



## Inside:

Wooldridge	pg. 4
Movie Pix	pg. 5
Marriage Tips	pg. 6
Feature	pg. 10-11
Upcoming Events	pg. 15
HS Basketball	pg. 8&15
Police & Fire	pg. 17

# FREE

# Highlands' Newspaper

**Volume 3, Number 2****Locally Owned & Operated****Friday, Jan. 14, 2005**

### Jan. 13

- Hospital blood drive at Highlands School from 1-4 p.m.

### Jan. 15

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Round Mountain, 5 miles, easy to moderate. Hike has 200 foot elevation gain with some ups and downs, although the hike is uphill both ways. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10:30 a.m. Drive 10 miles round-trip. Return about 2 p.m. Call leader Carl Blozan for reservations at 743-1765. Bring a lunch, beverage, rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots. No pets.

### Jan. 16

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Green Cove Hike at Outward Bound Camp, 2 miles, easy. Meet at the Otto Post Office at 2 p.m. Drive 9 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell for reservations at 369-6820. Bring beverage, rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots. No pets.

### Jan. 17

- **Breaking Free**, a Beth Moore Bible study, will meet at Highlands School, Room E107, at 3:30 p.m. The study is 11 weeks long. Participants will watch the introductory video and receive their workbooks at the first meeting. Anyone interested in joining in this Bible study is welcome to attend. Call Carol Bowen, the facilitator, at 526-2147 or 526-5168.

- School calendar change meeting at Highlands School cafeteria at noon.

### Jan. 18

- Highlands School Basketball game Nantahala at the Highlands Rec Park at 6:30 p.m.

- The Bascom-Louise Gallery presents the film "Klute" at PAC at 7:30 p.m. It's free but donations are appreciated.

### Jan. 19

- An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED, Infant/Child CPR, and First Aid Basics course, at the Macon County Public Health Center. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Friday, January 14. Call 349-2439.

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Wayah Crest to Winding Stair Gap, 6 - 7 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at Westgate Plaza, Franklin, at 9 a.m. Call leaders Dave and Terry Barr for reservations at 369-3800. Bring lunch, beverage, rain gear, and sturdy shoes or boots.

## Blow-up about rooftop decorations over

**By Kim Lewicki**

It seems government does listen to its people, at least in Highlands.

Much hoopla over roof-top, blow-up Christmas decorations had various boards rethinking the town's decoration ordinance – particularly as it per-

tains to the Christmas season.

But letters to the editor, editorials, phone calls and scores of emails convinced the planning board to leave good enough alone when it comes to dressing up Highlands for the holidays.

"The public is asking us not to

mess with the ordinance except maybe for the time limits," said Town Planner Larry Gantenbein at the Jan. 10 meeting.

But in the end, time limits were even left alone. The planning board de-

▪See **DECORATIONS** page 9

## LUP committee hard at work

**By Erin Brown**  
Staff Writer

Throughout its inception, the Highlands Land Use Planning Committee is focusing on it all — commercial, residential and natural environments, as well as growth in new and existing neighborhoods and the maintenance and upkeep of old developments in town.

But at the Jan. 10 meeting, the committee addressed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of multi-family housing, walking communities, and subdivision ordinances.

Larry Gantenbein, zoning administrator, brought up the point that Highlands' subdivision regulations did not take into account the rural mountain character of the town with regard to road development or with regard to the development of the subdivision in its entirety.

"Our subdivision regulations cannot be varied from, except under the most extraordinary circumstances, and they impose an 18-foot-wide road, period," Gantenbein said.

Committee member Clem Patton concurred and said that the committee needed something that was adaptable and could be varied on a case-by-case basis.

Gantenbein also pointed out that a substantial portion of the town's erosion and sedimentation problems are due to the dirt roads.

"We can't asphalt those roads to stop them from bleeding silt because

▪See **LUC** page 12



Photo by Barbara Lawrence

**Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen and Rotary President Selwyn Chalker at the Tues., Jan. 11 meeting.**

## Highlands School vision explained

**By Erin Brown**  
Staff Writer

Highlands School Principal Monica Bomengen spoke to the Highlands Rotary Club Tuesday explaining the school's vision for the future.

"When I first started I was asked many times, 'what is your vision for the school,' and my response was, 'I am not the person who needs to craft the vision of the future of the school, the whole community needs to do that,'" she said at the lunchtime meeting.

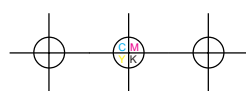
Bomengen said the vision that is being developed for the school will enable it to be a safe, interesting and challenging environment.

"I love school, and I feel everyday that I am getting paid to do something that I love," Bomengen said. "I want every student who graduates from Highlands School to be on a path in life where they are able to find a vocation or career where they are getting paid to do something they love."

In establishing this vision, Bomengen wants to ensure that all the "stakeholders" in the school and the community are included in the process.

"We're talking about the possibility of changing the school calendar, and I think it's important, whether we

▪See **VISION** page 17





## • BUSINESS NEWS •



**Signature Properties** is proud to announce the addition of Chris Gilbert to the Main Street Highlands Office. Chris is the former CEO of a Premier IBM business partner firm and Gulf War Veteran. He served with the U.S. Navy Seabee's as a builder and combat engineer. Since moving to Highlands in 2000, he helped start Cyprus Restaurant with Nick Figel and teaches Kenpo Karate at Dustin Chovanic's school here in Macon County. Chris lives in Scaly Mountain with his wife Angie and two children, Chance and Abigail.



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**(828) 526-0782**

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## Brown joins Highlands' Newspaper

Erin Brown, formerly of The Highlander newspaper, joined the Highlands' Newspaper staff Friday Jan. 7 as a staff writer and sales representative.

"We are very pleased to have Erin join our organization," said Kim Lewicki, publisher. "I have been watching her carefully over the last eight months and have been very impressed with her journalistic ability, her people skills and her grasp of community affairs. She is truly an asset to Highlands' Newspaper."

Brown has a degree in journalism from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. She worked for her hometown paper, The

Statesboro Herald, as an entertainment writer, paginator and graphic artist for a year after graduating.

Brown moved to Highlands from Statesboro, Ga., after she accepted a job as staff writer and photographer for The Highlander. She was with the organization for eight months.

"I am very excited to be on board with Highlands' Newspaper, and I'm fortunate to be able to re-

main in this community doing the job I love," Brown said.

For story ideas or advertising, contact Erin at 526-0782 or email her at [highlandserin@aol.com](mailto:highlandserin@aol.com).



**Erin Brown**

## • LETTER TO THE EDITOR •

### Team effort makes program successful

Dear Editor,

Highlands School's first holiday music program in our new gymnasium was a wonderful success, thanks to many people who put in many hours. Music teachers Joe Powell and Donna Sizemore did an excellent job organizing and supervising the program, as well as preparing the band students and elementary singers. Many other faculty arranged their schedules to allow group rehearsals, work on costumes and props, and help facilitate the performance.

The school custodians moved equipment and picked up borrowed chairs in the rain in their own vehicles. Parent volunteers helped decorate the gym. Staff were brave enough to participate in the silly staff song. The PTO donated items for decorations and provided volunteers to help. The coaches rearranged their physical education class schedules to allow extra music rehearsals in the gym.

Mr. Powell's father-in-law loaned us the sleigh and reindeer. Many students helped move items back and forth from the music room. *Highlands' Newspaper* provided coverage of the performance. Matt McClellan wrote and performed a holiday song. The students who participated, K-12, gave their best during the vocal and instrumental performances.

It would not have been possible to put on such a successful performance without the help of all these people. Thank you so much to everyone, and to the community for attending and supporting our music program.

**Monica Bomengen**  
**Principal**

▪ See LETTERS page 3



## • OBITUARIES •

### Rev. Harvey Stewart

Funeral services to celebrate the life of the Rev. Stewart were held on Jan. 3, 2005 in the Liberty Mortuary Chapel. Burial was in Westview Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service.

