

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 3, Number 50

Locally Owned & Operated

Friday, Dec. 16, 2005

On-going

• On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., The Food Pantry is open for anyone needing provisions – canned goods and nonperishables – at Highlands United Methodist Church building on Church Street Alley.

• At ...on the Verandah live music — Chad Reed, piano player — on Friday and Saturday nights.

• Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.

• Cy Timmons at Fressers at Helen's Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.

• Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.

• Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.

Dec. 16

• HS Basketball at home against Tallulah Falls. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

• ITC's free reading of "Papa's Angels" by Collin Wilcox at 7 p.m. with music by John Roman.

• Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Civic Center at noon. Donations accepted.

Dec. 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse. Call leader David Sapin, 828-369-2628, for reservations.

• The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual. Christmas "Noche de Familia," Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church.

Dec. 18

• Chancel Choir Lessons & Carols during Sunday's 11 a.m. worship service at Highlands United Methodist Church.

Dec. 21

• No Town Board meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall boardroom.

Dec. 24

• Family-Oriented Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church.

• Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Community Bible Church at 7 p.m.

Dec. 25

• Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn with proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Dinner is \$29.95. Wine available. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

FRI	SAT	SUN
36-24°F	38-25°F	37-23°F

'Citizens Against ETJ' take action

There's no telling what the outcome of the Nov. 18 public hearing on ETJ would have been had the "Citizens Against ETJ" approached the subject in the cool, calm and calculating manner in which they conducted their first meeting, Monday night.

About 40 people gathered at High Country Café, Dec. 12 to determine what tack to take to "put the brakes on ETJ."

"Where do we go from here and how do we get there?" asked moderator David Hourdequin.

•See CITIZENS page 10

Highlanders win at home



The Fighting Highlanders beat the Rosman Tigers 84 to 63 in the non-league game, Monday, Dec. 12 at home. See story page 10.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

'Nonconforming' issue still looms

Several boomerangs have been flying around the boardroom at Town Hall lately. The latest is the nonconforming ordinance.

Close to a year ago, commissioners requested the ordinance be rewritten when they learned that Old Edwards Hospitality Group was going to rebuild a building which had been dismantled to its footings on the Church Street bluff.

The building was nonconforming because it was in the Church Street right-of-way, but because the footings were intact, Larry Gantenbein, zoning administrator, allowed the building to be rebuilt. (When controversy arose, however, OEI abandoned the project and decided not to rebuild the building.)

Though technically allowed by the

ordinance, several commissioners were under the impression that the ordinance had been changed to disallow the rebuilding of nonconforming buildings once they were destroyed.

And therein lay the rub. Exactly what is "destroyed?"

The Town Board took it upon itself to rewrite the ordinance for clarification alleviating Gantenbein and Town Administrator Richard Betz of the task.

Now seven months later, the ordinance is still in the rewrite stage, with the Town Board soliciting input from the Planning Board for the third time.

No one can decide to what degree a building should be classified destroyed - if it's taken down manually to be

•See NONCONFORMING page 20

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Work sessions for zoning ETJ begin Friday

Having dealt with a heavy agenda for almost three hours, Friday morning, Planning Board members didn't have the time to delve into the zoning of the ETJ area – a matter which needs careful consideration, they said.

But the subject of zoning the area brought to the surface attitudes still festering since the Town Board evoked ETJ the middle of last month.

Town Planner Larry Gantenbein said he'd heard from citizens who suggested the recent Friday morning Planning Board meetings were a way to keep people affected by the zoning decisions in ETJ away from the meetings. But he said the board met the last two Fridays to accommodate board member

•See ETJ page 11

Parking fines & limits to change

Parking fines could increase considerably for contractors and construction workers in the downtown area.

At the Dec. 14 continuation Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to amend the parking ordinance to end violations occurring specifically on Church Street but generally everywhere construction is going on in town.

The idea came out of the Dec. 12 Public Works Committee meeting.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said issuing \$50 parking tickets wasn't a deterrent to contractors. "It's like paid-parking privileges," he said. Commissioners agreed saying contractors consider it the price of doing business.

A higher fee was suggested as a way to regulate the use of Town streets and sidewalks during construction activities.

Though the particulars need to be

•See PARKING page 11

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PTO gives teachers classroom money



Every teacher who participated in Highlands School Fall Festival was rewarded with a \$150 check courtesy of Highlands School PTO. About \$1,500 was given to teachers.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

• SCHOOL BOARD TIDBITS •

• The school board accepted teacher Anne Tate's resignation as of Dec. 2005. Macon County Schools is advertising for the position and hopes to fill it by the first of January.

• It's possible the soccer field/interpretative playground project will be discussed at the January school board meeting.

• The school board didn't discuss or take action on the suggested elimination of the Valedictorian/Salutatorian

designations at Highlands School.

• Answers to parents' questions about the quality points of a SCC ITV class vs. an AP class: "The decision on quality points is made from an agreement with the state board of education, the community college board and the university system. We are following the standardize transcript that is approved by the state board of education." - Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Bush suffers consequences

Dear Editor,

In the lead up to the Iraq conflict, we were repeatedly told that anyone who disagreed with the rush to go to war, or criticized the Bush Administration, was "anti-American." I guess that means that the majority of Americans are anti-American.

A series of polls has shown that most Americans now realize that Bush and his administration lied to get them into the war and that it was a mistake to go to war. The Harris Poll now shows President Bush down to a 34 percent approval rating.

The White House promised to conduct a "sustained attack" against the Democrats for suggesting that the administration lied to the American people to sell the war in Iraq. The more the White House keeps the "we didn't lie" message in the media, the more the public will be reminded that they probably did.

Don Twardowski, Franklin

Parade shouldn't be political arena

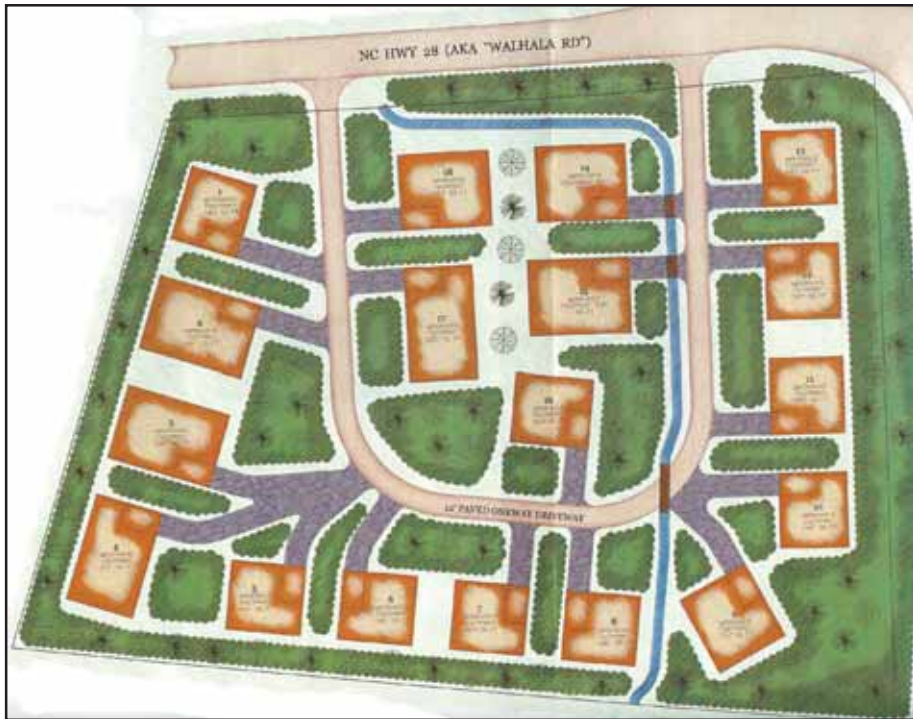
Dear Editor,

It's customary and appropriate that our local organizations, businesses, elected officials, our schools, and private citizens celebrate the season of Jesus' birth with lovingly decorated floats and music and all the fun of our traditional parade.

However we try hard to keep reminding ourselves and our families that we must never forget to keep Christ in Christmas. I wonder what effect it had on our young people to see the Star of Bethlehem used as the vehicle for a political ad.

