MC Schools budget finalized at meeting

With the state budget finalized, the Macon County School Board accepted the 2009-2010 budget as presented at the Sept. BOE meeting in Highlands. The budget is separated into several categories with a dollar sign assigned to each section for expenditures and revenue explaining how much is paid for by each entity - local, state, or federal.

Small amount of 2009 H1N1 vaccine available

* See story on page 21

Renovated Greenway officially opened Tuesday

Dedicated Greenway volunteers, Greenway committee members and town employees officially opened the renovated bridge over Mill Creek and much improved Greenway trail that originates at the Rec Park, Tuesday, Oct. 6. The dedication culminated months of physical labor by all.

Information on stolen fish could net $100

Owners of SweetTreats Bob and Sandy Carlton, stock fish in the portion of Mill Creek that runs along their shop every year. Last year and this year the fish have been fished out on numerous occasions. Most recently, 12 golden trout and 12 rainbow trout that survived the weekend torrential rains Sept. 19-20 were fished out again. Their customers, visitors and residents of Highlands enjoy feeding the fish and watching them swim in the creek. They are offering a $100 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who has stolen the fish.

If you know anything please email the Carlton's at sweettreats@verizon.net or call 526-9822.

U.S. and Iran link explained

In August, veteran journalist and award-winning author of multiple books on the Middle East, spoke at the Center of Life Enrichment and gave an update on America’s linkage to the current political situations in Iran and Afghanistan.

This is the final segment of a multi-part series made possible by Time Capsule Video.

Part 4

To recap: Identity, social justice and nationalism were the original reasons for the revolution. The reformers want to affirm Iran’s identity as containing Persian and Islamic heritage which carries a lot of real life meaning for the Iranians. The Persians were known as Internationalists. They were highly respected for their culture, so people who want to regain this Persian identity are the people who want to engage again in the world and become part of the international community. That
Dear Editor,

States, everyday except Sunday and holidays every address…every address in the United States, has the responsibility to deliver to every address from the U.S. Post Office. The U.S. Post Office would perform if they had the same re-mail service would charge, and how they would be if either UPS, Fed Ex, or any other service provider offered an excellent service, but for a really good price, perhaps a fair price, but at significant costs far and above what the USPS currently charges. I would like to see what the overall costs of the U.S. Post Office is efficient and undoubtedly always mentions UPS, or Federal Express as typical examples of success and profit. However, no one ever really thinks these comments through.

When was the last time you went to either UPS or Fed Ex and did not have to pay not only for the mailing, but also, the packing and the box, etc. Sure these businesses offer an excellent service, but for a really good price, perhaps a fair price, but at significant costs far and above what the USPS would charge. I would like to see what the overall costs would be if either UPS, Fed Ex, or any other mail service would charge, and how they would perform if they had the same responsibility as the U.S. Post Office. The USPO has the responsibility to deliver to every address…every address in the United States, everyday except Sunday and holidays.

The denial of right of conscience is effect demands that Healthcare Providers must provide any and all mandated services despite their own ethical and moral beliefs. This attempted intrusion is currently most applicable to female reproductive care, but might easily be deemed applicable to denial of care to the elderly, the mentally incompetent, the chronically ill; or the mandated provision of assisted suicide or, ultimately, the mandated rationing of care.

The Right of Conscience is implied in all that we consider to be the fiber of America.

Tom H. West, MD
Highlands

U.S. government departments not as inept as you think

Dear Editor,

This past week all three free papers in our beautiful location of North Carolina had the same letter from a lady named Carol Adams from Glenville, N.C. And I just couldn’t help myself, I had to send this little letter to you.

Everyone always wants to talk how the U.S. Post Office is inefficient and undoubtedly always mentions UPS, or Federal Express as typical examples of success and profit. However, no one ever really thinks these comments through.

When was the last time you went to either UPS or Fed Ex and did not have to pay not only for the mailing, but also, the packing and the box, etc. Sure these businesses offer an excellent service, but for a really good price, perhaps a fair price, but at significant costs far and above what the USPS would charge.

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Letters-to-the Editor-Policy

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands’ Newspaper

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Correction

Last week we received all positive letters concerning the Forum in the Sept. 24 paper and printed some of them. However, most writers requested that their letters not be published. The letter written by Mary Myers was one of those, but it was put in the Production folder and mistakenly made it to the Editorial page. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.
William B. Speed

William B. Speed, age 83, of Highlands, NC, died Thursday, October 1, 2009 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Fate and Helen Beal Speed. He was married to Genevieve Houston Speed, who died in 2004. He was a US Army Veteran of World War II, and a member of the American Legion and VFW. He was retired from Department of Transportation, where he was a motor-grader operator. He attended Shortoff Baptist Church.

He is survived by three daughters, Anna Mae Ramos and husband Mario of Highlands, NC, Mary Sue Byruth and husband William Joseph of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Shirley Henry and husband Frank of Sparta, GA; two sons, Berkley Speed and Benny Speed both of Highlands, NC; 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Sunday, October 4 at 2 pm in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with the VFW Chaplain officiating. Burial was at Miller Cemetery. The American Legion Post #108 and Franklin VFW Post #7339 conducted military graveside rites. Pallbearers were Michael Houston, Tommy Houston, Larry Houston, William Ramos, Daniel Houston and David Speed.

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


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**Laughing at Life**

Oh, Oh ... dead again

Ponder this: is being dead like holding your breath forever? 
Exhale and read.

I woke with a start and jumped from my bed. Oh, oh, oh... it’s happened again, I thought as I tried to control my emotions. This time there was no warning. It must’ve happened while I slept. Everyone says that’s the best way for it to happen, but I know it really doesn’t matter. I’m trying to remember who I was, but, like all the other times, I couldn’t. I don’t understand why I’m not allowed to know who I was and how I did. Oh well, I’ll find out soon enough.

Watching in anticipation of His arrival, I wondered what He would look like this time. Why does He look different each time this happens? No more did that thought cross my consciousness when, there He was, standing before me, smiling, hands in both pockets of His baggy pants. This time He was my height and looked a little scruffy, sporting a two-day growth of beard, messy gray hair and a ruddy complexion. I didn’t care for His shirt. Where did He get that stupid shirt? I thought?

As always, I felt the love for me, the intense love emanating from Him. He had designed me, created what I would become and sent me out on my mission. He loved me as a parent should love a child. I cleared my throat. “Well, sir, how did I do this time?” I asked.

I waited in anticipation as His smile broadened. He took the hand from His pockets and hugged me. He whispered into my ear. “OK... you did... well, OK. Your name was Fred and you did the best you could considering your intelligence level and the many temptations I heaved on you.”

He released me and stepped back. “I sent you out with fewer abilities than last time. Your challenge was not easy. As you say when you’re alive. ‘You played the cards you were dealt the best you could’ so I gave you a passing grade.”

Hearing this, I was overwhelmed with joy. I wanted to hug Him back, but resisted the urge. He smiled again, “You can if you want.” I reached out and pulled Him toward me. It was good to have another mission completed and I anticipated, as always, what was about to occur.

He pushed himself from me and frowned. I had seen that frown before. “You got off course several times, once so bad, I almost took you early. But you refocused and got back on track. You also tried to shoot several people but fortunately you missed. I wouldn’t have liked that. Overall, you made improvement based on what I gave you to work with.” He put his hands back in his pockets before speaking again.

“There were many temptations and you resisted most of them, but some you didn’t. But you passed and you’ll advance.”

Then His frown deepened. “Let me warn you that next time will be harder. I’ll give you many tools and many talents to work with and you’ll be challenged to use them all. You’ll be extremely intelligent. Fail to use those gifts and you’ll not complete your mission. You know what that means, for you have failed me before.”

I couldn’t look at Him. He allowed me to remember my failures. I knew the consequences. Not advancing was the worst thing that could happen and my rest period would be long and troubled.

He reached out to touch my shoulder. “Go and rest now, you have earned it. When you’re ready, I’ll call you for your next mission. And, oh, by the way, you gave me this shirt.” He smiled and disappeared. I was now at peace, unable to recall any of what had just occurred.

Complete and total peace prevailed.

I sat up in bed and felt my heart racing. I looked at the little missus sleeping next to me to confirm it was just a dream.

I sat up in bed and felt my heart racing. I looked at the little missus sleeping next to me to confirm it was just a dream. Damn, I thought, I should have never read that book, any Lives, any M asters. It goes against every religious belief I have.

The book had been given to me years ago by a good friend, a member of the Sikh religion. The story, supposedly true, is about an atheist hypnotist doctor and his patient. It takes place in his office in Miami and it’s not an easy read. It’s the spookiest, most troubling book I’ve ever read. It must have had an enormous impact on my psyche as this was the third time I’ve had a similar dream. Warning: Do not read that book.
I don’t care who hosts the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. I didn’t even watch the opening ceremonies from Peking. Last week, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was awarded the games. The other finalists were Chicago, Madrid, and Tokyo. Chicago finished fourth. Fourth place doesn’t sound that bad.

Despite his appeal, or perhaps because of it, Chicago finished dead last. I feel sorry for the President. Governing has proved more difficult than campaigning. Despite a massive stimulus program, unemployment has approached 10%, Guantanamo Bay still houses detainees because it has proved difficult to find any place willing to house them. The public, or at least a well-funded, vocal minority, has put a Democrat’s health care reform on the ropes. “Obamacare” has become a derisive term, spoken with a sneer. The war in Afghanistan is going poorly and military commanders have asked for greater troop commitments to achieve the goal. To those of us old enough to remember, it’s eerily reminiscent of the Vietnam strategy.

It seems inconceivable that a President who came to power with an overwhelming mandate could have been so stymied in the early months of his first term. Maybe his advisers miscalculated and assured the President that the Olympic bid was a chip shot, that all it needed was show up to guarantee a victory for the President. This was a defeat he didn’t have to suffer, an embarrassment he could have avoided.

I don’t believe the trip to Copenhagen distracted the President from important affairs of State, although I’m sure there are many who believe exactly that. Mothers and spouses of servicemen In Afghanistan might question the importance of the 2016 Olympic Games. The other finalists were Chicago, Madrid, and Tokyo. Chicago finished fourth. Fourth place doesn’t sound that bad.

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Watching more about Chestnut Hill in this paper for the next 3 weeks!

Call Gary at 828-787-2114 for a tour or more information.

Watch for more about Chestnut Hill in this paper for the next 3 weeks!

Katie Brugger  
k-brugger@hotmail.com

Socialism in Highlands?

Sound the alarms; socialism is coming to Highlands! Not only are some of our town officials excited at the prospect, but the Highlands Rotary Club, full of the town’s businessmen, is cheering its advent.

I’m referring to the plan for a municipal wireless internet system in Highlands. A front-page article in last week’s Highlands’ Newspaper discussed the proposal made to the Town Board by a company called Double Radius. In his column, Mayor Don Mullen wrote about “a problem” in Highlands, the “inadequacy of current internet coverage and the inefficient and expensive services which we now have from various sources.” So the Town Board is considering supplying the entire Town of Highlands and maybe some of the surrounding area with “internet services as a town utility.” Dr. Mullen went on to predict that after setup, the monthly cost per household would be about $25 per month.

The cost to the town to set up a pilot program to test the service is estimated to be about $50,000.

There are already businesses providing internet service in Highlands: Verizon and Northland Cable. These businesses have invested in the infrastructure necessary to provide internet service to their customers. There are also businesses, for example, SweetTreats and Buck’s, which have invested in equipment to provide wireless internet as an incentive to draw customers.

The price being charged in Highlands today for internet service can’t be excessive as the mayor claims; the market place always sets the correct prices for a product or service — that is free market economic gospel. And the private business world is vastly more efficient than government; a government-run utility could not possibly be more efficient than the private businesses as the mayor claims.

A subsidized public option would be an unfair competitor with private business. Do these arguments sound familiar? They are of course the conservative arguments against the “socialist” public option in the national health care reform proposals.

I would imagine that some of those who have enthusiastically greeted town-provided internet service are opposed to the public option in the health care debate. Why would there be an inconsistency in their views between government at a national and a local level?

Certainly money has something to do with it. For many people it is difficult to see any advantage to the public option in health care; it’s much more likely, they believe, that they will end up paying more through higher taxes.

It’s easy however to see how a public option in wireless internet would benefit Highlands’ residents and businesses; it’s a draw for tourists and it will make internet service cheaper at businesses and homes.

One of the biggest problems in the health care reform debate has been that most people with health insurance don’t really know how much they’re paying (See “You Have No Idea What Health Costs: If You Did, You Might Just Want Real Reform” by Ezra Klein, Washington Post, September 20, 2009). About 160 million Americans receive health coverage through their employers. In general, the employer picks up 73 percent of the cost. That money is not being “given” by the employer; it comes out of the employee’s wages. Health-care premiums have risen by 300 percent over the past 30 years (and that’s after adjusting for inflation). Hourly earnings for workers, adjusted for inflation, have fallen during that period, partly because wage increases have been consumed by health-care costs. The average health-care coverage for the average family now costs $13,375, but most workers don’t really see this cost as a tax; they do not write a check for that amount to their insurance company. And they don’t see an itemized amount on their pay stub for health insurance, increasing every year and decreasing their net pay.

Another 80 million Americans have government insurance: Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Administration programs. Those costs are paid by taxpayers.

