Talk emerges about ‘form of gov’t’ again

Here they go again. At the April 6 Town Board meeting, commissioners got snagged up in another discussion about the Council-Manager form of government as it pertains to the town’s charter and ordinance. A seemingly innocent question from Commissioner Amy Patterson regarding the charter—asking if it was aligned with the recently amended ordinance—snowballed into the suggestion that the board hear the opinion of Professor Flemming Bell of the UNC-School of Government concerning the legality, according to the district.

Healthy economics focus of Main Street Program

By Luke Osteen

The Highlands Main Street Program may have taken a back seat to the Rotary Club of Highlands’ immensely popular Bingo Night and the allure of a warm springtime evening last Thursday night, but those in attendance saw the first outlines of a plan to foster a healthy downtown.

Only seven people showed up for the monthly meeting at the Rec Park, but they heard Western Region Small Town Main Street Coordinator Sherry Adams lead an informal discussion based on last year’s survey of residents and businesses. The low turnout ensured that there were no decisions to be made, yet the conversation floated among the perennial Highlands topics – parking, signage, etc.

State accepts BOE waiver

It’s official. The first day of school for the 2011-12 school year is Thursday, Aug. 4.

On April 7, the NC State Board of Education approved Macon County’s request for a calendar waiver which means more local control of the calendar for the district.

Over the last several years, with local control removed from NC school districts, all public schools started during the last week of August with the first semester ending after students returned for the second semester.

Girls working hard to win!

At Tuesday’s soccer match against Cherokee, Hayden Bates did a Hat Trick which helped the team score a solid 5-0. See story on page 7. Photo by Noel Atherton.

Additional ‘emergency’ number considered

Beginning next fiscal year, the county may institute an additional emergency number which citizens can use for bonafide emergencies, information or when the traditional 9-1-1 line is overloaded during catastrophic events.

At the April 12 meeting, Macon County Commissioners learned that a grant from Duke Power to the United Way is enabling other counties in the state to set up the additional 2-1-1 emergency number.

“For about $6 a day this can be available to the six far west counties,” said Fred Alexander of Duke Power.

All six counties – Macon, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee, Clay and Graham must agree to participate in the program.

So far Cherokee has agreed to participate, but like Macon County, they must agree to put in the funding. If all six agree, it is a go.

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Dear Editor,

Prior to the March 23rd Town Board vote concerning the authority of the town manager, Major Wilkes asked the Town Board and those attending the meeting to put the issue behind them so the town could move forward, regardless of the outcome of the vote. After the meeting, a reporter asked me to comment on the issue, since I had been outspoken on the issue. My reply was that I fully supported Major Wilkes and his request to move forward.

So, I was surprised that this issue resurfaced at the following April 6 Town Board meeting under the guise that the town needed to engage a consultant from the School of Government to insure the new ordinance is consistent with the town charter. The General Assembly allowed New Bern, NC to change its charter to this hybrid form, so why can’t Highlands?

Some commissioners may take the position that changing the charter through the legislature is not that simple. Really? Last year, Highlands did it rather quickly when it came to the way the mayor pro tempore is elected. I remember attending board meetings where the issue was debated. Shortly thereafter, I was surfing the NC legislature website and discovered Highlands had quickly gotten the legislature to approve that change in the town charter. I suspect Mr. Coward could get the next charter change through the legislature very fast, as well, maybe even before June.

Let’s save time, energy and taxpayer money and put this issue behind us once and for all.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

Free health screenings set for June and July at H-C Hospital

Area residents will have the opportunity this season to find out if they are in good health, as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital again hosts complimentary community health screenings in the area.

This will be the 17th season that the Hospital has offered free health screenings. Nearly 400 people took advantage of last year’s series of screenings. HCH has planned two screenings this summer, one in Highlands and one in Cashiers. The Cashiers screening will be held at Blue Ridge School on Saturday, June 11th. The Highlands screening will take place on the first floor of the荚ne Woodruff Clinic Saturday, July 16th.

