

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 47

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012

Wed., Nov. 21

• Eastern Star will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Wednesday. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487.

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 22-23

• Macon County Public Library will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 23-24

• At The Bascom, Artist Market-place from 10a to 5p. Call 526-4949 for more information.

• At The Bascom, Gingerbread Workshop from 1-3p. Call 526-4949 for more information.

Fri., Nov. 23

• Santa will be hearing wishes at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street near Third from 10a to 4p.

Saturday, Nov. 24

• Highlands annual Tree Lighting ceremony with caroling in front of the the Methodist Church on Main Street at 6:30p followed by photos and wishes with Santa at the Visitor Center on Main Street.

Tues., Nov 27

• Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m. "Journey of Mrs. Bosh-Bauer, the 'painting'." Coordinator: Isabel Allen.

• Relay For Life of Highlands Spaghetti Dinner at Fressers Eatery, 5-8 P.M. Tickets are \$10 and must be presented at door. Please contact Heather Mangum 526-3419 or Debbie Grossman 526-4188.

Solutions sought for parking woes

The never ending parking saga continues in Highlands.

A complaint from Joe Luke of Reeves Hardware initiated talk about extending restricted parking, as well as enforcing restricted parking April 15 through November

30, 10a to 4p.

Aside from installing parking meters, the town has tried everything to supply parking to locals, visitors and employees.

Solutions have included 2-hour parking spaces painted down

the middle of Main Street from 3rd to 5th streets, prohibiting curbside parking to employees and business owners, to police officers walking the town issuing citations, to the Chamber of Com-

• See PARKING page 24

There's a new Santa Claus in town!

By Luke Osteen

If you happen to attend Saturday's Town Tree Lighting (staged in front of Highlands United Methodist Church), you'll be treated to Christmas carols, hot cocoa, holiday readings and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Sure, it's Santa – he's got the bright red suit, the coal black boots, the ample tummy, and the relentlessly cheerful manner. But if you're a Highlands kid, you'll notice he's subtly different from the Santa you've known as long as you've been alive.

That's because Santa (or, if you're so inclined, Santa's real-world representative) is embodied by a new man.

After a lap-numbing 20 years as Highlands' official Santa, Allen "Buck" Trott, is handing the reindeer reins to another Highlander.

Allan Dearth will be filling out the Santa suit for this season and far into the future.

"I can't wait – I was Santa years ago when Scaly Mountain used to have a Christmas Parade and since I have a beard and white hair, it's like I've been training as Santa for a long



time," Dearth says.

In fact, on occasion Dearth's served as Santa Claus even when he wasn't trying.

"Years ago, I took my family to Disney World and over breakfast one morning, a little boy came up to me and asked for my autograph – I didn't understand until his grandparents explained that he only wanted two autographs at Disney, Mickey Mouse's and Santa's," Dearth says. "Naturally, Santa signed his book."

For Buck Trott, having Dearth take over the Santa duties is like a Christmas gift delivered early.

"I'm 85 now and being Santa is hard work, my knees just can't take it like they used to," says Trott. "But I've had a good run and I've loved every minute, even when being Santa made it hard to enjoy the holidays with my family. I based my Santa on the Coca-Cola Santa developed by illustrator Haddon Sundblom – a jolly man who was instantly a natural friend to children. Once you've cultivated that attitude, well, it makes the job so much fun."

• See SANTA page 13

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Citizens appealing boards' decisions

It doesn't happen often, but two citizens are appealing decisions made by the town's zoning and planning boards.

At the October 22 Planning Board meeting, the board OK'd minor changes to the original R-3 Conditional Use District (CUD) zoning at Town Place Condominium Development at Chestnut/Hickory/N. 4th streets, and added a couple more restrictions.

Currently approved is the 2006 R-3 CUD plan where four buildings housing eight units each and one smaller unit housing two units was planned. The changes represent an amendment to the 2006 R3-CUD plan on file.

Since the 2006 rezoning, only two units housing eight units each have been built – fis-

• See APPEALS page 13

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

To the jerk who penned Jerking Chains 101

Dear Editor,
Slaves...Nazis...peeing on nuns – all in the same article? Are you kidding me? You actually pay this clown to write for your paper?

One of my dearest friends from college lives in Highlands, so every few weeks or so I pull up Highlands Newspaper on the web to read up on the latest happenings in town.

Last week, big mistake! I just so happen to be an African American and needless to say I was appalled at Fred Wooldridge's ignorance to think that just because there are currently no "black people" living there, that in this digital age your newspaper is not read by any! Why then, do you have a web site?

I live in Minnesota but had occasion to visit my friend's grandparents some years ago in Highlands. They were long-time residents and prominent citizens of your quaint little town. It was not "an unlikely event" that I happened to be there, nor was I a "black tourist wandering through town." God forbid! Close the shutters and lock the doors!

Freedom of the press aside, shame on you for printing this blatantly racist and politically incorrect attempt at journalism! It is obviously time for your self-proclaimed chain jerker to retire!

Tracy
Farmington, MN

On saying goodbye

Dear Editor,
Charlene Hendricks is an old dear friend of ours. Maddy and I met Charlene and her husband, Sam, forty-one years ago. We were neighbors for years, playing Bridge and sharing meals together down on Clear Creek Road.

Over the years the Hendricks became like our foster parents and watched our children grow. We grew to love them even more. They were the most loving couple we have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Later in her life, Charlene moved to Chestnut Hill. We visited often and made it a point to visit her just before heading out each year for the winter. During our last visit in late October, when it was time to depart, she put her arms around me, held me tight, kissed me, and said, "I love you Fred. You take care of Maddy." I think she knew this was to be our last visit together. I mentioned it to Maddy as we walked to our car.

Heaven is a better place now that Sam and Charlene are back together with their first born son. God bless the Hendricks.

Fred and Maddy Wooldridge
Highlands and North Palm Beach

Post election revelations and personal confessions

Dear Editor,
I have had two revelations while reading the Highlands Newspaper in recent weeks.

First, the newspaper must be the stable and quarters for several of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Second, by marking that ballot for Barack Obama, I continue to be on that certain highway to hell.

All this newspaper reading has made me have a recurring dream where I am brought before my Maker in chains to face final judgement. Funny Fred is sitting on His right hand, and Old Don is on His left. Don on the left? Well, maybe not. Pastor Gary is behind both of them.

Fred jerks my chain one last time. He gets right in my face like he is still a Miami super cop and screams, "You self-righteous liberal, there is no room up here for criminals, same sex couples, feminazi women, foreign boat people, tax raising politicians and especially milk toast thinkers like you!"

Don reminds God that I am one of those misguided mortals. I plead that I have always believed in the teachings of Jesus. In the background Pastor Gary raises his eyebrows to signal he's not buying my contrite declaration. Don shouts out, "that's impossible, you were a life long Democrat!"

I breakdown and confess my offenses, aka sins, that began in 1968 when I voted for Hubert H. Humphrey. I admit that I never changed the error of my ways. Even facing hell, I hold on to my whacky thinking. I don't even think that Obama is not a real American and should be deported to Kenya.

I have had two revelations while reading the Highlands Newspaper in recent weeks. First, the newspaper must be the stable and quarters for several of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Second, by marking that ballot for Barack Obama, I continue to be on that certain highway to hell.

ya.
Of course I have no choice but to accept my fate to burn in hell forever. As I see the flaming gates opening to take me in, I have one final revelation. At least in the fiery pit I will be free from those obsessive, compulsive political rants and sermonettes.

Wham bam! I wake up realizing I am still alive, and that I should be so thankful. I am living in a heavenly town and in a free country right here on earth with friends, like Old Don, Funny Fred and Pastor Gary.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

Thanksgiving in the wake of Sandy

Dear Editor,
Have you wanted to send a donation to the victims of superstorm Sandy, but didn't know how to help? The Rotary Club of Highlands Mountaintop, the morning club that meets at the hospital at 7:30a every Wednesday, is collecting donations that will go directly to Rotary Clubs in Staten Island to help victims of the recent hurricane. No money will be used for administration, so your entire donation will go to help those in one of the areas hardest hit by the storm.

This is an opportunity to work with us as we help the clubs in District 7260 in New York. We will be providing financial assistance directly to Rotary volunteers on the ground to help their neighbors in the true Rotary tradition. Rotary's motto is Service Above Self, and it really means what it says in times like these.

You can send a donation directly to the clubs in New York. There are two options: Staten Island Rotary Foundation, C/O John J. Amodio, 212 Woodbine Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314 or Rotary Club of Wall Street, NY Foundation, 306 Gold Street, #12C, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Be sure and write on the check that it is for victims of Sandy. Or you can simply send your check directly to the Highlands Mountaintop Club Foundation, P. O. Box 372, Highlands, NC 28741, and we will add your contribution to the money the club has already raised to help storm victims in New York. All gifts are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please call me at 526-4280 or send the donations to. This tragedy is the worst since hurricane Katrina, when many Highlanders

• See LETTERS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Joan J. Leopard

Joan Jolly Hughes Leopard, 75, of Highlands, NC, formerly of Moncks Corner, SC, died Thursday, November 8, 2012 in North Carolina.

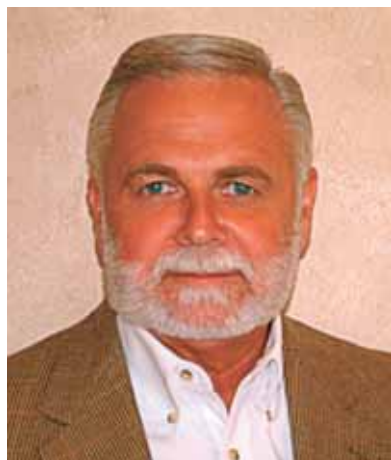
Her funeral will be 2:00 PM Saturday afternoon, November 17, 2012, in the Glenville Wesleyan Church in Glenville, NC, directed by Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, Franklin, NC.

