

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 10

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Thursday, March 4, 2010

FRI ☀️ 39 \ 20F	SAT ☀️ 43 \ 23F	SUN ☁️ 49 \ 29F
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This Week in Highlands

Every Thursday

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

Through March 12

- Highlands School Book Fair in the Media Center 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. The Book Fair will also be open from 5-6 pm before the PTO meeting on Thursday, March 4.

Thursday, March 4

- Highlands School Fifth Grade Fundraiser Dinner at 5 p.m. and the PTO meeting is at 6 p.m.

- The 2010 Highlands Democratic Precinct meeting will be held at the Rec Park on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. All Highlands Democrats are welcome and refreshments provided. Contact Lee Hodges for more info at 526-3363.

Fri.-Sun., March 5-7

- Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform The Dixie Swim Club at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Saturday, March 6

- Due to school closings on Tuesday, March 2 there will be a make-up day Saturday, March 6. School will be dismissed at 11:30 on that day.

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

Sunday, March 7

- WCU Faculty Showcase free concert at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

Tuesday, March 9

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

- Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University, is at 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Call:526-5841.

Ice skating big topic at TB meeting

Discussion of a privately owned ice-skating rink at Pine Street Park has spurred discussion within the Recreation Committee about a semipermanent public rink at the Rec Park, instead.

The Winter Activities Group presented the proposal for the privately owned rink at Pine Street Park at the March 3 Town Board meet-

ing and was hoping for the "go-ahead" or at least a resolution OK-ing the idea so the group could aggressively seek a business to take on the project.

However, Mayor David Wilkes said before any decision can be made, the board has to decide if it can or wants to provide free land, power and water to a private entre-

preneur on town property or "does the town want to do this itself. It's a public versus private issue," he said.

The Recreation Committee has recommended that if the Town Board OKs a rink on town property, wherever it is, the town should own and operate the facility and

• See ICE SKATING page 2

Incident at Highlands School being investigated

Allegations surfaced last week concerning inappropriate behavior between two middle school boys that allegedly occurred in a bathroom at Highlands School on Feb. 23, 2010.

Given the nature of the incident and the age of the students involved, authorities could say little.

"As you know, I can not divulge many facts based upon legal restraints," said Highlands School principal Brian Jetter. "First, I have heard from some parents and teachers about the rumors. The purported "facts" within those rumors that were relayed to me have not been substantiated by our investigation into them."

Jetter said one student made an allegation against another student, who made an allegation in response. Neither allegation has been substantiated by us, he said.

The case was reported to the Macon County School Superintendent's office and to the Highlands Police Department.

"To my knowledge, the police have not substantiated the allegations or the rumors since we turned our investigation over to them," said Jetter. "That investigation continues."

• See INCIDENT page 3

Dressed for fun on Pine Street



Snow showers the morning of March 2 made for winter fun all over town. Joey, Colby and Grace Ann Harris played in the culverts on Pine Street after posing with this oversized snowman.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

May 4 primary ballot full

It looks like May's upcoming primary will be an interesting one!

As of noon Friday, Feb. 26, almost every race on the ticket has two or more contenders which means a primary election for everyone except Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds.

The two-party primary is on May 4, 2010.

Democrat and Republican candidates for Districts 1, District 2, the Sheriff's office and State Representative for District 50 will run-off at that time.

• See BALLOT page 17

Tucci-Casselli jailed for rape of child

The sordid case came to light following Phase Two of the Macon County Sheriff Department's Operation Safe Streets campaign on March 7, 2008, when tips were gleaned from the community with the promise of anonymity. It was put to rest in Macon County Superior Court last week.

During the March 7 Operation Safe Streets campaign, Sheriff Robert Holland said his office received a child sexual-assault call. Upon responding, Nicholas Edward Tucci-Casselli, 28, of 1416 Lake Emory Road in Franklin, was taken into custody and charged with first-degree rape of a child and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Authorities said Tucci-Casselli and his girlfriend lived together at the Lake Emory home and were responsible for babysitting two children, one of which was the preschool, female victim.

Last week after almost two years, Tucci-Casselli was convicted of 1 count of First Degree Rape of a Child and 1 count of Indecent Liberties With a Child.

"The judge consolidated the two counts for judgment and sentenced him to a minimum of 300 and a maximum of 369 months in prison (25-30 years)," said Brian Welch, attorney for the Sheriff's Department.

• See RAPE page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• THANKS •

Scott Family appreciative

The family of Jim Scott would like to thank everyone for their gifts of food, flowers, cards and prayers. The outpouring of love and kindness shown to us during this difficult time was more than we could ever ask for. We consider ourselves very blessed to live in a community such as Highlands, where everyone cares and looks out for each other. We are so grateful! Thank you!

— Karin, Terry, Leesa, Chuck, Mike, Brenda, Lance and Pam

Hawkins Family appreciative

The family of Lois Hawkins wishes to thank each and every one who expressed sympathies and condolences in the loss of our Mother, Grandmother, Sister and Aunt. Whether you said a prayer, sent a card, gave a kind word, sent beautiful flowers, nourishing food or silently felt our sadness during our time of loss, we wish to express our deepest appreciation.

Although her passing is a sad milestone for us, she lived a long, full life and we are grateful for having her with us for so

many years. A mere thank you is sometimes not enough to our dear friends and neighbors who have helped us heal and touched our hearts during this very difficult time. With Heartfelt Thanks,

— Bill & Sabrina Hawkins and Children and the Brothers and sisters of Lois Hawkins

• NOTICES •

Money jars for Baty

The Roy Lee Baty family is asking the community to help them get to and from Franklin for radiation and chemo treatments. They have put jars for gas money out at The Farmers Market, the ABC Store, Stop n' Shop, D&J Citgo, Main Street Pharmacy and Highlands Hill Deli.

• CORRECTION •

In the last week's article entitled "Planning Board finalizes two ordinances" we reported that Ricky Bryson and Mike Bryson voted against the Stormwater ordinance with a vote of 5-2. We were wrong. The vote was 6 to 1. Only Mike Bryson voted against the ordinance. We regret our error and are happy to set the record straight.

... ICE SKATING continued from page 1

funds used to develop it should come from private donations, contributions and grants.

The Winter Activities Group proposes a rink powered by a large, chiller-like, air-conditioning system, which requires 240, 3-phase electrical power with the rink encompassed by a low wall and possibly covered by an open-air pavilion. In addition, it is asking the town to enter into a three-year agreement with a private business to operate the ice rink November through March and it wants the town to install and pay for the power source for the chiller, provide the water and absorb the cost of utilities.

The group says such an activity at Pine Street Park will entice visitors to Highlands and thereby enhance business during the slower months.

"These visitors would spend an hour or two skating then visit the local businesses for food, drink and shopping," said group representatives. "This speaks to the history of Highlands and will generate activity in the park centered around Main Street and would be a huge marketing tool for the town."

The group believes the owner of the rink could charge \$10 per hour per person to recoup his or her investment estimated to be \$120,000-\$240,000 over three years.

Because of its size and scope, the construction of the ice skating rink would determine the future design and landscaping of Pine Street Park, some of which would be dedicated to the 50' x 70' rink.

Macon County gave \$100,000 toward the purchase of the park property and stipulated uses -- particularly no commercial enterprise on site. The fact that a private enterprise would be setting up business for five months on town property has the Town Board concerned.

Town Manager Jim Fatland, as well as every board member, said it's clear ice-skating is a good idea, but the Recreation Committee has concerns about letting a private entrepreneur use public property paid for by the taxpayers of Highlands.

"In essence the residents and businesses of the Town of Highlands would be paying the utilities for the rink proposed by the Winter Activities Group," said Fatland.

But since the idea of an ice rink is a good one, Fatland has been in contact with Ice Rink Engineering Manufacturing about installing its EZ 350 synthetic rink on the set of tennis courts closest to the Rec Park building which would result in a 5,000 sq. ft. ice rink.

Adding this component to the Rec Park would give citizens something new to do year-round -- since the product can be used summer or winter.

The synthetic rink needs a flat, firm, level surface -- like a tennis court -- and there's no refrigeration needed, no power bill and no hassle because it requires very little maintenance.

The EZ Glide 350™ is used for traveling theatrical skating shows as well as private or commercial hockey and figure skating practice rinks and training facilities all over the country.

Fatland said though people will prefer to skate on Harris Lake when it freezes and

will do so, the ice rink at the Rec Park could be used all year.

Incorporating the rink at the Rec Park would also coincide with the Highlands Rec Park Master Plan which pinpoints a need to expand well-used programs and provide additional program opportunities at the facility.

King Young, a member of the ad hoc Pine Street Park fundraising committee, said there are several things wrong about an ice-rink at Pine Street Park.

"Our memorandum with the county, which gave a lot of money for the park, requires that the space be used for a park and the same goes for the Land Trust which is in fact holding back money until it knows the exact plans for the park," he said. "The ice rink is a good idea but we have a Rec Park for that."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said though the park isn't the Land Trust's, people gave money for the park because they thought it would be a "land trust type of project," she said.

Fatland said it's likely the Winter Activities Group will consider the Rec Park too far away from Main Street but "that's a misconception," he said.

Mayor Wilkes said everyone wants to see something happen, but the board has to discuss the public vs. private implications and also look at other venues.

The board asked the Winter Activities Group to return to the March 17 meeting to continue the discussion.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to award \$35,000 in scholarships this year and to keep the disbursement plan as it has always been -- though that wasn't an unanimous vote. Commissioner Buz Dotson voted nay.

