Town back in court for Bowery Road

After 10 years, the town and residents on Bowery Road are still dealing with the ramifications of the widening and paving of the road.

Monday, May 10, Town Attorney Bill Coward returned to court to represent the town in the case “The Town of Highlands vs. Mildred Johnson,” who is one of the 12 property owners on the first 7/10s of the road who originally opposed the widening and paving of the road.

Over the years, Johnson, as did others, dropped out of the “et al” case and hired an attorney to represent her against the town. For some along Bowery Road, “compensation” amounted to a wider, paved road versus the rutted dirt and gravel road, but for several property owners’ compensation could only come with money.

“There are still a couple of others who haven’t settled,” said Attorney Coward. “Basically, Johnson wants more money.”

In North Carolina, the process begins at 9 a.m. in the Rec Park lot on Foreman Road. Training provided. Call 526-2385 or email hmpquin@verizon.net.

Finalization of county budget in the works

Finalization of the county’s FY 2010-11 budget got off track when illness kept County Manager Jack Horton away from his desk an entire week, so adjustments were made to the schedule at Monday’s MC Commission meeting.

Instead of being presented May 10, as planned, Horton asked for another two weeks to complete the document.

So on Monday May 24 at 6 p.m. the FY 2010-11 budget and message will be presented to the board. Horton said the county has received the school budget and the biggest thing the county has to discuss is the school’s capital outlay budget which is about $300,000 more than last year’s $500,000.

At the last School Board meeting Chairman Jim Breedlove and the rest of the board agreed that the removal of and repairs to oil tanks and furnaces in several schools had to be done.

“I know we told you to keep it the same as last year,” he said to Fi-
Dear Editor,

What on earth am I reading here about Erika Olvera taking a polygraph test to prove her innocence? What country are we in?

Not that he should, but I can't help but wonder if Chief Harrell was also submitted to this humiliation. I hope not, as two wrongs never make a right.

These are nice people. They have families, jobs, and in every way appear to be dedicated public servants.

This is ugly. Where and why did this ever get started?

While both Chief Harrell and Erica Olvera appear to be doing a good job for our community, why on earth would anyone wish to harm them?

I would like to know who started this, and why. Such a person is the one from whom I wish to be protected.

Christy Kelly
Highlands, NC

Collateral Damage?

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article “Ex-police officer files EEOC complaint” in the May 6 edition of Highlands’ Newspaper, it occurred to me that perhaps Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell was the actual target of the false rumors and smear campaign being circulated and promoted by the town officials. Perhaps Officer Erika Olvera and Captain Forrester were merely collateral damage in this scheme.

If so, it was a very elaborate scheme of deception. The more intriguing question raised by this supposition is who initiated the tawdry and salacious campaign against Chief Harrell and Officer Olvera and more importantly, why?

Is it because he is not doing his job well, or is it because he is doing his job well and independent of the varying local political persuasions or influence?

The town of Highlands will probably pay a lot of money to the Olvera family, as well it should, if all allegations in the EEOC complaint are substantiated. We taxpayers will foot the bill for this embarrassing stain on the town, all apparently for someone’s perceived political advantage or perverted ambitions.

The town should be fully investigated by the law firm representing Officer Olvera and the EEOC and the real operatives who devised this scheme should be bought and held accountable.

Highlands’ citizens are and should be held accountable.

The well meaning people of Highlands should rise to the occasion and unite to repudiate this shameful episode or chapter of the town’s history.

Charles Dasher
Highlands

Family grateful

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my gratitude to the wonderful people that make Highlands, NC a special place to live. For the past few weeks, my family and I have made many trips across Main Street as we moved our business to a new location. During many of these trips, we have noticed how kind and helpful the people of Highlands have been.

Thank you for being such a wonderful community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor of Highlands

Clarification

Captain Forrester not part of complaint against Town

Attorney Ed Buckley said Erika Olvera — the subject of the May 6 article “Ex-police officer files EEOC complaint” — was not part of the EEOC complaint against Town Manager Jim Fatland.

Buckley said Olvera’s claim against Town Manager was a Title 7 claim where only the employing entity is held responsible not individuals, as indicated in the following sentence — “Buckley said Ms. Olvera says Captain Forrester has been a big supporter of her and why on earth would anyone wish to harm them?”

Attorney Buckley said Ms. Olvera’s complaint statement, Captain Forrester then relayed a message to her from Town Manager Jim Fatland, and not have to endure again what will be an agonizing process in the mitigation of the damage done to Officer Olvera and Chief Harrell’s families while in the employ of, and in service to, the Town of Highlands.

Highlands’ profit before distributions was $64,341 – or 4.41% of the total mix.

Here are the numbers from 2009:

- Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) boards in NC are established and operated with no state funds. Through the sale of spirits, approximately $250 million in revenue is generated annually. Distributions benefit the state’s General Fund and the cities and counties, where alcohol sales are allowed. Total revenue distribution during fiscal year 2009 amounted to $258,711,498.

- According to a recent study presented to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, North Carolina’s ABC system is outdated and needs modernization.

- With the possibility of the state garnering more control over the ABC system, the Macon County Commission, the Highlands Town Board and the Franklin Town Board recently signed resolutions in opposition to the possibility of change to the system.

- “We hereby support the continuance of the ABC system and oppose any efforts to privatize the system, diminish local control or diminish the local government revenue stream afforded local ABC store profits,” reads the resolution Highlands Town Board unanimously passed at the April 21 Town Board meeting.

- ABC boards are accountable to the local government and profits go back to the local community and government but the study suggests that profits would increase with more oversight.

- “Selling liquor in North Carolina is a $692 million business, and a business of this size needs active management. Some boards are barely profitable, whereas others return is good,” reads the report.

- Based on profit margins calculated by the ABC Commission, local boards are divided into three profitability levels of less than 5%, profits between 5% and 9.9%, and profits of 10% or more.

- Though the study shows that ABC Boards in tourist areas are more likely to have profit margins exceeding 10%, Highlands ABC Store’s 2009 profit ratio was just 4.41% and Franklin’s was 5.53%. The study suggests low profit percentages mean shifting retail patterns and other inefficiencies.

- Total income for the Highlands ABC Store in 2009 was $1,465,050. This includes liquor sales to the public at $1,246,308; liquor sales to mixed beverage permittees at $199,161; fortified wine to the public at $13,703; and interest income at $5,878.

- Total expenses including cost of goods sold — $797,312; operating expenses — $304,832; and other expenses of $5,091 was $1,107,435.

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Obituary

Rose Milling Monroe

Rose Milling Monroe, 95, long time summer resident of Highlands, NC, died Friday April 30, 2010 at her home in New Orleans, LA. She was predeceased by her husband, J. Raburn Monroe and daughter Marcia Monroe Kelly Conery. She is survived by her daughters Linda Logan Monroe and Alice Monroe Nelson, by seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, May 7, 2010 at Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the New Orleans Town Gardeners, Garden Study Club or to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Milestones

Lewicki and Rawlins graduate

On Sunday, May 9, Megan Lewicki and Callie Rawlins, Highlands School Class of 2006, graduated with honors from Appalachian State University. Megan earned a BA in Theater with a minor in English. Callie earned a BA in Theater with a performance concentration.

Megan will spend the summer in Highlands before heading to Chicago. Callie is spending the summer in Boone performing in the “Horn in the West” before moving to Asheville.

‘Highlands for Flood Victims of TN’

Now taking donations - Leaving Highlands June 6

A truck loaded with items destined for the flood victims of Tennessee is leaving Highlands June 6.