This year The New England Journal of Medicine did its own study of individual physicians to assess the opinion of doctors about the differing health care proposals, as opposed to what physician organizations such as the AMA support. The study found that “Overall, a majority of physicians (62.9%) supported public and private options. Primary care providers were the most likely to support a public option (65.2%).”

There has been a lot of misinformation swirling around the health-care reform debate and doubt about the truth about our current health-care system. Another Washington
Random thoughts from a busy sports weekend

I have a lot to address this week, but there is not a better place to start than everyone’s favorite “F” word, Favre… Bret Favre lanced the haters (including myself) with a terrific Monday night performance against his old team the Green Bay Packers. Despite being darn near 40 years old, he’s still got some magic bullets in that right arm of his, and it showed Monday. The difference in the game though? Aaron Rodgers got sacked 8 times, Favre none.

Bonehead officiating of the week:
Georgia fans, for once, I sympathize with you. Simply ludicrous penalty on A.J. Green (best WR in the country BTW) that cost the Dawgs field position and ultimately contributed to a loss against LSU. At some point common sense has to be applied to the official’s interpretation of the rules-too bad common sense was nowhere to be found Saturday.

Bonehead officiating part deux:
I am agreeing with Rodney Harrison-Tom Brady needs to take the skirt off and play like a man. People hate on Duke basketball for trying to “sell the call” to officials why should Brady be absolved when he turns to an official, pleads for the call, get’s said call and then pumps his fist? It’s not roughing the passer when you graze their uniform, and Ron Winter and his crew should be ashamed of themselves. (and avoid Ray Lewis in a back alley at all costs)

Tebow Watch:
The will he won’t he play against LSU question will likely not be answered until kickoff, but it will not matter. LSU struggled to move the ball consistently against Georgia’s terrific defense and unless they have marked improvement in that department they are going to have a hard time putting points up against a Florida D that has only allowed 2 touchdowns the entire season.

Play-in thriller:
Tuesday showcased what a one game playoff should look like in Major League Baseball. An absolute thriller of a game that saw the Twins guarantee at least one more game in the Metrodome before it shuts down. No way the Twins shock the Yankees this time around, but at least we will have the memory of the AL Central division championship which provides a perfect Metrodome ending. (I’ll mistake giant hefty bags in the outfield the most)

Not jinxing it:
Several teams in the NFL made it to a perfect 4-0 this weekend, including the Minnesota Vikings, Denver Broncos, Indianapolis Colts, New York Giants and…oh yes, one other team that I refuse to mention in this space for fear of the jinx.

On Tap:
This weekend we have the MLB playoffs, Florida at LSU (night game!) NFL week 5, the start of the NHL season and NBA training camps. Whew-no wonder we all love the fall so much!

... BRUGGER continued from page 6

Post article exposed “5 Myths About Health Care Around the World” (T.R. Reid, August 23, 2009), which I highly recommend to everyone.

One of the myths is, “Foreign healthcare systems are inefficient, bloated bureaucracies.” Mr. Reid says, “It may seem to Americans that U.S.-style free enterprise—private sector, for-profit health insurance—is naturally the most cost-effective way to pay for health care. But in fact, all the other payment systems are more efficient than ours. U.S. health insurance companies have the highest administrative costs in the world; they spend roughly 20 cents of every dollar for nonmedical costs, such as paperwork, reviewing claims and marketing. France’s health insurance industry, in contrast, covers everybody and spends about 4 percent on administration. The world champion at controlling medical costs is Japan, even though its aging population is a profligate consumer of medical care. On average, the Japanese go to the doctor 15 times a year, three times the U.S. rate. They have twice as many MRI scans and X-rays. Quality is high; life expectancy and recovery rates for major diseases are better than in the United States. And yet, Japan spends about $3,400 per person annually on health care; the United States spends more than $7,000.”

I personally think the public option—both in municipal internet service and national health care—is a good idea and if implemented will benefit everyone. Even those who stick with private plans will benefit from the greater productivity and health of people who formerly couldn’t afford internet service or health care.

All of Katie Brugger’s columns are available on her website www.kathleenbrugger.com

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**Conservative POV**

Those were the ‘Good Old Days’

Some of our longer-time readers will remember the halcyon days when we could discuss mythology, the genesis of higher education in the US, etiology in all its various forms, and other philosophical matters. It seems lately we have been bogged down in non-stop political skimming, pointing fingers here and there, just cat fighting of the worst sort. I think it’s time to interject humor into the equation, don’t you?

Outside the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country,” Marion Barry, former mayor of Washington, DC.

Last week, Obama went to Copenhagen to lobby for bringing the Olympic Games to Chicago in 2016. Michelle preceded him by a day and made the following comments as reported in the Washington Examiner. “In her speech in Copenhagen today, First Lady Michelle Obama said her trip to Denmark, along with the travel of her ‘dear friend’ and ‘chat buddy’ Oprah Winfrey, as well as the visit by President Obama, is a ‘sacrifice’ on behalf of the Children of Chicago and the United States.” WHAT?

After more bilious bilge, “Mrs. Obama said bringing the Olympic Games to Chicago is especially important right now (actually, Michelle 2016 is not right now, nor is now 2016 the last I looked) because ‘athleticism is becoming more of a fleeting opportunity. Funds dry up as it becomes harder for kids to engage in sports, to learn how to swim, to even ride a bike. ’ I don’t know about you, but when my dad tossed me off the dock into the lake, it didn’t cost anybody a nickel. And bike lessons, no matter how costly, weren’t around then. Get on and ride. Fall off. Get on and ride again, and so on.

But forget the trivia – the real reason for the high-level full court press, or sacrifice if you prefer, is the gigantic profits land developers Tony Rezco, Valerie Jarrett (oh yes, she is) and the rest stand to gain when the remaking of Chicago takes place. And, oh yes, it’s for the children.

“The enemy isn’t conservatism. The enemy isn’t liberalism. The enemy is BS,”

Lars-Erik Nelson, political columnist. (He put it more colorfully.)

From CNSNews.com, “Documentary film maker, Michael Moore, who has become a millionaire thanks to the profits from his movies, told CNSNews.com that ‘capitalism did nothing for him. CNSNews spoke with Moore on the red carpet at the Uptown Theater in Washington, DC before the premiere of his documentary, ‘Capitalism: A Love Story.’ You know, I had to pretty much beg, borrow and steal,” he said. ‘The system is not set to up to help somebody from the working class make a movie like this and get the truth out there’”

“Vote the instrument and symbol of a freeman’s power to make a fool of himself and a wreck of his country.” Ambrose Pierce, The Devil’s Dictionary.

Reuters reports: “Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara warned the 2016 Olympic could be the last Games, with global warming an immediate threat to mankind. Tokyo bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games with Chicago, Rio de Janeiro and Madrid. ‘It could be that the 2016 Games are the last Olympics in the history of mankind,’ Ishihara told reporters at a Tokyo 2016 press event ahead of the vote. ‘Global Warming is getting worse. We have to come up with measures without which Olympic Games could not last long’”

“The Democrats are the party of government activism, the party that says government can make you richer, smarter, taller, and get the chickweed out of your lawn. Republicans are the party that says government doesn’t work, and then get elected and prove it.” P. J. O’Rourke, Parliament of Whores.

Any more funny today? Yes, indeed.

New York Times columnist David Brooks opines that the listeners/viewers of Limbaugh, O’Reilly, Hannity and Beck are largely imaginary. He equates L,O,H&B to the Parliament of Whores. “The system is not set up to help somebody from the working class make a movie like this and get the truth out there”

Those who have seen the carnage being wrought upon our country as a result of the election, I have a strong feeling 2010 will show a different outcome. We’ll see...
**HEALTH MATTERS**

The sore throat

When we have a sore throat, it can feel dry and scratchy, making it often painful to swallow. The common cold and respiratory tract infections are often accompanied by sore throats. Virus is the main cause of sore throats, such as influenza; however, some sore throats are caused by bacterial infections. For example, strep throat is caused by Group A streptococcus. As always there are additional reasons why individuals can have a sore throat; such as allergies, dry air, chemical or irritant pollution, and smoking or exposure to second hand smoke.

Signs and symptoms of a viral infection accompanied by a sore throat are sneezing, cough, watery eyes, headache, body aches, runny nose, fever less than 102 degrees.

You should definitely see your physician if you have the following symptoms: difficulty swallowing or breathing, temperature higher than 100.4 degrees, rash, pus on the tonsils or throat, blood in the phlegm or saliva, sore throat longer than 1 week, excessive drooling especially in young children, hoarseness or symptoms of dehydration: dryness, sticky mouth, fatigue, thirst, decreased urination, muscle weakness, headache, and dizziness.

If you are diagnosed with a bacterial infection such as strep throat, your physician can treat you with an antibiotic. Antibiotics are used to treat strep throat infections and for preventing rheumatic fever. To do this, the full course of antibiotic prescribed should be taken. Strep throat is diagnosed by a lab test and if an individual is infected the patient should stay home from work, school, or other facilities until 24 hours after starting antibiotic therapy. Your physician may also prescribe other medicine to treat associated symptoms.

Remember, antibiotic therapy will only help if the sore throat is caused by a bacterial infection. If a sore throat is caused by a viral infection, rest, time and using symptom relief products will help to lessen and hopefully alleviate your pain.

As always, practicing good preventive habits help such as: excellent hand hygiene, avoid smoking and second-hand smoke, and avoid individuals who have upper respiratory infections and colds.

- Angela Wiggins Munoz has a B.S, B. Ed in Community Health and Human Resources and works at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

**Flu shots for children through Friday**

The Macon County Public Health Center is currently providing seasonal influenza vaccine for children ages 6 months through 18 years of age. Vaccinations for these children will begin through Oct. 9 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the public health center on Lakeside Drive. There is no charge to the patient, but please bring any insurance information.

In addition, this year all children enrolled in Macon County public schools will have the option to be vaccinated against seasonal and H1N1 influenza at their school. Information about this option will be sent home to parents.

Additional vaccination clinics for seasonal influenza targeting adults and the novel H1N1 influenza targeting high risk groups will be scheduled as additional supplies of vaccine arrive. Please call the health center at 349-2081 for the latest updates on the availability of seasonal influenza and novel H1N1 vaccine.

...SALZARULO continued from page 5

Olympic Games. They believe that is more important to have defeated the Taliban and secured a stable Afghanistan by 2016.

There are millions of uninsured Americans who are depending on the President to deliver on his promise of health care reform. They may think that this would have been better spent twisting arms in Washington than twisting arms in Copenhagen.

The 9.8% of Americans who find themselves unemployed may be more concerned with paying their rent, and feeding their families than which city hosts an extravagant celebration of athletic excellence. A few Americans are still concerned with the disposition of Islamic detainees and are more interested where they are held than where Olympic athletes are housed.

Olympic competition has a way of taking our minds off our problems for a few weeks, particularly when the Yanks are piling up medals. The same was true of games in ancient Rome. I don’t think people with real problems will be distracted for long.

I wish the President hadn’t gone to Copenhagen, but not for any of the important reasons I’ve already mentioned. It makes him seem less like the leader of America and more like a Chicago politician, and that’s not how I want to think of my President.
Fall is here!

Fall pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and inside floral plants. We also have fresh, NC apples and are already stocking up on holiday baking needs including a variety of nuts.

NEW check out our WALL OF VALUE at the front door featuring private labels and specials throughout the store.

- Cooking on the Plateau -

**Potatoes take center stage**

There are so many ways to prepare potatoes that it’s no surprise spuds remain a family favorite. People most often think of potatoes as the ultimate side dish, however, it’s time to move potatoes to the center of the plate! Prepared mashed potatoes, such as Idahoan mashed potatoes, can help add a little extra flavor, crunch or creaminess to a variety of recipes.

Try crusting ordinary halibut with potato flakes for savory Roasted Garlic Halibut, an easy weeknight meal that can be ready in just 20 minutes. Skip the mayonnaise on these Savory Potato Wraps, a delicious departure from traditional sandwich wraps. And, for a more upscale meal, try Crab-Stuffed Roasted Chicken Breast, which features a rich filling of Four Cheese Mashed Potatoes, crab meat, fresh basil and shredded Parmesan.

Visit www.idahoan.com for more unique recipes and meal ideas.

### Roasted Garlic Halibut

**Prep Time:** 5 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 15 minutes  
**Servings:** 4

- 2 pounds halibut  
- 1 4-ounce package Idahoan Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, dry  
- Canola oil  
- Salt and pepper  
- 1 lemon

Cut halibut filet into 4 pieces (8-ounce portions). Lightly salt and pepper.  
Empty contents of mashed potatoes package on large plate. Coat filets liberally, gently pushing potatoes into filets. In large sauté pan, preheat a generous amount of canola oil, on medium heat.  
When oil is hot, gently place the halibut in pan, being careful not to splash. Sauté fish until golden brown (approximately 2 to 4 minutes). Turn filets and reduce heat to medium-low. Cover pan and let sauté until done (until flaky, or approximately 8 to 12 minutes). Remove from heat. Add lemon juice to taste and serve.