The Rev. Harvey Lee Stewart, husband of Varnell Hall Stewart, of Laurel Hill Nursing Center, formerly of Easley, S.C., died Saturday, January 1, 2005 at Cannon Memorial Hospital.

Born in Pickens County, he was a son of the late Thomas Alford and Nicie Cox Stewart.

He was a retired minister having pastored at the following churches: Cashiers Baptist Church, Cashiers, N.C.; Shiloh Baptist Church, Seneca, S.C.; Highlands First Baptist Church, Highlands, N.C.; and Kings Grove Baptist Church, Six Mile, S.C. He was a member of Jones Avenue Baptist Church in Easley. He was also a U.S. Army veteran.

Surviving in addition to his wife of Pickens, is a daughter-in-law, Sonjia Stewart of Highlands, N.C.; a granddaughter, Amanda Leigh Stewart of Highlands, N.C.; one brother, Andrew Stewart and his wife Bobbie of Easley,, S.C.; and numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jimmy Lee Stewart and several brothers and sisters.

Memorial messages may be sent to the family by visiting [www.libertymortuary.com](http://www.libertymortuary.com). Liberty Mortuary, Inc., handled the arrangements.

The family is requesting that cards be sent to his wife:: Varnell H. Stewart, Laurel Hill Nursing Center, 716 East Cedar Rock St., Pickens, S.C., 29671.

### Charles M. "Monty" Hood, Jr.

Charles M. "Monty" Hood, Jr. age 88, of Highlands, N.C., died January 5, 2005, at his home.

Born in Iowa to Charles and Anna Hood, he attended Iowa State University prior to serving in World War II as a flight instructor, fighter pilot, and squadron commander in Europe. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, USAF. At the conclusion of World War II, he married the former Lamar Ellis of Perry, Fla., and together returned to his hometown of Osceola, Iowa to join his father as a merchant.

Upon moving to Central Florida in 1951, he established a successful tractor dealership from which he retired in 1988.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lamar, six children and their spouses: Robin and Glenn Geisler, Louise and Dick Malpass, Charles and Glenda Hood, Libby and Ferrell Coppedge, Mary and Jim Hart, and John and Jean Hood; twenty grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday, January 14 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Orlando, Fla. Memorial gifts may be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, PO Box 190, Highlands, N.C., 28741.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.



**T**wo-time Olympic gold medalist, John Macready, gives encouragement to Highlands School eighth-grader, Casey Jenkins, before her competition in Woodstock, Ga., on Jan. 9. At her first meet competing at Level 9, Casey took second place on balance beam, seventh place on uneven parallel bars and sixth place all-around. The New Vision Competitive team was the only North Carolina representative for level 9 and 10.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

## Highlands Christmas Spirit

Dear Editor,

The Tuesday before Christmas Highlands Mountaintop Rotary was just minutes away from delivering boxes of food and other goodies to the Head Start families when members discovered they were short one pair of children's shoes.

Out they dashed to Village Kids on Main Street, which not only had the perfect pair of shoes, but when the helpful shopkeeper heard the reason the shoes were needed, she refused to accept any money!

Mountaintop Rotary thought the people of Highlands should be made aware of the generosity extended by proprietors of Village Kids.

We thank you.

**Charley Juengling  
Highlands**



**Each year, Highlands Mountaintop Rotary buys Christmas stockings and fills them with presents and shoes for each child at Highlands Head Start program. This year the group also gave shoes to the children.**





## Girls Clubhouse back at it



Courtney Rogers, Elizabeth Gordon and Sally Zachary work with other members of The Girls' Clubhouse straightening books at the Hudson Library.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## The Bascom-Louise art center announces the officers for the 2005 board of directors

The Bascom - Louise Art center elected new officers for its Board of Directors for 2005.

Edward Bohling was elected Board Chairman by the Directors of the Bascom - Louise Art Center at their first meeting of 2005. He will replace Robert Tucker, whose two terms marked the advancement of the gallery toward its planned expansion into a full-scale fine arts center on its recently acquired building site at the old Crane Stable property on Oak Street.

In 2008 the art center is scheduled to move out of the Hudson Library building, which it has shared for 20 years, allowing the library and art center to expand their programs and services.

Also elected were Sarah Sloan, vice chairman, Charlotte Merry, secretary and Curtis James, treasurer. Each officer is elected for a one-year term.

Bohling has been involved with several community arts programs since moving here full-time in 1987, including many years on the board of the Chamber Music Festival. Prior to 1987, he was president

of a furniture manufacturing company in Florida and had managed businesses in Atlanta for 20 years. He is an exhibiting artist at Summit One Gallery in Highlands.

Also at the January meeting the art center's ambitious 2005 schedule was announced by the art center's Executive Director Kaye Gorecki.

The schedule includes two juried art exhibits, one a repeat of last year's first annual exhibition of high school artists from around this region, and the other repeats last season's highly successful exhibit of artists from across the Southeast, when approximately 200 entries were received; exhibits of the Art Leagues of Macon County and Asheville; an exhibit of the work of renowned artist Harvey Littleton; an open exhibit for all artists in this region; an exhibit of artists working in wood and an invitational exhibit of quilts.

In addition, the art center calendar provides art classes each week for young artists K - 12 and a large variety of workshops for artists of all ages and development levels.

## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### My 2005 predictions

This year I am using a new system to evaluate my predictions. Not only will I rely on my wizardry talents for my annual predictions, but I will include scientific research and psychology to the equation. My predictions, therefore, are deemed foolproof, giving new meaning to that term. Here is why.

As a prediction enters my brain from the cosmos, I immediately apply a scientific probability to the aberration for authenticity. I run the prediction by my psychiatrist, who is also seeing a psychiatrist since he met me, to get a feel of just how bizarre the prediction is. If he does not "flip out," which he sometimes does, then it will become official.

Here is my collection. Write them down and take heed.

A bacteriologist by the name of Zoomer Differhaukin will complete a study revealing an odorless gas, released from the beetles currently eating hemlock woolly adelgids in Highlands, has an adverse affect on human behavior. He will further conclude that persons breathing this gas have an insatiable need to gather up everything they own and sell it to OEI.

A newly formed organization of women, known as WOWS, will gang pinch Mayor Buck Trott into submitting, in writing, to never pave Bowery Road. WOWS stands for "Women Obsessed With Salamanders."

Robert Ray, our newly hired artistic director, will arrive in Highlands only to learn that more money was spent on face makeup at his last job than the entire Highlands Playhouse budget. He will announce his first play, "Cheaper Is As Cheaper Does" followed by a not so funny



Fred Wooldridge

comedy "Money Talks or Art Director Walks." His last play of the season, in which he will personally take the leading role, is "I'll Be Back....Just Hold Your Breath."

An ancient Cherokee Indian burial ground will be discovered on the newly

purchased building site for the Bascom-Louise Art Center. After much consultation and deliberation, town fathers, local Cherokee chiefs and BLAC officials, it will decide the best course of action is to follow past performance and pay the Indians one dollar and a sack of flour, then send them back to their reservation.

Luke Osteen, Highlands' much respected and very own "flower child," will go on the nationally acclaimed Jeopardy game show but will flub up on a trick question about how far it is to Tipperary? Luke will admit after the show that he had never actually seen a Rary.

Highlands' residents will get all excited about the release of the new and powerful laricobius nigrinus beetle, an upgrade from the old model. Since this beetle has a head on each end of its body, it can eat twice as many woollies and never release toxic gases. Is this one mean beetle, or what?

Jerry Cook, Highlands' well liked police chief, will make a speech at his retirement party and admit that he has been sleeping with his ticket book.

Our very own newspaper czar, Kim Lewicki, "la patron" for the Highlands' Newspaper, will move to Paris and open a French bakery called "Sweet and Sticky, by Lewicki."

Lamar Nix will hire a foreign engineer who claims he can get poop to flow uphill. For all those

■See WOOLDRIDGE page 7

# • MOVIE PIX •

## Kindergarten Cop

The 1990 comedy action film, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Penelope Ann Miller, Pamela Reed, and Richard Tyson, directed by Ivan Reitman, rated PG13 for some violence.



