




Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 4

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Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
29 / 24F	27 / 9F	34 / 10F

This Week in Highlands

Friday & Saturday, Jan. 29-30

- Murder Mystery Dinner Theater with the Highlands-Cashiers Players at 6:30 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street, "Destination Highlands/Destination Murder." Three-course dinner with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. \$55 per person or \$425 for table of 8. Tickets go on sale Thursday, Jan. 21. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 30

- A benefit for Rita Houston Staffeldach, daughter of Michael and Kay Houston, at the Civic Center from 3:30-10 p.m. There will be singing, dancing, an auction and a hot dog supper with all the fixings to eat there or take out. Rita has diabetes and after four surgeries now needs another.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5.7 mile hike on the Park Creek and Park Ridge trails in the Standing Indian area. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations.

- It's a Friends of Panthertown work day. Volunteers should meet at 9:30 am at the Salt Rock trailhead. For directions and details about upcoming work days, go to www.j-mca.org or contact Nina Elliott, the Friends of Panthertown Coordinator at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

Sunday, Jan. 31

- First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike along a new short trail near the Environmental Center in Franklin. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

- At Hiapt, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner. Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Town Board eyes fiscal responsibility

With fiscal responsibility in mind, the Town Board may not be as quick to say "yes" to funding requests as in the past.

At the Jan. 20 Town Board meeting, commissioners said yes and no to a request from the Chamber of Commerce and asked Police Chief Bill Harrell and Town Manager Jim Fatland to come to the budget worksession next week with specifics on the police department fleet.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bob Kieltyka requested an equal partnership with the Town – beginning in 2010 and going forward – to fund the annual Fourth of July firework display.

He said July 4th is one of the three busiest commercial days, if

not the busiest, and it's the Chamber's hope the fireworks can continue.

However, new 2010 licensing – now in the works – involves the tightening of certification and logistical requirements at the state and federal level concerning the controls of explosives including how they are stored, secured and handled.

East Coast Pyrotechnics, which has been the contractor for the job for the past three years at the cost of \$5,500, can handle the new requirements with a turnkey contract of \$10,000.

"At this level they will provide the appropriately licensed and certified technical team, an increase in fireworks for a larger show, lia-

bility insurance and all the logistical support for storing, transporting and handling of the product," said Kieltyka. "However, the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center can't handle the expenditure alone."

The Chamber proposed a 50/50 partnership with the town at \$5,000 each and suggested requesting third-party donations from the business community, with donations equally divided between the town and the Chamber to reduce the overall cost.

He said members of Highlands Rotary indicated that it would donate some money to the cause.

Though commissioners acknowledged the need to continue

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Snow days threaten school days

Issues concerning the Macon County School calendar continue to surface.

At the Monday, Jan. 25 school board meeting, questions were asked about school being open on Election Day and the lack of snow days in the current and 2010-11 school calendar.

Pat Davis, Testing and Accountability Coordinator, said she has been in contact with the Macon County Board of Elections concerning school and elections going on at the same time.

"It is their prerogative whether to close schools and they have said they have no problem with it," she said. "Since only three of our 12 schools are used as polling places, closing schools didn't seem necessary." She also said Early Voting options now available to Macon County citizens have changed the dynamics of polling places.

Superintendent Dan Brigman said this time of year inclement weather continues to threaten the continuity of school in the county.

State mandates demand students attend 180 days of instruction, school not extend past June 10, that a teacher workday follow each grading period and that Saturday make-up days take place the week of the missed day.

"Since the state says students

• See SNOW DAYS page 14

HS Homecoming King & Queen 2009



Seniors Chris St. Germain and Kate-Marie Parks were crowned Homecoming King & Queen this past Saturday at the dance at the Performing Arts Center. For more photos see page 18.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

PB charged with ordinances

On Monday, Jan. 25, the Town Board and the Planning Board had a joint meeting to discuss upcoming ordinances and "job" parameters.

Most of the two-hour meeting was spent discussing the scope of, importance of, and need for a Stormwater Ordinance as presented by JP Johns with McGill Engineering.

As required by law, the Town Board sends all proposed ordinances to the Planning Board for its consideration, but it's the Town Board that has the final say.

Though the Planning Board doesn't have teeth, its participation in the formation of ordinances is considered important and often times helps define the final draft of an ordinance.

Lately, however, the Planning Board hasn't acted on the charges put forth by the Town Board – most recently dealing with the Abandoned Structure Ordinance but also the long-awaited Stormwater Ordinance.

• See ORDINANCES page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

The road to Haiti and beyond



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Anesthesiologist Dr. Henry Salzarulo and his partner in practice from Seneca, SC are still in Haiti working with Partners in Health doctors. He expects to return to Highlands Saturday, Jan. 30. What follows are more accounts of the reality that is Haiti.

...

"No one is to blame. The earthquake is to blame."

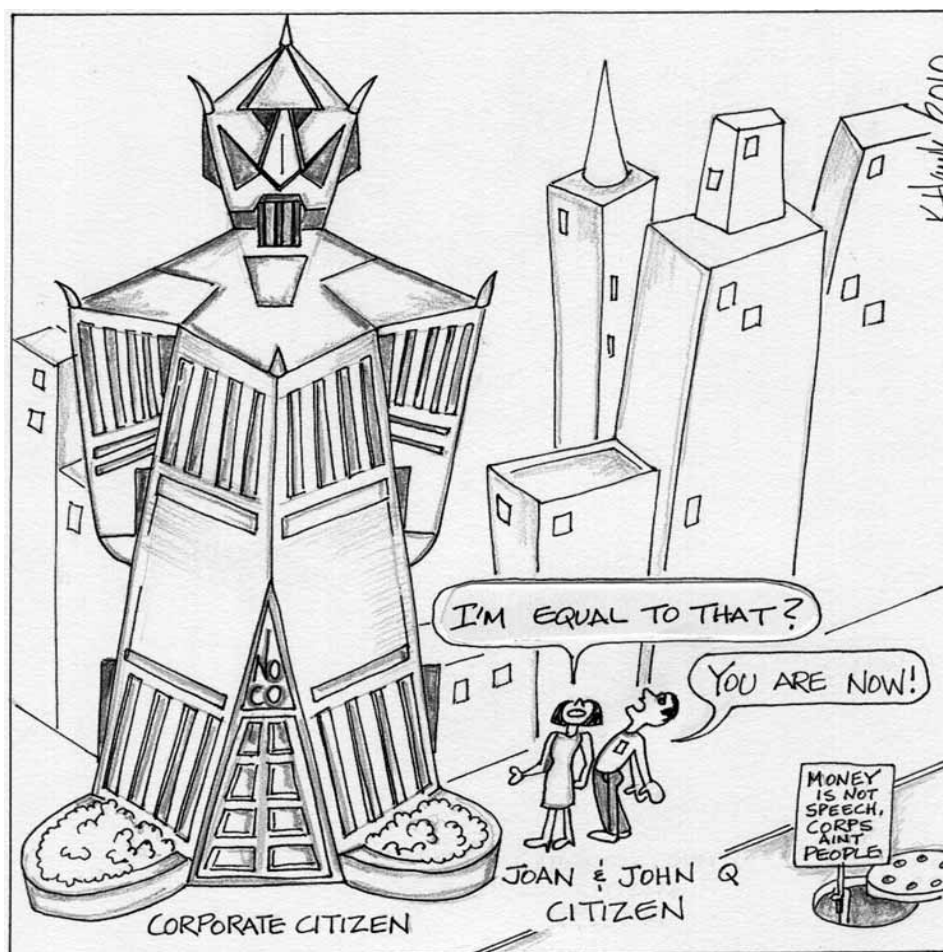
That is the mantra of our team, as face each day. We work on. I've lost track of time. My watch says it's the 22nd. Who am I to argue? Far from improving, the situation here grows only more desperate. It has been more than a week since the earthquake. Our medical team arrived the following Saturday. The natural history of massive extremity trauma is that they get worse each day unless treated. The body yields to overwhelming infection. Surgical and medical wound-care, frequently including amputation, saves lives.

We are in Ste. Marc, Haiti, in a wretched hospital, in a coastal town, in this tragic country. I can only assume that what we have experienced has been repeated throughout the country. Specifically, what we are experiencing is death, the death of our patients. Five died yesterday. Two of them were under my care. It was a bad day. I was up all night with a patient. When our team reassessed her this morning we made a terrible, but inescapable decision. We had no choice but to let her die to preserve limited resources for patients with a chance to survive. Triage is hell.

It's estimated that as many as 250,000 people may die as a result of Haiti's quake. Two hundred thirty thousand died in the tsunami in 2007. Those were from a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean. Before the quake the population of Haiti was about eight million. We've lost our share. Fragmentary reports from other hospitals suggest that our experience is typical.

