Hospital has new President and CEO

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors approved at a special board meeting on April 8th the appointment of Craig Bowen James, FAHE, to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fiddi a Eckerd Living Center. This decision was made after an almost six months search process was completed by the hospital’s six-member CEO Search Committee. Mr. James will begin at the hospital on June 1st. He and his wife, Sheryl, plan to move to the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Craig has been the CEO of a hospital in charge of two hospitals within the Mountain States Health Alliance Hospital system: Norton Community Hospital, a 129-bed facility that includes an Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit and Dickerson Community Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital.

Littering is rampant in Highlands

Citizen calls for action

Sometimes it takes a few up to a dozen citizen to get something done and that just might be the case concerning the litter that lines Highlands’ roadways. On Tuesday, April 13, Doug Landwehr, who lives on Queen Mountain and who with other members of his community are routinely on “litter patrol” along NC 28s including the overlooks, called a meeting of the press and USFS personnel to hopefully figure out a way to stop littering and dumping in the area.

“We would like to heighten public awareness and address several potential severe safety issues, especially with regard to the litter that lines Highlands’ roadways,” he said.

On Sunday, April 18, Zorik, at the DownHill Grill in Scaly Mountain, 7-9 p.m.

Musician Trip Hazard playing at Cyprus Saturday night at 9 p.m.

Ranger Falls Trail off Flat Mtn.

Ranger Falls Trail is Highlands’ newest accessible waterfall. It’s 40 feet high and can be accessed from the Flat Mountain Ranger Station Trail head or from Cliffside Lake Trail head. For more information about area Waterfalls and Hiking Trails go to HighlandsInfo.com/hiking.htm.

Photo by Jim Lewicki
Dear Editor,

I really feel sorry for your columnist Fred Woodrige and I feel sorry for you since I just spent some time reading his column in the April 8 edition of Highlands' Newspaper. It was a waste of time and I will never read his column again. I feel sorry for him — it takes more to work at McDonald’s than to be President?

Well, I did not know that McDonald’s employees campaigned across the country, answered thousands of questions from every form of media, and had to win the electoral college vote. When he said “You were born in the U.S.” — how stupid.

Do you realize that John McCain would have been the only U.S. President that would not have been born in the U.S.? That’s a fact. It is a stupid argument and that is why you never hear a Democrat saying it. But if you want to make stupid arguments, McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone which is not part of the U.S. Oh wait, that sounds stupid … kind of like everything you have said. Can he get a real job and put that pen down because this country needs people working and making a positive change not stupid stuff like this. I am also sorry that someone may read his words and believe anything he says. He owes us an apology.

Tim Burns

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Dear Editor,

I’ll never read ‘Fred’ again!

Dear Editor,

In response to Ron Leslie’s remark at the April 7th Town Board meeting as reported in your article “Playhouse and PAC leases in limbo.”

Neither Collin nor myself OK’ed the production of Papa’s Angels by the Highlands Cashiers Players (HCP). I personally am not honored by their choice. I am disgusted and angered by him saying his group is honoring Collin and myself by doing the play. Mr Leslie was just promoting his own agenda of exclusivity. I am taking him using our names very personally, while mourning the loss of his wife very personally.

If the HCP really wanted to honor Collin and myself, they would have welcomed The Instant Theatre Company into the PAC. When I offered to help to book and produce shows into the PAC this year, the PAC president Stew-Manningsaid the HCP is “uncomfortable” with our presence in PAC therefore “No.”

PAC/HCP’s honesty questioned

Where is the honoring there? Where is the nurturing of all the performing arts in Highlands? Collin lived for and I continue to fight for in our community.

Ron Leslie knew Stewart Manning refused my request to produce in the PAC when he spoke to the Town Board. Yet, he said no one had been refused. Honor? Is it honor? I want no part of their “Honor” They have no honor.

Scott Paxton

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PAC not performing ‘Papa’s Angels’ … HCP is

Dear Editor,

In the interest of clarity, two points in last week’s story concerning the Performing Arts Center lease renewal need to be explained.

First, the Fall 2010 presentation of Collin Wilcox Paxton’s play ‘Papa’s Angels’ will be produced by the Highlands Cashiers Players, not by the PAC.

Second, some of the reported statements by Commissioner Amy Patterson are her interpretations and opinions, not necessarily facts.

Dean F. Zuch

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I agree with Barney

Dear Editor,

At the risk of sounding like a Barney Frank fan, I agree with him when he said he doesn’t understand why America is so upset with the president. They’re getting exactly what they voted for.

Fred Woodrige

---

Archive edition of Highlands’ Newspaper helpful

Dear Editor,

Here is a unique method of retrieving lost information. My husband and I wanted to contact a coperson who we used last year to do some yard work. Somehow, we lost the last name and telephone number.

We thought I was lost until my husband remembered that this gentleman had placed an ad in Highlands’ Newspaper last April (2009). So, he went to your archives and there it was. Since the entire newspaper is uploaded to www.highlandsinfo.com with copy and ads just as the paper is in the street, we found it easily. This man was contacted and all is well! Thanks for being there!

Marlene Salo

Highlands and Florida

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From the Munger Family

The Fred Munger Family would like to send a special “Thank You” to all family and friends for the prayerful support during Fred’s two surgeries and continued chemotherapy.

Please continue to pray for God’s will in our lives. Thanks so much.

Fred, Madge & children

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As the nights a performance occurs would be better served. It is not as if the cream to rise to the top, and the public will be better served. It is not as if the competition would hurt the “core” groups, as the nights a performance occurs would not conflict, given they are using the same facility at different times.

Carole Light, Ph.D.

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Thank You’s

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From the Satolah FD

The Satolah Volunteer Fire Department thanks one and all who came to its annual barbecue and bluegrass benefit last Saturday. The weather was great and we could not have asked for a better turnout of friends, families, neighbors and supporters who gave generously to this cause.

We also must especially thank the news media that gave us such wonderful publicity as well as the individual firefighters who cooked all that barbecue meat (beginning at 4:30 a.m. that Saturday morning.) John and Joe Munger, and Charles Reed and Michael Geoghegan in particular. Thank you, too, to the hard-working women of the Ladies Auxiliary, who are so crucial to making this event a success.

We also want to thank Centerline Auto Parts, Audrey Owens, Sam Schmitt, Bryson’s Food Store, and the Farmer’s Market for their donations. We also want to thank Foxfireland and Oliver Rice and the Blue Ridge Mountain Band for that wonderful gospel and bluegrass music.

This was the 31st year that local people in this three-state area have risen to the occasion to support this volunteer fire station, support that is crucial to our work. Many, many thank yous.

James Reed
Chief, Rabun County Station No. 8
Satalah Volunteer Fire Department

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CORRECTION

In the April 8 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper in the article “PAC and Playhouse leases in limbo,” we stated that the Highlands Playhouse lease was being considered for renewal. It has a 10-year lease as of 2008. The discussion involved an amendment to that lease and nothing else. PAC’s lease is up, however, and is now on a month to month basis. Also the name of Stewart Manning was misspelled. We regret the errors and are happy to set the record straight.
added, “I believe Craig is extremely well qualified and equipped to lead our wonderful community hospital and I am most pleased with the thorough process completed by the CEO search committee.

The six-member search committee was chaired by hospital board member Griffin Bell, and included representation from the community - Mr. Derek Taylor, medical staff - David Wheeler, foundation - John Bauknight and hospital board member Julian Franklin and Frances Oakley.

“We have been meeting regularly since November. This being one of the most important decisions for the hospital, we felt it was necessary to take the time to be as thorough as possible. We had a very large pool of candidates to sort through. We also felt it was important to involve key hospital people in the final selection process,” said committee chair, Bell. The two finalists each spent more than a day at the hospital touring the facilities, interviewing with hospital and foundation board members, medical staff, and hospital staff members.

“On behalf of the hospital board I want to express our appreciation to the search committee for a job well done and also to express our confidence and excitement about the days ahead for our vitally needed Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Together, we seek to partner with our communities’ citizens to assure healthcare excellence for all of Macon County,” added, “I believe Craig is extremely well qualified and equipped to lead our wonderful community hospital and I am most pleased with the thorough process completed by the CEO search committee.

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Charles V. Sheehan, HCH Board Chair

Michael Crae Atkinson
Michael Crae Atkinson, age 49, of Glenville, NC, died Saturday, April 10, 2010, at his residence. He was a native of Kamas, Utah, the son of Lois Evans Atkinson of Denver, Colorado and the late Crae Atkinson.

He is survived by his partner of 29 years, Michael Wayne Cook, his mother, two sisters, Sue Lewis and Jill Rietow both of Denver, Colorado; a brother, Todd Atkinson of Denver, Colorado, and three nephews. No services are planned.

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**MORE HIGHLANDS FINE DINING**

**Laughing At Life**

Beware of the one-eyed snake!

Here’s one of my wonderful but very tacky children’s stories specifically designed to terrorize rug rats under the age of six. Also, it will help them better understand why parents sometimes call each other snakes. You may thank me later for this valuable story.