### Crab-Stuffed Roasted Chicken Breast

**Prep Time:** 5 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 1 hour  
**Servings:** 8

- 8 boneless chicken breasts, uncooked  
- 1 10 to 12-ounce bottle prepared Italian salad dressing  
- 1 4-ounce pouch Idahoan Four Cheese Mashed Potatoes  
- 1/2 pound crab meat  
- 6 ounces shredded Parmesan cheese  
- Salt and pepper  
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350°F.  
Place chicken breasts in 9 x 13-inch glass baking dish.  
Pour dressing over chicken and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool.  
Cut a slit in middle of chicken breast with sharp knife. Do not cut all the way through.  
Cut a little pocket on either side of slit, again, making sure not to cut all the way through.  
Prepare potatoes according to package directions. Mix in crab. Salt and pepper to taste.  
Distribute potato mixture evenly among chicken pockets. Sprinkle with cheese. Place in a non-greased baking dish. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until cheese has completely melted. Remove from oven and garnish with basil. Serve immediately.

### Savory Potato Wraps

**Prep Time:** 5 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 5 minutes  
**Servings:** 4 wraps

- 1 cup prepared Idahoan Original Mashed Potatoes  
- 4 (9-inch) red pepper or flour tortillas  
- 1/2 pound cooked turkey breast or ham, thinly sliced (approximately 8 slices), or diced into small chunks  
- 1 cup shredded lettuce  
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper or tomato

Prepare potatoes as package directs for 2 servings. Cool potatoes to room temperature. Warm tortillas individually in microwave for 8 to 10 seconds.  
Spread each tortilla with 1/4 cup mashed potatoes. Top with 2 slices of turkey or ham, 1/4 cup shredded lettuce and red pepper or tomato. Roll up and place seam-side down.

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Courtesy of Family Features
Candidates Weekly Forum

There are three seats open on the Town Board – two commissioners and the mayor’s seat. All three sitting representatives are running again for office and two citizens are vying for those seats. Running for Mayor of Highlands is incumbent Don Mullen and David Wilkes. Running for commissioner are incumbents Amy Patterson and Hank Ross and Gary Drake.

Each week now through Oct. 29, the candidates will answer a question.

Gary Drake

I feel that it would be a grave mistake to separate the Visitor’s Center from the Chamber of Commerce. The two groups have the same goal in mind, to inspire others to come to our lovely town and while here generate the funds needed to support our businesses. This is abundantly clear to me because I serve on the Highlands Tourism Development Commission, an oversight commission of the Visitor’s Center, appointed by the Macon County Board of Commissioners. The members of this group include Highlands’ owners of accommodations, dining, retail businesses, one town Board Commissioner, and also one Macon County Board Commissioner. We approve all room tax money expenditures.

If the Visitor’s Center becomes separated, there will be at least a 30% increase in expenses for the Center which would include rent, salaries, utilities, etc. This INCREASE would certainly DECREASE the amount of funds available to promote Highlands. Room tax collections for the past year were lower than years past and have decreased even further this fiscal year. By keeping the Visitor’s Center and the Chamber together, we are able to utilize every room tax dollar during this slowed economy.

At this time, the fine job of successfully promoting Highlands is due to the combined efforts of the Visitor’s Center, the Chamber, and the hard working volunteers. Visitors have many choices of areas in which to spend their money traveling, and with the combined efforts of the Visitor’s Center and the Chamber we will continue to promote Highlands. Remember, if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it!

Don Mullen

Currently the Chamber of Commerce is an independent private organization with the promise to promote and perpetuate tourism, business, commercial, civic interests, general welfare and prosperity of the Town of Highlands and to do this by representing the town prominently in other areas of the state and country.

The function of the Visitor’s Center falls into these categories in many different ways. As long as the Chamber, which operates the Visitor’s Center, is doing its duty well, there would be no reason to change its current status. To this end I would favor the room tax money continue to go to the Chamber as long as it is used to the full benefit of the town.

As a Town Board we must work cooperatively and closely with them in their duties to promote Highlands. As the Mayor I will continue to promote business interests of Highlands in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and the individual businesses as they deem necessary and I think important. I can promise continued search for economic development in cooperation with the Macon County Economic Development Program of which the Board of Commissioners of Highlands has been a part.

It is important that the Visitor’s Center and the Board of Commissioners help develop a uniform public spirit, as well as put forth maximum efforts in the aid of our community to make it more prosperous, enhance the beauty of the downtown area and make Highlands not only good for business but good for all of our visitors and inhabitants.

Amy Patterson

When you decide questions of this type you must first answer some basic, underlying questions. Do you believe that government is always more effective and efficient than private organizations? Do you believe that private organizations should not have access to public (tax) money? Do you believe that individuals that run private organizations can not be trusted to do the right thing? And specifically, do you believe that the Highlands Chamber of Commerce has done a good job of managing the Visitor Center and the Town government would do a better job?

I do not believe that government is always more effective or efficient. Many private organizations do excellent work in specific niches by focusing on a defined need or project. Collaboration and cooperation with those groups can be very effective by pooling resources, eliminating redundancies and alleviating government from being expected to provide those services. The bottom line for public money is that it is used to serve the public. With adequate oversight, private organizations can use tax money to provide services effectively. Most individuals that run these private, public service organizations are dedicated, responsible citizens.

There is no question whether the Chamber is misusing the room tax money to further its own agenda and not for the Visitor’s Center. The county collects, distributes and administers the room tax money. They have auditing and accountability mechanisms in place to insure the money is used for its stated purpose. The Town of Highlands has no responsibility or authority over the money. In the past, I may have disagreed with some things the Chamber has done. But that doesn’t make them wrong, only that I would have done some things differently.

Hank Ross

It has always been clear to me that the Visitor’s Center and promotions using room occupancy tax proceeds should be run by local businesses. The Chamber of Commerce is the most inclusive and the best organization to do this task.

In 2007 and early 2008 I was asked to serve on Macon County’s Occupancy Tax Task Force. This group was formed because some in Macon County Government felt that there should be a central authority to make decisions on how to use the occupancy tax. I successfully argued that the occupancy tax dollars should be controlled by the areas that generated the tax.

As a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and a local businessperson, I feel that it is better to have the private sector run the Visitor’s Center and promote our local economy.

David Wilkes

I am not in favor of the town operating the visitor center with room tax money. Currently, the Chamber of Commerce is the best channel for directing the funds for the promotion of tourism. The Chamber is accountable to a wide cross section of Highlands businesses and communicates regularly with its members. The town has no network available nor has it sought to establish one to communicate regularly with the business community. Establishing a committee to oversee the Visitor Center would be much less effective than the current system.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU CALL HOME... if your condition requires surgery, our team of experienced general surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses is ready to provide the highly personalized, skilled care you need. Board-certified general surgeons, F. Augustus Dozier, MD, FACS, and William J. “Billy” Noell, Jr., MD, FACS, have the training and decades of experience that have helped hundreds of people recover from procedures such as hernia repair, gallbladder removal, colon and intestinal surgery, breast surgery, melanoma surgery, surgical biopsies and more. And driving up the mountain for our higher level of care, doesn’t have to mean higher costs. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital accepts the majority of health plans including Blue Cross Blue Shield, UnitedHealthcare and Medicare. We do everything possible to make sure you can afford the surgical care you need.
An open letter to my senators

Dear Senators,

I’m sure most would agree this country needs both health care and insurance reform but, before rushing through and enacting such legislation I suggest that you do not support any plan that is a Government plan but give consideration to formulating a simple well written plan, as opposed to the unintelligible 1000 page H.R. 3200 Bill. The Bill should contain provisions that consider providing insurance to those that currently can’t get coverage for pre-existing conditions, those that don’t currently have or can’t get insurance and include Tort reform. All other issues should be considered at a later date. And why does Congress have to have a new bill to eliminate the fraud in Medicare? Why isn’t that being done now?

Some of the many health care coverage concerns for not approving plans such as H.R. 3200 are rationing of coverage and services, Government Committees, less coverage at a higher cost, illegal being included and the deficit this bill will cause just to name a few. No one can convince me that by cutting about $500 billion in projected Medicare payments to providers and adding another 40 million people to the Healthcare plan that my coverage will be improved and that it will not increase our Federal deficit. And, you surely know that we can’t afford to do either of these.

On the legal and privacy act side of this issue as well as attorney John C. Saunders, Jr have concerns:

* The bill is so poorly written I’m not certain whether it does or does not include paying for abortions but it should specifically state that it either does or does not.

* H.R. 3200 would create an incredible panoply of new federal bureaucracies and bureaucrats/apparatchiks. There should be a hue and cry by Congressmen, such as yourself, and citizens protesting this extraordinary delegation of power and authority.

* There are provisions throughout the bill which state clearly that “There shall be no administrative or judicial review…” of decisions/rulings/findings/etc., on a number of topics, made by the Secretary, the Commissioner, or “others,” in these newly created octopus-like federal agencies. This denial of review at either the administrative (agency) level or the judicial (courts, including the Supreme Court) level is an unconstitutional denial of the basic right of access. I do not know how you or any other member of Congress can vote for a bill which so openly repudiates the fundamentals of our foundation. These provisions in my opinion are completely unacceptable.

* Under H.R. 3200, the definition (and limitation) on a “grandfathered” plan makes it clear that the instant there is any change within an existing individual plan, that plan must then comply with the requisite “essential benefits package” also mandated by the bill. Similarly, all work-based plans must also include in least the “essential benefits package” after 5 years. The package requires that every plan include no less than certain listed benefits. For older people, clear of child-bearing years, and with all their children grown, I do not understand why their plan, individual or work-based, must include pregnancy/maternity benefits, plus well baby/well child coverage. I also cannot fathom why (or anyone else who does not want or need them) must have coverage for dental, as well as vision and aural (hearing). These are all traditionally optional coverages, the exclusion of which has heretofore meant a

Thank you, Highlands and Cashiers!

Bob Fisher
Chair Emeritus of The Bascom
Highlands

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### Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009 - Page 13

**Come Meet Owners Barbara & Dick!**

**Mountain Rarities**

- One of a Kind Items
- Butterflies! Butterflies! Butterflies!
- Affordable Gold, Silver & Gems
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Visit our Cashmere Corner and Baby Alpaca sweaters!
Getting there is half the fun - Part 1

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

I promised to do three things before going on vacation this year, so, of course, I didn’t do any of them. Since we were going to a part of the world I’d never been to, I thought it would be a great idea to read up on the history and culture of the places, maybe even learn a few basic foreign words and expressions. As a lot of walking was going to be involved, it would be a good idea to practice walking, getting out of our Highlands’ habit of going everywhere by car. Lastly, we were going to a part of the world known for exceptional cuisine, so losing a bit of weight seemed in order before confronting the mountains of pasta and baklava which loomed before us.

Having always loved to travel, I am increasingly troubled by my total mental block when it comes to packing. Packing is awful! Like most people, I tend to over pack, despite the pain of lugging around too much stuff myself, and the guilt over giving hemias to unsuspecting porters. This time, going online for packing lists was a viable and helpful alternative. So was the ironic comment, “If, by chance, you receive a last minute invitation to the Queen’s garden party, you can always go out and buy a hat.”

My normal wardrobe is a strange and wonderful mixture of comfortable clothing with forgiving waistbands. We were going to Europe, however, a place known for chic women in stylish outfits. At the last minute, I jumped on the Tradesmith website, and ordered a few things to make me feel better about the image I was presenting to the world. Armed with these, comfortable walking shoes, and my miniscule vocabulary of pizza restaurant Italian, we left the driveway. I held back my tears, heartbroken about leaving our two cats for almost three weeks. Days earlier, we had sat them down, and broken the news to them. “Mama and Papa are going far, far away. We are taking a big metal bird, and going bye-bye. Auntie Sue will be coming away. We are taking a big metal bird, and going bye-bye. Auntie Sue will be coming away.” John turns away, and winces when I start crying. I feel like a rotten woman apologizing while she waves yelling out “female assist,” and some poor, bored woman apologizing while she waves her magic wand over your body parts and gets up close and personal with your under wiring. Good-bye, Dulles, hello, JFK, for more waiting and formalities. In what seems like hours of traveling and waiting, we wound up on our planeto Milan. Finally, we can heave a sigh of relief, and feel like we’re really on our way. The plane is filled with an odd combination of Italians returning home with cowboy hats and obscure shirts in English, and American tourists.

John is the lucky one. He can sleep anywhere, and proceeds to snooze while we are still on the ground. I find it hard to sleep on planes, just as my mother does. I asked her once why this was so, and she replied in all honesty: “What if something goes wrong during the flight, and they need someone to fly the plane?” My Dad used to work in aircraft electrical systems for General Electric, and I always felt a bit safer when I see we are flying on a plane with GE engines. At last the plane takes off, and we look at the TV screen in front of us, showing a map and the flight plan. I’m used to trips going to France, but this time we’re going to flying over France to get to Italy, our first stop. I find that John is nervous flying over the Atlantic, a trait strangely endearing in a man who projects such confidence and certitude.

Our flight takes almost nine hours, and we finally land in Milan. There we begin the whole process in reverse – passports, bagged and tags, trying to stay together as a group. At the end of this, we should find our bus, to take us to Bari, on Lake Como, for our first two nights of the tour. As we get the bags early, John wants to go outside to get some fresh air. I am afraid of getting separated from the group, who are waiting for the luggage of the one lady who flew first class – supreme irony. We go outside, and wait. And wait. And wait. First, John goes to the buses lined up with the name of our tour. Then I go. We don’t speak Italian. They don’t speak English. We shrug. We shrug. Total frustration.

