Restricted parking areas extended in town

At Wednesday's Town Board meeting, the commission amended the parking ordinance and extended employee/employer restricted parking areas in the business district. Sec. 7-117 of the downtown business district ordinance now reads: Employee-restricted parking areas shall mean all parking spaces both adjacent to the curb and in the center of any street as reflected on the Town of Highlands Business Parking Map dated and adopted Aug. 4, 2010 and subsequent amendments to said map duly adopted by the Town.

This verbiage allows the town to amend the parking map as needed without having to amend the ordinance each time.

Employees and employers are now restricted from parking on S. 4th Street so customers can access businesses on the hill.

The board also agreed to make the east side of Church Street – the area from the OEI generator on the south side and the Presbyterian

Dog Park changes in the works

At a Recreation Department meeting held Wednesday morning at the Civic Center, the new Dog Park was discussed at length. Several items concerning funding and infrastructure were considered and with the Town Board's approval will likely be put into action:

- Within the Recreation budget, separate line items for Dog Park Expenses (liabilities) and Dog Park Contributions (equity) will be added.
- To date, donations, which are over $1,500, will be placed in the town account.
- A second dog waste bag dispenser will be purchased and located at the picnic shelter.
- A “small dog” fenced area with a separate entrance gate will be installed near the main entrance. The area will have a five feet high black chain link fence around a 10' by 30' area. Dog Park committee member Hank Ross said there have been multiple requests to go forward with this construction.
- Directional Road Signs will be ordered for the Dog Park and will be installed by volunteers.

Fire truck rides & hot dogs

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is celebrating 57 years of service with an open house on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be served free (donations accepted) and fire truck rides for all ages are included.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

BOE waives tuition for now

At a continuing meeting Monday night, the Macon County Board of Education mainly met to further discuss the ramifications of amending Board Policy 409 “Tuition for Discretionary Admission.” Last year the board amended the policy to allow tuition for out-of-state students to be waived if a student had extraordinary financial hardship; if the student wasn't a resident of NC but whose parents were going to move into Macon County by Dec. 1; a student who was a resident and then moved to

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Dear Editor,

I LOVEd Fred Wooldridge’s column “The brideekeeper from Hel” in the July 22 issue. Had several belly laughs, as I read it. I really liked the idea of duct taping on entering the room.

Jack
Highlands

Keep Fred on the payroll

Dear Editor

Your columnist Fred Wooldridge needs to develop a sense of humor, and some tolerance, and realize there are Floridians and their kin are everywhere. This is why we are refusing his admission to return to the O.J. World Capitol, and therefore, staying in Highlands, NC for another month. This way we can read his columns and measure his progress, and so request you keep him on the payroll, for at least that long, and more, and thank you, et al.

George Hudson
Lakeland, FL and Highlands

The truth about Catholicism

Dear Editor,

This letter references recent columns written by both Fred Wooldridge who wrote as a past Catholic and Dr. Henry Salazar who wrote as a past Catholic. These are excerpts of an article written by non-Catholic Sam Miller – a prominent Cleveland, OH, Jewish businessman:

“Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?

“Do you know – the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to that church of 10 billion dollars and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. These graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%.

“The church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

“The Catholic Church has a nonprofit hospital system of 637 hospitals which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people – not just Catholics – in the United States today.

“But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

“Let me give you some figures that Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12% of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledged other inappropriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church; 41.6% of dergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed.

“Meanwhile, 1.7% of the Catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia. 10% of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia. This is not a Catholic problem.

“A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected and that most, of given the choice, would choose to be priests again in face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving.

“The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The apology that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priest that have probably been totally weeded out by now.

“Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Then remember what Jeremiah said: ‘Stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’

“Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your church does for other religions.”

Joseph Starr
A concerned Catholic

Order Angel Food Boxes by Tues., Aug. 17

The August menu is available and orders may be placed and paid for at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main St. until 1 pm, Tuesday, Aug. 17. Cash or EBT cards only. Distribution days: Sat., Aug. 21 from 8-9 a.m. at the church. The August menu offers lower prices on two popular boxes: the regular Signature Box for $29 and the Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box for $21.

Additional items on the menu are Convenience Meals ($28 for 10 meals – great for seniors and people living with diabetes) and the Just4Me After School Box (child-friendly snacks) for $24.

The specials for the month are the Assorted Grill Box ($24), the Turkey and Chicken Box ($23), the new Oven-Ready Entrees ($24) and the Bib O’ Blessing Box ($21).

The menu is also available online at www.angelfoodministries.com. To order, select “order online,” enter zip 28741 and select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Pay with credit card or debit card. AngelFood Ministries is a nonprofit, nondenominational organization dedicated to providing food relief to communities throughout the U.S. This program is open to everyone. For questions, call 526-9191 or 526-9889.
Kevin Michael Petrone

Kevin Michael Petrone, 59, of Highlands, NC died Thursday, July 29, 2010 in an Asheville hospital. Born in Suffolk Co., NY, he was the son of James G. and Thelma Allmon Petrone of Highlands, NC. He was a Vietnam veteran in the U. S. Army. He owned and operated his own painting business. He was a member of AA for nine years and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two sons, James Petrone and wife Jessica and Vincent Petrone both of Highlands, NC; four sisters Lee Ann Pierce of Chattanooga, TN, Susana Murray and Anna Wilson both of Highlands, NC and Lisbeth Petrone of Coral Gables, FL. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Logan, Tristan and Brooklynn Petrone.

A graveside service was held Sunday, August 1, 2010 at 3 p.m. The family will receive friends Saturday, July 31, 2010 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 6435 Buck Creek Rd., Highlands, NC. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Petrone Family, c/o Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 W. Main St., Franklin, NC 28734.

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

... AYP continued from page 1

in a particular subject, before they have consequences and are under sanctions,” said Carol Waldroop, director of Elementary Curriculum. “Macon Middle School – which didn’t make AYP last year and is a Title I school – is still in School Improvement even though it made AYP this year because it takes two years in a row for a Title I school to go into School Improvement and it takes two years making AYP in a subject to come out of School Improvement category.” As a School Improvement facility, Macon Middle still offers Public School Choice and SES (freedom tutoring) but it is in a holding pattern so its sanction level does not go up. It takes two years in a row for a Title I school to do not make AYP in a particular subject to go into School Improvement and it takes two years making AYP in that particular subject for the school to come out of school improvement.

Franklin High School and Union Academy did not make AYP but they are not under sanctions since they are not Title I schools.

The schools that hit all targets meeting 100% of their target goals were: Carthage Elementary, Cowee Elementary, Cullasaja Elementary, Highlands School, the K-2 Feeder School, Iota Elementary, Macon County Early College High School, Macon Middle School, Nantahala School, and South Macon Middle School.

The major goal of the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is for all public school children to perform at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. AYP measures progress of student groups against yearly targets in reading and mathematics in both participation and performance targets. Forty or more students across all tested grades in a school comprise a group and students must be enrolled 140 days to count in a school’s scores.

“In addition, schools must test 95% of students in each group and if it does not, the school does not meet AYP,” said Davis. “In addition, all elementary and middle level the attendance must be 90% or higher. Graduation rate is also an indicator for the secondary schools.”

... TUITION continued from page 1

another district but still wanted to attend his or her Macon County school; students whose parents are employed by the school district, and students who live in Satolah, GA.

Now with 15 students from Satolah, GA and Sky Valley, GA – a cost of $120,000 to Macon County – the board is rethinking its previous policy.

