

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 12

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Thursday, March 25, 2010

FRI 51 35F	SAT 50 39F	SUN 45 40F
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PB says 'no' to rezoning request

– Town could be headed to court –

If the town doesn't agree to rezone a split-zoned piece of property on NC 28, it could end up in court.

That was the word from Attorney Richard Melvin who was representing John Shearl of J&J Landscaping of 1663 S. 4th Street.

It all began last fall when the Zoning Board of Adjustment up-

held Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley's ruling that cited Shearl for conducting commercial business on the residential portion of his .95-acre parcel.

The B3 commercial .53-acre portion of his property fronts NC 28 (S. 4th Street) and the residential .42-acre portion along the back of

the property joins other residential parcels in the Indian Hills subdivision.

The Heddens who live adjacent to Shearl's residential portion complained that over the years, Shearl's business has moved onto

• See PLANNING BOARD page 15

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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."

Friday, March 26

• Highlands School Make-up day. Early Dismissal at 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 27

• Community Garage Sale at the Rec Park 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Household items, furniture, yard items and much more.

• 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). 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. Call leader Don O'Neal at 828-586-5723 for reservations.

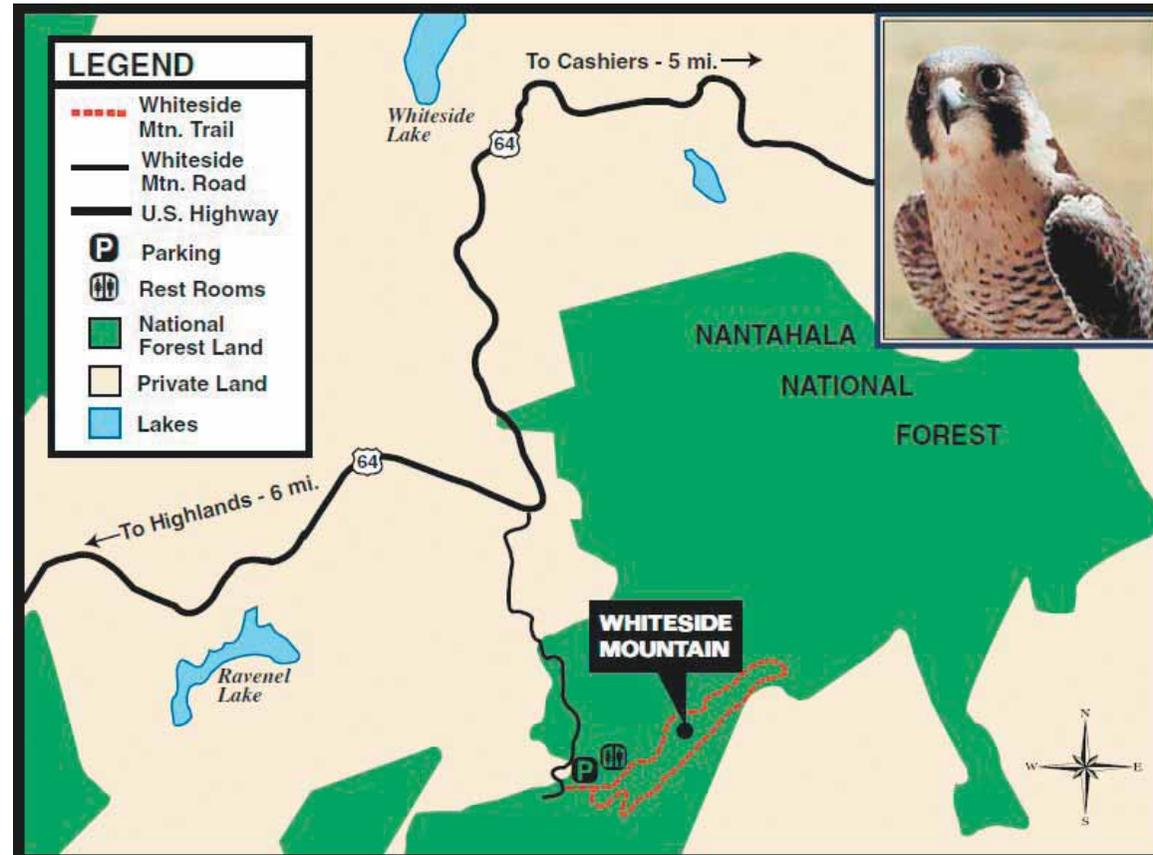
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5.7 mile hike on the Park Creek and Park Ridge loop trails in the Standing Indian area. Call leader Bill Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations.

Wednesday, March 31

• Highlands School Kindergarten Registration. 10 a.m. to noon. 10 a.m. parents arrive a 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.



New climbing route closed to protect falcons at Whiteside Mountain

In response to a new nesting location of the resident pair of endangered peregrine falcons, Forest Service is changing the annual climbing closure at Whiteside Mountain from the west to the east side of the cliff, effective March 22 through August 15, 2010.

Specifically, the cliff face east of the "Mainline" climbing route is closed to climbing and rappelling

this year — when facing the cliff, east is to the right. The Forest Service has updated closure information in the trailhead kiosk and is posting signs on the trail.

The west side of the cliff, normally closed during the falcon nesting season, will be open this year. For several years, the resident pair of peregrine falcons has nested on Whiteside's west face, and the

Forest Service has closed that side to climbing and rappelling. "This year, they're mixing it up a bit," said Chris Kelly, Wildlife Diversity Biologist with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and coordinator of the Commission's peregrine falcon monitoring program.

"Peregrine falcons do not

• See FALCONS page 15

BOE urges citizens to push for local school calendar

Negotiating the winter of 2010 has been difficult and has accentuated the need for local control of school calendars in Western North Carolina school districts.

Trying to navigate state guidelines set in Raleigh and lobbied for by chambers of commerce that determine the start and end date of public school, while incorporating the required teacher workdays following each grading period and snow make-up days has frustrated school administrators, parents and students.

"Call your state representatives and urge them to let us keep our calendar local," said Macon County School Superintendent Dan Brigman and school board chairman Jim Breedlove at the March 22 meeting at Highlands School.

Some years ago, school calendars in North Carolina were changed to extend summer vacation for families and maintain a "summer" workforce for the tourism-dependent state.

While winters were mild, the need for "make-up" days was minimal but all that changed this year. Due to snow days, school has been

• See CALENDAR page 17

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Choose synthetic rink carefully

Dear Editor,

As a long time ice skater and skating instructor I am thrilled to see Highlands' interest in establishing an ice rink. Ice skating is a terrific activity for all ages and for all the obvious reasons.

However, I suggest that before you make a decision as to the type of surface, the city and interested citizens should contact the directors and owners of public rinks who use frozen ice surfaces and also those who use the synthetic surfaces. I also suggest you thoroughly check the web for information on synthetic surfaces by Googling pros and cons of synthetic ice rinks. You may find that synthetic ice is "penny wise and pound foolish," then again a small rink of synthetic ice may prove to be an interesting diversion to tourists.

The first problem with synthetic ice is that body posture is different and may not help the skater when transferring to "real ice." Synthetic ice may build confidence in the child as a beginning skater, but then what? The surface is much slower making the push, and body positioning, more difficult and some rinks using synthetic ice even require that the toe picks on skates be filed off.

If synthetic surfaces are not carefully and consistently maintained they are especially rough on skate blades, much more so than ice surfaces. Unlike ice, if synthetic surfaces are not smoothed with resurfacing equipment after each skating session, the roughened, gouged spots will be filled with dirt and dust in an outdoor environment. The skate blades will dull much faster requiring more frequent sharpening, the problem being that there is a finite number of times that blades can be sharpened. Evidently there are several types of synthetic surfaces, some that are not so hard on blades. So, if you are serious about synthetic surfaces I hope you thoroughly research the types of surfaces available.

I would think that if Highlands has a synthetic rink, people would be interested in trying it once or twice. However, I seriously doubt that you will get the repeat skater, those who are really interested in learning how to skate. Of course it depends on the type of skater you want to attract. Do you want this to be for visitors who would skate once or twice out of curiosity, or do you want this for residents and their children who would want to skate possibly every day? Are you wanting to have a figure

A tale of two parks

'Tis a Tale of Highlands Parks, namely two
Their use and what people and animals do do
Dogs loose on the field
Is not for compost to yield
Or Pine Street for the use of a few.

The ball field has been "litter"-ally flagged
With stuff that was better off bagged.
How'd you like to slide home
Where dogs marked on their roam
Nice smells each time their tail wagged?

Then, it's a skate on thin ice to contemplate a rink
At Pine Street, a future urban nature link.
To the Town it would fall
For utilities, water and all.....
What? Private business on public land? RETHINK.

- Karen Hawk

skating program and hockey program for adults and children alike, a program which would consistently attract skaters from Highlands and the surrounding towns? If the city is only interested in a "curiosity" you may want to consider just doing an outdoor rink for roller skates, then you wouldn't need a special surface at all.

I do realize there are many things to consider on this issue. And, I haven't seen what the plans would be for the tennis courts. Surely you aren't going to demolish them.

As I state, I would love to see an ice rink in Highlands, and I would love to ice skate in Highlands. I just hope you will think long and hard and do the proper investigation before you spend money and effort on either a synthetic rink or a rink of real ice.

Julia Gary
Highlands

A village green for Highlands

Dear Editor,

The vision for a beautifully landscaped green (yes, green) space in downtown Highlands was first cited in the Town's 2005-2010 Land Use Plan. The "old post office site on Fifth Street" was identified in the plan as an example of a centrally located parcel well suited for a "town commons" green space. The vision was to create a small landscaped park in the business district that could be a quiet, relaxing haven for residents and visitors. The park could also be a focal point, a gathering spot, for special community events - like arts and craft shows and outdoor concerts.