The hours of each screening, which begin at 7:15am, have been extended significantly expanding the number of participants that can be accommodated.

Sign up for each screening will be limited to the first 150 people; however, priority will be given to those with addresses in the hospital’s actual service area. For the Cashiers screening, residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, Mill Creek and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain areas will be given priority.

For the Highlands screening, priority will be given to residents in Highlands, Scaly Mountain and Sky Valley areas. Those from other areas or residents who cannot attend their local screening will be placed on a waiting list and accommodated if a slot should open up or go unfilled.

Community residents can begin registering for the two screenings now. The Hospital’s Foundation office schedules participants by timeslots to help reduce waiting times.

Participants will be checked for height and weight, BMI (body mass index), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age will also receive a blood test to detect prostate cancer (PSA).

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations will also be conducted at the screenings, and several area physicians are often in attendance. Everyone will enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast.

A wealth of health information is also available. There is no age limit, but minors require parental consent.

Due to the nature of the tests being offered, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before. Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant’s own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

Those wishing to take advantage of either screenings can register by calling the Hospital at (828) 526-1435.
Lew Holloway of the NC Department of Commerce told attendees that the health of downtown Highlands would hinge on solving the apparent shortage of parking and he briefly tossed out the idea that the town might want to consider designating short- and long-term parking places.

Holloway estimated that fully 30 percent of downtown traffic is people looking for a parking space.

"Well, if we can't win on parking, we can certainly compete on ambience," said Adams.

This prompted attendee Ginger Slaughter to stress the importance of consideration of architectural themes and the subtle use of color.

"So much is conveyed in the style of buildings and their materials - that's something that's given special attention by the Appearance Commission," she said.

Margaret Shaffner emphasized the almost subliminal power of a careful signage plan and said that she's noticed how much more enjoyable it is to visit a town that's taken the time to get its signs correct.

"It just makes you feel more comfortable - you're not frantically trying to get your bearings - and it gives you a sense of place," she said.

A sense of place is precisely what the Main Street Project hopes to deliver to the town.

Based on the survey, the group believes that the town will rely on the economic power of the aging Baby Boomer generation for its continued strength. Key to attracting that coveted demographic will be a careful marketing of Highlands' natural beauty and serenity.

Such an approach could also allow the town to tap into the burgeoning eco-tourism field. The group is considering sending a representative to an eco-tourism conference being held in Hilton Head, S.C., in the fall.

Realtor Pat Allen said that her visiting friends had been impressed by the friendly service that they'd received in Highlands, and she suggested that by cultivating that sort of personal attention among local employees the entire town could benefit.

Adams suggested that the Highlands Chamber of Commerce might be willing to offer a hospitality course for interested Highlands businesses.

The Main Street Group will meet again on Thursday, May 5, in the Arts & Crafts Room of the Rec Park. Everyone is invited to attend and offer their ideas.

Participation is needed in the project's three divisions: Promotion, Economic Restructuring, and Design.

The object of the Promotion group is to put together promotional activities that will be a draw for the entire family leading to an even greater economic impact on the downtown and the community as a whole.

The object of the Economic Restructuring group is to help retain existing and attract additional downtown businesses who are committed to a year-round marketplace.

The object of the Design group is to improve the continuity of design throughout the downtown while extending and defining "downtown."

...EMERGENCY continued from pg 1

The mandated changes were in sections 153.07 (B) Graded Slopes and Fills; Roads and 153.07 (C) Ground Cover.

Needmore Road

Commissioners are asking NCDOT to minimally improve the road to safely accommodate local traffic while protecting the natural resources of the area.

"This represents the 'art of the possible'" said Vice Chairman Bobby Kuppers. "We've tried to meet as much of what everyone wants that's possible."

That means Option C - between A and E, ranging from doing nothing to maximum NCDOT standards.

Option C is "pave in place - 18-ft. minimum width with alternative binder material for alternative surfacing" at a cost of $5.2 million versus option E which the state was willing to do for $13.1 million.

On April 26 at 6 p.m. commissioners will meet with the county's planning board to discuss its comprehensive plan.
My life as a dork! (From junkie to nerd)

So it kinda went like this. You already know that during grade school, I learned to fight pretty good 'cause those dastardly Catholic kids kept calling me a snaggletooth Protestant. But I got over that. Then I went in the Army and became a Catholic. At first, the best part was asking God to forgive all my grade school nun training by Adolf Hitler who were hell-bent on torturing me. Forgiveness is what we Catholics do. I like that. And now that I'm a Catholic, I also hunt down snaggletooth Protestants and beat them up!

Then I joined the police department and got shot at.....several times. Are you sitting down?! I liked that....kinda. I didn't realize it at the time but I was an adrenaline junkie. I'd blame Bush but I don't know how to tie it in 'cause the guy was in high school.

Then I went into undercover narcotics work and really, really got treated poorly, especially at church where everyone felt sorry for my li'l missus and my kids 'cause their husband and father looked like a druggie scumbag. Actually, I got treated with no respect by everyone. Maybe it was walking around in a predominately Jewish community wearing a "No hope without dope" emblem embroidered on an iron cross on the back of my sleeveless denim jacket. Ya think?

I didn't like the disrespect but got over it, eventually quit narcotics, joined the SWAT team and learned to rappel. I liked rappelling....a lot. Our departmental psychiatrist said I was the most complicated person he'd ever tried to shrink. I'm sure the remark was meant to be uncomplimentary but I liked it anyway. Remember, I was an adventure junkie.

Then I retired, moved to Highlands, and taught people to jump off cliffs for money. Obviously, I was still a very sick puppy. Soooo, to prove I had more adrenaline than brains, I rappelled off the north wall of the Cullasaja Gorge, the diff across the gorge you see on the left when heading to Franklin. My daughter rappelled with me because she also had more adrenaline than brains. It's in the genes. Eventually, I sold the business and plucked in front of my keyboard.

I'm so bored I could even be on the Town Board. The adrenaline has gone and I'm a wuss. I write, I sleep, I play lousy bridge, I hang out with the li'l missus and I sleep. The most adventurous thing I do is go up on the roof when the li'l missus isn't looking. I'm forbidden to do that 'cause I already fell off once. Did you know the term "lock, stock and barrel" refer to the major parts of a musket?

Some dorks are uncomfortable with their nerd status. For me, being nerdy is fun. I like being a dork, I like lying on the beach and getting sand kicked in my face. If I got punched, I'd turn the other cheek and call my lawyer. Is that nerdy, or what?

This is beyond weird. Once, while in total nerd mode, my car got side-swiped in heavy traffic on I-95. The guy sped away and suddenly the nerd in me vanished and the adrenaline came pouring out. The chase was on and I eventually pinned the guy against a guardrail on an off-ramp. The li'l missus was freaking and I was stunned at my aggressive behavior. After years of nerding, out came all that hostility. Scary!

Palm Beach County Florida is the land of dork drivers. You either join them or leave. One must act rude, cut people off and use the horn. I slide down in my seat so I look as short as Hank Ross. When angry motorists I just cut off pull alongside, cursing and screaming, I display my buckteeth, huge horn rimmed glasses at your local dollar store and please don't send Hank Ross hate mail. I love the guy.

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I don’t look like a terrorist. I’m not the right age, nationality, or religion. Even with a glowing tan, I’m not the right color. Say what you want about “profiling.” Support it as effective, targeted prevention of terrorist mischief, or condemn it as blatant stereotyping. However you slice it, I’m an unlikely threat to our nation’s skies.

I am a soon to be 70-year-old, taxpaying, American citizen without any affiliation with hate groups, or love groups, for what it’s worth. I don’t belong to any fringe groups dedicated to the violent overthrow of the government. I live in Highlands, NC, and my political views, because of this column, are public record. My recent shift of opinion, to one favoring smaller government and greater individual responsibility is shared by millions of Americans.

I am sometimes a little forgetful, which landed me in trouble with the TSA (Transportation Security Authority). Last week was spring break and Bull’s birthday.

We usually ski, but we were all tired of winter and decided on a SCUBA trip to Saint Croix. Bull loves knives, all kinds of knives. He has a Bowie knife as long as your arm and a switch blade with a brontosaurus handle. He also has a dive knife.

When I packed up our gear for our return trip home, I packed Bull’s gear bag, a mesh bag used to carry mask, fins, and other gear to and from a dive site, in my carry-on. I asked him where his dive knife was and he answered that it was in a zipper compartment of his dive bag. He actually said, “secret compartment,” but there’s nothing secret about it. The angry TSA lady found it immediately, and she bore little resemblance to a rocket scientist. There I go, stereotyping again.

Because I was preoccupied, or maybe because I’m forgetful, it didn’t register that Bull’s knife shouldn’t be in carry-on. Lizzie had a pair of manicure scissors confiscated a few years ago to permit nail clippers, but not enough to make Bull’s knife legal. I thought maybe it was my iPod, but lots of non-terrorists carry electronics. Finally, because the knife was at the bottom of the bag, she retrieved it with what seemed excessive gleam and ceremony.

She handled it gingerly, as if it might explode as well as cut. She handed it to a second agent, who was also wearing rubber gloves. He measured it against a ruler, and announced, “four inches.” I was embarrassed that it wasn’t longer, but it was enough to make me suspect of something more serious than being absent-minded. It was really kind of hilarious. The knife was rusted and had a fluorescent green handle. It looked nothing like a weapon a well turned out terrorist would carry. In fact, I think most potential victims would have laughed at it.

I was prepared to have the knife confiscated, although I lamely asked if I could retrieve my checked bag and put it there. That was before I was aware of the gravity of my offense. “Four inches. You’ll have to be interviewed. Sit there,” the lady with blue gloves said, without responding to my request to put the dangerous weapon in checked baggage. “Interviewed by whom?” I asked and immediately wished I’d said, by who. “Law enforcement”, she answered officiously. I imagined summoning FBI from Puerto Rico and asked if the interrogation was going to make me miss my plane. She scowled, but otherwise ignored the question. Another agent overheard the one-sided conversation. When the lady with blue gloves turned her back, the second lady smiled and shook her head. I sat in a straight-back chair while Bull patrolled just outside an invisible wall. He decided that the point at which the concrete floor gave way to tile marked my cell.

After an unnecessarily lengthy delay, two smiling TSA agents approached. They asked a few questions. I answered questions about dive sites we’d visited in more detail than necessary, an attempt to persuade them we really were vacationers. I suppose it was equally possible that they would have concluded that I wanted a really good experience before hijacking the plane. They seemed satisfied with my explanation and released me in time to make my flight.

As I crossed the line where concrete floor gave way to tile, I was greeted by cheers from family, and even a few strangers. I expect the TSA lady, the one in blue gloves, went home after her shift and told her family, “Damn. I thought we had one today!”
It’s now or never

I’ve held off starting this thing, awaiting a resolution to be announced concerning a no-budget induced government shutdown, but the procrastinator in charge has outlasted me, and so I’ve got to get started. About the only thing that is clear about the negotiations, other than the so-far fruitlessness of them, is that the Tea Party movement is now evidently driving the bus.

As a Tea Party proponent and participant, who after months and months of derision by the “learned ones” our pressure is keeping them up at night trying to spin their fairy tales into a believable fabric. Keeping up all those except for the President who, rather than lead on anything would rather vote “present,” even though he is absent, campaigning in NY and PA.

If you think I’m attributing too much influence to the Tea Party, perhaps Barney Frank’s opinion might change your mind. He ascribes the stalemate to pressure applied to Republican legislators by Tea Party leaders. And he is not alone. Steny Hoyer, Democrat minority whip, has said, multiple times, that the Republicans’ “our way or the highway” stance is the reflection of Tea Party pressure.

Well, time goes on and there is still no agreement, and the countdown clock to a government shutdown is now at 14 hours and counting. I have heard countless arguments between the two budget fix sides, and invariably, the liberal side mentions the influence of the Tea Party on recently elected legislators. Currently, almost every news show is running a poll on who will be blamed if there is a shutdown; Obama, the D’s or the R’s? I was shocked to see the CNBC poll this morning that gives you the opportunity to blame Obama, the D’s, the R’s and the Tea Party. They seem to have elevated the TP to the fourth branch of government. Who wudda thunk it a year ago?

Here is an interesting observation by Dick Morris. He says that Obama was not involved in the budget issue on any noticeable way until the 11th hour, when he started meeting with Boehner and Reid. Prior to that time, there was optimism that an agreement would be reached and a shutdown avoided. Curiously, opines Morris, as each meeting ended, optimism waned, and pessimism ensued.

Is it possible that Obama actually contributed to the stalemate? Morris thinks so.

The Hill reports the following: “One of the leading Tea Party voices in Congress is suggesting that President Obama might have begun planning a government shutdown last year with ‘malicious’ intent. ‘Why was it that a few months ago…when the president had both Houses under the control of his party – why did he not opt to pass a budget for fiscal year 2011?’ asked Sen. Mike Lee, who helped found the Senate’s Tea Party Caucus earlier this year.

“It was either irresponsible on one hand or deliberate and malicious on the other with intention to bring about a sequence of events that would culminate inevitably in a government shutdown,” said Lee, R-Utah. The question we have to ask ourselves is: Why does Barack Obama, president of the United States, want a shutdown?” Lee said in his floor speech.

The long awaited announcement by Boehner, scheduled for 10:00 and occurring at 11:00 turned out to be a non-event. No Deal. Then the brilliant orator, Harry Reid, told us that, because of Republican intransigence, the impending shutdown would make it harder for women to get health services. He went on to say that the health and lives of his wife, his daughter and numerous female grandchildren would be sacrificed as a result of a government closure.

Friends, we, our children and our grandchildren are all in jeopardy if this lunatic has his way. If Harry Reid’s family is dependent on the government for health services, he apparently hasn’t provided for them very well. According to the Nevada News & Views, in 2009, his net worth was estimated to be $4.6 million.

That should do it, don’t you think? Reid also whined that government employees may not be able to buy that new car or take a vacation this summer. I’m sure the unemployed are weeping for them.

Incidentally, the result of the CNBC poll was just announced: A shutdown would be blamed on Obama by 28% of the respondents; 26% would blame the Democrats; 27%, the Republicans; and the Tea Party, 19%. Now that’s a pretty significant impact by a group that Nancy Pelosi dismissed as Astroturf not long ago.

The Tea Party is fulfilling its mission – encouraging newly elected legislators to keep their campaign promises. Stay tuned.
Amazing performances

The other night I was watching the ESPN Documentary series 30 for 30 and they were chronicling Reggie Miller's feud with the New York Knicks from when I was in high school, and as I was watching, I could recall having vivid memories of Miller lighting up the Knicks and remembering how impressive that was and will always be in my mind. It was then that I came up with the idea to put down in my column this week the five most impressive performances I watched on television in the last 20 years. Keep in mind that these were performances that I personally watched, and they are limited to basketball for today's purposes.

Honorable Mention-JJ Redick scoring 41 against Texas, Ty Lawson in the 2009 NCAA tournament, Kevin Durant in the FIBA World Championships this past summer, Harold Arceneaux against UNC in 1999, Jimmer Fredette scoring past summer, Harold Arceneaux against UNC in 1999, Jimmer Fredette scoring 53 points.

1. Reggie Miller scores 25 points in the fourth quarter as the Pacers come back to beat the Knicks in Madison Square Garden. I remember specifically how hot Miller was, but also how he just kept jawing with Spike Lee after every shot. The hilarious thing was how the New York media blamed Lee for ticking Miller off! That's how you know a player has respect from his opponents.

2. Randolph Childress in the 1995 ACC Tournament. Childress scored 107 points in three games and led the Demon Deacons to an ACC Championship in 1995. During the tournament, Childress was unstoppable, and he provided one of the greatest images in history, shaking Jeff McGuiness to the ground and then gesturing at him to "get up" before draining a three-pointer. It was straight play-ground action, but Childress was dominating on a grander stage than Rucker Park.

3. Antawn Jamison scores 35 points in 53 seconds against Duke. A lot of people don't remember what a tremendous player Jamison was in college, but his quick release around the basket made him virtually unguardable. ESPN or CBS one put a dock on Jamison in the game against Duke and he scored 35 points but only possessed the ball for 53 seconds of total gametime. It was maddening as a Duke fan watching Jamison, but you couldn't help but admire his effort and work ethic.

4. Jason Williams scores 8 points in 20 seconds as Duke comes back from down 10 at Maryland with only a minute to go. I remember wanting to turn this game off because my college buddies and I were going out and my friend Darren said, hey Potts, let's just watch the rest...you never know what might happen. A layup, two steals and two threes from Williams and then two FT's from Nate James and we had OT and Duke pulled it out. Still one of the greatest comebacks I have witnessed, but Williams was incredible in this game.

5. Shawn Kemp scores 29 points against UNC in 1992. Aside from an unfortunate foot to the chest of Aminu Timberlake, Laettner was perfect in this game. 10 for 10 from the field, 10 for 10 from the FT line. Oh yeah, he hit the most famous shot in NCAA tournament history to win the game for the Blue Devils as well. Let the record show that Laettner was a jackass, but he was one of the best college players ever and as clutch as anyone who has played the game.

Lady Highlanders split pair of home matches

The Lady Highlander Girls Soccer team split a pair of games this Monday and Tuesday, beating Cherokee 5-0 and dropping a nail-biter to Towns County 1-0.

Against the Cherokee Lady Braves, the Lady Highlanders came out very strong behind some excellent play from sophomore forward Hayden Bates. Bates was able to use her speed advantage against the Cherokee defense early, nailing home three goals in the first 20 minutes to give the Lady Highlanders a 3-0 lead. Not to be outdone, fellow forward Sayne Feria scored two goals in the final 20 minutes of the half to give the Lady Highlanders a 5-0 lead going into half time. The second half saw Highlands try and experiment with some different lineups and stay fresh for the game against Towns County. Despite the different lineups, the Highlander defense remained strong, and Keepers Ann-Marie Osteen and Taylor Hunter posted the shutout.

Tuesday, the Lady Highlanders hosted the Towns County Lady Indians in what was a rematch of a 1-1 thriller in Hiawasse back in March. Tuesday's game was equally evenly matched, with the ball being controlled in the midfield the majority of the first half. Midway through the first, the Lady Indians won a corner kick and were able to sneak the ball inside the near post directly off of the corner, with the windy conditions providing a major assist on that particular goal. The Lady Highlanders trailed 1-0 at the half, but came out with a renewed focus and were able to generate several significant scoring opportunities early in the second half.

Perhaps the best opportunity for the Lady Highlanders came when Junior Emily Munger broke through the Lady Indian defense and had a terrific scoring chance. However, the Towns keeper came off her line and fell on the ball. Despite dominating possession for the majority of the second half, the Lady Highlanders could not break through and time ran out in a 1-0 loss.

Highlands will host Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy on Friday at 5pm-weather permitting.
A group from First Presbyterian in Highlands recently returned from a mission trip to Bolivia where we partnered with the people of El Chore, Bolivia to construct a water purification system. The idea for this ministry comes from the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA). “Clean Water U” in Oxford, MS, is the first education about this ministry as groups are trained to take water purification systems all around the globe. There are currently over 400 systems in operation on six continents.

Living Waters for the World is at its core a partnership ministry. What that means is that a team from our church (Ann Greenlee, Joe Mangum, Marty MacMillan, Hillie Quin, Mary Ann Sloan, Skip Taylor and I) took the system to the people of El Chore (in pieces and parts packed in our suitcases) and provided education about how to assemble it and about why clean water is necessary in the first place. But the actual assembly of the system and the ongoing education for the people of El Chore is done by our Bolivian partners. We believe they are certainly up to this challenge.

It’s easy for American mission teams to get ‘task-oriented’ as we dig and build and paint. But over and over we were reminded in El Chore that a perfect product was not the most important aspect of our trip. Dan Brasfield, a retired radiologist from Tupelo, MS, visited our church last summer with his wife Frances and heard an announcement about our mission trip to Bolivia. He volunteered to come with us since he has built several of these systems in Guatemala with his home church. One night after El Chore’s community water system had broken down and there was no water for people or livestock, we were concerned about what that meant for our new friends but also for the success of this installation. Dan wisely reminded us that the most important thing about our trip was not a perfect installation or flawless education but the relationships that we forged.

Dan’s comment reminded me of an important shift that has taken place on the mission landscape in the last 25 years. Rather than trying to re-make the people in Latin America or Haiti or Eastern Europe into mini-versions of ourselves, we engage mission with the idea that we will...
**Myths about Plastic Surgery**

As Plastic Surgery becomes more popular, many misconceptions arise. Part of this is due to popular media that does not always research their subjects thoroughly before publication and how TV and the movies portray it to make their plots work better. I thought that I would try to deal with some of the most prevalent ones:

1. **All “Board Certification” is the same.** In fact, it isn’t. If I wanted to create a “Board,” say for “Laser Zit Removal,” it would cost me just a few dollars in Raleigh. I could then issue “Board Certification” to anyone I wished. The original Boards, of which the American Board of Plastic Surgery is one, are certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The only other Board certifying any cosmetic surgery is the American Board of Otolaryngology for facial cosmetic. The American Board of Facial Cosmetic Surgery and Cosmetic Surgery are not overseen by the ABMS. Certification by an ABMS Board requires meeting vigorous, ongoing standards.

2. **Only surgeons certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery can legally do Plastic Surgery.** In fact, anyone with a medical or dental license can advertise and perform Plastic Surgery. This is almost always done outside a hospital, since most hospitals require some certification in the procedures performed. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital requires certification by an ABMS Board in the procedures done.

3. **All Plastic Surgery is performed in a facility certified as safe.** As stated above, many physicians, in order to avoid hospital privileging, do their surgery in an office setting. Many of these facilities have no oversight, since certification of the facility is expensive and requires hospital transfer agreements and physician privileging. Both the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery require their members to do all surgery with sedation or anesthesia in a certified facility. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital maintains Gold Seal Approval by the Joint Commission, the oldest certifier.

4. **Plastic Surgery is only for the rich and famous.** While this was somewhat true in the beginning, most people having Plastic Surgery are just like you. We now have ways of dealing with whatever bothers you that fit every pocketbook.

5. **Extreme Makeovers are routine.** Though TV has made it seem like remaking the entire body is the norm, in fact, it is quite rare and most people have only one area treated at a time.

6. **It is disrespectful to ask the surgeon tough questions.** Most physicians expect hard questions. We look upon them as an indication of how involved you are with your care. With surgery, especially, we see it as further proof that you understand the procedure and that your consent is truly informed.

7. **It is inappropriate to speak to former patients.** While simply giving you the names...

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**Springtime Math:**

**Dry Eyes + