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"HS School Paper & Holiday Sales" Section **INSIDE FREE**

Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 2, Number 50

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Dec. 17, 2004

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese – Wines. Wine Flights Friday and Saturday: 4:30-6:30. Syrah/Shiraz from around the world. Wines by the glass and cheese plates available Wednesday through Saturday: 1:30 until 4:30. Complimentary Tastings Saturday: 1 until 4:30.

Dec. 17

- "A Change of Heart" at First Baptist Church on Friday at 7 p.m. It's a dramatic musical with a blue grass style that tells the story of a couple from the city that gets stranded in a mountain home.

Dec. 18

- Breakfast with Santa at Highlands United Methodist Church. 8 a.m. Come for pancakes and sausage, a Christmas story, and a visit from Santa Claus. The cost is \$10 per family. Please call to make a reservation at 526-3376.

Dec. 19

- "A Change of Heart" at First Baptist Church on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. It's a dramatic musical with a blue grass style that tells the story of a couple from the city that gets stranded in a mountain home.

- Highlands United Methodist Church's Christmas Cantata will be performed by the Chancel Choir during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Dec. 20

- Annual Christmas "Noche de Familia" Dinner at 5 p.m. at Episcopal Church.

- Flu shots at the Highlands Civic Center from 1-4 p.m. 200 doses have been reserved.

Dec. 24

- Christmas Narrative and Musical Christmas Specials at Community Bible Church, at 7 p.m.. Call for more information 526-4685.

- Christmas Eve Service at Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. It will be a family-friendly, communion and candlelight service.

- Carols and visits from St. Nick, 4:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church.

- Family Eucharist Service at the Episcopal Church.

Dec. 25

- Christmas Dinner at Main Street Inn to benefit Habitat for Humanity. For reservations, call 526-2590.

- Carols and Holy Eucharist at 11 p.m. at the Episcopal Church.

Dec. 26-31

- At ...on the Verandah on Lake Sequoyah, Dinner and piano entertainment from 6 p.m. Dec. 26-31. New Year's, too.

Town seeks more control through ordinance

By Kim Lewicki

Slowly but surely the town is tweaking its zoning ordinance.

At the Dec. 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners bounced the reworking of two aspects of the ordinance

back to the Planning Board — one concerning holiday decorations and signage; the other concerning temporary commercial buildings.

"Our ordinance provides for a blanket exemption for holiday decorations

in any season," said Zoning Administrator Larry Gantenbein. "It's only specific as to the length of time Christmas lights can be displayed."

Exempt from the ordinance are

▪See **CONTROL** page 25

Finally, some SNOW!!



On Tuesday, Dec. 14, Highlanders awoke to a light blanket of snow. Blue skies and sun followed, so it didn't last long, but at least it was proof that winter is here. Visit Town Square to see a medley of Christmas decorations and visit with Santa who's there every Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Utility poles coming into compliance

By Kim Lewicki

Everyone agrees – it's time to bring all utility poles into compliance.

On Monday, Dec. 13, Town Administrator Richard Betz, Town Engineer Lamar Nix and the town's GIS specialist Matt Shuler, met with representatives from Verizon and Northland and hammered out a plan to fix the

town's ailing utility pole problem.

Over the last few years inconsistencies ranging from pole height, to wire placement on the poles by Verizon, Northland and Highlands Cable have caused tempers to flare and communication to breakdown between parties.

Highlands Cable is no longer in the picture since its franchise with the town

▪See **POLES** page 25

All they want for Christmas is a chance to vote

By Nancy Welch

Contributor

The two young women sat on the sofa and the young man sat in an easy chair. They each sipped a cup of hot coffee.

Bohdan Suprunyuk, 22; Svitlana Valkiv, 22, and Liliya Zarevna, 21, are familiar smiling faces at Bryson's Supermarket. But this dark and cold night their thoughts and hearts are turned to their home country of Ukraine where history is taking a turn for the 3,000-year-old country.

Bohdan, a brooding, intense patriot, put his coffee cup down. He needed to use his hands to punctuate his thoughts.

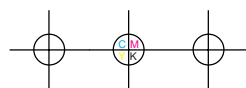
He explained his country may be very old in years, but politically is only 13-years-old. There have been centuries of occupation by other nearby countries and, recently, two elections that have led the Ukrainians to a peaceful revolution — "The Orange Revolution."

The three were pleased, recently, when their co-workers at Bryson's Food Store acknowledged the Orange Revolution by joining them in wearing a strip of orange ribbon around their arms.

The three say the first two elections were fixed — an effort to keep the old government in place.

The new democracy is struggling to hold on to its independence and the voice of the people, they agreed. The

▪See **VOTE** page 3



Hospital Auxiliary Tree of Lights

Bells (in honor of living friends and loved ones) and Stars (in memory of deceased friends and loved ones) will be placed on the Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree. These tributes are available with a gift of \$25 or more.

All money will be used to fund scholarships for students planning to enter the health care field.

Complete the form below (please print) and mail to:

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary

Attn: Tree of Lights

P.O. Box 790, Highlands, NC 28741

Amount given: _____

Circle one: _____ in memory _____ in honor of

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary

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• LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

Designer house a community affair

Dear Editor,

Thanks to all of you who visited the Historic Society's Christmas Show House on December 3, 4, and 5. This year's event was held at the beautiful home called Wolf Ridge overlooking Horse Cove. It was built by Thomas Parker for his sisters, Marguerite and Claire Ravanel in 1915. Our sincere appreciation goes to Ray and Diane McPhail, as well as their partner, Will Stolz, who offered their beautiful house for our use. Visitors exclaimed that the house was just spectacular. If you did not get to see it, you missed a real treat. The decorators really outdid themselves this year using decorations that the owners would have used in the early 20th century. Our sincere thanks to Sabrina Cashion, the Mountain Garden Club, The Old Rangoon Shop, the Laurel Garden Club with special help from Jodi Zahner and Jon Jeffers, Cosper Flowers, I'm Precious Too, Acorns, Barbara and Richard Smith, Hanover House Antiques, Mary Berry, Sue Potts, Kathleen Wilson, Estate - Valuators Estate Sale/Appraisal Specialists, and Christmas Tree on the Hill. Our docents were gracious hosts and hostesses and performed flawlessly. Many thanks go to Jim and Elaine Whitehurst, who served both as docent coordinators and docents. Others were Gay Kattel, Geri Crowe, Sue Potts, Ann Turner, Lewis Doggett, Tony Potts, Gladys McDowell, Wilma Gordon, Margo Franklin, and Wiley Sloan. We hope that all visitors enjoyed the refreshments organized and served by Kathleen Wilson and her able assistants, Sarah Sloan, Ann Turner, LaDonna Keener, Jim Whitehurst, Mary Ann Creswell, and Wilma Gordon.

Many thanks to those providing our shuttle services: Bob Tietze and Don Fisher who drove the First Presbyterian Church van (thank you First Presbyterian), Neville Wilson who drove the Recreation Center van (thank you Rec. Center and Selwyn Chalker), Isabel Chambers, Bill Rethorst, Lewis

•See LETTERS page 4

On boycotting Target stores

Dear Editor,

In your Dec. 3 issue you published a letter from a Highlands contributor praising the deeds of the Salvation Army. I was impressed with the contributor's knowledge and admiration of that organization. God Bless 'Em!

But to suggest a boycott of Target stores for not allowing Salvation Army bell-ringers and their "beautiful" red kettles at Target store fronts due to a no solicitation policy is a bit rash.

For starters, a boycott on Target is geographically impossible. I could be wrong, I but the nearest store is 70-plus miles away. Secondly, Target along with Toys "R" Us, 7-Eleven, CVS, even our own Ingles and other establishments give a percentage of the cost of merchandise to various charities. A tax shelter maybe, but a lot of less fortunates have benefited from these contributions.

In Memphis, Tenn., near the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, there is a Target House that has 96 two-bedroom apartments for patients' families along with a Ronald McDonald House and a Grizzlies House – all FREE. (See Reader's Digest, Dec. 2004).

Most of us as parents and grandparents have visited the toy stores, needed convenient store items and pharmaceuticals, not to mention groceries. I don't recall see the red kettles at these stores. Are we to boycott them all?

And yes, the red kettles may be "beautiful" by their intent...but certainly not by their appearance.

**Sam Batts
Glenville**

Eradicating knotweed together

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, I would like to publicly thank the Highlands Town Council for their commitment to "partner" with the Land Stewards in starting an eradication program for invasive plants, specifically Japanese Knotweed.

•See LETTERS page 8

Horwitz named commander

Lieutenant Colonel David A. Horwitz was appointed Commander of the 720th Operations Support Squadron, 720th Special Tactics Group, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlbert Field, Florida.

The squadron provides operational support to train, equip and employ Special Tactics forces worldwide. There are 61 military and civilian professionals and 102 trainees currently assigned to the squadron.

The Appointment of Command ceremony took place Nov. 29, 2004 at Hurlbert Field, Florida.

Lieutenant Colonel Horwitz, during his 20-year career, has led units in support operations Desert Shield, Provide Relief, and deployed as the Special Tactics Theater Commander

for operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Horwitz is a Master Parachutist and a Combat Diver.

Attending the ceremony was his wife Karen, daughter, Elizabeth and son, Jacob. Inovation was given by Rabbi Wasser, Tampa, Fla. Guests from Highlands were his parents, Bill and Nancy Horwitz, Mayor Buck Trott and Lance Hollars. Also in attendance were his uncle and aunt, Howard and Val Trickey, his uncle Gerald Woodward, cousin Michael Marshall, family friend, Lt. Colonel Marissa Tanner, U.S.

Army, several military dignitaries, the 720th Squadron and many airmen of the 720th Special Tactics Group.

A reception followed at the Southside Lounge.



Lt. Col. David Horwitz

... VOTE continued from page 1

world has watched as Vladimir Putin of Russia has tried to manipulate the Ukrainian government to bring it back within the power of the former USSR, they said.

When first elections came around, the Ukrainians said, Putin championed a former convicted gang rapist, Viktor Yanulovych, as the best candidate for the country. The Ukrainians supported the democratic candidate, Viktor Yushchenko.

After two elections, both bogus, according to Suprunyuk, the Ukrainian government called for a third election with tighter voting controls. The election will be December 26.

When Ukrainians heard of the December election, they took to the streets.

"People have been coming and coming to Kiev, thousands," said Zarevanna, his dark eyes intent, a dark lock of hair falling forward on his forehead as he shows his zeal. "It is impossible to make a real count because so many come and go."

The Ukrainians, thrilled by the thought of a true legal election and the majority supporters of the democratic candidate, Yuschenko, gathered not

only in the nation's capital, but also in towns throughout the country, Valkiv explained, smiling, her eyes sparkling.

"In the small cities, not the big ones, it was like 50,000 to 70,000 people," Suprunyuk. "For example in our city, (he and Zarevanna are from Ternoeil) we have a population of 250,000. It was like 70,000 people came to the center of the city. So you understand it was like a quarter of the people."

"Our city and her city," Valkiv said, pointing to Zarevanna, "are the same size and for like a whole week there was about 70,000 people coming all the time."

"It's like 3 or 4 million people all the time are in the city," Suprunyuk said.

They come to demonstrate their support for democracy. Will the revolution remain peaceful?

"It's gone already," Zarevanna said smiling, her dark eyes wide. "What we were afraid of, which could be blood on the streets or people hurt, it's gone. It's gone by democracy's way and it's caused by peaceful Orange Revolution."

■ See VOTE page 7

BIG

42

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- Inside Art – 30%
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- Bell Wreaths – 15%
- Flying Santas – 15%
- Large Cloth Santas 15%
- Wall Plaques – 25%
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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Doggett, Slocum Howland, Luther Turner, and Griffin Bell who drove their own vehicles. Mike Crisp, Wolf Ridge caretaker, was a great help in advising and assisting us in preparing the house. The ticket counter at the Recreation Center was ably handled by LaDonna Keener, Geri Crowe, and Sarah Sloan. Also thanks to D & J Express Mart, Cyrano's Bookshop, and The Old Rangoon for selling tickets. The Historical Society also participated in the Christmas Parade thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Luke of Reeves Hardware who drove their wagon pulled by their beautiful Norwegian horses. Thanks, Tom Chambers, for decorating it. Also, Kathleen Wilson, Geri Crowe, and Elaine Whitehurst rode in the wagon wearing late 19th and early 20th century clothing. Walking with the wagon were Lewis Doggett and his dog Ethyl, Tom Chambers, Wiley Sloan, and Luther Turner. And finally, thank you WHLC 104.5, The Highlander Newspaper, Highlands' Newspaper, and the Laurel Magazine for publicizing this event and to Rebecca Dotson for producing the brochure.

Our thanks go to all of you who purchased tickets and toured this beautiful home that is such an integral part of Highland's history. Funds from this and other events sponsored by the Historical Society help us to continue our efforts in establishing the Highlands Historical Village.

Luther Turner, President, Highlands Historical Society

• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Meet Mister Grump

(I am anti Santa)

Am I grumpy or what? Digging through my desk drawer, I can't find the credit card I know I tossed in there a year ago. The one in my wallet is maxed out and I still have lots of buying to do.

There are long lines at every store. I am putting gas in the car every other day and the prices are outrageous. I never get headaches, but now I have one. Traffic is horrendous and the store parking lots are full. Jockeying for a spot takes fortitude and courage. Ho, Ho, Ho, are we having fun yet?

It is the Christmas shopping season and I am wondering why I did this to myself. Back in August, in a moment of sheer weakness, I told the little missus I would help her Christmas shop. She didn't forget. Women never forget. Even though I know women are 'gatherers' and men are 'hunters,' I still said yes, forgetting momentarily that we have a large family, all hungry for presents under the tree.

In past years she did all the Christmas shopping and I decorated the front of the house. We did the tree and interior of the house together. This plan has worked well. What was I thinking? Am I jolly and bright? Nah!

We have just spent two hours looking for a battery operated CD player for my granddaughter. This common item can be found in every store imaginable but we are looking in the fourth store, with two more to go. Why? The player has to be pink.

Why do I have this strange feeling that my granddaughter knew this when she included it on her list? Maybe she is getting even with us for making her sit through a lengthy ballet. Finally, out of desperation, the little missus announced, "I'll buy this blue one and take it back once I spot a pink



Fred Wooldridge

one." I was going to ask, "Then why buy the blue one?" but decided I didn't want to know. (Remember, they are from another planet.) She made the purchase and, BAM, one down, 76 to go.

This is how it has been the past two weeks. Furthermore, I am up to here (a gesture here,

possibly obscene.) with Santa Clauses. There are hundreds of them, most with their hands out, collecting for who knows for what. Yesterday I got my windshield washed by a Santa who was collecting pocket change for booze. Now my windshield is dirtier than before. Merry Christmas, sucker.

When we left J.C. Penney we found our car had a flat tire. I had run over a bolt that could have held the San Francisco bridge together. The tire was ruined. \$148 and two and half hours later, we are headed for our next adventure, the Toys "R" Us store.

We are looking for the Chou Chou doll. Not just any Chou Chou doll, but the one on sale that comes with diaper bag, diapers, artificial poop and a complete change of clothes. Like all babies, this little gal runs up your credit card bill because, even on sale, she costs \$29.95. How much is artificial poop, anyway?

There are 187 varieties of dolls in this store and with all the hired help busy, we spent over an hour looking for the right Chou Chou only to find we had the wrong Chou Chou when it was finally our turn at a very long check out line. Headed back into the doll section we did stop in the Builder Bob's area for a fast lunch of peanut butter crackers and an apple. Fa la la la la, la la la la.

At the end of the day we had six purchases. On the way home, while sitting in stalled traffic from an accident up ahead, I suggested it

▪See WOOLDRIDGE page 8

• MOVIE PIX •

Children Of The Revolution

The 1994 political mockumentary, written and directed by Peter Duncan, starring Judy Davis, Sam Neill, F. Murray Abraham, Richard Roxburgh and Geoffrey Rush.

The Storyline: Party Girl Joan Fraser (brilliantly played by Judy Davis, who won Best Actress from the Australian Film Institute for this role) has a pen pal from Georgia. Oh, the party in question is Australia's Communist party and the pen pal is that madcap, zany "Uncle Joe" Stalin (not THAT Georgia).

Joan has been busy trying to create a workers' paradise, which is not easy, since the party meetings have to break up as soon as they call time at the local pub, but her zeal does win her an invitation to Moscow to meet her hero (Abraham is hysterical as the singing and dancing dictator).

Add a lovesick double agent (Neill as "Agent 9") and old flame from back home and the intrigue starts. Jump forward a bit, and Joan is raising her little proletariat, Joe, to join the next generation of revolutionaries, complete with family outings to the police lock-



Stuart Armor

up. When young Joe grows up, he turns his extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system into a political career.

This film is both a clever comedy and a savage, sharp-edged satire. Politicians, idealists, the media and academia all take a beating here. The

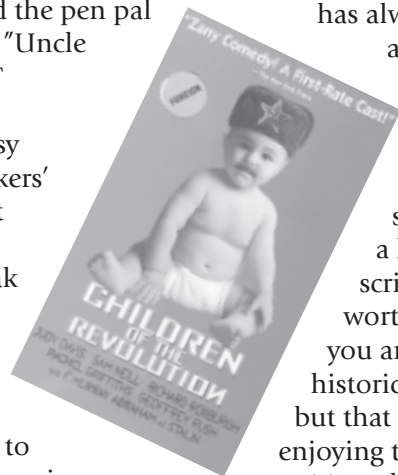
story is about Joe and his life and career, but Davis is essentially the lead character, and she does her usual excellent job here, as she has always done, in films

as diverse as Passage to India, Ref, Barton Fink and Blood And Wine.