I hope this does not become an example for future parades and that we are not treated to a profusion of ads for congressmen, mayors, county commissioners, etc. Hopefully, other folks running for public office will have better sense - and better taste.

Elizabeth Linsley, Highlands



Nick's and putt-putt to become Satulah Park

OEI to develop two subdivisions

The Planning Board got a sneak preview of two projects in the works for Old Edwards Hospitality Group at the Friday, Dec. 9 meeting.

The Nick's Restaurant property will be combined with the old putt-putt property to create Satulah Park, an upscale subdivision with 16-18 homes ranging in size from 2,300 to 2,900 sq. ft. The homes will sport the OEI insignia of cobblestones and fine stone, slate and wood work while interspersing five floor plans and exteriors throughout the community.

"We could put 22 homes on the property but we want to maximize the greenspace," said OEI CEO Mario Gomes.

Each 3-4 bedroom home will sell for \$950,000 to \$1.2 million.

There is a non-perennial stream which the group plans to pipe and re-

direct with the Army Corps of Engineers permission. "We are in discussion with them now," said Gomes.

The only snag is a 12-foot wide one-way road that loops through the subdivision entering from and exiting on N.C. 28 in two separate locations for which the group hopes to get an OK. The normal subdivision road width is 18-feet.

Town Planner Larry Gantenbein said they have to also make sure stormwater controls are in place as is the 40-foot setback from NC 28.

Planning board members encouraged Gomes to consider preserving the original part of the Nick's Restaurant. Gomes said OEI offered to donate the structure to the Highlands Historical Society which has expressed interest, "but they don't have the money to move it and then they would have to

•See OEI page 20

• OBITUARIES •

Elsie Belle Green McCall

Elsie Belle Green McCall, 90, of Highlands, NC died Sunday, December 11, 2005 at a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Habersham County, GA, the daughter of the late Hannable E. and Nancy Texiana Norris Green. She was married to the late Edgar McCall. She was a homemaker and a member of Goldmine Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Rosemary Rigglesman of Franklin, NC; two sons, Mac Arthur McCall of Highlands, NC and Jerry McCall and his wife, Hazel of Franklin, NC; two brothers, Carl Green and Fred Green of Highlands, NC; 21 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by two daughters, Ruby J. Watts and Linda McCall and four sons, James, David, Cletis McCall and Leon McCall; one sister, Ethel Henry and one brother Ed Green.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 15, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant Funeral Home at Highlands with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Burial was held at Miller Cemetery. Daniel McCall, Shannon McCall, Richard Rigglesman, Doug McCall, Ricky McCall and Leroy McCall served as pallbearers.

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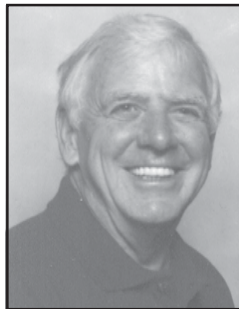
• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Pessimist or Realist?

"Mr. Glass Half Empty", that's what she calls me. The little missus thinks I am a pessimist and says I sometimes see the world through dark gray glasses. Maybe that's a side of me my readers have not seen. I argue, oops, I mean debate, I am a realist and see the world exactly as it is and not what I am spoon fed or want it to be. We have agreed to disagree on this issue and life is good at our house. Highlands' folks might choose to do the same thing on ETJ.

What brought this debate about were the inspiring words that came from our new mayor, Doctor Don Mullen, at his swearing in ceremony. Who could disagree with his criticism over the conduct of some Highlanders at the ETJ meeting or his patriotic remarks about our beloved country? Who could disagree there is mistrust in government? But I understand those people who spoke out at that meeting. Excuse me while I put on my dark gray glasses.

Unfortunately, Dr. Mullen's



Fred Wooldridge

comments were just part of a speech and have little impact. Action is needed here, not speeches. Dr. Mullen's comments was a reminder about just how ugly American history really were.

Long, long ago, my eyes have been opened to the real world. Many years of cop work helped

me get like this. Some say it is cynicism; I say it is realism.

I know our country's history is not as rosy as painted in my 5th grade history book. And I know that Highlands is not all peaches and cream, even though I like to think it is. Here, I have my rose colored glasses on.

Like all history, it is written by the winners. If Briton had prevailed during our revolution, my 5th grade history book would have been telling about the traitors to the throne, like George Washington, his many henchmen and how they deserved to be hanged for trying to overthrow the Kingdom.

Imagine what this country would

look like today if the South had prevailed during the Civil War? Would we be two nations instead of united? Would Highlanders have been able to speak out against their government the way they did recently? No one knows.

There is one indisputable fact that even the most rosier of opportunists must agree upon. We are, and always have been, a nation of violence, from the first shots fired at the Battle of Bunker Hill to the last soldier to die in Iraq. We are a gun toting, shoot em' up, country who likes to solve its problems with violence, from way back in the old Wild West to the mob gangs of New York. I could go on and on.

The United States seems to always have an enemy to go after. The entire world sees us as a violent nation and I think we deserve our reputation. What does this have to do with ETJ? There are parallels.

I doubt that the ugliness displayed by Highlanders at the recent ETJ meeting was any worse than comments made by patriots against England before the war. People say ugly things when they feel disenfranchised. Shoving ETJ down folk's throats will never be swallowed because those affected feel disenfranchised. They will muster together in secret against the government, which is going on now in Highlands.

The town board must find a way to help those who feel this way. Words will not work. If government is going to have control over people's property, then those people must have a say in the matter. To think otherwise is simply un-American.

Fortunately, we waited until all of our summer people had gone to display just how ugly we can really get. Let's not tell them about this and get this resolved before they return. Whadayathink?

New Year's concert and gala set at PAC

The Fine Arts Committee announces a spectacular New Year's Eve Gala.

Three of the world's finest artists will give a concert at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street at 5 p.m. This event will feature a cocktail reception at 4 p.m.

Artists are Jeanne Brown, soprano; Pamela Dillard, mezzo soprano and Robert Henry, pianist.

Included on the program will be opera arias from La Boheme, la Traviata, Carmen and duets from Lakme and Madame Butterfly.

The evening will benefit the children of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania who have contracted AIDS. Tickets are limited and cost \$50 for the cocktail event and concert.

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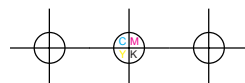
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• ANOTHER VIEW •

Congressman Murtha playing politics at our soldiers' expense

In 1998, while serving as a Marine Corps Bases Commander in Japan, I had the opportunity to brief Congressman Murtha on Pacific Rim political and military issues. I was very impressed with Congressman Murtha because of his Marine Corps background as a decorated Vietnam War veteran, where he received two purple hearts and bronze star medal. He has the distinction of being the first Vietnam War Veteran to be elected to Congress. He is also the ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and is considered to be a conservative Democrat.

With such an impressive background, his statement last week calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq proved to be a stunning comment, which quickly made the headlines throughout the world. Congressman Murtha went on to say Islamic forces "are united against U.S. forces and we have become a catalyst for violence.

"It's time to bring them home."

During this past week, I have given considerable thought to why Congressman Murtha was motivated to make such comments, and have come to certain conclusions.

A few weeks before Congressman Murtha's made his statement, the Democrats and the elite media attempted to convince the American people that President Bush deliberately deceived them in order to invade Iraq, thereby substituting failure for success. The Republicans countered this offensive by addressing successes such as the elimination of Saddam Hussein's tyrannical and murderous dictatorship/threat to his neighbors, and the establishment of a democratic government under a new constitution that still needs our help in fighting the insurgency. At the present time, U.S. presence is the glue holding the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds together; otherwise, there would likely be civil war.

While this bantering was going on, out came Congressman Murtha to call for the removal of American troops in Iraq. No doubt in my mind this was a dangerous political stunt because there was no discussion about the implications of immediately removing our



Major General Geoffrey B. Higginbotham, USMC (Ret.)

forces. When Congress voted on the withdrawal of troops, even Congressman Murtha voted against it. The final vote was 403 against the motion and 3 for it.