"We are requiring the committee to make societal judgement calls," said Dotson. "Judgements on rigor of curriculum, the college chosen, and those issues shouldn't matter. I am extremely proud that Highlands has a scholarship, but there are valedictorians and salutatorians who have gone no where. Then there are kids who we thought would go no where and have gone "somewhere" but who got less. So who is more deserving?"

Mayor Wilkes stood by his initial opinion on the subject. "We award those students who have demonstrated a special effort and have attained certain goals but we are also willing to give money to anyone who graduates Highlands School and is going on to college. We don't deprive anyone."

So the Scholarship Committee will continue as it has in the past, allotting the three highest scholarships -- The Jack Taylor, The Jack Brockway and the Edith Joel Memorial Scholarship to the Valedictorian, Salutatorian and the senior with a special gift or interest in music, respectively. The rest of the money will be dispersed based on grades, SATs, the major, rigor of curriculum, financial need and character, citizenship extra-curricular activities and community involvement.

— Kim Lewicki

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor– Tom Merchant

Cartoonist – Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

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Highlands JV Basketball team wins tournament



Photo by Stephanie McCall

Last week the Highlands School JV Basketball team won the tournament at Blue Ridge School. Pictured from left are: Felipe Ruiz, Chase Flowers, Cody St. Germain, Isaac Beavers, Bryon Neumann, Spencer Ferlita, Parker Sims, Tim Fogle and Tayler Osteen.

• MILESTONE •

Reed excelling at UNC-Greensboro

Highlands School graduate Class of 2006, Jackie Reed, continues to excel at UNC-Greensboro.

The university's chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma has recognized her for her outstanding achievement by inviting her to become a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honor society for collegiate schools of business.

Membership is very selective and is restricted to outstanding scholars in institutions accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Only one-third of all institutions offering degrees in business management in the U.S. have met these standards.

Reed was also inducted into the Golden Chain, an organization that recognizes students who have made significant and meaningful contributions to the university community. The seven links of the chain symbolize the qualities which have been a prerequisite for election into membership: leadership, scholarship, service, tolerance, judgment, magnanimity and character. Students must also be a junior or senior and have a 3.25 grade point average.

Only 22 students were selected for the Fall 2009 Golden Chain induction.

Reed was also named to the Chancellor's List for the Fall semester.

... INCIDENT continued from page 1

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

That plan involves consistent and constant adult supervision and separation of the students who made the allegations against each other, said Jetter.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said he can reveal little in the case. "At this moment we do have an active investigation involving an incident that was alleged to have

occurred at the school on February 23rd, but because of the nature and sensitivity of the case no other details are available at this time."

Superintendent Dan Brigman echoed the others.

"The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. This is a confidential matter involving two children and appropriate actions have been taken to address this incident, including the involvement of local law enforcement."

... RAPE continued from page 1

Testimony from the victim, now seven years old, and evidence in the case – two hard drives and other computer-related equipment -- lead to the conviction. One hard drive was retrieved from Mirror Lake in Highlands shortly after Tucci-Casselli's arrest in 2008 but was too damaged to be of any use; the other, found elsewhere, was wiped clean.

"The victim, who testified, was a brave little girl," said Sheriff Holland. "She did a fantastic job."

Matthew Johnston, previously of Hicks Road in Highlands, was involved in the case. He cooperated at the beginning of the investigation regarding the first hard drive which he threw in Mirror Lake for Tucci-Casselli and which was later recovered with his assistance by the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dive team and the Highlands Police Department.

"He then moved to California and did not maintain contact with Investigator Judie Lau," said Welch. "The DA's Office authorized two warrants for Johnston and he was arrested in California and extradited back to North Carolina."

Last week in court, Johnston testified with his attorney present and stated he un-

derstood the charges would be dismissed if he testified truthfully.

In addition, Ronald Swofford, who met Tucci-Casselli while in jail for other crimes, was held on a Material Witness Order, after being released from the Department of Corrections.

He testified that he had a conversation with Tucci-Casselli in jail before his probation was activated last year and so was able to provide information regarding the second hard drive that was also recovered. He had no charges pending and was released pursuant to the order after testifying, said Welch.

According to Clerk of Court Victor Perry, one count of First Degree Rape of a Child was dismissed by the court.

Johnston testified against Tucci-Casselli and so charges against Johnston were dismissed.

Ronald Swofford was due to be released from the Department of Corrections on Feb. 22, 2010 but pursuant to a motion by the State, he was ordered held by the judge as a material witness until the case was closed. Upon his testimony last week, he was released from custody.

– Kim Lewicki

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

Tommy and Madison (Part 3)

This gritty, gripping police drama will be presented in three parts. While the story is true, names and some locations are changed. Some readers may find this material offensive. Part one & two can be read "on line" or by visiting the Highlands Newspaper office at 265 Oak Street.

“Well, looka here what we got; some kinda uppity nigga' you are! Gold chains, fine clothes and look at those shoes. Musta cost you two bills. And here you are, sittin' right here in my bar, on my stool and gettin' funky on my street with my ho's while I been wearin' hospital clothes for four months because of you, you *##\$!”

Rico turned slowly on his stool. Wearing a big smile, he extended his hand in friendship and spoke to Tommy for the first time since selling him the heroin that almost killed him. “Hey Tomm my main

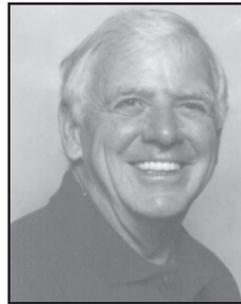
man how you doin,' bro? Let me buy you a drink. Jimmy, get my friend, Tommy, whatever he wants. Here, let me give you your old seat. I been keepin' it warm for you.”

Not getting a hand shake, Rico lowered his arm and slid from the bar stool, moving his cigarettes, sunglasses and drink down to the next position. Then he bowed toward Tommy and offered him his chair.

“I ain't drinking with you, Rico. I came here to tell you I'm goin' kill you, you scumbag.”

Rico slid from his barstool, ready for what might happen next.

Tommy smiled at Rico before speaking, “Not here not now, but yo' butt is



Fred Wooldridge

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email:
askfredanything@aol.com

mine, Rico.”

“Hey, I told you that scag was hot. I don't believe you didn't cut it. I told you to cut it. Remember when I said you better cut this stuff, ya hear?”

Tommy took a step forward, violating Rico's body space. “You tried to kill me. You never told me to cut that bag. You planned to take over my street and my ho's. Now I'm back and you're a dead man ... I'm talkin' to a dead man.”

Rico stood speechless, waiting for Tommy to make his move. Tommy backed slowly out of the bar and quickly disappeared into a nearby alley. He knew Rico would not tolerate the threats and abuse he had just taken. Rico would be looking to kill him first. War had been declared

Madison picked up the Washington children for a Saturday afternoon outing at “The Falls,” the most beautiful mall in the South Miami area. Madison loved to parade through the stores, four, small, coal black children hanging on her calling her “Miss Maddy.” She would politely smile at the looks of bewilderment.

The youngest of Darlene's children, Latonia, had just turned four and loved Madison almost as much as her own mother. She referred to Madison as her “other mamma” and demanded the most attention and affection.

During their outing at the mall, the children were each allowed to pick out an article of clothing, followed by an early afternoon snack at the food court. Afterward, Madison would treat them to a movie, complete with candy, followed by a quick stop in the theater's rest room to clean chocolate from the children's hands, face and clothing.

On that same hot summer day, Tommy Lee Williams completed his plan to kill Rico. Earlier that morning, Tommy stole a car and stashed it in a closed parking lot near Miami Stadium. Later in the day, Tommy picked up the car and mentally went over his plan.

The 12-gauge, double-barreled, sawed-off shotgun sat in the front seat of Tommy's stolen car. He sat quietly, fondling his instrument of death, loading and unloading the two cartridges. Tommy knew Rico would gather with friends, meet with his prostitutes and sell dope at the beginning of each evening around six in front of Albertson's Grocery on Northwest 2nd Ave. and 62nd Street.

Tommy's plan was simple. Driving his car to the curb in front of the grocery and, with windows down, he would lean to his right, never taking the car out of gear, raise the shotgun and fire both barrels at Rico. He knew the buckshot would spread rapidly after leaving the extra short barrels so aiming the weapon would not be necessary at such close range. Tommy went over his plan in his head again and again. *Nobody, I mean, nobody tries to kill Tommy Lee Williams and gets away with it*, he thought.

Madison and her entourage of happy little faces exited the theater and slowly walked through the mall, discussing the movie. Walking toward her car, Madison pulled a small grocery list and a 20 dollar bill from her purse, given to her earlier by Darlene. “We're going to stop at Albertson's on the way home and pick up a few groceries for your momma,” Madison announced.

“Are we buying candy at the grocery?” Tonya asked as she piled into the back seat of the Mercedes.

“You've eaten enough candy for a month, little girl. I'll already be in trouble with your momma.”

Looking through dark tinted car windows, Tommy drove by the grocery just to make sure Rico was there. As the stolen white Oldsmobile Cutlass turned the corner of 2nd Avenue, Tommy spotted Rico wearing his bright colored jacket, standing in front of Albertson's Grocery. Rico was already busy talking with two of his customers, sipping from a small flask.

As Tommy slowly rolled by, Rico didn't notice the car or its occupant. Tommy's heart pounded as he circled the block. Hitting the button on the door panel, the right front window slowly lowered, flooding the inside of the car with muggy Miami heat. As Tommy turned the corner onto 2nd Avenue for the second time, he lifted the shotgun from its resting place and cradled the barrels on the right door arm rest. Tommy's heart was racing and his breathing was rapid. Hate had drowned his reason. He was driven to kill Rico.

Tommy's car pulled into the loading zone in front of Albertson's Grocery just as Madison and Darlene's four small children exited through the grocery's automatic doors, each child carrying a bag of groceries. As they walked onto the sidewalk, one of the children spilled groceries from his bag and everyone stopped to assist in picking up the spilled food.

Tommy wanted Rico to look into his eyes before he died. His last memory would be of Tommy smiling at him and then blowing him straight to hell. Rico had his

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 12

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

**Keeping the essence of
The Olympics in sight**

I shouldn't write this column. No good can come from it. There is nothing to gain except the scorn of my readers. In a community in which hearts bleed easily, my opinion will seem hard and insensitive.

Anyone who has closely followed the Vancouver Olympics is aware of the story of Canadian cross country skier, Brian McKeever. Brian suffers

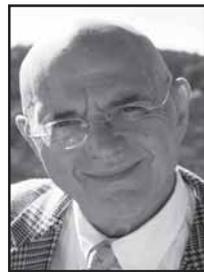
from a genetic condition, Stargardt's disease, which results in macular degeneration, or progressive loss of central vision, and has only 10% of his sight remaining. He is legally blind, but has refused to be limited by his disability. So much for the clinical side of the story.

Brian was a promising junior skier when his vision began to fail at age 19. His brother, Robin, who skied for the Canadian Olympic team in Nagano in 1998, trained with and guided Brian. When Brian won a 50 kilometer qualifying race against sighted competitors last December, he qualified for the Canadian Olympic team. He won a trip to Vancouver, but not a promise to compete. Brian had hoped to ski in Sunday's 50 kilometer event, a dream shared by many, but by achieved by few.

The fact that Brian is legally blind added spice to the story. The fact that he is fifth fastest on a Canadian team that can enter only four racers adds another dimension to the story.

The Canadian coach, Inge Braten, named his strongest team to race for Canada, leaving Brian on the side line. Many have decried the decision, citing it as an example of the "win at any cost" mentality that dominates sports at all levels.

I don't see it that way. I hope my vision is not clouded by the gift of sight. Brian, who has won four gold medals in the past two Paralympics, chose to compete against not only impaired athletes, but against able bodied, as well. He didn't ask for a head start. Rules did not permit him to be guided by his brother. He compensated by memorizing 50 kilometer courses and following other skiers who he could see only as a blur. I'm a sighted guy who can't find his way to downtown Asheville without a Garmin, so I recognize and applaud the enormity of the accomplishment. Brian McKeever is an inspiration to any capable of being inspired. He has achieved great success despite his handicap. He nearly reached his



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dream, which is much more than most of us do. I don't weep because Brian came up a little short, although I would have wept in joy had he made it all the way.

I choose to believe that the Canadian coach did not select his starters because of a thirst for medals, although medals are the measure of individual and national success in these games. I believe

that he recognized that the dreams of the faster skiers were just as valid as Brian's, their effort and their sacrifices to reach their dreams just as real.

It would have been a terrific story if one of the starters had relinquished his spot for Brian, but none has come forward. Christ might have, or Brian's brother, Robin, if he were in a position to do so. Imagine being in sight of a dream, a vision you've worked your entire life to reach, and giving it up for another. Imagine a coach having to wrest that dream from an athlete who had focused his life on the Olympic starting line.

Brian McKeever is sad, his Olympic dream dashed, at least for 2010. He came close. His dream was within his reach, if not within his sight. I hope he'll continue training, and I hope he'll return in 2014 to claim a spot on the Canadian team. But I'm glad the Canadian coach didn't abandon the essence of sports to provide Al Michaels with a feel good story.

Brian competed against the best sighted skiers in Canada and came up just a little short. He refused to be limited by his disability, refused to be identified as a blind skier. Don't we taint his effort if we now give him special treatment? Isn't his will, his determination, his effort, and his success enough of an inspiration, enough of a story?

... SWANSON
continued from page 8

disobedience event", Congress is about to pass a bill that will cost you \$600 billion to pay for a cap-and-trade program that Gore has been engineering for decades. It proves the point that, in America, you can accomplish anything through persistence (and deception). Also, if you repeat a lie often enough, to many people, it becomes the truth.

• HIGHLANDS YEAR-ROUND FINE DINING •

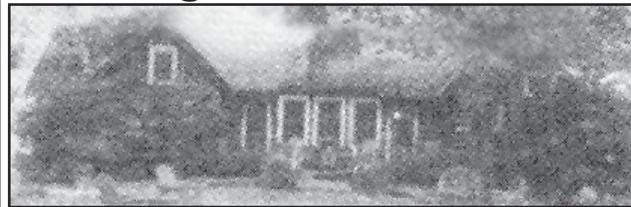


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from the history guy ...

March 4, 1797

In the first ever peaceful transfer of power between elected leaders in modern times, John Adams is sworn in as President of the United States, succeeding George Washington.

It was something of an innovation, hadn't happened in any voting nation, the State had a new head, and not one single drop of blood was shed.

No one was so very frustrated that the old guy needed to be decapitated, the previous leader just stepped down as soon as the new guy came around, and that's how we've done it ever since, tho some may kvetch, moan, whine and wince.

Now, nearly every campaign cycle is quite fractious, at least at the polling station no one attacks us

By John Armor

I was at breakfast on Sunday morning at the Sheraton National, in Arlington, Virginia. I was attending a conference elsewhere, but could only find space in Virginia. Also at my hotel were the members of the Iwo Jima Association.

That Association was for survivors of that battle, and for the families of those who did not survive. At the table next to me were two, older gentleman. The younger man was in his 60s. He mentioned at one point where his father was buried at Arlington Cemetery, just a few blocks away. Then the older man, somewhere in his 90's said a simple statement that will follow me to the end of my days.

"I was in the first wave," he said in a soft voice with little hint of any emotion. As he continued, he described how they were taking fire from enemy who were hidden in holes at all points of the

compass.

I have seen many war movies. The first one to come to grips with the reality — which I got from books, and from talking to people who were there — was "Saving Private Ryan." That movie showed what this elderly man, sitting a few feet away, experienced, 65 years ago this month.

And I sat back and began to think. Has there ever been a time in my life, any time for any reason, that I have been in the first wave? Is there anything I value in my life enough to put my life on the line for its (or their) preservation?

I've never fought in a war. I have deliberately risked my life just once, in a tragi-comic dust-em-up with the local Mafia in Baltimore. But on the other hand, there is one subject, one goal, that has occupied the center of my life since I was teenager. It is the Constitution of the United States.



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

After 45 years of working with that document I am now certain that the essence of the Constitution is under attack. It is being attacked by people who are ignorant (mostly) or malicious (some) and if they have their way the Constitution will die in our generation.

The actual document will survive, to be sure, in its argon-filled cases at National

Archives. But the political, legal and economic results of the document will be lost. It will become only an interesting talisman to be referred to, like the carved heads on the Easter Islands.

Wars fought with ideas have no clear beginning, no clear end. There are major battles in which the ground shifts. Though the nature and the outcomes of those battles may not be known until generations later. Most of the participants may be dead and gone before the results are known.

So be it.

I have fought long and hard in state and federal courts, up to the US Supreme Court. I've written, I've taught, I've spent hours, weeks and months talking with citizens, candidates, and strangers on buses, about the danger to the Constitution.

It has cost me a huge amount of money, since constitutional lawyers do not get paid at anything approaching the pay scales of lawyers who specialize in the legal problems of the well-to-do. It has cost me much of my personal time, since fighting for the Constitution does not end at the close of business, nor does it take time off for weekends and federal holidays.

The said thing is that the worst of the enemies are those who ought to know better. Judges, especially federal judges, most particularly Justices of the Supreme Court, are grossly incompetent if they do not understand that the Constitution is a multifaceted limitation on the powers of the federal government. Judges who do not understand that are unfit to put on a robe and step onto a bench at any level.

The other category of the enemies who ought to know better, are elected office-holders. Everyone in public office takes an oath (or makes an affirmation) to respect and protect the Constitution of the United States. Anyone who hasn't read it, or acts like he hasn't read it, does not belong in any public office at any level.

I hope live long enough to see this war

• HIS & HERS •

'I was in the first wave'

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• See HIS & HERS page 7

• COACH'S CORNER •

Honor Roll

Here we are at the beginning of March, which means (apparently more snow...but I digress) that it is time to start handing out some year-end college basketball awards.

1st Team All American

G – John Wall, Kentucky. Say what you want about him, but he's an NBA starter right now and likely the most gifted athlete in the nation.

G – Evan Turner, Ohio St. Literally broke his back carrying the Buckeyes this year, then returned and continued to dominate.

G – Jon Scheyer, Duke. Looks like a guy at the YMCA, yet gets 20 points and 6 assists a game.

F – Luke Harangody, Notre Dame. Leads the Big East in scoring and was dominant until his recent injury.

F – Wesley Johnson, Syracuse. The Big 12 transfer has given the Orange a huge interior presence this season.

Honorable Mention

G – James Anderson, Oklahoma State. You could really replace any of the three guards above with Anderson and get no argument from me. Outstanding scorer and leader for the Cowboys

C – Cole Aldrich, Kansas. The big fella has been a beast in the middle for the Jayhawks this year

1st Team All-ACC

G – Greivis Vasquez, Maryland. He or Scheyer will be player of the year in the ACC depending upon who won last night's matchup in Comcast. Regardless, Vasquez has been an all around threat for the Terps, and his 41 point effort in Double OT against Virginia Tech is the performance of the year thus far.

G – Malcolm Delaney, Virginia Tech. Delaney is a one man offensive show, and has the ability to take over any game with his scoring and shooting ability.

G – Jon Scheyer, Duke.

F – Trevor Booker, Clemson. It seems like he has been a Tiger for years now, but Booker's senior campaign has been his best yet. He has been a steadying influence for a Clemson team that has thus far avoided their traditional late season swoon.

F – Al-Farouq Aminu, Wake Forest. Aminu is the leading rebounder in the ACC and is top ten in scoring.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

2nd Team All-ACC

G – Ish Smith, Wake Forest. Second in the conference in assists and indefensible in a full court game.

G – Sylvan Landesberg, Virginia. Was in the conversation for Player of the Year in the early part of the season but Virginia's fall in the standings and an injury have downgraded him a bit.

F – Kyle Singler, Duke. Part of Duke's big three, Singler is 4th in scoring and despite slumping at times has been the number one option for Duke this year.

F – Tracy Smith, NC State. Smith has been a great player for a bad team in NC State, is almost a guaranteed double double.

F – Gani Lawal, Georgia Tech. His numbers have dropped slightly with the addition of Derrick Favors, but Lawal is still one of the conferences top big men.

... HIS & HERS
continued from page 6

won. But if I don't, I hope someone can justly say of me on the occasion of my Irish wake, that "I was in the first wave for the Constitution."

And in time, I hope they begin again teaching in civics class, this statement by Thomas Jefferson, "Put not your faith in man, but bind him down with the chains of the Constitution." And mind you, that does not mean that the Constitution never changes. It changes through the Amendment Article, which George Washington called "the authentic act of the whole people." A majority of the House and Senate, a majority of the Supreme Court, plus the President, do not amount to "the authentic act of the whole people."

I do not compare what I have done to the sacrifices of that man, and his companion's father, 65 years ago. I do say that it is healthy for all of us to have causes larger and outside of ourselves. And if we are fortunate, we may be found in the forefront of those worthwhile intellectual and moral battles.

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

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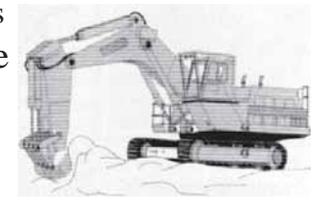
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NOTICE

An account has been set up at First Citizens Bank for Dan and Sabrina Rogers. In December, their 3-year-old son was diagnosed with ALL. Currently, he is in critical condition in the pediatric unit at Chapel Hill. They have five children living at home. If you would like to make a donation to the family, go to First Citizens Bank. For more information, call Rhonda Oakley at 526-1435.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The Odyssey of the odd couple

Well, here I sit, staring at a blank computer screen, it's Sunday night and I have waking hours numbered in single digits before my deadline. I had actually started a few days ago, and I made some clever remarks dealing with Fred's reversion to his preoccupation with animal sex (it's currently camels), and mystically, it disappeared. Have no idea where it went. I guess I wasn't supposed to bring up such a sordid subject, so I won't.



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

It is not hard to understand how and why he prospered under the Clinton Administration since he was Al Gore's front man. I can't make a direct connection between Hansen and Gore prior to 1992, but Gore's stint in the Senate before being chosen as VP certainly gave him plenty of exposure to Hansen's crusade to cleanse the world of greenhouse gases, particularly those caused by coal burning plants.

There are enough sordid subjects flying around and frankly, I'm sick of the whole thing. I am learning about a lot of television channels I knew nothing about, because sometime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., every day, our president appears on the news channels to drop another bomb on the taxpayers. I can't bear to watch him, or listen to his voice, so I seek solace elsewhere.

His anti-coal fetish has since blossomed into full-fledged global warming hysteria and he makes no bones about it, where in lies the rub. While heading an important federal government organization, Hansen has made many public statements clearly going way beyond current science. I admit I don't know how these things work, but how he survived the Bush Administration is a mystery to me. He often made outrageous claims directly at odds with Bush's policy and was publicly shushed on many occasions, yet he survived.

Obviously, the financial channels are no help, so I find myself watching the weather channel much of the time. Thank goodness there is some interesting weather going on.

I Googled in "James Hansen fraud" and found 139,000 entries. I scanned the first few and found this gem. From the Investors Business Daily, "NASA bureaucrat, who has been making a pretty penny by helping Al Gore Prop up the global warming hoax, is a veteran of the global cooling hoax popular in the 1970.

Speaking of weather, another delicious bit of irony, or justice, if you prefer, appears to be shaping up. The weather channel tells me that Washington DC is going to receive a foot of snow in the current storm that should reach it's peak during the day tomorrow (Monday). As fate would have it, Dr. James Hansen, wacko ecoterrorist friend of Al Gore, is organizing a civilly disobedient event for tomorrow to protest global warming. 90 or so organizations are sending people to surround the Capitol Power Plant in Washington to "peacefully disrupt operations". Good luck with that.

A 1971 Washington Post scare piece entitled 'U.S. Scientist Sees New Ice Age Coming' fretted that burning fossil fuels discharges particles in the atmosphere that reflect the sun's rays back into space. Emissions over 5-10 years supposedly 'could be sufficient to trigger an ice age.'

Hansen is a strange case. In my opinion, I believe he is living proof that the world has totally unraveled. He has headed the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies since 1981. To shallow thinking folks like myself, one would assume this guy would be beyond reproach. Curiously, he and his global warming fanaticism have been assailed for years yet he continues to hold what sounds to me like a seriously prestigious position.

The research behind this hysteria was supported by a 'computer program developed by Dr. James Hansen, the same guy who now refers to those who won't drink the global warming Kool-Aid as "court jesters."

According to Wikipedia, "Hansen is best known for his research in the field of climatology, his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980's that helped raise broad awareness of global warming, and his advocacy of action to limit the impacts of climate change." So this fellow has been at it

Early in Hansen's career, he centered his concentration on the atmosphere of Venus. While many have thought that Gore was transported from Mars to Earth on some interplanetary vehicle, perhaps his association with Hansen may have originated in another place. I never understood the Mars/Venus thing so I defer to the columnist who is the authority on such matters, however, it may explain how two public figures can collaborate to deceive the world on such a significant issue.

for nearly three decades at a very high level and has a certain level of credibility.

While Hansen organizes his "civil

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Mondays at 5 p.m.

Rotary Bingo postponed to 3/18

Expand a child's world through Literacy Bingo on Thursday, March 18 in the Highlands Community Building from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Literacy Council have partnered to offer Literacy Bingo as the first Rotary Bingo of the year.

Our format is the same: \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with the last game a full card Bingo and a Cash surprise! Half the money paid to play Bingo becomes prizes and the other half goes to Literacy. All donations and table ads given to Literacy Bingo go to Literacy.

Literacy Bingo is family entertainment – play one card or half a dozen and get ready for an evening of fun and a lot of laughs. Refreshments are free and will be served by young people in Literacy programs.

Literacy classes and tutoring are held in the Peggy Crosby Center and serve children, students and adults through donations by people whose interest is helping others learn to read; read better; tutoring for students and families looking for literacy competence.

The Literacy Bingo theme is simple: Expand a Child's World through Literacy.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is li-

Ongoing

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

Sundays

- Afterschool 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 Tre-vathan 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)

• See EVENTS page 10

WCU Faculty Showcase at First Presbyterian March 7



The music committee of First Presbyterian Church and the music department of Western Carolina University will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 7. Featured will be Eldred Spell, flute, Judith Gilbert, flute, and Andrew Adams, piano. The free concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Tuesdays

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

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

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

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at

the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

(828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location 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 12

• Highlands School will have a Scholastic Book Fair beginning Thursday, March 4 in the Media Center and is a major fundraiser for the library. The hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. The Book Fair will also be open from 5-6 pm before the PTO meeting on Thursday, March 4.

Thursday, March 4

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church (69 Lotla Street) 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Carolyn Deal at 828-258-3888 ext. 405.

• The 2010 Democratic Precinct meeting will be held at the Rec Park on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. All Highlands Democrats are welcome and refreshments provided. Contact Lee Hodges for more info at 526-3363.

• "Star Trek" is the story of a young crew's maiden voyage on the most advanced starship ever created: the U. S. S. Enterprise. This is the beginning of the long partnership of James Kirk and Spock. On a journey filled with action, comedy and cosmic peril, the crew must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all mankind. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

Fri.-Sun., March 5-7

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

Friday, March 5

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 7-9 p.m. Bill Restall from Burnsville, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream/plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org.

Saturday, March 6

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

Beginning Mid-March

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

Sunday, March 7

• The music committee of First Presbyterian

HCP's 'Dixie Swim Club' pulls at the heart-strings



The cast, Betsy Miller Lee Lyons, Carla Gates, Mary Adair Leslie and Jenny King,

By Peggy Fuller

First time director Rick Siegel has come up with a winner with HCP's current production, The Dixie Swim Club. Set in the Outer Banks, the play follows the lives of five women over a 30-year period of time. Beautifully cast with veteran actresses Jenny King, Carla Gates, Lee Lyons, Mary Adair Leslie, and newcomer Betsy Miller, the play is a joy.

One of the reasons this play is so effective is that the theme, long time friendships, resonates with many. During the opening night reception, one woman remarked, "This play is just like us. We were cheerleaders rather than swimmers, but we get together for a long weekend every year, too. I could really identify."

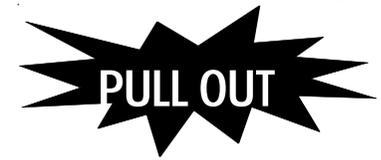
The well drawn characters and the witty dialogue are other factors of success.

Although they vary from one another, each character is distinctive and sympathetic. The audience learns to care about these women, their lives and families.

"The cast was so good," one audience member was overheard to say, "that I became emotionally involved with each character. I laughed and cried with them as they aged and dealt with life's events." Another told a cast member, "Watching this play was just like eating a Hershey bar, it was so good I didn't want it to end." Ah, comfort food. Is there a better way to spend a Highlands winter evening or a Sunday afternoon?

This is the last weekend of the play, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30pm and Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm. Call the box office for tickets, 828-526-8084.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Church and the music department of Western Carolina University will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Featured will be Eldred Spell, flute, Judith Gilbert, flute, and Andrew Adams, piano. The free concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

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

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike to Rock Gap and Wallace Gap in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader: Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

Monday, March 8

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

Tuesday, March 9

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

- The Jackson County GOP will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. for a General Meeting at Ryans in Sylva. Among the items of business to be discussed are the County Convention now scheduled for March 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Barker Creek Community Center, plans for the group's Red, White and Blue Gala fundraiser to be held in the Spring at the Balsam Mountain Inn and a review of all of the candidates registered for the upcoming elections All Jackson County Republicans, registered voters and residents are welcome to attend. For additional information call Dodie Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828 586-9895 or Ralph Slaughter Vice Chair at 828 743-6491.

- Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University, The WCU Series: The State of the Local Economy will be the first in a series of three monthly programs addressing economic development and related issues in our area. The first program, "The Impact of Charlanta on Western North Carolina," is at 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Charlanta is an economic trade unit that encompasses an area from Atlanta to Charlotte to Raleigh to Knoxville to Birmingham. WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo will discuss the economic impact of WNC's location in the midst of the rapidly growing mega-region. For more information about these programs or Leadership Highlands, contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-5841.

Thursday, March 11

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host Senator John Snow. Senator Snow will talk about issues coming up in the the next legislative session and answer questions on issues important to the citizens of Macon County. The program will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch will be available at noon by reservation — call 524-5192 or email lwwmacon@wild-do-mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

- The March meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday. Meetings will be cancelled in the event that Blue Ridge School classes are cancelled.

Friday, March 12

- Angel Medical Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street) 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Carolyn Deal at 828-258-3888 ext. 405.

Saturday, March 13

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike to Round Mountain on an old Forest Service road for a view of South Carolina from the top. The elevation change is 800-900 feet due to the several ups and downs along the way in and out. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10 a.m. Drive 12 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; binoculars if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Carl Blozan at 743-1765 for reservations. This hike will be limited to 15 people because of lack of parking space at the trail head. No pets please.

Tuesday, March 16

- At Hiart, Poems of Emily Dickerson. Coordinator: Bill West. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 18

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

- "Time Traveler's Wife" is a romantic drama about a Chicago librarian who suffers from a rare genetic disorder that sends him hurtling through time whenever he is under extreme stress. When his future wife meets him in the library, they both know he is a time traveler, but she knows much more about him as he has not been to the places they have met before. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

Friday, March 19

- The Jackson County GOP Convention will be held at the Barkers Creek Community Center on **Friday at 6:30 p.m.** Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish to share. All Jackson County GOP business is on the agenda including the election of delegates to the District and State Conventions. Announced Republican candidates for the May 4th primary and November general election have been invited and most are expected to attend. The Barkers Creek Community Center is located at Mile Marker 79 on Highway 74 heading west toward Cherokee. For additional information and reservations call Jackson County GOP Headquarters at 828-586-9895 or Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491 or go to the web site www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Sunday, March 21

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

Tuesday, March 23

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

Saturday, March 27

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

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

Thursday, April 1

- 2010 Census forms arrive in the mail. 10 questions. Fill it out. It matters.

Saturday, April 3

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-5 mile moderate hike on the Coweeta Hydrological Lab upper trail, an old logging trail through the pines, ending up at Shope Creek with a secluded waterfall nearby. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, April 6

- Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University, The WCU Series: The State of the Local Economy will be the first in a series of three monthly programs addressing economic development and related issues in our area. The first program, "The Impact of Charlanta on Western North Carolina," is at 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Charlanta is an economic trade unit that encompasses an area from Atlanta to Charlotte to Raleigh to Knoxville to Birmingham. WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo will discuss the economic impact of WNC's location in the midst of the rapidly growing mega-region. For more information about these programs or Leadership Highlands, contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce via e-mail at 828-526-5841.

Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

Is that my garden under all that snow?

Last weekend was the first time I have seen my garden without its snow blanket in nearly a month. It seems we have had more than our fair share of snow this season. The good news is that snow is an excellent insulator that protects plants from cold air temperatures. The bad news is that heavy wet snow tends to break branches and disfigure evergreen shrubs and trees. As always, you have to take the good with the bad.

Many consecutive years of mild winters have allowed gardeners to experiment with plants better suited to warmer climates. This winter will put these less hardy plants to the test. This winter may have separated out the true zone 6 plants from the zone 7 plants that have crept into our gardens. If you did not dig your dahlia tubers last fall, you may have seen the last of them. This spring may be a good opportunity to introduce new selections of this popular tender perennial. Plants that abhor wet soil may have also taken a beating this winter. Waterlogged soils and heavy wet snow are not well tolerated by common perennials such as lamb's ear and Dianthus.

As the temperature begins to warm and spring slowly envelops us, keep an eye out for stems with dieback. Carefully cut back the stems to green healthy tissue. Evergreens disfigured by heavy snow can often be reshaped or tied back into position using string or electrical tape. Even broken or damaged branches can heal surprisingly well when gently restored to their original shape and secured. Look for perennials that may have fallen victim to frost heaving. As the soil freezes and thaws plants can be ejected from the ground exposing their roots to cold air. Gently tamp the soil and re-firm the ground to return the plants to their rightful place.

My garden is always a place of mystery for me. This spring the mystery may be which plants survived this long, cold winter. It is a good thing the Mountain Garden Club will have plenty of plants for sale in May.

– Emily Compost



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom Cost is \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tuesday, May 4

• Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University, The WCU Series: The State of the Local Economy will be the first in a series of three monthly programs addressing economic de-

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

back to Tommy as he pulled in close and raised the shotgun. Leaning to his right, he rested the weapon on the open window. Tommy yelled at Rico, "you got any scag for me today, nigga?"

As Rico turned toward the shiny Oldsmobile, he saw the twin barrels of the shotgun pointed toward him. Behind those barrels was Tommy's smiling face. Shock and panic struck Rico like lightning and he dropped his flask, putting both hands in front of him in a hopeless last ditch effort of self defense. Rico screamed, "No, Man!"

Tommy pulled both triggers simultaneously but nothing happened. Panic raced through Tommy's body. In the excitement, Tommy had forgotten the shotgun's safety mechanism would automatically set itself when he loaded the weapon. In the seconds it took Tommy to realize his mistake and move the safety switch with his thumb, Rico had regained part of his senses and began to run toward the exit door of the grocery. Tommy knew he would never get another opportunity like this. Rico had to die. Again, Tommy pulled both triggers simultaneously and this time the weapon fired, releasing 18, molten hot, nine millimeter slugs in the direction of the grocery exit doors.

Rico died instantly as two of the 18 slugs entered his body at the temple and neck.

Four slugs penetrated Latonia's grocery bag, tearing through two cans of baked beans before coming to rest at the base of her spine and aorta, instantly snuffing out her young life.

Two slugs entered Darlene's 12-year-old son just above the right knee, sending him spinning to the ground.

Only one slug struck Madison. The large round lead ball entered her mouth, shredding her upper lip, snapping off both of her upper front teeth as it passed into the roof of her mouth, finally lodging in the upper back portion of her brain. Madison dropped her bag of groceries and stood motionless, staring but no longer seeing. Then, unable to close her eyes, she died on her feet and fell to the street, facing Latonia with open eyes as if she were watching without concern. Latonia would continue to twitch from involuntary muscle spasms until the first ambulance arrived, then, remain motionless for eternity.

Within hours after the shooting, the police had Tommy Lee Williams in custody, charged with one count of first degree murder and two counts of second degree murder. On March 3, 1977, after a short jury trial, Judge Fred Fay sentenced Tommy to death, directing that a charge of electricity, sufficient to take his life, be sent through his body until he was dead. On July 13, 1984, Tommy would be electrocuted.

Both of Madison's parents were offered witness passes to the execution. Only Madison's father attended. Outside the gates of Raiford State Penitentiary in Stark, Florida, the same group of protesters who always came for such events would picket and loudly protest Tommy's death.

Before placing the death mask over Tommy's face, the warden read the death warrant and asked Tommy if he had any last words. Tommy was covered with nervous sweat. Trying to gather his thoughts, he looked toward the witness panel but couldn't see them. Tommy spoke. "I never got no chance ... that's all I got to say. I never got no chance." The mask was placed on his head and the execution room was emptied.

Seconds before the end, Tommy muttered under his breath, "I never got no chance."

For the third time in Tommy's life, a surge of electricity passed through his body, this time taking his life instead of saving it. In an instant Tommy was dead.

