Police Dept. bid in; Interim Planner hired

At a special called meeting the evening of Monday, Nov. 8, commissioners OK’d the construction bid for the new Police Department and hired Mark Maxwell as the Interim Town Planner.

Three contractors bid on renovating the old ABC Store into the new Police Department building—all came in over what the town had budgeted. The figure the town has set for renovation is $599,000 with another estimated $143,500 for hardscape/landscaping.


The board chose the lowest bidder—JT Turner—but expects the bid to come closer to $600,000 once “value engineering” techniques are applied to the project.

Town Board round-up

During the Committee Reports segment of the Nov. 3 Town Board meeting Town Manager Jim Fatland explained in detail steps administration will take to remediate the numerous material weaknesses in Highlands’ accounting procedures as outlined by auditors Martin-Starnes at the last Town Board meeting in October.

Fixes include involving more people in the accounting process so that the same couple of people are no longer the only people “touching” accounts receivables and payables.

Adjustments include: changing the person who signs checks when the Town Manager is absent from the cash collections employee to the Public Works Director with the mayor or mayor pro tem being the second signer.

Instead of having the account payable employee reconcile the bank statements, the Accounting Supervisor will do this followed by the review and approval of the Town Manager.

Instead of having the cash collections employee or utility billing clerk make cash and check deposits, a remote check deposit system will be set up with RBC Bank and the town will pay less than $2 a transaction.

Setting up for the holidays

Town crews began decorating early this year. On Monday they finished up with decorations on the Town Tree on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Hospital offers free flu shots

Area residents have the opportunity to take advantage of receiving complimentary flu vaccines being offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The hospital will conduct its annual community influenza clinic providing flu vaccines, more commonly known as the flu shot, at the following locations:

- Veterans Affairs Hospital (VA), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Fire and Rescue Station, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Highlands Presbyterian Medical Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Highlands Community Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Highlands High School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Highlands Community Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Highlands United Methodist Church, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Highlands United Christian Church, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Main Street group still working

Thursday evening marked the third Main Street Program meeting with a few new faces this time.

Represented were Kilwin’s, O&I, the Hen House, Pat Allen Realty, PAC, the Highlands Historical Society, Macon Bank, Nancy’s Fancies, Anderson Jewelry, Mill Creek Gallery, Mountain Fresh Foods, Lupoli Construction, Dutchman’s Design and Highlands Fine Art and Estate Jewelry. Also present were Ginger Slaughter, Town Manager Jim Fatland and Mayor David Wilkes.

Sheri Adams and Lou Holloway, facilitators of the program, were there to set the group on course concerning the town’s vision and planning for the downtown area, including economic restructuring and promotion.

About half the meeting involved formulating a vision for the downtown area. Participants were asked to say what Highlands meant to them.

“What is a compelling vision for the future of downtown?” asked Adams. “Consider a perfectly functional Highlands you want to see and want to maintain. Once we have that vision, we can devise a plan to get there.”

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If he’s not with them, he’s against them

Dear Editor,

Apparently Heath Shuler’s win has gone to his head! After only two terms in the House now he’s giving orders to senior House members, demanding that THEY step down from their places of leadership because HE doesn’t like it.

I’ve always thought “Blue Dog Democrats” was just a term for Democrats who were ashamed to call themselves Republicans.

Maybe Mr. Shuler should do a poll of his voters and find out how many eagerly voted for him and how many, like me, had to hold their noses while they voted for him. How many voted for Shuler as a vote against Miller? I think he would find he’s not as popular as he thought when the dust settles from the election and his ego would make out. I only voted for him because there wasn’t a real Democrat on the ticket running for the job.

The first thing he has done since he got back to Washington was to insist that Nancy Pelosi not run for the position of minority leader. What’s the problem? Does Pelosi offend his Republican friends on C Street? Was she too effective at being Speaker of the House? (Hint: She got more bills passed than most Speakers do in twice the time. Unfortunately most of them were bottled up in an ineffective Senate.)

Just a suggestion to Shuler: Grow a pair and start acting like the Democrat we wished we could have elected. If we wanted another Charles Taylor, we would have voted for Charles Taylor before (or Miller).

Take a hot shower and wash off the yellow stripe down your back and stand up straight and act like Pelosi instead of John Boehner.

We need you to stand with the Democrats instead of with the Republicans for the next two years. In 2012 if you want to run as a Republican, then have the guts to change your party affiliation.

Ben McInnes
Franklin, NC

Regarding our WNC wildlife

Dear Editor,

Many residents and visitors to WNC enjoy wildlife viewing while some share their passion of wildlife through photographic opportunities. For others, wildlife is a recognized symbol and our unique privilege of living in the mountains. Also, wildlife provides responsible hunters an opportunity to experience the thrill of a hunt and kill.

In my meetings and discussions with responsible hunters, wildlife advocates, organizations with wildlife interests and those involved in wildlife management, it is felt there is a major need to bring together diverse viewpoints to help resolve wildlife issues. A dedicated effort to build bridges of understanding and recognize “wildlife belong to all of us” would be of benefit to all in WNC.

Some specifics where cooperative efforts are needed and solutions sought include: shrinking wildlife habitat, a rapidly growing population, poaching and insensitive hunting practices. These represent significant challenges to all of us in WNC and would be enhanced through a unified effort.

In addition, hunters and dogs trespassing on private property is a sensitive matter while fishing is a practice, somewhat, has a negative impact on the sporting aspect of hunting. On a positive note, hunters and dogs and the general public share a common goal of finding creative financial options dedicated to additional NCWRC’s law enforcement.

In the fall edition of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation Journal, an article titled “Resolving to Fight for Wildlife” gives both hunters and the general public an excellent overview regarding issues. A resolution passed by the NCWF Board of Directors is called the “Sportsman Responsibility Doctrine.” It states, “NCWF pledges to work in cooperation with hunting and fishing groups, the general public, the NCWRC, and NC General Assembly to develop a state of amendments to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Law and implement rules to be known as the “Sportsman Responsibility Doctrine.” In this, strong emphasis is placed on finding ways to help end conflict among hunters and anglers, landowners and the general public.

On the local scene, Wild South recently sponsored a productive meeting of Western North Carolina wildlife advocates. This initial gathering was designed to build cooperative support while sharing diverse concerns regarding wildlife. Involved were hunters, wildlife advocates, a NC state representative, a NCWRC biologist and a law enforcement supervisor. Also taking part were several organizations that endorse wholesome outdoor living and provide wildlife programming. Plans are to hold another meeting in the near future with expanded participation.

There is a distinct need for organizations, hunters and the general public to find common ground in addressing specifics regarding wildlife issues and forward these joint concerns to the leadership of the NCWRC and members of our NC General Assembly.

John Edwards
Wild South Wildlife Outreach Coordinator
Director of Mountain Wildlife Days Committee to Promote the Bear Smart Initiative Cashiers

Proposed “Bob Zahner Wilderness” area

Dear Editor,

The proposal to make the Overlook Area in Blue Valley a wilderness area in honor of Bob Zahner does not meet the criteria for a wilderness area. The criteria for a wilderness area are:

- No vehicular roads,
- No mechanical tools such as chain saws for maintenance,
- Absence of sights and sounds of human activities such as traffic noise, view of houses.

The Overlook area does have forest service roads, and urban activities can be seen and heard.

The Overlook area does have features which attract many recreational pursuits such as hiking, photography, viewing or cooling off in the tree shade and waterfalls, roadsides dispersed camping, fishing, turkey hunting.

Roadsides dispersed camping would be eliminated with this proposed wilderness designation. Other recreational activities could continue but to a lesser degree because of access.

The designation of the Overlook Area as a recreational area is more appropriate than wilderness. Recreation not as a developed area such as Cliffs de Chama or Dry Falls, but as a dispersed recreation area where the user observes leave no trace principles for there is no caretaker to pick up paper, beverage containers, and other debris.

Honor Bob Zahner with a low impact recreation area, or a trail or vista on Whiteside Mountain. Do not dilute the definition “Wilderness” area.

Nathalie Sato
Highlands

What will it take for them to listen?

Dear Editor,

Do our town officials give a d_ _ ?

The recent road construction project on Third Street lacks all fences to control erosion into Satulah Creek. Three telephone calls were made to the town Manager to suggest corrections, but nothing was done. Now, after the recent rain, about a truckload of gravel and sediment is in the creek.

After another rain, another truckload will be in the creek.

Richard Melvin
Highlands

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LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR POLICY

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

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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.; R.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741
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**Thank You’s**

The Highlands community cares

While the reasons most people come to Highlands are both numerous and obvious, what motivates many of us to stay is often not. If asked to come up with the single most important of Highland’s many assets, I believe it would have to be its ever-strong sense of community - of giving and sharing in another’s time of need.

The Benefit Yard Sale for Colleen Fogel held recently was just such an example and while it exceeded, financially, far beyond my expectations, its true success is measured by the overwhelming outpouring of our very special community.

