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 semi-permanent 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 meeting 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 entrepreneur 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 has spurred discussion within 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.
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 grateful! Thank you!
— Karin, Terry, Leesa, Chuck, Mike, Brenda, Lance and Pam replacement

Hawkins Family appreciative

The family of Lois Hawkins wishes 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 grateful! Thank you!
— 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” were 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.

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

“Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper”

Member N.C. Press Association
FREE every Thursday; circulation over 7,500
Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782
Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com
Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor - Tom Merchant
Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki
Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki
Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St., PO. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741
All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

...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 wall and possibly covered by a canopy. In addition, it is asking the town to enter into a three-year agreement with a private business to operate the rink. November 1, 2011, is the goal. 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.

“The 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 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 on the Town’s tennis courts. The EZ 350 model is 50 x 70 ft. and is the EZ Glide 350™ which 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

...ICE SKATING continued from page 1

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 provides additional program opportunities at the facility.

King Young, a member of the ad hoc Pine Street Park funding 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 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 it has always been – though that wasn’t an unanimous vote. Commissioner Buz Dotson voted nay.

“We are requiring the committee to makesequential judgment calls,” said Dotson. “Judgments on rigor of curriculum, the college chosen, and those issues shouldn’t matter. I am extremely proud that Highlands has an scholarship, but there are valedictorians and salutatorians who have gone nowhere. Th there are kids who we thought was going to somewhere 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 to college, we don’t deprive anyone.”

So the Scholarship Committee will continue as it was in the past, allotting the three highest scholarships – The Jack Taylor, The Jack Brookway 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 extracurricular activities and community involvement.

- Kim Lewicki
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 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 understood 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
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 205 Oak Street.

W ell, 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 street, getting’ funky on my bar, on my stool and gettin’ funky on my street with my ho’s while 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’ butts 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 up the spills 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.

Tommy and Madison (Part 3)

526-5208 high country photo
In Highlands Plaza
Closed Saturdays through March
Hours: Mon-Fri. 9-5
Custom Photo Calendars and Greeting Cards • Photo Restoration
Poster Prints & Enlargements • Film Development & Digital prints
• Video Transfer to DVD (we do this in house)
• Frames and Albums, too!

Looking through dark tinted car windows, Tommy drove by the grocery just to make sure Rico was there. As the stolen Oldsmobile cut across 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. He knew he was close and he had to make the shot.

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 barrel 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 gonna stop at Albertson’s 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.”

DP Seamless Gutters
23 colors including copper • Several styles of leaf guards available • Free Estimates
Dennis Perkins • 828-371-2277 • 828-526-3542
Serving Western NC and Northeast GA

SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
23 colors including copper • Several styles of leaf guards available • Free Estimates
Dennis Perkins • 828-371-2277 • 828-526-3542
Serving Western NC and Northeast GA

Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged! email: askfredanything@aol.com

***

 Logged through dark tinted car windows, Tommy drove by the grocery just to make sure Rico was there. As the stolen Oldsmobile cut across 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. He knew he was close and he had to make the shot.

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 barrel 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 gonna stop at Albertson’s 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.”

***
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 adds 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 sidelines. 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 anyone capable of being inspired. He has achieved great success despite his handicap. He nearly reached his 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 staring 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 want his effort, if we now give him special treatment? Isn’t this 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.

Feedback is encouraged. email: hsalzarulo@aol.com
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 not one single drop of blood was shed.

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 gentlemen. 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 elder man, somewhere in his 90s 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, anytime 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 tragic-comic dust-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.

The other category of the enemies who are under attack. I am grossly incompetent if they do not understand that the Constitution is a 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.

I have fought long and hard in state and federal courts, up to the U.S. Supreme Court. I’ve written, I’ve talked, 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 sad 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 sit on 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 has not 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 through. That movie showed what this elderly man, sitting a few feet away, experienced, 65 years ago this month.

...and 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.

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 U.S. Supreme Court. I’ve written, I’ve talked, 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 sad 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 sit on 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 has not 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 through...
Honor Roll

2nd Team All-ACC

G – Ish Smith, Wake Forest. Second in the conference in assists and indispensable 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.

1st Team All American

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.

Honor Roll..continued from page 6

... HIS & HERS

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 steady 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.

1st Team All-ACC

G – Greivis Vasquez, Maryland. Heor 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 – 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.

1st Team All American

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.

Honor Roll..continued from page 6

... HIS & HERS

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. Heor 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 – 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.

1st Team All American

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.

Honor Roll..continued from page 6

... HIS & HERS

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. Heor 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 – 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.
Dusty’s
Let our tasty soups warm you up on these cold winter days! 9 kinds to choose from!

Tuesday-Saturday: 11-4
Thursday & Friday: till 7
Closed Sundays
226 S. 4th St. Highlands
(828) 526-9913
Eat right, Live long!

S P orts age
S andwich S hoppe
NOW OPEN!!

Hours:
Thurs.-Sat: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
314 Main Street • 526-3555
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

NEW POLICY

For-Profit Businesses and NonProfit Organizations requesting Promotional or Press Release space, must agree to an advertising arrangement. Without an arrangement, only a listing in the upcoming events calendar will appear for NonProfits but no listing will be accepted for For-Profit Business events.
To request ad rates and a publication calendar, email highlandseditor@aol.com

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 p.m. 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 Rotary Club of Highlands is looking for literacy competence. The Rotary Club of Highlands is looking for literacy competence. The Rotary Club of Highlands is looking for literacy competence. The Rotary Club of Highlands is looking for literacy competence.

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.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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.

“...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.

---

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.

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

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.

• The Dixie Swim Club at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m on Saturdays. 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, 1415, Highlands NC, 28741.

• 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 828-256-3888 ext. 405.

• The 2010 Democratic Precinct meeting will be held at the Rec Park on Thursday at 5:30 pm. 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 film 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, 1415, 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
• Abenefit for Rita Houston Staffordlach, daughter of Michael and Kay Houston, at the Civic Center from 3-10 p.m. We will be singing, dancing and enjoying this 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
**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

**PULL OUT**

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, Keilor will take center stage in WCU’s Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets for “An Evening with Garrison Keilor” 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 Hartp, 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 Rynes 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 or 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 next legislative session and answer questions on issues important to the citizens of Macon County. The program will be held at Tartan the next legislative session and answer questions on issues important to the citizens of Macon County. The program will be held at Tartan Building. Lunch will be available at noon by reservation — call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Carolyn Deal at 828-258-3888 ext. 405.

- **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 Blozyn 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 Hartp, 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.

- **The 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.jacksoncogop.com.

**Sunday, March 21**

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to Mud Creek Falls of Hwy 460/106 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 524-3800 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. Return 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 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 thaws and freezes plants can be ejected from the ground exposing their roots to cold air. Gently tamp the soil and refirm 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 have plenty of plants for sale in May.

- Emily Compost
...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

back to Tommy as he pulled in dose 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, man?”

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 second 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, nineteen 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. The 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 sniffing 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, motionless for eternity.

Until the first ambulance arrived, then, Rico’s body sagged without concern. Latonia would continue with open eyes as if she were watching 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.

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 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.

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 Zarettksy will teach a fiber art workshop, “Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing,” at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is $275 Bascom members, $300 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (888) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

‘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.
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 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. 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 purportedly support life while they commit violent acts that minimize and or tactics, what is not up to debate is that he took a firm stand, he made his life count for something he believed in — 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)

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 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 6:13-16. 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.
New physical therapist joins Cashiers Medical Clinic

A new Physical Therapist has joined the team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital taking on 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 access 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 staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, monitoring their visit with personal care and attention. We take 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 Physical Therapy, 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 the origin, 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.

Garden Clubs each donate $5,000 Highlands Botanical Garden

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 the boardwalk as it had become unsafe due to rotted boards and support beams.

Now, due in part by generous donations of $5,000 each from the Laurel Garden Club, with Biological Center’s Sonya Carpenter and Glenda Bell, president of the Laurel Garden Club.

RBC Bank helps local art with donation to The Bascom

RBC Bank took another step toward supporting local art by making an additional $30,000 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 Waldrop 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.

RBC Bank helps local art with donation to The Bascom
Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic receives GlaxoSmithKline 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 Clinic, which is located at U.S. 64 and Sherwood Forest, will use the funds to provide free dental care to individuals in need.

“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,” said Lara Richey, the Clinic’s Executive Director. “It’s a desperate need for this type of dentistry for low income people, there is a desperate need for the program.”

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 patient to find employment, or even to live a normal life. 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.

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

9:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at South and Satulah streets.

Feb. 19

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

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

Feb. 23

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

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

Feb. 26

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 call from a woman who claimed someone was trying to kill her. She later called and said she had arrived in Dillard, GA safely.

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

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

Feb. 25

6:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Picklesimer Road. There was no damage.

Feb. 26

7:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Picklesimer Road. There was no damage.

Feb. 27

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

Feb. 28

7:04 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Cove Road. It was canceled.

March 1

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.

March 2

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

March 3

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 BED, 1 BATH, FURNISHED 1 1/2 FROM DOWNTOWN</td>
<td>$600 per month, incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer/dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (4/1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION, LOCATION</td>
<td>2BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (st. 2/25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REALLY NEAT DUPLEX</td>
<td>Two bed, one bath. Screened porch, garage, etc. 122 Dog Mountain Road. $750/mth plus utilities and $200 deposit. Call 828-508-0664. (St. 1/14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE BED, 1 BATH</td>
<td>plus den with trundle beds — fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, WD, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. $950/mo/month. Call 828-426-2265. (4/15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES</td>
<td>Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non-smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental $2,500.00 per month. Call 770-639-2982 or 678-358-9675 (3/25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- [Mid-Winter Community “Garage” Sale](#) at Highlands Rec Park
  - **Saturday, March 27**
  - Come sell your household and yard items from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Call Kim Shook – 526-9563.
  - Booth space still available.

- [Indoor Yard Sale March 5 & 6](#)
  - At Mountain Rayz Tanning Salon located across from Highlands School. Assorted household items, huge wall picture, 3 papasan chairs and adorable infant and toddler clothes. Much much more! Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- [YARD SALE Sat. & Sun., March 6-7](#) at Corey James Gallery
  - Spring & 3rd
  - 10-6
  - Miscellaneous treasures including antique porcelain kitchen sinks, small claw-foot bathtub and many other unusual things!

---

**One-Bedroom Apartment In Town**
- 535 N. 4th Street. $600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 1/25)

**Cute Highlands Cottage**

**Fully Furnished 4-Room Cabin Suite**
- off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person. $700/mo. includes electric, heat, satellite TV and wifi. Visit [http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/](http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/) for virtual tour. Phone (828) 421-7922. (st. 11/12)

**Studio Apartments**
- 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)

**RV Sites for Rent in Town**
- Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8646 e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com (ST. 11/5)

---

**Items for Sale**

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

**Vehicles for Sale**

**2005 Bobcat 334 G Series**
- Enclosed cab/heater, 800 hrs, hydraulic thumb, 16 & 24 in. bucket. Asking: $21,500 OBO. Call 526-5793 (st. 12/5)

**Cadillac Deville 2002**
- Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelburne Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

**Services**

**Got Dust?**

**We Can Eliminate That Musty Odor In Your Home Guaranteed!**
- Call 828-605-6780 (3/25)

**Handyman Special**
- Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-342-7884. (3/18)

**Debris and Tree Removal Cleanup**

---

**Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage**
- With covered loading zone
- Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555 Cashiers Road

---

**Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.**
- 828-526-9325
- Cell: 828-200-1139
- email: allandearth@msn.com

---

**J & M Collision Center**
- Auto Body Repair and Detail Shop
- Owner: Jeff Miller
- 65 Brooks Rd. Highlands 828-526-1507
... 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 E. (Robby Holland) will go against the Democrat who wins May’s primary.

Democrat Clerk of Superior Court incumbent Vic Perry 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.
Lewicki stars in ASU’s ‘Prelude to a Kiss’

by Frank Ruggiero
The Mountain Times

A
pearance can be deceiving, but true love’s unmistakable. It’s 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 and 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 femininity, 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 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.

“Well, 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 Walter, 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-Cashiers Players  
“The Dixie Swim Club”  
March 4-7.  
Call: 828-526-8084  
The only map that’s updated weekly.