I wrote those words a week ago. Shocked by the unexplained deaths of two of my patients, and drained by 24 hours without sleep, I sat dazed at my keyboard. I fell asleep writing, went to bed and awoke three hours later. I summoned our driver

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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and told him I had to return to the hospital, return to duty, assist my colleagues and aid my patients.

It is calmer now. There were deaths today. We're starting reconstructive procedures. We left the hospital at seven instead of 11. I can organize my thoughts, pick up fragments of things I wrote in the early days, add flesh and make sense of what the Haitian people have suffered and what we have accomplished. I was not to blame. No one was to blame. The earthquake was to blame.

To continue...

...

A sense of normalcy is returning to our little bit of Haiti. Fewer patients are dying. It has been several days since we've done an amputation. Yesterday we started happy surgery — reconstruction. We placed external fixation devices on open fractures and applied plates and screws to closed fractures. We still change many wound dressings each day, but the wounds are cleaner now. The stench of infection is leaving the wards.

The United States Marines visited us yesterday, and they were a sight for sore eyes. They were so polite, so professional, and so helpful. They offered us supplies. They explained that their helicopters were at our disposal to evacuate patients that required a greater intensity than we could deliver. If these guys are representative of Marines, then America is well served by the Corps. The memory of their pressed fatigues, crew-cut heads, and smiling faces will remain with me forever. "And Sir," the ranking officer, a full colonel said to me, "if you don't need us or don't want us around, we'll clear out." We told them we needed their help, primarily to evacuate patients to the hospital ship, Comfort, which was at anchor in the harbor. Colonel Pete addressed a junior officer, "There's a soccer field in town. Check it out as an L.Z. (landing zone)." They moved 11 of our sickest patients yesterday, and have offered continued assistance as long as we need it. My hat is off to these guys. My thanks to the Corps.

In my many trips to Haiti I have come to expect the affection and gratitude which the people of Haiti display. In the past I had worked only in the Partners in Health hospital in Cange. Dr. Paul Farmer started a clinic in Cange more than 25 years ago. Everyone adores Paul and there is ample remaining love for his staff and volunteers. St. Marc is different. Partners in Health became involved with the hospital here only very recently. There is friction between the Haitian staff and the new employees. Partners in Health wants only to improve the care available to the Haitian people, but changes are viewed with suspicion and resentment.

At the time the earth shook, the ad-

• See HAITI page 3

... HAITI continued from page 2

ministrator had been on duty only one week. Then we came and St. Marc shook. The operating rooms were dirty and dysfunctional. Patients were dirty. Wound dressings had not been changed since they had been applied. There was a smell of death and rotting flesh throughout the hospital. We pushed for improvement, perhaps a little too aggressively. The staff withdrew. We amputated a number of limbs to save patients' lives.

Haitians are as attached to their extremities as anybody else, perhaps more so, and with good reason. Life is hard in Haiti with two good legs. With one, life becomes nearly impossible. Word spread among the patients, perhaps fanned by a reluctant staff, that we had come to cut off arms and legs. A Haitian doctor promised patients that he could salvage their limbs. When we made ward rounds, our smiles were repaid with scowls. People were afraid of us. The relationship has improved and will continue to get better as we rebuild injured Haitians. We are greeted by fewer scowls and a few smiles. The kids look forward to their dressings with adequate sedation a Hot Wheels car or Pokemon figure, a gift from Bull Salzarulo, who just happens to be my son, of whom I am very proud.

Part of our team leaves tomorrow morning. We'll miss them. The bond that formed among us, forged by this intense experience, is indescribable. We've been supplemented by a team from San Francisco. Another from Quebec Province is in town and will join us in the morning. We share pride in the knowledge that we got here first and, as the Marines would say, established an LZ for those who follow. When we rotate out on Saturday, I believe that each of us will feel that this was his finest hour.

To continue...

...

As you know by now, I writing from Ste. Marc, a coastal town in Southern Haiti, about an hour drive from the capital, Port au Prince. I arrived here one week ago today, attached to a medical relief team made up primarily of physicians and nurses from Harvard affiliated hospitals.

I never considered not coming to Haiti following the devastating earthquake nearly two weeks ago. The only question was how to hitch a ride. There was, and remains, no commercial air service into or out of Port au Prince. I called a friend at Partners in Health who was kind enough to attach me to the Harvard group as their anesthesiologist.

I don't have much of an idea what's going on in the capital. One of our surgeons travels there frequently to search through mountains of gear at the airport. He usually delights us with the supplies he is able to find. Sometimes it is stuff that actually belongs to us. More often he picks through shipments sent to Haiti by a world that grieves for Haiti. He met a US Army Ranger who responded to a question about vio-

lence in the capital by saying, "It was worse after Katrina."

Despite the sensational reports supposedly attributed to CNN, Haitians, conditioned to suffering have, for the most part, been orderly. We had a minor demonstration two or three days after our arrival. People, mostly families of the injured, were upset that we had not yet treated their loved one's injuries. We worked 14-hour days, creating an environment fit for habitation, before we could perform the first operation.

The facility was filthy. Two operating rooms sat unused and not cleaned. Our surgeons examined and prioritized the injured. There were five anesthesia machines at the hospital, none of which was functional. With help of a biomedical engineer from Port au Prince, we managed to get two machines working. He beamed when I told him that I worked in Seneca, SC and lived in Highlands, NC. He explained that he had visited Dr. Harry Morse in Anderson. Members of our team searched through an onsite storeroom where they found a trove of donated, but unused equipment — stuff that had been piling up for years, equipment we needed to care for the injured.

We had all assumed that we would be sent to a functional hospital. We were shocked by what we found. The place was filthy and crowded. Most of the patients were lying on thin pads on the floor, mattresses so closely placed that we could not reach a patient without stepping on his and his neighbor's bed. Wound dressings had not been changed. Loving family members fanned their loved ones and swatted away

flies in the un-air-conditioned sweat box. Few of the wards had electric lighting. When fluorescent tubes failed, they were not replaced. It required a major effort to clean and organize the area, but on Monday we started operating. It was a magnificent effort by all concerned, including our hosts who needed only guidance.

Each day we have operated well into the night. At the end of one very long day of debriding dead infected tissue and amputating unsalvageable limbs, we were called for an emergency Caesarian section. A beautiful baby boy was born. In a way he was a metaphor of Haiti. He was limp and profoundly depressed, but he needed only a little help before he began to breathe. His first lusty cry came a few minutes later. Amid all the death and destruction, Haiti had brought new life, just as new life sprouts from the roots of a tree broken in a hurricane. There is hope after all.

Haiti needs help. If you want to be involved, I ask that you contribute generously. There are a number of approved charities that are doing wonderful work in Haiti. I suggest you make your checks to Partners in Health, www.PIH.org. Many churches in both Highlands and in Anderson, Clemson, Seneca, SC are also involved in this historic effort. Thank you for your help.

— Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Hop for Haiti!

Here is a local opportunity for you to show your support for Haiti! Jane Chalker, a Highlands School teacher and head of the Episcopal Church's local Haiti Mission

Group, is taking a mission team of six individuals to Haiti in mid-February. The local mission is connected to a school and hospital in Cange, which is a two-hour drive north of Port-au-Prince. They did not receive much damage, so medical refugees are arriving daily.

A fundraiser is being held on Friday, Feb. 5 from 7-11 pm at the Highlands School Old Gym. This is a "Sock Hop" dance and party, with the price of admission a monetary donation and/or a donation of toiletry items. The monetary donations will go primarily to support Partners in Health, which operates the hospital in Cange. This event is for the whole family, featuring song requests, line dancing, disco lights, a snack bar, and authentic Haitian-made items that will be for sale.

Pictures of Cange and the people being supported will also be on display. Please come out and "Hop for Haiti" on Friday, Feb. 5 from 7-11 pm. If you need more information or would like to volunteer for the event, please call Mike Murphy at 526-1841.

— Emily Murphy

Relief comes in many forms

Everyone is aware of the current situation in Haiti. I know that we are all proud to be Americans and that our government has been so quickly responsive. I also know that many of us are overwhelmed with the number of different agencies that are helping in Haiti.

• See HAITI page 16

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Ship's Log – Anniversaries, Pirates, etc.

We've just returned to our ship from the port of Civitavecchia, Italy, where we spent the morning trying to communicate with merchants along the port. Remember, when there's a complete and total communication breakdown; always speak Indian. ...loud Indian. "How much necklace?" the li'l missus asked, holding up the jewelry. The merchant held up a numbers of fingers, each one amounting to one Euro. For 15 Euros, they bring in a family member. When the item is a \$100, more Indian talk is necessary along with even more family members.

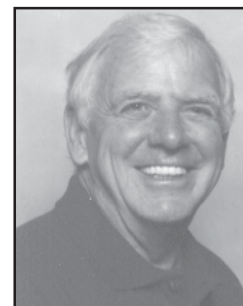
We weren't able to find anyone dumb enough to take our Lira left over from our last trip to Italy but we had Euros left from Lisbon that were burning a hole in our pockets. The li'l missus went into a shopping frenzy.

Because it's a sunny Saturday with 52-degree weather, merchants came to the port, set up their tents along the main drag and offered their baubles to tourists hungry for a bargain. It was a fun, low-key day.

More exciting, though, was the way Wynn and John Cleaveland celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. They took an early morning tour bus to Rome to visit the Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel and, of course, toss three coins in the famous Trevi Fountain. They had a fantastic time and are wondering how they'll ever top this for their fortieth. We didn't go with them as we had spent 20 days in Italy just a few years ago.

Actually, the Cleaveland's anniversary celebration started last night at dinner when John sprung for a bottle of bubbly and our table of eight toasted them. After dinner our chef provided a candle-lit strawberry cream cake and a small army of waiters sang "Happy Anniversary to You." They shouldn't give up their jobs as waiters. Oh, I almost forgot, tomorrow is the anniversary of me eating my 400th fried egg since being on board.

By the time you read this, we'll be sailing through the Gulf of Aden. We're well prepared for any event. I've squirreled two bottles of Champagne in the frig and have extra peanut butter packets hidden



Fred Wooldridge

•
Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

under our bed. We've also received special training in pirate prevention. Warning: Don't go to the Gulf of Aden unless you're heading for Dubai by water.

The Royal Navy will escort us most of the way but, as I see it, they'll be useless if some clown in a small boat, hoping to snag a few extra afterlife virgins, fires a shoulder-held surface-to-air missile at our ship. What a great way to take out a bunch of really snooty infidels.

Early this week we had onboard pirate drills. Could I make this up? This completely disrupted my morning constitution as well as my breakfast. On command, all passengers had to rush to their cabins and sit in the corridors outside their cabin so the crew could take a head count. We met the couple in the cabin next to us who thump, thump, thump on the wall each evening with continuous moaning. They're very religious 'cause I heard the woman scream "Oh my God" in rhythm with the thumps. Prayer is good.

In the unlikely case our ship is captured by pirates, each passenger is instructed to offer a personal check in the amount of one million dollars to be set free. If this doesn't work, pull out all stops and offer them a seat at your dinner table. How could they resist?

Also, if you're unsure whether you've passed a pirate in the corridor, look at him closely. He more than likely has camel breath, will be wearing clothes Fibbers wouldn't sell and have a shoulder-held surface-to-air missile launcher slung across his back. I think the launcher is a dead giveaway, wadayathink?

None of this was in our brochure. At dusk, all outer doors of the ship are locked and no one, including crew members, is allowed outside. This will give the pirates complete access to the shuffleboards and ping pong tables. Not fair!

Finally, from that little corner of my criminal mind comes this thought. I think it would be a major victory for the terrorists if they can inflict even minor damage to the Queen Mary 2. They would be passing up a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity if they didn't fire a missile at this big girl. Let's hope I'm wrong.

Next week: The Laundry Nazi, my last report from the QM 2. Thank God!

• FROM THE STUDENT'S EYE •

A giver in our midst

For this article, I decided to interview community servant and friend of mine, David Long. David has done many acts of service in our community and I thought to ask him a few questions about it. If you see David in town or at Kilwin's, serving you ice cream, be sure to thank him for all he has done.



**Gardner Davis
Feedback is
encouraged
gdnrdavis@gmail.com**

Q: David, I heard that you recently raised about \$400 for the food pantry with a chocolate bunny? Tell us about that.

A: Actually it was a 22lb Milk Chocolate Santa that was generously donated by Kilwin's. Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwins thought that selling Raffle tickets for the Santa would be a fun way to raise money for the Food Pantry and he asked me if I would like to coordinate the raffle. I said sure and rounded up local youth to help sell tickets and spread the word. Tickets went on sale Thanksgiving weekend and by December 24th (the day of the drawing) we ended up raising over \$450 dollars that went directly to the Food Pantry. Others donated supplies such as the tickets, flyers and pictures. By the way, Dr. Scott Baker was the lucky ticket holder.

Q: That sounds very cool. It seems as if you've done a lot of volunteer and service work. When did you begin volunteering?

A: I don't really remember. I think with my family and involvement in our church gave me lots of opportunities to help others. Also, living in a small community makes it easy to want to help your neighbor.

Q: So, why do you feel the need to volunteer when you do?

A: I was raised to look for ways to think of others first so as I've gotten older I sometimes try to see when something needs to be done and if I feel like I can do it then I'll try and follow through. I guess at first I did things because I was told to but as my faith has grown I am understanding more that as Christians we are called to serve. I have found that serving not only brings joy to those you are helping but I've found that it is a lot of fun and meaningful for me.

Q: So, last year, at least I believe it was last year or the year before, I remember you and your mother and some homeschoolers would go down to the Blue Ridge School for the Kindergarteners. Do you still do that?

A: We actually don't anymore, but we have been talking to Mrs. Christy and there's maybe a couple of things we may be

helping her with in the near future. We have done a few things for her class. But, just little projects with which we just tried to help her out.

Q: I see. So, could you describe them?

A: We packed up, let me think, it was a long time ago since we helped her, when she taught fourth grade we gave her a few books and things, we made some things for her kindergarten class, as I think you remember, and we gave them to her at the end of the

year.

Q: So, are you involved in doing any upcoming messages or works?

A: I am not sure yet, I have been looking for maybe a couple opportunities to help right now. But right now nothing much has come up.

Q: Nothing much? OK. So, what do you think about the whole Haiti thing? All that's happening right now and if you could be involved, how would you help down there?

A: I would try to see if I could raise some money, and maybe give it to a good organization that can help. I can see a lot of good that's going on right now, through it all. I'd just try my best to see if I can find something to do. Suggestions have been to raise money, and probably something that I would try to do is just send money to organizations that are helping down there right now.

Q: You also mentioned earlier that you believe that your Christian faith is really inspiring you to do these works and volunteer. Tell us a little more about that.

A: Well, like it says in the Bible; the great Commission is where Jesus tells his Disciples to spread the news about his life and his story and how he came to save mankind. That is a great example of how as Christians we need to be willing to help others, and to practice what we preach. And volunteering is a great example that you need to be able to lend a helping hand whenever necessary, and that is showing a lot of Christ, and as Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have done to you."

I had a great time interviewing David, and I hope his story inspires you. If you would like to talk to David about community service and getting down and dirty for others, you may E-Mail him at ww2lng@hcgexpress.net.

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Eat right, Live long!

from the history guy ...

Jan. 28, 1845

1845 – “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe is published in the New York Evening Mirror.

Once upon a midnight dreary,
(don't know when it was written, but that's the theory)
a narrative that was entitled “Raven”,
a tale so scary as to make grown men craven,
about ghosts? Well, that's what was hinted,
at that time, it first was printed.
Yes, on this very day that story or caper
was published in the newspaper
(that was when, along with news,
the paper contained the results of scripted muse)
that kept it's promise to deliver
along the spine, a chilling shiver.
It would hold you in it's thrall
and would frighten one and all.
Not surprising, you know,
it was penned by Mr. Poe,
one who would never fail
in composing an alarming tell tale.

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• HIS & HERS •

Breaking in the New Year

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

I used to make a cruel joke at my ex-mother-in-law's expense. Her name was Yvonne, and she was born in the village of Nuits Saint Georges, an area in Burgundy famous for remarkable (mostly) red wines. When people would ask about her, I would simply sigh and state, “She's from Nuits Saint Georges. It was not a good year.”

Having a bad year isn't limited to us common folk, though. In November, 1992, Queen Elizabeth II uttered the phrase heard 'round the world. “1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an *Annus Horribilis*.” At the time, I was shocked. After all, I didn't do Latin in school. I just thought she'd sat on the throne too long.

In all fairness, however, the Queen did have reason to gripe. Three of her four children separated or divorced. One daughter-in-law came out with a scandalous tell-all book, while another made the front page canoodling with a gentleman (I use the term loosely, as did he) not her husband. On top of all that, Windsor Castle – her favorite – caught fire in November. I hate it when that happens. For such a reserved woman, this confession was tantamount to appearing on *Oprah*. While it may “be good to be the King,” it certainly wasn't good to be the Queen. Not in 1992, at least.

This brings me to ask the question, is there such a thing as a bad year, or a good year? 2009 was certainly a stinker for my family. In February, Maman fell and broke her arm. In July, she fell again, this time breaking her hip and elbow. In July, as well, my nephew had a life-threatening heart incident, which normally has a 5% survival rate. He made it, part of the lucky 5%. As the year advanced, I remember thinking to myself, “What else can go wrong?” All I wanted was to see the back of 2009, and make a fresh start in 2010. So, has the New Year brought us the joy and hope we so desperately needed? Don't bet on it.

After a wonderful December at Chestnut Hill, we drove Maman back to her retirement facility in Virginia. Within two hours of being back, she fell and broke her hip (the other one). Fortunately, we were still in town, and rushed to the Emergency Room to find a very distressed mother in great pain. Pain or not, however, she still had her wits about her. When the medical staff wanted to cut off her undergarments, she pleaded “No, no! I just bought them on sale at Leggs Hanes Bali!”