A strong supporting cast and a highly original script make this one worth seeing. It helps if you are sort of a political/historical nerd like me, but that is not essential to enjoying the story. More dark

political humorous can be found in Bullworth, Wag the Dog, Manchurian Candidate, and Primary Colors.

More mockumentaries worth seeing are Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show, A Mighty Wind, and another gem from Down Under, Strictly Ballroom.



School 'home' b-ball games at Rec Park

The state has given Highlands School's basketball teams permission to play several of their January "home" games in the Recreation Park gymnasium. This will be a welcome break for the 8th grade, junior varsity girls, and varsity boys and girls basketball teams, who have been playing all of their games "on the road" while work continues on the new gym at the school.

It will also be a break for parents, who have been logging hundreds of miles on their vehicles following the activity buses to "away" games.

If the gym construction is fin-

ished on its current schedule, we will have our February games in the new gym. Many thanks to Selwyn Chalker of the Recreation Department for helping us to schedule some home games.

- Principal Monica Bomengen

January 'Home' Games at Rec Park

Jan. 8	West Oaks	VG	3 p.m.
Jan. 14	Rabun Gap	VG	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Rabun Cty	JVG	5 p.m.
Jan. 18	Nantahala	VG	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Rosman	JVG	5 p.m.

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Sat - Sun: (2:05), (4:15), 7:05, 9:15

OCEANS TWELVE rated PG-13

Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20

Sat - Sun: (4:20), 7, 9:20

BLADE: TRINITY rated R

Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

Sat - Sun: (2:10), (4:15), 7:10, 9:15

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7:15, 9:10

Sat - Sun: (2:15), (4:10), 7:15, 9:10

POLAR EXPRESS rated G

Sat - Sun: (2)

Starting Wed., Dec. 22

MEET THE FOCKERS rated PG-13

Wed - Fri: (4:20), 7, 9:20

Sat - Sun: (2), (4:20), 7, 9:20

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- A Christmas Story - A Christmas for our father

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

I'll always remember the Christmas Santa visited my father. Dad worked hard thought the years to keep us all comfortable. It wasn't until I was older that I realized my parents struggled with the family budget. We were taught to be thrifty, but never felt slighted.

Dad worked five and one-half days a week at the family business. In his spare time he worked with various stereo components in his workshop downstairs. He often repaired audio equipment for others and would not accept pay. He piddled constantly with electronics in an effort to improve his own stereo system. When I was young, I thought it was merely his hobby. I now know that it was because he didn't want to spend money on such a luxury, so he improvised.

My mother stayed home, cooked, cleaned, drove car pool, made snacks for our classes, led our Girl Scout Troop, participated in my brother's Cub Scout functions and sewed for me.

My mother was the Christmas junkie. She loved all the hoopla and fun, music and TV specials. She put decorations up in every nook and cranny of our little house and made sure there were treats ready for anyone who dropped by.

Dad's task, was, of course, the tree. He to put it in the stand, draped it with lights and gave a critical eye to the final product. He hated for one side to have more icicles than the other. He would readjust them almost every night.

I have numerous memories of what my brother and I got for Christmas over the years. There were the first bicycles in 1955 — a red Schwinn for my brother and a blue one for me. My brother got a train set one year and each year I added to my family of dolls and their wardrobes.

My mother usually received clothes. As I grew older, it became my job to help my father select his gifts for her. This was not a pleasant task for a man who insisted on buying most of clothes through the mail. It took and

act of Congress for my mom to get him near a men's store in downtown Macon.

Dad's Christmas gifts ... hmmm. I don't remember anything specific. There were ties, socks and handkerchiefs. H always seemed perfectly satisfied with anything we gave him. He really got more joy watching

our faces as we opened our presents.

One year, when I was in high school that changed for our Santa.

My dad received a gift that made us all see him in a different light.

It was Christmas Eve and Dad was settled comfortably in his easy chair. Holiday music played on the stereo.

I saw a car pull into our driveway and a man came to the door. He was carrying a large box.

I answered the door and didn't recognize him.

"Is your father here?" he asked.

I answered yes and he handed me the box.

"Would you give this to him, please," he asked. He turned, walked to his car and drove off.

I went to the living room and handed my Dad the box.

"Who was that?" he asked.

"I don't know. What's in the box?" I countered.

He opened it and his mouth dropped open as he stared in amazement.

It was a very expensive piece of audio equipment he had been wanting for at least a year. It was a gift from a man he had helped with his stereo not long before Christmas.

"Wow!" I said.

"Oh boy," said my brother.

"I can't accept this," said my father.

The skinny of it is, after trying to return it to the man who had brought it by that Christmas eve, he did end up keeping it. The man convinced my father it would make Christmas better for him if he could give Dad something he would never buy for himself.

I don't remember what any of the rest of us got for Christmas that year. But I'll never forget my father's gift.

It was, I realized, about time.



By Nancy Welch



... VOTE continued from page 3



Svitlana Valkiv, Bohdan Suprunyuk, Maryana Bilenkan (not interviewed) and not pictured but interviewed, Liliya Zarevenna.

She said she recently talked to her mother, a doctor, who said the people are so happy and united in the effort they don't go to work.

"They are not angry, you know," Suprunyuk said.

"They are proud of themselves and feel unity," Valkiv, who is from Ivan-Frankivsk, said. She is calm, smiling and enjoying telling the story, as well as helping her friends with some translation.

"It is really so important," Zarevenna said. "Because our nation has not been like a union. The people who were hiding their patriotism in their souls very deeply ... it is so unusual to see what they do, whether you are a businessman or you are a teacher or just a teenager, all are together and proud of what they can do."

She grips her coffee cup tightly between her hands.

Zarevenna said people would bring tea and food and clothing to the demonstrators who stood in the cold for days.

"One owner in a place where they are making pizzas — if you are hungry and have nothing to eat says 'You can come and eat,'" she said. "And at the grocery stores they put out oranges and lemons for the people."

The opposing candidate, attempted a counterrevolution, Suprunyuk said.

The former prisoner was freed when his papers mysteriously disappeared. He also claims to have an education degree.

"But that's not true," Valkiv said. "He buys the degree. And he was not studied, even."

Suprunyuk said during the past months the press has been silenced. Only ideas released by the opposing candidate were allowed in the papers

They can cast an absentee vote but it has to be from Washington, D.C. Maybe "Santa" will bring them the gift they yearn for.

and on television.

"Over 100 journalists quit because they want to tell the truth," he explained. "It was like censorship, you know."

"It was lying, saying Yushenko was bad. It was lying," Valkiv said. "And old people do not know who is telling the truth. Many are living in the small villages and in the countryside and don't know. They are used to living in the past like communists. They are not sure what to do."

Valkiv said her grandmother has always gone to church, but secretly. When she was a young girl she went to her grandmother and asked if there was a God, her grandmother said, "Yes, you should believe, but don't tell anyone."

Until now, Suprunyuk said, the voting has been basically crooked, with people selling ballots after they have used them. In the new election, each person will have his or her registration marked when they vote. This, he said, should end crooked voting and duplication.

And so the three (and a fourth friend) want to have the opportunity to be a part of this change in their country's history. They are excited and wish they could cast their votes. All have their degrees and are working on further education and find this one of the most exciting times of their lives.

"We can only vote in three cities and one is Washington, D.C., but it is too expensive for us to go there," Zarevenna said.

"We are really proud of what is happening in our country today," she said with a broad smile. "We have a peaceful revolution and it works."

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Two holes-in-one at Highlands Cove

Mark W. Todd

Head Golf Professional

In two weeks Highlands Cove Golf course had two holes in one. One on Dec. 4 when Scott Davis hit a pitching wedge into the par 3 second hole. Witnessing the 144-yard downhill ace was his playing partner,

Gray Ellenberg. If any of you out there have played that hole you know how difficult it is once you get on the putting surface.

Then, on Dec. 8, Thurston Mack aced the 17th hole from 123 yards with his pitching wedge. Congratulations for an awesome ace!

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Japanese Knotweed is a non-native perennial that grows in large clumps reaching height of 3-10 feet. It is commonly found near water sources, such as along streams and rivers, waste places, and in rights-of-way. It reproduces mainly by long rhizomes that can reach 40-60 feet. These rhizomes are even able to penetrate asphalt paving. In riparian areas, it can survive severe floods and rapidly colonize scoured stream banks down stream.

A native of Asia, this species was introduced into the US as an ornamental garden plant in the 19th century. Since that time it has invaded most parts of the country and is deemed a threat to the environment in over half of the contiguous states. Many areas have recognized the programs associated with the noxious weed and have established eradication programs. Thanks to the action of the Highlands Town Council, Highlands will be among those communities which strive to rid the environment of this invasive plant.

At the meeting of the Highlands Town Council on Dec. 1, a representative from the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association was present. Recognizing the effect on the environment and water, UCWA will be joining the Land Stewards and the Town Council in this effort to eradicate Japanese Knotweed. The Director of the Highlands Biological Station, Dr. Robert Wyatt, who was also present at the meeting, added his support to the effort.

Thanks to the sensitivity of the Town Council and UCWA to environmental issues, the Land Stewards are pleased to "partner" with them in an effort to preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the Highlands Plateau.

Mercedes Heller

Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

would be good to buy gift cards for the remainder of family. I could do it on line while sipping a cool eggnog with cinnamon. Each family member could go to the store and buy whatever they wanted. This went over like a day tripper trying to sneak into the OEI lobby.

Incidentally, OEI shouldn't play "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" if they don't want outsiders in their lobby.

So this year, my Christmas season has taken on new meaning. Shop till you drop, then shop some more. Once that's completed, we shop for food, lots of food. Then we

wrap presents in between house cleaning and getting the decorations out of the attic. Buy the tree. Was it that lopsided when we picked it out? Decorate the front of the house, then the inside.

Is it any wonder we sometimes forget the true meaning of Christmas? Who has time for the birth of Christ with all this shopping and work to get done? Wouldn't it be great if we could chuck it all and concentrate on the real meaning of this celebration? Nah..... the economy would collapse.

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Annual BBQ at B-L Gallery



Musicians Ian Moore (fiddle) and Hal Herzog (banjo) from Sylva entertained visitors to the Bascom-Louise Gallery Barbecue after the parade on Saturday. The barbecue was sponsored by the Bascom-Louise Advisory Board as a way to bring the community to the gallery.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

Middle schhol students learn about the dangers of using tobacco

By April Hicks
11th Grade

Towards No Tobacco (TNT)—a two-week tobacco awareness program for seventh grade students in Highlands School taught students of the dangers of using tobacco products and urged students to abstain from tobacco and other drugs.

The students met with a guest speaker every day for two weeks during their Health class period in November. They were asked to respond to the classes by writing a summary of a few things that they learned and their favorite experiences during the classes. Following are three of the student responses:

During the last couple of weeks in Health class (5th period), we had a special guest speaker come in named Ms. Sandy. She came to represent the TNT (Towards No Tobacco) program. It was really cool because she really listened to our personal stories, questions and comments. We got to look at "tar in a jar" which was basically what a smoker's lungs would look like. We also got to hold a tobacco leaf. My favorite part was that sometimes when you answered a question Ms. Sandy would give you a prize like a pen or a tee shirt! I think everyone really paid attention to what she had to say and learned more about tobacco. —Amanda Bruce

Hi! My name is Maricia Owens. I'm in seventh grade, I'm 12 years old,

and I took the TNT (Towards No Tobacco) program. We spent time learning about tobacco products and what was in them and about all of the chemicals and "poisons"—yes, "poisons"—and how they effect your body. The most fun thing we did was getting to know each other. We would stand up in front of the class, tell them our full name, our age, and if we were drug- and tobacco-free. We also told three things about ourselves that we like when we look in the mirror. I like this program a lot because it helps to understand about tobacco. —Maricia Owens

The program TNT is a program that tells you things about tobacco and why you shouldn't use tobacco. It told us many reasons why not to use tobacco, but I already knew most of the things. It might have changed things for some people, but not others. She gave tee shirts and posters to people that answered questions correctly. Then she made people get in front of the class and tell about themselves. She did that so that when students who talked about themselves they wouldn't start smoking. It was a good experience. I thought a good part was when she passed around a tube that had tar. The tar was from three years of smoking and all that tar in [a smoker's] body. It was good to teach us about tobacco and its harms. —Haley Rice



MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Volume 2, Number 3

Highlands School News

Friday, December 17, 2004

Coming Up...

Friday Dec 17- End of Second Reporting Period; Interact Club

Saturday Dec 18- 5:00 JV & V B-Ball @ Hayesville (away)

Monday Dec 20- Christmas Holidays begin

Monday Jan 3 -Non-instructional day required workday

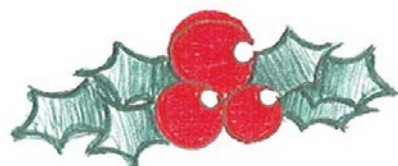
Tuesday Jan 4 - Classes resume; 5:00 JV & V B-Ball @ Swain Cty (away)

Friday Jan 7- Report cards go home; Interact Club; 5:00 JV & V B-Ball @ Hiwassee Dam (away)

Friday Jan 14 - 5:00 V B-Ball @ Blue Ridge

Monday Jan 17- Non-instructional day required workday

Fridav Jan 21- Interact Club



McCall, Keener crowned Homecoming Royalty

By Kathryn Coppage
12th grade

"A Night on the Town," was the Homecoming theme on Saturday December 4. The high school students, as well as faculty danced the night away at Highlands Country Club. The club was beautifully decorated with a Christmas tree, murals, and an array of Christmas tree lights, as well as other festive decor.

Kayla McCall, daughter of Lynn and Yogi McCall, was crowned as the 2004 Homecoming Queen.

Matthew Keener, son of Ladonna and Skip Keener, was crowned as Kayla's king.

"It was an amazing night, not only with it being our last homecoming as seniors, but I was also crowned royalty with my best friend since birth," Kayla said, "and that is what made my night."

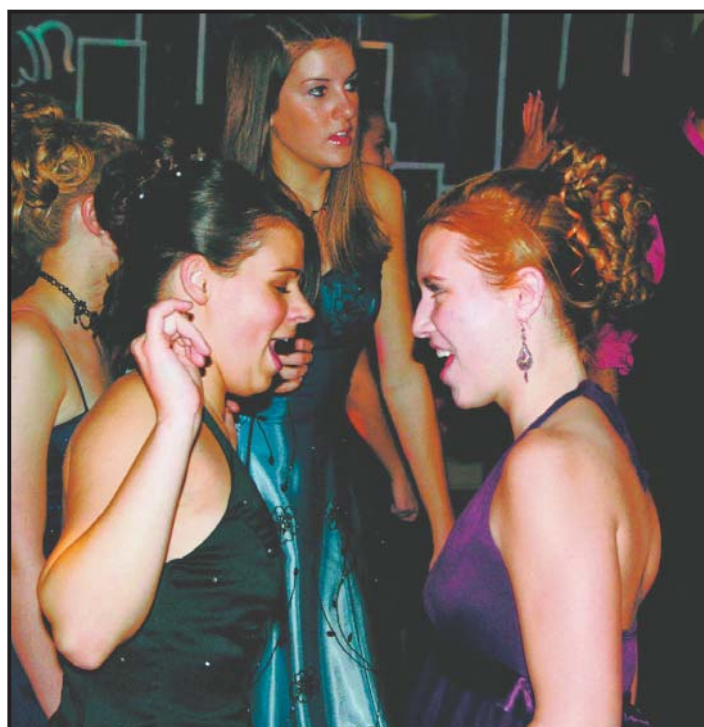


Keener and McCall glow in the limelight after being crowned Homecoming King and Queen.
Staff Photo

Saturday was filled with exciting events leading up to the big night. The Highlands Christmas Parade commenced at 11 am. It was the largest parade in Highlands history, having 65 group entries. Homecoming kicked off with the crowning ceremony at 7:45. King and Queen ushered in the night with the first dance to Iris by the Goo Goo Dolls.



From left David "Buddy-Boy" Parrish, Nicholas Kerhoulas, Andrew "Trout" Kerhoulas and Jason Aspinwall enjoy "A Night on the Town."
-Staff Photo



From left, Rebecca Ashburn, Anna Trine and Rebecca Wyatt dance the night away. --**Staff Photo**



The Highlands School high school band marched in the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4. K-12 music departments performed their Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 7 for the community. Above, first chair percussionist Andrew Wilhide plays snare drum during Saturday's parade.
Photo by McKenzie Thompson

Artattack

After school art class for students in grades 4 - 8

Wednesday 3:15-4:15

This is a class designed for students in grades 4 through 8 who want to "do art." The students will work in mixed media including: painting, printmaking, graphics, cartooning, clay, 3-D design, fabric and textile. There will be an emphasis on the purpose of art in society, a focus on some of the different forms art takes, and how the visual art affect us. Each student's individual creativity and style will be encouraged. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

High School Art Workshops

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30

This is a class designed for high school students who are interested in discovering, exploring, experimenting and stretching their creative abilities. The emphasis of this class will be personal growth. Whether you "can't draw a straight line" or are working on portfolio submissions for college, this class is designed to stimulate your personal creativity and ability to communicate artistically through the visual arts. Students will be introduced to a medium, given a subject matter, and then be encouraged to work through the process of self-expression.

It's Masterful!

Art classes for home-schooled students.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 1 - 3

This class will be held during the school day. Its purpose is to enhance the academic educational process through art, working closely with the foundational principles of home school education. The use of the Bascom-Louise Gallery's art educational facility and library will help to enhance the student's artistic experience. The heart of the curriculum will be centered on the influence of "The Masters." This class is open to students from first grade through high school. Class size and age grouping will be determined by need. Each class will have a short lesson on a specific artist followed by a creative project. Instruction and experimentation with different mediums will be the core of this class. Each student will be encouraged to work independently at his or her age and experience level. There will also be a take-home portfolio that the students will work on, independent of the actual class time.

Artventure

Art for Children in Kindergarten and First Grade

Tuesdays 3:15 - 4:15

This class is for kindergarten and first graders, and is designed to inspire joy, confidence and pride in the art that is produced. The child will have the fun of learning about paint, paper, scissors, glue, crayons, pastels, papier-mâché, fabric, and clay. They will be taught that these products can be manipulated to produce a desired two- or three-dimensional effect. Not only will their work be inspired by their personal experiences, observation, or imagination, this class will also include an awareness of environment and the influence of other cultures that are around them. Bus transportation from Highlands School to the Bascom-Louise Gallery will be provided for this class.

Little Stars

Art for Preschool children - Starting Sept. 28

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30

The Bascom-Louise Gallery is excited to be offering a new art program for preschool children. This is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the children's experience by a hands-on, age appropriate introduction to the visual arts. The children will be acquainted with the Gallery's permanent and temporary exhibits. This will be a chance to experience personal observation and expression and to learn how artists communicate thoughts and feelings through art. They will then make their own inspired special art. The children will have the chance to work with mixed media, learning the artistic process of using paints, pastels, fabrics, and clay.

Parent and child

Wednesdays 11-12

This is a delightful time for pre-school children, age 2 to kindergarten, and parents to "play" together. Parent and child will enjoy the creation process of a start-to-finish project, which will delight the eyes and heart. The child will also begin to learn how to use the "tools of art," safely and with respect. This is a fun mixed media class that will bring out the child in everyone.

Each class is \$5 • Call the Gallery at
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--A Review-- The Grudge

By Allie Roman

Directed by Takashi Shimizu, *The Grudge* is a remake of a 2003 Japanese horror flick. The film takes Karen Davis, an American exchange student played by Hollywood actress Sarah Michelle Gellar (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Cruel Intentions*), out of her everyday life in Tokyo as a local care clinic volunteer into a house inhabited by a ghost bearing a grudge. According to Japanese legend, this "Grudge" is the curse of someone who dies in the grip of a powerful rage usually by someone very mad at them. One by one, those who have been in contact with the ghost's house begin to die, and nowhere is safe. Anyone that disturbs the curse is killed, and the curse is reborn, passed on from victim to victim in an endless, ever-growing chain of horror.

The curse was brought upon this particular house years before, when an enraged husband brutally murdered his wife and child upon discovery of a secret diary his wife wrote about a man with whom she was infatuated with.

Karen is sent to the house to care for the woman living there as a temp for the usual caretaker who is missing. As Karen interacts with the house, she soon discovers the presence of an evil force lurking in the attic.

The plot of this film is hard to understand throughout as the scenes keep flashing back and forth from past to present to explain the horrific occurrences in the household.

In this film, Gellar does not play a character like 'Buffy'. Her character here is not the strong, dominating one she usually plays in films. This character is more passive and must seek other means of ridding the house of the murderous curse.

I thought this film was relatively entertaining, there were a few good jump scenes that scared me a little bit and definitely grossed me out. I would recommend this film to people who liked *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable*.



By Remington Veteto
12th Grade

MOUNTAIN TRAIL

A publication of Highlands School Journalism class

Chief Editor: Allie Roman

Managing Editor: McKenzie Thompson

Sports Editors: Kathryn Coppage, Claire Frederick

News Editor: April Hicks

Assistant Editors: Michelle Dendy, Remington Veteto

Faculty sponsor: Beverly VanHook-Schrey. Published by Highlands' Newspaper

e-mail: worldlit@mcsk-12.org phone: 526-8637



Students bring home awards from Language Competition

**By April Hicks
11th Grade**

Clemson University was buzzing with action on Saturday, November 13, as eager youngsters crowded into Daniel Hall for the annual Foreign Language Poetry Declamation.

Antoine Coupé and April Hicks garnered two awards for Highlands School at the event.

French teacher Patsy Wilson selects students each year to compete in the French poetry contests.

Students are required to memorize two poems—one chosen by the university and the other chosen by the student and teacher from a list provided by the college.

Contestants then recite the poems

before a panel of judges who assess the students' pronunciation, diction, and memorization skills.

This year Highlands had competitors in French I, II and III; French III student McKenzie Thompson, French II students April Hicks and Callie Rawlins and French I student Angela Sanchez.

Hicks placed second in her division of the competition. Foreign exchange student Antoine Coupé participated in the native portion of the contest, winning first place.

Coupé was expected to memorize two French poems and was judged based on the same criteria used for the foreign language contest.



Foreign exchange student Antoine Coupe and junior April Hicks received medals for placing in the French Poetry contest held at Clemson University. Coupe won first place in the native portion of the contest, Hicks placed second in her French division.

Photo by Claire Frederick



Art Club students stand outside the High Museum before touring the Van Gogh exhibit.

Photo By Beverly VanHook

Art Club visits Atlanta's High Museum

Members of the high school Art Club led by Art teacher Sallie Taylor enjoyed an educational field trip to the High Museum in Atlanta on Tuesday, November 30.

The focus of the trip was to give the students a better appreciation of art and to view the gallery's exhibit featuring Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh. Most students and chaperones said that van Gogh's *Café Terrace of Night* was their favorite piece. Other works by Van Gogh the students

viewed were *Olive Grove*, *The Good Samaritan*, and *Pine Trees at Sunset*.

The exhibit began with Georges Seurat's works of pointillism then led viewers to the van Gogh exhibit. Visitors were also able to see Pablo Picasso's *Roses* and early abstract works. Viewers also saw Picasso's self-portrait and *Portrait of a Woman*. English teacher and bus driver Beverly VanHook said, "this was a once in a lifetime experience for many of us," said VanHook.

Health Fair educates students

**By April Hicks
11th Grade**

Highlands School students were informed of proper health techniques during the school's annual Health Fair on October 27. Students in grades kindergarten through nine participated in the Health Fair during their physical education classes.

Height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) measurements were calculated for all participants. Dental, vision, and lice tests are performed for grades kindergarten through five. Vision testing was also offered to grades six through nine along with a blood pressure checkup. Each child's test results are sent home to his or her parents or guardians.

The Health Fair also included different educational sections for different grade levels. Grades kindergarten through five were given safety instruction, promotion of low-fat milk and education on the dangers of tobacco use.

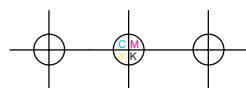
Divisions for grades six through

nine included dental injury education, promotion of low-fat milk and the importance of developing one's personality and temperament.

School nurse Jennifer Garrett said, "The screenings are free [and] a good way to identify certain health problems in school children," but also warned that the screenings "are not a replacement of a complete medical examination by a physician."

Garrett expresses much gratitude to community volunteers who aided school nurses in making this event possible. Benefactors and volunteers include Highlands School PTO, Healthy Carolinians of Macon County, the Macon County Public Health Center, the Lion's Club, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Angel Medical Center and Macon County Schools.

Garrett said that school nurses appreciate the help and sponsorship of Macon-County Schools Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell as well as the Board of Education.



Mountain Trail staff tours printing facility

By Remington Veteto
12th Grade

Publications students in Journalism, Creative Writing, and Yearbook classes toured the Asheville Citizen Times printing facility, October 28, to observe the production of their school newspaper.

Natural and environmentally safe materials were the main issues discussed by the students' tour leader.

Students also learned that huge 500 pound rolls of paper are used within twenty minutes while presses are running. They are printed with an enormous printing press made in Germany and shipped and assembled in Asheville. This huge press requires many crew members to maintain but through modern innovations and German engineering, maintenance crews have been narrowed to a bare minimum. Around three to five workers are needed to operate the machine which they control through a computer system tucked away in a room from which they can view the running presses.

Journalism students create several layout pages over a period of a few



A conveyor belt moves copies of the *Mountain Trail* to the stuffing room where workers stuff them with ad inserts. **Staff Photo**

weeks then publisher Kim Lewicki sends them over a secure line to the Asheville Citizen Times' server. The Asheville press crew then develops negatives and places them on specially coated metal pages which are light sensitive. Ultraviolet light burns an image of the pages onto the metal

plate. The special coating that is left is what the ink sticks to while the coating that was burned off becomes slick, causing the ink to slip right off. This is what prints the image onto the paper. Workers then put the metal plates on a special machine which perfectly crimps the edges to fit on the printing

cylinder.

The printing press itself is two stories high and has three working levels. Tracks run along the bottom floor where little carts move the massive paper rolls around. Paper rolls are loaded three deep at each station allowing each print job to be one continuous process. The ink is pumped through pipes from the first floor to the upper levels where it is applied to the print rollers.

Supervisors monitor the press' progress through computers in the main control room on this floor as well. The printed pages are folded here and then dropped on a conveyor belt, and taken into an adjacent room where workers stuff them with ads, fold them, pack them in plastic, and load the finished papers onto trucks.

The students caught the finished copies of the *Mountain Trail* as they traveled along the conveyor belt and loaded the papers into the Highlands' delivery van.

While the papers were being delivered, *Highlands' Newspaper* publisher, Kim Lewicki, treated the students and chaperone, Patricia Catchings, to a meal at Apollo Flame, a Greek restaurant in Asheville. The group made a quick stop at Biltmore Square Mall before returning to Highlands.



Garret Holt (left), McKenzie Thompson, Tyler Shook, Allan James, Matthew Keener, Allie Roman, Stephanie Murray and Michelle Dendy observe the plate making process at the Asheville Citizen-Times printing facility. **Staff Photo**

Highlands School celebrates National Children's Book Week

By Remington Veteto
12th Grade

Children all around the country celebrated National Children's Book Week (NCBW) this year. NCBW week is steered towards the promotion of children getting excited about reading.

"Maurie the Moo Cow Finds his Moo," "Poems from the Toy Chest," "Eyes" and "Spanish Lullaby" were read to Highlands elementary students on November 17 by Kathryn Coppage, Iyali Ruiz, Catlin Huitt and McKenzie Thompson for Highlands School's recognition of NCBW.

Beverly VanHook assigned the Senior Honors Class a choice of projects to culminate unit on modern British literature. One project choice was writing a children's book. "Maurie the Moo Cow Finds his Moo" was written by Brooke Fowler, Erin Munger and Jenna Greene. This tale is about a cow that ventures away from his home to find his moo and meets other animal friends. Mark the dog and Davey the bird help him search for his moo, but in the end his mother is the one that tells him to look inside himself to find it. This fable tells children to look inside themselves for their true individuality.

"Poems from the Toy Chest" was written by Angela Aspinwall, Amy Crook, Kelsey Schmitt and Allison Waller. This book contains a series of poems that inspire imagination in the kids. Subjects of the poems are toys that one might find in a toy chest.

"Eyes" is a book that simply entertains kids and was written by Catlin Huitt, Jessica Ziebarth and Hannah Hendricks. It has colorful images of eyes cut from construction paper and depicts many emotions that the eyes can portray.

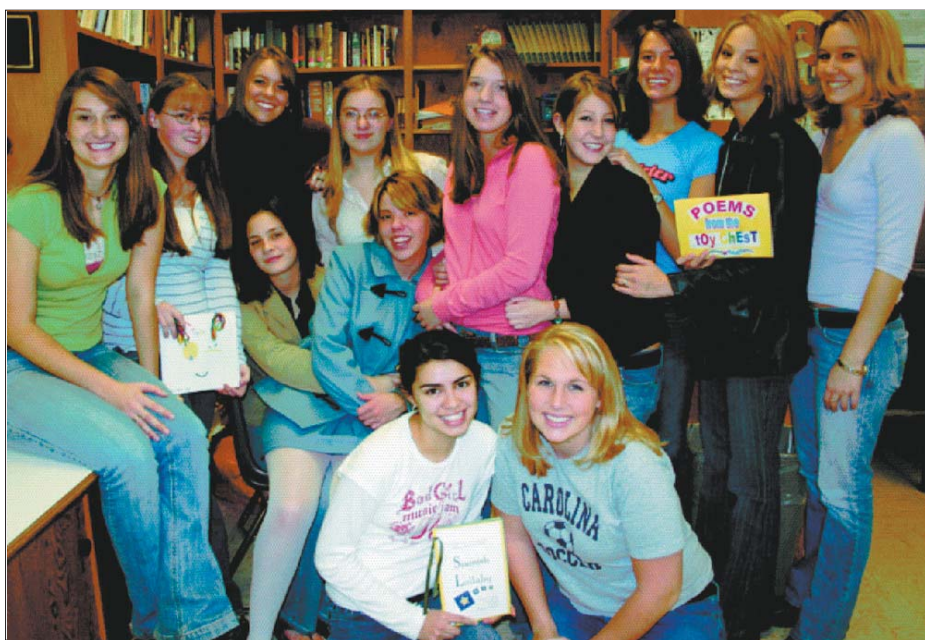
"Spanish Lullaby," by Kathryn Coppage, McKenzie Thompson, Iyali Ruiz and Kayla McCall, contains nursery rhymes written in both Spanish and English.

Elementary teachers were pleased to make time in their schedules for the kids to sit and enjoy as the seniors read stories to them. "We read to the elementary for National Children's Book Week to encourage students to get excited about reading. It was a great opportunity for us to share our works, and we got a really excellent response from the kids," said Coppage.

Sallie Taylor's high school Art class created a puppet show to stir excitement about reading in children.



Seniors McKenzie Thompson (left) and Kathryn Coppage read stories to the first graders of Highlands School. **Staff Photo**



Back row from left to right: McKenzie Thompson, Hannah Hendricks, Brooke Fowler, Erin Munger, Amy Crook, Allison Waller, Angela Aspinwall, Kelsey Schmitt, Kayla McCall. Middle Row: Jessica Ziebarth, Catlin Huitt. Front Row: Iyali Ruiz, Kathryn Coppage. During NCBW, these seniors display books they created for high school English class with elementary students. **Photo by Matt Keener**

Model UN team wins award

Michelle Dendy
12th Grade

Members of Highlands School Model UN team recently returned from a two-day trip to Appalachian State University where they participated in the annual fall conference.

Competing against much larger schools, the Highlands School boy's team won the top prize, Best Delegation. The boys represented Norway while the girls represented Greece.

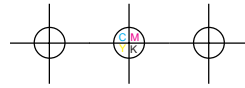
The teams debated on such issues as overpopulation and genetically modified organisms. Team members include Rachel Power, Kelli Baer, Elizabeth Coram, Catlin Huitt, Chase Jenkins, Chris Mouchet and Alex Osteen. Janet Osteen is the team sponsor and Chirs Green went with the

team to Appalachian State.

Model UN is an organization in which team members participate in a mock meeting of the United Nations.

During conferences, delegates use Robert's Rules of Order to discuss topics. They also write amendments, argue their country's opinions and vote on proposals. Student members represent countries that are actually members of the United Nations.

High school students wishing to join the Model UN team must be willing to attend weekly meetings and travel to out of town conferences twice a year. They must also be willing to research the countries they represent. The next conference is scheduled April 6, 2005.



Change for Cange continues to roll in for Chalker's K-5 program

By Allie Roman
12th Grade

K-5 students are collecting Change for Cange. Change for Cange is a program that was started last school year by kindergarten teacher Jane Chalker when Leneus Joseph, an English teacher from Cange, Haiti visited Highlands. Highlands teachers thought this was one way they could help someone else and be involved with another country while integrating the experience with daily class work such as math and geography.

The program raised a total of about \$500 this fall along with Hearts for Haiti, enough money to pay the salary for one teacher in Haiti for a whole year.

The classes have adopted a school in the village of Cange and remain in contact with the school through Chalker. As e-mail and mail are not dependable, Chalker personally takes the letters to and from Haiti.

This program is sponsored by the K-5 teachers who help collect the change, but the students are in charge

of rolling and counting all the coins. All of the funds the classes raise will be sent to Haiti with Chalker when she travels there in January. Her trip in October was postponed because of an outbreak of violence in Port au Prince.

Chalker plans to present the school with the money as a gift from Highlands School during the celebration the village holds for her visit. The people there say a visit 'gives them hope because someone cares about them'.

The money the school receives goes towards buying books and supplies for the classes, and also partly for building the new schoolhouse. As of right now, classes meet in the Baptist Church, over 200 students in a room about the size of one classroom. Over 400 students congregate in the church each day, 200 in the morning and 200 in the afternoon.

Apart from Highlands elementary, the Macon County Reading Council has adopted this same school and will be helping in the future with raising money.



Teacher Jane Chalker and her kindergarten student Cecelia Schmitt are count and roll coins for the Change for Cange program. **Photo by Allie Roman**



Highlands School physics students visited the Duke Power World of Energy nuclear power plant October 28. **Photo by Dr. Pete Sarjeant**

Physics class explores World of Energy

By Kathryn Coppage
12th grade

Highland School students from the Physics 110 class ventured to Duke Power World of Energy on October 28 for a class field trip. The students took a tour through the nuclear power plant while watching videos and scientific models of how Duke Power works. The tour covered different fields of science such as atomic energy, water and land conservation and recycling. Throughout the tour, the students completed study sheets on the material that they were learning.

The World of Energy is located on Lake Hartwell, near Salem, South Carolina. The dual enrollment physics class, for which the students receive both high school and college credit, stemmed from the North Carolina Community College Outreach

Program offered by Southwestern Community College. The course is taught by Dr. Pete Sarjeant.

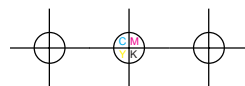
After the tour, the students sat back and relaxed in a theatre and watched two thirty-minute clips on energy and what energy provides for humans and the earth.

Following the educational experience, the students and their professor were able to enjoy a picnic beside Lake Hartwell to end the day.

"I believe the trip was a great success because I feel like the students could actually get a better feel for what we have been studying in our course and it was a lot of fun as well," Dr. Sarjeant said. Allen Bumgardner, Sarjeant's close friend and regular teacher volunteer, accompanied the class as well.



Highlands School Physics 110 class traveled to Duke Power World of Energy near Salem, South Carolina. This class is one of several college courses being taught at Highlands School as part of the North Carolina Community College Outreach Program which allows high school students to gain college credit while enrolled in high school. Britany Sackman (left), Angela Aspinwall, Kathryn Coppage and Allen Shearl work on study sheets while touring Duke Power. **Photo by Dr. Pete Sarjeant**



MS B-ball bounces into action

By Will Edwards
8th Grade

Basketball fans are once again cheering on their Highlanders. Middle school basketball has started back at Highlands School.

The middleschool boys are coached by head coach Steve Massey and assistant Lamar Billingsley. The coaches of the middle school girl's team are head coach Simeon Hickman and assistant Gene Borino.

All middle school basketball games will be played away until the completion of the new Highlands School gym. This project is predicted

to be finished in February. We hope that many fans will come out and support our fighting Highlanders.

Following is a schedule of MS Basketball 2004-2005:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>
Jan	6	Rosman
	10	Swain City
	13	Robbinsville
	20	Blue Ridge
	24	Murphy
	27	Conference
	29	Tournament at
Feb	3	Hiwassee Dam



Highlander Nick Kerhoulas sinks a jumpshot from the left side of the box during a game against the Walhalla Razorbacks December 3. The final score left the Highlanders with a 49-61 loss. Allen Shearl and Matt Rice led the Highlanders in scoring with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Lady Highlanders also fell to the Razorbacks with a 29-54 loss. Katie Bryson was the leading lady with 9 points.

Photo by McKenzie Thompson



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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24
at 7pm

A Christmas Narrative
& Musical Christmas Specials

Held at Community Bible Church - 526-4685



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- Every Saturday until Christmas, Santa Claus will be at Town Square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to hear Christmas wishes. A photographer will be on hand, too.

- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery – The Element of Collage is now on exhibit in the gallery. The exhibits are free and open to the public.

- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery – Education New – Open Studio with a Live Model 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the gallery. All participants bring your choice of art medium and \$10 to pay for the model and facilitator. This class is for artists 18 yrs. and older or under 18 with written parent permission. Join us for this exciting new class!

- RAFFLE – Highlands Emergency Council to help fund fuel for elderly and Christmas gift program. \$1 for one or 6 for \$5. Raffle for \$250 Wal-Mart Gift Card or \$250 D&J Express Mart Gift Card.

- Al-Anon Group meets at noon on Thursdays in the Community Room at First Presbyterian Church.

- At ...on the Verandah on Lake Sequoyah, Dinner and piano entertainment from 6 p.m. Dec. 26-31.

- The Mountain View group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the remodeled basement room of the Presbyterian Church sanctuary, in Highlands Mondays at 8 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. (women only); Wed and Fri at noon.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese – Wines. Wine Flights Friday and Saturday: 4:30-6:30. Syrah/Shiraz from around the world. Wines by the glass and cheese plates available Wednesday through Saturday: 1:30 until 4:30. Complimentary Tastings Saturday: 1 until 4:30.

Dec. 16

- Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count, Thursday. Please contact Edwin Poole, 526-2775, if you would like to participate in this full day of citizen science. Teams will count birds in the Highlands Plateau for compilation with results from all over North America.

- Parent and community forum to discuss new scheduling ideas for Highlands School, 7 p.m., Thursday in the Highlands School cafeteria. A questionnaire will be distributed in order to begin gathering data regarding parent preferences and concerns.

Dec. 17

- "A Change of Heart" at First

Baptist Church on Friday at 7 p.m. It's a dramatic musical with a blue grass style that tells the story of a couple from the city that gets stranded in a mountain home. First Baptist Church is located at 220 Main Street.

Dec. 18

- Breakfast with Santa at Highlands United Methodist Church. 8:00 a.m. Come for pancakes and sausage, a craft, a Christmas story, and a visit from Santa Claus. The cost is \$10 per family. Please call to make a reservation at 526-3376. The church is located at 315 Main Street.

Dec. 19

- "A Change of Heart" at First Baptist Church on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. It's a dramatic musical with a blue grass style that tells the story of a couple from the city that gets stranded in a mountain home. First Baptist Church is located at 220 Main Street.

- Highlands United Methodist Church's Christmas Cantata will be performed by the Chancel Choir during the 11 a.m. worship service. The church is located at 315 Main Street.

Dec. 20

- Annual Christmas "Noche de Familia" Dinner at 5 p.m. (Holy Eucharist will be conducted in Spanish from Book of Common Prayer)

- Flu shots at the Highlands Civic Center from 1-4 p.m. 200 doses have been reserved.

Dec. 21

- Greening of the Episcopal Church at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 24

- Come Celebrate the Warmth of Christmas with a Christmas Eve Candlelight service: Including a Christmas Narrative and Musical Christmas Specials at Community Bible Church, December 24th at 7 p.m.. Call for more information 526-4685.

- Christmas Eve Service at Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. It will be a family-friendly, communion and candlelight service. All are invited! The church is located at 315 Main Street.

- Carols and visits from St. Nick, 4:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church.

- Family Eucharist Service at the Episcopal Church.

Dec. 25

- Christmas Dinner at Main Street Inn sponsored by the Highlands Innkeepers Assn. to benefit Habitat for Humanity. For reservations, call 526-2590.

- Carols and Holy Eucharist at 11 p.m. at the Episcopal Church.

Jan 4

- "WE'RE MOVING to a new location & a new night! The 'High Mountain Squares' square-dance club will dance TUESDAYS at the MACON MIDDLE SCHOOL on Wells Grove Rd., Franklin, starting Tuesday, Jan. 4, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info: 828-349-0905/828-524-4955/706-782-9846.

email. eztoo@dnet.net//
earledw@dnet.net

Jan. 6

- "The High Mountains Squares will sponsor a SQUARE DANCE 'BEGINNERS' CLASS starting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Macon Environmental Resource Center on Lakeside Drive next to the Macon County landfill. Anyone from age 10 & up are invited to learn to square-dance & put some good, clean fun in his/her life. For information: 828-349-3908//828-349-0905//706-782-9846.



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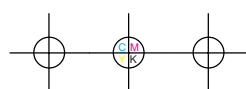
Highlands United Methodist Church

Saturday, Dec. 18:
Breakfast with Santa
Time is 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$10.00 per family. Please RSVP.

Sunday, Dec. 19:
Chancel Choir Cantata
During the 11:00 worship service

Friday, Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.
Family-Oriented Service - Candlelight and Communion

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Child care center set to open



Photo by Jim Lewicki

On Dec. 4 from 1-3 p.m. Highlanders were treated to a sneak preview of the new Highlands Community Child Care Development Center on Church Street, set to open in January. The rooms are large, bright and colorful and make you want to be a child again.

Christmas dinner for 'Habitat'

By Rick Siegel
Contributor

For the fourth year, "Friends of Habitat," serve the best traditional

Christmas Holiday dinner to be had in Highlands.

This annual event will again take place at the Main Street Inn. The total of the proceeds of this feast will go to Habitat for Humanity of Macon County.

Habitat is a nonprofit organization that builds homes for deserving low-income families. These families must qualify for the opportunity of home ownership, and must show the ability to pay for these homes, albeit at prices far below market value. The applicant must also provide 450 hours of work equity on either their own home, another home Habitat is building, or in the Habitat resale store.

Some of the people who make this dinner possible are the fine folks of Cysco Foods, Mountain Fresh, August Produce, US Foods, Fressers Eatery, Main Street Inn, Lakeside Restaurant, Let Holly Do the Cooking, Richard Taylor of Mountainique, and Bob and Nancy Mills of Nancy's Fancy's and the Exchange, Mark and Chris Flashner, and The 4 1/2 Street Inn.

Seating on Christmas Day will begin at 11:30 a.m. and continue through 4 p.m. at the Main Street Inn. Cost is \$29.95 per person. To make reservations or for more information, call the Main Street Inn at 526-2590



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Patience is a virtue



By Rev. Kim Ingram

Highlands United Methodist Church

This past Sunday I preached on patience. I thought this prayer was appropriate – particularly this time of year.

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear.

Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Amen

• PLACES OF WORSHIP ON THE PLATEAU •

Blue Valley Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every second and fourth
Sunday at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
First Saturday: Singing at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
Sundays: Worship – 10 a.m.; school & primary
classes – 11 a.m.; Women's & Men's Org. – noon
Tues: Women's Org. – 6:30 p.m.; Library – 6-8
p.m.

Wednesdays: Boy Scouts of America mtg. – 6:30
p.m.; Young women's activities – 6:30 p.m.

Christ Anglican Church

743-3319

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Services: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the
Community Bible Church in Highlands
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Clear Creek Baptist Church

Pastor Everett Wilson, (828) 743-3379
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 7 p.m.

Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685
3645 U.S. 64 east
Sundays: School – 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 10:45;
Youth "The Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study – 9:45
Wed: Supper – 6 p.m.; Bible Study – 6:45 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968
Sundays: Choir – 9 a.m. ;Adult Sunday School
classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.;
Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8
Wednesdays: Liturgy Mtg – 4 p.m.; Christian
Education – 5 p.m.; Supper & Program – 6 p.m.
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.
Sunday Service is telecast on cable channel 14

First Baptist Church

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153
Sun.: Worship – 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30
p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.;
Choir – 7:15
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6
p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. J. Hunter Coleman, Pastor, 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m. ;School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Wednesdays: Children's Devotions – 9:30 a.m.;
Supper – 6 p.m.; Choir – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: Bible Study – 10 a.m.
Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia – 10 a.m. & 5

Highlands Assembly of God

Rev. Scott Holland, 524-6026, Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

Highlands 7th-Day Adventist Church

Wednesday evening prayer & Bible Study
Call Lloyd Kidder at 526-9474

Highlands United Methodist Church

Pastors Eddie & Kim Ingram, 526-3376
Sundays: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship –
8:30 & 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study &
activities – 6 p.m.

Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Worship/Communion – 10:30

Macedonia Baptist Church

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in
Satolah

Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130
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 369-6871
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.
For more information, call
(706)-745-1842.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Rev. William M Evans, Priest
Parish office, 526-2418
Wednesdays & Fridays: Mass – 9 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
Sundays: Mass – 11 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

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

Scaly Mountain Church of God

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45
a.m.; Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

Shortoff Baptist Church

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Rev. Maureen Killoran (part-time)
526-9769

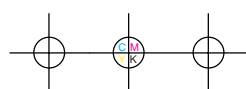
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

Westside Baptist Church

Interim Pastor, Terry Dixon
Services in the basement of the Peggy Crosby
Sundays: Fellowship & Worship – 11

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

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



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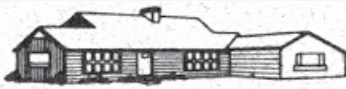


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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Dec. 8-15. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Dec. 8

- At 10 a.m., officers responded to a complaint of road construction on Holt Circle. The town is putting in a water line.

Dec. 9

- At 1 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Town Hall. All was secure.

- At 10:32 a.m., a citizen reported losing a cell phone in the vicinity of Highlands School.

- At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at Kent Jewelers on Main Street. All was secure.

- At 8:15 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road. All was secure.

Dec. 12

- At 7:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. All was secure.

Dec. 13

- At 11:35 a.m., officers responded to an accident between two motorists at S. 4th St. and Third streets.

- Officers responded to an alarm at Regions Bank. All was secure.

- At 5:20 p.m. a motorist was cited for speeding 36 mph in a 20 zone at U.S. 64 west and Third Street.

- At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at The Computer Man in Highlands Plaza. All was secure.

- At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on West Black Rock Court. All was secure.

Dec. 15

- At 6 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont. Road.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Dec. 8-15.

Dec. 8

- The dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. It was false.

Dec. 10

- The dept. responded to the call of a chimney fire in a residence on Laurel Heights. The damper was shut.

Dec. 11

- The Highway Dept. requested traffic control for two accidents on U.S. 64 east and Briarpatch Road.

Dec. 12

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the First Presbyterian Church. It was false.

Dec. 14

- The dept. responded to an one vehicle accident on N.C. 106 but no one was hurt.

Dec. 15

- The dept. responded to an alarm at the First Presbyterian Church. It was false.

HS Teachers in 'Who's Who'

Selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2004" are four Highlands School Teachers: Jane Chalker, Anne Tate, Beverly Vanhook and Patsy Wilson.

As indisputable testimony to the value of outstanding teachers, "Who's Who" honors a select five percent of our nation's teachers.

The award is especially meaningful because it is bestowed by former students who have chosen to highlight the contributions these teachers have contributed to their life and success.

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Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. This full-time position performs clerical duties and acts as receptionist for the nursing unit. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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General maintenance. Experience in hospital maintenance preferred but not required. Must have a valid driver's license. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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Monday through Friday, 8-hour days. Excellent benefits. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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... POLES from page 1

wasn't renewed. But Verizon, Northland and the Town of Highlands have their work cut out for them.

Betz said all three parties are ready to accept responsibility for the project.

"I'm happy to report everyone is committed to cooperating and bringing all lines and all poles into compliance as to national standards," said Betz. "Everyone is on the same page as to clearance requirements."

Betz said the base map of every single utility pole in the Town of Highlands is complete. Now the repair work will be begin on a grid-by-grid basis. Shuler will first label each pole with a number and confirm what has to be done by whom and then declare a timeframe for the work to be completed.

"Once that grid is completed and certified, he will move on to the next grid," said Betz. "That's the only way we can be sure it will all get done."

In addition to a number tacked onto the pole, the circuit and feed line will also be indicated.

Betz said in the meantime, the town will be switching out its poles it knows are too short.

... CONTROL from pg 1

"temporary lighting and displays as part of the customary holiday decorations...." with a timeframe of Nov. 15 through Jan. 15 only designated for lights.

Furthermore, commissioners asked the Planning Board come up with something more specific as to "signage" on rooftops.

Though rooftop decorations aren't considered typical signs, Gantenbein said they constitute signs in the generic sense.

Co-owner of Twigs, Mal Phillips said the blowup holiday decorations which have adorned the roof of Twigs since Halloween are just a way to celebrate the various holidays.

"We just wanted to put a smile on everyone's face and to show the spirit of the holiday," he said. "This was not part of a business strategy to draw attention to the shop." He said he was sorry their decorations have caused such a hoopla.

Commissioners suggested the Planning Board rewrite the ordinance to limit decorations to Christmas and to disallow signs, lights or decorations above the eaves of buildings.

The Planning board has also been charged with changing the Special Use Permitting part of the ordinance, so the town can have some control over temporary commercial buildings brought onto properties.

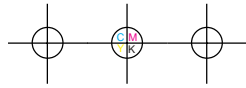
Recently a "Tough Shed" was set adjacent the Highlands Electronic building on Oak Street and Gantenbein said the town has no ordinance prohibiting such buildings.

The issue was brought to light at the Dec. 6 Zoning Board meeting but as always permission to change an ordinance comes from the Town Board.

"Our Special Use Permits deal with all new commercial construction, an addition to an existing commercial building, and a remodel of an existing building," said Gantenbein., "except for setback requirements, we have no authority to prohibit temporary commercial buildings from being delivered to properties."

Since companies like "Tough Shed" make garage-sized buildings, board members fear such structures could go up all over Highlands.

Gantenbein said by changing the word "building" to "property" a Special Use Permit would be required which means the Zoning Board can get involved. The next Planning Board meeting is Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m.



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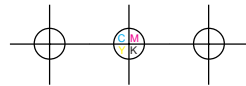
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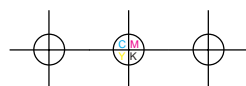
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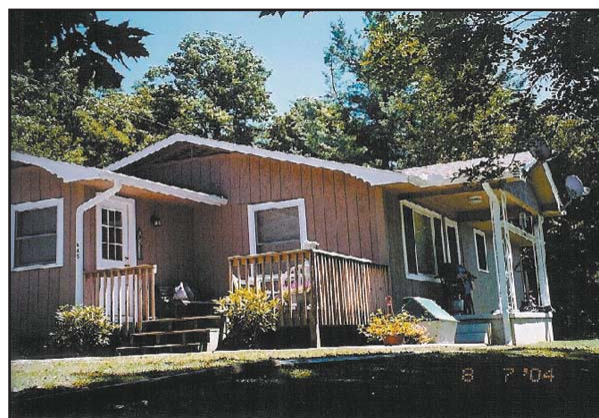
WARM AND FULL OF LIGHT

This family home has room for guests or a large family. Living room has windows and a deck that overlooks the waterfall and a wood burning fireplace. Large kitchen with eat in area and picture window that floods light into the warm wood beamed interior. Pick from any of the 4 bedrooms, each with stone fireplace to enhance your mountain stay on 1.5 acres. Offered at \$550,000.



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Panther ridge, very nice setting features over 2 acres bordering USFS land. Nice mountain view with mountain stream and small waterfall. Dwelling features 2 bedrooms and 2 baths plus a loft. Lovely screened porch and deck, large hot tub. Offered at \$299,500.



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POTTER LANE

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LOG HOME

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