

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 5

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
32 / 29F	33 / 23F	35 / 22F

This Week in Highlands

Through Feb. 20

- Highlands Little League Registration will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center thru February 20th. Information and registration forms will be available at the front desk of the Highlands Recreation Center. Cost for the first child is \$50 and each additional child in the immediate family will be \$40. Registration fee includes jersey, hat and socks. To coach or umpire, call Jerry Moore at (828) 482-2032. Team sponsors are also needed.

Thursday, Feb. 4

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and AnMed blood drive at the hospital Thursday 9-11 a.m. and at the Highlands First Citizen Bank from 12:30-6 p.m. Anyone 17 years or older and 110 pounds can give blood. If you are taking medication, it won't usually prevent you from giving blood, however, you may want to bring the name of the medication with you.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

- At Hiart, "Batter My Heart" will be distributed at previous meeting. Coordinator: Martha Porter Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

- H1NI shots will be given at the county health departments' office in Highlands off Buck Creek Road on Wednesday. The clinics are by appointment only and are free. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 349-2081.

- Town Zoning Board meeting, 5:39 p.m. at the Community Building.

- The Literacy Council of Highlands will host Loving Literacy, its first Valentine's Day-themed event, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. To RSVP or for more information, call Goggins at 828-526-9938, ext. 240.

Thursday, Feb. 11

- Town Board Budget Worksession at 4 p.m. at the Community Building.

Note:

- Due to weather, "Hop for Haiti" has been rescheduled to Sunday, Feb. 14, 5-9 p.m. at Highlands School.

- Due to weather, HCP's murder mystery dinner theater has been rescheduled for sometime in April. TBA.

State to refund town for storm expenses

Emergency updates, resolutions, rezoning requests and ordinances were key issues at the Feb. 3 Town Board meeting.

Turns out, once the county declared a 'state of emergency' 6 p.m. last Friday night and the town followed suit, that act entitled the town to recoup up to 75% of costs incurred due to the storm – name-

ly town employee overtime, use of equipment, cost of outside contract labor and possibly snow removal.

Once all the costs are tallied, the figure will be turned into the state which will budget to reimburse the town during its 2010-2011 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2010.

Fire Chief James Manley said

over the weekend 21 volunteers logged 196 manhours responding to about 35 calls including numerous accidents and a structure fire.

Mayor David Wilkes and Town Manager Jim Fatland discussed the new emergency communication network being put in

• See REFUND page 14



A convoy of Duke Power trucks and contractors from Dillard-Smith rumbled through town Sunday morning on their way to repair a break in the electric grid. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Mother Nature brings town to a standstill

This past weekend's storm event accelerated the Mayor's plan to initiate an "emergency communication network" in town, and it reminded everyone that when all is said and done Mother Nature is in charge.

"Previously, citizens with problems after-hours like power outages or water line breaks, called the Town Hall number and got a recording directing them to call an-

other number that went to the county where they typically got another recording," said Mayor David Wilkes. "Since that number dealt with problems in the entire county, the chances of someone getting help within a reasonable amount of time was not likely. Now citizens will get a live person who will take their information and see that it gets to the person in charge."

For medical or police related

emergencies dialing 9-1-1 is still the appropriate number to call, but for non-emergency incidents, citizens can now call 526-9912 after business hours Monday through Friday or on holidays or Saturdays and Sundays to report electrical or water problems.

When calling the new number, people will get a live person so

• See MOTHER NATURE page 8

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Childcare shortage a problem in county

Waiting lists at area childcare facilities -- which translates to a lack of childcare in the county -- could stand in the way of economic development.

With that in mind -- and the fact that single mothers and families who don't qualify for free, state and federally subsidized programs are the ones who are hurting -- the possibility of a county run, county subsidized or private- public-run childcare facility was discussed at the Jan. 25 county commission meeting.

The findings of the "Childcare Issue Committee," which was appointed by the county commission on Feb. 9, 2009, verified what was expected -- there is a significant and growing shortage of childcare capacity in Macon County, particularly in the care of children from birth through age two.

"In the childcare industry 'adequate capacity' is defined as having childcare slots available for half the child population," said Chuck Sutton, chairman of the MC Childcare Issues Committee. "Macon County has a preschool (0-5 years) child population of 2,161 and a childcare industry capacity of only 678 children, or 31% of the population. Macon County is short 403 preschool childcare slots. Without new

• See CHILDCARE page 16

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Grateful for help during storm

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank all of the people who helped me in the ice and snow storm on Friday, January 29th. I started up the Dillard Road at around 5:30 p.m.

I had planned to arrive in Highlands long before the storm but was delayed by car trouble on my way from Atlanta.

Around Scaly Mountain, my car lost traction and momentum. A number of people helped push my car two different times. I am grateful to all of them for their caring kindness.

Specifically, I want to thank Steve Hinman, a security guard for the Highlands Country Club, and his colleague (unfortunately, in the turmoil I failed to get his name), another security guard for HCC. After helping me a couple of times, it became apparent that the road conditions were too much for my car. Both of them helped push my car to a secure spot and then Steve actually drove me all the way to Highlands even though he was headed down the mountain after a day at work.

I don't know what I would have done without their generous efforts since I was in an area with no cell phone service. The members of HCC are very lucky to have two such dedicated men looking after their safety!

Anne Wallis
Atlanta and Highlands

From columnist Fred to Pat

Dear Editor,

This is a letter in response to Pat Taylor's letter to me in the July 21 issue of Highlands' Newspaper entitled "Are Fred and John one in the same?"

Thank's so much for your complementary remarks about me in your recent letter-to-the-editor. I'm at a disadvantage because I have not seen the movie Avatar yet, but I'll assume, coming from you, it must be a good thing. Thanks

The bond between the Wooldridges and Cleavelands is a card game called bridge. We also both love Highlands very much and are, at times, critical when dumb, clown-like decisions are made that affect our great little town.

But you missed the boat on John. If you could see my list of deep throats, you would

freak out and be surprised. Many of these people do not love Highlands or you and I dismiss their tips. Many hit the nail on the head so I write about it. Most of the things I have been told about you are not complementary so I have dismissed them. I remember our meeting and you seem like a really great guy.

PS - I keep away from town meetings because I have a short attention span and bore easy.

Also, my opinion of politicians is not the greatest. If you would like to join my deep throat list, I would love to have you on board.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands and Florida

Information posted at highlandsinfo.com is helpful

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to express our thanks for the updates on your website at www.highlandsinfo.com.

We live in Atlanta, and have a weekend place in Highlands. We tried to come up on Friday, but the road coming up the

mountain was too slick, and there were already some cars stuck and blocking the road. So we came back home instead.

We were a little bummed that we couldn't see all the snow, but it was great to see the photos you posted. It gives us a feel for what it is like. Too bad about the damage to some of the houses, but hopefully none of it is too serious. Thanks!

Don Gentry
Atlanta, GA

It's obvious what Swanson wants

Dear Editor

After reading Don Swanson's column for years, I think I have finally realized exactly what he wants in our government.

First, a Republican president and vice-president.

Second, 100 Republican Senators and 435 Republican Representatives in Congress.

Third, nine conservative Supreme Court justices appointed by the aforesaid Republican president.

But wait, there's more.

He also wants 50 Republican state governors with state legislatures comprised

of Republicans only. And naturally, Republican mayors in every city, too.

Then, outlaw the Democratic Party. This appears to be Don Swanson's utopia. Have I got it right Don?

Jim Hartje
Otto

Highlandsinfo and PDF newspaper keeps me informed

Dear Editor,

I miss reading the Highlands' Newspaper while I am away for the winter but while searching for the weather conditions, found that I can read it on the Internet, so this makes me very happy! I also like the WebCam — it makes me feel connected to our wonderful little town.

Many thanks for keeping your newspaper a local one. We can all read terrible news in other papers, on the Internet, and see it on TV, etc. I love reading about Highlands and the area with little else when reading your paper! Gratefully...

Marcia Davis, ASID
Atlanta, GA and Highlands

• MILESTONES •

Dean's List

The following area students were named to the Deans List at Appalachian State University: Matthew Wilson McClellan/English/Freshman; Callie Marie Rawlins/Performance/Senior; Angela Maria Sanchez-Colon/Elementary Education/Junior; Carolyn Irene Hornsby/No Major UG Level/Freshman; and Megan Hyatt Lewicki/Theatre Arts/Senior.

• CORRECTION •

In the Jan. 21 edition of Highlands' Newspaper we reported that Ricky Bryson served as Chief of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. for one year and as Assistant Chief for 12 years. Bryson never served as chief.

In the same story we reported that Roger Lee Wilson has had perfect attendance for 21 years -- it's 20 years. We regret our errors and are happy to set the record straight.

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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• ANNIVERSARY •

Wynn and John Cleaveland celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary on the Queen Mary 2 on route to Dubai.



Photo by Fred Wooldridge

• OBITUARY •

Doshie M. Wilson



Doshie Wilson

tist Church Building Fund, c/o Waylon Chastain, PO Box 1717, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Note: Doshie Wilson's mother Albie Picklesimer McCall lived to be 103 as did her first cousin Irene Picklesimer James. Doshie's mother and Irene's father were brother and sister. Irene died May 2, 2009.

As a child, Doshie lived with her brothers and sisters in the McCall cabin which now sits on USFS property on Walden Way near Dry Falls.

Doshie M. Wilson, 102, of Highlands, NC, died Friday, January 29, 2009 at the Fidelity-Eckerd Living Center in Highlands. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Rufus and Albie Picklesimer McCall. She was married to the late Hubert Wilson, who died September 19, 1986. She was a homemaker and a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church. She loved farming and gardening. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by several brothers and sisters.

She is survived by a daughter, Frances Wilson Reed of Highlands, NC; a son, Clarence Wilson, and wife Ella-Mae of Highlands, NC; eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 1, 2010 at 11 am at Clear Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Walter Wilson and Rev. Everett Brewer officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. Grandsons served as pallbearers: Ralph Hedden, John Munger, Tommy James, Charlie Reed, Roger, Edwin and Mike Wilson. Great-grandsons served as honorary pallbearers: Jason and Adam Woods, Matthew Wilson, Gerald Hedden, Robbie Reed, Joe Munger, and Thomas James. Memorials may be made to Clear Creek Bap-

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Highlands Map courtesy of The Laurel Magazine



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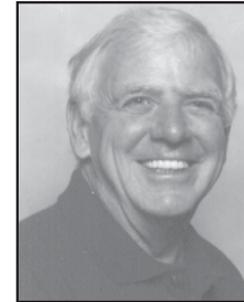
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• **LAUGHING AT LIFE** •

The laundry Nazi

Dateline: Somewhere in the Gulf of Aden



Fred Wooldridge

Dis laugin un vight dish vegin han vos es slouse!" she ordered loudly, her squat little body guarding both washing machines. She pointed to the exit door and demanded, "Out."