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

This is a woman who has her priorities straight. Fortunately, the nice doctor who had done the hip and elbow surgery in July was operating the next day, and by mid-afternoon, they were wheeling Maman into surgery. Everything went well, and that evening she was back in her room recuperating. In the words of her surgeon, Dr. Pereles (pronounced “peerless”), “Mrs. Mead, I've done your left hip. I've

done your right hip. You are out of hips.”

We've had our share of excitement here in Highlands, too. Sue, our cat sitter, warned us of the water situation when we were still in Virginia. We returned home to find no water, and in a house that normally has no central heating, bitter cold. It was like living in a refrigerator, except that the light stayed on when you closed the door. Weight-bearing exercise is supposed to be good for your health, and I sure got enough of it lugging logs into the house. We have two built-in fireplaces, and a number of Franklin stoves (of course!), so the demand for firewood is enormous. The woodpile, which looked like it would last for 10 years, suddenly appeared half-empty. Day after day, we slugged on. Lee, the best friend you could ask for, kindly let us shower at her place. So did Ted, John's poker buddy and the talented jeweler responsible for my engagement and wedding bands. It's at times like this you find out who your real friends are. We hauled water up from Dusty's to flush the toilets. Actually, we'd done this routine before, but in the dead of summer. Doing it in winter coats and gloves was more difficult. Finally, we moved into Mitchell's, for three blissful days of warm beds and running water.

Fortunately, the Big Thaw came. Our pipes unfroze, but a water leak brought Drew the Plumber to the rescue. Upon reflection, I might recommend to ladies who have not yet chosen a husband to marry a plumber, not a lawyer. Seeing how Drew is worked off his feet these days, I wonder how much his family sees of him. He is a kind and decent man, and definitely in my personal Hall of Heroes.

And then the real disaster came, which made all of our worries look small and petty in comparison – Haiti. My heart broke for these people who have so little to begin with. The misery and destruction is too enormous to comprehend. I watched in astonishment one night on ABC as the opening story was the election of a Republican to the Senate seat previously held by the late Ted Kennedy. The second story that night? How a dog was

•See HIS & HERS page 14

• COACH'S CORNER •

NFC Championship memoirs

Five things I learned on Sunday

1. Dave and Buster's is a TERRIFIC place to take your kid on gameday. Dozens of TV's with football on all throughout the place, plus the food is pretty good as well. I was able to watch/listen to almost all of the Jets-Colts matchup while simultaneously attempting to run Brionna around in hopes of an early bedtime. (That bedtime attempt was futile by the way)

2. Rain plus frizzy hair plus Saints football equals crazy man appearance. I thought the pizza guy was going to brown his pants when I answered the door on Sunday. He looked so frightened, I actually gave him a larger tip because I thought I had did the math wrong or something. Then I looked in the mirror and realized that a 6'8 man with hair like Ace Ventura (at the mental hospital) wearing a tattered old Saints shirt was probably a disturbing image for even the most seasoned delivery professional.

3. Every time I watch football on Fox I wonder about the little dancing football robot that they always have on the chyron when they come back from commercial. Then, as I was watching Sunday, Jenny says "I love that little robot that they have there-he's so cute." Ladies and Gentlemen, I have discovered the target demographic for the dancing football robot.

4. Amazingly enough, I was able to put football in perspective Sunday night. After Brionna informed me (for approximately the 3,198th time) that Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell has the same name as her daddy, I told Brionna that Mr. Longwell was about to "make daddy very upset" during the Vikings final drive. Without missing a beat, Brionna asked "am I gonna get a timeout?" (me: "of course not honey... unless you cheer for the purple team. Ok, I was just kidding about that last part... sort of) Yup, children have a special way of helping us keep perspective.

5. I honestly believe that Joe Buck wants to have a child with Brett Favre. Not in a vulgar sort of way, but more in a "hey Brett Favre is the greatest/toughest/most wonderful man ever and he would be the perfect choice to raise our adopted son" type of way. I was concerned that maybe I thought that Buck's adoration of Favre was seen through Saints-colored glasses, but after scouring the internet I found plenty of unbiased observers that agree with my assessment of a potential Favre-Buck love child.

Game Analysis

Obviously turnovers were the story, as the Vikings dominated the stat column but lost the turnover battle 5-1. That total could very well have been 7-1 had the Saints sim-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

ply fallen on a couple of fumbles that they tried to advance and instead allowed Minnesota to recover. Sean Payton really puckered up for the Saints in the second half, as his playcalling became very vanilla and a little bit chickenhearted. Fortunately, the defense came up with turnovers, and then despite some close calls in OT the offense did just enough to get in position.

I told a friend of mine earlier this year that I had a lot of confidence in Garrett Hartley as our kicker, and he made it look easy at the end, as that FG would have been true from 65 yards.

Favre Analysis

I must admit that I have always respected Favre-my annoyance stems more from the media coverage of him than from the guy himself. I do think he's a drama queen in a sense, but you can't take anything away from his ability on the football field. On that last interception, Favre HAD to throw that ball somewhere. Despite what he said, if Favre runs that ball he picks up a yard or 2 at best and Minnesota is looking at a 56 yard FG. (Longwell's career long was 54) If Favre simply throws the ball away then it is a 58 yard FG and likely OT. Favre tried to make a play and failed, but the real fault lies with Brad Childress, because if you are planning on a 55 yard FG then you need to run the ball, pick up 3 yards and kick the FG rather than calling a pass play.

In Closing

Wow...my team is in the Super Bowl.

... SNOW DAYS from 1

can't go to school for six days in row, Saturdays only work well as make-up days if inclement weather doesn't keep students from going to school on Saturday."

He said if Saturdays are knocked out of the scenario this winter, then make-up days will have to be taken from Spring Break - which is set for April 2-9.

"Parents need to make plans for that scenario because it could be the only choice if Saturdays can't be used as make-up days," he said.

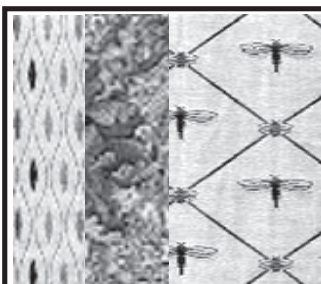
Davis also said preliminary results suggest a great deal of improvement in End-of-Course Tests which were given last week. She said the state's decision to allow students scoring less than a 3 out of the 1-4 rating to immediately retake the test saw scores increase dramatically.

"In addition, the state accepts the higher score which is a benefit to students and to the schools," she said.

The March BOE meeting is in Highlands.

- Kim Lewicki

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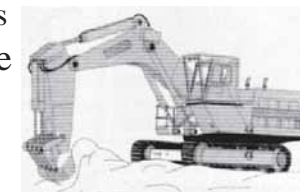
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• WEDDING •

Danny Crane, formerly of Highlands and son of Eloise and the late Carlton Craine, was married to Maiza Gatti Caratin on December 21, 2009 in a civil ceremony. The wedding took place in Curitiba, Brazil where the couple will reside. Maiza's parents are Arlete and the late Celio Caratin. They met while Maiza was an exchange student in Highlands in 1972.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Mr. Brown Comes To Town



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

Several months ago. Coakley ahead by 31 in the Polls.

"Did you hear something?"

"Nope, I didn't hear anything."

"There, did you hear that?"

"No, what did it sound like?"

"It was kind of a real faint whoosh."

"Nope, I didn't hear anything."

A few weeks later. Polls say Coakley leads by 20.

"Did you hear that?"

"I think I did hear something."

"It sounds like a quiet whoosh."

"I wonder what that is?"

"Beats me."

A few weeks later. Coakley by leads by nine.

"Man, what is that? It gets louder and louder."

"I don't know; but it's a whoosh."

Several days later. Coakley by five.

"That racket is really getting loud."

"I know. I can't figure out what's making that noise."

A couple of days later. Coakley leads by two.

"That is definitely a whoosh and now the ground is shaking."

"Something big is happening; I wonder what's going on?"

The next day. It's EVEN.

"Man, this is getting exciting."

"Yes, it is."

The next day. BROWN LEADS!

"This is big."

"This is very big."

The next day. BROWN WINS!

That whooshing noise – it was a huge breath of fresh air blowing through the political system. It may even breathe life into the Republican Party if it pays attention and get down to the business the people hired them to do.

And the shaking – it was Washington getting turned upside down. Pelosi looks funereal because, even though she said we will pass healthcare legislation no matter what, the next day, evidently reality penetrated her coconut and she actually admitted that she didn't have the votes to get the Senate's version through the House.

So the disgusting Al Franken, once the 60th vote in the Senate that made them filibuster-proof, now becomes the 59th vote, and the potential hammerlock the Dems had over our government is gone. Not that Obama's agenda was getting done, even though the machinery was all his.

I'm writing this a few days before

Obama's first State of the Union message and would I hate to be his speechwriter. One of the first things he did, just hours after his swearing in, was to declare that Guantanamo would be closed within a year. No it wasn't, and probably won't. He ordered Congress to have sweeping health-care legislation by the summer recess last year. Didn't happen. The deadline was pushed forward in painful increments, and, in each case, the deadlines were missed, and now, it's just plain dead, at least for the time being. His stimulus plan has been a colossal failure.

He went to Copenhagen to bring home the 2016 Olympics to his shady Chicago buddies. He brought back fourth place (out of four). He went to Virginia to help Democrat Creigh Deeds get elected Governor. Didn't happen. He went to New Jersey to help Democrat Jon Corzine get reelected Governor. Didn't happen. He went back to Copenhagen to move serious global warning bullroar along. Didn't happen. Cap and trade appears dead. Went to Massachusetts to help Martha Coakley win Teddy Kennedy's Senate seat. Didn't happen.

The Tea Party people were instrumental in helping elect Scott Brown. They will be working nonstop from now until November to elect real people to office. The current bunch of politicians are making noises that they are starting to get it. We'll see about that. One thing seems certain. Obama won't stop making trips to accomplish things that are futile, even though his advisers tell him not to. His massive ego won't allow it.

... ORDINANCES continued from page 1

Most of the members of the Planning Board are in the building trades and are understandably wary of any ordinance that could curtail or constrain such livelihoods – that is, add cost to projects.

However, since a state-mandated stormwater ordinance is in the pipe line, the town wants to have an ordinance in place that applies to Highlands rather than risk an ordinance outlined by the state. It is now in its fourth draft with little input from the Planning Board.

"It's not the job of the Planning Board to decide whether we need an ordinance, it's to have input and help fine tune the ordinances we want," said Mayor David Wilkes.

Board member Ricky Bryson still questioned the need for a stormwater ordinance. "Don't we have state and county ordinances now and inspectors who will check on illegal discharges?"

Commissioner Amy Patterson said its best to have a local ordinance. "What about the situation on NC 106 south where there was that septic discharge going on? It took

several weeks for county inspectors to come. We need a local ordinance in place because it's locals that see things and can call so we can take care of things ourselves," she said.

Since much of the two hours was taken up by the joint meeting, and since the Planning Board still had to consider changes to the Temporary Real Estate Development Sign Ordinance, members decided to take a hard look at the Stormwater Ordinance at its Feb. 22 meeting.

After the joint meeting adjourned, the Planning Board heard the amendments the Town Board suggested for the Temporary Real Estate Development Sign Ordinance, unanimously adopting them in about 15 minutes.

At Commissioner John Dotson's suggestion at a previous Town Board meeting, a maximum of 25% of any sign face can be allotted to the Real Estate firm's name or agent – even multi-faced signs.

• Individual Real Estate signs can't be used in conjunction with temporary development signs.

• A sign permit will be issued upon proof of a building permit from the Macon County Building Department for the development, or a final plat approval by the Town of Highlands.

• The term of a Temporary Sign permit is three years.

• A permit can be renewed for one two-year period by the Zoning Administrator and renewal is contingent upon the sign continuing to meet all requirements of the ordinance, continuing active development and marketing efforts, continued maintenance of the development and the continuance of an active building permit issued by the Macon County Building department.

• Signs must be removed from single-family or multi-family residential subdivisions within 30 days after the sale of 90% of the units or upon expiration of the permit or permit renewal, whichever occurs first.

Developers and Real Estate companies must adhere to the ordinance upon its adoption – no grandfathering will be allowed.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

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.

Type O Neg and B Neg Blood Needed

Macon County - As a result of the recent bad weather across the country, on the heels of the holiday season, the blood supply has drastically decreased in the Carolinas Region. **Type O negative and type B negative blood supplies have dropped to emergency levels and help is needed now!** Since type O negative blood can be used for any patient when there is not time to determine the patient's blood type, it is crucial that there is a sufficient supply.

Tuesday, February 2
Lowe's of Franklin Blood Drive
(Georgia Highway)

9:30 am to 2 pm

Please call 349-4654 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins Welcome,
Appointments preferred.

All presenting donors have a chance to win a \$1000 gift card!

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 play-

ground 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.

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

Fridays & Saturdays

- At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Friday & Saturday, Jan. 29-30

- Murder Mystery Dinner Theater with the Highlands-Cashiers Players at 6:30 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street, "Destination Highlands/Destination Murder." Three-course dinner with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. \$55 per person or \$425 for table of 8.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, Jan. 21. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Friday, Jan. 29

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the square dance caller. Mike McDonald from Clayton, GA will start calling Round Dancing at 6:30. We do Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-0943.

Saturday, Jan. 30

- A benefit for Rita Houston Staffeldach, daughter of Michael and Kay Houston, at the Civic Center from 3:30-10 p.m. There will be singing, dancing, an auction and a hot dog supper with all the fixings to eat there or take out. Rita has diabetes and after four surgeries now needs another.

• See EVENTS page 10

Ruby Cinema

Hwy 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

Jan. 29-Feb. 3

EDGE OF DARKNESS
rated R

Friday: 4:20, 7, 9:20

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

Sunday: 2, 4:20, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:20, 7

TOOTH FAIRY rated PG

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

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

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

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05

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

UP IN THE AIR rated R

Friday: 4:30

Saturday: 2:10, 4:30

Sunday: 2:10, 4:30

Mon + Wed: 4:30

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30

BOOK OF ELI rated R

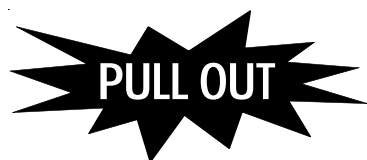
Friday: 7:10, 9:30

Saturday: 7:10, 9:30

Sunday: 7:10

Mon + Wed: 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 7:10



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5.7 mile hike on the Park Creek and Park Ridge trails in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King at 9:30 a.m. Drive 26 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations.

• It's a Friends of Panthertown work day. Volunteers should meet at 9:30 am at the Salt Rock trailhead. We'll be doing trail maintenance (location TBA). Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend - no previous experience is necessary. Tools will be provided. Participants should be in good physical condition, able to hike 6 miles and lift 20+ lbs. Volunteers should bring a day pack with lunch, water, warm clothes, rain gear and work gloves if you have them. In the event of inclement weather, the work day will be cancelled. For directions and details about upcoming work days, go to www.j-mca.org or contact Nina Elliott, the Friends of Panthertown Coordinator at 828-526-9938 (ext 258) or friends.of.panthertown@gmail.com

Sunday, Jan. 31

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Those attend-

ing may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie, and Angie Jenkins will play the piano. Please make plans to attend for an enjoyable hour of singing and Christian fellowship. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on 5th Street and on Church Street.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike along a new short trail near the Environmental Center in Franklin. Meet at Frog Headquarters on Main St. in Franklin at 2:00 p.m. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

• At Hiart, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner. Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

• Lowe's of Franklin Blood Drive (Georgia Highway), 9:30 am to 2 pm. Please call 349-4654 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins Welcome, Appointments preferred. *All presenting donors have a chance to win a \$1000 gift card!*

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.

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 9:00 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.

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

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.

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.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

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

Saturday, Feb. 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike with an elevation change of 700 feet to Windy Falls, a seldom visited awesome falls on the Horsepasture River. Call leader Mike Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sunday, Feb. 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1-mile hike on the Taylor Lake Loop Trail in Black Rock Mtn. State Park in GA near Clayton. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2:00 p.m. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

• At Hiart, "The Things People Say" by Elizabeth Kolbert and "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" by Richard Hofstadter. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25

• An American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED and First Aid Basics course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, February 25, from 8:30 a.m. until

Highlands-Cashiers Players stage murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser for Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30



Maybe it's a "no-brainer" but dinner theater consists of dinner AND theater. Highlands-Cashiers Players has cooked up a delightful murder mystery for patrons to solve when they attend "Destination Highlands/Destination Murder" on Jan. 29 and 30. The dinner they will enjoy is also outstanding, consisting of wine, appetizers, salad, main course and a scrumptious dessert. The Italian themed dinner will be a real culinary treat.

Though only seven tables of eight are available per night, each will host a different "table-scape" provided by Highlands' area ladies, and the wait staff will consist of gentlemen volunteers.

The caterer for these dinners is Debbie Grossman, chef/owner of Fressers Eatery.

The cast is Jim Gordon, Stuart Armor, Ronnie Spilton, Bonnie Earman, Rachel Hedden, Dean Zuch and Michele Hott. Stage Manager is Kristen Araju and director is Donna Cochran.

The fun starts at 6:30 on Friday, Jan 29 and Saturday Jan. 30. Tickets are \$55 each or \$425 for a table of eight.

Reservations may be secured by calling the HCP box-office at 828-526-8084. Wine, Dine and Solve the Crime.

More H1N1 Flu Shot Clinics Scheduled

The Macon County Public Health Center has scheduled a series of H1N1 flu vaccination clinics in Franklin and Highlands for anyone ages 6 months and older.

The Franklin clinics are scheduled at the health department's 1830 Lakeside Drive location on the Friday afternoons of

Jan. 29, Feb. 5, and Feb. 12..

The Highlands clinic will be held at the health department's clinic off Buck Creek Road on Wednesday, February 10th. The clinics are by appointment only and are offered free of charge. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 349-2081.

County Commission declares February 'Healthy Heart Month'

MC Public Health outlines events

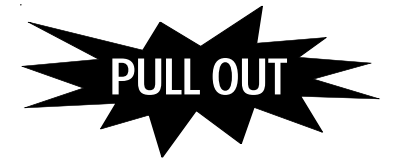
Macon County Public Health Center and Angel Medical Center are partnering to focus on heart health during the month of February (national Heart Health Awareness month). Our kickoff event for the month will be **WEAR RED DAY**, which is Friday, February 5th. The event will start at 10:30 am in the cafeteria at Angel Medical Center. Some of the speakers will include Jim Bruckner, Macon County Health Director and Dr. Michael Kegan, Cardiologist with AMC. The East Franklin Elementary School's Jump Rope for Heart teams will also be there and perform.

A 1-mile **Heart Health Walk** around

downtown Franklin is also planned for Saturday, February 13th. Registration will start at 10:30 am and the walk will start at 11:00 am. The walk will start and end at Tartan Hall. After the walk, lunch will be served and Dr. Kit Helm (Medical Director for AMC's Cardiac Rehabilitation) will provide a brief presentation. Franklin High School Cheerleaders and the EHS Jump Rope for Heart teams will also be there. More details to come about the walk.

We hope to see you at both events. If you have any questions, just let me or Bonnie Peggs with AMC (349-6639) know.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, Feb. 22. For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Thurs-Sun, Feb. 25-28 & March 5-7

• Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform The Dixie Swim Club at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28 or Tues.-Wed., March 2-3

• Australian photographer Greg Newington will teach a one-and-a-half day field/studio workshop, "Winter Light – Using Light, Composition and Texture in Photography," at The Bascom. Cost is \$150 for Bascom members and \$175 for non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Sunday, Feb. 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 7.5-mile hike to London Bald from Appletree campground with an elevation change of 2000 feet. Meet at the Nantahala Club House on Carl Slagle road in Franklin at 8:30 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. Call Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.

Sunday, March 7

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2-mile hike from Rock Gap to Wallace Gap in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, 2:00 p.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Monday, March 8

• An acclaimed author, storyteller, humorist and musician, Keillor will take center stage in WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets for "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" are \$25. For information or tickets, contact the FAPAC box office at (828) 227-2479 or online www.wcu.edu/fapac.

Tuesday, Mar 9

• At Hiart, *The Evil Gene* by Dr. Barbara Oakley. Coordinator: Virginia Wilson. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23

• Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform Rebecca at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Those wishing to subscribe may pick up a subscription brochure at the counter in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and fill out the enclosed form to mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

The Booth Brothers to perform at Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts



With their harmony-drenched vocals and warm, easy voices, the Booth Brothers have been sharing their faith and their music fulltime since 1998. These men get their musical influences from a wide range of performers from the Eagles to the Gatlin Brothers to legendary gospel greats such as Bill Gaither and Mosie Lister. But their inspiration comes straight from God.

The Booth Brothers are coming to Franklin, NC. This trio, known for their harmony-drenched vocals and warm, easy voices, are coming for an exciting musical event on Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts.

Award winning singers Ronnie Booth, Michael Booth, and Jim Brady make up the trio. Their unique ability to communicate through song and humor have garnered them many fans with their appearances on the Bill Gaither Homecoming tours and their own heavy touring schedule over the last several years. They have received

many awards for their vocal, musical and songwriting accomplishments. In 2009, they took home over 19 awards, including Tenor vocalist of the year, Lead vocalist of the year, Baritone vocalist of the year, Trio of the year, Song of the year and many others.

This concert will begin at 7:30pm. To acquire tickets or additional information regarding this exciting musical event, call (828) 524-1598, (866) 273-4615. Make plans now to join the Booth Brothers at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, February 5, 2010 for a high energy, awesome event filled with a life changing message

• HS BASKETBALL NEWS •



Taylor Osteen on the Highlands School JV game at Rosman this week.

Photo by Noel Atherton

Girls sweep, boys split against SMC rivals

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands High School varsity girls took two games this week from rivals Swain County and Rosman.

On Friday, the Lady Highlanders faced the Lady Tigers in Rosman with bad intentions after dropping a heartbreaker at Hiawassee Dam. It took little time for the Lady Highlanders to take a lead, but the 23-0 run in the third quarter broke the game open for good as the visitors quieted the Rosman crowd and Lady Tigers star Joanna Whitmire in a 58-25 destruction.

Emily Munger matched the Lady Tigers team total with 25 points, and Taylor Buras and Courtney Rogers also scored in double figures with 11 and 10 respectively.

On Tuesday, the Highlander ladies muddled through a victory against Swain, perhaps looking ahead to Friday's rematch with Hiawassee Dam. The game was close throughout, with Highlands holding the Lady Devils at arm's length to hold on for a 44-38 victory. Emily Munger scored 12 in the victory.

The Highlander boys were looking for their 7th victory on the season at Rosman on Friday night, having beaten the Tigers at home earlier in the year.

Highlands opened the game strong on a 10-2 run, but allowed the Tigers to get back in the game early and ultimately take a 3-point halftime lead. The Highlanders returned fire in the second half, taking a 6 point lead at one point, but turnovers and poor free throw shooting plagued Highlands down the stretch and they dropped a close one 62-57. Robbie Vanderbilt scored 20 in the defeat, Samuel Wheeler and Josh Delacruz both added 16.

The Highlanders finally got their 7th win of the season Tuesday, defeating the Swain County Maroon Devils 59-47. The Highlanders trailed 9-2 early, but settled in and played well enough to gain a 3-point halftime lead. In the second half, the Highlanders broke the game open methodically, playing stifling defense and holding Swain to just 19 second half points. Logan Schmitt, Michael Shearl, Robbie Vanderbilt and Josh Delacruz all scored in double figures for the locals, and Samuel Wheeler held Swain star Ryan McMahan to only 2 points in the second half.

The Highlanders will host Hiawassee Dam Friday night in what will be the most important game of the season thus far for both squads. Both Highlander teams need tremendous fan support Friday night, so come out and cheer on your Highlanders.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Sing praises

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN
CHURCH – ELCA**
Chaplain Margaret Howell

We all know what has happened in the tiny island nation of Haiti this week. A 7.0 Scale earthquake shook the country like a terrier shakes a rat. It is amazing how many people still think that God was responsible for the suffering in Haiti. A certain televangelist whose name rhymes with “gnat” has made it very clear that he considers the disaster in Haiti as punishment for sinfulness. Frankly, I wouldn’t want to know a god like that. Fortunately, most everybody knows that folks who think like this are a pickle or two shy of a quart, and they don’t speak for all Christians in America, even though they think they do. They’re just an embarrassment we have to live with. Despite ‘ole “gnat’s” pomposity, folks all over the world are doing whatever they can to help in the rescue effort in Haiti.

The local woman clergy, unofficially known as Women for Peace, had a novel idea at our meeting this week: Immediately pull all troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq and anywhere else there is trouble that we’re involved in. Announce to the entire world that we no longer going to fight wars, we are going to put all our military resources into acts of mercy and peace in places where disasters have struck. May I live to see it happen.

Two former presidents, Pres. George W. Bush and Pres. Bill Clinton, met with President Obama and have agreed to help raise and oversee funds that will be used to help Haiti now and to help rebuild after the immediate crisis is over. People all over the world are sending money to aid organizations who are experienced in these types of emergencies.

As much as we would like to go to Haiti personally to help, there isn’t enough food and water for the people already there. Our gifts will be our money and our prayers.

But, perhaps the greatest gift is from the Haitian people themselves.

“How can that be?” You might ask “They have lost everything!”

They might have nothing, but some of them have everything!

Let me explain. I’ve been following the events since the earthquake, as we all have.

Last night I saw video of orphans and people, totally destitute, with only the clothes on their backs singing. Singing to the glory of creation, singing the praise of a God who is good and loving and holy. One woman, in particular, moved me to tears. She had her hands in the air, her eyes closed, singing and praising God amid total ruin and chaos.

Could we do that? Could we raise our arms to heaven and praise God after everything and everyone we love has been wrenched away?

The answer is we probably couldn’t and neither could she, on her own.

But we have the gift of the Spirit about which St Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12.

The same Spirit that helps us to discover and grow our gifts also brings Christ to dwell in our hearts and our minds. Gifts alone wouldn’t be enough.

It is the love which we are given and the love we give away that is holy.

The greater the love, the greater the gift.

Any gift we might give to her pales in comparison to the gifts this lone woman offers to us unshakable faith in a God of love, not a God of vengeance and judgment, even in the midst of death and despair. And so is Christ’s love for us, that even in the death and despair of the cross, he lifted his arms and saved us all.

• 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 PM. Choir Practice

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

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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

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

(nursery provided)

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

Wed. dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens

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

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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

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

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

Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

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

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

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

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

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

• MACON COUNTY / BOE AWARDS •



Above, at Monday night's commission meeting, Finance Director Evelyn Southard and her staff were acknowledged for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Assoc. of the US and Canada. The department has received it numerous times over the years. Left, Jane Morgan received an award for working for Macon County for 25 years. Not pictured are Gary Ammons, Jeff James and Terry Watson.



Above, Darlene Asher, Brian Burnette, Gary Davis, David Gray, Sonya Gunnin, Tim Hollands, Linda Moody, Lucretia Sharp, Bobbie Soleau and Glenn Spradlin were honored for 10 years of service.



Above, serving 30 years are Fannie Buchanan, Shelley Ledford, David O'Dell and Mike Tallent. Chairman Ronnie Beale is with recipients.



Acknowledged for serving 15 years, are Margaret Bishop, Brian Henry, Robbie Holland, Art Provencher, Pat Revis and Lynn Wright.

**Photos
by Kim
Lewicki**



Acknowledged for serving 20 years were Larry Conley, Alan Durden, Tommy Keener, Lynn Nicholson and Wesley Price.

Also acknowledged but not present was Lewis W. Seay, Jr., who was awarded a plaque for serving the county 35 years.



At Monday's BOE meeting, Remy Adrian (6th grade), above, and Jessie Palmer (8th grade) won the Young Author's Award for Highlands School. Adrian's piece was entitled "Stranded on an Island" and Palmer's piece was entitled "Sands of Time." Fourteen students in grades 2-8 won the "Young Authors" statewide competition.



Highlands School's Adrian Holt earned her NBCT certificate and was acknowledged with nine others at Monday's BOE meeting. Macon County has 58 NBCTs with 26 going through the process.

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... FISCAL continued from page 1

the firework demonstration, none of them thought the town should enter into a long-term contract, nor share equally in the distribution of donations.

"I don't want to accept a proposal of this nature at this time until we know how many contributions come in from businesses," said Commissioner Dennis DeWolf.

Commissioner Larry Rogers agreed. "Entering into a 50/50 arrangement is inappropriate until we see who comes in to help and then we'll go from there."

Commissioner John Dotson said he was sure there would be a number of businesses willing to help and a little bit from many would go a long way. He also suggested bud-

geting and voting on the arrangement annually rather than long-term. "I'd rather do that than assume this is a rubber stamp each year."

Because the Chamber must lock down its agreement with East Coast Pyrotechnics before it gets booked up, Mayor David Wilkes suggested a compromise which the board accepted.

Wilkes said at this year's cost of \$5,000, it would actually cost the Chamber less than in years past.

"You'll actually be \$500 ahead since you've been paying \$5,500 a year for three years, so I propose that the first \$5,000 raised go to the town to offset its expense and any money that comes in after we recoup our

\$5,000 goes to the Chamber."

The Chamber has been instructed to ask the business community — the group that actually benefits from the influx of people who come to town for the activities — to make donations to the cause rather than asking taxpayers and citizens who don't directly benefit from the tourist trade to shoulder the cost.

Not including chamber dues, the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center receive \$225,000 to \$275,000 annually in Room Tax money which is supposed to be used on the promotion of tourism in Highlands.

Concerning the Highlands Police Department, Commissioner Gary Drake asked that expenses be outlined delineating what it's costing the town in gas and upkeep to allow police officers to have a vehicle and drive it to and from work.

"I'm not saying there is anything wrong, but I campaigned on fiscal responsibility and I think the taxpayers need to know how their money is being spent," he said.

When he learned that the 56 alarms the police department responded to from Dec. 2-Jan. 14 were false, he asked if the police department was charging for the inconvenience and being paid for its efforts.

Chief Bill Harrell said after the second false alarm, homeowners are charged \$25 per call and that the department was being paid. The fire department charges \$250.

This past week, Highlands' Newspaper received phone calls and emails about the Police Department suggesting Mayor Wilkes is trying to get the Police Department reduced to seven officers, fire Chief Harrell, and get rid of the Highlands School Resource Officer.

However, Mayor Wilkes says it's not true. "No initiative is underway to remove the chief or any other officers nor the Highlands School Resource Officer," he said in an email. "Budget discussions begin at the next Town Board meeting and the police department budget will undergo the same review as all other departments. I am not aware of any discussion or determination from anyone as to how many officers Highlands should have."

Commissioner Larry Rogers concurred. "I have attended every Town Board meeting and I am not aware of any talk about firing/replacing of police officers or the chief. There was discussion from the board requesting that Town Manager Jim Fatland to gather information pertaining to the cost for the patrol cars that are taken home for our budget purposes," said Rogers. "I don't know how these 'rumors' originated and on what basis? In my point of view, people should concentrate more on things that are 'fact' and less on things that are 'rumor.'"

In other Town Board news, commissioners OK'd the appointment of Commissioner Gary Drake and Old Edwards Hospitality Group's Marketing Director Amanda Sullivan to the Highlands TDC board which oversees the use of the Room Tax money. Drake is replacing Commissioner Hank Ross as the town representative and Sullivan is replacing Drake as the at-large representative. At its

meeting Monday night, the Macon County Commission also OK'd the appointments.

Also appointed to committees were Kim Lewicki and Harry Bears to the new Business Group Committee and Steve Abranyi to the Sustainability Committee. Mayor Wilkes welcomes other citizens to join the Business Group Committee which will act as a liaison to the Town Board concerning varied matters in the business community.

The Town Board will hold a budget work-session Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 4 p.m. before the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the community building.

— Kim Lewicki

... HIS & HERS from 6

saved from drowning in a culvert in Los Angeles. And Haiti? Well, that wound up being Item #3. I was outraged. I don't mind a "feel good" story to finish off the news at night, but putting the life of a dog over news of an entire country? What are they thinking over at ABC?

Are we such a nation of children that we can't handle bad news, whether it happens to us or to the rest of the world? I suggest that feeling bad is part of life, and what makes our joys and triumphs all the more sweet. I like Dolly Parton. She's a gutsy lady who makes a whole bunch of sense. She said it best: "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

There's nothing like being without water to remind you what a precious gift clean water is. There's nothing like camping out in a hotel to remind you what it's like to have your own roof over your head. Right now, there are a lot of people in desperate need of our help. Let's put our own worries and concerns in perspective. 2010 will certainly be a year to remember. Let's remember it for the right reasons. Get cracking.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. Michelle encourages people to reach into their hearts and their wallets, for victims both here and abroad.

• TB AGENDA •

Town Board Meeting – Wed., Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

- Continued Public Hearing: Temporary Development Signs
- Public Hearing: Highlands Methodist Church Rezoning
- Public Hearing: Gilbert & Tate Rezoning 2271 Dillard Road
- Resolution Awarding Contract for Pine Street Improvements
- Consider Appointments to Sustainability Committee
- Consider Appointments to Business Group
- Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matter

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Highlands Rotary sponsors Children's Dental Health



This past Friday was the first swishing day at the Highlands School for grades K-5.

Swishing with fluoride rinse is part of the Children's Dental Health Project sponsored by Highlands and MountainTop Rotary Clubs.

The children in Christine Murphy's third grade class had a ball – giggles, laughs and healthy teeth.

Principal Brian Jetter with Health Project Rotarians Jim Rothermel and Mike Hunter were present at many of the swishing classes and encouraged those students not enrolled to talk to their parents about the free Dental Health program.

Local photographer honored

Ginger Moseley, of A Moment in Time Photography in Scaly Mountain, received two awards - one for artistic merit and one for customer service. November saw one of her images take 4th place in the Professional Photographer's Cover Contest and January came with the announcement of her studio's earning a 2010 Bride's Choice Award.

Class swishing takes less than five minutes including time for the students to guess which flavor - mint, bubble gum, root beer and grape - will be next.

If Mrs. Murphy's class was any indication, students will be having a grand time in the weekly fluoride swish program.

A surprise Valentine' for troops

Christ Church of the Valley would like to invite you to be apart of a special Valentine Surprise for the brave men and woman, from Highlands and Cashiers, who are deployed in Afghanistan or Iraq.

In appreciation for their service to our country we will be sending a box filled with reminders of home. (Sweets, a local paper, music, books, notes and cards.)

If you would like to participate please send the name and address of someone who has been deployed along with your personal words of encouragement for them to: Christ Church of the Valley, PO Box 2863, Cashiers NC 28717, on or before February 1, 2010. For more information, call 742-5470.

NEW POLICY

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Mondays at 5 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All unpaid ads will be deleted.

HELPWANTED

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

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.— Full time, 90% out-patient care with potential planned upward mobility. Strong orthopedic skills desired. Professional independence encouraged. 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

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)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE, 6.96 ACRES, stream through property, easy access, all or partial. Scaly Mountain. Day 828-200-9765, evening 828-787-1264. (1/28)

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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)

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

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HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate, call 828-342-7864. (1/14)

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ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL. Call 526-2251 or 342-6289. (3/31)

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POLICE, FIRE & SHERIFF REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Jan. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 9

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 and Oak Street. There were no injuries.

Jan. 15

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a call for service for a child custody exchange on Oak Street.

Jan. 17

• A little past midnight, officers were called assist a motorist on S. 4th Street who was lost.

Jan. 18

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spring and 3rd streets. There were no injuries.

• At 6:10 p.m., officers took a report concerning verbal threats from a neighbor.

Jan. 20

• At 2 p.m., Jose Luis Damian-Gonzalez, 27, of Highlands, was arrested for traffic violations on Chowan Drive.

Jan. 25

• At 12:51 p.m., officers received a

call for service when bedding was found on the roof of the Wachovia Bank on S. 4th Street.

During the week, police officers responded to 15 alarms and issued 12 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 22:

Jan. 22

• At 10:33 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at N. 4th Street. It was false.

Jan. 24

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Rich Gap Road. A man was experiencing chest pains. He was transported to the hospital.

Jan. 25

• At 2:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Oak Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• At 1:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where a man had fallen. He wasn't taken to the hospital.

• At 10:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east near the hospital. There were no injuries.

Sheriff Dept. charges Macon County man with child abuse

Joshua Nathaniel Grant was charged with one count of Intentional Child Abuse-Serious Physical Injury, a Class E Felony, on January 22, 2010 by the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Bond was set at \$25,000 and Grant's first court date is February 11, 2010.

Grant is 22-years-old and a resident of Topton in Macon County. Investigators consulted with the District Attorney's Office throughout the investigation and were assisted by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. This is an ongoing investigation and no further information is available at this time.

"No matter what the situation is, there is absolutely no acceptable excuse as to why a parent or anyone else would shake an infant. Many of the symptoms are unable to be seen at the time of the actual assault. An infant is the most vulnerable of victims and these cases are very difficult to work because the child can not speak and tell who hurt them," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Since first reported, investigators have worked non-stop on this case and have



Joshua Nathaniel Grant

done an outstanding job. I am confident my detectives will continue to be thorough in conducting their investigation. An investigation does not end with an arrest therefore at this time I will make no additional statements so that we do not hinder the investigation."

... HAITI continued from page 3

I am offering you an opportunity to unite with members of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands to help with relief for Haiti. Our common problem is that at this

stage they don't need us in Haiti, therefore the best thing we can do is to give financial support to an agency that will provide relief where it is most needed. But, what agency will deliver "the most bang for our buck?"

Rev. Don Mullen has helped me begin researching several alternatives, they include: Catholic Relief, Church of the Incarnation - Highlands, Harvest Time International, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Partners in Health, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, World Vision.

Your donation to **Haitian Relief** will go to the best agencies that will provide the most relief in the shortest period of time to the Haitian people.

— Hillrie Quin – First Presbyterian Mission Committee Chair

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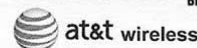
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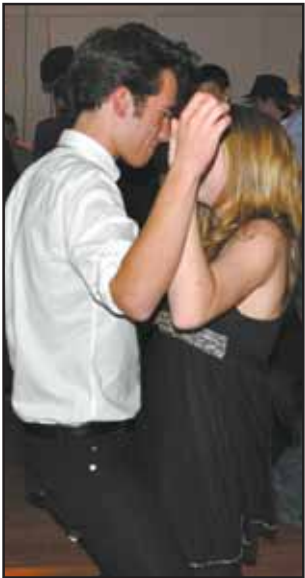


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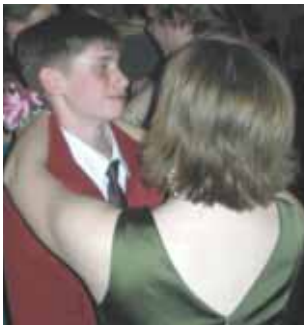
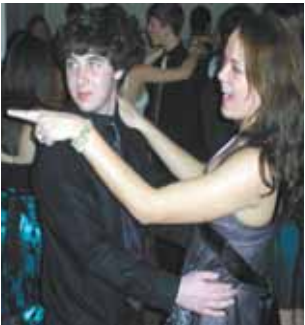
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2/25



Highlands School students go all out for 2009 Homecoming Dance (Rescheduled due to inclement weather to Sat. Jan. 23, 2010)



Photos by Jim Lewicki



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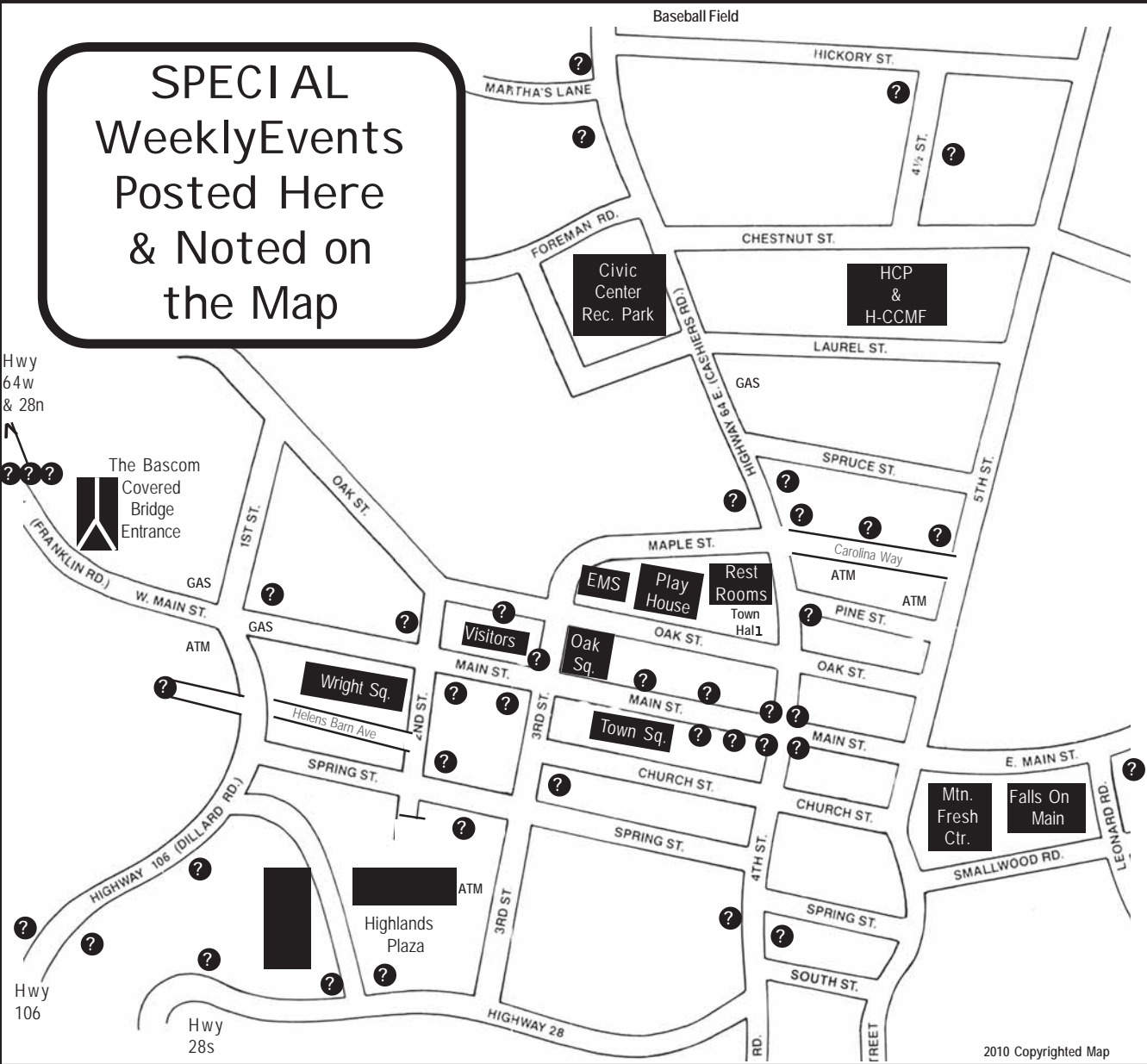
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Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map

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, Glen Falls, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, Cliffside Lake, Bust Your Butt Falls, Sky Valley, Scaly Mtn., and Norton Rd. Highway markers for Hwy 64, Hwy 106, Hwy 107n, and Hwy 107s are also shown.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
HighlandsInfo.com/mapit.htm



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