Everything is needed, specifically: Bibles (new or used) and inspirational books, personal hygiene products, non-perishable foods, household items including new linens and towels, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, gently used appliances, cleaning supplies including paper towels and garbage bags, dog and cat food, animal bowls, shampoo, litter and litter pans, leashes, collars, gallon sized water jugs, carriers, kennels, pet beds, pet toys, all kinds of clothing including new undergarments and socks, and gift cards for specific retailers and phone cards.

Drop-off locations for donations are Reeve’s Ace Hardware, Whiskers, Highlands Pharmacy, Highlands Office Supply, High Country Photo, Dusty’s, Highlands Paint & Decorating, Animal Wellness Hospital, Wholesale Down, The Dry Sink, Big D 240 (Old 64 Stop & Shop), Main Street Pharmacy, Farmer’s Market, Whole Life.

Donation deadline is Thursday, June 3.
For more information call Fran Wilson at 526-1593.

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Directed by Mary Adair Leslie

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For Tickets Call: 828-526-8084
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Call or email about Memorial Day advertising specials -- 526-0782 or highlandseditor@aol.com
Beware the census taker ... Is he a conspirator?

Because most of the political stuff I write is slightly right of center, my e-mail is always loaded with messages from the far right wing folks trying to get me to write about those dastardly left wing conspirators and their evil activities. I try to explain my position but they don’t believe me. They ignore me when I make fun of George Bush and the massive corruption in the Republican Party. They simply don’t believe I despise all politicians. They see what they want to see.

I will admit, because our country seems to be headed to the far left, I have nudged my feelings slightly more to the right. So suave. I never claimed to be fair and balanced.

And who anointed Snopes.com the last word in honesty? Supposedly, when one receives information that seems outrageous, they can go to Snopes for the truth. I do it, not knowing why. Duh!

Having said that, let’s talk about the census, a national head count that shouldn’t be a threat to anyone. Whoa, you should see my e-mail site. For example, are you aware our government is going to ask how many guns you own, along with the serial numbers? Then later, they can come to your house in the dead of night and confiscate them. They also want to know your nationality because they plan on rounding up all the people with European ancestry and locking them up. And do they really want to know how many teeth I have left in my mouth? Is it any of their business if I own a meat grinder? Why do they want to know if I ever owned a car that was recalled and was it foreign or American? This is a terrible invasion of my privacy.

I enjoy watching Glen Beck, known as Mr. Psycho Talk by the lefties. He’s sold a conspiracy in everything the government does. For me, that’s a turnoff but he’s a great history teacher. When he says something that seems outrageous, I race to Snopes to check him out. If its history related, I’m impressed. I have a book that’s been sitting in my computer for over a year I can’t get published. Of course, I’m not Glen Beck or Hillary Clinton... thank God, I’m not Hillary Clinton. Anyway, I took his advice about the census form.

When our form finally arrived in the mail, none of the questions my right wing friends said would be on the form were there. Actually, my library required more information than was asked by the census.

Are we all getting a little nutty here?

Still, I only answered questions one and two and mailed it in. They can call my library for the other stuff. The Constitution says I only have to answer questions one and two so I did. Of course, the Constitution also says all men are created equal (ha) and we know most of the guys who designed our Constitution owned slaves. Sooo, I don’t get too worked up over what’s in the Constitution.

I feel sorry for census takers. For starters, they only visit people who have thrown away their census form. As a rule, these are very angry people because our country is so polarized right now.

I’m guessing most Democrats answered all 10 questions and mailed the form back. Many of the others may be waiting on their front porch with a shotgun between their legs waiting for the census taker to come and take away their God given rights to privacy.

Truestory. I was doing “Meals on Wheels” run for a census taker friend of mine in Highlands and, as I approached the farmhouse in my car, I spotted a guy sitting on his front porch with a rifle between his legs. Does he think I’m the census taker? I thought to myself. When I got within shouting distance, I stuck my head out of my car window and shouted, “Don’t shoot, I have food.” The old guy waved me in. When I stepped onto his porch, I asked, “Did ya think I was the census taker?” He grinned and said, “Nah, they already know not to come here. I’m waitin’ to shoot that dad-gum fox that’s been eatin’ my chickens.”

Have you read Fred’s book, I’m Moving Back to Mars?

...from the history guy

May 13, 1948
Ben-Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence:

Nu, you heard the news?
Now there’s a country just for Hebrews.
The British, as they were required, allowed the mandate to become expired.
So now the tribe’s all over Palestine, most Jews think that’s just fine but for some, that is a big affront, what can I say, Boychick? Abi gezunt!
What’s in a name?

Three of our nurses have had babies in recent months. I’m happy for them, but, frankly, not about their choice of names for their offspring. They are Madison, Grayson, and Tatam. Spell check doesn’t even recognize Tatam. I thought I meant Totem, which might not be bad, especially for a child from British Columbia. I should offer a prize for anyone who can guess the sex of all three.

When I was a kid you could be confident Joan was a girl and Steve was a boy. My childhood playmates were Pete, Larry, David, Billy, and Chuck. Larry’s younger brothers were Lonnie and Lannie. I didn’t realize it at the time, but maybe that was the first hint of baby name games. By the way, spell check doesn’t like Lannie any more than it liked Tatam. It suggested that I probably misspelled Lannie. I didn’t. Lonnie was the middle brother, but even Google would have no way of knowing that.

Except for George Foreman, who named each of his six sons, George, I’ve never known siblings with identical first names. In today’s fluid society, identical last names aren’t that common either. There are lots of good names. Duplicating them must cause considerable confusion at bedtime, especially if the Foreman’s and anything like the Walton’s. “Good night, George.” “Good night, George.” “Good night, George.” “Goodnight, George.” You get the idea. George either lacked imagination or suffered from utter arrogance.

Madison ranks as the seventh most popular girl’s name in 2009, according to the Social Security, which keeps track of popular girl’s name in 2009, according to the Social Security. One of the problems of this type of research is that it doesn’t track names of the very young. I don’t think many of today’s parents would have used a name like “Madison” if they knew it would rank so high 10 years later. However, many of the very young names are not favorites at the 10-year mark.

Joan (36) and Steve were not the first hint of baby name games. By the way, I was in the wedding down at Pawley’s Island. His bride name had been Kate. Her father was Marion, which I didn’t realize it at the time, but maybe that was the first hint of baby name games. By the way, spell check doesn’t like Marion any more than it liked Tatam. It suggested that I probably misspelled Marion. I didn’t.

My childhood friends had siblings with odd names like Scott and Bull. I didn’t like Bull. I don’t think her middle name was “City,” but I kind of hope it was. She asked me if I liked it. I answered, “as tactfully as possible, that I preferred a name that didn’t obscure a person’s sex. She responded, somewhat indignantly, “You should criticize names. Your son is named Bull.” “Like it or not,” I answered, “there’s no doubt about his sex,” and added as an afterthought, “even if he might be a farm animal.”

... ABC BOARD continued from page 2

to law enforcement, $1,585 to alcohol education, and $2,400 to the town of Highlands — a total of $5,117.

Total income for the Franklin ABC Store in 2009 was $2,477,328. This includes liquor sales to the public at $2,202,445; liquor sales to mixed beverage permittees at $243,078; fortified wine to the public at $25,997; and interest income at $4,854; and other income at $954.

Total expenses including cost of goods sold — $1,355,380; operating expenses — $1,202,445; fortified wine — $2,202,445; and other income — $954.

Feedback is encouraged.
email: hjazaruolo@aol.com
Burqa Mentality in the Blue Ridge

I read, and I write for, Highlands’ Newspaper, a weekly paper with a modest circulation. The publisher/editor, also my editor, is Kim Lewicki. She ran an article in last week’s issue that was excellently written and edited, and worthy of sharing with my national audience.