Finally, on a last trip to the buses, I find our entire group, sitting in the bus, with their luggage safely stored away in the hold. They are patiently waiting for two missing people, about to have them paged over the Milan airport PA system. I realize, to my shame and embarrassment, that we are the two people. We have now become Those Two Awful People. We had to wait for the Airport. We are Those Two People Who Wouldn’t Stay with the Group.

Lowering my head, I think all the way to the back of the bus, murmuring apologies along the way, face burning with shame. We will have the rest of the trip to make it up to everyone, but we are officially on probation.

Next week: Part 2.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle will be boring you for the next several weeks with tales of her trip. Just be grateful you’re not getting the photos.
... LETTERS continued from page 13

lower premium. So, if one’s existing plan does not include such coverages – by their choice – why should the government be allowed to force them to change to a more expensive coverage they do not want, just because a single element of an existing individual plan is modified after Y1 commences, or after 5 years of their work-based coverage?

- Those who state that we can keep our existing plans, and the government will not get in the way, are either disingenuous or they have not “competently” reviewed and digested H.R. 3200. I respectfully suggest you take all possible steps to (a) revise the “grandfathered” policy language to make each existing plan truly grandfathered as long as it remains in force, regardless of any changes, without any need to comply with any other provisions, and (b) trim the “essential benefits package” to make it truly essential, eliminating coverages which should be optional, based on the need or desire of the covered insured.

- It is stated the bill will offer “more affordable choices.” The bill allows 4 plans, and only 4 plans: the “basic, the enhanced, the premium and the premium plus.” If the government, pursuant to this bill, places any limits on the types and contents of the coverages offered, beyond a redefined “essential benefits package,” which covers a true list of only basic essentials, then the choices are being reduced, not expanded.

- There is also the problem of an individual who purchases, or an employer who provides, health coverage which does not meet the criteria described in the bill. It’s easy to say an individual or an employer may remain with an existing plan even if it doesn’t meet that criteria, or purchase one that isn’t offered through the exchange, but the truth is that only those plans “certified” by the Health Choices Administration (catchy name for one of the new, exploding bureaucracies) will be deemed to satisfy the mandate of universal coverage.

- If you like your existing plan and keep it, but it doesn’t meet the criteria because of some internal change (such as co-pay level) or after 5 years, as the case may be, then you will be deemed not to have a qualified plan and – if an individual – will be hit with a 2.5% surtax on your income every year, in addition to the premiums you are paying for your existing coverage. Same thing for the employer who is currently providing coverage to his employees, but who – after 5 years – does not modify that coverage to meet the criteria for certification – that employer gets hit with a bill for 8% of payroll, despite providing full coverage.

- There are Privacy Laws that protect us yet the Government will disregard these laws since within the H.R. 3200 Bill it states the Government will have access to our bank accounts. I and I’m sure most

Blood drive turnout will help save lives

Thank you to all who came out and gave blood at Otto Community Oct. 4. This blood drive was held in memory of Carrie Ann Sellers. Without your help, we would not have been a success. We were able to get 27 usable units. 28 people presented to donate. Look for the next drive. Thanks to all the businesses and churches that put up the announcements.

Phyllis S. Castle
Otto Secretary and Red Cross Volunteer

Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009 - Page 15
By Ryan Potts

The Highlands men’s soccer team completed their best week of the season, dominating its way to three wins and outscoring those opponents 17-2.

Last Wednesday, the Highlanders blasted the Swain Maroon Devils by a score of 9-0. Eight different Highlanders burned the nets, and the defense, led by sophomore goalie Cody St. Germaine held firm for the shutout. Andrew Renfro scored two goals for the Highlanders, while Felipe Ruiz, Clayton Creighton, Clayton Dunn, Michael Shearl, Sammy Wheeler, Robbie Vanderbilt and Will Mathowdis all notched a goal apiece.

Thursday, Highlands hosted the Madison Patriots looking to avenge a narrow defeat in Marshall earlier this season. Highlands took an early lead on a header from Sammy Wheeler and never looked back, getting two goals from Michael Shearl and another from Clayton Creighton to coast to a 4-1 victory.

Monday, the Highlanders made quite a road trip to Rutherfordton, NC to face Thomas Jefferson Academy. Again the Highlanders received a strong effort from junior Sammy Wheeler, who scored three goals to power Highlands to a 4-1 victory. Will Mathowdis rounded out the scoring for Highlands, who moved to 9-3 on the season and are ranked 14th in the AP poll for the state of North Carolina.

Highlands hosted conference rival Hayesville Wednesday, but results were not available at press time.

from the history guy....

On the day Oct. 8,2005

Martha Stewart begins her prison sentence for securities fraud in ImClone insider stock trading case

Red or orange, or perhaps mauve or melon, what's the most becoming for a felon? No reason elegance should be restricted, what about those who've been convicted? So, grab a paint brush, saw and hammer, today we'll redecorate the slammer. And a gourmet meal we should cook for each and every single crook. Sage and pumpkin soup with a fresh baked French roll for all those who await parole.

Now, let's not forget some crafts to give, what about this adorable handmade shiv? And I also have to give hypes to the sharp and slimming effect of wearing stripes.
Friends of the Upper Chattooga resign to compromise with USFS

Like the old saying says “You can’t fight City Hall!” so the Friends of the Upper Chattooga (FOTUC) has decided to help rather than fight concerning the USFS’s decision to allow boating on the Chattooga River North Fork.

FOTUC is an alliance of citizen organizations from Georgia and the Carolinas working collectively to protect the Chattooga’s wild and scenic values and to educate the public about threats to these values.

FOTUC formed in 2006 when whitewater access lobbyists challenged Forest Service (USFS) management policies that have been in place since Congress designated the Chattooga Wild and Scenic in 1974. The policies assailed by boaters were zoning regulations designed to protect wilderness and wilderness experiences available on the North Fork of the Chattooga.

For some 30 years, river boating has grown by leaps and bounds on the Chattooga’s lower reaches and on the West Fork, zoning rules allowing foot travel only along the North Fork have made that remote river reach a haven for those seeking solitude and wilderness.

However, in a change of policy — after a taxpayer-funded federal study spanning four years and costing 1.5 million dollars, prepared at the behest of powerful lobbying interests pursuing boating access to the entire river — the USFS recently issued a “Decision Notice” that now grants boating access to the Chattooga North Fork. Effective immediately, boaters using canoes and kayaks will be allowed to float the North Fork above Burrell’s Ford annually, December 1 through March 1, during higher flows.

Because the USFS decision to expand boating will bring new levels of human impact to the North Fork wilderness, FOTUC now seeks to assist the USFS in managing its decision in a way that protects, preserves, and enhances solitude and wilderness on the North Fork for present and future generations. With proper monitoring and enforcement promised by the USFS, the potential erosion of the North Fork wilderness experience can hopefully at least be controlled.

FOTUC has filed an administrative appeal with the USFS, not to contest to the agency’s decision but rather to support and strengthen it.

Due to threats to the North Fork wilderness backcountry inherent in the USFS Decision, the appeal seeks to ensure that ongoing USFS management matches the spirit and the letter of the new rules, and that the new, less restrictive rules governing boating access are legally binding.

The new regulations are only as good as the language in them. FOTUC therefore seeks redress of language loopholes in the regulations that might be torpedoed via aggressive litigation by boating lobbyists wanting unrestricted access beyond what this unprecedented management change already allows.

In addition, the appeal highlights the need for the USFS to objectively monitor the effects boating has on the whole wild and scenic river environment, including the need for the USFS to consider recreational opportunities and effects along the lower Chattooga and West Fork in all future assessments. American Whitewater effectively challenged the original recreational zoning based in part on the inadequacy of historical documentation on the thousands of anglers and hikers that were displaced by boats below highway 28. Without collecting the proper baseline data, the USFS could again repeat these past mistakes and further erode the balance between various types of activities. Doug Adams of GA Trout Unlimited: “I believe that proper enforcement for the revised policy will be required to protect the Outstanding and Remarkable Values found on the Chattooga.”

Mike Bamford, Cashiers, NC: “If the USFS objectively monitors the effects kayaking will impose on current visitors, kayaking will be moved back below highway 28 within a few years.”

Butch Clay, Mountain Rest, SC: “The 1974 restrictions against whitewater boating in the headwaters had an unintended effect perhaps not entirely appreciated in those earlier, simpler times. Rules limiting human access to foot travel only created a public recreation resource quite unlike any other in this region: a mountain wilderness with a wild and scenic river flowing through its heart. This new regulation could diminish that wilderness forever. Thus we will closely monitor the agency’s enforcement of these new rules, accepting with this decision the price of the compromise we make here, which is unfailing vigilance.”
... MACKLEY continued from page 1

means a lot.

Then you have the issue of society/justice which carries with it the concept of democracy.

This is the third attempt by Iranians to achieve democracy.

In 1905–1911 there was the Constitutional Revolution which was foiled by the British; in 1954 there was the coup against the shah led by Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. We got all hysterical that he was a communist and we were able to turn that around and we're still paying the price for that; and then there was the 1979 revolution in which the shah was overthrown — a revolution for democracy — and even after 1981 and the Islamic Republic it was accepted as being a quasi-democracy. But in 2009, that quasi-democracy was over turned.

Thirdly, we talked about nationalism with the status of Iranians as a proud independent nation because the reformers aren't afraid of engagement with the west and the hardliners aren't. That's the simple truth of it.

So these ideas of culture, justice, nationalism are internal matters that can have huge consequences for the United States. The prime U.S. national interest to the current situation is to see people in charge of Iran who regard Iran's national interest in engagement with U.S. and have disavowed producing weapons in weapons from Iran's nuclear program.

We don't need the whole structure of the Islamic Republic. If anything, it would probably make things worse and further destabilize the country and make it even more difficult to deal with.

We need the reformers who verbally distanced the U.S. in 1979 so now why are they interested in engaging us now? Because they see Iran's national interest there. They want the economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. due to Iran's nuclear program lifted to relieve their economic problems. And psychologically, national pride demands that Iran take its historic place at the Table of Nations.

And finally, they no longer see the U.S. as a threat to the regime. We have taken regime change off the table. We have announced we will deal with an entity called the Islamic Republic.

So what did the U.S. do in June during the election? We carefully and emphatically stayed out of Iranian politics so the hardliners couldn't use us as a bludgeon against their opponents through the argument of nationalism and paranoia of foreign conspiracy.

The Iranians thrive on conspiracy theories. There are always those foreigners who are trying to do them in. Nothing happens in Iran that is the Iranians' fault; it is always the hidden hand of the foreigners. This is very real psychological tool and we have to be careful how we use it.

This past June, we also gave vocal support to the concept of freedom of expression but made no suggestion about ending the Islamic Republic. In fact, that process has begun and will come by evolution. We refused to meet the demands of Israeli supporters in the U.S. to militarily attack Iran or to give Israel the green light and the assistance to do so.

In fact, to the credit of GW Bush, in the last months of his administration the Israelis came to him and said they wanted to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities, which is the something in the eyes of the Iranians as Washington doing it. But they said they needed our permission to go over Iraq and needed to use American refueling techniques so their planes could get back and Bush said no.

Israel is still making threats to bomb Iran which we have not stopped. We also have not stumped by Iranian Americans — particularly the ones in Los Angeles — who want to see something like restoring the Shah's son to the nonexistent throne of Iran. This is a total nonstarter.

I've interviewed that guy and he's an idiot. He's on the level of Ahmadinejad as smart is concerned. Plus, the idea of monarchy in the 21st century coming back and the U.S. being the one to bring the Shah's son back like we did the Shah back in 1954 is just not good plan.

The whole situation was going pretty well, we were doing everything right when you had this seemingly two-sided battle of those who supported the election results and those who didn't.

Actually, in July the Revolutionary Guard and the police had succeeded in clearing the streets and things started to come down somewhat. So what do we do now? We're finding out that this is only the first round. And the Islamic Republic has been shaken to its very core. Instead of ending the turmoil or the crackdown on dissent has widened the risk within the regime and created several new contending power centers.

The point is, the regime is just losing more and more power and the contesting power centers are coming within its own supporters. And the whole thing is just wobbling and as far as the hardliners are concerned, they're very scared and they should be. To be with Ahmadinejad and the Revolutionary Guard have broken with Khamenei, the spiritual leader, and what they are attempting to do is to consolidate what is in the nature of a quasi-military coup against the establishment which includes Khamenei. Forget thinking this is a theological coup, this is an socioeconomic coup of the lower classes against the establishment; whether they are religious or secular.

Most of the leadership of the guard as well the rank and file aren't motivated by religion but by rather their own economic interests. The clerics who are sticking with Ahmadinejad either have their own economic interest or see their personal status protected only if Ahmadinejad wins this coup. These are clerics who don't have the formal religious credentials that give a cleric power is Shiite Islam. The result is that if nothing else happens, if Ahmadinejad and Revolutionary Guards put the lid on things sufficiently to keep control on the streets, he is going to have a very difficult time governing. It's just up for grabs what happens. Is he going to be toppled or is he going to stay there? If he stays there, is he going to be the voice and the policy of Iran?

Khamenei is struggling to preserve his own power and he is being held responsible for the "Show Trials" and the reason this is such a terrible charge against Khamenei is he is supposed to be the just leader. He is supposed to protect the people against the excesses of government while he is the one who has perpetrating them.