Mrs. Leopard was born April 6, 1937, in Moncks Corner, SC, a daughter of Solomon J. Jolly, Sr., and Banie A. Johnson Jolly.

Surviving are, two daughters, Sharon Thompson of Summerville, SC and Alice H. Pace of North Redington Beach, FL; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Dennis E. O'Brien



Dennis E. O'Brien, 64, of Ocala, Sarasota and Highlands, NC, died after a brief illness on November 11, 2012.

Dennis graduated from the University of Florida and served two years in the Army before launching a long and successful career in real estate. He was involved in

many luxury sales with Michael Saunders & Company in Florida, and Signature Properties/Meadows Mountain Realty in Highlands. His specialty was building lasting relationships with clients and friends. Dennis was a recognized professional and a southern gentleman. He was gracious to family and friends, always perfectly groomed, and loved to entertain at his river-front cabin on the Cullasaja Gorge in Highlands.

Dennis had a passion for fly fishing, which he shared with his beloved brother, Richard, in the mountains of NC as well as the St Johns River in his native Ocala. Time spent with Dennis would include his special brand of jovial good-natured humor and story-telling. He was truly one of a kind.

Dennis is survived by sisters Angela (Jerry) of Tennessee, Mary Ann (Bill) of Florida, Veronica of Florida, Debra of California

... LETTERS continued from page 2

stepped forward to help those victims. Once again we can be a big help to those who were in harm's way.

For those who don't already know, Rotary International is an organization that is well known for helping people in time of need. Along with the Gates Foundation, Rotary International has made amazing progress in eradicating Polio in the world through its Polio Plus program. Rotary clubs around the world annually do thousands of smaller projects that change millions of lives for the better.


If you'd like more information about the largest service organization in the world and the difference it is making in millions of lives, you can visit the web site at www.rotary.org.

Remember to bring your empty ink cartridges, Box Tops and Campbell's soup labels to the school. The school receives extra funds for all three of these projects.

nia and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother Richard of Ocala.

Dennis was deeply loved by his family and many friends. He will be missed by all who knew him. Private interment will occur at a later date, and in lieu of flowers

donations may be made to your favorite charity or the Sun City Florida Center Hospice House (Lifepath). A Celebration of Dennis' Life was Monday, November 19 at the Banquet Room at Marina Jacks, Sarasota Florida.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Dis and Dat

While the li'l missus and I were busy putting away our tchotchkes and preparing to head out for the winter, hunger struck. We had already eaten down our frig and the cupboard was bare. We sat, staring at each other....a puzzlement. Then I remembered what she said, "Turkey, cut from the bone." No, no, no, the li'l missus didn't say that, it was Angela Wiggins, proud owner of Dominick's Restaurant at Wright Square, just a hop, skip and jump from our home.

Unfortunately, Dominick, a great guy and one of the best chefs in Highlands, headed for the big bistro in the heavens just three days before Angela's grand opening, leaving her without a cook. This tough little girl



with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

managed to open anyway. Kudos! We know Angela but not well. She bought the li'l cabin in we built in the early 70s and doubled its size. It's no longer the "li'l cabin that Fred built."

"How 'bout a turkey off the bone sandwich? I asked the li'l misses. "Great idea," she responded, "but I'm exhausted so would you pick it up if I call?" When I got there, the restaurant was full of leaf lookers and I was outta there in less than five minutes with our dinner.

Whoever heard of putting thinly sliced Granny Smith apples on a chunky off-the-bone turkey sandwich? Whoever heard of splashing a glob of specially seasoned apple butter spread on top of a chunky slice of cheese and grilling the whole deal until it becomes golden brown? Ahhhhhh, to die for and the fries and coleslaw were yummy for my tummy. Only thing missing was a kosher pickle....but then I remembered Highlands doesn't do Kosher. Dominick's Restaurant calls its sandwich a Turkey Club. If Dominick is looking down on this restaurant named after him, he would be proud.

Moving on, I'm terrified I won't be able to reach my home when I return in the spring. If the Town Board puts in any more one-way streets leading out of town, I'll be able to truthfully say, "I can't get there from here." I smell a conspiracy here, wadayathink?

And putting 'right turn only' signs at the Maple St. bypass at Main St. was a brilliant idea. Now there's much less traffic on Main St. and business is falling as tourists drive out of town wondering how this could have happened when they wanted to go the other way....only in Highlands. How many tourists, scratching their heads said, "Oh well, we might as well head to Franklin." Again, kudos to our Town Board....or should we call them the

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 10

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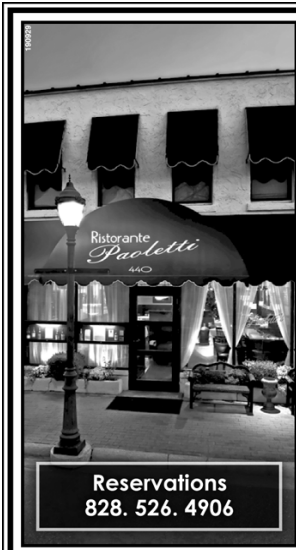
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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Who should we thank for it all?

Whom are we thanking, anyway? I wrestled with "Who are we thanking, anyway" but in the end, opted for correct grammar. I'm kind of a grammar snob, won an award in high school for outstanding student in English. My reputation as a grammar prig was a major factor in my selection.

Still, I considered making an exception in God's case. Most of you would answer the question, "whom are we thanking, anyway?" God.

I'm not sure whom to thank. I don't know; founding fathers, Native Americans, Democrats. I read a book last week that either brought me closer to an answer, or didn't. "Heaven is for real" claims to document a young boy's journey from an operating table to heaven, and back. He meets Jesus, God, and Jesus' Mom. I'm inclined to believe him. Colton, the little boy, told his mom and dad he'd met a sister he didn't know existed. His mother had a miscarriage

that the Colton didn't know about. She hugged him and told him she didn't have a name because their parents hadn't named her, in fact didn't know she was a boy or girl.

There are troubling aspects to the narrative. He met his paternal grandfather. He asked his Dad if his grandfather was called "Pop." He failed to identify a photo of Pop as an old man but readily recognized him in picture when Pop was 29. Colton's explanation; nobody's old in heaven.

Colton saw his Mom and Dad as he ascended. Mom was on a phone calling relatives and friends. Dad, a preacher, was alone in a room, praying and questioning God's mercy, asking why God would subject him to such torture. Colton returned from three minutes in heaven with knowledge his should not have had. Although Colton didn't yet know "left



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

and right," he correctly identified Jesus' place at the right hand of God. I was surprised to learn that Gabriel flanked him on the left.

Although I found the story believable, there were parts that seemed contrived, too traditional. Jesus wore a shimmering robe, God sat on a throne of gold, everyone sported wings. Those portions seemed so juvenile, so Biblical. What I found unbelievable wasn't the fantastic "out of body experience," the preview of heaven. Ironically, it was the validation of Biblical descriptions of heaven.

Why didn't God change with the times? I don't know what I would expected; maybe a Seville Row suit and a Lazy Boy recliner. What if heaven is real and is as advertised? Saints

with wings, sword wielding angels, and lots of animals highlight Colton's heaven. Mainline Protestant churches temper the Biblical message. They read scripture through the lens on liberal 21st century America. But if God hasn't decorated heaven in several thousand years, why should he reshape his message to coincide with our current beliefs?

Mainline churches face declining membership, some denominations are losing three percent per year. People don't want a God who changes with the times, presents a shifting message, indecision, uncertainty. They want to believe the God who delivered the Ten Commandments knew his mind then, and hasn't changed since, and doesn't endorse relativism now.

It is popular to deny the supernatural. The challenge is to find a natural explanation, and assume when one is found, it refutes the existence of the supernatural. When astronomers learned the sky is not the floor of heaven, the stars weren't light filtering through cracks in the floor, we declared God had no place to live.

Remarkably, we ignore the possibility He might have

• See SALZARULO page 12

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• THE 'CONSERVATIVE' POV

This is going to get ugly

I'll be perfectly honest with you. I am not looking forward to writing this column for the next four years. Beating up on the president every week, criticizing congress for their ineptitude, generally grumbling about the

state of affairs of our beloved country; it's not a pleasant prospect. When I accepted the Editor's offer to write a conservative column six or seven years ago, I really thought that I could contribute in a very small way to improving the qual-

ity of life of a tiny segment of the population. Changing the world is above my pay grade, but opening some eyes I thought I could accomplish.

It doesn't seem that whether it's lowly me or the professional pundits doing the reasoning, unless there is some sort of goodie attached, the masses can't hear you. We have reached the tipping point and are now on the "over the hill" side of our culture. This time in our history was foreseen by Alexis de Tocqueville who said, in about 1835:

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the majority discovers it can vote itself largess out of the public treasury. After that, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits with the result the democracy collapses because of the loose fiscal policy ensuing, always to be followed by a dictatorship, then a monarchy."

Not a pretty picture, but it seems to be unfolding before our eyes. Before I get into the muck any deeper, let me say how thankful I am that I was born in a time and place that I believe was the pinnacle of our society. Houses left unlocked, keys left in cars, children walking to school without

fear, prayer when they got there, Moms keeping things humming at home, Dads bringing home the bacon – good times.