In May 2005, a citizen-led effort was launched to purchase the old post office site for a Pine Street Park (now named Kelly-Hutchinson Park). Individual citizens in the community rallied to the cause, contributing over \$250,000.

Other local institutions like Macon County Bank, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Highlands, and Macon County contributed generously, as well. By the summer of 2007, the grass roots fund-raising efforts had secured sufficient funds (\$800,000) to pay off the loan and purchase the property. With the terraced green area of Macon Bank facing Pine Street, coupled with the newly purchased park site, the vision for a village green in downtown Highlands was becoming a reality.

In February 2008, the Pine Street Park property was transferred to the Town of Highlands. In its role as owner and manager of the park, the Town agreed to honor the overwhelming consensus of the donors and

• See LETTERS page 13

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• OBITUARIES •

Dr. Calvin Charles Miller

Dr. Calvin Charles Miller, age 84, of Titusville, FL, died Tuesday, March 16. Calvin was born on October 8, 1925, in Hazleton, PA. to William Miller and Minnie Ehrenfried Miller. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Kenneth Miller, and step-daughter, Sharon Storey.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Margaret Seeburger Miller of Titusville; daughter Lynda Miller Weissinger and son-in-law Henry Weissinger of Knoxville, Tn., daughter Dianne Louise Miller of Roswell, Ga.; son Scott Philip Miller of Richmond, Va.; stepdaughter Calista Seeburger of Milton, FL.; 13 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

Dr. Miller was a U.S. Navy veteran and served with the Medical Corps during WW11. After his discharge from the military, he received his B.S. and Masters degrees from Penn State University. He then taught at Milton Hershey High School for Boys before joining the faculty at Florida State University, where he obtained his Doctorate of Business Education degree. He moved to Tampa in 1960 and was on the original faculty of the University of South Florida serving as Dean of Education.

In 1968, he became one of the original Founding Faculty Administrators of Florida Technical University and started up the College of Education. The university is known today as the University of Central Florida.

After retirement, he and his wife Margaret spent many years in Highlands, NC during the summers. He was an avid golfer and tennis player and loved life. The funeral services for Dr. Miller will be at North Brevard Funeral Home, 1450 Norwood Ave., Titusville, FL. Services were held Saturday, March 20, 2010. The family has set up a memorial fund to establish a scholarship in the memory of Dr. Calvin Charles Miller.

Donations may be made to the UCF Foundation, 12424 Research Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32826. Please notate on the memo line on any checks that the donation is in memory of Dr. CC Miller.

Phyllis J. Wilson

Phyllis J. Wilson of Sarasota died March 20, 2010.

Born in Beckley, W.Va., she moved to Sarasota in the '50s and graduated from Sarasota High School in 1958. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and the Sarasota High School Band. Phyllis worked for the House of Golf for 10 years in Sarasota as a buyer of ladies' and men's clothing for the stores in Sarasota.

Phyllis and Wes went to Highlands, N.C., in 1973 and fell in love with the town. In 1986 Phyllis and Wes moved to Highlands and became owners of Le Pavillon Ladies Apparel Store which was established for 35 years. They closed the store in 2004 and came back to Sarasota.

Phyllis and Wes were members of the Highlands United Methodist Church. She leaves her husband of 40 years, Wesley T. Wilson; sister Sandy K. Cullen of Nokomis; brother Steve Shivley of Beckley; niece Stephanie; and nephew Stephen. There was a service at Toale Brothers Colonial Chapel, 40 N. Orange, Sarasota, FL. Graveside services will be in North East Cemetery in North East, PA.

In lieu of flowers memorial donation may be made in memory of Phyllis to the Highlands United Methodist Church, PO Box 1958, Highlands, NC 28734.

Courtesy of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home. Online memorials may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

The Girls' Clubhouse does its part to 'clean up' Hudson Library



On Friday, March 19, members of The Girls' Clubhouse found lots to do at Hudson Library.

Since renovations are underway there was lots of dust to deal with on the shelves inside so McKinley Mosely saw to that.

Outside, crocuses were peeking through plant debris in the gardens in the parking lot so Veronica Garcia and Elizabeth Houston worked with library employee Karen Hawk cleaning up those areas. Leaves in the beds were kept as a barrier against pending cold weather which came as scheduled Monday.



Photos by Kim Lewicki

Citizen chastises county for contract with previous county attorney

In a move to save the county money, the county commission ended its contract with Attorney Lesley Moxley in February of this year and hired Chester Jones, as interim, part-time legal counsel.

However, during the public comment period of the March 22 county commission meeting, a citizen Dewey Gunnin criticized the county for getting into a predicament with Attorney Moxley which will ultimately cost the taxpayers of Macon County, he said.

Moxley was the county attorney for a little over three years and had an open-ended contract. She was hired in October 2006 and her annual salary at the time of separation from the county in February was \$134,316.

County Manager Jack Horton said after

negotiating, the county agreed to pay Moxley eight months salary at \$13,000 a month and also pay her COBRA insurance until January 2011 if needed. That total package is about \$110,000.

Commissioners Jim Davis and Bob Simpson are the only commissioners on the current board who were also on the board that hired Moxley.

"This was done by the previous board but you are absolutely right," said Davis. "We thought we had a handle on this but we didn't. All we can say is we won't let this happen again."

Commissioner Bob Simpson echoed Davis.

"This happened due to miscommuni-

cation and trust we thought we had," Simpson said.

The other commissioners on the board that hired Moxley in 2006 were Chairman Ricky Bryson, Vice Chairman Charlie Leatherman, and JD Shepherd.

According to the minutes of the Oct. 16 Macon County Commission continuation meeting, after returning from closed session, "Commissioner Davis made a motion to hire Lesley Moxley to fill the position of County Attorney pursuant to the terms of the contract negotiated between Chairman Bryson and Ms. Moxley. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leatherman and all favored."

• See ATTORNEY page 15



Current Attorney Chester Jones

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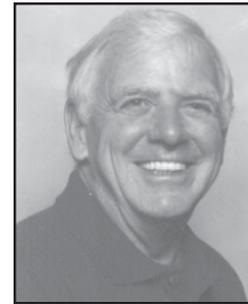
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

How 'bout doggy poop hockey pucks?

Thanks to our Town Board and other imaginative individuals around here, my mind is awash with ideas. I can hardly sleep at night. With Highlands' first-time artificial ice-skating rink now a possibility, I'm thinkin' about all that frozen doggy poop just lying around Highlands all winter doing nothing, aggravating everyone because it's on their property instead of the dog owner's. But wait, I'm ahead of myself. Highlands cannot possibly be thinking of build-



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email: askfredanything@aol.com

lot of our local kids really, really happy. Does anyone come to mind?

Let me make a prediction. While I think the combo ice rink/skateboard track is a great idea, unless it's a free service provided by the town, it won't even draw enough money to cover the maintenance costs to run it. But don't abandon the project....there is hope. If the town can't find a philanthropist because....well, let's not go there, then the taxpayers should endure the costs. May-

be we could get some "free money" from the federal government. It's rolling off the presses as you're reading this.

On the other hand, I think folks would pay a minimal charge to go to the Rec. Park to watch players whack around a bunch of doggy poop during a hockey game, especially if their kid is on the team.

Even more better, if the doggy poop hockey puck idea becomes a reality, I'll call a national news network and ask them to come here and video the flying poop. Once our team gets national attention and is known for their frozen doggy poop hockey pucks, everyone will be flocking here to watch the poop fly. And you know it's only a matter of time before our president will want to come here and bow to our team. Eventually, Highlands will be world-renowned for its frozen doggy poop hockey pucks. Can you say "frozen doggy poop hockey pucks" three times real fast?

We could even sell our poop to other towns with hockey rinks. Again, are you getting excited? I am. I'm even thinking of buying a dog....one that poops a lot. Drop me an e-mail with your suggestions on the kind of dog I should buy for maximum poop potential.

...HIS & HERS from pg 6

angry neighbors pounded on the door. Finally, the big day arrived. I took a cab to Royal North Shore, and was ushered in to see the doctor. My cast was removed, my crutches turned back in, and I waited for the bad news - the bill for all this care. None. No bill. All expenses paid by Waltzing Matilda, the Aussie government. It was a good thing, too, since at that time, church mice were taking up a collection to support me. Just for the record, I healed so well, I can't even remember what leg it was.

Was the health care in Australia perfect? No, of course not. Did I wait ages for appointments and treatment? No, there was very little wait, if any. Was the quality of care good?

• See HIS & HERS page 7

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

It's pretty hard to believe people can't tell a brake pedal from an accelerator, but that's the defense usually employed by the auto industry in cases of sudden acceleration.

The accelerator is on the right and when depressed goes all the way to the floor and makes the car go faster. The brake, which is on the left, or in the middle in standard transmission models, is wider, and when depressed goes only part way to the floor and slows the vehicle. If it goes all the way, the problem is not sudden acceleration but delayed deceleration. No one ever sues for delayed deceleration, because even soft hearted juries hold drivers responsible for brake maintenance.

If a driver is terribly inexperienced or really stubborn, I guess it's possible that he might keep the gas pedal to the medal



Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

Drivers versus the auto industry

while he drives through the garage wall. The first time I rode a motorcycle, I kept the throttle open wide as I approached a concrete culvert. It never occurred to me to hit the break, turn off the ignition, or release the throttle. I just held on. Fortunately, I had considerable bicycle experience and turned the handle bars to avoid the culvert. It wasn't until I was safely

past it that I relaxed my death grip on the gas.

In a motorcycle the accelerator is on a handle grip instead of the floor, but the experience convinces me that at least some cases of sudden acceleration are cases of pure driver error. I panicked and froze in a very dangerous position. Who's to say the same thing couldn't happen to an inexperienced driver? As I reflect on the sudden ter-

ror I experienced, it seems the most likely explanation.

Toyota claims poorly fitting floor mats hold trap the accelerator when the driver removes his foot, and are responsible for sudden acceleration in its vehicles. It's probably a coincidence that floor mats, even OEM mats, are a lot cheaper to replace than cruise controls and on-board

computers. If my gas pedal stuck, I'd pull it up with my toe.

A sudden acceleration is really a more complex event such as a malfunction of the on board computer, electromagnetic interference, or demon possession, I'd be out of luck. I've recently learned that automotive engineers can reconstruct the events leading up to an accident. In much the same way that a black box records vari-

• See SALZARULO page 7

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from the history guy ...

March 12, 1996

European Union bans the export of British beef because of Mad Cow disease, which is spread by the all too common practice of feeding meat products to cattle

It seems that as of now,
there's no shipping an angry cow.
So you can't buy, beg or purloin
any of the British sirloin,
and the EU will recoil
from a piece of London Broil.
Yes, they are going to steer clear
of any meat they ought to fear.
It's not just a matter of apathy,
the wish to avoid encephalopathy,
cause no matter what temp you fry on,
you can't cook away this prion.
So they do have a legitimate beef,
and the only way to seek relief
is to ask the Brits to be more chivalrous,
and stop exporting cattle that are carnivorous

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• HIS & HERS •

Since you didn't ask ... Part I

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

I'm teetering on the edge of 59, about to fall headlong into my 60th year. What some people may not know is that I spent 19 of those years outside the United States. From 1975-1980, I lived in Sydney, Australia, and from 1980-1994, I lived in Paris, France. This means that for 1/3 of my life, I was exposed to the way other countries run their governments – good and bad. It also means that for 1/3 of my life, I lived in countries with national health care systems.

Americans pride themselves in what a modern, innovative country they live in. They claim to be curious about other lands and other cultures. For this reason, I've always been stunned that no one has ever asked me the question: "Michelle, since you've lived in countries with universal health care, what you think of it?" I see it this way. Those who want universal health care in this country don't want to hear me say it was awful, or that it didn't really work out that well. Those who are opposed to it are afraid I'll say how good it was. I find that kind of narrow-mindedness rather sad. So, since you didn't ask, I'll tell you.

I arrived in Australia at the age of 25, and as luck would have it, bounced around doing a number of different jobs. I ran the bookstore and educational materials department at the Alliance Française in Sydney. For several years, I worked for a travel agency in the Sydney suburbs which dealt mainly with French-speaking customers. For a brief time, my job was running keeping the paperwork and financials for a company which created and installed custom kitchens. Like many young people in the early stages of their careers, I went from job to job, trying on many different roles and identities, looking for a good fit and getting work experience. Fortunately for me, my health care was assured, no matter where I went, or if I was between jobs for a brief period.

I met some great doctors, too. In Cremorne (a suburb of North Sydney), my doctor was a delightful Scotsman, who had previously served in the British Navy. When I asked him how he was enjoying civilian life and practice, he replied in a thick Scots accent. "Wail, it is nice to see all the guuuuurrrrrlllllls!" In Campsie (a southwestern suburb), my doctor was a tiny, energetic Chinese lady. When a bad bout of the flu landed me in her office, she looked at me and asked the vital question: "Have you been womitting?" "Womitting?" was my puzzled reply. "Yes, womitting," she insisted. It finally dawned



Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor

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John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

on me that she couldn't pronounce the letter "v."

Crunch time came when I fell down the stairs at a rooming house in Cremorne. My screams brought several other residents of the rooming house, including the landlady. "Can you stand on it?" she asked. And, yes, I could stand on it, and with the help of my neighbors, limped to my room. Several hours later, the leg in question had

swollen up considerably, and I hopped over to my next door neighbor for help. Brian phoned his aunt to come pick us up, and throwing me over his shoulder like a sack of potatoes, brought me to her car. She drove us to the emergency entrance of the Royal North Shore Hospital, where I was loaded into a wheelchair and wheeled into the waiting room. I won't say it was a short wait. It wasn't. It was a busy night, and there were plenty of folks in worse shape in front of me. When it looked like it was finally going to be my turn, the victims of a car accident arrived, and were whisked in ahead of me. "Cue-jumpers!" several of us muttered, shaking our fists. (A cue-jumper is Brit-speak for a person who refuses to wait for their turn in line.)

A slight detail I forgot to mention is that I was dating someone at the time, and that the night of my accident was his poker night. Brian had phoned Mick to tell him where I was. Shortly thereafter, Mick trooped into the waiting room with all of his poker buddies, who, undeterred, proceeded to set up their poker game in the waiting room of Royal North Shore. I think several orderlies and a med student even got in on the action. When the nurse finally came in the room, and called out "Mead," eight gentlemen stood up, including a couple of burly rugby players. The doctor on call insisted on only one person accompany me to the examination room, muttering under his breath that given the crowd of males I had with me, it was a good thing it wasn't a paternity suit.

The rest of the evening is a hazy memory – x-rays, painful prodding, the creation of a plaster cast, being issued pain killers, and a set of crutches. The cast would stay on a number of weeks, and could not get wet. This meant regular trooping to one of the boarding house communal bathrooms with a green garbage bag on my leg. One day, the sight of myself naked as a jaybird with a garbage bag on my leg reduced me to such fits of hysteria that I couldn't haul myself out of the tub. I was stuck there, howling with laughter, as the water got colder and colder, and my

•See HIS & HERS page 4

• COACH'S CORNER •

Bracketville how about Parityville?

Welcome, welcome loyal readers (all 7 of you). For those of you that made picks based on my musings last week...um, yeah, sorry about all that. If it's any consolation, my brackets are in worse shape than Tiger Woods' Escalade, but I'm thinking that a lot of brackets look that way.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

The biggest story of the weekend is the fact that 11 conferences are represented within the final 16 teams left in the NCAA tournament, which is an amazing statistic. The Big East only has 2 teams left, as does the SEC and the Big 12. The mighty Big (11) Ten has three teams represented, but other than that it's one and done for the other leagues. While the Cinderellas of Cornell and Northern Iowa are unfamiliar names for some, those of us who follow basketball know that there are not many blueblood teams left in the current tournament.

Duke, Syracuse, Michigan St. and Kentucky would be considered basketball royalty among the final 16, and Purdue, Ohio St. and Xavier have also had their share of recent success. However, Kansas St., Washington, Baylor, St. Mary's, West Virginia and Butler are names that are not usually seen at this time of year.

One of the main reasons for parity in college hoops in the influx of players leaving early for the NBA, but to use that as the only excuse is not really valid. Instead we must look at the fact that there is a lot more talent in college hoops than in recent years, particularly at the mid-major level. Coaches look far and wide for guys that can play, and smaller schools must do this kind of recruiting if they want to be successful. St. Mary's best player is a 6'11 Egyptian center who has scored 60 points in two games.

Northern Iowa has several great players in their ten man rotation, but none came up bigger against Kansas than Iranian guard Ali Farokhmanesh, whose three pointer from the wing buried the Jayhawks. While both Farokhmanesh and Samhan

are both scholarship players, Cornell waxed both Temple and Wisconsin with a team of walk-ons, as Ivy League schools do not provide athletic scholarships. The fact remains that no matter where they come from, talented players tend to dominate the NCAA tournament.

While schools like Kentucky and Duke have the luxury of bringing in big-time recruits-it doesn't necessary guarantee success (as evidenced by this years North Carolina team). Mid-majors, and to some extent smaller high-major programs like Baylor and Xavier have to find their talent in many different areas than the McDonald's all american game, but it does not mean that they have less talent.

So what does the arrival of parity mean for this year's tournament? Well, I have a feeling that there is going to be one unfamiliar team in the final four, much like how George Mason shocked us all a few years ago.

My pick for this candidate would be Northern Iowa, who will be facing a Michigan State team without Kalin Lucas (lost for the rest of the tournament to injury) and then either a one man show in Ohio State or a very inconsistent Tennessee team. Northern Iowa is deep, playing ten men regularly, and they are (along with Duke) the best defensive team in the tournament. They didn't just beat Kansas last weekend, they dominated the majority of that game by controlling the tempo and defending the Jayhawks with tenacity. They won't take Michigan State by surprise the way they did Kansas, but if they can manage to beat Sparty then look to see Northern Iowa in the Final Four.

All tournament team (after first weekend)

G Ali Farokhmanesh, Northern Iowa
G Jordan Crawford, Xavier
G/F Evan Turner, Ohio State
F Wesley Johnson, Syracuse
C Omar Samhan, St. Mary's

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

ous parameters of airplane performance, the modern automobile computer captures activities such as accelerator pressure and breaking effort. In the case of the out of control Prius in San Diego, the collected data seem to contradict the account of the driver.

What is the explanation? It's interesting that reports occur in clusters.

Several years ago, claims of sudden acceleration nearly killed Audi in the US

market. The ultimate finding was that there was nothing wrong with the Audi. The fault was with the operators. Now Toyota is under the lens. Maybe there is nothing wrong with the Toyota either. There is a lot riding on the outcome of the investigation. I would expect advocates on both sides of the question to stretch the truth.

A South Carolina jury awarded a young woman \$15 million after she was paralyzed when her Ford Explorer crashed after

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what she claimed was a case of sudden uncontrolled acceleration. The South Carolina Supreme Court overturned the verdict last week, rejecting, as phony science, an expert witness's testimony that electromagnetic interference caused the vehicle to accelerate. I have no idea if the science is phony or genuine.

