses in Sapphire Valley. There was no identifying information as to appearance, age, or name, so there was little the police could do.

Dec. 31

• At 6:38 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on Cobb Road. The phone had malfunctioned.

Jan. 1

• A little after midnight, officers were notified that a patron at Cyprus Restaurant had left without paying at \$255 tab. He was located and escorted to the restaurant by police to pay the tab.

Jan. 2

• Officers on patrol found two unsecured doors at Highlands Decorating Center.

Jan. 4

• A Dixon's Specialized Rockhopper 24" purple bicycle was found in the ditch along Walhalla Road.

**Note:** Officers are investigating the burglary of a vehicle, financial transaction fraud and fraudulent receipt of goods concerning five ATM transactions for \$103 each from the ATM at Macon Bank. The owner of the debit card used says she didn't make the transactions. Video surveillance of the bank shows a woman approaching the ATM at the time of each transaction listed on the account summary. The case is under investigation.

• During the week, police officers responded to 5 alarms and issued 9 citations.

Highlands F & R Dept. log entries from Dec. 23:

Dec. 23

• At 3:11 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD with a structure fire.

• At 9:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO<sup>2</sup> alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

Dec. 25

• At 10:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.

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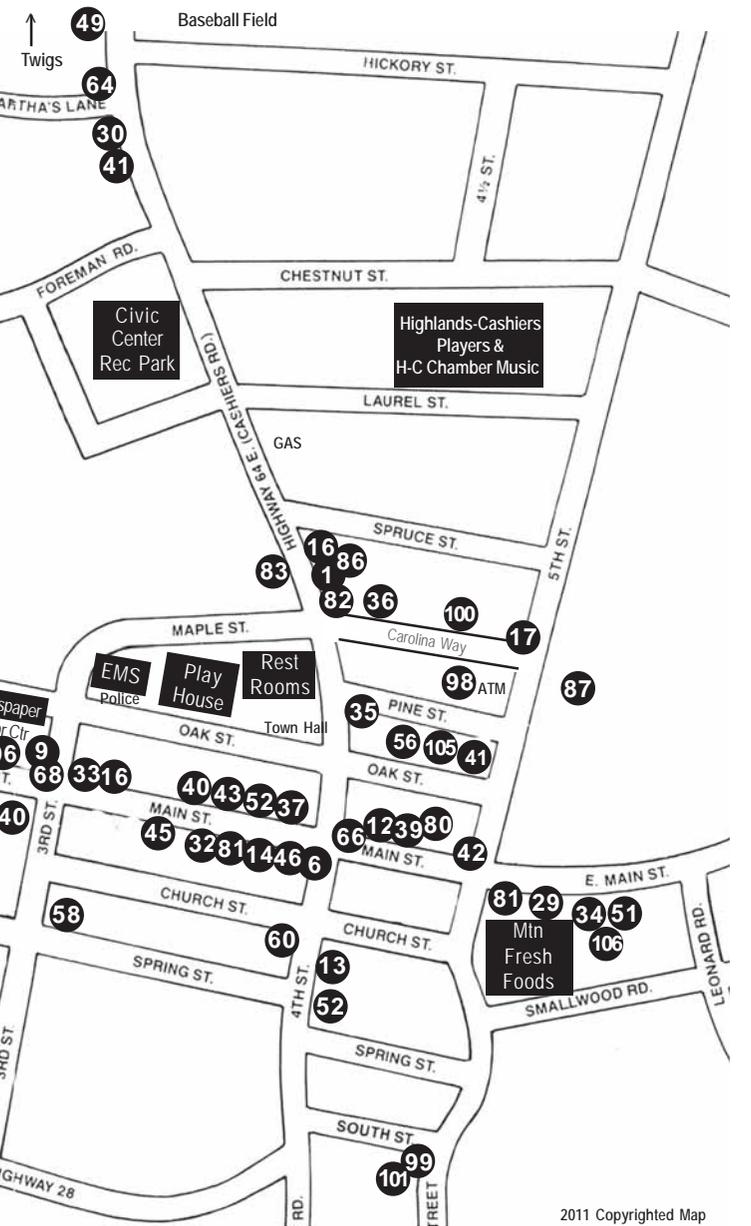
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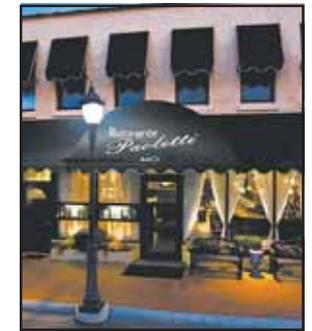
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