Once upon a time, in the land of the great mountains called Appalachia, there lived a small, loving snake family. They lived peacefully in and around the outcroppings of a place called Satulah Mountain. Jake, the male snake, was black and nonpoisonous. His friend snakes called him, “Jake, the Snake.” His wife, Kate, was also black and nonpoisonous. Her snake friends called her….well; you guessed it…Kate, the snake.

In time, Kate and Jake decided to have children. When their first born was hatched, they noticed, while it was also black, it only had one eye located right in the middle of its head. They decided to call it “Sneaky” since it was always slithering around into dark, wet, damp places and getting into spots it shouldn’t. Everyone called him….yep, you guessed it, “Sneaky Snake.” (Are you falling asleep yet? No, well keep reading; I’m working on it.)

Sneaky was always in trouble. Even though his parents warned him about humans and their fear and hatred of snakes, Sneaky loved to freak out people by making strange noises, hissing, mouth wide open and his one eye in full view. (Wait, don’t stop reading. It gets better…I mean worse.)

Instead of being frightened of Sneaky, the man quickly reached down and grabbed him. Sneaky panicked and lunged for the man’s hand, biting him hard as he was shoved into the sack. Sneaky had never bitten anyone or anything in his life. He just wanted to have fun and scare people but now realized he might spend the rest of his life in a cage. (Show a sad face.)

His parents watched helplessly from a nearby rock. They had heard stories about humans who captured snakes but had never seen one. The man continued to poke around the rocks with his stick, obviously looking for more snakes. Horrified, Sneaky’s parents had no choice but to slither away and leave their child behind. (Here, show a saddler, pouty face with lip out.)

But just as Jake and Kate were frantically packing their stuff to leave, the man sat down and started to throw up. They noticed his bitten hand was swollen. Then the man keeled over dead. Sneaky’s parents were shocked. As they approached the dead man, Sneaky was able to work his way out of the sack. He rapidly slithered to his bewildered parents for a hug but didn’t get one. Sneaky was a deadly poisonous snake.

Jake looked at Kate with suspicion and said, “Black snakes aren’t poisonous and two blacks don’t make a deadly white. Explain yourself, Kate!” (This is why your parents sometimes call each other snakes ‘cause they do things they shouldn’t but this time it was momma who was bad. Can you say “bad mommy” three times real fast….Isn’t that fun?)

Kate looked at Jake with shame before speaking. “Remember when we went to the opera to see Madame White Snake?” Well, I was so enthralled with the power of that demon snake, I just had to sleep with one. It happened one afternoon while you were away eating blackberries. Will you forgive me?”

“Pack your stuff and get out of my pit,” Jake demanded. “And take your deadly illegitimate one-eyed half-white snake with you.”

But not wanting to leave his home on Satulah Mountain, Sneaky slithered away and hid inside the dead man’s sweater. This turned out to be a big mistake. Kate looked everywhere for Sneaky before leaving Satulah Mountain.

The following week, the newspaper’s headlines read. “Deadly one-eyed snake killed in dead man’s sweater.” Everyone on Satulah Mountain was relieved….kinda. (Now, hug your little listeners and tell them to never go near a one-eyed snake hiding in a turtleneck sweater.)
How ‘true’ is ‘The True Faith?’

Criticism of the Catholic Church for its handling of abusive priests continues to mount. It’s apparent the Church was more concerned with the well being of the predatory priests than of their victims, more aggressive in protecting the wealth and influence of the church than safeguarding acolytes. This isn’t what Jesus had in mind when he instructed his followers to love the little children.

A few years ago I reported a story of abuse related to us by a taxi driver in Vera Cruz, Mexico. I grew up in the Catholic Church, was an acolyte, and was not abused, although I may have narrowly escaped. When my brother was 11 and I was 10, a kindly parish priest took an interest in us. Dad worked long hours and didn’t have much time for us. We didn’t have a pool in my hometown.

During summer months Father Ryan frequently came to the house and took us to a swimming pool in a nearby town in which he’d aimed to have meetings. I’ll never know what he was doing while we were swimming. Maybe he was doing priest stuff. Maybe he was sitting in the parking lot reading vespers or looking at pictures of naked boys. I do know that on one trip he was drunk. A state policeman stopped him for driving erratically. My brother told our Dad, who declared that we no longer cared about abused kids, at least not for us. I desperately wanted a pool in my hometown.

I really liked those trips. I feel differently now, recognizing that we might have been targets. I don’t know if Father Ryan ever molested a kid; don’t know if the thought ever entered his mind. Sometime later, he was asked to retire and spent his remaining days in a home for impaired priests.

It’s hard for me to understand why people remain in the Catholic Church. I was taught ours was the “True Faith,” but I suspect, the Lutheran and Baptist kids down the street were told the same thing. By now everyone must realize religions are the creations of man and neither the pedophile priest nor the millionaire mega church pastor bears any resemblance to Christ. It’s inconceivable that our spiritual home offers as much security as a tar pit provided for a saber tooth tiger.

What twisted individuals would take advantage of those who trusted them above all others, and what a corrupt organization could protect predators for decades, in violation not only of decency and morality, but of the law? If the Church in America were not so powerful, I suspect it might be prosecuted under RICO statutes. A church, whose priests prey on its weakest members, continues to thrive worldwide.

Perhaps a vast majority of Catholic clergy serve their flocks faithfully and well. Many devout Catholics continue to support their church. I simply can’t understand devotion to an institution that has put its own welfare and that of criminal clergymen above the billion souls it is intended to serve.

The Catholic Church has turned the, “I was just following orders,” defense on its head. Instead of low ranking officials blaming superiors, church leaders deny responsibility for actions of subordinates and fail to address them.

The Church, with the Pope as its head, features a rigid hierarchy. Once elected, the Pope cannot be removed. He claims infallibility. There is no formula for impeachment. Yet the Pope denies responsibility.

The truth is no one wanted to act. No one cared about abused kids, at least not enough to risk damaging the Church. Any hint of scandal threatened the Church. It was easier and safer to ignore the victims and shuffle predatory priests from parish to parish. More recently our suspicions have been confirmed that misconduct and criminal cover-up were not limited to the Church in America.

I can’t escape the conclusion that the primary goal of the Church is self preservation. It’s time for devout clergy and devoted members to agree on the core values of their faith, incorporate them into a new structure and abandon the Roman Church. They might start by allowing priests to marry. Revolution by Church faithful is unlikely because for too many centuries they have been taught that disobedience is sinful, disagreement is heretical.
from the history guy ... April 15, 1924

Rand McNally publishes its first road atlas.

If you decide to moter west, how do you choose which way’s the best? There is a method you can chart your journey before you even start.

Yes, it’s possible to compute the most advantageous route, or is it before you set out decide upon the very best route? Don’t have to stop and ask for direction if you use this method of detecting, the proper way in which you travel is quite easy to unravel. Finally, at last, we have the first road atlas.

The proper way in which you travel is quite easy to unravel. Finally, at last, we have the first road atlas.

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**His & Hers**

The town the census forgot

by John Armor

This is more or less an open letter to Robert Groves, Director of the Census Bureau.

Dear Bob, Can I call you Bob?! I feel I know you since you’ve been all over the TV explaining that the screw-ups that have occurred in your Bureau about operations and cost will all be resolved. Well, here’s another screw-up for you to put on your plate.

The Census has a rule that it will not mail Census forms to Post Office Box addresses. As a general rule, I understand and support that. There are probably more than a million people in the US who use P.O. Boxes to cheat on their spouses, run investment scams, sell useless or non-existent products on the Internet, etc. However, every rule has its exceptions.

We live in Highlands, North Carolina. The summer time population grows to about 25,000 every year. But the permanent residents are only about 3,000 Americans, plus about 500 Mexicanos. Because we are a small town, the Post Office by its own rules does not deliver to anyone’s home, except a handful of folks who live so far out of town they qualify for RFD. We say they live 20 miles south of nowhere. RFD, in case you don’t know, stands for Rural Free Delivery.

After four weeks of seeing your cute but annoying ads for the Census, and not having a form sent to us, we found out by accident that we weren’t going to get any forms mailed to us because of your anti-box rule. Now, missing 3,500 people doesn’t amount to a hill of beans.

However, there are other towns just like us. Maybe you should pull out your company phone book, and look up the number for the Postmaster General. Give him a call. Ask him how many small towns there are in the nation where almost no one gets their mail delivered except to the Post Office.

If there are 1,000 such towns, then you are missing 3.5 million people. That’s a significant number. Plus, our demographics are not the same as everyone else. Half of us are retired. The other half are young people with kids, trying to make and survive. Our town has the demographics of Brazil.

Now, I know you have hired a whole bunch of people in localities across the nation. I know you’ve hired some locals in Highlands. They are supposed to have “special knowledge” of their areas. Haven’t any of them told their supervisors about the P.O. Box problem here, and elsewhere?

The alternative to mailing forms and getting them back by mail, is sending people out to everybody. Again, local knowledge is your friend.

