

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 14

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Thursday, April 8, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
52 \ 30F	58 \ 35F	62 \ 39F

This Week in Highlands

Notice

• Anyone interested in joining the newly formed "Dog Park Committee" is encouraged to call the Rec Park at 526-3556 and leave your name and phone number. You will be contacted.

Fri. & Sat., April 9-10

• HCP's Mystery Dinner Theater 6:30 p.m. at PAC: Destination Highlands-Destination Murder is a fund-raiser for the Highlands-Cashiers Players. Tickets are \$55 each or \$425 per table of 8. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

• Live music at the DownHill Grill from 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, April 10

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Long Branch loop trail in the Standing Indian area, crossing the creek a few times. Bring hiking stick. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.

Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

• Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.

Beginning April 12

• The Bascom will launch the first series of classes for the beginner or returning artist taught by the following instructors: Phyllis Jarvinen, Knight Martorell, Bill Rouda, Diane McPhail, Patrick Taylor (above) and Robin Swaby. Pre-registration is required. Classes fill quickly. Call 526-4949.

Monday, April 12

• Contemporary watercolor and mixed media artist Pat Dews will give a free demonstration of her highly acclaimed work at The Bascom. Wine reception at 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 13

• At 9 a.m. there will be a meeting at the Satulah Overlook along Hwy 28 south of Highlands to address the litter problem and dumping on Forest Service property adjacent to Hwy 28. Forest Service personnel, volunteers who clean up the debris and the DOT District Engineer will attend. The meeting will address several potential severe safety issues, especially fire from cigarettes and alcohol consumption while driving.

Appearance meeting a bumpy one

It's been a long time since the Appearance Commission has met on a regular basis – and it showed Monday night.

The combination of a lack of continuity, new commission members and an absence of institutional memory made for a contentious meeting.

First up was an application

from Fred and Carla Bowers – the prerequisite for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to open an ice cream shop in the spot previously held by Carolina Eyes in the old Texaco Station parking lot.

The "appearance" part of the procedure dealt with an outdoor deck which will actually be the expansion of the existing deck to 15

feet by 20 feet — large enough to accommodate several umbrella tables with chairs.

Carla Bowers, who represented the project, said the existing green trim on the building would be painted beige and initially said the deck, which would be faced with lattice, would be left natural

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Playhouse and PAC leases in limbo

Ordinances and more also discussed at TB meeting

Wednesday night's Town Board meeting was long with ordinances, lease agreements, and contracts discussed at length.

The non-habitable structure ordinance was passed and includes comments and concerns made by planning board and Town Board members – most notably Commissioner Buz Dotson's suggestion to change the name to Non-Habitable Structures from Abandoned Structures which actually follows the intent of the state's model ordinance.

The board was ensured labeling a structure Non-habitable which could then lead to demolition or condemnation is a very slow process and can't even start without five complaints.

The Ordinance Banning Dogs from the Ball Park was passed unanimously once commissioners understood that disobeying the ordinance constitutes a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with the town's code.

Town Manger Jim Fatland also reported that bag dispensers for pet owners will be installed on Main Street at the Methodist Church and at Harris Lake Park.

• See LEASES page 2

Easter in Highlands is a community affair



The town's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park attracts people from far and wide. To see how else Highlands celebrates Easter, see page 18. Photo by Kim Lewicki

ARRA funds to upgrade NC forest recreation

North Carolina's national forests will get recreation upgrades, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, legislation designed to put people back to work.

More than \$15 million in economic recovery funds will pay private contractors and partners to complete a variety of projects in North Carolina's four national forests, which spread from the mountains to the sea. Most jobs will be finished by spring 2011.

Contract crews will repair

more than 200 miles of trail, restore historic fire towers and shelters, and replace worn-out restrooms at campgrounds. Via controlled burns, fire specialists will eliminate excess layers of leaves and underbrush—the primary fuels that start wildfires in forests. Many structures built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s will also be repaired.

At Nantahala Ranger District, architects and preservation specialists will restore historic towers at

Wayah Bald, Cowee Bald, Albert Mountain and Yellow Mountain. This represents a huge effort and will likely take a year to complete. The estimated start date is April 24, 2010.

Beginning June 14, at Whiteside Mountain, crews will improve a two-mile loop trail and replace the overlook deck on the mountain's north side. It will be completed Oct. 14 of this year.

At Glen Falls, crews will do trail work and construct steps on steep sections of the trail.

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTER •

Congress moved too fast on health bill

Dear Editor,

Discussions about the new Health Care law will continue because there are serious and legitimate differences of opinion. Foremost, the bill was written in secret by politicians for political purposes, and while there are some desirable provisions, there are too many onerous and excessive purely political provisions. The bill should have been written after extensive public hearings including qualified health care experts, and then written in open meetings. The fact that the Democrats had to bribe and coerce members of their own party is proof enough the bill had many flaws. This is the first major legislation that passed with fewer than 300 votes (only 219) and with considerable bi-party support.

The public would have been better served by taking ample time to address the real issues rather than hasty action set on a purely political time table. The result is this bill does not address the underlining issues that has created high health care cost, and will not result in the savings and reductions promoted by the president. Most experts agree insurance premiums are likely to go up, and certainly not come down. Any cost reductions for individuals will be the result of government subsidies to low income individuals. There is clearly no way an additional 32 million people, regardless their medical conditions, can be added to insurance roles without increasing premiums. Yes, people with preconditions, those who acquire a major illness and students should have access to some type of insurance and health care. But this will certainly increase insurance cost for everyone and the government.

The Democrats demonized the insurance companies for creating the high cost of medical care. Actually, the government, including both political parties, share equal responsibility. Medicare and Medicaid, and the same for the prescription drug program, are underfunded and the government has attempted to control rising medical cost by reducing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to health care providers. It is well documented that most government reimbursements to health care providers do not cover actual cost. Many physicians no longer accept Medicare/Medicaid patients for this reason. This under reimbursement is largely responsible

• See LETTERS page 3

... LEASES continued from page 1

The public hearing on the new Stormwater Ordinance was tabled after an extensive discussion because commissioners want to require a performance bond at 125% of the job included in the ordinance and also requested information about a performance/maintenance bond.

They were also concerned that a violation of the ordinance doesn't constitute a misdemeanor or infraction punishable under the criminal laws of North Carolina, though civil laws may apply.

Town Planner Joe Cooley said many municipalities write the ordinances that way because if a violation is a misdemeanor, penalties collected go the state not the municipality. "That makes it a disincentive to criminalize it," he said.

However, Town Attorney Bill Coward questioned that thought process and was asked to look into the details of criminal or civil penalties as they apply to stormwater violations.

The issue will be heard again at the April 21 Town Board meeting.

Two 10-year lease agreements were presented – one for the Performing Arts Center and one for the Highlands Playhouse. Both leases are up and on a month-to-month basis right now.

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested new verbiage in the PAC lease saying that since the facility is partially supported by public funds in that the town pays the utilities and maintenance costs, the public should be allowed to use the facility and its assets at established rental rates. Also, no policy or practice that limits or denies the public ac-

cess within constraints of reasonable scheduling should be allowed.

PAC board members, Ron Leslie and Stuart Mann were totally against the inclusion in the new lease as were commissioners Gary Drake and Dennis DeWolf.

Leslie said no one has been denied use of the facility this year. Mann said the PAC board didn't want another theater group or chamber music group to come in and basically compete with the core groups already in place at PAC – mainly Highlands-Cashiers Players and Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music.

Commissioner Patterson was firm. "You can't exclude another entity just because they want to put something similar in to what you already have," she said, referring to the Instant Theater group.

But Mann and Leslie said they didn't want to have control taken away from them in any way.

Patterson reminded them that the initial reason PAC came into existence was because performing arts groups in town couldn't use the Playhouse. "Now you want to be just as exclusive as they were," she said.

Leslie said PAC was going to offer more small stage and black box performances, similar to productions previously put on by the Instant Theater group, and they were putting on Papa's Angels in honor of Scott and Colin Paxton.

The vote was called to leave the lease as written, without Patterson's addition, but it failed 3-2 with Commissioners Patterson, Buz Dotson and Larry Rogers voting "no."

The decision to renew the Playhouse

lease was tabled because commissioners couldn't agree on whether the town should begin paying the Playhouse utilities as it does for PAC.

Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Gary Drake said all the leases concerning town buildings operated by separate entities should be the same and since the town pays PAC utilities it should pay the Playhouse utilities.

Commissioner Patterson said that was like comparing apples to oranges.

"PAC raised over a million dollars to purchase the building and then gifted it to the town. We've always owned the Playhouse, this is very different."

In the end, the board agreed to look at perhaps charging the Playhouse wholesale utility rates instead of the current retail rate, or perhaps only charging the five months it's in operation instead of all year.

Fatland was asked to bring the wholesale scenario to the next meeting.

In other business, the town agreed to cancel the architectural services of Cooper, Stewart and Newell, the company working on the ABC store conversion for the Police Department, and to use local architects and construction companies.

Commissioners also OK'd curb cuts on Oak Street behind the Royal Scott and Nancy's Fancys properties so owners of those properties can access their lots.

Five public parking spaces will be lost but four private spaces will be had by the property owners who said they are the ones who have been using the public spots, anyway.

– Kim Lewicki

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

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Registered Nurse scholarships available

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2010 year.

The Scholarship Program for Nurses was established in 1997 to honor Judy Moore, RN who was killed in a tragic accident in 1996.

A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a Community Health Nurse III and as an OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner.

Up to \$1,000 in scholarship funds will be made available for the 2010 year.

The application deadline is May 6, 2010 for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

Applicants must have completed their first semester in the Nursing Program and meet other eligibility requirements.

• OBITUARIES •

Lucille Louise Ivester

Lucille Louise Ivester, age 79, of Icenhower Drive, Franklin, NC died Monday, April 5, 2010 at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, NC. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late William Judson and Emma Lakey Icenhower. She was married to James M. Ivester who died in 1998. She was a homemaker and a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Edwards and her husband, Donnie of Highlands, NC; three sons, William Ammons and his wife Debbie of Winston-Salem, NC, Rev. Neil Ammons and his wife Sherry of Franklin, NC and Gary Ammons of Highlands, NC; one sister, Floy Jean McGraw of Morrisboro, NC; two brothers, Jasper L. Icenhower of Statesville, NC and Manuel Judson Icenhower of Winston-Salem, NC. Seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Clark and a brother, Clarence Icenhower.

Funeral services was held at Oak Grove Baptist Church Wednesday, April 7 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Morris Tippet, Rev. Kenneth Carver and Rev. Judson Hall officiating. Burial was at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Lucille's memory to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital or to Fidelia-

Eckerd Living Center, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

• MILESTONE •

Bryson wins first race of the season



Ryan Bryson of Bryson Motorsports celebrated in Victory Lane Saturday, March 20 after the first race of the season at Toccoa Motor Speedway in Toccoa, GA. He qualified on poll and led all the laps to make this his first win of the season. Thanks go out to his friends and family and to his sponsors: Applalachian Tree, B&S Haulers, Highlands Construction, Sams Grading, Steves Grading and Bryson Grading and Trucking.