There may be more than a single explanation for the phenomenon. I guess ill fitting floor mats is as good an explanation as any. That is until I recall my first motorcycle ride when I froze like a statue and was incapable of any of the sensible solutions that make driver error seem so unlikely. I suspect somebody at Audi, Toyota, or Ford knows the truth. I think we'll just have to guess.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 4

Yes, absolutely.

So, if Australia is so great, why don't I go live there? Why should I? I left Oz in 1980, and while I enjoyed my five years there, I was ready to move on. During the Viet Nam years, we regularly heard the expression, "America, love it or leave it." If you have any criticism of your country, we don't want to hear about it, was the message. Dissent is unpatriotic. For a country founded on dissent, those are pretty damning words.

Next column - healthcare in France, or why a broken foot is not a crime of passion.

• CONSERVATIVE POV •

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I've got to admit, it's 7 o'clock Saturday evening, and I'm getting nervous. Kansas is 10 behind Northern Iowa in the second half. NORTHERN IOWA! To make matters worse, I had decided to wait until the House voted on the healthcare bill tomorrow afternoon before I started this week's column, and then I thought that doesn't give me very much time until my deadline, and what if I had a brain cramp and frankly, if the libs vote this thing in, I just might not want to write anything for quite a while.

I don't know about you, but I'm going to welcome hearing something on the news other than healthcare reform. The problem with that is, even if the House passes the thing, there is a string of procedures that may follow before it's done that might take months. I don't pretend to understand the process but the smarmy possibilities that seem to lie ahead make me sick, and they haven't even happened yet.

NI by 7 with 7 left. Oh dear.

Even if the bill is defeated, great damage has been done to our country. The lengths the Speaker of the House is willing to go through to get this economy-busting legislation through is sickening. "Deeming" the bill to have passed?

What is that about? It's passing it with no vote, they just imagine that it passed.

Oh brother.

NI by 3 with 4 1/2 left. That's better.

I just checked the news to find out that the Democrats decided the "deem and pass" device was too slimy to use, even for them. The negative PR would be vicious. I can't concentrate with the ballgame winding down. I'll be right back.

Still 3 with 2 left. Not good. Still 3 with 1. Still 3 with 6.2 secs left. Very bad. It's over. Boo Hoo. Oh well.

It's early Sunday afternoon, basketball on the tube, the Miami vs. Duke baseball game audio is streaming on the computer and it's back to business. No matter how the vote turns out, the year-long sales job has been quite disheartening.

With a little prompting, I'm sure most of us remember Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst last fall. Wilson (R-SC) was in the audience when Obama lectured the combined houses on his then healthcare plan. What you may not remember is what Obama had said that provoked Wilson's well publicized accusation, "you lie." He reacted to the claim that "the

You lie!



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

reforms I'm proposing would not apply to those who are here illegally." Did you remember that? Probably not, since the media obsessed over Wilson's comment and the lie was ignored.

Was Obama lying? Well certainly Wilson would know better that I would and I would have to assume that his spontaneous reaction came from somewhere. The point I'm trying to make isn't about immigrants or necessarily healthcare, which may or may not have been dealt with by the time you read this. My problem is the level leaders in government have sunk to in pursuit of their legislative goals.

The bad behavior isn't restricted to health care issues. Quoting Politics Daily, "He was a bit quieter than Joe Wilson, and didn't quite call President Obama a liar, but Supreme Court Justice Joseph Alito had his moment of protest during Wednesday's State of the Union address, the Washington Post reports. As Obama criticized the court's recent decision to allow corporations to spend unlimited money on elections, Alito - just a few feet away - appeared to mouth the words 'not

true."

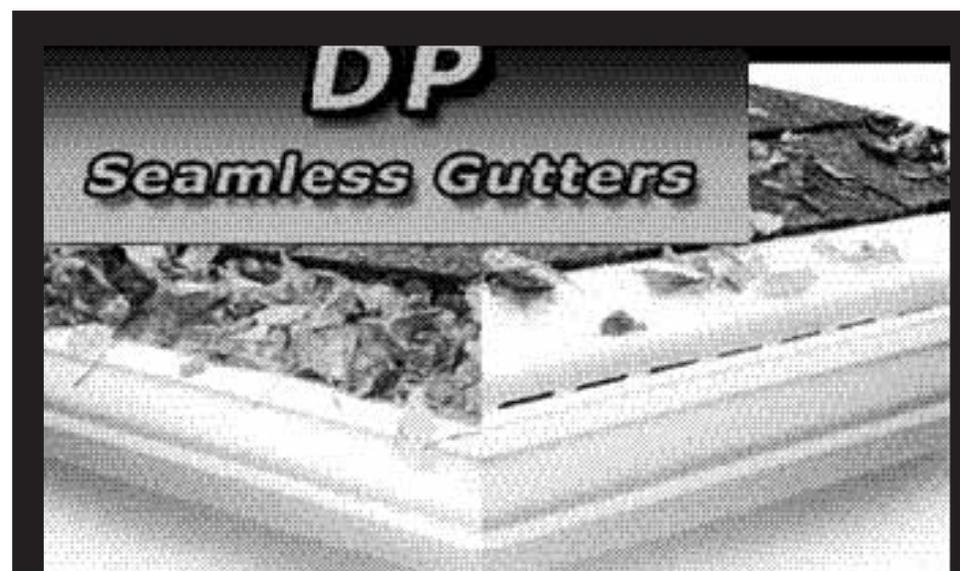
As the health care issue came to a head, Obama spoke in various locations and employed the despicable practice of hauling out alleged victims of our cruel and inhuman present medical delivery system. Curiously, when the fact checkers went to work, they found these claims of folks left to suffer were bogus and they were treated properly. Evidently anything goes when you're selling your agenda, including misstatements, almost lies and just plain lies. Not what we'd expect from our Chief Executive.

Now, as to the actual legislation, who knows what's actually in it? 2,700 pages of governmentese can do some serious damage, and the Republicans closest to the matter think that it will. As of this writing, the anti-abortionists evidently have sold out in the belief that Obama is going to, by Executive Order, reverse the federal funding of abortion included in what will likely become law this evening.

That would take a lot more faith than I'd have on the subject.

Why did it take bribes, payoffs, and unbelievable arm-twisting to sell a plan that the people were supposedly in favor of, in spite of polls roughly 70-30 against? Why have 38 states to date declared they will fight to keep this nightmare away from their people if it such a good deal? My wife is convinced that this is part of the plan to accomplish the end times when we, the US, have been brought down to irrelevant world status. Some are convinced this will do it. They and she may be right.

Since the Hurricanes swept Duke in their three game series this weekend, I'm going to sleep well tonight. Tomorrow night might be another matter.



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Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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.

• 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 Trevaithan 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 or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• 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. (3/25)

Wednesdays

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

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

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

• See EVENTS page 10



Earth Day's 40th Anniversary at the Highlands Ball Field

In Highlands for the first time!

On Saturday, April 17 the Highlands-Cashiers community will be celebrating locally for the sixth year!

Highlands Prom. Committee, a local social club, is thrilled to be hosting the event with the generous support of the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association. We are especially excited to be bringing the event to Highlands for the first time.

The celebration is FREE and will be held rain or shine or snow.

Earth Day in the Mountains 2010 will feature live music, educational workshops, interactive demonstrations, and food. There will be games and crafts for the young and the young at heart.

The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests and preser-

vation efforts.

2010 marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, an event that is celebrated worldwide. It was established as a teach-in by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who hoped a grassroots environmental movement would resonate to Washington DC.

Forty years later, the earth may be in greater peril. After devastating natural disasters worldwide, and the worst winter our area has seen in thirty years, there has never been a better time to celebrate our appreciation of the fragility and uniqueness of the western North Carolina Mountains. Join us on Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate the earth and learn about what is happening locally to protect it. If you would like to participate as a volunteer or by having a display for your business or organization, please contact HPC at PromCmte@gmail.com.

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Saturday: 2, 4:10, 7, 9:10
Sunday: 2, 4:10, 7
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7
Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:10, 7

THE BOUNTY HUNTER

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Saturday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25
Sunday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15
Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7:15
Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

rated PG

Friday: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Saturday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15
Sunday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05
Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday.
9 a.m. Worship Service at Whiteside PCA Church facilities, 621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers. Adult Christian Education & Fellowship to follow at Buck's Coffee at the Cashiers Crossroads.

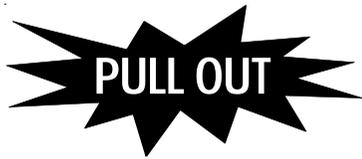
Monday, March 29:
Seder Meal, 6 p.m., Boone House, Chestnut Hill Retirement Community.

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday.
5 p.m. Observance of the occasion of the Last Supper & New Commandment with opportunity to participate in Foot-Washing and Communion. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

Friday, April 2: Good Friday.
5 p.m. Observance of the occasion of our Lord's crucifixion and passion. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday.
9 a.m. Festal Communion and Worship Service.
No Adult Christian Education this morning. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

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

258).

Saturdays

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

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

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

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

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.

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

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Rec Park to benefit Relay for Life, and summer mission trips to Haiti



The Relay for Life of Highlands is bringing the Easter Bunny to the town Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. The Easter Bunny will be at the Highlands Rec Park from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sarah Valentine will be taking photos. Also during that time, kids of all ages can get their face painted and enjoy refreshments (to include Chick-Fil-A sandwiches) from the Highlands United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Youth Groups, who are raising money for a mission trip to Haiti this summer.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Holy Week Services at...

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
315 MAIN STREET with Pastor Paul Christy

Thursday, April 1 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service.

We will share together in Holy Communion

Friday, April 2 – GOOD FRIDAY

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Good Friday service

Sunday, April 4 – EASTER SUNDAY

6:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Join us and other churches at the amphitheatre behind the

Biological Research Center for our sunrise service.

WORSHIP SERVICES / THE LIVING CROSS

Join us as we celebrate at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Bring a flower from your garden or something purchased to place on the cross before each service.

9:30 a.m. – COVERED DISH BREAKFAST

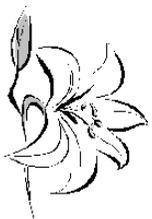
Bring an egg casserole/quiche, fruit salad, or

coffee cake/muffins to share as we have breakfast together.

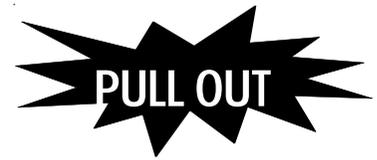
10 a.m. – CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & STORYTIME

The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more info ... please call 828.526.3376



Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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 a 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.

Friday, April 2

• Noon. Stations of the Cross. A mini pilgrimage starting at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic church and walking from church to church in downtown Highlands. Scripture and music as we go. All are welcome.

• On **Good Friday**, at 7 pm at Community Bible Church, bring a friend and enjoy a moving journey through the last week of our Lord's life. Drama, dance, and moving worship will accentuate the depth of the love of Christ as He moves ever so intently toward the cross. For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit www.cbchighlands.com.

Saturday, April 3

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sarah Valentine will be taking photos. Also during that time, kids of all ages can get their face painted and enjoy refreshments (to include Chick-Fil-A sandwiches) from the Highlands United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Youth Groups, who are raising money for a mission trip to Haiti this summer.

• An EggFest, at noon, it will be the egg hunt of all egg hunts! Kids will enjoy food, bounce houses, petting zoo, prizes and a hunt for over 3,000 eggs. Families can meet at noon at the Highlands Town Baseball field for a great time! For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit www.cbchighlands.com.

• 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

• Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. This is an outdoor event. Bring a blanket and come hear the birds sing as the sun rises! These are both ecumenical events — ALL are welcome!

• 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.

• On Easter Sunday, at 10:45 am at Community

Bible Church, we will share in the "Convincing Proofs" of the resurrection power of Christ in a careful look at the evidence of Christ at work in our lives and in the world following His resurrection from the dead. For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit www.cbchighlands.com.

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.

Register now to ride in the Tour de Cashiers set for May 1 at the Village Green at the Crossroads in Cashiers

All three rides depart the Village Green at the Cashiers Crossroads at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 1

Registration Desks Open at 7:30 a.m. and riders should be assembled at 8:45 a.m.

Holding the Tour on a Saturday, and a few weeks later in the season, were popular with our 2009 riders, so we are keeping that schedule.

Early Spring in the mountains is a time of cool mornings, warm afternoons, wild flowers and flowering shrubs, and dramatic differences in leafing at different elevations – which riders will experience along their courses.

Summer residents begin returning, and the stores and restaurants are reopened. But the pace (and traffic) are at a lower level than in mid-Summer.

In short, an ideal time for a solid, supported bike ride in the mountains, and for any non-riding family members to come visit also.

There are three courses: ¼ Century,

Metric and Century. The easiest is the ¼ Century and the most difficult is the Century. Call for details.

This year, there are a limited number of top-quality **Tour de Cashiers** jerseys available through the website. A TdeC t-shirt will be given to all riders who register by the early registration cut-off date of April 17.

Please remember mountain roads have lots of curves and steep descents. Keep speeds under control and stay alert – curves can be blind or tighten up unexpectedly, and gravel and other debris often collects in curves. The rides are not races, and the only prize

offered for getting down a hill is the pleasure of getting there without road rash, a broken collar bone or a busted bike. Be cautious and have fun.

For more information or to register for one of the three rides, visit the website at www.tourdecashiers.com, call (828) 743-9924 or email: tour@cashiers.com





First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2010

Sunday, March 28, 2010
10:55 a.m.
Passion Palm Sunday
luncheon to follow service
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman

<p><u>Thursday, April 1, 2010</u> 5:00 p.m. <i>Maundy Thursday Service</i> A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ's life. The service will conclude in Holy Communion.</p>	<p><u>Friday, April 2, 2010</u> 12:00 noon <i>Stations of the Cross</i> Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church</p>
<p><u>Sunday, April 4, 2010</u> 6:45 a.m. <i>Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service</i> Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Service held at the Highlands' Biological Center Amphitheater.</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. <i>Easter Sunday Communion Service</i> Sermon by Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman</p>

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School

Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit www.fpchighlands.org



471 Main Street
PO Box 548
Highlands, NC 28741



Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor Rev. Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Counting your chickens



Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA

“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.....” (Luke 13: 34b)

How many of you have ever had dealings with a mother hen? I'm not talking about the ladies of the church, but the real thing! Chickens in general are not the brightest of God's creatures, but they have very strong survival instincts, especially where their offspring are concerned. Even before they are born, the hen tends her nest, protecting it from predators. Ask any farm raised-kid and they will tell you about the terrors of being pecked by a hen when trying to extract an egg from the nest!

After the chicks, or peeps, are born, the mother guards them zealously, teaching them to scratch in the chicken yard. At the first sign of danger, she calls to them and they dash under the protection of her out-stretched wings. Lest you think that a mere little hen is capable of protecting her brood, just try and take one of the chicks from an irate hen! Despite this, domestic chickens are vulnerable to a variety of predators, particularly at night when they roost. Foxes, dogs, raccoons, cats, and birds of prey can catch a sleepy hen unawares. Most farmers have chicken wire over top of the chicken yard as well as on the sides, to keep out the critters.

What a wonderful and unexpected image is the hen gathering her chicks! It is very maternal—a characteristic we do not usually associate with God or even Jesus, as gentle as he often is.

A farmer was burning brush one day, and let the fire get out of control. The wind shifted and the fire advanced toward the farmer's out buildings, including his henhouse. Racing the flames, he managed to open the gate to the poultry yard and shoo most of his chickens and ducks to safety before the fire reached the henhouse. With the help of his neighbors who had seen the smoke and came running, the farmer was able to save all his buildings except the henhouse.

As he poked through the ruined structure, he heard a peeping sound. Carefully during over some blackened boards, a tragic sight met his eyes.

One of his hens, unable to escape in time was caught in the fire. She was singed and blackened—quite dead. Still, the farmer heard peeping. Gently, he lifted up the body of hen and there, underneath the protection of her singed and outstretched wings were her chicks—all of them, alive and well. So strong was her love for her babies, that she resisted her own natural instincts for self-preservation and sacrificed herself to save them.

In Luke's gospel, the 13th chapter, the firestorm is coming, yet Jesus, knowing what is to come, turns to Jerusalem to face the trials ahead. He is coming to Jerusalem, the city who stones and kills prophets, to “gather us up,” to save us from the fox (the devil) and the fires of hell. I believe that the reason some people can't accept Jesus is because they can't imagine a love like this. They can't imagine anyone

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 14

• 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
Palm Sunday, March 28 Service at 10:45am
Good Friday "A Walk to the Cross," April 2 at 7pm
Saturday, April 4 at 12pm: EggFest at Highlands
Town Baseball Field

Easter Sunday Service, April 4 at 10:45 am (kids
grades k-5: special Easter Eggstravaganza)

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

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FEET •

Navigating the new real estate environment

Part 2 – Understanding the Short Sale

• This is the second article in Highlands' Newspaper's newest column "Investing at 4,118 Feet" for which area Realtors will write. Following deVillie Schiffl'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. Conditions do apply.



Susie deVillie Schiffl
Harry Norman,
Realtors

As the number of distressed properties increases, more sellers are turning to short sales as a way to avoid foreclosure. What exactly is a short sale? According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), a short sale is "a situation in which the seller (1) owes more money on the loan than the sale of the property will likely produce on the market and (2) is unable or unwilling to bring money to the closing. The seller may or may not be in pre-foreclosure."

Therefore, in a short sale, the seller arranges with their mortgage lender to accept a price that is less than the amount they owe on the property. As a result, the seller avoids going through a foreclosure, and the lender avoids taking on the burden of selling the property.

Short sales are considered preferable to foreclosures because short sales lessen the impact a foreclosure can have on the surrounding community; further, short sales will not damage the distressed owner's credit as much as a foreclosure. (Please note: News reports last week disclosed that some homeowners who have signed up for the government's mortgage assistance program are being surprised with lower credit scores. While the impact on one's credit is far less severe than a foreclosure, homeowners should be made aware of any consequences to their credit scores if they seek government assistance. If you are considering such assistance, make sure you are knowledgeable about all the pros and cons of doing so.)

If a short sale has been determined to be a distressed homeowner's best option, the real estate professional must thoroughly qualify the homeowner. In the qualifying process, the real estate agent establishes if the owner is a short-sale candidate by ex-

ploring the following criteria:

- Whether or not the homeowner has a valid hardship
- Whether or not there is sufficient time to accomplish a short sale
- That the homeowner will contract or has already contracted with appropriate finance, tax, and legal professionals
- The amount that is owed on the property
- Whether or not the homeowner has liens in addition to the mortgage; for example, tax liens

- The condition of the property
- That the homeowner will be cooperative in completing the short-sale documentation and in maintaining the property for showings

It is important to note how lenders define what constitutes a valid hardship (an event or events that change a homeowner's ability to keep current in mortgage payments). For example, lenders may consider short sales for homeowners who have experienced any of the following: job loss, business failure, illness and medical costs, divorce or death of a spouse, and/or natural disasters. From the bank's perspective, loss of equity is *not* considered a hardship.