However, noting the state of the economy and the fact that parents haven’t had time to save for tuition since it had been waived for the 2009-2010 school year, the board agreed to charge tuition at July 2011 which will give out-of-state families one year’s notice so they can be prepared for tuition payments when school starts in August 2011. They will be paying about $8,000 per student.

Also at last week’s meeting the BOE also adjusted Highlands School’s General Athletics fund so monies are distributed to various sports rather than being held in the General Athletics account.

Across the board the balance in sport categories increased and the amount left in the General Athletics Fund dropped from $17,799.64 to $2,674.66 with the total amount in the Athletic budget at $28,932.54. Now every sport – Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Boys Basketball, Varsity Baseball, Varsity Softball, Varsity Girls’ Soccer, Varsity Girls’ Golf, MS Volleyball, MS Soccer, MS Girls’ Basketball, MS Boys Basketball, MS Baseball, and MS Trad/ Cross Country have all monies allocated to their specific budgets.

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I’ve been pushing buttons my entire adult life. Back when I was a cop, I pushed some serious, heavy duty buttons and lived through it. Then I became a rappelling instructor and pushed fun buttons. And finally, I became a satirist and pushed the best fun buttons ever. It’s what I do and love to do. I’ve had lots of practice.

It’s been said that law enforcement doesn’t prevent crime, it displaces it. For the most part, that’s true. Criminals leave town when the cops are on to them but they don’t give up their life of crime, they move to another town where the pickings are easier. My job was to get criminals to rob and steal somewhere else. That plan is very effective. I, along with a small cadre of officers, would drive criminals’ nuts. They hated us and we loved it. Eventually, they would leave town and we would find another batch of criminals’ buttons to push… and I pushed hard. In my day, it was permissible. I pushed so many buttons during my career, the Homicide Unit joked that if I were murdered, they wouldn’t know who to look at first.

After retirement, I taught rappelling in Highlands. I missed pushing buttons so I had to find a new kind of button to push. So I did… by teasing my students. When students got saddled up in their harnesses and were ready to go off the cliff, I would meet them on the edge and ask, “Are you really going to rappel off this cliff rigged like that?” They would freak.

When students asked, “What if the rope breaks?” and they always asked that question, my response was, “Remember those bugs hitting your windshield on your trip to Highlands?” I would shrug my shoulders and say, “Hey, we’ll get you a new rope.” They loved the joking around. It’s part of how students handled their fear.

Thirteen years later, we sold our business and I headed for Highlands’ Newspaper. I would write satire. That’s when I got down to some serious button pushing… and is it ever fun.

Even though everyone with more than a sixth-grade education knows that satirists write fiction and poke fun at even the most sacred topics, readers can’t help themselves when I push their buttons.

Evidently, education has nothing to do with it. I’ve seen some well educated folks wig out over the dumbest things. Satire is about lies, distortion and more lies. Satire writers evoke emotions, the stronger the emotion, the more love it. I stick mostly with the laugh and anger buttons. It’s all done with purpose.

Sometimes I push a real borderline button and my editor holds her breath. We wait for the hate mail. Amazingly, the stuff we thought would get me run out of town never develops. Recently, I wrote a column titled, “I’m not a racist, I just hate black people” with zero responses. No buttons pushed and I was terribly disappointed.

And recently I was talking with some of my fellow Floridians about how much money we spend in Highlands each summer and how important that spending is to the local economy. Each summer, the lil’ missus and I arrive from Florida and spend my entire pension check in and around the Highlands area. We currently are putting a new roof on our home and that kind of big time spending is not fun. Anyway, I thought it would be exciting to push some Florida buttons if I could. I started by calling them ‘FloridaIs.’

When I finished the column it was so over-the-top and so ridiculous, literally dripping in satire, I thought no one would bite. WOW, was I wrong. The hate mail rolled in. And some of those same readers who strongly disapproved of the Florida column were the same people cheering me on at the finish line of the Half Marathon.

I have to get special permission to push the God button. God has a sense of humor. How else could he tolerate all our shenanigans and people with no sense of humor and still love us? Sooo, I’m working on a biblical piece questioning the wisdom of God in inventing women. Even though I think it’s kinda funny because most of the comments made are absurd and outrageous, I’m betting I’ll get slammed by some women and a few churches. I hope so.

Have you read Fred’s book, I’m Moving Back to Mars?
Greetings from St. Croix. I thought, no idea, no column, no problem. I adapt easily to island life. But during a mid-afternoon nap, I changed my mind, or maybe it was at “Eat,” a beachfront restaurant featuring Sunday brunch and reggae music.

The guy on keyboard was wearing a hat as tall as a French chef, but it was knit and colored red, green and black, the colors of Africa. He might have had tissue paper stuffed inside, but I suspect it was a decades of dread locks. Summer is off-season here. Although the tourist office boasts a year-round climate, most tourists are skeptical and avoid the place in August. So although “Eat” was crowded Sunday afternoon after diving, one got the idea that it was mostly locals. The burgers were good. Heinkens were $3 all day. I was impressed with how thoroughly mixed the patrons were. Black, white, and all shades of tan shared food, drink and companionship. Old and young mingled with equal ease. That was the most noticeable aspect, that people seemed so completely at ease with one another. Everyone seemed as comfortable as four guys who had grown up together, watching a football game on Saturday afternoon. Neither strain nor pretense was apparent.

I don’t know if St. Croix is truly integrated. I didn’t study average incomes or neighborhood demographics. I’d bet the mansions on the hill tops belong to rich whites, but maybe not. I doubt that many of them are the homes of people who live here anyway. Our dive guide pointed out one, perched hundreds of feet above the ocean, and identified it as the property of the creator of “All My Children.” I had been impressed and thrilled with the vibrant multiculturalism of Cape Town, South Africa, until I noticed that all the white guys drove Mercedes, and all the black guys drove pickup trucks with somebody else’s name on the door. Maybe it’s like that here, but one doesn’t get that feeling.

This was once a Danish colony, one big sugar plantation. It was deemed impossible to run a plantation without labor, so shackled slaves were brought. I don’t know if they were transported directly from Africa, or came from the United States and neighboring islands, but like the keyboard player’s hat, Africa was home.

Colonies were traded back and forth like baseball trading cards, and Saint Croix eventually became a U.S. possession, one of the U.S. Virgin Islands. It’s curious that we drive on the left side of the road here, and I have no idea why. Unlike England or Japan, there are no left hand drive cars, at least none that I have seen, which isn’t to say there are none. Even in America, one might spot such an odd vehicle in a museum or on a rural mail route. Still I wonder why. St. Croix has been part of America for a longtime, probably before cars were invented, and I don’t think the side of the road favored by the wagon drivers of the Danes or Knights of Malta.

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... **TUITION** continued from page 3

“I’ve been asking administration to do this since my first year here,” said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. “The purpose is so we know how much money we have to spend for each sport. With sub-accounts within that budget every coach knows prior to his or her season how much money he or she has from the distribution of gate receipts and the co-curricular money provided for the sports we offer. This kind of accounting makes the process clear to everyone. Every coach or parent can see how much money the athletic department has, how much money each sport gets, and how much revenue each sport brings in.”

Jetter said under this process the entire Athletic Department must plan ahead for expenditures that may not be every year (such as uniforms) and must plan for contingencies that might develop over a sports season.