Kenneth Eugene "Sid" Johnson

Kenneth Eugene "Sid" Johnson, age 79, of Tamassee, SC, died Monday, April 5, 2010 at Oconee Medical Center. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Grover Cleveland Johnson and Ada Nix Johnson. He was a construction worker and of the Baptist faith. He was a US Army Veteran having served during the Korean War, and was a former member of the American Legion. He loved to hunt, fish and was a tinkerer.

He is survived by a daughter, Tina Coleen Raynor and husband Kelly of Dunn, NC; a son, Mark Johnson and wife Jodi of Fletcher, NC; a sister, Kathleen Wilson and husband Neville of Highlands, NC; a brother, John Willard Johnson and wife Evelyn, of Tamassee, SC; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 7th at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. John Rogers officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Nephews will serve as pallbearers, Howard Brown, Paul Johnson, Bud Lamb, Clyde Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Terry Wilson and Wade Wilson. The Franklin VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post #108 will conduct complete military graveside rites.

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

... APPEARANCE from page 1

but coated with a clear sealer.

Trouble began when the Appearance Commission realized it wasn't supplied a rendering of the proposed deck showing exactly how it would "look" on the property.

"Not having a rendering sets us up for a dangerous situation down the line," said member Pat Taylor.

Years ago, the Zoning Board of Adjustment postponed a ruling on an SUP for the RBC Bank ATM machine because though the Appearance Commission approved the idea, the proposal didn't arrive with a visual rendering. Taylor said

• See APPEARANCE page 18

... LETTER from page 2

for providers raising rates, and shifting the uncompensated cost to private payers and insurance companies. This obviously results in higher insurance premiums. The government is just as guilty of rationing health care as the insurance companies and there will be increased rationing in the future. The just under \$1.0 trillion quoted cost of the bill was possible only by drastic cuts in future Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. It was clearly a political move to get votes. The chances of Congress actually making these cuts is very questionable, thus the actual cost of the bill will likely be much higher, possible double as is typical of most government projections.

Another legitimate issue is just how much of our lives should be controlled by big government, which undermines personal responsibility. Social Security is a classic example of unintended consequences of well intended government programs. The program falsely encouraged most workers to rely solely on that entitlement to support their retirement. An obviously serious mistake that resulted in additional, more expensive government support for retirees - Medicare and prescription drugs entitlements. Social Security will pay out more in benefits than received from payroll taxes for the first time this year and will soon require an increased in taxes or adding to the already unsustainable federal deficit. That program does not provide security, and workers should be encouraged to take more responsibility for their retirement, and not depend on government.

A final point is that the bill does not address underlying reasons for high health care cost. Most experts agree up to 70% of health care cost are the result of the sedentary American life style, smoking, diet, obesity, generally poor physical fitness, etc. An example is that the average European annually walks some 20 plus times more than the average American. This demonstrates why it is unrealistic to compare US health cost with other countries. Unless these primary causes are addressed, actual cost will continue to go up. Congress should have taken time to address the primary health issues, not just political issues.

Julian Franklin
Highlands

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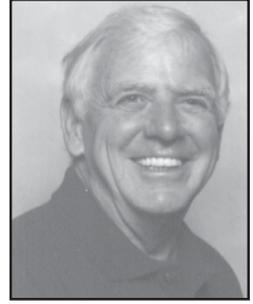
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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

Bowing out!

Dear Mr. President:
 I'm trying really, really, really hard not to make fun of you but you keep feeding me material I can't pass up. Please, Mr. Obama, stop doing stupid, silly stuff all the time because, as a satire writer, I can't resist your antics. I thought ex-president George Bush gave me material, but he's a weenie compared to you.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

For example, what's going on with all this bowing to everyone? Have you forgotten you're the president of the most powerful and prestigious country in the world? Don't you know that? Ever wonder why foreigners are constantly sneaking in here with fake birth certificates? They love this place and want a piece of the action. So please, stop bowing and apologizing to everyone for being an American. You are an American, right? And did you see the shock on the Tampa mayor's face when you bowed and humbled yourself before her? I just can't figure you out. Makes me wanna believe you're full of it. Are you full of it?

Now that I know you'll even bow to mayors, I would like to invite you to come to our humble little town called Highlands and bow to our mayor. He's a great guy. He might be just a teeny, tiny bit too conservative for you. So what? Most of the people you have bowed to so far are not big fans of yours ... except maybe the mayor of Tampa and she's still in shock.

I used to make fun of ole George when he would get that silly smirk on his face, bobble his head and look around as if to say, *you're all a bunch of jerks*. I'll never forget that swagger and stupid look. It came easy for him. On the other hand, you don't have a stupid look; you have a look of great arrogance. What's with that pose you have with your nose in the air? One moment you're arrogant and snooty, the next moment you're humbly bowing to some third world leader who may even be a terrorist. I can't get a handle on you. Actually, America can't get a handle on you. Is that why you're so unpopular?

I recently took a long voyage on the Queen Mary 2 and the ship was full of snooty rich Brits. They have the exact same look as you when they speak, their noses held high in the air and arrogantly looking down at me. Once, I told a Brit, "I think

you have something foreign in your right nostril." You should have been there. You would've been right at home.

And will you please, please, please buy another teleprompter for a front view of your snooty look? You look snooty left and read, then you look snooty right and read but you never look out at the people and read. Are you aware you look less snooty when looking straight ahead?

Write that down and buy another teleprompter already. Oh, by the way, you do read well.

At this point, I see little difference between you and your bone-headed predecessor, "The Great Uniter." George was going to give us a more fair tax system and overhaul Social Security, making it more healthy. (That's like more better only ... more better.)

George also said he would work across the aisle and bring the Democrats on board on policy making. Remember all that bull? What we got instead was two wars and over-the-top spending.

You, on the other hand, Mr. President, promised Americans there would not be a "business as usual" attitude in Washington. (Ha!) You promised transparency, honesty and fairness. You promised to trounce the lobbyists. You promised, you promised, you promised. Are we duped again?

While our forefathers did a great job in forming our Constitution, they may have goofed up when designing the criteria to become president. Are you aware the criteria to get a job at McDonalds is tougher than running for president of the United States? To work at McDonalds, applicants must not smoke and must pass a lie detector and urine test for drugs. To be president you only had to prove you're 35 and a citizen of the U.S. You are a citizen of the U.S ... right?

Could you pass a lie detector test, Mr. President? Do the drapes at the White House smell of smoke? Would we be better off if we took employees from McDonalds to run for president? They wouldn't be as smart as you but they wouldn't have lied their way into the job. Now that's what I call real change.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Sports buddies transcend time and fallouts

Nick Rockecharlie and I were best friends in 1987 as we watched Indiana beat Syracuse in the NCAA championship game. I'm an Indiana alumnus and Nick graduated from a school with a heck of a lacrosse team. Nick never talked about a basketball team. If Loyola had one, it didn't merit discussion. Without a horse in the race, Nick had no trouble cheering for my Hoosiers.

In the game's tense, final minutes, I was sitting on a couch, my arm hanging at my side. I was so nervous I was shaking my hand, like people with carpal tunnel syndrome, trying to shake the feeling back into the hand. I was too engrossed in the game to see Nick's cat stalking my index finger. He batted my finger where the nail joins the flesh. I pulled back in shock. Pain followed quickly. The cat dangled from the end of my finger, ripping

the skin the way a cowboy slashes the teepee to rescue the pretty girl in the wagon train from Iowa. I don't remember the cat's name. It wasn't Nick's anymore than the house we were sitting in.

Times were tough in Houston in the late '80s. Nick, along with two or three other guys and a pregnant, unemployed secretary had moved in with Stan as they lost their homes. Stan had stopped paying his mortgage, but his house hadn't gone to foreclosure. Stan was cutting back. He'd stopped feeding the dozen or so peacocks he kept on his estate. The feral pea fowl fared well. They fed on the neigh-



•
Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

bors' gardens. Angry calls were the least of Stan's problems at the time. But while he had a place, he had space for his friends. Nick was one of them. We called it "Boy's Town," despite the pregnant secretary. I was the house physician for Boy's Town, but nothing as involved as delivering babies.

I had lost money investing in one or Nick's schemes. The idea of a fil-
ter paper genius who could develop inexpensive lab tests made of engineered paper actually seemed reasonable, but everything seemed possible then. The blush had already left the boom by the time I got to Houston in

1983, but only the really smart guys knew it.

My buddies were all on the make, wearing Hermes ties and three button suits. In a town more comfortable in boots and cowboy hats, they did OK for a while. Everyone, and I mean everyone, was doing deals. The guy who pumped my gas in Post Oak tried to sell me a deal. I offered to get financing for a hair dresser's invention, which was a portable salon that he pushed around a hospital, and provided haircuts, styling, and, coloring for patients. He claimed Dr. Denton Cooley, the famous Houston heart surgeon, as an investor. I met the hair dresser because his wife had had an anesthetic complication while under my care. There was no quid-pro-quo when I told him I was confident my friend, Nick Rockecharlie, could raise oodles of money for any project endorsed by Denton

• See SALZARULO on page 17

• HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

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from the history guy ...

April 8

Draw A Bird Day began in the mid 1940s. In post war Britain, various moral boosting measures were introduced, often by force. Draw a Bird Day was one such measure, drawings birds having been deemed nice and cheery to look at.

To Help us overcome our mental contusion, the powers that be have come to a conclusion, we need to keep our disposition sunny, how about the image of a bunny? Or something else small, cute and light, to help our imagination take flight. To stop us from all our kvetching we should all take up sketching. Don't be lethargic and lazy and refrain from drawing something avian, you will find it hard to scowl when you imagine something fowl. Could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, just make it pretty as a picture. Your attitude will be healthy and sturdy when you keep your eye upon the birdy.

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• HIS & HERS •

Since you didn't ask, part 2

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

Until I moved to Paris in 1980, I had no idea how vastly different it is to talk about your derriere – not Molière. I grew up speaking “family talk,” that odd mix of words and expressions developed over time – a language so unique that it makes no sense to outsiders.

It was only in my senior year at Goucher that I realized every family does this – I'd thought mine was particularly strange. Professor Walker, my history teacher, loved to tell us stories about his childhood. In his family, the word for toilet paper was “mileage” (????). When he was very young, he was sent to the local general store of his small Midwestern town to buy toilet paper. He walked up to the counter, where a kindly old man asked him what he would like. “Mileage,” he replied. “What?” said the old man. “Mileage,” repeated the little boy. And the conversation continued on like this, with the old man becoming increasingly exasperated, and the little boy more frustrated. Finally, spying the item in question, the little boy stood on his tiptoes, and pointed. “Mileage,” he cried out, pointing to the rolls of toilet paper.

This is the sort of thing which happened to me when I moved to France. I knew the common words and expressions for the body and its functions, but I was dismayingly ignorant of French “doctor speak” – the euphemistic terms by which the medical profession makes a mystery of the human body. This had already plagued me in America. The first time a doctor asked me if I had moved my bowels that day, I looked apologetic, and said I was sorry. I hadn't realized that they had been in the way. I knew the family expression for the activity in mind, of course, but it sure wasn't the one the doctor used.