Do you have a clue how much time and money will be wasted by your Bureau to visit every house in Highlands? And you’ll have to budget for multiple visits, because all of us drive into town every day to run errands and get our mail. (Remember, it comes to the Post Office.)

Do we have addresses? Why yes, we do. So, fire, police and ambulances can reach us in emergencies, all of us have actual street addresses. I bet your local people could get those from the Emergency Network. Then, you could mail our forms to the Post Office, and cross reference the reported addresses with the Emergency List.

Just trying to help you run an efficient, effective Census. And, you could have added a question on the form whether the respondents were American citizens. I have my copy of the Constitution handy, and it says the legitimate purpose of the Census “enumeration” is for reallocating the seats in Congress, and not for randomizing their supervisors about the P.O. Box problem here, and elsewhere?

Cordially, Your so-far uncounted fellow citizen at the end of a gravel road, J. Armor, Esq.

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About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, will be published in September. www.TheseAreTheTimes.us

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**Passionate Hearts for All**

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About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, will be published in September. www.TheseAreTheTimes.us
O
K, before we begin, full disclosure here; just to preface this highly critical string of thoughts, I have put together an ... and they are being directed on to Buck Creek. 

20,000 pounds from traveling the Gorge Road

consider it a high priority.

Horizontal and vertical improvements will be made on SR 1372 (Iota Church Road) in the vicinity of the Iota School driveway for $150,000.

Grading, drainage, and paving will be done on SR 1521B (Onion Mountain Road) for $214,136. That completes work on Onion Mountain.

Chairman Ronnie Beale also requested work be done on Buck Creek Road – particularly along the 1-2 miles from its intersection with the Highlands Road – and to consider it a high priority.

A new state law prohibits trucks over 20,000 pounds from traveling the Gorge Road, and they are being directed on to Buck Creek. Consequently, the road has taken quite a beating.

“...and the parking lot in the vicinity of the Mc-Call Trail will take place with a Federal Highway Grant. A bridge will be built across the road linking the Dry Falls parking lot and the parking lot in the vicinity of the Mc-Call bridge across the road.

He said he in the season upwards of 500 people a day visit the falls so more parking is needed.

Call cabin across the road.

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Crawl Space Encapsulation System®
O
n Thursday, April 15th, early voting for the primary election began in Macon County. There are a number of important races that will be on the ballot, races that will determine who will run to represent us in the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, the North Carolina Senate and House, our Sheriff, various Judges, our County Commission and various other offices.

The pitifully puny turnout for previous mid-term primary elections has led to some inferior or elected officials being chosen. We pay the price for these bad choices every day.

When the general Election Day comes, and you have a choice of A or B, when C may have been the better option, government at all levels suffers. How can you be sure you’re voting for the best choice? You can never be certain, but you can maximize your chances by learning as much as you can about the candidates from forums, websites and, at the very least, asking someone you know to be politically aware of their opinion. Whatever you do, vote in the primary.

And now, on to a subject that continues to haunt me and many others of like mind. The National Security Strategy of the United States is a document prepared periodically by the executive branch of the government for Congress which outlines the major national security concerns of the United States and how the administration plans to deal with them.

On March 16, 2006, the latest National Security Strategy was issued. It restates America’s commitment to supporting democracies and defeating terrorism, puts forth a plan to restructure institutions related to national security, and discusses the challenges of globalization.

The current administration is in the process of writing Obama’s version of the NSS and in doing so, according to FoxNews.com, “Obama’s advisers will remove religious terms such as ‘Islamic extremism’ from the central document outlining the U.S. national security strategy and will use a rewritten document to emphasize that the United States does not view Muslim nations through the prism of terror.

The change is a significant shift in the National Security Strategy, a document that previously outlined the Bush Doctrine of preventative war and currently states: “The struggle against militant Islamic radicalism is the greatest ideological conflict of the early years of the 21st century.”

Combine the changes described above with Obama’s rude treatment of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s Prime Minister in his recent visit to Washington, the lack of his conviction in dealing with Iran’s nuclear ambitions, and many other manifestations of his partiality to Islam and one wonders where this will lead.

How anyone with an open mind can view events of the last 40 or 50 years involving Islamic attacks on American assets and not realize that we are at war with a religious ideology is a mystery to me. My concern is that open minds are not at work here. There are simply too many sources of smoke that Obama’s administration is partial to the Muslims for them not to be false. I wonder how that fits in with the oath he took upon inauguration.

BREAKING NEWS - Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) is in the process of announcing his decision not to run to keep his seat in November. Sure you remember that Stupak was the standard bearer for the pro-life proponents in the recent health care bill battle. He and his small group of legislative friends jumped ship at the last minute to give Nancy enough votes to pass legislation over the goal line.

Stupak is saying that he has served long enough and his withdrawal is not a response to pressure. To quote one of my favorites, “you lie.”

Almost immediately after his philosophic reversal, the public mounted a multi-faceted campaign to make his life miserable. Tea Party enthusiasts organized to convince Stupak that he is not the type of politician this country wants in office. Liberals have initiated an effort to blame “Tea Party” adherents for everything from dressing poorly, to dressing well (remember the Brooks Brothers comment) to dressing poorly, to being bought and financed by some unnamed source of funds (you know, like George Soros), being racists, militants, uneducated, unwashed and un-American. You will hear slings and arrows coming from many directions and this should tell you one thing: they are desperately afraid of the power of the people and their ability to see through the Manichean agenda of people currently in power. When Obama’s Acorn legions and SEIU members were convinced that he would lead them to the promised land, western. We have been painfully awakened – “Power to the People” has changed hands.
Why Highlands? ... Why now?

• This is the second contributor in Highlands’ Newspaper’s newest column “Investing at 4,118 Feet” for which eight Realtors will write.

Next up in the April 22 issue is Buzz Dotson of Preferred Properties.

Discussions of the real estate market these days are generally met with mournful sighs. Does this mean that property ownership should be discouraged? Not according to our founding fathers.

Have the mountains and specifically Highlands become less desirable a location? Those of us who have made a permanent or secondary home on this plateau would argue this point into eternity.

Let’s examine the definition of real estate: Real; absolute, concrete, irrefutable. Estate: property, person’s possessions, assets. Real property is a limited, absolute commodity in which location determines its value. Although we are tempted to complain about the changing economy, something has not changed.

Location, location, location has always been the determining factor in real estate values and for the majority of successful businesses. Our town is still uniquely situated amongst the most beautiful and majestic lands of God’s creation. The climate remains ideal for those wanting to escape the summer heat. Steeped in history, our community has continually offered a rare combination of down-home comforts with a flair for the refined. And perhaps the greatest natural asset found in Highlands is the warm and welcoming spirit of its people. These are some of the many reasons we chose to come here and why others will continue to flock to our area.

Economists tell us that the real estate industry drives the economy. Real estate values in Highlands are the best they have been in many years, while interest rates are the lowest we have seen in this generation, offering a rare opportunity.

Real property is the only commodity that is no longer being made and does not disappear. It is suggested that investment portfolios with a basis in real estate have the most stability and opportunity for growth.

For all of the reasons stated above, the timing is perfect to make an investment in Highlands’ real future.

We are on the verge of our busiest and most visited season in Highlands. An optimistic attitude is essential to our success in business and all areas of life.

Spring is an ideal time for new beginnings and fresh attitudes. Signature Properties wishes each and every one of you a joyful and prosperous season.

For real estate information, you may visit www.sigpropnc.com or contact Lynn Kimball at 828-526-4101.

... ZONING BOARD continued from page 1

The watershed setback and trout water buffer setback were both put in place long after the house was built so it is currently a nonconforming building – but legal as it stands.

In such cases, problems arise when homeowners want to expand the structure in some way. Typically, it’s not legal to make a nonconforming structure more nonconforming.

The variance would have allowed the removal of an old cross-tie retaining wall near the house and the building of a new concrete retaining wall closer to the lake, and filling it to make more of a lawn.

Erecting a new retaining wall in the 50-ft. watershed buffer was the issue. That variance was denied 4-1, with Bill Conway voting against denying the variance.

The other variance involved removing a concrete slab patio and steps and replacing them with impervious material and a new deck over the patio area which would extend past the original footprint.

After much discussion, the board’s findings of fact – as required by law – were that there was no hardship for the homeowner at any level if either variance wasn’t granted.

The finding of hardship on several counts is the only way a variance can be granted, the main one being that the owner can’t make reasonable use of the property without the variance.

On another level, members were cautious about setting a precedent.

“If we allow him to extend the deck everyone on Mirror Lake will want to do that,” said member Allen Frederick.

Almost all the houses on the lake are nonconforming to today’s standards and allowing one owner to make his house more nonconforming could cause problems later. That variance was unanimously denied.

Kim Lewicki
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s Auxiliary looking for new members

The HCH Auxiliary has been instrumental in funding various projects throughout the Hospital, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and community programs. Their fundraising efforts have enabled HCH to purchase Physical Therapy equipment, Radiology and mammogram equipment, wheelchairs, patient lifts, thermometers and ventilators, a blood bank refrigerator, computers, landscaping and outdoor furniture just to name a few. The items totaled over $300,000.