She's only five-foot-four in height but built like a Panzer tank. I wanted to reach out and adjust her wig 'cause it was just a little lopsided on her head. "Good morning, Braun Hilda," I respectfully responded. I call her Braun Hilda since I don't know her real name and she doesn't speak one word of English. She kinda looks like a Braun Hilda. She has anointed herself supervisor of laundry. I was not quite sure what to do so I left, carrying my load of dirty laundry back to my room.

Each floor with cabins on the QM 2 has a non-supervised laundry room containing washers, dryers, an ironing board and soap dispensers. It's every man for himself. . . . aah, I mean herself. What are the Brits thinking? You simply cannot turn seven or eight nationalities loose in an unsupervised laundry room. Chaos reigns! And when ole Braun Hilda is doing a load, no one is permitted in the laundry room, even if you want to use the iron.

Currently I'm missing two pair of socks but have adopted a pair of women's thong underwear that has enough string on it to make eight feet of dental floss. I've looked at Braun Hilda's tucas and this underwear is even too big for her big fat rear end. I just know that woman has my socks. Other women are complaining of missing underwear. Is there a weirdo on board?

Just when I was about to bang on Braun's cabin door and accuse her of swiping my socks, the commodore announced to everyone that a US battle cruiser is coming along side and will escort us to Muscat. I raced to the promenade deck for a look.

Wow, there she was, the USS Farragut, about 200 feet off our starboard, a light cruiser warship (They used to call them destroyers) with sailors, wearing their dress blues, lined along its deck. It was a sight to see. The Brits, which make up about two-thirds of the ship, went crazy, waving, shouting and cheering. When the two ships' bridges came parallel, they

sounded their horns simultaneously. Then the cruiser kicked in her turbines and surged forward to be our escort through this pirate-laden bay.

The next day:
 Water, water everywhere,
 bla, bla, bla.

Feedback is encouraged!
 email:
askfredanything@aol.com

I haven't seen Braun Hilda since the arrival of our American navy ship yesterday. Today, another small cruiser from Saudi

Arabia pulled along side our ship to aid in the escort. According to our commodore, this is a huge political statement by the Saudi's. We exchanged horns and they took off. I haven't seen them since.

As I was heading back to my cabin I spotted ole Braun arguing with another woman. I couldn't resist so I moved closer. The woman was accusing Braun of wearing her dress. Just when it looked as if it was going to come to blows, another German lady approached and offered to translate. When Braun heard the accusation, she shouted "prove it" and folded her arms in defiance. I need to get off this ship.

Just before dinner, a Canadian warship met us just to let us know they were a part of the escort. I think the entire fleet of military vessels in the Bay of Aden is at our disposal. I feel more closely watched than a drunk in Highlands on a Saturday night.

In a few days I'll be saying goodbye to the Queen Mary 2. I'm burning my tuxedo but only after I eat a bologna sandwich with mayo and lettuce. I'm so tired of eating like the rich. After a few days visiting our son in Dubai, we'll be returning to our home in North Palm Beach, FL. where we thought it would be safe to sit about 20 house plants outside next to sprinklers only to learn that our home had a hard freeze while we were away. I'm guessing we lost them all.

PS - I'm having Braun Hilda nightmares.

• **NOTICE** •

Coming soon, the Highlands Newspaper will present a three-part police drama titled "Tommy & Madison" taken from the life of Major Fred Wooldridge. This true story is about a young couple and the unfairness of life. Every teenager in Highlands should read this dramatic story. Watch for it in February.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

When I remember Haiti ...

When I remember Haiti, I'll think first of two patients who died under my direct care. I'll remember the morning the Marines arrived, recall with admiration their grace, kindness, and professionalism. I'll remember learning that my roommate, Selwyn Rogers, a brilliant trauma surgeon, and I slept through a major aftershock, a 6.1 building shaker, or the embarrassment of our colleagues when they realized that while we slept, they evacuated, and failed to account for us.

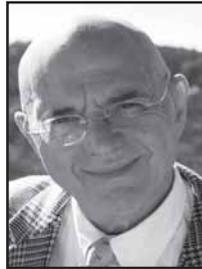
Mostly I'll remember the sense of pride that lingers, the honor to have been a tiny cog in one of history's greatest humanitarian efforts. Partners in Health processed more than 4,000 volunteer applications. My partner, Todd Crowe, and I were in the first group of 18 doctors and nurses to be deployed. There are dreadful memories of rotting limbs and uncontrolled infection, of bleached bone and dying muscle.

I'm amazed that itinerant volunteers wandered the country looking for a place to serve, a chance to help.

I can't forget the arrogance of a team from West Palm Beach who believed that patient rights should be suspended and amputations forced on patients against their will, or their anger when we told them we were fully staffed and they should find another hospital, or the political fallout when we learned that West Palm Beach and St. Marc are sister cities, that they were invited guests of the mayor.

CNN reported that we, the doctors of Partners in Health, had denied these doctors access to the hospital and, in the process, denied Haitian patients life saving care. We remember this event with justifiable pride. I remember the look of dismay on the face of every one on my team when we first visited the hospital, the disgust, the disbelief, the feeling that we could not operate in such a squalid place. A rumor circulated among us that a better, cleaner, functional hospital existed a 40-minute drive away. We discussed moving on.

Finally I spoke. I had seen hospitals in Haiti and what I saw here was much like others I'd seen. There might be, I told my team, an oasis a short drive down the road. I added that my knowledge of Haiti convinced me that Shangri-La did not exist in Haiti. If you must, I told them, send just one of us to investigate. I concluded that I believe we had no choice but to get on with the task we'd been sent to do.



Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

I can't describe the enthusiasm with which our team attacked the task. A filthy store was magically transformed into a recovery room. Forays to a warehouse uncovered a treasure trove of unused and previously unknown supplies. The hospital had neither bed numbers nor any way of identifying patients. Grace Deveney, R.N. with the aid of

American doctors, nurses, and Haitian staff, transformed the wards, opened aisles so we could pass without stepping on mattresses, numbered beds, identified patients.

Surgeons worked tirelessly, examining patients and prioritizing their care. Who must be cared for first? Who was stable enough to wait, and the hardest decision, whose injuries were beyond our resources to treat? When we left, a quadriplegic still clung to life, a patient with tetanus, the first I'd seen since medical school, remained alive, but just barely. I remember the Haitian staff; some welcomed us, while others resented our presence. We introduced standard of care that were alien to St. Marc, Haiti

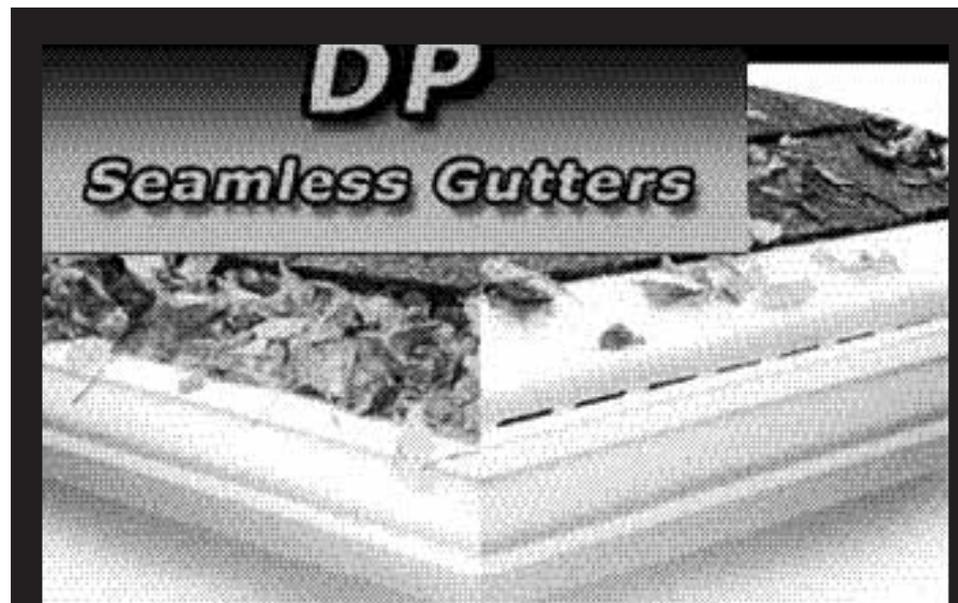
I can never forget the cohesion of our team, the solidarity, the pride. We called ourselves, "the pros from Dover" a reference from Mash. Our experience did re-

semble combat medicine. I regret that those who followed us could not gain full membership in our exclusive club. A team of French Canadians came close. The Canadian team included an anesthesiologist and an anesthesia resident but their sponsoring organization decided to split the group, leaving orthopedists and a plastic surgeon without anyone to anesthetize their patients. After we finished our last day, they were to lose the ability to perform all but the simplest operations.

Miraculously, Sam, or maybe Sham, an anesthesiologist from Katmandu, Nepal appeared an hour before our departure. He was one of the lucky itinerant doctors, professionals eager to serve, but lacking sponsorship and organizational support. Luckily he found a place to work. I'm sure, with his help, the Canadians are operating today. For now, there are no Sundays in Haiti.

Lastly I remember the change in our patients. They were dying when we arrived. We amputated arms and legs to save lives, but only those who consented. We debrided stinking wounds and treated horrible infections. When we left the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation had begun. Much remains to be done. It's hard enough to live in Haiti with two legs. The world's community must assist in physical therapy and provide simple, effective prosthetic devices. Haiti is no place for high tech solutions. In a country where toilets rarely flush

• See SALZARULO page 14



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from the history guy ...

Feb. 4, 1957

The first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), logs its 60,000th nautical mile, matching the endurance of the fictional Nautilus described in Jules Verne's novel "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

If you think you ought to call for the very latest item nautical, something that should be on your radar might well be found by looking nadir. And by saying this, here's what I mean, please consider the submarine, and not just any submersible, this one was sort of rehearseable, (and on this I can not be laconic) for this one was the first to be atomic. Amazing, novel, and an intrigue, this one was in a separate league.

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• HIS & HERS •

Sex, lies, and the 'State of Union'

by John Armor

I'm just a semi-retired lawyer, living on a gravel road in the Blue Ridge Mountains. But I am also an avid consumer of news in all forms. This is a test.

I read none of today's analyses of the State of the Union speech. Here are the obvious lies I saw, off the top of my head.

Lie 1:

"One in 10... cannot find work." Government statistics show that unemployment is almost double that; 17% are out of work. But the "official" rate ignores the 7% who have given up looking for a job.

Lie 2:

"To get a government that matches [Americans] dignity." Is he totally unaware of the members of his Administration, or of his supporters in Congress, who are currently under investigation as tax cheats, perjurers, or other felonies? Or, does President Obama assume that they will all beat the rap?

Lie 3:

"We made the [financial recovery] program more transparent and accountable." Is he unaware that Congress is currently trying to find out where the now -- \$850 billion bailout money went? Who got it, and why, and how?

Lie 4:

"There are about two million Americans... who would otherwise be unemployed... because of the steps we took." His own experts said the stimulus program would "keep unemployment below 8%." His own people released a claim of jobs saved, district by district. That report listed more than a dozen congressional districts that don't exist. The press has also gone into the gross inflation of many of the individual claims

Lie 5:

"Guard against the same recklessness [of the banks] that nearly brought down our entire economy." He cannot claim ignorance of the laws promoted by Barney Frank in the House and Chris Dodd in the Senate, which forced banks to make loans to people unlikely to repay them. He can't claim ignorance, because as a lawyer in Chicago he went to court to force banks to make such bad loans.

Lie 6:

"The overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change." He must know that leading scientists claiming the sky is falling because of global warming



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

are being exposed and investigating for hiding and faking the data.

Lie 7:

"National competition to improve our schools." He cannot be so isolated and ignorant not to know his strongest possible supporters – the education unions – fight every possible effort to fire bad teachers, provide incentive pay, and allow real competition from private and

charter schools and home schooling.

Lie 8:

"According to the Congressional Budget Office... our approach [to health care] would bring down the deficit by as much as \$1 trillion..." A week after the CBO issued its first analysis, it issued a correction. It had made a half-billion dollar math error. Unless he and his entire staff were asleep at the switch, he knows his claim of deficit reduction is false,

Lie 9:

"Starting in 2011, we are prepared to freeze government spending for three years..." This starts late and covers only one-fifth of the federal budget. This is fiscal bulimia – gorge yourself, then throw up a little, then claim you are being responsible.

Lie 10:

"I've called for a bipartisan Fiscal Commission.... the Senate blocked a bill to [do that]... so I will issue an Executive Order... to go forward." Anyone with even a passing familiarity with the Constitution knows that presidents can't force money to be spent on this Commission, or any other purpose, without approval by Congress. Regardless of what he thinks, we are not a dictatorship. Yet.

Lie 11:

"Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests – including foreign corporations – to spend without limits in our elections." That case did not lay a finger on the long-standing prohibition of foreign money in American elections, nor the general barrier to corporate contributions. Either he was lying when he said this, or he should return his diploma to Harvard Law because he didn't learn how to read and understand a Supreme Court case.

I skipped various lies about national security, because even casual readers of the news understand why it was wrong to

• COACH'S CORNER •

Heels fans-show patience

One of the questions that I have been asked a lot lately is what is wrong with the University of North Carolina's basketball team. Usually my response is "Not a darn thing, they have won two National Championships in five years and have owned Duke recently."

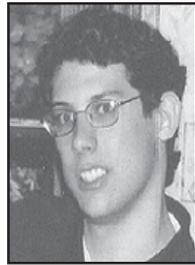
However, with North Carolina sitting at the bottom of the ACC and struggling, I can understand why fans of the Tar Heels are a bit skittish. Here are some pieces of advice for UNC fans as they attempt to make it through a tough season.

1. Help is on the way, mainly in the form of top recruit Harrison Barnes, but also with 4-star PG Kendall Marshall and SG Reggie Bullock. UNC's backcourt has been turnover-prone and unreliable this year, but the infusion of new talent should help the Heels. Additionally, even if Ed Davis turns pro (probably 60-40 at this point) UNC will still field a whopping nine McDonald's All American's on next year's squad.

2. There is still time to make a run this season. Even though UNC finishes with six of their last 10 games on the road, they are sitting at 13-8 and need only seven wins to get into the tournament. Add in the fact that UNC is one of, if not the most talented team in the ACC — they have the ability to get hot and win the ACC tournament — something that ensures that they will have a chance to make the dance if they catch fire down the stretch.

3. Many of the glaring weaknesses of this UNC team are coachable. If a team like Western Carolina is struggling, it is likely because of a personnel weakness. Lower tier teams simply cannot recruit the athletes necessary to compete at the highest level (the ACC, Big East, Big 12, etc). However, UNC has plenty of talent and athleticism — if the light bulb goes on then they are right back at the top of college hoops.

4. In the event that UNC does miss



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

the NCAA tournament, it's not the end of the world. Kentucky went to the NIT last year and is now one of the top three teams in the country just a year later. With the impact of freshman at the college level in today's game, teams are just a recruit or two away from a huge turnaround, and Roy Williams is currently the best recruiter in the game.

Now that I have performed my good deed for the year and talked all UNC fans down off the ledge (so to speak), I have more pressing matters to attend to. There's a game this weekend — you may have heard of it ... it's called the Super Bowl. I'll be watching — probably from a hyperbaric chamber.

SUMMIT CHARTER NEWS

The following is the list of students achieving straight A grades. The Summit Charter School is a North Carolina public school accepting students from Macon, Jackson, and Transylvania counties, grades K-8.

HIGH HONORS:

6th grade:

Bailey Baker
Molly Lupas
Bethany Quinn

7th grade:

Bull Salzarulo
Kalob Payne
Townsend Stewart

8th grade:

Isabella Lupoli
Sammy Lupas

... HIS & HERS continued from page 6

let the attempted Christmas plane bomber to lawyer up and clam up. The same goes for attempts to negotiate an Iranian nuclear stand down, when Iran has made clear its intention to proceed, and to use those bonds once they are available.

It will be interesting to see whether the press does any kind of research to challenge any falsehoods in the Presi-

dent's State of the Union address. I hope I have encouraged them in that direction.

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

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A stroll down memory lane



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

I waited until the State of the Union address to write this column and now I wonder why. I listened as long as I could and I thought, this isn't the state of the Union, this is the state of his twisted psyche. Feeling the heat of a year of failure, he exhibited anger at the Supreme Court (tacky, disrespectful), Congress (merited), Republicans in general, Bush in particular (that is really getting old),

the banking industry, the auto industry, Joe the Plumber and Bozo the Clown. It's entirely their fault, it's everybody's fault except for Acorn, SEIU, Saul Alinsky and, of course, him.

The speech was totally uninspiring, reflected a complete lack of leadership, it was too long, and it was too much about him. He complained that it's a hard job. Really? Gee, the leader of the free (and unfree for that matter) world, a world in turmoil and a country in deep distress, and the boy genius discovers it's a hard job. Amazing.

After a year of wasting time watching the unemployment rate rise, he says we must "continue" to emphasize job creation. He's been emphasizing job creation? I must have missed that part of history. Nothing of substance was accomplished because those pesky Republicans wouldn't cooperate. He has (had) a super majority in the Senate, a huge majority in the House, strong-arm leaders in both, and it's the Republicans fault? No, no, no, it's the fault of the people. The people who have made their feelings heard and the politicians were hearing them. Reality bites.

Remember the days when W was being ridiculed for shooting from the hip? You know, speaking before thinking. I guess. Let's go back a year or so when Obama declared that "evil" concentration

camp in Cuba would be closed by now. Well, that announcement seems premature, doesn't it? Might not have thought that one through. Then there was Eric Holder's defiant announcement that the trial for KSM and the rest of the Trade Tower plotters would be held in Lower Manhattan. Any reasonable adult knew that it was a terrible idea on a number of levels, a fact that might be penetrating the consciousness of the administration at this point.

Pertaining to absolutely nothing, I tried to get away from it all for a few minutes and turned on the Duke/Georgetown game. Who was there at the announcers' table? Who other than President Obama. He's ubiquitous, and you can't escape him. To add insult to injury, later I turned on Fox News and they covered his visit to the game and reported it complete with tape of him. **ARRRGH!**

Remember when we were coming out of a recession while W was running for his second term? The media rode him unmercifully about the fact that it was a jobless recovery. At the time, the unemployment rate

had dropped from 6.2% to 5.6%. Now that the unemployment rate is stuck in double digits, have you heard much about a jobless recovery? Me neither.

Enough of him. I'm really concerned about Pelosi. Do you remember the day she got elected to speaker? Man, oh man, there she was, fist pumping and wild-eyed, leading the cheers for the success of womanhood. She looked a little over the top to me, but it was a momentous occasion.

The other week, I think it was the day after Brown was elected, she appeared on TV, looking like the wrath of God had visited upon her. She looked woe begotten to the nth degree as she advised us there was no way she could get the health care bill through the House. Well, you can't blame her for looking whipped; she really has been busting it for the last year.

Then, as she sat behind Obama as he gave his State of the Union address, she bounced up and down, eyes bugging and clapping maniacally at nearly every line he spoke. Biden, sitting along side her, gave her the evil-eye numerous times as he felt he needed to join her in her calisthenics and didn't want to. It was priceless.

A few days later, I believe she became completely unhinged as she announced, in total contradiction to her earlier statement, that come hell-or-high-water, she was going to jam health care through if she had to "high jump" over something, and if that didn't do it, she'd "pole vault" over something, and if that didn't do it, she'd "parachute" into something. **WHAT?** To think that if some tragedy befell Obama, and Biden was certified incompetent, she'd be our president. The prospect of that would drive anybody nutz.

... MOTHER NATURE continued from page 1

it's important to give pertinent information including the nature of the problem, your name, address and contact information, said Wilkes.

"We will be using an answering service, not a machine, and the person on the other end will have a list of numbers to notify the specific department and person on call who is responsible for fixing the problem," said Wilkes.

He said in the case of power outages, and since Highlands is on a multi-grid system, it's most important for callers to leave address information so town crews can determine the area of the outage.

"For instance if a lot of calls come in from the same area, they will know where to look first whether it's the Mirror Lake area, Horse Cove or wherever," he said.

Last weekend's storm hit 1 p.m. Friday,

Jan. 29 and by the time it was over about 12 inches of snow had fallen and 75% of people in town were left in the dark.

In some parts of town, outages were due to broken utility poles on the town grid and trees on wires, and in other areas outages were due to a problem at a Duke Power metering point which connects with the town grid.

By 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, about 55% of people had power, by Sunday night that number jumped to 75%.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said by Monday night, 95% of all homes had electricity, but Tuesday morning a few people were still without power.

Homes outside of town – on Shortoff and Cheny Lane which are powered solely by Duke and those south of town who are on the Hayes Electric grid – were without power

the longest.

Nix said the dumping of snow, rain and then ice was the culprit.

"The weight of the snow which turned to rain and then iced over snapped utility poles, wires and tree limbs and there's not much we can do to prevent that," he said.

However, Nix said eventually he would like to change all the town's copper wire lines to aluminum-coated steel-core wire. "That is much stronger than copper and wouldn't snap as easily," he said.

The Highlands Police Department, Highlands Fire & Rescue, towing companies and Macon County EMS stayed busy over the three-day period rescuing motorists on NC 106, Hwy 28 and U.S. 64 east and west when the weather changed abruptly Friday afternoon and throughout Saturday. See photos on page 11 and police, fire and EMS reports on page 16.

– Kim Lewicki

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



NEW POLICY

For-Profit Businesses and NonProfit Organizations requesting Promotional or Press Release space, must agree to an advertising arrangement.

Without an arrangement, only a listing in the upcoming events calendar will appear for NonProfits but no listing will be accepted for For-Profit Business events.

To request ad rates and a publication calendar, email highlandseditor@aol.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Mondays at 5 p.m.

Ongoing

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

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.

• Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Mon., Wed., 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.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• 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.

• Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

• 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.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays Zumba Gold/Beginner, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498.

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.

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.

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

• 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. It is for people coping with serious mental illnesses (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. 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 Amer-

ican Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

• 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, Feb. 4

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital along with AnMed Regional Blood Center bloodmobile will be at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Thursday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and at the Highland's First Citizen Bank from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone 17 years or older and 110 pounds can give blood. If you are taking medication, it won't usually prevent you from giving blood, however, you may want to bring the name of the medication with you.

• Free movie at the Cashiers Library at 3 p.m., "Angels and Demons." 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.

Friday, Feb. 5

• At the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin on the Hwy. 441, the Booth Brothers. Tickets are \$14 per person. Call 828-524-1598 or 866-273-4615 or go to greatmountainmusic.com.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, February 5th, at the Macon County Community Building from 7-9 p.m. Jim Roper from Cornella, GA will be calling the "Graduation Dance." We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, Feb. 6

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1000 feet from the Standing Indian campground to Blackwell Gap Trail. Meet at the Nantahala Club House on Carl Slagle road in Franklin at 9 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip with shuttle. Call Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 7

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls off Hwy. 246/106 near Sky Valley. Meet at Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2:00 p.m. or call leader for alternate meeting place. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Mon., Feb. 8

• Macon County 4-H is offering a beginning

sewing class for youth ages 9-18, starting after school, 3:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend the first orientation meeting, as youth will be given instruction on purchasing their supplies, patterns, and fabrics. Pre-registration is REQUIRED! There is no charge for the class, however, you will need to purchase your own sewing supplies, which will be discussed in orientation. This will be a basic sewing class covering pattern selection, using the sewing machine, your first sewing project (community service project), and finally, sewing a garment that can be modeled at the County 4-H Fashion Revue, scheduled for Thursday, May 20. Space in this class is limited, so register early!

Tuesday, Feb. 9

• At Hiarpt, "Batter My Heart" will be distributed at previous meeting. Coordinator: Martha Porter Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

• H1N1 shots will be given at the county health departments' office in Highlands off Buck Creek Road on Wednesday. The clinics are by appointment only and are offered free of charge. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 349-2081.

• The Literacy Council of Highlands will host World Literacy, its first Valentine's Day-themed event,

• See **EVENTS** page 10

Ruby Cinema

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Feb. 5-12

DEAR JOHN

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

Saturday: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

Sunday: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10

Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10

EDGE OF DARKNESS

rated R

Friday: 4:15, 7, 9:15

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

Sunday: 2, 4:15, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:15, 7

TOOTH FAIRY

rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7:05, 9:10

Saturday: 2:05, 4:10, 7:05, 9:10

Sunday: 2:05, 4:10, 7:05

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:05

Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:10, 7:05

AVATAR

rated PG-13

Final Week

Friday: 4:30, 7:30

Saturday: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30

Sunday: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:30

Tues + Thurs: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Peggy Crosby Center. Children are invited to participate in arts and crafts, as well as listen to a read-aloud of a Valentine's-themed book. Loving Literacy is a free event and open to all children. Snacks will be provided. To RSVP or for more information, contact Goggins at 828-526-9938, extension 240.

Thursday, Feb. 11

- Town Board Budget Worksession at 4 p.m. at the Community Building.

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a program on the 2010 U.S. census. At the census information meeting, County Manager Jack Horton and County Planner Derek Roland will explain the importance of the census to Macon County, how it will be carried out, and will explain the role of the CCC (the Complete Count Committee), a committee comprised of community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 census.

Pat Bonard will discuss census jobs. There will be a question and answer period. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon by reservation. Call 524-5192.

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 6 p.m. 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. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

- The Needlers' Needlework Club will meet on, at 3:30-5 pm at the Ag Center. Our members are currently making some challenging projects. Anyone (ages 5-18) interested in crochet, knitting, or embroidery is welcome to attend.

Saturday, Feb. 13

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike from Rock Gap to Winding Stair Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger

King at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip with shuttle. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sunday, Feb. 14

- Highlands Hop for Haiti rescheduled due to snow. 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands School Old Gym. Anyone you cannot make the new event, but would like to donate, can drop off their toiletry or monetary donations at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on the corner of Main and 5th streets in Highlands. The mission team is now looking to fly to Haiti the week of Feb. 15, so postponement of the Hop will not delay the delivery of the donated items.

Monday, Feb. 15

- The Jackson County GOP will meet on Monday at 7 p.m. for a General Meeting at Ryan's in Sylva. Among the items of business to be discussed are final plans for the group's Red, White and Blue Gala to be held on February 26th at the Balsam Mountain Inn and the GOP County Convention scheduled for March 6th. For additional information call Dodie

Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828 586-9895 or Ralph Slaughter Vice Chair at 828 743-6491.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

- At Hiarpt, Ishmael by Daniel Quinn. Coordinator: Karen Hawk. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 18

- Free movie at the Cashiers Library at 3 p.m., "My Sister's Keeper," with Cameron Diaz. 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.

- The Jackson County GOP Glenville/Cashiers Precinct Meeting will be held on Thursday, at 7 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Delegates to the District GOP Convention and State GOP convention will be nominated at this meeting. Also, general precinct business will be on the agenda. The Cashiers precinct includes Sapphire. Call Cashiers Precinct Chair, Jim Nichols at 828 508-8048 or Glenville Precinct Chair Jim Mueller at 828 743-3057.

Highlands-Cashiers Players preparing for 'The Dixie Swim Club'



From left: Betsy Miller, Carla Gates, Jenny King, Mary Adair Leslie and Lee Lyons.

My children have said that they envy my teen years. According to them, I had much more fun in high school than they did. Actually they're right.

At our Atlanta high school, we had social clubs. Within this group, we worked on school projects, played, studied, planned parties, and supported one another through the normal adolescent angst. Above all, we formed strong, deep bond. Now, many years later, those bonds are still intact. Seven of us meet for a few days twice a year to reminisce, laugh, and catch up with each others' lives. It's relaxed, comfortable, and fun. Although different from each other in many ways, we continue to love and support each other through good times and bad.

The Dixie Swim Club, the upcoming play by the Highlands Cashiers Players, is about a similar group of women. They all met in college when they were on the championship swim team. When the play opens twenty-two years later, they're at their annual trip to the Outer Banks. Team

captain Sheree is still the mother hen to the group and is played by Jenny King. Self-centered, vain, attractive Lexie is played by Betsy Miller. Successful, martini-drinking attorney Dinah is Carla Gates, Vernadette, the "Hard Luck Hannah" in the group is Lee Lyons, and Jeri Neal, the sweet, innocent nun with the big surprise is played by Mary Adair Leslie.

When the play opens, the women are in their early forties; when it closes, they're in their late seventies. In between, the audience shares the laughter and sometimes poignant moments in the lives of the championship Dixie Swim Club, directed by Rick Siegel.

Performances will be at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands, running February 25-28 and March 5-7. Evening performances begin at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 pm. The box office opens for season subscribers on Thursday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 20 for the general public. Call 828-526-8084.

Enrollment doubles for youth Saturday Art School at The Bascom



Saturday Art School is thriving at The Bascom. Here, Bascom art students work on a project. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

For two hours every Saturday morning, youth from Highlands, Cashiers and the surrounding areas eagerly attend The Bascom's Saturday Art School. Started in the fall, the 10 a.m. to noon class teaches kids the fundamentals of visual art, with drawing, painting, clay work and more.

Bascom Education Director Norma Hendrix knew the class would be popular, but she was thrilled to realize when the winter session began last week that enrollment had doubled.

"It is so encouraging to see area kids and their parents invested in art, that they realize the importance of a strong artistic outlet," Hendrix said. "That, and it's fun! All the kids are tremendously engaged for the full two hours having a wonderful time."