Stuart Armor

The Storyline: Arnold is Tough Guy Cop (what else?), detective Kimble, without enough evidence to convict creepy, Drug Dealing Murderer (Richard Tyson). Together with dry, sardonic partner (ably done by Pamela Reed) and faithful pet ferret, they go under cover in a small town school to locate creepy drug dealer's ex wife (Penelope Ann Miller). Through a series of completely unexpected (but entirely predictable) events, Arnold turns himself into "Teacher Extraordinaire," beloved by all, including beautiful school teacher, who turns out to be (who could have ever foreseen this!) none other than creepy drug dealer's ex wife. I mean really, what are the odds? The normally person friendly ferret bites someone, and without giving away too much of the major plot developments, we might guess that the victim is a bad guy.

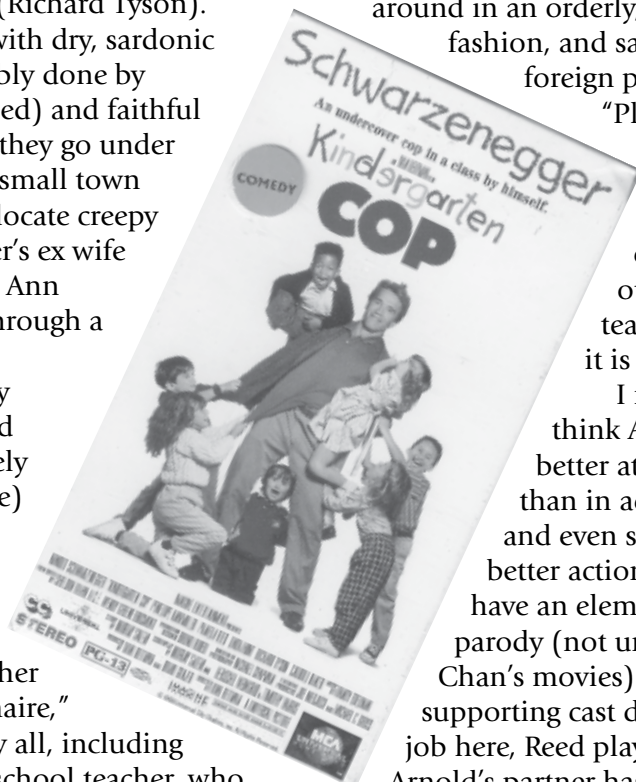
OK, so we are not exactly talking Citizen Kane here, but it is an entertaining bit of comic/ action fluff, and not surprisingly, Arnold, playing opposite cute kids, cute school teachers, and

cute ferrets is, well, cute. Having said that, it is probably not a whole family film, there is enough violence to make it a bit scary for some of the younger viewers. But there are a lot of comic elements, mostly based on the visuals of a big tough guy

struggling to maintain order in a room full of 23 little kids. He eventually has them marching around in an orderly, Teutonic fashion, and saying foreign phrases like "Please" and "May I", to the astonished eyes of the other teachers. And it is funny.

I really do think Arnold does better at comedy than in action films, and even some of his better action films have an element of self-parody (not unlike Jackie Chan's movies). And the supporting cast does a good job here, Reed playing Arnold's partner has a dry and sarcastic delivery, the young actors do a good job, not overly saccharine, and veteran Carroll Baker does a small but brilliant portrayal as the psychotic and scary mom of the bad guy.

See more of comic Arnold in Twins, Junior, Jingle All the Way, and one of my favorites The Villain. More tough guy/little kid films are Curly Sue, Professional (which is a brilliant but lesser known drama), My Giant, Daddy Daycare, and Three Men and a Baby.



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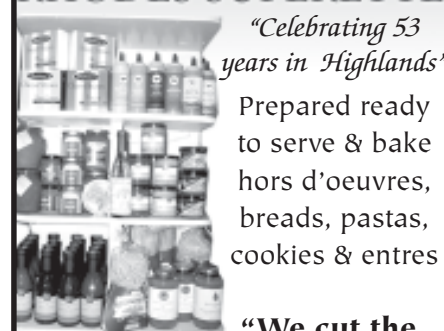
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Sat: (2), (4), 7, 9  
Sun: (2), (4), 7  
Mon - Thur: (4), 7

**RACING STRIPES** rated PG  
Fri: (4:10), 7:05, 9:10  
Sat: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05, 9:10  
Sun: (2:05), (4:10), 7:05  
Mon - Thur: (4:10), 7:05

**WHITE NOISE** rated PG-13  
Fri: (4), 7:10, 9  
Sat: (2:10), (4), 7:10, 9:00  
Sun: (2:10), (4), 7:10  
Mon - Thur: (4), 7:10

**MEET THE FOCKERS**  
rated PG-13  
Fri: (4:15), 7, 9:15  
Sat: (2), (4:15), 7, 9:15  
Sun: (2), (4:15), 7  
Mon - Thur: (4:15), 7





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## • MARRIAGE TIPS •

### Make your marriage a resolution

**By Greg and Deborah Brock**

**D**id you make any New Year's resolutions for 2005? The most popular resolutions are centered on weight loss, starting an exercise program, stopping bad habits or obtaining a better financial status in the New Year.

Vic Johnson, co-creator of "Goals 2005 Live Your Dreams," claims that most New Year's Resolutions are pretty much worthless. He said, "If you're going to make

a New Year's resolution this year, make one with a high probability for success. Make a resolution to develop a life plan. Most people are in a free-fall through life, careening from one crisis to the next. They wake up one day and 10, 20, 30 or more years have passed, and they're nowhere near where they thought or hoped they'd be. Working with a life plan you're much more apt to be excited by what the future brings, even if you succeed at attaining only a small part of your plan."

We happen to agree. Many people are in a free-fall regarding their marriage. They fall head-over-heels for someone based on looks, a few common interests and a couple of good times together. Convinced that they should share a life together, they exchange rings and wedding vows. Couples make resolutions of how things will be after marriage, but often they fail to factor in the reality of life. They do not have a plan for how they will work and share their lives together. A couple might say they will buy a

house, have two kids and take a great vacation every year. Then life circumstances bring unemployment or infertility, and they may not ever have the resources to go on a vacation. The resolutions made become worthless. When this

happens, many couples think the marriage is just as meaningless.

There is already a master life plan in putting a woman and man together in a marriage. They are to be help-mates for



**Greg and Deborah Brock**

each other. If this life plan for marriage involves finding ways to help each other then each partner automatically has someone in his or her corner. They have someone to get through the difficult things that life throws their way and a partner to celebrate with when life brings rewards. Just think of how much more productive we could be if spouses worked together to loose weight, exercise more, quit bad habits or establish better financial disciplines. Marriage is a partnership.

The word resolution is derived from the word resolve which means to make up one's mind or decide firmly. Make up your mind and decide firmly to make your marriage a priority. Determine with your partner how the life plan for your marriage can be focused on helping each other. Discuss how you can work towards it together. Think of ways to be a help-mate to your spouse. Share ways that he or she can be a help-mate to you.

**Greg and Deborah Brock lead marriage enrichment conferences all over the Southeast. They often coordinate weekend retreats and workshops for churches throughout South Carolina. They will be writing a monthly column for Highlands' Newspaper.**

## • BUSINESS NEWS •

Highlands' Newspaper - Friday, Jan. 14, 2005 - Page 7

### Ready to take the pounds off?



**CURVES**, located on the lower level of Cyprus Restaurant, in the Great Things complex, is open for business. Chamber of Commerce members and soon-to-be customers turned out for the ribbon cutting, Sat. Jan. 8. For more information, call 526-9200.

### ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

people who missed the release of the beetles or the lighting of the new traffic signals, you won't want to miss this event.

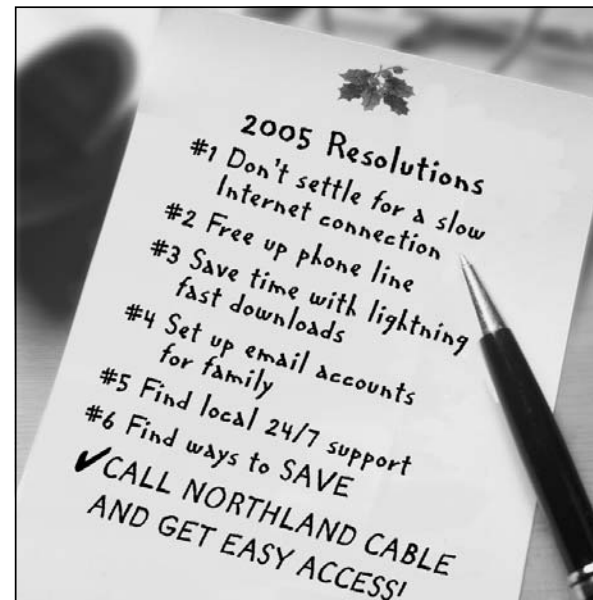
Citizens of Highlands will really get their shorts in a wad when it is revealed our town leaders are contemplating the renaming of 4th Street to Williams Way. The idea will be dropped when it is learned there has been a sharp increase in the purchase of tar buckets from Reeves Hardware.

After much study of scientific data and several meetings with officials in Washington, the United States Forest Service will conclude that the huge rock that fell from Bridal Veil Falls was the

result of gravity. As a precautionary measure, they warned that more study is needed.

After studying intelligence reports received over the past year, coupled with endless hours of surveillance, cone heads from the CIA will conclude that Osama Bin Laden is not, I repeat, is not the man operating the 7/11 store in Murphy, North Carolina. The owner is, in reality, our very own Dilbert Cornhall, and he wears the towel on his head because of a severe case of head lice.

Finally, Highlanders will take up a collection on my behalf and offer me a one way ticket to Baghdad. I hope it's in first class.



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## • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

### Highlanders grab 1st place in Little Smoky Mountain Conference

**By Matt Keener & Kathryn Coppage**

Highlanders took the lead in Little Smoky Mountain Conference with wins over Hiwassee Dam on Jan. 7. This was a big night for the Highlanders that ended with both boys' and girls' teams undefeated in conference play.

Highlands remains undefeated in the conference after declawing the Blue Ridge Bobcats Tuesday night.

The girl's game against Hiwassee was intense right from the beginning. Both Hiwassee and Highlanders like to run the floor and keep the game at a quick-paced tempo. So there was no advantage for either team. By the end of the third quarter, both Highlanders and Hiwassee players were exhausted, with a one-point difference.

With two minutes left in the

fourth quarter, Highlanders opened up the score with several well-placed shots from Kayla McCall and Toni Schmitt, and Hiwassee was unable to catch up. The final score was Highlanders 61, Hiwassee 49.

Leading scorers for the girls' game were McCall with 19 points, Allison Winn with 14 points and Toni Schmitt with 12 points.

Captain Kayla McCall said, "That was the best team effort that our girls have ever shown. They deserved every bit of the victory."

The Highlanders boys' game was just the same as the girls'. The intensity, hustle, and the physical play of Hiwassee Dam Eagles were matched by the speed, agility, and team play of the Highlanders.

"Our boys' showed some of the best team ball that Highlanders has

▪See HIGHLANDERS page 15

### Highlanders play tough, but are defeated by West Oak Warriors

**By Kathryn Coppage**  
Contributor

Although the suffered a devastating defeat to the West Oak Warriors, The Lady Highlanders walked away knowing they had played one of their best games. The Ladies were down 17 points and ended the game with a nail-biting comeback.

Toni Schmitt sank a three-point shot on the buzzer to tie it up taking the game into overtime. The score 54-54.

In overtime, the Warriors picked up their game to finish the win by six points. The final score was 60-64.

Leading Ladies were Kayla McCall with 17 points, followed by Angela Aspinwall and Toni Schmitt, each with 12 points.

Following the girls' game, the boys varsity team was challenged by the West Oak Warriors on Jan. 8. Even with their strongest efforts,

the Highlanders were defeated 76-59.

The Highlanders and the Warriors were within a point of each other throughout the first quarter. This display of strong teamwork from both teams intensified the beginning of the game. The first quarter ended 13-16 with the Warriors in the lead. From then on, the Warriors kept their lead.

The Highlanders lost their strength after halftime. At the start of the second half, the Highlanders were down by seven points and they never regained their footing.

According to some Highlander fans, the referees were completely out of line throughout the game. Multiple fouls were called on the both teams, and it seemed that West Oak was favored.

The leading scorers for the Highlanders were Alec Schmitt with 17 points and Allen Shearl with 14.





## ... DECORATIONS continued from page 1



**Citizen Glenda Bell asked the Planning Board to consider an ordinance demanding construction crews keep construction sites clean. Members said the land use planning committee will be addressing the problem. This site is at the Highlands School gymnasium site.**

cided to keep the ordinance as it stands: "Temporary lighting and displays as part of customary holiday decorations, including strings of lights, may only be installed between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15 each year."

Furthermore, decorations placed on rooftops for any holiday will be considered decorations and not signage as recently suggested.

When Twigs on U.S. 64 east was decorated with blow-up, roof-top decorations over Thanksgiving and Christmas, an anonymous caller brought the issue to light.

Gantenbein agreed the town's decoration ordinance is too broad, but changing it is a slippery slope, he said. "There is no case law in North Carolina where a town has gone to court over decorations," he said.

Though the Twigs rooftop decorations were originally called "signage" and thereby initially disallowed, board members agreed decorations that don't advertise a store's name, products or logos, are merely decorations and not signs.

Board members agreed they don't want the decoration-thing to get out of hand, but said "customary" holiday decorations throughout the year are OK.

Member King Young said if someone doesn't like the way something looks, that doesn't mean it's wrong. "As a board, we have no right to legislate taste," he said.

Member John Cleaveland said the town should take a lesson from Twigs. "Maybe we can ask them to help decorate the town next year," he said.

The board quickly ruled in the matter of portable sheds in town. It will ask the Town Board to change the Special Use Permit ordinance so anyone

wishing to put a shed on their commercial property must first seek a SUP.

By changing the word "buildings" to "properties," portable sheds, like Tough Sheds, will have to be approved before allowed on a commercial site.

"A special use permit shall be required for all new commercial construction, additions to existing commercial "properties" (changed from buildings), and remodeling of existing commercial buildings which would result in an increase in the number of business occupants in the buildings."

Gantenbein said without an ordinance change the town has no say over where the buildings are placed on the property or their appearance.

The planning board spent a lot of time on a proposed amendment to the Brushy Face subdivision plat which was OK'd some months ago.

Developers decided to put power lines overhead rather than underground as originally stated. Gantenbein brought it to the planning board because it was a change and because adjacent homeowners were angered with the change, which they said would add more visual garbage to the area.

But since the subdivision ordinance doesn't stipulate underground power lines over overhead power lines, the planning board was powerless to disallow the change.

"We have no authority to demand underground power lines," said Gantenbein. "We can tell them we prefer it, but that's all we can do."

Gantenbein plans to tell the Town Board that the planning board and adjacent homeowners would prefer underground lines, and he will suggest a change to the subdivision ordinance, but he said for now overhead lines are allowed.

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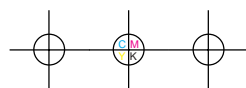


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# They lived the high life in Africa

By Nancy Welch  
Contributor

Africa, the dark continent, home to wild beasts and exciting safaris. This conjures up pictures of tents, mosquito netting, and danger in the night. "Survivor" tasks would seem to be the order of the day.

Not so for Sandie and Bob Trevathan. The two Highlanders made a safari to Africa last July, and their experience did not involve roughing it. Rather, they began by traveling in luxury on a restored Victorian train, where meals were a culinary experience, and a hairdresser was available (at no charge) for a fresh hairdo every evening before dinner.

"This was actually my third trip to Africa," Sandie explained. The trim woman with cropped blonde hair said her mother was actually the impetus for her first trip.

"In 2000, my mom died and left me a small inheritance," Sandie said. "She said I should use it to do something very special. My mom had been to Africa, and she had absolutely loved it, so I thought that would be a good way for me to spend my little bit of inheritance."