The Auxiliary also raises funds for a “Healthcare Scholarship”, used to provide financial support for area young people who wish to enter healthcare in such fields as nursing, medical technologies, or various kinds of therapy. The funds also help the hospital recruit and train skilled medical personnel of all types. Anyone wishing to pursue a career in the health care field, including those already in the field who wish to further their education, can apply for this scholarship.

The Auxiliary Club meets at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month. Those interested in being a part of the Auxiliary are asked to call lampert@hchospital.org to arrange a meeting at a time that works with their schedules

H-C Hospital doctors celebrate ‘National Doctors Day’

On Tuesday, March 30th, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital joined together with hospitals across the nation in honoring medical staff members on National Doctors’ Day.

Hospital Staff, Board Members and Volunteers gathered for a special breakfast as a way to show gratitude to dedicated Physicians at HCH. “All (100%) of our Physician’s continue to achieve board certification year after year. They voluntarily complete rigorous testing and evaluation, in their particular specialty. Additionally, it signifies a board certified physician’s commitment and expertise in consistently achieving superior clinical outcomes in a responsive, patient-focused setting. Our physicians strive for the highest standard of quality patient care available,” said Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

HCH is unique in that all of our Medical Staff members are required to acquire and retain board certification. They use the most current evidence-based guidelines and standards within their specialty. With the Board Certified physician, the patient can expect the best medical knowledge, professionalism and patient focused skills.

The benefit of the certification program means that we are giving people confidence when choosing one of our physicians; confidence that they have chosen the most competent physician for their needs,” said Leslie.

“We all understand the importance and impact our Physicians make within our community. We want to thank them for not only their care giving but for the contributions they make every day to our health and well-being.”

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

“HCH is a community hospital that provides diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care to the public through on-site professional services, or as a referral to regional support providers. Our emergency care facility is Physician staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, monitoring their visit with personal care and attention. We make the extra effort to assure that you get “best of class care”, and feel “special” every time you pass through our doors. HCH also provides Physician Clinics, a skilled Nursing Facility, Hospice Care, Skilled Rehabilitation, and Medically-Based Wellness Programs allowing individuals and families nearby access to professional care in these critical areas. The hospital continues to expand its programs to provide the public the broadest possible range of quality healthcare. Our Board-Certified Physician Staff continues to grow to better serve you, as do our medical specialties now covering 14 areas of healthcare, specialties usually only found in much larger facilities. We continually update our range of diagnostic procedures by adding new state-of-the-art equipment.”

Our goal is to be the healthcare partner to whom you can entrust your life.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing
• Registration is now open for the 2010 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: “WOW! – a World of Wonder” (ages 4-6), “Amazing Animals” (ages 7-10), “NatureWorks” (ages 8-11), “Mountain Explorers” (ages 10-13), and “Junior Ecologists” (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

Through May 7
• RBC Bank is collecting non-perishable food products for donation to The Food Pantry of Highlands Emergency Council. Donated items can be dropped off at our branch location at 225 Franklin Rd during normal banking hours.

Sundays
• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 8:30 p.m. at the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn about Rotary and enjoy fellowship while listening to an interesting speaker. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

• Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays
• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday
• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-494-258.

Thursdays
• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

• Sunday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. $19 per person.

Thursday, April 15
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to the signs downstairs.

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Ruby Cinema
Hwy 441, Franklin, NC 524-2076
April 16-22
KICK-ASS
rated R
Friday: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Saturday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sunday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05
Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

DATE NIGHT
rated PG-13
Friday: 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Saturday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Sunday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15
Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7:15
Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

CLASH OF THE TITANS
rated PG-13
Friday: 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Saturday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Sunday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10

HOW TO TRAIN A DRAGON in 3D
rated PG
Friday: 4:10, 7, 9:10
Saturday: 2, 4:10, 7
Sunday: 2, 4:10, 7
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7
Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:10, 7

Handbell choir to perform Saturday at First Presbyterian

Handbell choir to perform Saturday at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 p.m. The Mt. Bethel Methodist Handbell choir from Marietta, GA will perform. The church is at 471 Main Street.

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Earth Days Celebration April 17 at the Ball Field

On Saturday, April 17, the Highlands-Cashiers community will be celebrating locally for the sixth year! Highlands Prominence Committee is hosting the event with the generous support of the Jackson County Conservation Alliance, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association.

We are especially excited to bring the event to Highlands for the first time. The celebration is FREE and will be held rain or shine or snow. Earth Day in the Mountains 2010 will feature live music, educational workshops, interactive demonstrations, and food. There will be games and crafts for the young and the young at heart. The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests and preservation efforts.

• Free Handbell Tour Choir at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 p.m. The Mt. Bethel Methodist Handbell choir from Marietta, GA will perform. The church is at 471 Main Street.
• Primary Democratic candidate for the 11th district Aixa Wilson will be speaking at the private home of Jan & Farrel Zehr located at 31 Highlands Walk on Sunday, April 18, at 2 p.m. He is ready to share his platform with all who are interested. Rep. Shuler was invited but did not respond. Light refreshments will be served with wine and beer. Call for directions. 526-3383.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1-mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail through woodlands with wildflowers and a steep section leading to a waterfall. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to Rough Run and High Falls, seeing many wildflowers along the way and climbing over rocky terrain near the falls. Bring water, wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

At Sunday, April 24 • PAC Youth Theater presents six, One Act Plays. Featured will be The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong and following Intemission, The Stronger Gender, Impromptu, The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue. It all starts at 7:30 p.m. Students are free; Adults are $5. During Intemission food will be served downstairs.
• Gorge pick up is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center. If you’d like to volunteer please contact Jan at 828-526-2112. Lunch provided.
• The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin area on Saturday. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is $5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on first come first served basis.

On Saturday, April 17, the Atlanta Boy Choir will perform at Episcopal Church May 2

On Sunday, May 2, The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert will feature the boys, men and a very special alumni group of African Americans named Africanr. The concert is free by donations will be accepted and the first two rows will be reserved for Sponsors for $100 up and Patrons at $500 up. Funds raised will be used to fund a trip to Italy this summer where the eight boys in the choir will perform in Sulmona and the great Basilica of St. Frances of Assisi, the Vatican at Sunday Mass at St. Peter's and at the main mass at the famous Siena Cathedral. Aside from these they also will sing for Pope Benedict’s audience for thousands of worshipers as well as concerts in Poggibonsi and San Gimignano. The proposed tour cost for each boy is $2,700 and each of these young lads are supremely qualified but come from single family, mostly minority mothers who are doing their best to raise their sons with dignity and respect. Whether or not a boy can pay his own way, we haven't or ever will leave a boy behind because of this.
leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

Monday-Thursday, April 20-May 15
The Macon County Senior Games hosted by the MC Recreation Department. Events are scheduled over a 4-week period For more information, call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090. Registration deadline is April 20. Forms are available at the Highlands Rec Park.

Sunday, April 25
PAC Youth Theater presents six, One-Act Plays. Featured will be The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong and following Intermission, The Stronger Gender, Impromptu, The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue. It all starts at 2 pm. Students are free. Adults are $5. During Intermission food will be served downstairs.

Monday, April 26,
The Highlands Art League meeting is 5 P.M. at the Civic Center Rec Park. The program on iconography in art presented by Ruth Ballard. Guests welcome. Call Dottie Bruce for further information, 828-743-7673; 864-877-2454.

Thursday, April 29
The Economic Development Commission is hosting the first annual Macon County Enterprise Banquet at the Mountain View Intermediate School on Clarks Chapel Road beginning at 6:30 p.m. The banquet’s purpose is to provide business decision makers relevant and meaningful information about the economic future of Macon County and Western North Carolina. The dinner also serves to recognize key business leaders for their contributions to the economic health and wellbeing of the community. The dinner will feature keynote speaker Dr. Harry M. Davis, NC Bankers Association Professor at Appalachian State University, will be delivering his views on the economic outlook for Macon County. This event is open to all business owners of Macon County; it is a free event, however a ticket will be required to attend. You may obtain a ticket by contacting Trevor Dalton at edc@maconnc.org or calling 828-369-2306. There is a limited number of tickets, therefore only two tickets per business. RSVP by April 9.

Saturday, May 1
The annual Tour de Cashiers bike ride is Saturday at 9 a.m. There are three rides this year that graduate in difficulty: 1/4 Century, Metric, and Century. All three rides depart the Village Green at the Cashiers Crossroads. Registration Desks Open at 7:30 a.m. and riders should be assembled at 8:45 a.m. For more information or to register for one of the three rides, visit the website at www.tourdecashiers.com, call (828) 743-9924 or email: tour@cashiers.com.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 11-mile hike with an elevation change of 2,000 feet to Standing Indian Mountain, taking the Lower Ridge Trail and returning via the Appalachian and Kimsey Creek trails. Bring water, lunch; wear boots. Call leader Don O’Neal, 828-586-5723.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.3

See EVENTS on page 14

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A student’s perspective on PAC’s 4-day, 1-Act Play Festival April 22-25

By Cai Roman
10th Grade
Highlands School
Spring has come once again, and it looks as though the “acting bug” has followed me throughout the year. When theatre season rolled around again, I wasn’t going to go back to the PAC and act to my heart’s content. I had missed the feeling you get when you step into someone else’s shoes, when you lose yourself in a character. The way that even though you’re almost tired of each other by opening night, you form bonds that last for a long time. I was dying to get up in front of the audience and show them how far we’ve come since last year’s The Inner Willy. And accost as it may sound, I was even looking forward to capping out on the stage for Ronnie’s three and four-hour long rehearsals.

