**Auditors find ‘weakness’ in town finances**

At Wednesday night’s Town Board meeting, auditors Martin Starnes & Associates presented the town’s annual audit report ending June 30, 2010 finding the town in good financial standing but in need of some corrective action in three areas.

As in the past, auditors found material weaknesses in the town’s internal controls—the cause said to be a limited number of personnel for certain functions—but the hiring of Charles Young as Accountant/Controller has alleviated some of the concerns.

**Girls’ VB head to State Playoffs as #1 seed**

The Lady Highlanders celebrated after winning the conference tournament by beating Hiawassee Dam Tuesday night at Blue Ridge School. The varsity squad finished its season undefeated in conference play and will enter this Saturday’s State Playoff game as a #1 seed. Highlands came out strong winning the first match then after losing a little momentum lost the second match by three points. They came back strong in the third and fourth match playing team ball and winning the tournament. With five seniors this year, it was a sweet victory.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

**Town Board fires Town Planner Cooley**

In a rare move this week, Mayor David Wilkes called a Special Town Board meeting for Tuesday, Oct. 19, whose itinerary was listed as a Closed Session to discuss personnel.

When back in Open Session, Town Attorney Bill Coward reported that the board had voted 3-2 to fire Town Planner and Development Director Joe Cooley.

“The action taken in open session was for the Mayor to offer Joe Cooley a severance package (resignation) including three months pay,” reported Coward in an email. “If he doesn’t accept it in 24 hours from being offered he will be terminated without cause.”

Commissioners John Dotson and Amy Patterson voted against the motion to fire Cooley.

Commissioner Patterson said she thought the board should hear both sides prior to making a decision.

“I made the motion to hear Joe’s side of it,” she said. “The Town Board was involved in this, but we needed a vote.”

**Town board resurrects ‘Parking Study’**

Way back in January of 2008 the town’s Planning Board recommended a parking study of the downtown area be conducted by an independent organization to look at traffic patterns, parking and pedestrian access.

In September 2008, the town hired Wilbur Smith Associates to conduct a parking/circulation study and appointed an advisory committee to provide guidance and input to the consulting firm along the way.

Appointed were Commissioners John Dotson and Hank Ross, Police Chief Bill Harrell, Patrick Herz with John Schiffli Realty, Director of the Chamber of Commerce Bob Kiebyka, Highlands Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward and Jeff Weller of Summit Architecture.

“After the parking and data collection process was done, the Advisory Committee looked it over and made suggestions about parking configuration in the downtown business district,” said Commissioner Dotson.

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See PARKING STUDY page 20
Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to James F. Davis’s letter entitled “Democrats need to get past their ‘religion’” which ran in the Oct. 14 edition of this paper.

We all get pretty emotionally wound up in our politics, especially at times leading up to the elections. Mr. Davis explains/complains that democrats will stick together like glue implying that they will vote the party line, even if that line differs from what they personally feel.

I suggest if Mr. Davis would substitute the words “republican” for “democrat,” “rightist” for “leftist” and “liberal” for “conservative” these letters would all sound the same.

How many republican congressmen would vote against what Mitch McConnel or John Boehner tell them to vote? None. In fact we have seen many times over the last year and a half where a republican would sponsor or co-sponsor a bill, only to find that when the President’s party backs that bill, the republican sponsors will end up not voting for it.

Politics can, and usually does, get ugly, but let’s get real about it. Ok?

Richard Lundy
Plantation, FL

Let’s call a spade, a spade

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Don Swanson’s Oct. 14 column entitled “This guy has got it right.”

Mr. Swanson’s Marxist conspiracy theory would be laughable if it wasn’t so hateful and destructive. Some historical perspective, please. Did the U.S. become Marxist when President Roosevelt (a Democrat) signed into law the Social Security Act in the 40s? No. Did the U.S. become a Marxist state when President Eisenhower (a Republican) used taxpayer dollars to build a national highway system, which Mr. Swanson and cronies surely enjoy? No. Did America become a Marxist state when Bush, Jr. (a Republican) spent billions on the debt-producing Iraqi war or when President Clinton (a Democrat) pushed his “liberal” agenda? No and No. So what makes him think that the U.S. will become Marxist just because President Obama bailed out the banks to prevent economic collapse and saved thousands of jobs by loaning GM money (both of which are paying the government back)?

The fact is — the U.S. has never been and will never be Marxist anymore than little green men are controlling the mind of Sarah Palin. Wait. That actually sounds more plausible.

Enough with the fear-mongering already, Mr. Swanson. The only thing prevent here is your twisted and illogical take on current events.

What you really should be worrying about is a Marxist state (China) that is cleaning our clock at our own capitalistic game by funding R&D in alternative technologies with government subsidies. How’s that for irony?

Gene Pinder
Raleigh, NC

If one is Marxist, so is the other

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Gene Pinder
Raleigh, NC
**OBITUARY**

**Dorothy Kauffman Patterson**

Dorothy Kauffman Patterson died October 7, 2010. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 12, 1923, the daughter of Frances Seng Kauffman and Clark Emory Kauffman. She lived most of her life in Leesburg, Florida, starting at age two, and Highlands, North Carolina, beginning with childhood summers on Big Bearpen.

She attended Ward Belmont Academy, Duke University, and served as a U.S. Navy WAVES during WWII, stationed in Miami, Florida, where she trained Navy carrier pilots to find their ships using radio signals and the newly-invented radar.

In Highlands, she served on the HBS Botanical Garden committee for many years. She was predeceased by her parents and her husband, J. Albert Patterson.

Survivors include her children, Karen Patterson of Aiken, South Carolina, Tim Patterson of Athens, Georgia, Amy Patterson, Shane Patterson, and Beth (Cookie) Patterson, all of Highlands, and her brother, William Kauffman of Lady Lake, Florida.

Memorials to Dot may be sent to the Highlands Biological Foundation for the Botanical Garden (PO Box 580 Highlands, NC) or to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC.). Burial was private.

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**Barnes and Plemmons wed**

Following an extended engagement, on Oct. 10, 2010, Caprita Barnes married James Plemmons at the First Baptist Church in Highlands. Afterwards, friends and family gathered on the Peggy Crosby Center deck for a reception celebration. The couple resides in Highlands.

---

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

W

ith the fall season upon us, I thought it would be
fun to publish an old column that is one of my
favorites. It's a children's
story titled Fall of an Old
Leaf by author Leo
Buscaglia. Although the
author deals with death in
the kindest of terms, the
story can take on many
different meanings,
especially for adults. It
does for me.

For those who may not be
familiar with Freddie, let me tell you he
was a very happy tree leaf who lived in a
city park. He had many leaf friends and
enjoyed his duties of providing shade for
the people who visited the park to play
and picnic. He loved to see the birds up
close and watch the children at play.