Sandie knew two women who had planned a trip to Africa. When one dropped out, she took her place.



At Victoria Falls, the Trevathans stayed at the 100-year-old grand old Victoria Falls Hotel, within sight of the falls.

"It was the most fabulous trip," she said. "I told her, 'I would just love to take my husband over there.'" Two years later, she had her

chance and she and Bob headed off to Africa. Bob enjoyed it as much as Sandie did.

And so, this past summer, they made another trip.

"There were so many different things that made the trip special," she said. "We did some really different things."

Their recent journey involved a six-day train trip to Victoria Falls on a privately owned train called the Rovos Rail.

"The owner restores old, Victorian trains and everything about the trip was sheer luxury," Sandie said. "Each night before dinner you could go to the hairdresser and have your hair done. It was part of the service on the train. It's known as the most luxurious train in the world."

During the day, there were lectures on different aspects of the continent.

The dining car was finished with highly polished wood and dinner was served on china and crystal.

Their bedroom on the train featured a king-sized bed and a separate bath.

"They would stop along the route and take little day tours," she said. "The last day on the train was my birthday and they brought me a cake at breakfast! The whole day long they were celebrating my birthday on this train."

The Trevathans spent six days of their three-week tour on the train.

At Victoria Falls, the Trevathans stayed at the 100-year-old grand Victoria Falls Hotel, within sight of the falls.

"While we were staying there, we went to an elephant camp," Sandie said. "I had been to this elephant camp four years ago. The camp and the hotel are actually in Zimbabwe which is considered somewhat of a dangerous country right now. But I think there are certain parts that are fairly safe to go to."

She said during her first trip to

■ See AFRICA page 11



Accommodations on the train were luxurious and included a king-size bed and separate bath.





## ... AFRICA continued from page 10

the elephant camp, she stayed "quite a while."

"When you're there they give you an elephant that's your elephant, she said. "Mine was Jumbo, and I bathed him with a broom and a hose."

She said she learned elephants love to be rubbed behind their ears and on their tongues.

On this trip, she wanted to see Jumbo once again and, at the same camp she and Bob rode him.

"I'd like to think he remembered me, but you don't know," she said, laughing. "They're smart animals — really they're smart animals."

She said their next stop was Zambia.

"It was actually on the Zambesi River," Sandie said. "They had this floating platform that floated out onto the water for one table for two."

She said they were taken out in an outrigger canoe and there was a table out in the middle of the river.

"They would serve your meal," she said. "The natives would come out and serve you your meal and you would be sitting out there out in the moonlight. That was staying out on the Zambesi River."

But that was just the beginning.

"At the very top at Victoria Falls there was the Livingstone Island — it's a private island, but if you make the arrangements (they did), you are boated out to have a picnic lunch at the falls."

"You could feel the spray (from the falls). You can see I am wearing a

raincoat and there were so many rainbows!"

Sandie reviews her handwritten journal, checking to see what was next.

"In the capital of Tanzania, we took a little airplane ride out to Zanzibar, which is a little island off the coast of Tanzania. It's very Muslim. That is called the spice island. We went and toured one of the spice plantations. It was very different than any other part of Africa," Sandie said. "It was very Muslim and, actually, as Americans, we felt very uncomfortable."

From Zanzibar, the couple flew into the Kilimanjaro Airport.

"Before we went up Kilimanjaro, which we did do, we went out to the Ngorogoro Crater," Sandie said.

She showed photos of a dining room in the camp. Once again the accommodations were luxurious.

"My husband and I had one of these little huts, which were very deluxe," she said. "We had a living room with a fireplace."

She said each evening when they returned from their day's explorations, they walked into the hut and along a path of rose petals to the bath, which was filled with a warm bubble bath.

"They time it perfectly," she said. "It's so deluxe after being on safari all day."

Meanwhile, cape buffalo are sitting around the camp on the lawn.

"You go out on your balcony



**After 45 minutes the herd of elephants left the camp and the group was able to return to lunch under the trees.**

and there will be zebras right there!" she said. "You're really out in the bush. But it's not roughing it. We had our own butler. Celestine was his name."

It was while they were staying at Ngorogoro Crater that they had the opportunity to meet with a tribe of Masai. Sandie explained they were at a museum and told their guide they would be interested in meeting some of the Masai people. He asked a Masai tribesman if he would take them to meet some Masai and the Trevathans were treated to a special visit to their village.

"This was not a tourist Masai village," she said. "It was way out in the boondocks."

She said the Masai live in what is called a Boma and the husband and his wives live inside an enclosure.

"Each wife has a mud hut," she said. "The Boma is surrounded by brush to keep the wild animals out because they (the Masai) are herds-men and put their cattle in at night."

Then the group left Ngorogoro and went to Kilimanjaro where they stayed at the base of the mountain. While there, they took a day hike.

"To go all the way up takes seven days - that's up and back," she said. "We just did a day hike."

She said the last camp they went to was in Kenya.

"It probably had the most abundant wildlife," she said.

She said one day the group came back to the camp for lunch, which was delayed as a herd of elephants ambled slowly through the dining area.

The group was sent to a nearby shed until the elephants decided to move on.

"It was 45 minutes or so," she said.

A second encounter involved a curious cheetah.

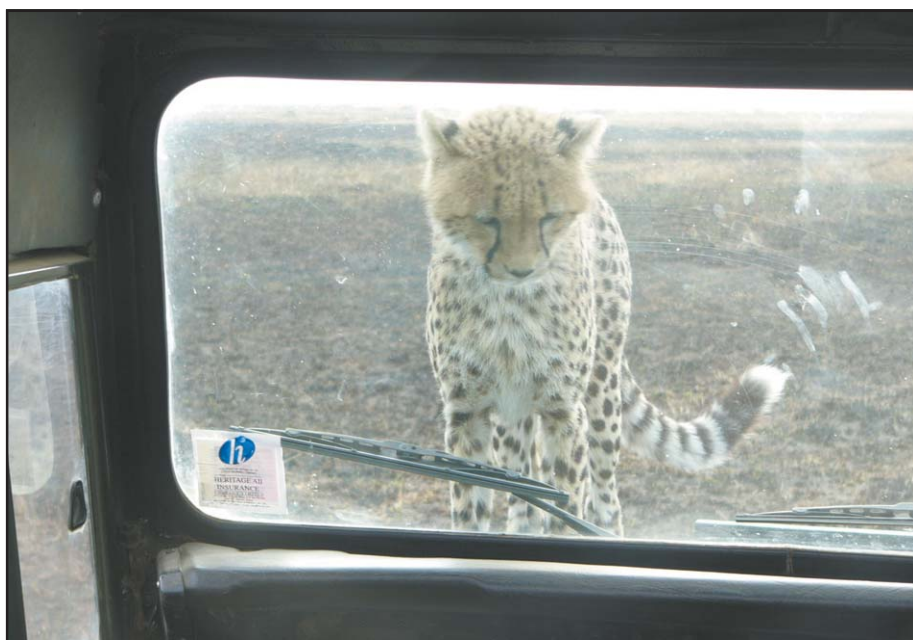
"One day we were out viewing some cheetahs when all of a sudden a mama cheetah jumped right up on the hood of our jeep," Sandie said.

Everything was open and the driver was nervous because he feared the cheetah would attempt to mark the jeep as her territory by spraying the guests. Luckily she thought better of it.

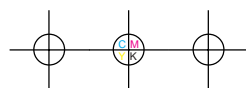
After a brief stop in South Africa, the Trevathans flew home.

How will the Trevathans outdo such a trip?

"I don't know," Sandie said. "But there are a lot of other places I'd like to go!"



**A mama cheetah jumped on the hood of the Jeep during a safari.**





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**93**

## More flu vaccine available

The Macon County Public Health Center has received an additional supply of injectable flu vaccine. Restrictions have been loosened to allow others at high risk to receive the vaccine. It is still not too late to vaccinate.