This year, the PAC Youth Theatre program has brought something new to the table. They opened up auditions to grades 7-12 as well as to Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter School, and home-schooled children; because of the huge turnout, Ronnie jimmied to do a one-act play festival of six plays. This has been an interesting experience for me, as I’ve had to move in and out of multiple characters on a day-to-day basis.

Hopefully this will help me hone in on the many aspects of acting, like vocalization and physicality. I have also gotten the chance to work with different casts and directors, which has shown me what it will be like if I continue to pursue acting after high school. With the advancement of Matt McClellan, whom I admired as a fellow actor, I have had to try to fill the shoes he left behind, which has been a challenge. Even with all of these changes, this year has been just as, if not more enjoyable than last year.

We have a lot of hype to live up to after the smash success of The Inner Willy, but I think that we are ready to step up to the challenge and show Highlands that we aren’t just riding the wave from last year’s performance. With the help of my fellow actors and directors, we can put on a show that won’t be soon forgotten.

They come each morning on the Highlands School activity bus, arriving in the early hours ready to learn new techniques and hone their recently acquired skills. There, in the quiet space of The Bascom’s Studio Barn, they plug in their iPods, turn up the volume and dig their hands into clay.

For more than three months, 15 Highlands School sophomores, juniors and seniors have been learning basic ceramics under the tutelage of their art teacher, Sallie Taylor, and her husband, acclaimed Bascom ceramics instructor Patrick Taylor.

From 8 to 9:30 a.m., these students learn wheel throwing and extensive hand-building techniques. They are required to keep a notebook of ideas, notions and ceramic terms. During the class time, they have a variety of activities they can pursue: wheel throwing, trimming hand-building or glazing. They are required by the end of the semester to turn in a completed notebook of assignments and 25 finished clay works — 10 wheel thrown and 10 hand-built works.

“We are greatly enjoying the freedom from the confines of the school that this great location offers them,” Sallie Taylor said. “Not only is it fun to teach, it’s evident fun to learn.”

And not only are they having fun, Taylor said, but they are learning useful skills — skills they can carry toward a career in pottery and other professions, as well.

While Highlands School has a strong art curriculum, it does not have a ceramics studio or a kiln barn, both of which The Bascom is offering to the students free of charge. Adding to the program is Patrick Taylor’s volunteer instruction. Taylor, Ph.D., is the retired chair of the art department at Piedmont College in Georgia and former chair of the department of visual arts at Kenesaw State University.

“This is a tremendous partnership between Highlands School and The Bascom, and we really appreciate the endorsement of Principal Derek Jeter, who is allowing these students to have this experience in The Bascom’s state-of-the-art Studio Barn,” said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom education director. “Not many administrators are able to be this visionary and this committed about the importance of youth art education, which we know to be integral to a well-rounded education.”

Ceramics and other work by the area’s high schoolers will be on display at The Bascom later this season, and the public is encouraged to come and view their creations. “Regional High School Show-case” will be exhibited in The Bascom’s Children’s Gallery May 15-30. Admission is free.

For more information on The Bascom and its art education offerings, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• The annual Mountain Lakes 5-K race (3.1 miles) is Saturday at 10 a.m. Early registration fee – before April 23 – is $15. Entry forms will be available at the Recreation Park’s Civic Center and the Chamber of Commerce’s Visitors Center, or online at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5213 (evenings).

• The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics in the Highlands area on Saturday, Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, 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 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

Sunday, May 2
• The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert will feature the boys, men and a very special alumni group of African Americans named Africantor. The concert is free but donations will be accepted and the first two rows will be reserved for Sponsors for $100 up and Patrons at $500 up. Funds raised will be used to fund a performance trip to Italy this summer.

Tuesday, May 4
• Leadership Highlands contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-5841.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23
• Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform Rebecca at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m on Sundays. For tickets, call 526-4084.

Fri. & Sat., May 14-15
• Barbara Zaretsky will teach a fiber art workshop, “Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing,” at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is $175 Bascom members, $195 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4049 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Wednesday, May 19
• The Rotary Club of Highlands 21st annual Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday at Trillium Links and Lake Club, with a shotgun start at noon. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local Rotary projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is $125, which includes golf, followed by an awards ceremony and a buffet supper. Call Rotary member Brian Stiehler at (828) 787-2778 to sign up.

HCPs Rebecca begins May 13 at PAC

The Highlands-Cashiers Players are hard at work rehearsing for its upcoming play, Daphne du Maurier’s classic, “Rebecca.”

British author, du Maurier, won critical acclaim for Rebecca, published in 1938. The next year she adapted the novel as a stage play and in 1940, Alfred Hitchcock won an academy award for his film version, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine.

The play opens as Maxim de Winter, a wealthy widower, returns to his beloved country estate, Manderley, with a new young bride. The new Mrs. de Winter quickly discovers how difficult it will be to lay to rest the memory of her husband’s first wife, Rebecca, who is understood to have died in a boating accident. Lacking self-confidence and overwhelmed by her new life, the young bride is distressed by how powerfully Rebecca’s presence is felt around Manderley, even though she has been dead for over a year.

Director, Mary Adair Leslie has assembled a wonderful cast. Wealthy, aristocratic Maxim de Winter is played by Matt Eberz. Thenaive new Mrs. de Winter (she is never given a name by du Maurier) is played by Kathryn Cochran.

Mrs. Danvers, the dominating housekeeper, and one of literature’s most infamous female villains, is played by Virginia Talbot. Maxim de Winter’s outspoken sister, Beatrice and her husband, Giles, are played by Laura Miller and Jim Gordon.

Frank Crawley, the loyal estate manager is played by Carlos Green. Rebecca’s swarthy cousin, Jack Fawell, is played by Stuart Armor. Dean Zuch plays Manderley’s butler, Frith and Diane Rossaza play Alice, the maid. The Cornwall County Constable, Colonel Jullian, is played by Rich Harrison and Ken Knight plays the part of William Tabb.

“Rebecca” sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine, will run May 13-16 and May 20-23 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

Join the cast and crew downstairs after the opening-night performance for a reception sponsored by New Mountain Events. The box office is open Thursday, April 29th and Friday, April 30th for season-ticket holders. On Saturday, May 1st tickets go on sale for the general public. For tickets, please call (828) 526-8084.

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• The Rotary Club of Highlands 21st annual Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday at Trillium Links and Lake Club, with a shotgun start at noon. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local Rotary projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is $125, which includes golf, followed by an awards ceremony and a buffet supper. Call Rotary member Brian Stiehler at (828) 787-2778 to sign up.

HCPs Rebecca begins May 13 at PAC

The Highlands-Cashiers Players are hard at work rehearsing for its upcoming play, Daphne du Maurier’s classic, “Rebecca.”

British author, du Maurier, won critical acclaim for Rebecca, published in 1938. The next year she adapted the novel as a stage play and in 1940, Alfred Hitchcock won an academy award for his film version, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine.

The play opens as Maxim de Winter, a wealthy widower, returns to his beloved country estate, Manderley, with a new young bride. The new Mrs. de Winter quickly discovers how difficult it will be to lay to rest the memory of her husband’s first wife, Rebecca, who is understood to have died in a boating accident. Lacking self-confidence and overwhelmed by her new life, the young bride is distressed by how powerfully Rebecca’s presence is felt around Manderley, even though she has been dead for over a year.

Director, Mary Adair Leslie has assembled a wonderful cast. Wealthy, aristocratic Maxim de Winter is played by Matt Eberz. Thenaive new Mrs. de Winter (she is never given a name by du Maurier) is played by Kathryn Cochran.

Mrs. Danvers, the dominating housekeeper, and one of literature’s most infamous female villains, is played by Virginia Talbot. Maxim de Winter’s outspoken sister, Beatrice and her husband, Giles, are played by Laura Miller and Jim Gordon.

Frank Crawley, the loyal estate manager is played by Carlos Green. Rebecca’s swarthy cousin, Jack Fawell, is played by Stuart Armor. Dean Zuch plays Manderley’s butler, Frith and Diane Rossaza play Alice, the maid. The Cornwall County Constable, Colonel Jullian, is played by Rich Harrison and Ken Knight plays the part of William Tabb.

