MC on alert after death of Swain County child

With the death of a Swain County child due to La Crosse encephalitis, Macon County Health Department are urging citizens to take precautions against mosquito bites.

This is the first person to die from La Crosse encephalitis in North Carolina since 2001, said officials. In 2001, a Transylvania County child died as a result of this disease.

Although La Crosse encephalitis is rarely fatal, it can have long-lasting effects on a person’s health. Macon County Public Health officials say the only guaranteed way to prevent La Crosse encephalitis is to prevent mosquito bites.

“These cases are an unfortunate reminder that we all need to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites,” said Jim Bruckner, Macon County Health Director. “In addition to La Crosse, mosquitoes are carriers of eastern equine encephalitis, whose specialty is planning, urban design, landscape architecture, civil engineering and environmental graphics.”

“We are working with the Town of Highlands to update its current Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Master Plan. The public is encouraged to drop in to speak with us about its current and future ideas regarding recreation facilities and programs,” said associate Bert Lynn.

For years, citizens have been discussing the Rec Park – its facilities, its personnel and its programs. “Now is the time to say exactly what you want at the Rec Park! Come to the Rec Park 6-8 pm, Sept. 3 and say!”

2 arrested for RBC robbery

Early this week a man and woman were arrested for the armed robbery of RBC Centura Bank on Aug. 13, but because Federal charges are pending, few details have been disclosed.

The Highlands Police Department has determined that the robbery attempt of the credit union ATM in Highlands Plaza the night of Wednesday, Aug. 5 where a vehicle was crashed into the ATM and the armed robbery of RBC Centura Bank the morning of Thursday, Aug. 13 are related.

Arrested were Billy Edward Vitatoe, 40, and Kari Huskey Conard, 32, both of Franklin. On the booking report, Vitatoe is listed as unemployed; Conard is listed as an unemployed shipping clerk.
Just Say No!
Dear Editor,

Will enough be enough? I believe the North Carolina legislature should have considered this question when they increased the state sales tax by 1%. North Carolina now has the 8th highest sales tax in the nation. As a small business owner, I cannot overspend and simply raise my prices to meet my over extended obligations. The state of North Carolina does not appear to have the same concern as a small business. It appears they can spend and spend and simply force the citizens to pay higher taxes to cover their over extended obligations.

One concern regarding this additional tax is the lack of any media attention this was given. I subscribe to the Asheville Citizen Times and read two weekly local newspapers and I could not recall a single article addressing the additional sales tax. This item should have been front page since it will generate a significant revenue and clearly it was used to shore up the budget shortfall.

Our government officials do not need to take more money, they need to spend less money. I encourage the citizens of North Carolina to send a message to their elected officials that taxing and spending will not solve their problems.

Jerry Moore
Highlands, NC

Utility crews continue to deface roadways
Dear Editor,

Have you seen what they've done to the side of the highway from Scaly mountain to Highlands? Once again, the power company has deemed fit, to spray defoliating poison on all plants within 50 feet of their power lines.

At first this was a gradual browning and I thought autumn was early. Now it is obvious. It is unintentional devastation along our beautiful highway. And, if you look carefully, where they sprayed is not under the wires. There is no reason to kill the low lying wildflowers and plants. They will not impede the repair trucks or interfere with the high wires.

This is the same company that cut and slashes trees and bushes leaving them to rot along the road. We view this devastation for years. This is what the tourists, locals and summer people see when they drive up the mountain on the Dillard Road to Highlands.

Surely there is something that can be done to stop cutting of our beautiful mountains. The ugliness that greets our visitors to Highlands is senseless.

Juliana Stottlemyer
Highlands

It's time to move toward with health care
Dear Editor,

Four presidents have promised to solve the intractable problem of health care and none have even come close! Instead of meaningful discussions, President Obama and members of Congress have endured well-orchestrated heckling and screaming at the ubiquitous Town Hall meetings.

There is no Republican alternative being offered. The cost of doing nothing is staggering. The Town Hall participants complain loudly about big government. I wonder how many cheerfully accept assistance from Medicare and Medicaid? What about unemployment benefits and the extending of these benefits to the millions of our jobless?

Where is the voice of reason? Is it coming from Sarah Palin and her claim of a Death Panel? Due to my own recent personal loss, I can appreciate the great difficulty with which end of life decisions are made. Fortunately, Hospice makes it possible to follow directives in a Living Will.

Perhaps the Republican leadership will be left to the likes of Rush Limbaugh who compares our president to Adolf Hitler. What happened to the good old American values of civility and compromise? Will this haranguing backfire?

I appreciate President Obama's Herculean efforts to find a bipartisan solution, but if he chooses to go it alone and come up with an answer, so be it. I would support the cost of the plan at least the parts I have read about in my local newspaper, Time and USA Today. The plan must reduce the cost of medical care. Therefore the government option should be part of it.

I can no longer endure the thoughts of millions of our jobless health care. Please listen, discuss and then support whatever you believe to be the best possible alternative. Do not listen to the voices of those who only wish to bring down the President of these United States.

Edna Foster
LaGrange, GA

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.

... MONEY continued from page 1

Citizens and businesses may go to the website at www.nctrasurer.com and search under “Unclaimed Property” to see if their name is on the list. If it is, information tells you how to claim it. If you do not have internet access, you may call 919-508-1000 for information.

“There are usually not great amounts of money, but every little bit helps, especially in today’s economic climate,” said Perry.
**Milestones**

Bryson wins again!

Ryan Bryson of Bryson Motorsports, celebrated in Victory Lane Saturday night, Aug. 15 at Toccoa Motor Speedway in Toccoa, GA. He qualified second and lead all the laps to make this his second win of the season. Thanks go to his friends and family and to his sponsors, Appalachian Tree, B&S Haulers, Highlands Construction, Sam's Grading and Bryson Grading and Trucking.

**Herz makes the grade**

Lucy Herz, Highlands School Class of 2007 Valedictorian, and a student at Columbia University in New York City, made the Dean's List for Spring 2009. A student needs at least a 3.6 GPA to make the Dean's List. Lucy is the daughter of Anna and Patrick Herz of Highlands. She is a rising Junior majoring in philosophy.

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I guess the easiest way to explain this is to tell everyone what my job is not. I'm not writing a weekly column to report facts, give the weather forecast, report stock market trends, praise various countries, including my own, on its many virtues. I never write serious stuff without identifying it as such and I don't report the news. Warning I am complex. Surely there are enough columnists writing for this paper to do those things. I just mentioned. I'm also not writing to prove how intellectual I can be. (Thank God, 'cause I couldn't) and I'm certainly not writing to praise the Democrats or Republicans for anything... and I mean anything.

On rare occasions I write something serious and ask my editor to change the title of my column to "Looking at Life" to let everyone know the column will not be satire to watch for.

So, allow me to explain my job. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "satire" as "a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn." Ta Da, that's me. Wait, the definition continues. "Trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vices or folly." Ta Da, again. I take what's real and turn it to fiction by blowing everything out of proportion. I distort and make fun.

My editor was a weenie, I would've been fired long ago. In the past, some merchants, like real estate folks, have actually dumped their ads and cost her income because of me. I push people's buttons and it always amazes me how supposedly very bright, intelligent people can become upset over the dumbest things. One real estate agent called to ream me out about my satire on commissions. After he finished his lengthy dissertation that included threats and ugliness, I asked, "Are you aware of writing fiction?" The editor hung up on me. Because the Republicans had been in power for the past eight years and totally blew it, I directed most of my political satire to making fun of good ole George Bush, the great uniter. Now that we have a new president, some folks think I should drop my satire and not make fun of President Obama and his large army of worthless cars. Well, they can kiss my grits 'cause it ain't goin' happen. I'll stop when my editor orders me to stop. Hey, it's Obama's turn in the barrel.

Last month, I said some pretty outrageous and ridiculous things about the president of Iran. In that same column, I ridiculed George Bush, Dick Cheney and war hero John McCain, but the real turkey in the piece was our current bone-headed Congress. That's about as outrageous as I get. Yet, I had some folks take me serious. Huh?

If I write 500 words poking fun of Fox News commentators or Rush Limbaugh or George Bush or Dick Cheney or any of their right wing ilk, but wind up the column making fun of Congress or our president, I'll get nasty letters and phone calls for my attack on the left, but seldom get anything from the right. What's that all about? Doesn't everyone know by now I'm an equal opportunity offender?

I've been invited to leave town and never come back. (Ain't gonna happen.) I've been threatened with lawsuits and physical violence. (Bring it on.) I've been called every foul name known to mankind. (Sticks and stones.) I've even heard a few insults that I wish I knew. No, I can't publish them but call the editor orders me to stop. Hey, it's Obama's turn in the barrel. If it wasn't for the big bucks, I'd quit.

My job is to be way over the top. It's why people read my column. If people don't, I'm not writing it. If you want to make the president of Iran cry, then I've failed.

By blowing everything out of proportion, I distort and make fun. Hello ... I distort and make fun.

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Quality of life should be what counts

Dr. Henry Salzarulo
Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

There are individual choices and personal decisions. When it’s time to fight on, and when it’s time to say, “No more?”

Medical advances have dramatically increased both the quality and length of life. Early detection, coupled with advanced surgical techniques, radiation, and chemotherapy, have reduced the mortality of many cancers. Antibiotics routinely cure once lethal infections.

My Dad had a heart attack in 1962. He was placed under a filmy oxygen canopy and given morphine injections for pain. He languished for two weeks before dying. Today, with the intervention of drugs, cardiac catheterization, and perhaps coronary artery bypass, he might well have had years of added life. That’s the bright side of American medicine.

There is a darker side. Let’s focus for a moment on care for the terminal ill.

A huge portion of Medicare funds are spent for terminal care. One third of the total is spent in the last year of life. Aggressive care in the final month accounts for 80% of that. This money is spent without either prolongation or enhanced quality of life. That’s right. These patients don’t live longer and they don’t live better. They die just as quickly, but less comfortably, and at greater cost. Caregivers and nurses agree that the quality of the fading life is better if palliative, rather than aggressive, care is provided.

So much for pulling the plug on Grandma.

Many claim that withholding or withdrawing aggressive care amounts to killing the elderly. If a doctor injects a patient with an overdose of morphine, that is killing, although it may be justified. More on that later.

See SALZARULO page 10
doctor giving such great care amongst us here in Highlnd Sand Cashiers. As a member of that board, I take great pride in the progress our hospital is making.

Recent newspaper reports have concluded what most of us have known for a long time. We have an outstanding police force in Highlands, comparable in ability and financially to any in our part of the state. The grant the town recently received has allowed the Town of Highlands to obtain new well-equipped police cars for our officers. My Daddy always told me you get what you pay for and supporting this fine group of men and women on our police force is an important part of what the Town Board does.

Chief Harrell is one of the finest men I know and has surrounded himself with outstanding officers. To recruit good people to our isolated little town requires extra efforts on everyone’s part and that has been achieved. Just like the hospital, they should all be commended.

Just a word about the two big sewer projects, the Harris Lake and Mirror Lake projects. I must say we have learned a lot on the Harris Lake project. It was more than many in that area could take, and I certainly apologize for the many inconveniences that have occurred, primarily because of some inadequacies with the construction crew with whom we contracted. We should have those roads paved by October and that area can get back to normal. Sometimes progress is painful and in this case it certainly has been but the final result will be good.

We will not repeat that on the Mirror Lake project. However, we plan to have a community meeting with all homeowners involved in the Mirror Lake project to explain exactly what is going to happen and answer questions regarding the procedures. Everyone must understand that indeed there will be inconveniences, but we are going to do everything in our power to minimize those. Another construction company has been contracted and the work will begin hopefully in October. I hope that project can be completed before the department of transportation begins the Mirror Lake bridge project next June. Having both going on at the same time would indeed be a major inconvenience.

Progress in the town of Highlands continues to move forward in looking toward total sewer coverage for everyone in town.
Coach’s Corner

College football is here

Ladies and Gentlemen, our long national nightmare is over...college football season has begun here's a look at some of the weekends best games.

South Carolina vs. NC State
This one is more of local interest, mainly because folks in South Carolina are still waiting to see if the Viroled One (Steven O. Spurrier) can bring a winner to Columbia. The Gamecocks have been better than average during Spurrier's tenure, but they haven't been the team folks expected when Spurrier signed on. NC State will rely on dual threat QB Russell Wilson to revive a Wolfpack program that has been down in recent years. Look for South Carolina to pull this one out in a close game.

Oregon vs. Boise State
Last year the Broncos upset the Ducks in Eugene in a game marred by some chippy play on the part of both squads. This year should provide another physical matchup between these two teams on the “Smurf Turf” in Boise. If Ducks QB Jeremiah Masoli can stay healthy in this game, I look for Oregon to win in a mild upset. Boise State is one of the best home teams in the nation, so a win by the Ducks would be a major accomplishment, which speaks volumes for the type of program that Boise State has become in recent years.

Oklahoma State vs. Georgia
Another Big 12 vs. SEC matchup which sees a reloading Bulldogs team facing the explosive offense of the Cowboys in Stillwater. Oklahoma State has a huge advantage at the skill positions with QB Zac Robinson throwing to Dez Bryant, but Georgia is still Georgia on the defensive and offensive lines, and that is why the Bulldogs will prevail in another mild upset.

Virginia Tech vs. Alabama
The Hokies had a tough start to their season, losing running back Darren Evans for the season to a knee injury. Alabama has some issues to address as well, losing three offensive linemen and replacing QB John Parker Wilson. The Tide’s defense will be stout again, particularly against the run, and WR Julio Jones is the best WR in college football. I look for the Tide to win this one by two scores.

Miami vs. Florida State
Speaking of tough summers, ol’ Bobby Bowden had a tough one as well, having to vacate some wins due to allegations of improper conduct. Factor in that the Noles have seemingly been on a downward trend as of late and things are not all good in Tallahassee. Miami hasn’t been up to par the last couple of seasons either, but their defense showed signs of life last year and they have plenty of talent on both sides of the ball, provided QB Jacory Harris can keep the chains moving offensively. Miami by a FG in this one.

Florida vs. 1-AA Charleston Southern
The defending champs are favored by 70 points. Only watch this one if you enjoy car crashes and or horror movies.

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**COOKING ON THE PLATEAU**

United Steaks of America

Grilling is a great all-American tradition. For generations, family and friends have gathered around the grill to celebrate summer in the good ol' USA. This year, treat your taste buds to a little road trip of flavor without ever having to leave your backyard. Just fire up the grill and serve a big, juicy steak that salutes one of America's regional food favorites. Whether it's a spicy Southwestern-style Rib Eye steak, a Heart of Dixie Whiskey-Barbeque Top Sirloin, or a Buffalo New York Strip, you can enjoy the steaks that make America great right at home.

**Southwestern Rib Eye Steak With Chile Butter**

*Serves 4*

- 4 tablespoons salted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotle in adobo sauce, pureed
- 1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon chile powder
- 4 Rib Eye Steaks
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

Place butter in a mixer or mixing bowl and whip until smooth and creamy. Add Worcestershire sauce, chipotle in adobo sauce, garlic and chile powder. Mix well and reserve chile butter.

Preheat grill on high.

Rub steaks with olive oil on each side and generously season with salt and pepper.

Grill steaks to the desired doneness, while searing the outside.

Place a dollop of chile butter on steaks just prior to taking off the grill.

**Heart of Dixie Southern Whiskey Barbeque Marinated Top Sirloin**

*Serves 4*

- 1 1/2 cups barbeque sauce
- 1 1/2 cups whiskey
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 4 Top Sirloin Steaks

Combine all ingredients, except steaks, in a bowl and mix well. Reserve 1 cup of marinade and set aside.

Place steaks in a gallon resealable bag. Pour marinade over steaks and place in refrigerator to marinate for 24 to 48 hours.

Preheat grill. Place steaks on grill, discarding marinade. Grill steaks to desired doneness while basting with reserved marinade.

* Courtesy of Family Features
Some months ago in a conversation with a friend about life in America in 2009 — the tough economic times and the disappearing middle-class — we came up with the phrase, “Trickle Up Poverty.” I wrote it down on a slip of paper and it’s been sitting by my computer waiting for the right moment.

In last week’s newspaper there was a letter criticizing one of my columns. The writer suggested that I “research my facts before I put pen to paper.” I went on to state a fact: “Look it up. Bush’s eight years had the lowest percentage of debt to GDP of any administration ever.”

I looked it up. In the last few days I’ve looked at many charts and articles that give the same figures, but I thought since this writer was obviously a conservative, it would be best to give a conservative source, so, if you’d like to check up on me, go to the Heritage Foundation website. I put the whole link so it would be easy to confirm: (http://www.heritage.org/research/features/BudgetChartBook/Obama-Budget-Debt-Levels-Not-Seen-Since-World-War-II.aspx).

You may be thinking, “What is she talking about? What is the debt-to-GDP ratio and why should I care?” The debt-to-GDP ratio is commonly used as a quick measure of the health of a country’s finances. It’s calculated by dividing the government’s debt by the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP) and the resulting number is the “ratio.” The lower the number the better. Last year the number for the U.S. was around 40%, this year it will be closer to 60%.

One of the criteria the European Union uses in assessing whether a country is eligible to join the EU is this ratio; it must be below 60%.

So what did I find out? Was the ratio lowest during George W. Bush’s presidency? The answer: No. The writer’s “fact” is complete fiction.

If you look at a graph of this economic measure starting from World War II (the GDP was invented in the 1930s) you’ll see that after a spike of debt during the war, the ratio dropped and kept dropping until it leveled off during the stagnation of the 1970s. Then during Reagan’s presidency it started climbing, and climbing, until Clinton became president, when it started dropping again. In 2001, after George W. Bush took office, it resumed its upward climb. The ratio averaged about 37% during most of Bush’s presidency, but it was lower for the entire period from about 1968 until 1983. In other words, this letter writer was dead wrong in his “fact.”

His next “fact” was that government revenue is down 18% this year from some unspecified comparison period in Bush’s term (numbers can be very slippery). Gosh, what a surprise! I would never have guessed that tax revenues would have decreased after the global economic meltdown of the last year. Only a year ago we were hearing we were on the verge of another Great Depression.

He is right about one point: “trickle down” economics did work — for the top one percent of the population. It most definitely did not work for the rest of us — the other 99 percent.

In April of this year the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org) released a study on the increase in income inequality in the last 30 years, using Congressional Budget Office figures. They found that in 1979 — just before Ronald Reagan took office — the average after-tax income of the top one percent of households was 7.9 times higher than those of households in the middle income bracket.

By 2006, top incomes were 23 times higher than those of the middle — nearly tripling the income gap between the top one percent and those in the middle since 1979.

In 2006 The Washington Post introduced a series about income inequality in America with an editorial entitled “A Rising Tide?” “In the 25 years from 1980 to 2004, a period during which U.S. GDP per person grew by almost two-thirds, the wages of the typical worker actually fell slightly after accounting for inflation. So, too, did wages for the 50 percent of the work force that earned less than the typical, or median, employee. The rising tide helped only workers at the top. Wages for workers in the top 10 percent jumped by more than a quarter.”

Paul Krugman addressed the strange persistence of the belief in the efficacy of trickle-down economics in his August 24 column, “All the President’s Zombies.” “Let’s talk for a moment about why the age of Reagan should be over. First of all, even before the current crisis Reaganomics had failed to deliver what it promised.”

Remember how lower taxes on high incomes and deregulation that unleashed the ‘magic of the marketplace’ were supposed to lead to dramatically better outcomes for everyone? Well, it didn’t happen. To be sure, the wealthy benefited enormously; the real incomes of the top .01 percent of Americans rose sevenfold between 1980 and 2007. But the real income of the median family rose only 22 percent, less than a third its growth over the previous 27 years...President George W. Bush, who had the distinction of being the first Reaganite president to also have a fully Republican Congress, also had the distinction of presiding over the first administration since Herbert Hoover in which the typical family failed to see any significant income gains.”

Trickle up poverty
If, on the other hand, he says, "You are dying. We have no tool in medical science that can cure you. We can put a tube in your throat that will breathe for you, but it will prevent you from telling your children that you love them. We can admit you to the Intensive Care Unit, but you can't see your garden from there. We can administer chemotherapy that will make you too sick to eat, but unfortunately it won't kill your cancer. Or we can let you go home to share your final days with your loved ones. It's up to you." That is not killing. Nor is it killing to withdraw aggressive care from a patient who had initially chosen it, but later realizes the futility of the effort.

Is the care worth the cost? A novel way to examine this question is to ask how much you would be willing to pay. If there were no Medicare, no Medicaid, no commercial insurance, no Veteran's Administration to foot the bill, would cost matter? If a few weeks of aggressive care that neither improved nor lengthened your life cost $50,000 or $100,000 would you still want it? A few weeks of total care, which in the trade we call a "full court press" can easily run a half million dollars. Would you be willing to leave your family in debt, squander your life savings, destroy your spouse's security, waste your kids' chances for a better life, to pay for a miracle? If it's a miracle you want, why not spend just a fraction of the money, fly to France and make a side trip to Lourdes while you're there?

I'm going to continue this subject next week, and discuss the very touchy subject of assisted suicide.
In other words, the middle class lost economic ground during Bush's presidency. Wages weren't keeping pace with inflation so people maxed out their credit cards and used their homes as ATMs in order to get by. 

Ordinarily I wouldn't address a letter, but unfortunately I believe this is going to be one of the main areas of attack by the Republicans on any progressive legislation: 'We can't afford it. The debt is too enormous.' And by next year they will try and pin this whole economic mess on Obama and the Democrats.

Once again I will urge readers to look at a graph of the U.S. Federal debt over our nation's history (www.Treasurydirect.gov). From our republic's first day to Ronald Reagan's first inauguration, the accumulated debt totaled onetrillion dollars. Reagan quadrupled it to four trillion in just eight years! When Clinton left office the federal debt was $5.7 trillion, and George W. Bush managed to double it during his eight years to $10.6 trillion.

The legacy of Reaganomics: the federal debt increased by 10 trillion dollars and the majority of Americans got poorer. Trickle-down only works for the rich. For the rest of us it brings trickle-up poverty.

- All of Katie Brugger's columns are available on her website www.kathleenbrugger.com
What would make a fitting legacy for Ted Kennedy in the Senate? I think it would be the election of a Senator to take his place, who committed to the same great public ideas that Senator Kennedy spoke about, so often and passionately.

Teddy often spoke of his dedication to and respect for the Constitution. This is to be expected where Sam Adams created the Sons of Liberty who threw the tea in Boston Harbor. And where the first shots of the American Revolution were fired at, and later fired by the Minutemen at Concord and Lexington. So, the person who replaces Teddy should never vote to confirm a judge, much less a Justice of the Supreme Court, anyone who has stated his or her intent to follow personal choices, rather than the Constitution itself, in deciding cases.

Again and again, decade after decade, Teddy belied his insistence for “new and fresh ideas” in the government. That’s an excellent idea. But new and fresh ideas do not usually come from tired old men. So, the person who replaces Teddy should support what John Adams called “rotation in office.”

Today that’s known as term limits. Periodically, office holders would stand aside, let others be elected, and go home to live under the laws they’d written. The Framers thought that the prospect of living under the laws they wrote was the best assurance that office holders would always favor the interests of their constituents, rather than their own, personal interests. The person who replaces Teddy should be committed to serving just two terms in the Senate, and supporting a constitutional amendment which would install term limits for Senators and Representatives like the present limit on Presidents.

Ted Kennedy was frequently praised for “doing his homework” and “being well prepared.” For sure, much of that work was done by staff, but Teddy was the man in charge. Anyone who replaces him must also be prepared to work hard, and well. No new Senator in Teddy’s place would ever think of voting for a bill that included taxes and regulations on the American people without reading the bill, and knowing what was in it.

Often Teddy spoke of “ideas that work, and are effective.” It is out in the real world, where executives must meet payrolls, provide goods and services that people genuinely want, that good ideas are winnowed out from failed ideas by the discipline of free markets. Therefore, the person who replaces Teddy should have executive experience in the real world in successful businesses or institutions.

Ted Kennedy in his speeches often spoke glowingly of integrity in public office. Anyone who replaces him should pick up that torch as well. The new Senator should never let the dismissal of charges against Democrats, like Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Governors or merely armed citizens standing outside a Philadelphia

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His & Hers

A fitting legacy for Teddy

Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

See HIS & HERS page 10
Both are charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, breaking and entering, discharging a weapon in an occupied property and second degree kidnapping. “They’ve been charged with kidnapping because the people at the bank were not free to leave which is equal to kidnapping,” said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell. “And since Conard was Vitatoe’s accomplice she is charged with every action he took.”

Numerous other unrelated charges from a July 15, 2009 incident are associated with Vitatoe, including larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of a firearm by a felon.

The Highlands Police Department worked with other local agencies developing and exhausting leads in the case. Through intelligence gained by the collection of evidence, and an intense collaborative effort between the Highlands Police, Macon County Sheriff’s Dept., Franklin Police, and the NC State Bureau of Investigation, Vitatoe and Conard were named suspects in the case, Chief Harrell said. Because Vitatoe failed to appear in court on previous charges involving the incident in July he was already in custody.

Both evidence and subsequent interviews with Vitatoe lead to the arrest of Conard, who was cooperative, said Chief Harrell. “After substantial probable cause was established through the evidence collected and suspect interviews, we were able to arrest the two,” he said. “I have also been working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI to establish Federal charges which could put these two away for a long time.”

Around 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, a disguised Vitatoe entered RBC Centura carrying a tote bag and a .410-gauge shotgun. He shot the gun into the ceiling and demanded cash. After the tellers handed over the money, Harrell said Vitatoe fled into the woods behind the bank between the deVille and Crane property on foot with $4,541, some of which has been recovered. His accomplice and the driver of the getaway car, Conard, was waiting nearby in a 2000 Chevy Silverado that belonged to Vitatoe.

They are each being held on a $500,000 bond. Vitatoe’s pre-trial court date is Thursday, Sept. 3 at 9 a.m. Conard’s is Thursday, Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. Harrell said evidence that lead to their capture can’t be disclosed at this time.
I don't know about you, but I need a week off from the humongous problems as I sail our dear country. Deficits measured in trillions, thugocracy rampant in our government, war in a mountainous pile of rocks, health care on the brink, enough already. On the other hand, if we don’t point out the problems facing us, what is of interest can we write about?

Our Hall of Shame bimbettes have supplied little in the way of salacious carrying on although Lilo (Lindsay Lohan for those of you who are so yesterday) has been her natty self lately. Seems the little darling was dining in a deli in Little Italy the other day and left her cell phone on the counter. A clerk spotted her cell in the deli and ran to the curb to give it to her as she boarded a cab. The clerk asked her to verify the number, which she could not do. When he wouldn’t hand it over until he got verification that it was hers, she told her companion to call the cops. They sorted the matter out and the clerk was heard to say, “Who is she? Is she a star?” That is up for debate. Just when you think there is no justice, shortly thereafter, Lilo’s home was burglarized and a lot of “personal stuff” was burgled.

While I am no great fan of Ted Kennedy’s, I certainly am not going to enumerate his many transgressions as some Kennedy’s, I certainly am not going to enumerate his many transgressions as some detractors have. I am sickened, however, by the efforts of Pelosi and others to use his death as a rallying point to promote their health care legislation. Whoopee, there go, jumping into the muck. But I mean, really, the announcement is barely done and she’s trying to make political hay out of his passing Disgraceful.

In a bit of irony, the Massachusetts legislature finds itself twisted up in a bundle. In 2004, when their Senator John Kerry had hopes of becoming president, at the urging of Kennedy, they changed a law to assure a bullet-proof successor. This was done because, at that time, Republican Governor Mitt Romney would have had the power to appoint Kerry’s replacement, and Kennedy couldn’t have that. Now the shoe is on the other foot, and, unwilling to risk a special election, the Democrats want the current Governor, one of theirs, to have appointment powers. The Senate needs the seat Kennedy now leaves vacant to assure a bullet-proof majority on health care reform. “Oh, what an evil web we weave…”

The scene will have changed by the time you read this, but at the time I’m writing this, the Dow (Jones Industrial Average) has closed up eight trading days in a row. Maybe it’s coincidence, but I prefer to ascribe it to the fact that Congress is in recess and Obama is on vacation. If I’m right, look out below in September, a historically weak month for the market anyway.

Let me tell you, Obama so dominates the news that it’s really difficult to find something other than his exploits to write about. Let’s try sports. Everyone likes sports. Football season’s knocking on the door, let’s talk about that. Remember our old friend Plaxico Burress, the ex-New York Giants receiver who felt the need to pack iron (in his pants) to go out clubbing last November? You know, the guy who SHOT HIMSELF IN THE THIGH. Well, in September, old Plaxico will trade in his pads and jersey for prison garb for the next two years.

That really wasn’t about sports, was it? Let’s try again. How about Michael Vick. What’s he up to? Michael reversed the scenario and traded his prison stripes for football gear. He just made his debut as QB for the Philadelphia Eagles in a pre-season game, much to the concern of Donovan McNabb, who has guided the Eagles-offence for years. To put a twist on the story, Vick spent much of game day in bankruptcy court in Newport News, VA, before flying back to Philly to suit-up for the jaguar’s game. Rumor has it that Vick will not be named to the Humane Society Hall of Fame again this year.

Surely there must be a story that doesn’t involve convicts. Wouldn’t you think? Here’s one. Everybody’s favorite old grizzly Wrangler wearing ball player, 40-year-old Brett Favre, came out of his annual psychophrenic retirement spasm and signed with the Vikings. For those of you who are ignorant of such things, last year, Favre kept his career-long team, the Packers, dangling a sign-up time, retiring, unretiring and finally joining the NY Jets. Talk about culture shock!

Evidently, Favre was affected by the change in scenery and had a mediocre season. He again retired and was tempted to come out of hibernation by a 2-year, $25 million contract, dangled by his old rivals, the Vikings. That, in addition to the fact that he will play indoors, was too much to resist. Don’t get me wrong – Favre is a stud and passed the likes of Marino, Elway and other legends in various career statistics. The wifey asks the typical female question – “Why doesn’t he just retire already?” $25 mil for playing games – it’s a no brainer.

Next week – it’s back to business.
Highlands Planner urges citizens to fill out survey on Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

On Thursday, Sept. 10, at 12:15 p.m., Ryan Sherby, coordinator of the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) for Region A of the Southwestern Commission, will explain the process and plans for the MC County Comprehensive Transportation Study at the League of Women Voters meeting in Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. But, if you can’t make it to the meeting, Highlands Town Planner Joe Cooley urges citizens to go online and fill out The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) survey. “The CTP study is a long-range plan for Macon County, which will identify major transportation improvement needs and will develop long-term solutions for the next 25 to 30 years and those long-term solutions will in part be determined by the answers on the survey,” he said.

The study is a joint effort between the towns of Franklin and Highlands, Macon County, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization, said Sherby. “It involves both government officials and the public in an effort to determine the area’s future transportation needs based on the best information available including, but not limited to, population, economic conditions, traffic trends and patterns of land development in and around the county.”