He has been defied by the president on appointments to the cabinet, he is just losing support and his main interest now is how to protect his sunken status and hold the support of the clerics who have stayed with the hardliners. But he's been so discredited it brings to mind whether the Assembly of Experts could remove him.

Now, guess who is the head of the Assembly of Experts and the Expediency Council Hashemi Rafsanjani. The former a president who came out against the election results.

Rafsanjani doesn't have a lot of respect, he is a real operator and he's made a ton of money during the time of the Islamic Rep...
In that grouping, $8,059,739 is funded by Macon County; $422,324 is funded with federal funds; $158,047 is from state funds and the rest — $500,000 — comes from fund balance money.

The next appropriation is from the State Public School Fund for $22,925,529 also for used for instructional programs, support services, community service programs and non-programmed charges. All of that is paid for by the state.

The next section is for the Child Nutrition Fund for $2,714,334 with $1,279,534 coming from local funds, $1,323,000 from the federal government and $11,800 from the state.

Kevin Vinson, as a volunteer middle school assistant soccer coach; Michelle Munger, middle school girls’ basketball head coach; George Schmitt, assistant varsity girls’ basketball coach; and Jesse Munger as volunteer assistant middle school boys basketball coach.

The Capital Outlay section totals $1,136,224 and is funded locally and with fund balance funds — $1,136,224 is local and $20,000 is from fund balance.

All appropriations are first paid from revenue restricted as to use and then from general unrestricted revenues.

“This was one of the most difficult budgets I have ever experienced and we tried to preserve local funds as much as possible,” said Superintendent Dan Brigman.

In other school board news, several Highlands School personnel matters were accepted in the Consent Agenda including coaches...
Twigs
the Season
OUT ON A LIMB

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Small amount of 2009 H1N1 vaccine available in Macon County

The Macon County Public Health Center has received a small initial shipment of 300 doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. This is the beginning of a nationwide vaccination campaign which will eventually total 195 million doses. All of the vaccine received at the public health center is the intranasal type which can only be taken by individuals 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant and do not have any chronic medical conditions.

Since the shipment was so small, these initial doses will be distributed based on the Centers for Disease Control’s priority group recommendations. Health care workers who have contact with pregnant women and young children will receive these first vaccinations so they will stay healthy enough to care for the sick and be available to vaccinate others. The public health center is coordinating this distribution with local health care providers in the community.

Jim Bruckner, Macon County’s Health Director, asks the public to be patient over the coming weeks as more 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine (intranasal and injectable) becomes available. As more vaccine arrives, the public health center will continue to distribute the vaccine based on the Centers for Disease Control priority group recommendations. Those most at risk for getting H1N1 are pregnant women, caregivers of infants who are 6 months old and younger, health care workers, children ages 6 months to 4 years old, and children 5-18 years old with chronic medical conditions.

For more information on influenza, call the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081 or visit www.maconnc.org or www.cdc.gov.

FACTS:

What are the symptoms of swine flu in humans? The symptoms of swine flu in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Can people catch swine flu from eating pork? No. Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe. Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills the swine flu virus as it does other bacteria and viruses.

AngelFood plus Thanksgiving

The October menu is available and orders may be placed and paid for at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main & 5th until Monday, Oct. 12.

Cash or EBT cards only. Distribution day is Saturday, October 17 from 9-10am at the church.

NEW THIS MONTH!

Online ordering is now available by going to www.angelfoodministries.com. Click on “find a local site”, type in your zip code, and select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. You may pay by credit card via this website.

Don’t forget to pre-order your Thanksgiving Holiday Box ($36) which includes Roaster Chicken, Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Cranberries, Corn Bread Dressing, Dinner roll, Gravy and Dessert. The last day to order this special box is Oct. 28.

Distribution for the holiday boxes will be Saturday, Nov. 14. ANGELFOOD Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization. This food relief program is open to everyone. Call 526-9191 or 526-9889 for more information.

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public and he is pretty corrupt, but he knows how to operate the levers; he is a good political in-fighter. So that's another power center.

Then you have the other president Mohammad Khatami who is the most popular of any of the reformers and the most enlightening leader, but he's not an inside operator and beyond his religious credentials and his personal appeal to the educated young, he doesn't have much to work with but he's out there, he's a symbol of everything Khamenei and Ahmadinejad aren't.

Then one of the interesting people who was another of the presidential candidates has really come forward. His name Mehdi Karroubi. He has very high religious credentials; he is not considered to be corrupt he was at one time part of the Revolutionary Guards. He is considered quite conservative.

While Hashemi Rafsanjani has been somewhat silenced because his son is in jail and Mir Hossein Moussavi is under constant threat of arrest and so he's been quiet so here is Karroubi out there just fighting tooth and nail and he is the one holding the Revolutionary Guard responsible for not only putting the protestors in prison but torturing them several have died and now he has evidence there have been rapes of both male and female prisoners and I mean he is screaming this to high heaven and he just seems fearless in the face of arrest.

Then there is a family of five brothers by the last name Larijani, one is the speaker of the parliament, one is the head of the judicial, in fact Ali Larijani was the main nuclear negotiator before he had a falling out with Khamenei and Ahmadinejad about negotiating. So he resigned. But both of these brothers were educated in the US, they are both personally ambitious but they are also realists. And they said "We should regard our relations with America realistically and without extremism and weigh them with the criteria of our national interests."

Then finally you get to the Shiite seminary. Guess who has come out in public Ayatollah Ali Montazeri the one who was supposed to be the spiritual leader when Ayatollah Khomeini died. And he is really raising cane about what has happened in Iran and what has happened to the Islamic Republic.

If we continue to play our cards right, we have a great opportunity to improve our strategic interests in the Middle East and it's not going to be easy, but the interesting thing is, at the end of the day the US and Iran do have some very important compatible interests.

One is that neither one of us wants chaos in Iraq. The second is we both are threaten by the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the reason Iran is threaten is the Taliban are Sunnis the Iranians are Shiites.

And then the third concern is about Pakistan's nuclear program. So engaging Iran will not be easy and probably can't be done at this point if the radicals hold sway in Iran.

But whether or not we succeed in benefiting following these really historically events in Iran depends on acting with our heads and not our hearts.
By Ryan Potts

Mention the name Otis Nixon to any Braves fan, and you will likely bring up one of the defining moments of Atlanta's run of greatness that began in the early 1990s.

Known to Braves' fans as simply, "The Catch," Nixon's robbery of Pittsburgh Pirate slugger Andy Van Slyke endeared him to Braves fans throughout the South. (We won't mention the effect it had on this young Pirate fan).

Nixon was known for his ability to get on base and the speed he displayed when on the basepaths (16th all-time on the MLB list for most stolen bases), both traits that he discussed with youngsters at the free clinic held in Franklin last weekend.

In addition to being a consistent threat to steal, Nixon also batted .270 for his career as a switch hitter, and holds the MLB record for stolen bases in a single game (6).

Nixon spent three hours at the baseball complex in Franklin teaching youth baseball fundamentals and the value of teamwork.

Additionally, Nixon hosted an autograph session at the Wendy's in Franklin last Saturday afternoon. The clinic is sponsored by Macon County Little League and was scheduled as part of a three-week program.

Since retiring from the majors in 1999, Nixon has developed a growing ministry and has formed a friendship and partnership with local restaurant owner Chris Gilbert. Gilbert co-owns and operates Cyprus Restaurant here in Highlands, where Nixon made an appearance last Friday night.

Nixon's On-Track Ministries allows the former Brave to share the story of how his Christian faith has helped him to navigate the stormy periods of his life and conquer the addiction issues that plagued him during his playing career.

Nixon keeps himself moving in his post-field career with motivational and religious speaking engagements as well as an assortment of baseball clinics. He has also spent the last few years working on his Masters degree at Divinity School, and has been working on a book project. The book, appropriately titled The Catch, is due to release next month, and chronicles Nixon's major league career and private struggles.

In addition to On-Track Ministries, Nixon and Gilbert have also combined to form On-Track Promotions, which will be working throughout the southeast to promote mixed-martial arts events.

Cherokee fans with Otis this past week. Pictured are Peanut, Otis, Sean and Tagan.

Local Democrats call White House and demand a serious global climate treaty

On Sept. 21, Highlands Dems joined in the Global Wake Up call with 130 participating countries, calling leaders during the UN and G20 summits held in Pitt., PA, at 1 p.m. The group called the White House and Secretary of State offices to tell them they wanted a serious global climate treaty out of the talks in Copenhagen. From left are Debbie Lassiter, Faviola Olvera, Kelly Smith, Pat Boyd, Karen Hawk, and Lee Hodges. All calls were successfully noted by officials.
Leila Chapman recipient of Harbison Award

Leila Chapman, recipient of the Gertrude and Dolly Harbison Award and Bob Trevathan, vice-president of the Hudson Library Board of Trustees, hold the Harbison plaque. The Harbison Award is given for exemplary service and dedication to the Hudson Library.

Ms. Chapman received the award at the Hudson Library 125th birthday party in September, and she told the guests, “I was a member of the Board of Trustees when the Harbison Award was created so I know what an honor this is. The Bookworm is my first love and these last eight years volunteering have been the best years of my life.”

Ms. Chapman is the fourth person to receive the award, which is only given when a deserving recipient is identified by the Board of Trustees. The plaque hangs in the foyer of the library.

... BUDGET continued from page 19

Town of Highlands employees who live in Georgia but send their children to Highlands School.

The discussion was tabled until the Oct. 26 meeting so the school board attorney could verify the board’s policy on the matter.

The board also OK’d Varsity Girls Basketball Team fundraisers involving a raffle of pottery and a diamond-sapphire bracelet and OK’d a Basketball Fundamental Clinic for grades K-8 at the cost of $20 per person. This clinic was offered during the summer as a fund-raiser for the team and was very successful.

Whether or not bus drivers’ hourly pay would be decreased due to a $15,000 cut in state transportation funding was discussed at length.

Superintendent Brigman said he was doing everything he could to ensure the bus drivers are not penalized due to state budget cuts. The issue was discussed in closed session but the outcome was not decided.

During the public comment session, several teachers from Franklin High School (FHS) discussed the school’s problem with attendance as it applies to performance and graduation.

They said the current absence policy of no cap on the maximum days missed at FHS combined with lowering the bar for graduation with the Diploma 21 program combined with the intense focus on 100% cohort graduation rate may be hurting rather than helping the school’s end-product, which is its students.

The board agreed it was a problem and certainly not one that could be fixed easily or quickly but said it’s a social problem that starts early.

“Parents must comply with the attendance law and make sure their children attend school,” said Brigman. “Academic achievement and attendance are issues that require a parental partnership with the schools and it’s a continuing saga.”

The teachers said the high school is seeing the result of years of conditioning and a pattern of behavior that starts in the elementary grades where parents don’t make their children go to school.

“We have to ask, ‘What are we doing in Macon County to encourage our students to come to class?’” said Brigman.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said Highlands isn’t experiencing the problem Franklin High School is experiencing.

On any given day 5% of the school population is absent — or less than 20 students — and most of them are in the elementary grades.
What ‘Good Health’ means for Americans

By Delia E Frederick, RN, MSN-ed

Good health is a desire of all people. Access to preventative and promotive health care modalities is needed to maintain good health. Health Care in the US has been treated as a commodity to be exchanged for profit. The competitive need to make money should not apply to an individual’s health. Insurance companies have grown fat by the mechanisms set in place to deny health care dollars to individuals who have illnesses.

The US spends 15.3 percent of its gross national product on health. That is $6,719 per capita. Our population is 299 million. The US government spends $3,076 dollars for health care for each man, woman and child in the US. That is $919,724,000,000 or just under trillion dollars. Despite these high expenditures the US ranks poorly in individual health outcomes.

The dollars spent are not improving health in the US. The reason for this is health care access is unequal with in the US. Geography, education, socioeconomic status, uninsurable chronic illness, and health insurance coverage plans affect an individual’s ability to access and pay for health care. If the US actually spent $3,076 on each person to prevent illnesses and promote healthy lifestyles we would have had a much healthier nation. But we did not. Some of us have health insurance and are able to carry out the preventative maintenances and be instructed by health care providers on how to maintain good health. Others of US cannot afford to pay for health care individually, or our employer does not provide health insurance for a variety of reasons, and thus we are unable to access the health care we need.

President Obama’s Health Care Reform plan includes for those that have insurance an end to discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, limits on premium discrimination based on gender or age, prevents insurance companies from dropping coverage when people get sick and need insurance the most, caps on out-of-pocket expenses so people don’t go broke when they get sick. It eliminates extra charges for preventative care. It protects Medicare for seniors and eliminates the gaps in prescription drug coverage.

President Obama’s Health Care Reform plan creates for individuals who don’t have insurance a new insurance marketplace that provides affordable insurance at competitive prices. It provides a tax credit for small business to help with the purchase of health insurance for themselves and their employees. It offers a public health insurance option for the uninsured who are not able to find insurance that is affordable to them with a real choice of coverage options.

President Obama’s Health Care Reform plan reins in the costs of health care for all Americans by implementing delivery system reforms that rein in health care costs while promoting incentives for hospitals, physicians and other health care providers to improve quality of health care. It creates an independent commission of doctors and medical experts to identify waste, fraud and abuse within the health care system. They plan orders immediate medical malpractice reform projects that could help doctors focus on putting their patients first instead of practicing defensive medicine. The plan requires large employers to cover their employees so everyone shares in the responsibility of reform.