Once a seller has been qualified, setting the right price becomes of paramount importance. Real estate agents should counsel sellers to set the price at the low end of fair market value. The goal is to attract the interest of buyers, as well as obtain a price that the bank will accept. And while there is not a standard formula for what the bank will accept on a short sale, NAR reports "Freddie Mac has stated that their target sales price on a short sale is 88% of the broker price opinion."

If you believe you are heading toward a short sale, please note the following: short sales require substantial documentation and responsibility for preparing the documentation is largely the seller's. It is imperative that sellers list with real estate agents who are deeply knowledgeable about short sale protocol. Further, it is essential that one seeks the expertise of qualified finance, tax, and legal professionals.

Next week, we'll look at the profile of the ideal buyer/investor for short sale prop-

• See INVESTING page 14

... LETTERS continued from page 2

community for a park - a village green in the middle of town - with native landscaping, picnic tables, and "lots of grass," folks said.

Now as the next decade begins and storm water drainage improvements on Pine and Fifth Streets are underway, we are hearing discussions about the possibility of an ice or roller skating rink on the park site.

Please do not let us forget the commitment and ignore the dream for a village green in Highlands. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the town we all need to honor.

Ginger Slaughter,
Highlands

Health care is a huge victory for American people

Dear Editor,

Today America wins, and the fear mongers, liars, and hypocrites don't. The Democratic health care initiative passed Congress this weekend. Whether you like it or not, it's one of the major pieces of legislation to come out of Congress in the last hundred years. It will change the way health care is delivered in America forever. Not a single Republican voted for it. Life would be so much smoother in if the Republican Party didn't come across as an angry mob. At the beginning of this process they made a strategic decision, republicans would make no deal with the administration. There would be no negotiations, no compromise, nothing. If they couldn't have it their way, then they

would try to make sure no one had anything.

This is a huge political victory, and it calls for some celebration. Roughly 30 million people will now have some form of health care who didn't have it before. Premiums should by logic, go down for those already covered. Insurance companies can't deny people based on pre-existing conditions or abandon patients in need. Those are huge victories.

Don Twardowski
Franklin

Fred's content and humor good

Dear Editor,

I just wanted you to know how much I enjoy Fred Wooldridge's columns in your newspaper every week. I love his sense of humor - he doesn't leave anyone out! I just pity the poor readers who have no sense of humor. Keep up the good work and thanks for the good laugh every week.

Hattie Holloway
Highlands



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.

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... INVESTING from pg 13

erties and discuss what you need to know if you are considering this kind of real estate purchase.

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

Explore. Participate.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN HILLIER

WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9-5.

Enter from ground-floor building rear.

HAPPENING NOW:

- Winter youth art classes (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays)
- Spring and artist-in-residence workshops (pre-register now!)
- Collective Spirits wine festival tickets on sale (May 21-22; collectivespirits.com)



Exhibitions, shop, studio classes, nature trail

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Fryar family gives Cashiers Historical Society Zachary Family Bible



On March 11, William and Mary Alice Fryar presented the Cashiers Historical Society with the 19th century Zachary Family Bible. The Bible belonged to one of Cashiers early pioneer families, that of Mordecai Zachary. From 1842 until 1852, Zachary constructed the Zachary-Tolbert House located on today's Highway 107S. Included in the Bible are family birth and death records as well as the Marriage Certificate recognizing the union of Zachary and his wife, Elvira Keener. Mr. Fryar is a direct descendant of Mordecai and Elvira. The Bible is an invaluable gift and will be a wonderful public resource for research into the early years of Cashiers Valley. Pictured: Jane Nardy accepting the Zachary Bible from Bill Fryar.

Heffington wins Bingo pot



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Literacy Council of Highlands to sponsor Bingo on March 18. Mary Heffington, a Literacy Council tutor for many years, was the winner of the \$150 Super Bingo game. She is shown with Rotary member and Bingo master Tay Bronaugh.

Pediatric trauma subject of continuing education course



Hospital employees at HCH attended a continuing educational course taught on "Trauma in the Pediatric Patient" Friday, March 5th. The Pediatric Trauma class is designed for healthcare workers to enhance their knowledge in assessment and management of the infant or child sustaining injuries from motor vehicles, falls, burns, airway obstructions and child abuse cases. "Although our pediatric population is small, healthcare professionals have to stay current and be prepared to handle all types of emergencies," said Karen Hendricks, RN and Education Director. Courses such as this are open to the community and will be posted on HCH's website www.hchospital.org. Other classes, currently available, include Battling Superbugs (MRSA, VRE, C DIFF), Managing Urinary Incontinence, Central Venous Catheters and Traumatic Brain Injuries. You may also contact the Education Department at (828) 526-1243 or 526-1247 for further information. Pictured: Karen Hendricks (left) and Erika Jones

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 12

willingly walking into an agonizing death in order to save someone else. That type of self-sacrifice is unimaginable to them because, as St Paul writes, (Phil. 3:19) "Their god is their belly; and their minds are set on earthly things."

During this time of Lent, we are invited to fall in step beside Jesus as he walks toward Jerusalem. This is our time to get to know him, to love him more and to experience the gravity, sorrow and joy of the Passion of the cross. Jesus is about to spread his wings and shield us from the fires of death and despair. He, like the hen, will sacrifice his own body to save us. With the joy of Christmas still fresh in our minds, we are turning our minds and hearts to getting close to the babe become man, the Word made flesh.

The fox will appear to win, but in the glory of the Resurrection, will find himself foiled. His prey has not only redeemed his children but has escaped death itself. The fox, the devil of death, will be chained and muzzled. He can still terrify and intimidate—illness, poverty, injury of body and mind, all these things he hurls at us. Yet, in the end he is just a chained dog, and we are safe in the arms of Jesus, sheltered under his wings.

Amen.

... **PLANNING BOARD** continued from page 1

the residential portion of the property creating an eyesore.

When Cooley investigated, he found their claims to be true and instructed Shearl to keep all commercial activity off that segment of the property and to move a storage building that had been erected within the right of way, as well.

Since the Zoning Board upheld Cooley's decision, Shearl appeared before the Planning Board to request the residential portion of the tract be rezoned commercial so he could continue his business as usual.

The Planning Board hears rezoning requests before they are sent to the Town Board with the Planning Board's recommendation. Before the Town Board decides, a public hearing is held so all parties, including neighbors, can weigh in on the decision.

Shearl's property is bordered on three sides by roads, which means the use of his lot is hampered by rights-of-way and setbacks. He contends that, coupled with the zoning

limitations his property has been rendered unusable.

There is a 40-ft. right-of-way from the two private roads – Brushy Face and Catawba Trail – as well as a 25-ft. setback from the right-of-way and a 10-ft. setback from property lines. That only leaves a small portion of the R1 part of his lot useable – less in fact than the required minimum residential lot size of 33,000 sq. ft.

Though Shearl says the town has made his property unusable, Cooley said the fact that he's using the property discounts that claim. "You can't use it as you want to, but you can use it," he said.

Cooley said the only way Shearl could continue using all the parcel commercially, would be to get the entire parcel rezoned to B3 and in conjunction request a variance to allow him to store material he has for sale behind opaque screening within the setback areas.

• See **PLANNING BOARD** on page 18

... **FALCON** continued from page 1

respond well to disturbance," says Kelly. When falcons are tending eggs or nestlings, the presence of people near the nest may cause the adult birds to spend time away from the nest, leaving eggs or nestlings exposed to the elements and delaying food deliveries. A young bird flushed off the nest will fall to its death. By adhering to the closure, climbers can help ensure that the birds will be able to finish nesting in a timely fashion. If they are disturbed, they will attempt to re-nest, which will delay opening of this cliff significantly, as was the case in 2009. "It's in everybody's best interest that the falcons nest undisturbed," said Kelly.

"It's hard to say why they moved to the other side of the cliff," said Kelly, "but we do know that a new female is on territory this year." The move could also be a response to

disturbance. The closure order was violated last year, and the nesting attempt failed for the first time in 11 years. Whiteside Mountain Trail is open for hiking. The cliff is so enormous that the birds do not respond to hikers up top. Visitors may catch a glimpse of the falcons from the trail as the falcons wheel around chasing vultures and hawks and swooping after prey.

For more information please reference the National Forests in North Carolina website at www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc or contact Crystal Powell, Nantahala Ranger District Recreation Staff, at 828-524-6441 X424 or email her at cpowell@fs.fed.us.

...**ATTORNEY** from pg 3

Davis said due to the terms of her contract, the county had to honor the amount she was paid and what was in her severance package.

Current Chair Beale said thanks to Moxley's cooperation, in the long run using a part-time attorney instead of a full-time attorney will save substantial money in the legal department of the county – which was the reason for terminating Moxley's contract in the first place, he said.

However, Horton said it will be some time before the county realizes the savings.

Jones' services will likely be used for about 40 hours a month rather than 40 hours a week which will cost the county substantially less than maintaining a full time legal department.

Jones has worked as an attorney for Clay and Swain counties and has worked 20 years as a lawyer in Franklin.

– **Kim Lewicki**

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from March 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

During the week, police officers responded to 4 alarms and issued 10 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 18:

March 18

• At 1:23 a.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cherokee Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Shelby Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital..

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LEGAL**NOTICE****CALL OF SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING
OF MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC**

A special information meeting of the Town of Highlands, a North Carolina public body, is hereby called to be held on the 7th day of April, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center, for the transaction of business of said town, located at 869 Poplar Street, Highlands, North Carolina. It is desired by the Highlands Town Commissioners that a loan be secured from Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, in order to obtain sufficient funds for the construction of the Old Highlands ABC Store renovation for the relocation of the Highlands Police Department. All, or substantially all, of the assets and property of the project acquired as part of this project may be encumbered by the loan agreement.

Mayor David Wilkes
Town Manager, Jim Fatland
3/25, 4/1

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SATURDAY, MARCH 27 at the Rec Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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FRESSERS EATERY now taking applications for experienced waitstaff and line cooks. Call Debbie at 526-8847. (St. 3/18)

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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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PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. NC license required. Primarily orthopedic caseload in an outpatient clinic. Experience preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

• See **CLASSIFIEDS** on page 16

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

• At 9:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a large amount of smoke in the Clear Creek area. It was due to a controlled burn in Oconee County.

• At 12:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Spring Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.

March 21

• At 3:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hicks Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

March 22

• At 7:13 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Club House Trail that was set off by burning food.

March 23

• At 10:21 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Falls Court that was set off by workers.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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3/25

... CALENDAR continued from page 1

conducted on Saturdays, national holidays have been used and the school year has been extended a day to June 11 due to snow on March 3.

Monday night the school board deliberated over yet another make-up day knowing that parents were already upset about losing Memorial Day.

After much talk, the board agreed to move the required Teacher Workday following the third grading period to Saturday, March 27 instead of Friday, March 26 and to make Friday a make-up day for students so they and their families don't have to give up Memorial Day as originally planned. School will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on Friday.

The calendar out of Raleigh also affects Macon County Schools' ability to align classes and down time with Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University whose courses enable students to dual enroll while still in high school. College offerings also give students in smaller schools, like Highlands and Nantahala course offerings not available at their schools.

Pat Davis, Macon County Schools testing coordinator, has devised a "dummy" calendar which would basically reinstate the school calendar used in the past. The school start date for the 2010-2011 school year would be August 9 and the last day would be May 23.

"This would enable us to complete a se-

mester by Christmas while still adhering to mandated requirements and we could align our needs with SCC and Western," she said.

The dummy calendar would also mean more make-up day potential without going into June, she said.

Superintendent Brigman said if state representatives back the plan it could go into affect for the 2010-2011 school year.

Davis said there is talk in Raleigh about starting school a week earlier than last year, but said that still means the fall semester would end after Christmas break which keeps Macon County Schools from aligning schedules with SCC and WCU.

In other school board news, Brigman and the board thanked the Highlands com-

munity and others for making the Highlands School soccer field a reality.

He also announced that the school's Booster Club is footing the cost of a 10-ft. by 14-ft. concession stand for the soccer field which will be built by Mr. Cashion's vocational class. Certified contractors will take care of the plumbing and electrical work.

Also announced was the county's allocation of \$12,000 to construct drainage under the school's baseball field so teams can play this season. Over the summer the field will be sodded.

The project will be paid for with contingency funds left over from the Highlands School construction projects this year.

- Kim Lewicki

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• HS SOCCER NEWS •

Lady Highlanders drop two

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders dropped a pair of tough road games this week against Pickens County, SC and Franklin.

Last Thursday, the Lady Highlanders traveled to Pickens, SC to face the Lady Flame for the first time. The Lady Highlanders came out very strong, dominating the first 30 minutes of play and taking a 1-0 lead on a goal from Sayne Fera. Despite leading 1-0, the Lady Highlanders failed to capitalize on a couple of scoring chances early, and it came back to haunt them. Leading 1-0, the ladies from Highlands made a crucial mistake on a throw and Pickens capitalized, scoring in the 38th minute to tie the match at 1-1 at the half.

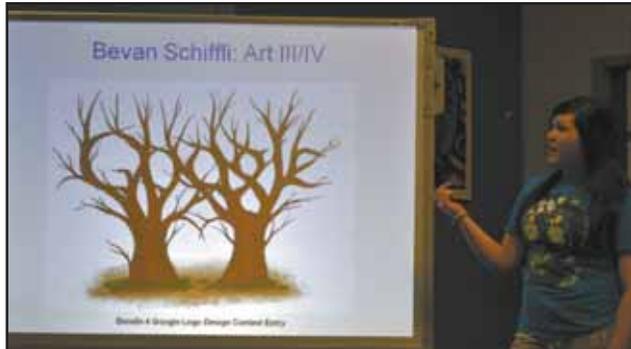
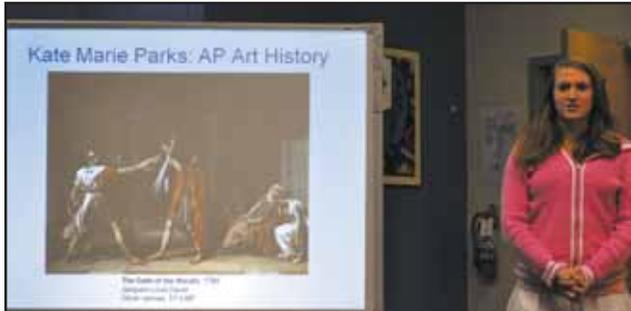
The second half saw a reverse of the first, as the Lady Flame dominated the ball against a weary Highlands team and pushed 4 goals through for a 5-1 victory that was much more heavily contested than the final score would indicate. Friday, the Lady Highlanders visited Franklin for a match

with the Lady Panthers. Despite missing four starters due to injury's and college visits, the Lady Highlanders played inspired ball.

In the first half, Franklin dominated time of possession, but the Lady Highlanders again had three good scoring chances that they could not capitalize on. Franklin, as usual, made the Lady Highlanders pay, by scoring two goals late in the first half to lead 2-0.

The second half was similar to the first in that Franklin again possessed the ball for the majority of the time, but the Lady Highlander defense held, keeping the final margin at 2-0.

The Lady Highlanders will travel to Cherokee today to face the Lady Braves, and Tuesday will mark the opening of the brand new Highlands soccer field at Highlands School. Please come out next Tuesday to support your Lady Highlanders and check out the new field in the process.



At the Monday night school board meeting, the Highlands School art program was briefly highlighted. The students gave personal insights about their experiences in the art classes. Kate-Marie Parks talked about how important she thought the AP art history class is to her education even though she wants to be a doctor and shared the inspiring experience she had at the Louvre. Bevan Schiffli, who wants to pursue the arts as a career, showed some of her work and Clayton Creighton was enthusiastic about the pottery class taught at The Bascom every morning.



Town Engineer Lamar Nix with McCall and Brigman

At Monday's School Board meeting held in Highlands, Superintendent Dan Brigman and District I BOE representative Stephanie McCall recognized several members of the community as being instrumental in making the Highlands School soccer field a reality. Not everyone was present but recognized were: Terry Bell, Ryan Bryson, Mike Bryson, Lamar Nix, Jim Fatland, Brian Jetter, Brian McClellan, Ronnie Beale, Hank Ross, Jeff Weller and Principal Brian Jetter.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

... PLANNING BOARD continued from page 15

"As long as the material stored on the property is for sale is has to be screened and nothing can be in the right-of-way," he said.

Whether the property is rezoned or not Cooley said Shearl would have to make some changes as to how he uses his property.

Gerald and Tracey Hedden, who live adjacent to the R1 portion of Shearl's property, said rezoning the entire parcel B3 and screening still wouldn't satisfy them.

"No matter what he puts up, we'll still see it," said Gerald Hedden. "The screening would have to be at least 15-feet high and that wouldn't even work because we have a room upstairs where we could still see it."

They say they bought their property April 1997 and understood that the R1 portion of Shearl's property was to act as a buffer between his commercial use and the residential activity on their property.

In 1997 they said there was a camper and firewood on Shearl's R1 portion and that was acceptable to them.

"As the years went by, more and more commercial stuff was put on the R1 portion and it has become an eyesore," said Hedden. "We believe that portion of his property was zoned R1 to protect adjacent residents from potential eyesores."

Shearl and Melvin produced real estate contracts, real estate listings and letters from town employees saying the property was zoned commercial which is why he bought the property in the first place, they said.

However, the plat and deed recorded at the Macon County courthouse show the property split-zoned and that's what is binding, say town officials.

Shearl said the plat and deed on record at the courthouse were entered one minute prior to his recording of ownership and he didn't know about the plat until he was cited by Cooley in August of 2009.

He is also questioning the measurements the town used in 1983 and 1990 when the depth of commercial strip zones along corridors were decreased – and lots split-zoned commercial/residential.

Some accounts show the line delineating commercial from residential 230 ft from the center of NC 28; some show 200 ft. and still others show 130 ft.

Realtor Judy Michaud presented a letter from a resident down the road from Shearl's property on Catawba Trail in

which she said she didn't want Shearl's property rezoned claiming what's going on there now is an "eyesore."

In addition, Michaud, who represents properties on Brushy Face, said residents there believe Shearl's commercial activities have had an adverse affect on their property values.

She also said that regardless of other paperwork submitted, "only the deed and recorded plat matter and the recorded plat clearly shows the property split-zoned R1 and B3."

"Contracts don't matter and listings don't matter because those things aren't guaranteed. Only the deed matters," she said.

Planning Board Chairman Griffin Bell said the planning board is not a "let's help people board." "We are supposed to look at zoning as it applies to our whole plan."

However, member Ricky Bryson said he felt it's the board's job to consider when zoning has gone awry, "like this," he said.

Member Linda Clark said the board was asked to rezone and it's not its job to fix mistakes from the past.

"If it's residential, it should stay residential. What he has there now he couldn't do anyway without a total rezone and the granting of a variance which he hasn't even asked for," she said.

On those grounds, Clark made a motion to deny the rezoning request.

Her motion would have died for lack of a second until Bell seconded the motion.

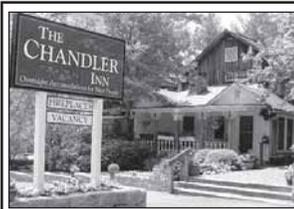
At that point member Pat Taylor voted "yes." Member Thomas Craig voted "no" and Bryson abstained which counted as a "yes" making the final vote 4-1 to deny re-zoning.

Mike Bryson was absent. Member John Underwood left the meeting early, despite urgings from Chairman Bell and other board members to stay so he could vote. Underwood often leaves before the Planning Board meetings are over due to weekly Cub Scout obligations.

The issue will be heard at the May 5 Town Board meeting when it will be decided following a public hearing on the issue.

Shearl said if the Town Board denies his request to rezone, he will take the town to court.

– Kim Lewicki



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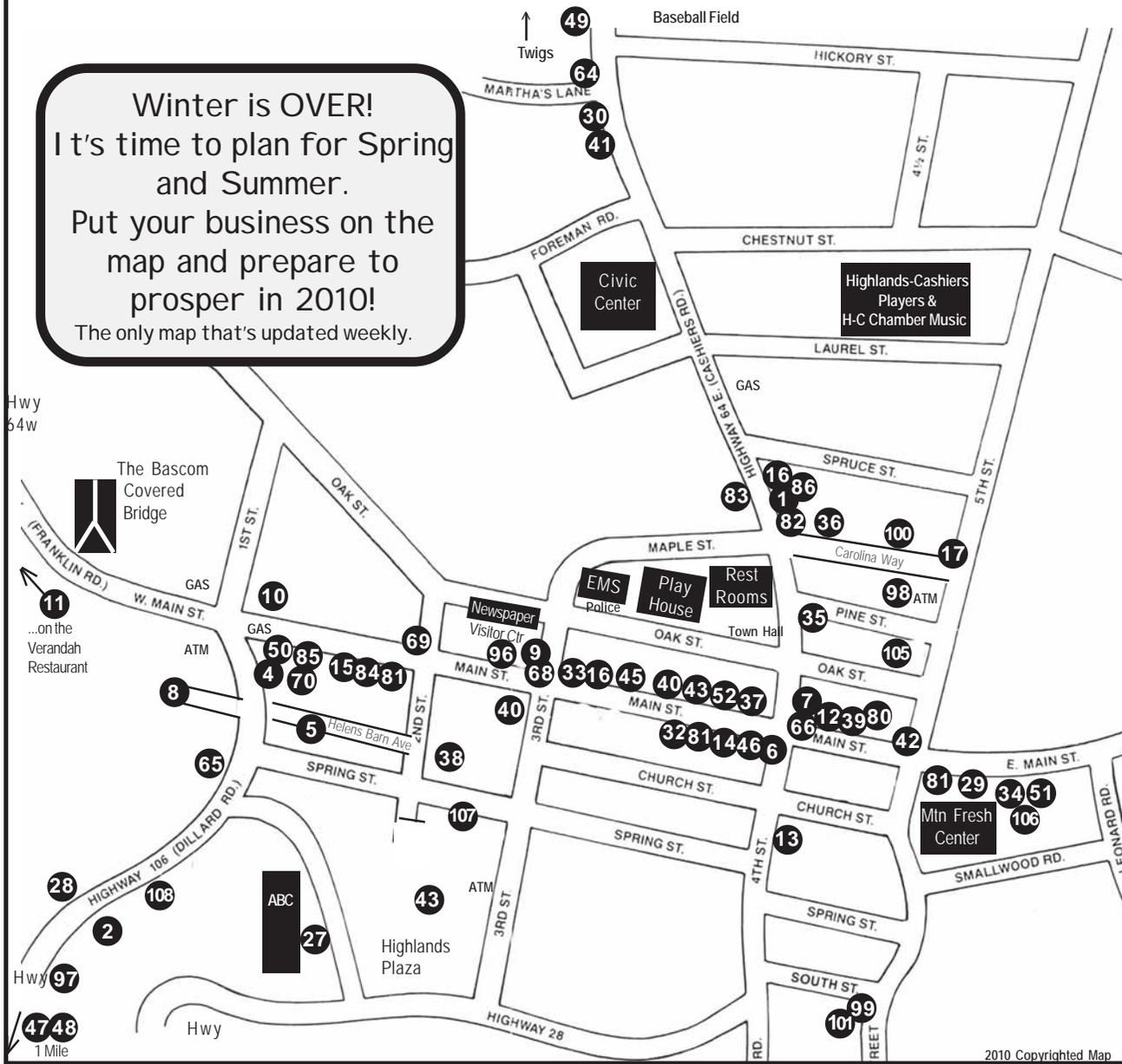


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2	Cyprus	18		33	Bear Mountain	49	Twigs	65	Hampton Inn	81	CCP	97	Larry Rogers
3		19		34	Bird Barn	50	Wholesale Down	66	Highlands Inn	82	Harry Norman	98	Macon Bank
4	Flipside	20		35	C.K. Swan	51	Wine&Cheese	67		83	Meadows Mtn.	99	Northland Cable
5	Fresser's	21		36	Custom House	52		68	Main St. Inn	84	Preferred Prop.	100	Wayah Insurance
6	Highlands Hill Deli	22		37	Cyrano's	53		69		85	Prestige Realty	101	
7	Kelsey Place	23		38	Drakes Diamonds	54		70	Prestige/Rentals	86	Signature Prop.	102	
8	Log Cabin	24		39	Dry Sink	55		71		87		103	
9	Main St. Inn	25		40	Reeves Hdware	56		72		88		104	
10	Nick's	26		41		57		73		89		105	All Seasons Salon
11	on the Verandah	27	MARKETS	42	Hen House	58		74		90		106	CreativeConcepts
12	Paoletti's	28	Brysons	43		59		75		91		107	Images Unlimited
13	Pescado's	29	Dusty's	44	Highlands Photo	60		76		92		108	Taylor Barnes
14	Pizza Place	30	Mtn. Fresh	45	Kilwins	61		77		93		109	
15	Ruka's Table	31	Whole Life	46		62		78		94			
16	SweetTreats			47		63		79		95			

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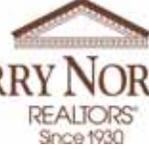
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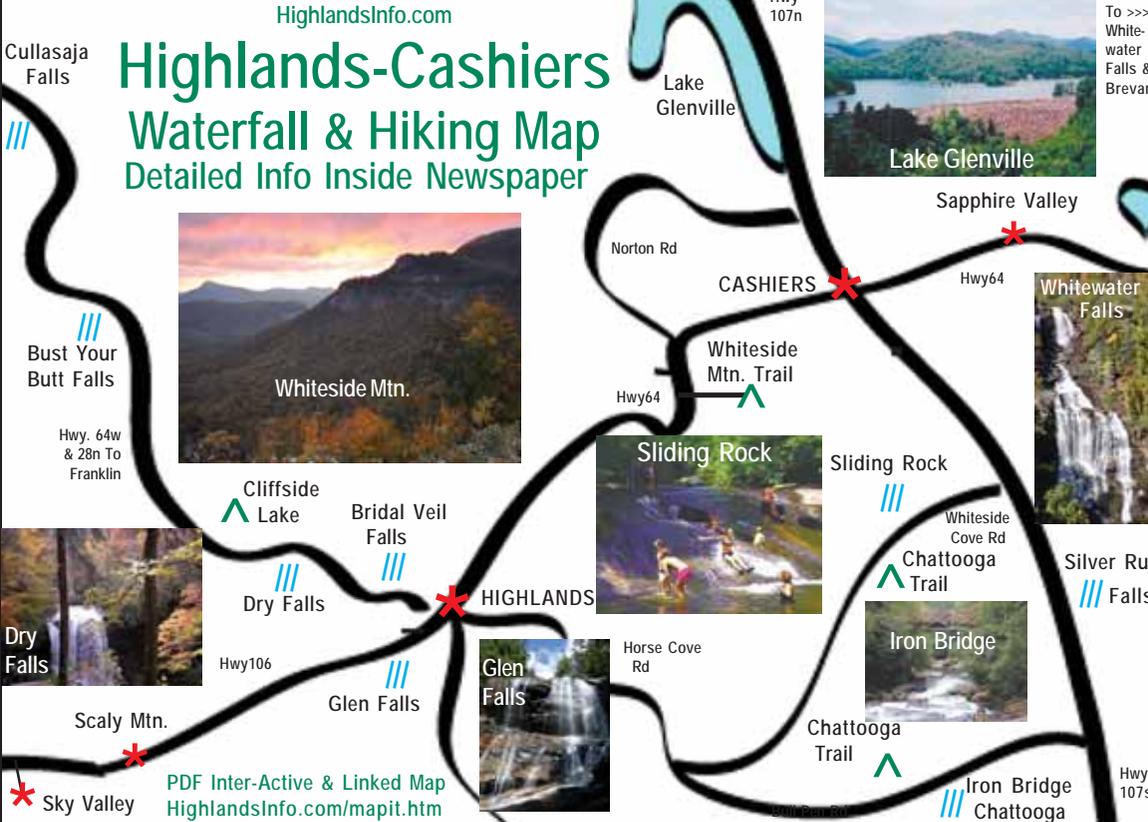
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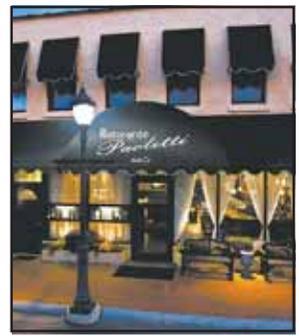
HighlandsInfo.com

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.

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



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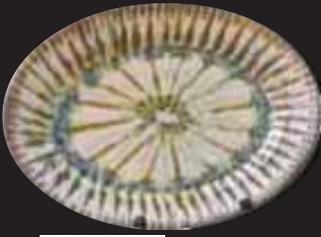
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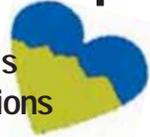
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