Preliminary budget in; work continues

The final budget work session prior to adoption of the FY 2010-2011 Town of Highlands budget took place Wednesday and included department heads and supervisors.

Following possible revisions to the proposed budget presented by Town Manager Jim Fatland, a public hearing will be held June 23 at 7 p.m. before the budget is adopted.

There is no tax increase recommended this year - it stays at $135 per $100 assessed valuation; nor is there a fire tax increase - it stays at $0.09 per $100 assessed valuation.

There is no increase recommended for residential or commercial garbage rates, however the monthly minimum water charge will be increased by $4 per month - the second increase in a three-year plan to reduce Electric Fund subsidies for water fund operations. Last year's rate was $24.

Sewer rates will increase $3.20 and there will be a 4% increase in electric rates to offset Duke Power's wholesale increase to the town.

Likely last year, there won't be a salary increase for town employees but they will get a 2% cost of living raise.

Congratulations Class of 2010!

The class of 32 seniors and its two mascots - Garrison Chalker and Peyton Coppage - pose for a picture perfect for Cathy McIntyre-Ross. The graduation ceremony is Saturday, June 12 at 7 p.m. in the new gym. See the Graduation Pullout on page 10.

Six arrested in prescription drug round-up

Last week, the Macon County Sheriff’s Office and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation arrested six people in a joint investigation targeting prescription pills and other controlled substances.

The Clay County Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office assisted in this investigation which began in 2009 at the conclusion of last year’s Drug Round-Up in Macon County. Both investigations also included a non-criminal component that collected thousands of outdated and unused prescription pills from the public.

As a result of multiple complaints from citizens and several overdose deaths, a particular residence was determined to be a priority by Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland. A search warrant was executed at 15 Trimit Lake Road in Macon County, on June 4th utilizing the Sheriff’s Office Special Response Team. The U.S. DEA also assisted in the execution of search and arrest warrants at this residence.

At the request of the Macon County Sheriff’s Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office initiated a civil forfeiture proceeding at 15 Trimit Lake Road and was able to secure an agreement from the defendant to allow sale of the property and the proceeds to be split between the DEA and the Sheriff’s Office.

In addition to the six people arrested, five were charged with Traffic violations and two with Drug violations.

Animal control on forefront

A recent incident concerning a dog assault on a child in Highlands spurred the county to further delineate jurisdiction and specific guidelines concerning dangerous dogs.

First, the ordinance in place had to be amended to include jurisdiction in the county’s municipalities.

At the Monday, June 7, county commission meeting, County Attorney Chester Jones, recommended amending the ordinance to include Highlands and Franklin. Highlands and Franklin have been asked to sign a resolution accepting the amended ordinance and the county’s authority concerning animal control.

Highlands had already signed such a resolution but a new one must be signed to correspond with the county’s new amended ordinance, said Jones.

Now that the all-inclusive ordinance is in place, the Highlands Police Code concerning vicious animals, nuisance dogs and owner responsibility, which the town adopted before a county ordinance existed, is redundant.
Leaving Literacy weighs heavy on her heart

Dear Editor,

After becoming the Executive Director of the Literacy Council last August, I have fallen in love with the community of Highlands and the worthy cause of literacy. Each day has brought me new friendships and fulfilling moments as I have worked with members of the town.

Because of this, I must tell you with a heavy heart that I will be stepping down from my position in early August to move to New Orleans, La., with my husband, Alan. After graduating from Western Carolina University this May, Alan was offered a full tuition waiver and a teaching stipend to earn his doctoral degree in BioMedical Sciences at Tulane University.

We struggled with our decision to accept Tulane’s offer. Listening to me tell success stories from the Literacy Council, Alan knows how deep my respect and admiration for literacy runs. I have worked with the best board any Executive Director could ask for, and I know I will never find a more engaged, welcoming community of support than I have in Highlands.

With two months left as Executive Director of the Literacy Council, I plan to make the most of my time. With summer in full swing, I will continue planning the Literacy Council’s fundraising efforts and implementing programs to benefit the community. In addition, I plan to play an active role in the search for the Literacy Council’s next Executive Director, who I hope to train and introduce to the community.

I will always reflect on my time in Highlands as an enriching, enjoyable experience, and I have no doubt that the Literacy Council will only move onward and upward in years to come.

Please feel free to contact me at highlandsliteracy@live.com or stop by my office at the Peggy Crosby Center.

Bessie Dietrich Goggins

... ANIMAL continued from page 1

... BUDGET continued from page 1

Recently a toddler in Highlands was injured when a neighbor’s dog came onto her property and injured her face just below her nose.

Hook, who said he responded as a courtesy since the ordinance delineating jurisdiction was not yet in place, said it’s unclear whether the “attack” was provoked or an accident.

“But regardless, anytime a dog causes injury that requires surgery it has to be deemed dangerous,” Hess said.

The toddler received stitches for the laceration. Owners of the dog had the dog authorized for the neighbor’s peace of mind, but Hook said it’s possible they acted prematurely and said he had suggested they wait for a decision from the Appeal Board, now in place.

The Highlands Police Department also responded to the “dog bite” call.

Now with the amended ordinance in place, with Hook designated the authority on “potentially dangerous dogs” and an appeal board set up, future incidents may be handled differently, said Hook.

- Kim Lewicki

Kim Lewicki
Erika Olvera

Many of you have read or heard about the shameful way that one of Highlands’ first policewomen appears to have been treated by some elected town officials and certain town employees. This is a serious loss for Highlands and a blow to civility and human rights. It’s also unfortunate to lose an effective law enforcement officer, due to apparent political bickering and attempted tampering with law enforcement duties.

Why did this happen? What can we do to set things right by Erika and see that this won’t happen again in our community?

Many local residents have joined to give their full support to Erika Olvera, one of Highlands’ first women police officers and the first Latina officer. As an honors graduate of Highlands School and mother raising two daughters, she endeavors to clear her good name from the malicious rumors and harassing treatment by some elected town officials and employees.

An “ERIKA OLVERA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND” has been established at Macon Bank in Highlands. It will be used to assist her with her legal fees and with the costs associated with her EEOC complaint against the Town of Highlands.

Those interested in more information, or for those interested in making a donation, please go to defensefund@yahoo.com

PAID FOR BY THE
“ERIKA OLVERA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND”

Wilson graduates from Western Carolina University

Alana Susanne Wilson, HS Class of 2004, graduated from Western Carolina University with a BS in Hospitality Tourism Management, Saturday, May 8, 2010. She is the daughter of Anna and Roger Lee Wilson, of Highlands.

Upon graduation, Alana assumed the role as General Manager for The Log Cabin Restaurant here in Highlands, which is under new management. See ad on page 5.

Highlands United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School is Sun., June 27

Highlands United Methodist Church invites all children to Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God! Board the starship Galactic Praise to see our awesome universe—and our awesome God—in a whole new way. The fun begins Sunday, June 27 and ends Thursday, July 1 from 5:30-8 p.m. at HUMC — 315 Main Street in Highlands. The VBS program is free but children are welcome to come early for supper at 5 p.m. each evening for $2 per child.

Each galactic mission includes a Bible story with science activities at the Orbital Observatory, music at Moons & Tunes, art projects at Cosmic Crafts and games at Rocket Rec. Activities are designed for pre-school and elementary children who have finished preK-5th grades. Youth students are encouraged to volunteer. Call Allison Tate at 526-3376 to sign up.

Reed graduates from UNC-Greensboro

Jackie Reed, HS Class of 2006, graduated May 14, 2010, from the UNC-Greensboro with a BS in Accounting and a minor in Political Science. She graduated Magna Cum Laude. Jackie is a recipient of the Bryan Achievement and Leadership Award, which recognizes graduating students for a combination of academic scholarship and leadership in the Bryan School of Business and Economics, the university and/or the community.

She also received the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award. This award is presented to the student judged the most outstanding in the Bryan School of Business and Economics for the academic year.

One week prior to her graduation, Jackie received the Student Excellence Award, administered by Lloyd International Honors College and is UNC-G’s highest academic award to outstanding undergraduates. To be eligible for the award, students must be seniors, with an overall 3.7 GPA and must be nominated by an academic department or interdisciplinary major. She will attend Graduate School in the fall.
The Catholic dilemma

Having been abundantly exposed to the uglier side of life, I’ve become hardened to every kind of person and situation. Way back when I actually worked for a living, the standing joke in the Juvenile Crimes Unit was, “Incest is a game the whole family can play.”

That unsavory pun didn’t mean juvenile officers approved of incest or even made light of the crime. It was an internal escape mechanism from a grievous crime we couldn’t do much about. It’s how we coped. Parents who sexually molest their children are difficult to catch and almost impossible to prosecute…. but they exist.

In 1989, after an active life on the streets of Miami Beach, I retired from police work, took my criminal mind and headed for Highlands to rehabilitate myself and open a raffle business. There’s nothing like a 300-foot sheer cliff to clear your mind.

Getting away from the dregs of mankind, I slowly regained my faith in people. I realized I had forgotten there are many more honest, respectable, trustworthy people in the world than the criminals of Florida I struggled about all the time. They can’t be cured. They’re mentally sick, some pedophiles even rape an unsuspecting child. Pedophiles who molest their children are difficult to catch and almost impossible to prosecute…. but they exist.

But there’s a category of human I cannot tolerate. Pedophiles are people who prey on children. In short, they sexually molest or even rape them, usually ruining their lives. Pedophiles are opportunists, extremely dangerous, and because of the heinous nature of their crime, remain hidden. Because they’re mentally sick, some pedophiles even justify their behavior as normal. Having a sexual experience with a child is all they think about all the time. They can’t be cured. They’re even capable of murder and roam freely within our ultra liberal criminal justice system that still equips them to deal with them.

The Catholic Church is the perfect place for pedophiles to hide. My brain can’t compute the existence of pedophile priests. I have put priests on such high pedestals that my mind bills at the thought of a Catholic priest using his position of trust to molest or rape an unsuspecting child. Pedophiles who disguise themselves as priests are the worst kind of criminals on this planet. The visual disgusts me.

I never got over the scandal and the subsequent cover-up by the bishops in the United States. I never will. One of our most esteemed bishops is still living the good life, hidden away and protected at Vatican City. How many children’s lives did that man ruin by ignoring or covering up the problem? So what does the church do? Hide him! Because I know pedophiles well, have arrested them and understand their mindset, I’ve driven to detest them whether they wear a collar or not. I have seen too much of life to be hoodwinked by the church or anyone else.

A priest once informed our congregation that pedophiles only represented a tiny portion of priests who otherwise did the good work of the Lord. Really? Well, that’s not good enough for me. How many pedophiles is the Catholic Church willing to tolerate? I’m still not sure. If Jesus returned to earth, would he tolerate priests raping or molesting His little children? I think not. Let’s not forget Jesus was slow to anger but had a temper.

Now the scandal is exposed in Europe. They’re experiencing the same cover-up and the same transferred priests. Wouldn’t you think the European Catholic hierarchy would have seen our scandal unfolding and wondered how many of their priests might be pedophiles? Ahhh…. I’m so furious.

For me, it doesn’t matter whether the Popes were complicit or not. It doesn’t matter what he knew and when he knew it. It’s time to clean house from top to bottom. It’s time to remove people who made bad decisions that got children raped or sexually molested, regardless of their ranking, ignorance or good intentions. It’s time to communicate, take pedophiles out of circulation and put them in jail. Common sense demands we do more than just continue to cover it up…. again.

Now that the Catholic hierarchy knows pedophiles can’t be cured, what’s it going to do, continue to hide them? So far, the church has only taken action after crimes are exposed. The church needs to be proactive and do better than that. The survival of the Catholic Church demands they take strong action…. and now.

I know this might befuddle my Protestant friends but I urge my fellow Catholic to stand and be counted. Quitting the church solves nothing and won’t get rid of pedophiles; it only encourages them. With angry people like me gone from the church, pedophiles will have it easier. I refuse to give pedophiles and child molesters power to make me alter my faith. I will not let them run me off. Anyway, Catholic faith is not about priests, it’s about Jesus. I use the church as my path to Jesus. Stay with Christ but condemn the Catholic Church for its lack of...
The benefits of Angus

It must be a terrible time to be an Angus. Every body wants to eat Angus. At least it seems that way. Everybody wants to sell Angus. It started with Hardee's, or at least that's when I first heard about it.

Hardee's introduced the Angus Burger, which I doubted contained much Angus. Maybe it was 100%. Whatever it was, it sold a lot of burgers. Using Angus had been uncommon in the fast food segment, but McDonald's heard about it and jumped in. I don't know why I was surprised that McDonald's would know a good deal. They nearly invented the burger, and they did invent breakfast.

McDonald's started selling its version of the HardeeBurger and everybody was happy except for the Angus. Angus Moms started wishing their calves wouldn't be born, and praying they'd be girls. Growing up for a young male meant only one path: castration, followed by life on a feed lot getting fat, and ripe. For the one in ten of one percent that was chosen for life as a stud, the situation was actually pretty satisfactory. After demand for Angus skyrocketed, the farmer went to the resident bull. "Listen, Katmandu," he'd begin, "we can't satisfy the demand. I know what the farmer didn't realize was that Katmandu lived for his work, was his work. All he did from the time he got off until it was time to go back to the breeding stall, he could be in front of an old Elsie poster, reading heifer magazines. The point I'm making is that to every cloud has a silver lining. The lucky few had it made.

What had happened in the food industry was that supply had grown to meet demand. A balance had been reached. That was before Bap Park dazzled us with the Angus-Dog. It's come to this, a breed whose meat once commanded premium prices and set off a war between giants in the fast food industry is now being stuffed into wiener casings. None of this bothers Katmandu. He lives his life, during peak times and poor, at work or in his cozy stall, for one thing only: ejaculation. Maybe they don't know the deal. It seems it like it would be pretty easy to figure out, especially to the Mom. Junior goes on a field trip, doesn't return. The farmer is unconcerned, lots of youngens running off these days, and not coming back, he says. Been seeing it for years. No need to talk about it though. Better not to bring attention to it. What purpose would be served? The truth is, this is all you're regood for. We bred you to be eating machines. Even if you could get out, you wouldn't. Where would you go? What could you do? You should be more concerned with the price of beef than with thoughts of getting out of here alive. We know what the farmer is saying so who is hurt if we say Junior went off to Clemson to study husbandry?

I'd never given much thought to Angus before. I was in Herrod's once, years ago. There was a piece of meat in the display case. It was as red as a desert sunset. I'd never seen anything like it. It could have had its own circulatory system. I thought there might be some sort of thing in it. It could have been a red light shining on it, but they weren't. It was Angus. It was my first encounter with an Angus, unless you include the little farm set I had when I was a kid. So I'd heard of Gurneys, Jerseys, Herfords, Holsteins. I also owned a little plastic black Angus.

I didn't really think about subtle differences. Beef is beef, or so I thought. Then came a dark chapter in the history of the breed: The Price of Fame. It's sad what can happen if you're too well liked. I'd ignored it when Hardies brought us its burger. I was too busy, or too disinterested, so I looked the other way, and ordered a chicken fillet, when McDonald got involved. When I was looking for Hillshire Farms and happened to see AngusFrank's, something just snapped.

Thanks, for letting me get it off my chest.

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

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SANDWICHES & ENTREMETS
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Summer sports heat
We went through a slight dead period the last couple of weeks in the sports world, but this week has been one filled with events. From the Stanley Cup Finals to the French Open to the NBA Finals and now World Cup Fever – not to mention a dash of Stephen Strasburg mania and we’ve had a heat wave of excitement. Some random thoughts from the events of this week.

Top 3 pitchers in baseball
1. Ubaldo Jimenez. The guy is 11-1 right now with a microscopic ERA. He’s dominating guys and finally realizing the potential that many scouts identified with him back when Colorado made their World Series run a few years ago. 98mph heat, a deadly changeup and a nasty slider dominance.
2. Roy Halladay. Doc Halladay has been dealing for Philadelphia, and he has been dominant for the last several years. Perhaps the most outstanding statistic of all though is that Halladay, in his 12 starts, has gone the distance in 5 of them. In the days of modern pitch counts, etc. it is astounding that Halladay can be counted on to save the arms in the bullpen whenever he takes the hill. (By the way-3 of those 5 complete games are shutouts.)
3. Stephen Strasburg? OK, probably not especially after one start. However, the guy’s stuff is as good as Jimenez’s and better than Halladay’s. His first time through the National League lineups is going to look like Walter Johnson’s (my favorite Walter Johnson story is when an exec questioned his scout about whether or not Johnson could control his fastball the scout simply said “if he couldn’t there would be dead bodies all over Idaho.”) or Doc Gooden’s. Strasburg hit 100 mph on the radar gun several times against my Pirates and struck out the side twice. The most impressive thing to me about the kid was that when Delmon Young homered off of him (a 90mph? change-up… yikes – Young probably thought it was a fastball) it just pissed Strasburg off to the point that he mowed down the last ten batters he faced.

The NBA finals has been an entertaining one especially thanks to the play of 87-year-old Derek Fisher. I really want the Celtics to win this series, mainly because my Phil Jackson hate has shifted into overdrive with his recent sniping to the media. The guy is a great coach, but he has always had the league’s best player. If Jackson can win a title with a middling team, then I will give him some more credit but until then he’s a decent coach who had the smarts to align himself squarely on the coattails of Jordan, Shaq and Kobe.

World Cup fever is officially upon us! On Friday we have Mexico opening up the World Cup and then the real main event (at least in America) is on Saturday with the US taking on the British in what we all hope will be a monumental upset. Both squads are a bit banged up, particularly because US striker Jozy Altidore went down with an ankle injury in practice the other day. England will be heavily favored, but their squad has yet to play an international match as a team and they are weak in goal…. so the US has a glimmer of hope. (my prediction 3-1 England – our defense is horrible and without a fit Altidore we can’t take advantage of a weak keeper.)

Summer sports heat
This week begins our weekly series on "Health Matters." Each week area doctors from across the medical spectrum will write about their specialty. Dr. Robert Buchanan is the third contributor to our new weekly column.

**Plastic surgery procedures have changed with the times**

We are living longer and are healthier than our parents and grandparents. Problems arise when we get to the age where we consider them old. We begin to look like them, and we see "old" in spite of not feeling so.

Fortunately, plastic surgery has kept up with our needs to look the way we feel. New procedures and treatments have kept pace with our busy lifestyles and the frantick economy.

Facial features are what generally reveal our age. Therefore, this is what we have concentrated on rejuvenating. For years, the main method of facial rejuvenation was a face, neck, eye and brow lift (generally combined into what most people call a "complete facelift"). As we became more discerning, we desired procedures that left us looking more natural with less recovery. New developments took two directions. First was to reduce or eliminate down time. Second was development of procedures leaving us looking like ourselves, only younger and more rested. These results are two basic, though complementary methods of rejuvenation.

The first is surgery, the traditional method. Only there is nothing traditional with what we are doing now. My own practice is a perfect example. After moving to Highlands, I began seeing many people who had already had a traditional facelift. Thus, I started looking carefully at what we had accepted as "good results." The problems I, and others, discovered were accentuated by repeat procedures. These abnormalities included elevated sideburns, descending earlobes, hollow cheeks and a "windswept look." To avoid producing these problems, I began to modify my facelift method. I then discovered, met and learned from two Belgium plastic surgeons doing a similar procedure. This method reduces the amount of surgery and the length of the scar, replaces the tissues from where they came, and eliminates the problems of the older methods. It also speeds recovery to frequently less than a week. As I, and others around the world, have used and modified this method, we have found it additionally extends the longevity of results. Though originally conceived as a facelift for younger individuals with no scar behind the ear, we have customized it now for use on anyone.

We also modified our other surgical procedures similarly. I replace the normal position in eyelids and suspend the lids to solid anchors for longer lasting results. I adapted my present method of lower blepharoplasty from a mid-face lift, so it also gives some lift to the cheek. We do browlifts with an endoscope through small incisions with almost immediate recovery.

Vitamins and other drugs that speed healing and reduce bruising or speed its resolution have also aided recovery. Since recovery is now faster than resolution of what bruising remains, make-up techniques have allowed return to normal activities almost immediately after surgery.

The second change has been development of nonsurgical procedures. These can frequently mimic surgery and are significantly less expensive. Some can even do things that surgery cannot do. For example, Latisse® a topical drug, can make your eyelashes longer, fuller and darker. Botox® can reduce facial wrinkles with a single injection. Injectable fillers, some lasting for 1½ years or longer, can erase those age lines and disguise many of the other signs of aging. New lasers and skin care products can also eliminate other signs of aging and sun damage.

In short, we now have multiple means of turning back the clock, from simpler surgery with faster recovery and more natural results to injections and lasers that have no down time at all. There is something for everyone, no matter what you need or what your budget.

Cosmetic consultations are complementary at Center For Plastic Surgery in Highlands. To learn more visit www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com, or www.TodaysFacelift.com. You can contact Dr. Buchanan at 828-526-3783.
This is a difficult time for Obama and his administration. The attempt to bribe Joe Sestak into not running against turncoat Sen. Arlen Specter has been thoroughly reported, at least by Fox News, and is starting to get sticky.

The story goes that snarky Rahm Emanuel asked the lovable Bill Clinton to dangle the prospect of a government job in front of Sestak if he would not run in the PA primary.

Evidently Clinton couldn't sell the deal, Sestak ran and ended the political career of one of the least admirable politicians in my lifetime. Lots of damor for documents involving the clever move and the noise is intensifying.

It is a criminal offense to offer a job to a potential candidate as an encouragement not to run. Apparently once was not enough so they tried it again. The fact that the following quote comes from the Huffington Post proves that we are fair and balanced in our research: “One of President Barack Obama's top advisers tried it again. The fact that the following quote comes from the Huffington Post proves that we are fair and balanced in our research: “One of President Barack Obama's top advisers suggested to a Colorado Democrat that he forgo a primary challenge to Sen. Michael Bennet and instead apply for one of three international development jobs. The disclosure came just days after the White House admitted orchestrating a job offer in the Pennsylvania Senate race with the singular goal of avoiding a messy or divisive Democratic primary.” Strike two.

As if these back-to-back disclosures weren't enough, the trial of our favorite cartoon character, Rod Blagojevich, recently commenced. Rod faces charges including attempting to sell the U.S. Senate seat of then Senator Barack Obama.

Rod's lawyers subpoenaed the aforementioned snarky Rahm as well as Obama's old cronies Valerie Jarrett as witnesses in the murky matter. Trouble just seems to follow these folk around, doesn't it?

As if the above wasn't enough, it looks like his ardent followers are not so ardent anymore. Ultra-liberal Maureen Dowd, in an op-ed titled “A Storyteller Loses the Story Line” in the ultra-liberal New York Times, came out with the following excerpts: “It's not a good narrative. The man who walked on water is now ensnared by a crisis under water.” “With as much as 34 million gallons of oil inkling the Gulf of Mexico, 'yes we can' has been downgraded to 'Will we ever'?”

“Obama wanted to be a transformative president and now the presidency is transforming him.” “The oil won't stop flowing, but the magic has.” Oh my.

James Carville, prominent Democrat strategist, again from the way-out liberal Huffington Post. “The President of the United States could've come down here, he couldn't have been involved with the families of these 11 people (killed in the original explosion). He could be commanding tankers and making BP ring tankers in and clean this up. They could be deploying people to the coast right now. These people are crying, they're begging for something down here (Carville is a resident of New Orleans) and it looks like he's not involved in this.” Sounds like Jim is no longer a fan.

“This is the worst,” a friend told David Broder over the phone the other day (referring to the Gulf oil spill). Broder is a crusty old liberal columnist who writes for the Washington Post. “No, I told him. It's not yet the worst. They haven't built a popular new television program around it — yet. No one has created a new media franchise for himself out of it. There isn't a name for it that has become part of popular culture.

I was thinking back to when another Democrat president, Jimmy Carter, found himself stymied in another seemingly endless ordeal. Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held 52 officials and workers hostage for 444 days, while the United States was helpless to free them. Many of us recall the event by the name that became attached to it: “America Held Hostage!” That ABC nightly news update, anchored by Ted Koppel, became “Nightline.”

Broder continues, referring to the spill: “This saga, painful as it is, has not yet become the simple demonstration of monumental futility and incompetence that the hostage crisis became for Carter, who let his personal frustration become the nation's humiliation. When he finally mounted a rescue effort, and the helicopters crashed into each other in the desert before reaching the hostages, it was the final proof that he was cursed in any-thing he tried to do. That truly was the worst. Today, we're not there — yet.”

The Democrats are right to be very nervous as this Gulf incident drags on in its second month. Excuses and threats are falling on deaf ears.
The Federal Reserve is currently keeping interest rates down in an attempt to boost the economy. Their theory is that lower rates will encourage people to make investments in real estate, businesses and consumer purchases. But what about those who depend on earning interest to make a living? This small, yet significant segment of society, are also the consumers who are likely to make larger purchases. In the meantime, these potential consumers are hanging on to their portfolios waiting for the market to improve. They are clinging to their cash assets, with little return, waiting for a sign that investing their money will become more secure as well as profitable.

For these folks I am suggesting a new perspective on a very old profession. Recession can be perfect timing for unparalleled opportunities, if we are properly advised. Holding mortgages can be one of the few tangible and solid investments during these times.

With regard to mortgages locally, real estate values in the Highlands-Cashiers area are holding better than most parts of the country. I believe this is because our typical property owner does not entirely depend on the economy for survival. Although our property values have decreased some, all indications point to leveling off. We are not seeing appreciation rates as of yet, but they will surely come in due time.

Mortgage loans have been the backbone of the banking industry since the foundation of our country. They have recently become problematic due to poor lending practices prior to the recession. Many lenders gave higher loan to value mortgages on properties with inflated values. In many cases these loans were made to unqualified buyers or to those depending entirely on their existing pre-recession income.

Certificates of deposit (CDs) are the most secure investment, but they are currently earning an interest rate of .04% to 1.04% and money markets are at .01%. If you happen to own property free and clear of mortgages, you could sell and easily earn a 4 to 6% return by holding owner financing for a qualified buyer. If you want to consider a potentially higher profit margin, there are still some foreclosures and short sales available which can be purchased for below today’s market value. By buying low and reselling these properties at their higher value, holding seller financing at 4 to 6% interest could increase your profits substantially. Mortgages can also be held for short term investments. It is not uncommon for mortgages to have interest only monthly payments with a scheduled balloon payoff in three to five years.

The typical Highlands-Cashiers buyer is affluent and more often than not they pay cash for real estate. However, in these times they may want a mortgage until they can sell an existing property or they may be awaiting a scheduled pay-off from another investment. A buyer in this category will most likely be a qualified and stable candidate to consider for holding owner financing.

My suggestion is to hold a mortgage substantially lower than the current market value of the property. In the remote case that foreclosure becomes necessary, you will be in a position to sell the property again, at the market value at that time, with the possibility of receiving even higher profits. Upon selling you could cash-out, re-invest or hold yet another mortgage on the property at the going interest rate at that time.

Lynn Kimball
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Brice Jenkins
UNC-Chapel Hill

Salutatorian
Kate Marie Parks
Bryan University

Aaron Burton
SCC

Amanda Fuller
SCC

Ashley Dickey
Undecided

Beverly Nix
Undecided

Bobbi Joe Talley
SCC

Brie Schmitt
Cape Fear CC

Carmen Damian
SCC

Charlie Pair
Undecided

Cody St. Germain
Nashville Auto Diesel

Eli Dryman
Sandhills CC

Harrison Hall
Cape Fear CC

Jamie Bolt
CIA

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What Our Patients Are Saying About Us.

“Last month, I had an occasion to use the hospital extensively and got to know some of the doctors for the first time. I just wanted you to know that I have been a patient in large hospitals in Jacksonville including The Mayo Clinic and have never been treated with more courtesy and personal attention than I received at your hospital. I’m afraid in Jacksonville too often the patient has become nothing but a name, date of birth and date of last visit. Your doctors are the very best.” – Charlie Towers

“My husband just spent two weeks at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The care, attention and serious concern of the staff was so wonderful, refreshing and a comfort to us both. We were so impressed with every facet of the hospital system that we gratefully thank everyone. We are full time residents in our seventies. What a relief to have such a facility so close to us.” – Mr. & Mrs. Omar Adams

“I know that we live in the best place on earth, and we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful hospital, staffed with expert Doctors, Nurses and Technicians. For me and my family, it has truly been a blessing to have such a facility here where I did not have to travel out of town for medical care. I know I would not have received the same care and attention anywhere else.” – Jim Nix

“This is an excellent and valuable facility. As more of us retire to Highlands, your hospital will be a place of much comfort and security. Your hospital and staff are the gold standard of care. We cannot thank you enough.” – Jean Ann Tolleson

“Our local hospital deserves all our support to sustain the level of service that our healthcare professionals offer our community. My thanks to all who have helped me recover so quickly and whose attentiveness have made my hospital stay so comfortable.” – Duncan Parham

“I had a double hernia operation at your hospital, spent the night and discharged to return to my home in Tryon. I have had an uneventful and full recovery and I wanted to thank all of you. I am deeply grateful for the professional care I received at your beautiful facility from surgeon and the fine nursing team. I’ve been singing your praises to all my friends here in Tryon and just wanted you to know how much I appreciate each and every one of you who lovingly touched my life during this procedure.” – Harry Goodheart III

Once you read what our patients think of us, you can’t help but be impressed with the broad range of things for which they are complimenting us. From our personal attention, caring nurses, courteous support staff and Board Certified Physicians, all the way to our surgery competence and state-of-the-art equipment, each of these “care points” receive the highest grades. As one of our patients stated: “you are the gold standard of care.”

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• His & Hers •

The $5,000 pancake

Saturday a week ago I had a $5,000 blueberry pancake. Actually, I had two of them. They were just as delicious as the ones I had last fall. All of them were courtesy of the Scaly Mountain Women’s Club.

Scaly Mountain is an unincorporated community just down the Dillard Road from us, about 10 miles from the intersection of the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia borders.

In the summer, Scaly Mountain swells to several thousand people. In the winter, it shrinks to a few hundred. But, there is never a shortage of fine people who willingly give their time, efforts and treasure for the benefit of others.

A lady whom we’ve met before, Kay Steele, was kind enough to tell us the history of the Women’s Club. It began 22 years ago with just 14 members. Now, it has grown to about 80 women. This is the seventh year they have run their Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center (which used to be a church, and before that was a one-room school, but more about that later).

How cute, you say. These nice ladies get together and cook up some pancakes. These ladies with their various efforts have raised more than $100,000 in the last 10 years. They have put all of that money into scholarships. Last year they were supporting 10 local children with college scholarships. They have five more in the pipeline that they want to help next year. Under their current leaders, Karen Mans and Faye Bellwood, I’m sure they will make their newest goal.

Here’s what to expect if you venture up, or down, the Dillard Road on the fourth Saturday morning of every summer month. The well-cared-for, white-painted, plain board church is small, just 10 tables fit in its space. Other tables are outside on its deck. The ladies serve excellent blueberry pancakes – plain ones if you prefer – plus local sausage cooked just right, and coffee and orange juice.

They also serve up a diverse menu of guests. Every single time that we’ve gone to the Scaly Breakfasts, we’ve met more people we’ve never seen before, from a variety of states and a variety of occupations, but all of whom enjoy good pancakes and worthy purposes.

I learned the history of the venerable building because Everett Miller was there. He and his father went to school in that building. And, they went there when they were too young to go inside. When the adults were busy putting in the crops, tending them, and harvesting them, there was no one to spare to mind the youngest children. They were brought to the outside of the school and asked to stay there and play quietly. Presumably, they would be allowed inside if it started to rain.

The ladies have a cook book and a silent auction in addition to the pancake breakfasts. The breakfasts cost just $5.50 each, so you can imagine how many they have to sell to make up $5,000. The cook book includes delicious old photographs and histories, as well as recipes.

Is there a broader lesson in what these ladies are doing?

No bureaucrats are involved. No salaries are involved. The ladies even try to cover the costs of the food by having business put sponsor cards on each of the tables. The idea is to turn what is paid at the door into pure “profits,” which is to say, pure scholarships for the young people.

See HIS & HER S page 25
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ruby Cinema
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June 11-June 17
THE KARATE KID
rated PG
Daily: 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:40

THE A-TEAM
rated PG-13
Daily: 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

PRINCE OF PERSIA:
THE SANDS OF TIME
rated PG-13
Daily: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25

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Sunday 12–5 pm through October 10
Plus three holiday Mondays: May 31, July 5, September 6, 10 am–5 pm

Exhibitions | Classes | Nature Trail | Shop and Café

Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, June 10, 2010 - Page 13
side Presbyterian Church, highway 64, Cashiers. For further information, call 828-743-1701.

Through June 16

• Applications are now being accepted by the Highlands Historical Society for membership in this year’s class of Kelsey Kids. Membership is limited to 12 students, ages 9, 10, and 11 who are residents of Highlands. They may be students at any school or may be homeschooled. Kelsey Kids is named in honor of Highlands founder, Samuel Kelsey, who founded the town in 1875. The “Kids” meet once weekly from June 16 through mid-August. The program, made possible by a grant from the Eckerd Family Foundation, teaches Highlands history by means of field trips and demonstrations. For further information or to request an application form, telephone the Historical Society at (828) 787-2050.

Through Aug. 13

• “Healing Hands Team” Of Highlands/Cashiers Hospital Relay for Life Star Cards for sale.
• Applications are now being accepted by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.
• Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (ages 2-7) 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, and supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 p.m in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3378.
• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Garden, followed by a dinner of local trout and homegrown organic sides. Cost is $125 per person.
• “Champagne Brunch in the Vineyard” is slated from 12:30 p.m. Sunday, September 12, and features Smoked Salmon, stuffed quail with truffled grits, tomato casserole, peach brûlée and more. It’ll be hosted by Carolyn and Rhett Tanner. Cost is $100 per person.
• “Art, Food and Wine” is a blending of John Collette Fine Art and Wolfgang’s Restaurant, set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 14. The evening will feature a special dinner selected from Wolfgang’s private recipe book, paired with his favorite wines. Cost is $125 per person.
• “A Day at the Races” will host “A Day at the Races” at 6:30 p.m. Friday, September 17, at the home of Tim and Minnie Bob. The evening will include dinner, horse racing, and a special auction. Cost is $125 per person.
• “Fall Plantation Feast: Carolina Cuisine,” set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, September 19, closes out the season in spectacular style. Hosts Margo and Julian Franklin, and Carol and Norman Aringer will be serving chicken papillio, individual tomato pies, kudzu rolls, and other surprises.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will celebrate new artists and welcome back proven favorites throughout its busy 29th season.

Supporting this ambitious schedule is a slate of Feasts of the Festival, an opportunity to meet interesting people and enjoy wonderful food and drink in the setting of some of the area’s most beautiful and elegant private homes and restaurants. These feasts provide important and vital financial support to the Festival.

The celebrations launch with a “French Garden Party” at the home of Tim and Gail Hughes, set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 25. The evening will begin with Champagne and cocktails overlooking the Hughes’ magnificent gardens. It’ll be followed with a menu of Bourbon Glazed Salmon accompanied by fine wines. Cost is $125 per person.

“On the (Abrams) Veranda” will be offered by Ann Abrams and… on the Veranda at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21. It’ll feature passed hors d’oeuvres, gator pauch, two choices of entrée and dessert paired with specialty wines. Cost is $135 per person.

The “All in the Family Feast,” set for 7:15 p.m. Sunday, July 25, is a rare opportunity to share an evening with Festival musicians The Albers Trio, William Ransom and Kate Ransom at the home of Mary and Sandy Barrow to deliver something unforgettable. Cost is $125 per person.

The “Country Feast at Frog Pond Farm,” set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 25. The evening will start with cocktails amidst the Jones’ famous flower garden, followed by a dinner of local trout and homegrown organic sides. Cost is $125 per person.

The “Maine Meets the Mountains” will host “An Evening with Julia” at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 31. An unforgettable celebration of the works of Julia Child, the menu will offer beef bourguignon and American cabernet from the Campbell’s private wine cellar, and special additions. Cost is $125 per person.

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To make reservations or to learn more about the feasts and the festival that support, call the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival at (828) 526-9060 or email hccmf@verizon.net.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Wolfgang's dinners to benefit HCCMF
Free music/picnic festival set for Zachary-Tolbert House

It's one of those combinations that makes so much sense — like caviar and crépe blini, or the Soil Sтрадvianus and Itzhak Perlman. The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, which runs from July 9 through August 15, is offering a unique dining opportunity at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro.

Every Friday during the Festival's busy 29th season, lovers of elegant music and fine dining are invited to luncheon with the quintet after its evening performance of a prix fixe dinner. Guests will be joined by that evening's concert performers. Dinner will begin with a short cocktail hour of a glass of wine and passed hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner at a cost of $60/person. The wine list will be available at extra cost. It's a marvelous opportunity to indulge in Wolfgang's storied menu and chat with musicians with world-spanning reputations. Each meal will be laced with the subtle playfulness that's the hallmark of both the Festival and Wolfgang's.

A percentage of each dinner will benefit Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Reservations for the concert and dinner can be made by calling the HCCMF's office at (828) 526-9060. Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro is located at 474 Main Street in Highlands. If those dinners at Wolfgang's whet your appetite for exquisite menus and fascinating dinner companions, save room on your calendar for the Feasts of the Festival. The Feasts provide the opportunity to meet interesting people and enjoy wonderful food and drink in the setting of some of the area's most beautiful and elegant private homes and restaurants. In addition, they provide vital financial support to the Festival. You'll find a complete listing of the Feasts at hccmfestival.org.

Finally, if you'd like to blend an evening of music and food but prefer a less formal setting, consider the HCCMF's picnic concert at the Zachary-Tolbert House in Cashiers, slated for 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 26th. Festival favorites The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will perform in an outdoor setting that's as irresistible as, well, a languid Carolina evening.

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**Day Trips**

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**Historical Society's Walk in the Park**

June 24-27
Glennda Bell will portray Mary Amanda Davis at this year's "Walk in the Park" sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. In the early days of Highlands, Mrs. Davis operated a boarding houseon Main Street, then the hotel now known as Highlands Inn, and later the elegant Davis House owned by Henry Bascom. "Walk in the Park" will be performed June 25 and 26 at Highlands Memorial Park with shuttles leaving the Community Building every 15 minutes from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The June 27 show will start at 4:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Admission for adults is $15.00; students are admitted free. Tickets will be available at Cyranos Book Shop on Main St. as well as at the Community Building on the day of the event.

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**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

- **Gastroenterologist** Learn how regular screening and early detection is one of the most important aspects of preventing colon cancer. Find out when to have a colonoscopy screening and why they are so critical to one’s health. These and other aspects of Dr. Carter’s Lunch and Learn presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Suite 103, in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.
- **The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society** will have a hot lunch at 6 PM and a program featuring members' nature pictures and adventure stories beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-797-1387. There is no charge to participate.
- **Tuesday, June 15**
  - Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Eco Tour. $35 includes the guided hike, lunch and an HCLT membership. Cost is $5 for HCLT members. Call 828-1112 to reserve a spot or email: info@hclt.org.
  - **"Owl Pellets,"** a special family nature activity at the Highlands Nature Center. 3 – 4 pm. Learn what owls eat by examining the skulls and bones of prey animals contained within an owl pellet. Call 526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hclt for more information.
- **Wednesday, June 16**
  - **"Owl Prowl"** at the Highlands Nature Center. 8 pm, all ages. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come to our amphitheater for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center featuring live owls, then stay for a night hike to look for owls in the wild. Bring your flashlight. Free, but contributions to CRC are appreciated. Call 526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hclt for more information.
- **Judy Fisher @ 526-9367.** A musical, theater revue, featuring 40 of the greatest songs. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandsplayhouse.org.
- **Thursday, June 17**
  - **Relay For Life** Breakfast.
  - **Wednesday, June 17**
  - **"Owl Prowl"** at the Highlands Nature Center. 8 pm, all ages. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come to our amphitheater for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center featuring live owls, then stay for a night hike to look for owls in the wild. Bring your flashlight. Free, but contributions to CRC are appreciated. Call 526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hclt for more information.
  - **Highlands Playhouse.** Lunchtime, May 28-30, June 10-19, and July 1-19. "Legacy to Children" 10 a.m. to noon at the Highlands Civic Center as part of CLE’s ongoing program. Call 526-8811 to reserve a spot.
- **Tuesday, June 22**
  - **Relay for Life Cashiers hosting a Survivors Celebrate Life celebration.** Call 828-254-6931 to register.
  - **The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society** will have a field trip to binding hot spots around Highlands to look for summer resident birds. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-797-1387. There is no charge to participate.
- **Monday, June 28**
  - **Highlands Playhouse.** "Dearly Departed" is a horror-in-the-heights story, set in a haunted house. There will be a charge of $10 for the physical and shot. Scripts are available for reading at the libraries in Highlands and Cashiers. Performance dates are: August 18-22 and August 26-30. Call Virginia Talbot, director, for more information: 526-4004.

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**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

- **Relay For Life Catholic Women of Highlands**
  - **Wednesday, June 16**
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  - **At Hudson Library.** Health Lectures by Dr. Sue Aery of Mountain Air Wellness Center. "How to know if you need orthotics to correct posture?"
  - **Highlands Historical Society.** "Pennies can help." Questions? Contact Rosemary Burney @ 526-9367.
  - **Flea Market:** Relay For Life of Highlands Teams invite the public to to a "Treasure Hunt" on June 19th at the Highlands Recreation Park from 9 am -3 pm Rain or Shine.
  - **Wednesday, June 16**
  - **Newspaper.** In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come to our amphitheater for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center featuring live owls, then stay for a night hike to look for owls in the wild. Bring your flashlight. Free, but contributions to CRC are appreciated. Call 526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hclt for more information.
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**RELAY, What You Need To Know . . .**

**RELAY BREAKFAST:**
Relay For Life Catholic Women of Highlands team #11 invite all to a Relay For Life Breakfast on June 13, 10 a.m. until the food runs out! Breakfast includes coffee, tea, French Toast, Cheese Sausage, Bacon, or Ham. Sweet Rolls, Rosemary’s Bread Pudding, Laurey Fried Potatoes, Pancakes and more! The ladies ask that you donate 500 - 1,000 pennies with all proceeds going to Relay For Life Of Highlands. Yes, their motto is “Pennies can help.” Questions? Contact Rosemary Burney @ 526-9367.

**Flea Market:**
Relay For Life of Highlands Teams invite the public to a “Treasure Hunt” on June 19th at the Highlands Recreation Park from 9 am -3 pm Rain or Shine. Yes, we are sure you will find a treasure or two at our first Relay Flea Market! Admission is free and 100% of all sales will go to Relay For Life of Highlands. If you have any treasure donations or sellable items you may contact any Relay Team at www.relayforlife.org/highlands or Betty Fisher @ 787-2324 or 226-3382.

**BARK FOR LIFE**
It’s not to late to volunteer or become a sponsor for this year’s Bark For Life event, July 24, 2010 at Highlands Rec. Park. Please contact Tricia Cox @ tricia@meadowsmtrealestate.com or call 828-526-1717. Team up with your dog and help TAKE A BITE OUT OF CANCER! Registration begins at 8 am with the actual walk starting at 9am. Don’t miss out on this fun filled dog walk sponsored by Relay For Life Of Highlands. If you have any treasure donations or sellable items you may contact any Relay Team at www.relayforlife.org/highlands or Betty Fisher @ 787-2324 or 226-3382.

**What You Need To Know . . .**

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The Mystery of the Body and Blood of Christ

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Our Lady of the Mountains
Roman Catholic Church

There once was a mission priest who found himself in a small North Carolina town called Boonville. He was the only Catholic priest in the entire county and did not receive much of a welcome. Instead, someone had written to the local newspaper that the Catholics were invading their town, bringing their idol worship, and that these people weren’t even Christians.

Well, in this predicament he hardly knew what to do. But something wonderful began to happen. Local ministers of other churches came to visit him to give him a kind welcome. Others wrote to the local paper in support of him. One, not even a Catholic, came for the celebration of Mass and wrote to the newspaper that all anyone need do is attend one mass and you would know that Catholics are Christians, that they believe in Jesus and pray to him. All you had to do was pay attention and you would know what Catholics believe. Another wrote that they knew God was present as they knelt during the mass.

Last weekend Catholics celebrated a special annual feast day – the Body and Blood of Christ. For Catholics, this Eucharist is at the very center of our beliefs.

At this celebration we heard the passage from the Gospel of Luke where Jesus feeds 5,000. Catholics see this as an expression of the Eucharist. Jesus, becoming one of us and experiencing the wants of needs common to humanity, responds with compassion to the hungry thousands, but not without the help of his followers. They present him with what they must have considered meager for so large a crowd. But Jesus accepts what they offer, prays and multiplies what they have given so much that there is more left over after everyone has been satisfied than they had to start with. Thus the disciples participate in this compassionate act. They rely on the power of Jesus to transform what is given. Then meager resources become the supe abundance of life in the love of God. As theologians have said, grace builds on nature.

It is the same with Christ’s body and blood. At each mass, bread and wine are brought forward. It is a great privilege to be selected to participate in this ritual. Through the prayer of the church, led by its priest who stands in the place of Christ and says the words of Christ, the gifts are multiplied, not numerically but certainly in value. What was just bread becomes Christ’s body and the wine becomes his blood. These gifts are returned to us and an even more miraculous occurrence – we become Christ’s body as his grace builds on our human nature.

Last weekend was a reminder of the great treasure we have in the Eucharist. Contained within the bread and wine we offer, transformed by the words of Jesus himself spoken, we are given his true presence. There can be no better proof of our faith in Jesus than participation in this mystery of faith.
Class of 2010

Jessica Gagne
SCC

Katie Durham
UNC-Wilmington

Kayla Linville
Ball State

Keely Milroy
SCC

La Donna Rodriguez
SCC

Madison Taylor
WCU

Olen Schiffli
WCU

Paige Strahan
Greensboro College

Rachel Hedden
WCU

Sally Zachary
SCC

Sarah Hedden
SCC

Shelbi Chastain
SCC

Shelby Johnson
Mars Hill College

Susan Johnson
Converse College

Tawny Perez
SCC

Tiffany Billingsley
SCC

Will Mathiowdis
Appalachian State U.

Not Pictured:

Avee Graham
SCC

Shelby Johnson
Mars Hill College

Susan Johnson
Converse College

Tawny Perez
SCC

Tiffany Billingsley
SCC

Will Mathiowdis
Appalachian State U.

Congratulations & Here's to Your Bright Futures!
New president takes helm at hospital

The new Chief Executive Officer at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital says he is thrilled to be back in the mountains of Western North Carolina and to continue his 25-plus-year career in health care management at a hospital that has such strong community support.

During his first week as CEO and President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH), Craig Bowen James, FACHE, not only receives a warm welcome, but also in-depth look into the hospital, its operations and community involvement.

James said he is looking forward to the initial assessment of HCH. Over the next several weeks, he has scheduled meetings with individual department managers, members of the Boards of Directors and Medical Staff, as well as key community organizations.

“Communication at every level is top priority. Assessing the operations of the facility begins from the ground up. I intend to continually stay in close communications with every department, our medical staff and boards and be easily accessible for feedback.”

A meet and greet reception was held for all HCH employees on Thursday afternoon.

James's initial months at HCH will be comprised of examining the hospital’s and community's needs, evaluating its operational performance, reviewing the existing financial trends and strategic plans, and budget preparation for the fiscal year.

“I’ll be looking into HCH’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and then, developing initiatives and goals to better each,” he added.

“I believe the success of small community hospitals like ours begins by finding our niche, defining the services that we can do best, then continue to focus on doing that well. Identifying our weaknesses will also help to make HCH successful,” said James.

“In addition we have to recognize our role in the community and build our relationships. We play a large part in our community; as a major employer and the only healthcare provider we have a responsibility to stay connected with our citizens and vari-

Explore the Dark and Mysterious World of the Colon And Discover its Secrets ... Some Could Be Deadly if They’re Hidden.

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These are used during Laparoscopy procedures for early detection of polyps, colon cancer and precancerous conditions in the stomach.

Equipped with the narrow band imaging scope a special light that will pick up flat lesions (polyps and cancer) that cannot be detected by the human eye, these are truly state-of-the-art tools to assure your peace of mind.
Mountain States Health Alliance.

and the integration of both hospitals to responsibilities included all operations, 650 employ-
hospital in Clintwood, Virginia. His respon-
sion Community Hospital, a critical access
hospital, a 110-bed facility, and Dicken-
Alliance Hospital system: Norton Commu-
hospitals within the Mountain States Health
Norton, Virginia since October 2007, where
move.”

I've made the right
that's any indication to what the hospital and
mitment and dedication to our hospital. If
community ownership and pride,” said

James. “Having the medical staff participate
and interact also shows their level of com-

James prior experience includes the
CEO position at Person Memorial Hospital, an affiliate Duke University Health System in Roxboro, North Carolina 2001-2007 and the President and CEO of Tazewell Community Hospital (Carilion Health System) in Tazewell, Virginia November 1996-2001. In
addition, he was the executive vice president of operations at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Le-
noir, North Carolina and has worked in other
hospital management positions since 1982. Mr. James is a graduate of The Univer-
sity of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a
Masters Degree in Public Health – Policy and Administration. He also has a Bachelors of
Science Degree in Business Administration from Appalachian State University.

Colombia Cancer Physician Forum offered at Hospital

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital continues
its series of physicians forums on June 14th,
which is presented in the form of comple-
mentary lunch & learn education sessions held
at the hospital throughout the next six
months.
The forum entitled “Colon Cancer” will be presented by Dr. Richard Carter, MD, FACP,
and Board Certified Gastroenterologist. Par-
ticipants will learn how regular screening
and early detection is one of the most impor-
tant aspects of preventing colon cancer. They
will find out when to have a colonoscopy
screening and why they are so critical one's
health. In addition, the latest information
colon cancer will be covered.

Attendees will be served a light boxed
lunch followed by a half-hour educational
seminar and ending with a question and an-
swer session. Lunch and Learn “Colon Can-
cer” will be held in the Jane Woodruff Clinic
Suite 103, Monday, June 14 from 12 noon-1
p.m. Those interested in attending are asked to please register in advance (828) 526-1313
or email info@hchospital.org.

“The physician forums are intended to
be a resource opportunity for our community
citizens to gain up to date knowledge about
personal health issues.” This is an important
part of our hospitals role in building our rela-
tionship with the community. We are also
thankful to our physicians for preparing these
learning sessions, which shows their commit-
ment and support,” said Craig James, Pres-
ident and CEO.

Dr. Richard Carter graduated Phi Beta
Kappa with his MD from the Medical Col-
lege of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia in 1972.
Dr. Carter first served his Internship in Inter-
 nal Medicine followed by his Residency in Gastroenterology. Dr. Carter is certified by
the American Board of Internal Medicine (In-
ternal Medicine and Gastroenterology) and
is a Fellow of the American College of Phys-
icians.

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

“HCH is a community hospital that
provides diagnostic, surgical and acute pa-
tient care to the public through on-site pro-
fessional services, or as a referral to regional
support providers. Our emergency care fac-
ility is Physician staffed 24/7 and treats pa-
tients promptly, monitoring their visit with
personal care and attention. We make the
extra effort to assure that you get “best of class”,
and feel “special” every time you pass
through our doors. HCH also provides Physi-
cian Clinics, a skilled Nursing Facility, Hos-
pice Care, Skilled Rehabilitation, and Medi-
cally-Based Wellness Programs allowing in-
dividuals and families nearby access to pro-
fessional care in these critical areas. The hos-
pital continues to expand its programs to pro-
vide the public the broadest possible range of
quality healthcare. Our Board-Certified Phy-
sician Staff continues to grow to better serve
you, as do our medical specialties now cover-
ing 14 areas of healthcare, specialties usually
only found in much larger facilities. We con-

ually update our range of diagnostic pro-
cedures by adding new state-of-the-art equip-
ment.”

Our goal is to be the healthcare partner to
whom you can entrust your life.

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Timothy J. Sadlon
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HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LITERACY COUNCIL OF HIGHLANDS: Possess interpersonal and organizational skills. Coordinate multiple projects, meet all deadlines, supervise staff and interns, and collaborate with board, donors and community. Writing grants and fundraising experience preferred. Send inquiries/resumes to highlandsliteracylive.com.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mentoring Works! –transforming the lives of children and volunteers. Rewarding position responsible for coordinating the one-on-one mentoring relationships and community development. Flexible schedule of 10 hours per week. A Bachelor’s degree, strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to travel within the Highlands area are required. Highlands resident is strongly preferred. Send resume and cover letter, to June 25th to Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, 50 S. French Broad, Room 213, Asheville, NC 28801. (624)

HIGHLANDS INN & KELSEY PLACE: Restaurant Looking for Busser. Tuesday thru Saturday Lunch. Visit us at 420 Main Street for application and interview. No phone calls. (624)

HAMPTON INN HIGHLANDS: Now hiring Housekeeper. Must speak English. Visit us at 96 Log Cabin Lane for application or interview. No phone calls. (624)

HAMPTON INN now hiring Seasonal 3-11 Front desk shift. Must be a multi tasker. Must Work weekends. Visit us at 96 Log Cabin Lane for application or interview. No phone calls. (624)

LINE COOK Opening at Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Call 526-8396. (st. 6/3)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring for a deli/grill position in our open kitchen. Must have previous experience. Email jobs@MEGro.com or call 828-526-2400 (623)

WANTED: LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST available for evening and Sunday hours at private country club. Call Joyce Ballagroen 526-0501.

FULL TIME OR PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH END CLOTHING STORE. Retail sales experience necessary. Call 820-482-2118. (st. 3/4)

NO RETURNS, NO REFUNDS, NO EXCHANGES – Saturday, June 12, 8:30-2. 8106 Dillard Road, Scaly Mountain. Collectibles, wooden mantle and miscellaneous items.

SAT. & SUN. – 9-3, Hold Road, off NC 106, Highlands. Antiques, collectibles, CDs, records, jewelry and much more!

WORK WANTED

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

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork and housecleaning. Call 828-200-1038 or 5261025.

LEGAL

Notice of Budget Hearing

Take notice that the proposed Budget for the Town of Highlands for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, has been presented to the Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection in the Town Hall from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Take further notice that there will be a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on June 23, 2010 at the Community Building for the purpose of discussing the proposed budget and amending the Budget for the year ending June 30, 2010.

Citizens are invited to make written or oral comments.

The Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on June 23, 2010, following the Budget Hearing, to adopt the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011 Budget, and to amend the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010 Budget.

Jim Fatland, Town Clerk

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

DOUBLEWIDE WITH 3.48 AC, WITH AN AWESOME VIEW, only $420,000. Located 10 miles out of Cashiers. Call 828-507-1149. (5/27)

2/2/1 CONDO ON MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE IN FRANKLIN. Furnished, skylights, fireplace, screened porch. $175,000-reduced to $160,000. Pics avlb. 419-967-0796 (624)

LOT FOR SALE, 1.45 acres. Heavily wooded, stream has 4 BR septic permit, Mimro Mt. area, 209,900, 770-861-4249. (6/17)

3 BD/3 BA IN TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. (Less than 5 minutes from main street) in beautiful, quiet neighborhood. Includes SAPPHIRE, NC HOME SITE AND RESORT MEMBERSHIP. $582,800 FSBO.com/22208435 Call 828-200-9067. (St. 5/6)

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 AG, NEEDED, CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME, 4.2 acres. Perennia 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

APARTMENT FOR RENT, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, living area, kitchen and utility room. $600/month. $300 security deposit. Rent includes utilities (electric, water, heat) 1 year lease. Prefer nonsmoker. No pets, Unfurnished. Good for 1-2 people. (828) 526-9494. (6/10)

WALK TO TOWN from this 3/2 furnished older home near Bascom. Year-round, consider seasonal. $125/month includes electric 526-5558.

FOR LEASE: 1 STORY, 5 BEDROOM HOME, with decks. Available for immediate occupancy. Near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SECLUDED AND ONLY MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet. Available seasonal through November. All utilities included AC and Heat. $1,200 month. Call 526-3608 (spoiled rotten) or evening, 526-2694. (st. 4/29)

SMALL PRIVATE 1 BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. $500, monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

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

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

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

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. 5/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bedroom bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/20)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

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

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. 5/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bedroom bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/20)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

3 BED, 2 BATH IN APPLE MOUNTAIN. – $525,000 or Rent Unfurnished for $1,200/month. Call 526-5056. (st. 5/6)

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE MAIN ST HIGHLANDS NC. (former Kilwins Ice Cream.) Prime Middle of the Block Location First Time Available suitable for retail, clothing, art, and others. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (St. 4/29)

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. – Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE

45 SQ. FT. OF NEW SOLID GRANITE TILE $90. Call 369-5863. (st. 6/4)

CHAIRS, LIVING ROOM & CAPTAIN SWIVEL BAR STOOLS $20-$50 each. Highlands 29 Rich Gap Rd. (5/3)

SECRETARY DESK W/BOOKCASE 4 drawer, serpentine front, ball & claw feet, arch pediment w/finial $975. 526-2671 for photo. (St. 5/20)

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

1996 JEEP COUNTRY CHEROKEE – Load ed with all options. Good Rubber. Must see. MUST SELL. $2,300. Call 526-2694. (st. 4/15)

CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 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)

SERVICES

QUALITY PAINTING, PRESSURE WASHING, LANDSCAPING, CARPENTRY. Steaming, shampooing, drycleaning floors any surface, Upholstering, rugs, curtains, whole houses. References 828-526-2536 or 828-332-7303. (6/24)

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

DEBRIS AND TREE REMOVAL CLEAN UP. Roof and gutter repair expert. Call 371-1103. (st. 7/9)

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Cell: 828-200-1139
email: allandearth@msn.com
...DRUG continued from page 1

the state level which have trickled down to
of Conspiracy to Sell a Schedule II Controlled
counts of Simple Possession, and one count
ing for Selling a Controlled Substance, two
counts of Felony Maintaining a Dwell-
Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance, one
of Controlled Substance, two counts of Sell or
Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance, one
count of Sell or Deliver a Counterfeit Con-
trolled Substance, two counts of Felony Main-
taining a Vehicle for Selling a Controlled
Substance, two counts of Simple Possession,

Daniel Furman Gibson of Franklin, NC, 67,
charged with one count of Possession With Intent to Sell or Deliver a Schedule II Con-
trolled Substance, one count of Sell or Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance, two
counts of Felony Maintaining a Vehicle for Selling a Controlled Substance, two counts of Simple Possession, bond $1,000;

Dorothy J. Lequire of Franklin, NC, 68,
charged with two counts of Possession With Intent to Sell or Deliver a Schedule II Con-
trolled Substance, two counts of Sell or Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance, two
counts of Felony Maintaining a Dwell-
for Delivering a Controlled Substance, two
counts of Simple Possession, and one count of Conspiracy to Sell a Schedule II Controlled Substance, bond unavailable.
Successes like this make budget woes at the state level which have trickled down to
the county hard to swallow – particularly the elimination of the grant that funded an officer in the Sheriff Office’s Narcotics Unit.

Unfortunately, the current budget crisis resulted in the Governor’s Office eliminating a grant for the Sheriff’s Office Narcotics Unit after five years of funding,” said Sheriff Holland. “If the county hadn’t jumped in, the state’s action could have resulted in the loss of a detective position and other assets necessary to conduct these types of investigations.”

After explaining the situation to the county commission at the May 25 meeting, an arrangement was worked out whereby the county agreed to fund 75% of the position usually funded by the state grant. “It is my understanding there is $25,000 – as well as funding a School Resource Officer at the new 5-6 school from the existing budget.

“I believe illegal drugs remain the major cause of crime in Macon County and I could not allow the existing Narcotics Unit to be eliminated or reduced. The only option available would have been to decrease other services and reassign personnel to maintain the current Narcotics Unit,” said Holland.

Holland said the investigation confirms that the county can’t allow a lack of funding to slow down the Sheriff Department’s efforts in fighting drugs and other crimes associated with drugs.

Holland said the investigation also provided leads in other cases: in the county, other counties in the state, and in other states. Those investigations continue.

“The investigation resulted in fully autom-
atized rifles being seized. This is an ongoing investigation and my officers are looking for other suspects and witnesses,” said Holland.

Anyone with information regarding these matters is asked to call the Sheriff’s Office at (828) 349-2104 or Crime Stoppers at (828) 349-2600 or (866) 374-8477.

Don’t put up with ...
musty odors, high heating
bills, insects, mold, snakes, moisture ...
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98% of homes on the Plateau have a vented crawlspace. The musty odor you smell is caused by mold and mildew that is fueled by moisture coming through these vents and the soil.

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Call or come by and see us, in back of Buck’s at the Crossroads in Cashiers

This sign is at Bust Your Butt on US 64.

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4
proper conduct and ignorance. Stay and fight. It’s always easier to quit and I’m not a quitter. It’s time for tough love.

I also want you to know I’m not a cradle Catholic. I think that’s important. Years ago, as an adult, I made a choice to be a Catholic. That was a good choice. Now I choose again. Next Sunday, you’ll find me at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church. Oh, I’ll be angry…. very angry, but I’ll bethere. I’ve been a Catholic for 53 years and will be until I die.

Unlike some of my Protestant friends, God loves them, I won’t choose to change religion when I disapprove of the preacher or don’t like what’s going on internally. That’s a luxury I reject. And I certainly can’t allow low life pedophile priests to keep me from receiving the Holy Eucharist, something I can only get as a Catholic. We believe the Holy Eucharist is the body of Jesus — because Jesus says it is. That’s the backbone of our faith. It’s the Holy Eucharist and the strength of the Holy Spirit that allows Catholics to endure. So regardless of what Christian faith you practice, don’t let a bunch of child molesters choose you from your religion. Keep your faith; stand and be counted.

I apologize for my preaching and I’ll try to be more humorous next week…. Amen! If you would like to know if there are any known pedophiles or sexual predators living in your neighborhood, go to: http://www.registeredoffenderslist.org/ and type in your zip code. You may be surprised. If you come up empty, it could mean they haven’t been caught yet. Pedophiles are very clever.

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from June 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 2
• At 6:30 p.m., officers assisted in the detouring of a tractor-trailer headed down US 64 — a non-designated truck route.
• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

June 3
• At 7 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint on Raoul Road.
• At 2 a.m., officers on patrol found an open door at a business on S. 4th Street. There was no trouble.

June 5
• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a landlord/tenant dispute at a residence on Lower Lake Road.
• At 10:30 a.m., Alan Contrerba, 25, was arrested for a traffic violation.
• At 11:15 a.m., Efren Alejandro Zapia-Hernandez, 31, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license.
• At 11:55 a.m., officers were responded to an illegal discharge of a .38 firearm when a real estate agent showing a home found a spent bullet on the kitchen floor that had come through a kitchen window.
• At 8:19 p.m., officers responded to an assault on a female at a residence on Arnold Road where the victim was slapped and punched in the stomach.

June 6
• At 11:30 p.m., officers assisted another agency serve a warrant at a residence on Arnold Road.

June 7
• At 6 a.m., officers responded to a call about a bear in the garbage at a residence on Chestnut Street.
• At 6:30 a.m, officers responded to a call about two bear cubs in a tree at a residence on Chestnut Street.
• At 2:10 p.m., officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle parked on Split Rail Road.
• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 20 citations.

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

June 3
• At 10:52 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hemlock Farms. The victim was taken to the hospital.

June 8
• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street where an 82-year-old man fell and hit his head. He was taken to the hospital.
• At 2:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible electric fire in Cashiers, but the call was canceled en route.

June 9
• At 9:03 a.m., the dept. responded to “smoke in the area” of Wilson Road but it was due to a con-
trolled burn.

NOTE: Highlands Fire & Rescue reminds citi-
zens and visitors to heed warnings at area waterfalls and rivers.

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zens and visitors to heed warnings at area waterfalls and rivers.
Anyone anywhere in the United States can do exactly what the ladies of Scaly Mountain have done. I don’t mean just pancakes, but if you do that, be sure to include blueberries. What it takes is organization around a worthy purpose, and then the gumption to see it through until it becomes successful. That is not complicated. It is not difficult, if you are willing to put one step after another toward your goal. And, it is very, very satisfying to all people concerned. As the saying goes, “Try it. You’ll like it.” I guarantee it.

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

This may be the time to consider a fresh perspective on a conservative, yet traditionally profitable venture. Holding a mortgage is a sensible and practical approach to investment in today’s economy. A professional agent with experience in owner financing and knowledge of the local real estate market is essential. It is also advisable to obtain advice from a legal and financial advisor.

Signature Properties’ agents would appreciate the opportunity to apply for the position as your REALTOR. Serving Highlands and Cashiers for over 25 years, Signature agents have over 150 years combined experience. For further information, you are invited to contact Lynn Kimball at Signature Properties at 828-526-4101, email lynnkimb@msn.com or visit our office located on HWY 64 East, 2 miles from downtown Highlands, across from Highlands Falls Country Club.

The spring cleaning season has arrived: Avoid putting up with or returning to a dusty house after a long winter!

Call Details.
Deep cleaning for the demanding home-owner. Offering home checks, clutter control, and more. Now offering spring cleaning specials through June 15.
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Photo by Jim Lewicki

Don Reynolds of Mountain Fresh Grocery on Main Street with the new coffee roaster in action. About three times a week he roasts organic coffee beans that are then crafted into coffee drink favorites – espresso, latte, cappuccino, coffee shakes or just a great cup of coffee. Stop by for a free coffee, today!

Highlands and Greenway Board recognized trailway as a National Recreation Trail

Five hardy souls planted 32 native plants to protect the trail environment. Dr. Anya Hinkle – Highlands Plateau Greenway Board of Directors presented a plaque from the Department of Interior and National Park Service to Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Dennis DeWolf that recognizes the Highlands Plateau Greenway as a National Recreation Trail.