

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 11

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 18, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
59   35F	58   40F	45   30F

## 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.

### Every Thursday

• Census 2010 Application Test 9:30 a.m. at the Highlands Civic Center. "Get Paid to Make a Difference."

### Thursday, March 18

• Rotary's 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 Short-off 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 Coriell, 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 track. (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 blade 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 ice 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 worksession 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

• 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

• See QUESTIONS page 7

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## 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-

• See DOGS page 14

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### In defense of dogs

Dear Editor,

While I agree it's important for pet owners to "poopyscoop," 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 law-breakers. 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 health care bill

Dear Editor,

By the time this letter is published the U.S House of Representatives may have already completed its strong-arming, unconstitutional maneuvering shenanigans to pass the so called healthcare reform bill. If this bill is so wonderful why is it necessary to deviate from the prescribed and constitutional way bills are passed in Congress?

I urge readers to examine the current healthcare bill carefully. There is more at stake than the abortion clause or crippling tax and spending issues. The bill contains disturbing sections that grant, by law, government control of how every citizen obtains healthcare, of your relationship with your doctor and hospital and of your ability to purchase the insurance of your choice. You will be confronted with compliance to new bureaucratic healthcare boards although some states, not North Carolina, have carved out sweetheart deals to avoid many of the bill's requirements. There are numerous fees and penalties and we will pay taxes for this grand healthcare program for several years before there is any benefit (if we can call it that).

On the economic side, the bill is a government take-over of 1/6th of our nation's economy, threatens to bankrupt the private insurance industry and undermines the free market system. Our country has prospered and become the envy of the world owing to our free enterprise system and the freedom of choices we enjoy in our lives.

There are some who praise the government programs such as Social Security and Medicare. These programs have been in financial trouble for years. It is projected that our children and grandchildren will never recover any benefits from what they have paid into Social Security. Have you noticed there was no cost of living increase in your Social Security benefit? Presently, near bankrupt Medicare denies more claims than any other health insurance provider. The healthcare bill will reduce services for Medicaid and Medicare. Seniors and the poor are most affected. That is the government version of healthcare reform. Government has a long list of failures and bankruptcies and has proven it is inept to run a vast healthcare system.

An overwhelming majority of Americans have already rejected ObamaCare which is obviously of no concern to most members of the U.S. Congress. This majority of Americans do not reject real healthcare reform that will actually reduce costs and provide high standards of care. They support cost cutting practices such as eliminating taxes on health care that can reduce

the cost by 25-30% immediately, tort reform to end the practice of defensive medicine and, most important, permitting the American people to shop health insurance across state lines. None of those common-sense provisions have been seriously considered because they allow individuals, not government, to control their healthcare decisions.

Passage of the present healthcare bill may be a feather in Obama's cap but for the American people it is cap on our freedoms and quality of life.

Carol Adams  
Glenville



Traffic detour  
at Carolina  
Way, Maple  
Street & US 64

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 Storm-water work. Watch for signs.

## 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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## 'Operation Medicine Drop'

Take unwanted prescription drugs to  
Highlands Pharmacy, Kmart or  
Walmart, Saturday, March 20

On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> the Macon County Sheriff's Office and the Highlands and Franklin police departments will be conducting "Operation Medicine Drop" in three locations in the county.

Officers will be collecting unwanted prescriptions at Highlands Pharmacy in Highlands and at Kmart and Wal-Mart in Franklin from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Any expired, unknown, or unwanted prescriptions will be collected and disposed of free of charge.

Studies have shown that improper disposal of medications have contaminated sources of water. In fact, in some areas wildlife have tested positive for certain kinds of medications due to coming in contact with improperly disposed medications.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) nearly 7 million Americans are abusing prescription drugs — more than the number abusing cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, Ecstasy, and inhalants, combined. That number rose from 3.8 million in 2000 — an 80% increase in just six years.

Additional facts:

- Prescription pain relievers are new drug users' drug of choice vs. marijuana or cocaine.
- Opioid pain killers now cause more drug overdose deaths than cocaine or heroin.
- Twenty-five percent of drug related emergency department visits are associated with prescription drugs.
- Methods of acquiring prescription drugs for abuse include "doctor-shopping," traditional drug dealing, theft from pharmacies, Internet, and from friends and relatives.

• Studies conducted claim that one in 10 high school seniors admit to abusing powerful prescription painkillers.

• 40 percent of teens and an almost equal number of parents think prescription painkillers are safer than abusing "street drugs."

This is the second such event held in Macon County. In April 2009 the Macon County Sheriff's Office and other agencies throughout Western North Carolina participated in Operation Pill Crusher and collected more than 128,000 pills that members of the community relinquished to officers.

"With the number of overdose deaths that we have seen throughout our community and with the tremendous loss felt by loved ones, this is a measure that could help keep pills out of our community and away from a family member who has the potential of being our next statistic," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "By participating you may save a life and that life may be that of a loved one."

## ... POLICE DEPT. continued from page 1

with the Town Hall and to make it energy efficient, Stewart suggested constructing a trussed roof and attaching brick veneer to the concrete blocked building.

"The structure is sound and it's a good facility but the energy part needs to be taken care of," he said.

New exterior construction to the existing building would include insulation to the walls and roof, brick veneer, wood trusses and storefront windows and doors. This will upgrade the energy efficiency of the building to meet national energy conservation standards and requirements and will result in long-term savings of utility costs, said Stewart.

The plan for the Police Department that was tossed around last year has changed drastically to be more fiscally sound – most notably the elimination of a sally port outside the magistrate's office.