My wife and I used to think that we were cursed because we don't have grandchildren. Our friends doted on theirs and the little ones seemed to be the center of their lives. Then, as the future of our country started looking uncertain, we felt less deprived and more relieved, that, while our sons can handle pretty much anything that comes along, the generations following them may not have it so easy.

So, out of the theoretical and into reality. The Benghazi affair (poor choice of words) is blowing up into a full scale horror story complete with a sexual content which forced the major news outlets to cover an embarrassment to the administration which would have otherwise gone unreported. Some wish more of the saga had played out prior to the election; wouldn't have made any difference. The fix was in.

Israel waited until the elec-



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

tion results were in, waiting to see if they had a friend or a foe in the White House, and the horror of a full scale Middle-East war looms – it may be in full bloom by the time you read this. Missiles are being fired into Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Egypt, our ex-ally became our ex-ally when the "Arab Spring" ousted Hosni Mubarak and replaced him with the Muslim Brotherhood, and have joined the fray. As I recall, we sat on our hands and watched the leadership change without meaningful participation at the time.

Somehow, all the mayhem going on makes me think of Glenn Beck's nemesis George Soros. He certainly has slipped out of the public eye lately, which makes me suspicious of what he is up to. Soros has repeatedly said that he sees himself as a messianic figure. Who but a megalomaniac would make these comments? "I admit that I have always harbored an exaggerated view of my self-importance. To put it bluntly,

• See SWANSON page 12



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• COACH'S CORNER •

BCS mess leads to interesting 2012 finale

One good thing about a college playoff coming is that this will be the last year that we have to deal with this crap as fans of college football.

Once again, the top 5-6 teams in the nation are jumbled together in a giant cluster as we head towards the final week of the regular season. Notre Dame is currently number one in the BCS, which is all well and good seeing as they are the only unbeaten team left in the nation (Ohio State doesn't count because they cheat). The only problem with that is that there are few people out there who actually believe Notre Dame is the best team in the nation-needing a fluke missed FG to beat Pitt, squeaking by BYU and Purdue, and getting a gift from the referees to beat Stanford will do that to a team.

Most people believe the best team in the nation is Alabama, but the dirty little secret about the Tide is that they haven't played anyone of consequence this season outside of two games, and in those two games they struggled mightily. They needed the insanity of Les Miles to beat LSU in Death Valley after being shredded by Zach Mettenberger (the same Mettenberger that Florida and South Carolina made look like a Pop Warner QB) and then they were beaten at home by Johnny Manziel and the resurgent TAMU Aggies. Bama will head to the SEC Championship to face a Georgia team that looks to be peaking at the right time, but Georgia has their own issues with weak scheduling to sort out as well.

The Dawgs currently only have one win against the BCS top 20, and they needed 6 turnovers from Florida to win that game. Georgia's schedule has been unbelievably soft, with only one other game against a top 20 BCS team (beatdown at South Carolina), so it is absolutely fair to question whether or not the Dawgs can beat Georgia Tech this weekend if they have one eye on the SEC Championship. And if none of the top 3 BCS teams has the resume of a champion, then who does?

Florida is the answer to the above question, with three wins against the BCS top 12 and another possible win on the way if they defeat FSU this weekend. Since the advent of the BCS a team has never had 4 regular season wins against the top 12 in the BCS, something the Gators could boast of if they pull an upset (?) this week-



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

end. The Gators are an interesting team this season, much in the same way watching a car with three tires try to drive is "interesting." I'm convinced that UF's defense is the best in the nation, but their offense is like watching someone hang drywall-it runs as smoothly as a computer with viruses...completely ineffective except for short bursts of

activity. Of course, UF will likely lose in Tallahassee this weekend, so which other 1 loss team could step to the forefront?

Oregon has the best case, but they have played a weak schedule and their offense was hampered severely by the crushing Stanford D-Line, which does not say much for Oregon's chances against a SEC D-Line full of behemoths. Kansas State was exposed by Baylor, but they still have an impressive resume if one can completely remove the image of a 4-5 Baylor team throttling them (impossible). Florida State is intriguing (if they can beat Florida), but their loss was to a bad NCSU team and they play in one of the weakest conferences in the nation. I guess the bottom line is that things would be a lot more clear this season if we just had the playoff a year earlier.

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LOVELY MANOR HOME Close to town but a world away on 2 acres of beauty. Huge sunroom across the back, 3 bedrooms on main, lower level with den and 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors, stone fireplace, wet bar. Great covered front porch, garage, workshop and KOI pond/waterfall. MLS #75804 \$975,000



WALK TO TOWN OR YOUR CREEK. Highlands in-town creek-side cottage. 3 bedrooms and 3 baths. Wood fireplace, great room. Fantastic rental history - great investment property. MLS 76130 \$550,000



QUAINT and HISTORIC COTTAGE Nestled in trees, walk to town, old Highlands 3 bedroom charmer, outdoor pavilion and screened porch. Hardwoods throughout, vaulted ceiling in kitchen, wood-burning fireplace. MLS #76151 \$375,000



OLD EDWARDS INN @ HIGHLANDS COVE Corner lot with 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, great room with massive fireplace, chef's kitchen 2 bedrooms on main. Large screened porch with fireplace and tv area, and garage. Extra lots available. MLS #74643 \$1,250,000



BED & BREAKFAST. Lovely grounds with two waterfalls, small pools and terraces make this a perfect respite. 5 bedrooms and 5.5 baths, fireplaces in the morning room, great room, master suite and lower den. Offered at \$999,000. MLS #72343



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge

Pat Allen
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Andrea Gabbard
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

The benefits of offering seller financing

Although Buyer activity in the market continues to improve and recover, Sellers are finding that any means of property differentiation is very much to their advantage in a crowded marketplace. After all, if one is a Seller in today's environment, the name of the game is achieving "top of mind" status among Buyers and Buyer agents. That is, when a Buyer (or his/her agent) is searching for property, one must land on the short list of those that the Buyer wants to see (or the agent wants to show).

Price is the obvious "go to" differentiator and is a great choice if one's property is languishing in a sea of competitors. Price, however, is not the only game in town for increasing what I call a property's Signal above Noise Factor.

A terrific option to consider is to offer seller financing, if possible. If a Seller owns his or her property free and clear of any loans or mortgages, he or she may allow the Buyer to pay some of the purchase price of the property in the form of a promissory note.

Every transaction is unique, and there are no hard and fast rules around how to structure a seller financing deal. Like everything in the transaction, terms are negotiable. For example, a Seller may request 20% of the purchase price as a down payment, and may finance for the Buyer the balance over a 5-year period, (with payments amortized over 30 years), at an interest rate of 6%.

Why would offering financing be of benefit to a Seller?

1. Larger Pool of Buyers. Anytime a Seller can edge out the competition by increasing the number of potential Buyers interested in his or her property, the better his or her chances are of finding a match that results in a closing. Statistics show that almost 40 percent of the American population is unable to qualify for traditional bank financing. Many Buyers now have extenuating circumstances that do not render them great candidates for a mortgage from a traditional bank. In fact, many have stellar credit and proof of income, but, for example, may own a property elsewhere



Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
susie@WhiteOakRG.com

that they are trying to sell. They currently cannot qualify, then, for a traditional loan, but are comfortably able to put down a percentage of the purchase price and make monthly payments.

2. Reduced Time to Closing. A closing involving a third-party conventional lender can take six to eight weeks, while closing a seller-financed transaction through a reputable title company can take as little as two to three weeks. This

is due to the reduced paperwork and less restrictive Due Diligence process.

3. Interest Income. Sellers can reap the benefits of having their property continue to work for them after they sell by offering owner financing. Further, many times, the return on their money via seller financing trumps other returns gained from other investment vehicles.

Today's real estate marketplace requires constant ingenuity, agility, and innovative approaches to garner precious attention from Buyers overwhelmed with choices. Offering owner financing offers Sellers one path to attracting Buyer focus and investment commitment.

If considering seller financing, be sure to consult with a qualified legal professional to properly document the transaction and to gain insight on appealing terms and structuring techniques. Utilizing the services of professional lawyers, real estate agents, and tax experts with experience in owner financing will help ensure your transaction will proceed smoothly toward a successful closing.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

• REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS • Properties for Sale



This is a perfect home for anyone needing live in help or a mother-in-law suite. 4/4 Highlands Falls. Just reduced \$397K. MLS#72929. Call 526-1717.



Great remodeled one level home close to the Highlands Falls clubhouse. \$597,000. 3/3. MLS#69375. Call 526-1717.



Inside King Mountain gate. Mountain view cottage on 11.29 acres of unrestricted land with meadow and waterfall. \$350,000. MLS #73213. 526-4101.



Highlands Falls Country Club. Custom designer accents, lovely 3 br, 2.5 ba home located on the 11th fairway, awesome landscaping. \$697,000. MLS #74801. Call 526-4101



Wonderful mountain cottage on a mostly level lot with a great view of Whiteside Mountain. 2/2 \$387,000. MLS#73448. Call 526-1717.



Remodeled and expanded. Great lakefront setting. 3/3 Highlands Falls \$657,000. MLS#71974. Call 526-1717.



Cullasaja Club. Great golf course view of the 15th Fairway from this 4/4 with 2 master suites, lower level family room. \$695,000. MLS #74332. 526-4101



VZ Top Condo. Million \$\$\$ views, immaculate 3 br, 2 ba, single level and maintenance free living, pristine condition. \$239,000. MLS #74892. Call 526-4101

Enjoy Satulah Mountain Gentility



Two rondettes in the prestigious Satulah Mountain area make the perfect walk-to-town investment. 2BR/1.5BA main house and 1BR/1BA guest house. Live in the main house & rent the guest house! Offered at \$268,900. MLS #75356.

In-Town, Pristine Gem



3BR/3BA less than mile from Main St.! Upstairs master suite or retreat for grandchildren! Open living/dining room and granite-countered kitchen. Large deck in canopy of trees with outdoor dining. New roof, floors, paint & updates. Lower level for storage/more living space. Offered at \$369,000. MLS #75156.

Please contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079 or Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



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Fabulous Turn-Key, In-Town Investment



This adorable, updated, walk-to-town home features a massive stone fireplace, open floor plan, 2 private bedroom suites, covered front porch, back deck, and a single car garage with paved access. This turn-key opportunity has great potential as a rental investment or as a get-a-way. Offered at \$328,000. MLS #75797.

Rare Main St. Commercial Property



Certainly the best location on Highlands' Main St. with outstanding visibility from the major intersection in the heart of downtown. Zoned B-1, this 0.27 +/- acre parcel offers a completely blank canvas. 74' of frontage on Main & West Church St. Includes the building (not business) occupied by The Little Flower Shop & the entire loafer's bench area front to back. Offered at \$2.48M. MLS# 76236.

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Gentle land makes for easy building and fewer erosion problems. Plenty of parking, child friendly; a great place to walk.

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From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight.

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Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.
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Five new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres flanked by National Forest at the base of Whiteside Mountain. Even "a river runs through it."

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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

Town Bored?

Doris Lacey, from Satire Mountain, called to tell me she needs to get the large boil on the inside of her upper thigh lanced. I told her I don't do surgeries but I just love to slice up politicians should she ever need that service. (Remember, Doris, if you have political dirt, I'll try to publish it.) I sent her and her boil to OEI 'cause they do everything great. A picture of Doris's boil will not....I repeat....will not appear in this paper but I do have several 8 x 10 glossies I can't wait to get rid of. Call me at 1-800-get-real.

Moving on further, why the Subaru corporation took an awesome four-cylinder Porsche-type Boxer engine and dumped it from their line on some models for a Toyota flat four look-a-like is puzzling to

me. If it ain't broke, don't fix it I always say. Duh! Is Subaru trying to downgrade their awesome vehicles or are they just trying to help dramatically slumping Toyota profits. We love our Subaru Outback 'cause it has the boxer engine and it's made in the good ole USA. Indiana is still in the USA, right? In any case, I think Subaru engineers would fit nicely on our Town Bored.

Opening the paper a couple of weeks ago, I was shocked to see the beloved thatch hut at the Bascom was destroyed by wind. And just when I was thinking of checking in. Haven't those people read "The Three Little Pigs?" Use bricks, dummies.... bricks....not thatch! Duh, again! And what was all that white stuff on the ground next to the picture of the destroyed hut? Did our many local coke dealers dump their stash

at the thatch? Can you say "stash at the thatch" real fast three times. Is that fun, or what?

And in closing, I want to wish all my readers a Happy Thanksgiving. This year I have much to be thankful for, like no more political ads and phone calls for at least another four years. I'm also thankful I'll be able to continue making fun of President Obama, pissing off Highlands' liberals. (They never catch on.) Oh, and last but not least, I'm thankful that the "Tar and Feather Fred" club has been disbanded....for now.

Remember, if you light a fire, make sure you have a fireplace, then curl up on the couch with your favorite sweetie and read Fred's new mystery/thriller Deceived by loading it on your e-book or get a snail mail hardcopy from Amazon.

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This 3BR/3BA home is located in a wonderful neighborhood just 3 miles from Main Street. Open living area with wood burning fireplace and access to a screened-in porch. owned and offered at the substantially reduced price of \$545,000.00.

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2.04 acres, town water & sewer available, sub-dividable, frontage on US 64. Reasonably priced at \$247,500.
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3BR/#BA office, family room, porches and decks. Wood burning fireplace, 2 laundry hookups, custom kitchen. Garden area and the sounds of Big Creek below. Offered at \$599,000.



This Joe Webb log home abuts National Forest lands. Great outdoor spaces. Cabin features main level bedroom and bath. Spacious kitchen lots, living room with fireplace. Offered at \$1,095,000 MLS# 71403



Buck Knob Road. Great contemporary that has soaring ceilings and open spaces. 3BR/3BA plus a loft for over flow guests. 2 car detached garage. Large sunny lot with spectacular view. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls#75365



Horse Cove Road. One of a kind built in 1930 on a flat private lot within walking distance to downtown. Numerous custom features and recent upgrades. Detached garage. Offered at \$999,000. mls #74951



3BR/3BA well maintained manufactured home on permanent foundation with 3.55+/- acres. Borders USFS land on one side. Property can be subdivided. Offered at \$125,000. mls #76226



Great Joe Webb Log Cabin has been totally renovated and features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. New kitchen and baths. Huge living room with fireplace. Spacious deck and fantastic view. Offered at \$950,000 MLS# 71402



Cute Mirror Lake area cottage. Move-in ready 2BR/2BA that lives like an 4/3 in fully finished walk out basement. Native wood burning stone fireplace in living room, wood floors and lots of outside decking, covered front porch. MLS# 73116, Offered at \$375,000.



Loaded with old Highlands charm. 2 bedrooms on main level, master suite upstairs, bonus room with 1/2 bath on lower level. Large garage. Lake access across US 64. Offered at \$550,000. mls #76000



Priced to sell! Spacious living, dining, kitchen, 3 bedrooms; 3 sets French doors to generous deck; 2011 new roof; granite countertops; 2-car garage with shop area. \$299,000 mls #75684



Traditional close to town. Main level master suite with great storage and 2-car garage, guest bedroom and bath. Massive living room opens to large screened porch. Guest level has family room with 2 additional bedrooms, laundry and workshop. Offered at \$795,000 MLS# 71641



Great log cabin with rock fireplace. Open greatroom, dining room, kitchen, hardwood floors and split floor plan. Large open back deck with winter view. One car garage, wheel chair accessibility, all on one level. 17 acre community lake Osage. MLS# 67737, Offered at \$375,000.



Awesome view and waterfall! Up to 3 building lots. Panoramic views and stunning waterfall. Community water tap at lot line and septic approval. Owner would sell all 3 lots together or separately. mls #59248. OWNER WANTS OFFER!



This is a very warm, cozy, well maintained 3 BR 2BA home. Furnished and owner will finance with 10% down. Great lot with 2-car garage and nice decks. Offered at \$389,000. MLS #75653



Log cabin on 4 acres on southern exposure of Satulah Mountain in town with 2 BR, 2.5 BA, stone fireplace and reclaimed wood floors. Septic permits for 4 more homes. Offered at \$599,000. mls #68828



Charming 3BR/3BA cottage. Newly updated kitchen, wood floors, spacious deck with mountain and Lake Sequoyah view. Great curb appeal and off street parking make this a great seasonal or year round home. Priced to sell at \$325,000 MLS# 73374.



Exquisite Estate is set atop a mountain nestled only minutes from Downtown Highlands. 5 bedrooms, 2 bedroom guest quarters sleeping porch, elevator, carolina room with 2 fireplaces, 22+ acres, swimming pool. Offered at \$17,900,000.



Restore this Old Highlands Estate Home to its original beauty. 4-acre tract on Bowery Road, in town. 3 outbuildings, an old barn, and another building. Offered at \$1,295,000 MLS# 72729



Log cabin on 1+ acres and backs up to Satulah Mtn. with view. 3BR/2BA, 2 story stacked stone fireplace. Covered porch with outdoor living room. Large Koi pond, waterfalls and gardens. Near town. Offered at \$699,000. mls #68834



Home is 2BR/2bath tucked in to lush wooded yard on 2 lots. No yard maintenance. New high producing well. Walk to lake, fishing. Upgrades include: decks, tin roof, gas furnace, HVAC, windows, hardwood floor, kitchen cabinets & counters. MLS #75634 Offered at \$299,000.



Highlands Country Club. 3BR/3BA home has a spacious open plan all on one level, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, handicap accessibility, and covered parking with a view. Secluded on 1.51 acres. Golf membership available Priced to sell at \$995K. MLS# 75598.



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Highlands, NC

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... SALZARULO continued from page 5

found refuge somewhere in an infinite, ever expanding universe of his creation, one whose size is measured in billions of light years.

Fossil records and the theory of evolution invalidated the Creation story of the Garden Of Eden. Oops. God didn't have a

job. We concluded that based on lack of habitat and meaningful employment, God, as we envision him, could not exist.

Then here comes little Colton, screwing e everything up. A natural explanation is not evidence of the lack of supernatural, any more than the existence of oxygen precludes the presence of water. I've heard liberal Christians argue the impossibility of Virgin birth in light of advances in understanding of reproductive biology. Without a Y chromosome contributed by a male, Jesus would have been a woman, and only half a woman, at that. I don't know if Jesus was the result of impregnation by Holy Spirit, but I have no doubt for a God who could construct an infinite universe, and nudge the evolutionary process to walking sticks and humans would have had little problem whipping up a Y chromosome at the last minute.

I don't know whom, exactly, to thank, I no longer the mutual exclusivity of the natural and supernatural. Colton's God is not some electromagnetic force, a prime mover who set the universe in motion, and retired. Instead, he is God who sits on a golden throne, and answers a father's prayer to return his son to health.



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... SWANSON from page 6

I fancied myself as some kind of god" or "I carried some rather potent messianic fantasies with me from childhood, which I felt I had to control, otherwise I might end up in the loony bin."

If only the loony bin were an option. As it is, one of the wealthiest men in the world is using his billions to impose a radical agenda on America.

In the past, I have written about the Soros-funded think tank, the Center for American Progress: Headed by John Podesta, White House chief of staff under President Clinton, the Center for American Progress has been instrumental in providing progressive talking points and policy positions for the Obama administration. There has also been a revolving door between the White House and the CAP, with Obama staffing his administration with many of their officials.

Soros thrives on chaos. It provides many opportunities for the would-be god, and Soros, in the past, has shown he knows how to take full advantage of chaotic situations. The powers that are pulling the strings and pushing the buttons of the administration and its policies have made friends with the devil – and there is going to be Hell to Pay.

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... APPEALS continued from page 1

cal problems and the downturn in the economy halted plans to continue.

Now, armed with a new design and a new backer, the project is back on track, and ready for phase two. However, instead of duplicating the units in phase one, the new owner -- Mountain Heritage Properties, represented by Zack Shamburg -- wants to change the design.

Realtor Pat Allen said the new townhouse plan with garages will be easier to sell. "We know now what people want. They don't like the stairs, they don't like units above them and they want garages. People have told me they will buy the townhouse design."

The problem is the neighbors to the project, who opposed it back in February of 2006, still oppose it today and they would like the entire complex to revert to R2.

Steve Hamm, as well as George Siek and Beverly Quinn whose properties bor-

der the complex say the "failed project" has diminished the value of their properties.

Allen and Shamburg contend the project will be re-established as a winner since they have the money to back their promises, as well as the new townhouse design.

At its October meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to keep the eight original conditions assigned the project but also required the builder to augment the natural 40-foot, vegetative buffer along the east side of the property so neighbors can't see into the project as now, particularly because the third planned building is being moved closer to the neighboring properties than in the original plan.

In addition, the board required the builder to begin planting the buffer right away, so that by the time the project is fin-

• See APPEALS page 20

... SANTA continued from page 1

You'll find the Jolly Old Guy at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street (next to the Main Street Inn) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, November 23rd, and Saturdays -- November 24th, December 1st, 8th, and 15th. He'll also be available by appointment on Saturday, December 22nd.

Mike Wilson of High Country Photo will

be on hand to capture a cherished memory.

You'll also find Santa closing out the Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade, set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

If you'd like to schedule Santa for an event, Highlands Newspaper has his top-secret phone number -- 526-9325. Be on your best behavior.



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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

25th "Hard Candy Christmas" Art & Craft Show

100
Artists



Old World St. Nick
by Debra Parker

November
23-24, 2012
10 am - 5 pm

"A Mountain
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(WCU)
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Adults \$4.00

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Ongoing

• Eastern Star will also be selling pecan pieces and pecan halves from the 2012 crop. The pecans are in 16 oz bags and will be on sale for \$9/bag. Please call Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Call backs will be made once the pecans have been received in mid-November.

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 \$40 a month.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free. Every Friday in December: Bring a friend and get a free class.

Mondays

• Mountain View Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. and proceed a few steps down to the library.

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 Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the H-C 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.

• Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers- Community Library at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Thursdays, Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road. Call 526-2121.

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. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• Free dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Second Thursdays

• The regular meeting of Highlands Chapter #284, Order of The Eastern Star is held at 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15

• Santa will be hearing wishes at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street near Third from 10a-4p and by appointment on Saturday, Dec. 22

Saturdays

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, free wine tastings from 2-4 p.m.

• Simply Homegrown is a local farmers market in Rabun County, GA. Celebrating its 11th season as the area's original sustainable farm market. Open 9 am to 2 pm at the new location 0.7 mile west of Clayton on Highway 76 West. Look for directional signs on Routes 441 and 76 in Clayton. Our website has detailed directions www.simplyhomegrown.org.

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! Call Diane 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

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.

Through Wed., Nov. 21

• Registration for Macon County Boys Basketball signup at the Highlands Recreation Park. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate. The fee is \$35. The league is

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Upcoming Events

open to boys ages 6-18. Must be six by August 31, 2012. There are five age divisions: Developmental - 6-7 year old; Biddy - 8-9 year old; Junior: 10-11 year old; Senior: 12-14 year old; Varsity: 15-18 year old. Anyone interested in coaching should fill out a coaching application and other forms, also available at the Highlands

Recreation Park. For more information, contact Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

Through Sun. Jan. 6

• At The Bascom, 'Tis the Season Giving Trees. Live and artificial trees will be decorated for the holidays by

• See EVENTS page 18

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale presents 'An Appalachian Christmas'



By Wiley Sloan

The Highlands Community Christian Chorale's Christmas Concert sponsored by Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is Saturday, December 8th and Sunday, December 9th at 5 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 315 Main Street. A reception follows the Sunday evening performance. Performances are free to the public.

"An Appalachian Christmas" features choral and instrumental arrangements by Les Scott, Minister of Music at HUMC. The piece was inspired by the widowed matron of the Eller Family from Hiawassee, GA. Mrs. Eller, known to all in the area as "Miss Loethe", was a talented songwriter. As a pioneer woman made a quilt from various types of cloth, Miss Loethe combined snippets of her favorite songs into a wonderful song that tells the story of early Christmases in the region. You'll recognize parts of Go Tell It on the Mountain, Mary What You Gonna Name that Baby, and some old-time gospel beat in her creation that she called

What You Gonna Name That Pretty Baby? Listen for this masterpiece as one of the songs in An Appalachian Christmas. The cantata is composed from songs and accompanying readings rich in Appalachian history and culture – from pioneer days until the present, from Virginia to Georgia.

Les excitedly tells me, 'An Appalachian Christmas' is a celebration of Appalachian Mountain Christmas traditions both old and new, near and far. All the music comes from folk music collectors, such as John Jacob Niles, the famed Kentucky folklorist, Art Rosenbaum, professor of folklore at the University of Georgia, and the singing traditions of Appalachian families, such as the Ritchie Family of Perry County, Kentucky, the Beers Family of Virginia, and the Eller Family of Hiawassee, GA, who have lived in these mountains since pioneer days. A large ensemble of Appalachian instruments - guitars, fiddles, banjos, and dulcimers as well as piano - will accompany the Chorale."

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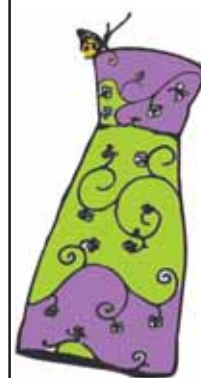


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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

area nonprofits. Donation boxes will be at each tree.

Wed., Nov. 21

- Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leaving a message with your name and phone number. This is the ONLY time in 2012 you will be able to purchase a pumpkin roll, but – you don't have to pre-order to be able to get one.

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 22-23

- Macon County Public Library will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 23-24

- At The Bascom, Artist Marketplace from 10a to 5p. Call 526-4949 for more information.
- At The Bascom, Gingerbread Workshop from 1-3p. Call 526-4949 for more information.

Fri., Nov. 23

- Santa will be hearing wishes at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street near Third from 10a to 4p.

Saturday, Nov. 24

- Highlands annual Tree Lighting ceremony with caroling in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street at 6:30p followed by photos and wishes with Santa at the Visitor Center on Main Street.

Monday, Nov. 26

- Combined North and South Jackson County Republican Meeting is Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Sylva Republican Headquarter Office, 58 D Sunrise Park, a

retail complex located behind Rite Aid Drug on Highway 107 across from the Asheville Highway intersection. Reports will be given on election results that elected Republicans to key offices and turned Jackson County and North Carolina politically red. The Republican Annual Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. at the Jarrett House in Dillsboro. For information call Ralph Slaughter, chair at 828 743-6391.

Tues., Nov 27

- Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m. "Journey of Mrs. Bosh-Bauer, the 'painting'." Coordinator: Isabel Allen.

- Relay For Life of Highlands Spaghetti Dinner at Fressers Eatery, 5-8 P.M. Tickets are \$10 and must be presented at door. Please contact Heather Mangum 526-3419 or Debbie Grossman 526-4188.

Friday, Nov. 30

- The Ladies Auxiliary of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Tree of Lights Celebration will be on the Hospital Campus, Friday from 6-7:30pm. There will be indoor/outdoor ornaments available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one, free hot chocolate and cookies, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa Clause, and a special tree lighting ceremony. All proceeds will go toward the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

- The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary invites you to a reception for the Tree of Lights celebration on Friday from 6-7:30pm. There will be ornaments available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one, and free hot chocolate and cookies. All proceeds go toward the H-

C Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

Sat. Dec. 1

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

- 'Tis the Season, Highlands' alternative gift market sponsored by the town's local churches, offers a unique, hassle-free way to make a gift to your favorite charity. Come to the Highlands Methodist Church after the Christmas parade on Saturday, until 2 p.m. Come "browse" through the displays of 14 local charitable organizations and learn how even a modest gift can go a long way to help those in need. Gifts can be made in honor of someone special, or even as a memorial.

- There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2pm on Saturday after the parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you won't want to miss this! Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins accompanying at the church's pipe organ.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike with elevation change of 1000 ft. on the Appalachian Trail from Winding Stair Gap to Panther Gap, returning via Lick Log Gap. Meet in Franklin at Westgate opposite Burger King at 9 a.m. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Sun. & Mon., Dec. 2 & 3

- The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for the winter play on Sunday, December 2 at 4pm and Call Backs (if needed) on Monday, December 3 at 5:30pm at the Highlands PAC. The play, "Social Securi-

ty" has parts for 3 men and 3 women, middle age and older. Rehearsals will start the first week of January and performances dates are February 21, 22, 23 & 24 and March 1, 2, & 3. This joyful, laugh out loud comedy opened on Broadway in 1986. The story is about when sophisticated art dealers Barbara and her husband David find their domestic tranquility shattered when Barbara's sister deposits their eccentric archetypal Jewish mother on their doorstep. The comic sparks really begin to fly when the mother...old enough for Social Security, but never too old for romance, hits it off with an elderly artist who is the art dealers' best client. Directed by Mary Adair Leslie. Scripts may be found at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. For more information please call Mary Adair: 828.342.1999

Sun. Dec. 2

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 1.5 mile easy hike with elevation change of 300 ft. to tower on Albert Mountain, returning past a shelter on the Appalachian Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate opposite Burger King at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Thursday, Dec 7

- Taize at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 8 & 9

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale's Christmas Concert sponsored by Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is Saturday and Sunday at

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Upcoming Events

5 p.m. at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 315 Main Street. A reception follows the Sunday evening performance. Performances are free to the public.

Sat. Dec. 8

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile moderate hike with elevation change of 600 ft. on Ranger Falls Trail from Cliffside Lake on an interesting interpretive trail of historic significance. Meet in Franklin at BiLo at 9:30 a.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Fri., Dec. 14

- Christmas Bird Count: Highlands Plateau Audubon invites you to participate in their 113th year of Christmas Bird Counting. Join them the morning of Friday. No experience needed. Binoculars available, Warm \$5.00 chili lunch follows count. Contact Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387 or 404-295-0663 or brockhutchins@bellsouth.net. for details and to sign up. This is a popular and fun event!

Sat. Dec. 15

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike with elevation change of 1300 ft. on Bradley Fork and Smokemont Loop in the GSM-NP with a side trip to Chasteen Creek Cascade. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Drive 8 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Hike limited to 15 hikers. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

- The Franklin Cross Country team will be hosting the Grayson Hall Memorial 5K race on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Tasse Park on the Little Tennessee Greenway in Franklin, NC. This is the 8th year for the Grayson Hall Memorial race, which raises money for a Franklin High School scholarship. The idea for the race was conceived by Tiffany Allen, a FHS graduate and cross country runner, as a tribute to a former classmate who was killed in a car accident. Yearly scholarships in his memory have been awarded. A 1 mile fun run/walk will start at 10a, followed by the 5K run. Trophies will go to the top three male and females in both races, plus medals to the winners in each age group. The course is a fast one, primarily flat and paved, and follows the scenic Greenway alongside the Little Tennessee River. For more information and registration forms contact Denise Davis at 828-524-6467 or denise.davis@macon.k12.nc.us. The registration fee is \$20 and you can register online at active.com. Registration for students is \$15, but can't be done online. Those who register before December 7th will receive a free t-shirt.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 9-mile strenuous hike with elevation change of 500 ft. following the Appalachian Trail from Deep Gap to Raven Rocks for great views of Lake Chatuge, Shooting Creek Valley and Brasstown Bald. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 9 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

Sun. Dec. 16

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike up an old road to Mud Creek Falls, a lovely falls despite its name, with an interesting old bridge at the trail head. Meet at Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto,

2 pm. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call leader KayCoriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Christmas bird count is counting on you!



As we have done for many years now, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will once again participate in the Christmas Bird Count which takes place nationwide each year, collecting data on species which aids in following trends that indicate "the state of our birds," their increases and declines. Our date is Friday, December 14th, and all are welcome, from beginners to experienced birders, we need your help!

Participants can aid in recording species and numbers, driving, looking and listening, as we try to cover our usual territories in and around the Highlands Plateau that day. This is a really fun morning (starting at 7 am), with a noon gathering for a warming chili lunch and comparison of successes, failures, and star birds for the day. If interested, and we hope you are, please call Brock Hutchins, 828-787-1387 or 404-295-0663, or email him at brockhutchins@bellsouth.net. Loaner binoculars are available if needed. Come join us and participate in one of Audubon's oldest and most fun events!

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Saturday, Nov. 24
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decorative accessories,
golf bags, clubs, shoes,
china, pottery, art &
more. All quality items at
reasonable prices.**

828-200-0361

... APPEALS continued from page 13

ished – estimated to be 18-months – the buffer will be grown.

At the Nov. 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners learned that Steve Hamm is appealing the Planning Board's decision so the issue will be heard by the Town Board at its Dec. 6 meeting. If Hamm hadn't appealed, the issue wouldn't have come before the Town Board at all. This was a departure from business as normal concerning the relationship between the Planning and Town boards, but Town Planner David Clabo said the Unified Development Ordinance is clear on the matter.

"The Planning Board usually (but not only) gives recommendations to the Town Board, especially on zoning matters. However, Section 4.5. D.2. of the UDO [Amendments to Approved Conditional Use Zoning District] gives the Planning Board "delegated authority to approve an administrative change to an approved site plan," said

Clabo. "Due to the minor nature of the changes requested by the applicant (Town Place Condominiums) it was my judgment that this request was an "administrative change" to the previously approved site plan. Therefore, it went to the Planning Board for its consideration of the requested changes. It was their duty to make a decision, not just a recommendation, on this request."

He doesn't believe the Planning Board has ever taken that type of action before, which is why the lack of a follow-up conversation with the Town Board, which usually rules on Planning Board decisions, never happened.

Now Hamm is appealing the Planning Board's decision which is allowed, according to Clabo, under Item 5 of the same section in the UDO, which states who can, and how to, make an appeal to

•See APPEALS page 25

Tis the Season holiday gift market



Sometimes we tend to get wound up in the anxieties of Christmas wondering what to buy for Uncle Fred, Granddaughter Luci, a little something for neighbor who has kindly cared for your cat when you travel - or you are just plain tired from all the baking, wrapping gifts, shopping, and other responsibilities that seem to pile up during this time of the year. We sometimes forget the true meaning of Christmas is lending a helping hand to those in need and sharing your blessings with others.

Tis the Season, Highlands' alternative gift market sponsored by the town's local churches, offers a unique, hassle-free way to make a gift to your favorite charity. Come to the Highlands Methodist Church after the Christmas parade on Saturday, December 1st, until 2 p.m. Come "browse" through the displays of 14 local charitable organizations and learn how even a modest gift can go a

long way to help those in need. Gifts can be made in honor of someone special, or even as a memorial.

The organizations participating in this year's market are: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Blue Ridge Dental Clinic, Bosnia Mission, Community Care Clinic, the Food Pantry, Four Seasons Hospice, Haiti Mission, Highlands Bolivian Mission, Highlands Community Child Development Center, Highlands Emergency Council, International Friendship Center, Literacy Council, Living Waters of the World, and REACH of Macon County.

Free lunch will be served to all who attend Tis the Season. And this year, you will have the opportunity to have your photograph taken with the camels and manger animals that are featured in the parade – a fun item to include in your Christmas cards. Come join others at the popular gift market after the Christmas parade!

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• HS SPORTS •

Highlanders split pair with Towns County in opener

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander and Lady Highlander basketball squads opened their 2012-13 season with a trip to Hiawassee, Georgia to face the Towns County Indians. The Indians defeated the Highlanders in both games last season and looked to be a good early season test for both teams.

The young Lady Highlanders were facing a Lady Indian team who has dominated Georgia's Region 8A in recent years with a combination of size and pressure defense. Coach Brett Lamb stressed to his ladies the importance of being able to handle the Towns County pressure, but immediately after the opening tip the inexperience of the Lady Highlanders began to show. Highlands, playing with 4 first-year starters and starting no seniors, struggled with the Towns County pressure and had difficulty initiating their offense. Turnovers plagued the Lady Highlanders all evening and resulted in a 54-24 defeat. Emily Gabbard led Highlands with 9 points and Emily Shuler added 6.

The Highlanders also feature quite a bit of youth, and started three sophomores

against a Towns County team that defeated them in Highlands last season. Both teams struggled mightily on offense early, with the Highlanders missing several free throws and easy layups. Foul trouble also plagued Highlands, as starting guards Tyler Munger and Taylor Osteen both picked up two fouls early. Despite the offensive struggles, Highlands led 15-10 at the half and began to find a rhythm early in the second half thanks to the offensive trio of Munger, Osteen and sophomore newcomer Brent Amundrud. Osteen hit a pair of three pointers early in the second half to give Highlands some breathing room, and the speed of Munger rendered the Towns County pressure ineffective. Amundrud provided 16 critical points for Highlands off the bench, including 8-10 from the free throw line. Sophomores Davis Moore, Kenan Lewis and Philip Murphy all did an excellent job rebounding against the much larger Indians, and the Highlanders walked out of Hiawassee with a 51-34 victory. Amundrud led the Highlanders in scoring, and Osteen added 13 for the Highlanders.

Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church



There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2pm on Saturday, December 1 after the parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you won't want to miss this! Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins accompanying at the church's pipe organ. Make plans to attend for an enjoyable hour of singing and Christian fellowship. There will be a reception immediately following with plenty of cookies and hot cider for everyone. The church is located at the corner on Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street.

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Through the
SEASONS

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Halloween Highlands style



Photos by Jim Lewicki and Martha Boone

Cold early winds of approaching winter welcomed trick or treaters to downtown Highlands which was once again transformed into a land of dark shadows, thrills, chills and costumes of every imaginable character this Halloween as clear, crisp fall temperatures brought large crowds seeking candy, music provided by DJ Mike "Howlin' Wolf" Murphy and the festive small town fun that is the trademark of this annual Chamber of Commerce event. The Chamber & Visitor Center is very grateful to all the businesses, residents, volunteers and town employees who make this unique Highlands event safe for all to enjoy. We especially wish to acknowledge Mayor David Wilkes and the Town Commissioners for allowing the streets to be closed, Recreation Director Lester Norris and Town Engineer Lamar Nix for their logistical support, the members of the Rotary Club of Highlands for assisting Chief Bill Harrell and Highlands Police with the crowd and traffic, and the Mountain Top Rotary Club for serving hotdogs and refreshments prepared in the kitchen of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to the roving crowds of celebrants. Wonderful events such as Halloween are only possible because of the dedication and effort of so many who proudly call Highlands home. Thank you everyone for your support and participation.

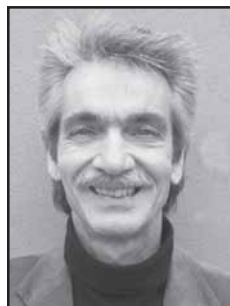
Bob Kieltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Thankful

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church



This article is (almost certainly) not what you would expect. It is also (possibly) not what you would prefer. In our era of GPS, computer activated voices, and even texting "the flesh and bloodness" of humanity is increasingly remote. We are uncomfortable with self-disclosure. We also hold tenaciously to the illusion of invulnerability.....when in fact we are all so vulnerable. So, if you are still with me, here's my story.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1975, my wife's oldest son took his own life. My wife's first husband (also a Baptist minister died in 2001. My wife, Gwynne, in 2002).

Kaye and I married in 2007. Now five years later, my wife is in route to Oklahoma City to try and help? resolve? minister? to her other son. He's in the hospital and also bi-polar. After visiting him, she will drive to Dallas to visit her daughter. Kim is in a nursing home there. An amputee with multiple health issues including - yet again -bi-polar. I must tell you however, all of this notwithstanding, that Thanksgiving and Christmas remain as seasons of quiet joy and grateful peace for us.

What John Newton wrote really is true: "Through many dangers, toils, and snares we have already come, His grace has lead us safe thus far and grace will lead us home."

The Christian life is not one without heartache, tragedy, or brokenness. But neither is it one without strength, hope, and truth from heaven. However, "Joy to the world The Lord has come" will frankly still be anathema to some. The celebration of these final weeks of 2012 will only deepen the distress hurting souls feel.

So, keep a keen eye. Look beyond the visible. Hear beyond the audible. Think beyond the logical. Make yourself available to the Lord Jesus Christ. He still makes house calls. He wants to reach others through you. He still saves, encourages, heals, sustains, and transforms. He still works all things together for good for those who love Him. And He still hears what is sure to be the increased crying by the discouraged in this holiday season.

The truth is, His grace really is sufficient. He faces no impossibilities. There's nothing about you He doesn't know. In fact, no one knows you better and no one loves you more than He.

So, with a grateful heart, we conclude Joy to the world The Lord has come...and Joy to the world He is coming again. I pray for you and yours a truly peaceful and blessed holiday season.

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

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 www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814
 Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm
 Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

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 Bruce Walker
 Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal beginning at
 9am. Holy Eucharist Rite I-8a; Holy Eucharist Rite II-10:30am in the Main
 Nave of the Church.
 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.
 Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5
 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
 Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day;
 School – 9:30
 Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
 Wednesdays – Choir – 7
GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
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 Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
 Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor
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 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 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 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.

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Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418
 Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins
 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

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 Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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• HEALTH MATTERS •

Lose inches with 'Ultra Slim' technology

By Erik R. Madsen DC
MountainView Chiropractic and Wellness Center

Non-invasive body slimming with UltraSlim is now available in Western North Carolina. The latest in red-light technology to remove fat and reduce inches without invasive, dangerous surgery. No needles, no cutting, and zero recovery time.

The basis of this science is modulating a specific wavelength of red light. This modulated light tricks the mitochondria in the fat cell into creating a temporary portal which allows for the release of fat into the space between cells call the interstitial space. The portal remains open for 48 to 72 hours. The liberated fat is then drained by the lymphatic system and processed by the liver for later release in the stool and urine.

The development of the UltraSlim device is based on the research of Rodrigo Neira, MD and Clara Ortiz-Neira, MD.

In 2001, the pair demonstrated that a 8mW, 635nm laser held 6 to 8 inches from the skin could emulsify fat to a depth of 6cm and break up scar tissue. Red light therapy research at the Mayo Clinic and NASA

has proven the safety and effectiveness of red light therapy.

The action of red-light therapy is at the cellular level. The action of the mechanisms involved generates no heat, but instead, creates a very complex cascade of photochemical reactions. Completely non-invasive, this technology has never shown any recorded side effects. During treatment, patients experience no discomfort as the modulated red light drains and shrinks fat cells while tightening and smoothing the skin by adding new collagen and elastin

FAQS

How long has red light therapy been available? FDA approval was granted in August 2010.

Is Red Light Therapy for everyone? No. Not for pregnant women, people with active cancer in the last year or anyone with poor liver function.

What does it cost? Nationwide the average cost is about \$3000. We offer two specials: Two body areas for \$125 or six full sessions (six body areas) for \$2600. Full sessions are \$500 each.

All sessions are performed under a physicians supervision.

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... PARKING from page 1

merce requesting businesses pledge not to allow their employee to park on Main Street and for businesses to self-police each other.

Restricted parking currently exists on all of Main Street from 3rd to 5th streets – including center spots and curbside spots; on S. 4th Street from Main to Spring; on the south side of Main from 3r to 2nd streets and on the north side of Church Street between S. 4th and 5th streets and half-way down the same street on the south side. Restricted means employees can't park there.

Nothing has worked.
• See PARKING page 30

... APPEALS continued from page 20

the Town Board of any decision made by the Planning Board.

"Mr. Hamm has met all the criteria and submittals for the Town Board to hear his appeal," said Clabo. "This will not be a public hearing to air all the ins and outs of the applicant's request, except to show the Town Board the minor nature of the changes in the site plan.

"The Town Board will examine the authority used by the Planning Board for this decision; will examine if proper notice was given; if the public had adequate time to ask questions and to offer additional evidence; and

if the Planning Board followed proper procedures."

Clabo said an appeal like this doesn't open a reconsideration of the original rezoning -- that appeal time expired in 2006 -- or any other of the conditions imposed by the town when it established this R-3 Conditional Use District in 2006.

When asked why none of this was discussed at the Nov. 15 Town Board meeting, he said "it would have been totally inappropriate to have discussed this case until it is on the Town Board's agenda, which has been scheduled by the Town Manager for the December

6 meeting."

The other appeal involves a ruling made by the Zoning Board back in 2009 when John Shearl of J&J Landscaping on NC 28, lost a zoning request to rezone his .95-acre, split-zoned parcel all B3 rather than R-1 and B-3.

The request was highly contested by his neighbors -- mainly the Hedden family -- who wanted the back portion of the property to remain R1 as a buffer to the B3 portion of the property that borders NC 28.

In August 2009, Shearl was notified by then Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley, that he was in violation of the zoning ordinance

because he was conducting business on the .48-acre, R-1 portion of the property.

The zoning board upheld the zoning administrator's ruling, so Shearl filed a petition with the court to review the case. Later he voluntarily dismissed the case without prejudice -- which left the door open for later filings. At that point, Shearl was hoping to come

to some agreement with the town, but that didn't happen.

Now Shearl has refiled his petition to overturn the zoning administrator's decision with Macon County Superior Court and as required the town has submitted the documents and recordings related to the case.

— **Kim Lewicki**

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—Tamra "Tammy" Talley
Scaly Mountain, NC

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Certification

- Dr. Farrow is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and a member of the North American Menopause Society. She is a graduate of Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, GA and completed her residency at St. Paul University Hospital at UT Southwestern, Dallas, Texas.

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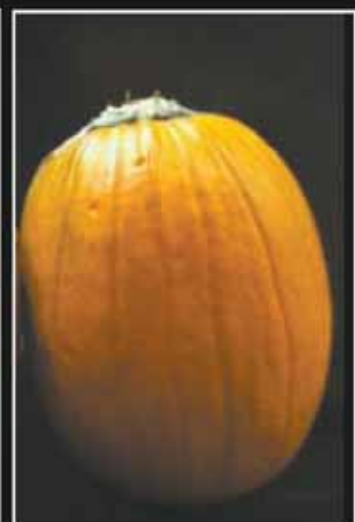


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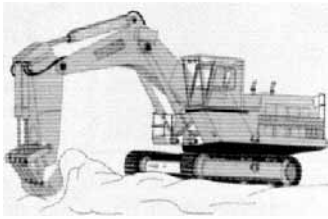
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

'Kid's Vision Day' is Nov. 26 & 27



"Kid's Vision Day" will be held on November 26th and November 27th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Macon County Community Facilities Building on Highway 441 South in Franklin.

Macon County Public Health School Nurses will partnering with the Essilor Vision Foundation to bring "Kid's Vision Day" to Macon County. Macon County Schools will bus children to the Macon County Community Facilities Building for a **FREE EYE EXAM** and **FREE GLASSES** if needed. Students who were screened at recent School Health Fairs and who met certain guidelines established

by the Essilor Vision Foundation were invited to attend "Kid's Vision Day."

"The goal of this event is to bring the secured vision care rate from 75% to 95-100%, and to increase the ability for these children to be able to learn" stated Jennifer Garrett, School Nurse Supervisor with Macon County Public Health.

Macon County will be the first county in NC to partner with the EsFoundation. For more information, contact Jennifer Garrett, RN, with Macon County Public Health at 828-371-1404.

Holidays are here...

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Local wins H-C Hospital Auxiliary quilt



Doris Long of Highlands proudly displays the Wildflower Quilt that was raffled off earlier this month at the Highlands Fall Craft Fair by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary. Doris, a long time contributor to the Wildflower Quilt, was the lucky winner of the 19th annual quilt raffle. Proceeds from what has become a local tradition go to help support the Hospital in various areas. Work on the 36 panels, each of which depicts an area wildflower, usually begins each winter when kits containing drawings are carefully selected and fabric distributed to approximately a dozen different embroiderers. When the panels are completed local quilter Hazel Miller assembles the panels into the finished product in time to be raffled off each October.

The children, teachers, parents and board of
The Child Development Center
HCCDC

wish to express our thanks to our
generous donors and patrons for their
exceptional gifts this year.

Our annual mailing campaign and the Randall
Atcheson concert event provided over
\$125,000

to help supplement our operating budget.
We are blessed to have such a supportive
community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Highlands PD log entries from Oct. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 7

• At 1:10 a.m., Amber Kaye Hart, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for a traffic offense on US 64.

Oct. 31

• At 11:30 p.m., Tonya R. Repokis, 40, of Seneca, SC, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for a traffic offense on Church Street.

Nov. 11

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone using a vehicle without authorization on in the Highlands Suites parking lot on Main Street.

Nov. 12

• At 8:57 a.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism, larceny from buildings and trespassing at a residence on Sherwood Forest Road.

• During this timeframe, officers issued 12 citations (warnings, ordinance violations and citations)

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Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 15

Nov. 15

• At 11:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by workers at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Nov. 16

• At 7:15 a.m., and 10:51 a.m., and at 11:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by workers at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Nov. 17

• At 7:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clubhouse Trail for a medical call.

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a Co² alarm set off by a bad sensor at a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Nov. 18

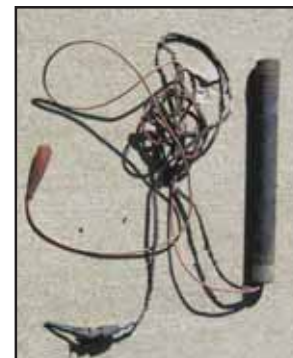
• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical call at a residence on Laurel Heights Road.

Nov. 19

• At 4:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical call at a residence on Hemlock Woods Drive.

**Sheriff Dept.
called about
'pipe bomb'**

**Turned out to be
false alarm**



An incident occurred at Macon Middle School last week but according to the Sheriff's Dept. during no time was a student or any other person in any danger.

A student told another student that he/she had found what he/she believed to be a "pipe bomb" and this was subsequently reported to school personnel. The Sheriff's Office and other first responders were notified and initiated an investigation.

The initial information available did not indicate that any device was on school property; however in an abundance of caution a portion of the campus was treated as a crime scene and thoroughly searched by Deputies and NO explosive device was discovered.

While the search was taking place, Investigators interviewed the student and were informed that the device was not on school property but had been seen in an old barn near the student's residence. Investigators located the device where the student said he saw it and it was determined to be an old-fashioned automotive timing light and not in any way a dangerous or explosive device.

"School personnel, Emergency Management, first responders and my officers acted professionally and appropriately in dealing with this incident and I want to thank everyone involved for their assistance," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

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... PARKING from page 24

Mayor David Wilkes said employees are parking in front of Reeves Hardware and elsewhere on Main Street – even parking on Main Street and then getting rides to job sites leaving their vehicles on Main all day.

Since employees are parking in front of Reeves Hardware, in addition to 3rd Street south of Main, customers have a hard time getting a spot in front of or near Reeves.

“We are trying to make an effort to provide as much parking as possible to customers when they come into town and it’s going to cause employees to walk when we do that, but that is a concession we have to make,” said Mayor David Wilkes. “We need to revisit the restricted parking map.”

At the Nov. 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to expand restricted parking farther down Main from 3rd to 1st and from 5th to in front of Falls on Main; and 3rd from Main to Spring and 2nd from Main to Spring, as well as extend it to both sides of Church Street from S.4th to 5th.

Initially, a part of the south side of Church Street was left unrestricted to accommodate employees in that neighborhood.

In addition, the board heard suggestions from Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwin’s, who said there is a real need for some short-term parking throughout the business district.

“The additional restricted parking areas won’t resolve Reeves’ problem because visitors will park in front of Reeves and will also fill up Main Street – which is a good thing but some 15-minute spots on 3rd and in front of Reeves would allow people to come and go, serving locals and visitors at the same time.”

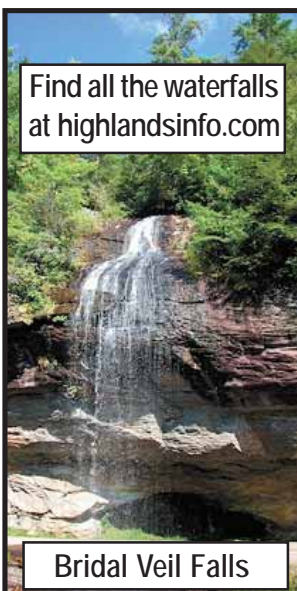
Commissioner Amy Patterson said short-term parking throughout the downtown area would be a good thing.

“We are not just servicing the visitors; there are a lot of locals who like to shop on Main Street, too. They have a restricted period of time at lunch or whenever and it’s difficult to spend the entire time circling trying to find a parking spot.” she said.

Commissioners agreed to implement the revised restricted areas, amend the ordinance and in the meantime use the winter to identify places for 15-minute spaces.

Town Manager Bob Frye said staff is working on a parking complaint form to be distributed to merchants. “It is hoped that such a form will enable us to better track and deal with continued parking violations,” he said.

– Kim Lewicki



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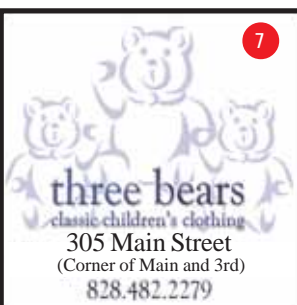
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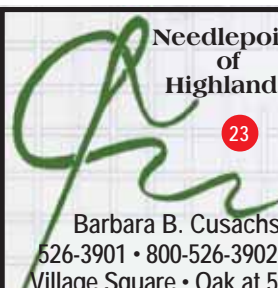
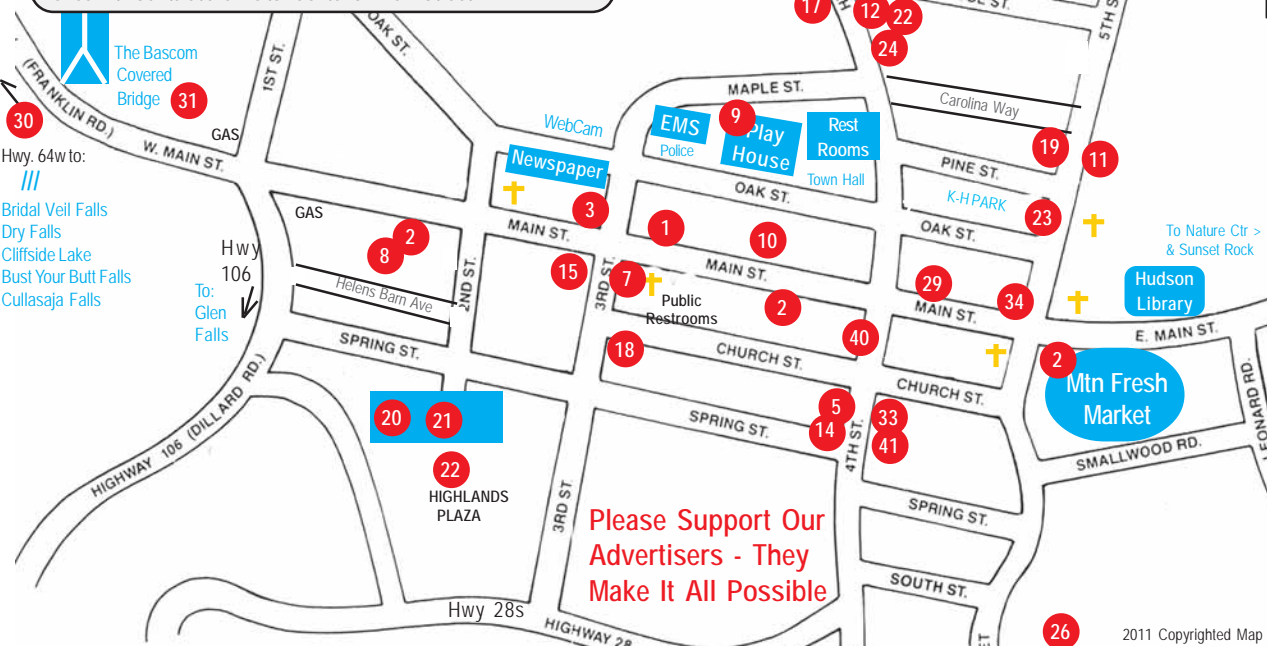
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• Santa will be hearing wishes at the Highlands Visitor Center on Main Street near Third from 10a to 4p.
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