Imagine my dismay when faced with my first physical in France. Docteur Frade had made small talk to put me at ease, and then began to ask the usual question. When he got to the one I just mentioned, I gave him a blank stare. “Pardon?” I murmured. He repeated the question, more slowly this time, as if he was talking to a small child. Alas, I didn't understand him any better. Realizing he had a difficult case of Anglo-Saxon incomprehension, he proceeded to pantomime the activity in question. “Oh, poop!” I cried out. “Madame,” he retorted, his manner suddenly prim and serious. “A lady does not poop!” On the way home, I repeated the new expression over and over



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to myself. I might have read all of Molière's plays but one, but I didn't know the expression for the most basic of human functions. I had honestly thought the doctor was asking me if I had been horseback riding.

It wasn't just the vocabulary that was different – it was the whole attitude toward medicine. My doctor was a kind and thoughtful man, but he was definitely in

charge. “Which one of us went to medical school?” he would reply, the first few times I suggested an alternative treatment or questioned a decision.

Staying healthy in France was a lesson in itself. No big shopping trips for the week or month, with lots of processed food in the cupboards. I went shopping for fresh food almost every day, developing a personal relationship with the various shopkeepers. In time, they got to know what products I liked. “Madame,” the fruit seller would call out. “The strawberries are in!” This was a big deal, since eating products in season was also the norm. We get many fruits and vegetables all year 'round here, but in France, fresh food is usually local and seasonal. We waited with anticipation for the first tomatoes, the first peaches, the first asparagus. Of course, I did this shopping on foot, and often came home, laden with heavy bags of produce. I didn't need to go to the gym to lift weights, or to run on a treadmill. Just shopping was enough exercise for me!

There is also a big emphasis on preventing health problems before they develop into something more serious and expensive to cure. Since health care is more affordable, you don't wait to go to the doctor. Each region has a way of deciding how much a particular procedure should cost (this is by region, since it's obviously more expensive to see a doctor in Paris than in a rural area). Say they decide a visit to the doctor should cost \$100. It is up to you to find a doctor who will charge \$100 for a visit. You decide to go to a doctor who charges \$120? Fine. The government pays \$100, and you pay the difference. When you leave the doctor's office, you take with you a paper which includes his bill, his comments on your condition, and his prescriptions, if any. You take the paper to the pharmacy, which fills out your prescription. Oddly enough, the pharmacists don't fill little bottles with the exact amount of tablets you need, as they do in America. You receive pre-packaged boxes of medicine, and

• See HIS & HERS page 17

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• COACH'S CORNER •

One parting shot

As we stepped into the car leaving the local watering hole where we watched the national championship, I turned to Jenny and I said what millions of Americans must have been thinking at the time... I simply said, "It was supposed to go in."

Despite the fact that I was one of the 1% of the nation cheering for my team as opposed to America's team, I couldn't help but feel like I was dirty ... like I had turned my back on destiny — it was almost as if the story was incomplete.

As Gordon Hayward dribbled left, spun back, and shot ... shot over the outstretched arms of 7'1" Brian Zoubek, my heart sank. Hayward was too good, and the game was too close for it not to happen. Hell, CBS even broke out the "Hoosiers" music, which contributed even more to my feeling of impending doom.

Sure, Butler played the underdog role well, with the babyfaced coach who was the cool and collected opposite of fiery Coach K, and the babyfaced star in Hayward. but they didn't play like the underdog. Underdogs aren't 33-5. Underdogs haven't been ranked near the top 10 all season. Underdogs haven't won 24 straight games. Underdogs don't suffocate teams the way that Butler smothered Syracuse, or Michigan State, or Xavier in December.

No play better underscored Butler's stifling defense than late in the second half, when Duke's Kyle Singler drove baseline and attempted to pitch to the opposite corner to a waiting Jon Scheyer. Duke runs this play in every game, and Scheyer has buried dagger after dagger from that corner, yet on this play Singler's pass instead found the hands of Ronald Nored, who had left his man and sprinted from the top of the



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key to intercept the pass he had seen on film. Duke could never put Butler away Monday night, precisely because of stops like these, stops that kept Butler within shouting distance. No longer was Butler the underdog in my mind, but instead a living college basketball zombie — unable to be killed, slowly advancing forward ... constantly advancing.

Hayward's fadeaway over Zoubek was true, but just a bit long, and the ball found itself in the meaty hands of Zoubek himself. Fittingly as it were, because Zoubek has been the most maligned of all the Blue Devils - criticized for his lack of athleticism and passiveness, representative of the memes associated with Duke basketball in recent years — not athletic enough, not tough enough, underachiever.

Zoubek, a 55% free throw shooter made the first, missed the second on purpose and then the stage was set for an ending that Hollywood would be proud of. Butler's Matt Howard crushed Singler with a screen to free Hayward, and Hayward let fly with the shot heard round the world. We know what truly happened now, the bitter taste of "what if?" What if Butler hadn't had to waste a timeout inbounding the ball with 13 seconds to play? What if Shelvin Mack had buried the wide open three he had made so many times before in the tournament? What if Hayward really was Jimmy Chitwood and that halfcourt shot — one that had been so tantalizingly close to dropping, had indeed been true? It's not hard to imagine now — the thought of Butler as national champions — not after Monday night.

If Hayward returns, Butler will return 4 starters and 5 of their top 7 players. The Bulldogs will add perhaps Butler's best re-

cruiting class ever to the mix, and they will be ranked in the top 5 next preseason. Brad Stevens and Hayward are now household names, and even in defeat the tiny school in Indianapolis is the toast of the college hoops world. Except that only the Bulldogs themselves

know the truth. They know that there are no moral victories. They know that they were one play, one shot, from the greatest story in college hoops history. They know, and you know, and I know, and even Coach K knows how cruel life can be sometimes. After all ... it was supposed to go in.

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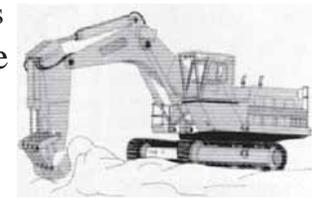
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• HS SOCCER NEWS •

Highlanders drop heartbreaker to Walhalla

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Lady Highlanders lost a 1-0 thriller last Wednesday to the visiting Lady Razorbacks from Walhalla.

Being the second game in as many days for the Lady Highlanders, they did not get off to their customary quick start, as the Lady Razorbacks controlled possession of the ball for the majority of the first half. However, controversy kept the Lady Highlanders off the board, as an apparent goal off of a corner kick by Emily Munger was disallowed by the head official. The ball appeared to trickle across the line as several Lady Highlanders celebrated, but the head official ruled that

the ball did not completely cross the goal line and the score remained 0-0.

Midway through the second half, the Lady Razorbacks were finally able to dent the scoreboard after a free kick that sailed above Madi Taylor's gloves to give Walhalla the lone goal of the match. Taylor was excellent in goal despite the loss, making several outstanding saves and keeping the Lady Highlanders within striking distance. The Lady Highlanders will return from spring break and travel to Towns County on Tuesday to face the Lady Indians. Wednesday is the next home game for the local lasses, as they will host Swain County at 5 pm.



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When the cat's away ...

You wanted change; you're getting change. As for hope, not so much. Something happened recently that signifies the trouble we're in. Recess appointments are a method allowing the President to fill senior governmental positions while the Senate is in recess. This is infrequently used but not unheard of. George W. made a few, as I recall. The problem is the brazen arrogance exhibited by Obama in one of his appointments.

Card Check is a method for employees to organize into a labor union in which a majority of employees in a bargaining unit sign authorization forms, or cards, stating they wish to be represented by the union. The primary difference between proposed Card Check legislation and the current method of organizing is that, as opposed to the secret ballot system now in use, the new sign-up would be open for the world, including the union organizers, to see. Very intimidating. Great pressure, in various forms, would be applied to have the "not interested" voters rethink their position. Not the American way that I'm accustomed to.

Card Check legislation has been stalled in both houses in deference to the "urgency" of the health care issue, which is now more or less resolved, and the drumbeat to move on Card Check has been revived. The basic premise of doing away with privacy is abhorrent to a large (80%+) portion of the population and to a significant majority of present union members as well. One wonders if legislators have a stomach for passing another unpopular bill as mid-term elections approach. Evidently, Obama is not above showing them further into the abyss. However, he may have found an alternative solution.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1935 to administer the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing relations between unions and employers. The NLRB is governed by a five-member board and a General Counsel, all of whom are appointed by the President and with the consent of the Senate. Not in this case, however.

The appointment Obama made recently was to name Craig Becker to the NLRB. From the Lexology (Association of Corporate Counsel) website. "Of Obama's three Board nominations - to a five member Board - only Becker's nomination was blocked. Sen.



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnet.net

John McCain (R-AZ) led the effort to block Becker from being appointed to the NLRB. Recently, all 41 Republican Senators requested that Obama not use his recess appointment power to seat Becker.

"The controversy around Becker is directly related to his very pro-union agenda. He previously served as counsel for the AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He is a staunch supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) and according to Republicans, Becker's writings clearly indicate that he would use his position on the NLRB to institute far-reaching changes in labor law far exceeding the Board's authority and bypassing the role of Congress." Aren't stronger labor laws just what our hurting economy needs?

Another outrageous recess appointment involves filling an open seat on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. From Wikipedia; "The EEOC is an independent federal agency that enforces laws against workplace discrimination. The EEOC inves-

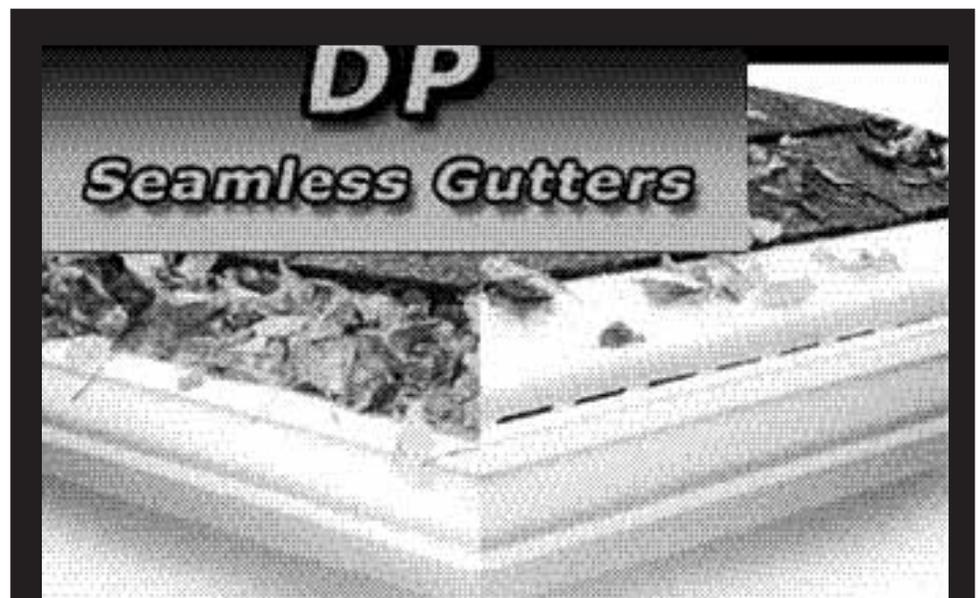
tigates discrimination complaints based on an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability and retaliation reporting and/or opposing a discriminatory practice."

