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"Holiday Sales" Section **INSIDE** **FREE** Highlands' Newspaper

Volume 2, Number 47

Locally Owned & Operated

Wed., Nov. 24, 2004

On-Going

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese – Wines. Wine Flights Friday and Saturday: 4:30 until 6:30. Saturday: Football and Flights. Wines by the glass and cheese plates available Wednesday through Saturday: 1:30 until 4:30. Complimentary Tastings Saturday: 1 until 4:30. Join Laura Beall for a sampling for dipping oils and gourmet food products

Nov 24

- Christian Ulbricht Signing at The Christmas Tree on Fourth Street on the Hill from 2-5 p.m.

Nov. 26

- Highlands Chapter #284 OES will be having a bake sale featuring pumpkin & cream cheese rollups on Friday at 10 a.m. until...in front of the Bird Barn and Highlands United Methodist Church. Also raw peanuts \$3.

- The HUMC youth are doing a Christmas tree and wreath sale to support their trip to Bolivia in the spring. Trees and wreaths are locally grown frasier fir trees. Trees will be available the Friday after Thanksgiving, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The cost for a 6-7 foot tree is \$35, 7-8 foot tree is \$55, and 8-9 foot tree is \$75 (limited availability). A 24 inch wreath is \$28.

Nov. 26-27

- Mountain Makings Arts & Crafts Show at Brevard College on U.S. 64 in Brevard; 9-5.

Nov. 27

- William Baker will autograph copies of his new book at Cyrano's Bookshop from 1-3 p.m.

- Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 is having its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Highlands Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Annual Christmas Tree & Town Lighting at 6:30 p.m. at Town Square on Main Street.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on the Woodland Trail in Unicoi State Park near Helen GA, an 80 mile round trip drive. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9:30 a.m. or at the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard Ga at 10 a.m. Call leaders Ann and Jack Blake, 369-1108 for more info.

Predicting growth comes down to predicting trends

By Kim Lewicki

For Highlands, preparing for the future has come down to "potential" population. And that's where the story gets fuzzy.

Some studies say 38,000 people will call Macon County home by the

Highlands School a 'teacher partner'

Highlands School is now a partner with Western Carolina University in the School University Teacher Education Partnership (SUTEP) program. WCU collaborates with public school partners to prepare quality professional educators and to promote high achievement for K-12 students in North Carolina.

Principal Monica Bomengen, a WCU alumna and National Board Certified Teacher, will serve as the liaison between Highlands School and WCU. The College of Education and Allied Professions provides pre-service teacher education, including an internship in a public school. SUTEP provides support to beginning teachers to help them succeed and remain in the profession. The program also enhances the development of teacher leaders and school administrators.

Bomengen is pleased with the partnership agreement. "We have two WCU interns at Highlands School this year. They have impressed me with their preparation and their quality."

Bomengen also sees the SUTEP partnership as an avenue for recruiting future teachers for Highlands School. "As our teaching force ages and approaches retirement, we have to be proactive in planning for the replacement of veteran teachers with high-quality recruits. WCU is recognized as an outstanding teacher preparation institution, and we are pleased to work with them."

year 2010, another study claims 100,000 by 2010, still another says 125,000 by 2020.

At the 11th Land Use Planning Committee meeting, members heard from County Manager Sam Greenwood who said up until now popu-

lation studies have been based on "hunchology." "And there is a wide range of variability," he said.

"We need to do our own study one based on geographic information township by township that includes

•See **GROWTH** page 22

Santa Claus is coming to town



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Coming to Highlands to kick off the holiday season has become a tradition for many. This year, Santa (Highlands own Mayor Buck Trott) will be listening to Christmas wishes in the white tent at Town Square on Main Street every Saturday from 10-4, Nov. 27-Dec. 18. There will also be a photographer on hand to capture the moment. On Dec. 4 he'll be there after the Christmas Parade which starts at 11 a.m. on Main Street.

School start date still uncertain

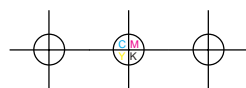
By Kim Lewicki

Macon County's request to start school earlier than the state-mandated Aug. 25 was denied, but Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell hasn't given up.

"One way small schools like

Nantahala and Highlands can meet the difficult standards and needs in the school is by working with the local community college," he said. "That's one reason it's important that our school calendar year correspond with

•See **START** page 10





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WANT TO SELL, NOT JUST LIST? 12

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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Be a good president, for all the people

Dear Mr. President,

I did not vote for you, mostly because of environmental concerns but I was hopeful that in your second term you would try to bring us together.

Perhaps you would make appointments that would give the 48% of us who did not vote for you a feeling that we too could be heard.

Your first statement "I earned that political capital and I intend to spend it," did not bode well for environmentalists and for people who had views differing from yours. You have appointed old Texas political allies to important posts and it is clear you intend to go full steam ahead on opening the Artic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and the removal of "burdensome regulations." This makes me so very sad – to know that our rivers and streams will continue to be poisoned, our air which was becoming purer will be filled with noxious fumes from fossil fueled plants, that national forests will be plundered and that oil lobbyists will continue to have their say on our energy policy.

Mr. President – you have a chance to be a good president for all the people. I pray to God you will try to do that.

**Edna Foster
Highlands**

Performers and sponsors – a grateful thanks

Dear Editor,

ArtWalk 2004 was truly a festival of the arts. After all of Ivan's terror causing changes in plans and eventual postponement, everyone came together – artists, sponsors and certainly everyone who worked hard on the ArtWalk committee.

The weather was beautiful, albeit a bit chilly toward the end of the day. We would have had a record number of artists, but did lose a few due primarily to conflicts with the new date and having left for warmer climes.

My committee was absolutely fantastic, going the full measure to respond to adverse circumstances – Janet Wilson and Michelle Hubble for the Children's ArtWalk; Bill Bassham, Ruth Buchanan, Bonnie Earman and Jenny King, from the Chamber of Commerce; Skip Hopkins T-shirts; Rick Siegel, volunteer coordinator; Bill Bassham, Cynthia Stacey, music; Clay Hodges, Gloria Pariseau, Angela Ternes, Jan Zehr, Debbie Grossman, and Linda Hall, the Friday evening reception.

Other volunteers included Rosemary Burney, Barbara Lawrence, Lee Hodges, Joyce Oliver, Sarah Keener, JJ Joannides, Kim Hawk, Stephanie McCall, Kay Craig, Carole O'Neal, Brian Starr, Highlands Pipe and Drum Corp., Zorki, Hurricane Creek, The Instant Theatre, Jerry Harris, Mary Adair Leslie, Robert Tino, Hurbert Shuptrine, Ann Jacob, and John Collewte.

Also, Jan Hurst, The Girls' Clubhouse, Kim Lewicki, Mary Lee Harrell, Kirsten Stiff, Progressive Arts, Kilwin's, The Bird Barn, Reeves Hardware, The Toy Store, Fresser's Eatery, The Highlander.

If I have left anyone off, I apologize. The reason that we have the ArtWalk is to celebrate the caliber and diversity of the arts here in Highlands and the surrounding area. ArtWalk, in spite of everything, was indeed a festival of the arts!

**Ginny Harris
ArtWalk Chair**

In support of Guffey

Dear Editor

It appears that the daunting task of planning Macon County's future is now in capable hands. Good planning in Macon County is difficult, but now we have Stacey Guffey who has the ability to work effectively with others. Let's support Stacey in this very hard job. We wish him well.

**Earle Williams
Franklin**

For the class of 2004



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Over the last couple of months, Highlands School Interact Club – Rotary's offshoot community service group of highschool students – has been collecting goodies to box up and send graduates of the Class of 2004 who are away at college. There's everything from candy and cookies, to pens, letter-openers, and lots of items tems donated by area businesses to remind the graduates of Highlands and home. The boxes should arrive in time for final exams – when every college student needs a boost.

• TOWN BOARD AGENDA •

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. The agenda is as follows:

Old Business.

1. Review of application for permit to use Town streets & sidewalks for construction:
 - a. OEI - McCarroll Construction
 - b. Highlander Newspaper - Building Traditions Inc.

New Business.

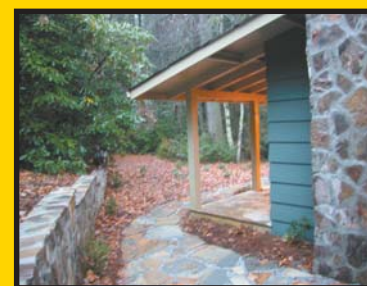
1. Advertise for Bids—Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion.
2. Katy Calloway - Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association.
3. Landscape Maintenance Contract - Tate Landscape.
4. Contract for Mowing Cemetery - J & J Lawn Service.
5. Discuss utility charges for ABC Store.
6. Christmas Bonuses.

Adjourn.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

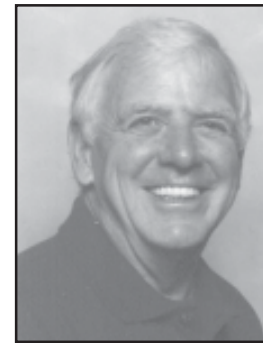
Oh, oh, my fly is open (but I look soooo cool)

I walked on stage and everyone politely applauded. As I walked toward the podium, people began to cheer and some were now even standing and applauding loudly. By the time I reached the podium, the entire auditorium was in pandemonium. I had just walked on stage to give a lecture at Miami Beach High School with my fly wide open. Worse, my starched, tucked-in white shirt was proudly sticking out the opening like a flag. For this to happen to anyone, anytime, is an embarrassment, but I did it in 1965, wearing a police uniform and right in the middle of the sexual revolution. It takes a lot to embarrass me, but this was one of those beet red moments in my life I will never forget.

It took quite some time for the teachers to get everyone calmed down and back in their seats. My blush was almost gone by the time the auditorium grew quiet. I spoke, “Now that I have your full attention, I would like.....” Pandemonium again. Now I was getting dirty looks from the teachers who had to quiet the assembly again. That’s the way things were during the sexual revolution.

Do you remember that era? By the time it rolled around I was already married, a seasoned cop with one kid. I did not participate in that very wild time and it is probably a good thing. I would have surely gotten myself in trouble. Getting stoned and having multiple sex partners was very popular. People of all ages got caught up in this crazy time. As a cop, I got a front row seat on the sidelines to see it all.

I was a true fifties guy. Girls in poodle skirts, 55 Chevy’s, Elvis the pelvis, chocolate sodas with two straws were things that made up my life. (boring stuff, I know) Levi’s were made in America, had no zippers and were tightly cuffed at



Fred Wooldridge

the bottom, exposing charcoal socks and penny loafers. A cool pink Oxford cloth dress shirt was neatly tucked into jeans and all held together with a very thin charcoal belt.

Properly dressed, I was ready to stand around and look cool. Looking cool was more

important than breathing. Thumbs in the corner of my back pockets, I was ready to brag about how much sex I was having which was, in reality, none. That’s how it was in the fifties.

If anyone had ever walked up to me and offered marijuana, or any drug for that matter, I would have keeled over. If a girl had ever hit on me for sex, I would have panicked. Drinking beer and fast cars, like the J2 Rocket engine by Olds, was the sin of our time.

So, when the sixties revolution finally took hold on America, hippies, peace symbols, bongos, flared pants and a different kind of cool had replaced any semblance of the fifties. Sex and drugs ran rampant. Fifties guys just stood around in shock because our cool suddenly became square, almost overnight.

For me, the best place in America to see all this unfold was Miami Beach High School. Even before the revolution, this school was as liberal as any school in America.

It was a fashion show each morning as students drove their Vets, Mercedes, and Jags into the school parking lot. Students dressed to the hilt in mini skirts and psychedelic colored stockings. Makeup was heavy. So it was only natural that when the sexual revolution unfolded, this school would be a leader in the field of sex. Sexual misconduct had gotten so bad that the principal had posted notices around the school (I am not making this up) that sexual activities on school grounds or

▪See WOOLDRIDGE page 12

Mixed Nuts

The 1994 PG 13, large cast dark comedy, directed by Nora Ephron, starring Steve Martin, Madeline Kahn, Adam Sandler, Gary Shandling, Rita Wilson, and about a million other comic actors. Music expertly and hilariously done by George Fenton.

The Storyline: It's Christmas Eve at the Lifesavers Suicide hotline, and while not all of the callers are at their best and cheeriest, the staff has a few hundred problems of their own

Philip (Martin, as usual, is brilliant as a physical comic) is in charge of the hotline center and has just been served an eviction notice, been dumped by his fiancée, and works with the somewhat less than universally compassionate Mrs. Munchnik (Madeline Kahn is brilliantly obnoxious, wretchedly flawless, perfectly horrible in this role, she has a gift that way).

But wait, things are about to get worse. A cattle call of gifted comic actors make their way in and out of the office, carrying ukuleles, guns, fruit cake, trees and a body or two.

But, while this is a kind of twisted Christmas tale, it is still a Christmas tale. So there



Stuart Armor

is a love interest (Rita Wilson is charmingly geeky), some carols (Adam Sandler, an actor I don't ordinarily like much, does a fine job in this one) and as expected, some improbable redemption.

If you are looking for a touching, feel good, tear jerking tale of the holidays, keep looking

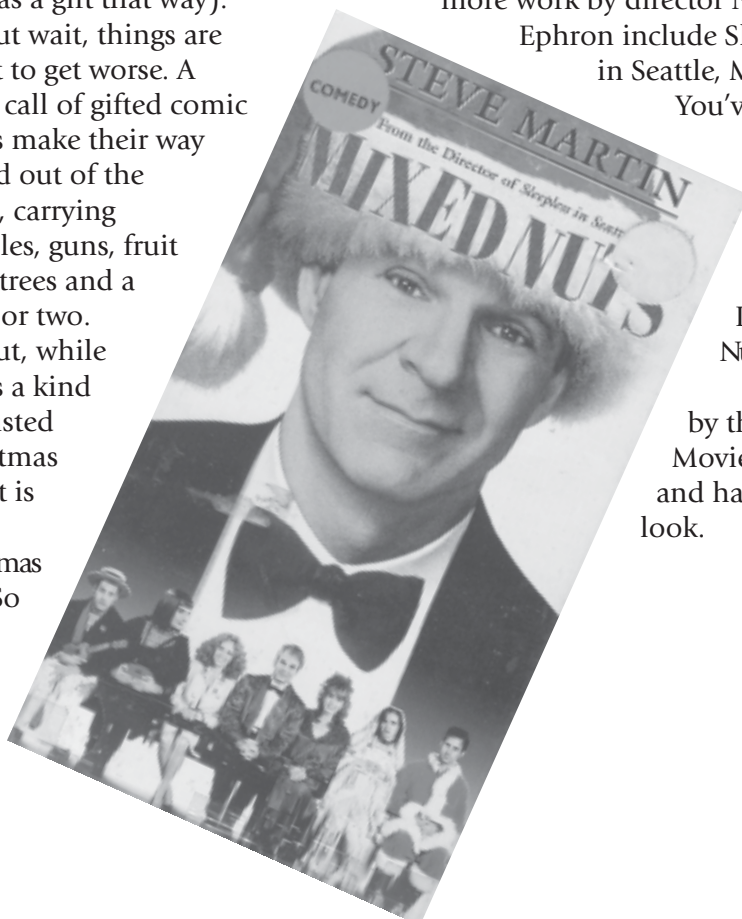
However, if light-dark, silly, slapstick comedy is to your liking, this one is worth a look

The ensemble cast, led by Martin, does a fast-paced, funny, cute/stupid job here, lots of physical work, great music, slamming doors and more. It's not exactly "It's a Wonderful Life," but it is an entertaining bit of comic fluff.

If you like this one, try Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, Christmas Story, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, and Nightmare Before Christmas.

more work by director Nora Ephron include Sleepless

in Seattle, Michael, You've Got Mail, This is My Life, and Lucky Numbers. Stop by the Movie Stop and have a look.



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Sports Page – #42

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You gotta SLOW down first.

You gotta slow down first to be thankful.

I was asked to write a column this week as some of my faithful readers may have noticed, I have been taking a bit of a break from writing. I am trying to catch my breath and prepare for the holidays and get ready for a New Year.

I thought it might be interesting to read my column from last year. Last year I was just moving from the dream home I built to my new location. It's hard to believe that it has been one year.

My second book, "Life Under Construction...a work in progress," was just printed. It definitely was a time of transition, which can be my favorite time or most hectic. Thankfully, it was the former.

The column last year was titled "Restoring your Energy" and once again that is what I am doing this November. This time I am taking time to make sure my health is in order. Without health, life gets even tougher.

One thing has not changed. I am still very thankful for and relish living in these majestic mountains surrounded by beauty, spirit and wonder. As I write this I look out my window and watch the mist rise from the valley floor. I'm grateful for the trees that are still boasting color, even in late November. They seem to be saying, "I think I can...I think I can."

Not unlike me, right now?

I'm still juggling quite a bit but I am learning not to do too much by myself and in fact I am looking for some help in the very near future. Any takers? If I want



Dr. Maryellen Lipinski

to work and enjoy life, I absolutely must create more time for myself. That is just a fact. More time to think makes me a more suitable person to be around, even when I am alone.

Thanksgiving musings:

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because just maybe it means you've made a difference.

If we keep our mind and heart open to blessings of abundance and greater possibilities,

I don't see how we can go wrong.

And remember, NEVER...NEVER...forget to express gratitude to those dear to your heart.

And so I thank you for reading my column this week. Best wishes for a Thanksgiving rich in blessings.

HCF support 'Big Brothers'

Big Brothers and Big Sisters provides one-on-one adult mentoring for Highlands School children ages 6-15. Mentors are trained by Program Director Linda Parrish and the interaction between mentor and child has proven to be a very positive experience for both. This is one of the many local not-for-profit activities that benefit from grants from the Highlands Community Foundation.



Jack Brinson and Bill Martin of the HCF meet with Rick Siegel and Linda Parrish, of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Highlands.

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• SPORTS PICKS •

Thankful in and out of the arena

As I was contemplating a column idea for this week, I thought about Thanksgiving and how we are supposed to remind ourselves what we are thankful for.

As a coincidence, I also noticed that this weekend featured one of the most ugly incidents we have ever seen in sports at the Pacer-Piston game Friday night.

I for one am thankful that we live in a country where fans who throw ice, cups and racial slurs are protected from athletes who do nothing more than play a GAME.



Ryan Potts

(Yes, that was sarcasm)

It is utterly ridiculous that the same middle-aged white male who would be in awe (or afraid of) Ron Artest in an alleyway is allowed to pelt the man with a cup and expect no repercussions.

While I think that Artest should receive a harsh penalty, I will reserve judgment of the season ban until I see how the NBA handles the fans that instigated the melee.

Today's fans are out of control, and it is sad that the NBA expects total professionalism from the

players only rather than the players and the fans. Grrrrrrrr. Kong ANGRY. Um, ahem. Now that the tangent is over and the rage has subsided-I can provide my list of things that I am really thankful for.

I am thankful that the curse is broken, mainly because I hate the Yankees, but also because Boston fans can now rejoice.

I am also thankful for the Yankees because every good fairy tale needs a villain.

I am thankful for the Saints and Pirates for keeping me humble and for allowing sports to stay in perspective.

I am thankful for the big game excitement of Dickie V (and the mute button), the quick wit and strong analysis of Jay Bilas, the concise and dignified air of Joe Buck and the folksy humor of Brad

Daugherty.

I am thankful for Gene Keady's hair (there is a healthy supply of hair jokes)

I am thankful for Dean Smith-for without him there would be no free throw line huddles, no four corners, no secondary fast break and no rivalry. A true dignitary whose legend grows with every year that UNC struggles without his leadership.

I am thankful for thousands of soccer moms, who encourage their kids to participate in sports and learn teamwork.

I am thankful for the thousands of high school, jr. high and rec league coaches that actually care about the kids more than winning. We often criticize coaches at every level-but the fact remains that most do it for the love of the game and of the kids rather than for money or anything else.

I'm thankful for the Florida Gator Players-carrying Ron Zook off the field Saturday night was a great scene and one that shows just how strong the bond between player and coach can be. (BTW did anyone realize that not even the Ball Coach himself could beat FSU in Tallahassee? Not an endorsement of Zook, just pointing that out) Speaking of Steve Spurrier, I'm thankful that he is back in college football. It just wasn't the same without the ole' ball coach.

I'm thankful to Utah, for proving that the BCS is a joke and a playoff is necessary.

I'm thankful for Grant Hill's surgeons-who finally look to have gotten his ankle right. The guy is a class act and I can't wait to see 2-3 more seasons of the old Hill.

I'm thankful for the Town of Highlands — a great place that I can only hope gets better with time. I'm thankful for my family-especially my parents-without whom I would have no sense of humor. (Insert "column not funny" joke here)

Most of all, I am thankful for my soon-to-be-wife. She has to be more patient than anyone because she is will be married to a coach, player, referee, fan, writer and alumnus all rolled into one.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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• Armchair Traveler •

A trip to Timbuktu – the end of the world – and back

By Phyllis Picklesimer
Contributor

I've Been To Timbuktu And Back" says the t-shirt I purchased while visiting this town, which has become the personification of the ends of the earth.

"I didn't know that it was an actual place," several people told me. "Where is it?" was another reaction. Located in the country of Mali in West Africa, this town in the Sahara once had a population of 100,000 and was a center of higher education with its university of approximately 2,500 students.

This is home to the desert, nomadic Arabian Tuareg tribe, the "blue men" of Africa. It has long been an important stop for the salt traders who journey to Algeria to collect the large slabs of salt that are still brought by camel caravans to the town.

The term "blue men" arose when the blue dye used in their robes and head wraps, which are worn closely about the face, would leach the dye onto their skin.

The town is no longer the mecca it was in the 15th century when it was described in *History and Description of Africa* as having "a great store of doctors, judges, priests and other learned men, that are bountifully maintained at the King's expense."

Today Timbuktu has been cut-off from the bustle of other Malian towns by its encompassing desert surroundings. The roads from elsewhere are difficult to travel. Most travel for the locals is by *pinasse*, longboats that depart

from Mopti to the south. It has even become popular for tourists to travel to Timbuktu by these boats. The journey takes four days and the travelers often spend the nights sleeping on the riverbank.

Not having an extra four days and wanting to forego mosquito attacks, I chose to fly from the capital city of Bamako by Mali Air. These travel-worn Soviet prop airplanes are too expensive for the locals and used almost exclusively by tourists. Almost an experience in itself with its rubber-thongs and shorts-clad Russian pilot, bald tires, and seats that tended to resist anyone approaching six feet tall, it still reliably landed us at the modern Timbuktu airport.

If one word could impart an overall impact of the town, "sand" would be very descriptive. Sand is everywhere, as can be

imagined from its Saharan location. It blows into the streets and banks against the homes. The houses are adobe, not too far colored from the sand. They seem to arise from the encroaching sands as if drifted and uplifted from their surroundings.

There is an atmosphere of stillness overlaying the town. Sand, like snow, is a muffler. The streets are quiet with few people about. Traffic is at a minimum with almost no vehicles traveling the roads of sand. Most life appears to take place behind the thick walls of the houses. The doors of these houses are often beautifully designed from thick wood detailed with decorative nails and other metal designs.

Behind one such door, I found two young girls pounding grain, a main staple of their diet. This is a

daily occupation and uses a large piece of hollowed-out wood, often two feet or more tall, as a mortar and another piece of wood perhaps four feet in length as a pestle. As young people will do, they have added their own embellishments to their job. They will toss the pestle up into the air, clap their hands once or twice, and then bring the pestle down correctly on the grain.

My Tuareg guide spoke perfect English and was educated. He said he would never be able to give up the caravans to collect the salt and relishes his time spent traveling by camel and sleeping in desert tents. He had been resisting, but was about to accept his mother's choosing a bride for him as had been done in the past.

In like Tuareg tradition, no visit to Timbuktu would be complete without a camel ride into the desert and visit to a Tuareg camp. It is also possible for tourists to ride a camel many miles into the Sahara and also to spend one or more nights in a Tuareg camp.

Timbuktu's appeal to a modern traveler is a desire to see the much-cited "end of the world," as well as to experience a people who are content and empowered by their past. A way of life and an adventure are both certainly more than a saying on a t-shirt, but I still wear mine proudly.

Phyllis Picklesimer and her husband Fred are seasonal residents of Highlands. She is associated with Starr Travel in Greenboro, N.C., and leads groups to far-flung places. Fred's family has lived in Highlands since 1853.



Historically and culturally, Mali is the richest of all West African countries. Some of the mightiest empires of Africa were established here, their wealth based entirely on the trans-Saharan trade. These Kingdoms have vanished, but many traces of their vast cultural legacy are present today. Traditions are alive within Mali's ethnic groups: in their complex social structure, daily lives, festivals, religious ceremonies and beautiful artifacts.

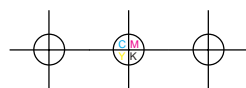
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Doing for others can be fun



Photo by Kim Lewicki

At the Nov. 19 meeting, members of The Girls' Clubhouse, a group of Highlands School middle school girls who do community service, cleaned three Highlands School Activity Buses. They disinfected seats, washed windows and swept out the buses. The group meets every Friday school is in session, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Highlands School library. From left are Amanda Barnes, Amy Fogel, Stephanie Puchacz, Danielle Potts, Sally Zachary, Shelby Chastain and Elizabeth Gordon.

... START continued from page 1

that of Southwestern Community College."

SCC's schedule starts anew each January like Macon County's.

He said it's through SCC that Highlands and Nantahala can offer courses not normally available at small schools where headcount determines course availability and the number of teachers hired.

Shotwell and board members also said it is important for the Fall semester to end in December so that students don't have to come back from Christmas break to take mid-terms or finals in block courses.

Originally school board officials thought Macon County would qualify for a "school start" waiver due to snow days. To qualify for the waiver eight days of school must be called for weather in the last four-year period.

While it's true Highlands and Nantahala schools satisfy those requirements, Franklin's doesn't. "In other words, all the schools in the county have to qualify for the same reason," he said.

Shotwell is adamant about Macon County Schools, particularly the high schools, corresponding with Southwestern Community College's schedule because the two systems have

become more and more entwined over the years.

"Last year, 86 students dropped out of school," said Shotwell. "They became disengaged, probably before they got to the high school level."

He is in favor of a two-prong approach to enhancing high school in Macon County. "Taking courses through ITV and by setting up a 'early college' campus maybe at Union School, where students can begin taking college courses as early as tenth grade so they enter college as sophomores or they can earn an associates degree right there."

He said by giving students who want more a place to go in Union School or an expanded ITV course selection at resident schools like Highlands and Nantahala, class sizes in core curriculum courses would be reduced so students could get more personalized attention from teachers.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone involved," he said.

But it all comes down to the calendar question.

Shotwell will submit his request to the state and in the meantime, the board is looking further into an "early college" campus in Macon County, one which could be funded by grant money.

• ALL ABOUT WINES •

Thanksgiving.... the most American of Holidays.

Increasingly, wine is becoming a part of what we celebrate and how we celebrate.

A number of years ago, this was not the case. Until the 1970s, only a few of us were savvy about wine.

Wine was not a part of our daily lives. At times, we'd drink Chianti in basket bottles at Italian

restaurants, or we might drink something that was supposed to be wine at college parties, but afterwards, we weren't really sure. People went to cocktail parties and drank bourbon and vodka. Wine was not a part of our lives.

Now, we have more wine than we can imagine. After the Paris tasting of 1976, Americans knew that they could compete with the best wines of France (i.e., the best wines of the world), and Robert Mondavi and similar visionaries crafted a product and a marketing plan that made wine more and more a part of Americans' lives. Now, Americans make great wines....and we drink great wines too, from everywhere.

No wonder that as we approach this holiday of feasting, magazines and newspapers around the country attempt to tell us what wines we should drink with our turkey and cranberry sauce. I've looked at a number of these articles over the last week or so. The consensus? Drink whatever you'd like. True, pinot noir and gewürztraminer seem to be common choices, but I see just about every other wine imaginable mentioned in one list or another.

As we've become more knowledgeable about wine, much has been made about wine and food pairings, and with a great feast in front of us, we'd certainly like to have the best combinations possible. But after a while, another reality sets in: we want to drink what we like to drink. If we enjoy a big, robust shiraz or cabernet, then



Bert Mobley
Highlands Wine & Cheese

even if it's not technically the best complement to the turkey and dressing, so be it. The wine will be good—even if the turkey's not!

After all, the intent is to enjoy ourselves, to celebrate, to be thankful for the glass of wine in our hands and for so much more than we

can even comprehend.

I read an article in the New Yorker a number of years ago that forever will linger in my mind. In the "Notes and Comments" section, a New Yorker was commenting about the meaning of Thanksgiving. A thorough secularist, he wasn't quite sure what to do with the Holiday because giving thanks requires an object, something not just for which we're thankful but TO which we're thankful. As he recalled his mother's Thanksgiving and a faith of childhood, he longed for something, someone, to whom he could give thanks. He remembered going to church camp as a kid—the campfire, the sparks rising and mingling with the stars, a transcendence that let him know that he was not alone.

"As I take the rolls out of the oven and nuke the gravy for a minute," he says, "I try to imagine a little prayer for my dinner.

The wild-rice dressing, the gorgeous bird, the yams—do I really intend to take all the credit for this? A dinner this good requires a half-minute's graceful pause as we watch the sparks rise into the stars and we feel grateful and we confess that life is good. Even when it's confused, it's good."

As we engage with family and friends over the celebration of Thanksgiving, as we raise our glass in a toast, we're involved in more than we may ever realize. Whether we know it or not, sacrament takes place: a communion of saints, living and long gone.

•See ABOUT WINE page 12



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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

school parking lot was prohibited and punishable by suspension.

So there I stood, on stage, prepared to give a lecture on traffic safety and the whole assembly was thinking about my crouch. But the beach high kids were very understanding. After the lecture, many of the students approached me to say that walking on stage with my fly purposely open was the

coolest thing they had ever seen. (They just couldn't believe a cop could be so duh.) As one student put it, "you are the greatest and I will never forget you for doing this. Talk about connecting with the kids, man, you did it."

Another student, a guy with tiny peace symbols tattooed to the back of both hands said, "You are the first lecturer this year I have not

slept through. I'll bet you do grass. When I become an adult, I am going to lecture someplace with my fly open. The shirt sticking out the front was the best. Very cool, man, I have a new respect for cops."

As the assembly broke I noticed many of the male students had unzipped their pants and pulled their shirt through it.

Go figure!

'FluMist' vaccine available at MC Health Dept.

The Macon County Public Health Center has received a limited supply of FluMist, the live inhaled flu vaccine.

FluMist is being administered at the Macon County Public Health Center from 8 - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday on a walk-in basis.

No appointments are being accepted and FluMist will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis until all the doses are gone.

FluMist will be available only for individuals who meet the criteria. This criteria include healthy persons age 5 years through 49 years who are not pregnant.

FluMist is NOT appropriate for high-risk individuals.

... ABOUT WINE from page 11

Frederick Buechner states the powerful symbolism of celebration and wine. What we choose to drink may or may not be the ideal pairing with turkey and sweet potato soufflé, but it is something transcendent and powerful.

Talking of communion in many church traditions, Buechner says, "Unfermented grape juice is a bland and pleasant drink, especially on a warm afternoon mixed half-and-half with ginger ale." However, he continues, "it is a ghastly symbol of the life blood of Jesus Christ..."

"Wine is booze," he continues, "which means it is dangerous and drunk-making. It makes the timid brave and the reserved amorous. It loosens the tongue and breaks the ice especially when served in a loving cup. It kills germs. As symbols go, it is a rather splendid one."

I hope for all of us that our wine is served in loving cups this Thanksgiving, and that for a moment or two, we can rest long enough to watch sparks rise to the stars, knowing that Someone else deserves the credit for the feast spread before us.

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

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HCF helps Peek's Creek

Members of the Highlands Community Foundation board of directors donated \$4,150 to the Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue Squad for victims of Peek's Creek.

"The Cullasaja Gorge Fire & Rescue Squad was the first to respond to people during the recent hurricanes, and they continue to assist those affected by the storms," said HCF Board Chair Sam Hollis. "The Highlands Community Foundation is making this gift to help those devastated as they recover and rebuild."

Middle school math tutors needed at HS

Highlands School is launching an effort to assist middle schoolers who struggle with mathematics.

"Several of our 7th and 8th graders are struggling in their math classes, a phenomenon that unfortunately is prevalent nationwide, said Principal Monica Bomengen. "In the Third International Mathematics and Science Study eighth grade middle school students in the United States scored below the international average established by more than 40 nations."

One of the ways Highlands School is attacking this situation is to start an in-school Math Lab. The program will run from 12:10 to 12:40 Mondays through Thursdays in Mrs. Elizabeth Woods' classroom.

Students who are struggling in math will be assigned to Math Lab instead of the Health class. "Our goal is for every student to be able to pass the End of Grade tests in Math (and Reading) in grades 3-8," said Bomengen.

Woods will supervise the lab and provide materials, assignments, and remedial work for the students, all of who are in her math classes. The school is seeking volunteers from the community who would be willing to come in and help tutor these students to help them develop their skills in math. Mrs. Bomengen has pledged to tutor on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Anyone interested in tutoring can contact Mrs. Bomengen at the school at 526-2147.



From left are Bill Martin with HCF, Bill Stanfield on the Cullasaja Fire & Rescue board and Chip Ramsay with HCF.

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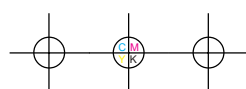
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Couple gets peek at life co-existing with Polar Bears

By Nancy Welch
Contributor

A vary Doubleday looked up from her reading last spring and said to her husband, Gerry, "I'm going to see the Polar Bears. You don't have to go if you don't want to."

Gerry said he would come along, despite the fact he doesn't particularly like cold weather.

And so the two recently took the long trip to northern Canada, home not only to Polar Bears, but also to frozen, flat and bleak tundras; a small town much like the one in the television series, "Northern Exposure;" a Polar Bear jail, Polar Bear security guards and an eccentric family-owned cafe.

"The trip was sponsored by the North Carolina Zoo," Avary said. "When you go on one of these zoo trips, you usually have someone come along who knows something about the animals you're going to see. And that turned out to be true. We had Lorraine Smith, curator of mammals at the North Carolina Zoo."

Avary said the group they accompanied also had a wonderful guide who works with the forest department up there.

"He was very knowledgeable not only about the bears, but all the animals," she said. "And his wife was and Inuit woman, so he has spent time with them in the cold and

trapped and fished for seals. So he had a lot of interesting insight on what we saw."

The two spent a week – after a long trip that took them through airports in Charlotte, Chicago, Winnipeg, where they spent the night, and finally to Churchill, known for its population of Polar Bears.

The two agreed the accommodations in Churchill were "basic, but adequate."

"We didn't expect to do any roughing and we really didn't do any roughing," Avary said.

"It was interesting," Gerry said. "We ate at the infamous Gypsy's. A French-Canadian couple owned this place, I guess with their children. It was just basic food, but it was good."

"We ate all our meals there when we were in town, and when we were out on the tundra, they provided excellent box lunches," Avary said.

"We saw a ton of Polar Bears," Gerry says, laughing. "Of course, it only takes two to make a ton. These things are big. And we didn't catch them when they'd been eating all winter."

But they saw more than two in their travels on the tundra for a week.

In the summer, Avary explained, the bears don't hibernate but they just "lay low. They just don't have much energy," she said.

"There's an estimated 1,200 Polar



Bears that live in the area," Gerry said. "Churchill empties out into Hudson's Bay. That actually has a lot to do with why you go there."

Their carefree, quiet time ends when the ice begins to melt and they can go eat on Hudson's Bay, Gerry explained.

"Seals are under the ice and they find holes in the ice and get the seals," he said. "By the time the ice begins melting, they are hungry bears."

"They'll wait for a long, long time for a seal to put its head up," Avary said.

"Seals breathe air, so they have to come up and breathe," Gerry said.

"The bears all live out in the wild, and that's where they've been all summer. So, when they come in, they haven't eaten anything to speak of, so they come in a little bit early waiting for that first big freeze. They come in and literally line up on the edge of the tundra saying 'hey, let me go boss!'"

"We went out three days," he said. "And we saw at least 30 bears each day. We went on a helicopter flight and saw a lot more."

The group took buggies with huge wheels out to see the bears. On the back was a type of porch with a steel grate for a floor. The bears, they said, would come up under that grate and look up at them.

But they didn't just see bears through the grate, the group also saw the bears in action, following their instincts. Avary captured a wonderful description in her journal.

"We saw another 34 bears on Sunday. Our final scene for the day was of a mother and two cubs crossing a frozen lake. A male, also

crossing, approached. She charged him, ending in a slide across the ice. She then led her cubs off the ice: they followed her exactly, just behind copying her moves. She displaced another bear that had been lying in a nest of snow on the lake edge. She—and then the cubs as well—lay in his nest, "the ultimate slap in the face to this male, according to our guide." The two males were staying at bay, but she charged them again. Then the two males engaged in a little tussle. One grabbed the other by the ear and pulled him across the ice by his ear!"

But, both Doubledays stress, these are not cute, cuddly creatures. They can be deadly to people, too. That is why the town employees a kind of bear security force.

"The town has a Polar Bear patrol," Avary said. "If a bear comes into town, it is tranquilized and put in the 'bear jail.' The jail has 48 spaces, but once there are more than 18 or so, they are tagged and hauled off to the wild, where they are then tracked for research."

Halloween fell within the time the Doubledays were visiting Churchill and security was beefed up to protect the tiny trick-or-treaters.

"The kids were so cute," Avary said. "They would come into Gypsy's where we were eating. They were all bundled up in their snowsuits with their Halloween costumes over all the layers of clothing."

"Overall, it was a great trip and a wonderful learning experience," Avary said. "Next year I want to go see the penguins of Antarctica."

No reaction from Gerry.





'Thank You' to The Highlands Playhouse

By Carol Matthews

Winner of Highlands Playhouse We had the trip of a lifetime and want to thank The Highlands Playhouse and Mrs. Joanna Baumrucker for making it possible. What a way to see Europe! Mrs. Baumrucker, who plans and books the trip, must know a special formula for stretching your dollars and mastering the art of travel.

If you have a chance to join this special group next year, don't hesitate to sign up. Don't try this type of traveling alone, it cannot be done....you would spend much more money and not have the quality trip afforded by the Highlands Playhouse Theater Lovers Tour.

Many think traveling with a group for a tour will be confining and structured. Well, this group is just the opposite. You have the convenience of someone else making all the arrangements and dealing with the mundane while you enjoy yourself and your

companions. The group is lively, fun and everyone had a great time.

Vienna was marvelous and our stay at the Hotel Mercure splendid. We were within walking distance to the best shopping in Vienna from the Hofburg Quarter and close to all trolleys lines.

During the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday we were free to explore on our own. Curtis and I took the trolley and visited many museums, cathedrals and palaces. We even attended Sunday Mass and were treated to a wonderful concert by the choir at Burgkapelle, or Hofburg Chapel, originally constructed in 1296.

Most impressive was the visit to the apartments of Empress Elisabeth which was open as a special exhibit at the Palace. One night the group enjoyed dinner together at the Restaurant Daneil followed by a fabulous concert in the Schonbrunn Concert Hall.

Then we were off to Prague.....now I know why Dr. John Baumrucker was so excited about his return visit. We cannot



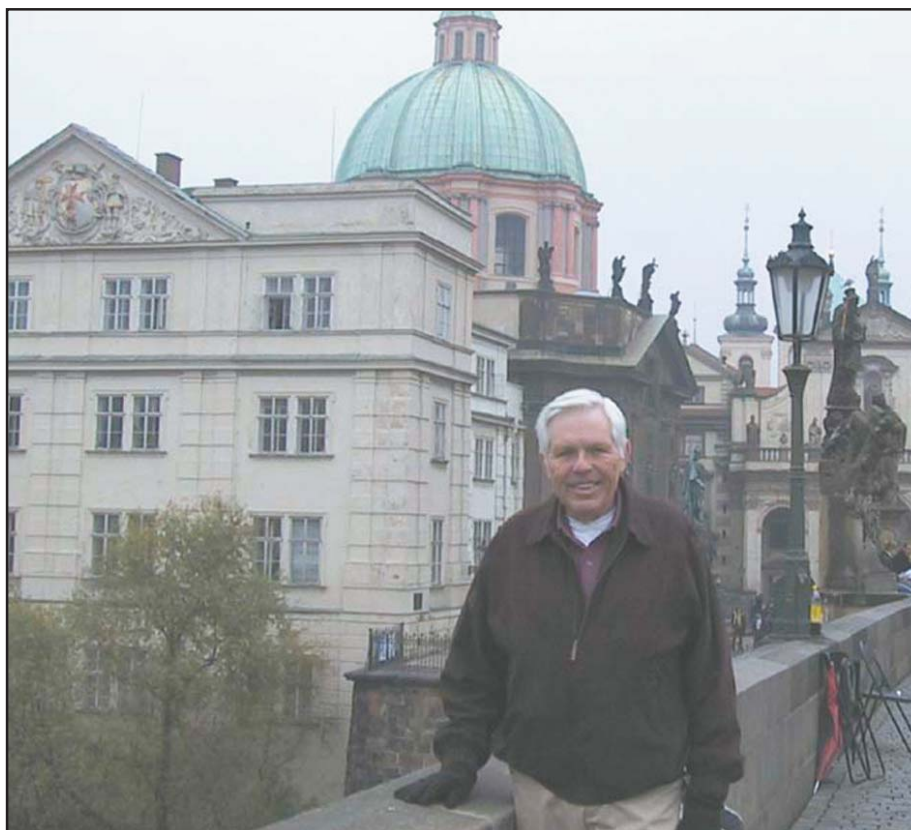
Carol Matthews at the Farmer's Market

wait to return [we certainly didn't want to leave].

Our hotel was incredible, luxurious and the perfect spot for walking around the "Old Town" of Prague. We ate at the outdoor cafés, visited the famous Clock Tower with the Astrological Clock that chimed on the hour with a display of the apostles. We visited the Jewish Cemetery, Synagogues and Museums, the Charles Bridge, St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Vitus's Castle and witnessed the changing of the guards. We ate at wonderful restaurants and had guided tours that delighted all. So many, many wonderful sights and wonderful times that I cannot name it all.

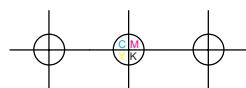
So again, thank you to the Highlands Playhouse for allowing us to join your incredible group and enjoy a trip of a lifetime. *and*, to anyone else who reads this and would like to travel with this group to have a thoroughly enjoyable time, and quality trip, let me encourage you to buy several raffle tickets next season. Because wherever this group goes, it goes in style and comfort and everyone has a great time.

Why do you think many folks in the group sign up for every trip and have done so for the past several years? If you want to book your spot and not wait to find out if you win the trip, be sure to call early. *We will.*



Curtis Matthews on Charles Bridge

Each season, the Highlands Playhouse sells raffle tickets for a free trip for two to Europe as part of the Theater Lovers Tour. Tickets are \$1 and proceeds go toward renovations at the Playhouse.





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All Saint's Day at Catholic church

The Faith Formation students at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church recently held their annual All Saint's Day presentation.

The annual event gives the students the opportunity to learn about a saint and then give a presentation to the church. As part of their presentation, the students dressed up like the saint they studied. Pictured in the saint costumes are (front row from left). Juliette Lupoli as St. Mary, Ann Marie Crowe as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Eden Ingate as St. Joseph, Emily Crowe as St. Bernadette and Johnny Lupoli as St. George. Middle row from left, Isabella Lupoli as St. Catherine Laboure, Billy Brennan as St. Patrick, Jose Feria as St. Martin de Porres and Brendan Karcher as St. Thomas Moore. Back row from left, Tyler Ternes as St. Rose, Sayne Cruz as St. Mary Magdalene, Bridget Karcher as St. Agnes, Alexa Ternes as St. Dymphna and Mary Katherine Karcher as St. Anne.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

WCCC hires new club golf pro

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club has hired Keven Gabbard, formerly the Head Golf Professional at Highlands Country Club, as its new Head Golf Professional.

Gabbard replaces Doug Slusser, who has retired after 11 years at Wildcat.

Gabbard, 40, has been a certified A-1 PGA Professional since 1992 and is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He played golf at Miami and has been in the golf industry since then, the past 6 years at Highlands Country Club. He and his wife, Andrea and children, Emily and Kyle live in the area and attend Highlands United Methodist Church.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club is the oldest established private club in the Highlands-Cashiers area and features a George Cobb designed 18-hole course at 4,200 feet, full service practice and instructional area and features a "no tee" time policy for its 290 members.



Kyle and Andrea Gabbard

Girls' Clubhouse sets tables for dinner



Photo by Kim Lewicki

In Highlands, Thanksgiving starts with the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner at the Rec Park, this year Nov. 23. Each year The Girls' Clubhouse decorates the tables and area churches are responsible for the rest.

• THANKSGIVING FOOD •

Thanksgiving is upon us, but there's still time to try out a new recipes. These are from area restaurants and caterers.

Let Holly Do The Cooking

Scalloped Potatoes

1 tsp soft butter
1 tsp minced garlic
1/2 cup parmesan cheese
2 cups heavy cream
2 Tbls flour
salt and white pepper
4 baking potatoes, peeled and sliced about 1/8" thick
Butter casserole and rub garlic over butter. Whisk flour into the cream and season with salt and pepper. Slice potatoes, either by hand or in food processor Begin layering potatoes, season with a sprinkling of parmesan cheese, salt and pepper and end with cheese. Work quickly as the potatoes will begin to turn gray when left too long. Pour cream mixture over the potatoes. Bake 325 degrees 45 minutes to one hour or until the potatoes are soft, the cheese is golden and the cream is bubbling.

In 1941 Congress passed a joint resolution in 1941 decreeing that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November. The day is observed by church services and family reunions with the customary turkey dinner is a reminder of the four wild turkeys served at the Pilgrims' first thanksgiving feast.

The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2004, Columbia University Press.

Peregrine Restaurant & Bar

Pumpkin Cheesecake Pie with whipped topping

2 packages (16 ounces total) cream cheese softened
1/2 cup pumpkin puree
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
dash cloves
2 large eggs
1 9-inch graham cracker pie crust
Combine cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar, vanilla, and spices; mix with a hand mixer at medium speed until well blended. Add eggs; mix until blended. Pour into graham cracker crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes, or until set. Cool. Refrigerate at least 3 hours, or overnight. Served garnished with whipped cream topping.

Whipped Cream Topping

2 cups heavy cream
3 tablespoons powdered sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 crushed clove
Combine ingredients and whip with a hand mixer.

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• 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. (Not until after the Christmas Parade on Dec. 4)

- Both recycling centers will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Will re-open on Friday.

- 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, piano bar entertainment from 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Mon. and Paul Scott on Wed. During Sunday Brunch, Chad Reed plays the piano from noon to 2 p.m.

- 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 until 6:30. Saturday: Football and Flights. Wines by the glass and cheese plates available Wednesday through Saturday: 1:30 until 4:30. Complimentary Tastings Saturday: 1 until 4:30.

Nov. 23

- The Community Thanksgiving Supper and Worship is Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park Gym.

Nov 24

- Christian Ulbricht Signing at The Christmas Tree on Fourth Street on the Hill from 2-5 p.m.

Nov. 26

- Highlands Chapter #284 OES will be having a bake sale featuring pumpkin & cream cheese rollups on Friday at 10 a.m. until...in front of the

Bird Barn and Highlands United Methodist Church. Also raw peanuts \$3.

- The HUMC youth are doing a Christmas tree and wreath sale to support their trip to Bolivia in the spring. Trees and wreaths are locally grown Fraser fir trees. Trees will be available the Friday after Thanksgiving, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The cost for a 6-7 foot tree is \$35, 7-8 foot tree is \$55, and 8-9 foot tree is \$75 (limited availability). A 24 inch wreath is \$28.

Nov. 26-27

- Mountain Makings Arts & Crafts Show at Brevard College on U.S. 64 in Brevard; 9-5.

Nov. 27

- William Baker will autograph

- The High Mountain Squares will square dance Wednesday from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Macon County Community bldg. on 441S. Franklin across from the Whistle Stop. Ace McGee, club caller, will call Mainstream & Plus. All western-style square-dancers are very welcome. Info: 828-349-0905//524-4955//706-782-9846//706-746-2502

Dec. 3 & 4

- "A Family of Friends Productions" announces the "Nutcracker Ballet," at the Fine Arts Center at Franklin High School on Friday, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door, Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Cedar's Café and Dairy Queen. Seniors and Students \$5; Adults \$8. Family tickets \$25 (available from

Dec. 7

- Highlands School Band Christmas Program at 6 p.m., at the school.

Dec. 9

- Highlands Community Players Christmas Reading at PAC at 7:30 p.m. It's free..

Dec. 11

- Instant Theater sponsoring "Voices in the Laurel" at PAC at 8 p.m.

Dec. 11&12

- Highlands Community Christmas Chorale Concert at Highlands United Methodist Church – 4 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Dec. 25

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

Holiday ballet coming soon



Dancers from Franklin, Highlands, Rabun Gap, Cullowhee, Cashiers and Waynesville rehearse for "A Family of Friends" upcoming production of "The Nutcracker." This traditional holiday ballet is in its fourth year running and showcases a cast and crew of more than 100 participants. Performances will be held at the Fine Arts Center in Franklin on Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 and 7 p.m. Advance tickets and more information are available at the Franklin area Chamber of Commerce. Call 828-524-3161 for more information. Tickets are also available at the door.

copies of his new book at Cyrano's Bookshop from 1-3 p.m.

- Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 is having its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Highlands Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Annual Christmas Tree & Town Lighting at 6:30 p.m. at Town Square on Main Street.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on the Woodland Trail in Unicoi State Park near Helen GA, an 80 mile round trip drive. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 9:30 a.m. or at the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard Ga at 10 a.m. Call leaders Ann and Jack Blake, 369-1108 for more info.

Dec. 1

Chamber only).

Dec. 3 -5

- Highlands Historical Society's Christmas Show House, the Ravenel House on Wolf Ridge, is open 1-5 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$20 (students are free) available at The Old Rangoon "on the Hill," or D&J Express Mart.

Dec. 4

- Breakfast with Santa at Fireside Restaurant, 8-9:30 a.m. before the parade.

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

- Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 is having its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Highlands Conference Center after the Christmas Parade.

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

Sat: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10

THE INCREDIBLES

rated PG

Mon - Fri: (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Sat: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05, 9:20

Sun: (2:05), (4:20), 7:05

() Matinee Pricing

'Red Apple' awards presented



Volunteers from Highlands and Cullasaja schools were honored for their outstanding service to students and staff for the 2003-2004 school year. Highlands volunteers contributed 10,049 hours of service to the school, while Cullasaja volunteers donated 31.8 hours of time per student. Highlands School principal Monica Bomengen is pictured with volunteer coordinator Marjorie Crowe holding the Red Apple Award

Highlands School Christmas band concert set for Dec. 7

The annual Highlands School Christmas Program is set for Dec. 7. It's extra special this year because it will be in the newly remodeled gym complete with a stage and new blue stage curtain with the embroidered with a gold school crest.

Music teacher Mr. Powell has been working long and hard with students grades K-12. The elementary program will include grades K-5 with Christmas songs sung by the students. The fourth- and fifth-graders will be playing recorders (plastic flutes). There will

be a brief intermission between the elementary and middle school/high school program.

The middle school and high school bands will be performing a variety of Christmas music.

The program will be dedicated to American soldiers, especially those serving in foreign countries, away from their families during the Christmas season.

The growing music program which culminates each semester with a special performance is an important part of the overall music program at Highlands.

Two French students win at contest

Highlands School French students participated in the 32nd annual Foreign Language Declamation contest recently. Only one French I student is allowed to go from each school, and two from Fr. II and III and IV.

There were five entries — Angela Sanchez in French I, Callie Rawlins and April Hicks in French II, McKenzie Thompson in French III, and Antoine Coupé (Rotary Exchange Student from Annecy, France) in the "Native" category. Antoine won first place, and April won second. There were about 400 entries and about 15 schools participated.

This year's 'Tree of Lights' to brighten the future

Once again this holiday season, area residents are being asked to support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary's Tree of Lights, and help brighten the future of both Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and those who would like to embark on a career in health care.

As in years past, the Auxiliary is "selling" ornaments to hang on the hospital's Christmas tree to raise money for its health care scholarship fund. The bells and stars, which can also be purchased at the hospital gift shop during regular business hours, can be designated to either honor or memorialize someone special. They will hang on a large Christmas tree in the Hospital's main lobby throughout the month of December.

The proceeds go toward scholarships for qualifying

candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital staff for a specified period of time. The \$500 per semester scholarships are available to students who are accepted by an accredited school offering health care studies. Graduates from area schools are given primary consideration, although other applicants are also eligible, including those already employed in healthcare who wish to further their education.

The tribute ornaments are available for a donation of \$25 or more. Forms are available at the Hospital's gift shop, or you can make a donation by mailing a check to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary, Attn: Tree of Lights, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.

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:
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Attn: Tree of Lights
P.O. Box 790, Highlands, NC 28741

Amount given: _____

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... GROWTH continued from page 1

historical information for that township – based on permitting, seasonal fluctuations, lots sold, that sort of thing," he said. "But I do think 38,000 by the year 2010 is very low."

It all comes down to the baby-boomer generation. "There could be a sizeable number of people relocating here. Are they going to come here to retire, or are they going to come here to be entrepreneurs and attract more people?" he asked.

Historically Macon County as grown by 1,000 full-time residents every year for the last four years. But one estimate has 18,000 people moving in within the next six years. The current year-round county population is 32,000.

But that doesn't mean all those people are coming to Highlands. "Atlanta has discovered that big lake in Nantahala," said committee member John Cleaveland.

Greenwood said the Nantahala area is seeing a sudden growth spurt with new homes going up and new developments in the planning stages.

He said one good thing is even those traditionally against "zoning" are now seeing what no control looks like. "People need to understand more clearly what could affect them," he said.

Greenwood said watershed planning takes on new meaning with growth, too. "The Town of Franklin has been remiss in that over the years and now it is paying the price," he said. "There is a sewer moratorium in the western part of the city. Collection is past capacity." But Franklin doesn't currently have the revenue to

expand its sewer plant.

Watersheds for both towns are critical, said Greenwood. "Wells and septic tanks have reached the collision point in the county."

He said the Town of Franklin's sewer system extends further outside its town limits than the Highlands system. "Sixty percent of Franklin's water/sewer revenues come from the sale of sewer outside the city limits and 90 percent of that infrastructure was grant funded." He also said 85 percent of the Town of Franklin is on sewer, versus Highlands' 10 percent. And in Franklin it only costs about \$1,000 for residents to hook on.

In most cases, Highlands has required annexation prior to providing infrastructure, but Greenwood said annexation doesn't have to be the answer.

He said using county demographics would make statistics favorable for obtaining federal and state grants for infrastructure expansion like Franklin has done.

Committee members learned that one-third of the county's property tax revenues come from the Highlands/Scaly townships. "It's true that Franklin and Highlands put in more than they get back, but Nantahala is quickly catching up," said Greenwood.

Meanwhile, Macon County Planner Stacey Guffey is about to embark on a population study township by township using statistics gleaned from county and town records to try to get a clear picture of exactly how Macon County is growing.

Book celebrates architect William T. Baker

Some of the world's greatest classical architecture can be found in the grand homes of the Southern United States, particularly Georgia. A new book by Georgia's William T. Baker pays homage to the classic homes and buildings he has designed over the past twenty years. On Saturday, Nov. 27, from 1-3 p.m., William Baker will autograph copies of his new book at Cyrano's Bookshop.

The hallmark of Baker's archi-



William T. Baker

itecture is his extraordinary attention to the finer details of craftsmanship and construction and his keen eye for scale and proportion. The 28 projects presented in this richly illustrated volume encapsulate the first two decades of his career

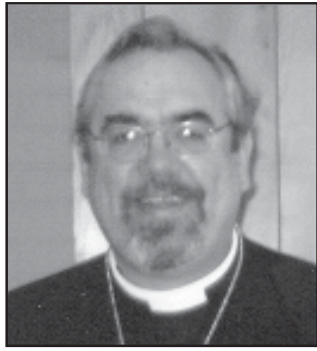
The public is invited to meet this extraordinarily talented architect and appreciate his work

in this new treasury of his masterpieces.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Of repentance & forgiveness



Dr. Delmer Chilton,
Holy Family Lutheran Church

In his book "Dangerous Wonder," Michael Yaconelli talks about living in ranch country in Northern California, and how one has to be cautious driving because there are always cows in the road.

He says there is an old story told by farmers there as to how cows get in the road. It goes like this:

Cows don't intend to get lost. A cow is nibbling a tuft of grass in the middle of a field, moving from one tuft to the next. Before you know it, she ends up at some grass next to the fence. Noticing a nice clump of green on the other side of the fence, the cow stumbles through an old tear in the fence and finds herself outside on the road. "Cows don't intend to get lost; they just nibble their way to lostness."

Cows don't intend to get lost and neither do we. But they do, and we do.

The Bible teaches us about wrongness and repentance, about contrite hearts and broken spirits, about God's steadfast love and human hatefulness, in short; about sin and salvation.

In Exodus 32, we read the story of how the recently liberated slaves turned their backs on, turned away from, the God of their salvation, to worship an idol, a golden calf, made by their own hands.

We also read how Moses talked God into an act of repentance, of changing his mind about punishing the people.

Psalms 51 is a mournful exploration of true sorrow for sin, of genuine repentance and regret, of contrite hearts and broken spirits.

In First Timothy chapter 1, Paul writes of his own turn from sin to salvation. He calls himself the world's foremost sinner and says that he received grace and forgiveness as a sign and an example to others that God in Christ can and does forgive our sins and restore us to holiness.

And in the Gospel of Luke, the 15th Chapter we find the story of an encounter Jesus had with hard-hearted people who were unwilling to forgive, unwilling to accept the idea that those who

• 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

"A Bible-based liturgical church"

Services: Sundays at 4 p.m. at the
Community Bible Church in Highlands
Holy Communion at most services.

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.; Bible Study & Book
Study
classes – 9:15 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m.
Women's Cursillo Group (Library) – 4
Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8
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: Sept. 12 Sabbath Eve Services at 7
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

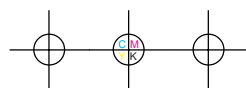
Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.

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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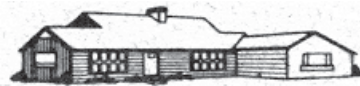
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Nov. 17-23. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.

Nov. 17

• At 10 a.m., Edward Madison Minus, 16, of Waynesville, N.C., was arrested for 14 counts of injury to property. He was released on a \$3,000 secured bond.

• At 10:30 a.m., Garrett Orion Holt, 16, of Highlands, was arrested on 14 counts of injury to property. He was released on a \$3,000 secured bond.

• At 10:44 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road. All was secure.

• At 1:38 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Many Road. All was secure.

Nov. 18

• At 2:08 p.m., a motorist at U.S. 64 west and Webbmont Road was cited for improper passing.

Nov. 19

• At 12:10 p.m., a visitor reported losing his wallet somewhere in Highlands.

Nov. 20

• At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a residence on Wingina Way about a breaking and entering. The case is under investigation.

• At 9 a.m., officers provided traffic control for flu vaccinations at the Rec Park.

Nov. 22

• At 4:30 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 call from the Hampton Inn but it was unfounded.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Nov. 17-23.

Nov. 18

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Trillium Circle where a man fell off a roof. The victim was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

• The dept. responded to a call of a fire on a deck of a room at Mountain High Lodge. Hot coals started the fire but it was out when the dept. arrived. There was no damage.

Nov. 19

• The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whiteside Cove Road. The victim was transported to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Nov. 20

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Drive. Smoke from a pot left on the stove set off the fire alarm. There was no damage.

• The dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on Flat Mountain Road. There were no injuries.

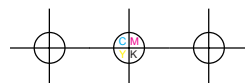
... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 23

had slipped and fallen on their way through life were in any way worthy of grace and love and companionship.

Jesus' stories about the Good Shepherd looking for the lost sheep and the lost coin are aimed at those who fail to understand that it is the nature of God to forgive and to bring back into the community of faith those who nibbled their way to

lostness.

That is the Gospel, that is the Good News, that is the old, old story the church tells over and over; that God is love, and that God is not just waiting to welcome us home with welcome arms, but God is out looking for his lost ones, seeking to ring them home.



● CLASSIFIEDS ●

HELP WANTED

NEED IRONING DONE – In Town. Drop Off and Pick Up. Call 526-4959 after 6 p.m.

UNIT COORDINATOR - Fidelia 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.

HOUSEKEEPER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Full time, 7am-3:30 pm, high-school graduate or GED. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. 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.

RECEPTIONIST/CASHIER AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Monday through Friday, 8-hour days. Excellent benefits. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

CLINICAL DIETITIAN, HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL AND THE FIDELIA ECKERD LIVING CENTER. Bachelor's degree; licensed Registered Dietitian. Minimum 2 years experience in clinical nutrition. Experience in a long-term care setting beneficial. Experience in menu planning helpful. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301

RN WITH ACLS CERTIFICATE, HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. To work with cardiac rehab program. Includes monitoring patients, supervising exercise protocols. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-

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DIETARY AIDES, HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full or part time, computer experience helpful. Excellent benefit package for full-time position. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/HVAC - HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. General plant maintenance with an emphasis on heating, air conditioning, and ventilation. Full time, Monday-Friday and one Saturday per month. Excellent benefit package. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Mary Osmar, 828-526-1301.

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IVY COTTAGE – King size bed, Jacuzzi tub for two, fireplace, wet bar. In town. Walk to everything. Two-night minimum \$149 per night plus tax. Call 828-526-0782. Photos on www.highlandsinfo.com.

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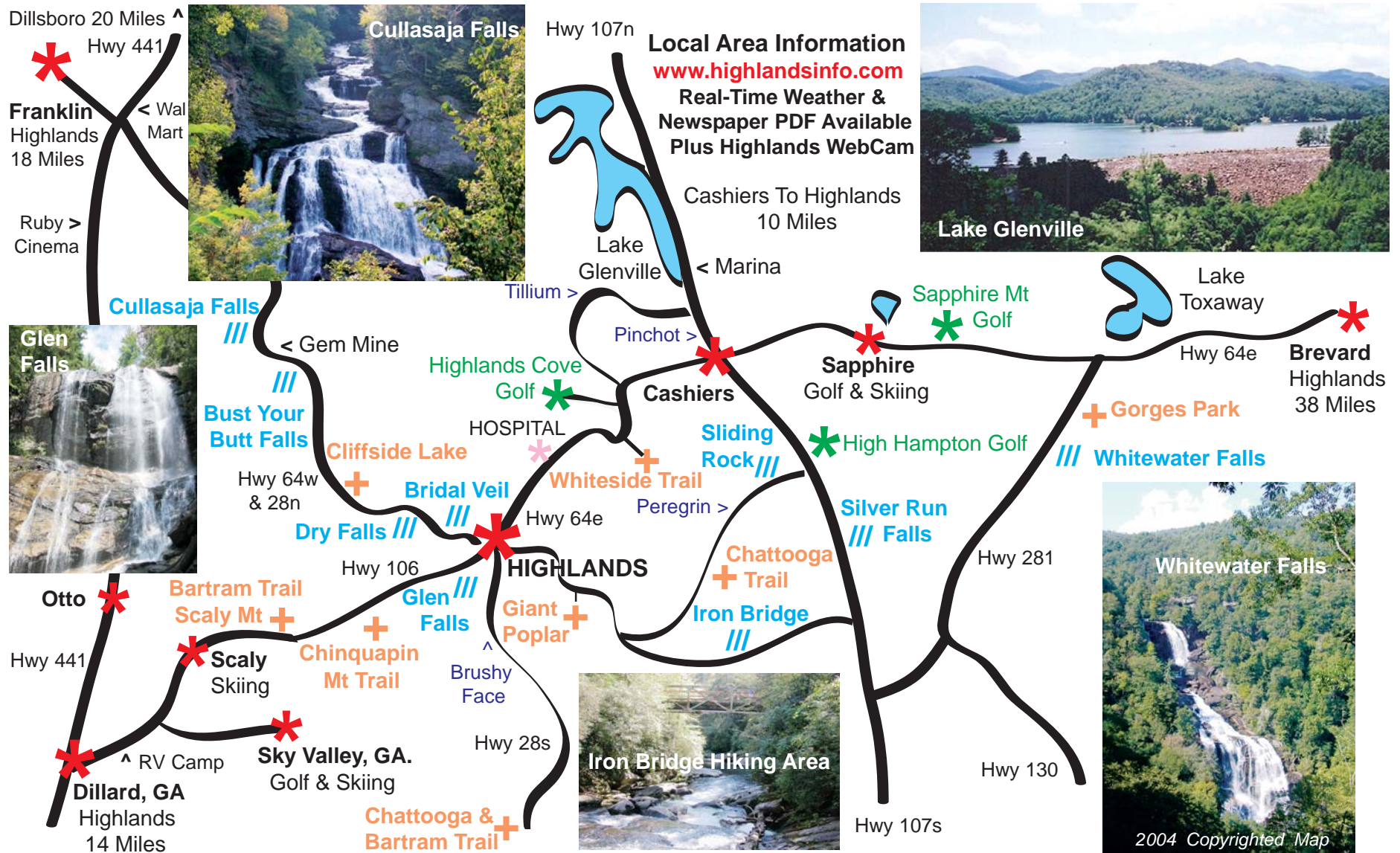
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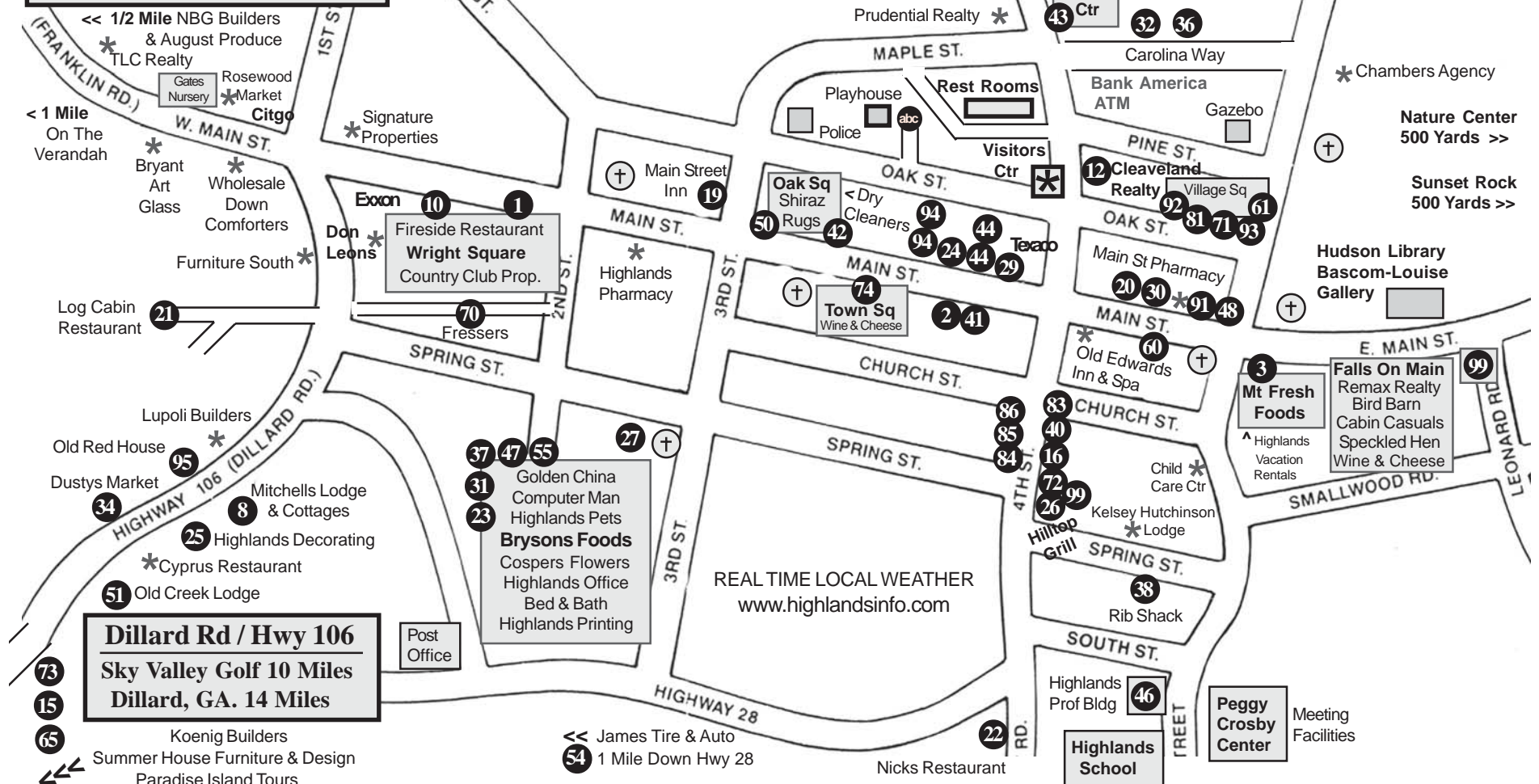
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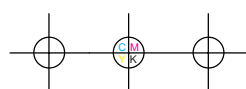
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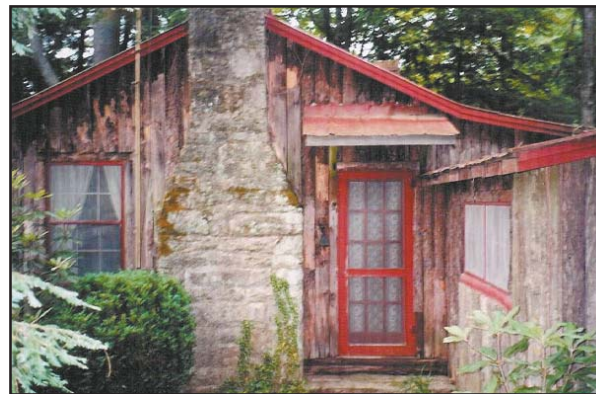
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SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN VISTAS

Custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, wood floors. Large great room features beam ceiling, stone fireplace with gas starter, and large bar for entertaining. Family room has antique brick fireplace with French doors that open into large, covered porch. Three bedrooms, three baths. Two-garage. Beautiful gentle lot. Offered at \$949,000



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Three bedroom, three bath "View" home close to town, including extra lot with two bedroom septic permit. Offered at \$432,000.