The End

Writer's note: During my 10 years of working narcotics, four of which were undercover, I came to know Tommy Lee quite well. I first met him when I bought heroin from him in Liberty City. I arrested him several times and developed him as an informant. He used me to thin his competition and I used him to get dope off the street. There was a mutual hatred between us. He was always unreliable because he was a psychopathic liar and a policeman's nightmare. Also, he couldn't speak an entire sentence without including extreme foul language.

I never met Madison. The events of her life were learned after her death. The last I heard, Madison's parents were retired and still living in the Miami area and Darlene had left the state.

velopment and related issues in our area. The first program, "The Impact of Charlanta on Western North Carolina," is at 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Charlanta is an economic trade unit that encompasses an area from Atlanta to Charlotte to Raleigh to Knoxville to Birmingham. WCU Chancellor John W. Bardo will discuss the economic impact of WNC's location in the midst of the rapidly growing mega-region. For more information about these programs or Leadership Highlands, contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce via e-mail at 828-526-5841.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23

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

Fri. & Sat., May 14-15

• Barbara Zaretsky will teach a fiber art workshop, "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$175 Bascom members, \$195 non-members. Registration is go-

ing on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs.-Sun., May 20-22

• Elder G. Jones will teach a sculpture workshop, "Wet Carved Concrete - Planters for the Garden," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$295 Bascom members, \$320 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs.-Sat., May 20-22

• Marc Chatov will teach an oil painting workshop, "Facial Features Workshop," at The Bascom for non-beginner to advanced students. Cost is \$450 Bascom members, \$475 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tues.-Fri., May 25-28

• Karen Weihs will teach an oil painting workshop, "Still Life: Out of the Garden," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$400 Bascom members, \$425 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tues.-Fri., May 25-28

• Joe Frank McKee will teach a ceramics workshop, "Advanced Throwing Techniques," at The Bascom for non-beginner to advanced students. Cost is \$375 Bascom members, \$400 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

'Photographic Works by Greg Newington' at The Bascom through March 7



"Photographic Works by Greg Newington," the first exhibition in the U.S. of works by the award-winning Australian photographer, continues at The Bascom through March 7. The exhibition is in the ground floor of The Bascom's main building Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Enter the building from the rear. For more information about the exhibition, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Custer's Last Stand: At least he took a stand



Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

Say what you will about General George Custer (and there is much to discuss), it is an undeniable fact that he stood, he took a stand, he made his life count for something he believed in. During the summer of 1876 at Little Bighorn, SD Custer took a stand for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, for country and honor, as he understood them and was commissioned to fight for them.

While we may debate the propriety of Custer's mission and or tactics, what is not up to debate is that he took a firm stand. He was willing to die for something he believed in. So was (is) God. In a cause more noble than any other — the cause of life and love — Jesus took his last stand for us. He laid down His life for us. The Author of life, the God who is Love took his stand as, "...he died for *all*, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15, NIV, emphasis added)

While the Lord of life took his stand at Calvary, rather than at Little Bighorn, his was far more momentous for us than Custer's. His sacrifice provided life for us — real, abiding and eternal life — and calls us *all* into the life promotion business. We're *all* called to protect and promote life. Not just the passing life of our mortal bodies but also and more importantly the true life that is available to *all*, life beyond human limitations, life eternal as the Father's children.

Jesus gloriously took his stand. Custer bravely took his. What about us? How about you? Do you promote and protect life? Do you really sacrifice on behalf of love for others, so as to "...love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18, NIV) All are called to do so. Are you willing to let personal convenience or preference die so that others might live?

It is a conundrum for most that some groups who purportedly support life while they commit violent acts that minimize and or kill life? Animal rights zealots, lifestyle rights activists, and abortionists, to name a few, claim that they stand squarely on the side of life. However, as actions speak louder than words, often times they violently and grossly protest, oppose and support only the small slices of life that measure up to their convenience and or preferences. That's not standing for life, it's a hypocritical stand against life, a demonstration on behalf of what the late Pope John Paul II called "the culture of death."

Since all life comes from and belongs to God, and furthermore, since he sacrificed his life that we may live — and in so doing called us all to sacrificially promote life — should we not all at least take an un-hypocritical stand for life? Custer did. Jesus did. We're all supposed to.

In a recent edition of The Highlands' Newspaper, pastor Gary Hewins of Community Bible Church referred to "the armor of God," and Ephesians 6:13-14. Earlier in that passage, beginning in verse 10, the apostle tells us the purpose of the armor. It is so that we might take a stand and that we might be found standing at the end of the battle. Let us all put on God's armor and take a real stand for life.

• 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, Buck's Coffee Cafe,
Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study and Supper - 6:00
p.m., members' homes
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First
Baptist Church, Highlands
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10:30 a.m.,
members; homes

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am;
Children's/Family Program; 10:45 Worship; 5 p.m.,
Middle and HS student ministries;
Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Children/
student/adult programs

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526--4153

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion &
Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7
HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth Group
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 – Adult choir
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office, 526-2418
Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• BUSINESS NEWS •

New physical therapist joins Cashiers Medical Clinic



A new Physical Therapist has joined the team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital taking the role of supervising therapist at the Cashiers Medical Clinic.

Amy Nader, PT, relocated to the Cashiers/Glenville area almost a year ago. Prior to that, she spent the last ten years in Orlando, FL working as a physical therapist. Since Monday, Feb 22, she has been working alongside Alan Frederick, PT and Director of Rehabilitation Services, evaluating and treating patients.

"This is very welcome news for the hospital and the communities it serves," said Frederick. "I think we have all recognized the importance of having a full-time PT in our Cashiers Clinic. We all have worked very hard over the years to provide residents of the Cashiers area convenience to our services, and we are very pleased to gain someone of Nader's skills and experience."

Nader said she is looking forward to the diverse range of patients in this community. She has spent her most of her professional career in the Orlando area and said "Within the first week, I have seen patients with a wide range of conditions and diagnoses which I find exciting and challenging. My experience covers everything from burns to brain injury rehabilitation. I believe my background and skills will allow me to be a valuable contributor to the HCH team."

Nader said she is particularly impressed with how educated the community and residents are, and that her newest patients have shown her why she loves her profession. "I have a very rewarding job. Each day I am able to see the progress of my patients. We are able to develop a plan of care; working with each patient to get them back to those things they enjoy so much in life," she added.

Her career in physical therapy has included working at a Level I Trauma Center treating patients with burns and wounds, hydrotherapy, orthopedic injuries and brain injuries. Most recently, Nader worked as an independent contractor with long term care centers, skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies.

"We are proud to have Amy on board and look forward to sharing her experience and knowledge with our patients," said Frederick. Our top priority is to reduce pain and help our patients regain as much strength, mobility and function as possible and Nader will further this goal.

The department provides comprehensive patient evaluation and treatment, educates patients and families and consults with healthcare providers. They also provide

preventative and rehabilitative services to people with impairments in physical functioning. Last year alone, our Physical Therapy department treated nearly 16,000 patients.

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

"HCH is a community hospital that provides diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care to the public through on-site professional services, or as a referral to regional support providers. Our emergency care facility is Physician staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, monitoring their visit with personal care and attention. We make the extra effort to assure that you get "best of class care", and feel "special" every time you pass through our doors. HCH also provides Physician Clinics, a skilled Nursing Facility, Hospice Care, Skilled Rehabilitation, and Medically-Based Wellness Programs allowing individuals and families nearby access to professional care in these critical areas. The hospital continues to expand its programs to provide the public the broadest possible range of quality healthcare. Our *Board-Certified Physician Staff* continues to grow to better serve you, as do our medical specialties now covering 14 areas of healthcare, specialties usually only found in much larger facilities. We continually update our range of diagnostic procedures by adding new state-of-the-art equipment."

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

RBC Bank helps local art with donation to The Bascom



RBC Bank took another step toward supporting local art by making an additional \$10,000 donation to The Bascom's Capital Campaign. Above, RBC Bank Manager Sue Gorski hands the donation to Bascom Finance Director Debbie Fields, left, while bank employees Nancy Lowe, Natalie Waldroop and Ginny Brahmer look on. The Bascom has secured more than \$9 million of its \$13 million campaign goal, with \$4 million more to raise. For more information on donating to The Bascom, visit www.thebascom.org or contact Jessica Connor, director of marketing and development, at jconnor@thebascom.org or (828) 526-4949 ext. 121.

Garden Clubs each donate \$5,000 Highlands Botanical Garden



From left, Barbra Landwehr, treasurer of the Laurel Garden Club, with Biological Centers Sonya Carpenter, and Glenda Bell, president of the Laurel Garden Club.

As visitors to the Highlands Botanical Garden know, a major feature of the Garden is the boardwalk going through the bog where Mill Creek enters Lindenwood Lake.

The boardwalk is an excellent location to view populations of pitcher plants, grass of parnassus, cranberries, and other wonderful natives that grow in wet environments. At the end of last summer, the staff of the Biological Station was forced to close this boardwalk as it had become unsafe due to rotting boards and support beams.

Now, due in part by generous donations of \$5,000 each from the Laurel Garden Club of Highlands and the Mountain Garden Club of Highlands, a new and improved boardwalk is under construction.

"The Foundation is so grateful to have two conscientious and generous garden clubs in our small community" said Sonya Carpenter, Administrative Director of the Highlands Biological Foundation, "We cannot thank them enough."

With consideration for eco-friendly materials, the new boardwalk is based on a system that uses steel frames with a guaranteed long lifespan and a recycled decking product in place of lumber.

The demolition and installation work is being performed by Station staff. The new boardwalk has been expanded to include new areas in the garden that tend to get muddy during wet weather and will be open to the public this spring.

The Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc., a 501 c (3) tax-exempt organization, is still seeking additional donations for this wonderful project. If you wish to contribute to this ongoing project or would just like to take a walk on the new boardwalk please stop by the Highlands Biological Station or contact us at (828) 526-2602.

• BUSINESS NEWS •

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic receives GlakoSmithKline Grant

It's no secret in these parts that there are lots of people with bad teeth, or that the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic strives to change that by providing free dental care to those in need. Thanks to recent help from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's Ribbon of Hope program, the Clinic has just been given a big boost.

The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is one of 50 nonprofit organizations awarded grants since March 2008 from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's *Ribbon of Hope* program.

The grant will be used to fund outside lab costs for the Clinic's prosthetics program, probably for about two years.

Executive Director Karen Minton points out that while it may be hard for people with healthy teeth and budgets to imagine the need for this type of dentistry for low income people, there is a desperate need for the program.

"It's hard to believe that people could become so destitute and helpless because of their teeth, but we see everyday people whose lives are in ruin due to dental decay," she said. "They have been turned away again and again by regular dentists, and they live in constant pain, or their unsightly mouths cause them to avoid public contact, and they have nowhere to turn."

She said the pain, as well as an unsightly

appearance, can make it almost impossible for the patients to find employment, or even to live normal lives. The *Ribbon of Hope* grant will be used to restore persons with teeth that cannot be saved to functionality, through assistance in obtaining crowns or dentures. Qualifying patients must demonstrate a commitment to caring for their new teeth, and are expected to contribute in accordance with their financial abilities.

In addition to its work repairing and replacing diseased teeth, the Clinic makes a tremendous effort to educate patients about oral hygiene, health care, and other issues related to their dental condition.

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's *Ribbon of Hope* program provides one-time grants of \$25,000 to nonprofits for projects furthering science, health, and education in their communities. The North Carolina Center for Nonprofits provides customized consulting services to grant recipients. The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic serves patients from Jackson, Macon, and Transylvania Counties. For more information about the Clinic, call 828-743-3393.

Ribbon of Hope contact information: For complete guidelines and related materials, visit www.mcrel.org/GSKribbonofhope/. For information, call 303-632-5578 or email RibbonOfHope@mcrel.org.

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

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

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

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

CERTIFIED SCRUB TECH at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Immediate need. Will except RN with scrub experience in orthopedic, general, and plastic surgery. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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ADORABLE 2/2 JOE WEBB LOG CABIN only a stone's throw from Mirror Lake. Completely furnished for only \$499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pictures at [www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics\(3/11\)](http://www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics(3/11))

• See CLASSIFIEDS on page 16

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

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

Feb. 18

• At 9:35 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at South and Satulah streets.

• At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Holt Circle and Keener Road.

Feb. 19

• At 4:05, officers responded to a call from the Rec Park regarding vandalism in the bathroom.

Feb. 21

• Officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 and Sherwood Forest.

Feb. 22

• At 7:56 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Lane.

• At 9:16 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on S. 4th Street. They were unable to locate the caller.

Feb. 23

• At 9 a.m., a resident reported that someone dumped trash on his property.

Feb. 24

• Officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Azalea and Hickory Hill.

Feb. 25

• At 3 p.m., citizens reported an open door at a home on Oak Lane. All was secure.

• At 5:21, a suspicious vehicle was reported parked at a home on Mirror Lake by owners of the home who came in for the weekend. The home was secure.

Feb. 26

• At 2:25 p.m., officers were on hand concerning a pharmacy investigation at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Feb. 27

• A little past midnight, officers received a called from a woman in the vicinity of King Mountain on NC 106 who claimed someone was trying to kill her. She later called and said she had arrived in Dillard, GA safely.

• At 1:05 p.m., citizens reported an open door at a residence on Many Rd. All was secure.

• At 1:32 p.m., a trespasser was reported at the Rec Park.

Feb. 29

• At 4:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

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

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Feb. 24:

Feb. 24

• At 11:09 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Cheney Lane. There was no damage.

• At 7:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Picklesimer Road. There was no damage.

Feb. 25

• At 6:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Drive. It was canceled.

• At 3:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Cove Road. It was canceled.

Feb. 28

• At 7:04 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Satolah Fire Dept. for a brush fire.

March 1

• At 1:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Morewood Circle. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 7:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a accident involving a five-year-old girl who fell and was lacerated. MAMA helicopter landed at Goldmine Church to pick up the child.

March 3

• At 6:19 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. for a chimney fire. It was canceled.

• At 9:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Club House Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

REDUCED - 3.5 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA manufactured home, large shop building, storage building, covered parking. Clear Creek/Blue Valley Area. \$205,000. 828-526-8191 (3/11)

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

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APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - \$100/week - call (828) 787-1515 (4/15)

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - \$50/week - call (828) 787-1515 (4/15)

APARTMENT FOR RENT - newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. \$795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

GREAT 2/1BATH APARTMENT - Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

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a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. (st. 4/16)

VACATION RENTAL

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• **CLASSIFIEDS** •

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... **BALLOT** continued from page 1

On the Democrat County Commissioner District 1 ticket it's Michael David Rogers and Allan (Ricky) Bryson who was on the commission for two previous terms.

On the Republican County Commissioner District 1 ticket it's Jimmy Tate and incumbent Brian McClellan who has been on the commission for one term.

On the Democrat County Commissioner District 2 ticket it's Incumbent Ronnie Beale now in his first term, incumbent Bob Simpson now in his second term and Carroll Poindexter.

On the Republican County Commissioner District 2 ticket, it's Ron Haven

and Charlie Leatherman who was on the commission for two previous terms.

Vying for Sheriff are Democrats George Lynch, Ricky DeHart and Richard Davis.

On November's ballot, incumbent Robert L. (Robby Holland) will go against the Democrat who wins May's primary.

Democrat Clerk of Superior Court incumbent Vic Pery and Democrat incumbent Register of Deeds Todd Raby are both running unopposed.

Republicans Jimmy Goodman and Macon County Commissioner Jim Davis will face off to oppose Democrat Senator John Snow of NC Senate District 50.

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Lewicki stars in ASU's 'Prelude to a Kiss'

by Frank Ruggiero
The Mountain Times

Appearances can be deceiving, but true love's unmistakable. As a concept Appalachian State University's Department of Theatre and Dance hopes the community embraced during its recent production of Craig Lucas's 1988 play, *Prelude to a Kiss*.

Directed by theater instructor Anna Ward, *Prelude* tells the story of a young couple, Peter and Rita, whose lives are turned upside-down after a supernatural event leads to a serious - and literal - case of soul-searching.

Immediately after Peter and Rita exchange wedding vows, a mysterious old man asks to kiss the bride. In doing so, his and Rita's souls switch bodies, and it's not until their honeymoon that Peter realizes his bride isn't who she - or he - claims to be.

Now, Peter and Rita (in the old man's body) must somehow reverse the spell, while Peter struggles to maintain his love for Rita, despite her newfound and unfortunate circumstances.

"It's a classic love story with a modern take," Ward said. "There are so many levels of meaning, as the characters are really on a journey, telling us about new perspectives on life."

Peter, played by junior theater major L.B. Brown, directly addresses the audience throughout, Ward explained, noting

the importance of "prelude" in the play's title.

"'Prelude' is a preceding action that leads up to an event," she said. "By the end of it, the lesson is it's about the journey as much as the event."

Senior theater major Megan Lewicki, who plays Rita, described *Prelude* as a fairy-tale meets trading-places sort of story, and also a bold move on part of openly gay playwright Lucas.

Having premiered in 1988, the play has been considered by many as a metaphor for the AIDS epidemic, particularly with Peter's enduring love for Rita, despite her soul being in the body of a dying man.

Equity actor and professor emeritus Ed Pilkington, who plays the old man, said the play also touches on the timeless theme of being someone else.

"When I was a little kid, I wanted to be somebody else - the same thing when I was 10, and then as an adult," he said. "At some point, we all say, 'What would it have been like had I been born then?'"

The old man really wants to try something else, Pilkington said, which could relate to Lucas's own struggle with his feminine side, namely what life would actually be like if he were a woman.

To Lewicki, *Prelude* summons emotions that hit close to home for her and other graduating seniors, namely Rita's



From left, Ed Pilkington, Megan Lewicki and L.B. Brown star in Appalachian State University's production of 'Prelude to a Kiss.'" Story and photo by Frank Ruggiero, The Mountain Times.

uncertainty. While Rita is confident in a resolution, apprehension still lingers.

"She wants to just skip to the end," Lewicki said. "That way, she'll know how to get there, so she can just carry on living."

"But we can't skip the prelude," Ward said.

"'We'll work things out,' Rita says to Peter," Pilkington said.

"But it takes her a little time to get there," Ward said.

The same can be said for Peter, Brown said, in that acknowledging change in people is another part of life.

"Through life, you learn people change, and they're not always who you think they are," he said. "If you really do love someone, and even though they do change ... you would do anything to just be with that person."

It's a lesson Peter learns and teaches to the audience.

"No matter what they look like, if you love someone, you'll see it," Brown said. "Not only am I teaching the audience something, but I'm also teaching myself. Through Peter, I've learned about life, and it's really interesting because I've never experienced this in a play before."

Lewicki said *Prelude* provides a level

of character development not typically found on stage, offering viewers a unique and personal experience.

"I think it's multi-generational, as each of us is at some point in life where we'll interpret (the play) differently," Ward said.

The multi-generational appeal is not lost on Pilkington, who, as professor emeritus, has enjoyed working with students again. In fact, he was Ward's professor while she studied theater. "So, it's come full circle," Ward said.

ASU's production of *Prelude to a Kiss* stars L.B. Brown as Peter, William Gwyn as Taylor, Megan Lewicki as Rita, Brett Stafford as Tom, Lauren Flynn as Mrs. Boyle, Ryan Davenport as Dr. Boyle, Mary Beth Griffith as Minister, Annie McGee as Aunt Dorothy, Sean Browne as Uncle Fred, Ed Pilkington as Old Man, Prince Slater as Waiter, and Anneliese Moffitt as Leah.

Prelude to a Kiss ran Feb. 24-28 at Valborg Theater on the Appalachian State campus.

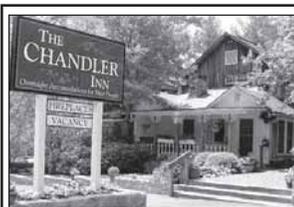
• Lewicki, a Highlands School 2006 graduate, graduates from Appalachian State University with a BA in Theater/Performance on May 9. After summering in Highlands, she is headed for Chicago.

Highlands School cheerleaders show spirit!

"S" is for spirit! At last week's JV game at Blue Ridge, the cheerleaders worked their magic.



Photo by Stephanie McCall



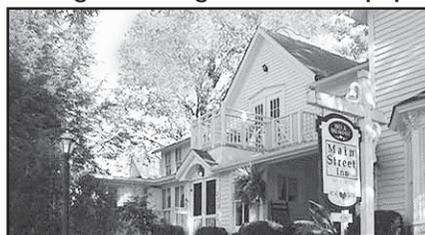
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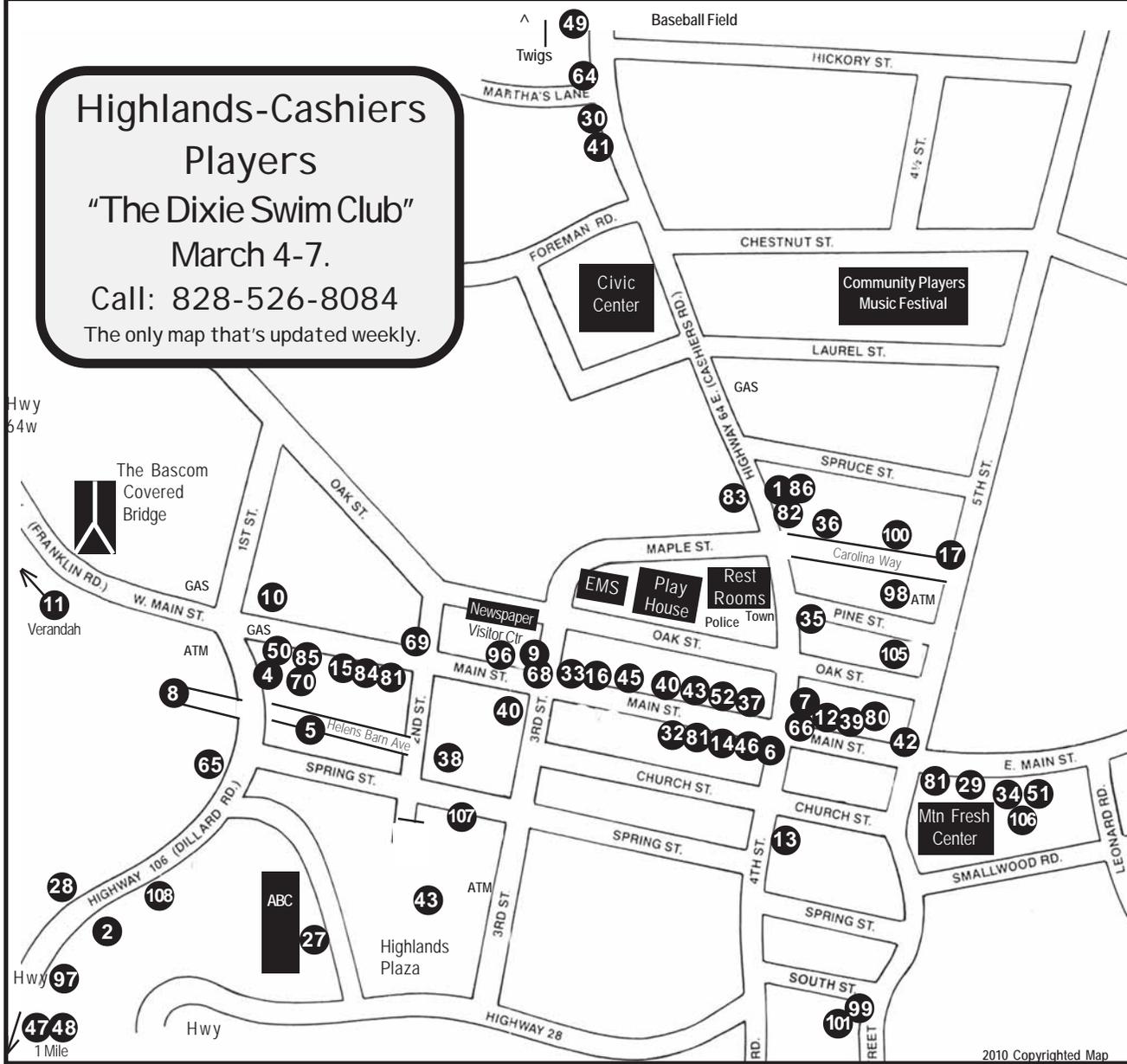


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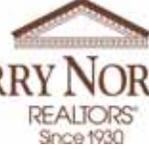
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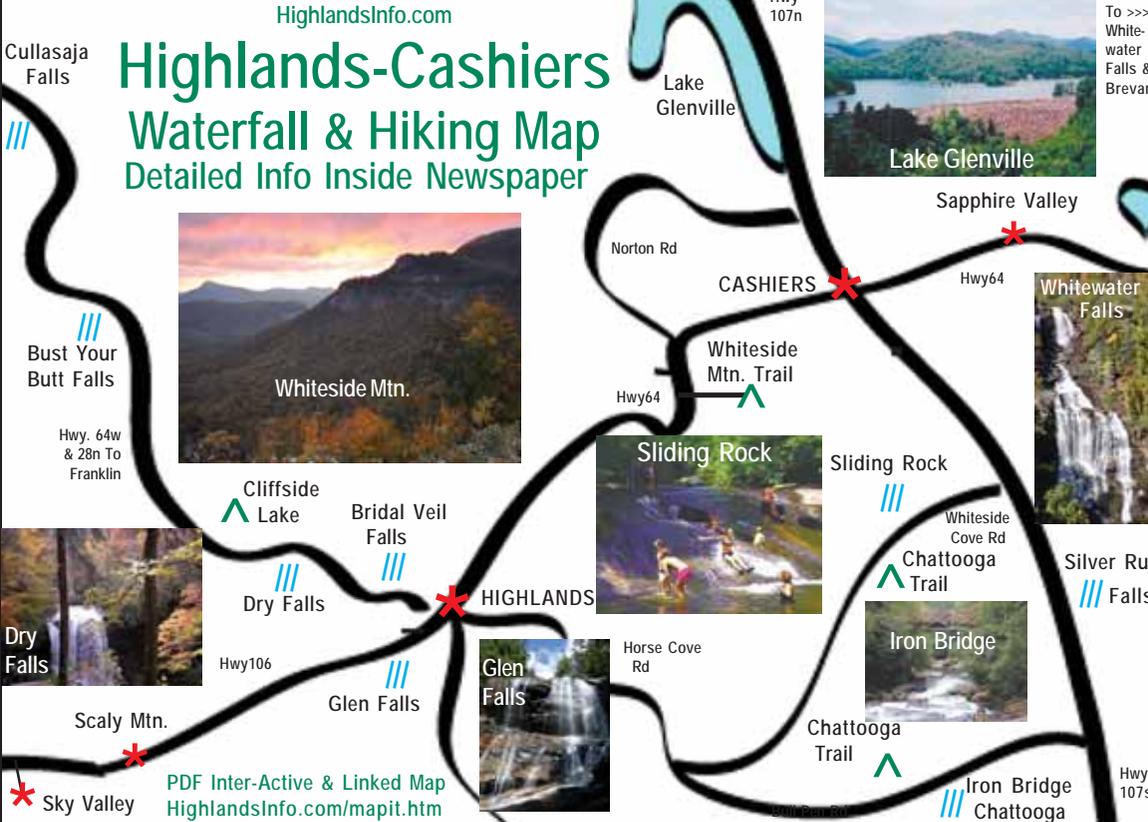
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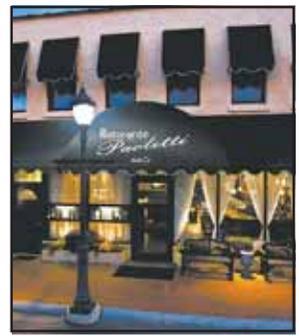
HighlandsInfo.com

Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



Map locations include: Cullasaja Falls, Bust Your Butt Falls, Whiteside Mtn., Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Whitewater Falls, Lake Glenville, Sapphire Valley, Norton Rd, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Cliffside Lake, Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls, Glen Falls, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, Horse Cove Rd, Iron Bridge Chattooga, and Chattooga Trail.

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



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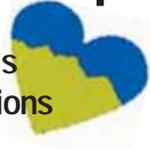
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