Each class opens with a drawing

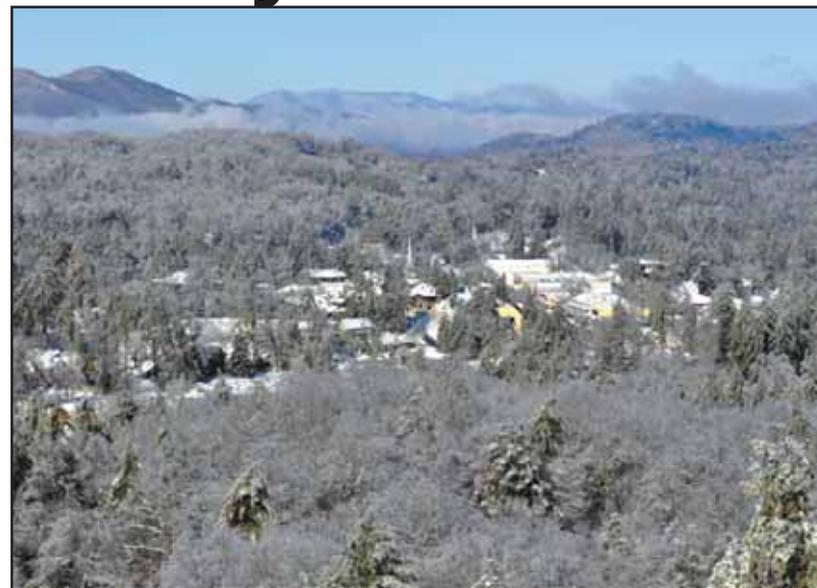
lesson before the instruction moves into other media. Teacher Susan Nastasic is starting a series focusing on the solar system, so the children are working on planets, stars and other space-themed creations.

Cost is \$64 for an eight-week session, with all materials included. The Bascom is currently accepting late enrollment for the winter session.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited, and arrangements need to be made prior to class. Parents of students can spend a morning in Highlands, or enjoy a cup of coffee and some quiet time in the Library at The Bascom.

To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

The ups and downs of the January 29-31 week-end snow and storm event



Photos by
Jim and Kim
Lewicki



From Sunset
Rock to
Horse Cove,
from Main
Street to
Monkey Hill,
the storm
left its mark.



Though at one time over the weekend 75% of all residents were without power, and vehicles lined the ditches of NC 106 and US 64, beauty was found and joy had while nature quickly reminded us who is in charge.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Why bad things happen



Rev. Brian Sullivan
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

The past few days, we all have had plenty of time to reflect. What else is one to do in the dark, without electricity, or heat (except for a fireplace)? But reflection is somewhat a waste of time, when you begin to experience what comes afterwards — being set free!

I was amazed at the need we all had to share our common misfortune. After the big lockdown, (or in this case, “freeze-down”) the day began with a very succinct statement, “I will never be able to play another card game of Uno.” With that one sentence, the stories came pouring out of us. By midday they continued at Rotary as our lunch conversation circled with escalating themes of inconvenience. Everyone had something to add to the conversation. By the end of the day, as I walked into Mountain Fresh, I was met with high-pitched laughter lofting in my direction from the new coffee bar. The source — three haggard faces reflecting my feeling in one sentence: “We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.”

Despite these stories, I know we all realize none of them compare to the tragedy of our Haitian brother and sisters. Their gaunt faces conjure up an image with more gravity than St. Crispin’s speech in Henry V about brotherhood. I can think of one quote: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.”

As a Christian, it is this image that I have when I see, experience, or hear about suffering. Paul shared this image in his first letter to a church in Corinth. The letter describes us as one body. A body so perfectly balanced that the inferior members are treated like the superior members, and vice versa. In other words, we are all the same, especially when tragedy strikes. Yet even in our sameness, we are individuals with incredibly diverse gifts. With this simple image in mind, I am always amazed at the energy spent trying to understand why tragedy happens.

This astonishment struck particularly hard in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake. We have all heard some pretty amazing explanations for the reason Haiti is suffering. The explanations range from the politically absurd to the theologically inept. And throughout the entire struggle to answer this question, I have only heard one story that makes any sense. A newscaster had the courage to show us the perplexing and complicated answer: children playing. They were not looking back for an answer; they were making cars out of discarded water bottles. They were not wringing their hands wondering why; they were running around a playground. They weren’t even reflecting pensively in the shade; they were kicking a flat soccer ball on a rubble-free patch of earth. They were not using words to answer the question; instead they were showing us how meaningless the struggle for an answer is. In the midst of tragedy they came together like a body in perfect unity — laughing, holding hands, and sharing their pain.

Why do bad things like earthquakes, snowstorms, terrorism, cancer, rape, torture, calamity, fire, and destruction happen? The answer is the greatest verb in our lexicon. It is something inherent in each of us. It is exactly what I have experienced in Highlands the past few days. It is exactly what is happening in Haiti at this very moment. It is greater than faith or hope. It is the answer to all our problems. There is only one answer when tragedy happens — love!

• 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

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am; Childrens/Family Program; 10:45 Worship; 5 p.m., Middle and HS student ministries;

Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Children/student/adult programs

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 – Womens 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

• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

Community Blood Drive TODAY -- Thursday, Feb. 4

"Each unit of blood that is donated impacts someone's life. Whether it aids individuals who are fighting terminal diseases or builds one's immune systems to keep them strong during treatments. "Maybe it's a one-time transfusion that saves a life," says Ann Greenlee, manager of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's laboratory. "Those who give blood usually never see the person they help, but every one of those patients has a face, and a family, and loved ones. Each unit of blood someone donates affects many, many people."

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital along with AnMed Regional Blood Center will continue their annual joint blood drive February 4th. Greg Johnson of AnMed Blood Center said "The community can play an important role in this winter's blood supply". The AnMed

bloodmobile will be at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Thursday, February 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and at the Highland's First Citizen Bank from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"The number of blood products used for patients is largely increasing each year. More than half of the patients receiving blood from the hospital are your friends and neighbors. The blood that was donated last year made a real difference in those people's lives", says Greenlee.

There is never too much participation during times like these. "Blood we get now will last up to 42 days. So blood donated during your drive will help us during a time when collections are normally minimal," says Johnson, which has supplied the hospital's needs for blood products for over 20 years".

"Each unit of blood donated goes a long way, says Johnson. Each unit can serve the needs of up to four different patients. Red cells are separated out and used to help accident victims and those who need transfusions as a result of surgery. Platelets are used to treat those undergoing chemotherapy and who suffer from other types of cancer-like blood diseases. Approximately 45 percent of those patients who receive blood suffer from the effects of these illnesses. The plasma stock derived from each unit is used for burn victims, while other elements are removed and given to hemophiliacs and other patients with clotting deficiencies."

The requirements are minimal to give the gift of life. Anyone 17 years or older and 110 pounds can give blood. If you are taking

medication, it won't usually prevent you from giving blood, however, you may want to bring the name of the medication with you.

If there are persons who would like to give blood but are uncertain whether or not they qualify as a donor, can still come to the blood drive. The AnMed officials will determine their eligibility through the donor screening process.

"We all expect blood to be there for us, but barely a fraction of those who can give do. Yet sooner or later, virtually all of us will face a time of great vulnerability in which we ourselves or a loved one will need blood. Our Hospital and AnMed Blood Center urges our community to help replenish our local blood supply and support this opportunity to give the gift of life, says Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

Hospital to offer the advanced imaging diagnostic capabilities

HCH is installing a new multi-slice CT scanner (computerized tomography) that will not only scan patients faster but the technology also improves accuracy by enabling the images to be viewed in multiple planes.

The new CT scanner will take 16 image slices per one rotation enabling our Radiologist to reconfigure the 2 dimensional picture images into different planes.

"The multi-slice CT scanner is able to produce higher resolution images which are sharper and crisper. The multi slice images are combined with the reconstruction software, allowing the Radiologist to better view the head, chest, abdomen, pelvis, and extremities, and get a more precise block of information for a quicker and more accurate diagnosis," said Laura Ammons, Radiology Manager.

"The machine provides images from different angles to show a cross section of the body part in question but supplies much more detailed information than a traditional x-ray," explained Staff Radiologist, Rodney Stinnett MD. The scan takes "visual slices" of your body to help locate problems including aortic aneurysms, appendicitis and internal injuries. The images are then projected on a work station monitor for interpretation. A report is generated to be given to the patients' physician so they can make recommendations for treatment."

"While the technology is advanced and complex, essentially the new CT scanner will allow us to view the produced images of broken bones or body organs from any direction. Being able to view the images in different planes allows us to do procedures, that in the past, we haven't been able to do", said Dr. Stinnett. "The advancements of this new

scanner will allow our doctors and surgeons to better diagnosis suspected tumors, strokes, trauma injuries, head and facial injuries, small fractures, pelvic and extremity fractures and will improve our abilities with vascular work," said Dr. Stinnett.

"Patients can expect a significantly reduced scan time with our new CT scanner, which improves their comfort during the exam."

To accommodate for the new CT scanner, which will become operational in March, the hospital's radiology department will undergo some refurbishment work over the next few weeks. During this transition, the hospital will provide continual service with a mobile CT unit on site.

"This is excellent advancement for our hospital and the patients we serve. The state-of-the-art technology the new CT scanner brings will help aid in the prevention and treatment of many serious medical conditions", said Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

Nursing staff at hospital continues to excel

HCH's highly specialized nursing team includes individuals who have received nationally advanced certifications in critical areas of patient care.

"Our hospital has over 75 nurses working alongside experienced and committed Medical staff with one goal in mind- to pro-

• See HOSPITAL NEWS page 14

Have you been to Mountain Fresh lately?

Come see what you've been missing!

Check out our Spot On Specials:

\$2.99 PET Dairy Milk gallon

\$1.99 Morning Fresh Orange Juice 1/2 gallon

\$1.99 USDA Choice Ground Beef pound

\$0.39 Dole/ Delmonte Bananas pound

\$1.99 Pepperidge Farm Sandwich Bread loaf

**Buy 1
Get 1
FREE** Lays Chips Assorted Large Bags

you're gonna need a really

BIG BAG

Coming Soon!
In House Roasted Coffee

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

Corner of 5th & Main in Highlands, NC Grill Opens at 11am 828-526-2400



**MEXICAN RESTAURANT
OF HIGHLANDS
EL AZTECA**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Have a very special
Valentine's Day meal with us!
Three special and unique
entrees crafted by our chef.

Acapulco Romance: \$55	Acapulco Romance: \$55
Fajitas for Two: \$22	Fajitas for Two: \$22
Sea Love: \$35	Sea Love: \$35

70 HIGHLANDS PLAZA (828) 526-2244

... REFUND continued from page 1

place which will enable citizens to report outages as well as get information back, once the system is fully operational. (See "Mother Nature brings town to standstill" in this issue.)

A slight change was made to the Temporary Planned Development Sign Ordinance. Commissioners agreed to strike the requirement for an "active building permit issued by the Macon County building department" in 2c(i) to get the two-year renewal permit after the initial three-year time period for the temporary signage has expired.

Developer Bill Nellis said many times a development is built-out but not sold, so the need for an "active building permit" wouldn't apply when an extension on the temporary sign ordinance may still be warranted for marketing purposes.

The board agreed on the grounds that active marketing be in the works to get the two-year extension, but once the five-year period is up, only the development identification sign is allowed, not the temporary sign that includes marketing and Realtor information.

The board also voted unanimously to allow the Highlands United Methodist Church's request for Conditional B-1 zoning on its Wellspring property behind the church which will eventually be used to build

a Faith and Fellowship Center.

The only change the board made was to require a minimum of 10 parking spaces on the property even though technically parking isn't required in a B-1 zone.

In addition, if the property ceases to be owned by the church, it reverts back to the B3 zone; it must be left 30% green, only one curb cut will be allowed on Spring Street and 10-foot setbacks will be required except for zero setbacks, as in traditional B1 zones, on the front and back bordering streets.

Also OK'd was a rezoning request by Chris Gilbert and Jim Tate for their property on NC 106. Following a land swap on the parcel in 2006, the zoning didn't follow the land. Subsequently, the front swapped portion was still R4 and the back swapped portion was B5. Now the front is B5 and back R4, as intended.

Since the last Town Board meeting, the state has come up with \$200,000 more for stormwater remediation for the Pine Street Stormwater Improvement Project - mainly because it has been ranked as a "top green project."

Now that there is extra money, the resolution signed at the Jan. 20 meeting awarding the contract to Jeff Madden Trucking has to be amended to include items previously deleted from the project, when Madden's bid

... HOSPITAL NEWS continued from page 13

vide the highest levels of quality health care available," said Linda Suther, Director of Nursing. "Earning the certifications, says that our nurses are committed to an ongoing process of education, in bettering their skills and abilities to treat our patients."

Bringing over 28 years of experience, Cindy B. Coley, RN, CPHM and Employee Health Coordinator at HCH, has recently been named a Certified Professional in Healthcare Management. Coley is able to educate staff on the value, challenges, history, legal aspects and recent trends in healthcare management. "I strive to assure that our patients are getting the appropriate care at the appropriate time. I now have the knowledge to better manage the patient's care in the most cost effective, efficient manner, all while meeting the specific needs of each patient," said Coley.

HCH also has members of the nursing staff who are CEN's (Certified Emergency Nurses). A nationally recognized credential, CEN's are skilled at dealing with patients when a diagnosis has not yet been made and the cause of the problem is unknown. Their focus is treating patients in the emergency or crucial phase of their illness or injury. Bryan Deviny, RN and Education Resource Associate and Virginia Stewart, RN and Clinical Coordinator, both have obtained this status. "We strive every day and with every patient to exceed the typical standards of care," said Stewart.

Tammy Oakes, LPN and Wound Care

Specialist, has been working in the hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for the past 15 years. Recently, Oakes has been certified as a CWS (Certified Wound Specialist) by the American Academy of Wound Management. By applying the latest treatment methods in wound care, wounds can heal faster and more completely with less likelihood of returning. "My certification gives me the confidence needed to give my patients the best care. We treat many residents and patients daily who have diabetic foot and ankle ulcers, surgical wounds, burns and pressure ulcers. We can implement the proper treatment plan for the best possible outcome," said Oakes.

Along with Bryan Deviny's CEN certification, he has also received his Certified Hospital Emergency Coordinator credential. By completing the CHEC process, the Emergency Management Coordinator learns and validates the skills necessary to enable the hospital to better care for victims of natural or man-made disasters and various other public health emergencies, such as the recent H1N1 pandemic. "I feel that our hospital is better equipped to handle emergency situations when they arise," said Deviny.

"We are very proud of the dedicated members of our nursing staff. They are committed to providing the best possible care to all of our patients. There are so many times our well-being is put into their hands; it's time to express our gratitude for the exceptional care they continue to give," said Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

came in higher than budgeted.

The overall project is still a 50% grant and 50% no-interest loan for 20 years, but Fatland and Wilkes said the town is hoping it can use pending FEMA money to offset the town's out-of-pocket expenses and would like to use the extra money offered by the state to deal with stormwater remediation on Fifth Street and other areas.

"We have to commit to this to get the money, but we hope to be able to come back with change orders to use it elsewhere," said Wilkes.

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

and more than 90% of the population is illiterate, wooden pegs might be the best solution. I'll leave that to others to decide.

There was another change in our patients. When we arrived they mistrusted us. There was a rumor that we had come to take their limbs. A local orthopedist apparently fed the rumor. When I smiled at a patient, he scowled in return. When we left, smiling, grateful patients greeted us. Parents were no longer wary if I offered toys to their kids, gifts from Bull, my son. The Marines who evacuated patients whose injuries were beyond our scope to treat, American doctors and nurses, the Haitian professional who chose to join us, and the staff of Zanmi Lesante, the Haitian wing of Partners had created several miracles. We had

Fatland said the town can return the money if it doesn't use it but it's best to say 'yes' first. Word from FEMA concerning its pending grant money for stormwater remediation specifically at Fifth and Laurel streets is expected in 30 days.

The mayor also announced that Marilyn deVillie is on the Business Group Committee.

The board will have a budget worksession 4 p.m., Feb. 11 at the Community Building.

- Kim Lewicki

created a functional, if imperfect, hospital from a chaotic shell. We had saved a lot of lives and lost a few. We had formed an incredible team and established lifelong friendships. We had started the process of rebirth and rehabilitation in this tragic nation. And we had won the trust of those whom we had come to serve.

A team from San Diego arrived on the plane which we rode home. I offered a few hurried hints to the incoming anesthesiologist. Pallets of food and supplies are everywhere at the Port au Prince Airport. There is so much more to be done, but we, "the pros from Dover" have the pride of knowing that we started the job, and that is one memory that will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

NEW POLICY**Non-Commercial Classifieds:**

\$5 for first 10 words;
20 cents per word thereafter.

Commercial Classifieds:

\$6 for first 10 words;
25 cents per word thereafter.

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VI SA/MASTERCARD Accepted

DEADLINE:

Mondays at 5 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All unpaid ads will be deleted.

HELP WANTED

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

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position working 12 hour shifts and every other weekend. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.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

LOST

LOST IN TOWN on Dec. 30 - black leather glove with silver buckle. Return appreciated. MichieMead@aol.com

WANTED

WANTED TO RENT - Quality 3 or 4-bedroom home close to town. Upgraded kitchen, flexible on furnishings, easy access. Small, clean dog allowed. Long term lease. Possibly interested in option for the

right home. Call 828-200-0815. (st. 12/10)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

THE REAL ESTATE BOOK - North America's largest and most successful "Homes for Sale" magazine is offering the chance to be an Independent Distributor of the Cashiers-Highlands area. This market meets the criteria of our other 400 successful territories. Comprehensive training, on-going support help ensure success. Candidate should possess strong sales skills, customer support & follow-up. No franchise fees or royalties. Initial start-up and working capital required. Call 770-962-7220, ext. 24608 or email truitt@nci.com for more information. (2/4)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REDUCED - 3.5 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA manufactured home, large shop building, storage building, covered parking. Clear Creek/Blue Valley Area. \$205,000. 828-526-8191 (3/11)

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

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/month. 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 \$2,500.00 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (3/25)

SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT., full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 11/5)

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)

APT. FOR RENT - Fully Furnished. Including W/D. Minutes from Hospital and downtown. \$475/month

• CLASSIFIEDS •

plus utilities. Call 787-2423. (2/25)

2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Few minutes from downtown Highlands and the hospital. fully furnished included w/ d. Call 787-2423. (2/25)

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)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - \$100/week - call (828) 787-1515 (4/15)

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - \$50/week - 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)

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

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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)

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Mid-Winter Community "Garage" Sale at Highlands Rec Park

Saturday, March 6

Come sell your
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Call Cindy Batson at
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POLICE, FIRE & SHERIFF REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Jan. 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 28

- At 6:45 p.m., officers responded to a call about a vehicle on the side of the Azalea Drive.

- At 2 p.m., officers received a call about someone driving over surveyor's equipment on Dogwood Lane.

Jan. 29

- Officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east.

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Mirror Lake Road and Pine Lane.

- At 10:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Buttermilk.

- At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to an accident on US 64 west.

Jan. 30

- At 5:30 a.m., officers responded to a call about a tree on a vehicle on S. 4th Street.

Jan. 31

- At 3:20 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at a business. It was secured.

During the week, police officers responded to 16 alarms and issued 3 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 29:

Jan. 29

- At 1:48 p.m., the dept. responded to multiple accidents on S. 4th Street. There were no injuries.

Jan. 30

- At 2:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Chestnut Hill. There was no transport.

- At 4:49 a.m., the dept. assisted a stranded motorist on Turtle Pond Road.

- At 7:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a transformer fire on Azalea Drive. It was out upon arrival.

- At 9:35 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on NC 106. There were no injuries.

- At 9:42 a.m., The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Big Bear Pen Road. There was no problem.

- At 7:19 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire & Rescue for a chimney fire at a residence on Ritchie Road.

- At 8:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Walkingstick Road. The call was canceled en route.

Jan. 31

- At 12:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a stuck vehicle on NC 106.

- At 5:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Many Road. It was cancelled.

- At 10:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Maplewood Lane. There was extensive damage, possibly due to a heater malfunction.

Feb. 1

- At 11:42 a.m., the dept. responded to propane truck rollover on Shortoff Road. There were no injuries, minimum leakage. Stood by while wrecker pulled truck out of ditch.

Feb. 2

- At 6:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 3

- At 9:30 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on NC 106. There were no injuries.

Woman arrested for felonies involving a child

The Macon County Sheriff's Office charged Jennifer Geane Iannuzzi with three felonies involving a minor child: Indecent Liberties with a Child, Felonious Restraint, and Abduction of a Child. The minor child was twelve (12) years old when the alleged offenses began. The dates of offense listed in the arrest warrants range from July 1, 2009 to December 30, 2009.

Iannuzzi was arrested on January 29, 2010, her bond was set at \$20,000 and her first court date is February 11, 2010. Iannuzzi was still in custody at the time of this release. Iannuzzi is a resident of Franklin and is 38 years old.

Sheriff's Office Investigators consulted with the District Attorney's Office throughout the investigation. This is an ongoing investigation and no additional information is available from the Sheriff's Office at this time.

"After receiving a report Investigators worked numerous hours on this case and have done an outstanding job," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "I am confident that they will continue to conduct a thorough investigation and I have no additional statements at this time."

Macon County School Superintendent Dan Brigman echoed Holland's remarks.

"This is a confidential matter involving a student, and I cannot discuss it at this time. The Board is very sensitive to students, their safety and their privacy. We are aware of the matter and are assisting authorities with their investigation in any way we can. Please direct any other inquiries to the



Jennifer Geane Iannuzzi

Macon County Sheriff's Office."

Brigman said Ms. Iannuzzi isn't a teacher for Macon County Schools, but she is on the Cowee Elementary and Macon Middle School substitute list. She has also tutored in the past.

Sheriff Holland requests that anyone with information regarding this investigation contact the Sheriff's Office at (828) 349-2104 or Macon County Crime Stoppers at (828) 349-2600 or toll-free at (866) 374-TIPS (8277). Callers to Crime Stoppers may remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward.

Winter Storm Statistics

1:30 p.m. Jan. 29 until 11 a.m. Jan. 31

- 9-1-1 received 460 calls for service
- Last week during the same time period they received 133 calls for service, which indicates a significant increase in calls due to weather related issues.
- There were 9 structure fires and/or chimney fires reported during this time period.
- There were 25 miscellaneous fire calls reported during this time period, such as trees down on power lines and on fire, etc.
- There were 48 vehicle accidents, most with no injuries.
- There were 109 reports of trees and/or utility lines down causing hazardous situations
- There were 16 EMS or Public Assist calls for service.

– Todd Seagle, Lead Telecommunicator
Warren Cabe, MC Director of Emergency Services

... CHILDCARE continued from page 1

initiatives in the local childcare industry, this shortage will continue to grow as Macon County grows."

Furthermore, the committee echoed what the county's Economic Development Commission has said, "That an investment in childcare services yields significant returns to the community and local businesses and is considered a key pin in enticing businesses from out of county and out of state to relocate or set up shop in Macon County."

The Economic Opportunity Institute projects that nationally in the next 10 years, 85% of the workforce will be working parents who spend more time on the job than they did 20 years ago.

The Office of State Budget Management and the State Center for Health Statistics predict the resident population of Macon County to grow 40% now through 2029. The senior population of over 55 will decrease from 37% to 31.6% during the same period. At the same time, the youngest group, ages 0-14, will increase from 15.9% to 18.9%.

"It is reasonable to assume the infant/toddler population will grow at the same rate. Should a younger workforce be successfully attracted to the county, the infant/toddler population will grow even faster," reads the committee's report.

Based on these projections and without significant new initiatives by Macon County to encourage similar growth in the childcare industry, the current shortage will grow to 750 children and families needing care where none will be available.

The committee suggests a short-term solution in the form of a new infant/toddler center and identified the need for long-term incentives to grow childcare capacity in the county at a rate consistent with projected growth in the population and work force. Since the problem with childcare is twofold – waiting lists and affordability – the committee suggested a subsidized program of sorts.

"Based on current costs and salaries of families who make too much to qualify for federal and state programs, it's clear that average working families can't afford quality childcare," said Sutton. "They end up spending 50% to 60% of their earnings on childcare which means they can't meet their other financial responsibilities."

To compound matters, the cost of providing childcare in Macon County can be expensive — \$380-\$1,200 a month per child, depending on the child's age, provider and facility's star rating.

With the state raising the bar for facility requirements and caregiver certification requirements, seven homecenters and four childcare centers have gone out of business since 2005 and only five new centers have opened. Sutton said in addition, traditionally caregiver wages are low, work-related stress is high, so turnover is high in the industry.

The committee says an 8,100 sq. ft., easily accessible, centrally located, public-private facility could house 120-140 infant/toddlers, age 0-2 years, and would create 22 jobs with a payroll of about \$400,000. "In fact, the childcare industry in North Carolina is a \$1.77 billion industry," he said.

Sutton said affordable, dependable, quality childcare is a "quality of life" issue and one that will pay off later if invested in now. He said children who experience quality childcare are less likely to end up in the "system" as delinquents and troubled kids. "Every dollar you spend on a child brings \$7 back into the community during adult years," he said.

Though the county can't afford to back the concept right now, Chairman Ronnie Beale said it's a problem that's not going to go away; one that's going to get worse and one that most affects single-mothers.

Though no immediate answers were available, Beale said the commission will continue to work on the issue.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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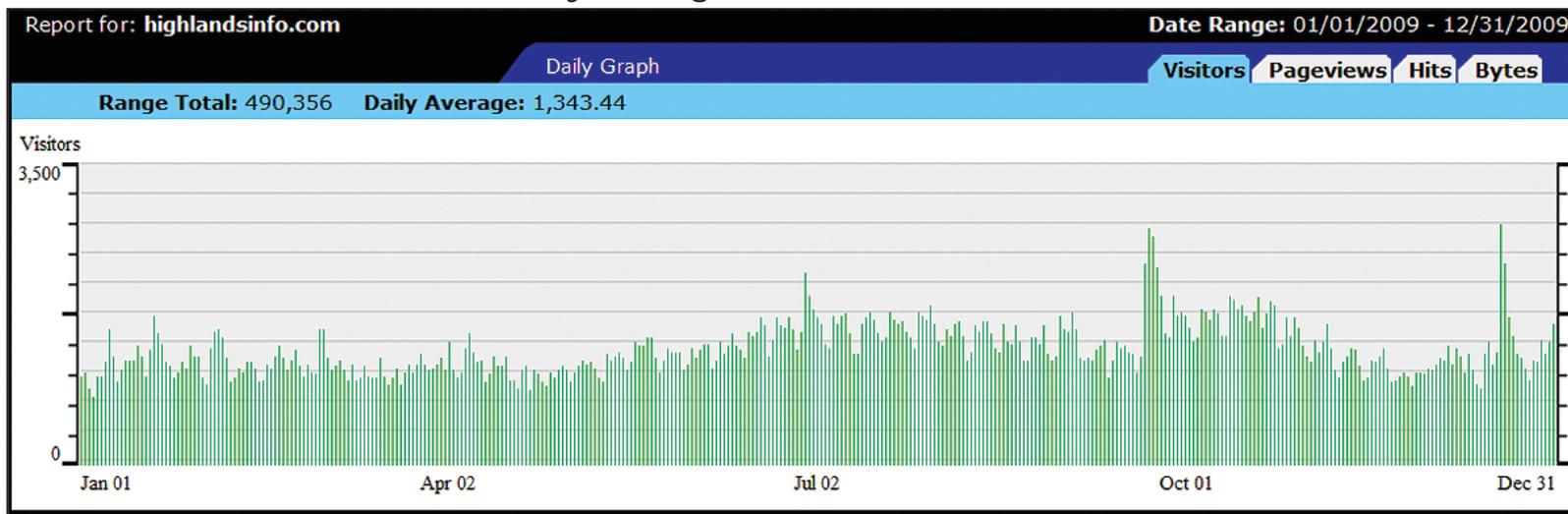
2009 Record-breaking year for Highlands' Newspaper's Internet Directory - HighlandsInfo.com -

Highlands' Newspapers Internet Directory HighlandsInfo.com had a record-breaking year for visitors coming to our Internet Directory in 2009 and now there have been more visitors in Jan. 2010 than any other Jan. recorded since 2003. Good news for Highlands ... 2010 is looking like it's going to be great from early indications. Many restaurants will be open for Valentine's Day/President's Day weekend including ...on the Verandah and Paoletti's which are opening that weekend for the season. (See page 4 for all participating restaurants.)

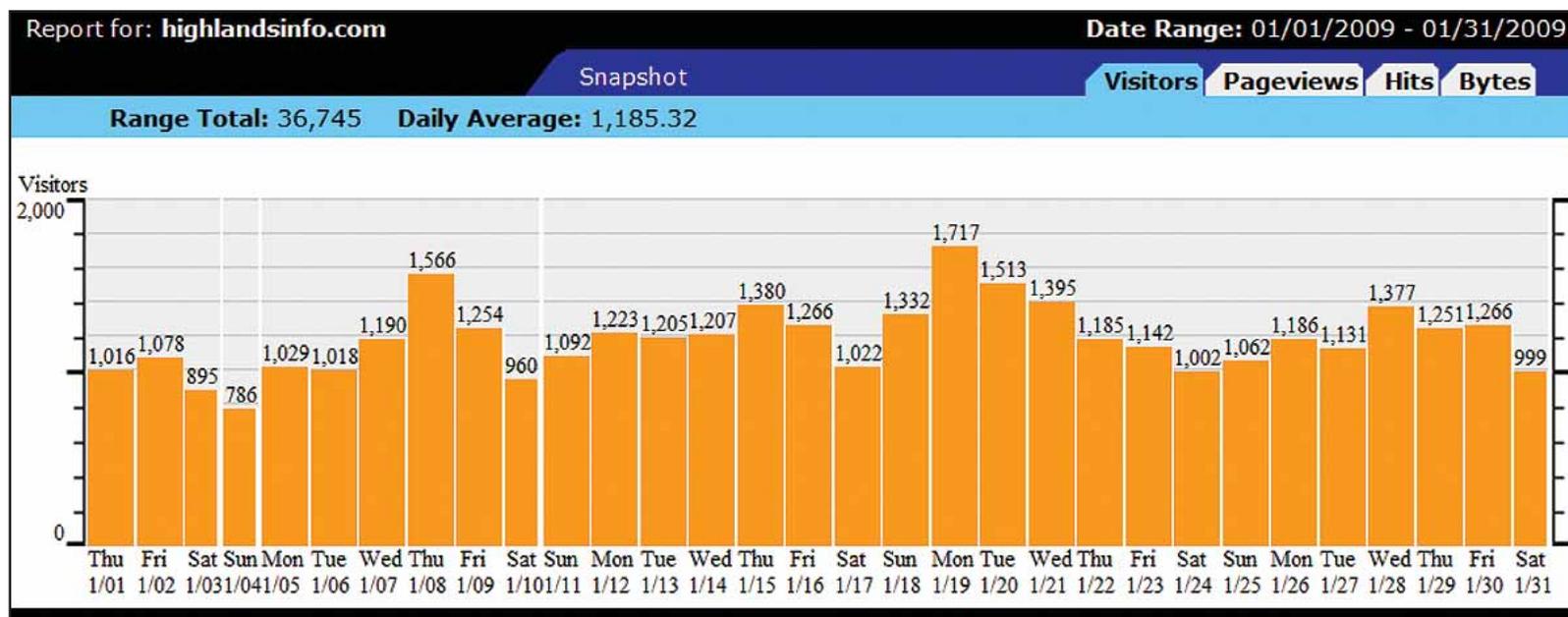
HighlandsInfo.com has also added videos to its Internet Directory Waterfalls & Area Events. Soon we will be adding a Highlands "Things To Do" video. Any business or organization wanting to participate should contact: the Publisher of Highlands' Newspaper 828-526-0782 / HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Our Internet Directory also has links to many Highlands Lodging, Dining & Real Estate professionals. It's no wonder HighlandsInfo.com has been the most used Internet Directory about the Highlands area since 2003. There is no other place on the Internet that can offer more useful information about Highlands than HighlandsInfo.com. GOOGLE Highlands or Highlands NC or Highlands North Carolina and see where you would go if you were a visitor wanting to know more about beautiful Highlands.

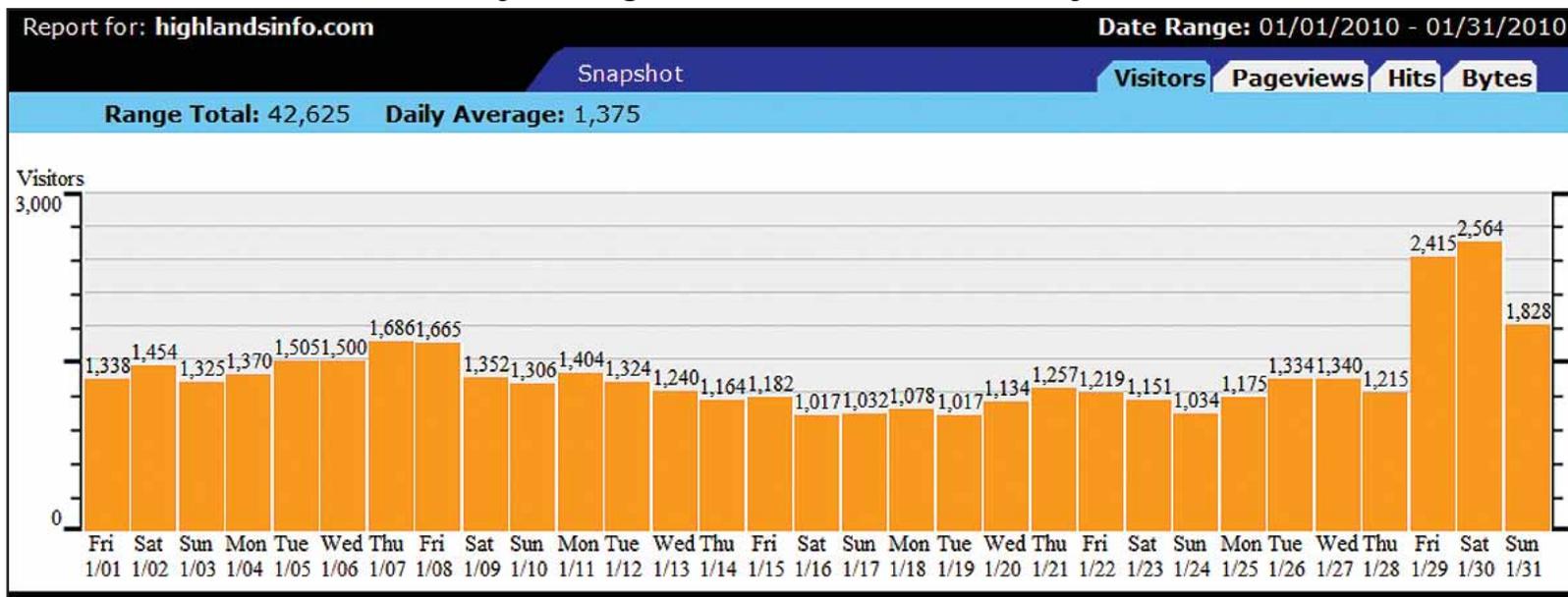
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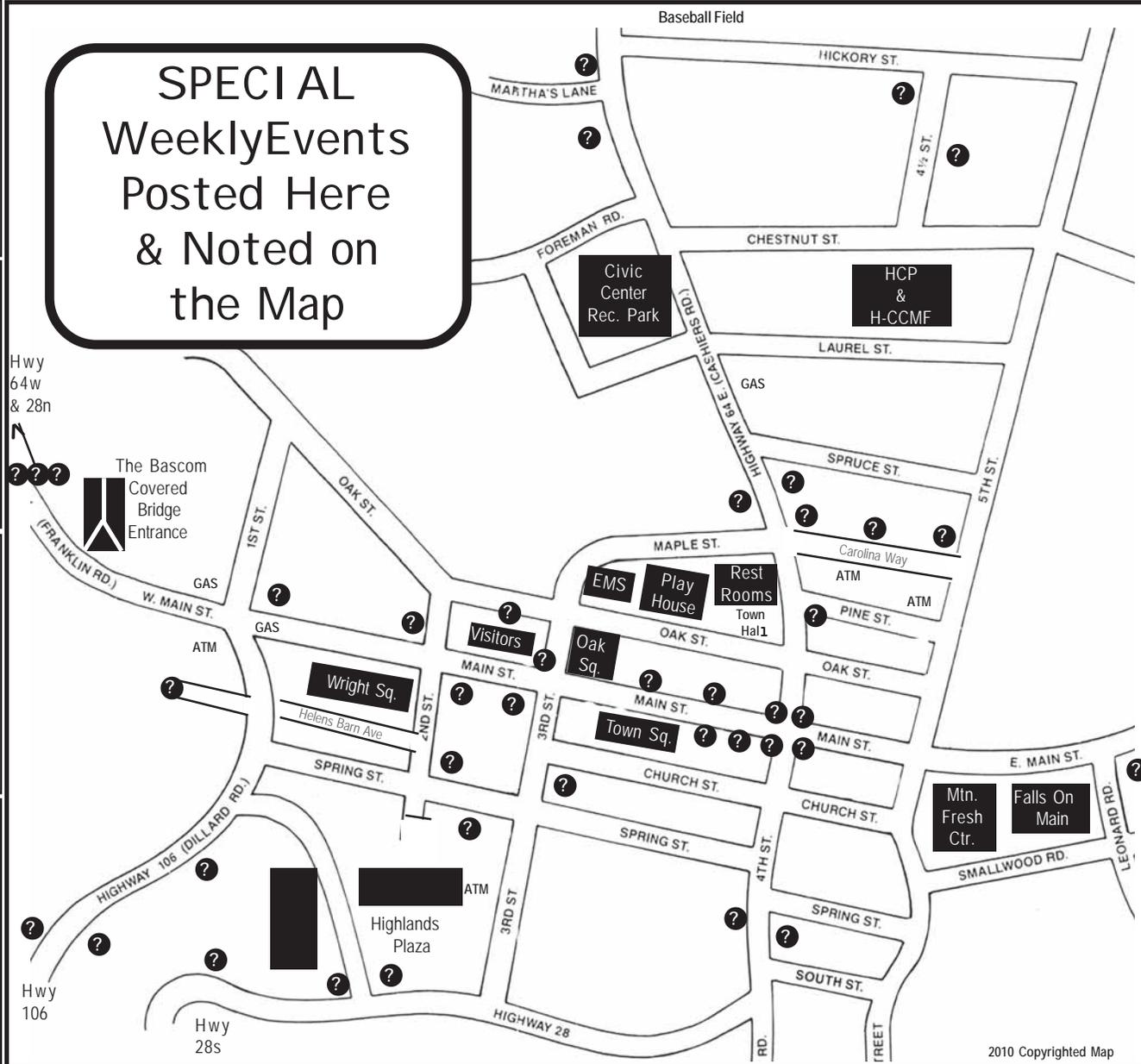


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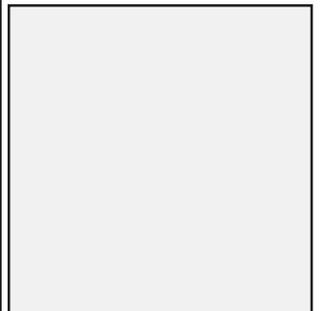


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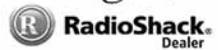
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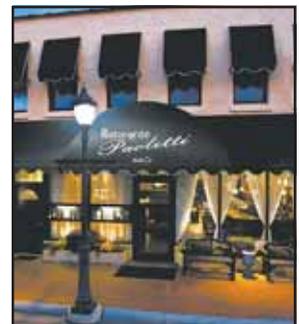
Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map

Detailed Info Inside Newspaper

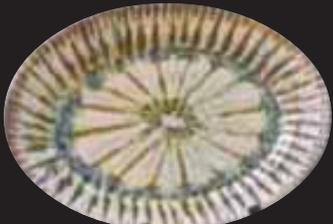


Map labels include: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Sapphire Valley, CASHIERS, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, HIGHLANDS, Glen Falls, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, Cliffside Lake, Dry Falls, Horse Cove Rd, Whiteside Cove Rd, Norton Rd, Hwy 107n, Hwy 64, Hwy 106, Hwy 107s, Hwy 64w & 28n To Franklin.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
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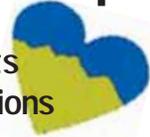


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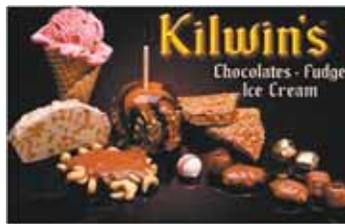
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