Freddie thought life would go on
forever. As fall came, Freddie, like all the
leaves in the park, began to change color.
When he became afraid, one of Freddie's
oldest and wisest leaf friends told him not
to worry, this was a natural thing. He
would turn color and eventually fall from
the tree and die. Freddie was stubborn and
vowed to never die. As fall turned to
winter, all of Freddie's friends turned
brown and fell from the tree, leaving him
behind. Freddie hung on, even though he
was very lonely, shriveled and brown.

Finally, in the dead of winter, he
could hold on no longer and let go. As he
fell away, Freddie could see, for the first
time, the entire tree where he had lived.
His life as a leaf took on a new perspective
and he could see his tree in relation to the
other trees in the park. Freddie began to
understand his role and purpose as a tree
leaf. He knew that life would come back
to the tree in the spring and that he would
somehow be a part of that. As Freddie fell
softly to the snow, he was no longer afraid.
He was at peace with the
knowledge that what was happening to
him was good.

Each fall season, I remember Freddie
and then I remember an old wise friend
whose name was also Leo. He was a holy
man, a police chaplain and the father of
eight grown children. Leo was different,
mostly because he never did or said what
hoary men were supposed to
do or say. He marched to a
different drummer. Also, he
was not well received by the
people at his Temple, but
the police officers he
counseled loved him. He
survived because no one
would dare question his
deep and loving devotion to
God. Leo took a different
approach to everything and
I didn't realize it at the time
but he knew 'Freddie the
leaf' well. He was that wise old leaf who
tried to counsel stubborn Freddie. It takes
a special person to be an effective police
chaplain. Leo and I got to know each
other well because I was only one of a
couple of officers who volunteered to drive
him around at night and go on police
calls, something he loved to do. We
talked a lot.

At this point in time, I thought I
knew everything about everything that
anyone could know. Leo told me what an
unwise man I was. He said, “All of life's
secrets, including the great mystery of
death, lie right before your eyes. These
are the things you should focus on. You
can't see because you're not looking.
You're busy with material things but if
you live long enough, maybe you'll be
able to take a different look at life and see
it.”

Well, if Leo were alive today, I would
say to him, “I get your point. I am a
‘Freddie the Leaf.’ I like things the way
they are and want to put life on hold.
Everything is changing though,
including me, and I'm resisting with all
my might. I have the time to do what you
said, to look for the secrets of life that are
right before my eyes. I'm afraid to look
though, in fear that what I see will
scare me. It is easier and much more
comforting not to look. I'll just hang on
to my tree as long as I can.”

So, in the dead of winter, when all
the trees are bare and snow covers the
ground, if you see this one single brown
and shriveled dead leaf still clinging to a
tree, it's probably me.

* Read Fred's column on-line all
winter.
About going to the dentist ...

Forty years is a long time. A child born in 1968 would have finished school, married (or not), and entered mid career. It might seem that life has entered a downhill spiral, or hopefully declare that life begins at forty. I went to the dentist last week, breaking 40 years of abstinence. I'd always had good teeth. Genetics favored me. Neither my Dad nor brother ever had a cavity. I had one when I was ten. I was one of the first kids to have fluorine applied to my teeth. Indiana University researchers came to my school and painted our teeth two or three consecutive years. Crest tooth paste and a durable set of choppers emerged from the study.

A mandatory dental exam was part of the separation procedure from the Army. The young dentist told me I had thirteen cavities and added that he should begin drilling immediately in order to complete his work prior to my departure. I explained about my Dad, my brother, and the people from IU, but he was unimpressed. I didn't follow up with him but visited my Mom's dentist when I returned home. I loved my visits with Dr. Jarecki. He always summoned his entire staff and asked them to marvel at my perfect teeth. He could find none of the thirteen cavities claimed by the young Army dentist, whose practice was so boring, he had decided to drill and fill healthy teeth to maintain his skill.

My teeth stayed pretty for a while. Unfortunately teeth weren't designed to be used as tools and I broke both central incisors a few years after my last visit with Dr. Jarecki. I lived with them, learned to hide them behind my lips and adopted a tight lipped smile.

During an argument with a business partner, he suddenly snapped, “And why don’t you get your teeth fixed?” Our disagreement had nothing to do with dental insurance, but his statement persuaded me to smile even less frequently.

Several weeks ago, I stuck my tongue into a large hole in an upper tooth. I had my second cavity. There was a reason I had avoided dentists all those years. I wanted to remember my mouth just as Dr. Jarecki had left it 40 years earlier. My teeth were yellowed and stained. Front teeth were broken and there was a yawning cavity just out of sight. Dr. Malia Fredrickson, a Seneca dentist, and Lizzie had been close friends for many years. I had Malia at a distance because of her profession, but one night I called 526-0782 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com for advertising rates and information. Don’t miss out!
...on this day    Oct. 21, 1773
The first insane asylum in North America opens for "Persons of Insane and Disordered Minds"

If you had been a bit hazy, or actually down right crazy, or had a personality that bordered on being diagnosed as disordered, there was a place for you to pack it, proper attire, a straight jacket. There was a helpful host or hostess to assist you with your psychosis. Not much in the way of meds, you’d most likely be chained to beds. I think you can thank serendipity, because today, you’d get a bit of therapy.

• COACH’S CORNER •

Quick thoughts from a busy weekend

This is one of my favorite times of year. First of all, the fall here in Highlands is amazing as always…nothing quite like the smell of leaves in the air and a chill in the back of your nostrils as you walk out. Secondly, this time of year is a veritable smorgasbord of sports, with the MLB Playoffs, two football seasons and the start of basketball season all upon us.

Let’s start with Major League Baseball, something that doesn’t often get a whole lot of love in this column until the playoffs start. However, I have a homework assignment for all of you who enjoy sports—tune in to the playoffs and watch some of these starting pitchers.

There have been some incredible performances on the mound thus far, with Roy Halladay throwing a no-no, Tim Lincecum absolutely dominating a powerful Phillies lineup, and Matt Cain doing his best Robin impression to Lincecum’s Batman. But above all, there is Cliff Lee. Lee twice hit the mute button on the Tampa Bay Rays in the divisional series, and then Monday night against the Yankees opened up a whole case of “who’s your daddy?”

Against the best lineup in baseball, Lee was masterful, striking out 13 and only giving up two hits in 8 innings. But it was more than just that, as Lee so thoroughly dominated the Yankee hitters that Joe Girardi should call for a sports psychologist to come in from the bullpen, rather than a relief pitcher. The Yankee fans cheered a walk to Mark Texiera in the fourth inning, mainly because it ensured that they wouldn’t be victimized by a perfect game from Lee. Do yourself a favor, and watch Lee pitch game 7 (if the Yankees get there) or game 1 of the World Series.

Time for an SAT analogy… Steve Addazio is to Florida’s offense as is new ones)

Duke’s midnight madness was on TV this weekend—which means a couple of things. First off, we have to endure another season of Dick Vitale, whose voice has now entered a realm of annoyance once reserved only for nails on the chalkboard and televangelists.

Secondly, it means that we get to watch some terrific freshmen in the ACC such as Duke’s Kyrie Irving, UNC’s Harrison Barnes and Reggie Bullock and NC State’s CJ Leslie. Unfortunately, it also means that we have to adjust the HD on our televisions as to avoid being traumatized by Coach K’s dyed hair, Roy Williams’ fakelan and Sidney Lowe’s giant kool-aid man red jacket.

And finally, remember kids… every time the Yankees lose, God heals a sick kitten.

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William Bradford

Ye Bill of Thanksgiving Fare

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Soccer drops heartbreaker, rebounds against Blue Ridge

By Ryan Potts

The Highlander men’s soccer team hosted archrival Franklin last Thursday in a rematch from early season non-conference play.

The Highlanders won that game in dramatic fashion, coming back from a goal down to win in the final minutes. The Highlanders looked well on their way to defending their home field, getting half goals from Clay Creighton and Samuel Wheeler to lead 2-1 at halftime.

Just 50 seconds into the second half, Taylor Osteen put home a header to give Highlands a 3-1 lead that at the time looked insurmountable. However, despite controlling the ball the next 20 minutes, Highlands could not put the Panthers away.

Franklin then seized the momentum with 10 minutes to play, scoring a goal to creep within 3-2. The Panthers followed with the equalizer just minutes later, stunning the Highlander crowd and setting up a frantic last three minutes in which the Panthers again found the back of the net to steal a 4-3 victory.

Highlander coach Chris Green said that "obviously it was a tough loss. We've had some good team wins and unfortunately this is a team loss. We have to take this as a team, myself included, and we will use this as a learning experience going into the state playoffs."

After what could only be characterized as a disappointing result against Franklin, the Highlanders rebounded with a strong performance against the Blue Ridge Bobcats.

The 10-0 victory saw the Highlanders jump out to an early lead and never look back. Highlands received two goals each from Samuel Wheeler, Michael Shearl and Ricky Reyes. Luiggio Pacheco, Tucker Bates, Andrew Renfro and Ryan Vinson all added a goal each for Highlands. The Highlanders scored their 100th goal of the season in the victory, and have still only allowed one conference goal all season.

The next three games for Highlands will all be at home beginning with tonight against Polk Co. The Highlanders will host Cherokee on Monday, and Senior night for the Highlanders will be next Wednesday against Hayesville — all games begin at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendar and come out and support the Highlanders.

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Desperate times call for drastic measures

D

ictionary.com defines "desperate" as: "reckless or dangerous because of despair or urgency. That sounds amazingly like the Democrat Party in its current state, doesn’t it? Let’s analyze, shall we? The real-time estimates, by credible organizations, go from Republicans gaining a minimum of 40 House seats to a maximum of 100. Worst case says Republicans control the House, best case says they REALLY control the House. With a small shift by Dem votes, it could override a Presidential veto. What is the reality? Somewhere in between, I’m sure. In any event, Pelosi will be history. Halleluiah!

As for the Senate, it’s nearly a statistical toss-up, with the Reps having a razor-thin edge. The story of the election, along with the emergence of the Tea Party movement, is the way Dems are forced to run their races. All but the most strident liberals with the most liberal constituencies are running away from their party. West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, who is running for the Senate to fill the seat left open by the death of Robert Byrd, is the poster child of Dems who feel the need to distance themselves from the policies of the Obama administration. His ads show him putting a rifle shot into a newspaper touting Cap and Trade. He’s very popular in WV, but faces a hole, stop digging.” Also, the ever-present worry. “We’ll see. Meanwhile, much of the Western World is under severe threat warnings that terrorist are on the verge of large, bad things. Honestly, do you feel safer now that you did before Biden was named Veep?

The "perfect storm" of two years ago seems to have reversed course and is now visiting the Dems. It was just announced that we ran a deficit of $1.3 TRILLION for the last fiscal year. Evidently, Obama never heard the adage, “When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.” Also, the ever-present 9.6 nominal unemployment rate in spite of the Dems promise to create jobs. The jobs, jobs, jobs mantra has gone away so as not to remind the electorate of their failure to come through.

Mount a in Findings

Closing for season Oct. 30

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... LETTERS from page 2

each of you told me you appreciated so very much each and every letter. I assure you whenever a decision is made by the U.S. Postal Service you will know.

Jane Woodruff
Highlands

Michelle Mead-Armor's column "Just Hers" will be in the Oct. 28 issue of Highlands' Newspaper. Don't miss it!

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- **FIGHTING CRIME:** Implemented a dual approach to fighting crime: Building Partnerships with Our Community & Providing Aggressive Law Enforcement. Macon County’s 2009 Crime Rate remains lower than it was in 2003.
- **DRUG ENFORCEMENT:** Created a Sheriff’s “Narcotics Unit” partnering with local, State, & Federal agencies with Macon County as its priority. Since 2003 drug arrests have increased by 130% and convictions resulting in “Active” Prison sentences have increased by 252%.
- **SAFER ROADWAYS:** Greater emphasis placed on enforcing traffic laws in an effort to keep families safer when traveling our roadways. Drunk Driving arrests increased by more than 130% and a reduction in vehicle related fatalities.
- **NEW PROGRAMS:** Governor’s Highway Safety Program, Operation Safe Streets, Reality Check 101 for Students, Crime Stoppers, Operation Think Twice, Project Life Saver, Shop with a Cop, Community Watch, Operation Pill Crusher, Inmate Work Crew, CrimeReports.com, Inmate Drug Treatment Program “Second Chance” & initiating the Substance Abuse Task Force.

**Committed to Serving You Since 1991**
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- Detective
- Detective Sgt. & Supervisor of Juvenile Investigations Unit
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**Enforcing the Law...**
- Fairly
- Honestly
- Professionally

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Ongoing & Upcoming Events

**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 Highlands’ 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

**Through Jan. 2011**
• The Green family is collecting coke can tabs to give to the Shriner’s Hospital which turns them in for funds which helps the organization buy supplies. Please drop off coke can tabs at the Citgo Station across from the Rec Park (the old Stop n’ Shop). Leave them with Ann or Trysta Green.

**Through 2010**
• At The Bascom, Do Tell environmental sculp-
• See EVENTS page 13
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

See EVENTS page 14

Through Dec. 18
• At The Bascom, American Craft Today, Juried Exhibition, Admission is free. For information, 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.

Through Sat., Nov. 27
• At The Bascom, Recent Works: Aaron Yakim and Cynthia Taylor. Admission is free. For information, 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.

Through Nov. 6
• At The Bascom, Tuesday After School Art Classes for grades K-6 are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands, 3:15-4:30 pm. $40 for 8-week session. To register or for more information, call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.
• At The Bascom, Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands, 10 am-noon. $64 for 8-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Through Nov. 2
• The South Jackson County GOP office at Laurel Terrace in Cashiers will be open Monday through Saturday from 1 PM until 6 PM though November 2nd. The North Jackson County is at 482 West Main Street in downtown Sylva is open from noon to 6 PM. All candidate and election information including bumper stickers, lawn signs and other campaign paraphernalia is available at each office. For additional information or to volunteer, call Jackson GOP Chair Ralph Slaugher @ 828 586-9895 for additional information or visit the website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Through Nov. 1
• At The Bascom, Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child at The Bascom in Highlands, ages 2 1/2-5, 10-11 am. $40 for 8-weeks session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Tues. & Thurs., through Oct. 30
• At The Bascom, Joe Frank McKeen in conjunction with Pat Taylor, ceramics and sculpture, Wheel Throwing Skills, 10 am-1 pm. All basic materials provided. Tuition: $350 members/$375 non-members. For information, call 828.526.4949.

Ongoing
• Hospital Tours: “Grand Rounds” at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours to interested area residents. Tours will be held periodically each month, through October. Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include breakfast with HCH’s doctors and a meet and greet with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RSVP by email at info@hchospital.org.
• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.
• Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. $2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.

The Annual Fall SALE!

Annual Fall SALE!
50% off all wood furniture in the store and ...

Last Chance to visit our Warehouse!
Friday & Saturday
Oct. 22 & 23 from 10-4
(The Warehouse is on Cherry Wood Lane, past the hospital at The Meadows)
The Bascom’s outreach and education programs give back to the community

The driving force behind The Bascom Youth - Outreach program is the philosophy of reaching all members of the Highlands-Cashiers plateau and surrounding communities with high quality and culturally relevant exhibitions and educational programs.

“The art experience is not only valuable for developing the whole person, it energizes community life,” said Norma Hendrix, Education Director. “By targeting specific audiences and partnering with other community organizations, we are sure that every student in our area has the opportunity to be served by our programs. We never turn a student away.” Currently offered are weekly youth classes that are subsidized by donations keeping cost far below the standard national level. In addition, The Bascom partners with the Highlands School offering a comprehensive ceramics course for a full semester each year.

The Bascom sees outreach as an opportunity to give back to those we serve. Its goals are:

• To provide affordable educational opportunities to unreached audiences.
• To partner with other organizations, schools, and youth groups that may benefit from Bascom programming.

Upcoming Youth Art programs include:
• Tuesday After School Art Class: Nov. 2-Dec. 7, 3:15-4:30 pm. A new session of after school art for elementary-aged students, k-6, $30 for 8-week session. Scholarships are available.
• Christmas Crafts from Around the World: a special four-week class on Saturday, Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 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.
• Gingerbread House Workshop, Nov. 26, 10am-noon, 1-4 pm and Saturday, Nov. 27, 10 am-3 pm. Gingerbread designers will be given all the sweets and confectons they need to create their own imaginative gingerbread house. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by a popular vote. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 3 pm on Saturday, December 11. The public is invited.
• Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-registration is required. For more information on The Bascom visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.
Upcoming Events

Thursdays
- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series every Thursday at 7 pm at the Highlands Nature Center May 13 through Aug. 5. It's free.
- Friday & Saturdays
  - Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m. BYOB.

Every Third Saturday
- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.
- Saturdays
  - At Paolelli's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person.
  - 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 Bascomb Performing Arts Center, getting ready for the upcoming production of "Life With Father," a family friendly, big cast story, about a family that has four brothers, a loveable but occasionally bewilder father, a patient and ingenious mother, and a large group of near family and friends that come in and out of the story.

An interesting part of this family story is, well, it includes an awful lot of family. Cai and Taj Roman, and David and Daniel Long, are two sets of brothers playing the sons in this large, and sometimes chaotic family that has four sons that are in the story. Loving, foolish, smart, chaotic, opinionated, well behaved, a little out of control, demanding, respectful, and a little sarcastic (I wonder where these young men were able to draw from for their inspiration?).

As if the talents these young men exhibit on stage were not enough to impress you, in between rehearsals these young men still manage to maintain their interest and effort in a multitude of other tasks including soccer, music, hiking, computer studies, church activities, and school as well. (Sort of makes me look back on my youth and feel a little inadequate.)

Come and see these accomplished young actors, most of them veterans on the stage. (Veterans on the stage? Are you kidding? They still qualify for the "Kids Price" at a buffet restaurant.)

"Life With Father." Really, a great, funny, touching piece of whole family entertainment, it will be staging Oct. 28-31 and Nov. 4-7 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, you will not want to miss this talented cast and this wonderful material.

By Stuart Armor

O, Brothers, Where Art Thou?

David Long, Cai Roman, Daniel Long and Taj Roman, soon to become red heads for their roles, play the four sons in HCPs production of "Life With Father," opening October 28 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. The Box Office for season subscribers opens Thursday, October 21 and for the general public on Saturday, October 23.

• See EVENTS page 16

NEED A REPLACEMENT?

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at The Falls On Main
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While you’re here, check out our selection of SEC collegiate logo items, USA-made birdhouses, art, and gifts!

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A Mini Department Store

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30% to 50% off

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events

- **At The Hen House on Main Street, Ray Pottery** signing from 10-5.
- **The Nantahala Hiking Club** will take a moderate 4-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail to see the new tower and shelter on Wayah Bald, returning via the Bartram Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Larry Jetley, 524-4200, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- **Yard Sale Benefit** for Colleen Fogle in Wright Square at the old John Collette space from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donate items for sale until Friday, Oct. 22 by calling Noel Atherton at 787-1515. Colleen is fighting breast cancer.

- **At The Bascom, Book Signing and Artist Talk:** Bill Rouda, photography, 2 p.m. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 388-526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- **A benefit for Laura Mashburn at Cartoogechaye School** in Franklin starting at 5 p.m. She is 17 and has a rare progressive neurological disorder called Rasmussen Encephalitis which attacks one side of the brain. There is no cure. There will be a hot dog, hamburger supper, games, a cake walk,face painting, singing, hair cuts an auction and music by The Patton String Band, Bobby Dills and Josh Cochran. There will be a raffle for a .7M Ruger Rifle; 50/50 cash pot; 22M Ruger rifle, and $200 in gas. Tickets may be purchased at $1 each or 6 for $5 by calling 388-526-3846.

- **Auction at Scudder’s Gallery** featuring ivory figurine valued at $10,000 with proceeds to benefit Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation.

**Sunday, Oct. 24**

- **Rabun Gap Nacoochee School’s choral group** will be singing during the worship service at First Presbyterian Church this coming Sunday, October 24, at the 11 a.m. service. The group is led by Matthew McGee. The school was founded in 1903 and has a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church.

- **At The Bascom Spooky Raku class and Halloween Firing, Composition, instructors Pat Taylor and Britt Aminman, 1-4 pm or 5-8:30 pm. Create your choice of pottery pieces for a spooky Raku firing under the Halloween moon.

**Tuesday, Oct. 26**

- **Readings from Scientific American, Aug 2010.** "When the Sea Saved Humanity" by Curtis W. Marin; "Faith and Foolishness" by Lawrence M. Krauss; and "Moral Animal" by M.W. Moyer is Creighton Peden is the coordinator. The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10–11:30 a.m. For more information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, please e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

**Wed., Oct. 27**

- **The Rotary Club of Highlands is holding its second coats and cans collection at the Highlands Recreation Park from 9am -2pm. Coats of ANY kind, and any non perishable food that will directly benefit the Highlands United Methodist Church's Food Pantry.**

**Saturday, Oct. 30**

- **At The Bascom, 2-5 pm, glaze preparation, 8 pm public Raku firing.
- Annual Highlands Trick or Treating downtown from 5:30-8 p.m.
- At The Bascom, Bill Rouda, book signing Saturday at 2 pm. Join photographer Bill Rouda for a short slide lecture about documentary art photography followed by a book signing of “Nashville’s Lower Broad: The Street That Music Made.” For information or to register for a workshop, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 100

- **At The Nantahala Hiking Club** will take a moderate 3-mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet to the tower on Rabun Bald for 360 degree views of the areas below. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- **Gaith in Highlands, 5:30 at Highlands United Methodist Church.**

**Sunday, Oct. 31**

- **At The Bascom, 2-5 pm, glaze preparation, 8 pm public Raku firing.
- Annual Highlands Trick or Treating downtown from 5:30-8 p.m.
- At The Bascom, Bill Rouda, book signing Saturday at 2 pm. Join photographer Bill Rouda for a short slide lecture about documentary art photography followed by a book signing of “Nashville’s Lower Broad: The Street That Music Made.” For information or to register for a workshop, call (828) 526-4949, ext. 100

- **At The Bascom, 2-5 pm, glaze preparation, 8 pm public Raku firing.”
- **At The Bascom, Mini-workshop:** Bill Rouda, photography, Improving the Photographic Eye. For information, call 828-526-4949.

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Warm up with our organic beans roasted in house, then crafted into your favorite coffee drinks. Espresso, Latte, Cappuccino, Coffee Shakes, or just a great cup of coffee. Pair with apple fritters, croissants, and muffins baked fresh every morning. Mon - Sat open at 7 am and Sundays at 8 am.

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**Highlands 4th Annual Culinary Weekend**

**November 11-14, 2010**

Eat, Drink and Be Merry!

www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com
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Bryson’s Food Store
The Highlander Newspaper
WHLC 104.5
Drake’s Diamond Gallery
A Moment In Time Photography
The Little Flower Shoppe
Mountain Fresh Grocery
Old Edwards Inn & Spa
Inland Seafood
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Who Needs Grace?

“All of you share in God’s grace with me.”
Philippians 1:7

Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

It is a fact that all men are guilty of sin and need the grace of God. All men need the same grace. The one lost in sin doesn’t need more grace than the one who is saved and living his life for God. The new believer who is still immature and without discipline needs no more grace than the man who has lived for years in the light.

Why do we all need grace? We need it because the worth of our own works is of no value before God. Isaiah 64:6 “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.” Our works can earn us nothing before God, they cannot open heaven’s gate.

Grace shows that all men are totally undeserving of anything from God on their own. It must be understood that grace is not grace if God is required to give it to one because they deserve it. It also is not grace if God has to withdraw it because of someone’s sin. Grace is God treating someone according to his own good pleasure and will.

Therefore, we see that grace cannot be earned by any merit of your own and neither can it be lost by any demerit on your part. So many people make the mistake in coming to God thinking they deserve an answer to their prayer because of how good they see themselves. That is living by works not grace. There are others who fall into despair because of their demerits, thinking God will never answer them. They are throwing the grace of God away because they believe it is given based on worth.

Please, do not base your relationship with God on your own works, for they have no worth before him. Do not allow your sins to cut you off from God’s grace. Jesus Christ came into this world to complete for all who would hear and believe him the covenant of works. He is the one and only one with worth before God. It is in him alone that grace is dispensed. He made that clear in John 14:6 when he said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Grace is a gift of God and all men need that grace if they are to come into heaven because no works, except the works of Jesus Christ can save.
... FIRES continued from page 1

had only heard one side. I felt it would be 'cleaner,' regardless of the decision, if we heard both sides.”

Interestingly, when the town changed to the Town Manager form of government, it neglected to amend its code – 701.1 and 704.1 — delineating the change of command concerning the Zoning and Watershed Administrator – the job held by Joe Cooley – and the Police Chief.

Technically, as the code now reads, only those two employees serve at the pleasure of the board – all other employees now serve at the pleasure of the Town Manager.

But at the Closed Session meeting Tuesday night at which Cooley’s employment was discussed only Town Manager Jim Fatland was heard concerning Cooley’s termination.

According to State Statute, changing the code involves a request for a revision sent from the Town Board to the Planning Board whose recommendation is then considered by the Town Board followed by an advertised public hearing and finally adoption.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited grievance procedure policy requested several times over the last year was finally on the Oct. 20 Town Board agenda but the decision to fire Cooley was made the day before the amended grievance policy could be discussed or put into effect.

The request for work to be done on the grievance procedure came most recently from Commissioners Dotson and Patterson at the Sept. 15 Town Board meeting.

For months the mantra concerning the subject has been that Attorney Coward has been too busy to look it over but in September Fatland said changes had been submitted to Coward and would be available soon.

Patterson also requested that the Employee Advisory Committee be resurrected so it could look over the proposal before it came back to the board.

Over the past year, employees have requested some sort of avenue to air grievances, particularly if they are against the Town Manager, who under the Town Manager form of government has ultimate control when it comes to firing – currently in Highlands, for all employees except the Police Chief and Zoning and Watershed Administrator.

Wednesday’s agenda packet included some changes to the grievance procedure outlined in the Employee Manual – amendments to Article 1X, Section 3, Procedures for Grievances and Article 1X, Section 6m Discrimination Appeal Procedure.

Suggested amendments to Article 1X, Section 3, are to delete the phrase “There will be no appeal to this decision” (made by the Town Manager) to “An appeal of the Town Manager’s decision can be appealed to a Grievance Committee appointed by the Board of Commissioners.”

The suggested amendment to Article 1X, Section 6, is to “Limit the discrimination appeal procedure to Town Employees only.”

* See FIRES page 20
This classic home that overlooks Mirror lake. Great family compound or possible B&B with a usable yard. 3 bedrooms 2 baths in the main house, with updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, and a native stone fireplace. A great family gathering spot. Offered at $675,000. MLS #66770

Open plan with cathedral ceilings. A wall of glass to bring in the light from the double porch that overlooks the pond. Sit outside to the relaxing sound of falling water. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus a huge open loft. Top quality finishes and craftsmanship make this an exceptional buy. Offered at $875,000. MLS#65867

Four fireplaces, and custom woodwork is crafted by a true artisan. Master bedroom and bath suite on the main floor, two guest bedrooms with private baths on the upper level plus a den and office. Lower level has a great workshop and storage. Large two car garage. Offered at $3,500,000. MLS#66858

This four bedroom, four bath and two one-half bath home is on 2.0+/- acres in beautiful Horse Cove. Total living space is just under 6,000 sq. ft. Grand master suite, family room with stacked stone fireplace, study, large open kitchen, dining room and more. Listed unfurnished, this gorgeous home is priced to sell at $725,000. MLS #66071

Classic original Mirror Lake Cottage located on 3 lots with access from Wyanoak and Chowan Drive. Knotty pine paneling, vaulted ceilings, wood floors, fireplace, nice wooded setting. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on 2 levels. Offered at $347,000 MLS#66104

Distinctively elegant, this eight bedroom, eight bedroom, eight and one half bath home is a perfect family retreat. Blue Valley View in back and Whte de Mountain in front. Elevator, six fireplaces, a spacious entertaining kitchen. Membership at Highlands Country Club available subject to approval. Offered at $4,900,000. MLS#65882

Cowee Ridge with a spectacular Mountain View. 4 bedrooms and one half baths, plus a 2 car garage and full lower level with multiple possibilities. Massive great room, custom "Cook's" kitchen, and master suite. Large covered porch to take in the expansive vistas. Offered at $1,995,000 and shown by appointment. MLS #65566

Viewpoint at Flat Mountain. Beautiful southern view from this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 half bath, plus den. Two fireplaces, two tiers of decks and screened porch. Full unfinished lower level for possible expansion. Offered at $1,250,000. MLS#66822

Darling 2 bedroom 2 bath Mirror Lake cabin has been completely remodeled. New kitchen, new stone fireplace, new plumbing, new electric, new bathrooms. This home is ready to enjoy. Walk to the lake and town plus an extra lot to build on. Offered at $329,000. MLS#66294

Charming home located on 1.7 +/- acres with some winter view. Wood paneling, wood floors and huge stone fireplace. Custom kitchen features concrete countertops, custom cabinetry. Landscaping and curb appeal is exceptional! MLS#65489, Offered at $1,395,000.

Creek in the backyard of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. A rhododendron arched, stone walkway leads down to the creek and fire pit. Gas log fireplace in the living room, full basement with a one-car garage and a deck on the back that spans the length of the house. Great location and great price. $390,000. MLS#66135
As of press time, Wednesday, the Town didn’t supply information now required by law as per the NC’s Public Records Act concerning personnel – that “If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the head of the department setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal be made public record.”

Wednesday afternoon, Attorney Coward said that information, i.e., the reason for Cooley’s termination, would be forthcoming. He instructed both Mayor Wilkes and Fatland not to discuss the matter at this time.

Joe Cooley was unavailable for comment. He would have been with the town three years in December.

- Kim Lewicki

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Sunday 12-5 pm through October 10

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... PARKING STUDY continued from page 1

The draft, which was reviewed by NC DOT officials, was the focus of a public hearing and a joint meeting of the Planning and Town boards.

Finally, on Sept. 28 the Planning Board reviewed the completed study and submitted recommendations to the Town Board and that’s when the whole thing stopped – just prior to the November 2009 election.

At the Oct. 6, 2010 Town Board meeting Commissioners John Dotson and Amy Patterson, asked that the parking study be resurrected so it can be reconsidered by the Town Board in conjunction with findings of the Main Street Project Group.

It was distributed to the board at its Oct. 20 meeting along with the Planning Board’s Sept. 28, 2009 recommendations as follows, with the Planning Board’s votes in parenthesis:

- A need for better signage to direct tourists to off-street parking and destinations (yes: 6-1);
- A need for definitive gateways into Highlands so visitors know they have arrived. (unanimous);
- Convert N. 3rd and Maple streets to US 64 Truck Route and S. 3rd Street and US 28 to a truck route (3-3);
- Install a landscaped median down Main Street from 1st to 5th street. (yes: 4-2);
- See PARKING STUDY page 25

... SALZARULO from 5

said, “Lizzy, call Malia. I’ve got a short day tomorrow. If she can fit me in, I’ll go”. That’s how I broke my forty year dentist. Lizzie warned her of my sensitivity and pleaded that she not ask how long it had been since I’d had an exam. Despite the clear warning, she asked twice. I painted the question both times. Her assistant blasted years of buildup from my teeth and probed the depths of my unwelcome cavity. Dr. Fredrickson examined me and marveled at the excellent condition of my teeth.

She scheduled a follow-up visit to complete the cleaning, whiten the teeth, fill the cavity, and repair my broken teeth. Because she knew I didn’t like dental visits, she completed all the work in a single appointment. The process was painless. She applied a topical anesthetic to the gum before injecting a second anesthetic. I didn’t feel the injection or the drilling, shaping, and polishing that followed. Dr. Fredrickson gave me a little bag of care products which included a tooth brush, mouth wash, and pastes for sensitive teeth. She emphasized the importance of flossing and sent me home with a smile I can share with the world. For the moment I’m flossing twice a day. I hope it becomes a habit before it becomes a drag. It is hard to imagine I could have endured such a pleasant experience. In fact, I’m looking forward to my April visit for an exam and cleaning. And when I’m asked how long it has been since my last visit, I’ll boldly declare, “Six months.”
by Kim Bonsteel, L.Ac.  
Center for Acupuncture & Healing Arts

It's great to have a questioning attitude about conventional wisdom, and if you stick around long enough you see conventional wisdom change quite a bit. Sometimes what we think is progress, regarding generally accepted concepts about the way things work, is based on erroneous conclusions. Your grandmother was right about a lot of things people today think are just old wives' tales. "Experts" now ridicule the idea weather can cause colds, for example, since we all know colds are caused by viruses. This "germ theory" of contagious disease is credited to Louis Pasteur, the doctor who invented pasteurization and the rabies vaccine, although he plagiarized much of his theory from other researchers. After publication of his theory, a number of objections were raised, including the question of why two people may be exposed to the same germs and only one of them gets the disease.

Pasteur's contemporary, Claude Bernard, known as the father of experimental medicine, told a group of colleagues, "Le terrain qui est tout, c'est le germe n'est rien," after which he cheerfully downed a glass of water containing cholera germs, with no ill effects. "The terrain (or soil) is everything, and the germ is nothing," is the translation; Bernard defined the concept of "milieu interieur," which is now known as homeostasis, the entirety of the organism's self-correcting mechanisms.

Pasteur's incomplete theory enabled a simple approach — fight the germ — spurring the birth and growth of the modern pharmaceutical industry, making some people a lot of money even in his lifetime. Yet as Pasteur lay dying — don't people often have a way of clearing their conscience when they know the end is near? — he finally admitted, "Bernard was right. The germ is nothing, the soil is everything." Unless it finds amenable conditions, the germ can't take hold therefore it can't possibly be the ultimate cause of disease.

Many of you may remember, as I do, your grandmother telling you not to go out in the cold wind without a hat and a scarf, or you might catch cold. Sophisticated as we think we are now, we think that idea is laughable. But the research supposedly proving wind doesn't cause colds consisted only of exposing a group of subjects to "wind" produced by fans, and finding they had no more incidence of colds than subjects who weren't exposed. The flaws in this approach should be obvious.

For more than 2,500 years, Chinese medicine has been saying that wind, cold, heat, dampness, and dryness are pathogenic factors capable of attacking us from the outside and causing disease. This idea should not be any less believable than the now generally accepted truth saying people who don't get enough sleep are more susceptible to colds and flu than those who do.

According to the classics of medicine in China, wind can and does carry cold, heat, dampness, or dryness into the body, and the easiest place for it to enter are especially the back of the neck and the edges of the face, but also the upper chest, the front of the upper

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**Health Matters**

**Your grandmother was right**

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that on November 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building, a public hearing will be conducted by the Board concerning the approval of the execution and delivery of the Contract and the Deed of Trust and the proposed Project. All interested parties are invited to present comments at the public hearing.

Jim Fatland, Town Clerk
10/21/2010, 10/28/2010

Notices

The existing structure located at 372 Oak Street, Highlands, NC (formerly the ABC Store) is to be renovated into the new Police Station. The work includes interior and exterior renovation of the building as well as some site work, walkways and hardscape in close proximity to the building.

MANDATORY PREBID MEETING AND WALKTHROUGH for all qualified General Contractors will be held on Monday October 25th 2010 at 10am at 372 Oak Street. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Project and the Bid Period Processes. A Walkthrough of the building will take place immediately following the Meeting. This Prebid Meeting is Mandatory. Bids received from any firms not represented at this Prebid Meeting will not be considered and will be returned unopened. For Questions, please contact jef.summit@frontier.com.

Bid Opening:
The Bid Opening will be Friday November 5th, 2010 at 2pm at the Town of Highlands Community Building. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope by 1:30pm on November 5, 2010 to Summit Architecture, PA Office at 434 Carolina Way, Suit 5, Highlands, NC. No Bids will be accepted after 1:30pm on Friday November 5th.

Bid Documents:
Bid Documents will be available at the Prebid Meeting and walkthrough on Monday October 25, 2010. A deposit of $150 will be required by company check for the packages. This deposit is refundable after bid documents are returned in good condition by the bidder following the bid period. Any deposits for packages not returned in good condition and/or before December 1, 2010 will be forfeited.

Other Details:
Any questions regarding this Advertisement or the information within should be directed to Jeff Weller, Project Manager for Summit Architecture, PA at jef.summit@frontier.com or (828) 526-0326.

Bidders for this work should be well qualified, properly licensed and insured for this type of work by the State of North Carolina. The Town of Highlands reserves the right to reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of 90 days following the bid opening.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the Bidders Name and Address as well as “Highlands Police Station Project”. Sealed bid should include the Bid Form Provided within the Bid Package, Bid Bond Information and Bid Breakdown.

10/21/2010

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Highlands Police Station Renovation Project
The Town of Highlands is requesting bid proposals for the following project:
Project Description:
The existing structure located at 372 Oak Street, Highlands, NC (formerly the ABC Store) is to be renovated into the new Police Station. The work includes interior and exterior renovation of the building as well as some site work, walkways and hardscape in close proximity to the building.

SERVICES
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
At its November 3, 2010 meeting, the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) of the Town of Highlands, North Carolina (the “Town”), will consider adopting a resolution which (1) authorizes the Town to proceed to pay the capital costs of renovating the former ABC Store for use by the Town’s Police Department (the “Project”) pursuant to an installment purchase contract (the “Contract”), in a principal amount not to exceed $775,000 under which the Town will make certain installment payments for the Project; and (2) authorizes the Town to proceed to provide, in connection with the Contract, as grantor, a deed of trust and security agreement (the “Deed of Trust”) under which the real property on which the Project is located (the “Mortgaged Property”) will be mortgaged by the Town to create such lien thereon as may be required for the benefit of the entity, or its assigns, providing the funds to the Town under the Contract. Upon payment by the Town of all installment payments due under the Contract, the Deed of Trust and any lien created thereunder will terminate and the Town’s title to the Mortgaged Property will be unencumbered.

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Jim Fatland, Town Clerk
10/21/2010, 10/28/2010

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10/21/2010

Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010 - Page 23
Highlands Police & Fire Reports

Highlands PD log entries from Oct. 13 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 13
• At 7:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at S. 5th Street and South Street.
• At 9:15 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on Bobby Jones Road. It was due to a phone malfunction.

Oct. 16
• Officers responded to a one vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east.

Oct. 17
• At 11:35 a.m., officers were notified of a missing person when a woman at the Catholic Church couldn’t find her husband after the service. He was found at the Civic Center.

Oct. 18
• At 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Holly Tree Lane.

Oct. 19
• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Raoul Road.
• During the week, police officers responded to 1 alarm and issued 9 citations.

Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Oct. 14:

Oct. 14
• 8:44 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department while they fought a structure fire.
• At 6:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders for a person choking on food.

Oct. 15
• At 6:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas fireplace malfunction. The gas company was notified.
• At 7:54 p.m., the dept. was called about someone choking but the call was cancelled.
• At 10 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire & Rescue at an vehicle accident. There were no injuries.
• At 6:37 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Fire & Rescue but the call was cancelled en route.

Oct. 16
• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. was called about a possible brush fire at Turtle Pond. But it was the call was cancelled.
• At 11:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a missing person but he was found at the Rec Park.

Oct. 17
• At 12:45 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on Clear Creek Road. There was one injury.
• At 5:25 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Country Club Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.
• At 4:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on US 64 west. There were no injuries.
• At 5:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to NC 106 where a woman had fallen. She was taken to the hospital.

... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 21

arms, the front of the thighs, and in the back region of the kidneys. A “contrary wind” is much more likely to cause disease than a “favorable wind.”

A favorable wind is just the prevailing wind we normally have in fair weather; it turns contrary when the weather is unsettled and the wind blows with greater strength from an unusual direction. During these times, you can go a long way toward protecting yourself from catching colds and flu simply by covering the back of your neck. (One early cold sign is a stiff neck.)

The fact that wind can cause illness has been common knowledge all over the world from ancient times until now, and in China is still considered just as valid as saying if you touch a hot stove you are going to get burned. No experimental proof is needed, since we have 2,500 years of literate, scientific, experiential proof.

You can try it for yourself, covering your neck to protect you from cold or hot wind, and over time you will come to the same conclusion, that you experience fewer episodes of colds or flu.

No doctor will make any money from your following this simple bit of advice your grandmother already told you when you were young. Your immune system will be stronger for it, you will miss fewer days of your usual activities, and you will stop thinking you are smarter than your grandmother was.
... PARKING STUDY from page 20

- Construct new parking spaces along the north side of Main Street from 1st to 3rd streets; if it doesn't significantly alter the current look of the town (unanimous);
- Pursue the construction of a traffic signal at Main and 3rd streets for safety (yes: 5-1);
- Construct Spring Street to one-way eastbound and construct a sidewalk along the north side of Spring Street. (unanimous);
- Install traffic circles or other redesign to improve, make safer, and create an entranceway at the intersection of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th streets and 4th and 5th streets. (No recommendation was made.)

4th and South streets (unanimous);
- Pursue the construction of a traffic signal at Main and 1st streets for safety. (yes: 5-1);
- Alter the current look of the town (unanimous);
- Convert Spring Street to one-way eastbound and convert Main Street from 1st to 3rd streets, if it doesn't significantly alter the current look of the town (unanimous); and
- Pursue the construction of a traffic signal at Main and 4th streets.

With the study and the Planning Board's recommendation resurrected, the ball is once again in the Town Board's court.

-- Kim Lewicki

... AUDITORS from page 1

ing Supervisor is supposed to fix all that. Young started on Sept. 27.
A material weakness in internal control over compliance is defined as a deficiency or combination of deficiencies when prevention, detection and corrections aren't done on a timely basis.
Auditors said management needs a system in place to reduce the likelihood of errors in financial reporting due to the limited number of personnel for certain functions. They said access to the books and records should be separated from access to the assets as much as possible. Alternative controls should be used to compensate for any lack of segregation of duties and the Town Board should provide some of those controls.
Furthermore, they found a lack of expertise by the town's personnel with regards to drafting full accrual and full disclosure statements.

Since the cost of acquiring the technical expertise to comply with financial reporting requirements appears to be cost prohibitive, the town should exercise due care in reviewing the financial statements drafted by the external auditor because the town is responsible for the accuracy of the audited financial statement, said Auditor Bryan W. Starnes. “We also found significant audit adjustments at year-end, which is a proposed correction of the basic financial statements, that in our judgment wouldn't have been detected if we hadn't performed the audit,” said Starnes. “The existence of such material adjustments indicates that the town’s system of controls didn’t detect and prevent such errors.”

Town Manager Jim Fatland said he will examine controls and see if they can be strengthened, given the available resources, thus reducing the number of audit adjustments at the end of the year.

According to the auditors’ report, the town’s net assets exceeded its liabilities by $32,902,182; the government’s total net assets increased by $311,697 in 2009-2010; the town’s combined governmental funds ending fund balances were $2,237,850, a decrease of $678,274 in comparison with last year.
About 64%, or $1,432,010, is available for spending at the town’s discretion as it is an unrestricted fund balance — meaning it isn’t designated by the federal government, the state government or the town’s government for anything else.

The unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund was $1,391,089 or 41% of the total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year.

-- Kim Lewicki
Steep Slope Regulation? Where they stand in their own words:

These quotes, made by the individual Candidates have been reported in the news media through October 17, 2010. Because some quotes are a bit dated we contacted every Commissioner and Candidate on September 15, 2010 to provide them with what we had so they could review their statements and take action either way if they chose to. We also asked them to let us know if we had missed anything. We will continue to watch for their further statements and will try to up-date our future ads to reflect changes. If they came out directly for or against we noted it below. Otherwise we put question marks:

??? = You decide what they meant when they said...

Ronnie Beale, (D) Commissioner
“I believe we must be very careful how this ordinance is crafted, but I also believe potential buyers will be looking for a safe place to construct their house. A steep slope ordinance will help provide safety for the new homeowner and their neighbors”.
Position: ???
The Franklin Press April 23, 2010

Bob Simpson, (D) Commissioner
The Steep Slope recommendations have recently been sent to the Planning Board for the start of the ordinance process. “I agree that we do need steep slope regulations. However, I will not agree to prohibit the use of any owner's land”.
Position: ???
The Franklin Press - April 23, 2010

Brian McClellan, (R) Commissioner
At the 9/11/10 Freedom-Works meeting regarding steep slope... “Brian McClellan voiced his concerns about the lagging construction industry in the county, stating that he could not support anything that hampers jobs in the county, especially now”
Position: ???
The Highlands’ Newspaper 9/16/10

Jim Davis, (R) NC Senate Candidate
“At the 9/11/10 Freedom-Works meeting regarding steep slope; Current Commissioner & “State Senatorial Candidate Jim Davis was opposed to the steep slope ordinance proposal, stating that “regulation has hurt property value” and that he was definitely against further regulation”.
Position: “AGAINST”
Highlands’ Newspaper 9/16/10
Note: Jim Davis is also currently serving as a County Commissioner.

Ron Haven, (R) Candidate:
“I guess I’m the black sheep out of everybody up here but I’m not for this Steep Slope deal.” “I realize once again the state's trying to regulate some of this stuff. But I think it's far overrated what they're trying to do”.
Position: “AGAINST”
The Franklin Press April 16, 2010

Vic Drummond, (I - Unaffiliated) Candidate:
At the 9/11/10 FreedomWorks meeting regarding steep slope - Drummond; “stated his opposition to the proposed ordinance mainly because of the impact that it would have on the local real estate economy. Drummond noted that property owners looking to sell would be required by law to disclose possible effects to the property...”
Position: “AGAINST”
Highlands’ Newspaper - September/16/10

Charlie Leatherman, (R) Candidate:
On Steep Slope: “The simple answer would be YES - I would support a steep slope ordinance. But it would have to be garnished with a lot of logic about suitability of the land that's useful for the property owner. Because we are almost regulated to death. I think if there's a definition about property being unsuitable for residences, then that property owner should be compensated for that. The issues are property rights...”
Position: ???
The Franklin Press April 16, 2010

Allan “Ricky” Bryson, (D) Candidate:
“I will say NO to the Steep Slope regulation because it would create a new layer of government which in turn would require a new layer of taxes to support it.”
Position: “AGAINST”
The Macon County News – October 14, 2010 - Candidates Own Ad

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