“Rebecca” sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine, will run May 13-16 and May 20-23 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

Join the cast and crew downstairs after the opening-night performance for a reception sponsored by New Mountain Events. The box office is open Thursday, April 29th and Friday, April 30th for season-ticket holders. On Saturday, May 1st tickets go on sale for the general public. For tickets, please call (828) 526-8084.
“To communicate to motorists who litter, we are asking every citizen to assist us in making a cleaner and safer North Carolina roadway system,” said DOT representatives.

Anyone who sees someone litter – either deliberately throwing trash from moving vehicle, dropping something as they walk or when unsecured material flies out of a vehicle – are encouraged to call 877-368-4968 with the license plate number or other identifying information, or they can fill out a complaint form at www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/tp/chief_eng/roads/de/Beautification/Litter/oralform.html. All notifications are anonymous.

Upon receipt of the litterbug information, authorities will notify the vehicle owner of the littering offense, inform him or her of the penalties for littering and of course, urge them to stop littering.

According to NC Statutes, any person who litters in an amount under 15 pounds is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of up to $100 (not including court costs). In addition, the court may require the violator to perform community service 4-12 hours – preferably picking up litter. Any subsequent violation in an amount under 15 pounds within three years after the date of a prior violation is punishable by a fine of up to $200 including community service of 8-24 hours.

A 2009 recap issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts shows 4,572 charges for littering and unsecured load violations in 2009 – but a little less than 50% ended up as convictions.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said catching litter bugs as well as other motorist violations including driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is one purpose behind a new offshoot of the Governor’s Highway/Safety Program called WASP – Western Area Safety Program.

Though only part of the littering solution, through this program the seven most western counties of North Carolina are joining forces to conduct random motor vehicle checks to deter all motorist violations, said Harrell.

On Tuesday, Crystal Powell on the Recreation Staff for the USFS Franklin Highlands district, said the problem of littering and dumping on Macon County roadways shared by the USFS is prevalent and it’s clear the current solution isn’t working.

“This is area-wide and a problem all over the National Forest and we are struggling to find a solution,” she said.

At Monday’s rights-of-way Commission meeting, USFS District Ranger Mike Wilken said there are 11,000 miles of public/private interface for which his district is responsible.

Twice a year Powell said two USFS crews spend 4-5 days – typically once in the spring and once in the fall – trimming overlooks and picking up trash, but they and the state depend heavily on volunteers. Often convicts are used to pick up trash and that includes those in the Macon County jail.

The USFS’s efforts coincide with the National Litter Sweep program which is held the last two weeks of April and September. On Saturday, April 24 the annual Gorge Pick-up takes place 8:30 a.m. Call Jan at Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for more information.

Citizens also participate in the state’s Adopt-a-Highway program which not only saves the state money but cleans up the byways.

In 2009, some 6,000 groups statewide adopted approximately 12,000 road-side miles picking up trash and saving state’s taxpayers more than $6.4 million dollars in clean-up costs. A total of 3,226,720 pounds of trash was collected by Adopt-a-Highway groups in 2009.

Though commendable, it would be better if people didn’t litter in the first place. Cigarette butts, considered litter by law, have been the cause of several forest fires along NC 28 in the last 10 years and litter is detrimental to wildlife, as well. Carolina Raptor Center representatives say trash attracts rodents and then raptors chase rodents and are hit by cars, as are raccoons and possums. Small mammals are often trapped in containers as evidenced by the skeletons found in cans.

Landwehr suggests garbage cans at overlooks, but once there Powell said it becomes a maintenance issue for the USFS and they have to be bear-proof otherwise they will just add to the problem. Those cans cost $1,200 each. It also means allocating man-hours traveling to the ones emptying them.

Landwehr said the Queen Mountain Adopt-a-Highway group would be glad to empty the cans but Powell said history has shown that trash cans at overlooks just don’t work.

“For whatever reason, they become targets of vandals who leave them over the embankments or sail them like Frisbees,” she said. “Also, we’ve found that motorists driving by see a trash can and figure it’s a good place to deposit a bag of trash.”

Landwehr also suggested Macon County follow the counties along the shore and disallow plastic grocery bags which he said ultimately end up in trees, in the land fill even harming wildlife.

He also suggested boulder barriers be placed along the overlook fences to deter motorists from driving up to the edge to dump trash unseen and to perhaps install surveillance cameras at overlooks.

Again, Powell said there are reasons such suggestions won’t work. The ingress and egress of overlooks are engineered and adding boulders could disrupt those measurements. Surveillance cameras mess with people’s individual rights and would also mean more man-hours. The information would have to be transmitted to a central location and monitored regularly to be effective.

So the final answer may be citizen awareness.

The bottom line is it’s illegal to litter and it could cost you money and time if someone is watching.

-Kim Lewicki

Downhill Grill at Scaly Outdoor Center features new menu and live music

The staff at the Downhill Grill and Scaly Outdoor Center are gearing up for a great year. Every Friday and Saturday night there’s live music with Zorki a regular on Saturday night. Coming soon is summer tubing for outdoor fun.

Bascom volunteers needed

Do you love people, enjoy being around beautiful objects and have a passion for learning and sharing knowledge? The Bascom has a spot for you. Volunteers are needed to help at the Bascom. Volunteer opportunities include office, gallery docent, benefit events, hospitality, flowers, installation, studio, library, landscaping, parking, recycling and building. No prior knowledge of art or museum experience is necessary. To get involved, call Margie Shambaugh at 828.526.4949, email her at mshambaugh@thebascom.org or visit www.thebascom.org/volunteer.

Rotary Bingo benefits HS Interact Club
Doubt has its place in our faith journey.

Several years ago there was an examination of the writings of Mother Teresa. Some were quite shocked to find that in her writings were not some pristine faith which is always perfect and unwavering, but rather one filled with challenges and times of doubt. From that first vision she had of Jesus calling from the cross, “I thirst” she had viewed Jesus as a demanding master. Those demands and many other experiences of her faith life brought her to a vision she had of Jesus calling from the cross, “I thirst.”

She realized that her faith was not always perfect and unwavering, but rather one that could be strengthened in these experiences. This is the paschal mystery that we just celebrated on Easter – in the midst of horrible trial, unjust suffering, death, God uses the experience to increase faith. Doubt becomes the means through which faith is increased. But only if one returns to God in the midst of that doubt rather than turning away. As Jesus called from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” we see him not allowing the doubt of abandonment to separate Jesus from God (as if that were possible – Jesus is God) but instead used a means to seek God, to trust in the care that God will provide.

Think of the story of the healing of a boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:14-29). The disciples are unable to heal the boy because of their lack of faith. The faith of the father has brought him to seek healing for his son through the disciples. He is discouraged that they cannot bring healing. Doubt begins to creep in. Can God really work through these men? Does God really care? What is essential here is that he expresses that doubt to the Lord. “I do believe, help my unbelief.” Then the paschal mystery is repeated. The boy collapses as Jesus commands the deaf and mute spirit to come out. It never says that he expresses that doubt to the Lord. “I do believe, help my unbelief.”

Think about the scripture we heard proclaimed last week from the gospel of John (20:19-31). We heard about the doubter – doubting Thomas – who always seems about the doubter – doubting Thomas – who always seems about to probe the wounds is sufficient for Thomas. It never says that he actually touched the wounds. Thomas’ willingness to express his doubt and make himself available to the Lord opens him to receive faith. Thomas has his own resurrection where doubt dies and faith is reborn.

We too should have this willingness to come to the Lord with our doubts. Don’t allow the doubt to drive distance between you and the Lord. Instead, use the doubt as prayer to the Lord and experience your own resurrection in increased faith.

**PLACES OF WORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCH NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>SERVICE TIMES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor</td>
<td>(706) 782-3965</td>
<td>Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11</td>
<td>Chapel of Sky Valley</td>
<td>Wed.: 10:30 a.m. - Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN AMERICAN CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Rector: Rev. Jim Murphy, (828) 671-4011</td>
<td>Worshiping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers</td>
<td>Thurs.: 10:30 a.m. - Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLEAN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>Pastor Everett Brewer</td>
<td>Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11</td>
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Highlanders Girls’ Soccer return from break on a high note

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders showed little effect after being off for Spring Break, beating the Towns County Lady Indians in Hiawassee 5-1.

The Lady Highlanders struck first, getting a goal from Emily Munger midway through the first half. The Lady Indians responded with a goal of their own, and looked poised to take the lead on a breakaway by their star striker Melissa Conrad. However, Lady Highlander keeper stoned Conrad to keep the score tied, and then a missed PK by Towns preserved a 1-1 tie going into halftime.

The second half was much kinder to the Lady Highlanders, as they were able to grab the lead 6 minutes in on a fantastic goal by Paige Shahan.

Having taken the lead again, the floodgates opened for Highlands as Emily Munger, Sayne Feria and Hayden Bates all added goals to complete the final score of 5-1. The Lady Highlanders will host the Lady Indians on Friday in Highlands at 5 p.m. — be sure to come out and support the girls as they try and push back over the .500 mark on Friday.
This is week three of our 5-week Q&A series with the Macon County candidates facing off for the May 4 primary.

Each week we feature a new question.

**Question 3:** Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina—construction, real estate, tourism—how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

- **Michael "Bud" Rogers – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

  I feel there is a need for growth in our county but at the same time we do need ordinances and laws to protect our environment as well as our citizens.

  For example we are facing the steep slope issue right here in Macon County. Though the Planning Board has just been charged with working on the steep slope ordinance, a lot of particulars need to be worked out.

  We must remember that garbage trucks, firetrucks, etc. need easy access to subdivisions built on slopes. So it is important to keep the road to a minimum vertical retaining walls on the lower side of the turnout are needed to keep the road at the right height.

  Through ordinances like the High-Impact, Subdivision, Watershed, Height and now the steep slope, a balance needs to be found so building can continue while keeping the county's aesthetics in mind as well as safety for citizens while safeguarding their property rights.

- **Jim Tate – County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)**

  This is precisely why I am excited about Macon County's Economic Development Commission, because part of its job is to lure the appropriate ideas, industries and jobs to Macon County. This Commission should help eliminate the dependence on the real estate and the construction market.

  But in answer to a question, I believe that the county will continue moving forward with a proactive stance with the Macon County Planning Board, then the job of creating a feasible long range plan can be accomplished. By having a long range plan in place, we can definitely assist with the headache of managing growth. The Planning Board has a very difficult job on their hands because it is not easy to balance how the county will continue to grow in a controlled manner without infringing too much on property rights. As a Commissioner, I would continue to support these efforts.

- **Ban McClellan – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)**

  To strike the proper balance between protecting our environment and our citizens and supporting growth we must remember that without growth there is a shortage of jobs, which does not protect our citizens who must be employed to take care of themselves and their families. We must carefully consider both sides of the coin when we are considering changes or additions to our current ordinances and laws in our county. We have to balance the need for proper construction on slopes with individual property owners' rights. I do not want to render a person's property unbuildable nor do I want to allow shoddy construction that threatens our environment or those living adjacent or nearby.

  Public hearings and input are critical as we consider issues and solutions that ensure everyone gets to be heard and that all concerns have an opportunity to be heard. In this manner I believe the solutions can be found that are most fair to all of us in Macon County. We have developed and staffed an Economic Development Commission that is actively working to bring non-polluting jobs to our county. These are the types of jobs that will pay dividends both now and in the future of our county.

- **Bob Simpson – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

  Macon County is driven by construction, real estate, and tourism. We will probably never see a smokestack, but we do pay our fair share of the state and federal taxes. Macon County, with the creation of the new Economic Development Commission, we now have full-time positions working to bring clean high paying jobs for all our citizens; we have turned our sites to the smaller entrepreneurs.

  Our mountains and a simple way of life is what we have to offer. If we allow mountains to become cluttered with development and uncontrolled destructions of our views, we will lose our most valuable asset. This is where experience comes into play. There is a fine line we must walk when regulating our livelihood and our beautiful mountains. All of regulations and ordinances must protect our people, our environment and our way of life.

  I was one of the leaders against the high-riser development on US 64F, where we limited the building height to 48 feet. I believe that the gains were not worth the loss of beauty and peace of mind. There can always be compromise. I also work alongside the Watershed Council to protect the pristine waters that begin in the Highlands area. Since my election in 2002 I helped make it possible for the Sheriff to give full-time deputies in the Highlands area as well as full time EMS workers. This has decreased the response time for your emergencies to a minimum.

  Highlands is special to me. Each time I visit I marvel at the beauty and applaud its leaders for the great job they have done preserving such a unique area. I do a large amount of my personal business there. I will continue to support Highlands as I have done in the past eight years as your Commissioner.

- **Carroll Poindexter – County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

  As a former code officer I am familiar with ordinances, that being said Macon has the same issues as other counties in the area where during good times large groups peeled off the side of mountains here in the western part of the state and went bust, these issues need to be addressed keeping in mind the industry as a whole, it is a fine line but with the information decisions could be made for all concern. Also we need to be proactive in a positive way to promote our county. I am seeing other areas here in the southeast doing this.

- **Ronnie Beale – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

  The creation and real estate industries are very vital to the economy of Macon County. As the past chairman of the Macon County Planning Board and as a Commissioner along with the remainder of the Board we have been able to enact ordinances such as the Flood Plain Ordinance, the High Impact Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance. These ordinances are designed to not only benefit the environment but
... CANDIDATES continued from page 18
also for the safety of the citizens.

The Steep Slope Sub-Committee of the Macon County Planning Board recently reported their findings and suggestions about a Steep Slope Ordinance for Macon County. This sub-committee was made up of builders, grading contractors, engineers and others. They came to the consensus that it is time for a Steep Slope Ordinance. The Macon County Planning Board will begin work on the report furnished by the committee. When that work is complete the ordinance will be presented to the County Commissioners for their review and/or changes. This ordinance will also be presented to the community for its input just as the other ordinances listed were done. We all recognize that these ordinances have an impact on property rights. I believe we must be very careful how this ordinance is crafted, but I also believe that future potential buyers will be looking for a safe place to construct their house and I do believe that a Steep Slope Ordinance will be of help in providing safety not only for the new homeowner, but also for their neighbors. I am also concerned that Macon County can craft a Steep Slope Ordinance that better suits Macon County than one mandated by the State.

It is my opinion that with common sense ordinances that help protect the environment and provide a level of safety for our citizens will support new growth in the future.

To be successful and have continued support for our tourism industry we must continue to work to be a point of destination. Projects such as the Smoky Mountain Performing Arts Center and the Heritage Festival are good examples, but we must never forget the best draw we have is the beauty of Macon County not only in its scenery but also in the quality of its citizens. With the support of the citizens of Macon County I will continue to work on these projects.

- Ron Haven - County Commissioner - District 2 (Rep)

This is a question that I would base my decision on one incident at a time.

- Charlie Leatherman - County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)

No answer by press time.

- George Lynch - Sheriff (Dem)

In these times of economic difficulties for so many citizens in Macon County, I am not in favor of more ordinances or laws that would further restrict and hinder the building and construction industry. I feel that we have adequate laws and ordinances in place now to protect the environment and property rights if they are enforced.

- Ricky DeHart - Sheriff (Dem)

No answer by press time.

- Richard Davis - Sheriff (Dem)

Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina - construction, real estate and tourism - how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

As a responsible person I feel it is important to be environmentally conscious in all we do. I think we should all support positive change which reduces waste, and minimize or eliminate our impact on the environment. I believe law enforcement can have a positive influence on our environment by utilizing the county inmates for road side clean up. As Sheriff I intend to utilize this resource year round.

Personally, I think that in our current economy we should be pushing any policy which reduces unemployment and increases commerce in our local economy. However it is not the responsibility of the sheriff to create policies and ordinances, he is simply there to enforce the existing law.

I can say without reservation, that as Sheriff, I will enforce the best of my ability all laws. A Sheriff must enforce the law and indiscriminately hold all citizens to account ability. As Sheriff I will work to always have transparency within my department. No one will receive special treatment, regardless of status, position, or ethnicity.

- Robert L. Holland - Sheriff (Rep)

Our #1 priority is your safety and enforcing the law (not creating them). Commissioners and members of our Legislature are responsible for establishing ordinances and implementing laws, but one important responsibility I do as your Sheriff is advocate for change.

Some changes I have advocated for are the Infant Homicide Prevention Act, additional regulations concerning laws pertaining to prescription medications and methamphetamine, and stricter requirements for convicted sex offenders. I assisted in establishing a nuisance animal ordinance.

I meet several times a year with agency supervisors of various WNC law enforcement agencies on all levels... local, state and federal. I also meet with elected officials from Raleigh and Washington to discuss issues and the latest trends in WNC. In 2005, with encouragement from the state of NC, the Sheriff's Office joined the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and started increasing our traffic enforcement. This decision was in part, due to the complaints from Macon County citizens about inappropriate drivers in their communities. The substantial increase in drunk driving arrests and drug arrests can be credited, in part, to our participation in this program. According to a recent report from the Highway Patrol, this has also helped to decrease the rate of vehicle accidents and vehicle deaths on our roadways.

This enhances efforts already in place by the NC Highway Patrol and provides the Sheriff's Office with an additional tool in fighting drugs such as highway interdiction. Macon County has received more than $100,000 (our tax dollars) from the State of NC because of our participation in this program. The safety of you and your family is my responsibility and my #1 priority. I will continue to use every available resource to accomplish that task.

- Jimmy Goodman - NC Senate District 3

See CANDIDATES page 21

**NEW POLICY**

**Non-Commercial Classifieds:**
- $5 for first 10 words; 20 cents per word thereafter.
- $6 for first 10 words; 25 cents per word thereafter.

**Commercial Classifieds:**
- Email Copy To: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913
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- Mondays at 5 p.m.

**HELP WANTED**

- MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has an experienced butcher position available. Call Kevin at 526-2400. (st. 4/1)
- MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is looking for a smiling face to join our team as a cashier. Apply in person corner of 5th and Main Highlands. (st. 4/1)
- FRESSERS EATERY now taking applications for experienced waitstaff and line cooks. Call Debbie at 526-8847. (St. 3/18)
- FULL TIME OR PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE. Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (St. 3/4)

**POLICE OFFICER, HIGHLANDS, NC, SALARY GRADE: (12) $28,457.00-$45,492. Full Family Medical REQUIREMENTS: Successful candidate must be 21 years of age, BLET-certified, and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver’s license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. CLOSING DATE: Until Filled CONTACT: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forester, 310 Oak Street, Highlands, NC 28741, (828) 526-8734. (st. 2/25)

**HOUSEKEEPER/ LAUNDRY ATTENDANT AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, PRN position, working on an as needed basis. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hcchospital.org**

**DIETARY AIDE AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL, PRN position, working on an as needed basis. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hcchospital.org**

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**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

- ADORABLE 2/2 JOE WEBB LOG CABIN only a stone’s throw from Mirror Lake. Completely furnished for $499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pictures at www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics (5/27)
- TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end road with water & Septic included. Subdivision and foundation on one, 70- ft. single-wide on the other. 55 acres and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satalah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 1/24)
- $205,000 FOR BOTH – BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping, 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2000 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. $338,500, 743-7588 (st. 10/15)

**RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT**

- PARK MODEL RV LOTS IN HIGHLANDS FOR LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE – “Highlands Best Kept Secret,” Chestnut Cottages, is located at 674 Chestnut Street, and the owner/developer is offering 20 year leases on 5 choice lots, with an option to purchase for up to 3 years. These are some of the largest and nicest lots within our community, and are being offered for lease/purchase by the developer for the very first time. Lease a beautiful RV site for 20 years in our Park Model RV

- See CLASSIFIEDS on page 16
Community for your new Park Model RV, with minimum cash down payment for the lot. This is by far and away the most affordable way to own your dream vacation cottage on a prime location in-town Highlands. Cottages may range in size from 600 to 800 square feet of living area depending on the lot. Annual ground leases begin at $6,930. CONTACT: Charles Dasher, owner and developer, for further details, or to make an appointment for on-site inspection. (828)526-6645, or e-mail chriscottages@yahoo.com (st. 4/15)

SPACIOUS MAINST. APT. Full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. $700/mo. 526-3363 (St. 3/25)

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, FURNISHED 1 1/2 FROM DOWNTOWN – $600 per month, incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer/dryer. Call 526-4698 or 526-3612. (4/29)

LOCATION, LOCATION! 2BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9277. (st. 2/27)

REALLY NEAT DUPLEX – 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Screened porch, garage, etc. 122 Dog Mountain Road. $650/mth plus utilities. Lease and references required. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (4/29)

ONE BED, 1 BATH, plus den with trundle beds – fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, Wi/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks: Walk to Main Street. Near new Basscom $950/month. Call 812-823-2399. (4/15)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES, Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and various decks. Two Stone fireplaces and various decks. $750/ mth plus utilities and $200 deposit. Call 828-508-0664. (st. 1/14)

FOR SALE – BEST COMMERCIAL BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 555 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. $395,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 1/15)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD – Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-0252. (St. 1/6)

Rental space in Wright Square – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brannum. 828-526-6763. (st. 4/16)

ITEMS FOR SALE

NEW CUSTOM MADE LOCUST AND MOUNTAIN LAUREL KING SIZE BED $1,200 www.highlandsrustic.com 526-5484 (4/10)

PIANO – Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbils and was in the Biltmore Estates Plays Beautifully $7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for $2,800. CBO. 828-526-7293 or 828-371-2129. (st. 10/22)

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR – $300. Call 526-5025. (st. 5/12)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1996 JEEP COUNTRY CHEROKEE – New transmission. Less than 20,000 miles. Loaded with all options. Good Rubber. Clear heat needs reconditioning. Must see. Must sell. $5,300. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

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Cell: 828-200-1139
Email: allandearth@msn.com

J & M Collision Center
Auto Body Repair and Detail Shop
Owner: Jeff Miller
65 Brooks Rd.
Highlands
828-526-1507

3/25
... POLICE & FIRE from page 20

a residence on Wyanoak Drive. There was only smoke damage.

April 10

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm but it was cancelled by the alarm company.

April 11

• At 10:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transported.

April 12

• At 10:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a gas alarm at a residence on Brushy Face. There was no problem.

April 13

• At 11:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on Crowe Dr. The driver had minor injuries.

April 14

• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

NOTE:

• There is a NO BURNING warning out. Staff at Highlands Fire & Rescue say no controlled burns should take place due to winds and low humidity.

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Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, April 15, 2010 - Page 21

... CANDIDATES continued from page 19

trict 50 (Rep)

• Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina – construction, real estate and tourism – how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

I believe this election is about the economy and jobs. I think we need to stop regulating and taxing entrepreneurs out of business. North Carolina is the highest taxed state in the southeast. I will work hard to make North Carolina a business friendly state.

• James W. Davis - NC Senate District 50 (Rep)

Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina – construction, real estate, tourism – how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

Balancing regulatory restrictions on growth is always a challenge while protecting the 5th and 14th amendments to the United States Constitution. There are risks with freedom. Government has a responsibility to promote public health and public safety. Most of us want to be faithful stewards of the land. Those goals must be accomplished while protecting the rights of the individual. Not an easy task.

• Answers to Question 4 will be in the April 22 issue.

The question is: Taxes are always an issue during campaigns. Knowing that governments whether they be counties or states, need tax revenue to provide services (including law enforcement), build schools, roads and infrastructure – all mechanisms that work toward a future — how do you (if an incumbent) or would you approach taxation?
Argentina Reunion: Shaky start to a happy ending

By Thomas Bates

On Friday, February 26 at 8:30 PM Lisa, Sara, Hayden and I boarded our flight from Atlanta to Santiago, Chile en route to visit Tucker, our son/brother who had spent the past six months as an exchange student in San Juan, Argentina. Somewhere over Peru at about 4:30 AM Saturday, the plane changed course, following news of Chile’s catastrophic earthquake.

After effectively traveling 12 hours to nowhere, we were initially devastated. However, while the earthquake had completely rearranged our travel plans, we quickly reminded ourselves that our temporary inconvenience remained a life changing tragedy for thousands of families in Chile. We were relieved to eventually reach Tucker by phone and learn that he was safe.

Two days and several standby attempts later, all four of us were ecstatic to receive our boarding passes for a flight to Buenos Aires. Knowing we would soon be that much closer to Tucker made this one of the happiest nine-hour flight of our lives. We stayed one night in Buenos Aires before completing our travels west to Mendoza.

Buenos Aires is often described as the “Paris of South America.” Following our walking tour and dinner along the canals, we understood why. With warm temperatures, notable architecture, rich history and colorful nightlife, Buenos Aires was worthy of much more than our one day visit.

On Tuesday morning we flew to meet Tucker for the much anticipated reunion at the Mendoza Airport. Later that day we also met his host family, the Pechuan, along with most of their extended family for an “asado” (festive barbecue of grilled meats) at a nearby park. Thirty five of our new best friends gathered around one outdoor table with an assortment of local foods—olives, cheeses, breads, greens, tomatoes, wines and various meats. Argentina is known, among other things, for its generous hospitality and the quality of its beef, two of the many reasons Tucker had hoped to live and study there in the first place.

Our limited Spanish was assisted by Tucker’s amazingly capable translation and lots of sympathetic families.

The next day we hiked in the arid foothills of the Andes, enjoyed lunch at the Pechuan home, and met several of Tucker’s friends in downtown San Juan, before traveling back to the Mendoza region and the small town of Chacras de Coria. Mendoza is the heart of Argentina’s wine country and known especially for its Malbec blends. Serendipitously, we had arrived during the Grape Harvest Festival. This was going to be fun!

Our accommodations in Chacras was a villa conveniently located in the middle of town, within walking distance of a small market and several restaurants. The first full day in Chacras included lunch and a tour of a nearby family-owned and operated winery, Tempus. Next was a tour on horseback of another vineyard, where we could pluck grapes as we rode along. Throughout our travels, everyone was warm, welcoming and full of passion for their farms, families and culture. Even the wild, green parrots squawking in the trees seemed friendly.

Day two was set aside for high adventure, rafting class II and III+ rapids on the Mendoza River whose waters originate high in the Andes to the west. Few things can match the family bonding that occurs during a wild, whitewater experience, especially in the beautifully rugged setting of the Andes.

Our final day together came too quickly, and saying goodbye again wasn’t easy. As we flew over the Andes one last time, I quietly reflected on our abbreviated week together and was thrilled for Tucker and all that he has experienced and learned thus far in his exchange.

Lisa and I are convinced that the Rotary International Exchange is perhaps the greatest educational experience our children could ever have. We are deeply appreciative of Rotary International’s support, both here and abroad, and strongly encourage other families to seriously consider this life changing opportunity. Ask Tucker when he returns in July. I think he’ll agree.

For anyone interested in learning more about international living for students and their families, we highly recommend The New Global Student by Maya Frost, or visit her website at www.mayafrost.com.