The plan promotes physicians and patients talking about the care the patient would like to receive, especially seniors who may need to consider long-term care solutions to their co-morbidities and chronic illnesses. The plan also supports people keeping the physician that they have worked with in attaining or gaining health over the years of their care. Seniors will keep the benefits they currently enjoy but with the assurance that care is delivered in efficient cost controlled manner. No abortions will be recovered with federal monies and no undocumented immigrants will receive federal dollars for health care access.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Week Long**
- **YOGA** - all levels all week, schedule posted Moonrise Yoga 464 Carolina Way. 828.526.8880
  www.yogahighlands.com/10/15
- **Nantahala Tennis Club at the Rec Park**, six days a week at 9 a.m. Public invited.
- **At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital**, various exercise classes. Call 828-526-1FIT.

**Sundays**
- Old-fashioned hymn-sing at the Little Church in the Wildwood 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.
- Bible study at the Episcopal Church in the Wildwood 7-8 p.m. Mondays and 1 p.m. Thursdays at Cashiers Episcopal Church. Call 828-369-7385 (ext 258).
- **At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.**
- **Hal Phillips on piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road.**
- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

**Fridays & Sundays**
- Highlands-Cashiers Music Festival Concerts every Friday at 6 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays at PAC in Highlands through Aug. 9. For tickets or more information, call 828-526-0960 or visit www.hcmusicfestival.org.

**Every Third Saturday**
- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

**Every Fourth Saturday**
- Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

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**Ruby Cinema**
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**Oct. 9-15**

**COUPLES RETREAT**
rated PG-13
Fri: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sat: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sun: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05
Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

**ZOMBIELAND**
rated R
Fri: 4:30, 7:20, 9:30
Sat: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:30
Sun: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:20
Tues + Thurs: 2:20, 4:30, 7:20

**SURROGATES**
rated PG-13
Fri: 4:20, 7:10, 9:20
Sat: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20
Sun: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10

**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS**
in 3-D rated PG
Fri: 4, 7, 9
Sat: 2, 4, 7, 9
Sun: 2, 4, 7
Mon + Wed: 4, 7
Tues + Thurs: 2, 4, 7

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**Tickets still available for hospital auxiliary Wildflower Quilt Raffle**

**Winner to be announced at the Highlands Own Craft Show Saturday, Oct. 10**

Tickets are still available for this year’s edition of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Wildflower Quilt, which will be raffled off at the upcoming Highlands Own Craft Festival on Oct. 10.

In fact, members of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary will be selling chances on the quilt from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in front of Bryson’s Food Store in Highlands for the next two Saturdays (Sept. 26 & Oct. 1). This year’s edition of quilt, which has become a Highlands tradition sponsored by the Auxiliary, is already on display in the lobby at Bank of America in Highlands.

As in the past, the quilt is the combined handiwork of local quilter Hazel Miller and a number of local embroiders who actually stitch the wildflowers onto each of the 36 panels. And as in the past, the drawing for the much sought after heirloom will take place at the Highlands Own Craft Show, scheduled for on Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Highlands Recreation Park.

Raffle tickets are $1 each or six for $5. In addition to special booths at Bryson’s, tickets can also be purchased from auxiliary members in Highlands, Cashiers, Scaly Mountain, and Sky Valley at Bank of America, or the hospital gift shop Monday through Friday.

Once again at this year’s craft show, auxiliary members will be selling jars of their much-prized herb rice mixture. The product comes in two special mixes, one for beef and one for chicken, and is accompanied by a recipe with cooking instructions.

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**Wednesday**
- **Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m.**
November 3. Candidates will talk about what they see as key issues, what they hope to accomplish, and why they want to serve the town. Noon at Tartan Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. For information, call 524-5192.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 9-10

• The Glenville Community will feature a variety of activities during the The Leaf Festival of Cashiers Valley Boat tours of Lake Glenville sponsored by Signal Ridge Marina with tour guides provided by Friends of Lake Glenville will launch at 2 PM from the Signal Ridge Marina on Friday and 10AM and 2 PM on Saturday. An Art Fair featuring local artists opens on Friday under the tent at the Glenville Community Development Club (GCDC) grounds on Highway 107 across from the Glenville Post Office. Woodcarvers, oil painters, watercolorists, stained glass artisans and rustic furniture designers are among the arts and crafters planning to show their wares. Quilting, lacemaking and other handiwork booths will be housed inside the GCDC Clubhouse. On Friday the Glenville VFW, a GCDC neighbor, will open their well supplied Pumpkin Patch with all sizes of pumpkins for purchase. Woodturner demonstrations will also be featured on the VFW site. The festivities on Saturday, October 10 kick-off with a early morning Pancake Breakfast spon-

sored by Tom Sawyer’s Tree Farm on Lakeside Circle. On Saturday the GCDC and VFW add food and music to their offerings with hot dogs, cider, homemade goods and apples for sale. From 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday car buffs should travel further down Highway 107 near the intersection of Pine Creek Road to J’s BP Station and Canteen where a wide variety of cars and trucks from Glenville and Cashiers owners will be on display. For more details contact Mary Shuey, Glenville Leaf Festival Co-ordinator at 743-2143.

Friday, Oct. 9

• “An Evening With John Muir” presented by the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance. Actor Lee Stetson’s stirring portrayal of the adventures, passion and humor of the legendary conservationist.7

• See EVENTS page 28

Pumpkinfest coming to Highlands Saturday, October 10

The Highlands-Cashiers Plateau is rich in natural and cultural history. Among the area’s many special properties is one that folks often drive by and may not notice. Located on Highway 64 E between Highlands and Cashiers, The David Farm, will be the site of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust’s first ever family fall Pumpkinfest on Saturday, October 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

In 1865, just before the end of the Civil War James Wright of Sweet Water, TN, moved to Whiteside Cove with his wife, Jemima Norton Wright (the daughter of the first white settler in the area) and two of their four children: their youngest son, Barak, and their only daughter, Mary. Their two other sons, Marion and William, were away fighting in the Civil War at the time.

After living in the area for a couple years, the Wright family bought 56 acres in Highlands where James built a log cabin for his family and a barn for his cows, mules and horses. On October 10, the public will have an opportunity to enjoy this great piece of land as Linda David, the great granddaughter of the Barak Wright, and her husband, Kent welcome the public to enjoy their historic property as the site of HCLT’s final centennial event of 2009, a fall Pumpkinfest. Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly event. Guests will each choose a pumpkin from the patch which they can carve on-site at the pumpkin carving stations and then enter in the pumpkin carving contest. Three grand prize ribbons will be awarded for: “Scariest,” “Most Original” and “Best Overall.”

Free hayrides through the 56 acres will be running throughout the day for all to enjoy. Appalachian Storyteller, Lara Chew, will delight young and old with her tales of days gone by. Hominy and apple cider press demonstrations, doggers, goats, face painting, giant pumpkin demoli (lion) and more will provide fun for all. You may even expand your family after a visit to the Humane Society’s Adopt-a-pet station!

Tickets will be $20 per family or carload at the door. To get to the David Farm from Highlands, take Highway 64 East for 3.5 miles and the entrance will be on your left across from Community Bible Church. The farm is located 7 miles from the Crossroads in Cashiers, on your right. Look for the HCLT Pumpkinfest banner.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has been preserving local lands for 100 years. To learn more visit them on the web at www.hicashlt.org.
The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is hosting the exciting one-man show, "John Muir: Conversation With a Tramp" on Friday, October 9th at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Playhouse. Muir portrayed by California actor Lee Stetson. John Muir (1838 - 1914) was probably America's most famous and influential conservationist. A wildlifes explorer, he is renowned for his exciting adventures. A prolific writer, he taught people the importance of experiencing and protecting wilderness. In 1892 Muir helped form the Sierra Club and was the club's president until his death. Muir is credited by many Americans as the architect of our National Park system. Muir and his legacy have influenced the preservation of our country's natural environment far beyond what most of us can imagine.

Film-maker Kern Burns knew little about John Muir before he started working on his new series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," which premiered on PBS recently. Burns said, "I don't think I was prepared for what a great writer he was. Mark Twain said the difference between right word and almost the right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. John Muir was lightning. My eyes, at times, would fill with tears in the editing room as we worked on telling Muir's story."

The man who portrays Muir in the series is Lee Stetson, the same man who will share Muir's amazing adventures stories to the audience at Highlands Playhouse. Listen to him describe his "Interview with a Bear" and his "Ride on an Avalanche." This remarkable show has entertained and inspired audiences for over 25 years and J-MCA is proud to bring Stetson to Highlands for their annual fund raiser.

Tickets for the program are $30 ($25 for J-MCA members). Folk musicians Thea and the Green Man will perform as well. You can rub elbows with Lee at The Patron's Party at 5:30. The $80 tickets ($75 for members) include wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres, music by Jody Zahrner plus preferred show seating. There will also be a silent auction. Contact J-MCA at 828-526-9938 ext. 320 or www.J-MCA.org.

Stetson will be making an appearance Friday at Summit Charter School and Leaf Fest in Cashiers. Stetson will also be performing in Asheville for the Western North Carolina Alliance on October 8th. Contact WNCA at www.wnca.org (828) 258-8737.

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from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is $195/$175 Bascom members (basic materials and firing included). To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Sat. & Sun., Oct 17-19
- The Art League of Highlands Fall Colors show. Painting, photography, gallery tours, even poetry have filled the monthly program calendar for the Art League of Highlands. The “Summer Colors Fine Art Show” filled the Rec Park gymnasium with high quality, all original work which inspired all who saw it.
- Artist and Faux painter Kimberly Lilley will be demonstrating at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.
- At Greenleaf Gallery, 12 noon – 4pm – Artist and Faux painter Kimberly Lilley will be demonstrating at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.
- Highands School Fall Festival 5-9 p.m. at Highlands School old gym.
- The 4th Annual Songwriters’ Round, at High Hampton Inn in Cashiers. The evening will start with a Social at 6 p.m. serving heavy hors d’oeuvres and beverages. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. The evening will benefit and is hosted by the Blue Ridge School Education Foundation. Tickets are $60 and are available at the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce at 743-5191 or High Hampton at 743-2411. Corporate Sponsors are $250, including advertising and 2 tickets. Major Sponsors are $1,000 and up, including advertising and 6 tickets. Tickets and Sponsors may also be purchased from any board member: Annette Herstick, Will Madden, Lesley Madden, Cindy Fowler, Andy Shaw, Mark Jones, Chad Boswell, Susan Waller. Come enjoy a wonderful evening starring Nashville’s finest, plus help purchase technology to enhance our childrens’ education and future.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12 mile hike with an elevation change of 2750 up Mt. Le Conte via the Alum Cave Trail with a possible side trip to Myrtle Point. The climb takes 6 hours or more. Meet at the Huddle House in Dillsboro at 8 a.m. Drive 116 miles round trip. Bring plenty of water, lunch and a snack. Wear hiking boots. Call leader Don O’Neal, 586-253, for reservations. Visitors capable of this strenuous climb are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, Oct. 17
- At Greenleaf Gallery, 12 noon – 4pm – Artist and Faux painter Kimberly Lilley will be demonstrating at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.
- Highands School Fall Festival 5-9 p.m. at Highlands School old gym.
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See EVENTS page 30
car shuttle to Wayah Crest. The longer 4.5 mile moderate hike will start from the lookout tower, while the shorter hike group will drive down the road to historic Wilson Ranger Station to begin an easy hike of 1.5 miles. Both hikes will wind up at Wayah Crest. Drive 35 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy comfortable shoes. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

**Nashville Songwriters descend on Cashiers, for the 4th Year**

Rivers Rutherford, George Teren, and Dave Turnbull are returning for the 4th Annual Songwriters Round, on Oct. 17 at High Hampton Inn.

The evening will start with a Social at 6 p.m. serving heavy hors d’oeuvres and beverages. Concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. The evening will benefit and is hosted by the Blue Ridge School Education Foundation. Tickets are $50 and are available at the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce at 743-3191, or High Hampton at 743-2411. Corporate Sponsors are $250, including advertising and 2 tickets. Major Sponsors are $1,000 and up, including advertising and 6 tickets. Tickets and Sponsors may also be purchased from any board member: Annette Herbrick, Will Maddox, Lesley Maddox, Cindy Fowler, Andy Shaw, Mark Jones, Chad Boswell, or Susan Waller. Come enjoy a wonderful evening starring Nashville’s finest, plus help purchase technology to enhance our children’s education and future.

**About Rivers Rutherford**


**Pottery workshop “Spooky Raku: A Halloween Pottery Firing,”** by Patrick Taylor, will be held at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 19-24 and Oct. 31 at sundown for intermediate to advanced students. Cost is $275/$250 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Sunday, Oct. 18**

First Baptist Church invites you to an evening of worship and Gospel Music by Calvin Newton at 6:30 PM.

**Monday, Oct. 19-Friday, Oct. 23**

- Art workshop “Classical Still Life and Floral Painting,” by James Sulkowski, will be held at The Bascom from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Cost is $375/$350 Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Monday, Oct. 19**

- The Jackson County GOP and the Western Carolina University Republicans will hold a joint meeting on October 19th at 7:00 PM in the WCU University Center. The invited speakers are Republican primary candidates who are considering or have announced their candidacy to oppose Congressional District 11 Representative Heath Shuler in 2010. For additional information call Dodie Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828-586-9895 or visit the website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

- Art class “Simple, Elegant Glass Painting,” by Margie Shambaugh, will be held at The Bascom in Highlands from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for beginning to advanced students. Create your own simple-yet-elegant hand-painted glasses and stemware. Cost is $25 for the general public and $20 for Bascom members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- Macon County Democratic Women will meet at the Motor Grill Restaurant in Franklin at 1 p.m. for a luncheon meeting. Democratic Franklin Town Candidates will be present. All Democratic Men and Women are invited to hear our candidates.

- Public Forum prior to the upcoming election for Mayor and Town Commissioners at the Highlands Community Center, 6-7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

**Saturday, Oct. 24-Friday, Dec. 18**

- **American Art Today, Juried Works** exhibition will open at The Bascom and run through Dec. 18. Admission is free. A public opening reception will be Oct. 24 from 5-7 p.m. by the juror, Dr. Annette Blaugrund. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Friday, Oct. 23**

- At the Hudson Library, from 2-4 p.m. Dr. Jim Costa of the Highlands Biological Station will give a presentation on Charles Darwin’s “Origin of Species,” with an emphasis on the religious issues raised by Darwin’s theories. Free. 526-3031

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

- At Greenleaf Gallery, 11am – 4 pm — Artist Robert A. Tino 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate six-mile hike on Bear Pen Trail along a creek to Albert Mountain for a beautiful view of fall leaves from the summit. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Painter Jeromy Gimmer will give an acrylic painting demonstration and studio talk at The Bascom from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost is $15 for the general public and $10 for Bascom members. For more information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Friday-Sun., Oct. 23-25**

- Walhalla Civic Players present “Dracula in Dixie” at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium. This hilarious spoof brings the infamous Count Dracula to an insane asylum somewhere in the deep south. Don’t be surprised if you find some of the surroundings familiar. Regular performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. As a bonus, there will be a special performance at midnight on Halloween night. Feel free to come in costume and enter the midnight show costume contest. Tickets for all shows are $12 for adults, $8 for all students. Children three and under are admitted free. “Dracula in Dixie” tickets can be purchased at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium Box Office, the Walhalla Chamber of Commerce, Wine Emporium in Salem, or Toussaint Law Firm on 123 Bypass in Seneca. For more information call the Walhalla Civic Players hotline at (864) 280-3538.

**Tuesday, Oct. 27**

- At Mountain Air Wellness Center at 6 p.m. at our Cashiers office Topic: Shoulder, Elbow and Hand Health. For more information call us at 828-743-9070 or 828-669-3538.

**Friday-Sun., Oct. 30-Nov. 1**

- Walhalla Civic Players present “Dracula in Dixie” at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium. This hilarious spoof brings the infamous Count Dracula to an insane asylum somewhere in the deep south. Don’t be surprised if you find some of the surroundings familiar. Regular performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. At a bonus, there will be a special performance at midnight on Halloween night. Feel free to come in costume and enter the midnight show costume contest. Tickets for all shows are $12 for adults, $8 for all students. Children three and under are admitted free. “Dracula in Dixie” tickets can be purchased at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium Box Office, the Walhalla Chamber of Commerce, Wine Emporium in Salem, or Toussaint Law Firm on 123 Bypass in Seneca. For more information call the Walhalla Civic Players hotline at (864) 280-3538.
• **UPCOMING EVENTS** •

**Friday, Oct. 30**
- Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin) 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of three pairs of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets.

**Saturday, Oct. 31**
- At Greenleaf Gallery 12 noon – 5 p.m. – The “Leafware” Potter – Rusty Schrum-Owens at 177 Main St. in Wrights Square. Light refreshments.
- Downtown Trick or Treat. Halloween style. 6 – 8 p.m. Featuring merchants On the Hill, Main Street, Town Square, Wright Square, and Oak Square. Main Street will be open for foot traffic only from 5:45 – 8 p.m.

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**The Leaf Festival of Cashiers Valley set for Oct. 8-10**

The “family” of scarecrows can be viewed in front of the Glenville Community Development Club (GCDC) in the center of Glenville Village. The creation is the work of Alice and Bob Stafford talented members of the GCDC.

The Glenville Community will feature a variety of activities during the The Leaf Festival of Cashiers Valley, a Greater Cashiers Valley Merchants Association event scheduled for Friday, and Saturday October 9-10.

Boat tours of Lake Glenville sponsored by Signal Ridge Marina with tour guides provided by Friends of Lake Glenville will launch at 2 PM from the Signal Ridge Marina on Friday and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

An Art Fair featuring local artists opens on Friday under the tent at the Glenville Community Development Club (GCDC) grounds on Highway 107 across from the Glenville Post Office. Woodcarvers, oil painters, watercolorists, stained glass artisans and rustic furniture designers are among the artists and crafters planning to show their wares. Quilting, lacemaking and other handiwork booths will be housed inside the GCDC Clubhouse.

On Friday the Glenville VFW, a GCDC neighbor, will open their well supplied Pumpkin Patch with all sizes of pumpkins for purchase. Woodturner demonstrations will also be featured on the VFW site.

The festivities on Saturday, October 10 kick-off with an early morning Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Tom Sawyer’s Tree Farm on Lakeside Circle.

On Saturday the GCDC and VFW add food and music to their offerings with hot dogs, cider, homemade goods, apples, jams and jellies for sale. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday car buffs should travel further down Highway 107 near the intersection of Pine Creek Road to J.J.’s BP Station and Canteen where a variety of old and specialty cars and trucks from Glenville and Cashiers owners will be on display.

For more details contact Mary Shuey, Glenville Leaf Festival Co-ordinator at 743-2143.

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**The Bascom adds 12 more classes, demonstrations to its 2009 lineup**

The Bascom has added a dozen more classes and demonstrations to its 2009 lineup due to the popularity of its other programs this year, such as this class, above, taught by Gail Russakov.

As a way to get into the holiday spirit, The Bascom has added a dozen more low-cost or free community classes and demonstrations to its lineup — many of them with a holiday theme.

**Offerings include:**
- Oct. 20 — Art class “Simple, Elegant Glass Painting,” 1-3 p.m. by Margie Shambaugh. Cost is $25 for the general public and $20 for Bascom members.
- Oct. 24 — Demonstration and studio talk from 1:30-3:30 p.m. by artist Jerome Grimmer on acrylic painting. $15 public, $10 members.
- Nov. 27-28 — Art class “Gingerbread Building,” drop-in-styled class. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by Fayne Ansley (family activity; students under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult). $25 public, $20 members.
- Dec. 3 — Free demonstration, “The Ancient Art of Spinning,” 2-4 p.m. by fiber artist Carol Singletary.
- Dec. 4-5 — Art class “Knit a Christmas Stocking,” 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by Carol Singletary, $135 public, $125 members (materials included).
- Dec. 5 — Free demonstration, “Split Oak Basket Weaving,” 1-4 p.m. by basket artist Alice Mason.
- Dec. 9 — Art class “Creating Holiday Centerpiece,” 1:30-3:30 p.m. by Margie Shambaugh. $25 public, $20 members (materials included).
- Dec. 12 — Art class “Ceramic Ornament,” 10 a.m. to noon by Norma Hendrix (family activity; students under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult). $25 public, $20 members.
- Dec. 16 — Free demonstration, “Holiday Floral Arrangement,” 1:30-2:30 p.m. by Margie Shambaugh.

For more information or to register, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 100.
NEW POLICY
One FREE Classified Ad for ONE item less than $500
(Not animals, no commercial biz).
ONE AD PER FAMILY otherwise:
20 words for $5; $2 for each 10-word increment.

Email copy to:
highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913
Send check to:
Highlands’ Newspaper
P.O. Box 2703
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782

HELP WANTED

ART CENTER SEeks Year-ROUND Adjunct Faculty for Youth and Adult Art Classes. Ideal candidates have undergraduate or advanced degrees in studio art or art education, teaching experience and a track record of curriculum development. Send letter, resume, three references, CD with 10-15 examples of personal artwork and 10-15 examples of student work by October 16 to Norma Hendrix, The Bascom, P.O. Box 766, Highlands, NC 28741. No phone calls, please.

CNA II needed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Acute Department. Full-time and PRN positions available, night shift. Must have Med/Surg experience preferred. Excellent wage scale, with shift and weekend differentials. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchosp.org.

CNA or CNA II at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. PRN positions are available. Our wage scale is $11.00 to $14.40 per hour, and you also receive shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening, Call Human Resources, 828-526-1301 or apply online at www.hchosp.org.

REWARD OFFERED
FOR INFORMATION leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons who stole items from the apartment of Tom Merchant at Chestnut Hill, Call S. Johnson, 526-0248.

WORK WANTED

HARDWORKING COUPLE LOOKING for LANDSCAPING and YARDWORK AND HOUSECLEANING WORK – Call Juan Diaz at 828-200-1038 or 828-526-1025.

ABOUT PETS
GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY – AKC Champion sired. 3 months old. Gorgeous and smart. All shots. Crate trained. $1,200. Call 743-2530. St. 9/24

BEAUTIFUL, FEMALE MALAMUTE MIX – FREE TO A GOOD HOME WITH REFERENCES. 12 years old, bred to be the head of a sled dog team and in excellent health. Must sacrifice. Owner’s granddaughter has an manufactured home. This is a very special animal and deserves a forever home. 828-526-3961 oremialstarpony@earthlink.net for pics and more info.

YARD SALE
SATURDAY, OCT. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 75 Hickory Drive in Highlands Springs & Falls off Shortoff Road. Microwave, bar stools, bistro table and chairs, grill, clothes, misc.

MOVING SALE — BY APPOINTMENT. Houseful of Furniture Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Bakers Rack, Office Furniture, Corner TV Cabinet, Console Tables, Accessories, too many to list. Highlands, close to Wild Cat Country Club. Call for appointment to see. 526-9577 (st. 9/24)

DAILY – Basement of OLD Highlands Pharmacy at 238 Helen’s Barn Ave. 9 a.m. until. Tools, lumber and household items. EVERYTHING MUST GO!

MOVING SALE: Oct. 16 & 17, 9-4. Quality furniture, oriental rugs, vintage wicker, Indian artifacts, elk horn chandelier, accessories, pictures/paintings & more. Sapphire area, Holly Forrest I. Details next week.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT
YOUNG HOUSE FOR RENT
ST: 755 Sugarloaf Mountain Dr. 2,5 Baths. Market Value $389,000. Foreclosure @ $289,000. Call 305-458-0033 10/29

FIVE BEDROOM, 4 1/2 BATH HOUSE FOR SALE/LIASE WITH OPTION, Owner financing possible. Handicap accessible, separate office below. Close to town. See at vrbo.com/209433 Call for details 808-443-7353 st. 8/27


RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT
HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN 1 BR/1BA Apt with high ceilings, hardwood, tile & carpeted floors, granite countertops in kitchen, 2 decks, light & bright, spacious & open floor plan, laundry room w/WD & parking for 2. Non-smokers only. Call (828) 226-9818. 10/8

RUSTIC FARMHOUSE, 3br/2b, central heat/air, backup wood heater; w/d, hardwood floors. Large living/dining rooms. Utilities not included: $700 monthly, first/last/security $400. Some furnishings. 3459 Buck Creek Rd. 828-524-6038. St. 10/8

HOLLY FOREST I SAPPHIRE NC YEAR ROUND Mountain View easy Access Furnished 3 Bedroom/3 Bath with 2 Car Garage $1,850 month. 561-626-7487 11/5

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1St: 3/3, older home, walk to town, furnished, oil heat. Electric/water included, $1,225. 526-5558. 10/8

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 878-358-9675 or 404-639-2682.

2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Few minutes from downtown Highlands and the hospital. fully furnished included w/d. Call 787-2423. St. 9/24
**CLASSIFIEDS**


**ONE BED, 1 BATH** - plus den with trundle beds – fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, Wi/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Balsom. $950/month. Call 813-428-2359.

**PATIO APARTMENT** - 1 queen-sized bedroom, 1 bath, all utilities included except phone. $650 a month. Call 526-2561. (st. 9/3)

**YEAR-ROUND HOUSE NEAR GLEN FALLS** - Responsible adult for one bedroom, one and one-half baths, furnished or unfurnished. Wood and carpet floors, sunny deck with mountain and pond views, w/d, private. No smoking. $650 furnished, negotiable unfurnished. First, last, security required. 828-421-7922. (st. 5/7)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - $100/week - call (828) 787-1515

**ROOM FOR RENT** - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - $50/week - call (828) 787-1515

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - Near Post Office. 2 bed/1 bath, central H/AC, hardwood floors, fireplace, deck, basement, W/D, nice yard. No smoking. $700/month plus utilities. Call 526-4073. 9/24

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. $795. Call 526-2894. (st. 7/30)

**SEVERAL HOUSES AVAILABLE** - 4 bedroom, 2 bath MH close in $1,000 per month; 2 bedroom, 2 bath Home Carport; $1,000 per month; Garage apt, 1 bedroom, 1 bath $1,100 per month. All homes are plus utilities and no pets. Contact Terry Potts at Country Club Properties 828-526-2520. (st. 7/2)

**IN TOWN** - 1,500 sq. ft. 2 bed/2 bath, beautifully furnished apartment. Vaulted ceiling, AC, W/D. No pets. No smoking. $1,000 per month plus utilities. Call 828-526-5451 or 828-526-2729. (st. 7/2)


**GREAT 2 BEDROOM/1BATH APARTMENT** - Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. $900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5857. (st. 5/21)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. $650/month. $300 security deposit. First and last month rent. Rent includes utilities, (electric, water, heat, local phone) One year lease. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. Call 526-9494.


**Furnished 3BR 2BATH HOUSE IN MIRROR LAKE** - area available for 6-12 month lease $1200+ utilities. Call 770-977-5692.

**3BR, 2BA COTTAGE NEAR MIRROR LAKE** - In town. $1,250 per month. Very clean. 770-977-5692.

**ON MIRROR LAKE** - 3 bed, 2 bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, W/D, dock, canoe, furnished, 3-sided lake views, pets OK. Available Nov.-May. $1,200 a month plus utilities. Call 770-435-0678.10/29

**SMALL FURNISHED COTTAGE** - suitbale for (1) occupant conveniently located @ 674 Chestnut Street. Queen bed, Living area and kitchen combined. Nice screen porch with sleeping loft. Quiet and private. No pets and no smoking. $800 monthly plus $300. security deposit with 6 months lease and references. Includes all utilities & satellite TV. Available 9/18/09. Contact Charlie @(828)526-8645.

**COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE**

**TIRED OF PAYING MAIN STREET RENT?** Join new center, less than 2 miles from downtown as an owner, tenant, or rent to own. Two spaces, 1,575 square feet each, 299,900. Can be combined. Inquire for rental rates. Contact Betty Holt, Signature Properties, 526-4218 or Chris Gilbert, Carolina Mountain Brokers, 421-3161. 10/29

**OFFICE/RETAIL/SPA RENTAL SPACE** - 1,080 sq. ft. divided into four rooms along with full bath. Conveniently located on Spring Street, $750/mo. with the first month free. Call 352-245-3901. (st. 6/18)

**RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE** - Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. (st. 4/16)

**VACATION RENTAL**

**STUNNING FEATURES** - Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 678-358-9675 or 404-639-2682.

**3BR, 2BA CABIN** - Spectacular valley views available for rent in September and October. Near Glen Falls. $1,000 per week. Call 404-234-2830.10/28

**RUSTIC FARMHOUSE** - 3br/2b, central heat/air, spring water, big yard, access to fish pond, bordered by Buck Creek located on Buck Creek Rd.; close to Highlands and Franklin, NC. $800 wkly or can be rented monthly. 828-524-6038

**RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN** - Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestnutcottage@yahoo.com

**RESTORED FARMHOUSE ON SHORTOFF ROAD** - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in a country setting. Well furnished with a large screened porch. See details and pictures at www.homeaway.com #23644 $300 per week. (912) 354-6917

**HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB** - Sorry, golf and club privileges not available. $2,495 a week. Call 912-230-7202.

**THE LODGE ON MIRROR LAKE** - Fish or canoe from dock. Available weekly, monthly. No min. Call 828-342-2302.

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

See CLASSIFIEDS page 34
CALL 828-526-0844.

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN – Anything and Everything. From High End to Low Spend. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031. 10/22

MARK’S SEDAN SERVICE – Airport Transportation, Easy Pickup Procedures. Call 828-524-2149 or cell at 239-330-2342. MC/VISA, AMEX, Cash, Check. 10/22

WINTERIZATION AND PEACE OF MIND – The Highlands Handyman’s Home Winterizing Service is just in time. On call 24/7. References. Call a Neighbor at 526-0031. 10/22

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS GOT YOU DOWN? Need help processing feelings, creating an action plan? Contact J Kelly 828.526.2347 10/15

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• Stuff, etc.
• Antiques
• Collectibles
• Stuff, etc.

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CLOCK REPAIR – Antique or modern, complicated antique clocks are my specialty. Experienced, dependable and courteous with housecalls available in the Highlands area. Call 706-754-9631. Joseph McGahee. Clockmaker. www.oldclockrepair.com. 9/1

DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER – for all types of pets! House sitting and landscaping services also available. Call 443-315-9547.

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. $2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1803.

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and Remodeling, Electrical and Plumbing, Carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate call 828-342-7864.

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, references and Early Childhood credentials. $5 per hour for first child, $10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672.

LANDSCAPE CLEANUP – leaves, gutters and more. Call Juan at 200-9249 or 526-8525.

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Learn from the past but look to the future

Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

I have been thinking a lot about how some of us try to live in the past. Now what does that really mean? I mean that some of us can't look to the present or the future because we remember and can't let go of the past. Maybe someone has wronged us and we can't get that out of our hearts or our minds to function in the present. Maybe we were overlooked for a promotion or some recognition and we can't let go of that someone else got the promotion or the recognition we feel we deserve, that we fall in a dark abyss. How many of us know people who are 50-years-old and still live the glory of their high school days? Or how many of us know people who still act like they are in college even though they have family responsibilities? Now before you get too depressed by reading this article this week, let me say a simple but yet profound statement: “Stop living in the past and look toward the future!”

I wish I had come up with that statement but I did not, in fact a fellow by the name of Paul wrote those words centuries ago. He was writing to a church in Philippi, and that was a church that was suffering persecution and they were dwelling in the past and Paul wrote and he said these words: “But this one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.”

I love those words because there have been times in my life when I have needed to be reminded of that. We can learn from our past, but we can’t dwell in the past. I don’t know about you but I have a mistake or two before in my life, and I could dwell on them and kick myself each day I get up, or I can forget and look to what lies ahead.

I learned early on in my life that I needed to look ahead and not behind. You see I was in Kindergarten and my friend Tommy Jones and I decided that we could skip and go play with our GI Joe’s but when Mrs. Worth (our teacher) saw us trying to leave, she came after us. I was running and sticking my tongue out looking back at Mrs. Worth and laughing because I was faster than she was and when I turned around to run even faster, I hit a tarpaulin pole. You can’t run forward by looking back. Six stitches later I learned that lesson.

But very often that is what we do with our mistakes that we have all made. We keep looking back instead of forward. STOP! Look to the future, the present, not the past. The past is the past and there is nothing we can do about the past now, but we can learn from our mistakes and live in the present.

Paul, the Apostle who wrote the letter to the church at Philippi made a lot of mistakes, but he didn’t dwell on them, instead he wanted to make a difference for his Lord, and he did. If you have wronged someone, ask for forgiveness and then move on don’t stay stuck in the past, but move forward. And you know, if you try that, you may find peace in your life. Don’t believe me? Try it!
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Sept. 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 30
• At 3:35 p.m., officers responded to a bear call at Mitchell’s Lodge & Cottages where a bear was in the garbage cans. Officers shot it with a bean bag as it went into the woods.
• At 4:25 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at a residence on the Franklin Road where construction workers had the radio in their truck on too loudly.
• At 11:30 a.m., the innkeeper at Mountain High called the police concerning patrons who were they allegedly trying to leave without paying. The patrons said their credit card was declined and were trying to rectify the problem.

Oct. 2
• Officers conducted a “resident check” at a residence on Fourth Street. Everything was OK.

Oct. 3
• At 8:08 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Laurel Street concerning a domestic disturbance. There was no assault or arrest.
• At 8:34 p.m., officers were called about some intoxicated people on a person’s porch on Lower Lake Road.

Oct. 4
• At 10:50 a.m., Mary Kay Moore, 62, of Highlands was arrested for passing a bad check. She was released on a $500 unsecured bond.

During the week, police officers responded to 11 alarms and issued 28 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 30:

Sept. 30
• At 10:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical cl at a residence on Hickory Knut Gap Road where a limb fell on a man’s head when he was cutting wood. He was transported to the hospital.
• At 3:27 p.m., passers-by called the dept. when they saw a woman lying on her driveway near Hudson Road. She had fallen and was taken by private vehicle to the hospital.

Oct. 2
• At 12:19 p.m., officers responded to a fire alarm at the Episcopal Church. It was false.
• At 4:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a lifeline alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. It was cancelled by the alarm company.
• At 6:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cullasaja Drive where an 80-year-old woman gad fallen. She was transported to the hospital.

Oct. 4
• At 2:22 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Rib Shack. The cooker door was open so the smoke set off the fire alarm.

Hex-a-Ku©
by Pete Sarjeant and Don Cook

OBJECT:
A mystery word or phrase using all different letters is designated by circled squares (other short words will appear when solving, for which a list of meanings is provided). Every puzzle has a different mystery word or phrase (no spaces). Assign different letters to each square of each column and row. In addition, 3x2 cells in the puzzle layout have the same different letters. (This is similar to Sudoku but uses letters instead of numbers.)

How to Solve:
Determine the different letters among those given. Write in the mystery word using the clue and these letters. Other small words will appear in the puzzle. As in conventional crossword puzzles, a list of meanings for these Across/Down words is given and number positions shown. Doing them will speed up your solution to the puzzle. Using your powers of induction, inference and insight, place missing letters in blank squares according to the rules noted above. Focus your attention where the least number of letters are needed to complete a row, column or cell.

Mystery Word:
European Country

Across
1. Auto (4)
2. Fast trot (3)

Down
3. 2nd musical note (2)
4. Metallic container (3)
5. Dog sound (3)

Solution to #DN1B in Oct. 1 issue

Solution to Oct. 1 Hex-a-Ku
Mtntop Rotary

Rotary District 7670 Governor Carol King recently visited the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club. As a member of the Rotary Club of Asheville, Governor King served as President in 2001-02 and was awarded RI’s Distinguished Club President Citation.

She has served the District as Assistant Governor, Membership Chair, program Chair for the District Conference, and Trainer. In 2008, Carol travelled as a Rotary Volunteer to India where she had the honor of participating in a Polio National Immunization Day.

She is a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Paul Harris Society, and a Major Donor.

During her visit Governor King explained the Rotary theme for the year which is “The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands”. This theme stresses that it is every Rotarian in every Rotary club that is responsible for keeping Rotary strong.

Governor King once again stressed the importance of Rotary in helping provide clean water, reducing hunger and improving literacy as each of these components combine to help create better communities both locally and worldwide.

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary truly believes this message and is working to serve both locally in Highlands and worldwide on such projects as the VinaCapital Foundation and Heartbeat Vietnam which provides heart surgery to underprivileged children who otherwise could not afford these life saving surgeries.

Locally, The Mountaintop Club has worked to raise funds which it then distributes to such important community non-profits as the Food Pantry, The Literacy Council, The Community Care Clinic and more.

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary President Al Bolt said, “The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary is excited to have such a dynamic leader as Governor King. She is bringing a vitality to the district and renewing the spirits of many Rotarians. Our club is taking the future seriously and we look forward to doing our part.”

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary club was chartered in April 2002 as an early morning club to satisfy the needs of members that are busy and on the go during the business day. If you are a past member of Rotary or a member visiting our area we encourage you to join us. Meetings are every Wednesday at 7:30 am at Ruka’s Table and end promptly in one hour.

Fall-tastic festival benefits The Bascom

The Bascom’s Autumn Leaves festival was a grand affair, raising thousands of dollars for the nonprofit visual art center while giving two major parties for the community. Friday’s Auction Gala at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn drew more than 200 bidders on an array of live and silent auction items amid delectable food and a first-class facility. Saturday’s bluegrass-and-barbecue Autumn Leaves Party at The Bascom had more than 450 people dancing, mingling, eating and bidding on the grounds of the art center. Art demos and a pumpkin sale rounded out the fun. Here are scenes from the event:

Committee Member Nancy Jamison, left, and Bascom Events Director Donna Woods hold up one of the items up for live auction Friday night: a painting by Steve Penley.

Fay Gold greets a friend at the Friday Gala.

This young dancer tries to figure out how to “buck dance.”

Saturday attendees watch as artist Carol Singletary gives a loom demonstration outside The Bascom’s Studio Barn.

Photos by AWH PHOTO & DESIGN and Guy Fielding
Wildcat Cliffs Country Club raises money for employee scholarship fund with talent show

August 29 was a special night for the members at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Over 40 Wildcat Members and others participated in a USO Talent Show to help raise money for the Employee Scholarship Fund. The Employee Scholarship Fund is intended to help full-time Wildcat employees further their college education. Over $2,700 was raised. Left are The Wildcat Cloggers who were made up of 17 Wildcat members: Gigi Cockes, Martha Copeland, Carol Crowe, Linda Edwards, Linda Firkins, Patty Gassner, Kay Gerspacher, Diane Ginn, Ginger Grimes, Betty Ingrish, Deedee Jordan, J.R. Kirby, Vivienne Lambrecht, Pennie MAe, Maria Sverdlow, Kathy Watkins and Gordie White. They were instructed and joined by Joyce Doerter and performed two clogging routines. Natasha Walker, the Fitness Center Director, led the Fabulous Fitness Follies, a group of members (Gigi Cockes, Mary Ann Bond, Marsha Kuhlman, Harry Deffebach, Suzy Mosely, Kirk Domingos and Chris Hinck) who dressed in top hats and gloves and performed an exercise dance routine.

The Rotary Club of Highlands and local Cub Scouts partnered to sponsor “Cub Scout Bingo”. Net proceeds of over $1100 were donated to Highlands Cub Scout pack # 207. Cecelia Schmitt (left) and Ivy Satterwhite won $100 in the final Super Bingo game. They are shown here with Rotary member Bill Nellis.

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