The CTP study will also include alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, walking, and biking. Recommendations to address current and future capacity deficiencies and that provide for the safe, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive use of the transportation system will be made.

Key to the information gathering aspect of the study is the on-line survey where citizens are asked their opinion on goals and objectives as well as their “transportation” habits.

Cooley is encouraging Highlanders and anyone who commutes to Highlands to fill out the survey on line at www.surveymonkey.com/MaconCountyCTP. If Internet access isn’t available to them, Cooley suggests having someone print it out for them so they can fill it out by hand.

“People could turn the surveys in at the temporary Highlands Town Hall on Dillard Road and we can give them to Ryan Sherby,” he said.

The 12th Annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse benefiting The Cashiers Historical Society, Inc. The Nancy Hanks House circa 1840
107 South • Cashiers, NC
“Green – Leaving A Legacy” 2009 Grant Recipient: The Cashiers Valley Community Council
House Open: Through September 6, 2009 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily • 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
Final Days of the Area’s only Showhouse this year!
General Admission Tickets: $25
SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:
Community Day
Sponsored by the Cashiers Valley Community Council
Wednesday, Sept. 7
The Cashiers Green Market Sponsored by the Cashiers Merchants
For more information, call 828-743-7710

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from the history guy....

On the day Sept. 4, 1783

American Revolutionary War: The war ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Not quite sure what’s in store for us at the end of the English war but it looks like from where I’m sittin’ we’re no longer part of Britain. What were the reasons to make this new nation? You could read them in the Declaration. So it became most patriotic to oppose a rule that was despotic. We’ve acquired something representative and that’s a lot more sensitive. Let’s not dig ourselves into a deep pit, we have a Republic, if we can keep it.

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The good news is that ample rainfall across the Western North Carolina mountains put an end to a lengthy drought that threatened local water supplies and reduced crop yields. The bad news is that moisture will put somewhat of a damper on fall color this year.

That’s the official prediction from Katherine Mathews, Western Carolina University’s fearless fall foliage forecaster and an associate professor of biology specializing in plant systematics.

Mathews bases her annual forecast in part on the amount of rainfall received during vegetation’s prime growing season of the warm-weather months. She subscribes to the theory that the best fall color is seen after springs with below-average rainfall, when plant growth is stunted by a lack of sufficient water.

“The heavy rains don’t bode well for brilliant fall leaf color,” she said. “This year, I predict we’ll see more muted colors than in the past two years. With trees taking advantage of the abundant rainfall during the growing season to pile on the woody growth, they won’t be spending that much energy on pigment production in the yellow, orange and red spectrums.”

Another factor in the equation is climate during the first weeks of autumn, she said. “If the cool and cloudy days we’ve been experiencing for much of the summer persist through September and October, then there just won’t be a great burst of coloration come fall. I expect we’ll see a gradual color change from September through October and lingering well into November,” Mathews said.

Although the peak of the fall color show is still a couple months away, some areas of WNC already are experiencing color change in a few trees here and there. “Some individual trees and certain species seem out-of-beat with most of their neighbors in putting on a very early color show,” Mathews said. “For instance, at the entrance to the Western Carolina University campus, the leaves of the katsura trees are already turning a pretty pinkish-orange in August.”

Motorists also may notice the leaves of the black locust trees along the roadsides turning brown at the end of the summer. “This is a normal occurrence caused by a leaf miner insect,” she said. “The trees will recover from this late-season damage.”

In spite of the fact that signs point to less-brilliant fall foliage, visitors to the mountains and residents should still enjoy a lovely and scenic season this autumn, if not the eye-popping colors of years past, Mathews said. “There is always good color to be found somewhere in the mountains in the fall,” she said.
After considerable analysis and public involvement, US Forest Service officials announced a final decision on managing recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River and released the Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled Managing Recreation Uses on the Upper Chattooga. The final decision reflects Alternative 4 analyzed in the EA.

“A few minor changes were made to the preferred Alternative 4 released in July, 2008,” said Acting Forest Supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Monica Schwalbach. “However, the final decision still provides additional boating opportunities on the main stem Chattooga River above the Highway 28 bridge while continuing to emphasize protect and enhance optimal, year-round, high-quality trout fishing. This decision minimizes user conflicts and also takes steps to reduce resource damage from existing and future recreation uses.”

Specifically, boating will be allowed from the confluence of Norton Mill Creek in North Carolina to Burrells Ford Bridge in South Carolina (not including the tributaries) between December 1 and March 1 when the river reaches approximate flow levels of 450 cfs or more at the Burrells Ford gauge. These flows are above those considered optimal for fishing and will produce approximately 60 boatable days in an average year. This stretch of river provides challenging, whitewater boating in a solitude setting and was rated the highest by boaters for creek boating.

The Forest Service decision also emphasizes the scenery Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) by reducing the number and size of campsites and closing or rehabilitating user-created trails and campsites. It recognizes the value of large woody debris for aquatic habitat, prohibiting its removal to accommodate recreation in the upper reach, and acknowledges the important role of tributaries in the restoration of the native brook trout. Additionally, guidelines are established for encounter limits for all uses, primarily to protect opportunities for solitude now and in the future.

“The purpose of this new management direction is to ensure the continued enjoyment of the upper Chattooga by a variety of recreationists consistent with protecting and enhancing the river’s free flowing conditions, water quality and ORVs as required under...”

**See CHATTOOGA page 33**
Walk to town convenience with this fully rebuilt/refurbished home on Harris Drive. Large great room, custom kitchen, wood floors, massive stone fireplace. Opens on to a large covered porch with fireplace near water feature. Main level living features a master with fireplace and study, guest bedroom and bath, upper level features 2 bedrooms with fireplaces and private baths. Single car garage and gentle, usable lot. Offered at $699,000 MLS 68424.

TWO MILES FROM MAIN STREET. A MUST SEE LOCATED IN HIGHLANDS CITY LIMITS - JUST FINISHES AND PAINT ARE OUTSTANDING! UPGRDES AND THE WARMTH OF THE FAUX KITCHEN AND MASTER BATH HAVE FABULOUS ROOM, DECK AND SCREENED PORCH! THE MOST FABULOUS VIEWS OF WHITESIDE AND BEYOND, CHERRY WOOD FROM BRAZIL FOR THE FLOORS, CABINETS AND MOLDINGS, MOVIE THEATER, A 3,000 BOTTLE WINE CELLER, 5 BEDROOMS 5 BATHS GREAT ROOM, BAR. OFFERED AT $5,900,000 MLS #68561.

This cute log home is near town and sits on a great wooded lot and has an extra lot next to the house that goes with it. Living room has high ceilings and a great stone fireplace. Home has large outside decks to enjoy the Summer. Highlands Hills residents have deeded access to Apple Lake for fun, fishing and boating. Offered at $475,000 MLS #68425.

HEAVENLY WESTERN MOUNTAIN VIEWS INTO BLUE VALLEY. LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, DINING ROOM, DECK AND SCREENED PORCH! THE KITCHEN AND MASTER BATH HAVE FABULOUS UPGRADES AND THE WARMTH OF THE FAUX FINISHES AND PAINT ARE OUTSTANDING! LOCATED IN HIGHLANDS CITY LIMITS - JUST TWO MILES FROM MAIN STREET. A MUST SEE AT $995,000.

Commercial Building in Wright Square. Large Commercial space in lower level with excellent prior rental history, 3 bedroom apartment in upstairs that is currently rented. Corner location and in good condition! Offered at $775,000 MLS #68720.

Let's Go Horseback Riding! 3 BR 2 BA with a lovely view of the lake in Cold Springs Saddle and Tennis Club. Offered at $989,900 MLS #67749.

THE MOST FABULOUS VIEWS OF WHITESIDE AND BEYOND, CHERRY WOOD FROM BRAZIL FOR THE FLOORS, CABINETS AND MOLDINGS, MOVIE THEATER, A 3,000 BOTTLE WINE CELLER, 5 BEDROOMS 5 BATHS GREAT ROOM, BAR. OFFERED AT $5,900,000 MLS #68561.

Commercial-West Main Street. Wright Square - Invest in Real Property that doesn’t evaporate. Excellent rental property. 2 commercial shops in lower level, 3 rental offices upstairs. Offered at $799,000 MLS #68722.

This wonderful home is located in an established neighborhood close to Wildcat Cliffs and Cullasaja Club, between Highlands & Cashiers. With 3 bedrooms, gas fireplace, 2 car garage, lovely screened porch, and wonderful perennial gardens on a double lot. This one-level home is low-maintenance and ready to move right in! Priced to sell quickly. Offered at $369,000.

South Old Wahalla Road - Charming Log Cabin sits on over one acre and backs up to Land Trust Lands. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Massive stone fireplace in the living room. Large deck that overlooks a large Koy pond. Offered at $239,000 MLS #68724.

Starter cottage in Mirror lake area. This Hickory Hill home features a nice wooded lot and a great cabin ready to customize to your own taste. 2 bedrooms, one bath. Loved by the last owners for decades. Offered at $239,000 MLS #68724.

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mt. Fresh Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@verizon.net

Gates of Highlands - This builders home has a great floor plan and loads of great custom extras. Open living living room with cathedral ceiling and heavy beam work. Large dining room flows into a keeping room that is open to the kitchen with huge storage and butlers pantry. Large office on main level with powder room and a large master suite with his and her baths and closets. Upstairs level has Family room with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Lower level has Family room with custom bar, exercise room, Game room, bedroom and bath, large mechanical room with TONS of storage! Detached 2 car garage with breezeway. Offered at a great value of $1,490,000 MLS #68814.

Highlands Country Club. Home features 4 bedrooms, 5-1/2 baths plus additional family room in the upper level. Offered at $1,850,000 MLS #66895.

GREAT HOME - WALK TO MIRROR LAKE. Enjoy the convenience of Mirror Lake living in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Walk to the lake to feed the ducks or launch your canoe. Return home to an open floor plan with wood floors, stone faced fireplace and a comfortable deck. Furniture is available outside of closing. The asking price is only $375,000

This cute Cabin is the perfect retreat. This property backs up to Highlands Land trust lands and has Views of Blue Valley. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, Stone fireplace and woodstove. A wonderful package with possible additional lots for friends or family. Offered at $695,000MLS #68455.

Keeping up the tradition of the Old Highlands Estate. This one of a kind property features over 28 acres with spectacular views. 4 BR 4-1/2 baths and 2 guesthouses. Offered at $6,900,000 MLS #68455.

Offered at $775,000 MLS #68720.

Offered at $765,000 MLS #68834.

Offered at $799,000 MLS #68722.

Offered at $1,850,000 MLS #66895.

Keep up the tradition of the Old Highlands Estate. This one of a kind property features over 28 acres with spectacular views. 4 BR 4-1/2 baths and 2 guesthouses. Offered at $6,900,000 MLS #68455.

Commercial Building in Wright Square. Large Commercial space in lower level with excellent prior rental history, 3 bedroom apartment in upstairs that is currently rented. Corner location and in good condition! Offered at $775,000 MLS #68720.
By Ryan Potts

A few weeks ago the Highlands Newspaper profiled Jason Woods, a local motorcycle rider who qualified to participate in the X Games in Los Angeles, California. Woods went to California on a mission, and that mission was partially accomplished with a third place finish in the Moto X Super Adaptive Race.

"It was an awesome experience," said Woods, "I had a chance to meet some really great people and race on an extremely challenging track." Some of the "great people" that Woods is referring to included professional skateboarder Tony Hawk and Moto X champion Travis Pastrana. In addition to meeting many celebrities of the extreme sporting world, Woods was also able to pick up sponsorships from several vendors including Steelroots.com and Teenfaith.com.

While Woods obviously went to California with the intention of winning, he was certainly not disappointed with a bronze medal in his first X Games. Woods managed to medal despite having some equipment issues before the race. Woods said that, "I felt like I possibly could have finished second with a little better equipment. I had a footpeg break in the practice run and had to borrow one for the actual event." While he is satisfied with this year's performance, Woods is already thinking ahead, saying that "next year, when I go back I am going to try and be more prepared."
What’s for Lunch?

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&WINE MARKET

...Follow your nose - and the crowds to Mountain Fresh Grocery...

We’re cooking hand cut fries, fresh angus burgers, quarter-pound hot dogs, grilled chicken, and weekly specials.

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Over 20 artisan cheeses, homemade salads, Meals to go, and great wine and beer selection!

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Country Club Properties

Wright Square
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Home and lot on Apple Lake
Charming two-level home with great open space with a wonderful view of the lake. Old growth, full and blooming mountain laurel, extensive landscaping and a garden space. Feed fish from your own deck! Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, in Highlands subdivision and includes 1 extra lot. $795,000.

Charming home on 2 levels convenient to Highlands on the Dillard Road. Lovely wooded lot with small stream. Open plan, large kitchen, recently renovated. Paved parking area. Move in and enjoy the season! Offered at $295,000. mls #68250

The view says it all. Lovely home at the top of Highlands. Country Club with views front and back. Beautiful grounds. Membership available subject to approval. $5.5 million.

...ALERT continued from page 1

LAC, West Nile virus and other diseases. Thankfully, it is fairly easy for people to protect themselves by applying mosquito repellants and making their home or work environment less attractive to mosquitoes.”

La Crosse symptoms occur from a few days to a couple of weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito. These symptoms include fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. In more severe cases, convulsions, tremors and coma can occur. Children under 16 years of age and the elderly are the most susceptible to the disease.

While other mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus are found across the state, LAC is largely confined to western North Carolina and is the state’s most common mosquito-borne disease. State officials recorded 10 LAC cases in 2007. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) records about 70 cases each year.

“We know that La Crosse Encephalitis and West Nile Virus are both present in Macon County, so people need to protect themselves from mosquito bites,” said Bruckner.

“That means properly applying a mosquito repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD) and mosquito-proofing your environment.”

Bruckner said residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites by following precautions outlined by the NC Division of Public Health.

“These simple precautions have proven very effective at preventing mosquito bites and the diseases they transmit.”

Questions regarding mosquito transmitted diseases may be directed to the Macon County Public Health Center at 349-2081 or by visiting the Centers for Disease Control website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm
MountainTop Relay for Life beats goal of $100,000 - raises $102,000 & counting!

Survivors of all ages took the first walk around the Rec Park gym, when rain Friday moved the festivities inside.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Citizens of Highlands and Cashiers keep up the fight.
The Highlands Men’s Soccer team began their 2009 campaign with a hard fought loss to county rival Franklin last Wednesday. The Highlanders came out strong to start the match, using tough midfield play to generate a number of chances in the early minutes. Unfortunately for Highlands, they could not sustain the early momentum and gave up a goal off of a long shot to go down 1-0. Minutes later the Highlanders had some misfortune when a deflection led to a second goal, and Highlands went into the half trailing the Panthers 2-0.

The second half saw little action until late, when senior captain Will Mathowdis scored to cut the deficit in half. Highlands tried frantically to equalize in the closing seconds, but was unable to generate a quality scoring attempt before falling 2-1.

Highlander coach Chris Green was pleased with his team’s effort against the Panthers, particularly in the closing moments of the second half. “We are still trying to gel as a team,” said Green, “but as long as the effort is there we will be successful in the long run.”

Highlands was scheduled to host Tallulah Falls on Friday, Aug. 28, but the game was cancelled due to weather and will not be made up. The next Highlands home game will be Friday, Sept. 4 as the Highlanders will host Thomas Jefferson.
Seasonal flu shot clinics begin Sept. 11

The Macon County Public Health Center has scheduled a series of seasonal influenza vaccination clinics at locations in Franklin, Highlands, Nantahala, and Otto.

Though Macon County citizens can get shots during any of the clinics, in Highlands the time is Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 2-6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

This year, seasonal influenza vaccine is available for everyone 6 months of age and older. Appointments are needed for these clinics and vaccine will be given on a first come, first serve basis. Individuals unable to wait in line may have someone wait in line for them, and a nurse will take vaccine to their vehicle.

- Friday, Sept. 11 from 9-11 am at the Macon County EMS Building in Nantahala.
- Monday, Sept. 21 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Community Facilities Building on 441 South in Franklin.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 4-6 pm at the Otto Community Building on 441 South in Otto.
- Thursday, Sept. 24 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Community Facilities Building on 441 South in Franklin.
- Friday, Sept. 25 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Community Facilities Building on 441 South in Franklin.
- Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 am to noon at the Macon County Public Health Center on Lakeside Drive in Franklin.
- Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 2-6 pm at the Highlands Civic Center in Highlands.

For more information, contact the health department's website at www.maconnc.org/healthdept or call the health department at 349-2211.

Advertise in Highlands' Newspaper...it will do you good! Email: highlandseditor@aol.com
**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.

**HELP WANTED**
**LINE COOK AND WAIT STAFF** needed, Highlands Bistro on Main drug-Free rest 828-526-2590. st. 8/27

**LICENSED COSMETOLOGIST NEEDED** – Inquire by phone 828-526-3939

**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.hchospital.org.

**YARD SALE**
**SATURDAY, AUG 22** – Multi Family, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 174 Dolly Lane, Highlands. Mirror Lake Area.

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

**ABOUT PETS**
**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 life threatening asthma. This is a very special animal and deserves a forever home. 828-526-3961 orealmaistartonpy@earthlink.net for pics and more info.

**YARD SALE**
**SATURDAY, SEPT 5** – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Scaly Mountain, 8106 Dillard Road. Tools, collectibles, Wooden Mantle, paintings by local artists & misc.

**DAILY** – Basement of Highlands Pharmacy at 238 Helen’s Barn Ave. 9 a.m. until. Tools, lumber and household items. EVERYTHING MUST GO! ESTATE SALE – Sept. 11-12, 9 am-4 pm/ 460 Dillard Rd (across from Dusty’s) antiques, home furnishings, accessories, rgs, lamps, silver, from elegant to ‘shabby-chic. st. 9/3

**RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE**
**FOR SALE BY OWNER** – 6.28 acres, just off Buck Creek Road. Backed by USFS land. Great view. 526-9388. Leave message. 9/24

**FIVE BEDROOM, 4 1/2 BATH HOUSE FOR SALE/LEASE WITH OPTION** – Owner financing possible. Handicap accessible, separate office below. Close to town. See at vbo.com/208433 Call for details 808 443-7553 st. 8/27

**BEAUTIFUL 5 BEDROOM** – 4 bath home in Wildwood. View at www.infotube.net #215385 (st. 8/13)

**4BR/2.5BA HOME** – with long-range mountain views only $299,000! Call for recorded property info: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1238. Also available, 2BR/2.5B a remodeled cottage only $209,000! Call for recorded property info: 1-800-526-1648 ext. 1228. Available together or separately. Offered by Green Mountain Realty Group. st. 7/80

**FOR SALE** – 4.28 acre great building lot in Pine Forest, (adjacent to Spring Forest) Sapphire.

---

**Manley’s Auto & Towing**

James “Popcorn” Manley
Hwy 28 South, Highlands 828-526-9805

Oil change • Tires • Brakes • 24 Hour Towing Service • Local & long distance hauls

• Classifieds •

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

**HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLUB CONDO** – 2 bdrm, 2 bath, next to Highlands Country Club, Central Hea/AC, gas logs, hwrd floors, high speed internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Deck and screened porch. In city limits. Amenities include heated pool,tennis courts, road and entrance snow removal. Adults only. $875 per month includes utilities. 828-200-0786

**COTTAGE APARTMENT** – Near town. 1 bed, 1 bath. Fully furnished. All utilities included. $700 per month. Call 828-745-2900. (st. 9/2)

**FOR LEASE/SALE SCALY MOUNTAIN** – 2BR/2½ BA. Large deck, great views. Partially furnished or unfurnished. FP, WD, Central H/A. No smoking. $1,000 + utilities. Negotiable. First/last/security/references. Call 828-200-1513. st. 8/13

**YEAR-ROUND HOUSE NEAR GLENN**

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT** – Near Post Office. 2 bed/1 bath, central H/A, hardwood floors, fireplace, deck, basement, W/D, nice yard. No smoking. $850/month plus utilities. Call 526-4073. 9/24

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** – newly furnished one/bed room/one/bed. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. $795. Call 526-2694. st. 7/30

**SEVERAL HOUSES AVAILABLE** – 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus large outdoor building that could be a workshop or storage. $900 per month; 3 bedroom, 2 bath MH $750 per month; 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)

**OPEN HOUSE LEASE/SALE**

**CREEKSIDE** – 3 bed 2 1/2 bth; hot tub; Sat/Sun 12-5pm. owners.com APA 2879; TWM 2368. 828 526 2759 (917)

**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)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** – 1 bed, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. $600 per month. $500 security deposit. Rent includes utilities (electric, water heat), 1 year lease. Prefer nonsmoker. No pets. Unfurnished, good for 1-2 people. 838-526-9494.