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**Here we go again**

As we head towards the fall season we have plenty of things to look forward to. The crisp smell of falling leaves in the autumn air, the chilly nights which cause you to look for a light pullover in the back of your closets, and the return of football to every weekend. Unfortunately, the return of football also means the return of the very thing that haunts our nightmares… a single man who holds our sports channels hostage every fall.

Contrary to popular belief, there is not a ESPN or an ESPN-Favre, but it would not be surprising if one thought that. After all, last weekend was the trading deadline in baseball when some big names like Lance Berkman and Roy Oswalt moved to different areas. Additionally, there are some great pennant races shaping up in both the AL East between the Tampa Bay Rays and the New York Yankees as well as the NL East between the Philadelphia Phillies and the Atlanta Braves. In the NL West, four teams are separated by a mere 5 games, and that figures to be an exciting group of teams down the stretch this fall. College football is gearing up, as Alabama looks to defend their national title and Florida will take the field without Tim Tebow for the first time in 4 years.

Despite the numerous noteworthy stories in sports, imagine my surprise (and disgust) when I turned on my TV and saw an entire episode of Sportscenter devoted to the news that Brett Favre may possibly... maybe... perhaps... probably retire... again. Every talking head in the football business from Andrea Kramer to Cris Collinsworth was on my television talking about “Brett.” (“Brett” is the way that you refer to your best friend, your brother-in-law or even that weird guy who stares at you in the elevator at work. “Brett” is not the way that a journalist or a professional sports commentator should refer to a player.)

Alas, I digress... the point is that my television should not be held hostage by a 40 year old who cannot make up his mind whether or not to play football.

You know what else shouldn’t be held hostage? Football fans should not be held hostage by a single middle-aged man. After all, with Favre the Minnesota Vikings are Super Bowl contenders and NFC Central favorites. With Tavaris Jackson the Vikings are an 8-8 football team who would be fortunate to make the playoffs. The New Orleans Saints, Atlanta Falcons, Dallas Cowboys, Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers are all monitoring the Favre situation because of its possible affect on their Super Bowl hopes as is the entire AFC East, because they are matched up with the Vikings on their schedules. It never ceases to amaze me how the decision of one person can affect an entire league in this manner (much like how the LeBron decision affected the NBA), not to mention how that single person continues to milk the same decision for five years straight and the entire news media follow along like puppy dogs.

Just thinking about all this makes me wish for onething. Brett... can I call you Brett? because everyone else does. Anyway, please come back out of retirement... please. It will be great to see you run through the breezeway in the Superdome as you open the season against the Saints and it will be great to see Will Smith and Jonathan Vilma tee off on you again and again as you hang in the pocket with courage before being pulverized by blitz after blitz after blitz.

Nothing like one last hurrah before your body breaks down on you...hey you may even be able to avenge that horrible interception you threw to lose the NFC Championship. See you on September 9th old buddy!

...on this day

**August 5, 1952**

Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her home in Brentwood, LA.

Young miss Norma Jeane went from small town girl to movie queen.

She became quite a fixture in the realm of the motion picture. Her name? Mortenson or baker, the most knew her as Marilyn Monroe. How’d it look for her start in film? Grim (anyone remember Miss Pilgrim?). But eventually, she succeeded, and for her directors pleaded, and if you asked why, she’d respond “Gentlemen Prefer a Blonde”

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Judge Bolton: An F for the Arizona decision - rewrite it

It's been 30 years, and I still miss the classroom. I taught American Political Theory to mostly seniors, Pre-Law or Political Science majors, that long ago. If any of them had submitted a paper as ill-thought-out as Judge Susan Bolton's decision on the Arizona immigration law, I'd have given them an F, and made them rewrite it from scratch. Here's why:

The largest point is that this US District Judge ignored the very case that was presented to her for decision. The federal complaint attacked the Arizona law for only one general flaw. It claimed that the state law preempted federal law, and was therefore unconstitutional. It is grossly improper for any judge in any case to go outside the pleadings and decide the case on different grounds, and even worse, on non-existent evidence, than was presented in the courtroom.

I've seen this sort of behavior at this level, just once before in 40 years at the bar. I had a case in federal court in D.C. asking Judge Stanley Sporkin to enforce the 27th Amendment. That was called the Madison Amendment because James Madison wrote it as part of the Bill of Rights in 1789. But it was not declared ratified by Congress until 1992.

Judge Sporkin did not want to enforce the Amendment against the current Congress. His way of avoiding that was a rambling discourse on congressional corruption, which he had witnessed as an intern, 30 years before. In his decision he wrote that he saw Members of Congress accept cash in plain brown envelopes.

There were three fatal problems with his decision. The pleadings said nothing about corruption in Congress. No one presented any evidence on that subject. Lastly, what any judge pulls out of his/her personal memory is not evidence presented in court and subject to cross examination.

The Court of Appeals did not deal with Judge Sporkin's non-judicial decision openly, by throwing it out. It tapped danced around his errors by ignoring his opinion and writing a brand-new decision on different grounds. In the case of Judge Bolton's non-judicial decision, not even that mild corrective is likely from the Court of Appeals.

This case goes next to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Not only is it the most reversed Circuit of all, it is reversed more often than all the other Appeals Courts taken together. So, it is likely the next decision on the Arizona law will be just as bad as the first one. The final word, however, will be in the US Supreme Court, where one can hope that five Justices will take the Constitution seriously.

Here are the provisions Judge Bolton said were preempted by federal law to determine the immigration status of someone already lawfully stopped, if there is reasonable suspicion they are illegal. (This is identical to federal law.)

To make it a crime not to carry alien registration papers. (Also, identical to federal law.)

To make it a crime for illegal aliens to work in Arizona. (It is already illegal for illegals to work anywhere in the US, including Arizona.)

To authorize the arrest of anyone where there is probable cause to believe they have committed a deportable offense. (Again, identical to federal law.)

The court then analyses the Arizona law, point by point. Anyone arrested, or legally detained, under the state law "shall be presumed NOT to be an illegal alien," if they have valid state, tribal, or federal ID pa-
Church on the other — unregulated or “open” parking to Fifth Street.

Bob Kieltyka, director of the Chamber of Commerce said he spoke to all businesses on Fourth and Church and everyone agreed this would give Fourth Street employees and business owners a place to park in the vicinity of their businesses since they are giving up the spots on Fourth Street.

Originally, there were only five open parking spaces on the south side of Church Street in front of the child care center. Though it's not reflected in the parking ordinance verbiage, Realtors on Main Street are still allowed one parking space per business establishment, but no other business owner or employee can park on Main Street.

In another issue, Commissioner Amy Patterson asked the board to craft a procedure to annually assess the Town Manager just as employees are annually assessed.

“Last year our Town Manager had only been here six months and he had a learning curve and we had a learning curve because we’d never had a Town Manager before, but now we need to do this,” she said.

She suggested a “total perspective,” what Commissioner Gary Drake called a 360 perspective, where everyone around gives input “because we don’t know all aspects and can’t see all aspects,” said Drake.

Commissioner Patterson said she wanted to move on this so the Town Manager’s assessment takes place while everyone else is being assessed. “But we need to figure out what fits us, because we’re a small town,” she said.

Mayor David Wilkes is going to contact the League of Municipalities to see if there is a procedure in place Highlands might copy. Commissioner John Dotson reiterated the need for the employee grievance procedure to be in place and included in the personnel policy manual which was adopted this past year without an employee grievance procedure.

Both Commissioners Dotson and Patterson have requested this be done several times over the past year but Town Manager Jim Fatland said Town Attorney Bill Coward has been extremely busy with other matters.

Wednesday night the board and Fatland went into Closed Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Commissioners also appointed Zoning Board Alternate member Eric Pierson as a Member to fill Bill Rethorst’s spot who left the board after serving two consecutive terms; reappointed Member Alan Frederick to a second term; and will announce an Alternate to replace Pierson at the Aug. 18 Town Board meeting. Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley asked that anyone interested in the position come to come forward.

On the Planning Board’s recommendation, the board also OK’d the preliminary and final subdivision plats for Gail Flynn and Highlands Storage Village.

In his report Fatland also said that the Macon County Election Board was considering the upstairs back office of Town Hall for One Stop Voting because the office can be secured, there is reliable Internet and the ballots can be stored in a locked storage room.
As goes California, so goes the nation?

This saying has been used to a fare-thee-well lately and, being a curious sort, I tried to find its source. I came up empty. What stimulated my current interest was the news item that Oakland, CA, has decided that growing, processing and selling marijuana is the answer to their financial distress. Oakland apparently is the poster child for a bankrupt California. Small wonder, considering its proximity to San Francisco.

Their answer to deficit spending is to approve the plan to license four production plants where marijuana would be produced, sold and taxed to relieve Oakland’s dire financial mess. I thought society had hit bottom when state lotteries became the standard form of scumming the public out of its money.

Man’s ability to keep from responsibly handling government spending evidently knows no bounds. I fully expect state run brothels next. Yeah, I know the Mustang Ranch story but that was an isolated deal.

California has long been described as “the land of fruits and nuts.” They are big in citrus, peaches, plums, avocados, etc. which would explain the fruits part. They are big in almonds, walnuts and pistachios, but I don’t think that’s the end of it. The real nuts are the ultra liberal politicians that have driven the once economic powerhouse to the brink of bankruptcy.

I don’t have to research the present California legislature to understand its current dilemma.

It is not news that California is suffering a tragic fiscal crunch, and has been for years. From the New York Times: “The California budget crisis has forced the state to address a problem that expert panels and judges have wrangled over for decades, how to reduce prison overcrowding.” The answer – let them go back into society. Hmmm – that’s an appetizing idea. How did all those folks end up in prison? Lack of border enforcement? It’s just a thought.

From Just Schools California: “Overcrowded California schools enroll up to five times the number of students they were built to serve. Most students in overcrowded schools are Latino and still learning English. Most overcrowded schools are in poor neighborhoods.” At the same time, California is furloughing tens of thousands of teachers they cannot afford to pay. Lack of border enforcement?

Forget border enforcement. According to several sources, California is home to 30 or more sanctuary cities. What, precisely, is a sanctuary city? Per Wikipedia: “Sanctuary city is a term given to a city in the United States that follows certain practices that protect illegal immigrants. The term generally applies to cities that do not allow municipal funds to be used to enforce federal immigration laws, usually by not allowing police or municipal employees to inquire about one’s immigration status.”

Not surprisingly, the policy was first initiated in 1979 in Los Angeles, to prevent police from inquiring about the immigration status of arrestees. Nothing like leadership, I always say. Getting back to how or why the California mess evolved in the first place. Among the 53 current members of the California House of Representatives there are 14 who belong to the Democratic Socialists of America. Obviously they left their imprint on their home state when they served on their way up the political ladder. They include Henry Waxman, Maxine Waters, Pete Stark, Linda Sanchez and the like. Nancy Pelosi served in their leadership until her elevation to Speaker.

Let’s see if we can tie this together. It appears to me that Obama is trying to turn the US into a sanctuary COUNTRY. It further occurs to me that his quest for power overcomes any thought of what devastation lies ahead if we continue down this path. California is way overspent, overborrowed and overtaxed. Productive people are exiting to anywhere but Illinois, New York and New Jersey. Where does the average American escape when the roof caves in? I’m thinking Costa Rica.

It is not at all coincidental that Illinois is facing a dilemma similar to that of California. They have a significant membership in the DSA as well. Our President was a proud member of the Chicago chapter not long ago. We all know there are many deniers of our country heading down the socialist path. There were many deniers that the world was round and that we put men on the moon. That does not mean it isn’t so. The comparison between California and Greece is real. The crunch is on in Greece. The party is over. The squeeze in California is starting to be felt. If we can’t learn from Greece, maybe the lesson being learned out west is close enough to home. We’ll see.

... DOG PARK continued from page 1

be erected in the Rec Park parking lot and at the entrance to the parking lot on Foreman Road.

The formation of a citizen DogPark Committee was discussed to communicate with the town’s Recreation Committee. Official representatives of the DogPark Committee will be required to attend Rec.Park Committee meetings as needed.

Though $15,000 was allocated for the Dog Park, Town Manager Jim Fatland said the project came in under budget.
Dearly Departed

R.I.P. Y’ALL

Written by David Brotto and Jesse Jones
Directed by Virginia Talcott
Sponsored in Part by Building Technology Services of Cashiers & Highlands
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... HIS & Hers continued from page 7

pers with them. The court then ignores the language of the law, and reads it to mean that EVERYONE’s status must be checked. Then the court determines that this false reading would overburden the status-checking offices of the federal government.

The court does not note the irony in the federal argument that even legitimate requests for alien identification would “overburden” federal officials. To note the irony would prevent the court from ruling against a state law, because the federal government is incompetent at its chosen tasks.

The court never deals with the point that state and local authorities do have the authority to enforce federal immigration determinations, as long as they do not exceed the requirements of federal law. Several federal decisions around the country approve of precisely this result.

The court then offers as proof of the preemption of state law, that the federal government has been extremely lax in enforcement of laws against employment of illegals, and the use of false documents by illegals. The idea that federal incompetence requires all state and local governments to match its incompetence, has no support in prior cases.

About the Author: John Armor practiced before the Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, to appear in September, is on Thomas Paine. www.TheseAreTheTimes.

Every detail of this fabulous home was carefully thought out by the owners and meticulously crafted by John Lupoli Construction. Now you have the opportunity to own this custom dream home without going through the building process. Tucked behind lush landscaping on Whiteside Mountain Road, this home is everything you would want in a mountain home and is in pristine condition. Relax on the private screened deck and listen to the sounds of the waterfall below while enjoying the extensive views of the Cashiers Valley and beyond.

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I may not gain popularity by what I’m about to share, however, finding the balance in our current real estate market is imperative to success for both buyers and sellers. As you well know, the real estate industry as a whole has suffered throughout our country. It is important to note that the level of diminished prices and low number of property sales is relative to the LOCATION of the property. For instance, prices in most of Florida have plunged 50% or more. This is not so in all areas. Some parts of our country have seen more severe declines, while others have dropped by a smaller margin. Therefore, consideration of listing to sales price ratios should be based on the location and relative market value of the property.

It appears that the impact of the economy on Highlands is averaging about 25 to 30% off of previous SALE prices seen during the boom market. Previous LISTING (or ASKING) prices are irrelevant because the upsurge created an atmosphere where many listings were simply priced out of the market from the start. There are exceptions both up and down. In our local counties of Macon and Jackson, sales prices have historically been inconsistent with County Tax Appraisals, so this would not be the best data to use in determining property values.

As a Seller, how do you determine an asking price that will gain attention among the multitude of available properties for sale? Obtaining professional advice from an experienced REALTOR is a good start. With access to Multiple Listing, an agent can extract properties which have sold recently, although there are not many. Also you will find real estate sales from the boom market, but the percentage of decline should be taken into consideration. It is most important to understand current listing prices on comparable properties and price your property within the lower end of the competition.

As a Buyer, how do you know where to start when there is a myriad of asking prices on comparable properties? A Realtor’s job is to know the best available properties in each price range. By looking at several properties in your given range, you will gain some perspective on a good value. Upon locating a property that meets your needs and desires, ask your REALTOR to provide you with the identical information I described above for the Seller. Some additional questions a Buyer might ask:

1. Has the property been priced to reflect the current market value?
2. Is the property listed at a price which reflects values during the boom market?
3. Are there extenuating circumstances that may lead you to believe a property could be purchased below today’s market value, such as a bank foreclosure or short sale? At this point you should be prepared to make an educated offer.

Whether buying or selling, knowledge of the facts will lead you closer to finding the balance for a successful outcome.

An experienced professional will be honored to apply for the position as your REALTOR and be grateful for the opportunity. Signature Properties has been serving Highlands and Cashiers for over 25 years. Signature agents have well over 150 years of combined experience. For further information, you are invited to contact Signature Properties at 828-526-4101, email lynnkimball@signatureproperties-nc.com or visit our office located on HWY 64 East, 2 miles from downtown Highlands, across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Please visit our new, user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com.

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing
- At Scaly Outdoor Center, Summer Dry Tubing. Call 526-3737.
- At Scaly Outdoor Center, Trout Fishing. Call 526-3737.
- Hospital Tours: “Grand Rounds” at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours to interested area residents. Tours will be held periodically each month, through October. Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include breakfast with HCH’s doctors and a meet and greet with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RVSP by email to info@hchospital.org.
- Join us for lunch at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, where from May through October, you can enjoy an hour long Lunch and Learn educational seminar, on a variety of health topics, followed by Q&A session. Lunch provided; seating limited. Call 526-1313 or (828) 526-1250 today to make your reservation.
- At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.
- Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. $2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.
- YOGA – at Moonrise Yoga Studio, 464 Carolina Way. Mon., 10 a.m.; Wed., 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. All Levels. Mats provided. 526-8880. More info at www.yogahighlands.com (8/5)
- Sundays
  - Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 526-1313.
  - Lunch and Learn educational seminar, on a variety of health topics, followed by Q&A session. Lunch provided; seating limited. Call 526-1313 or (828) 526-1250 today to make your reservation.
  - Tours held periodical by with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RVSP by email to info@hchospital.org.

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Aug. 6-12

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CATS & DOGS:
THE REVENGE OF KITTY GALORE
in 3D rated PG
Daily: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

GROWN UPS
rated PG-13
Daily: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

SALT
rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Free concert at First Presbyterian on Thurs., Aug. 12

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will present Michael Morgan in concert at the Wicks pipe organ on Thursday evening, Aug. 12 at 8 p.m.

Michael Morgan, a native of Pine Mountain, GA, has served as organist at Atlanta’s historic Central Presbyterian Church for 34 years and as Seminary Musician at Columbia Theological Seminary for the past decade. He holds degrees from Florida State University and Atlanta University, and did postgraduate study at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco with renowned organist Richard Purvis. He has played recitals, accompanied worship services, and participated in organ seminars across the country, in Hawaii, England, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, and France. His hobby is collecting English translations of the Bible, the New Testament, the Gospels, and especially the Psalms.

The concert is free. A reception will follow the performance. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Booksing and reading by author John Armor
Thursday, Aug. 5
at 6 p.m. at
The Hudson Library
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• If you are suffering from a mental illness or have a relative with a diagnosis such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, PTSD, etc., you are not alone. NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. Call (828) 526-4949.

1st & 3rd Thursdays
• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, 5-7 p.m. Enjoy wine from around the world, available for retail sales daily. A variety of wines for every palate. Wines change weekly. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.

• Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register 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

Kick-Start! American Motorcycle Design exhibition at The Bascom in August

Don’t miss the opening of the Kick-Start! American Motorcycle Design exhibition at The Bascom! This highly original exhibition opens on August 7 with a reception and gallery talk from 5-7 p.m. and features vintage and antiqueikes on loan from Wheels Through Time: The Maggie Valley, NC-based private collection. The Bascom’s exhibition will trace the progression of 20th-century design styles as evidenced through the motorcycle. The earliest objects will date from the early 1900s. This exhibition is sponsored by Helen and Fred Cooper and Old Edwards Club members Barbara and Doug DeMaire, Judith and Robert Moore, Angela and Art Williams and Patsey and Bill Wolff.

Other exhibitions now at The Bascom:
• Heroes of Horticulture: Recent Works: Sid Luck; Patrick Dougherty’s Saddle Shack at entryway;
• Exhibition of environmental sculpture and D in View: Artists in Residence and Toe River Potters.

All Bascom exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday.

The Kick-start, American Motorcycle Design exhibition will be on view at The Bascom from Aug. 7-Sept. 26.

Proceeds from the Gala are used to purchase works of art for The Bascom’s permanent collection and to enhance the music programs at The Highlands School and The Highlands Community Child Development Center.

For more information about the event, call Bel Canto’s organizers directly at 526.1947, or write to P.O. Box 2392, Highlands, NC 28741.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

The Eroica Trio – comprised of pianist Erika Nickrenz, violinst Suzie Park, and cellist Sara Sant’Ambrogio – will perform a trio of trios that’ll serve as a marvelous showcase for their internationally-recognized talent.

Beethoven’s “Trio in Bb Major, Op. 11” opens the evening followed by Turina’s “Trio, Op. 35” and Schumann’s “Trio in F Major, Op. 80.” Beethoven’s “Trio” reveals all of the magic that was young Beethoven’s mastery of technique and a beautiful bridge between Classicism and the nascent Romanticism that he helped create. Turina’s “Trio” reflects the composer’s liberal use of folk themes developed in the Spanish Province of Andalusia. Schumann’s “Trio” is a remarkable valentine to his wife Clara and has lost none of its poignancy.

The Eroica Trio is uniquely qualified to perform the difficult and wildly diverse compositions. They’ve taught at the Aeolian School, and the Eroica Trio is helping to break an age-old gender barrier. But it’s their supreme musicianship that’s vaulted them to the top ranks. In addition to being a perennial HCCMF favorite, the Eroica Trio performs at music festivals throughout the world, including The Hollywood Bowl, Aspen, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, and Spoleto, Italy. That’s in addition to music education, concerts, masterclasses, and special children’s shows at schools and colleges throughout the country.

The trio’s recognition extends beyond the world of chamber music to features in magazines such as Elle, Glamour, Vanity Fair, and various habitats, and searching for critters. Ages 4-6, $35 per child, advanced registration required. Call 526-2623.

At CLE, A Twisted Vine: The Palestinian Israeli Conflict. Dr. Akram Khater. 10-12 at PAC upstairs, $25 members, $35 non-members.

A Candidate Forum By We the People, a pro-active citizens group at the Rec Park at 7 p.m. Social time is at 6:30 and the forum starts at 7 p.m. Invited to attend are: County Commissioner candidates Democrats: Ronnie Beale and Riley Bryson; Republicans: Brian McClellan, Charlie Letterman and Ron Haven; Independent, Dick Drummond and for Sheriff George Lynch and Sheriff Robert Holland, (Hollands won’t speak if Lynch doesn’t attend.

Wed., Aug. 11

Intermediate Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Dress is casual. Featuring Chiarie Krueger, celo and Robert Henry, piano.

Good things come in threes at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival Aug. 6 & 7

South African Anton Nel has performed around the world – including Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival, and the Aspen and Blossom Music Festivals. In 2000 he was appointed as the Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the University of Texas at Austin. Cellist Christopher Rex will join Nel for Schumann’s “Five Pieces in Folk Style, Op. 102.” Rex has served as principal cellist of The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the past 25 years. He’s also the Artistic Director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and is a founding member of its board of directors.

Schumann’s “Fantasy Pieces, Op. 73” will be performed by Nel and clarinetist Laura Ardan. Ardan is the principal clarinet with the Atlanta Symphony. Prior to joining the ASO, she was the resident clarinetist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and for the Lincoln Center Institute and played in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. In addition to performing in Highlands-Cashiers, Ardan regularly appears in many other festivals, including Tanglewood, Marlboro, Rockport, Mostly Mozart, the Grand Tetons and Seawave.

Concerts are held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts are held at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org or call (828) 526-9060.
What is success? What is a successful career, a successful relationship, a successful life?

Rev. Dean Cesa
Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Is a person’s life successful if he or she is making a large salary? Certainly, that is the way that many people calculate success. But are they correct? How about marriage? What makes a marriage successful? Is a marriage successful because a woman and a man have been together for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years and have avoided both divorce and homicide? Marriage anniversaries are important, but do they point to the success of a marriage or only to its longevity?

What might be God’s view of success? Doctors, for example, are successful not if they have a prosperous practice but if they bring healing to the sick. Lawyers are successful not if they are part of a profitable firm, but if they use their knowledge and talent to protect people and the community to do good for people and the community, to be just. CEOs are successful not if they produce great profits for stockholders and give themselves large bonuses, but if they use their position on power and authority for the benefit of their employees and community, upholding the rights and dignity of workers, paying a just wage and making their communities better.

How can we determine if a marriage is successful? Certainly, longevity does not determine the success of a marriage. A marriage is successful if husband and wife become better, more loving people through the mutual support they give to each other. People are called to the married vocation because this is where they will achieve holiness, realize their potential and become the people God longs for them to be.

How about parenting? What are the signs that people are good parents? Success in parenting is certainly not based on what your kids have, but who your kids are. The success of your parenting is evidenced in the decisions your children make throughout their lives.

What I’m saying is that the general concept of success is a fallacy. Success is not predicated on what we have, what honors we receive, what jobs we hold, etc. Success is predicated on how each of us has developed as a person.

For the Christian, we go one step further, one infinite step. Success is predicated on our ability to assume the person of Jesus Christ. St. Paul says that our lives are hidden in Christ in such a way that when Christ appears we appear. The personality of a Christian is so entwined with the person of Jesus Christ that Christ and the Christian, Christ in the Christian, must be one.

Therefore, success, true success, is never just that which we have obtained. This is a completely different way of considering success. Success is not a present reality, it is a goal, the goal of Christian life. The goal is reached, the life is successful, when every aspect of life reflects the person of Jesus Christ. That is success.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

‘Dearly Departed’ is first play of HCP’s 16th season

‘Dearly Departed,’ the Highlands Cashiers Players’ production, opening Aug. 18, follows the tribulations of the Turpin family as they prepare for the funeral of the Daddy Bud.

The cast is a large one. In addition to the eight family members, seven other colorful Southern characters bring the total to 15 actors. Add to that the eight joy of life Singers, who will perform during the preacher’s radio broadcast and sing a medley of old-fashioned hymns before the play begins.

Singers include Jeannette Brand, Diane Rosazza, Donna Cochran, Bob Tietze, Farel Zehr, Michelle Hott, and Wayne and Annette Coleman, who have coordinated the ensemble.

The group will be accompanied on keyboard by Tom Wyse, who has also agreed to play the part of Merline, the irascible pianist for Depew’s Funeral Home where Daddy Bud is resting in peace.

All these characters add up to a hilarious comedy and the actors playing the Turpin family and friends are uniquely suited to their roles, according to director Virginia Talbot.

“Dearly Departed” has proved to be a sentimental favorite for the Players and its audience. This production marks the third time the Players have produced the popular comedy.

“Dearly Departed” is the first play of HCP’s sixteenth season. The other three plays coming up are “Life With Father,” in October, “You Know I Can’t Hear You When The Water’s Running” in February, and “Leading Ladies” in May.

Season subscriptions are now on sale at a cost of $65, a $15 dollar savings over the per ticket price of $20. Season brochures can be found in a variety of places around Highlands and Cashiers or can be picked up at PAC. “Dearly Departed” is sponsored in part by Building Technology Services of Highlands and Cashiers. It runs Aug. 19 – 22 and Aug. 27 through 29 with two performances scheduled for Sunday the 29th at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., the matinees at 2:30.

The box office, 526-8084, is open August 12 and 13 for subscribers, August 14 for individual tickets.

By Joseph Litsch

Like Peggy Jones, the ambitious pin-up sensation in “The Andrews Brothers,” Erin Lorette is a take-charge kind of girl. The clinched fist attitude of “Rosie the Riveter” fits her perfectly.

Peggy Jones is the real female lead in “The Andrews Brothers,” currently onstage at the Highlands Playhouse. It does Sunday, Aug. 8. Appearing with Erin are three guys –

Meet Erin Lorette on stage at The Playhouse

Aug. 8. Appearing with Erin are three guys –
HEALTHline

“Caring For Our Elderly”
Emily P. Bowers, LPN, Director of Social Services

Today we are living longer than ever before and this increase in life expectancy underlines the importance of our decision making as to how we care for the elderly. For some, being caretaker to an aged parent or relative is a role they embrace willingly. However for most, the day arrives, and the realization sets in, that the aged person’s needs are beyond their capabilities.

The ‘letting-go’ of a parent or relative is not just an issue of where they eventually can become situated; it is also one on an emotional level. As a result selecting a living center for the loved one, should not be one of compromise, but one made after thorough research.

At the Fidella Eckerd Living Center, we encourage those of you wanting to entrust a loved one to our care, to ask questions of us and about us. More importantly, come and see our experience for yourselves the friendliness and professionalism of our staff and the clean, modern accommodations. We are proud of our living center and how we care for our family of residents. When we are entrusted with the care of a loved one, we not only make their transition as gentle as possible, but also make the ‘letting-go’ just a little bit easier.

By Dr. Robert Buchanan
Center for Plastic Surgery

As I stated in my last article, Plastic Surgery has kept up with the demands of a busy lifestyle. Though the specialty name still implies surgery, fully half of what we do requires no cutting. This is due to the development of many ways to help you feel and look better with no down time, the so-called non- or minimally invasive procedures. We can now markedly improve the appearance of sun-damaged skin, hide wrinkles and remove fat without any cutting.

We have learned a significant amount about how the skin ages. This has helped us formulate protocols to either truly rejuvenate the skin or hide the affects of aging better. Cosmetics simply hide the problems, and, in many cases, worsen them. Skin health restoration, however, is a process, not a product. Healthy skin is smooth, fine, evenly pigmented, & hydrated with a slightly acid pH and protective lipid layer. To restore Sun damaged skin we need to:

- Remove the thickened outer dead cell layer using products containing Alpha Hydroxy Acids, &/or use Microdermabrasion, Dermaplaning &/or Micro-Peels by an aesthetician.
- Restore the normal pH and protective layer with topical Vitamin-C and/or balancing tone.
- Correct the Pigment by removing spots & making the rest of the skin a uniform color using Hydroquinone (or Kojic acid, Arbutin & to some extent, topical Vitamin-C) occasionally supplemented with Micro-Peels or IPL light treatments.
- Rebuild tissue & blood vessels & heal injured cells using Retin-A® and, to some extent, Kinerase®

We need to protect our skin from any further sun damage. It is the long wave UVA rays that cause the most severe cellular damage leading to aging and skin cancer development. Not only are these present all the time and at all latitudes, they penetrate clothing and glass causing damage even when we think we are out of the sun. Because of this, we need to apply a UVA as well as UVB sunblock every day that lasts all day.

Blurry vision?

Dr. Richard Blue brings over 25 years of experience and truly remarkable technology to his Highlands practice to provide innovative solutions to his patients’ eye care needs.

- Routine eye exams
- Contact Lens Fitting
- Dry eye treatments
- Laser glaucoma treatments
- Laser diabetic treatments
- ALL-laser LASIK

Richard H. Blue, MD
An exclusive premiere showing of the drop-dead funny play *Dearly Departed* performed by the Highlands Cashiers Players.

to benefit

The Literacy Council of Highlands

Wednesday, August 18th • 6:30 p.m.
Silent auction • Champagne reception • Wine • Hors d’oeuvres
Performing Arts Center • Tickets - $50 • 828-526-9938 ext. 240

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING • COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING
GED PROGRAMS • ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE • ADULT READING

Above is a list of the programs that The Literacy Council of Highlands provides at no charge to anyone who is in need.
You can insure the council is here to serve by attending Loving Literacy, A Premiere Gala.
828-526-9938 ext. 240
Presently SPF indicates only the effectiveness of UVB blockage and protection from sunburn. Wearing a sunscreen with high SPF without UVA blockers only increases the length of time you stay in the sun, and, thus, the amount of exposure to the harmful UVA rays causing more cellular damage. We recommend you apply sunblock containing CLEAR Zinc Oxide of at least 5% every day. Our office carries nothing but zinc oxide sun blocks from 6.8 – 18%.

The Obagi Nu-Derm® prescriptive system incorporates all of the above. The Theraderm® and Epionce® systems also utilize these principles. These and the other adjuncts are available in our spa. At the spa portion of our office, we have incorporated many of the products used in these systems in our facial to make them effective in aiding rejuvenation, rather than just a relaxing interlude, which they remain.

You can now enhance your eyelashes using an old medication in a new way. Many people using bimatoprost, a glaucoma drug noted for their long, thick, dark eyelashes, have found that their eyelashes were becoming longer, thicker, and darker. The manufacturer reformulated the drug, and it is now available as Latisse® to enhance your lashes. It is safe and you see exceptional results in eight to 16 weeks.

A new laser can melt fat without slowing you down. Zerona is a new low level laser that has been proven and accepted by the FDA to reduce fat and contour the body without surgery, pain, or any down time (other than the brief times under the machine). We are using it with dietary modification to jump start weight loss and reduce the need for some surgical body modification.

These modalities are completely non-invasive. They are avaliable at the Medi-Spa part of our office. For more information, call 828-526-3783 or visit www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com.
Yearly, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and its Board of Directors offers area physicians, active and retired, the opportunity to attend a continuing educational seminar by the way of medical symposiums. This summer’s seminar will focus on “Advances in Cardiology” and “Evolving Treatments of Breast Cancer.”

Don Mullen, Hospital Director and Program Coordinator says “I am very pleased with the continuing education activities we are able to offer the active, semi-retired, and retired physicians in our area. In addition, we are also opening the educational program to anyone with interest in either of the two healthcare topics.”

On the agenda for the seminar is Dr. Byron Williams, Jr., Chief of Medicine at Emory University Hospital, who will discuss the latest information involving advances in Cardiology and Dr. Edward Copeland, Retired Chief of Surgery at the University of Florida, who will discuss evolving treatments of breast cancer. “This is certainly a wonderful way in which we can have a significant impact on the quality of medicine that which we all have a great appreciation for,” said Mullen.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Hospice transitioning to Four Seasons

The leadership of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has announced that their hospice services are in the process of transitioning ownership to Four Seasons, a non-profit hospice and palliative care agency based in Flat Rock, N.C. Effective October 1, this seamless transfer of services will assure that hospice care will continue to be provided locally. “The Four Seasons staff will have a satellite location here on our Hospital campus and will continue to work with our doctors and volunteers,” said Craig James, President and CEO.

Four Seasons has been providing a high level of compassionate and professional care for people in need of end-of-life care in Western North Carolina since 1981. “The decision to select Four Seasons as an alternative way to provide hospice and palliative care was based on their reputation as one of the top hospice agencies in North Carolina and one of the premier hospice agencies in the country,” said Mr. James. “We also based our decision on the assurance that our local residents will continue to have access to the finest possible end-of-life care.” Four Seasons was one of only three organizations in the United States to receive the prestigious Circle of Life Award.

Mr. James said that the contributions to HCH Foundation’s Hospice Fund will continue to be restricted for local hospice services. On October 1, HCH’s Foundation will transfer monies held in the fund for hospice care to Four Seasons, where the donor’s intent to support hospice care for our communities will be honored.

The event will be held August 13th on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic in Suite 103 beginning at 8 am. A buffet breakfast will be served. Individuals interested in attending the Medical Symposium must RSVP to 526-1434 in which seating is limited.
HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED MANAGER FOR OUTDOOR CENTER. Duties include managing and scheduling employees. Grounds maintenance, equipment repair and maintenance, and snow blowing. Must have reliable transportation (4 wheel drive in winter). Hours vary by season – P.O.E. Send Resume to Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center. 7420 Dillard Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775 (st. 8/5)

PART TIME MANAGER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT RETAIL APPAREL AND GIFT STORE. Flexible hours and benefits. Please reply to PO Box 2366, Highlands NC 28741 or e-mail mountainstar1@verizon.net. (st. 8/5)

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS HIGHLANDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mentoring Works! Transforming the lives of children and volunteers. Rewarding position responsible for coordinating the one-on-one mentoring relationships and community development. Flexible schedule of 10 hours per week. A Bachelor’s degree, strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to travel within the Highlands area are required. Highlands resident is strongly preferred. Send resume and cover letter, by August 12th to Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, 50 S. Main Street in Highlands. 787-2310. (8/5)

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, Literacy Council of Highlands: 32 hours/week. Work with children and community. Must be resourceful, patient, diligent, organized. Educational experience and bilingual skills preferred. Send resume to highlandsliteracy@live.com. (st. 7/22)

FULL TIME/ PART TIME NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT MOUNTAIN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Contact Kim at 828-525-5981. www.singlelyvadesigns.com. (st. 7/8)

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE Estimates. References available. 526-2694. (8/2)

VARIOUS ITEMS FOR SALE – Longabarber baskets, old fiesta ware, electric fireplace, barca lounger, farmhouse table with 4 chairs, yakima car top, brass bird cage with stand. Call 526-9027 (st. 7/22)

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

Vehicles for Sale

96 JEEP CHEROKEE COUNTRY – Loaded, black and champagne. One owner, good rubber, well maintained and mechanically very sound. $2,300. Call 526-2694 or 813-541-9172. (st. 8/5)

2008 HONDA CIVIC – white with tan cloth interior, one owner, automatic, A/C, 25/36 mpg. FWD, cruise, 26,900 miles, $14,900, 704-681-0331. (st. 6/24)


2003 NISSAN FRONTIER – 4 Door, 60,000 miles. Excellent condition, $9,000 OBO. 526-9180 (st. 5/20)

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,900. See at 150 Shelly Circle, Highstond, 787-2310. (8/5)

Services

PRESSURE WASHING AND DECK REPAIR. Free estimates. References available. 526-2694. (8/5)

WILL SIT FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED OR CHILDREN. Your home or mine. 13 years childcare experience. By the hour. Call 828-743-2672. References available.

