

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 43

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Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010

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| FRI | SAT | SUN |
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| 58 30F | 60 32F | 62 36F |

Weds. Nov. 3-Dec. 15
 • Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30pm.

Thursday, Oct. 28
 • The Town of Highlands is hosting the quarterly joint County and Towns of Franklin & Highlands meeting at The Bascom on Thursday at 6 p.m.

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

Friday, Oct. 29
 • Live Reggae at El Azteca at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30
 • At Paoletti'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.

• At The Bascom, 2-5 pm, glaze preparation, 8 pm public Raku firing.

• Annual Highlands Trick or Treat-ing downtown from 5:30-8 p.m.

• At The Bascom, Bill Rouda, book signing Saturday at 2 pm.

Tues., Nov. 2
 • Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

• The Highlands Dialogue WILL NOT meet because of election day.

Thurs., Nov. 4
 • Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Highlands United Methodist Church.

Planning Board OK's 'Open House' signs

The Planning Board's plate has not been cleared but some progress was made Monday night concerning an amendment to part of the sign ordinance.

Realtors tagged along with members of the Business Committee who had asked that the sign ordinance be quickly amended in time to pull in October buyers. Mer-

chants were requesting free-standing signs on sidewalks, flags and banners in store windows.

Realtors, however, were concerned about planting "open house" signs and directional signs to the open houses along Highlands' byways to entice visitors.

After some discussion, in a 4 to 1 vote members recommended an

amendment to the Temporary Sign Ordinance to allow "Open House" signs down to dusk for two consecutive days for one location as long as a permit has been acquired.

A maximum of two open house sign permits will be allowed per 30-day period per location and the open house must be staffed by a

• See SIGNS page 30

• Inside •

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Kayaking Bust Your Butt Falls



Recently a group of professional kayakers from Canada took to Bust Your Butt Falls to test their skill in white water. This is a dangerous sport and shouldn't be attempted without professional guidance.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

No Steep Slope regs yet

At the Macon County Planning Board meeting held in Highlands last week, board members tried to diffuse the emotional concern over a possible Steep Slope Ordinance by explaining its origin, its purpose and the elements of the proposal.

Derek Roland, county planner, said the proposal is far from being an ordinance – that it hasn't even been drafted or presented as such. "There is no ordinance yet, it is still in the discussion stage and requires input from citizens of Macon County," he said. "The purpose of the ordinance, should one be adopted, would be to promote economic development, safety, prevention of property damage or damage to the environment."

There is a lot of concern over possible stipulations concerning development on sloped property in the county and so the group opened the meeting giving some visual examples of slope percentages.

Though considered steep by anyone driving it, the Town Hill in Franklin is only a 14% grade and slopes like it wouldn't be regulated under the proposal.

Likewise, the Frog Town slope, also in downtown Franklin, is at a 15% grade and though also considered "steep" and common in Macon County – development wouldn't be regulated.

Slope regulation could begin at 30% and the slope across from the Flea Market on the Highlands Road was cited as an example.

Slopes that measure a 30%-40% grade would require oversight by county personnel and wouldn't cost the homeowner or developer – except as it pertains to taxpayer money because extra personnel would have to be hired to oversee the process.

Slopes over 40% cause the biggest concern both to the county and to the homeowner or developer but for different reasons.

The county wants to make sure whatever is done on such slopes is done properly so problems won't come later and people and property won't be harmed.

Homeowners and developers are concerned because much vacant land in Macon County is now on the steeper slopes and costs more to develop and they don't want added costs

Planning Board members said input from citizens including those in the building business has been very helpful and is still being solicited.

"They are helping us understand what is happening on the ground with this," said member Susan Ervin.

– Kim Lewicki

Tuesday's candidates give 'Final Answer'

This week we asked candidates to put all the rhetoric and campaign slogans aside and in plain language explain why citizens should either unseat them or vote a new face into office.

First up, the Macon County Commission candidates.

Incumbent Ronnie Beale:
 The reason I want to continue

as a Macon County Commissioner is to serve the citizens. I believe the citizens want results from their tax dollars. The following is a list of projects that have been completed or is in the process of completion. These projects and many not listed began in 2009. During this time, the county budget has been reduced

• See CANDIDATES page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

An open letter to the Highlands Commissioners

Dear Town Board Members,

I was distressed to read in the papers last week that Town Planner Joe Cooley has been fired, or perhaps made to retire, without a hearing allowing him to present his point of view.

The procedure is by itself heavy-handed, but more importantly, Mr. Cooley is, in my opinion, one of the best-prepared, most effective, most experienced and professional employees Highlands has ever had.

To dismiss him summarily not only costs the town a first-rate employee, but also damages our reputation and our ability to replace him with another quality candidate.

If there is any recourse or chance to review this decision, I urge you to consider it immediately.

Urgently yours,
King Young

Does it have to affect you personally before you have compassion for others?

Dear Editor;

This letter was inspired by Don Swanson's article in your October 14th edition. It sickened me; but not only because of what he said, but that your paper has a circulation of 7,500 and some of your readers, I am afraid, will surely be swayed by it.

I'll get back to Mr. Swanson in a minute. First, a little background information on me. I am 59 years old, a CPA, married for 38 years, the father of two and the grandfather of two. In the mid-1960s, when I was 15, and the nightly news was filled with the Viet Nam War and the hippies of Haight-Ashbury and unrest on college campuses, I can remember how my father would rage at the TV set. He was a WWII veteran and he would curse the hippies and their anti-war protests — and this went on night after night. Then, after many more years of the war and a relentless stream of body bags; and I was 17 and going into my senior year of high school; and the war was at its peak and I was of draft age; my father's rage was no longer aimed at the hippie-students. His rage was at the government for not ending the war. As it turned out, I went to college, and my birth date enabled me to

pull number 310 in the lottery (out of 365). My father was a lucky one. His son was not going to war and he was now a mellowed man.

Don Swanson posted a letter that (he says) has been making the rounds to conservative e-mail boxes for about a year. He says it was written by a Russian columnist. He implies that this guy's letter should give us an idea of what outsiders see happening to our country "in an objective way" and further Mr. Swanson thought the Russian said it "even better than he could have."

We have a home in Cashiers and I like to read Highlands' newspaper as soon as I get to town each season. I read Fred's column, as well as other letters-to-the-editor, and I force myself to read Swanson. I say force myself, because my guts tell me Swanson is probably an intelligent man; and as one he cannot possibly believe some of the things he writes. Instead, I am inclined to think he knows better, and that he writes like he does in the hopes that his readers (many of whom rely otherwise solely upon the 24-hour news cycles) will read his column and believe that because of his consistently negative depictions of liberals and weak-kneed Democrats and the President (who he'd like people to believe is an Islamic, non-citizen, socialist) and the God-forsaken Reid and Pelosi, it is them who must be taking the country down the drain. He writes his weekly column in a way that you will end up thinking that "Conservative" is a blessed word and "Liberal" is the root of all evil, and that only HIS "values" are the values that count.

My wife asks me why the heck do I get

so riled up about it ("All you are doing is spitting in the wind." She says "You are in conservative country (blue state notwithstanding) and if you write to the editor, what do you think you will accomplish?" So I told her, Don Swanson's October 14th column was more than the usual rant of political trash-talk, it was hateful, and he needs to be called out on it.

I'll get to the hate-speak soon, but let's go back to the Russian columnist who Mr. Swanson considers is an "objectively" thinking outsider who is "typical of the way the world views us." The Russian rails at Obama's over-reaching hand in the Big 3 auto crisis. Would any of Swanson's readers like to imagine what the state of our economy would look like now had we let two of the Big 3 go down; not to mention what our collective morale level would be had we lost GM? Because of what the Obama administration has done, GM and the others are well on their way to recovery, and well into the taxpayer-repayment-mode.

Why don't we ever hear that kind of stuff from Swanson? Do any of our readers truly believe in their guts that the President wants to turn our country into a socialistic society? Do you, Don, truly think that Presidents Obama (and Bush) were actually happy about having to do those bail-outs? Does any thinking person believe they did it to make political points? Of course not; you don't need a Rove or Axelrod to tell you that doing it was going to be a political suicide! It was a bad thing to have to do; but I guarantee you they did it with the abundance of economic advice, and were both resigned to the reality that it was the lesser

of two terrible evils. We have been told that if it hadn't been done we could have lapsed into a depression. I don't know if that is true, and neither do you, Don, but I think most of us are very happy we didn't have to find out. Do any of our readers believe in their heart that, although the President belonged to the same Christian church (of much publicity during his campaign) for the last 20 years, that he is really a Muslim? Now we have Sarah Palin and her ilk chiming in with his middle name whenever they get the chance. Do they REALLY think he is a Muslim? Isn't it obvious to anyone with a mind that she is just stoking the fires? I know that answer and I'll bet you do, too, Mr. Swanson.

As to Congress and what they have accomplished, I would like to pause for a little question and answer session with the readers.

Picture yourselves as the president of a company, and now try to effectuate a business change in the face of a consistent blockade by a large voting bloc. Would YOU like to be judged based on your performance in a situation like that? It's not hard to connect the dots, is it?

Now the hate part.

This Russian character that Mr. Swanson thinks so highly of ends his letter with a rant about Congress giving the Treasury Department the power to set fair salaries. Now stop for a second people and go back to when you were president of that company. If your company accepts funding from (or is otherwise bailed out by) a third party, don't you think there might be some strings attached?

On this point, for many years there have been IRS rules governing the salary limits for tax deductibility purposes. But, as the rant continues he manages to blame our economic woes on the likes of (quote and end quote) "Senator Barney Frank, a social pervert basking in his homosexuality and Marxist enlightenment." Here is where I have to stop and say...wait, wait...WHAT? Hey Don, where'd you find this "typical outsider" you chose to think so highly of? Did you run a want ad in Militant Homophobes Weekly?

Back to my father. It took him having to face the possibility of his son dying in a war before he could mellow. Mr. Swanson, do people need to be black before they can imagine what its like to grow up black? Do people need to be poor before we, the fortunate ones, can try to stand in the shoes of the poor? And does one have to have a homosexual child or relative before they have compassion for what a gay person's life might be like? Obviously you and the Rabbi in New York (the one who used to support Carl Paladino for Governor, but no longer does because he apologized to the Gay and Lesbian community for his original speech

• See LETTERS page 7

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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• OBITUARIES •

Vera Wilson Quin

Vera Wilson Quin 93, of Highlands, NC died on October 20, 2010 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Monticello, Georgia, the daughter of Winburn Jewell "Yank" and Georgia Ann Wilson. She was preceded in death by her husband Lt. Col. Hillrie M. Quin, Sr. and her five brothers. She was an active lifelong member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and an active volunteer in several military related charities. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother; best remembered for her outstanding Southern cooking and sense of humor.

She is survived by her son, Hillrie M. Quin, Jr. and his wife Beverly of Highlands, and daughter, Ann Quin Sutherland and her husband Col. Jim Sutherland of Winfield, IL. She also is survived by four grandchildren, Amanda Quin, Hillrie Marshall Quin VIII (Estella), Jennifer Sonntag (Griffin) and Jim Sutherland III (Libby) and four great-grandchildren, Sophie and Wil Sutherland and Gavin and Lila Grace Sonntag.

Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands on Monday October 25 at 11 a.m. A graveside service for the family will follow at Arlington Cemetery in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to The American Heart Association, Attn: Memorial Donation, 222 South Church St., Suite 303, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Janice Imogene Tolliver

Janice Imogene Tolliver of Cashiers, North Carolina and Chokoloskee Island, Florida, was born June 19, 1918 in Detroit, Michigan to Hazel Marie Stephens and Emery Leroy Stewart. She was married to the late Donald Robert Tolliver, December 26, 1936, with whom she had two sons, John Thomas Tolliver and Michael Robert Tolliver. She died October 24, 2010 at the age of 92 in Highlands, North Carolina. She is survived by her aforementioned sons; two grandsons, John Andrew Tolliver and Charles Nathan Tolliver and a step-granddaughter, Margaret Cabanis-Wicht. Janice was a homemaker and loving wife,



mother and grandmother.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Chaplain Jerry Willingham officiating. Burial was in Norton Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Rd., Flat Rock, NC 28731. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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• MILESTONES •

Nona Reese celebrates 93 years



Nona Reese happily celebrated her 93rd birthday with her son Larry and his sons and family in Virginia on Oct. 3, 2010. Shown are four generations from 4 weeks old to 93 years young. Front row from right is Chris Reese holding daughter Shelby, Nona, David Reese holding his two children Lucca and 4-weeks-old Enso. Back row from right, are Larry and Jason Reese. Nona enjoyed her festivities with her son, grandsons and great grandchildren and thanks God for her many blessings. She has been an inspiration and a blessing to those who have had their privilege to know her. We hope to help her celebrate her 94th in 2011.

Potts wins quilt at craft show Oct. 9



The wildflower quilt made by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary was raffled at the Oct. 9 Highlands Own Craft show at the Civic Center and won by Hazel Potts above. Youngster Erin Graff, with her, drew the winning ticket. They are standing in front of the quilt.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Bears 'r' Us



Fred Wooldridge

Highlands has bears; lots of 'em. And it seems as if our bear population is either growing or the bears are getting more brazen or both. Or maybe they all moved into town to keep from getting shot. Bear season is in full swing. Sooner or later, someone will be hurt or killed.

Picture this. You're out for an early morning walk on the side streets of Highlands. Your cell phone is safely tucked away in your dresser drawer at home and you're not a stick carrier, not that that would help much. A bear strolls out of a wooded area and on to the street you're on. The bear stops and stares at you. Then her three cubs saunter out and stare at you. You stop in your tracks and freak out.

Since a healthy bear can run about 30 miles an hour, running is the last thing you should do. It will only encourage her to chase you and she might. You'll lose. I also suggest you not climb a nearby tree 'cause they do that also, probably better than you. Faced with this dangerous situation, I would do what one Highlander did, slowly turn and walk in the opposite direction, checking occasionally to make sure ole momma bear is not following. Chances are good she wouldn't follow.

I think its way past time for Highlands to take a deep breath and develop a plan to cope with our ever increasing furry friends. The Forest Service tells us that bears may not hibernate or have a restless hibernation if there is a year round supply of food. Highlands provides that for them. The bears are not the problem. The garbage we carelessly leave around is the problem.

Like all of Highlands, there are bears where I live. After I had to replace three garbage cans they ripped apart and then rake up soggy trash the bear left behind in the rain, I wised up. We still have bears because my neighbors still provide garbage for them, but not at our house. Our garbage stays inside the house until an hour before the Highlands garbage truck arrives. End of problem, period. And since I stopped feeding those pooping birds, I don't have to bring my feeders in at night, but I would if I still had them.

If all of Highlands would shut off the

bear's supply of food, they will dine elsewhere. We need a plan to educate our citizens and provide ordinances that shut off bears' food supply. The bears won't starve.

Highlands should force its residents to keep garbage out of reach until garbage day. Restaurants should be directed to keep their large garbage bins locked until garbage day. Plain and simple, if we all work hard to deprive bears of a food source, they'll stay in

the woods where they belong.

I have a friend who became paralyzed from the waist down from a freak accident not involving bears. At the veteran's hospital where he was treated, he met another man also paralyzed from the waist down. In time, they shared their tragedies. The man had been fishing at a mountain stream, when, unprovoked, a black bear suddenly rushed him, mauling him and leaving him paralyzed.

It's easy to forget that our bears are wild and dangerous animals. They're certainly fun to watch from the safety of your car or home. I know people whose names I will not mention who actually run out of their house to shoo a bear away. I'm sure they wouldn't have done that if they had spoken with the fishing guy who will sit in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. One quick swipe from a bear's paw can take your face off.

And finally, my own personal bear story. The li'l missus and I were driving to church one Sunday morning, when we ran up on a momma bear and her cubs ravaging my neighbor's garbage cans. Less than 10 feet from the bears, we watched from the safety of our car. They put on quite a show. But if we had been walking, which we do often, that same scenario could have been extremely dangerous for us. The safety of her cubs would have been paramount. If she had perceived a threat, we would have been attacked.

Highlands has to have a better plan than just shooting bears with bean bags. The problem is not the bears, it's us. We invite them into town with our garbage.

• Read Fred's column on-line all winter at www.highlandinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Guilty ghosts

I met Walter Lundstrum in 1966. I was a junior medical student. Walter was a; well, that's the story.

A mental hospital for the criminally insane is a frightening place. The lockup ward at Indianapolis' Marion County Hospital occupied a century-old basement, dark, dank, and full of ghosts. The ward was separated from daylight by ancient iron bars. The examining room was at the far end of the hall. To reach it, I had to pass through the day room, a space of checkerboards and lost souls. The door slammed and locked behind me. The orderly shouted a cheery reminder to give a shout when I wanted out.

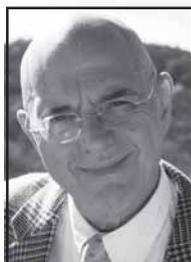
I was assigned to interview Helen Chambers, but when I entered the stark room, Walter sat at a rusty table in a room bare except for two chairs and a table. Walter was dressed in the hospital uniform, a white shirt and white pants. Only his black shoes interrupted the monochromatic scene.

The interview was a requirement in the junior psychiatric rotation. The faculty selected classic, and terrifying, examples of paranoid schizophrenic patients for us to examine. Rumor had it that the inmates enjoyed these little sessions, and embellished their stories to shock us. There was no doubt that they were rewarded for their participation. They wore clean clothes, were fed better food, and were treated to an occasional afternoon in the sun. Their lives contrasted sharply with those of less cooperative, more dangerous, or less imaginative, inmates. There was a widely held belief that the patients were sane enough to laugh about us after hours.

"Hello. I'm Dr. Salzarulo," I lied.

"You're a junior medical student," he answered hostilely, "and I will not consent to a physical exam. It has been 10 years since I allowed one of you 'doctors' to poke and prod me. That's the way it's going to be," he added uncompromisingly.

Although a physical is part of a complete psychiatric examination, if the faculty had accepted Walter's intransigence for 10 years, that was good enough for me. There were only a handful of patients available to us, and most had attained celebrity status. I wondered why I'd never heard of Walter Lundstrum. We listened to their horrifying tales, and then retold the ghastly stories at a local bar and class hangout. A drink or two helped erase the tension after these sessions. Maybe, I thought as he sat silently before me, Walter didn't have a story worth



Feedback is encouraged.
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hsalzarulo@aol.com

repeating. Open ended questions, I reminded myself. Ask him something to get him started, nothing that he could answer, yes or no. "Why are you here?" I asked.

"To talk to you," he answered playfully.

"The hospital; why are you in the hospital?"

"They say I'm crazy and I killed my children." He looked at his hands and added, "With my bare hands. They say I chased them around the house

the way a fox chases chickens in a hen house. There were five of them. They say I killed the youngest while she slept, caught another on the stairs. My 13-year-old grabbed a poker. I smashed his head on the hearth. Two little ones were huddled together in the pantry; easy hunting. They were so cute, clinging to each other; at least that's what they say."

"Who says?" I asked.

"Everyone says it; the police, the lawyers, the doctors, and the voices. They say the place was a mess. I was a mess. My fingers stuck together, like someone glued them. But it wasn't glue. I licked them. I remember that. They tasted salty; salty but good. The jury believed me when I said I didn't remember. I don't think," he looked into my eyes and snarled, "they wanted to believe a man could murder his own children like that. I didn't mention my wife, did I?" His cold eyes fastened on me like a leech on bare skin. I couldn't escape his gaze. After a long time, he added, "I didn't do it. They did."

"They?" I asked.

"They taught you about them open questions, doc. Yeah, 'they'; the ones who got into me and used my hands. I couldn't have done that to my wife and kids. What man could?" he sobbed, suddenly a different person, a wretched, mourning father and husband, recalling the tragedy that had befallen his family, cursing his hands for their role. He released me from his gaze, buried his face in his hands and wept. I watched in awe and fear as his tears washed over his hands and fell as red droplets onto his brilliant white pants.

I backed out the door, ran the length of the hall, and called the orderly. He saw my fright and laughed. "Helen must have been on today. She scares the hell of out you kids, enjoys every minute of it, too."

"No. It wasn't Mrs. Chambers. There was a change in the schedule. Walter Lundstrum was in there."

He walked calmly to the examination room, leaving the gate ajar, and peeked

through the tiny window. "Helen is in there now, and she looks upset. The other guy, Walter, killed himself 10 years ago, right after I started here. They say he strangled himself with his own hands."

He shook his head, savoring the thought, "doesn't seem possible a man could do that to himself, I mean," he stud-

ied his own hands and added, "with his bare hands." Doc, you look like you've seen a ghost. You could use a drink; maybe tell your buddies his story, down at that bar where you all hang out and gossip.

Enjoy the rest of your day," he laughed. His mocking laughter followed me as I walked outside into welcoming autumn air

White squirrels among us



Lynn Kimball snapped this shot while visiting Brevard College.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Ten of the scariest sights in sports

With Halloween on the way, I think it is only fitting that we check out some of the things that send chills up the spines of even the heartiest of sports fans. Therefore, without further ado, here are the ten scariest things in the sporting world today.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

10. We used this joke last week (and by "we" I mean all four of my personalities) but it remains fitting here. The ACC in HD is a disaster to watch thanks to Coach K's rodentia, Roy Williams' hobgoblin tan, Gary Williams drenched with sweat and The Kool-Aid man himself... Sidney Lowe everyone.

9. Cam Newton barreling down the middle of the field directly at you. The man that was to be the "future Tim Tebow" had an unfortunate laptop incident that helped him end up at Auburn, but even in Tiger/War Eagle/Angry Farmer gear Newton has been doing his best Tebow impersonation by running with an authority that even St. Tebow would approve of. Newton barreling over helpless members of the LSU secondary is one of the images that will forever be burned into my brain as I continue to watch Florida try and run the option with a fragile John Brantley at QB.

8. Les Miles vs. George W. Bush in a game of Scrabble. George W. Bush would be busting out words like "industrialiate" and "strategerie" whereas Les would just make as many euphemisms for... well you know.

7. Tim Lincecum's changeup on a 0-2 count. Consider this: you are a hitter who has just seen two 95 mph fastballs from a guy the size of a paperboy. It seems to defy physics that a guy that size can throw that hard, and then all of a sudden he pulls the string and you look completely foolish flailing away at an 80 mph pitch.

6. Joe Buck headed to the announce booth when the Vikings are playing.

5. Tiger Woods, showing up at your doorstep to call on your 20 year old daughter. Yikes.

4. Duke's offense this year-they return two All-Americans in Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith, add the best PG in the country in Kyrie Irving, and oh yeah- Steph Curry's younger brother is coming off the bench. The 60 point games that

won Duke a national title last year will be a thing of the past in 2010-11.

3. The Smurf Turf in Boise, Idaho if you are an opponent. Boise State is 73-2 on "The Blue" since 1999-which is simply astounding. The Broncos also currently hold a 59 game winning streak in

the regular season on their blue field.

2. Brett Favre is most certainly the scariest player in the NFL... to be stuck in an elevator with. First of all-he wouldn't be able to decide for sure whether or not to get on or get off the elevator without calling a couple of press conferences. Secondly, it would be awkward enough just seeing half of Joe Buck when Favre finally got on (see #6) but to then hear Chris Berman in the background calling him a "gunslinger" every time he pressed the wrong button would be even worse. And don't even get me started on what might happen if Favre brought his cell phone with him on the elevator. Ugh.

1. And finally, four words that will terrorize any sports fan. Dick Vitale on Speed. AWESOME BAYBEE!



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... LETTERS from page 2

denouncing them for their immorality) must obviously have some divine knowledge that it is one's choice to be gay or not. Gee that makes so much sense, doesn't it, because, after all, homosexuals really do have it so easy in our society.

Don (and Rabbi), what would you do if your son or daughter were gay or lesbian? Would you have to disown them; would you spend your life praying it away; and losing your child? Mr. Swanson, you know darn well what that columnist meant when he put the words pervert and homosexual in the same sentence. Your Russian friend is a hateful, fear mongering, bigot.

Yeah, I'm a liberal and a Democrat (those are not dirty words to me). President Obama, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi are not the boogie men. They are not what is dragging our country down. Our nation is suffering now, in good part, because of the kind of attitude promulgated by you Mr. Swanson. We don't have to define ourselves as liberal, conservative, Democrat, Republican, right-leaning, left-leaning, Christian, Muslim or Jew to believe in the rights of others; all it takes is some decency.

So, to Mr. Swanson and everyone else who thinks like him, I ask you — have you heard of the Golden Rule? We hear so many campaign ads and letters-to-the-editor that like to incorporate the word "values," well, the Golden Rule is a good value! It shouldn't have to affect you personally before you can appreciate the plight of others.

Richard Lundy
Plantation, FL

Wake Up America!

Dear Editor,

Wake up America. If you burned your hand in a fire then tried several remedies but nothing worked very well, would you put you hand back in the fire? Do you really want to go back to the Bush years? That's exactly what will happen if the Republicans regain control of Congress. The first thing George W. Bush did when he was appointed President was to give away the budget surplus that we had when President Clinton left office. Do we want to return to that mentality? The next thing he did was lie to us about "weapons of mass destruction" and attack Iraq and start an immoral, illegal war that cost us the lives of over 4,400 American soldiers. Do we want to return to that mentality? He sanctioned torture and rendition; he approved illegal wiretapping of American citizens. Do we want to return to that mentality?

What do the Republicans want to do? They want to continue the Bush tax cuts that reward to richest 1% of Americans to a much greater extent than the rest of us. Are you part of that 1%? I'm not. So how is President Obama's proposal to allow the tax cuts for you and I going to harm us?

• See LETTERS page 20

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Sports Page



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Widow's Pique

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

There are things you understand in your head that you don't understand with your heart. I think that's the way it is when a loved one dies. You know in your head that they are not coming back, but you still catch yourself looking up from your newspaper, expecting them to walk through the doorway at any moment. You strain to hear those familiar footsteps; in the case of John, that rolling gait of his, a shuffle with a hint of a limp in one leg. I expect to look up, and see that flash of a grin he would have when our eyes met. But, no, the house is eerily silent, broken only with the dull sound of the TV, the raucous cawing of crows outside, and the gentle padding of cats wandering to and fro. It's so quiet you can hear your own heart beat, although you wonder how it still can.

They say you have to keep busy, and I have plenty to do. Both John and I were hoarders – John more than me, but that leaves lots of stuff to go through, sort out,

and ultimately, throw away. Going through the remnants of someone's life is a fascinating object lesson, especially for a forensics junkie like me.

It first occurred to me while going through John's piles of old photos – why were there so many photos of landscapes, and so few of people? And when there were people, who were they? John wasn't around to ask anymore, so who could I ask? And who were all the ladies? Yes, there were several, anonymous charmers smiling coyly at the camera. John's ladies, many of them clones of each other – big hair, big boobs, bright red lipstick, bright red nails. I felt I'd stumbled onto a Dolly Parton convention. I've even gotten an email from a lady in DC who kept company with John



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

in the bad old days before we married. After all, as a 60-year-old wife, I'm supposed to be cool and sophisticated enough not to feel threatened by John's past. After we married, of course, I always knew where John was. I just had to follow the sound of Fox News, and there would be John, pounding away at his

computer with a cat curled into the crook of his arm. Age, bad knees, and hopefully, the arrival of me on the scene, had relegated that part of his life into the archives of history.

I know I can't keep everything, so I'm just trying to keep a little memento of special events: a few souvenirs from his two runs for Congress in 2006 and 2008, a few from our 2008 wedding, our trip to Scotland and Ireland, and then our trip to Italy, Greece and Croatia. Other dilemmas pop up. Now that his eighth and final book is out, should I keep the manuscripts,

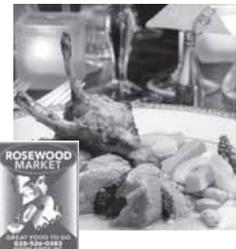
because there are several versions? How ruthless should I be? And all those greeting cards we sent each other for our birthdays, Fathers' and Mothers' Day, Valentine's Day, and all those "I love you and I'm glad you're here" cards? My grandmother died at 96; my own mother is 82. Given my present age, I'll probably be a widow for at least the next 20 years, after having been a wife for only 2. My memories are going to have to last me a long, long time.

On top of the emotional things, there are the purely practical aspects of life to get on with. I know that several people took offense at my **Widowhood 101** column, especially the part about phone calls. I eventually got our phone bill, and it showed 669 phone calls, amounting to \$510. Did people really think I was making this up? Fortunately, two absolute angels at U.S. Cellular took pity on me, and were kinder to me than I thought any stranger could be. There are some wonderful people out there; Ashley and Heather are certainly two of them. I even got sympathy cards from both employees at that phone company. How nice is that?

• See HIS & HERS page 13

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Unleashed, unhinged, un-American, unseated

The American people will soon enjoy a wonderful event. An event that I have been looking towards for years, and it's nearly here. Nancy Pelosi will no longer lead the United States House of Representatives. As if on cue, Pelosi addressed a gathering as I wrote this, professing out need for "fairness" in our economic policies, "leveling the playing field." In other words, take from the rich and give to the poor. Nancy's typical socialist blather.

Is it not curious that, while the UK, France, Greece and other European socialist countries are scrambling their way out of socialism, Nancy and her Progressive buddies are ignoring the falling wall and dragging us into socialism. Ultra-liberal

female California politicians is a subject I have harped on forever. What breeds them into wild-eyed, tax the rich, spend on the poor legislators that riddle our Congress? Evidently, ruining California's economy wasn't enough. They took their show to DC.

Who can forget that fateful day, January 4, 2007 to be exact, when Nancy, with wild eyes ablaze, claimed power for all women with a dramatic slam of her gavel? It was a scary scene for those of us who knew what was coming. Surrounding herself with a court of whackadoodles, the attack on our way of life was on. Her power and cunning was consummated when the House passed Obama's healthcare "reform." Showing utter disregard for traditional process, she jammed through the monstrosity when nobody knew what was in it.

Some of you will remember the Hous-

ton University had an unusually tall and talented basketball team in the early '80s, including all-time greats Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler. This team was so prolific with the dunk shot they were nicknamed "Phi Slamma Jamma." Somehow, Nancy and her merry minions remind me of that team. They jammed down legislation in spite of the fact that the public didn't want it and nobody knew what they were voting on. That didn't stop Nancy.

I have a real problem with Obama's hypocrisy when he says the Republicans stood in the way of passing important legislation. With a large majority in both houses, and with Nancy getting healthcare and finreg (financial regulation) though with no help from the Republicans, if she couldn't get something passed, it was because some of her Dems wouldn't toe the line and be bullied into voting her way. Such garbage. It finally dawned on some of her clan that there is a price to pay for their ignoring their constituents and wouldn't go along. Retribution Day looms large.

Nancy is toxic. Many Dems are running away from her as far as they can get. Some are openly saying that, no matter what results from the election, they won't vote for her as leader of anything. The latimes.com, no friend of conservatives, reported the other day: "A Gallup survey shows 29% of those polled view the House speaker in a positive



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swanson@dnnet.net

light; her negative rating is 56%. The favorability rating for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, demonized for years but whose very name has become a Republican curse in this midterm election, has hit a new low of just 29% while 56% said they view her unfavorably, according to a Gallup poll released on Wednesday.

The sharp dislike of Pelosi is hardly a surprise since she has become the GOP's favorite punching bag in this electoral

cycle. Conservative Republicans dislike the liberal Californian for a host of domestic and international issues. She has been demonized by the "tea party" movement for successfully pushing healthcare insurance overhaul, stimulus spending and other aspects of President Obama's legislative program through her

house." Couldn't have said it better myself.

I know it will be close to Halloween when you read this, and I should be strong enough to resist the temptation of mentioning Nancy's witch-like person, however, as some Chicago thug once said, don't let a good crisis go to waste, or words to that effect.

Even though Nancy says she can't blame her colleagues for deserting her and calling her names and otherwise registering their disgust with her, I sense she may find herself in a personal crisis. Therefore, I shall pile on and suggest that she jump on her large jet flying mansion, her idea of a modern day broom, and head West. Don't stop in California, just keep on going to Hawaii, where her husband made his millions using under-paid laborers.

The trees are turning colors, football season is in full swing, baseball playoffs are heading to the World Series, and Madam Pelosi is on her way out. Life is good.

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... CANDIDATES continued from page 1



**Incumbent
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**Incumbent
District II
Bob Simpson**



**Incumbent
District I
Brian McClellan**



**District I
Allen "Ricky"
Bryson**



**District I1
Vic Drummond**



**District II
Ron Haven**



**District I1
Charlie
Leatherman**



**Incumbent
District II BOE
Bobby Bishop**



**Incumbent
District II BOE
Tommy Cabe**



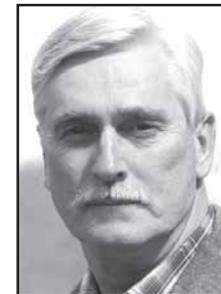
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District II BOE
Larry Brooks**



**Candidate
District II BOE
Gary Shields**



**Incumbent
Sheriff Robert
Holland**



**Sheriff Candidate
George Lynch**



**State Senate
50th District
Jim Davis**

by over 6 million dollars. No county services have been cut and the county still has a strong fund balance. This was done while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the state.

- Completion of the new Mountain View Intermediate School.
- Completion of the Early College High School building at the Macon Campus of Southwestern Community College.
- East Franklin Elementary School renovations and expansions completed.
- South Macon Elementary School ac-

cess road completed.

- Highlands School renovations completed including new bathrooms, teacher workrooms, awnings and roof replacement and finally a regulation size soccer field that has been completed.
- Approved the construction of the new Iotla Valley Elementary School which will begin construction in November. We were able to save the tax payers over 8 million dollars in interest alone by working to secure the lowest interest rate possible.

- Completed the new Animal Control Facility and adopted the much needed Animal Control Ordinance.

- Obtained easements, funding and awarded bid for construction of the new Little Tennessee Cartoogechaye Creek sewer line.
- The renovation project on the Hudson Library is almost complete. This was accomplished by working side by side with the Hudson Library Board and the Fontana Regional Library System.

- In 2009 we made budget reductions of 1.4 million dollars to offset revenue loss.

- Adopted county budgets in 2009/2010 which were the lowest in 5 years without reducing citizen's services or jeopardizing the general fund balance.

- Created the Macon County Mental Health Taskforce to deal with the shortfall in mental health services in our county. We now have a true walk-in center and emergency services for our citizens who need this help. This has reduced the number of man hours required by the Sheriff's Department thereby saving the county thousands of dollars.

- Reorganized and expanded the Macon County Economic Development Commission and hiring a full time Economic Development Coordinator. We also adopted grant guidelines for attracting and expanding industry and jobs for Macon County.

- Established the Day Care Study Committee to address the growing need of child care facilities in Macon County. We will continue to search for remedies for this growing problem.

- Established the Abandon Mobile Home Disposal Program.

- Revised the Tourism Development Committee Structure and responsibilities to better promote our county.

In closing, it has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Macon County. With their support I pledge to work hard to improve the quality of life for all Maconians. I will continue to provide quality leadership for our community and strengthen the county's relationship with the Municipalities within our county. As has been shown by working together we can improve our community in many positive ways. Thank you.

Incumbent Brian McClellan

• See CANDIDATES page 11



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... CANDIDATES continued from page 10

I am running for County Commissioner to complete the work that needs to be finished to allow our county to prosper and to be the best place to live in western North Carolina for years to come.

When I ran for the office of County Commissioner four years ago, I promised to fight for a county budget which would reign in out of control spending and was successful in achieving that. Our millage rate was the 6th lowest out of 100 counties in the state when I began serving. We now have the 2nd lowest rate (www.dorn.com/publications/property.html), trailing only Carteret County out of the 100 counties in our state. We have achieved this by being very careful in managing our budget and prioritizing our needs across the county.

This has also been achieved while providing essential services for the citizens of Macon County including schools, public safety/law enforcement, and emergency services. I believe that good government is efficient and that by closely watching our expenditures we can keep our property tax rate one of the lowest in the state.

Starting each budget from scratch and finding savings wherever they can be found is the best path forward in these uncertain economic times. By following this path, the county's operating budget was cut by 10% for year 2009 - 2010 and an additional 3% for the current year. Improved relations between the municipalities and county government have been accomplished by scheduling regular meetings and working to eliminate overlap in services thereby saving tax dollars and keeping the property tax rate low.

We have got to get our local economy moving again. First, we have to do everything we can to revive our real estate and construction industries in Macon County. This includes not over burdening the industry with regulations and red tape. In addition, we have established an Economic Development Commission (EDC), to work to bring jobs into our county by actively recruiting businesses and putting together incentives to make locating in Macon County more attractive to them. This includes tax incentives based upon the number of jobs a prospective employer will bring to Macon County. It is an ongoing process that will bear results and bring more jobs to our county.

I ask for your vote and your support to accomplish these essential goals that will allow Macon County to continue to be most beautiful and desired place to live in western North Carolina. Thank you.

Incumbent Bob Simpson

Thanks to Kim and Jim for their excellent job of reporting the news from our County Commissioner meetings. One of them are at every meeting. The reporting is very accurate as to what is going on and what is being discussed.

I would like to take this opportunity thank you the voters for the support you have giving me as your commissioner.

I have been your commissioner for the last eight years. I have taking pride in that I have always represented all of our citizens.

For decades, the Highlands and Flats areas received the so called short-end of the stick. With help of Allen Bryson, member of the board for four years of my first term and Chairman for two of those years, and the support of the board, this practice has been turned around, and continues with the present Board.

Below you can find a list of services that has been provided for the area since 2002:

1. New Zackary Recreation Park.
 2. New Gymnasium and remodeled the old Gym for Music and the Arts.
 3. Remodeled K-12 Highlands School.
 4. Major funding for Pine Street Park.
 5. Provided funding for full-time Law Enforcement, Ambulance Services, and a full-time Fireman.
 6. Constructed the New Buck Creek Recycling Center.
 7. Help fund the Water Line Extension to Highlands Cashiers Hospital.
- Within the last four years the present Board has:
8. Provided funds for the Highlands Transfer Station for the areas trash collection.
 9. Provides \$500,000 per year to the town for needed projects.
 10. Remolded the Hudson Library.
 11. Provided funding for new Highlands School Soccer Field,
 12. Funded the Softball Field renovations.
 13. Funded the Remodeling of Scaly Mountain's historical Community Building.
 14. Made funding possible for the New Scaly Mountain Fire Department.
 15. Provided Animal Control services
 16. Provided Health Department Services at Zachary Park

The Highlands area projects as well as many others in our Nantahala Community and in Franklin Area have been completed. Some new contracts have just been awarded. All should be complete by 2012.

Macon County is one of the most financially sound Counties in the State. We have completed all the County wide projects have maintained one of the Lowest Tax Rates the the entire State. When I was elected in 2002, our tax rate was 42 cents and currently 26 cents. Credit must be giving to our County Managers, Financial Directors, Tax Department, and of Course Board of Commissioners for Direction.

Once again thank you for giving me the privilege of representing all citizens of Macon County. I again ask for your support in this year's election. I will remain open to you and will continue represent all areas of Macon County. Thank you

Allen "Ricky" Bryson

I would appreciate your consideration on Nov. 2, when you cast your ballot for District 1 Commissioner.

Brian McClellan is a hard working man who means well, however, during his tenure, he has repeatedly broken his promise not to raise taxes by voting for increases in our local property taxes. Since Brian has taken office, our local property taxes are 6% high-

er than they were before he was elected.

In all of the eight years I spent in the same position serving the people of Macon County, I secured funding for:

- The Highlands-Cashiers water line,
- Zachary Park, providing the first soccer field and the first Little League baseball field in District 1; space for county social services offices in Highlands and space for a free clinic,
- Pine Street Park,
- The Highlands School gymnasium,

- The Highlands School playground,
- Construction of South Macon Elementary School,
- Construction of Cartoogechaye Elementary School,
- Renovation of East Franklin Elementary School with qualified zone academy bonds (QZAB) as well as supplying property for the new Southwestern Community College campus and the new Macon County library.

• See CANDIDATES page 24

KEEP YOUR SHERIFF'S OFFICE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

- **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.

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• **INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft.** •

Now is the time!

Since the end of World War II it's been an article of financial faith that homeownership is a pillar of economic stability if not outright wealth. Owning your own home is good, owning several is likely to be better. Such faith is not without merit. Home prices rose consistently year after year until in the past decade the string was broken. But in light of recent years it's also easy to understand why a Time Magazine cover story says "the dark side of homeownership is now all too apparent: foreclosures and walkaways, neighborhoods plagued by abandoned properties and plummeting home values."

Well, as *Roseanne Rosannadana* used to say, "It's always something!"

Now, a hugely important action has been taken by many major lenders: "Concerned about the paperwork" many have stopped foreclosures to "conduct reviews" and otherwise complicate what the heck is going on in the marketplace. The question is, "What will be the net effect of this development?"

In the big scheme of things, banks want this crisis to be resolved as much as the rest of us do. In the long term there's almost nothing positive they gain with this development, but there may be some benefits for them in the short term.

The primary benefit is stopping, if only for a short while, the charge-offs made when a property goes into foreclosure proceedings once 90 days or more delinquent. Remember that each institution must charge off the



Judy Michaud
Meadows Mountain Realty
Owner/Broker

entire mortgage and deduct it from their equity each time a foreclosure commences, only able to regain some of their putative loss upon selling the property down the road. Regardless of the property's intrinsic value, once foreclosure commences, the property is on the books at zero.

You might wonder how a lender "taking a haircut" and selling a property for much less than is owed them is a benefit. Simply, arranging a short sale allows the bank to limit the

charge-off and reduce the impact to both earnings and equity that charge-offs produce.

For example, a property mortgaged for \$500,000 is best sold for \$300,000 rather than written down to \$0, wouldn't you agree? Now, as we come up on the economic "end of the fiscal year" for most lenders, it certainly is better to either postpone the problem (as is now the case) or to liquidate the properties and manage the loss amount before the lenders auditors tell them to. It gives lenders a chance to dial up their own earnings, do their tax arranging wisely and insulate themselves as best they can from the scorn of the marketplace.

If lenders benefit from short sales, why is accomplishing one like pulling teeth without anesthesia?

I'm afraid you'll have to ask them. There is no reason to stall or drag out short sales other than the same reason homeowners still think that it's 2005 when pricing their homes

• See INVESTING page 13

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- Screen Porches with outdoor fireplace
- Park area (still to come)
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... **JUST HERS** continued from page 8

But, back to people taking offense, it is odd that some people can take a sad widow, but they can't take an angry one. Or a crabby one. Or a feisty one. It's a strange commentary that there are folks who could deal with me weeping and swooning, falling apart, but they can't take me telling them to back off, and mind their own business. "They mean well," my friends tell me. "After all, you don't want to hurt their feelings!" Really, how about my feelings? I'm the one who has lost her husband. Right now, is it supposed to be about me, or is it supposed to be about them? I actually had people tell me that my recent column was so hateful that no one would ever phone me again, and that no one was going to show up at John's memorial service. Fortunately, that wasn't the case.

Years ago, when I lived in New York, I used to go to Ray Bari's Pizza on Third Avenue. One day, I saw a beggar in tattered clothing curled up against the wall of the pizza place. I ate my meal in the warm

comfort of the pizzeria, and as an afterthought, bought a nice big slice of pizza on the way out to give to the beggar. "Here!" I said to the huddled figure, expecting his face to beam with gratitude. "I don't like pizza" he declared flatly. I was outraged. Here I was, trying to be charitable, and this man had the audacity to scorn my gesture. He reached his dirty hands into his mouth, and pulled it wide open. I saw he had no teeth left. "I can't eat pizza," he said. "No teeth." I felt foolish, ashamed. After all, was my attempted gesture of charity supposed to make him feel better, or me? Charity, even delivered with the best of intentions, means nothing if it isn't what the intended person needs or can use. And we aren't always in the best position to know just what that is. When in doubt, ask. Above all, don't assume. That would be presumptuous – and hardly charitable.

• 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 precious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. She appreciates both pizza and charity.

... **INVESTING** continued from page 12

for sale. Neither of the parties accept that those prices are gone forever.

Of course, no lender wants this situation to continue and you can be sure that they are as eager to get through this foreclosure mess as you are. Of course, it is their greed that caused the mess to begin with; that, and the feeding frenzy of the mortgage banking industry eager to close any loan with any borrower, whether that borrower could repay the loan or not. After all, as soon as they packaged and sold the loan they were out of the deal, so what was the harm in just passing the buck to the "public funds" that end up "investing in" this trash, anyway?

I am trying to make the point that it's not going away soon and you need to somehow turn this mess to your advantage, if you can. My suggestion – there will never be a better time to invest in real estate. As this final quarter of the year marches on and banks look at their balance sheets, go out and meet the rising tide head-on. Baron Rothschild, an 18th century British nobleman and member of the Rothschild banking family, is credited with saying that "The time to buy is when there's blood in the streets." The original quote is believed to be "Buy when there's blood in the streets, even if the blood is your own." This is contrarian investing at its heart - the strongly-held belief that the worse things seem in the market, the better the opportunities are for profit.

Returning to *Roseanne Rosannadana*, she closed one of my favorite rants with this line: "It's always something. Either you've got a sweat ball hanging on your nose or you live in New Jersey!"

With apologies to Garden Staters everywhere, we're all mythically stuck in New Jersey right now, but what else is new? Get that sweat ball off your nose and get going — there is opportunity to be taken advantage of — now.

• For more information on real estate in Highlands, contact Judy Michaud at Meadows Mountain Realty 828-526-1717 or toll free 866-526-3558. Please feel free to stop by our office across the street from "Sweet Treats" at 450 N. 4th Street in Highlands or at 94-1 Highway 64 West in Cashiers. Or visit us online at www.meadowsmtnrealty.com. Judy can also be reached by email at info@meadowsmtnrealty.com.

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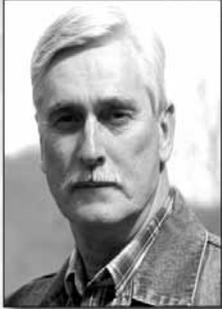
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- ☉ I will treat everyone equally regardless of their political party or beliefs
- ☉ I will protect life, property and preserve the peace of Macon County

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Thanksgiving Dinner

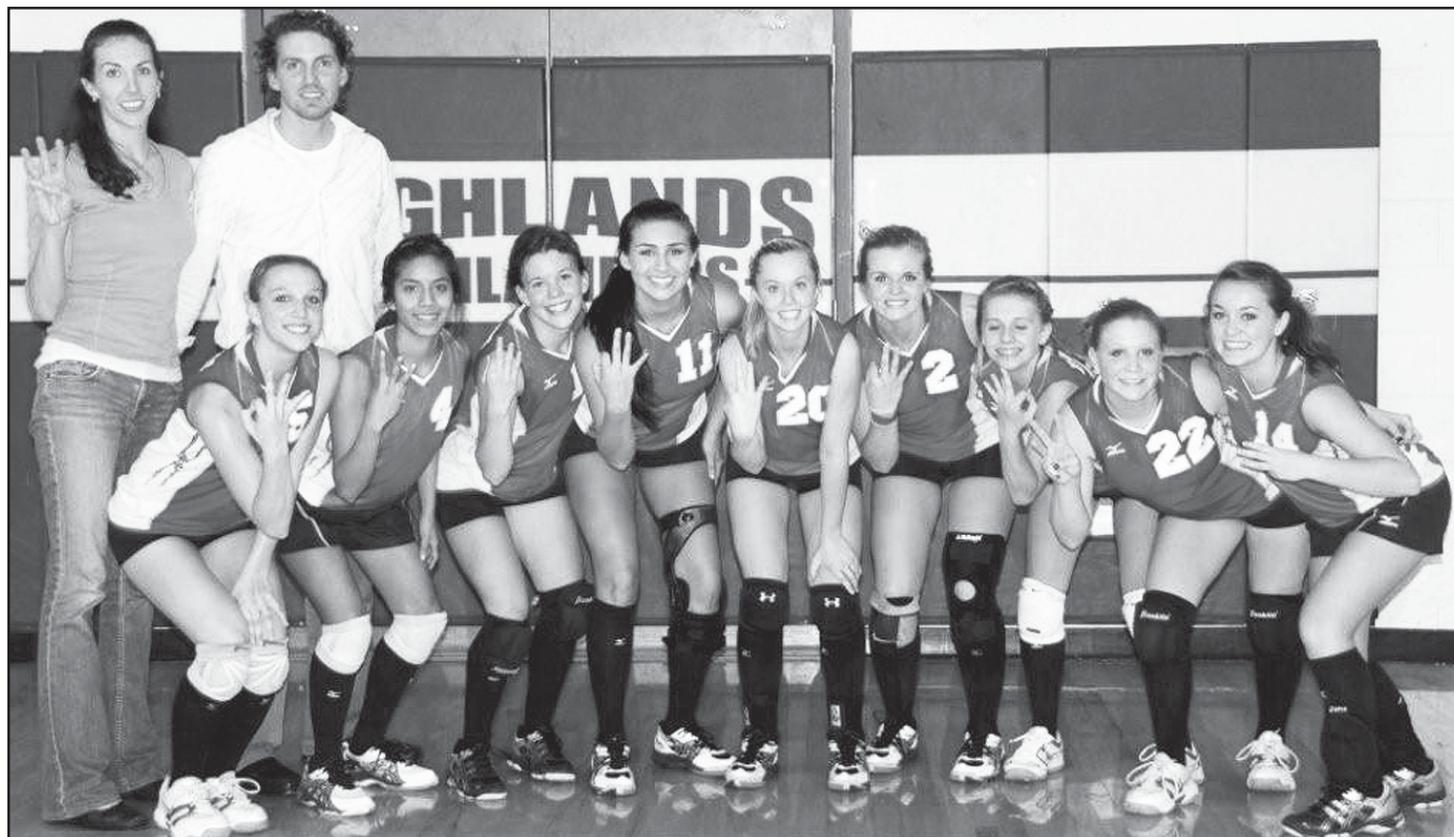
Dinner for Six \$152 Includes:

- Butter Basted Turkey or Honey Spiced Glazed Ham
- Mountain Fresh Dressing
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- Pumpkin Bisque and Cranberry Relish
- Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes
- House-Made Yeast Rolls and Turkey Herb Gravy
- Choice of Pies: Granny Smith Apple, Pumpkin or Pecan



Reserve yours today we sell out early

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The Highlands School Girls Volley Ball team beat Andrews Tuesday night which means they are off to the third round of the State Playoffs to be held at home in Highlands Thursday night. Tuesday night's scores were: Highlands 3-1, Highlands 25 Andrews 14, Highlands 25 Andrews 19, Andrews 25 Highlands 22 and Highlands 25 Andrews 17.
Photo by Stephanie McCall

• HS VOLLEYBALL •

Lady Highlanders advance to third round of NCHSAA playoffs

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlander volleyball team has advanced to the third round of the state playoffs by defeating the Andrews Wildcats Tuesday night 3-1.

The Lady Highlanders came out of the gate strong, taking a 2-0 lead after the first two sets due to the strong serving of Stephanie Puchacz and the net play of Courtney Rogers and Taylor Buras.

Andrews was able to regain some momentum by winning the third set, but the Lady Highlanders were able to finish them in four thanks to a strong fourth game from LSMC player of the year Marlee McCall and the effort of juniors Jenny Coram and Julianne Buras.

The Highlanders will host Rosman at Highlands Gym tonight, but on Tuesday the Lady Highlanders were taking a moment to celebrate. As McCall said after the game, "we're thrilled — it feels like we have accomplished something we have worked toward very hard this year and it is obviously very satisfying."

And while there was time to celebrate Tuesday night, #1 Rosman is next on the agenda for the Highlanders. Said McCall, "we've prepared all year for state, and we expect to go far — it's hard to beat a team three times (Rosman defeated the Lady Highlanders twice this season) so we will practice as usual and be ready for Thursday."

Game time this evening is 7 p.m., so come out and support the Lady Highlanders as they continue their drive towards a state championship.

Grief support group at HUMC

If you have experienced a significant loss and want to meet with others sharing similar feelings, the join us. Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. Beginning Wednesday, November 3rd, through December 15th the group will meet in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30pm. If you want to come early and join us for supper, \$5 per person or \$12 per family, call the church office by Monday of each week. (526-3376)

The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience. HUMC is excited to offer this support to the community. Come share your story, and make the journey to better emotional health.

...on this day

Oct. 28, 1919

The US Congress passes the Volstead Act over Woodrow Wilson's veto, implementing prohibition in the United States.

The Anti-Saloon League had a mission to advance the cause of Prohibition.

They would keep all of us dry of every drop of scotch and rye, and any place, rural or urban. It wasn't just the heavy boozers that turned out to be the biggest losers,

it became dangerous for the cops, making a criminal matter out of stuff with hops, and the crooks got rich that much quicker as they sold all the beer, wine and liquor.

And though there were plenty of angsters about a Chicago filled with gangsters, all of the very best jobs went to those in the mobs. Turned out to be a very bad deal, and problems remained even after repeal.

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Election Day Information

All voting places in Macon County are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on every Election Day. Upon entering the voting place, give your name, address, and party (primary elections only) to the precinct officials. If you are properly registered, you will be given the appropriate ballot and directed to the voting machine to vote.

Note: If a person has changed addresses and not yet notified the election office, they may still vote on election day. The voter would need to go to the new precinct where the poll worker will fill out the forms and verify with the county board of elections office. However, this will obviously take time and it is much simpler to change your address prior to election day.

Curbside Voting

If you are unable to enter the voting place because of age or physical disability, you will be allowed to vote either in your vehicle or near the voting place during the hours that the polling place is open.

Transfer Voting

If you fail to change your address by the registration deadline, there is a procedure that allows you to vote. You may also appear at the Board of Elections office between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Election Day if you failed to change your address. Your information will be corrected and you will vote while in this office. To avoid any delay, please notify the elections office of any address change within 25 days of an election.

Absentee "One-Stop" Voting

The "One-Stop" voting process permits voting at the Board of Elections office. "One-Stop" voting begins on the third Thursday before a primary and general election and ends on the Saturday before the election.

Absentee voting by mail

To request absentee ballots by mail, send a written request to the Board of Elections office beginning 50 days before election day. We must receive the written requests no later than the Tuesday prior to election day. This request must include your full name, telephone number, date of birth, residence address, and address where you would like the ballots to be mailed. Each voter requesting a ballot must sign the request.

If you cannot vote at your precinct due to illness or physical condition, you can request that your ballots be mailed to you. Please call for details.

A member of a near relative (spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law) may make a request for an application for your absentee ballot. Once the completed application is returned, ballots are mailed directly to the voter. Completed ballots must be received in the elections office by 5 p.m. on the day prior to the election. Follow the instructions

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 sculpture: Patrick Dougherty. 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 Dec. 18

• At The Bascom, American Craft To

• See EVENTS page 14

Dallas Reese Trio to open Culinary Weekend Nov. 11-14



The Dallas Reese Trio will perform at the opening night Gala of the 3rd annual Highlands, NC Culinary Weekend on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Dallas Reese is a Concord, NC native but has deep roots in the Macon County Area.

His great-grandfather Robert Walter Reese was one of the early settlers of Highlands, coming to the town in 1885 to paint the Presbyterian Church. For over 135 years parts of the Reese family have lived in the area known as the Old Bone yard, on Dillard Road.

Reese's grandmother Myrtle Henderson Reese was a favorite with tourists from the 1920s -1970s selling her homemade buttermilk and flowers and other crafts. Buttermilk Level on Dillard Road was named after her. Dallas has written articles on his family's history in Macon County for the Macon County Historical Society and he has been coming to Highlands since he was a kid and especially loves hiking Glen Falls and Whiteside Mountain.

Dallas' fourth great-grandfather Barak Norton was the first settler in Whiteside Cove back in the early 1800s. Professionally, Dallas has played music for over 20 years all over the east coast and Mid-Atlantic. He's shared the stage with country artists, Phil Vassar, Blake Shelton, Mark Wills, David Lee Murphy, Billy Cur-

ington, Willie Nelson, Trace Adkins, Andy Griggs, Martina McBride and also has opened shows for artists as diverse as Steely Dan, The Allman Brothers, Ben Folds Five, The Bodeans, Josh Gracin, Jason Aldean and many more.

Reese has also been a successful radio personality across the southeast and mid-Atlantic for the past 20 years.

In 2008 Reese was the recipient of West Virginia Radio Station of the Year at WKKW, Morgantown, WV. And that same year also received the West Virginia Legendary Radio Station of the year award.

Dallas was also voted best Nighttime Radio Personality in Charlotte, NC in 1998 and 1999 by the readers of Creative Loafing Magazine. In 1996 Dallas was voted best regional musician by Charlotte's Best Magazine.

Dallas' music is a diverse blend of pop/rock/country/ blues and R&B.

Dallas is excited about performing in Highlands and hopes for a big crowd of great food, wine and song lovers at the event.

Tickets are \$75 and include an incredible array of food and are available at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com or by calling: 866-526-5841

Showtime is 7 pm on Thursday, Nov. 11.



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.

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Please call

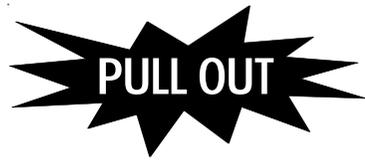
Highlands Area Chamber
of Commerce at

866-526-5841

Or purchase online at

www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com

168476



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

day, 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.

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 RVSP 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.

- **YOGA** – Moonrise Yoga -- The Highlands Dedicated Studio, 464 Carolina Way. Mon., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. All Levels. Mats provided. 526-8880. More info at www.yogahighlands.com (10/28)

Sundays

- Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

- The High Mountain Squares will be having a dance workshop get-together on Sundays. This will include main/stream and plus levels. The caller will be Jim

Roper 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, 828 369-8334, 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.

- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

Mondays

- Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

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

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

- The Highlands Dialogue invites everyone to participate in our Tuesday discussions at the Civic Center from 10–11:30 a.m. While our name is new, the Highlands Dialogue intends to build on the Fall/Winter-Spring discussion series previously sponsored by HIARPT. Discussions range from current events and great books to extreme whimsy. The only membership requirements are that you come with an exploring mind and that you read a session's material before attending the discussion (we distribute readings either by e-mail or at previous sessions). Even if you are not able to attend all of the discussions, you are encouraged to come when you are available. If you would like 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. If you would like us to add your name to the Highlands Dialogue's e-mail list, please contact David Scheyer at scheyer08@frontier.com.

Tues. & Thurs.

- Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925 or by email at missolvera@yahoo.com.

- Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Baldwin at 5:15 p.m. Fast moving free weight kinetic chain movement for 30-40 minutes. \$8 per class. Call 526-3556 or 526-4959 to reserve a spot.

Wednesdays

- \$2 off bar drinks at El Azteca. 70 Highlands Plaza across from Bryson's Food Store.

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

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

- The Homegrown Buds, a home-school 4-H club, meets at noon at the

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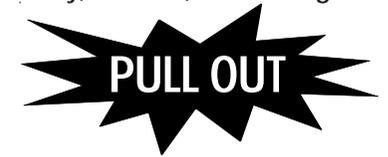
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On going and Upcoming Events



Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

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 Paoletti'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 Bascom. Questions? 526-1741.

- At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Parade 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.

Wednesdays Nov. 3-Dec. 15

- Have you ever experienced grief? Has someone close to you died? Has your marriage ended in divorce, leaving you feeling angry or possibility depressed? If you have experienced a significant loss and want to meet with others sharing similar feelings, the join us. Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting

a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. Beginning Wednesday, November 3rd, through December

15th the group will meet in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30pm. If you want to come early and join us for supper, \$5 per

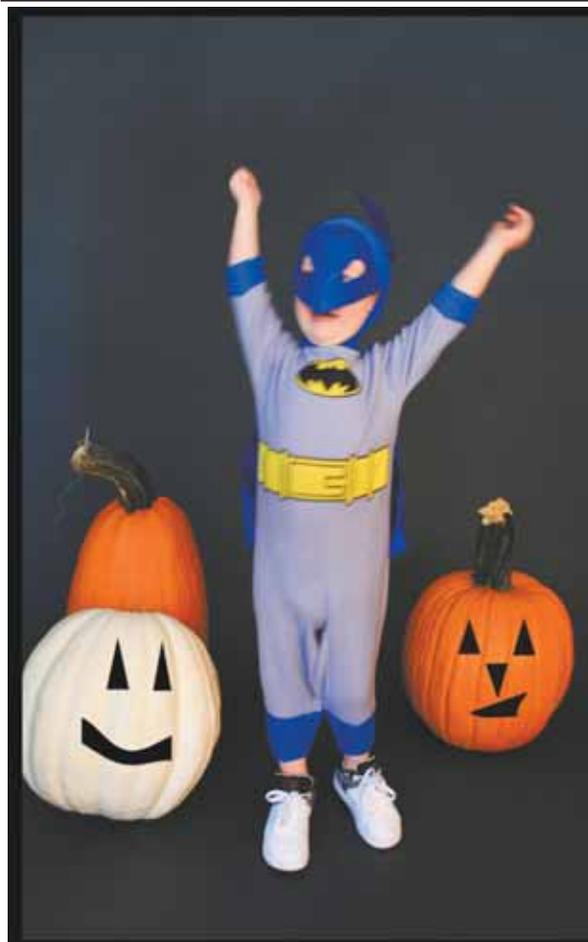
person of \$12 per family, call the church

•See EVENTS page 18

Tickets now on sale for HCP's 'Life With Father' at PAC



The cast of Highlands-Cashiers Players is ready to entertain you with "Life With Father" directed by Ronnie Spilton opens Thursday night and running through Oct. 31 and again Nov. 4-7 at the Performing Arts Center. Call 526-8084 for reservations and tickets.



Halloween Mini Sessions

15 Minutes with 1 costume child includes: (2) 5 x 7 digital images for \$40

\$15 for each additional sibling with 2 additional digital images

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On going and Upcoming Events



office by Monday of each week. (526-3376) The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience. HUMC is excited to offer this support to the community. Come share your story, and make the journey to better emotional health.

Thursday, Oct. 28

- The Town of Highlands is hosting the quarterly joint County and Towns of Franklin & Highlands meeting at The Bascom on Thursday at 6 p.m.

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

Sunday, Oct. 31

- 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.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will hike 3.5 miles on the following trails: 1. Scotsman's Creek in SW Jackson Co., moderate-to-strenuous, short but steep, an elevation change of 200 feet 2. Yellow Branch Falls in SC, a beautiful waterfall at the end of an easy-to-moderate hike through several coves. 3. Issaqueena Falls, easy to moderate, in SC near a parking lot that provides access to the Stumptown Tun-

nel. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:30 AM (Return by 3 PM); Drive 70 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Tues., Nov. 2

- Polls open • The Highlands Dialogue WILL NOT meet because of election day. The Highlands Dialogue encourages everyone to vote! 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.

Thurs., Nov. 4

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

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 5-6

- At The Bascom, Mini-workshop: Bill Rouda, photography, Improving the Photographic Eye. For information, call 828.526.4949.

Sunday, Nov. 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2-mile hike on Lakeside Drive Trail, beginning at the Macon County Health Center to walk through woods and fields. This short neat hike is one of Franklin's little treasures. Meet at the Macon County Health Center parking lot at 2 p.m. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes. Call Leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

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, 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

- 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

Thurs., Nov. 18

- Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

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-5pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am, Saturday, December 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828.526.4949.

- 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.

Thursday, Dec. 2

- Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

Saturday, Dec. 4

- Tis the Season "Alternative Gift Market" 11:45 until 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Right after the Christmas Parade. Make a gift in someone's name to your favorite charity.

Wed., Dec. 8

- At The Bascom, Create a Holiday Wreath, 1:30-3:30 pm. Tuition: \$20 members/\$25 non-members (materials included). For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Friday, Dec. 10

- At The Bascom, Wheel Throwing with Pat Taylor and other regional potters, 2-4 pm. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Saturday, Dec. 11

- Community Christmas Chorale concert at First Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.

- At The Bascom, Fayne Ansley, Botanical Painting of Native Evergreens, 1-1:45 pm. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

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Commerce & Visitor Center

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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
4 1/2 Street Inn

168476

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Let's remember to treat each other like family

Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist
Church



I have been doing a lot of thinking in the last several weeks about family. Family has so many different meanings in our day and time, but the essence of family means that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Being a part of a family can be a good thing at times but likewise it can be a struggle at times. Families can embarrass each other — just ask my teenage daughter — families can make us angry, families can cause us heartache at times, but the bottom line with families is simply this, we are called to care for each other.

I want to tell you a quick story. (Imagine that, me telling a story!) On Thursday, October 21st, my two brothers and my sister and mom met in Asheville at a place called Givens Estate. Givens Estate is a United Methodist Retirement Home for Western North Carolina. My mom has taken the first step in securing her place in this home; so she went to talk with them. She has always been so independent, but a few falls in the last couple of years has made her rethink her living situation.

Givens is the kind of place that has independent living, skill care living and nursing home living. But once you are in, they will care for you the rest of your life. Now let me say that all of us have tried to get my mom to come live with us, but she will “under no circumstances do that” to quote her. She doesn't want to put us out and be a burden on any of us. Yeah, sometimes families can make us mad!

So we are at Givens and the nice lady is telling us all about it and mom seemed impressed because she already knows so many of the residents there. But Debbie, the lady showing us around said, “Now Mrs. Christy, when you come to Givens, you come not to buy a room or a meal plan or a health care plan, but you come to Givens to have a sense of community.”

That was awesome I thought, because I had never looked at Givens like that before.

Likewise, we come to Highlands not because of a building, or a program, or school, but we come to Highlands to have a sense of family and a sense of community. As we enter into the holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the Holy days of Christmas, I want us to remember that we are a community and we are family. I don't know about you, but I love this family we have here and even though some leave us to winter somewhere else, we all know we are connected; we all know we are family; we all are a part of this special community.

Now why do I tell you that story? Because there really is a sense of community here in Highlands and I think that is something that we could teach the world. We are a community that cares for each other. Just let someone in this community have a need, and see how this whole commu-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside

Presbyterian – 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at

members' homes - 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside

Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group.

10:30 am: Children's Program (Pre-K – 5th Grade),

Merge for 6th Graders. 10:45 am: Worship Service. 5

pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High

School Student Ministries.

Tues.: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.

Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner. 6pm: Children's Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968

Reverend Denson Franklin

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 PM. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 PM. Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

526-4153

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

a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.;

Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.; 5

p.m. Youth

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15 – Adult choir

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group

9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD

Kay Ward – 743-5009

Sundays: 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day

Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704

Independent Bible Church

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office: 526-2418

Mass: – 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday

of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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... LETTERS continued from page 7

When the wealthy get tax cuts they don't invest them in expanding their business, they pocket them. The marginal tax rate is about 33% right now. If the marginal tax rate was increased to 90%, as it was after World War II during the Eisenhower administration, the wealthy business owners would invest any excess capital in expanding their businesses rather than pay their profits into the government. Conversely, it has been proven that trickle-down economics doesn't work.

What else do the Republicans want to do? They want to repeal the Health Care Bill. Why? It doesn't impose anything on those of us who already have insurance. It does make it possible to insure children who might have a pre-existing condition. It does eliminate any lifetime cap on your insurance that the insurance companies have imposed in the past. What is wrong with that? It's not a "government takeover" as the Republicans claim.

For years the Republicans have talked about getting rid of Social Security and Medicare. Why? They say it is bankrupting us. Do you realize that the contributions that most of make to Social Security and Medicare are capped at about \$106,000 in income? Again, the wealthy will come out way ahead and collect more Social Security than those of us who make \$106,000 and less. The right thing to do is remove the cap from the Social Security contributions. Wake up America!

Wake up America! If the Republicans

take over again, we'll be taking not just a step backward but a giant leap backward. Don't fall for the lies that they repeat and repeat and repeat until they convince you that they are facts.

President Obama didn't create the mess we're all in and he has had no co-operation from the Republicans in solving the problems that face our country. He made a mistake in even trying to work with them. The Republicans and some Democrats are not looking out for our interests but are only interested in making sure that President Obama fails at any cost to you and I. Don't let this happen. Wake up America!

Earl Walker
Scaly Mountain, NC

**On feeling like
'Freddie'**

Dear Editor,

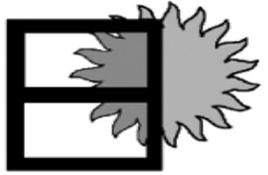
My wife and I were moved by Fred Wooldridge's column last week. Way to get personal once in a while!

I wonder why Leo wasn't received well by his Temple? I would enjoy having a Rabbi with his perspective. No matter how old we get we're all somehow still 17, aren't we. Yeah, it is rough sometimes; but I've always felt that as long as we have something to look forward to we can be happy. Hang in (on) there Freddie,

Richard Lundy
Plantation, FL

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This close to town 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage has it all. A view of Mirror Lake, walk to town, nice covered porch, completely furnished, nice yard with fire pit. Completely furnished and offered at \$299,500. mls #71653



Ridgewoods. Attention all renovators, this lovely home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths plus a 2 car garage. Great floor plan with a cathedral living room, great privacy and all paved road access. Offered at \$345,000. mls #59825



Shelby Place Great year round traditional is in a nice neighborhood close to town. Main level master suite with great storage and 2 car garage, additional guest bedroom and guest bath. Massive living room opens to large screen porch. Offered at \$825,000. mls #71641



Sagee Mountain. Lovely corner lot/great yard with well built custom home. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, additional guest quarters with bath over garage. Stone fireplace. Screened porch, generator, 2 car garage and loads of dry storage. Offered at \$895,000. MLS #58560



4 bedroom, 4 bath remodeled home close to town. Great home for entertaining with separate dining room. Large covered porch with fireplace for entertaining. Large master suite with fireplace. Offered at \$725,000. mls #71642



Cold Springs Never offered before! This immaculately maintained lake house is located right on the lake and has a stellar view of Shortoff mountain! Terrace level has Family room, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a large deck. one car garage. Offered at \$1,200,000. mls #71763



Great mountain getaway. This unique property has lots of wormy chestnut wood, fireplace, sauna, wonderful sleeping porch and more. This 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home is located on a 1+/- acre lot with a meadow feel off of Flat Mountain Road. Offered at \$385,000. MLS#53871



This year round home was constructed from 4 log cabins (Circa 1800s) from remote Kentucky. Creativity to the max is the epitome of mountain charm. 3 bedrooms plus studio, 4-1/2 baths, loft, fireplace, garage. 1.69+/- acres with a great view of Shortoff Mountain. Offered at \$1,350,000. MLS #56186



Owner Financing available on this like-new cabin in Wildwood Forest! Conveniently located between Highlands and Cashiers. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with loft open to Great room, Stone (wood burning) fireplace. Cathedral ceilings, large decks. Central Heat/AC. Easy to own, Easy to keep. Offered at \$349,000. mls #71446



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3 level house with an office, great room, large garage and greenhouse. On the circular driveway. Offered at \$895,000. mls #71680



Rustic Estate in Whiteside Cove. This former lodge has 7 bedrooms, 7 baths, large great room with stone fireplace, dining room, and commercial kitchen on nearly 9 acres of seclusion. Backs up to USFS. Offered at \$1,100,000, MLS# 60752



4 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath custom home. Dream kitchen, family room, office, 3 car garage, screened porch with fireplace. 11+ acres that backs up to USFS lands. View of Blackrock Mountain. Offered at \$1,495,000. MLS #59340.



Rocky Knob. The on Golden Pond setting become yours with this lake-front Mecca ideal for the whole family! Large living room and kitchen, sun porch, master bedroom and bath on main level, guest bedroom and bath upstairs with loft. Offered at \$729,000. mls #71747



Located on Desirable Bowery Road. This charming log home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, lofted living room with additional studio/family room and bath on a large wooded lot. New roof and in excellent condition. Offered at \$469,000. MLS#61021



Sherwood Forest. Attractive single story 3 or 4 bedroom home with privacy in the town of Highlands. Screened porch, waterfall, fireplace, hardwood floors and atrium ceiling in the living room. Two adjacent lots with city water and sewer for potential family compound. Offered at \$495,000. MLS# 59447



Only two miles to the public boat ramp on Lake Glenville. Home has been totally remodeled. Large decks, one covered deck and one open deck. Very well insulated, central heat, Vermont casting wood stove. Offered at \$284,900 MLS#62270



Tucked away in Horse Cove is this wonderful Kingdom well suited for nature lovers and equestrian people. A charming 1930 eclectic farmhouse has been lovingly renovated. Historic CCC Building for storage and a new barn! Offered at \$1,850,000. mls #71633



Oh, what a view! From this brand new 3 bedroom, 3 bath that has an additional family room. Good quality finishes include wood floors, granite counter tops and tile baths make this an exceptional buy for the asking price \$299,000. MLS#60760



Walk to Harris Lake, downtown or The Nature Center from this completely updated 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. 2 master suites and Children's room with bunk beds. 2 massive stone fireplaces, cypress and slate flooring and lovely finishes. Offered at \$849,000. MLS #59837



This 3 bedroom plus large den and loft, 3 and 2 half-bath home sits on over an acre of land in Laurel Falls at Skyline. Stream on the property. Amenities of a pool and tennis courts at Skyline Lodge. Offered at \$649,000. Mls #57077

Senior Spencer Houston at the Andrews game scores a goal.
Photo by Noel Atherton



• HS SOCCER •

Highlanders surge to #6 in state rankings

By Ryan Potts

The Highlander varsity soccer team improved to #6 in the state after defeating Polk County and Cherokee in home games this past week. Thursday, the Highlanders defeated Polk County 4-2 on the strength of a hat trick from striker Michael Shearl. Shearl score two of his three goals in the first half to help the Highlanders obtain a 2-0 halftime lead. The Wolverines fought back to tie the game early in the second half, but goals from Shearl and junior Tyler Converse helped Highlands put the game out of reach.

Monday, the Highlanders hosted the Cherokee Braves on what was a dreary day on top of the plateau.

The day was even more dreary for the Braves, who allowed two goals each to Shearl and Ricky Reyes, and Ryan Vinson, Clayton Dunn, Andrew Renfro, Samuel Wheeler and Isaac Beavers all scored a goal each from the Highlanders. Cherokee also contributed two own goals, which led to the final score of 11-0.

The Highlanders now own a +100 goal differential on the year, and have still allowed only one goal in conference play.

The Highlanders will host senior night this evening against Hayesville at 5 p.m. — this game will be followed immediately by the volleyball state playoff game at 7 p.m.. Highlands will host a NCHSAA playoff game next Wednesday, with the time TBA. Please make plans to come out and support Highlander soccer as they begin their drive towards a state championship.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 19

nity rises to the occasion. On any given weekend there is a benefit for someone who is in need and that is special. We are blessed to live in a community where people care for each other and people reach out to one another. It makes no difference where someone goes to church or even if they do not go at all, there is a sense that we all matter.

You know, I do not know a lot but I am convinced that God calls for us to love and care for each other, and what better way to show our love and care for each other than by simply being a family. We may not all agree on our politics, (yes, the election is here), but we can agree that everyone matters and everyone deserves to be cared for and loved. I am proud to be a part of a special community called Highlands, how about you?

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• HEALTH MATTERS •

A diet that works

By Dr. Robert Buchanan
The Center for Plastic Surgery

Dietary advice may not sound like something you would get from your Plastic Surgeon, but it is a natural extension to what we do, which is lifestyle enhancement. One of the best lifestyle enhancements is to have the proper waist.

Food is one of the most powerful drugs around. It creates a hormonal response. Controlling this response is necessary to achieve proper health. "Diets," intended to do this do not work. One of the main reasons for this is that our brain becomes accustomed to a specific taste. When you "go on a diet," you still crave what you like and eventually revert to that taste. This results in the classic "yo-yo effect." The trick to losing waist is to change what you like. Instead of dieting, make one little change each meal and each time you visit the store until your waist is <32 inches if you are female, or <35 inches if you are male.

An example of this is going from drinking sweet tea to drinking tea with no sweetener. Start by using ¼ to ½ tsp of sugar less, and drink your tea that way for several days. Then remove another ¼ to ½ tsp and drink it that way for a while. Continue this every several days until you are drinking unsweetened tea. Do not substitute a sweetener, as you will not change your taste.

Do the same thing with foods. As an example, for pasta, switch some white pasta for half as much whole wheat and cook it a half minute less. Keep repeating this until you have half as much pasta that is all whole wheat and very al dente. (When cooking it al dente, the sugar in the pasta is absorbed more slowly. Any processing, including cooking, speeds absorption of the sugars of any food, thus increasing how much gets converted to fat.)

You have changed the quality of the pasta by substituting whole wheat and by cooking it less. Both make it harder for the bowel to extract sugar. By doing so, your blood sugar will not rise to where you excrete insulin,

which drives the sugar into the cells as fat. Additionally, you have cut your preferred portion in half. This changes both the quality and the quantity of your food. Doing either by itself will not achieve your goal.

Learn to recognize the proper proportion of the foods types and the proper portion size of each. For most people, Carbohydrates make up 70-80% of the calories in each meal. CARBOHYDRATES should constitute only 40 % of the calories. PROTEIN and FAT should each make up 30 % of the calories. It is the fat and protein that make you feel satiated. Therefore, you can feel satisfied with less.

Reduce Saturated fat (found in animal fat, and Dairy) and eat NO trans-fat. The low fat emphasis a few years ago actually made us fatter. Good fat is essential in our diets. When companies removed fat indiscriminately from products, they substituted sugar. This is

absorbed rapidly from the GI tract, driven into the cell by insulin, and converted to fat.

Eating five (5) small meals a day (or three [3] meals and two [2] snacks) maintains a steadier metabolic rate along with drinking at least eight 8 oz. glasses of water to aid in efficient digestion. Generally a protein serving should be no larger than a pack of cards (3 ounces). The remainder of the center of the plate should be high fiber, low glycemic carbohydrates, and the proper fat. Avoid as much as possible any carbohydrate over eighty (80) on the Glycemic Index (available on the internet or in many diet books).

Eat non-processed food. The fresher and more colorful the better (more nutrition and antioxidants). Buy groceries from along the outside walls. Do not go down the aisles except to buy staples, such as spices.

Use NO ADDED SALT and observe the amount in purchased foods. Gradually

reduce your salt intake as you did your sugar.

If you want a dessert, choose less sweet ones with protein and fiber and reduce calories elsewhere. Instead of right after a meal, use it as a snack.

Once you are on a proper diet, exercise at least three (3) hours per week, including muscle building types of exercise. This further speeds loss of waist. If you are not on a proper diet, exercise will do you no good. The wrong diet, as mentioned, causes the body to absorb sugars rapidly. The secreted insulin not only drives the extra sugar into the cell, it blocks both glucagon and growth hormone that are released by exercise from pulling fat from the cell.

To find out more about how you can improve your lifestyle or your outer self, call the Center for Plastic Surgery for a consultation at 828-526-3783. Visit them on the web at www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com.

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... CANDIDATES continued from page 11

I also collaborated with Commissioner Bob Simpson to fund the Macon County teachers' supplement.

All of these services and improvements were accomplished within the county budget without raising taxes a single time.

I would appreciate the public's support so we can further serve the community without increasing the tax burden on the citizens of Macon County. Thank you.

Victor Drummond

I'm a 67-year-old retiree and full-time resident of Macon County since 2004. I'm one of five candidates running for the two seats on the ballot for County Commissioner in District 2. Mr. Beale and Mr. Simpson are the incumbent Democrats. Mr. Leatherman, a former two-term commissioner, and Mr. Haven are the Republicans. I'm running as an independent/conservative.

After the filing deadline for the political primary held last May, it appeared likely the November ballot for County Commissioner in both District 1 and District 2, was going to offer voters five current or former commissioners, with Mr. Haven being the only fresh candidate.

At that time, I decided to work to get my name on the November ballot to offer voters a second fresh candidate in District 2. I was registered as an unaffiliated voter, so I had to collect signatures of nearly 1,000 registered county voters on nominating petitions to get on the ballot.

Voters in this election have an important decision to make. They can continue with the same stale choices they have had over the past four years, or they can change the makeup and direction of the Board of Commissioners by electing one, if not two, fresh candidates to the District 2 seats.

I believe Macon County should have a small and efficient government where residents have maximum freedom to live their lives without government interference. I believe Macon County should let residents keep as much of their hard earned money as possible by minimizing taxes. I believe Macon County should provide appropriate public services, as well as provide a safety net for the needy and elderly. I believe commissioners must be responsive to the input received from residents. I believe commissioners are accountable to residents, and should not be re-elected when they ignore the wishes of residents.

I believe Mr. Beale, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Leatherman have failed to live up to these standards.

For example, I believe Mr. Beale, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Leatherman acted arrogantly in 2007, when they ignored the voters' rejection of the \$42.1 million school bond issue. I believe they should have paused and come up with a revised plan to re-submit to voters. Instead they bypassed voters and continued with their plan by borrowing the needed money via mortgaging property, instead of

selling bonds.

For example, Mr. Beale and Mr. Simpson have raised property tax rates 14% over the past four years. This included the 6% tax rate hike just this year, which will cost taxpayers about \$1,350,000. I believe this tax hike should have been avoided by using the county's "rainy day" fund instead. I believe tax hikes should be avoided during a recession.

For example, Mr. Beale and Mr. Simpson have tasked the County Planning Board to develop a "steep slope" ordinance proposal. I believe such an ordinance will infringe on the rights of property owners, and could negatively impact the economy of Macon County. I don't believe there is a demonstrated problem that needs to be addressed by such an ordinance.

For example, Mr. Beale and Mr. Simpson have delayed the revaluation of property for tax purposes from 2011 to 2013. This will cause the over-priced valuations made in 2007, near the peak of the real estate market "bubble," to continue to be used for taxing property for another two years. By law, property values are to be 100% of fair market value. I believe revaluation should be done in 2011, in fairness to taxpayers. Fifteen North Carolina counties have done revaluations in 2010, or are scheduled to reevaluate in 2011. Why not Macon County?

For these and other reasons I believe voters have clear choices for Commissioner in District 2. Voters may either vote for Mr. Beale, Mr. Simpson, or Mr. Leatherman whom will continue with more of the same policies from the past, or voters may vote for a candidate who is ready to bring fresh ideas to county government.

Vote for Vic Drummond for one of the two District 2 seats on the Macon County Board of Commissioners if you believe it's time for a change to the Board. The only way to vote for me on the ballot is to fill in the oval next to my name.

Ron Haven

It is a time when capitol spending in the county has got to slow down. The economy is too weak at this time to support it. Being in business for 25 years in Macon County I have learned to budget.

Charlie Leatherman

Mr. Leatherman did not respond by press time Wednesday.

Next, the Macon County School Board contenders: (Stephanie McCall, who represents the Highlands District, is running unopposed.)

Incumbent Bobby Bishop

Mr. Bishop did not respond by press time Wednesday.

Incumbent Tommy Cabe

I have always been available to the parents, teachers and children of Macon County and I will continue to do so. My priority has always been the children of Macon County and in eight (8) years of service I have missed only one School Board meeting. On any given day you will more than likely find me at one of the schools in the county. I feel I am a very approachable person and am always ready to listen to any concerns or questions relating to school issues.

Larry Brooks

I am the best candidate for the District 2 School Board seat. I will bring insight about the educational process to the board. After dedicating 41 years of my life in trying to make a difference in young peoples lives, it is time to take that dedication to a new level. I will be true to myself and to those who will be affected by my decisions. My decisions will be guided by what is best for kids within the parameters of what information is available to make a decision (resources, etc.). My decisions will be thoughtful and I will not have "knee-jerk" reactions to a problem or situation. I am a lay person with a vast educational background. I have good people skills and understand the business side of things. I do not believe in micromanagement as I believe people who are hired to do a job should be given the opportunity to do that job.

When it is all said and done, I am the best candidate for school board. What I have done is much less important than what I WILL do!

Gary Shields

Educational leadership in the 21st Century will be of the greatest importance! The economy will not move forward without our students, teachers, administrators and community demanding the best from our educational system. The Macon County Schools have a plan that is guided by "global" Mission and Vision statements with "strategic priorities" that are data driven and can be reviewed often for teacher and student growth.

My educational tenure of 37 years ended in June 2010. I have served the Macon County School System for the past 29 years as a teacher, counselor, assistant-principal, elementary school principal and the principal of Franklin High School for the past 21 years. I have been involved with all stakeholders and all facets of managing a school. I feel 37 years has allowed me the opportunity to be a part of our educational development from "chalk boards" to Activ-Boards.

Included in my educational tenure is my continual commitment to our community by serving on numerous boards and committees. My community involvement allowed me to stay involved and give back to the community while serving as a liaison between businesses, civic groups and schools. The commitment to our community has not diminished and I continue to serve on numerous committees and boards.

Being a veteran (Vietnam) allowed me the opportunity to evaluate myself at a young age and to feel and see the values that made our country the greatest in the world. Veterans commit to serving their country and return to be of service to communities. I cannot think of a better way to serve my community than being an educator for 37 years and to continue being of service via a board of education member.

In closing, as a member of the Macon County Board of Education, I will give the time and energy to the communities of Macon County. I understand the importance of

• See CANDIDATES page 25



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working as a team, committing to continuous growth and improvement, developing policies to guide decisions and to celebrate successes. I, Gary Shields, would appreciate your vote on November 2nd. for the District 4 "At Large" seat on the Macon County Board of Education.

And for the Sheriff's office:
Sheriff Robert Holland

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself, my family, and my law enforcement career. I believe that I am the best man for the office of Macon County Sheriff and would be honored to continue serving you in that capacity.

I am 43-years-old and the son of the late Arvil Lester Holland and the grandson of the late Lester Holland and Donnie Holland, all natives of Macon County. I am among the 6th generation of Hollands to call Macon County home — having moved to Franklin at the age of 21 where I immediately began my law enforcement career at the Macon County Sheriff's Office. I have been employed for 19 years with the Sheriff's Office — having served the past 8 years as your Sheriff. I began my career with the MCSO as a volunteer and worked my way up through the ranks of the Sheriff's Office, serving as Detention Officer, Animal Control Officer, Juvenile Investigator, Deputy and Detective Sergeant supervising the Juvenile Investigations Unit. I am currently seeking my 3rd term as Macon County Sheriff. My goals have remained consistent through the years no matter what position I have held— making a difference in my community.

I am married to Marci Bateman Holland, my wife of 17 years. Marci is employed as the Student Services Coordinator for Macon County Schools. We are members of Pine Grove Baptist Church and members of the Cullasaja community and consider ourselves to be pro-life Christians and advocates for children. Marci and I spent 7 years working side by side, she as a social worker and me as a juvenile officer, working with abused and neglected children. While I have held several positions with the Sheriff's Office I certainly feel that one of the highlights of my law enforcement career has been the opportunity to work with our youth and to do my part to help bring about positive change in the lives of our most valuable resource- our youth. I was the recipient of the NC Juvenile Officer of the Year Award and both my wife and I received the Donna B. Stone Memorial Award for our work with victims of child abuse. It is always moving to receive letters and phone calls from kids I have dealt with over the years telling me that I made a difference in their lives. In addition, I also consider it a major achievement to have played an instrumental role in the passage of the NC Infant Homicide Prevention Act (Safe Surrender Law) in 2001. This law has been credited with saving the lives of numerous infants throughout the state of NC.

During my tenure as your Sheriff, I have placed major emphasis on fighting drugs in Macon County. Shortly after taking office in 2002, I formed the Macon County Narcotics Unit to target drugs right here in our own

county. Immediately after forming our drug unit we were able to significantly and aggressively target our drug problem. Macon County Drug arrests have increased by 130% and prison sentences have increased by 252%. Macon County was also recognized for the Drug Investigation of the Year in 2008 for the entire southeastern U.S. If re-elected as your Sheriff, I will continue to aggressively fight drugs—the leading cause of our crime.

I have worked very hard for the past 8 years to make your Sheriff's Office a pro-active agency—one that partners with the community and aggressively fights crime at the same time. I have developed numerous prevention and public awareness programs such as CrimeStoppers, Community Watch, Operation Think Twice, Operation Pill Crusher, Reality Check 101 for Students, just to name a few. I believe that is extremely important that we keep moving in the right direction and that we do not take steps backwards to become an agency that simply responds to crime after it has occurred. Under my leadership, we will continue to seek ways to become a more pro-active agency.

I feel I have been a fiscally responsible administrator and spending your tax dollars wisely has always been a priority. Every position I have created has been accomplished primarily by re-organizing or adjusting responsibilities. We are very creative in "making do" with what we have within our existing budget, especially during this time of economic downturn. I have carefully balanced providing the citizens with the protection and service they deserve with fiscal responsibility.

I have made great efforts to be as available and accessible as possible to both the news media and to the citizens. I believe that an open and honest relationship with the news media is the equivalent to an open and honest relationship with the public. I have made it a priority to keep the citizens informed about what their Sheriff's Office is doing to fight crime and provide services in our community. I have no secretary and my office number is a direct line to me. I often attend meetings or perform law enforcement duties outside of my office; therefore my home telephone is published and I even provide that telephone number on my answering machine in my office— allowing every citizen (or member of the media) the information needed to contact me at any time— day or night.

I feel that the citizens can be proud of their Sheriff's Office and proud of all the employees that protect and serve their community. I am honored to work with each and every one of them and I am honored to have served as your Sheriff for the past 8 years. Your Sheriff's Office remains dedicated to providing you with fair, honest and professional law enforcement. Your Sheriff's Office continues to be more involved with our youth than ever before. Your Sheriff's Office is more involved with and more available to our community than ever before. Your Sheriff's Office is pro-active and works in partnership with our community more than ever before.

I want to continue working hard for you and to continue making a positive difference in our community. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 2.

George Lynch

I can offer new direction and ideas; not four more years of the same. I will shift the priority of patrol officers from traffic control to protecting life and private property.

I will put patrol officers in the Highlands area the year round, not just at election time. I will never tell any citizen of Macon County that they cannot have the full protection of the Sheriff's Department because they live too far from the county seat or that it is not economically feasible.

I will hold the line on spending by eliminating positions and services that are provided by other resources, I will make sure that every tax dollar spent is used in the best possible way. I am sure we can have an efficient and effective Sheriff's Department and

still save money. I believe that by putting patrol officers back out into the communities patrolling and checking on the security of private property, businesses, schools, churches, homes, nonresidential houses and developments, we can make an impact on illegal drugs, as property crimes help fund drug habits.

I would also consider drug task forces as they offer increased resources, personnel and oversight. They also extend the war on drugs beyond county lines, which must happen to get at the source of illegal drugs.

I do not like sensational drug busts where buyers and sellers are allowed to continue their illegal activity until one can charge large numbers at once for publicity, this is supposed to have a shock and awe effect on the drug world, and it may have for a while, the problem I have is how many young lives will these drug dealers ruin while one waits on

•See CANDIDATES page 27

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6. Constructed the New Buck Creek Recycling Center.
7. Help fund the Water Line Extension to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.
8. Provided funds for the Highlands Transfer Station for the area's trash collection.
9. Provides \$500,000 per year to the town for needed projects.
10. Remolded the Hudson Library,
11. Provided funding for new Highlands School Soccer Field,
12. Funded the Softball Field renovations.
13. Funded the Remodeling of Scaly Mountain's historical Community Building,
14. Made funding possible for the new Scaly Mountain Fire Department.
15. Provided Animal Control services
16. Provided Health Department services at Zachary Park

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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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, lgriffith@thebascom.org or P.O. Box 766, Highlands, N.C. 28741. Please no phone calls. (11/4)

HAMPTON INN HIGHLANDS looking for Part time Front Desk clerk. Customer service skills helpful. Some weekend work necessary. Pick up application at 96 log cabin lane. (st. 10/21)

FULL-OR PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE – Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (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 e-mail mountainstar1@verizon.net. (st. 8/5)

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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 HOUSECLEANING WORK. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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

BARGAIN HOME SALE WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEW! – Owner will take \$220,000. Like new. 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1 acre landscaped. Huge

garage, paved access, heat/air. Big deck. Call Becky Simmons. Cabe Realty. 526-2475. (10/14)

MUST SELL – 3 BR/2BA home. In town. Hickory Street. Offers WelcomE. 352-494-1531. (10/28)

2/2 VILLA ON 14TH TEE MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE IN FRANKLIN. Furnished, skylights. Beautiful. \$175,000. Call 419-967-0796. Pictures at www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/1118110305 (11/4)

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

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

\$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. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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)

1/BED/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 SECLUDED 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 AC and Heat. \$1,200 month. Call 526-3608 (Spoiled Rotten) or evening, 526-2694, (st.4/29)

SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR 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 SDALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.

FOR SALE/RENT – BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$299,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or

Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

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RUG, BLUE FLORAL. 11 ft. by 8 ft. acrylic. Hand-tufted. \$250; Rug oval, pink floral, 10 ft. by 8 ft. \$150; 2 antique headboards quilted. OBO; 6 ft. Queen sleeper-sofa, multi-stripe \$250; glass top. \$50 each; Pet door. Fits standard 7 ft. single door. \$50; Call 828-743-5543 (st. 9/30)

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PIANO — Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates. Plays beautifully \$7,000 invested, worth way more. Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,100. **MAKE OFFER!** 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

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

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LEGALS

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.

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

... CANDIDATES continued from page 25

the big bang. I would rather charge that dealer as soon as one has the evidence and probable cause to do so. Also we must find ways to involve our young people in the war on drugs by increasing educational programs such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and the many other programs designed to involve and educate our young people.

One of the biggest complaints I have heard is that people can't get in to see the sheriff. Many have said they don't even get a call back. Seeing your sheriff is like seeing your doctor or seeing your lawyer, (no one else will do). I will make myself available to meet with you and listen to your concerns. I will schedule times to meet with you in your area for your convenience. The Sheriff Department's mission is to serve and protect the people of Macon County, and I am com-

mitted to that mission. I am totally committed to honesty, integrity, and morality.

I will consider it the highest honor to serve and protect the people of Macon County. I need your support and your vote now and on Election Day.

Jim Davis is running against incumbent Senator John Snow of the 50th District.

North Carolina is facing its most critical financial crisis in several generations. In order to put people back to work we must lower our taxes and regulatory burdens so that we can keep our present employers and attract others. Once people are working, we will have the tax revenue to fund the legitimate functions of government and prepare for the future.

All voting places in Macon County are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Upon entering the voting place, give your name, address, and party (primary elections only) to the precinct officials. If you are properly registered, you will be given the appropriate ballot and directed to the voting machine to vote. See more voting information on page 16. The Highlands voting place is at the Civic Center. The Scaly Mountain voting place is at the community building.

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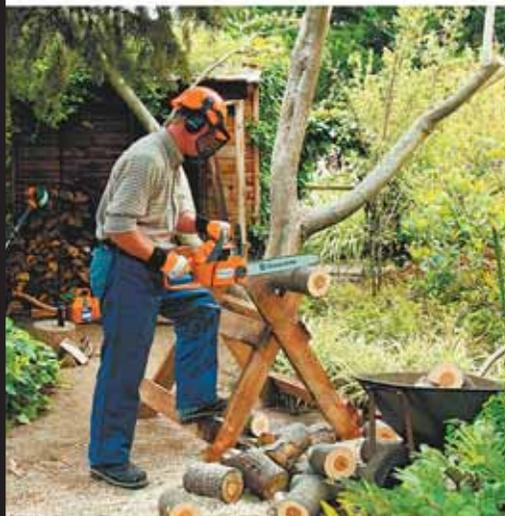
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Highlands Police & Fire Reports

Highlands PD log entries from Oct. 16 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 16

• At 11:30 p.m., officers received a noise complaint about loud talking at an apartment on N. 5th Street.

Oct. 17

• At 9:30 p.m., officers received a call about a bear on OEI's The Lodge property.

• At 1:20 a.m., officers assisted a motorist on Mirror Lake Road.

Oct. 20

• At 9:40 p.m., August Produce reported someone trying to take pumpkins from their lot on U.S. 64 west.

Oct. 21

• At 2:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64 east and Laurel Street.

Oct. 22

• At 8:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hickory Hill and Mirror Lake roads.

Oct. 24

• At 3 a.m., a backpack was reported found at the Ugly Dog on S. 4th Street.

• During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarm and issued 5 citations.

Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Oct. 20:

Oct. 20

• At 6:56 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Clear Creek Road that was set off by burning food.

Oct. 21

• At 3:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clubhouse Trail where a woman had fallen.

Oct. 22

• At 9:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on N. 4th Street. The injured were taken to the hospital.

• At 2:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on NC 28 at the Georgia line. The call was canceled en route.

• At 5:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call to Scaly but it was canceled en route.

• At 7:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

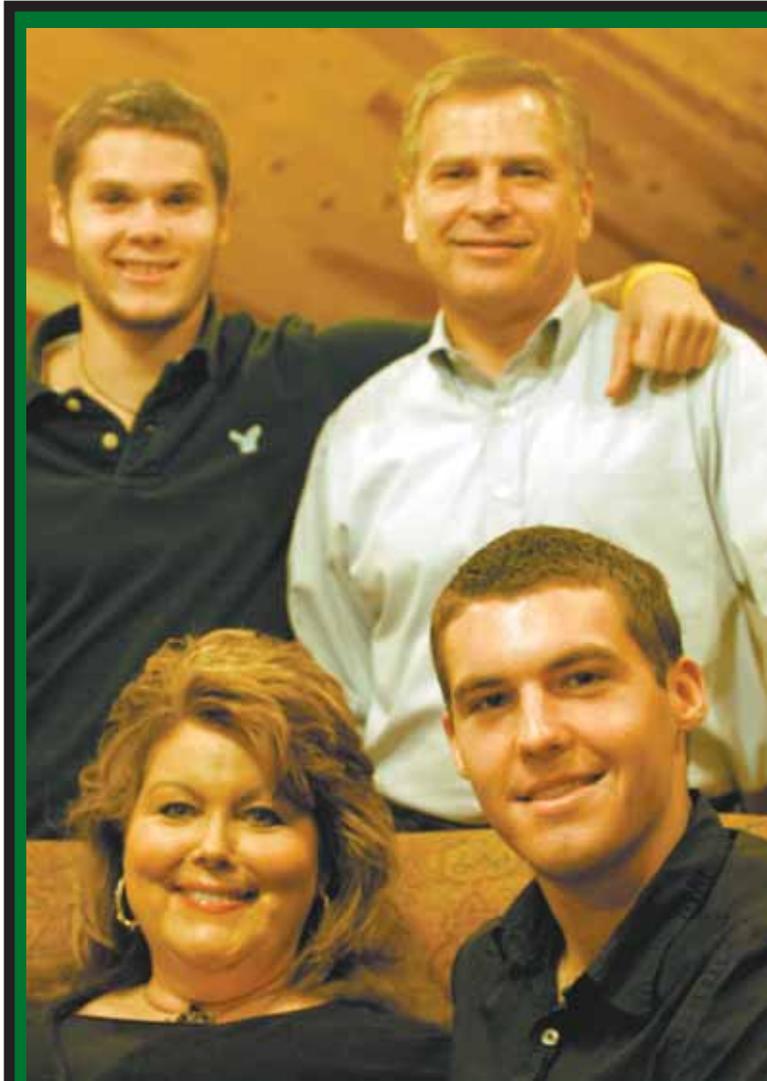
Oct. 23

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. rescued a woman who fell while below the Lake Sequoyah Dam. She was taken to the hospital.

Oct. 24

• At 3:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on the Highlands Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 8:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a lady and her dog missing, but she was found and the call was canceled.



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“Julie, Luke, Matt and I ask for your prayers and your VOTE on Tuesday, Nov. 2

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Brian McClellan

Sheriff's office arrests alleged sex offender

Last Friday night and Saturday morning, Oct. 22 and 23, Macon County Sheriff's Office detectives executed a search warrant and arrested David Wayne Ogden, age 63, of Franklin.

Ogden is currently charged with: two counts of First Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; two counts of Third Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; one Count of Delivering a Controlled Substance to a Minor; and one Count of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon.

Bond has been set at \$120,000 and Ogden is scheduled to appear in Macon County District Court on November 4th.

This is an ongoing investigation and detectives are following up on information and

evidence obtained during the execution of the search warrant on Ogden's Derby Street residence in Franklin.

Detectives are aware that Ogden has multiple accounts with social networking websites and suspect that he initiated inappropriate communication and information exchanges with local minors as well as children in other counties and states. Ogden may have also contacted children by cellular telephone, e-mail or in person.

"I encourage parents to talk with their children about Mr. Ogden and to contact the Sheriff's Office if their children confirm any contact or communication with Ogden," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Do not assume Ogden used his actual photo-

graph or provided legitimate personal information when he contacted children.

Holland asks parents to review the mug shot provided if they suspect their child was contacted by Ogden in person.

"I feel it is also important to make the public aware that David Ogden owned and operated a local taxi service in Franklin called "David's Shuttle Service" and may have had contact with minors in this capacity, as well," said Holland. "I want to assure the public that detectives will conduct a thorough investigation and will follow up on any and all reports provided by citizens."

The Sheriff's Office will not release any additional information at this time. If any citizen has any information regarding Mr. Ogden or this investigation they are requested to call the MCSO Juvenile Investigations Unit at 349-2413 or Crime Stoppers at 349-2600.



David Ogden

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Steigleder resigns from The Bascom

The Board of Directors of The Bascom announces the resignation of its Executive Director, Linda Steigleder, effective November 30, 2010. Ms. Steigleder assumed this leadership position in January 2008, coming from Farmington, CT, where she had been Director of Hill-Stead Museum for nine years. She has a 25-year career as an art historian and arts administrator.

As Executive Director Steigleder has been part of the team that directed new building construction, including state-of-the-art educational and exhibition facilities and the move of operations to its new campus on Oak Street. The Bascom has grown from serving 9,000 visitors, 700 members and 100 vol-

unteers in its former Hudson Library location to engaging some 30,000 individuals, 1,200 members and 400 volunteers at its new campus with programs, classes, exhibitions, training and special events.

The Bascom's Board Chair Willis Willey said: "We are sorry to lose Linda's valuable leadership and organizational skills. She played a vital role in our relocation to the new facility and establishing best practices. She was integral not only to our move but also to the building of a strong base and momentum for our organization going forward. We could not have accomplished what we did in a short time of three years without Linda's guidance. We all wish Linda well."

Girl Scouts at Rotary Bingo Nov. 4

The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Girl Scout Troop 30219 will offer Girl Scout Bingo on Thursday, November 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building – next to the ball park.

Earnings by Highlands Girl Scouts at this event will help support Scouting activities and programs as well as bring more girls into the world of the Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Rotary Bingo is an evening of fun, a lot of laughs and the chance to yell, "Bingo!" The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15



games -with game 15 being some serious money. Half of all Bingo money goes to Bingo players and the other half goes to

Highlands Girls Scouts. Play as many cards as you like and enjoy a light-hearted evening.

If you like Girl Scout cookies – you'll love Girl Scout Bingo.

Bring friends, children, grand children and enjoy the free refreshments served by Highlands Girl Scouts.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed to operate Bingo by the State of NC.

JMCA hires executive director

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (JMCA) is pleased to announce the selection of an Executive Director, Michelle Wilson Price. Price grew up in the Glensville, NC area and most notably, she is a water quality specialist and has worked at the state, regional and local level in over 18 years in the environmental field.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a major in Environmental Science and Engineering at UNC-Chapel Hill, including a summer studying Urban Planning at Oxford University. After graduation, she was employed in the NC Department of Environmental Science and Natural Resources as an Environmental Modeler and subsequently as the District Programs Section Chief.

After this work, she desired to return to western North Carolina and held positions with the Buncombe County Soil and Water



Michelle Price

Conservation District as a Soil Conservationist and the Watershed Resource Coordinator. She then became the Water Quality Coordinator with RiverLink, Inc., the nonprofit working to restore the French Broad River.

In her last position, she was the Water Quality Advisor to the Land of Sky Regional Council. Highlighting some of her responsibilities there included developing stormwater and urban watershed initiatives, identifying project funding sources and developing proposals for implementing Best Management Practices projects, educating community leaders and landowners about water quality issues, public outreach, and working with stakeholders to ensure success. Please contact her at our office in the Peggy Crosby Center, 526-0890, extension 256 or through our website, www.jmca.org.

Mountain Garden Club beautifies Eckard Living Center



Mountain Garden Club Members: *Standing from left: Cecil Hines, Carol Strunk, Caroline Cook, Elaine Johnson, Elizabeth Little, Candy Field, Jane Grimes, Midge Rothermel. Kneeling from left: Jody Zahner and Molly Leonard*

The Mountain Garden Club of Highlands is helping to revamp and beautify gardens of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Fidelity Eckerd Living Center interior gardens. Recently, the Club voted to officially adopt this year-round project. A 15 member committee began working on the gardens in October. This committee is working with the staff and other volunteers of the Living Center, the hospital and community volunteers to make the two courtyards visually attractive throughout each season of the year.

"It is a special mission for all of the Club volunteers," said Committee Chairman, Midge Rothermel. "The project has already

provided us with the rewarding spirit of giving back to our community."

The volunteer activities of this project will include: weeding, deadheading, pruning, watering, filling birdfeeders, planting and moving plant material, mulching, fertilizing, installing and removing decorations. The volunteer hours will be on a regular basis with additional time for the fall and spring work days. In April, the Club will order painted lady butterfly larvae such that the residents can watch the larvae grow, form chrysalises and emerge as adults for release in the courtyard gardens.

... SIGNS continued from page 1

real estate agent or homeowner and the property will be opened to the public.

One open house sign will be allowed on the property and one sign will be allowed at the major highway leading to the property but they can't be larger than 18" x 24".

Directional signs with arrows saying open house are allowed at each intersection where there is a change of direction and located between the open house sign at the major highway and the open house sign on the property. Neither can exceed 8" x 18".

Veering from the ordinance will result in a verbal and written warning with the first violation; the second at the same location within six months will cost \$25; the third will cost \$50; and the fourth will cost \$100.

Alan Marsh voted against the amendment on the grounds that in the past the Town

Board has voted such amendments down and because he said people who live in Highlands don't want their streets cluttered up with signs.

"People don't want to see open house signs all over the place," he said. "This is their home and people like the nice clean streets."

Everyone else voted for the allowance saying in these hard economic times everyone needs a boost.

The draft amendment will be sent to the Town Board for approval or rejection. If it is approved, a public hearing will be set and advertised and following that proceeding, the sign ordinance could be amended to allow temporary Open House signs.

The board is still working on UDO and sign ordinance amendments.

– Kim Lewicki



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| 14 | Pizza Place | 29 | Mtn. Fresh | 45 | Kilwins | 61 | | 77 | | 93 | | 109 | |
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Waterfalls | Hiking | Fly Fishing

Map labels include: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Norton Rd, CASHIERS, Hwy64, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Sliding Rock, Hospital, Chestnut Hill, Bridal Veil, Dry Falls, Hwy106, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley Public Golf, Glen Falls, Horse Cove Rd, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Whitewater Falls, Sapphire Valley, Iron Bridge Chattooga, Hwy 107s, Hwy 64w & 28n To Franklin, Cliffside Lake, Hospital, Chestnut Hill, Dry Falls, Sky Valley Public Golf, Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Chattooga Trail, Silver Run Falls, Whitewater Falls, Sapphire Valley, Iron Bridge Chattooga, Hwy 107s.

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