The week before, Ericka Olvera, a former police officer in this town, filed an EEOC Complaint against the Town of Highlands. My family’s experience with Officer Olvera was limited, but we found her to be diligent and capable. She worked for the town for 3 1/2 years. She is a naturalized American from Mexico, who has lived in this area for about 20 years.

About six months after she was employed by the Highlands Police Department, a nasty rumor circulated that she had had an affair with Police Chief Bill Harrell. (In a small town, everyone hears everything.)

I said at the time the rumor may have nothing to do with her, but may be an effort by one of the other officers to undermine the chief. Suffice to say, Chief Bill Harrell is married.

The rumor got worse. By November 2009, it claimed that she had gotten pregnant and had an abortion, paid for by Harrell. In January 2010, she was called into Highlands Town Manager Jim Falland and Town Attorney Bill Coward. She was questioned about the rumor, and denied all matters. Eleven days later and at the request of the Town Manager, she took and passed a polygraph exam.

Talk on the street is that Chief Harrell was limited, but we found her to be diligent and capable. She worked for the town for 3 1/2 years. She is a naturalized American from Mexico, who has lived in this area for about 20 years.

The thinking behind that prohibition is, of course, right out of the pages of fundamentalist Islam. It is, all men are dogs, and the mere presence of a woman in close proximity will drive them to think wild and do nasty things. He might as well have required her to wear a burqa on duty. "Oh, the woman in the bag is our new policewoman."

The Town of Highlands is, in my judgment, going to lose big in this case. It deserves it. It earned it. But if it does not identify and fire all who permitted, encouraged, and contributed to this outcome, it is doubly foolish.

If you pay a few hundred thousand dollars to learn something, it is beyond stupid not to apply the knowledge you have gained.

As for Officer Olvera, I hope she finds a new job where the department appreciates a capable officer who is diligent, smart, and bilingual.

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, will be published in September. www.TheseAreTheTimes.us. His column which appears in Highlands' Newspaper every other week, runs in several national publications each week.

... ABC BOARD from 5

The study also indicates that boards with limited profitability also have the highest operating margins; boards with profit margins less than 5% had an average operating margin of 23.7%; boards with profit margins ranging from 5% to 9.9% had an average operating margin of 18.1%; and boards with profit margins of 10% or more had an average operating margin of 14%.

Based on the data, the study says local boards with the lowest operating margins also are the most profitable because these boards are more efficient.

Since existing statutes limit the ability
Coach’s Corner

My favorite sports movie quotes

O

K, so this particular column requires some audience participation. I’m going to list my favorite sports movie quotes of all time, and you have to guess the movies. If you want to enter this little contest, just submit your answers in email form to writer1890@hotmail.com.

The winner of this little contest will receive a prize that I can dig out of my extensive memorabilia collection (also known as the garage). Of course, you can always cheat by Googling these, but where’s the fun in that?

1. “Believe me, as a bowler, I know that right about now your bladder feels like an overstuffed vacuum cleaner bag and your but is kinda like an about-to-explode bratwurst.”
2. “It’s in the hole!”
3. “I juuust a bit outside”
4. “Well, you’re better than any player I ever had. And you’re the best f****** hitter I ever saw. Silt up.”
5. “Get him a body baaaaagg”
6. “You’re gonna eat lightning, and you’re gonna walk outta here with a shiner.”
7. “I’ll make it”
8. “Damn you people. Go back to your business for local boards that would result in an efficient and effective manner and the community receives revenue from the sale of liquor.

The agency store model allows local boards in rural areas with low populations to ensure their residents have access to liquor in an efficient and effective manner and the community receives revenue from the sale of liquor.

Program evaluators of the current system who made the presentation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee said the governor’s office continues to consider the recommendations of study committee, “but no decision has been made yet.”

Questions asked of Mayor David Wilkes, who also sits on the local ABC board, about how suggested changes would affect both the town of Highlands (as mayor) and the way the local ABC store operates (as ABC board member) were not available by press time.

- Kim Lewicki

ABC BOARD continued from page 6

of the North Carolina ABC Commission to effectively and efficiently manage the ABC system, a change in legislation would be required for the North Carolina ABC Commission to enforce minimum standards for operation and profitability, and effectively help boards make changes to improve operations,” it reads.

The study also contends that the state hasn’t clearly defined the mission of local ABC boards which has affected profitability.

Proponents say modernizing the current ABC system by defining the mission of local boards, would provide the North Carolina ABC Commission with management tools for better oversight of the boards, as well as modify outdated statutes for ABC store elections and purchase transportation permits.

Specifically, the report recommends optimizing profitability through efficient store operation, distributing revenue back to the community, providing access to conveniently located ABC stores, providing excellent customer service, and ensuring appropriate control of the sale of liquor.

To finance technical assistance, the study suggests authorizing the ABC Commission to levy a bailment surcharge up to 10 cents per case to create a non-reverting revolving loan fund to pay for technical and financial assistance for local boards that would result in increased efficiencies in store operation and improvement of the ABC system in North Carolina. The bailment surcharge would be levied until the loan fund receives $2 million.

Based on an average of four million cases a year, it would take five years for the proposed fund to reach $2 million. Furthermore, based on criteria established by the ABC Commission, a local board would select an agency store to sell liquor in its jurisdiction and monitor its operation. The suggested contract fee for the agency store would select an agency store to sell liquor in an efficient and effective manner and the community receives revenue from the sale of liquor.

Program evaluators of the current system who made the presentation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee said the governor’s office continues to consider the recommendations of study committee, “but no decision has been made yet.”

Questions asked of Mayor David Wilkes, who also sits on the local ABC board, about how suggested changes would affect both the town of Highlands (as mayor) and the way the local ABC store operates (as ABC board member) were not available by press time.

- Kim Lewicki

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Eat right, Live long!
...BOWERY continued from page 1

for condemning property to improve roads and the subsequent compensation to property owners is a long one.

First the parcels of property along the road are appraised. Then it’s condemned. Then work begins and once finished the parcels of property affected are appraised again. Typically, the property rises in value due to a “better” road, but “better” in the eyes of the beholder.

“Wec didn’t want the road and it’s too bad its there,” said Johnson. “I wish it could be put back the way it was. I feel sad over this whole thing. It’s such a disaster – the time, effort and expense this has entailed over the past 10 years.”

At the May 6 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Amy Patterson said it looked like the material used to “pave” the road – a chip seal mixture used instead of asphalt to give a road more of a “country road” feel – isn’t holding up to traffic.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix agreed but since it’s a secondary state road it’s up to DOT to maintain and repair it. He said every year or every other year, DOT spot repairs state secondary roads but eventually the entire road will need to be resailed.

As of press time, attorney Coward and Johnson’s attorney Scott Jones of Asheville were still in court so the outcome of the trial is not known at this time.

– Kim Lewicki

... THANKS continued from page 2

these trips, members of the community offered a helping hand to make our load a little lighter.

We are truly grateful to everyone for their help and to be a part of this great community.

– Jerry Moore & Family, Kilwins

Junior Class says ‘thanks’

The Class of 2011 wishes to thank all involved in the success of the 2010 Highlands School Junior/Senior Prom. Prom was hosted by the Juniors – Class of 2011 – at the Farm at OEI on Friday, May 7. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Delany, Tracy Brandes, and the entire OEI staff who so generously allowed us to use their venue. Thank you to Johannes Klappdor, executive chef at OEI, who provided us with a wonderful menu for our special occasion. It was an amazing meal. Thank you to David Sims at Highlands Lawn and Garden for the beautiful greenery and flowers. Thank you to David Beal for providing the music. Thank you to Ashly Coppage and the parents of the students in the junior class who have shown their support through years of fundraising. Thank you to the junior class sponsors: Sally Taylor, Carol Bowen, Chris Green, and Brett Lamb. Thank you to the Highlands community for its support during fundraising — your support was vital to making prom one to remember forever. We appreciate all of you for making prom a night of dancing, smiling, laughing, and for the memories made.