I would like to thank Debbie & Jack Hornsby, Harold Brammer, Lisa Osteen, Melani and Stuart Beavers, the entire office of Dr. Patty Wheeler, Highlands Boys soccer team, Stuart Armor, Anne Porter, Bessie Bura, and her girls, Judy Smart, Jenny King, Diane Levine, Michael, Gray and Dan, Paula Nova, Fran Pamelee, Jimmy Shahan, Patos Thornton, the media and countless others who gave and gave.

Noel Atherton
Highlands

Family grateful for support in time of grief

More words cannot express the Leora C. Talley family’s gratitude for all the caring acts of love and kindness received during her illness and recent passing into the presence of our Heavenly Father.

The spiritual and moral support of prayers, visits, phone calls and cards, along with the delicious meals, floral arrangements, helped to make this difficult time more bearable.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to our extended churches and community families for always being ready and willing to help regardless of the need.

We appreciated the comforting words spoken and musical messages at her funeral service.

In addition, we would like to commend Dr. David Wheeler and the dedicated nurses and staff at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and the committed personnel at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for their professionalism and compassion.

- The Talley Family

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**HELP during loss appreciated**

The family of Dugan Reese thanks you for your support and for helping us during the great loss of our loved one.

Hospice and Dr. Baumrucker were a blessing to us and my children are to be commended for helping me care for their Dad at home. Without them and the strength and guidance from God, I couldn’t have done it.

The bountiful supply of food, kind words of comfort, prayers, cards and any way you expressed your care, was greatly appreciated and we thank you all with much love.

Sisters and Brothers, Sue, Kevin, Daren, Donna and David and Tara, Devon Michael Austin, Alexa and Channing.

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**Phyllis (Grammy Phyl) Elliott**

Phyllis (Grammy Phyl) Elliott, 82 of Highlands, NC formerly of Delray Beach, FL passed into the hands of her Savior Jesus Christ, Saturday, November 6 at home. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Donald H. Elliott, her children, Larry E. Elliott and wife Karen of Delray Beach, FL, Donald E. Elliott and wife Lisa of Cullowhee, NC, Philip N. Elliott of Cullowhee, NC. She was preceded in death by a son, Richard Elliott in 1985. Six grandchildren and three great grandchildren also survive.

The family will hold a celebration of her life on her birthday, March 16, 2011 at the Christ Church of the Valley in Cashiers, NC.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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**FLU continued from page 1**

combination of seasonal and H1N1, on Wednesday, Nov. 17th from 9-11 a.m. on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic located on the hospital campus. Vaccines are available on a first come first serve basis. You must pre-register by calling (828) 526-1434. Pre-registration is required due to limited availability.

According to the CDC, the combination flu vaccine is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older. It is also extremely important for those caregivers of infants to receive the vaccination in efforts to prevent the transmission of influenza.

“The vaccination is safe and effective. It’s not a live vaccine and this means you cannot get the flu from the shot,” says Cindy Coley, RN, Infection Control Nurse at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

“The best protection against the flu still remains the vaccine,” Coley remarked. “We are encouraging everyone to get a flu shot this year. It’s important to remember that flu vaccinations need to be given each year as the viruses can mutate or change. The sooner one is vaccinated the better. The CDC says that it can take up to 10 to 14 days for one to develop immunity to the flu shot.

In conjunction with the vaccine, there are proven ways to reduce and avoid infection. Frequent hand washing, avoiding anyone who is sick, staying at home until you are sick, if you have a fever, staying at home until no fever has recurred 24 hours after the last fever reducing medications has been taken, and practicing respiratory etiquette are helpful practices to keep you healthy.”

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**Laughing at Life**

Never underestimate the power of a Floridiot

Dateline: November 2008:

“Congratulations, America, you’ve just elected a man as your president who wouldn’t even qualify to be a member of his own security detail. What were you thinking, America? DUH! Because of Obama’s past associations and shady connections, he couldn’t be a policeman, an FBI agent or work for the CIA. In fact, he couldn’t hold any position of trust outside the my political arena where anything goes. He’s too shady. Positions of trust and honor require a person to have a clean and unmarred background. Running the United States of America… well, that’s a whole different pan of worms.”

A little circus music, please, while I write this column. I thought it might be fun to start with the above paragraph, pulled from a Highlands’ Newspaper column I wrote the morning I woke and found America had elected its first half-black president. Democratic Highlanders were furious with me… again.

This was also the period in my life where I was rapidly changing from a political Mr. Floridiot nice guy to Mr. Floridiot not so nice guy. Before then, I was a typical “Rino” who voted for the person I thought America needed most. Party affiliation didn’t matter.

And way back when I was much younger, I watched politicians fiercely debate the issues on the floor of Congress, then recess and eat lunch together, asking about how the wife and kids were. They were friends who just saw things differently. There was no hate. Oh, how I long for those days. They may be gone forever.

And why was I not surprised when I woke the morning after the 2010 mid-term elections and found that Palm Beach County Floridiot had embarrassed themselves again. The heavily populated Democratic county screwed up the vote… once more. A worker admitted to miscounting the ballots for Governor and they had to be re-counted. They were themselves out around 4 AM and called it off until morning. Only a Floridiot could pull this off for the umpteenth time.

Surely you remember the 2000 election with the famous Floridiot “hanging chad” that caused the U.S Supreme Court to step in and pick our president. DUH! Al Gore is still having nightmares. Please, turn up the circus music.

Now I have left the ranks of the majority of Americans who were center right and have joined the very radical right who are just as bad as the radical left. I had no choice. America is drowning in debt. Only a serious financial collapse will cure this mess. It’s time to pay the piper.

And shortly after I wrote this serious piece condemning America for being conned into electing President Obama, I warned both Republicans and Democrats to be very afraid of a nobody person named Sarah Palin. Everyone was dismissing her as an inexperienced political whacko. I wasn’t!

I’m certainly not smarter than the majority of Americans who voted for President Obama. I’m just an old retired cop with a respectable IQ and a whole lot of common sense. But what I have over the majority of Americans is savvy. My years and years of being lied to by some of the best criminals and politicians this country has to offer have given me the ability to smell a con job from a mile away. America got conned.

I remember sitting on my couch and listening to Obama’s bla, bla, bla campaign speeches and thinking, This guy is sooo good… but full of s—! Back in 2007, I was still a center right American, a moderate who longed for a guy like Colin Powell to become president. Now there was a man I could support, another center right moderate American and war hero. Unfortunately, he was too smart and too honest to run for office. Today, the far left and far right animals in Congress would eat him alive.

So here we go again with another Republican Congress that started all this over spending mess that President Obama perpetuated once he got into office. Now what? Will there be gridlock? Will there be more hate? Will no one compromise? Is this good for America?

The only hope for America’s future is not from a bunch of corrupt Democrat and Republican politicians, but from a small band of non-political type of American patriots wearing funky revolutionary costumes and currently being called racist and extreme. They carry flags that say, “Don’t tread on me.” England called George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson extreme also. Hey, it’s about to get very interesting.

*Read Fred’s column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.*

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**Contact Fred via email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

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**About Fred Woldridge:**

Fred Woldridge is a retired cop with a solid background in national and local law enforcement. He was also an ordained minister for 5 years and is now a newspaper columnist. Fred can be contacted at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.
**Luck is relative**

Haiti got lucky. Hurricane Tomas struck a glancing blow at the west end of the island, largely sparing the million or so earthquake survivors who remain in tent cities, or tent slums in the capital, Port au Prince. It’s about time Haiti caught a break, even if the break meant widespread flooding and a few deaths. It could have been much worse.

I’ve been going to Haiti off and on for more than a decade. I’ve yet to see anything resembling good fortune there. The Spanish, the French, the United States, a series of corrupt leaders, atrocious stewardship, and nature have conspired to reduce the island nation to its present state of misery.

Following the earthquake last January, optimists spoke of the near total devastation as an opportunity to rebuild the country. The idea was to bulldoze the debris left by the quake and rebuild the capital with buildings that would stand up to future quakes. Optimists understood that it would billions of dollars would to build roads, schools, hospitals, water and sewage treatment facilities.

They failed to understand the level of poverty is such that few of the island’s citizens were literate before the quake. Most had never had a job or been to school. Political instability has limited foreign investment. Roads range from goat paths to single lane asphalt. Much of the country is without electricity. Only those wealthy enough to afford generators have lights and refrigeration. Disease is pervasive. Poverty and malnutrition rob the population of natural resistance to infectious diseases. Deformation led to instability of the mountainsides. Precipitous soil washed down the slopes, not only crippling the nation’s ability to produce enough food for the population, but choking off shore reefs with accumulated silt.

It is hard to describe the country’s misery. I find myself wondering what I’ve omitted. Imagine a country whose unemployment rate approaches 70%, in which 80% of the population lives in poverty, and more than half exist in absolute poverty. Imagine a country in which polluted streams are the only source of water, water which carries debilitating and lethal diseases. Haiti is a country without natural resources and is among the worst environmental disasters in the world. In areas without electricity, trees are cut as soon as are pruned to produce charcoal, the only energy for cooking and heat. The young trees never get a chance to put down roots to hold the remaining topsoil from being ingored by periodic tropical storms.

Despite conditions that would crush us, Haitians remain resilient and cheerful, not hopeful, but cheerful. There is no escape from poverty or the misery that accompanies it for Haiti’s poor. A lucky few get jobs in sewing shops. Therel poor subsist on tiny plots of weathed land. Education is a dream, but the one wonders what benefit literacy might bring.

In the 10 months since the earthquake, none of the 1.5 billion dollars the United States promised for reconstruction has been delivered. Ninety eight percent of the debris remains where it fell. Hundreds of thousands whose homes were destroyed, the lucky ones who survived, live in dangerous and unsanitary camps. Had the hurricane made land fall closer to Port au Prince, many would have died in the wind, storm surges, and rain. It didn’t happen. For once, Haiti caught a break.

A friend from San Francisco called after the outbreak of the cholera outbreak and asked me if I could go down and help out. My schedule didn’t permit it, but I answered that it would be long before another tragedy befell Haiti. It’s tragic, but true.
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Earth to Nancy, “Hello, anybody home?”

A ll of you know the Presidential succession. If the President is unable to perform his duties, the Veep takes over. If, God forbid, the VP is unable to perform, the Speaker of the House becomes the most powerful person on Earth (that used to be the case—sure at this point). That, of course, is Nancy Pelosi, at least for the time being.

I quote from a Wall Street Journal item posted at 5:20 PM on Election Day. “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said late this afternoon that she is confident the House Democrats’ message to preserve Social Security and fight for the middle class will resonate with voters.

“We’re on pace to maintain the majority in the House of Representatives,” Ms. Pelosi told reporters gathered in a second-floor conference room at the Democrats’ headquarters in Washington,” WHAT?

“Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the Maryland Democrat who serves as Ms. Pelosi’s assistant and is the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said he is seeing strong voter turnout among Democrats, who are proving the Washington pundits absolutely wrong.” Headlined: “This thing is not over.”

Their transmissions from the Mothership must have been garbled by sunspots or other solar activity, because everyone whose IQ is larger than their shoe size knew that the Dems were getting creamed and the only question was how badly. Whatever would possess an adult human to make such an ignorant statement is a mystery to me, especially in front of reporters. Thank heavens she is nearly out of the line of Presidential succession.

She has just announced that she will seek the role of House Minority Leader. She is seen as so toxic that the Republicans are shouting “hire Nancy” and the Dems are crying “fire Nancy.” So what looms ahead in light of the Republicans’ success in winning a majority in the House? John Boehner, presumptive Speaker in the next session, says he will be relentless in dismantling Obamacare.

With the Senate still in Democrat hands and with Obama’s hand on the tiller, neutering the monstrosity cannot be done legislatively. The plans are to bring it up piecemeal, forcing the Dems to vote over and over for pieces of a plan that is grossly unpopular with the voting public.

In doing so, the election of 2012 should bode well for those opposed to the massive new entitlement. On a more positive note, since the House has control of the purse strings, the idea has been floated that funding for the IRS be reduced. Since that agency has been chosen to enforce Obamacare’s punitive provisions, starving them of funds would eliminate their role in coming after you if you chose not to buy their mandated insurance policy. Sounds like a plan to me.

So far as I’m concerned, it would be a prime time to enact the FairTax and eliminate the agency altogether.

Closer to home, “An unusually large turnout at the polls Tuesday gave the Republicans a majority of 68-70 seats in the 120 seat NC House of Representatives,” according to the Lincoln Tribune. “This historic election assured Republican control of the (State) House for the first time since 1998.”

Republicans also wrested control of the NC Senate, holding a majority of that 50 seat body for the first time since ’98 (that’s 1898).

It’s amazing what a number of criminal prosecutions will do to a good-old-boy network. The Republican House Leader and Whip issued the following list of Republican priorities for the legislative session to begin in January: “Years of overspending by Democrats have given North Carolina the highest taxes in the Southeast and a budget deficit of at least $3 billion; we will balance the State budget without raising taxes.”

“High taxes are killing jobs. We will make our tax rates competitive with other states. Within the first 100 days you will see: Passing The Healthcare Freedom Protection Act; exempting North Carolinians from the job-killing, liberty-restricting mandates of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare); fighting to protect jobs by keeping our Right to Work laws; Reducing the regulatory burden on small business; Funding education in the classroom, not the bureaucracy; Eliminating the cap on charter schools; Passing the Honest Election Act, requiring a valid ID to vote; Passing The Eminent Domain amendment to protect private property rights; Ending pay-to-play politics and restore honesty and integrity to state government.”

Now that’s an agenda I can be happy with; how about you? And it only took 112 years of corruption to allow it to happen. Maybe we can take out both Obama and Purdue in 2012.

Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swandonson@dnet.net
only cash deposits will be taken to the bank by the Town Manager’s secretary, the Town Manager or the HR Administrative Assistant;

Instead of having cash investments performed by the Accounts Payable position, the Accounting Supervisor will do this with the Town Manager’s approval;

Instead of having purchase requisitions entered by the cash collections employee, the Police Department Administrative Assistant with enter purchase orders approved by the Town Manager so accounting personnel will no longer be part of the purchase functions;

Instead of having mail delivered to employees unopened, the Town Manager’s secretary will open the mail, date-stamp it and deliver it to employees. All checks will be forwarded to the Accounting Supervisor and prepared for deposit. Once run through the remote deposit system, cancelled checks will be given to the Utility Billing clerk for posting. Mail marked “personal” will be delivered to employees unopened.

Since auditors also reported the lack of technical expertise to comply with financial reporting requirements, the Town Manager and the Accounting Supervisor will review audit drafts and submit corrections to the auditor before the report is finalized and submitted to the Local Government Commission.

Auditors noted numerous and significant audit adjustments throughout the year but with the hiring of the Accounting Supervisor and with the improvement of internal controls, Town Manager Jim Fatland expects audit adjustments to be reduced.

In addition in stead of having several bank accounts for separate funds set up at Wachovia Bank, the town’s accounting software will be used to track and segregate funds. All but the Town Scholarship fund account will be closed.

At the Nov 3 meeting, the board also discussed the Animal Control Ordinance with Town Attorney Bill Coward. Coward suggested comparing the county’s Animal Control Ordinance with the town’s ordinance.

“The town’s ordinance is more stringent,” said Coward. He said said the town adopted the county ordinance so county personnel can take Highlands area animals to the shelter, but suggested an ordinance be created with interlocking statutes for concurrent jurisdictions so Highlands can tailor its ordinance to its needs.

The board also adopted the Recreation Agreement between the county and the town for FY2010-11 at $495,000. It has been receiving payments since July 1, but never formally adopted the agreement.

The amount is $5,000 less than previous years. The cut was part of the county’s “across the board” reduction to reduce its budget for FY 2011.

At the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting, there will be a Public Hearing to consider the Conditional Zoning District request for Riverwalk.

— Kim Lewicki
By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When I came down to Highlands to live with John, I never thought I’d be going to the dogs. I met the first one a few years ago at John’s Yale reunion. Yale was the first university in the United States to adopt a mascot in 1889, and the current mascot, Handsome Dan, is the 17th of the line. Just recently, however, I got to meet another dog— a sleeker, more graceful one— the Gilman greyhound.

I don’t want anyone thinking I have mascot envy. After all, Mary Washington has its eagle, a recent addition to the college. In the ’60s, the school was divided into goats and devils, depending on whether your class was an odd or an even year. I blush to confess I was a goat. It didn’t get better at Goucher, where our mascot is Mortimer, the gopher. He is portrayed as a fierce rodent, showing his arm muscle, with the slogan “Fear the Gopher” written underneath. While my final school, NYU, may have a team nickname that sounds wimpy - “the Violets” (school color oblige) - we do have a fairly butch mascot, a bobcat. What a relief! I was afraid our mascot was an accountant named Murray.

Shortly before John died, his eighth and final book, “These are the Times that Try Men’s Souls” came out. I’m so glad he lived to see his book finally in print, since it was 10 years in the making. I was with John for the last several of those years, and it wasn’t always easy being married to three different men— John Armor, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Paine. There were times when the book should have been renamed “These are the Times that Try Women’s Patience.”

John had many things he wanted to do after his surgery, but one trip he was looking forward to was a trek up to Washington, DC, to march with re-enactors portraying all the signers of the Constitution. Naturally, he was going to be Franklin. While in DC, he was going to attend a book launch for the Paine book. It was going to be a busy trip, and I worried about the toll it would take on someone who would have just undergone major surgery. With John’s death, the question was “What do we do about the book launch?” Upon consultation, it was decided to postpone it for a month. The march on Washington went on without John, of course, but the organizers kindly remembered him with prayers and a brief service.

Would I be prepared to come up to Washington to do the book launch in John’s place? Of course—it’s what John would have wanted. I don’t have a problem with speeches. My problem is keeping my mouth shut. On October 12th, I got a ride to Asheville with two friends who just happened to be passing by the airport when I needed to be there. Being at Asheville Airport was unexpectedly painful. I brought back all the bittersweet memories of the days when I was flying back and forth between New York City and Asheville, before moving permanently to Highlands.

My mind was filled with images of John behind the security barrier, waiting to scoop me up in his arms and hug me in one of his famous bear hugs upon arrival. I remembered sadder images, too, of leaving with a heavy heart to go back to my apartment and my job in New York, fighting back tears as I rolled my suitcase toward the awaiting gate.

The flight to Washington was uneventful. I stayed overnight with Susan Carlsson, John’s boss at the ACRU (American Civil...
Ex-police chief recounts exploits and days of old Highlands

By P. Russell Paxton

My father and mother, Walter and Isabel Paxton, were the first Paxtons to become homeowners by purchasing the Boat House on the shoreline of Lake Sequoyah as their summer home. I was finishing my last two years of Lenox Preparatory in Lenox, MA. Honestly, I was not enthusiastic about this new venture. I had many friends in Palm Beach FL, our then winter home. On my first visit to Highlands, I was introduced to Margaret and Tudor Hall and their daughter Sarah at the Boat House. These few brief hours changed my life. I was overwhelmed by Sarah’s beauty and poise. The Hall family on many occasions invited me to their outings and parties, which made me appreciative of the “Highest Town in the Eastern United States.”

The next few years flew by, and the Korean War entered my life. I enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1950. After 13 weeks at Parris Island, I took my first leave to Palm Beach to visit my sister Patty. To my joy and surprise, Sarah Hall was visiting Patty. I managed to stay for that short seven-day leave, becoming further and more deeply in love with Sarah. We wrote weekly during my basic and advanced training. On December 29, 1951, we were married in Highlands at the Hall’s residence. I will not bore you with the adventures of being a Marine nor of my bleak life until my honorable discharge in October 1953. However, there was a ray of sunshine when Sarah gave birth on our first anniversary to our son Scott Russell Paxton. He was born in the Camp Lejeune Hospital at a cost to us of $6.53.

Mom and Dad had sold the Boat House and purchased the Potts House, the small hotel, and the restaurant. They hoped to have this business be a family endeavor. After a few years of remodeling, though, they were getting discouraged.

Mom related a true story about some guests that came in late November a year before I came home. They were a man, wife, and four children desperate for a couple of rooms for the night. She told them that the hotel was closed for the winter but they had one room with heat they could have for a minimum charge. The children would have to sleep on the floor and she would furnish them blankets and pillows. They left the next morning before anyone was awake, not paying and taking all the blankets and pillows. This was a true disappointment.

When Sarah and I came home to Highlands, we were apprized of the family’s discouraged feelings. In a desperate last stand, I assumed management of the newly named Paxton House. Sarah and I made a valiant effort to save the much-improved structure, but the severe winter months with minimum revenue forced the family to sell. We did have a very bright spot in our life when Sarah gave birth to our first daughter, Sarah Sally Margaret Paxton, in September of 1954. She is the only Paxton that was born in Highlands.

About this time, the Chief of Police died suddenly of a heart attack. He was well liked in the town and would be missed. I got an urgent call from Mayor Cobb asking if I would accept the Chief’s position. Please understand that a person was called “Chief” only because the department consisted of one person. You drove your own car, mine being a 1948 two-door Commander Studebaker. Also you were on call 24/7. Sarah and I discussed the position, but with no job and no income, the answer was “YES.”

There was no police station, only a two-cell concrete building, as I recall 20’ X 18’ on a dirt road (Maple Street) very close to town. The two relic pistols provided were dangerous, should I ever draw a weapon. Luckily, I had an S&W .38 pistol with a holster. I ordered a small badge and two gray uniforms. The Town Board was finalizing plans for a new town hall, which would include a police station, an office, and two modern cells ...

• See Part 2 in next week’s issue.
Thanksgiving made easy and delicious by Wild Thyme Gourmet

Our favorite Thanksgiving take-out meal ~
Slow roasted maple and cider-glazed turkey
Apple, sausage and pecan dressing
Turkey gravy with fresh sage and vermouth
Sweet potatoes with orange and crystallized ginger
Garlic mashed potatoes
Spinach and artichoke casserole
Green beans with shallots and walnut oil
Cranberry relish
Fresh baked rolls
Pumpkin, apple or chocolate pecan pie

The Feast
Serves 6 ~ $210
A 10-12 pound turkey, all of the above accompaniments
One dozen rolls and one pie

The Big Feast
Serves 10 ~ $300
An 18-20 pound turkey, all of the above accompaniments
1 1/2 dozen rolls, and two pies

Dinners may be picked up by appointment between 11 a.m. Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Order soon, oven space is limited!
Call Through Nov. 19 To Reserve Your Holiday Meal
(828) 526-4035

490 Carolina Way Highlands North Carolina 28741

College Hoops Preview — ACC

While the majority of college hoops previews will tell you that the ACC in 2010-11 will be about Duke and then everyone else. Recent years have shown that there is no such thing as a sure thing when it comes to the ACC.

While Duke is likely to be the most talented team in the league, they will be challenged by contenders at Virginia Tech, North Carolina and North Carolina State.

Looking at Duke, one would think they would struggle to replace the loss of three starters, one of which included all-ACC guard Jon Scheyer. However, the Blue Devils add a deep and talented group of newcomers to play alongside returning stars Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith. The best of these newcomers is freshman PG Kyrie Irving, who has already been compared to Jason Williams and could be the nation’s best PG by the end of the season. Transfer Seth Curry (brother of Steph Curry) looks to light it up from behind the arc, and freshman bulldozer Josh Hairston will provide some bulk in the post.

Lurking behind Duke will be Virginia Tech, who despite missing the NCAA tournament for the last few years, returns a deep group of players including the best scorer in the ACC, Malcolm Delaney. While the Hokies boast a star player, they also have a talented supporting cast with Jeff Allen, Dorenzo Hudson and J.T. Thompson.

Third in the ACC will be the resurgent North Carolina Tar Heels. Despite a stunning collapse at the end of the season, UNC will return plenty of talent including superstar John Henson. However, UNC will need to rely on two dynamic newcomers – one a freshman wing Reggie Bullock, who has a long athletic wing in the mold of Danny Green, and the other a highly rated PG with waterbug speed. The UNC backcourt will be fantastic, the real player to watch for UNC will be four-star recruit Harrison Barnes primed to lead the Tar Heels. While Barnes will be fantastic, the real player to watch for UNC will be three-point shooter Regge Bullock. Bullock is a long athletic wing in the mold of Danny Green, and he can fill it up from beyond the arc.

Fourth in the league should be the Wolfpack from NC State. This is Sidney Lowe’s most talented team since he has been in Raleigh, and the Pack will depend heavily on all-ACC forward Tracy Smith and a highly rated group of newcomers that include waterbug PG Ryan Harrow and talented forward C.J. Leslie. The big question this year for the Wolfpack will not be the talent, but whether or not that talent can be coached successfully in the ACC.

Other things to watch for in the ACC this year include talented players Deon Thompson and Durand Scott from Miami. Both players should have breakout years for their respective teams. Another player worth watching is Maryland’s Gary Williams, who has a gem in College Park. Also, there are several coaching newcomers including Jon Scheyer at Wake Forest, Steve Donahue at Boston College and Jeff Bzdelik at Wake Forest. Donahue in particular should be one to watch since he was able to transform Cornell into a national player in recent years.

... JUST HERS continued from page 8

RightsUnion). Susan lives in a DC suburb, in the kind of fabulously decorated house that you normally only see in architecture and design magazines. What a delight to stay in such a lovely home, surrounded by so much beauty – and three delightful cats.

The next day was the book launch. I’d gone over and over in my mind what I wanted to say. I hate speeches that are entirely written out, since it’s hard to read and make real contact with the audience. Susan spoke first, and then turned to introduce me. I stepped up to the podium. Looking out at the crowd assembled at the Army and Navy Club, I saw nothing but people of average height. I exhaled. Everything was going to be fine.

The next day dawned cold and rainy. The drive up to Baltimore for John’s second memorial service was a real white-knuckle adventure. Don Watson, John’s oldest daughter, had organized the event, in a tremendous place called “The Cloisters” in the city of Baltimore. The service was conducted by the Rev. Ernest Smart, the former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. This delightful gentleman, originally from Scotland, has known John’s family for over 30 years. He not only knows where all the bodies are buried, he has probably officiated over their burials. John got another good send-off, with testimonials from family and friends, daughter Karen Boodee’s mov-
On going and Upcoming Events

9th Annual Christmas Dinner at the Highlands Country Club's Hudson House

The 9th annual Highlands Christmas Dinner has a new home! The Hudson House at Highlands Country Club will be the 2010 home of what has become a holiday tradition for Highlanders and visitors alike. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Day and will feature the same wonderful traditional fare Highlanders have come to look forward to throughout the year.

Chef sarà Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); and Martha Porler (Morningside B&B). The cost is $35 per person and all proceeds will be distributed evenly between R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, Care Diem Farm, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, all local non-profits.

For reservations call Rick Siegel at 828-526-5102. Last year more than 200 people were reserved, so book early to save a space.

Come enjoy this fabulous fare in the quiet, elegant ambiance of The Hudson House. More about the Hudson House, local charities, chefs, and menu in subsequent weekly articles until Christmas Day.

AngelFood

The December menu features the popular Holiday Box. This special holiday box includes a 7.5 lb. roasting hen, 3-lb. ham roast, corn bread stuffing mix (2 pkgs) frozen cranberries, mini-corn cobbettas, green beans, diced sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, brown gravy mix (2 pkgs) and dessert for only $36. Come by the Church of the Incarnation at 5th and Main streets to pick up a complete menu and place your order.

Christmas Holiday Box orders for should be placed by Dec. 1. Distribution will be Dec. 18 from 8-9 a.m. This box includes the same items as are in the Thanksgiving Box. For questions, call 526-2968 or 526-9889.

Highlands 4th Annual Culinary Weekend

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION
Thursday, November 11, 2010
At The Bascom • 7pm

Ignite Your Taste Buds!
Enjoy fine wines and the delectable cuisine of Highlanders’ local chefs. Take advantage of exclusive pricing on all wines being poured.

Tickets are on sale now! Please call Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce at 866-526-5841 or purchase online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com

Bryson’s Food Store

Is having a SUPER SALE

This weekend!

Super Deals in every department

Please join us
November 11, 12 & 13

For

Great Savings!

Thank you for your business!

Winter Hours
Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
103 Highlands Plaza
828-526-3775

Passionate Hearts for All, Because of Jesus’ Passion for Us!

Christ Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.
Communion Service

Come and See!
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church 621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers
Now offering a HEALING Service - Thursdays at noon

The Reverend Jim Murphy, Rector
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701
www.christanglicanchurch.com
dance workshop get-together on Sundays. This will include mainstream and plus levels. The caller will be Jim Roger from Cornelia, GA. The dances will be held at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin, from 3 to 5 p.m. Come in casual clothes and dance with us. Now is the time to come if you have not danced in a while and you would like to get started again. This is good exercise and a lot of fun. The cost is $3 per person. For information, call 828-349-0905, 828-369-9334, 706-782-0943.

Mon. & Thurs.
• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Upper Level Jones Hall. Mon. and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. $10/hour. (12/31)

Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. $20/month.

November lineup at The Bascom

The Bascom offers something for everyone in November:
• A Stitch in Time Quilts exhibition, Saturday, November 13. Enjoy this opportunity to examine quilts on loan from local collectors and appreciate functional objects as works of art. Quilts embody the love and care of family. Today, these once-practical objects are treasured and collected by family and fiber enthusiasts. The exhibition, on view through December 18, is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson and exhibition partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

• Nog Off and Table-Scape competition, Saturday, November 13, 5-7 p.m. Bring your own unique, interpretive ideas or just your taste buds to The Bascom’s Nog Off, a friendly contest and culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink. There are two ways to participate. Submit your favorite eggnog recipe or come sample the nog and cast your vote to determine the 2010 winner. The event is free to the public and there is no entry fee for participants.

• Margie Shambaugh, Saturday, November 13, 10:30-11 a.m. Watch Margie Shambaugh and a team of talented floral volunteers take native seasonal greens and with the help of a few embellishments, create gorgeous holiday arrangements.

• Christmas Crafts from Around the World: a special four-week class on Saturday, November 13, 20, December 11 and 18, 10 am-noon. Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. Tuition: $40 members/ $45 non-members.

• Gingerbread House Workshop, November 26, 10 am-noon, 1-4 pm and Saturday, November 27, 10 am-1 pm. Gingerbread designers will be giving all the sweets and confessions they need to create an imaginary gingerbread house. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by a popular vote. Tuition: $40 members/ $45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30 December 10, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am on Saturday, December 11. The public is invited.

Exhibitions at The Bascom are free and open to the public. Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Workshop and Nog Off and Table-Scape registration is going on now. For more information on The Bascom visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

Don’t miss the myriad of November events at The Bascom. The 2009 Gingerbread House Workshop was a grand family affair. For more information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

On going and Upcoming Events

• Britt Ammann, “Play in the Clay”, Saturday, November 20. Have you ever looked at someone effortlessly pull up a lovely pot from a hunk of clay and thought, “I’d like to try that!” This is a day for you. Britt Ammann will teach participants the basics of clay handling and wheel throwing. Tuition: $40 members/ $45 non-members per class (all materials provided).

• On November 26-27 from 10 am-5 pm, The Artists’ Marketplace, featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Dave Drake Studio Barn, is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists’ works for Christmas, hostess and New Year’s gifts.

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• At Packetti’s Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.

• At Paoletti’s Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.

• At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Day). Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

November 13: Saturday, November 13, 5-7 pm. Watch Margie Shambaugh and a team of talented floral volunteers take native seasonal greens and with the help of a few embellishments, create gorgeous holiday arrangements. There are two ways to participate. Submit your favorite eggnog recipe or come sample the nog and cast your vote to determine the 2010 victor. The event is free to the public and there is no entry fee for participants.

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

• Highlands Knitting & Needlepoint Guild meets to knit, crochet and needlepoint on the terrace at The Bascom. Questions? 526-1741.

• At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Day). Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Veteran’s Day service at the monument at Horse Cave Road and Sixth Street at 1 p.m.
**On going and Upcoming Events**

• The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday.

**Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 11-14**
• Annual Culinary Festival. Call the Chamber of Commerce for details. 526-2114.

**Sat., Nov. 13 - Sat., Dec. 18**
• At The Bascom, A Stitch in Time: Quilts. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

**Sat., Nov. 13**
• A benefit for Donna Tew at the Rec Park in the gym 4-9 p.m. There will be live entertainment from Frazzeled Edge Band, a hot dog supper, silent auction, yard sale corner and a cake walk. Donna suffered a stroke and had to have a craniotomy at Duke Hospital. The benefit is to help with medical expenses due to no disability or medical insurance. If you would like to help call Karen or Kelley at 526-1424 or 331-0047.

• At The Bascom, Nog Off and Table-Scape Competition, 5-7 pm. An artistic, culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink featuring some delicious and unique family eggnog recipes. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• At The Bascom, Demonstration: Holiday Floral Arranging, 10:30-11 am. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• The Christmas Tree “on the Hill,” 212 S. Fourth Street, presents the Saucy Sisters dispensing wine and holiday entertaining tips from noon to 4 p.m. Event is FREE. Information call (828) 526-3687.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike in Panthertown Valley to Schoolhouse Falls, Wilderness Falls and Little Green Mtn. with an elevation change of 300 ft. into and out of the valley and a steep climb up Little Green. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

**Mon.-Sun., Nov. 15-21**
• Operation Christmas Child at Community Bible Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 828-526-4949 ext. 100 for more information.

**Thurs., Nov. 18**
• Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

**Sat., Nov. 20**
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Park Ridge and Park Creek trails in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• At The Bascom, Play in the Clay Day. $40 for members, $45 for non members. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 526-4949, ext. 100 for more information.

**Sun., Nov 21**
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Tennessee Rock Overlook Trail in Black Rock Mtn. State Park near Clayton GA. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 2:00 p.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Drive 28 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and a few extra dollars for the carpool drivers. There is a $3 parking fee at the park. Call leader Kay Conrell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Clayton. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

**Tuesday, Nov. 23**
• Community Thanksgiving Dinner at The Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It’s free.

**Fri. & Sat., Nov. 26-27**
• At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. $40 Bascom members/$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am, Saturday, December 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828.526.4949.

**Sat., Nov. 27**
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. to the top of Yellow Mtn., highest in the Highlands area at 5,127 feet, with a tower providing a 360 degree view. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**At Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Winter Wonderland from 1-3 p.m. It’s free.**

**At The Bascom, Artist’s Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn Featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists’ works for Christmas, hostess and New Year’s gifts. For information, call 828.526.4949.

**Friday, Nov. 26**
• At Packetts, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. $20 per person. Refundable with wine purchase.

**Sunday, Nov. 28**
• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sat., Nov. 27**
• At The Bascom, Artist’s Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn Featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists’ works for Christmas, hostess and New Year’s gifts. For information, call 828.526.4949.

**Monday, Nov. 29**
• The Bascom will host a public hearing. Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc. is going to hold a Public Hearing to see if there is community support for a Hospice House to serve western North Carolina. Please come to this public hearing and express your support of this vital need in our area!

**Where:** Macon County Public Library

**When:** Thursday, November 18, 2010, 9 a.m.

As a part of the Certificate of Need process, the State of North Carolina now wants to hear directly from people in our community about their need and desire for a Hospice House. We need you to show your support of the Hospice House by attending this public hearing.

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to show their support. Your presence is vital and your words and thoughts are most welcome. If you choose to share your experience, you will be given an opportunity to speak at this hearing.

**Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc.**

PO Box 815
Franklin, NC 28744

www.hospicehousefoundationwnc.com

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

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**Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc.**

PO Box 815
Franklin, NC 28744

www.hospicehousefoundationwnc.com
This past Sunday was designated by most churches as All Saints Day. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the lives of all those who have passed on in the past year. For some of us, the sorrow is still fresh. For others, the passage of time has mellowed our grief and has layered it into the tapestry of our lives. My husband Jon and I recently traveled to Pennsylvania for a wedding and a baptism. My “daughter-in-law,” Ginny, the grown daughter of my best friend, was getting married to her soul mate. Her brother and his wife, asked me to baptize their little daughter, only two months old, and, I’m not afraid to say, one of the most beautiful babies I have ever seen.

These events would seem joyful, but ordinary to most, but in this case, they took on a poignancy quite deep and rich. You see, my best friend, Carol, passed away in 2007 after a 10-year battle with breast cancer. To this day, her courage and humor leave me in awe. The whole family was in turmoil around the time of her passing — divorce, illness, it all seemed to say, one of the most beautiful babies I have ever seen. These events would seem joyful, but ordinary to most, but in this case, they took on a poignancy quite deep and rich.

For three years, Carol’s husband Lee and the family wrestled with what my favorite seminary professor calls, “the hole in the soul,” that wound that we all carry that is opened anew every time we lose someone we love. Now, after three years of pain, and darkness, Carol’s family was experiencing joy at last. Family and friends came from literally all corners of the earth to celebrate these two events. Lee’s sister came from Australia, one of his cousins from Los Angeles and several friends drove down from Vermont. Amazingly, one couple from Vermont bumped into Lee in Amish country as he took his sister and cousin on a tour a few days prior to the festivities, each having not a clue the other was there. Of course, they came to the celebrations as well.

Was it a coincidence that two of Carol’s favorite people just happened to be in that place at that time? Well, I know this side of the veil, but I wouldn’t be surprised if Carol the Angel didn’t have a hand in it.

The wedding was wonderful, the day warm and pleasant. Ginny asked me to step in as mother-of-the-bride and of this side of the veil, but I wouldn’t be surprised if Carol the Angel didn’t have a hand in it.

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Remembering Halloween Highlands’ style

The evening of Saturday, Oct. 30, brought crowds of prowling ghosts, goblins, witches, princesses, great pumpkins and even a Highlands cheerleader along with many pets to downtown Highlands as a record number of trick or treaters enjoyed perfect weather while in search of their favorite sweet treat.

Once again the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center extends a sincere thank you to all the residents, businesses and volunteers who helped make this unique Highlands event safe for all to enjoy.

Both of our fine Rotary Clubs again participated in key areas. Several from the Highlands Rotary Club assisted Chief Bill Harrell’s Police Officers with the crowd and traffic, while the Rotary Club sponsored Interact Club distributed candy provided by the Chamber to participating businesses.

The Mountain Top Rotary Club gathered in the early afternoon at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and spent hours preparing then distributing the 1,200 hot dogs and soft drinks from their concession at Main and 5th Street. We are very grateful to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation for the use of their kitchen facilities.

Special thanks goes to Mayor David Wilkes, who was seen enjoying the evening celebration, and our Highlands’ Commissioners and Town Manager, Jim Fatland, for allowing the use of our downtown area for this annual spooky event. Without their support and that of Selwyn Chalker’s Recreation Department as well as Engineer Lamar Nix and Highlands Sanitation crew none of this would be possible.

Appearing for the second year DJ Mike “Howlin’ Wolf” Murphy’s music had many smiling and dancing in the streets while many others stopped to watch as they made their way through the community.

We are thankful for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s balloon station which also drew large numbers throughout the night.

The Chamber also wishes to thank the local media for its support – The Highlander, Highlands’ Newspaper, The Laurel Magazine and WHLC FM 104.5 in promoting the evening. Halloween in Highlands is a great community event which derives its success from the many who give selflessly of their time each year to bring smiles to so many youngsters and adults.

Bob Kieltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber

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8# Pork Loin Stuffed with Figs & Pears $139
4.5# Classic Beef Wellington (Serves 8-10) $169

SALADS:
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Spinach Salad with dried Cranberries & Goat Cheese
Arugula Salad with Figs & Parmesan

SOUPS:
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Italian Minnestrone, Vegetarian Lentil

SIDES: $7.95 per pound
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Oyster Stuffing ($9.95 per pound),
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Macaroni & Cheese,
Squash Casserole, Creamed Spinach,
Roasted Green Beans with Onions
Southern Green Beans,
Broccoli Casserole, Corn Pudding

BREADS:
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Cheddar Scones $4.95/9
Sourdough Soft Rolls $4.50/ea.
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$16.95/ea.
Ambrosia $9/lb
Carrot Cake $49
Cranberry or Apple Walnut Bread Pudding $3.95/ serving

(828) 526-0383
tim@distinctiveevents.com
So you’ve found your house, you’ve made an offer – now what? That depends on you and how much legwork you’re willing to do before you get the keys to your new home. Let’s go over some of that legwork process.

Hopefully, when you and your Realtor drew up the contract, you made sure to allow enough time for due diligence. The new NC Offer to Purchase, which will become effective in January 2011, explains due diligence as: ‘Buyer’s opportunity during the due diligence period to investigate the property and the transaction contemplated by this contract, including but not necessarily limited to the matters described in paragraph 4 below, will decide whether Buyer, at Buyer’s sole discretion will proceed or terminate the transaction.’

Paragraph 4 describes the due diligence process. Since the process is abbreviated:

1) Inspections
2) Review of documents
3) Insurance
4) Appraisals
5) Survey
6) Zoning and Governmental Regulation
7) Flood Hazard

All of these are important, but only two are discussed in this column today: inspections and surveys.

Inspections: The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) was founded in 1976, but didn’t really start in NC until much later. In Highlands, plumbers did the plumbing inspections, electricians did the electrical inspections, etc. It was up to the buyer with his/her Realtor to help to decide what inspections to include in a purchase contract. Not until October 1996 did NC law mandate that a licensed home inspector perform all home inspections. We always suggest that sellers have pre-sale inspections done as part of the listing process. If needed repairs can be done prior to the listing date, they should be done in advance of the listing date. If repairs can’t be done prior to the listing date, they must be disclosed to the potential buyers.

Surveys: We hear people ask all the time: Why should I get a survey? Whether a survey was done last year, or 50 years ago, the only way to ascertain property lines is to have a current survey. The seller of the property may not be aware of encroachments, zoning and other governmental regulatory changes. You shouldn’t just take someone’s word that “it is what it is.”

Most, if not all lenders, will require a current survey to protect their investment. Even when no lender is involved, we suggest sellers get a survey, and buyers should make sure there is a current survey on record before purchasing or getting a mortgage.

Surveys use the art of measuring and mathematics using precision equipment and a keen sense of awareness and knowledge of real property law. Some of the older deeds that surveyors had to go by used points of reference such as apple tree in field; ‘old fence line’ ‘old government grant lines’ (from the 1800s or prior); ‘in southerly direction’ or even ‘old mule standing in field’.

It’s up to the surveyor to reestablish the correct legal description that will be recorded on the new deed. Our licensed surveyors today are highly qualified and follow strict guidelines bound by the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Another change in the new contract is clarity of closing and settlement dates – contrary to most buyers’ beliefs – they are not always one in the same.

Your new home isn’t yours until closing – BUT the difference in the new contract has switched the terms to make that date more clear.

What we used to refer to as the ‘closing date’ will now be referred to as the ‘settlement date’.

Your settlement date is the date the buyer and seller sign the documents in front of their attorneys. In Highlands, many times, the settlement agent is an attorney. The settlement agent determines when the settlement will occur and makes sure the settlement is wired appropriately to coincide with the settlement date. The settlement process is abbreviated: 1) the settlement (described above), 2) the completion of a satisfactory title update and keeping rooms, and make sure the funding is wired appropriately to coincide with the settlement date.

Buying a home is not over until….
The technology at the Blue Laser Group

Since LASIK became a household word in the late 90's, advances in technology have exceeded all expectations. At an unprecedented level, LASIK has become the trusted way for people to improve their functional vision. And judging by numbers, the Intralase Method (All laser LASIK), using AMO’s Intralase® “FS Technology, has become the gold standard for Lasik.

Intralase is one name you have probably heard of and for good reason. Intralase was the first laser approved by the FDA to replace the vibrating hand-held microkeratome blade for the flap-creation step of LASIK or step 1 of 2 in the LASIK process.

Increasingly, successful LASIK procedures start with Intralase® Technology, which clearly has clinical advantages by delivering biomechanical superiority, excellent visual acuity, and unmatched safety. At Blue Laser Group by replacing the blade commonly used for corneal flap creation with an Intralase laser, LASIK eye surgery is safer than ever before.

Another name you may know and will certainly hear more about is Allegretto Wave. Since Blue Laser Group introduced Northeast Georgia’s first Allegretto Wave Laser, the Allegretto’s superior results have been amazing. This laser is used in the second step of LASIK. Many patients who would have needed two treatments with other lasers have achieved 20/20 vision (or better) with just one treatment with the Allegretto’s advanced technology. Your eyes are as unique as your fingerprints and the most precise laser vision correction technology addresses these highly individual characteristics. Wavefront technology captures each eye’s unique imperfections with far greater accuracy than ever before, translates that information into digital treatment instructions and sends them directly to the Allegretto Wave Excimer Laser System.

What does all this mean to you? It means highly personalized treatment of the conditions that have been creating your vision problems, plus the confidence that Dr. Blue is using the most advanced state-of-the-art technology to help you attain your vision goals.

Investment in state-of-the-art technologies such as these is a factual measure of commitment to results. A full-time independent LASIK surgeon like Dr. Richard Blue, committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for his patients, will choose the technology that meets his exacting standards. Dr. Blue won’t compromise those standards by less precise but less expensive equipment or by renting equipment that has been taken office to office and used by other surgeons. Dr. Blue has shown his commitment by owning state-of-the-art technology to ensure the best possible outcomes for you.

LASIK outcomes also depend on the skill, commitment, and experience of the doctor who performs your procedure. You are in the best possible hands at Blue Laser Group. Trust Dr. Blueto use the best possible tools to bring your vision into the 21st Century.

Hard to tell in a black & white ad, huh?

Actually, “Blue” refers to how clear my world is after having LASIK vision correction at the Blue Laser Group. If you have ever imagined a life without glasses or contacts, call their Highlands office and ask how you can earn a $1000 credit toward the procedure!

Go on and make those bad eyes Blue.
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HELP WANTED

SHOP AND INFORMATION DESK ASSOCIATE — Highlands, NC art center is seeking a part-time experienced shop and information desk associate. Candidate must have customer service and retail marketing skills and be proficient in POS, Microsoft Office Suite and digital telephone systems. Must be able to solve problems and work independently and effectively communicate information. Knowledge of retail marketing and specialty art merchandise a plus. Finalists must pass a security background check. Submit cover letter and resume. Leila Griffith, Director of Retail Operations, The Bascom, Griffith@thebascom.org or P.O. Box 766, Highlands, N.C. 28741. Please no phone calls. (11/4)

FULL OR PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE — Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2318. (St. 10/7)

PART TIME POSITION — Enthusiastic sales associate/manager for established upscale antiques & accessories store. Call 828-421-9136 (St. 9/16)

PART TIME MANAGER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT RETAIL APPAREL AND GIFT STORE. Flexible hours and benefits. Please reply to PO Box 2366, Highlands NC 28741 or email mountainstar1@verizon.net. (st. 8/5)

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP / ONLINE BOOK-KEEPER needed. No application form needed and earn $200 weekly, for more info please send your resume and contact to billysmith61@gmail.com (11/18)

WANTED

LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK. Have tools. Please call Alferdo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

LOOKING FOR HOUSE CLEANING WORK. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

ESTATE SALE/YARD SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, from 9 am til 4 p.m. @ 674 Chestnut Street. Go straight to the property. (10) antique kitchen straight chairs, (2) Amish chairs, end tables, coffee table, sofa, (2) wing chairs, small mahogany chest, oak wall hanging, upholstered chair and ottoman, dbl. size mattress and box-spring, many outdoor planters, glassware, antiques, iron cookware, outdoor furniture, tables, honda generator, household items, lamps, fans, wool rugs, (4) picnic tables, aluminum truck toolbox, Bose Wave Radio/CD, Remington shotgun, rocking chairs, set of (4) Goodyear Caravan 225ST x 75R15, christmas decorations.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

2 FOR 1 IN SHELBY PLACE — 3 bed/2 bath, 2-story town house PLUS 1 a bedroom apartment on the lower level! All decorator finish and furnished. $299,000 or OBO. Call 770-622-0088. (11/25)

CLASSIC 40’S CABIN in Webmmont area w/ 1+ ac. 2/2.5 w/ worrty chestnut walls. Completely renovated in 2000. Below REA at $439K furnished. By appt ONLY. 526-0974

$103,000! LOWER CREEK CREEK, 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. .55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2/bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 11/11)

$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME. 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. Hot tub; Saturday-Sunday 12-5pm 828 526 2759.

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

FARM HOUSE. 3BR/2BATH, central heat/air. Buck Creek Road. 9 miles from Highlands. 10 from Franklin. 1 mile from skirt of National Forest. No cell service. $675 per month. 828-524-6038. (11/11)

1 BED/1 BATH apartment, unfurnished, next to H-C Hospital. 828-200-1064. (St. 11/11)


ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/3BATH HOME. Stunning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31)

COTTAGE ON TURTLE POND ROAD NEAR DILLARD ROAD. 2/2, unfurnished, $600 a month plus utilities. Call 526-5838 ext. 230 (st. 9/30)

1 BEDROOM/1 BATH, in-town furnished apartment, totally renovated, 2 decks, hardwood floors, granite countertops, washer/dryer. Call: 526-9523 (st. 9/30)

HOUSE/ROOMS — split level house with 3 bedrooms 3 bath. Fireplace, washer & dryer, walking distance to hospital. 828 200-1064. (10/21)

1BED/1 BATH APARTMENT, Furnished. Clean. No smokers, no pets. $450 per month plus utilities. Call 828-200-9360. (10/7)

2 BEDROOM, 1.5 BATH, central heat/air, dishwasher, wood floors at Oak Square Apartments on Main Street, Highlands. Washer/dryer access. Competitive rental price Available NOW. Call 828-421-1157. (st. 9/23)

FOR LEASE — LARGE. 2 STORY, 5 BEDROOM HOME with decks. Available for immediate occupancy Near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SEALED AND ONLY MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet. Available seasonal through November. All utilities included and Heat. $1,200 month. Call 526-3608 (Spoiled Rotten) or evening, 526-2694, (st.4/29)

SMALL PRIVATE 1BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. $650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com or contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

OPEN HOUSE LEASE/SALE CREEKSIDE 3 bd 2 1/2 bth; hot tub; Saturday-Sunday 12-5pm 828 526 2759 broadrip@Hughes.net

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEAST OR SALE = 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.


RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-792-6252. (St. 11/3)

ITEMS FOR SALE

GUITARS – G-L, Fender, Gibson., 9-string. Flat Top Call 526-2471. (11/18)

2 ANTIQUE HEADBOARDS QUILTED. OBO; 6 ft. Queen sleeper-sofa, multi-stripes $250; glass top $50 each; Pet door. Fits standard 7 ft. single door. $50. Call 828-743-5543 (st. 9/30)

2009 CAMOUFLAGE ATV 250 CC BRAND- KAYAK has front and rear racks with helmet and trailer only 20 miles.Great Christmas Present or Great for Hunting Season! Paid $5,000, will sacrifice for $1,895 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-371-2129. (st. 9/9)

AFGHANISTAN-VINTAGE RIFLE very rare. Collector’s Dream. Saw one at gun show for $7,000-$10,000. Great for Christmas for REAL gun collector. Over 100 years old. Will sacrifice for $1,899 or OBO. 828-371-2129 or 828-524-7233. (st. 9/9)

BALDWIN ORGAN $100, Gulbransen Spinet piano $250. 828 526 4818 (st. 8/26)

PIANO — MAKE OFFER! 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 $2,100. 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

LINCOLN TOWN CAR, sign/series. 1998 48,000 miles. Excellent condition. Call 828-743-5543 (st. 10/7)

2003 NISSAN FRONTIER – 4 Door, 60,000 miles, Excellent condition, $9,000 OBO. 526-9180 (st. 5/20)

SERVICES

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... JUST HERS

continued from page 17

The crowning achievement in his reign of chaos is still talked about today. John’s voice had just changed, and when a rare and sudden snowstorm dumped a significant amount of snow on Baltimore, John phoned up WBAL, the local radio station. Claiming that he was Ludlow Baldwin, the headmaster of Gilman, he announced solemnly that the school would be closed, and then proceeded to go to school himself to see what havoc he had caused. It took three days for regular attendance to resume.

John’s classmates were warm and supportive, and if you have to be a widow, you couldn’t ask for better company. I have a band of brothers looking out for me, and that means a lot. I’m back in Highlands now, with a few additions from the Gilman bookstore – a jacket, water bottle, and long plaid and grey scarf. The scarf sports an elegant Gilman greyhound, and reminds me of my dear husband, who raced through my life in pursuit of his dreams. And while John is no longer here to keep me warm, in some small way, that scarf will. That helps.

About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precocious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. If you would like a copy of John’s book, please e-mail your request to her.
Hospital thanks ‘Joana’ for years of service

For the past 17 years, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s gift shop has been managed and staffed fully by volunteers. It’s been called the best kept secret in town and a pillar of boutiques for hospital gift shops. Always stocked with an attractive selection of merchandise from greeting cards to trendy fashion, the gift shop has brought its customers, as well as staff at HCH, great joy.

With the transitioning of leadership forthcoming in December, HCH would like to send their warmest praises and thanks to devoted Chairman and volunteer, Joanna Baumrucker.

“Joanna’s flair for buying and merchandising has made the hospital’s gift shop a shopping destination in its own right, not just an afterthought for family members and friends of patients,” said HCH President and CEO, Craig James. “Her spirit of giving back is felt throughout and has truly made our gift shop unique.”

The gift shop has generated tens of thousands of dollars for operations and much needed equipment for the hospital. In addition to purchasing equipment, such as surgical instruments for the hospital’s operating room or carts for the dietary department, proceeds from the gift shop support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation in other ways. Donations of furniture and unrestricted contributions have frequently been made in honor of an employee or group of employees, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents, and gift shop volunteers who have passed away during the year. Over $60,000 in cash and in-kind gifts have been given to the HCH.

“The gift shop is a small but major part of our hospital and its history,” said James. “We cannot thank Joanna and her many dedicated volunteers enough for all they have given.”

In December, HCH’s Auxiliary will takeover operations continuing the tradition of volunteering in the shop. The Gift Shop is open to the public Monday through Friday and stocks a variety of gifts that appeals to patients, hospital staff and visitors for many occasions. Customers can find a diverse selection of stuffed animals, cards, fashion jewelry and eyeglasses, specialty bath and body items, seasonal gift decorations, candy and snacks.

With all the greatly appreciated volunteering, there is always need for more participation. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the gift shop please call the hospital at 828-526-1345.

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Rotary Bingo benefits Highlands Girls Scouts
The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Girl Scouts to sponsor Bingo on November 4. Shaun Mackey won the final Super Bingo game and took home more than $200. He is shown with Girl Scouts Cydni and Peyton Coggins.

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“It’s good to do business in Highlands”
Residents of Highland-Cashiers Hospitals
Fidelia Eckerd Living Center take fun trip

Recently, 14 Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents traveled to Cades Cove enjoying an 11-mile loop through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Family members Michael and Estelle Crane of FELC funded the 2nd annual trip. Residents were treated with a picnic lunch, scenic views of historic buildings, rustic log homes, old wagon roads, wildlife and dinner at a local steak house. “Special trips such as these not only give our residents something to look forward to, but gets them moving, out of their day-to-day routine, and encourages learning, keeping their minds healthy,” said Martha Wood, FELC Activities Coordinator. “The entire experience boosts their quality of life.”

... POLICE continued from page 1

Architect Jeff Weller said there is no guarantee but he has seen value engineering tactics result in a reduction of 3%, 8%, 10%, even 12%.

However, since the Local Government Commission (LGC) requires the financing contract in hand by the first week of December, the board agreed to submit the resolution requesting financing for $719,900 now but expects a price closer to $600,000 to be announced at the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting.

At that point, Town Manager Jim Fatland said he will submit an amendment to the LGC for the $600,000 amount.

Meanwhile there are some commissioners who would prefer to pay cash for the project rather than finance it. Financing through the Build America Bond program is available at 3.52% for seven years with a rebate to the town at the end of the loan — making the rate 2.2880%.

It’s possible the town could pay cash for the project, as about 64% of the town’s combined unreserved fund balance of $2,237,850 is available and unrestricted.

It’s likely those options will be discussed later but in the interim all bases will be covered with the LGC.

At the Nov. 1 Appearance Commission meeting, Summit Architecture presented the exterior plans for the Police Department building which meld it visually with the renovated Town Hall.

The Appearance Commission OK’d the plan unanimously with the stipulation that parking spaces be deleted from the plan to save and maintain a white oak tree at the back of the building — but the hardscape/landscape portion is considered phase two of the project and not included in the $719,900 or preferred $600,000 budget.

In the closed session Monday night, the board agreed unanimously to hire Mark Maxwell as Interim Town Planner & Development Director. He will serve until a permanent position is filled. His start date is November 22, 2010. His salary is $31,25 per hour and he will receive $750 per month housing allowance. His work hours will be Monday through Friday.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said a travel allowance was not requested nor approved.

- Kim Lewicki

Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 3

Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 3
- At 4:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Happoldt Drive.
- At 3:30 a.m., officers assisted another agency at a residence on NC 106 about a 9-1-1 call.

Nov. 4
- At 4:20, the unlawful removal of an electronic dog collar on Brushy Face Road was reported.
- At 8:30 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Raoul Road about two bears at the back door.

Nov. 5
- At 5:50 p.m., officers were called to a Blue Valley Falls Drive residence about an open door. They assisted another agency.

Nov. 7
- At 6:45 p.m., officers were called about a raccoon on the sidewalk of S. 5th Street.

Nov. 8
- At 7:30 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Wynoak Drive about two bears on the porch. Residents were told to take the bird seed inside.

During the week, police officers responded to 17 alarms and issued 1 citation. Highlands F & R Dept. log entries from Nov. 3:

Nov. 3
- At 4:42 p.m., the dept. assisted with traffic at the site of a vehicle accident on NC 106. There were no injuries.

Nov. 7
- At 12:39 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by a burst water line on Country Club Drive.
- At 12:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Club House Trial. The victim was taken to the hospital.
- At 3:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 9
- At 12:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident at US 64 west and Hickory Hill Road. There was one injury. The person was taken to the hospital.

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Lady Highlander finishes top 25 in state

By Ryan Potts

First year Lady Highlander cross country runner Hayden Bates finished 23rd in the NCHSAA cross country finals last Saturday at Beeeson Park in Kernersville. Bates, a sophomore, joined the Highlander cross country team late in the season due to her commitment to volleyball, but that did not stop her from demonstrating her running prowess once she arrived. After qualifying for state by finishing 6th in the regional meet, Bates ran her second best time of the season, finishing 23rd in the state of North Carolina with a time of 20:55.

Although Bates had never run competitively before this year, she says that she has “always enjoyed the independence of running,” and that this season was “a great experience.” Bates noted that she received great support from cross country coach Steve Massey as well as the community and Highlands School. “It was great,” said Bates, “I was competing against schools who were running 71 miles per week and yet it was still an individual competition.”

Bates says that one of the advantages to running cross country is that “you aren’t limited by the size of your school,” and that her experiences at the state finals this year will be very helpful to her in the future. Only a sophomore, Bates will have two more years of eligibility to challenge for a state championship, a fact that is not lost on her. “It was a great experience to have as a sophomore,” said Bates, “and I think that next time I will be more prepared and have the advantage of having been there before.”

Highlanders survive Mt. Airy and advance

By Ryan Potts

It was a night where the weather was as much of an opponent as anything else yet the Highlander soccer team managed to find a way to advance towards a state championship by defeating the Mt. Airy Granite Bears 3-2 in a thriller of a high school soccer match.

The Bears struck first on a night that saw the temperatures stay below freezing after sundown. Despite trailing 1-0 the Highlanders were able to dominate possession, finally equalizing after a handball in the box allowed Michael Shearl to calmly put home a penalty kick.

The score remained deadlocked at halftime and well into the second half before Ricky Reyes gave the Highlanders a 2-1 lead after a scrum in front of the Mt. Airy keeper. The goal came on the heels of a disastrous injury for the Highlanders as leading playmaker Michael Shearl was injured and had to leave the game.

After taking a 2-1 lead, the Highlanders were hoping to bleed out the clock and take home the victory, but Mt. Airy was able to tie the game with 9 minutes to play of a set piece from the corner. A frantic final few minutes saw neither team able to score, and therefore the game went into two 10-minute sessions of extra time. Although both teams had several chances in extra time, neither could find the back of the net.

NCHSAA rules then have the teams play two periods of sudden death, and the Highlanders were able to secure victory when Robbie Vanderbill steadied the golden goal just minutes into sudden death.

The home crowd stormed the field, and it was a fantastic ending to a evening filled with excitement. “I’m extremely proud of our kids,” said Coach Chris Green. “We played over 100 minutes of soccer in brutal temperatures and it showed a lot of resiliency for us to come from behind and to also come back after an injury to one of our leaders.” Green also wanted to thank the fans for their support, pointing out that most of them braved the elements to support the school team.

The Highlanders hosted defending NCHSAA champion Hendersonville yesterday, and the results from that game will be in next week’s edition of the Highlands Newspaper.