In September, 2009, Obama chose Chai Feldblum to fill a vacant seat and her nomination was awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. Obama wasn't interested in the Senate's delaying ratifying her appointment and went the recess route. Perhaps the following information from OneNewsNow.com might have been concerning the Senate.

"Feldblum, a law professor at Georgetown University, has signed an online petition titled, 'Beyond Same Sex Marriage, a New Strategic Vision for All Our Families and Relationships.' That petition chides conservatives for opposing same sex 'marriage', also calls for a 'new vision' for achieving recognition from the government and private sector for diverse forms of partnerships. Speaking at a forum in 2004, Feldblum stated that 'gay sex is morally good.'"

When a mostly morally bankrupt Senate refuses to vote on Obama's appointments because his nominees are too radical even for them, look out below. One common thread between these two appointments is that Obama's actions fly in the face of the people. On top of jamming through health care legislation that is clearly unpopular with the majority, he is setting the stage for implementing the equally unpopular Card Check scheme. God only knows where the EEOC appointment will lead, but most of us won't like it.

Obama let us know that he would institute change and he is being true to his word.



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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 in Highlands during normal banking hours.

Sundays

• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

Mon. & Wed,

• Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4

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Sunday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

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Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

LETTERS TO GOD
rated PG

Friday: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

Saturday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

Sunday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

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Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

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, 9:10

Sunday: 2, 4:10, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:10, 7

p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852. (4/15)

Mon. & Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Winter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (4/29)

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

• Tuesday After School Classes for grades K-6 are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the

Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (ages 2 1/2-5) are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, have a snack, helped with homework time and supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 pm in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3376.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place will be in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn

• See EVENTS page 10

HS School Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament Monday, June 21 at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club Register by Wednesday, June 9



Highlands School students Class of 2011 seeking higher education appreciate your gift of time and financial support.

The fun begins at 7:30 a.m. with a complementary driving range and practice putting green adjacent to clubhouse.

• 7:45 a.m. **Beginning registration;** **Mulligan's** (2 max. per player) may be purchased at \$10 ea.; **Raffle tickets** will be available at \$20 each (or 3 for \$40) for a chance (by random selection) of "four-some golf" play at one of the major country club courses in our area participating in this event.

• 8 a.m. **Breakfast** in the clubhouse with gift distribution & continuing registration.

• 9 a.m. **Shotgun start-Scramble play** with complementary beverages available on the golf course.

• 1:30 p.m. **Cocktails, lunch buffet & award recognition.** Award recognition will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd low score, longest drive, closest to the pin & a hole-in-one opportunity to win a free "Club Car" provided by **Appalachian Golf Cars.**

All sponsor donations and "sign-up" for play must be made by **June 9th** to guarantee proper publication of your

generous gift and assure your ability to play within the 100 max. allotted player positions for the event. Please mail or hand deliver this sign-up sheet and your tax deductible donation to: The "Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund" PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 — 526-2118; or Wild Cat Cliffs County Club, 770 Country Club Drive, Highlands, NC 28741-7333, Attention — Keven Gabbard, Golf

Be a \$5000 Diamond Sponsor (Tee sign, program recognition & 2 rounds of "four-some golf"); a \$1000 Platinum Sponsor (Tee sign, program recognition & 1 round of "four-some" golf); a \$500 Gold Sponsor (Program recognition & 1 round of "two-some" golf; or a \$300 Patron Sponsor (Program recognition & 1 individual single round of practice golf).

All golf playing gifts in return for your donation at Wildcat Cliffs CC are to be scheduled no later than October 31st of this year. Or, it's \$150 per golf player (Listed in the player's roster). Up to 4 players per group.

Talented pool of regional teachers to instruct new Bascom Art Academy



The best-kept secret in this area is the talent pool of artists who are highly qualified, professional instructors and waiting for an opportunity to teach. The new Bascom Art Academy will provide a place for great teachers to work with anyone who wants to grow their interest in art. Beginning the week of April 12, The Bascom will launch the first series of classes for the beginner or returning artist taught by the following instructors: Phyllis Jarvinen, Knight Martorell, Bill Rouda, Diane McPhail, Patrick Taylor (above) and Robin Swaby. Pre-registration is required. Classes fill quickly. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/artacademy to enroll or for more information.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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.

- The 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 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

- NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the

first and third Thursday of each month. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

- Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 6:30-8:30. Singer/songwriter Zorki on acoustic guitar playing original music and classic covers by Peter Gabriel, Tom Petty, Paul Simon, Traffic. BYOB.

- Saturday 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.

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

Thursday, April 8

- The April meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 7 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday.

- Candidate Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters at Tartan Hall at the Presbyterian Church in Franklin. at noon.

Highlands-Cashiers Players' "Destination Highlands — Destination Murder" Friday & Saturday, April 9-10 6:30 at PAC



Sleazy Al with his three women: His Secretary, His Mistress and His Wife. From left, Michele Hott, Dean Zuch, Ronnie Spilton and Bonnie Earman, the cast of "Destination Highlands-Destination Murder" this weekend at PAC.

Third time's the charm! Though delayed due to inclement weather the show will go on!

Take a spring break in Highlands April 9 or 10 and "wine, dine, and solve the crime," with the Highlands-Cashiers players at their murder mystery dinner theater. "Destination Highlands — Destination Murder" will be performed that Friday and Saturday at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center and you are invited to help uncover the murderer of "Sleazy Al" the tour operator. Was it his mistress, his loyal secretary, his business rival or, not to be overlooked, his wealthy wife?

Table-top sherlocks will enjoy a 3-course Italian-themed dinner complete with wine, appetizers, salad, a main course and dessert catered by Debbie Grossman, chef/owner of Fressers Eatery in Highlands.

Though only seven tables of eight are available per night, each will host a differ-

ent "table-scape," provided by Highlands' area residents, and the wait staff will consist of gentlemen volunteers

Working seamlessly between courses, the mystery will feature performances by perennial favorites of the Highlands Cashiers players including the return of the detective Lansing Hughes played by Jim Gordon.

Tickets are \$55 per person and tables of eight are \$425. To purchase and for more information call the HCP box-office at 828 526 80 84.

Call now and take an entertaining spring break April 9th or 10th. Destination Highlands, Destination Murder is being produced as a fundraiser for the Highlands Cashiers players and sponsored in part by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Kick off spring with a dinner theater, the fun starts at 6:30. See you there.

Hostas just one variety of native plants available at the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale May 29

Spring is right around the corner. Soon there will be green buds on branches and little telltale shoots emerging from the ground indicating a soon-to-appear hosta plant. How strange, that a perennial native to Japan is so popular in Highlands, North Carolina. Hostas are fantastic! You can dig them up, divide them, even forget to plant them and they most likely will survive.

These shade perennials thrive in low light and best of all, they get better with age. Each season, the clumps get larger and margins on variegated leaves become wider. Puckering or seer-suckering in leaves becomes more prominent, and the coloring becomes more intense.

Hostas are members of the lily family and there are literally thousands of varieties.

Lush foliage in diverse colors, heights, and textures, coupled with the hostas ability to excel in deep shade have captured gardeners hearts everywhere.

When choosing a plant, location, color and size are all important in your decision. Hostas are considered shade

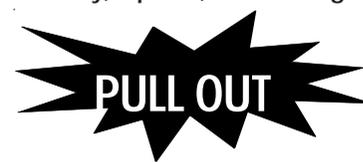
plants, but do not thrive if grown in deep shade. Early morning sun and filtered shade in the afternoon seems to be ideal. As they become larger and more mature, some hostas can succeed in full sun. However, the hotter the summers, the more shade will be necessary to prevent scorching the foliage. A high shade canopy providing dappled light is best.



Hosta plants are beautiful on their own or grouped with other shade plants. These companion plants can enhance the appearance of a planting of hostas. Early blooming bulbs and perennials are especially nice with the emerging hosta leaves. Spring companions could include snowdrops, tulips, daffodils, and trillium. After they have bloomed, the bulb foliage can be hidden by the larger hosta leaves.

Many of these mentioned hostas and their companion plants will be available at the Mountain Garden Club's annual plant sale on May 29. There will also be many other local perennials available including "sun lovers," herbs and a large variety of dahlias.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



• The Jackson County GOP is sponsoring a Republican Primary Candidate Forum on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. All Jackson County voters are invited to attend to hear County Commission candidates Doug Cody and Charles Elders; District 11 candidates for Heath Shuler's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives Dan Eichenbaum, Jake Howard, Jeff Miller, Ed Krause, Greg Newman and Kenny West; District Judge Candidates and State Legislature candidates Dodie Allen and Jimmy Goodman and Jim Davis. Each candidate will present remarks after which there will be opportunity for questions from the floor. For additional information contact Jackson County Chair, Ralph Slaughter at 828 743- 6491 or visit the website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Friday & Saturday, April 9-10

• HCP's Mystery Dinner Theater 6:30 p.m. at PAC: Destination Highlands-Destination Murder. Tickets are \$55 each or \$425 per table of 8. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Saturday, April 10

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Long Branch loop trail in the Standing

Indian area, crossing the creek a few times. Bring hiking stick. Meet at Clubhouse in Franklin at 1 p.m. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society is sponsoring a rabies and microchipping clinic in Tuckasegee. 11 am to 2pm at the Tuckasegee Trading Company on 7987 Hwy 107 South. The public is invited to bring their animals to the clinic, and no appointments are necessary. The costs are \$10 per vaccination for rabies and canine parvo; \$20 per vaccination for feline leukemia; \$40 for a 24PetWatch microchip; and \$50 for all vaccinations and a microchip. All vaccinations and microchips are administered by a North Carolina licensed vet.

Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

• Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom. Cost is \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members. Register now. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.

Monday, April 12

• Contemporary watercolor and mixed media artist Pat Dews will give a free demonstration of her highly acclaimed work at The Bascom on Monday, April 12. Join Dews and other art lovers for a wine reception at 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 15

• 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, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 9:30 am; Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• "Amelia" on April 15 looks at the life of legendary pilot Amelia Earhart (Hillary Swank) who disappeared while flying over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 while attempting a flight around the world. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

Saturday, April 17

• The 2010 Earth Day is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Highlands ballfield on US 64. The Highlands-Cashiers community will be celebrating locally for the sixth year! 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.

Sunday, April 18

• 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 PM. 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.

Monday, April 19

• The Jackson County GOP announces the next in the series of Orville Coward Forum presentations on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Jackson County Community

Services Building in Sylva. The topic is The Fair Tax and the speaker is local authority Laura McCue who is the NC District 11 Director for Americans for Fair Taxation. Contact Forum Chair Fran Webster at 828 586-3577, Jackson County Chair, Ralph Slaughter at 828 743- 6491.

Thurs.-Sun., April 22-25

• PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day 1-Act Play Festival. Call 526-8084 for times and tickets.

Saturday, April 24

• 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.

PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day, 1-Act Play Festival April 22-25

Highlands-Cashiers Players mainstays Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon have joined forces to cultivate and perpetuate youth theater in Highlands.

The following is an contribution from Elizabeth Strawn, a ninth-grader at Highlands School discusses her experiences with the growing troupe for students from Highlands School, Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter School and the area's homeschoolers.



When I decided to audition for the play this year, I thought back to the other plays I have previously participated in and remembered that acting is something I greatly enjoy. This is my first year in high school at Highlands School. I attended school at Summit Charter School for nine years. I was the "Purple Narrator" in the Summit play The Wizard of Oz as a sixth grader and "A School Girl" in the Summit play Painting the Fence as a seventh grader; as well as helping back stage in The Beauty and the Beast.

Being in this play means a lot to me because it is something that I love doing and it is a challenge for me to do my best.

To be a part of the One Act Play Festival this year, you have to be willing to work hard and put a lot of time and effort into it. I am in two of the six plays, which includes A Game and The Girl Who Was Ask to Turn Blue.

Doing the plays with three schools is a wonderful experience because we get to meet new people, and have the opportunity to form relationships with other friends from different schools. I honestly believe that anybody who comes to see any of the plays will have a whole-hearted respect and understanding for the hard work, dedica-

tion, and unbelievable hours put into these productions and will find a great appreciation for the young and aspiring actors and actresses.

• • •

Thanks to a \$25,000 donation by Nancy Eckerd the PAC Youth Theater is now in session.

Students in grades 7-12 from Highlands School, Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter and homeschools have been invited to participate in the program which kicks off with a 4-

day, one-act play festival at the Performing Arts Center presenting six plays April 22-25.

About 25 students are involved this time around which meant finding an appropriate script. To ensure every student got a specified part and decent stage time, Spilton and Gordon decided on six on-act plays.

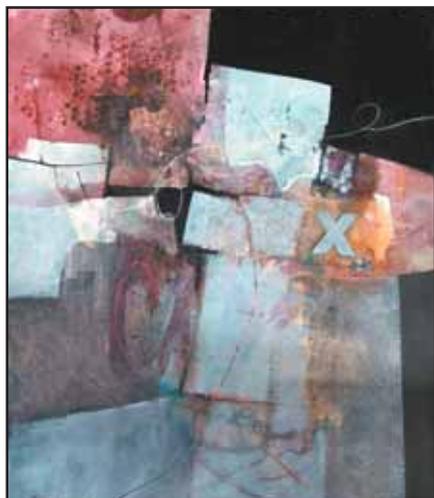
April's Youth Theater program will feature six one-act plays: "The Happy Journey to Camden and Trenton" directed by Gordon; "A Game" directed by Spilton; "He Done Her Wrong or Wedded But No Wife" directed by Spilton; "Impromptu" directed by Gordon; "The Girl Who Was Asked to Turn Blue" directed by Spilton; and "The Stronger Gender" directed by Spilton.

For ticket information, call the Highlands-Cashiers Players box office at 526-8084.

Also under the PAC Youth Theater umbrella, will be the "Act Up at PAC" program for children in 2nd through 6th grades which will teach the basics of acting. To register, call 526-9047.

Act Up at PAC will meet every Saturday in May from 10-noon and two weeks in June and will end with a performance.

Special watercolor event at The Bascom April 12



Contemporary watercolor and mixed media artist Pat Dews will give a free demonstration of her highly acclaimed work at The Bascom on Monday, April 12. Join Dews and other art lovers for a wine reception at 4:15 p.m. in The Bascom's Education Gallery, followed by a studio talk, question-answer session and demo at 5 p.m. Dews will discuss her art and her very unique techniques. For those who want more of her "watermedia," Dews will also teach a five-day studio workshop at The Bascom April 12-16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. A few spaces still remain. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Sacred in June, blessed in December

The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbeling
Archbishop,
The Diocese of the Holy Spirit
Anglican Church of Georgia



In my 53 years of ministry, I have done thousands of weddings; no two couples the same. This past Saturday I had the joy of interviewing two new potential brides and grooms being married in just a few months, one couple right here in Highlands at The Farm of the Old Edwards Inn. Each of these couples was exuberant in their looking forward to their special service, but it brings to my mind that songs of spring and love and of undying devotion are good to the ears of all of us. There would be much missed without music and moonlight and romance, but lovely as all these are, there must be much more for making a lasting marriage, for making a good and solid life, and for keeping alive the love and sweetness of life.

In June we may walk together holding hands, with adoring eyes and high hearts. But many precious things are perishable, if they are not understood and not carefully cultivated. Life isn't all serenity. It changes pace. It changes color. It is sometimes light and lovely, sometimes difficult and discouraging. There are the fair and pleasant days; there are days of illness, of disappointment, sometimes of sorrow. But the sacred covenant of marriage does not contemplate that any of these will make any difference in loyalty and love. Marriage is not only for the brighter moments, not only for the prosperous and pleasant days, but for all the days there are, endless and forever, and it cannot well be built on less than common ideals, common purpose, and willingness to rear a family, usefulness, and sincere service. No one should marry with the remote possibility in mind that matrimonial ties might some time be severed.

A few months ago while conducting a marriage ceremony, I noticed a woman sitting in the second row on the groom's side, sobbing throughout the service. It was a quiet sob, but painful nonetheless. She was sitting next to a very well dressed gentleman, and the service went on in spite of her sobs. After the service, she came to me and said, "Bishop, I am so sorry for disturbing the beautiful service." I, of course, said to her that I was sorry for her pain, but could she tell me just what it was that disturbed her. She said, "I was sitting next to my husband and all of a sudden realized how far we had drifted from the promises we had made so many years ago."

And to you who have begun life together: Don't let any unkind comment, any act of inconsideration start its widening wedge between you. There will be moods you will not understand; there will be differences; you will try each other's patience at times. No two people, however much in love, think or act in all things together alike. Don't let differences grow, don't magnify them, don't brood about them; bring them into the open, face facts fairly.

Avoid hasty words and quick conclusions; reserve judgment; build and encourage each other and never belittle. Avoid extravagance; live within your means; trust and be true to your trust. Forgive, forget, don't let the errors of the past keep coming back to drive a wider wedge. Be prayerful; live with faith and forbearance; be a blessing to each other always and forever, don't lose the loveliness of looking down the years of life together. Hold to what you have in June, and let it be so, sacred and blessed, in December.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Chapel of Sky Valley

Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe,
Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study and Supper - 6:00
p.m., members' homes

Wednesday: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First
Baptist Church, Highlands

Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10:30 a.m.,
members; homes

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Palm Sunday, March 28 Service at 10:45am
Good Friday "A Walk to the Cross," April 2 at 7pm
Saturday, April 4 at 12pm: EggFest at Highlands
Town Baseball Field

Easter Sunday Service, April 4 at 10:45 am (kids
grades k-5: special Easter Eggstravaganza)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30
a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6
p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth Group

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir - 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sunday Mass - 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. - 6 pm

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FEET •

Navigating the new real estate environment

Part 4 – Understanding Foreclosures and REOs

• This is the third article in Highlands's Newspaper's newest column "Investing at 4,118 Feet" for which seven Realtors will write.

Next up in the April 15 issue is Buz Dotson of Preferred Properties.

After unsuccessful attempts to modify a loan, refinance, close a short sale, or convey a deed in lieu of foreclosure, the only option remaining for the distressed homeowner is foreclosure.

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), a foreclosure sale "entails sale of a property, commonly through an auction, under authority of a court judgment in order to satisfy an unpaid obligation." Individual state foreclosure laws drive how the proceedings will take place, as well as the length of time to complete the proceedings.

Search the legal sections of local newspapers to find announcements about upcoming foreclosure auctions/sales. If you are considering purchasing a property through a foreclosure auction/sale, there are several points of concern you should be aware of prior to moving forward:

- You may be extremely limited in your ability to conduct property inspections. Generally speaking, potential buyers have limited or no access to properties offered at a foreclosure sale.

- As the buyer, you would be responsible for paying outstanding liens.

- You may have to initiate legal action to evict the occupants.

- You may not receive clear title.

If a foreclosed property does not sell at the auction, the property is transferred to the lender and is categorized as a real estate owned (REO) property. REOs are generally attractive to investors as their negotiating position improves as the lender continues to incur costs over time.

Although a bank-owned property might look like a good deal on the outside, it is necessary that you do your background research on the property before you commit to any contracts. Your first priority should be to find out what the house is worth in today's current market. Work with your real estate agent to research property values and ask for a thorough comparative market analysis.

If your research on values proves the property is worth pursuing, partner with your real estate agent to craft a strong offer. The chances of your offer being accepted are greater when:

- You make an offer based upon market value

- You have been pre-approved for financing (and include this information with the contract)



Susie deVile Schiffli
Harry Norman,
Realtors

- You ask for a quick closing date

- You agree upfront to an "as is" transaction (Please note: buying in "as is" condition *does not* eliminate the right to an inspection period. Be certain you ask for a home inspection in your offer and have a licensed home inspector do a thorough inspection.)

- You do not have any home sale contingencies

When your offer is made, the listing agent submits the offer to the bank's asset manager. The asset manager, not the listing agent, makes the decision on how the offers are handled. You do not have a binding contract until the bank and you have signed and initialed the contract.

As noted, it is important to know the landscape before investing in foreclosures and REOs. However, armed with knowledge, solid research, and a savvy real estate agent, purchasing such properties are an attractive option for bargain-seeking investors.

So, what to make of this new real estate environment? Is the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market forever blemished or somehow compromised?

First, while yes, the number of distressed properties has increased over the last two years, such properties are the exception, not the norm. The very *appearance* of distressed properties in our market has rattled us; in a shaken state, one may default to exaggerating the negative.

I advocate that we take a page from Jim Collins (author of *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*) and "confront the brutal facts" while keeping our emotions in check. That is, do your homework and get your boots on the ground for real time data and information.

Second, I am seeing signs that indicate this season's sales will be stronger than last year. I am receiving inquiries from buyers from websites, as well as print media. Importantly, these folks are not just window shopping, they are scheduling appointments to view property and are getting their financing in order prior to visiting. Confidence in the market, therefore, seems to be improving.

Third, the breathtaking beauty of this area has not changed; our area remains the jewel of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We will always attract those seeking respite from summer heat, as well as from city smog and crowds; our mountain oasis continues to deliver on its promise of rejuvenation and rebirth. And the Highlands-Cashiers area remains a wonderful place in which to invest and enjoy unparalleled life quality.

- To contact Susie deVile Schiffli visit www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com, or calling (828) 371-2079.

Primary candidate Q&A continues

This is week two of our 5-week Q&A series with the Macon County candidates facing off for the May 4 primary.

Each week we will feature a new question.

Question 2: Tell us why you are running for office, specifically what you like or dislike about what's going on — and why you are the right person for the seat you are attempting to get or keep and why you can do it better than your opponents?

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

I am running for office because I am a native of Macon County and I love this place. I have lived all my life in Highlands. I have a daughter in our Macon County school system as well as in college. I am aware of the economics in this county and would like to see more economic growth in Macon County to bring more jobs. I want to protect our schools and make sure all schools get the best for our kids without wasting our tax dollars. Our future is in our children and we need to make sure they are afforded the best educational opportunities we can offer them. I am passionate about our natural resources. We have one of the most beautiful areas in the United States to live in and I want to see us protect it. I would like to see us clean up our rivers and lakes. We have one of the top landfills in the state and I want to make sure we can be even better at our recycling efforts. Recycling can benefit the county as well as the taxpayer.

I feel like Highlands could be represented a little stronger than it is right now. Our district may be smaller but our needs should be heard. I feel I am a well rounded person who has experience in various areas. I have in-depth experience in water and sewer which is just one aspect of the growth in our county. I also have good communication within our school system. I feel I am more plugged in to what is needed in Macon County to grow our economy. My experience has taught me a job well done the first time will keep generations from paying for it down the road. Therefore, I want to make sure our county stays on a path of growth that will continue to benefit us rather than my children having to pay for our mistakes down the road. My opponents will be speaking the truth when they say I don't have experience as a Macon County Commissioner, but the truth is, no one is experienced the first time they take office. What I lack in experience I can assure you is made up by my enthusiasm.

• **Allan "Ricky" Bryson – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

I am running for office to ensure that Macon County citizens are not subjected to another tax increase during a severe recession. My record of past service on the Board of Commissioners shows that I will meet the goals of the county without additional tax increases. I am the right person for the District 1 seat because I have the experience of serving in that position successfully for eight years working with the Town Board of Highlands, as well as the state Senate and the Congressional offices, to ensure that our district's needs are met. My contact information is hot@hcexpress.net. I can also be contacted on Facebook, either on my personal page or my candidate page, "Allan "Ricky" Bryson for Macon County District 1 Commissioner."

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

My goals are simple: listen to the tax payers, study the issues and make logical recommendations. I can tell you now, that if elected, I will not always agree with you and I will make mistakes, but I give you my word that I will listen to and respect, you, the taxpayer.

I have spent countless hours studying and learning as much as I can about Macon County. From reading the past Board minutes, to recognizing the 15 voting precincts, to understanding the numerous Departments and Committees and the faces that go with them - I have

• See CANDIDATES page 14

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Local Organic Produce,
Specialty Gourmet Foods, Quality
Supplements, Organic Body Care,
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Local Hand-Crafted Gifts.

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Monday-Friday 10 am - 5:30 pm

Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm

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you up on these
cold winter days!
9 kinds to choose from!

Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
493 Dillard Road
(828) 526-2762

... CANDIDATES continued from page 13

been doing everything that I can to prepare myself for the opportunity of serving District 1 as its representative.

At all levels, our government is taking more control of our everyday lives and increasing our debt. These actions can only lead to one thing: raising our taxes! If our Nation and our State cannot control their spending, then, at the very least, we need to control our spending at the local level. With our economy struggling, I believe that the last thing that we should do is incur more debt with the inevitability of raising our taxes. This is not the way that most people would operate their business and we shouldn't operate our County the same way. Because I am very familiar with the struggles and challenges of operating a business in Macon County, and because I am active with the budgeting and undertaking of numerous suc-

cessful organizations like the Highlands Fire Department and the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, I feel I am ready to tackle the issues facing our County's finances.

As a sixth generation to call Macon County home, I have a deep desire to ensure that our County will continue to prosper, yet still be able to provide the same incredible beauty, opportunity and happiness to our future generations as it has for ours. There is and will continue to be a very difficult balancing act between satisfying our current needs with being able to make the wisest plans for the future. We should all respect the moral responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and finances, and pass along to the next group the best possible solutions.

• **Brian McClellan – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)**

I am running for office because these are difficult times for many of us here in Macon County. In times such as these it is important to keep a tight reign on spending and to make the right choices that keep our county on solid financial footing going forward. We need to provide the essential services that are needed to keep our county safe and functioning properly while maintaining our quality of life here in the mountains. I have demonstrated the ability to make the tough choices that we need to make. This year's current budget for 2009 - 2010 was reduced by 10% after making mid year downward adjustments in January of 2009 for the 2008 - 2009 budget. We have also built contingencies into this year's budget in case further tightening becomes necessary. Creating a plan for economic development and putting that plan into action to bring non-polluting jobs to our area has been an important part of the process of working to revive our local economy. Holding the line on county spending and creating opportunities for businesses to locate here in our area and provide us with jobs — that will allow us to continue to live here and enjoy the uniqueness and beauty of Macon County.

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

I was first elected in 2002, and the hottest topic was zoning. The Board of Commissioners developed a new planning board and instructed them to go out into each community and gather input concerning their particular communities. What we did was opening up the decision making process to public instead of limiting their voice. This has continued in each ordinance, we as a board, have adopted. Openness in today's Government is a must. Anything with a hint of secrecy is seen by the public as wrong and underhanded. I am privileged to have taken part in keeping our County Government open to all. Sometimes my no votes where unpopular with a few, However my votes reflect the feelings of all the citizens of Macon County. Special interests have not, and will not affect my votes in the future. I will continue to vote no when the betterment of all our citizens are not considered. After eight years as your Commissioner I have become very familiar with our form of Local Government. This is evident in the services we have provided for the all of Macon County. In Highlands, this includes a new Recreation Park on Buck Creek, a new High School gym and remodeling of the School and Old gym, a new Soccer Field, remodeling of the Hudson library and provided the Town of Highlands with funding for all recreation and Green spaces in area. This has all been accomplished since I was elected, and have kept the lowest or next to lowest tax rate in the State of North Carolina. This experience will be invaluable with budget cuts and unfunded mandates being handed down to us from the Federal and State levels. So far we have not had to cut services or jobs. However, this will be a viable option in this year's budget process if the economic conditions that exist continue to deteriorate. I will continue to be open to all county residents and their concerns and my votes will reflect your values.

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

I am running for office to give the residence of Macon County options and a choice, do we stay with status quo or do we plot a course for the future. like or dislikes - for years issues have been handed down to the next Board, we need to be ready for the next gener-

ation, infrastructure, education, water, sewer.

I am running against two incumbents, so for the people to compare lets go back when they were first running for office and compare their background before they where elected to my back ground. It is not about the incumbents or me, the decision is with the resident of Macon County.

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

It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Macon County for the past 40 months. During this time my focus has been to improve the quality of life for all the citizens in this wonderful county. Listed are a few of the projects that I have initiated with the support of my colleagues on the board and the citizens of Macon County: Established the Mental Health Taskforce which is instrumental in securing better services to the citizens of Macon County; Established the Macon County Help Line which is a phone number that citizens can call to help guide them to government services or personnel who might be able to help with their particular problem; Worked to establish the 2 Chance Program at the Macon County Jail. This program provides those who are incarcerated an opportunity to receive counseling from professionals in the hope this will be the first step in their recovery; Established the Child Day Care Committee. This committee identified that a child care crisis does exist in Macon County especially at the infant to 2 year old age group. This committee is now working to secure funding for a new infant center.

These are just a few of the projects that as your commissioner I have worked diligently on to improve the quality of life for the citizens of our great county. I believe that I am the right person for this seat because I have proven that I can build a consensus among my colleagues and the citizens for the common good and get things moving in the right direction whether it is safer schools for our children or a regulation size soccer field at Highlands School which on March 30 I had the pleasure to watch the Highlands Girls Soccer Team play for the first time.

I have also had the pleasure to work with the Hudson Library Board to form a partnership with county government for the much needed expansion and renovation of the Hudson Library.

I am sure my opponents have good qualities they can bring to the table to serve the citizens. The only thing I know for sure is that I work very hard every day for the citizens that have placed their trust in me and with their support will continue to do so.

• **Ron Haven – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)**

I feel the property tax evaluation isn't currently in line with today's property values. I feel like I could trim spending in places. I feel like projects should always distribute funds into our own county first rather than to outside firms. I think we need to start educating children as young as middle grade in vocations, entrepreneurs and small businesses management. I feel the future depends on it.

• **Charlie Leatherman – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)**

I guess I am running as the dark horse candidate. I was defeated in the last primary by those in my party that did not like the fact that I do not listen to a small group and do what they suggest. I am not a politician, but I consider myself a statesman and have tried to

• See CANDIDATES on page 15

• HIGHLANDS ART GALLERIES •

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WINTER HOURS

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- Collective Spirits wine festival tickets on sale (May 21-22; collectivespirits.com)



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... CANDIDATES continued from page 14

do, and will continue to try to do, what is best for all the citizens of Macon County. I do not think anyone would accuse me of playing politics during my time as a commissioner.

There are some projects that were started while I was board chairman that became a reality and others that continue to develop. Some being the new 5-6 grade school, the senior services building, the animal control facility and the school on the north side of the county. All those projects are worthy of continued support and development. One issue I would revisit if elected would be the Subdivision Ordinance. I think it has become to burdensome for the family transfers that were not to be treated the same as for revenue generating development. I feel some changes should be made to make it easier for family transfers of land to take place. While it is good to have a protective measure in place, I think that time has proven that some operational changes could be made to streamline the process. I think, with the economy the way it is right now and may prove to be for some time, I would not be in support of any new service or building programs or expansion of programs that are already in place. I think our citizens, at all levels, are facing very difficult times and I just don't feel governmental expansion is something that needs to be paid for by people who are struggling to get by.

I guess the strength that I bring with me to apply for the job of commissioner is my experience from my past service and my understanding of what the position actually requires and allows. I have a realistic understanding of what county commissioners can and cannot do in local government and how what can be done has to be done. I also have the proven ability to work with other board members to achieve the best results a group can make out of the options it has to work with. A commissioner has to be able to objectively consider choices that have to be made for the benefit of all the citizens of the county who are here now and those of the future. I think I have proven I have that trait and have used it fairly in the past.

• **George Lynch – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am running for the office of Sheriff because I want to serve and protect the citizens of Macon County and I feel that each of us owe a responsibility to give back to the community that has given so much to us. I know that Macon County has many fine/good/qualified officers and I would like to see them get the personal credit for the work they are doing. I would like to see a Sheriff's Department that will work more with other Law Enforcement Agencies, that will provide full time patrol coverage to all areas of Macon County, that will work more for the protection of private property and not duplicate the responsibilities of the N.C. Highway Patrol, that responds to and is more accessible to the public that it serves. I can bring to the job the experience of working with both State and Federal Law Enforcement agencies. I can give give 100% of my time/energy/commitment to serving you as Sheriff of Macon County.

• **Ricky DeHart – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am running for Sheriff to give back to the citizens of Macon County as well make our community a better place, better patrolled, better coverage, better all around place to live and work. I am willing to do whatever it takes to make our community and the people who live here happy. I take any thoughts or con-

cerns into serious consideration and will be looking to make changes that will better effect the thoughts and considerations of the concerned citizens.

• **Richard Davis – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am seeking election as Sheriff of Macon County. I have a passion for helping others and making this county a safe and wonderful place to live. I feel that the citizens of Macon County have worked hard to earn what they have and each week we read and hear of more breaking and enterings with people's belongings being taken. To combat this, I will be assigning deputies to 12-hour shifts within communities; allowing for quicker response and a more personal relationship with the public. Also each shift will have an investigator on duty allowing the deputies to turn the crime scene over quickly and get back to patrolling our communities as well as giving the department a jump-start on recovering stolen property. Another major emphasis for our force would be to combat the drug epidemic in our community. People's lives are being destroyed everyday, especially among our youth. We must reverse this terrifying pandemic. Macon County is very fortunate to have an outstanding Highway Patrol Department, as well as two great Police Departments. I am confident in there ability to perform there assigned duties, whereby allowing the Sheriff's Department to fulfill its intended purpose. I will also be moving my office back to the courthouse which will make me more accessible to our citizens. I will always be willing to listen to any concerns or questions that an individual may have. I feel that I am the best candidate for the job due to my 14 years of law enforcement experience, in which I have been a Patrol Officer, Investigator, Captain, and Chief Deputy. I feel that each of these has given me extensive knowledge of how to be a great Sheriff for Macon County.

• **Robert L. Holland – Sheriff (Rep)**

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 4

• At 1:45 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at a restaurant in town. It was secured.

April 6

• At 12:44 p.m., officers assisted a stranded motorist at Lake Sequoyah Dam.

• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 10 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 3:

April 3

• At 11:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a large amount of smoke in the area. No fire was found.

• At 2:14 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers on a structure and brush/woods fire in the Big Sheep Cliff area.

April 5

• At 6:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire caused by fireworks.

April 6

• At 3:06 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Main Street, but it was cancelled by the alarm company.

I first ran for Sheriff in 2002 because I knew I could make a positive difference. My reason for running for re-election remains the same. During my tenure as your Sheriff I have placed emphasis on an aggressive fight against drugs, have developed numerous proactive programs aimed at crime prevention and have provided law enforcement coverage for all communities in Macon County. The day I was sworn in as Sheriff, I fulfilled my promise to you by implementing 24/7 coverage for the Highlands area and this policy has remained in effect throughout my tenure as Sheriff. While many accomplishments have been made, there is still much work to be done. I am confident that I'm the man to continue leading that charge. I'm the candidate with the most years of direct law enforcement experience (19 years) — having served the past 8 years as your Sheriff. If re-elected I will continue to provide Macon County with the results they have come to expect. I would be honored to continue serving my community and respectfully ask for your vote in November.

• **Jimmy Goodman – NC Senate District 50 (Rep)**

When asked why I wanted to run for a government office my response is simple; I'M FED UP! Fed up with politics as usual, a government that refuses to listen, uncontrolled spending, excessive regulation and taxation, attacks on our constitution, personal freedom and rights. I'm also sick of politicians who promise one thing until they get elected then fall right in line with the status quo. Someone has got to stand up and fight hard to take our country back. I am not an insider or a politician ... just a hard working business man who understands the value of a dollar. This will not be an easy fight and I can't do it alone. I respectfully ask for your trust and your vote. I can and will make a difference.

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

My 9 years of service as a Macon County commissioner has been very rewarding. The

county is in good financial shape, especially considering its neighbors and other like-sized counties in the state. We will soon send out construction proposals to bid for an elementary school that will finish our major capital needs for years to come. This has been accomplished while keeping one of the lowest ad valorem tax rates in the state. Macon County not only has great leadership and a professional staff, but lives within its budget and maintains an appropriate reserve.

The biggest frustration of my service has been dealing with unfunded state and federal mandates. Routinely the local government is given the funding responsibility for programs that Raleigh or Washington deem worthy without the accompanying money. With the fiscal problems of our state and nation, that practice will most likely continue or accelerate. Last year North Carolina spent 22% more than it took in. This next year will probably be worse. We are looking at years of budgetary problems due to the economic challenges and reckless spending. North Carolina has more than \$30 billion dollars in unfunded retiree health benefits. Government employee retirement systems are underfunded. Our state government is in a financial mess and it will be painful to correct.

Corruption and arrogance are too common. Several legislators have been sent to prison and more are on their way. Former Governor Easley's chief assistant was recently served with 51 felony counts. Governor Easley is likely to follow.

I would be honored to serve in Raleigh as an advocate for local government bringing common sense, conservative, evidence based leadership with integrity.

• Answers to Question 3 will be in the April 15 issue. The question is: 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?

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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)

(1) 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. Forrester, 310 Oak Street. Highlands, NC 28741. (828) 526-8734. (st.

• At 8 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Franklin Fire Department for a brush and structure fire.

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.

Superior Court pleas entered Monday, March 29

• Jesse Peter Adler; 1 count of Attempted First Degree Rape, 114 months minimum to 146 months maximum in the Department of Corrections, sex offender registration and satellite based monitoring for life

• David Eric Engelking; 3 counts of Attempted Trafficking in Opium, one sentence of 10 to 12 months in the Department of Corrections, second sentence of 10 to 12 months at the expiration of first sentence suspended for 24 months with supervised probation (this means prison followed by probation and is one of the last cases from the drug round-up last year)

• Gilmore Claude Reddy; one count of Second Degree Rape, 44 months to 62 months in the Department of Corrections, sex offender registration and satellite based monitoring for life.

— Macon County Sheriff's Office

• See CLASSIFIEDS on page 16

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Feb. 28)

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. NC license required. Primarily orthopedic caseload in an outpatient clinic. Experience preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

PRN-RN's at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

CNA at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN position working 12 hour shifts. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

WORK WANTED

LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK. Have tools. Please call Alferdo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork and housecleaning. Call 828-200-1038.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ADORABLE 2/2 JOE WEBB LOG CABIN only a stone's throw from Mirror Lake. Completely furnished for only \$499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pictures at www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics (5/27)

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY - Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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

WALK TO TOWN from this 3/3 furnished older home near Bascom. Year-round, consider seasonal. \$1,250/month includes electric. 526-5558. (4/8)

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, FURNISHED 1 1/2 FROM DOWNTOWN. \$600 per month, incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer/dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (4/29)

LOCATION, LOCATION! 2BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (st. 2/25)

REALLY NEAT DUPLEX - Two bed, one bath. Screened porch, garage, etc. 122 Dog Mountain Road. \$750/mth plus utilities and \$200 deposit. Call 828-508-0664. (St. 1/14)

ONE BED, 1 BATH, plus den with trundle beds - fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. \$950/mo. Call 813-428-2359. (4/15)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental \$2,500 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (4/1)

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN - 535 N. 4th Street. \$600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. Pets negotiable. \$900/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 10/22)

FULLY FURNISHED 4-ROOM CABIN SUITE off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person. \$700/mo. includes electric, heat, satellite TV and wifi. Visit <http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/> for virtual tour. Phone (828) 421-7922. (st. 11/12)

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished. Non-smoker, must love dogs. Whiteside Cove [6 miles to town] \$50/wk. No utilities. Call 828-787-1515 (4/15)

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

GREAT 2 /1BATH APARTMENT - Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

FOR SALE - BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS - 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. - Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

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

VACATION RENTAL

RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN - Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (ST. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE

PIANO - Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates Plays Beautiful \$7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR. \$500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2005 BOBCAT 334 G SERIES -- Enclosed cab/heat, 800 hrs./hydraulic thumb, 16 & 24 in. bucket. Asking: \$21,500 OBO. Call: 526-5793 (st. 12/3)

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 - Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

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RETIRED AND BORED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. Needs to stay busy. 38 years experience, brings a lot to the table. Land use masterplanning, to renovations. Out of the box innovative ideas and solutions for circulation, grading, drainage, erosion, soft-scapes, hardscapes water features, natural to formal gardens and irrigation. Please call. My wife's serious about Latin dance lessons. Michael Ethridge 864-344-0715. Nominal fees. 4/15

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GOT DUST? - Letson Cleaning Service provides Residential, Deep Cleans, Rentals, Offices and Property Management. Call us today! Office: 828-369-9127. Cell: 828-421-4239 (5/27)

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DEBRIS AND TREE REMOVAL CLEAN UP. Roof and gutter repair expert. Call 371-1103. (st. 2/25)

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN - Anything and Everything. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031. (4/29)

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email: allandearth@msn.com

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Owner: Jeff Miller



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Highlands

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3/25

... HIS & HERS from page 6

this is where waste comes in. You need one pill a day for two weeks. That's 14 pills. You will probably be given a box of 20 pills. So, what do you do with the extra 6 pills? If you're like most people, your medicine cabinet looks like a pharmacy, cluttered with the surplus meds you didn't take. In more recent years, pharmacists and the government have tried to come up with a solution to this, and in my pharmacy in Paris, at least, there was a large bin where extra meds could be donated. This medicine was then used by charities to provide health care to third world countries.

Once you have your meds in hand, you peel off the stickers from the medicine boxes, stick them on the paper from the doctor, and send the completed form to the government. They process the paper, and reimburse you accordingly. Some medicines are reimbursed better than oth-

ers, depending on the severity of your condition and the known efficacy of the drugs. It's not a perfect system, by any means, but it's a pretty darned good one. When I lived in Paris, the turn around time for being reimbursed was about two weeks. (When my father had heart surgery, Blue Cross Blue Shield took 2 1/2 years to reimburse his expenses.) There were puzzling gaps, however. Dental and eye visits were very badly reimbursed, as if they were a luxury. When I lived in France, the reimbursement for a pair of eyeglasses had remained unchanged since 1945. I've said it once, and I'll say it again. If there were a perfect country, we'd all know about it. I'm just trying to give folks an idea of how it's done in other countries.

So, if you'll bear with me, more next time. You'll find out what Sœur Marie de la Trinité thought of the Protestant Reformation, and how my other GP found me a hit man.

... SALZARULO from page 5

Cooley.

The pitch was obvious. Dr. Cooley knows patients and if he believes a trim enhances healing, who dare miss out on the deal. It wasn't a sure thing, but in that environment it could be crafted to sound like a guaranteed winner. The hairdresser refused Nick's card. I didn't persist and thought that was the end of it.

A few years later I was a defendant in a malpractice brought by his wife. During his testimony he claimed I had offered him money in exchange for accepting his wife's withered arm. My attorney hated surprises, and in retrospect, it did sound curious. When questioned, I asked the jury to think back a few years. I wasn't offering him something for nothing. If Nick was able to raise money, he would get a commission plus an equity position. The equity could be extremely valuable in the unlikely event that the things worked out. I planned to get part of Nick's action. It wasn't illegal if the guy happened to think of me as his partner. Fortunately, the jury was able to transport itself back a few years. They smiled as one, and in unison thought, "Yeah. I can see it happening that was. Under similar circumstances, I might have done the same thing."

Nick and I have remained friends, bonded by stories of the bad days in Texas, and, more tightly by basketball. The first night I met Nick, we discovered we could both recite the starting lineup of the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers. We haven't seen each other in years, but he and his wife are attending a wedding in Sky Valley in October, so we'll retell old stories. Mostly we reunite every March during the NCAA tournament. It might be the best thing about March Madness.

\$17 weekly

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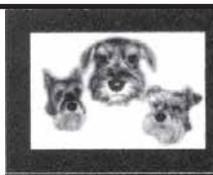
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...APPEARANCE from pg 3

after that, procedures had been set up to require a rendition of some kind from Appearance Commission applicants.

Though Planning Director Joe Cooley said the project meets the necessary criteria and will adhere to current standards concerning rail height, width and spacing, members of the board weren't sure how they were supposed to OK the "appearance" without seeing a color rendition.

"We need to know how this is going to look," said Taylor. "Since this is more than an extension and will have tables and chairs we need to know how it will look on the property."

Bowers was clearly annoyed with Taylor's request. First of all she said she wasn't told a rendering was necessary and second of all she said everyone has driven by the property for years and should have a pretty good idea of what the change would look like.

Cooley apologized to Bowers for the lack of communication from his office and to the board for allowing the case to come without all the necessary documents.

He said on small projects like the one proposed by the Bowers, hiring an architect isn't necessary but a simple drawing or altered photograph would have sufficed.

Taylor drew a picture of the project based on Bowers' description and Bowers suggested the board simply use that as her rendition.

At first, Taylor made a motion to accept the verbal description with the understanding that the deck would be stained a semi-transparent color instead of left natural, that planter boxes would be installed in front of the lattice where it meets the pavement to soften the overall look, and that a new railing would encompass the original deck and the expansion.

But when Bowers said that the new deck railings would simply butt up against the old railings, with only the new part stained, Taylor withdrew his motion.

In fact, everyone became concerned; afraid the look would be mishmash rather than cohesive.

Things settled down when new member Sally Taylor suggested painting the entire deck, railing and newels - existing and the extension - the same color to give the project a unified look.

In the end, the vote was unanimous. Pat Taylor and Acting Chairman Thomas Craig abstained which counted as "yes" votes.

The next item was the Old Highlands Park Temporary Planned Development sign application -- the first of many to come now that the ordinance is on the books.

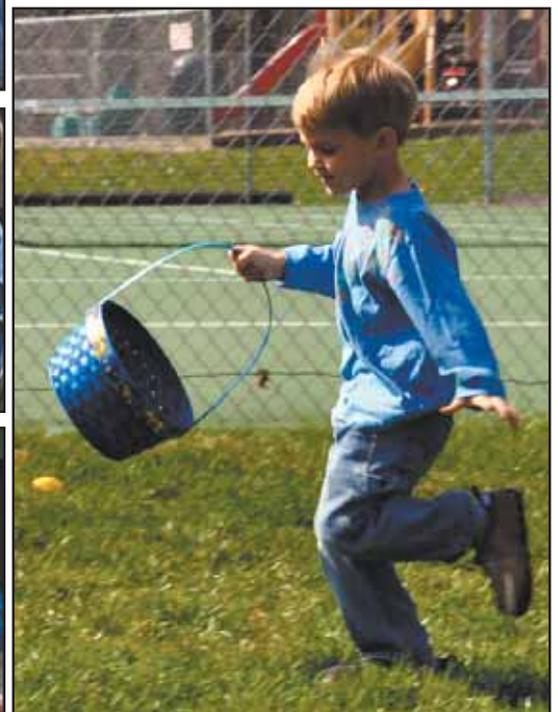
It's the Appearance Commission's job to OK the look of the signs.

A photograph of a sign applicant Bill Nellis recently erected at Old Highlands Park was presented. Cooley said the board needed to decide if the new sign fit the character of the town and if it identified the project, rather than just being a "for sale" sign.

Everyone agreed that though it was too big, the original sign at Old Highlands Park was nicer, both in character, color scheme and verbiage.

In the end, the board asked that the new sign "match" the development in color scheme and that it identify the project. Members suggested muted, natural colors and even a serif font to soften the entire look, as well as the name of the development on the sign.

Easter the 'Highlands' way



Flowering the cross, carrying the cross, egg hunts, Chick-fil-A for missions, facepainting, petting zoo and bounce castles made Easter a big celebration this year.

Photos by Kim & Jim Lewicki





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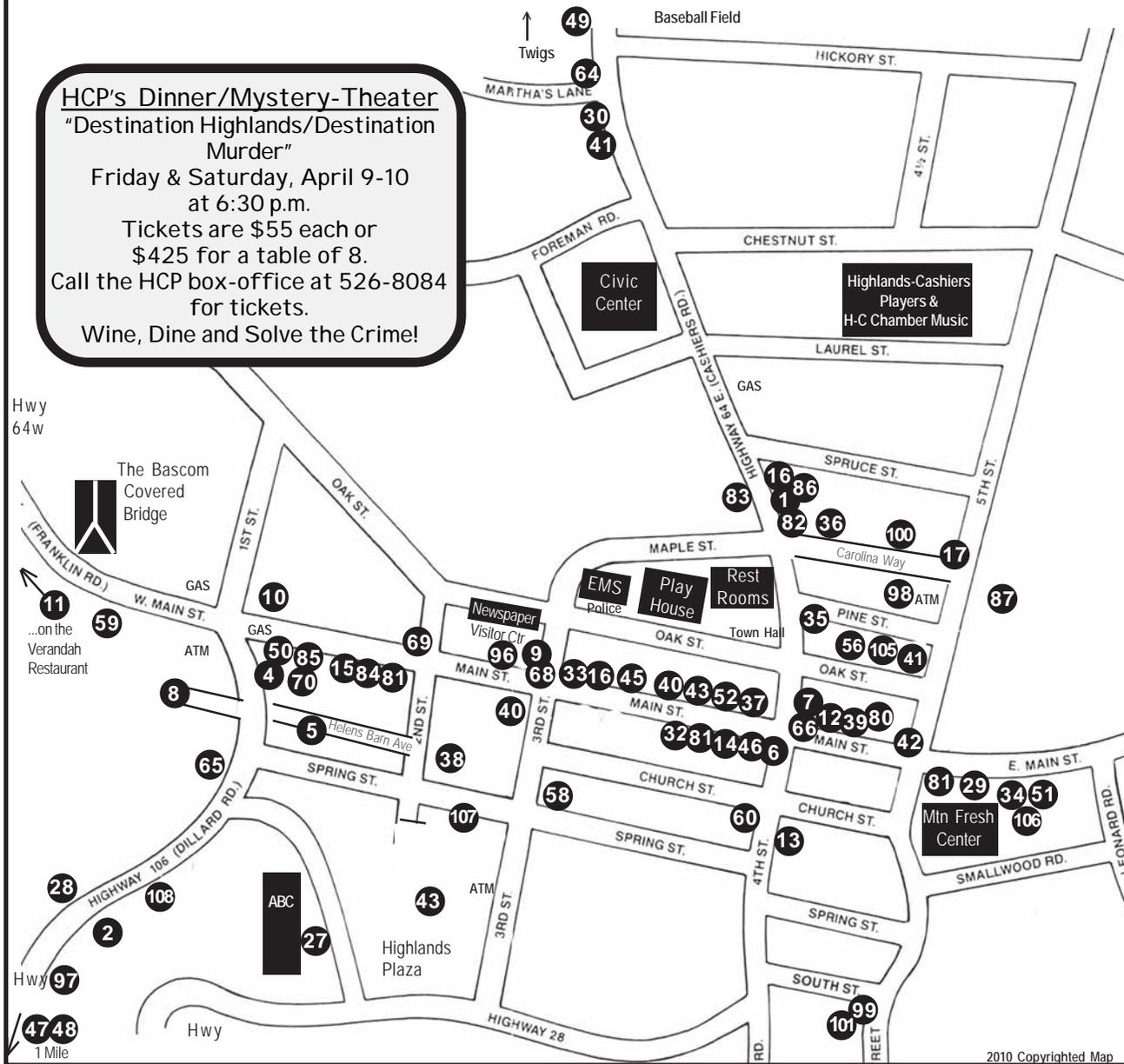
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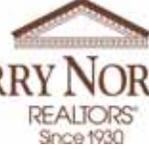
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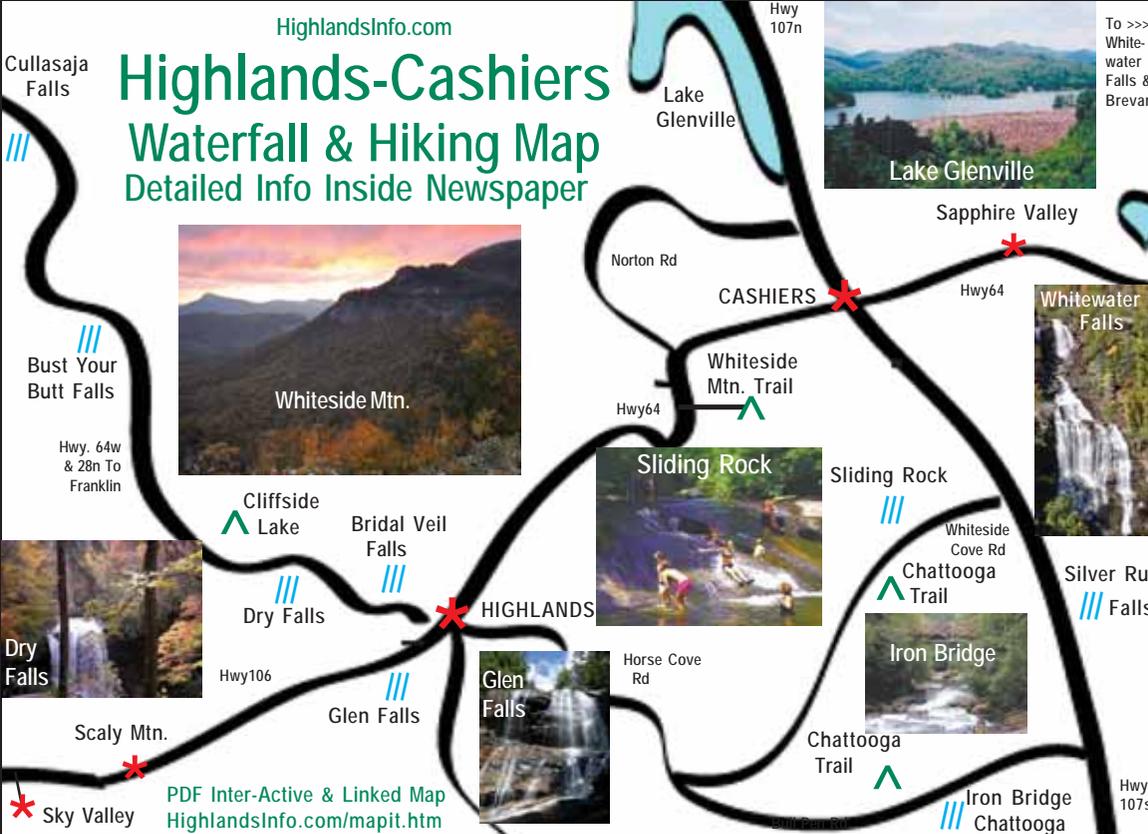
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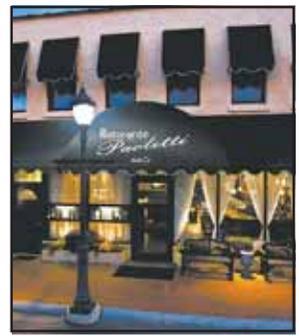
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Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



Map locations include: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Sapphire Valley, CASHIERS, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Sliding Rock, Whiteside Mtn., Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, HIGHLANDS, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, and Glen Falls.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
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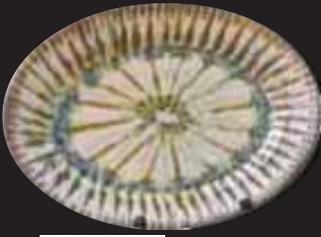
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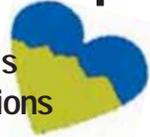

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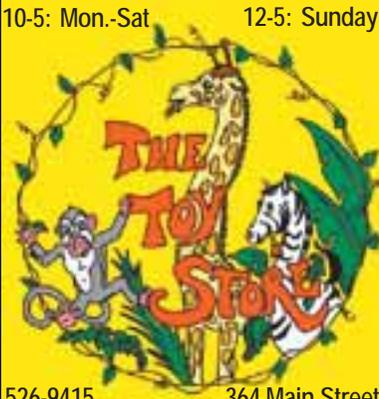
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