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN – Anything and Everything. Local references. Call Mark at 526-0031.

Residential Cleaning


HANDYMAN SPECIALTY – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. Fee estimate. Call 828-342-7864. (7/11)

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

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. $2,800 monthly. Contact Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.


PLAYHOUSE continued from page 17

Trey Butler, Josh Donahue and Brett Parker – who double as the Andrews Brothers and the Andrews Sisters.

The setting is a South Seas island where a USO show featuring the Andrews Sisters is about to go on. But a case of chicken pox strands the real Andrews Sisters in Hawaii and seemingly scraps the show. Peggy has other plans. This is her big chance to prove she's more than just a pretty picture and she's not about to let it slip away.

Peggy Jones seems to have been written for Erin. She's the most popular pin-up girl of World War II, known around the world for her face and form. She's out to prove she has a talent for singing and dancing as impressive as her physical attributes.

She's landed a spot in a USO show — her big chance to grab spotlight, but word comes that the famous sisters are quarantined in Hawaii, so the show is canned. And so, it seems, is Peggy's big chance. Here's where her determination takes over and she convinces three 4-f stage hands that together they can make the show go on. As expected, the show goes on; Peggy is a smash; the brothers make great sisters; and the USA wins the war.

Back home in Atlanta, Erin also works in auditions and shows and enjoys being a working actress. "I do a lot of children's theater and so far, everything I have done has been a musical," she said.

"This is a really fast-paced show and it's hard to catch my breath, but I feel like I have my show legs now," Erin said. "There were lots of days when I went home and I was singing all the songs in my head."

It didn't help that these are songs totally unfamiliar to Erin and most of her peers. She's 26 and barely remembers vinyl records, much less 78rpm's, which all of the songs in "The Andrews Brothers" were.

Erin grew up in the Atlanta area and attended Woodward Academy in College Park. From there, she went on to the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. "I spent a summer in New York auditioning then came back to Atlanta, and I started getting jobs here," she said.

Then, came the Highlands Playhouse offer, Erin's dream summer job. "I could do this show forever," she said.

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Some months ago, the Town Board OK’d the formation of a committee to come up with a flag and town emblem. The committee plans to gather renderings of artwork plus ideas from the community to ultimately produce a flag and emblem. A dedicated website, to be announced later, will be available for anyone wishing to submit artwork or any suggestions. Things to keep in mind are colors representing the area, landscapes, the town’s founding date, civic organizations, etc.

In coming weeks, the committee will announce the type of award to begin with the winning design. The new Town of Highlands flag will be on permanent display and available for viewing at public institutions such as the Town Hall, Civic Center, and the Community Building.

Both past owners, have much to do with the current habit. The reminder, “We Drive on the Left” is posted everywhere, including the windshield of our rental car. Perhaps it is local choice, a device to create a Saint Croix culture separate from that of the States. It gives the place a foreign feeling when driving to K-Mart.

People here seem so thoroughly blended and so comfortable with one another, as if it is the melting pot we on the mainland aspire to be. It is as if they have taken the flour, milk, eggs and chocolate and baked a chocolate cake, rather than the marble cake to the north.

RBC Bank raises money for ‘Relay’

RBC Bank sponsored a Relay for Life fundraising event on Friday, July 30th. Manager Sue Gorski said there was a great turn-out, and the event raised around $175 from the sale of home-cooked lunch plates.

HIGHLANDS CHEF’S CHALLENGE

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Town begins disbursing grant requests to nonprofits

Highlands Mayor David Wilkes presents Joanna Baumrucker, vice-president of the Highlands Playhouse board, a $12,000 check from the Town of Highlands. The Playhouse was one of six recipients of grant funding this year. The town is disbursing $34,600 in grants.

Mountain Findings begins disbursing profits to nonprofits

Highlands Community Child Development Center: Carol Marrotti (MFV) and Pat Hedden, Director, the children are from the 3-5 year old class (our donation is made to the scholarship fund which supplements parent-paid tuition for those children not receiving state subsidy support) $5,000.

Highlands Fire and Rescue: Richard Grove (MFV) and James “Popcorn” Manley, Chief (Rich is a retired fireman from Chicago, the donation will be applied to the remaining debt incurred to purchase the ladder truck) $5,000.

Over the coming weeks other recipients will be featured.

New ‘Town of Highlands Flag Committee’ has first meeting

Highlands Mayor David Wilkes presents Joanna Baumrucker, vice-president of the Highlands Playhouse board, a $12,000 check from the Town of Highlands. The Playhouse was one of six recipients of grant funding this year. The town is disbursing $34,600 in grants.
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from July 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

July 29
- At 11:03 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Main and Fourth streets.
- July 30
- At 4:30 p.m., a vicious dog was reported in a vehicle parked outside Subway in Highlands Plaza.
- At 12:50 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Cullasaja Drive.
- At 2:20 a.m., a suspicious person was reported sitting on the side N. 4th St. He was waiting for a ride.

August 1
- At 4:55 a.m., a resident on S. 4th St. reported hearing gun shots. Officers found two shots in a nearby sign.
- At 7 p.m., officers conducted a wellness check at a residence on Cobb Road. Everything was OK.
- At 11:46 p.m., Marshall Pasternak, 54, of Miami, FL, was arrested for driving left of center on Rock Hill Road and DWI. He was released on a $500 secured bond.
- At 4:04 a.m., officers responded to a call of impaired people trying to drive while intoxicated.
- At 7:59 p.m., a resident trying to get to his home via Log Cabin Road reported a chain across the road. He was told to access his home via Talley Road.
- At 7:46 a.m., attempted arson and breaking and entering was reported at the Highlands Mountain Club clubhouse.
- During the week, officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 9 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 29:
- July 29
- At 2:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Walhalla Road. It was cancelled en route.
- At 9:49 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers which was cancelled en route.
- July 31
- At 12:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a minor motorcycle accident on U.S. 64 west.
- At 10:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm on Crescent Court. It was false.

Aug. 1
- At 7:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Harris Dr. The victim was taken to the hospital.
- At 3:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street. It was false.
- At 4:01 p.m., the dept. assisted Scaly FD at a motorcycle accident on NC 106 south.
- At 4:21 p.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Highlands Plaza. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Aug. 2
- At 7:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on US 64 west. The victim was taken to the ER.

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We have gathered a dedicated and skilled team to see to it that everyone under our care receives the very best in physical, mental, emotional and spiritual fulfillment. We are an 84 bed facility with 40 semi-private and 4 private rooms. Each resident is assigned a primary care physician who supervises and recommends a medical treatment plan which includes therapeutic procedures, diagnostic supervision and careful prescribing of medications. We encourage the resident’s family to work with us on the plan of care so they are comfortable that their loved one is receiving what they need.

We are footsteps from the hospital and this keeps our patients in very close proximity to our Board Certified Physicians, our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and our high-rated nursing staff. We also see to it that each day there is a social program to keep minds alert and a connection to their neighbors who share this home away from home with them.

We encourage you to think of us when nursing care for your loved one is needed. Fidelia Eckerd Living Center is a service of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

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www.highlandscashiershospital.org

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