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

FURNITURE - 1 cream tweed sofa (89” long) $500; 1 sofabedset combo in cream strip-suede $500 set; 2 brown fabric w/color stripe custom swivel chairs $300 each; 2 small green fabric swivel chairs $150 each; 1 vintage wood vanity w/beveled mirror and 6 drawers $300; 2 matching nightstands $100 for both. Will e-mail photos if interested! 828-743-3071 or 828-787-1900. st. 9/3

AMERICAN HERITAGE CORNER TV - Components include: Pine-knobs. $375. 828-226-2027.

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

RESTORED FARMHOUSE FOR 2 - Four blocks from town at 539 Chestnut Street, next to PAC. $30 per night. Call 828-526-9375. 8/27

COLLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR - $500. Call 526-5025. st. 8/13

SEARS KRAFTSMEN 4.5 HP 22” CUT

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

ITEMS FOR SALE


FOSSIL TWO AMANA WINDOW AIRCONDITIONERS - One Fan & Temperature Control. One Vent Control. Best Offer. Been in storage. 349-4930. st. 8/6

PALLADIUM STYLE WINDOW - Mahogany two section 1-3/4” thick x 42” x 70-1/2” w. $160. OBO for photo call 828-526-2671.

WOOD BURNING STOVE WIELECTRIC BLOWER - $200. 342-3234.

6X10 ENCLOSED TRAILER - Classic 2 Dr. Good condition. $1,150. 828-526-8079. st. 7/30

MARY KAY - offering state-of-the-art skin care, new mineral makeup and other great products, as well as self-employment opportunities. Call Laurel at 349-6402 for more information. 10/29

40-PIECE STONEWARE DINNER SET - $15 or best offer. Call 526-5367.

OLD-FASHIONED PUSH MOWER - No gas needed! In great shape. $50. Call 526-9027 or 342-6988.

OLD BRASS BALL FIREPLACE ACCESSORIES - Asking $500 but negotiable. Call 526-0439.

PICTURE FRAME FURNITURE SET - New $450. Call 787-1831.

7-Piece Outdoor Furniture Set - Gilder, 2 rocking chairs & table. Metal frame, with cushions. Great condition $125. 369-5863.

EPHIE NECK STRING ACOUSTIC GUITAR - with hard case. Excellent condition $250 828-482-2222.

ETHAN ALLEN KING SIZE BEDROOM SET - Very good Condition. $450. Call 787-1831.


See CLASSIFIEDS page 26
APPLIANCES: white Whirlpool electric stove, like new, $200, white Frigidaire dishwasher $100 very good condition. 349-6402


GE PROFILE WHITE COUNTERTOP GAS RANGE WITH DOWNDRAFT. Like new. $185 Call 787-2232.

HELM SWEEPER. Used rarely. Basically brand new. $100 or OBO. Call EMERALD 9/13.

SMALL EMERALD AND GOLD RING. Originally $300. Asking $175. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m.

BABY LOCK SERGER MACHINE, with extra spool of thread. $200. 828-631-2675 after 5 p.m. Sylva area.

3-PIECE BEDROOM SET – Oak veneer. one dresser, one desk, one chest. $300. Call 526-5772.


AVON CAPE COD RED GLASS – 8 piece place setting, 64 pieces. $385. Also, accessory pieces available. Call 828-524-3614.


COLONIAL GLASS – set of 12 Sherbet Goblets, and dessert plates. $35. Call 526-4063.

TWO ELECTRIC WATER COOLERS for sale. Approximately 38” tall x 12” square. Put bottled water on top. $50 each. OBO. Call 526-3262.

LENOX SPICE JARS, full set mint condition, original price $45 each. Also jewelry call 369-0498. 7-9 p.m.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 MAZDA ES 626 – Luxury leather and economy 30mpg. Low miles 58k. auto, alloy wheels, moon roof, all power. $7,800 please call 526-2780. (st. 8/13)

1997 NISSAN PICK UP. – 5 speed. 140,000 K, 4-cyl., Great on gas! $1,500. Call 526-4741. 2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT, olive green, beige leather, 72,000 miles, Excellent condition, V-8 5.4 liter. $13,500. Call 828-526-4707.

CADILLAC DEVILLE2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 79).


SERVICES


MARK’S SEDAN SERVICE – Airport Transportation, Easy Pickup Procedures. Call 828-524-2149 or cell at 239-293-3582. MC/VISA, AMEX, Cash, Check.

WINTERIZATION AND PEACE OF MIND – Call The Highlands Handyman. Call a Neighbor at 526-0031. 9/14.


DEPENDABLE LOVING PET SITTER – for all types of pets! House setting 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 828-342-1603. 8/27.

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.

FIREWOOD “Nature Dried” Call 526-2251.


J & J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – total lawn care and landscaping company. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.


Upcoming Events

Week Long
- YOGA - all levels all week, schedule posted
- Moonrise Yoga 464 Carolina Way. 828-526-8880
- www.highlandsyoga.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 Jeanette Fisher at 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 weekend. For more information call Kay Ward at 743-5009.
- Refuge Youth meets every Sun. night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God. If you are in grades 6th-12th then this is the place to be! The church is located at 6201 Highlands Rd. next to Exxon. For more info call youth ministers Matt and Candace Woodroof at 828-369-7540 ext 203.
- Hal Phillips on piano at Skyline Lodge and Restaurant on Flat Mountain Road during the Champagne Brunch 12-2pm.
- Mon., Wed., & Thurs.
- Yoga On The Mat. New location. The Episcopal Church of Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. MW @ 7:30 a.m.
- See EVENTS page 28

Service Directory

North Georgia Alternator & Starter, LLC.
1348 Old 441 N.
Clayton, GA 30525
706-782-2737
Scott Provance
sg@alternator.com

J & J Lawn and Landscaping
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Toll Free: 888-526-2251
Fax: 828-526-8764
Email: Jjlawn1663@verizon.net
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Crowe Construction
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(828) 526-5943
Cell: (828) 332-8290
crowecrazy@yahoo.com
1540 Blue Valley Rd.
Highlands, NC 28741

Allan Dearth & Sons
Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
email: allandearth@msn.com

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Martha Betz
Real Estate Broker
Country Club Properties
Cell: 200-1411
Home: 526-5213
Office: 526-2520
betzrealtor@gmail.com

Car Wash & Bake Sale
On Saturday, Sept. 5, The Franklin Panthers 10U Travel Baseball Team will be having a Car Wash and Bake Sale on Saturday from 9-1 at the U Save It Pharmacy on the Georgia Road. All proceeds will directly benefit the team to help offset expenses for tournament entry fees etc. Please come out and support your local travel baseball team! For more information, please contact Renee Burt @ 828-421-2424

Santa visits, too!
William & Ruby Shaheen
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Free Consultations
Santa Visits

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177 Main St. (Wright Sq.) Highlands
Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at Highlands Conference Center.

First Mondays
- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.
- Mondays
  - Closed AA meeting, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays
- Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. $30/month.
- Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.
- Closed AA Women’s meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- Beginning Sept. 10 on Tuesdays & Thursdays

Wednesdays
- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka’s Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.
- Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- Wednesdays & Fridays
  - Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday
- Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. $10/class. Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30, Thursdays, 8-9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursdays at Cashiers Rec Park. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498. 9/26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Ray’s
1 Hear America Singing’

For the past 100 years Americans have been listening, dancing and singing along to the songs of three of our country’s best loved composers; Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin and Johnny Mercer.

Robert Ray now has taken the “best of the best” and created a new show featuring 3 of Atlanta’s top female cabaret singers, himself and an on-stage musical quartet.

Beautifully staged and costumed, expect to hear some of the greatest musical treasures ever produced by American composers.

Blue Skies, Alexander’s Ragtime Band, Come Rain or Come Shine, Moon River, Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Berlin who with songs like White Christmas and Easter Parade turned religious holidays into national celebrations.

Broadway performer and Award Winning Cabaret Singer, Robert Ray has made it his passion to keep this great music alive by producing numerous shows over the past years that honor what has come to be known as “The Great American Songbook.”

Having previously presented separate shows about Arlen, Berlin and Mercer at Charleston’s Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Ray now has released the “best of the best” and created a new show featuring the 3 of Atlanta’s top female cabaret singers, himself and an on-stage musical quartet.

This Weekend Only at PAC, Sept. 4-5 & 6. All seats $25. Call 526-9047 for tickets.

SALONS & SPAS

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Hair Care ~ Nail Care
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Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women
Razor Cuts • Color • perms
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549 Main Street – Upper Level
Now offering massages & facials!
Special Spa Treatments – Buy One, Get 2nd one 1/2 Off!
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• UPCOMING EVENTS •

Live and silent auction items take center stage at Autumn Leaves’ Oct. 2 gala

Auction items like the Beach Villa Paprika, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, above, will be available for bid at Autumn Leaves’ Oct. 2 gala. For tickets, visit www.thebascom.org/autumnleaves or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4. All proceeds benefit The Bascom.

An elegant evening with an array of live and silent auction items awaits you at The Bascom’s annual Auction Gala at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn on Friday evening, Oct. 2.

Featuring fine dining from Executive Chef Johannes Klapdohr, as well as wine and spirits, the Auction Gala is the first night of The Bascom’s two-night fundraiser “Autumn Leaves,” and all proceeds support the community exhibition and art education programs presented by The Bascom at its new six-acre campus.

Dozens of live and silent auction items will be available for bid, including a cruise to the Greek Islands; a Chamber Music Festival concert in Rome, Italy; a portrait by Comer Jennings; a visit to the Oomph! Hotel in Palm Beach; jewelry by Zonnie Shibide; a get-away at a new house at Seagrove Beach; a round of golf at one of several courses; and much more.

That night will also feature the long-anticipated raffle drawing for the Rosemary Shief botanical book to benefit The Bascom.

Tickets to the Auction Gala are $225 each. For tickets to the Friday, Oct. 2, Auction Gala or its sister event, the Saturday, Oct. 3, Autumn Leaves Party, visit www.thebascom.org/autumnleaves or call (828) 526-4949, ext. 4.

Corporate sponsors are Old Edwards Inn & Spa as presenting sponsor, ZWJ Investments as gold sponsor, Donna Laird Graphic Design, Franklin Ford/Moss Robertson Cadillac, Highlands’ Newspaper, The Hillside Shops at Cashiers Village, InMed, The Laurel magazine, The Shoptaw Group, and Zike and Earl’s Hot Dog Stand.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

• At 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) 526-9060 or visit www.hmucfestival.org.

Every Third Saturday
• The Highlands Memorial Post #70 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. 4).

Saturdays
• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

• At 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) 526-9060 or visit www.hmucfestival.org.

Cat Chow: Beyond Fiber Art’ opens Saturday at The Bascom

NYC artist makes rare visit to North Carolina

Images by hot young New York City artist Cat Chow will be featured in a new exhibition at The Bascom opening Saturday, Sept. 5.

An exhibition by critically acclaimed fiber artist Cat Chow, who has been touted by The New Yorker as “a compelling young artist,” will be on display at The Bascom beginning this weekend. “Cat Chow: Beyond Fiber Art” opens with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 5, then continues through Oct. 10.

“Chow draws on her training in fashion design when making her mixed media pieces; her work incorporates zippers, measuring tapes, fish line, keys, wire and other unusual materials,” said Kaye Gorecki, Bascom artistic director. “It’s a definite don’t-miss.”

Chow will be present at the Sept. 5 opening giving a gallery talk at 6 p.m. Exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Bascom’s new address is 323 Franklin Road, Highlands. Two other exhibitions are also open at The Bascom: “Southern Landscapes by Pat Conroy” and “It’s a definite don’t-miss.”

For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

Ruby Cinema

Hwy. 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Sept. 4-10

JULIE & JULIA
rated PG-13
Mon-Fri: 4:20, 7, 9:20
Sat-Sun: 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20

THE FINAL DESTINATION
rated R
Mon-Fri: 4:15, 7:10, 9:15
Sat-Sun: 2:10, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15

HALLOWEEN II
rated R
Mon-Fri: 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
Sat-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS
rated R
Mon-Fri: 4, 7:05, 9:45
Sat-Sun: 4, 7:05, 9:45
Bel Canto coming to PAC Sept. 13

Piano accompanyist, Dr. Stephen Dubberly

The 17th annual Bel Canto takes place in just a few short weeks, and with tickets in high demand, now is the time to reserve your seat.

Literally “beautiful music,” Bel Canto has been bringing an exceptional, rare treat to the mountains for 16 years, and this year no exception.

Under the artistic direction of Stella Zambalis for the second year, Highlands’ visitors and residents are promised an exquisite performance designed to delight opera lovers from the newly introduced to the well-seasoned patron.

Zambalis, who has had her own illustrious career in the world of opera, joined the organization last year, saying she was ready for the next stage in her career. While she has no plans to stop singing completely, she said she is ready to slow down. The Bel Canto Artistic Director was a perfect opportunity to launch her into a new phase with her musical career.

It is her connections and knowledge of the opera world that bring this year’s performers, tenor John Pickle and soprano Lynette Tapias, to the Highlands stage.

Joining this year’s accomplished singer is Dr. Stephen Dubberly — pianist, distinguished coach and opera conductor. This year marks Dubberly’s 17th appearance as Bel Canto accompanist and admired keyboard soloist. A Bel Canto favorite since the recital’s inception, Dubberly is the principal orchestral conductor at North Texas University, where he is opera music director.

His career as an opera conductor is accelerating, and since he made his conducting debut 15 years ago, he has been lauded for productions in Saint Louis, Knoxville, Tenn., Athens, Ga., Hilton Head, S.C., and with the American Bel Canto Opera Company.

As an accompanist, Dubberly has partnered Met stars Denyce Graves, Elizabeth Futral and Kristine Jepson. Few musicians understand the human voice better than Stephen Dubberly, which makes his partnership with every Bel Canto singer a pleasurable experience for the vocalist and for the Bel Canto audience.

Bel Canto is scheduled to run Sunday, Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. A specially catered dinner is planned afterwards hosted by Highlands Country Club. Tickets can be obtained by calling 828-526-9142, or writing to Bel Canto, PO Box 2392, Highlands, NC 28741. Proceeds benefit the Highlands School music program and the Highlands Childcare Development Center.

Artistic Director Stella Zambalis

The annual Highlands Children’s Music Festival Concerts are at 5 p.m. at the Albert Cashiers Community Library. For tickets or more information, call (828) 526-9060 or visit www.ncmusicfestival.org.

Through Sunday, Sept. 6

The 12th Annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse, the “ONLY” showhouse in the mountain area this year at the historic Hanks House, 1903 Highway 107 South, just south of the Cashiers crossroads. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1-4 p.m. General Admission is $25. For more information, call 828-743-7710.

Thursday, Sept. 3

DANCE — Fox-trots, Waltz, Latin, Line Danc-

es, Country, Rock and Polkas. Thursday at the MC Community Building, on Hwy 441 S. in Franklin, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with music by “Swingtime Band” for information call (828) 369-9155 or (828) 586-6737.

The movie Slumdog Millionaire at the Cashiers Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, driving 25 to 30 years. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 5:30 p.m. (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

At Summit One Gallery, opening reception from 5-7 p.m. 100 years of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust featuring 30-plus artists. South 2nd Street.

At Cyrano’s Bookshop, author Pat Conroy signing “South of Broad” at noon.

At the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

At the Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike along Panther Creek in Georgia to a waterfall with pool below for wading. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, across from Burger King, driving 60 miles round trip, or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bel Canto at PAC, 4 p.m. with dinner to follow at Highlands Country Club. Call 526-1947 for tickets.

Mon., Sept. 14
• The Highlands Audubon Society will have a program at the Highlands Civic Center beginning at 7:30. Doreen Miller, Wildlife Biologist for the Nantahala National Forest will discuss how forest management can benefit migrating birds. Please join us for refreshments beginning at 7 p.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387. The program is free.

• CLE presents Pencil Drawing from 10 a.m. to 12:30 at PAC. All levels will discover new drawing techniques as artist David Knoth teaches ways of capturing details with your eyes and your pencil. Call 526-8811 for more information.

• Parenting Matters is an 8-week parenting class taught by Sherrie Peeler, Extension Parent, Family & Consumer Science, that helps parents learn their personal and parenting strengths; define ideas and ways to be effective parents; describe more about themselves and their attitude toward others; ways to identify things they can do to encourage and support their children based on their child’s age; learn effective listening skills, and discipline techniques; manage stress, anger and conflict and find ways to strengthen their social support system. The classes will be every Monday—Nov. 2 at the Cooperative Extension Office. Please contact Sherrie Peeler at 349-2046 for more information or to register.

• The Highlands All Male Beauty Pageant will be held at the Highlands Playhouse on Monday to benefit the Bolshevik Mission. This bi-annual show is always a fun filled event with 12 of Highlands’ most famous people competing in evening gown, talent, and limerie for the title of “Missed Highlends.” This is an event that cannot be missed. Ticket for this event are available by calling 526-3605. Tickets cost $100 but this is a fully tax deductible.

• Macon County Commission meeting in the courthouse board room at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
• Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in front parking lot of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital from 9 until 11:30 a.m
• Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of First Citizens Bank on US 64 East in Highlands (across from the Recreation Park) from 12:30 until 6 p.m.
• Highlands Town Board meeting in the community building at 7 p.m.
• Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be in at the Blue Ridge School in Cashiers 7:40-10:30 a.m.
• Hospital blood drive. The bloodmobile will be at the Albert Carlton Library on Grouse Point Road, from 1 until 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17
• Mark Twain (Marvin Cole) will perform at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands at 7:30. Tickets are fifteen dollars, and may be reserved at 828-526-9047. 9/17
• PTO General Dinner-Meeting in the school cafeteria Thursday to coincide with the annual school Book Fair. A fundraiser dinner to benefit the basketball team begins at 5 p.m. with the meeting at 6 p.m. This way people can keep eating during the meeting. There will be a drawing for a $50 gift certificate at the Book Fair. The winning class during “class count” will receive a $100 for their teacher/classroom.
• Taize service at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.
• Fri., Sept. 18
• CLE presents Gastrointestinal Problems and Aging from 10 a.m. to noon at the Jane Woodruff Bldg at the hospital Dr Richard Carter will discuss the gastrointestinal issues that often occur after age 65. Call 526-8811 for more information.

Saturday, Sept. 19
• At Cyrano’s Bookshop, authors Overton and Isabel Chambers to sign “Remembering Highlands” from 1-3 p.m.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club is providing an easy 3- mile hike for children under ten with their adult(s) on the Park Creek Trail in the Standing Indian Campground area, with an option to wade in the creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:30 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring a drink, lunch, and sturdy, comfortable shoes. Call leaders Sharon and Bill Van Horn, 369-1083, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Benefit for Desirea Drummond, daughter of Trysta Green and Roy Drummond, granddaughter of Gene and Ann Green, Saturday, 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park. Turkey dinner with all the fixings, $6 per plate, $4 for child’s plate. Music by MountainTop Bluegrass, Appalachian bluegrass and Nathan Flans. There will also be a raffle and bake sale. 3-year-old Desirea has Blunts Disease and requires extensive surgery.

• Harvest Bazaar at the Lodge of Sky Valley, in Sky Valley, GA, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds from this upscale bazaar will go to the Women of the Chapel of Sky Valley “Feed the Hungry” project. There will be original and handmade gifts, holiday items, white elephant items, baked goods, homemade jams and jellies and a boutique of designer accessories as well as a raffle of elegant crafts. For more information, call Maureen Platt at 706-746-2358.

• Rabies Vaccination Clinic at the Highlands Animal Hospital. Pets over 4 months of age are eligible, as required by NC state law. The cost is $5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers. Call 349-2490 for a recorded schedule of other sites.

• Rabies Vaccination Clinic at the Scaly Mountain Post Office from 3-4 p.m. with Dr. Amy Patterson. Dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age are eligible, as required by NC state law. The cost is $5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes or in carriers. Call 349-2490 for a recorded schedule of other sites.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip around Highlands to look for fall migrating birds. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 829-787-1387. There is no charge to participate.

Sunday, Sept. 20-24
• Old Edwards Hospitality Group will host “A Celebration of Southern Writers” with Cyrano’s Bookshop of Highlands. Spend four days and nights at Old Edwards Inn and Spa hosting cocktail parties, special meals and panel discussions for their fans. Call 866-526-8008 or visit www.oldedwardsinn.com for more details. Seating is limited at all events.

Highlands Playhouse Antique Show begins Sept. 24

The fifth annual Highlands Playhouse Antique Show closes the 71st season. The show will be held at the Highlands Civic Center on Sept. 25 and 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sept. 27 from Noon-5 p.m. Tickets for the Antiques Show are $12 and will be made available at the Highlands Playhouse Box Office soon. There will be a Preview Party on Sept. 24 from 6-8 p.m. Tickets for the Preview Party are $35. Come view some of the finest art and antiques from all over the country. It is an event not to miss.

Get your ‘Quick Draw’ tickets now!

Tickets are on sale now for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary “Quick Draw” artists exhibition and auction, Join uson Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Executive Conference Center at Old Edwards Inn in downtown Highlands for this fun and exciting annual Highlands Mountaintop Rotary fundraiser.

This is an opportunity to see art in the making first hand as sixteen professional local and regional artists come together under one roof for the most in advance in preparation for the event. For two hours, artists will work on a subject that was selected weeks in advance in preparation for the event. During the timed Quick draw, artists work swiftly, drawing on their experience, their artistic instinct and their passion for art. Watch each artist’s technique as each brush stroke comes to life on the canvas right before your eyes.

In this rare opportunity to meet and interact with the artists, guests will see all that goes into each thoughtfully selected piece. Participants will be able to stroll through the artist’s workstations as they create each masterpiece. In addition to a great evening of delicious food, fellowship and the opportunity to meet the artists, guests have the chance to take home one of these carefully crafted pieces of art. At the end of the Quick Draw, each piece of artwork will be auctioned off during a live auction.

The artists scheduled to participate this year are Bonnie Adams, Chris Bell, Kathie Blozan, Cheryl Combs, Jan Eubanks, Gra-...
The purpose of life

One of the greatest questions that undergirds our life is: “What is my purpose?” To answer this question, one needs to open the best-selling book on earth—The Holy Holy Holy Bible. The Word of God is where we can uncover the deepest meaning of life. It is where we learn that it was God who created us, and loves the world so much that we were given eternal life. The Word is where we find that God’s greatest desire for our life is to live it abundantly.

To prove the importance of these instructions, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Fortunately, when we begin to live like the flesh dwelling Word, our easy-to-read rules, black and white words, and commandments that rabbis have argued about for thousands of years can add to a simple message. The struggle to add easy-to-read rules, black and white words, and commandments that rabbis have argued about for thousands of years, are reduced to two easy instructions: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

The Word made flesh went on to say, we must lose our life in order to find it, hate mother and father, sister and brother. He broke the simplest of life’s early instructions, like washing hands before eating, talking to unbelievers, eating with sinners, and even forgiving sins. To those who worked hard at controlling the spiritual lives around them, the Word made flesh was a threat to the inerrant, obvious, easy-to-read rules, black and white words, and commandments that rabbis have argued about for thousands of years.

If this story sounds familiar, you know about the life of Jesus of Nazareth. You also know how futile this 2,000 year old crucifixion was in silencing the Word, because it still lives among us. You also know the complexities it adds. The struggle to add complexities continues, even now, even here in Highlands. Some of you reading this already know the answers and have no interest in looking deeper into themselves or others to see how many diverse places the Word continues to dwell. Others among us strive to find The Word in every cranny of the world and every walk of life. And there are those of you who could care less.

Of these three categories, I am not sure who is actually living life most abundantly, especially when we are told by Jesus not to worry about today or tomorrow bring's its own worries. But it does beg the question, if there are no clear instructions on how we are to love God and neighbor, how do we know if we are following The Word? Luckily, this question has an easy answer. You can see it as plain as day. The Word can be seen in your self-control, in a gentle approach to life, through faithfulness in your relationships.

See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 33
A copy of the Decision Notice and EA will be available on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests’ Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms where additional background information can be found.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Aug. 28:

Aug. 28
• At 12:54 p.m., officers responded to a call for service at a residence on White Valley Road because of burning oil on the stove.

Aug. 29
• At 4:22 a.m., officers responded to a call for service at a residence on U.S. 64 east.
• At 1:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Oak Lane because of a possible stroke victim. He was taken to the hospital.
• At 8:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Falls Drive West.

Aug. 30
• At 8:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Blue Valley Road. There was no transport.
• At 8:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Aug. 31
• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive West because a damper was closed in a fireplace.
• At 3:18 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road because of burning oil on the stove.

... CHATTOOGA from page 17

the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act,” said Schwalbach, “It also preserves the natural conditions, wilderness character, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation’ within the Elliott Rock Wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act.”

The agency intends to hold at least one public workshop on implementing the final decision in the fall. A separate announcement with more detailed information will be released in the near future.

A copy of the Decision Notice and EA will be available on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests’ Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms where additional background information can be found.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 32

It is surrounded by generosity towards your fellow human beings, in your peaceful demeanor, and your patience with one another. It permeates your life in joyful expression and can be seen most fully in the love you freely give away, even to your enemies. Fortunately it is just as easy to see if you are not living fully into the Word. You are easy to anger and full of dissension. You like quarrels, strife, and factions. Among us there are those who follow both, which is why followers of the world misunderstand GRACE.

So in the end, maybe it is better not to worry, but to live life abundantly in the present moment. Maybe in order to see eternal life we must follow the only two simple instructions that matter, love God and love your neighbor as yourself. In which case this whole article is nothing but a bunch of words on a page, and I should go pick up my children from after school, take them home early, and start living eternal life by showing them how easy it is to love—which is the purpose of life.
Labor Day Weekend art demonstrations at Twigs at Highlands Edge

Former Northwest Artist David Knott joins the Twigs at Highlands Edge array of artists which make up the unique theme of Twigs. Knott who has been a resident of Western North Carolina for four years, supports himself through his wildlife art and totem carvings. Knott's works have recently become a part of the group of artists that make up Twigs, both inside and out. His totem work resides outside alongside flowers and the relaxing sitting areas, while his artwork is blended throughout the "Out on a Limb" shop Twigs at Highlands Edge. Now through the holidays Knotts will be performing totem pole carving demonstrations. Knotts joins Karen Kaleta, a longtime resident of the area and a respected nature photographer during the Labor Day weekend art demonstrations and presentations at Twigs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily Thursday through Mondays.

Hospital honors volunteers with annual fete

Hospital volunteers enjoyed the hospitality of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital wined and dined more than 120 volunteers, spouses or guests Aug. 21 at a special reception and dinner at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in Highlands to thank them for the nearly 11,300 hours of service given during the past year.

The volunteers and guests were joined by a number of hospital leaders and department managers who acted as hosts for the evening. One of those hospital leaders, board chairman Bud Smith, officially thanked the volunteers, stressing that they are the face of the hospital to its many patients, customers and visitors. "You are our ambassadors out there at the hospital. Thank you very much for the outstanding job that you do," he said.

Smith said the evening was somewhat bittersweet for him, since he will soon be ending his fourth term as chairman at the end of September and retiring from the post. "This is the last time to talk to you as chairman, and personally say thank you. This has always been one of the most enjoyable responsibilities I have had as chairman," Smith then pointed out that the role of volunteers frequently gets underestimated in many organizations. "I'd like to leave you with this thought," he added. "Remember that Noah's Art was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals."

CEO Ken Shull then asked volunteers to stand by the hospital department to be recognized. Among those departments represented were the Eckerd Living Center, the pharmacy, employee health, HealthTracks, the gift shop, the mail room, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospice.

He also recognized a number of the board of directors who were in attendance, adding "these folks are also volunteers. We sometimes forget that."

"We appreciate your dedication and willingness to serve others in your communities by volunteering at the hospital. This (the recognition dinner) is a tiny way for us to say thank you," Shull concluded.

In addition to wine provided by Bryson's Food store and the hors d'oeuvres, attendees were treated to a buffet of prime rib, tilapia, and fried chicken, as well as a table of fabulous desserts.

In all, the hospital has approximately 170 volunteers who serve in a variety of ways throughout much of the hospital and its affiliated organizations. However, there are still opportunities available. Anyone interested in volunteering at the hospital should call Volunteer Coordinator Earlene Bennett at 526-1345.

Labor Day Weekend opens “100 Years of Conservation by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at Summit One

Labor Day Weekend opens “100 Years of Conservation by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Saturday, Sept. 5 at Summit One Gallery on Second Street.

Summit One Gallery's artists have created works inspired by the photography from the Land Trust's newly published book, “First Creation”, a collections of photographs of the Land Trust's conservation properties.

Some of the photographers included in “First Creation” are Kevin Fitz-Patrick, Mark Hutchison, Bill Lea, Ralph Preston, Cynthia Strain, and Sarah Valentine. Thirty plus paintings by sixteen artists will premier. Artists include: Tom Bluemlein, Betty Foy Botts, Pat Calderone, Elizabeth Ellison, Shari Erickson, Bob Francisco, Brian Hibbard, Libby Mathews, Diane McPhail, Toby Penney, Edward Rice, Susan Robert, Jane Smithers, Rosemary Stiefel, Scott Upton, and Ron Williams. Impressionism, Abstract, and Representational art are included.

The book “First Creation” will be available for sale. This exhibition will benefit the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Opening reception will be Saturday, Sept. 5 from 5-7pm. All are welcome. "100 Years of Conservation by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust" will continue through Oct. 7.

Summit One Gallery is located in "The Galleries", South Second Street, Highlands.
Mountain Findings gives $70,000 in proceeds back to the community

Left, Mountain Findings volunteer Larry Brannan with Highlands Nature Center Director Patrick Brannon. In 2009 the Nature Center offered 9 summer camps with 150 campers. During the school year the Center will do nature programs for as many as 3,000 school children. An additional 1,000 people visit the Nature Center each year. This year’s donation is to update displays, some of which have not been done since the 1950s, and to improve class areas.

Above, Mountain Findings volunteer Jean Shields at Highlands Early Start, a program for children between the ages of 6 weeks and 3 years, maximum number of children is eight, open from 8AM-3PM each day, serves breakfast, lunch and a snack. All monies donated by Mountain Findings are used in the Highlands program and not comingled with Macon County funds.

Left, Mountain Findings volunteers Bill and Ruth Watkins with Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief James Manley. A $5,000 donation will be used to pay down the loan used to purchase the ladder fire truck and the building needed to house the truck.

Above, Mountain Findings volunteer Mary Thompson at Highlands Head Start, for children between ages 3-5, maximum of 16. There will be 12 by end of September. All monies donated by Mountain Findings are used in the Highlands program and not comingled with Macon County funds.

Golfers at Wildcat Cliffs CC ‘Rally for a Cure’

From left, Beverly Horvath, Pegi Williard, Karen Hendry, Carolyn Ann Holder.

From left Jim Wade, John Davidson, Elliott Gassner, Mike Edwards.

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Mary Lou Fouser, both a Mountain Findings and a Food Pantry volunteer, accepts a check from Mountain Findings.

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