– The Class of 2011

We have met the enemy... and it is us

POPO QUIZ – What’s the difference between the Eurozone and the European Union?

Time’s up. I didn’t have a clue either, so since the news is full of Euro this and Euro that, I thought I’d better look into the matter.

Basically, it’s pretty simple. The Eurozone consists of 16 European countries that have adopted the euro currency as their legal tender. It mostly consists of Old Europe except for England (the pound Sterling, you know). On the other hand, the European Union is an economic and political union between 27 countries, located primarily in Europe.

You have heard much about the current administration pushing us towards a “European” form of Socialism. This essentially means that the tax rate is high and they are “nanny” states. Big Brother will manage your life from cradle to grave. Frankly, I was very surprised when the EU formed. I thought national pride would prevent the sacrifice of sovereignty necessary to form such a union.

In some respects, it made a great deal of sense. Going through closed borders every few hundred miles was a colossal pain to travelers. Changing currencies every other day was not only inconvenient but costly, since the money changers always took their piece. I obviously can’t speak from the point of view of a European resident, but I’m sure there were real advantages.

The reason for the attention given to Europe currently is the deteriorating financial condition of Greece. This created the dilemma? The Prime Minister of Greece is George Papandreou, the president of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement Party. Other prominent parties include the Communist Party of Greece, the Coalition of the Radical Left and the Popular Orthodox Party.

As nearly as I can determine, Greece’s problem resulted from the strong hold that labor unions had on the government, which created unrealistic working conditions, broad and deep entitlement programs, inefficiency and corruption.

Now, when it becomes evident that Greece has borrowed and spent itself into bankruptcy, or do I see it, they have to be bailed out by other member states of the EU, principally Germany.

In trying to hold the Eurozone together, and to be assured the Greeks won’t be back looking for more help down the road, the Germans are insisting that the

Greeks take drastic measures to bring their liberal policies into reality. The labor force, which has been spoiled for decades, are rebelling in the streets, encouraged and enabled by labor leaders, protesting such draconian measures (wink, wink) as ending the policy of retiring at 45, for being paid for time not worked and many other absurdities. This is the inevitable result of labor and government being in bed together for too long. Let’s see how our current situation compares to Greece’s.

The election of 2008 was dramatically affected by the participation of the SEIU, many of whose members are employed by government and the health care industry. Thuggery and intimidation played some part in the result. Much of the bailout money went to shore up the domestic car makers. So, the country goes (further) in debt to the benefit of the labor unions.

From Con Col Bank of The Heritage Foundation, “Andrew Stern, President of Service Employees International Union, told The Las Vegas Sun last year, ‘We spent a fortune to elect Barack Obama – $60.7 million to be exact – and we’re proud of it.’ President Obama is well aware of his huge debt to the SEIU. That is why he admits in his autobiography, ‘I owe those unions.’ And it also explains why Stern is the most frequent Obama White House visitor, according to official visitor logs.

Stern’s access to President Obama has already paid huge dividends including an $862 billion stimulus that prevented states from having to cut back government union jobs or wages, $2.5 trillion in new government health-care spending, much of which will go to unionized health-care providers; and the appointment of SEIU associate general counsel Craig Becker to the National Labor Relations Board.”

Let’s recap. Greece’s government coddles labor, going into great debt to do so. They get to the point where they are on the precipice of defaulting on their debt.

The US coddles labor, going into great debt to do so. Interest on our debt takes more and more of our budget. Is the day far away when China demands that we reform our labor practices and get our financial house in order? How will the organized workers respond? Mayhem in the streets? Martial law imposed?

The fool says, “it will never happen here.” It’s the direction Obama is taking us, and it may not take long to get there.
In Healthcare, BIG … Doesn’t Necessarily Mean Better

Do you take comfort in the fact that your hospital is a large complex in a major city? Do you equate this with “that means it’s better for me?” Let’s look at some important facts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT’S IMPORTANT</th>
<th>LARGE HOSPITAL</th>
<th>HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>I have to wait and I don’t often see a Doctor</td>
<td>We see you promptly! Our ER is physician-staffed 24/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Equipment</td>
<td>They have all the latest</td>
<td>So do we! Please check our website <a href="http://www.hchospital.org">www.hchospital.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Tests</td>
<td>Takes hours and I wait days for results</td>
<td>You’re usually in and out within 30 minutes—same day results!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratings</td>
<td>Rated by The Joint Commission and CMS</td>
<td>So are we, and we get top ratings!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians</td>
<td>SOME are Board Certified</td>
<td>ALL of ours are, representing 14 medical specialties!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>MOST anesthetic administered by Nurse Anesthesiasts</td>
<td>ALL anesthetic administered by Board Certified MD Anesthesiologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They have state-of-the-art surgery</td>
<td>So do we! Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has the latest in equipment,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>arthroscopic and laparoscopic techniques and experienced surgeons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you surprised by these comparisons? Don’t be. Make a date to attend one of our Grand Rounds Breakfast and Tours and see for yourself. Learn why we have such a great medical facility here on the plateau and why you should come and register with us. We want to be your care provider.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
The Healthcare Partner to Whom You Can Entrust Your Life.
www.highlandscashiershospital.org
© 2010 Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
So you’d like to buy a bank owned property?

You’ve heard the buzz about the investment opportunity of buying an REO and you’re ready to do the bank “a favor” and take a problem off their hands. Plus, you expect to make “killing” in the process. Sounds great and it just might happen, but first you should take a look at some facts and get prepared.

**REO vs. Foreclosure**

An REO (Real Estate Owned) is a property that goes back to the mortgage company after a foreclosure auction. If there was enough equity in the property to satisfy the loan, the owner would have probably sold the property and paid off the bank. That is why the property ends up at a foreclosure or trustee sale. Foreclosure sales usually begin with a minimum bid by the lender that includes the loan balance, any accrued interest, plus attorney’s fees and any costs associated with the foreclosure process. Foreclosure auctions vary from state to state and county to county, so make sure you understand the process where you are bidding before you actually bid. Sometimes the bank is almost always more than what the property is worth, very few foreclosure auctions result in a successful sale to someone other than the lender. Thus the property “reverts” to the bank. It becomes an REO, or “real estate owned” property.

**REO Properties For Sale**

The bank now owns the property and the mortgage loan no longer exists. The bank will handle the eviction, if necessary, and may do repairs. They will negotiate with the IRS for removal of tax liens and pay off any homeowner’s association dues. As a purchaser of an REO property, the buyer will receive a title insurance policy and the opportunity to investigate the property.

A bank owned property might not be a great bargain. Do your homework before making an offer. Make sure the price you pay (if you’re successful) is comparable to other homes in the neighborhood. Consider the costs of renovation, including time to complete them. Don’t get caught up in a “bidding war” and pay over market value. It’s an old myth that “foreclosures” are always a bargain.

**How Banks Sell REO’s**

Each bank/lender works a little differently, but they all have similar goals. They want to get the best price possible and have no interest in “dumping” real estate cheaply. Generally, banks have an entire department set up to manage their REO inventory.

Once you make an offer to purchase, banks generally present a “counter-offer.” It may be at a higher price than you expect, but they have to demonstrate to investors, shareholders and auditors that they attempted to get the highest price possible. You should plan to counter the counter-offer.

Your offer or counter-offer will probably have to be reviewed and approved by several individuals and companies. Even once an offer is accepted, the bank may insert wording like “subject to corporate approval.”

**Property Condition**

Banks always want to sell a property in “as is” condition. They will allow you to get all the inspections you want (at your expense), but they may not agree to do any repairs. They want inspections to typically be between 7 and 14 days. Your offer should include an inspection contingency period that allows you to terminate the sale if the inspections reveal unanticipated damages that the bank will not correct.

Even though you agreed to “as is,” always give the bank another opportunity to make repairs or give you a credit after you’ve completed your inspections. Sometimes they’ll re-negotiate to save the transaction instead of putting the property back on the market, but don’t take it for granted.

Most banks will not provide financing on their REOs but it doesn’t hurt to ask. Especially if the property has extensive damage and you are purchasing it “as is.” However, realize that these are two different “areas” within the bank…loan department and REO department. Many times one has no connection with the other.

**Making the Offer**

Now you are ready to make an offer and buy this great investment. Here are some key things the bank will want: 1) Earnest money given at the time of the offer. 2) A short inspection period. 3) No contingencies or very few. 4) If a cash offer, proof of funds. 5) If contingent on a loan, a pre-approval letter. 5) A 30 to 45 day closing.

If your offer is accepted, you will then see an offer addendum that removes all liability from the seller such as mold, lead-based paint, etc. This will need to be signed with NO changes in order to be accepted.

For more detailed information on dealing with foreclosures, REO’s or short sales contact David Bee or Dennis Hall at Prestige Realty.
**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

**ART LESSONS**

**ANN JACOB GALLERY**

**NOW OFFERING ART LESSONS BY ONE OF THE GALLERY’S FAVORITE ARTIST**

**ROB SAVILLE**

- **AGES 18 – 105**
- **ONE LESSON $100**
- **START MAY 20, 2010**
- **ON GALLERY PORCH FROM 10AM - 1PM**
- **RESERVATION ARE REQUIRED**

**FOR MORE INFO CALL**

**ROB SAVILLE AT 706-473-2844**

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**Kelsey Kids camp starts June 16**

Applications are now being accepted by the Highlands Historical Society for membership in this year’s class of Kelsey Kids. Membership is limited to 12 students, ages 9-11 who are residents of Highlands. They may be students at any school or may be home-schooled. Kelsey Kids is named in honor of Highlands’ founder, Samuel Kelsey, who founded the Town in 1875. The “Kids” will meet once weekly from June 16 through mid-August. The program, made possible by a grant from the Eckerd Family Foundation, teaches Highlands history by means of field trips and demonstrations. For further information or to request an application form, telephone the Historical Society at (828) 787-1050 or email highlandsplayhouse@ncvt.com.

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**Ruby Cinema**

**Hwy 441, Franklin, NC**

**524-2076**

**May 14-20**

**ROBIN HOOD**

Rated PG-13

Friday: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Saturday: 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Sunday: 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Mon + Wed: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Tues + Thurs: 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

**IRON MAN 2**

Rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7, 9:30

Saturday: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Sunday: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7, 9:30

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

**THE LOSERS**

Rated PG-13

Friday: 4:15, 7:15

Saturday: 4:15, 7:15

Sunday: 4:15, 7:15

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:15

Tues + Thurs: 4:15, 7:15

**CLASH OF THE TITANS**

In 3D

Rated R

Friday: 9:15

Saturday: 2:15, 9:15

Sunday: 2:15, 9:15

Mon + Wed: 9:15

Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 9:15

**A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET**

Rated R

Friday: 9:10

Saturday: 2:10, 9:10

Sunday: 2:10, 9:10

Mon + Wed: 9:10

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 9:10

**THE LAST SONG**

Rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7:00

Saturday: 4:10, 7:10

Sunday: 4:10, 7:10

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 4:10, 7:10
**Ongoing and Upcoming Events**

**Thursdays**
- **AA meeting** noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- **Zahnier Conservation Lecture Series** every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center May through Aug. 5 is free.

**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.

**Friday & Saturdays**
- **Live Music at The Downhill Grill** at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m. BYOB.

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

**Every Fourth Saturday**
- **Friends of Panthertown work days** are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

**Saturdays**
- **Saturday Art School for grades K-8** is held weekly at The Bascomb in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascomb.org or call 828-526-4949 ext. 100.
- **Al-Cyprus International Restaurant** live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.
- **At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main** Wine Flights from 4:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods, $19 per person.

**Mon., Thurs., through May 15**
- **The Macon County Senior Games** hosted by the MC Recreation Department. Events are scheduled over a 4-week period. For more information, call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090. Registration deadline is April 20. Forms are available at the Highlands Rec Park.

**Thurs., Sun., May 13-23**
- **Highlands-Cashiers Players** to perform Rebecca at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, call 526-4084.

**Thursday, May 13**
- **Taize in Highlands** is Thursday at 5:30 P.M. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Taize is a non-denominational service of prayer, meditation, scripture and simple, beautiful music. No offerings are taken—these services are a free gift to the community.
- **The May meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club** will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets every second Thursday.
- **A reception to honor all cancer caregivers at Fressers Eatery** at 7 p.m. For more information about this year’s Relay for Life of Highlands and for upcoming events, go to www.relayforlife.org/highlands.
- **The League of Women Voters of Macon County** will feature a program about public transportation at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Kim Angel, Director of Macon Transit, will talk about current and future public transportation issues in Macon County, the region, and the state. She will discuss services available, legislative priorities, and the outlook for increasing public transportation in the future. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited. Lunch will be served at noon by reservation. Lunch is $6 at noon. 524-5192 or lvwmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info.

**Fri. & Sat., May 14-15**
- **Barbara Zaretsky will teach a fiber art workshop, “Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing,” at The Bascomb for all levels. Cost is $175 Bascomb members, $195 nonmembers. Registration is going on now. To register, call 828-526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascomb.org.

**Saturday, May 15**
- **The Greenway Committee Workday** begins at 9 a.m. in the Rec Park lot on Foreman Road. Needed are people to plant trees, lop and pull brush, operate the Canycom tracked wheelbarrow and the Yanmar mini-excavator. Training provided. Call 526-2385 or email hmquim@verizon.net.

**Sunday, May 16**
- **The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Park Creek Trail along the Nantahala River in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Park.**

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**Scaly Mountain Women’s Club monthly Pancake Breakfasts begin Saturday, May 29**

The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club will begin its monthly Pancake Breakfast this Memorial weekend on Saturday, May 29. Breakfast will be served in the newly remodeled historical school house from 7:30 to 10:30. A delicious hot breakfast will include either plain or blueberry pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee for $5.50 adults and $3.50 for children. Weather permitting some dining will be outside on the decks. Funds raised at the Pancake Breakfasts go toward the club’s Scholarship program and other charities in the community. After Memorial weekend the pancake breakfasts will be held every 4th Saturday through October. For more information, please call Susan Bankston 526-9952 or email sfbankston@gmail.com.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6920 for reservations. Visitors and children ten and over are welcome but no pets please.

Monday, May 17
• The Jackson County GOP will meet on Monday at 7 PM for a General Meeting at Ryan’s in Sylva. Among the items of business to be discussed are final plans for the group’s Red, White and Blue Gala to be held on May 22 at the Balsam Mountain Inn and a discussion of the official primary election results. For additional information call Ralph Slaughter, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 528-586-9895 or at 828-743-6491.

Wednesday, May 19
• The Rotary Club of Highlands 21st annual Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday at Trillium Links and Lake Club, with a shotgun start at noon. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local Rotary projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is $125, which includes golf, followed by an awards ceremony and a buffet supper. Visitors and children ten and over are welcome but no pets please.

Thursday, 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 nonmembers. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• Collective Spirits wine festival at The Bascom. Proceeds benefit art education and exhibition programs. Events include private wine dinners, grand wine tastings with both value wines and rare bottles, a gala dinner, live and silent auctions, a culinary sampling by local chefs, and symposiums conducted by leading wine specialists. Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or by calling (828) 526-4949.

• The Toxaway Falls Garden Club is hosting its first Native Plant Sale at Whisnant Dixie Garden Center located on Hwy 64 in Sapphire. The proceeds of this sale will go to the Garden Club’s scholarship fund which awards scholarships to worthy students of Rosman High for their college education. These students qualify for the scholarships by previously participating in the Tigers Junior Garden Club at T.C. Henderson Elementary School. Hard to find native plants not usually available from garden centers such as; Flame Azalea, Pinkshell Azalea, Southern Bush Honeysuckle, Iris Cristata, Echinacea ‘Sundown’ (Stonecrop), and Carex Pennsylvanica (Mounding Sedge) will be available. The sale is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m on Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m on Saturday. This is a cash or check sale only with first come, first serve. Come early for the best selection!

Thursday May 20
• At the Nature Center, Dr. Stephen Tilley will explain what makes Highlands Salamander Central Station. The Highlands Plateau has a wonderful diversity of salamander species. Learn why and what the salamanders can teach us about our environment. Lectures will be held at 7 PM each Thursday evening through Aug. 5 at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands. For a full schedule of lectures, as well as information on other programs and resources available at the Highlands Biological Station, please visit www.ncsu.edu.

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Saturday, May 22
• Collective Spirits wine festival at The Bascom. Proceeds benefit art education and exhibition programs. Events include private wine dinners, grand wine tastings with both value wines and rare bottles, a gala dinner, live and silent auctions, a culinary sampling by local chefs, and symposiums conducted by leading wine specialists. Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or by calling (828) 526-4949.

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Our Director, Mary Adair Leslie, is an HCP Board Member and has appeared in twelve plays, most recently Dixie Swim Club, Acomplice and Crimes of the Heart. Earlier, she performed in The O’Hette Bridge Club, Dirty Works at the Crossroads, The Exact Center of the Universe, Proof, Stepping Out, Parallel Lives, Our Town and I Remember Mama.

Making her directing debut in 2006 in Plaza Suite in HCP’s production of Simon S meat, Mary Adair has since directed Parallel Lives in our 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 seasons, The Last Night of Ballyhoo and An American Daughter. She has also served in the key position of stage manager for several HCP productions and is the owner of Summit One Gallery, located in “The Galleries” on South Second Street in Highlands.

One of the most important tasks of directing any theatrical production is the casting. Mary Adair has assembled a wonderful group of talented actors, who each bring a diverse style to their character. The two lead characters are being played by Matt Eberz and Kathryn Cochran.

Matt, plays Maxim de Winter, the wealthy, aristocratic owner of Manderley. Matt acted on stage for the first time in HCP’s production of The Dining Room, in 2009. He has been living in Highlands for five years, having retired from extensive service with the military and from Corporate Computer Systems Development. Matt and his wife, Rebecca, own John Schiffli Real Estate in Highlands. Matt is also a talented author, having recently completed his third novel, “Honors for Sale,” which is set in Highlands.

Kathryn (Katie) plays Mrs. de Winter, the new, young bride of Maxim de Winter. Katie recently co-directed, along with Kirk Howard, HCP’s production of The Dining Room. She has performed in many HCP plays, including Rumors, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (for which she also served as choreographer), The Last Night of Ballyhoo, How the Other Half Loves, Crimes of the Heart, The Second Time Around. The Dining Room, Dirty Work at the Crossroads and has read several HCP holiday programs. With the Highlands Playhouse she has performed in My Fair Lady and Bye, Bye, Birdie, and has danced with the Robert Ivey Ballet in Charleston. Katie grew up in Highlands and attended The College of Charleston, where she majored in Anthropology and minored in dance. She currently works for the Highland Hiker.

The entire cast has brought their characters to fruition and will thoroughly entertain the audience. Call the box office: 828-526.8084 for tickets.

Church plans Hymn Sing

First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 23. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Songleader will be Stella Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Also featured will be soloists Wayne Coleman and Bob Wright who will sing spirituals. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. Please make plans to attend for an enjoyable hour of singing and Christian fellowship.

• See EVENTS page 14
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Parallel Lives lives again at PAC

Breita Stroud and Jenny King as Mad & Syvie.

The Performing Arts Center announces “PAC’s Small Stages Productions,” a joint venture with the Highlands Cashiers Players the two non-profit groups will produce plays with minimal sets, as the label “Small Stages” indicates.

In the Gershon-Cohen auditorium the thrust stage will be set up on the auditorium floor. Tables and chairs will be rearranged cabaret style to achieve the more relaxed ambience of the intimate theater experience. Wine, beer and snacks will be available for purchase.

Celebrating the Performing Arts Center’s 10th Anniversary PAC’s Small Stages will present HCP’s production of Parallel Lives on Friday, May 28th and then continues for the next two weekends in June.

Parallel Lives by Mo Cafney and Kathy Najimy was a HBO movie back in the ‘90s. Written by the two comedians, the play is a series of vignettes addressing women’s issues, young and old. All of the parts are played by women, male and female parts.

The hilarity ensues as you meet Mad & Syvie, Candida & Mrs. Kenny Rogers, Hank & Karen Sue, the Disney Moms, and more.

“A smart, provocative show,”—Variety; “Uproariously funny”—Broadway World.

Parallel Lives contains adult language and situations.

It begins with a pair of feisty Supreme Beings on stage discussing choice colors for a brand new invention: life on earth. What follows is a series of vignettes that collectively form the play Parallel Lives.

The play intends for audience to say to themselves, “I’ve been there” or “I know someone just like that.”

Parallel Lives originated as stand-up comedy skits performed by the writers. Similar in structure to “Saturday Night Live,” it parodies life as we know it, which is why audiences are expected to identify with many of the characters and situations.

(excerpts from a review by Scott Karlan for TheCalifonian.)

Many of the areas favorite actresses will be performing in Parallel Lives. Jenny King, Jennifer Royce, Ronni Spilman, Carla Gates, Marlene Alvarez, Betsy Miller, Breita Stroud (returning to recreate her roles), Laura Miller, Diane Rossaca, and new comer Melanie McKenna.

Parallel Lives will be presented on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4, 5 & 6; and continuing Wednesday through Sunday. June 9, 10, 11 & 12. All performances will begin at 7:30 pm. Call the Performing Arts Center for tickets 828-526-9047.

Market from 11am-2pm selling Sun Stars & Feet Cards, Scratch & Donate Cards, Purple Bows, Luminarias & Tiki Torches.

Sunday, May 23
• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned HymnSinging at 5 pm on Sunday, May 23. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Songleader will be Stella Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Also featured will be soloists Wayne Coleman and Bob Wright who will sing spiritually. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. Please make plans to attend for an enjoyable hour of singing and Christian fellowship.

Mon-Fri, May 24-28
• Town of Highlands Clean Up. The street and sanitation departments will pick up items you would like taken to the dump. Simply deposit them outside your home for pickup.

Monday, May 24
• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will hold its 2010 meeting at 7 pm on Monday at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Library. Speakers will be Walker Parrott and Landon Lipe of Davidson River Outfitters. Following the presentation, a raffle will be held featuring a full day, two person float trip on the French Broad River for smallmouth, provided by Davidson River Outfitters. Everyone is welcome! Call 828-865-1130 for more information.

• Mirror Lake Association meeting at the Civic Center at 6 pm.

Tues-Fri., May 25-28
• Karen Weilts will teach an oil painting workshop, “Still Life: Out of the Garden,” at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is $400 Bascom members, $425 nonmembers. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.
• 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 nonmembers. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate two mile hike on Lake Chatuge trails at Jack Rabbit Mtn. near Hiawassee GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 7:30 am. Drive 5 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Kay Coniff, 369-6620 please.

Tues.-Sat., June 1-5
• Patchwork Folk & Fabric Festival Traditional Folk Demonstrating Traditional Skills in Cullowhee, NC at the Jackson County Recreation Center at 88 Cullowhee Mountain Road. Classes and festival. For more information, call 828-293-3053.

By Emily Compost

Container gardening tips from the Mountain Garden Club

There are many reasons to consider container gardening. Impaired mobility may keep you from tending to your yard. Condo/apartment living has limited your gardening space. Your soil isn’t suitable. Or to some, the thought of tilling a little garden plot brings thoughts of plowing the back 40 and you just never get around to it. Whatever the reason, container gardening can ease your way into gardening in a very rewarding way.

The first thing to consider is the amount of sun available. Full sun plants require six plus hours of direct sunlight while partial shade plants require three to six hours. Full shade plants still need up to three hours of sunlight. You will also need a convenient water source. Next consider combinations of plants. It is perfectly fine to have a tomato plant at your front door, but why not mix it up a bit and add a flower or two to the same container?

Tomatoes produce the best yield when planted in pots at least 20” wide and with soil 24” deep. When adding flowers, consider a slightly wider container. Good flower companions for tomatoes are marigolds and cosmos. Herbs are excellent in vegetable container gardens. Basil repels insects while garlic repels spider mites. Parsley, sage and mint add beautiful foliage around the base of other plants.

Another beautiful container garden is a hosta paired with ferns and a shade loving flower such as addie, foam flower, or coral bells. Hostas grouped with different varieties of hostas make a nice addition to a deck or entryway.

There will be many plants great for your containers at the annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale. Saturday, May 29, 9 am to 1 pm at the town ball field on the corner of Hwy #64 and Hickory Street.
As I ponder some thoughts for the paper this week, I was reminded of a funeral I attended several weeks ago. Now doesn’t that grab your attention? What a way to start an article for the paper by talking about a funeral, right? But this funeral was for my sister’s father-in-law. He lived in Ashe County and he had been an old time mountain doctor for about 50 years in and around the town of Jefferson, NC. In fact, he had been my doctor for a few years when I lived in Ashe County.

He was one of those larger than life figures that we meet sometimes in life. He was from the Mennonite Church and while I have a stereotype for most Mennonite persons, Dr. Kurtz did not fit that stereotype. He rode a motor cycle for most of his life, but several years ago when he had some heart problems, he began riding a bike. He didn’t do anything half-hearted because when he began riding his bike, he became the first person to ride his bike up Mt. Jefferson 1,000 times. He was a good doctor, a good dad to his kids and a good community member. I give that little bit of back ground because at his funeral many people spoke of what a difference he had made in their lives.

The funeral lasted two hours and five minutes, and yes I timed the funeral. They had three preachers who each preached! Dr. Kurtz had four children and each one of them spoke, and there was music! He was a good man, but two hours and five minutes? Now! I hope you know I am just kidding about the length of the service, but I wanted to write a couple of things about my good friend Elam Kurtz.

At the service his children spoke of the influence their dad had given their lives. One of his daughters, an attorney in Atlanta said this: “Dad always told us as his children that we were to help others out, regardless of their situation in life and one of his best quotes was this, poverty is not an option, it is a lack of opportunities.” I love that quote because if you think about it, true. All too often people say that those who live in poverty choose to be there. But what if we begin to realize that it may not be a choice, it may be a lack of opportunities one has been given. That struck me as a pretty profound statement and I wanted to share with you this week.

The other memory I have of Dr. Kurtz was this. When I was preparing to get married to my wife, I went to Dr. Kurtz for a pre-wedding physical. (You used to have to do that before you got married) He gave me the physical and then he said, “Paul before you get married, I want you to remember the four “C’s” of marriage. I thought, “Here we go with someone else giving me advice,” but I listen to what he said.

**Spirituallly Speaking**

**Live the four C’s**

Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

**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
Pastors 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

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshiping at the facilities of
Whitescide Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Monday: Evening Bible Study and Supper - 6:00 p.m., members’ homes
Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study - 8:00 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 • 526-4805
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64, east, Highlands
Sun.: 9:30 a.m: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group; 10:30 a.m: Children’s Program (Pre-K – 5th Grade), Men’s for 6th Graders, 10:45 a.m: Worship Service, 5 p.m: Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.
Mon.: 9:30 a.m: Women’s Bible Study
Wed.: 5 p.m: Dinner, 6:00 p.m: Children’s Program, Adult Teaching.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
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. Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group 4:30 PM. 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 - 7:30 p.m.
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
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Bible Discussion & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir - 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; 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 6:30 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office, 526-2418
Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. - 6 p.m.

**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.

**SHORTER 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 p.m

**WHITETIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Cashiars, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2962

See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17
In honor of the National Senior Health and Fitness Day celebration, HealthTracks has added a new heart disease prevention program to their array of medically based programs.

Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. Major risk factors for cardiovascular disease are age, smoking, high blood pressure, high serum cholesterol, diabetes and obesity. “As most of us know, we are experiencing an epidemic of obesity and diabetes in this country,” said Director of HealthTracks, Yvonne Smith (MHS, RD, CDE).

“Instead of being focused on only treating diseases, we need to see an increased emphasis on prevention, specifically in the form of lifestyle interventions. These interventions primarily include: consuming a heart healthy diet, weight control, increases physical activity and abstinence from use of all tobacco products.”

Prevention not only refers to the development of disease but to the development of heart disease risk factors. Prevention is also aimed at those with diagnosed risk factors who have not yet developed any manifestations of cardiovascular disease.

The Heart Disease Prevention Program is physician supervised and individually customized to each participant. The plans include nutrition counseling from a registered dietitian and diabetes educator, personal training sessions and an exercise regimen. “Regular physical activity has been shown to help decrease, lower LDL cholesterol and Triglycerides, raise HDL cholesterol, improve insulin sensitivity, and reduce the risk for coronary heart disease and stroke. It can also aid in weight loss maintenance and may prevent weight gain,” said Smith.

The largest gains in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and promoting good health to our community are confirmed with education and action, said Smith. “All of our Wellness Programs and Healthy Lifestyle classes are medically based and monitored by health professionals.”

“Yvonne Smith and her staff of nurses and exercise specialists work in close conjunction with board certified physicians, nurses specializing in cardiac care, dietitians, counselors, physical therapists and other medical professionals to make sure all programs are safe, as well as effective. Our goal is to provide our community with the tools needed to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle,” said Frank Leslie, VP of Operations.

For more information about joining the Heart Disease Prevention Program, please contact (828) 526-1FIT or 526-1469.
H-C Hospital News

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital scores high on patient satisfaction surveys

Patient satisfaction survey findings for the first quarter of 2010 show Highlands-Cashiers Hospital scoring in the 94th percentile for the 4th quarter in a row. The survey was comprised of a number of elements: patient needs, based upon nationally accepted benchmarks for patient care, including a timely and smooth admission process, quality care, communication from patient to caregiver and physician expertise.

“The core measures addressed in our survey are based upon the Joint Commission standards, which is the nation’s leading organization that accredits hospitals and other healthcare providers. Each patient is mailed a survey after they are treated at our hospital. Every aspect of the returned survey is documented precisely,” said Linda Suther, the hospital’s Director of Nursing.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (or JCAHO) is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation’s health care. JCAHO sets national patient safety goals and during the accreditation process, officials review: the accuracy of patient information, effectiveness of communication among caregivers, safe use of medications, the reduction of health care associated infections, accuracy of patient identification, and the reduction of patients resulting from patient falls, amongst others.

HCH also fared well during each follow-up validation survey by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). By federal law, CMS is required to perform its own survey of at least 5 percent of those hospitals that elect to undergo Joint Commission review to recheck private organization’s findings. Hospitals that wish to accept Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement must be periodically reviewed by the Joint Commission or CMS.

“Participating in the patient satisfaction surveys and the accreditation processes of both JCAHO and CMS assures that although we are a small community hospital we meet the same criteria as the large city hospitals. It is not mandatory that we undergo the accreditation process, or conduct surveys, but we do because we want to be the best facility possible,” said Frank Leslie, VP of Operations.

Since 1976, The Joint Commission has awarded HCH the prestigious accreditation to the hospital, its nursing center, and Highlands-Cashiers Hospice. The commission, which employs more than 600 physicians, nurses, administrators and other experts as surveyors, evaluates and accredits more than 12,000 hospitals and more than 7,000 other health care organizations throughout the country. Accreditation is voluntary and must be renewed every three years.

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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 program to provide the public the broadest possible range of quality healthcare. Our Board-Certified Physician Staff continues to grow to better serve you, as our medical specialties now covering 14 areas of healthcare, specialties usually only found in much larger facilities. We continue to 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.

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
continued from page 15

The four “C’s” are the this Christ—always keep your faith as part of your relationship. Commitment—you show your commitment everyday to your mate. Communication—you should always talk and share your dreams with your mate, and Compassion—you need to always have a heart for compassion with your mate and with others.

Dr. Kurtz was a good doctor, a good community man but more importantly he was a good man, who had a heart for loving and caring for all people. Wouldn’t it be great if that could be said of each of us, that we had a heart for loving and caring for others?

As you venture through this week, I just encourage you as I do myself to have a heart of compassion for others. Because when we have a heart of compassion for others we began to change the world, and isn’t that what Christ did?
**Drafting students learn firsthand at The Bascom**

David Cashion’s drafting class from Highlands School visited The Bascom April 30. Bascom instructor Patrick Taylor told the students about the construction of the art center’s covered bridge entrance, as well as the repairs that are being made to the corn crib on-site. They toured the Studio Barn, used for pottery and other three-dimensional art education, and saw some of the work of their fellow students from Highlands Schools art class. Taylor showed the students blueprints used in construction of The Bascom, explaining what a valuable asset it is to be able to read and follow blueprints. The class also walked through the three levels of The Bascom’s main building to see how the old barns combined with the required modern construction material to form today’s structure. From left are Cashion; students Chris St. Germain, Ricky Reyes, Spencer Ferlita, Cord Strawn, Temba Lama, Harrison Hall and Cody Houser; and Taylor. For more information about The Bascom, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

**Rotary Bingo benefits Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society**

The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society to sponsor Bingo on May 6 and raised over $1,400, all of which goes to support our local humane society. Jeannie MacLeod won $300 in the Super Bingo game. She is shown with CHHS executive director Cassie Welsh, Rotary President Paul Schmitt and Rotary President-Elect Jodie Cook.
**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE**

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November. All utilities included with all options. Great retail office and separate one bedroom basement apartment. $389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/15)

**RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD.** Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/15)

**RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE.** Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer 828-526-5673. (St. 4/16)

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

**DISPLAY CABINET** – 4 shelves, glass doors. $1,500. 706-982-1379. (St. 5/13)

**BURSWOOD DRUM SET** $100. Call 526-9107. (St. 5/16)

**QUALITY HANDCRAFTED RUSTIC LOG & ADIRONDACK FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES** www.highlandsrustic.com. (St. 1/14)

**PIANO** – Gorgeously Fully restored. Late 1800’s 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)

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

**Vehicles for Sale**

**1996 JEEP COUNTRY CHEROKEE** – Loaded with all options. Good Rubber. Must see. MUST SELL. $2,300. Call 526-2694. (St. 4/15)

**CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002** – Silver. 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/19)

**Services**

**LAWN MAINTENANCE, GENERAL**

**Painting, House Cleaning** Free Estimates. Call randy at 828-526-5901 or 828-371-3554. (St. 13)

**Quality Painting, Pressure Washing, Landscaping, Carpentry**

**TinTing** – 3M Film Energy for fading damage and energy savings. 828-526-8486. (5/20)


**Debris and Tree Removal Clean Up**
Roof and gutter repair expert. Call 371-1103. (St. 2/25)

**The Highlands Handymen** – Anything and Everything. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031. (5/27)

**24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE** – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. $2,800.月y, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603. (4/29)

**Tree Service** – Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for “Wooly Adelgid.” 828-526-2251 (4/29)


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**BUDGET continued from page 1**

Chairman Ronnie Beale said it will be moved to a courtroom if more space is needed. Following the public hearing, the board will likely further break down the document, which by law must be adopted by June 30, 2010.

Horton said the plan is to adopt it at the June 28 meeting at the latest.

Chairman Beale said he and accompanying commissioners were going to discuss proposed state budget cuts that will affect Kids Place, the Methodist Home and mental health services in Macon County at a meeting in Raleigh on May 12.

“Kids Place and the Methodist Home are important facilities,” he said. “If we can rescue them and make them productive citizens it’s money in the bank for Macon County.”

— Kim Lewicki
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The spring cleaning season has arrived: Avoid putting up with or returning to a dusty house after a long winter! Call Details. Deep cleaning for the demanding home-owner. Offering home checks, clutter control, and more. Now offering spring cleaning specials through June 15. 828-342-8853 www.details-clean.com

Runaround Sue Pet Sitting • Healthy Homemade Treats • Birthday Parties • Pet Photos • Hand-crocheted Dog Clothing Sue Laferty P.O. Box 1991 Highlands, NC 28741 (828)526-6844 slaferty@verizon.net

"So acupuncture can help me restore my health and vitality without drugs or surgery?" —Naturally! Center for Acupuncture & Healing Arts Kim Bonsteel, L.Ac., DipAc. —classical Chinese medicine— in the Crosby Center, 348 S. 5th Street, Suite 224 Highlands, NC (828) 526-9938 ext. 263
The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from May 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 7
• At 8:03 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Oak Street where four bears were in the garden.
• At 8:46 p.m., officers were called about multiple dogs barking in the vicinity of Paul Walden Way.

May 8
• At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 28 and 3rd Street.
• At 2:16 p.m., officers assisted another agency concerning a carbon monoxide alarm.
• At 4:50 p.m., Silver Eagle reported a necklace valued at $2,000 missing.
• At 9:55 p.m., officers responded to a disabled vehicle at Buttermilk and NC 106.
• At 6:14 a.m., officers assisted the fire department at Whiskers where a fire had started on the railing of the back porch. It was put out with an extinguisher.

May 11
• Officers were called to Brushy Face about an unknown vehicle in the area.
• At 3 p.m., a resident on Sage Drive called about receiving harassing phone calls.
• During the week, police officers responded to 1 alarm and issued 10 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 5:

May 5
• At 9:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dixon Drive.

May 6
• At 9:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• At 11:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

May 7
• At 9:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Whiskers Lane. The victim was transported.
• At 3:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire on a railing of a porch behind Whiskers. It was put out with an extinguisher.
• At 3:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Street. The victim was transported to the hospital.

May 8
• At 9:59 p.m., the dept. responded to call about a strange smell in a crawl space at a residence on Hummingbird Circle. A gas can had turned over.

May 9
• At 3:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire on a railing of a porch behind Whiskers. It was put out with an extinguisher.

May 10
• At 3:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Rainbow Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a home on Hemlock Circle. It was false.

May 11
• At 5:09 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a home on Hemlock Circle. It was false.
• At 9:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a home on Mountain Shadows Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.
‘A Night Under the Stars’
HS 2010 Prom at OEL’s The Farm

Dinner, dancing, smiles and laughter

Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki