This Week in Highlands
NOTE:
• For the next 2 weeks, Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., traffic will be detoured in the vicinity of Maple Street, Carolina Way at US 64 for Pine Street Stormwater work. Watch for signs.
• Census 2010 Application Test 9:30 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. “Get Paid to Make a Difference.”
• Every Thursday
-seen DOGS page 14-seen QUESTIONS page 7
• Todays Literacy Bingo at the Community Building 6:30-8:30 p.m., $1 a game.
• Friday, March 19
• A community Pancake Breakfast at Whiteside Mountain and Grill at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Open to the public, Friday at 7:45-10 a.m. Breakfast includes choice of homemade pancakes (butter,milk, whole wheat, or choc chip) with fruit topping, bacon or sausage and coffee/tea for $3. For further details, call (828) 526-1419.
• Saturday, March 20
• Operation Medicine Drop, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Highlands Pharmacy. Drop off old prescriptions for disposal.
• 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.
• Sunday, March 21
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls off Hwy 246/106 toward Highlands. Meet at Smoky MT. Visitor Center, Otto, at 2 PM or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coniff, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.
• Thursday, March 25
• The Macon County Special Olympics — Local Games will be held at the Macon Middle School Gym. The rain date will be Monday, March 29. Opening ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jennifer Garrett at 828-349-2428 or Tim Crabtree at 828-421-7534.

Ice skating/roller blading rink at Rec Park could mean year-round offerings

Well, there’s probably not going to be a privately owned ice skating rink at Pine Street Park, but there could be an ice skating/roller blading rink either there or at the Rec Park, as well as renovations made to that building to expand offerings. Rink recommendations came out of Thursday’s Recreation Committee meeting but were discussed by commissioners at the March 17 Town Board meeting due to concerns regarding private use on public land – which is the primary issue, said Mayor David Wilkes – as is the overall vision for Pine Street Park.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolff said the Town Board doesn’t want to squelch enthusiasm from the Winter Activities Group, but the Rec Park is a better venue for the rink.

• See SKATING page 13

A trussed roof would be added to the structure that previously housed the Highlands ABC Store and brick veneer broken up visually with contrasting brick or rock will be attached to the exterior.

Architect unveils plans for Police Dept.

At a budget work session Wednesday, commissioners discussed costs to renovate the vacated ABC Store to house the Police Department – the same discussion the Public Works Committee had at its Thursday meeting last week.

Jim Stewart with Stewart, Cooper and Newell Architects, a firm that specializes in revamping structures for police and fire and rescue departments, presented renditions and the cost breakdown.

The building would house the police department on the “ABC Store” level and continue to house the magistrate’s office, intake and intoxilizer room on the lower level of the building.

The total square footage of the building – the ABC floor and the magistrate floor – is 3,461.

To make the building more visibly pleasing, to help it meld into the overall vision for Pine Street, said Mayor David Wilkes – as is the vision for Pine Street – there could be an ice-skating/roller skating rink at Pine Street Park.

• See POLICE DEPT. page 3

Questions linger over Feb. incident at school

Alleged inappropriate behavior between two middle school boys that allegedly occurred in a bathroom at Highlands School on Feb. 23, 2010 still has parents concerned.

Though authorities – the administration at Highlands School and the Highlands Police Department – have not been able to substantiate the story, parents still want something done, perhaps removing one of the students from the school, they say.

However, Superintendent Dan Brigman and Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter say protocol needs to be observed and specific steps taken before any student is removed from one school and sent to another.

Macon County has two venues for students who have special needs – Union for students in grades 7-12 and The Focus Program located at Macon Middle School.

• See QUESTIONS page 7

Dogs not allowed on area ballfields

Effective immediately, the Highlands ballfield is off limits to dogs and their owners.

The recommendation came out of the Recreation Committee’s meeting Thursday where members of the community involved with Highlands School and county sports spoke out against the field’s dual use. The final decision came at the March 17 Town Board meeting.

“It’s unsanitary,” said Commissioner Larry Rogers. “No dogs should be allowed where children play. We can find another spot for the dog park and make everyone happy.”

Rick Siegel, one of the community’s users of the dog park, said a self-appointed “dog committee” would be willing to clean the park daily so it’s ready for team use by 2:30 p.m. and regarding health issues, he’s never heard of any illness related to bacteria spores left by dogs at parks.

“I grew up playing in a park used by dogs and I lived to tell the story,” he said.

However, Wednesday night, Commissioner Amy Patterson said that there are parasites and eggs of parasites that can linger long after excrement is picked up. “This actu-
In defense of dogs

Dear Editor,

While I agree it's important for pet owners to "poopscoop," please remember the comfort of our best friends and companions, our heroes—our dogs.

We use dogs to search for people after tragedies, sometimes at the cost of their lives, and they provide safety, comfort and companionship to us.

The Highlands Police dog Ruby has saved lives and helped to apprehend lawbreakers. Our dogs deserve a decent place to socialize, run and poop. They have to go somewhere!

In countries such as Switzerland (known for its cleanliness) and Britain, dogs are even allowed in restaurants and pubs and treated with affection they deserve. All pet owners know the sorrow when their guys are gone, but at least they can take comfort knowing their pets had enjoyed life, being able to run and play while they are still alive.

Please make it a priority to find our beloved pets a decent place for recreation.

Barbara Lawrence
Highlands

Say ‘no’ to healthcare bill

Dear Editor,

I urge readers to examine the current healthcare bill in the U.S. Congress. This bill has a long list of failures and bankrolled by interests that stand to gain. While some states, not North Carolina, love pets a decent place for recreation.

Say 'no' to health care bill

Please make it a priority to find our beloved pets a decent place for recreation.

Barbara Lawrence
Highlands

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.

Highlands' Newspaper

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Above is the suggested interior layout of the building

Renovating and demolition of the interior of the existing building — a total of 3,248 sq. ft. which includes new concrete on the ground floor — is estimated at $311,755. That cost does not include the removal of hazardous materials or rock removal, if any. Fatland said the information will be referred to the Finance and Public Works committees as part of the budgetary process. — Kim Lewicki

Gabrielle N. Dunn

Gabrielle Dunn, 89 years of age, died on March 13, 2010 after a short illness. She was born December 5, 1920 in Lowell, Massachusetts. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Charles E. Dunn. She is survived by sons Charles C. Dunn and wife Nancy of Ada, Michigan, Thomas B. Dunn and wife Beverly of Austin, Texas, Richard P. Dunn and wife Karen of Highland, NC, and Kenneth W. Dunn of Seneca, SC.

Also surviving are grandchildren Casey C. Dunn and Avery L. Dunn of Austin, Texas, Jennifer Young and husband Hunter of Camden, SC, Clayton Dunn of Highland, NC, Christopher M. Dunn and wife Kelly of Seneca, SC, Alex Dunn of Seneca, SC, and Carly E. Dunn of Charlotte, NC. A great-granddaughter, Alexis R. Dunn of Seneca, SC also survives.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, those wishing to donate in her honor, consider the Cottingham House Hospice of the Foothills where she spent the last days of her remarkable life.

Mrs. Hair was well known for her giving spirit and desire to help others. She had a unique ability to sense need in others and never failed to try to meet that need whether it was members of her immediate family, her church family or a man digging in the street outside her home in Highlands. She loved to bring people together. She was famous for her white elephant dinner parties and her impromptu gatherings in her Highlands home. The helping hands group she started at First Baptist Church of Highlands, NC was the beginning of many dear friendships. Even though she was at Clemson Downs for a short time, she left an indelible mark on her neighbors, other residents and staff. Her indomitable spirit and joy for life, in spite of debilitating health issues, was an inspiration and blessing to all who knew her.

Mrs. Hair is survived by her husband of 63 years, Dr. Judson E. Hair, Jr. and wife Betty of Raleigh, NC, and Judson E. Hair, Sr. and wife Mary Price of Seneca, SC. She also is survived by her cherished grandchildren, Patrick, Christopher, James, and Tiffany. She was predeceased by her brother, William Price.

Mary Price Hair

Mary Price Hair, cherished wife of Dr. Judson E. Hair of Clemson, SC died Friday night, March 11 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born in Greenwood, SC on September 8, 1925 and a native of Elberton, GA, Mrs. Hair lived much of her life with her husband and family in Clemson before retiring to Naples, FL and later High-lands, NC. Recently she and her husband returned to Clemson to reside at Clemson Downs Retirement Community among many of their old friends.

Lakeview Services will be held at the Corley Center at Clemson Downs on Saturday, March 12 at 3 p.m. for family and local friends. A celebration of her life will be held later in the spring in Highlands, NC. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers can be made to one of her favorite charities: The Salvation Army, Lakeland Teen Challenge, 6754 S. Carter Road, Lakeland, FL 33813 or any of the foundations doing research to find a cure for Parkinson's disease.

Conduncences may be expressed online at: www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com. Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home, Central, SC.
**Dog poop strikes out!**

*(I have a better plan)*

**Write this down, then call your local town commissioner and tell them “poop happens!” You know what I always say, “Dog poop is like older women. The older it is, the easier it is to pick up.”**

One of my greatest fears is having Amy Patterson, my favorite commissioner and very much a dog person, get angry and be after me over this column. I’m hoping she agrees with me. Know that if I turn up missing, she should be on top of the suspect list. In any case, the world of poochdom is getting pushed around again and rightfully so. There’s a movement (ha) afoot to kick all pooping dogs off the Highlands’ ball field.

The coaches are complaining, the players are complaining and the Rec Park bosses are complaining about dogs playing their own personal poop game on the field. It gives new meaning to the term “sliding into home plate.” Why is High-lands so inconsiderate of dogs, you ask? Because animals have no given right to poop wherever they want. They’re animals and the ball field is for humans, the end!

Consider this. Our world is a financial mess and our country is in a deep recession. Unemployment is at an all time high and Israel is at the brink of dragging us into World War III. Taxes are about to skyrocket and Highlands is struggling with dog poop. Not too bad a spot to be in, I’d say.

I have a plan. I hate to bring this up because I love dogs. At the next Town Board meeting, the board should pass a law prohibiting the placement or deposit of dog poop on the ball field and surrounding area. Then post the area with warning signs and arm Highlands’ police and maybe even a special poop officer with special dog poop tickets to be handed out at 20 bucks a pop … I mean poop.

That should do it. It can’t be more than a handful of clowns doing this doggy thing. This way, dog owners, under the watchful eye of the poop police, can still bring their dogs to the field for fun and play. But once the dogs get into their stance to poop, it will be the owner’s responsibility to get his poop off the ball field before the poop hits the ground. I would pay money just to watch a circus like that. And all of this adds to increased town revenues and lots of fun.

I think having the Rec Park provide bags for dog poop is waaaay over the top. Why are they catering to dog owners? Anyway, we already have Dog Poop Park at 5th and Pine Street where dogs can roam, poop at will and then sniff each other’s butts, all right in front of a Catholic church. Also consider that during the harsh winter months, dog poop freezes in seconds. This development would call for new technology in the development of a small, portable, battery operated dog poop vacuum to handle anything hard or frozen. There’s no limit to what could occur from this new technology.

Now, as a retired police officer myself, I can see that maybe, just maybe, the police department may not be thrilled with my idea. Staking out dogs pooping on a ball field is probably not what they had in mind when signing up. Hey, I had worse assignments. I was once assigned for an entire week to watch a post office box only to find in the end the post office box was in another branch. A dog poop assignment would have been much more thrilling.

I know, I know, you’re wondering about the loose pootch that wanders onto the ball field without its owner. Ha, I say no problem. This is when the real poop police swing into action. They’re armed with special snacks that dogs love. Once Fido does the dirty deed, the officer takes pictures of the event for evidence and then lures the dog to him with a treat. The dog is issued a ticket which is attached to the collar. This development would make the harsh winter months, dog poop freezes in seconds. This development would call for new technology in the development of a small, portable, battery operated dog poop vacuum to handle anything hard or frozen. There’s no limit to what could occur from this new technology.

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Daylight Savings Plays Havoc With Our Morning Rituals

There are days when I just want an afternoon coffee hit. I don't mean draining the last pot in the office Bunn at one o'clock. I'm talking about a afternoon craving, sitting at the kitchen counter, staring at Mr. Coffee and imagining that he's grinning back, "Just half a pot," he whispers slyly.

I've rarely yielded to the temptation of skipping my morning coffee without regretting it at 1 a.m. Once in awhile I'll stop at Buck's, in an effort that would have made my depression-era father awhirl, I order dark regular, an attempt to get my money's worth. It's not about taste, it's about caffeine. I've been known to wash down my coffee with cranberry-apple Zinger. I explained that I was planning on sleeping later. She said, "It's only 6 a.m. Why not?" The sad truth is that whether I approve of daylight savings time, or would that make me a week early?

I overslept I could always blame daylight savings time, or would that make me a week early? If I overslept I could always blame daylight savings time, or would that make me a week early? If I overslept I could always blame daylight savings time, or would that make me a week early?

Feedback is encouraged. 
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, March 18, 2010 - Page 5
Emilio Casco pilots (and powers) the human powered aircraft, the Pedaliante, for a 1 kilometer flight out side of Milan.

An aircraft takes off and goes aloft, flies and makes a landing soft, why is that so incredible? It was how it was powered, a pedal. Now, you might think a cyclist might be on a “can’t fly” list, but folks were there, and they have sworn they saw this plane get airborne. So, this Signor Casco, did he very fast go? that’s not the issue at all, it’s that he went up and did not fall. Let’s toast, with Champagne or chianti, the pilot and engine of the good ship Pedaliante.

When Congress cheats on its rules

by John Armor

W

et apparent at crunch
point on the efforts of President Obama, Speaker Pelosi in the House, and Majority Leader Reid in the Senate to pass by whatever means necessary the “health reform” bill. In the national debate, however, no one has asked whether the Supreme Court has any role in this matter. It does, and it may be definitive.

There is a question of what the bill is, since there are many versions, and several are under wraps. The opponents of the bill, whatever it is, includes Democrats and Republicans who believe that the bill is ill-thought takeover of one sixth of the national economy that will increase the cost of medical care, decrease its quality, and severely damage the national economy.

But this column is not about the merits or demerits of whatever is in the bill. It is about the methods being used to push it through Congress and the consequences of ways of getting around normal, legislative passage (Article I, Section 7, US Constitution).

At this point, it looks like the House will use the Slaughter Rule to “pass” it through the House without ever having a vote on it. The about-to-be-invented Rule is named for the Congresswoman who is the Chair of the Rules Committee and came up with this idea.

Provided that the House passes the bill, then the Senate is expected to pass it by majority rule under “reconciliation.” This is a known process under a Rule proposed by the Dean of the Senate, Robert Byrd, in the mid-80’s. It was developed to prevent budget bills for spending from being tied up by filibusters in the Senate. It does provide for passage in the Senate by majority vote. However, it also provides that any provision which is not primarily budgetary cannot be included unless it is approved by three fifths of the Senate. That works out to 60 votes, the same as the filibuster rule itself.

Well then, who is it that decides whether a given provision in the bill is budgetary, or not? That would be the Parliamentarian of the Senate. When such arcane questions arise in the Senate, the Parliamentarian is asked to give his opinion. But then, the person in the Chair, the Vice President unless he has given up the Chair to someone else, issues the final ruling.

Even then, the process is not quite done. Any Senator can appeal the ruling of the Chair. The body then votes by a majority to uphold or reject the ruling of Chair. So let us assume that Vice President Biden is in the Chair and he rejects the opinion of the Parliamentarian, and a simple majority of the Senators along with that. Then the bill containing whatever, and bearing the title of “Health Care Reform” will go to the President for his signature. Is that the end of road?

Not quite.

Under normal circumstances, courts will not interfere with the decisions of a House of Congress, or a house of a state legislature, when it concerns the internal rules of that house. Most state constitutions, like the US Constitution, give explicit authority for houses of the legislature to adopt and apply their own operating rules. But like all other rules of conduct, these of forbearance of courts from legislative rules has its exception.

Does anyone remember Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.? He was a corrupt, Democrat Member of the House from Harlem in New York City. He was regularly reelected by wide margins, but because of legal complications in New York, he was subject to arrest if he set foot in his District, any day except Sundays. So, he would preach in the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and spend the balance of the week either in Washington, or Bimini.

In short, he was a disgrace, and the House wanted him, So, in 1966, after he was reelected, the House simply refused to seat him. Powell then sued, because the House had not followed its own rules. In Powell v. McCormack, the Supreme Court ruled that the House had not followed its own rules. It ordered the House to seat Powell, and then expel him by the specified two-thirds vote, if they so choose.

So, there is a role for the Supreme Court when the Houses of Congress flagrantly and critically break their own rules. The Court can, should, and probably will throw out as unconstitutional – for breaking their own rules – whatever “health care reform” bill Congress purports to pass, by cheating.

About the Author: John Armor practiced law in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. His latest book, on Thomas Paine, will be published this year. www.TheseAreTheTimes.us Reach him here John_Armor@aya.yale.edu
Sweet 16: 16 musings on March Madness

East Region
1. Kentucky has a tough road to hoe, and it starts with a second round matchup with talented Texas. However, there’s no question that the Wildcats is if they can defeat the Wisconsin team that will slow the pace and force the young Wildcats to play patiently.
2. An upset that isn’t really an upset will be Washington over Marquette in the first round. Washington has great guard play and could make the Sweet 16 out of the 11 seed.
3. One team not to doubt is West Virginia. They are tough defensively, a rugged rebounding team and they have a bit of a time killer in De’Sean Butler.
4. Beware falling in love with Cornell. They have already been anointed Cinderella this year, but they face a very tough and well coached Temple team in the first round. Cornell will not catch the Owls’ guard, so avoid them and advice and stick with Temple.

South Region
1. Siena looks nice in the first round, but at the same time is it is less likely it happens. The Huskies have too much pride and talent to lose that first game.
2. Richmond-St. Mary’s is a can’t miss second round game.
3. BYU should be able to make the Sweet 16 on the strength of shooting by Jimmer Fredette and Jonathan Tavernari.
4. Minnesota made a good run in the first round. Look for coach Tom Thibodeau to have them up-tempo and I think they will be a threat in the second round.
5. Rhode Island is a 16 seed that could be a threat in the second round. Look for them to make a run.

West Region
1. UTEP over Butler in the first round.
2. BYU should be able to make the Sweet 16 on the strength of shooting by Jimmer Fredette and Jonathan Tavernari.
3. Minnesota made a good run in the first round. Look for coach Tom Thibodeau to have them up-tempo and I think they will be a threat in the second round.
4. Syracuse should make the Final Four easily out of this bracket. There are not a lot of good shooting teams in this bracket that can stretch out the ‘Cuse zone.

... QUESTIONS continued from page 1

School for students lower than 7th grade.

- An Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- A detailed description of the educational goals,
- Assessment methods,
- Behavioral management plan,
- And educational performance of a student requiring special education services.

Meanwhile, Jetter said a plan that involves consistent and constant adult supervision and separation of the students who made the allegations against each other continues to be in place.

He said even before the school’s investigation was complete, a safety plan was put in place and shared with the pertinent teachers to ensure all students remain safe.

“The safety and well-being of students is our top priority,” said Superintendent Dan Brignon. “This continues to be a matter involving two children and appropriate actions have been taken to address this incident, including the involvement of local law enforcement.”

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said the case is still under investigation. “We’re doing our due diligence and this type of case takes a lot of legwork,” he said.

- Kim Lewicki
Ah, success at last!

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

Well, our face. Lindsay Lohan didn’t think so and is suing somebody for $100,000,000. Enough said.

Ah, finally, March Madness. Can’t you just picture it? Speaker Pelosi hopping from one office to another, making deals behind closed doors. Can you believe that our wonderful president actually delayed his daughters’ Spring Break trip to Asia. Since the cat got out of the bag, the girls are staying home while he visits the land of his birth (Indonesia) and is now being billed as a diplomatic trip. And there he delayed his trip so he could help drive his round healthcare bill in the square, will of the people, hole. In keeping with tradition, the final, final, final, final deadline for the vote, decreed to be March 18th, is again being ignored by Pelosi, who says, well vote when we’re ready (which means, she ain’t got the votes, at least yet).

Oh, that March Madness! With the Final Four being played in April, it seems somewhat misnamed, but if you can have Octoberfest mostly in September, I guess you can have MM partly in April. Anyway, it provides a distraction from the DC bilge until baseball starts. I’m not suggesting anything here, but if I were a betting man, which I am not, and knew a bookie, which I don’t, I might be tempted to put a bob on Kansas, which I won’t.

Enough serious stuff. Will Tiger play in the Masters? Inquiring minds want to know.

Man, I thought you must have mailed or something, because I hadn’t received a nasty email concerning the column for quite a while. My despondency, however, was relieved when I received a dandy. I had so upset a faithful reader that he sent off his excoriating message at 1 a.m. I’m not sure what pushed him over the edge, but I guess it might be that I was “publishing such opinionated trash.” Hmm, sorry Charlie, but I’m not the publisher of the trash, just a lowly columnist.

As to the opinionated part, Wikipedia says, “a columnist is a journalist who writes for publication in a series, creating copy that can sometimes be strongly opinionated.”

OK, you got me on that one. The “trash” part hurt for a minute or so, but I got over it. And besides, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. So there. The crack about me being boring really hurt. I often admit I’m obsessed with decrying “global warming” but I can’t resist. Furthermore, current polls indicate that “believers” are being deceived by sneaky alleged scientists and that the information they base their conclusions is tainted beyond consumption.

Where I think my new pen pal might be somewhat off the rails is when he accuses me of sitting in my big house (modest by any standards) in my recliner (my wife tells me we have one downstairs; who knew?) trying to decide how to smear the president because I am a racist creep. My friend, I don’t smear him because he is black (which is only half true anyway), I smear him because he is destroying the country I love (and that is totally true). And finally, he claims that “You are a jerk ex-cop.” Now wait just a minute. The closest I came to being a jerk ex-cop was a ride in the back seat of a black-and-white after I ran a stop sign the first week I moved here. You may be confusing me with another wealthy, opinionated columnist who in fact is a retired police officer and a fine human being. And the reference to Venus and Mars indicated that you got off the space ship at the wrong stop. Thanks for reassuring me that I know how to push buttons and get the left riled up.” I was afraid I’d lost it.

On to more important matters. I’d given up on the Hall of Shame due to lack of salacious gossip when out nowhere comes this beauty. Now, if you aren’t familiar with the E-Trade Financial commercials, this won’t mean much. I’ll try to set the stage as best I can. E-Trade runs a series of commercials showing toddlers lip-synching messages about the advantages of using E-Trade’s services. The kids are cute and the text is hilarious.

One of them was the genesis of the term “shankapotamous” which is meaningless if you are not a golfer. Anyway, in a more recent commercial, the main character is accused by his girlfriend of hanging with that “milkaholic” Lindsay. Whereupon, on a cute little round face appears on the screen and says “milkaholic?” Very cute.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

NEW POLICY
For-Profit Businesses and NonProfit Organizations requesting Promotional or Press Release space, must agree to an advertising arrangement. Without an arrangement, only a listing in the upcoming events calendar will appear for NonProfits but no listing will be accepted for For-Profit Business events.

To request ad rates and a publication calendar, email highlandsed@mac.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Mondays at 5 p.m.

Macon County Community Foundation
accepting grant applications
Applications must be received by April 30, 2010

The Macon County Community Foundation is currently accepting grant requests for community projects funded from its community fund, according to Tom Ritter, Grants Chairperson. Funds are available for nonprofit organizations that serve general charitable needs in Macon County.

Applications are available at nccommunityfoundation.org (under “Affiliates”); or by calling the Macon County Community Foundation at 800-201-9532.

Grant applications must be received by April 30, 2010.

The Macon County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF).

The community fund was established to help support local charitable needs through annual grants. In addition to Ritter, Grants Chair, the Macon County Community Foundation board members are Karen Slawinter, President; Larry Stenger, Theresa Ramsey, Dayton Plemens, Jim Breedlove, Jim Vandenvoorde, Regina Lupoli, Debbie Nickerson, Louise Henry, Millam and Becky Beasley, Hammond Rauers, Michele Hubbs and Patti McClure.

For further information, contact any board member; the NCCF Western Regional Associate, Sue LeLievre at 800-201-9532 or visit the NCCF website at nccommunityfoundation.org.

Ruby Cinema
Hwy 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076

March 19-25

THE BOUNTY HUNTER
rated PG-13
Friday: 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Saturday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Sunday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15
Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7:15
Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
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

GREEN ZONE
rated R
Friday: 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Saturday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Sunday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10

ALICE IN WONDERLAND in 3D
rated PG
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
Saturday, March 27

• Alpine Mountains and Bluegrass Festival at the Community Build-
  ing. For more information, 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.

Food, music and family fellowship benefit Satolah volunteer firefighters

Neighbors, friends and family from three states will gather Saturday, March 27 at the annual bluegrass and barbecue benefit for the Satolah, Georgia, volunteer fire department. The volunteer firefighters and the hard-working women of the Station 8 auxiliary will begin serving food at 5 p.m., with the music starting around 7 p.m.

Chief James Reed is hoping for a stellar turnout, as the routine costs for properly outfitting just one volunteer takes almost $1,000, costs borne by the volunteers. This family-friendly benefit always has been a highlight of spring in these parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains. “So, we’re hoping everyone will put this down on their calendars,” Reed said. Here’s the barbecue and bluegrass lineup:

• Food plates will include your choice of a smoke pork barbecue or grilled chicken, served with baked beans, Coleslaw, applesauce, a roll and soft drink ($7.50) or a combo plate with both chicken and pork for $10. Those with a real appetite also can order a whole butt ($30) or whole chicken ($10) if they preorder by Saturday, March 20. Call (828) 371-1712, (828) 371-0798, or (828) 371-0722 to preorder.

• Then, starting around 7 p.m., get set for theimitable bluegrass sounds of both Foxfire, and Oliver Rice and Blue Ridge Mountain Band.

• The station is located 3.5 miles south of the Georgia-North Carolina line on state Route 28 (the Highlands-Walhalla Road) and about 2 miles from the Route 28 intersection with Warwoman Road. The public is invited — and bring all your friends!

Flier

Macon County Community Foundation announces scholarship availability

The board of directors of the Macon County Community Foundation announces that a variety of scholarship opportunities are now being accepted for students in Macon County through the N.C. Community Foundation. Scholarships are available for students meeting various eligibility requirements detailed by county on www.nccommunityfoundation.org, where applications also can be downloaded. Applications also may be available at local high schools, by writing to the N.C. Community Foundation at 4601 Six Forks Rd, Ste 524, Raleigh, NC 27609 or calling 1-800-201-9532. Deadlines for submitting applications vary by scholarship and are posted on the NCCF website.

The Macon County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF). For further information, contact the NCCF Western Regional Associate, SueLo Lieve at 800-201-9532 or sli.eve@nccommunityfoundation.org or visit the NCCF website at nccommunityfoundation.org.

Pat Dews is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, the National College Society and the National Association of Women Artists. Dews authored “Creative Composition & Design” and “Creative Discoveries in Watermedia.” She also has a video/DVD, “Designing Great Starts with Texture & Form.” Her paintings have also been featured in numerous books and magazines. She teaches nationally and internationally. Dews juried national competitions and served as a juror for the National Watercolor Society’s 2006 Annual competition.

Watermedia workshop at The Bascom April 12-16

Acclaimed watermedia artist Pat Dews will be in Highlands next month to teach a five day studio workshop at The Bascom. The workshop, “Great Starts, Great Finishes,” is for all levels from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 12-15. Students will learn to think and paint in more abstract ways in this intense workshop as they discover new techniques and be exposed to new ideas. Focus on the elements of texture, shape, value and color, and the principles of design.

Daily demonstrations and positive critiques help take the “fear out of painting,” said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom education director.

“In creating rich painting surfaces, learning new techniques and the importance of content in one’s work, students learn to think and stretch their imagination,” Hendrix said. “All painters working in abstraction or realism will benefit.” Pat Dews is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, the National College Society and the National Association of Women Artists. Dews authored “Creative Composition & Design” and “Creative Discoveries in Watermedia.” She also has a video/DVD, “Designing Great Starts with Texture & Form.” Her paintings have also been featured in numerous books and magazines. She teaches nationally and internationally. Dews juried national competitions and served as a juror for the National Watercolor Society’s 2006 Annual competition.

Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-registration is required. Cost is $525 for Bascom members and $550 for non-members. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Mountain Lakes 5-K set for May 1

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of delegates to the District and State Conventions. Announced Republican candidates for the May 4th primary and November general election have been invited and most are expected to attend. The Barkers Creek Community Center is located at Mile Marker 79 on Highway 74 heading west toward Cherokee. For information and reservations call Jackson County GOP Headquarters at 828-566-9895 or Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491 or go to the web site www.jacksoncountygop.com.

The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, on Route 441 South from 7-9 PM. Ricky Simpson from Martin, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org.

Saturday, March 20

• The Greenway Committee will clear the trail on Big Bear Pen. There is limited parking at the site so meet in the Rec Park lower (gravel) parking lot on Foreman Road at 9 a.m. for parking and brief orientation. Register with Joe Mangum at 526-3419 or joe.mangum@ringpower.com. Participants will be furnished tools and safety equipment. Bring rain gear, and a day-pack to hold them. Heather Mangum will provide lunch for the group at the Rec Park.

Sunday, March 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls off Hwy. 246/106 toward Highlands. Meet at Smoky Mt. Visitor Center, Otto, at 2 PM or call leader for alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children under 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, March 23

• Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road) 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Carolyne Deal 828-258-3888 ext. 405.

Thursday, March 25

• The Macon County Special Olympics - Local Games will be held at the Macon Middle School track. (The rain date will be Monday, March 29). Opening ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. and for the first time local law enforcement will be participating in running in the torch and declaring the opening of the local games. For an athlete to be eligible to compete they must be at least 8 years old and meet the intellectual disabilities requirements set by Special Olympics, North Carolina. If you or someone you know is interested in competing and meets the qualifications, or if you would like to volunteer, or become active in Special Olympics – Macon County, please call Jennifer Garrett at 828-349-2428 or Tim Crabtree at 828-421-7534.

Saturday, March 27

• The Satolah, GA, volunteer fire department holds its annual benefit, Saturday at the firehouse on Route 28. Food is to be served at 5 p.m. Smoked pork barbecue or grilled chicken with all the trimmings, $7.50 per plate for adults, $10 for a combo plate. Whole butts ($30) and whole chickens ($10) also can be pre-ordered if you call (828) 371-1712, (828) 371-0798, or (828) 371-0722 by Saturday, March 20. Music starts at 7 p.m. with Foxfire and Oliver Rice and Blue Ridge Mountain Band. All proceeds benefit this volunteer fire station on Route 28. The public is invited.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12-mile hike, with an elevation change of 2800 feet, to Newton Bald from Smoke Mountain, returning on Mingus Creek trail to Mingus Mill. Meet at Huddle House in Dillsboro at 8 a.m. Drive 80 miles round trip from Franklin. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Don O’Neal at 828-586-5723 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5.7 mile hike on the Park Creek and Park Ridge loop trails in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:30AM; Drive 26 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Bill Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Wednesday, March 31

• Highlands School Kindergarten Registration. 10 a.m. to noon. 10 a.m. parents arrive at Highlands School Media Center. 10:45 students arrive at school and join parents.

Thursday, April 1

• 2010 Census forms arrive in the mail. 10 questions. Fill it out and mail it back. It matters.

Saturday, April 3

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4.5 mile moderate hike on the Coveetah Hydrological Lab upper trail, an old logging trail through the pines, ending up at Shope Creek with a secluded waterfall nearby. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, April 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Little Tennessee River Greenway, shutting from Big Bear Park to Macon Co. Library, and hiking back to Big Bear Park, observing seedpods, nuts, fruits and early wildflowers along the way. Meet at Big Bear Park, Main Street, Franklin at 2 PM. Drive 2 miles for the shuttle car. Call leader Kay Correll, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, April 6

• Leadership Highlands; three-part program. “Experienced runners will benefit from adding a long run to their training program to travel some distance to Highlands as well as those who are simply later risers. The early registration entry fee (before April 23) is still only $15, much less than for other races. Betz attributes this to the generosity of the race’s sponsors, some of whom have been loyal contributors for many years. Entry forms will be available at the Recreation Park’s Civic Center and the Chamber of Commerce’s Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to overall male and female winners, male and female masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5213 (evenings).”

As in past years, proceeds will go toward fitness-related programs in the local community. The club awards a number of scholarships each year to Highlands School graduates who carry on some type of fitness activities while continuing their education. The club has also used the proceeds from past races to help purchase fitness equipment for Highlands School, Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands Recreation Park. The Highlands Roadrunners Club is a non-profit organization, and entry fees and contributions are tax-deductible.
**S P I R I T U A L L Y  S P E A C I N G  •  •  •**

**Bills and Bennys are everywhere**

*Pastor Paul Christy*  
*Highlands United Methodist Church*

Here we are in the middle of March Madness. I don’t know if your team is in or out, but for college basketball fans like me, this is a special time of year. I love to see my team win, but to me the beauty of college basketball is when some underdog school beats a ranked team. You know what that looks like—fans flood the court, a simple college student becomes a hero and pandemonium erupts, all over a college basketball game. Yeah, this is an exciting time of year to be a fan of college basketball.

I was thinking the other day about how I love to see underdogs win. In fact I think there are a lot of people who love to see underdog win aren’t there? And one reason we all love to see the underdog win is because it helps to prove the point that sometimes you just need to play the game.

Why do I begin my column this week by talking about underdogs? Because I want to share a story about Bill, a man in one of the churches I served in Morganton.

Bill had a great paying job in Morganton, NC and he was on top of the world. He had power, prestige, and privilege in the community. I mean this was a man who made things happen in Morganton. Hewas what the world and our society calls successful. Then like a lot of people he retired. In his retirement he foundered. He looked for purpose and passion again in life. He really didn’t have any hobbies so he searched and searched for a purpose in the second half of his life. He came to talk to me as his preacher and I tried to get him involved in church, but he wanted to do something that would bring him purpose outside of church.

We tried for several months and finally he began working at the soup kitchen for Burke County. At first he said things like, “These folks just need to get out and work and then they will get out of this situation.” And then he met Benny.

Benny had had some hard luck and was willing to anything to help others but he never got a break. That’s when I met Benny. Bill and Benny showed up one evening at the soup kitchen and they talked. Bill told Benny about his job and Benny told Bill about his life. They gave me a job: to help others. That’s when Benny got a job. A few years after Benny had been working, he said “I always knew there were people like myself in trouble and here are a lot of Bills in the world. So have faith and you will find Jesus Christ in a soup kitchen of all places!”

What Benny meant by that was that we can all be a word of hope and a word of encouragement to one another. There are a lot of people you and I run across in our day-to-day lives here in Highlnds and I wonder how many of them need a second chance? You and I may never know unless we get to know each other.

We all need a little March madness in our lives, a time when we can cheer on the underdog and a time when we can understand everyone deserves a second chance. In the Book of Samuel there is a story about David and a Goliath kind of battle. One of the things I love about David is that he never gave up. He knew victory was possible. So if you feel like you are an underdog, hang in there and have faith because you never know victory unless you stay in the game. Likewise, if you are sitting well right now, look around and see what fortunes can make in someone’s life. I am confident there are a lot of Bills and Bennys in Highlands!
Town Manager Jim Fatland said the petition with 100 signatures presented to the board by the group at the March 3 Town Board meeting signifies that people want an ice rink, not that they necessarily want it at Pine Street Park.

Fatland reintroduced information about a product from IceRink Engineering Manufacturing — their EZ 350 synthetic rink — which can be installed on top of the tennis courts at the Rec Park.

The complete package including the product, 200 pre-sharpened rental skates, a skate sharpener, installation and maintenance training would cost about $80,000.

Commissioner Larry Rogers said he contacted the company and learned the product can also be used for roller blading, which means the rink could be used year-round whether by ice skaters in the winter and fall or by roller bladers in spring and summer.

“Adding this component to the Rec Park would move the Rec Park toward being a bonafide recreation facility,” said Fatland.

The tennis courts closest to the Rec Park building have been targeted for a 5,000 sq. ft. rink, or larger. The dove-tailed, interlocking synthetic “ice” panels are fast and easy to install or remove for easy storage, are totally UV stable even under permanent outdoor use, have a 10-year guarantee and can even be flipped over to extend the lifetime of the panels.

Unlike conventional ice rinks, there is no refrigeration needed, no power bill and no hassle because the EZ 350 system requires very little maintenance. (Monthly bills for 3-phase power to run a refrigerated ice rink like the one proposed for Pine Street Park is estimated to cost $500-$750 a month.)

Commissioner Rogers said if the town does include the ice rink/roller rink at the Rec Park, fees to use it would be nominal like the town pool. “I want this to be a real value for the money,” he said.

The Winter Activities Group had hoped the town would allow a privately owned and operated ice rink to be set up at Pine Street Park, that the town install the needed 3-phase power for a condenser and power for lights, pay the monthly utility bill as well as allow the company to run the operation rent free for at least three years.

At Wednesday’s meeting, Fatland also presented the contracts and stipulations outlined by Macon County, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, and a memorandum of understanding between Mark Meadows and the Rec Park as to the use and concept for the Pine Street Park.

Though the board hadn’t heard formally from the county on the issue, in a conversation with the Highlands’ Newspaper early that day, County Commission Chair Ronnie Beale said the county is against any private or commercial enterprise being set up in the park.

All the documents stipulate that no parking or commercial or residential dwellings be permitted on the site and that the uses of the park be limited to those approved by the town which are consistent with the uses publicized in the fundraising phase of the project — concerts, art festivals, civic and private events.

During the public comment session of the Town Board meeting, Lee Hodges requested the board to seriously consider keeping Pine Street Park green and Karen Hawk read a poem illustrating the same idea.

Gary Wein, executive director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust said aside from the private use on public land issue, the issue is whether an ice skating rink is an appropriate use for the park.

“I had a lot to do with the language in the paperwork and green space is what people who donated a lot of money expect it to be,” he said.

However, Mayor David Wilkes said exhibit D of the paperwork says a 2,400 sq. ft. pavilion is listed as appropriate if the town decides to budget for the synthetic rink. He could put it on top of a pavilion’s historical significance and then put the synthetic rink at Pine Street Park rather than at the Rec Park, if it wanted to.

Since the board was reluctant to come right out and say what its decision would be, Judy Michaud, of Meadows Mountain Realty asked if the town was indeed considering Pine Street Park as a location for some kind of ice rink.

“If the county says yes, a private contractor can operate an ice rink in the park, would you allow it?” she asked.

Wilkes said a private contractor on town property isn’t a good idea but there are a lot of issues to consider. “Does it meet the criteria for the park, does it fit the plan and is it ethical and legal for private use?” he asked.

Commissioner Rogers said it’s not reasonable to think just because people who like to skate on a frozen pond with their families and friends will want to pay $10 an hour to skate on a 50-ft x 70-ft man-made rink as proposed by the Winter Activities Group.

Fatland said though the rink for ice skating or roller blading would offer a new sports venue in town, in all likelihood people will prefer to skate on Harris’s Lakes when it freezes and will do so.

After much discussion, the board postponed its decision until it formally hears from the county. Once that word is in, the board will make a decision and incorporate it into the budgetary process for 2010-2011.

Other changes for the Rec Park were presented by Jeff Weller of Summit Architecture during the Recreation Committee meeting Thursday and include enclosing the stage area in the gym for an aerobic studio and men’s and women’s locker and changing rooms.

In addition, the lower level locker rooms/bathrooms would be expanded about eight feet into the current physical fitness room which now houses fitness equipment and the aerobic’s studio.

Renaissance on the main level would focus on the stage area. The end of the stage nearest the main entrance would become the men’s locker room with one shower, one sink, a changing area/lockers and one toilet stall.

Next to the men’s locker room there would be storage rooms and a lift located near where wood storage cubbies are now.

The center portion of the existing stage would be the aerobics room and would be permanently closed off from the gym for the sake of sight and sound.

The opposite end of the stage would be for the women’s locker room and another smaller storage room. The women’s locker room would have two showers, a changing area, two sinks and two toilet stalls.

This amounts to 1,452 sq. ft. of renovated space and with the lower level renovations is estimated to cost $191,376.

These changes will also be considered during the budgetary process.

In other Town Board news, Mayor Wilkes appointed Wanda Drake as head of the committee to come up with a new town logo which will be incorporated throughout the town on signs, flags, letterhead and on the website. Drake was involved with a similar project in Georgia so Wilkes said she was perfect for the task. “I want something with historical significance and I will ask for input from locals, students at the school, the historical society and artists in Highlands,” he said. The committee will likely initiate a contest to come up with a design and possibly unveil it on July 4.

Finally, the town accepted the bid from Stillwell Enterprises to build the Chestnut Street sewer project. Plans were prepared, permits obtained and informal bids received from three licensed utility contractors.

The project was budgeted at $70,000 for this fiscal year. Stillwell — which is currently building the Mirror Lake sewer project — bid $68,480.

The project was designed in house by Town Engineer Lamar Nix which saved the town money, said Fatland.

The project will begin shortly.

- Kim Lewicki
Buras, Highlands School baseball coach, said "they're constantly getting it on their shoes. These are sanitary issues," he said. "I love dogs as much as the next guy, but these are playgrounds for our children and dogs shouldn't be allowed there."

Kevin Vinson, coach of the Highlands School Middle School baseball team said there are signs posted at the school's baseball field saying dogs are prohibited because it is a children's play area and it should be the same at the town's ballfield.

Both Commissioners Rogers and Dennis DeWolf said the town is looking at several areas where a dog park would be appropriate and since it looks like that will become a reality within three months, dogs should be banned from the field immediately. DeWolf even said a temporary stadium might be found prior to a permanent one.

"If we didn't have something in the works, I might be reluctant to make the decision but dogs can't be allowed on the field," said DeWolf.

Wednesday night Siegel said his group isn't going to oppose the town's decision but encourages the town to quietly and aggressively seek another place for a dog park.

Meanwhile, two gates – which won't be locked – have been installed in the dugout to keep stray dogs from entering the field.

Since 1996, the town has had an ordinance on the books requiring dog owners to pick up after their dogs (not town employees) which is enforceable by the Police Department.

Section 3-5(b) of the Highlands Code reads: "The owner or keeper of any dog shall be responsible, if said animal shall defecate upon the public streets, sidewalks, or other public area, for collecting and properly disposing of said fecal matter. Any person, being the owner or keeper of any such dog, and who does not immediately so collect and properly dispose of said fecal matter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable in accordance with the provisions of section 1-5."

Vinson said this past summer he witnessed a family from Fulton, GA while driving through Highlands, stopped at the ballfield to let its dog relieve itself and then left without cleaning it up.

Commissioner Gary Drake suggested another ordinance "with some teeth" be drafted to fine people who disregard the signage posted at the field and go into the park with their dogs anyway.

Fat said and he and the Town Attorney would draft an ordinance and bring it back to the board.

Navigating the new real estate environment

Part 1 – Options for distressed homeowners

As of this writing, there are currently 11,4 properties (out of a total of 3,028 active listings) listed in the Highlands-Cashiers MLS which are either short sales or foreclosed. These properties include homes, condos/town homes, vacant lots, and commercial listings. If you are behind on your payments, or anticipate the possibility of getting behind in the near term, one of the most important actions you should take immediately (if you have not already) is to communicate with your lender's loss mitigation department. Discuss with the representative your situation and ask what options you may have. According to the National Association of Realtors, lenders will often work with you to help you keep your home by reducing or rolling back interest rates, forgiving back payments (or adding them to the loan amount), or possibly recasting the entire loan and wrapping all fees into a fixed-rate mortgage. Visit www.MakingHomeAffordable.com for more information.

Other options for distressed homeowners include a deed in lieu of foreclosure (occurs when the borrower agrees to trade the property to the lender in exchange for the cancellation of the note) and the short sale. Remember to always seek advice from qualified financial, tax, and legal professionals.

Next week, we'll define and delve into the anatomy of the short sale and learn which sellers are good candidates for a short sale. We'll also look at the profile of the ideal buyer/investor for short sale properties and discuss what you need to know if you are considering this kind of real estate purchase.

Susie deVille Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her blog at www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com, or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.
Another free community health clinic is now open in Franklin

Franklin clinic to ease load at H-C Clinic at Zachary Field

The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers and the NC Health Department have received a $138,000 grant from the NC Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health and Community Care for 2010 to cover the costs of opening a satellite clinic in Franklin.

The Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers began in December 2005 as a one-night a week primary care clinic for low income uninsured patients.

Since the clinic opened they have seen more than 2,000 different patients for over 5,000 patient visits. Many of the patients the clinic has seen are Franklin residents, because there was no other source of free primary healthcare for them.

Late last year when the Board of the CCC of Highlands-Cashiers realized that grant money was available to begin a Franklin clinic, they asked the Macon County Health Department to join with them in trying to obtain a grant.

The Franklin clinic is initially operating under the Highlands-Cashiers clinic, but the intent is for it to become independent. A Franklin advisory board has been established with Jim Thurmond as chairman. “He’s putting together a group of citizens to oversee the Franklin location,” said Jerry Hermanson, director of the clinic in Highlands.

Hermanson said “We are excited to be able to help the Franklin community start a much needed free clinic. The demand for primary care has increased significantly in the past year. With the additional access the new clinic provides, a greater number of the area’s uninsured residents will be served.”

The clinic offers patients primary care provided by volunteer physicians and midlevel providers. Minor injuries and episodic problems can be treated at the Franklin Community Care Clinic as well as chronic illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Hermanson said patients are assisted in obtaining correct medications and will be directed to Angel Medical Center for labs and x-rays.

Part of the grant money has been used to pay for a Clinic Administrator and a midlevel healthcare provider. Volunteer physicians have been recruited as well as other volunteers needed to staff the clinic.

The Franklin clinic began operations in the Macon County Public Health Center on Feb. 24 and served 13 patients the first night. The Franklin clinic will be open every Wednesday from 5-9 p.m. Hermanson expects a surge in patients once the word is out in the Franklin area. Patients can call 349-2085 for an appointment.

For further information: Contact Hermanson at 526-1991.

For 2010 ad rates and programs, email highlandseditor@aol.com or highlandsinfo@aol.com

Police & Fire Reports

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from March 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 12
• At 10 a.m., a NC license plate was found on Oak Street. The owner was contacted and the plate retrieved.
• At 8:20 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east.
• At 8 p.m., a man reported missing from Transylvania County was found sitting on the side of U.S. 64 and Chowan Drive. Police took him to the station where he was picked up by a relative.

March 13
• At 11:24 a.m., Salvador Ruiz Garcia, 50, of Highlands, was arrested for driving without a license at the scene of an accident at NC 106 and Highlands Plaza.

During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 14 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 11:

March 11
• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Foreman Road. It was cancelled.
• At 1:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Cole Mountain Road. Smoke was due to a chimney fire.

March 12
• At 8:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on N. 4th Street. There were no injuries. The dept. directed traffic.

March 14
• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Woodcrest Way. There was no transport.
• At 8:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Blackrock Circle. It was cancelled.

March 15
• At 9:36 a.m., the dept. assisted Rabun County in a search for hikers. The hikers were found near Clayton, GA.

New Policy

Non-Commercial Classifieds:
$5 for first 10 words; 20 cents per word thereafter.

Commercial Classifieds:
$6 for first 10 words; 25 cents per word thereafter.

Email Copy To: highlandseditor@aol.com or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

No phone submissions.

Send check to: Highlands’ Newspaper P.O. Box 2703 Highlands, NC 28741 828-526-0782 VISA/MASTERCARD Accepted

DEADLINE: Mondays at 5 p.m.

Help Wanted

Fressers Eatery now taking applications for experienced waitstaff and line cooks. Call Debbie at 526-8847. (st. 3/18)

The Bascom seeks 25-hour/week Facilities Manager. Requirements: high school diploma (bachelor’s preferred), Highlands residential address, computer skills, and 3 years experience in HVAC, building systems, budget management, strong communications and planning skills, and demonstrated ability to negotiate and oversee contracted services. Respond by March 26 to dmarett@thebascom.org, then follow application instructions to be sent via email. (3/25)

Hampton Inn is now accepting applications for front desk and Housekeeping. Must be able to speak English. Applicants may be picked up at the Hampton Inn at 96 Log Cabin Lane Highlands. Resumes may be emailed to HLDCN_hampton@hilton.com. (3/25)

Full time or Part time job opportunities at High-end clothing store. Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (st. March 4)

Experienced Sous Chef for Upcoming Season. Call Chef Wolfgang at 526-8396. (st. 3/4)

Servers and Hostess needed at ...on the verandah. Part-time or Full-time. Under new management with new look and menu! Please call Andrew Figel or Susan McDavid at 526-2339. (st. March 4)

(1) Police Officer, Highlands, NC. Salary Grade: (12) $28,457.00 - $45,492. Full Family Medical REQUIREMENTS: Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver’s license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. CLOSING DATE: Until Filled CONTACT: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester, 310 Oak Street. Highlands, NC 28741. (828) 526-8734. (st. March 28)

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

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

Respiratory Therapist at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN...
WALK TO TOWN from this 3/3 furnished older home near Bascom. Year-round, consider seasonal. $1,250/month includes electric. 526-5558. (4/8)

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

LOCATION, LOCATION! 28, 1 A upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (st. 2/25)

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


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. No 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)

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. 11/12)


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. $795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

GREAT 2 /1 BATH 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

PRIME RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE – Main Street. Call 828-526-5917. (3/18)

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. $599,000. 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

MID-WINTER COMMUNITY “Garage” Sale at Highlands Rec Park Saturday, March 27 Come sell your household and yard items from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Kim Shook - 526-9563. Booth space still available.

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

OLD OAK DRESSER WITH MIRROR, queen mattress & box spring, odd tables, chairs, china and more. Call 787-1306. (3/18)

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

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE


CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300

• Units Available •

Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555
Cashiers Road
Creating a meditation garden

Mountain Garden Club annual Plant Sale is Saturday, May 29th at the Ball Field on Highway 64 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Support Our Troops! NC license plates now on sale

The new North Carolina Support Our Troops! license plates are out and selling at all DMV offices statewide and online at the DMV's website www.ncdot.gov/dmv.

The plates show support to our deployed neighbors, providing encouragement to their kids while at home who see them on vehicles during the day, and raise money to assist the troops through the programs of SupportOurTroops.Org, such as shipping millions of dollars worth of care packages to the troops all over the world.

SupportOurTroops.Org annually ships about $6,000,000 worth of goods to the troops around the globe.

The Support Our Troops! plate costs $30 more a year than the standard plate and the funds benefit the programs of SupportOurTroops.Org, which supports the troops and their families.

SupportOurTroops.Org shipped over $6,000,000 in goods to the troops worldwide during 2009 to Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Guam and so on. These license plates help us do that. We are on target to do about $7,000,000 in 2010.
Highlands-Cashiers
Waterfall & Hiking Map
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper

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

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www.cutnpatchquilts.com

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www.cimbuild.com 828-526-2240

Wine & Dine Events
Night-Life
HighlandsInfo.com/WineDine.htm