Enclosed sally ports enable police officers to drive in, close the garage door and then take the person in custody into the magistrate's office. Sally ports tend to cut down on unruly and threatening behavior as well as eliminate the risk of flight.

Magistrate Pat Taylor said he would like the sally port at some point because it keeps everyone safe while papers are being drawn up – a process that can take hours depending on the number of charges.

Though Police Chief Bill Harrell agrees the sally port offers officers and the magistrate added protection it would increase construction costs quite a bit.

The Public Works Committee discussed installing an elevator so officers could take people in custody from the main floor down to the magistrate's office, but that would cost an extra \$80,000. Both elements will not be in the final plan.

Stewart said the economy is working in the town's favor because construction bids are coming in much lower than a year ago.

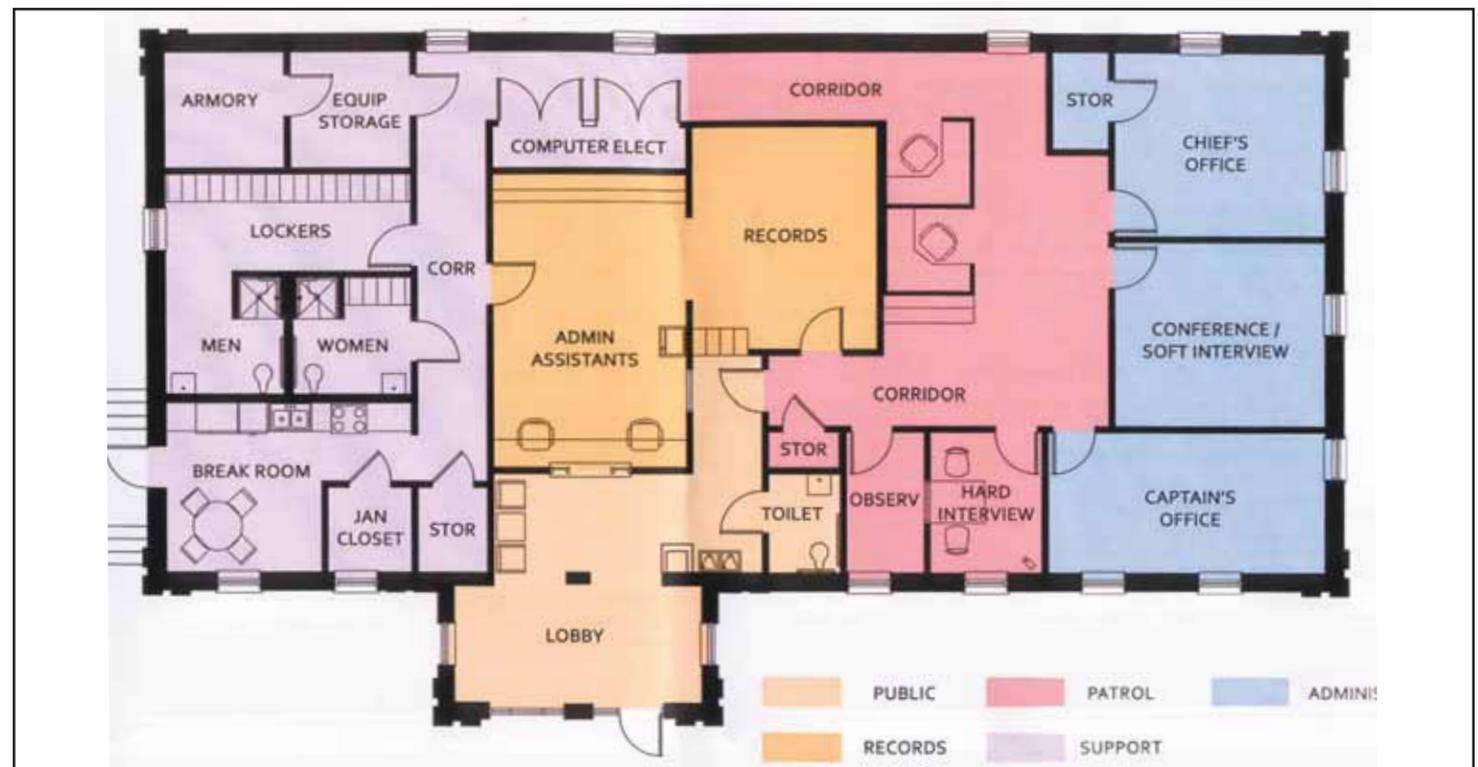
The town will use USDA grant funds for 15% of the job or \$100,000, whichever is less. Since there is USDA funding available right now, work could begin before the start of the 2010-2011 fiscal year which is July 1, if the Town Board decides to proceed, said Town Manager Jim Fatland.

Since staying in the existing footprint of the building makes a monetary difference, Police Chief Bill Harrell said the entrance in the rendition which projects into the parking lot, "really isn't needed."

Eliminating that cuts about \$37,450 from the Stewart's estimate of \$470,895 to \$433,445.

USDA funding would further cut the town's expense by 15% (\$65,018) for a total of \$368,427.

Brick veneer is estimated at \$25 per sq. ft. for a total of \$92,250 for 3,690 sq. ft.; storefront windows and doors are estimated to cost \$13,200; re-roofing 3,248 sq. ft. at \$5 per sq. ft. would cost \$16,240.



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 doesn't 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**

## • OBITUARIES •

### Gabrielle N. Dunn

Gabrielle N. 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 Highlands, 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 Highlands, NC, Christopher M. Dunn and wife Kelly of Seneca, SC, Alex A. 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.

She was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Seneca, SC and St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Rye Beach, NH.

A memorial service is planned at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Seneca, SC, Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 11 a.m.

### 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 Highlands, NC. Recently she and her husband returned to Clemson to reside at Clemson Downs Retirement Community among many of their old friends.



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 workmen 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, daughter Anne (Killilea) and her husband Kevin of Naples, FL, sons Judson E. Hair, Jr. and wife Betty of Raleigh, NC, Harrison Hair and wife April of Orlando, FL, and Jim Hair of Cashiers, NC. She also is survived by her cherished grandchildren, Patrick, Christopher, Jessica and Caitlin. She will be so missed by them all.

She was predeceased by her mother and father, Jesse and Daisy Price and her brother, William Price.

A small ceremony will be held at the Corley Center at Clemson Downs on Saturday, March 12 at 3 pm 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.

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com). Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home, Central, SC.

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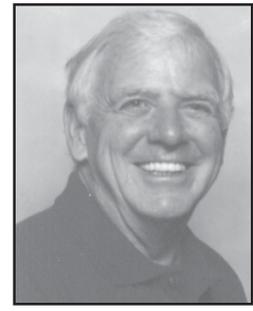
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

**Dog poop strikes out!**  
(I have a better plan)

**W**rite 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."



**Fred Wooldridge**

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 Highlands 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 pooch 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 waaaaay over the top.

Why are they catering to dog owners? Anyway, we already have Dog Poop Park at 5<sup>th</sup> 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 pooch that wanders onto the ball field without its owner. Ha, I say no problemo. 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 is the best part. The officer follows the dog home, confronts the owner and makes him return to the field to clean up the mess. Pictures of pooping dogs adjacent to mug shots of the owners will appear in the newspaper the following week.

Or we can just forget the whole thing and let the kids clean up the poop if they wanna play ball.

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## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

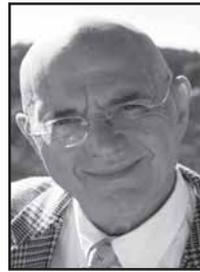
### Daylight savings plays havoc with our morning rituals

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 imaging that's he's smiling back. "Just half a pot," he whispers invitingly.

I've rarely yielded to the temptation 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 beam, I order dark regular, an attempt to get my money's worth. It's not about taste, body, aroma, or insomnia. It's a matter of getting as much caffeine per cup as possible. I've never ordered decaf, not even at breakfast the morning after my cardiac cath. I don't know that I could tell the difference between regular and decaf, and for that reason alone I'll never submit to a blind taste test. I don't feel any different the

mornings I drink only five cups from those when I drink a lot. I guess the caffeine doesn't affect me at all. I really love mornings, and I think I'd be just as energetic if I started the morning with a demitasse of herbal tea. Coffee doesn't keep me up in the morning, and I'm at a loss to explain my night time reaction.

Right now I really want a cup of coffee. It's the first day of daylight savings time, so I might be able to rationalize back an hour. "Hey, it's only four. Why not? The sad truth is that whether I approve of daylight savings time is not at issue. It is 5 p.m. just as surely as my alarm clock erupts at 5 a.m., the new five, which is also the real five, which is 12



Feedback is encouraged.  
email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)

hours from now. It doesn't matter that yesterday right now would have been four o'clock, or is it six? I'm never claimed to be an expert on daylight savings time, but I know something about caffeine lust.

It is a cold afternoon, dreary unless you think Seattle is paradise. We had hail the size of BBs yesterday and awoke to a light blanket of snow this morning, and have watched flurries off and on all afternoon. I heated, I'm reluctant to say "brewed" a cup of Cranberry Apple Zinger in the microwave, but it's not the same. Its primary ingredients are hibiscus, cinnamon, and roasted chicory. It declares

itself "naturally caffeine free," as if that were a good thing. Cranberries and apples bring up the rear, behind chamomile and blackberry leaves. If that's not deceptive, I don't know what is. I think I do know something. It's the "Zinger" is the name. I associate Zinger with speed, acceleration, zip, zing. None of those describe Cranberry Apple Zinger.

Lizzie walked in and asked what I was writing about. "Coffee," I answered. "What about it?" she asked. "About wanting a cup right now!" Lizzie wondered why I was drinking Zinger. I explained that I was planning on sleeping later. She said, "It's only five." Maybe she was right after all. She offered to brew a partial pot. It might be OK. I'll give it a try and report back next week. If I oversleep I could always blame daylight saving time, or would that make me a week early?

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they saw this plane get airborne.  
So, this Signor Casco,  
did he very fast go?  
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**When Congress cheats on its rules**

by John Armor

We are apparently 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 Congresswomen 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



Michelle Mead-Armor &  
John Armor  
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John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu

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 Senate goes 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, this one 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 shut of 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 in 1969, 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

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### 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, the real question mark for the Wildcats is if they can defeat a 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 big time closer 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 off guard, so avoid the media advice and stick with Temple.

#### South Region

1. Siena looks nice in the first round against a depleted Purdue squad, but something tells me that Purdue has too much pride and talent to lose that first game.

2. Richmond-St. Mary's is a can't miss game in round one. The Spiders are extremely well coached and at a 7 seed should not be having to face Patty Mills and the Gaels in the first round. Look for the winner of this game to be a handful for Villanova in the second round.

3. Baylor has a nice setup to make the round of 8, where they will have a homestate advantage in Houston that could propel them to the Final Four.

4. While the consensus is that Duke has an easy bracket, they have the toughest second round game out of any #1 seed



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

against the winner of Cal-Louisville. Both teams have talented, athletic guards-the types of which Duke has struggled against in early exits the last few years.

#### Midwest Region

1. Kansas is facing a loaded region, but it won't matter because the Jayhawks are the best team in the tournament. Depth, experience, and Sherron

Collins give the Jayhawks a tremendous advantage against the rest of the field.

2. Ohio St. better hope that James Anderson and Oklahoma State dispatch of Georgia Tech before the second round. Tech has Iman Shumpert to match up with Evan Turner, and the size of Gani Lawal and Derrick Favors inside could sent the Buckeyes home early.

3. Houston may be a sleeper pick against a Maryland team that overachieved this year. Both teams are comfortable in an up-tempo game and it may come down to who's better, Greivis Vasquez or Aubrey Coleman. (remember that name, as Coleman averages over 20 a game)

4. Michigan State may be under the radar again this season, but don't count out Tom Izzo's bunch-especially in March.

#### West Region

1. UTEP over Butler in the first round. Derek Character is too much for the Bulldogs to handle inside.

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 Big 10 tournament and I see them upsetting an overachieving Xavier team in the first 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Since the students involved were below the 7th grade, the only option would be the program at Macon Middle School.

"To send a student to The Focus Program requires an IEP team meeting with parents and team members, and a recommendation from that meeting for a 'Change in Placement' from the originating school to Focus," said Jetter. "The 'Change in Placement' must be documented as to why it is being made, include documented data that

supports such a 'Change in Placement,' outline the expectations for the student's improvement in this new placement, and specify what resources the new placement has (that the old placement does not have) that will help the student meet the expectations for improvement and help him return to the original placement."

An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is a detailed description of the educational goals, assessment methods, behavioral management plan, and educational

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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 Brigman. "This continues to be a confidential 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 close to having a finding but this type of case takes a lot of legwork," he said.

— Kim Lewicki

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## Ah, success at last!



**Don Swanson**  
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encouraged. Email  
swansonson@dnet.net

**M**an, I thought I must have mel-  
lowed or something, because I  
hadn't received a nasty email con-  
cerning 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 mes-  
sage 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 colum-  
nist.

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 opinionat-  
ed."

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 sleazy alleged scientists  
and that the information they base their  
conclusions is tainted beyond consump-  
tion.

Where I think my new pen pal might  
be somewhat off the rails is when he accus-  
es 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 hu-  
man being. And the reference to Venus and  
Mars indicated that you got off the space  
ship at the wrong stop. Thanks for reassur-  
ing 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 giv-  
en 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 commer-  
cials showing toddlers lip-synching mes-  
sages about the advantages of using E-  
Trade's services. The kids are cute and the  
text is hilarious.

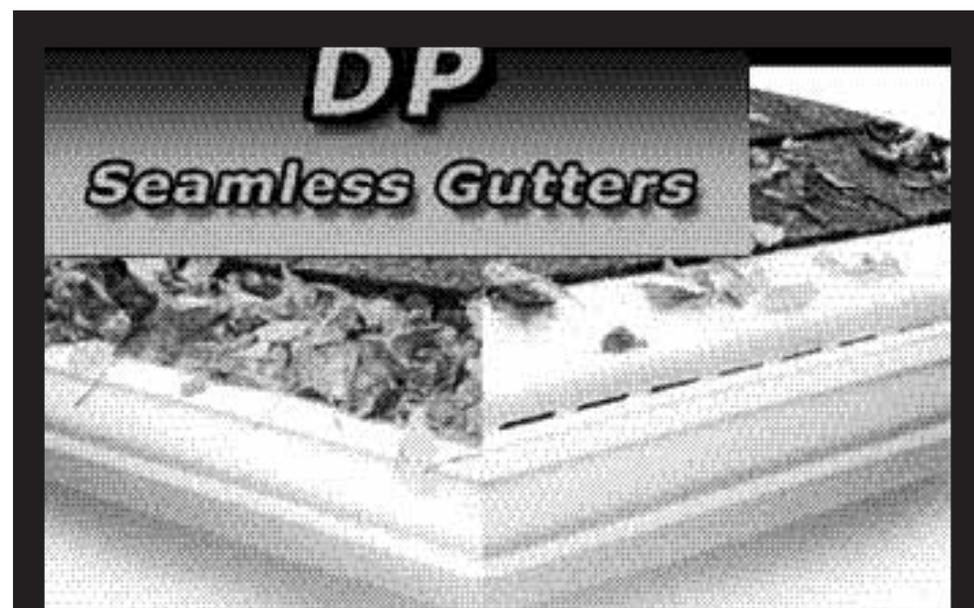
One of them was the genesis of the  
term "shankapotamous" which is mean-  
ingless if you are not a golfer. Anyway, in a  
more recent commercial, the main charac-  
ter is accused by his girlfriend of hanging  
with that "milkaholic" Lindsay, whereup-  
on a cute little round face appears on the  
screen and says "milkawhat?" Very cute.

Well, our fave 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 won-  
derful president actually delayed his daugh-  
ters' 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 the reason he delayed  
his trip was 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 18<sup>th</sup>, is again be-  
ing ignored by Pelosi, who says we'll vote  
when we're ready (which means, she ain't  
got the votes, at least not yet).

Oh, that March Madness! With the Fi-  
nal 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 any-  
thing 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.



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# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



## NEW POLICY

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

To request ad rates and a publication calendar, email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
Mondays at 5 p.m.

### Ongoing

Registration is now open for the 2010 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each

week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

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

### Sundays

• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

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

### Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4 p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852. (4/15)

### Mon. & Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Winter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (4/29)

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park.

8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

### First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

### Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

### Mondays & Saturdays

• Yoga classes in March at Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way in Highlands. Mondays 5 to 6:15 p.m. and Saturday 9:30-11 a.m. 526-8880. All levels instruction. (3/25)

### Tuesdays

• Tuesday After School Classes for grades K-6 are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

### Tuesdays & Wednesdays

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

### Wednesdays

• Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (ages 2 1/2-5) are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, have a snack, helped with homework time and supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 pm in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3376.

### Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place will be in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn about Rotary and enjoy fellowship while listening to an interesting speaker. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

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

• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

### Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

### Every 3rd Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

### 1st & 3rd Thursdays

• NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

### Every Third Saturday

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

### Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location

• See EVENTS page 10

## Ruby Cinema

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### March 19-25

### THE BOUNTY HUNTER

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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

## Macon County Community Foundation accepting grant applications

Applicants 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 non-profit organizations that serve general charitable needs in Macon County.

Applications are available at [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://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 Founda-

tion board members are: Karen Stiwinter, President, Larry Stenger, Theresa Ramsey, Daylon Plemens, Jim Breedlove, Jim Vanderwoude, Regina Lupoli, Debbie Nickerson, Louise Henry, Milam and Becky Beasley, Hammond Raders, 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](http://nccommunityfoundation.org).



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

## Saturdays

- Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

- At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

- NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

## Through March 31

- April is Public Health Month in NC and in order to raise awareness about the important role that public health plays in all our lives, the Macon County Public Health Center will recognize a "Public Health Hero" in the month of April. Citizens may nominate community volunteers for this award by completing and submitting the short nomination form found at <http://maconnc.org/PHHero.pdf>. We'd like to hear your stories about individuals who've made a difference in the health of our community, so nominate a deserving volunteer by

March 31.

## Beginning Mid-March

- NAMI Family-to-Family education program, a 12-week class for relatives and friends of people suffering from mental illness, is being offered by NAMI Appalachian South in Franklin. This weekly class will start mid-March. Class size is limited. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Contact: Ann 369-7385, Debbie (912) 481-2339, or Carl (706) 746-5139.

## Thursday, March 18

- Rotary's Literacy Bingo at the Community Building 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$1 a game.

- "Time Traveler's Wife" is a romantic drama about a Chicago librarian who suffers from a rare genetic disorder that sends him hurtling through time whenever he is under extreme stress. When his future wife meets him in the library, they both know he is a time traveler, but she knows much more about him as he has not been to the places they have met be-

fore. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

## Friday, 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 (buttermilk, whole wheat, or choc. chip) with fruit topping, bacon or sausage and coffee/tea for \$3. For further details, call (828) 526-1419.

- Free Senior Lunch will be held this Friday at noon at the Rec Park. A traditional Easter lunch will be served.

- The Jackson County GOP Convention is at the Barkers Creek Community Center on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share. All Jackson County GOP business is on the agenda including the election

## 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 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 line-up:

- Food plates will include your choice

of a smoke pork barbecue or grilled chicken, served with baked beans, Cole slaw, 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 pre-order by Saturday, March 20. Call (828) 371-1712, (828) 371-0798, or (828) 371-0722 to pre-order.

- Then, starting around 7 p.m., get set for the inimitable 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!

## 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 12-16.

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 is 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 Collage 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 juries national competitions and served as a juror for the National Watercolor Society's 2006 Annual competition.

Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-regis-

tration 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](http://www.thebascom.org).



Pat Dews, who created this watermedia piece, will teach "Great Starts, Great Finishes" at The Bascom in Highlands for all levels of students April 12-16. Pre-registration is required. Call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

## Macon County Community Foundation announces scholarship availability

The board of directors of the Macon County Community Foundation announces that a variety of scholarship applications 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](http://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, Sue LeLievre at 800-201-9532 or

[slelievre@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:slelievre@nccommunityfoundation.org), or visit the NCCF website at [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org).

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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 828-586-9895 or Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491 or go to the web site [www.jacksoncountygop.com](http://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, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or [www.highmountainsquares.org](http://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](mailto:joe.mangum@ringpower.com) Participants will be furnished tools and safety equipment. Bring water, 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 Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

## Tuesday, March 23

• Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road) 10 am to 7 pm. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Carolyn 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 Mont, 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 Coweeta 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, shuttling 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 Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

## Tuesday, April 6

• Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University addresses economic development and related issues in our area 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce via e-mail at 828-526-5841.

## Saturday, April 10

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Long Branch loop trail in the Standing Indian area, crossing the creek a few times. Bring hiking stick. Meet at Clubhouse in Franklin at 1 p.m. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

• Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom. Cost is \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members. Register now. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.

## Mountain Lakes 5-K set for May 1



"There's still plenty of time to get in shape for the Mountain Lakes 5-K." That's the word from Race Director Richard Betz. This year's race is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, at a new time of 10 a.m., and Betz says that for even casual joggers and walkers, six weeks should be enough time to train for the 3.1 mile event.

Anyone of average fitness can complete a 5-K race, but most runners want to finish a race in a fairly decent time. Betz said that a training program of increasing distance and speed between now and the first weekend in May would help any runner, from beginner to experienced, to a faster finish time.

"Beginning runners should start a training program by running at a comfortable pace as far as they can, even if it is only a block or two. They should then take a walking break for a minute or two and repeat the running segment, alternating running and walking for two to three miles. Eventually, the entire distance can be covered with only one or two walking breaks, or none at all. "It is truly amazing how quickly your body will respond to training," Betz said. "And it's perfectly OK to walk during a 5-K."

"Experienced runners will benefit from adding a long run to their training program at least once a week, and also from some kind of speed-work each week. A rest and recovery day between training sessions will also help the beginner or the experienced runner alike to improve," Betz said.

The Mountain Lakes 5-K is the main fundraiser for the Highlands Roadrunners Club, a local running group that meets weekdays at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Now in its eleventh year, the race follows a loop that begins on US 64 in front of the Highlands Civic Center, circles around Lake

Ravenel and Harris Lake, and finishes on Laurel Street beside First Citizens Bank. Traffic control will be provided throughout the course by Police and volunteers, and those who choose can simply walk the course. Since part of the route is on an unpaved gravel road, however, strollers are not recommended.

A new feature this year is the later starting time — 10 a.m. — which race organizers hope will attract those who have 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](http://www.main.nc.us/hrc). Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the 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, HealthTracks 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.

## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### 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 nuts 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 the underdogs win; in fact I think there are many people who love to see the 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. He was what the world and our society calls successful. Then like a lot of people he retired. In his retirement he floundered, 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 the church, but he wanted to do something that would bring him purpose outside the 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 he met my retired friend. Bill and Benny struck up a friendship and low and behold, Bill found out Benny had some accounting skills and my friend got him an interview and Benny got a job. A few years after Benny had been working, he said "I always knew there were people like my friend Bill out there. I learned you need to have faith because there 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 Highlands and I wonder how many of the people we meet 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 can cheer on the underdog and a time when we can all understand everyone deserves a second chance. In the Book of Samuel there is a story about David and a Rambo kind of soldier named Goliath and a battle they had with each other. No one gave David a chance, but guess what? He won.

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 a difference you can make in someone's life. I am confident there are a lot of Bills and Bennys in Highlands!

## • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### Chapel of Sky Valley

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy

Communion each service

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

### OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe,

Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study and Supper - 6:00

p.m., members' homes

Wednesday: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First

Baptist Church, Highlands

Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10:30 a.m.,

members; homes

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am;

Children's/Family Program; 10:45 Worship; 5 p.m.,

Middle and HS student ministries;

Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Children/

student/adult programs

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

### FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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

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

(nursery provided)

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

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

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

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526--4153

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

a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6

p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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

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

Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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

Youth Group

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

studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

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

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

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group

9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

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

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

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

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

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

## ... SKATING continued from page 1

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 Ice Rink 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 spring and summer.

"Adding this component to the Rec Park would move the Rec Park toward being a bona fide sports complex," 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's no refrigeration needed, no power bill and no hassle because the EZ 350 system requires very little maintenance. (Monthly power 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 blade rink at the Rec Park, fees to use it would be nominal like the town pool. "I want this to be a reasonable rate so local families can afford to use it," 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 Land Trust 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 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 greenspace 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 so if the town decides to budget for the synthetic ice rink it could put it on top of a pavilion's concrete floor 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 will offer a new sports venue in town, in all likelihood people will prefer to skate on Harris Lake 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 aerobics studio.

Renovation on the main level would focus on the stage area. The end of the stage nearest the main entrance would become



EZ Glide 350™ system set up on a set of tennis courts at the Rec Park as above, could ensure skating activities year round -- ice skating in the winter and roller blading during the warmer months.

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 the 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 a 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. "We want something with historical significance and 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

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... DOGS continued from page 1

ally is a public health issue because these parasites can cause hookworm which can even lead to blindness and other things," she said.

Commissioner Larry Rogers suggested spraying the field with a water/chlorine solution which Patterson said would help as long as the solution penetrates the soil deep enough to get to the eggs in the soil.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said a serious conflict has developed between ballfield users and dog owners as evidenced by the discussion at Thursday's meeting.

Beside health-related issues and the "inconvenience of stepping in dog piles" Noel Buras, Highlands School baseball coach, said

a ballfield full of dog piles makes Highlands look bad to visiting teams. "We have teams coming from everywhere and this reflects on Highlands as a town and I want our town to look good," he said.

John Shearl of J&J Landscaping, which contracts with the town to mow the fields, said his workers are always hitting "landmines" on the ballfield which causes excrement to spray everywhere.

"They are 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 that 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 site 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 ballfield," said DeWolf.

Wednesday night Siegel said his group isn't going to oppose the town's decision but encourages the town to quickly 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 strays 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 who 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.

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

– Kim Lewicki

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FEET •

**Navigating the new real estate environment**

**Part 1 – Options for distressed homeowners**

• This article kicks off Highlands's Newspaper's newest column "Investing at 4,118 Feet" for which area Realtors will write. Following deVile Schiffli's multipart series, other real estate writers will be featured in a round-robin fashion, like our Spiritually Speaking columnists. If you interested in participating, email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com). Conditions do apply.



**Susie deVile Schiffli  
Harry Norman,  
Realtors**

MLS which are either short sales or foreclosures. 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 done so 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](http://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 deVile 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](http://www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com), or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.

Let's acknowledge right up front that today's real estate market is different.

As you probably know, the Highlands-Cashiers market has not escaped unscathed from the global collapse of the financial markets and shift in the economy. We are experiencing slowing sales, rising inventories, short sales, and foreclosures. Many sellers are frustrated and frightened, while many buyers are unsure and wary of investing.

How does one navigate in this new environment? Is it simply impossible to win in the real estate sphere now?

I firmly believe that now offers unprecedented opportunities to both sell and buy in this market if you have the information and knowledge required to sail through these waters.

In the late 16th century, Sir Francis Bacon said this: "Knowledge is power." Bacon's words are especially relevant today as buyers and sellers grapple with the "new normal." Let's begin, then, by understanding one (once rare) aspect of the current real estate landscape which is becoming increasingly common: distressed properties.

Distressed properties are those properties purchased with the aid of a loan on which payments have stopped and the borrower has defaulted. I include the following types of properties under the distressed umbrella: properties in pre-foreclosure and foreclosure, REOs (bank-owned properties), and properties being sold in a short sale. (I include short sales in the distressed category even though sellers may not be in default.)

As of this writing, there are currently 114 properties (out of a total of 3,028 active listings) listed in the Highlands-Cashiers

**Explore. Participate.**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN HILLIER

**WINTER HOURS**

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## • BUSINESS NEWS •

### 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 MC 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 mid-level 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](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com) or [highlandsinfo@aol.com](mailto:highlandsinfo@aol.com)

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**HAMPTON INN** is now accepting applications for front desk and Housekeeping. Must be able to speak English. Applications may be picked up at the Hampton Inn at 96 Log Cabin Lane Highlands. Resumes may be emailed to [HLDNC\\_hampton@hilton.com](mailto:HLDNC_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)

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**RESPIRATORY THERAPIST AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL.** PRN

## 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 Gar-

cia, 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.

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position working 12 hour shifts. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

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## Creating a meditation garden

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

Setting aside time to quiet the mind is called meditation. Even during these winter months, meditating outdoors affords us the opportunity to harmonize with stillness and quiet and to realign with inner peace. Would you like to create a Meditation Garden? March is a good time to begin thinking about designing this special place.

First, determine the location for your garden. Next, design a path, perhaps made of small pavers, leading to your garden. Following a path into a garden allows for a time of private reflection and preparation as you enter your garden. A path also adds depth to the overall design of the garden. In small meditation gardens, a path winding around the corner gives the illusion of additional space. A longer path, especially during the winter, invites a stroll when plants are dormant.

Create a tranquil seating area. It can be as simple as a large throw pillow or as sophisticated as a patio with benches. Large and small rocks should be arranged throughout the garden to offer solidity and strength. Include an inspiring garden statue or sculpture.

There is something relaxing about a fountain, so if possible, include a water feature or a bird bath.

You will want an abundance of greenery to look at while meditating. For height, think of small trees, boxwoods, shrubs, holly, or rose bushes. Strive for foliage that will be different in color and hardy in the winter. You will want to use your meditation garden all year. Keep in mind that your garden should exuberate a feeling of peacefulness.

Will your garden have morning or afternoon sun? Most flowering plants require 5 to 6 hours of sun. Green plants do not need as much sun. Certain plants prefer the cooler sun of the mornings rather than the hotter afternoon sun.

Will your garden be dry or moist? Remember that different types of plants have differing moisture requirements.

There is nothing more serene than shades of green. Hostas are very popular plants, especially for meditation gardens. Providing different textures and heights, hostas do well in both shade and partial sun. Leaf sizes range from huge to miniature and are available in many different shades of green, so even if you plant only hostas the result can be an incredible palette of shades of green.

In addition to hostas, consider adding ferns; the leaves flow nicely in the breeze. The Christmas fern, a native plant, stays green through the winter.

Color accents can be added by planting annuals among hostas and ferns.

For example, impatiens, both common and New Guinea, prefer shade; however, New Guinea impatiens are more tolerant of sun as long as you keep them moist.

Coleus leaves are also colorful, and the new varieties are spectacular. Potted geraniums look great placed strategically in and around your meditation garden.

When adding color, avoid red and orange blossoms; they are too stimulating for a meditation garden.

If you want more than a monochromatic garden with just green and your garden is protected from northern winds, consider planting a Japanese maple, one that doesn't grow too tall, or a dogwood tree.

The perimeter of your garden might include rhododendron, azaleas and mountain laurel, whose colorful blooms follow an orderly parade of nature, each competing for your attention.

Several species of mosses can be used in your meditation garden. Moss prefers shade and moisture for proper growth and provides lush color year round. Most mosses gather their nutrients from the air so there is very little maintenance required. Be sure to provide a space that is clear of debris. Many mosses will grow on rocks, in between pavers and in other seemingly impossible areas.

Other suggestions for your garden: ground covers like Galax, Epimedium or Pachysandra. Ornamental onions and grasses are hardy and add movement to the garden as they sway in the breeze.

Consider plants of scent such as the herbs rosemary, sage, and thyme. Stuff thyme between the cracks of stepping stones and let it grow. When walked on the little stems and branches will be crushed, thus producing a fragrance to enjoy.

In summary, begin with a focus on greenery. A large swath of green foliage provides continuity in the garden and is pleasing to the eye.

Achieve relaxation with a low maintenance garden. If you include high maintenance plants you will find yourself tending to them instead of relaxing.

The meditation garden is a place to reflect, to rest, to read, to pray.

Enjoy your garden as often as you can. Listen to the sounds of nature and enjoy the scents of blooms. Your meditation garden will provide a respite from daily stress, a garden where you can, sit, meditate and be at peace with yourself. Absorb the peacefulness.

The Mountain Garden Club of Highlands invites you to come to their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Ball Field on Highway 64 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be hundreds of hostas, groundcovers, herbs and other plants for sale, and knowledgeable members will be available to help you select plants for your Meditation Garden.

So mark your calendar. Then take a deep cleansing breath. We'll see you there.

## Girls' Clubhouse work in centers at Episcopal Church



Elizabeth Houston worked in the "games" center at the church's child care center last Friday.



Shannon Welch worked the "coloring" center.



McKinley Mosely and Veronica Garcia worked at the play dough center. Photos by Kim Lewicki

## The Support Our Troops! NC license plates now on sale

The new North Carolina Support Our Troops! license plate is out and selling at all DMV offices statewide and online at the DMV's website [www.ncdot.gov/dmv](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv).

The plates show support to our deployed neighbors, provides encouragement to their kids here 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 goods to the troops all over the world.

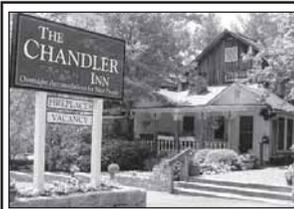
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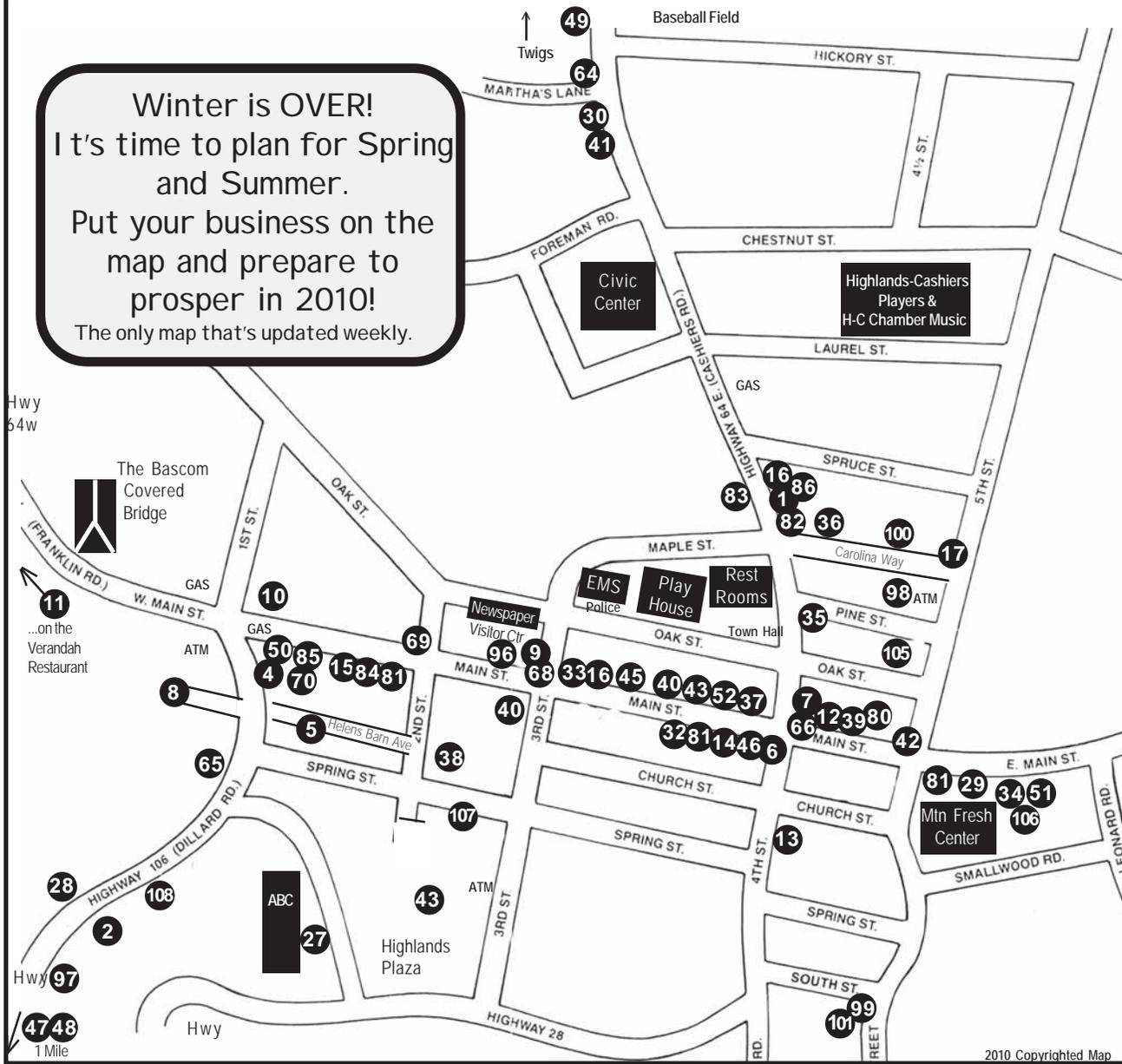


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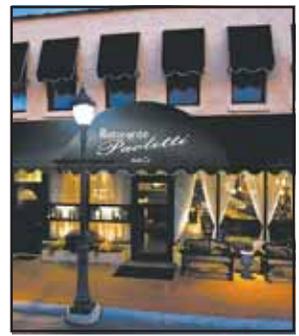
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**Highlands-Cashiers  
Waterfall & Hiking Map**  
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



Map locations include: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Sapphire Valley, CASHIERS, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, Cliffside Lake, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, and Glen Falls. Highways 64, 106, 107n, and 107s are marked.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map  
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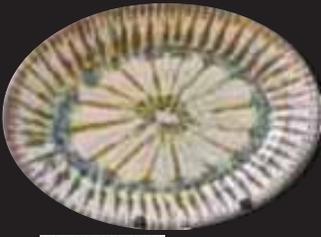
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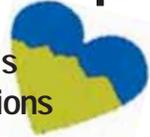


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