Whether you supported or were against the invasion of Iraq is not the issue at this point. We are there and now we must do the right thing for this Nation and the world. But, what are the implications should we immediately remove out troops

from Iraq?

A civil war between the Shiites and Sunnis would likely occur, as the Baathist Party would try to put in power another dictator like Saddam Hussein, and the country would be split up. Iraq would become a terrorist haven, and they would have unlimited funds from oil revenues. While this is occurring, terrorist short-term goals would be to create Islamic fundamentalist governments like the Taliban throughout the Middle East while taking control of oil fields from countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Terrorist long-term goals would likely be to severely damage or destroy Western economies through their control of oil and continued terrorist acts, which will become even more sophisticated due to their wealth and ability to buy technology and weapons of mass destruction. The CIA reports that 50% of Russian nuclear weapons are not secured! If you have enough money you could probably buy or even produce nuclear weapons, which will likely occur in Iran soon. Our borders are porous and it is just a matter of time before such a catastrophic event will occur in this country unless we continue our efforts to bring democracy and freedom to Iraq and Afghanistan, while defeating Islamic fundamentalists throughout the world. Iraq is the center of gravity for defeating terrorists. Democracies don't fight each other, which is why it is important to create such governments throughout the Middle East.

Unfortunately, since Vietnam our Nation has a reputation for running from a fight. After our departure from Vietnam, Congress cut off all funding

• See ANOTHER VIEW page 7

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& THE WARDROBE — rated PG
Mon - Fri: (4), 7, 9:45
Sat & Sun: (1), (4), 7, 9:45
YOURS, MINE & OURS—rated PG
LAST SHOWING Tues., Dec. 20
Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
WALK THE LINE — rated PG-13
LAST SHOWING Tues., Dec. 20
Mon - Fri: (4:30), 9:30
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:30), 9:30
HARRY POTTER & THE
GOBLET OF FIRE — rated PG-13
LAST SHOWING Tues. Dec. 20
Mon - Sun: (7)
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 — PG
STARTS Wed., Dec. 21
Mon - Fri: (4:15), 7, 9:15
Sat & Sun: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15
FUN WITH DICK & JANE — PG
STARTS Wed., Dec. 21
Mon - Fri: (4:10), 7:10, 9:10
Sat & Sun: (2:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:10

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Members of Leadership Highlands participated in the Christmas Parade.

Leadership Highlands: A new opportunity

Leadership Highlands is on for 2006-07!

"Leadership Highlands took this past year to update the evolving program as we expand our role in the community," said president Robert E Smith. After a summer retreat, the members of the governing board, representatives of prior classes that run the program, decided that although the program is very well thought of by alumni there were some changes needed.

"This next class will benefit from the work of the governing board that has fine-tuned the mission, vision and a new curriculum. The revised Mission Statement now reads, "The purpose of Leadership Highlands is to enhance the development of long-term leadership in the Highlands community."

"I feel one of the best things that ever happened to me was being a part of Leadership Highlands. I have been living full time in Highlands since 1989. I am here by choice having lived in northern Virginia next to Washington, DC. I spent a total of 25 years studying and working in the nation's capital. So, I came to this community as a woman who has earned her stripes as a self-supporting citizen and am very proud of that. I have known some outstanding and interesting folks and did some challenging things prior to life in Highlands.

The Leadership Highlands group of 15 women and three men was an exciting group that worked together while challenging one another to do our very best. I worked on the first two programs and I feel that the six other people I worked with became life-sustaining

friends. We tackled each assignment of learning about our community with gusto and we got the best speakers we could find and had a lot of fun in the process.

"During the rest of the year each new group went that much farther and did even better presentations so that by the time we had completed all ten programs we were seasoned performers and critical listeners. As a group we also had some physical challenges and mental puzzles on our retreat at the Mountain. We had wonderful food and excellent facilitators. My experience in Leadership Highlands made life in Highlands much more real and exciting. I treasure every one of the people I met and would go out of my way to help any one of them.

"What a fabulous community of leaders makes up Highlands and what an opportunity we had to know the very best! I encourage others to participate in Leadership Highlands. We need such an opportunity if we are to appreciate the complexity and excellence of the people in this community. I can safely say, it is comparable to my life and expectations in Washington DC and that is saying quite a good deal!" – Pat Boyd

There are testimonials, brochures, and speakers for any group who wants to learn more about this exciting and challenging program.

For information about the Leadership Highlands program contact the visitors center in the Chamber of Commerce building by phone 526-2112 or email visithighlands@smnet.net. The application process will begin in early April 2006.

Christmas Dinner for Habitat for Humanity

Make your reservations now for the fifth annual Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn. Dinner includes baked turkey or ham, mashed or sweet potatoes, dressing and gravy, vegetables galore, and a dessert buffet for only \$29.95

What makes this dinner especially special is that all proceeds go toward Habitat for Humanity. For reservations, call the Main Street Inn at 526-2590.

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. Service begins at 11 a.m. Wine is also available for purchase.

If your holiday plans call for you to be out of town on Christmas Day, you can still support the project by donating money. Send checks in care of Main Street Inn at 270 Main Street Highlands NC 28741.

Auxiliary brings "cheer" to residents



The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary is hard at work these days bringing a little Christmas cheer to the nearly 80 residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Auxiliary members have purchased miniature Christmas trees and are hard at work decorating them. Once the final touches are in place, the mini-trees will be used to help brighten up every resident's room, along with the other decorations going up around the center. And employees around the hospital and Living Center are once again participating in an annual gift tree. Staff members volunteer to adopt a resident by choosing a paper ornament from a special tree. Each ornament has a residents' name and holiday "wish list."

... ANOTHER VIEW continued from page 5

for the South Vietnamese Government, which left them vulnerable and unable to defend themselves. This was done contrary to the peace accord, and on April 30, 1975, the North Vietnamese Army captured South Vietnam and the communists in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos killed millions and interned thousands more. In the end, this didn't impact Americans because they could not bring their destruction to our shores. This is totally unlike Iraq, where we will clearly become an even bigger target if we do not finish the job. In 1983 we left Beirut when 241 Marines and Navy Corpsmen were killed in the bombing of their barracks, and the same occurred in Somalia when U.S. soldiers were killed. The terrorists chased us out of one place after another because we would not retaliate. Our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq are a clear setback and surprise to the likes of Osama and other fundamentalist terrorists.

Congressman Murtha's withdrawal comments are disingenuous because he clearly knows about the significant successes in Iraq. There is a laundry list of success stories but the most significant is the Iraqi people jeopardizing their lives twice to vote and will do so again next month for a permanent government. It is understandable that the American people want to know when our troops are coming home, but you cannot announce such events, or

the terrorists will wait you out. Troop withdrawal must be event driven such as the election of the formal government and sufficient Iraqi military and police forces trained to go it alone. I predict forces will begin coming home in 2006, but it will be a gradual drawdown based on critical events.

Congressman Murtha has done a lot to embolden the terrorists to continue the fight, which might also encourage them to use more lethality, resulting in our government's pulling our forces out sooner. His comments may very well result in more of our soldiers and Iraqi civilians being killed.

Congressman Murtha took off his Marine warrior hat and put on his politician hat to benefit his colleagues during the mid-term election. He is also exchanging selflessness for selfishness. I'm very disappointed in him!

- General Higginbotham entered active duty in 1967 and retired in 2000 as the Vice Director for Logistics, J-4, the Joint Staff. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V", Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

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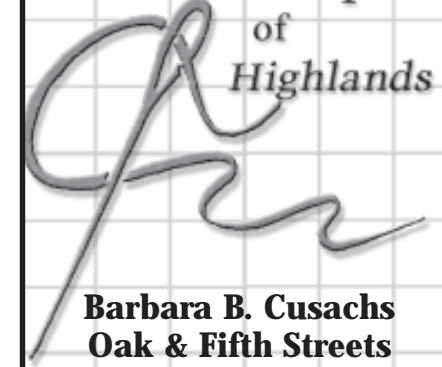
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Free Christmas reading at ITC

The Instant Theatre Company presents Collin Wilcox in a free reading of excerpts from her book *Papa's Angels*, co-authored with Gary Cardin. The reading will be held On Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., at the ITC's Studio on Main Street at 310 Oak Square.

This Christmas story is set in Highlands in 1935, and was inspired by a

real incident that happened in Highlands.

Appearing with Collin is local composer John Roman, who will play and sing, the music he wrote for both the play and the book.

This Christmas presentation is sponsored by The Christmas Tree. Happy Holidays from The Instant Theatre Company.

Hospital Auxiliary 'Tree of Lights'

Bells, in honor of living friends and loved ones, and stars, in memory of deceased friends or loved one, will be placed on the the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Tree in the hospital lobby. These tributes are available with a gift of \$25 or more.

Complete the form below (please print) and mail to: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation

Attn: Tree of Lights, P.O. Box 742,
Highlands, NC 28741

Amount given: _____

Circle one:

in memory of _____ in honor of _____

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to:

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary

Proceeds from the Tree of Lights in the hospital lobby will go toward scholarships for qualifying candidates who want to enter the health care field and who agree to join the hospital's team for a specified period of time. Ornaments can also be purchased during regular Hospital Gift Shop hours.



Thanks for Your Support!



The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors formally recognized the efforts of the hospitals Foundation during the past 20 years. Bud Smith, chairman of the board of directors presented a certificate honoring those efforts to Cassandra Manley, chairman of the Foundation at last weeks monthly board meeting. In the 20 years since the Foundation was formed, area residents have generously donated nearly \$43,200,000 toward capital improvements and operational expenses. And that figure does not include money raised for the hospital endowment. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of area residents, a new hospital, nursing center, and four medical buildings (including the Cashiers medical Center) have been constructed, expanded and renovated over the last 16 years. Funding has also gone into expansion of services and for bringing new physicians to the area. But the job continues; the hospital currently needs \$25 million for installation of the new MRI, to build a new medical facility in Cashiers, expansion of the Eckerd Living Center, a recruitment endowment, and other major initiatives.

Highlands Lutheran Church growing



The Lutheran Church of the Holy Family, 2152 Dillard Road in Highlands, welcomes 12 new members on Dec. 11.

Pastor Delmer Chilton stands before the altar with Noel (III) and Bessie Buras and their four children, Kaylie, Taylor, Casey and Juliann; Noel (Jr.) and Goldie Buras and Noels sister Gail Buras; Richard and Marlene Gravelle and their grand-daughter Avalon Camello, recently baptized at the church. Holy Family meets every Sunday at 10:30 for Holy Communion with Sunday School preceding at 9:30.



... CITIZENS continued from page 1

He said he felt like those against ETJ weren't heard by a constitutional process on Nov. 18. "A lot of compelling arguments were made against ETJ which were discounted or already considered by the board," he said.

Hourdequin said it was imperative for the group to come up with something new and innovative to get the Town Board's attention.

"We need a compelling reason not yet heard because they've already moved forward on what we've already said. We now need a rational set of issues to get them to rethink, back up or slow down," he said.

Macon County Commissioner Allan Bryson said he's been told there are grounds for an injunction based on the fact that the Nov. 18 meeting was poorly

run and there were legal aspects not adhered to such as changing the ETJ map during the public hearing and not having zoning in the ETJ area outlined prior to the hearing.

"First we must put the brakes on this with an injunction," said Bryson. "We can hit them politically or verbally, but we must first slow the process down with the injunction. Put the brakes on legally, put the pressure on locally. And we need a short term, intermediate and long term plan."

Based on technical errors made at the meeting, Bryson said the group has 60 days to file the injunction but they're about 25 days into that.

Speaking as citizen Bryson, he said "The question is does your wallet want to support an injunction? It will take

\$4,000 to get an injunction and \$10,000 to take it to trial, but if we all stand together that's not a whole lot of money.

"I welcome everyone of that mind into a commitment. This will be a legal fight not to be taken lightly. It will be a long, doggedly slow, expensive government process. It's that way whenever you have governmental entities fighting against each other. We only have three or four chances to put an end to this, and the fact is we might not end it or win it."

He said in North Carolina, ETJ has been challenged at the State Supreme Court level two times and lost, and the U.S. Supreme Court is reluctant to hear cases ruled on by the State court.

•See CITIZENS page 10

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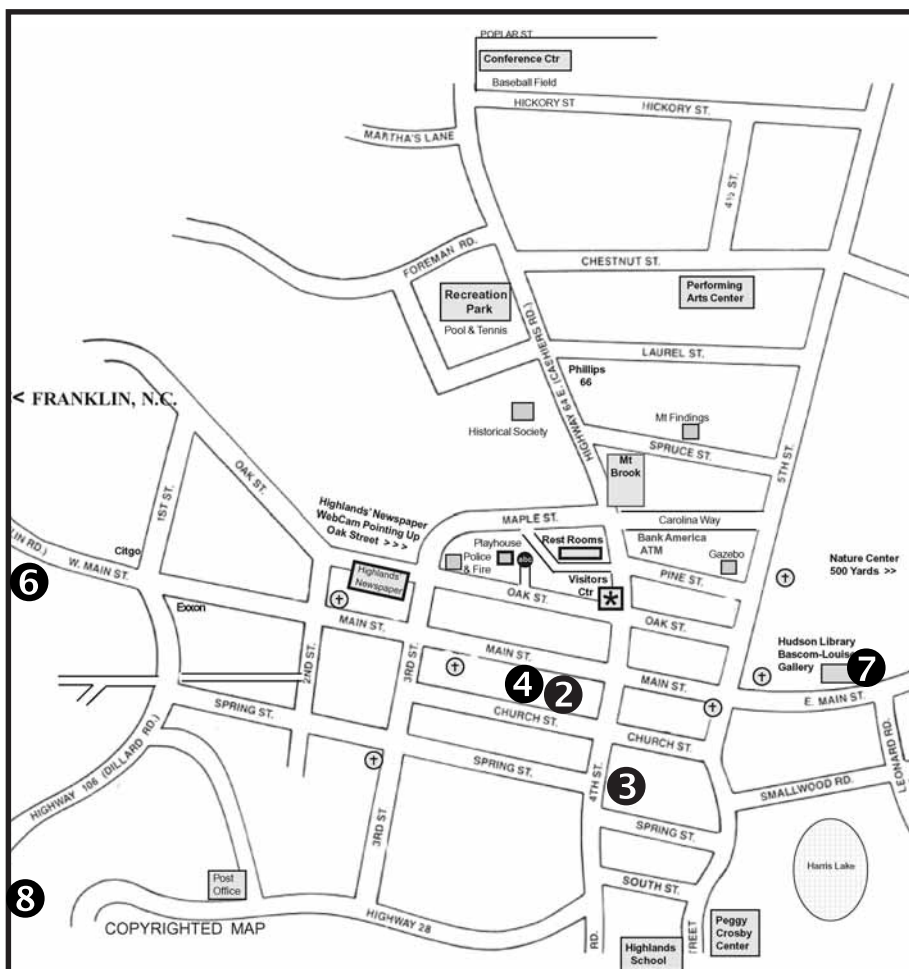
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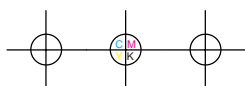


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... CITIZENS continued from page 9

He said an injunction might not stop ETJ, but the Town Board would have to restart the whole process. "They might re-consider it; maybe work with the county to create service districts made up of members in the ETJ area who are elected to set up rules to run the district. "Planning is coming," he said, "but this would be a way for us to control it and have a say as to who represents us."

Bryson said that their case against ETJ is "probably not even winnable" but said personally it was time for him to put his wallet up or shut up.

"Sometimes in life we must take a stand for something. It's a sad day when as a Highlander you stand in the house your grandfather built and you feel you have to fight against the city of Highlands because you've been wronged." He said many Highlanders in the ETJ area now feel disenfranchised from Highlands.

When asked if they were ready to support an injunction with their pocketbooks, the majority of people at the meeting raised their hands and wrote down an amount they were willing to pledge on the sign-in sheet.

Harold Neely told the group it would be an uphill battle. "Be prepared to dig in and stay or head out the door," he said. "We need to stick together, be tough and hang in there. The mayor, Dr. Mullen, realizes there's a problem in the community. He knows there's a division."

With that in mind, members of the group suggested an injunction would give the group time to perhaps change the minds of some of the Town Board members.

Neely reminded the group that the Town Board acted on the recommendation of the Planning Board.

"The Planning Board members are John Cleaveland, Ginger Slaughter, Griffin Bell, Clem Patton, Doug Campbell, King Young and Pat Taylor. So we have a problem with the Planning Board not just the Town Board," he said.

Ralph Thomas suggested changing things within the system. "We need to get new people elected, he said. "That's the simplest thing. Use the Richard Betz mentality. Do the simplest thing possible. With ETJ, it was simplest for the board to take it all. We need new people in office with some new ideas," he said. "That's the way to do this — within the system."

But Bryson said the next election is two years away and for several years people have tried to get new people on

the board and it hasn't worked.

Baker Crane said he's heard from a lot of folks in town who are upset and angry at seeing their neighbors harmed and are willing to join the legal fight with them.

"Where to do from here? Several different angles," he said. "Park cars on Main Street with signs in them that say "Repeal ETJ" or "Rescind ETJ" for one thing.

For another, he said two weeks ago he made the decision not to do business within the corporate limits of Highlands as a form of protest.

"I know this may be hurting innocent merchants, but they have more power than we do and they can go to the Town Board and protest. These folks will understand what affects their pocketbooks more than anything else. Most merchants are my friends and I hate doing this but if I need something from the town, I am now going somewhere else and I urge you to consider doing the same."

Crane said it's not just about land rights or property rights. It's bigger than that. "On Nov. 18, 2005 I was robbed by four people. I used to think Highlands was the best city in the world. I used to think we had the best government in the world. But those four folks shattered that for me."

Tommy Chambers suggested hitting the Town Board from several angles at one time, not just a one-pronged attack.

The group agreed a multi-pronged, three-stage approach should be taken but the first step should be the filing of an injunction.

Bryson said everyone needs to enlist the help of their family and their friends. "We need to have an emailing and mailing campaign. We need people to volunteer their time," he said.

Mitch Gurganus said a lot of second-home owners in the ETJ area have told him they are willing to make a donation to the cause. "We need to reach out to whoever we know to put money in the pot to get this done," he said.

Before the meeting adjourned, a five-member executive committee was formed. David Hourdequin, Mitch Gurganus, Tommy Chambers, Lee Hodges, and Mike Bryson are on the committee and will be named chairman, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and alternate.

Once \$4,000 is raised the group will proceed with the injunction.

Anyone interested in contributing to the "Citizens Against ETJ" action, is urged to contact one of the executive board members.

• HIGHLANDS SC



One more basket for Highlands, Dec. 12 at home.

Win or lose, Highlanders don't stop

On Friday, Dec. 9, Highlands played an away league game at Nantahala and won 85 to 52.

Highlands took the lead in the first quarter and held it throughout the game. In the first quarter Highlands scored 25 points to Nantahala's 9; in the second it was 22 to Nantahala's 15; in the third quarter Nantahala got 13 points to Highlands' 10 but in the end it was Highlands 85 to Nantahala 52.

Highlands had 19 assists, 20 steals, 2 blocked shots, 12 fouls 54 points in paint and 10 bench points.

Ryan Bears was top scorer with 22 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 steals; Nick Kerhoulas scored 19 points, had 6 rebounds and 4 steals; Alec Schmitt was next with 18 points, 4 rebounds, 10 assists, and 8 steals; Jason Aspinwall scored 13 points and 10 rebounds; Darren Keener scored 4 points, had 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal; Eric Chen scored 2 points, had 4 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals; Adam Hedden scored 2 points and had 2 rebounds, Andrew Billingsley scored 2 points; and Andrew Herz scored two points and had 2 steals.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Highlands lost by one point to the Hayesville Yellow Jackets in a nail-biting, non-league game at home. The final score was Hayesville 63, Highlands Highlanders 62.

In the first quarter Highlands scored 30 points to Hayesville's 24; during a hard-played second quarter neither team scored; in the third quarter Hayesville got 16 points to Highlands' 12 and in the fourth quarter it was 23 for Hayesville

and 20 for Highlands.

Alec Schmitt was top scorer with 20 points, 6 rebounds, 7 assists and 4 steals; Nick Kerhoulas scored 18 points, had 6 rebounds and 1 steal; Ryan Bears scored 13 points, had 2 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal; Jason Aspinwall scored 10 points, had 6 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal; and Darren Keener scored 1 point and had 1 steal.

At the Monday, Dec. 12, non-league game played here at home, Highlands beat the Rosman Tigers 84 to 63.

Accept for the second quarter where Rosman scored two more points than Highlands, the Highlanders held the lead every quarter. In the first quarter it was Highlands 22, Rosman 11; in the second quarter it was Highlands 22, Rosman 24; in the third quarter it was Highlands 22, Rosman 14.

Alec Schmitt, Ryan Bears, Nick Kerhoulas, Jason Aspinwall and Darren Keener all played 24 minutes to take the game from Rosman. Schmitt scored 22 points, had 9 rebounds, 12 assists and 2 steals; Bears scored 22 points had 1 rebound, 5 assists and 3 steals; Kerhoulas scored 20 points, had 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals; Aspinwall scored 16 points, had 8 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals; and Keener scored 2 points, had 7 rebounds and 1 assist. Eric Chen who was in the game 16 minutes, scored 2 points and had 1 steal.

The next game is home, Friday, Dec. 16 against Tallulah Falls, followed by an away game against Hayesville on Dec. 17. The boys play at 8 p.m.



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Allison Winn



Becca Wyatt



Coach Brett Lamb

Girls pounding their way through the season

On Friday, Dec. 9, the Highlanders traveled to Nantahala and though the girls lost 61 to 68, it wasn't an easy win for Nantahala.

During the first quarter Nantahala scored 18 points to Highlands' 13, but in the second quarter, Highlands came back with 19 points to Nantahala's 8. In the third quarter it was Highlands with 13 and Nantahala with 16 and in the fourth quarter each team scored 16 points.

Keri Raby led the team with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Becca Wyatt added 14 points and 7 rebounds. Allison Winn had 10 points and 5 assists, Toni Schmitt scored 6 points, Katie Bryson had 9 points and 5 steals and Ramsey

Ashburn scored one point.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, at home, Highlands lost to Hayesville 30 to 44.

In the first quarter Hayesville scored 16 to Highlands' 9; in the second quarter Hayesville got another 10 points to Highlands' 5; in the third quarter Hayesville scored 11 points to Highlands' 8; but in the fourth quarter Highlands scored 8 points to Hayesville's 7.

Top scorer was Allison Winn with 15 points; Toni Schmitt scored 4 and had 8 rebounds; Maggie Dearth also scored 4 points; Becca Wyatt made 3; and Katie Bryson scored 2.

On Monday, Dec. 12 it was home again for Highlands this time against Rosman. Highlands lost 49 to 62.

Becca Wyatt scored 16 points and had 7 rebounds; Toni Schmitt led with 13 points and 13 rebounds; Allison Winn scored 9 points; Katie Bryson scored 6 points and had 7 rebounds; Kaylie Buras scored 4 points and Maggie Dearth scored 2.

So far Highlands girls basketball stats: 4 wins, 6 losses

The next game is Dec. 16, home against Tallulah Falls. The girls play at 6:30, the boys at 8. On Dec. 17, the teams play away at Hayesville.

The next game is Dec. 16, home against Tallulah Falls.

The girls play at 6:30, the boys at 8.

On Dec. 17, the teams play away at Hayesville.

... ETJ continued from page 1

schedules during the holiday season not to keep people out.

Member Griffin Bell took offense to the comment.

"I resent people inferring we are dishonest and can't be trusted," he said. "I am not afraid to talk to anyone face-to-face."

Mike Bryson, who was in the audience with Eric and Steve Pierson to hear what zoning the board proposed in the ETJ area, said a lot of people don't trust Highlands' government right now and they don't feel like the Town Board listened to them.

"Having people at the Planning Board meetings would be a good opportunity to turn those trust issues around," he said. "You could bring us back into the community rather than treating us like residents who don't know how to deal with our property."

Bell said it's likely the Town Board did have its mind made up at the public hearing when they voted 4 to 1 to ETJ but he said their initial opinions were

modified.

"They did listen to viewpoints to see if their minds should be changed but nothing was said to change their minds," he said. "But change is subject to modification. They did listen to the rich country club people. That's not the way I would have done it, but that's the way it was done. The point is they did listen, they just didn't listen to you."

Planning Board Chairman John Cleaveland said both "sides" need to work together. "We need to sit down as people who have known each other forever without calling each other Hitler and communists."

He said he believes zoning raises property values. "I'm not for ruining people's property values — zoning enhances property values. But we need to work together to end up with a plan that's better for all of us. I'm not against development, I'm for good development. If something's done, we want it done well. We want an attractive entrance into Highlands. We don't want to see

something out there that we regret. What has happened in the last 20 years doesn't matter."

Gantenbein said he has talked separately to several Town Board members and what they would like to see is a "mixed-use" zone along the corridors with some sort of "big box" protection. They also want some sort of residential designation based on the watershed districts whose built-upon requirements trump the town's zoning.

Ginger Slaughter asked if new

... PARKING continued from page 1

ironed out, commissioners voted unanimously to require a clear delineation of areas the Town OKs for storage and staging by contractors; to increase fines for violations to the parking and right-of-way encroachment ordinance; and to consider two-hour parking year-round.

Commissioners suggested a \$200 fine for violations but didn't decide on the number of warnings before issuing a fine; nor did they decide whether to enforce two-hour parking all over town or just in and around construction sites.

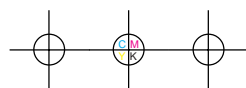
residential zones could be designated to accommodate specific uses like having farm animals.

Gantenbein said yes, and that farm animals are already allowed within the town limits they just have to be penned properly.

The Planning Board meets Friday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. to do a "drive around" of the ETJ area; on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. to begin work on zoning the area; on Jan. 2 at 5 p.m. to continue work on zoning and on Monday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m.

George Mathis with OEI encouraged the town to move forward with higher fines and even suggested a towing component. OEI has no power over the contractors, sub-contractors or construction workers hired by the general contractor on OEI projects and Mathis said they're making OEI look bad.

Town Administrator Richard Betz said he'd have an amendment to the ordinance drafted by the Jan. 4 Town Board meeting.



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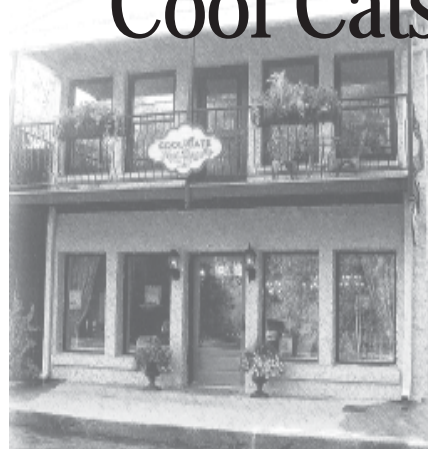
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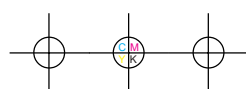


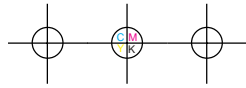
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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

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Pastor Everett Brewer

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

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Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

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Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 Worship;
6 p.m., “The Rock” for highschoolers

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wed: 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6:15 p.m. Supper;
7 p.m. Teaching

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Brian Sullivan – 526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist – 8 a.m.; Sunday School – 9

a.m.; Choir – 9:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.;
Youth Group – 5 p.m.

Mondays: Women's Cursillo Group – 4 & 5:30

Christmas Chorale – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays: Men's Cursillo in Jones Hall – 8; Staff Mtg. –
9:30 a.m.; Flying Solo – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Supper & Program – 5:30 p.m.; Choir
Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.; Gulf Coast

Support – 10:30 a.m.; Women's Cursillo – noon.

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.; Sunday 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

Sun: School – 9:30 & 9:45 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wed: Supper – 5:30 p.m.; Bible Study & activities – 6

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

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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

Volleyball players receive post-season honors

Six Highlander volleyball players were honored by the Smoky Mountain Conference for their outstanding play this season as the Highlanders won the regular season championship and the conference tournament championship.

Anna Trine, who led the team in kills with 224 and was second in blocks with 25, was selected as All Conference and the Smoky Mountain Conference Volleyball Player of the Year. “Anna had an outstanding year at the net, and was by far the most dominating outside hitter in the conference. Her tremendous kills gave us the push that enabled us to win many of our matches” said head varsity coach Rick Rawlins. Also voted All Smoky Mountain Conference was Highlands’ Callie Rawlins, who led the team in assists with 248 and led the team in blocks with 42. “Callie had an outstanding year at the net. She developed into a great defender with her vertical jump and timing of her blocks, and she could always be counted on to fight for the win until the end of the match.”

Four other Highlanders received Honorable Mention All Smoky Mountain Conference. Ramsey Ashburn, who was the Captain of the team, led the team in service aces with 75 and served 322 out of 342 for the season. She was third on the team in digs and blocks. “Ramsey did a great job as captain of the squad this year. She was our motivator that got the team going at times, and had a great overall year.” Toni Schmitt, Maggie Dearth, and Becca Wyatt also received Honorable Mention in the All Conference voting. “Toni had an outstanding year, leading the team in digs with 121, second in assists with 177, and finished second in aces with 45. Maggie did a great job as outside hitter, finishing second on the team in kills with 114. Becca Wyatt also had a great year, finishing second on the team in digs with 119 and third in kills with 109.”

Conference coaches are allowed to nominate for All Conference two players per team and one additional player for each conference win up to a maximum of six. The conference is limited to seven All Conference players. “When the coaches vote, we are not allowed to vote for our own players. We pick seven players from the other teams in the conference and rank them from 7 to 1. The top seven players with the most votes receive All Conference and the other players Honorable Mention. The player with the most votes is the Player of the Year. While it was an honor for Anna and Callie to come in first and fourth in the voting, I really feel like we had more than two All Conference players on our team.”

Leslie Wilson, Katie Bryson, Allison Winn, Becca Ashburn, and Angela Sanchez also played an important role in the great season Highlands had this year. The Highlanders finished the year 15 and 6, winning the first round of the state for the second year in a row.

Flu vaccine in Otto

The Macon County Public Health Center will hold a flu vaccination clinic for the general public in Otto on Monday, Dec. 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. This clinic will be held at the Otto Community Building.

No appointments will be scheduled and vaccine will be given on a first come, first served basis. Persons unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them and vaccine will be taken to the vehicle.

Persons, who are on Medicare Part B or Medicaid, should bring their card with them. If your insurance carrier covers the cost of flu shots, please bring your insurance card and we will bill it for you. This state supplied flu vaccine is free.



• POLICE & FIRE LOG •

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 7-14. Only the names of persons arrested or public officials are used.

Dec. 11

- At 7 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at U.S. 64 east and Sherwood Forest Drive.

Dec. 12

- Christopher Scott Flowers, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for larceny and simple assault. He was released on a \$2,000 secured bond.

- At 6:40 a.m., a driver was cited for driving left of center at U.S. 64 west and Raoul Road.

Dec. 13

- At 11:30 a.m., officers were called to The Rib Shack about a trespasser. The person was told to leave the property.

- At 3 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Horse Cove Road where a window was found open. All was secure.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries for the week of Dec. 7-14.

Dec. 7

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

Dec. 10

- The dept. responded to the call of a brush fire on Shelby Circle, but it was a controlled burn.

Dec. 11

- The dept. responded to an accident on U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.

Dec. 13

- The dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Wilson Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 14

- The dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at The Rib Shack on Spring Street. It was steam coming from the nearby laundry and dry cleaners.



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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL • SRO REPORT •

This is the November Highlands School Resource Officer report submitted by Officer Ron Castle.

- On Nov. 7, assisted the administration with a fire drill.

- On Nov. 9, assisted with school work.

- On Nov. 14, investigated a disorderly conduct complaint.

- On Nov. 15, investigated a disorderly conduct complaint.

- On Nov. 16 and Nov. 17, helped judge a fire evacuation drawing.

- On Nov. 18, investigated a claim of larceny.

- On Nov. 18, participated in a drug prevention program.

- On Nov. 18, took a trip to the police dept.

- On Nov. 22, investigated a claim of larceny.

- On Nov. 22, performed a security system check.

- On Nov. 30, helped disseminate information to parent about no bus.

- On Nov. 30, investigated an assault complaint.

- On Nov. 30, students were apprehended for possession of drug paraphernalia and communicating threats.

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •



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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

On-going

- On Mondays, from 4-6 p.m., The Food Pantry is open for anyone needing provisions – canned goods and nonperishables – at Highlands United Methodist Church building on Church Street Alley.
- At ...on the Verandah live music — Chad Reed, piano player — on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Cashiers Quilters Guild meets at the United Methodist Church in Cashiers, every Wednesday at 12:30.
- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant every Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- Cy Timmons at Pressers at Helen's Barn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. until close.
- Live Music at Buck's Coffee Cafe Thursday-Saturday, 8-11 p.m.
- Highlands Wine and Cheese Shop: Wine Flights Friday and Saturday from 4:30-6:30. Saturday, complimentary samples 12:30-4.
- HealthTracks, at Highlands-Cash-

iers Hospital, offers special fitness classes Monday through Thursday. HealthTracks at 526-1348 for details.

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

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

Dec. 16

- HS Basketball at home against Tallulah Falls. Girls 6:30 p.m., Boys, 8 p.m.

- ITC's free reading of "Papa's Angels" by Collin Wilcox at 7 p.m. with music by John Roman.

- Senior Citizen Luncheon at the Civic Center at noon. Donations accepted.

Dec. 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate five-mile hike to White-

side Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse. Meet at the EXXON gas station on the Highlands Road (Hwy.64 E) at 9 a.m. or at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:45 or at the Whiteside parking area at 10 a.m. Call leader David Sapin, 828-369-2628, for reservations.

- The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual. Christmas "Noche de Familia," Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church.

Dec. 18

- Chancel Choir Lessons & Carols during Sunday's 11 a.m. worship service at Highlands United Methodist Church.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5 mile hike on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch up to the ridge. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

Dec. 24

- Family-Oriented Candlelight and

Communion Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church.

- Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Community Bible Church at 7 p.m.

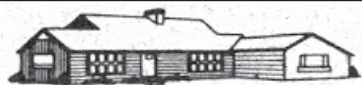
Dec. 25

- Christmas Day Dinner at Main Street Inn with proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Dinner is \$29.95. Wine available. Call 526-2590 for reservations.

Dec. 31

- Ring in the New Year with ...on the Verandah's New Year's Eve 2005 celebration. Featuring a Three-Course Dinner, Party Favors, Live Music with Trio Lococo, Dancing, Midnight Champagne Toast. Dinner & Party: \$90 per person plus tax & gratuity; Dinner from 8 p.m., Dancing from 10 p.m. Dinner only: \$45 per person plus tax & gratuity; Seating between the hours of 6-7 p.m. 50% deposit (non-refundable cash or check) due at time of reservation.

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CONTROLLER FOR PRIVATE COUNTRY CLUB IN HIGHLANDS, NC. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Professional. Club Connect software experience preferred. Duties include preparation of financial statements, payroll, budgeting, and human resources for club and related companies. Responsibilities include supervision of bookkeeper and oversight of accounts payable and receivable. Must be an effective communicator. Excellent benefits. Reply to General Manager, P.O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

GENERAL MANAGER FOR PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION – for a private country club community in Highlands, NC. This is a 350-home community with a 24 hour security force. The ideal candidate will have progressive management experience coupled with 5 years operational management experience in property management, construction or related fields. The General Manager will supervise 9 to 11 people and will work closely with a Board of Directors. Candidate must be able to develop and manage a budget, effectively implement Board policies, liaison with community government officials, provide guidance and leadership to an established group of employees and members while marketing homeowner's services to existing and new members. The position is available immediately. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Retirement and health benefits are available. Please send resume to: General Manager, P. O. Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741.

SOCIAL WORKER HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL is seeking a Social Worker (BSW) with preferably 3 or more years' experience in a health-care-related field. This full-time position provides services to meet the social, psychosocial and safety needs of the residents in Long-Term Care, Swing Bed patients and Hospice patients. Excellent benefit package after 60 days. Pre-employment substance screening. If interested in joining a dynamic healthcare team, call Mary Osmar at 828-526-1301 or visit the website at hchospital.org to apply online.

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THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot # 4 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118', the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course,

shopping, in a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly. \$260,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobnnancy@brmemc.net

THE COACH CLUB, CHESTNUT STREET, HIGHLANDS, NC. Lot # 5 Oversized, well landscaped private lot with 10 X 16 coach house and large patios. Located inside private gated 9 –Site Park in the city of Highlands. Restaurants, theater and fine arts are all within walking distance of the park. At an elevation of 4118', the average summer temperature is 780. Some of the finest activities to also include are hiking, golf, tennis and of course, shopping, in a town full of unique shops. One of the finest parks in the country, truly. \$240,000. Call 828-526-1029 or 4363 e-mail: bobnnancy@brmemc.net

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exactly what you want. Ample parking possibilities. Option on adjacent property, too. Call 526-9393, evenings.

SCENIC VIEW HOME SITES. Turtle Pond area. Views, secluded, near town. (828) 526-2759 marbago@direcway.com.

HIGHLANDS-RV LOTS-WALK TO TOWN – Rare offering. 28 RV lots, some with RV vacation homes and porches in place. 2 1/2 blocks from Main Street. 7 creek-front lots available. Lots from 95K-129K. Only 10k upon signing contract. Close by mid-April, 2006 in time for season. These won't last. Call 706-613-1438, 706-202-5292 (cell) or 828-526-9493.

CONDO FOR SALE – By Owner. Great 2-bedroom, 2-bath upstairs condo in town. Save gas, walk everywhere! Asking \$210,000. Call for details. 526-3671.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 275 Foreman Road. In-town on .87 acre-wooded lot. 2 bedrooms, 11/2 baths, study, large workshop/studio, stone fireplace, oak floors, hemlock paneling. Quality construction, mature landscaping, exterior stonework. Asking \$425,000 (828) 342-2624. Broker/Owner

SERVICES

PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING – DP Painting & Pressure Washing. In business since 1984. Quality work, guaranteed. References. Call 526-3542.

HIGHLANDS SHUTTLE SERVICE – Atlanta Airport Shuttle. Drive - Away • Auto Delivery. All Out-of-Town Trips Driving Services. Call 526-8078.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WORK FROM HOME AND BUILD INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY. Top growth company – just expanded into Germany. Who do you know? Looking for leaders. Contact 828-787-2212.

FOR TRADE

FREE DECORATIVE PAINTING SERVICES for **SUGAR BOWL TICKETS** (2-4) Antiquing, distressing, glazing, cabinets, furniture, interiors. Call 526-5994.

Chestnut Hill celebrates opening of 'center'

Chestnut Hill of Highlands opened its new Assisted Living Center – The Suites at Chestnut Hill – on Thursday, Dec. 8, with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Suites at Chestnut Hill is located within the private senior living community of Chestnut Hill of Highlands, near Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and is the first and only assisted living center in the Highlands-Cashiers area.



Chamber Director Bill Bassham, Banyan President Ken Bolt, resident Myrtle Oxford and Chestnut Hill Director Frazier Jackson.

Featured were guided tours of the 26-suite center, and the Chestnut Hill senior living community. State and local dignitaries were on hand and light refreshments, prepared by Chestnut Hill's executive chef were served.

"The opening of The Suites represents the fulfillment of a much-needed, long desired addition to our senior and adult retirement community," said Frazier Jackson, executive director of Chestnut Hill of Highlands. "Not only does it complete Chestnut Hill's



offering of full-service continuing care, but it brings an added dimension to the quality of life our residents enjoy and for those who choose to retire in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

The fully-licensed center provides residents with 24-hour personal assistance. This includes the monitoring and scheduling of medication, as well as help with daily routines such as dressing, bathing and grooming.

Several floor plans are available ranging from 388 square feet to 637 square feet. Services and amenities at The Suites include (but are not limited to) three full-course meals a day, plus snacks; personnel on duty 24 hours a day, recreational, educational, religious and cultural programs; a full calendar of events and activities, scheduled transportation; as well as housekeeping, flat linen and laundry service.

For more information, contact Frazier Jackson at 526-5251.



Above, Chestnut Hill Director Frazier Jackson addresses attendees. Below, Banyan President Ken Bolt does the same.



Is Your Son:

- Trustworthy
- Loyal
- Helpful
- Friendly
- Courteous
- Kind
- Obedient
- Cheerful
- Thrifty
- Brave
- Clean
- Reverent



**This is the Boy Scout Law and Scouts learn to live by it.
For camping fun and a reliable son, CALL US:**

Boys 5 to 10

Pack 207
Pack 217
Pack 219
Pack 229
Pack 282

Cub Scout Packs

United Methodist Ch. Highlands
1st United Methodist Ch. Franklin
Memorial Methodist Ch. Cartoog.
Cullasaja Gorge FD
Asbury Methodist Ch. Otto

Mon. 6:30pm
Tues. 6:30pm
Tues. 7:00pm
Tues. 6:30pm*
Tues. 6:30pm

Phil Potts, 526-3719
Anthony Esterwood, 524-1928
Tina Galloway, 421-0503
James Watson, 369-9415
Kevin Fountain, 524-9079

Boys 11 to 17

Troop 202
Troop 207
Troop 229
Troop 282
Troop 298
NEW TROOP

Boy Scout Troops

Slagle Memorial Bldg. Franklin
Masonic Lodge, Highlands
Sugarfork Baptist Ch., Cullasaja
Otto Community Bldg. Otto
1st United Methodist Ch. Franklin
St. Francis R.C. Church, Franklin

Mon. 6:00pm
Tues. 5:30pm
Thurs. 6:30pm*
Tues. 7:00pm
Tues. 7:00pm
Starting Soon

Ray Romano, 349-4749
Jack Creighton, 526-8318
Greg Wallace, 349-1170
Bill Edwards, 524-9124
Rick Moninghoff, 524-3084
Mary, Church Office, 524-2289

Boys 14 to 20

Post 204
Crew 1910

Venture Crews and Explorer Posts

Sheriff's Office, Macon County
Slagle Memorial Bldg. Franklin

Tues. 6:30pm*
3rd Thurs., 7:00pm

Robbie Younce, 349-0124
Bill Dyar, 524-8129

*Meets every other week

Every boy deserves to be a Scout!

If **financial limitations** would prevent your son from joining, call Jim Sottile, "HELP A SCOUT", at (828) 349-0322. All calls are confidential.

Ad Sponsors: Zickgraf Hardwood Flooring Co., Nantahala Lumber & Building Supply, Franklin Machine Company

'Noche de Familia' Dec. 17

The International Friendship Center is hosting its annual Christmas "Noche de Familia," Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal church.

The event has become a tradition for the Friendship Center and the Highlands Community. Last year more than 150 people attended the event. It will start off with a mass in Spanish officiated by Father Tim Hoytt of Hendersonville. After mass there will be a dinner and a visit from Mrs. Claus who will hand out gifts to the children.

Everyone is welcome! For more information, call 526-9938.

...

El Centro Internacional de la Amistad recibe su anual. Navidad "Noche de Familia," el sábado, Diciembre 17 en 5 de la tarde en la Iglesia Episcopal.

El acontecimiento ha llegado a ser una tradición para el Centro de la Amistad y la Comunidad de tierras altas. El año pasado más de 150 personas asistieron el acontecimiento. Empezará lejos con una masa en Español ofició por Padre Tim Hoytt de Hendersonville. Después que masa habrá una cena y una visita de Sra. Claus que repartirá obsequios a los niños.

¡Todos están bienvenidos! Para más información, la llamada 526-9938.



Winter Night Life
Cyprus
Bucks Cafe
Fressers
SweetTreats Cafe
...on the Verandah
OEI's Wine Garden

<<< WATERFALLS
Cullasaja Falls 9 Miles
Bust Your Butt Falls 7 Miles
Cliffside Lake 6 Miles
Dry Falls 3 Miles
Bridal Veil Falls 2 Miles

Highlands Map & Guide
PDF Online Version
HighlandsMapGuide.com

Cashiers Road, Hwy 64e
Whiteside Mt Hiking Trail 7 Miles
High Country Cafe 5 Miles
Skyline Lodge & Jack's 4 Miles
Highlands-Cashiers Hosp. 4 Miles
Good Year Tire & Repair 3 Miles
Highlands Outdoor Tool 2 Miles
TWIGS & Fibbers 1/4 Mile ↑

Mountain Fresh Foods
Gourmet Selection - Main & 5th St.

Meadows Mt Realty
Big View & Waterfront
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Visitors' Information
HighlandsInfo.com
HighlandsRadio.com
HighlandsMapGuide.com

Highlands Wine & Cheese
"Falls on Main"

Instant Theatre
Oak Sq. | 828-342-9197

<< 1 Mile On The Verandah
<< 1/2 Mile NBG Builders
<< 1/2 Mile August Produce
Farm Fresh Vegetable Stand
RBC Centura
Rosewood Market
Bryant Art Glass
Citgo

Wholesale *
Down Comforters

Furniture
South

Terry Potts
Country Club Properties
828-526-2520

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Market**

Mitchells Lodge
& Cottages
Highlands Decorating
& Highlands Hardware
*Cyprus Restaurant
& Curves Fitness
*Old Creek Lodge

Dillard Rd / Hwy 106
Sky Valley 10 Miles
Dillard, GA. 14 Miles

←← The Farm 1 1/2 Miles
Tin Roof Studio 2 Miles

Signature Properties &
Vacation Rentals

Exxon
Don Leons

Fireside Restaurant
Wright Square
Country Club Properties

Helen's Barn Ave

Fressers

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Highlands Office
CAR SPA

Post Office

Highlands' Newspaper
WebCam Pointing Up
Oak Street >>>

Newspaper
Visitors
Center
Main St Inn

Grinning Frog
Theatre
Shiraz Rugs
Bear Mtn.

Paradise
Perfume
Back of
the Bear

Anna
Wear
Country
Club Prop.

Shiraz
Rugs
Bear Mtn.

Images
Warth

Highlands Custom Coverings

Mirror Lake Antiques
Buyer's Realty

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Insertion Rate 16pg
\$150. Per 5,000
Magazine Rate \$250.
Per 5,000

Police
& Fire Dept.

Rest Rooms

Town Hall

PlayHouse

Sports
Nancy's
Fancy's
Exchange

Toy Store

Village Kids

Wits End

Buck's

Ann Jacob

Gem Shop

Highlands Cabinet

Hilltop
Grill

Rib
Shack

Dry Cleaner

Northland
Cable Co.

Highlands
School

Nicks
Restaurant

Highlands
School

Highlands
School

Highlands
School

Highlands
School

Highlands
School

Highlands
School

POPLAR ST
Conference Ctr
Baseball Field
Wilson Gas
&
Appliance

HICKORY ST
Chandler Inn
Colonial Pines
Inn B&B

CHESTNUT ST
Best of the Bunch
Performing
Arts Center
Community Players
Highlands Cashiers Music Festival

LAUREL ST
Phillips
66
Mt Findings

SPRUCE ST
Mt Brook
Brick Oven
SweetTreats
Int. Exchg.

MAPLE ST
PlayHouse
Rest Rooms
Town Hall

OAK ST
Grinning Frog
Theatre
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Bear Mtn.

MAIN ST
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3RD ST
Anna
Wear
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CHURCH ST
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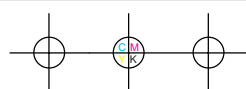
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