The high risk criteria that are recommended to receive flu vaccine include:

- People age 50 and older
- Individuals with chronic illnesses
- Children on aspirin therapy
- Children ages 6 -23 months
- Pregnant women
- Household contacts of high-risk groups

Two special flu vaccine clinics will be offered:

- A Highlands flu clinic has been

scheduled for the Macon County Public Health Center Highlands Clinic located at the soccer field off Buck Creek Road on Wednesday, January 19 from 4-6 p.m.

A second flu clinic has been scheduled for the Macon County Public Health Center in Franklin on Thursday, January 20 from 4-6 pm.

All vaccines will be given on a first-come, first-served basis and appointments will not be accepted. Persons who are on Medicare Part B should bring their card with them.

According to Ellen Shope, Nursing Supervisor, the Macon County Public Health Center is not expecting to receive any additional vaccine after these doses are administered.

Individuals who do not meet the high-risk criteria may be eligible to receive Flu-Mist. This nasal vaccine is available free of charge at the Macon County Public Health Center on Lakeside Drive for healthy individuals between the ages of 5 and 49. For more information, please call 349-2081.

## ... LUC from page 1

they don't meet subdivision road specifications due to the fact that they are 10- to 12-feet wide," he said. "We can't bring them into the town and make them public roads because they would have to have a 40-foot right-of-way with 18-foot-wide road enforcement."

Gantenbein maintained that the roads surrounding Highlands' lakes should be maintained. Alternative paving methods for dirt roads were also discussed, and it was agreed that would be explored.

Patrick Taylor brought up the fact that dilapidated buildings within the town limits remain standing and cannot be forced down. Gantenbein said that unless the building violates county health ordinances it cannot be torn down.

The committee agreed to focus on a minimum housing code within the town limits.

Committee member Ginger Slaughter said that half-acre lots should be outlawed and that a minimum of one-acre lots should be enforced for single-family residential dwellings.

"If the town changes the minimum lot size that changes the density, the larger the lot the lower the density for single-family detached," Gantenbein said.

Board member John Cleveland warned with that change the price of what it costs to build a house on the lot would be driven up.

There are only a certain number of lots left in the town limits, and Slaughter suggested those be sold as one-acre lots. The committee will present that to the Town Board in its final report as a way to control density in the town.

Slaughter said the lack of variety in residential housing opportunities in town should be explored as a way to find more suitable housing for Highlands' working class.

Patton suggested that utilities in new subdivisions be placed underground in order to maintain a more natural feeling to the town.

"The character of the area is very affected by pole lines and wires and we have an opportunity to make the first choice for new developments to be underground," Patton said. "If you bury one underground, you could bury all of them underground."

The committee also agreed to review the ordinances on manufactured and mobile homes and to try to require


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## "God's Beloved"



by Rev. Eddie Ingram  
Highlands United Methodist Church

According to the gospel of Matthew, at the moment Jesus was baptized by John, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven spoke, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

When is the last time you considered the truth that God is well-pleased with you? You, God's beloved, the work of God's hands, the object of God's affection, are loved with an everlasting love? If we could only hear these words from God, maybe we would not only believe them and allow them to set us free, but also believe in the unconditional, unmerited love of God for others. Instead of believing in the power of fear and judgment to bring people to Christ, the expression of mercy would be all that was needed.

Every once in a while we get a glimpse of what God had in mind from the very beginning for us and for our life together. While serving as pastor of a church some years ago, I was preparing a sermon on forgiveness for the upcoming Sunday when I got a visit from a young adult in my church. As a committed Christian she was a children's Sunday School teacher, youth counselor, and very active in the life of this small congregation. But on this day, with tears in her eyes, she had just gotten the news that a one-night stand with an acquaintance had left her pregnant. She knew that she had made a poor decision, and wanted to take responsibility to raise the child. But she knew without the love and support from her church family and friends, it would be very difficult. She approached me with an unusual request. She wanted to stand before the congregation and share with them what had happened and ask them for their support and forgiveness.

After talking with her I agreed to let her speak in church, but I was concerned. This congregation was a conservative, proud group of people who spent much time comparing themselves to one another. Much emotional energy and time was spent trying to appear "good" before the others in the community. This was a test of grace. I knew some of these folk well enough to know that grace and mercy were not exactly qualities I had seen in practice. My concern was this - when faced with a decision between judgment and grace, judgment might win out, and in turn the faith of this young woman would be at risk. I had no idea what to expect.

The Sunday morning service seemed very ordinary. The same ones who slept through the weekly service were still sleeping. The ones who grumbled about the style of music chosen by the choir director were still grumbling. The ones who left during the last hymn to avoid the rush

■See SPIRITUALLY page 14

## • 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

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### Clear Creek Baptist Church

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

### Community Bible Church

(Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Steven E. Kerhoulas, Pastor, 526-4685  
3645 U.S. 64 east

Sundays: School - 9:30 a.m.; Worship - 10:45;  
Youth "The Rock" meeting.

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study - 9:45

Wed: Supper - 6 p.m.; Bible Study - 6:45 p.m.

### Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

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

### First Baptist Church

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

### First Presbyterian Church

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

Sat: Adventistas del Septimo Dia - 10 a.m. & 5

### Highlands Assembly of God

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

### Highlands 7th-Day Adventist Church

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

### Highlands United Methodist Church

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

### Holy Family Lutheran Church - ELCA

Rev. Delmer Chilton, Pastor,  
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Pastor Jamie Passmore, (706) 782-8130  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Choir - 6 p.m.

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

### Mountain Synagogue

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin 369-6871  
Friday: Sabbath Eve Services at 7 p.m.  
For more information, call  
(706)-745-1842.

### Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

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

### Scaly Mountain Baptist Church

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

### Scaly Mountain Church of God

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

### Shortoff Baptist Church

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

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

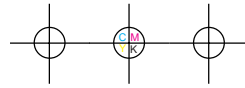
Sundays: Worship - 11 a.m.

### Westside Baptist Church

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

### Whiteside Presbyterian Church

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



## ... SPIRITUALLY continued from page 13

out the door were stationed at their usual seats on the last pew. And then at the end of the service, the young woman stood before the congregation, trembling with microphone in hand and poured her heart out to these folk who were her church family. She shared everything on her heart and mind, and closed with the words, "I know I am a sinner. But I am a sinner who is forgiven." You could have heard a pin

drop. And then, one of our proud, older members broke the silence as he rose from his place on the last pew and shouted, "I am a sinner." And then a dignified and well-respected woman from the other side of the church stood and shouted for all to hear, "I am a sinner." And then a young adult stood and shouted the same. One by one, like popcorn, persons stood, and shouted (even in a Methodist Church), "I am a

sinner." And with that, the young woman was embraced and loved. These are the moments that are more precious than gold, and are tiny glimpses of the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God into our existence.

Another day in ministry goes by, and there are more fires to be put out. Many days are characterized by things that matter little. I assure you I am not in ministry because of this. I am in ministry because of these rare moments when despite of us, God's amazing grace

breaks through the cycle of judgment. Convincing others about Jesus Christ the Savior wouldn't be so difficult for Christians if we would follow our words with pure, unrehearsed, mercy and grace. Wouldn't this be a better world if we could look at each other and not see an enemy, or a stranger, or a misfit, or an outcast, but someone's little boy or little girl, maybe hurting or alone or lost, just needing someone to tell them they are loved?

## • HIGHLANDS SERVICE DIRECTORY •

### Christ Anglican Church

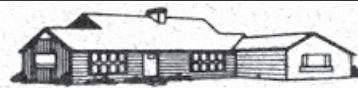
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# • UPCOMING EVENTS •

## On-going

- Franklin's Lyric Theater-Choral Society have resumed rehearsals for its debut Valentine's Day concert set for Feb. 12 & 13. New members are welcome. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Resurrection Lutheran Church next to the library. Tuesday, Jan. 11 is the final date to join for this season to sing staged numbers from musicals and songs about six kinds of love! For info, call 369-9133.

- Pilates classes are Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. at the Rec Park. The cost is \$8 per class, but the first class is FREE. Participants need to bring a mat if possible.

- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery – Open Studio with a Live Model 5:30–8:30 p.m. at the gallery. All participants bring their 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.

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

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

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese – Wine Flights Friday and Saturday: 4:30–6:30 p.m. As always, wines by the glass and cheese plates available Wednesday through Saturday: 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. Complimentary Tastings Saturday: 1 until 4:30 p.m.

## Jan. 13

- Hospital Blood Drive at Highlands School from 1–4 p.m.

- The League of Women Voters hosts county planner Stacy Guffey and Franklin town planner Rebecca Crawford on Thursday at "Lunch with the League" at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. A sandwich lunch is available at noon by reservation. Call 524-5192. The program begins at 1:15 p.m.

## Jan. 15

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Round Mountain, 5 miles, easy to moderate. Hike has 200 foot elevation gain with some ups and downs, although the hike is uphill both ways. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10:30 a.m. Drive 10 miles round-trip. Return about 2 p.m. Call leader Carl Blozan for reservations at 743-1765. Bring a lunch, beverage, rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots. No pets.

## Jan. 16

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Green Cove hike at Outward Bound

Camp, 2 miles, easy. Meet at the Otto Post Office at 2 p.m. Drive 9 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell for reservations at 369-6820. Bring beverage, rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots. No pets.

## Jan. 17

- **Breaking Free**, a Beth Moore Bible study, will meet at Highlands School, Room E107, at 3:30 p.m. The study is eleven weeks long. Participants will watch the introductory video and receive their workbooks at the first meeting. Anyone interested in joining in this Bible study is welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call Carol Bowen, the facilitator, at 526-2147 or 526-5168.

- School calendar change meeting at Highlands School cafeteria at noon.

## Jan. 18

- Highlands School Basketball game Nantahala at the Highlands Rec Park at 6:30 p.m.

- The Bascom-Louise Gallery presents the film "Klute" at PAC at 7:30 p.m. It's free, but donations are appreciated.

## Jan. 19

- An American Red Cross Adult CPR with AED, Infant/Child CPR, and First Aid Basics course, will be sponsored by the Macon County Public Health Center. You may take individual parts or the entire course. The course will be held on Wed., January 19 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Fri., Jan. 14. If you have questions, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

- Nantahala Hiking Club will hike Wayah Crest to Winding Stair Gap, 6–7 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at Westgate Plaza, Franklin, at 9 a.m. Call leaders Dave and Terry Barr for reservations at 369-3800. Bring lunch, beverage, rain gear, and sturdy shoes or boots.

## Jan. 22

- At the Bascom-Louise Gallery, an exhibit entitled, "The Art League of Macon County," featuring work from the Art League of Highlands and the Macon County Art Association.

## Jan. 29

- Voluntary Simplicity – First session 10–11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin at 85 Sierra Drive. Learn how your life may be enriched through the practice of knowing how much is enough. How much do we really need? Call 706-746-9981

- Friends of the Library Sale & Open House at East Franklin Shopping Center 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

## ... HIGHLANDERS continued from page 8

seen in a while," said Coach Brett Lamb.

Everything seemed to work for the Highlanders. Shots went in, passes were made with ease, and there was no lack of hustle out on the basketball court. Highlanders won the ball game but not without a fight. The game was close to the very end.

With less than 10 seconds remaining, Captain Matt Rice made a clutch free throw to put the Highlanders up by 4 and put the game out of reach for the Eagles. The final score was Highlands 62, Hiwassee 58.

Allen Shearl and Matt Rice led the Highlanders' scoring with 15 points and 10 points, respectively.

Captain Rice said, "The team played hard and gave it our best effort which led us to come out with an important win."

The JV girls' lost in overtime to the Hiwassee Dam Eagles. The final score was Highlands 28, Hiwassee 30. Becca Ashburn was high scorer for the game with 9 points.

Highlands boys' and girls' varsity teams lit up the court in neighboring Cashiers Tuesday night, with a victorious win over conference rivals the Blue Ridge Bobcats.

The final score for the girls' game was Highlands 70, Blue Ridge 26. Captains Kayla McCall and Angela Aspinwall led the Lady Highlanders with 20 points and 17 points, respectively.

The boys' game was no different.

The final score for the varsity boys' game was Highlands 72, Blue Ridge 38. Leading scorers for the

Highlanders were Alec Schmitt with 17 points and Nick Kerhoulas with 12 points.



Photo by Stephanie McCall 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Highlander Matt Rice sinks a jump shot from the left side of the box during a game against the Hiwassee Dam Eagles January 7. The final score left the Highlanders with a well-earned win and put them into first place in the Little Smokey Mountain Conference.**

## Friends of Library bookstore marks 8th year with book sale and open house Jan. 28-29

The Friends of the Public Library will celebrate its Bookstore's 8th anniversary with a special used book sale and open house Friday, Jan. 28, and Saturday, Jan. 29. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Macon County Public Library.

Located in the East Franklin Shopping Center at 121 Highlands Road, Franklin, the Bookstore will be open from 9 am to 6 pm each day during the sale. (A special "pre-sale" event for Friends' members only will be held Thursday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 pm.)

Friends' President Roberta Swank noted that all proceeds from the Bookstore's sales go help buy extra books, audio and video items, equipment (including computers) for the public library. The extra donations from the bookstore help the library's staff to conduct additional special programs for children and adults.

The nonprofit Friends of the Macon County Public Library celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2001. The bookstore's regular operating hours are Mon.-Sat. from 10 am to 5 pm.

## ... LUC continued from page 12

owners in residential neighborhoods to maintain an adequate appearance of their lots.

Gantenbein pointed out however, that it would probably take a state-enabling statute to change the appearance ordinances of the town.

"There is good case law requiring individuals to clean up their acts, clean up the lot and make it presentable," said Geoffrey Willet, committee facilitator.

Cluster housing and multi-family dwellings were also discussed, and Slaughter stressed that the committee

should look at the national trend of creating walking communities.

"There are people that want to live where they work. They want to be downtown. They want to be able to walk to the grocery store," Slaughter said.

Cleveland also said that there is a certain need for multi-family housing, which doesn't necessarily mean low-end housing "We don't need a lot of them, but they do fit," he said.

The next Land Use Plan meeting is set for 3 p.m., Monday, Jan. 17 at Town Hall.

# One chapter ends...another begins for John Cleaveland

By Erin Brown  
Staff Writer

At 63 John Cleaveland decided it was time to slow down. After conquering the restaurant business, local politics and the Highlands real estate market, Cleveland is taking time to stop and smell the roses.

In his standard uniform of golf shirt and khakis, Cleveland fits the mold of a retiree, and looks as though he's already spent some time in the tropical sun.

Cleveland grew up in Highlands, and his family moved to here in the late 1800s, not too long after the town was founded.

In 1967, he went into the restaurant business and owned and operated The Highlander Restaurant and Big John Sirloin. The two restaurants were housed in one building on Main Street.

"We fed most of the people in Highlands," Cleveland said reminiscently, his perfect white teeth beaming. More than a decade later Cleveland sold the business and moved on to his next venture.

"My wife wanted me to do something else," he said joking. "I was working 16-hour days, and I think she wanted me to slow down a bit."

After his stint as a restaurateur, he got his real estate license in 1981. He got into local politics and became Highlands' mayor for 14 years.

"I was mayor at an interesting time in Highlands because there were so many changes," Cleveland said. "I was lucky to have a board who did what they thought was best and I hate to think what would have happened if we hadn't."

Cleveland also spent two years on the town's Planning Board and is currently chairman of the Land Use Planning Committee.

He said that one of the most controversial things that took place during his time as mayor was the building of the new waste water treatment plant.

"There was an active group in Franklin who fought it tooth and toenail, but Highlands didn't have a choice." He said with the expansion about to start, there will be even stricter water treatment regulations forthcoming.

Cleveland feels several good things happened during his term as

mayor, including the Main Street project which included brick sidewalks and lighting to enhance the streetscape of downtown.

"I think the town's held the line pretty well on commercial growth," Cleveland said.

It's apparent that Cleveland is not a sit-at-home type of guy, and he confirms this by stating that he will not be giving

up his real estate license anytime soon.

"I'll work on an intermittent basis," he said. But John Cleaveland Realty is now owned by Terry Potts of Country Club Properties.

Cleveland said he and his wife, Winnie, will travel, but Highlands will always be home.

"It's nice to be able to sneak away every once in a while," Cleveland said.

Cleveland also expressed his thanks to the people who gave him business and friendship for so many years.



John Cleaveland

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## Little League volunteers needed

Highlands Little League needs volunteers for board members, coaches, assistant coaches, concession stand help and for other miscellaneous tasks. If interested, please call John Shearl at 526-2251 or call the Rec Park at 526-3556.



## • CLASSIFIEDS •

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## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The following are the Highlands Police Department log entries for the week of Jan 5-12. The only names are of public officials and/or people who were arrested.**

**Jan. 5**

- At 2:45 p.m., a person soliciting rides from patrons at the U.S. 64 Stop and Shop was reported as a suspicious person. Officers instructed him to leave the premises.
- At 5:05 p.m., a driver reported damage to a parked vehicle.

**Jan. 6**

- At 7:35 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Satulah Road. All was secure.
- At 10 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face. All was secure.
- At 11 p.m., officers checked on a resident on Memorial Drive. All was secure.

**Jan. 7**

- At 10:45 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Brushy Face Road. All was secure.
- At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of a damaged vehicle in the Helen's Barn parking lot. There were no injuries.
- At 3 p.m., officers escorted the driver of a modular home through town.
- At 1:15 p.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on U.S. 64 west. All was secure.

**Jan. 8**

- At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to an accident between two vehicles at Carolina Way and U.S. 64 east. There were no injuries.

**Jan. 9**

- At 10:30 p.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Highlands School. All was secure.

**Jan. 11**

- At 1:08 a.m. and 6:12 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Main Street Pharmacy. All was secure.
- At 10:15 a.m., a driver reported damage to her vehicle.

**The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department log entries for the week of Jan. 5-12.**

**Jan. 5**

- The dept. responded to a mutual aid call from Cashiers which was cancelled en route.

**Jan. 6**

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

**Jan. 8**

- The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on N. 4th and Maple streets. There were no injuries.

**Jan. 9**

- The dept. responded to the smell of rubber burning at the Community Bible Church. Belts on a motor had burned. There was no damage to the building.

### ... VISION continued from page 1

change it or not, that we put these kinds of questions out on the table and get input from everybody," Bomengen said. "It's only through getting people involved in this process that we will have support for whatever plan we do come up with."

A survey was conducted at the beginning of the school year, and parents, students, faculty and staff were asked what they saw as the strengths and weaknesses of the school. The students felt the state of school cafeteria was of utmost importance, whereas parents felt communication from teachers before mid-terms and report cards was most important.

Bomengen said the fact that parents ask for more communication was factoring into the school improvement

plan that is currently being written.

The three-year plan will be presented to the Macon County Board of Education at the end of February.

Some of the challenges the school is currently facing are developing effective remediation tactics for academically needy kids, strategic management of resources, strategic mobilization of community support and geographic remoteness.

The challenge of helping academically needy students is remedied by in-school tutoring. Bomengen and Highlands School Assistant Principal Mark Thomas both tutor in the labs twice a week, as well as several community volunteers. The labs run from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. everyday.

• See VISION page 18



## ... VISION continued from page 17

Bomengen went on to stress the need for strategic management of resources throughout the community.

"There is a tremendous amount of money in this community, there is a lot of time for volunteering," she said. She stressed the need for volunteers of all types including bus drivers, substitute teachers, teachers assistants, statisticians for games and tutors.

"It's important the community spearhead an effort to marshal those resources in a way that supports our strategic planning."

Bomengen said that the Bel Canto Encore was an excellent example of how a community member, Richard Joel, helped the school achieve their goal of expanding the music program. The program raised almost \$10,000 for the school's music program.

Bomengen also impressed the importance of letting people know Highlands School is a proper choice for those seeking a post-secondary education.

"We have competition from the

Charter School and from the private school down the mountain," Bomengen said. "We will be placing ads in the local newspapers in those towns to let them know that Highlands School is the school of choice for college prep education."

Bomengen said non-native students in the school who make up eight percent of the Highlands School population -- the faculty identified them as a top priority of student learning.

The school is also working on increasing technology for the students and hopes to expand the fine arts program with the help of the renovated gym in the school.

"We want to be able to put on musical productions, theatrical productions and other events that would involve the community," Bomengen said.

Bomengen said she and Thomas want to live the mission statement of the school and want to infuse it into everything that they do.

"Whenever we have any conflict

among the adults, we stop and say, 'OK, our business is educating kids. How can we make this happen in such a way that it advances that mission?'" she said. "We want to create an environment in the school that is engaging and exciting for all of the students all the way through grade 12."

Bomengen also said attracting good teachers is a major priority for the school especially with more and more teachers reaching retirement age. She said a decent salary supplement will help.

"The County pays a two percent salary supplement, that is pathetically low," she said. "I'm grateful that it was approved, and I think it's wonderful that there is finally a salary supplement for teachers, but when you compare that to the supplements that are paid in Georgia it's laughable. If you tell your elected representatives at the county level we need a higher salary supplement for our teachers that would be a way that you could help us."

Bomengen said housing for young teachers in Highlands is expensive and most starting teachers live in Franklin

or Sylva and commute to save money.

"I don't want them to look for a job at Smoky Mountain High School or at Franklin in order to be able to work near where they live," she said.

Bomengen said local merchants, the PTO and the Rotary Club support of the teachers by giving discounts and additional funds and that is a great help.

"The culmination of all of this, I believe, will lead to increased teacher commitment above and beyond what we already have. It will help us develop our partnership with the parents and mobilize the support of the community. All of that is going to add up to increased student engagement and achievement, and that is where we hope to take our school," she said.

Due to popular demand three additional public forums have been added and are set for 4 p.m. Jan. 16, 4 p.m. Jan. 23 and 7 p.m. Jan. 27. The forum set for noon Jan. 17 is still scheduled.

For more information, call the school at 526-2147.

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Bartram Trail

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Hwy 28s

Glen Falls

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Scaly SnowTubing

Sky Valley, GA. Golf & Skiing

Dillard, GA Highlands 14 Miles

Lake Glenville

< Marina Gas & Store

Cashiers

Sliding Rock

Whiteside Trail

Hwy 64e

HIGHLANDS

Chattooga Trail

Iron Bridge

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# All the right reasons. In any season.

Life at Chestnut Hill of Highlands is the way living should be—carefree and uncomplicated. As the premiere senior living community of Highlands, NC, Chestnut Hill offers independent senior adults a complete package of convenient services and extraordinary amenities—all designed to ensure gracious upscale mountaintop living for only one monthly fee.

- Weekly maid and linen service
- All utilities (except telephone)
- Scheduled transportation
- Fine dining by our nationally renowned chef
- Emergency response system
- Interior and exterior maintenance
- A full calendar of events planned by our activities director
- Plus many more features designed for comfort and security

Chestnut Hill also offers a variety of home options: custom one-, two-, or three-bedroom cottages, or attractive one- and two-bedroom apartment-styled homes.

Plus, The Suites, our new state-of-the-art, 26-bed assisted living center, is scheduled to open Spring 2005. This complex—coupled with the availability of quality healthcare at our neighboring hospital—provides added peace of mind for residents and their families.

Chestnut Hill—all the right reasons in any season for carefree living. For more information or to arrange a personal tour, call toll free 888-473-5093 or 828-787-2114. Our model is open seven days a week.



20 Chestnut Hill Drive  
PO Box 40 • Highlands, NC 28741  
828-787-2114 • 888-473-5093  
email: [info@chestnuthillofhighlands.com](mailto:info@chestnuthillofhighlands.com)  
[www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com](http://www.chestnuthillofhighlands.com)

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*New Model Now Open*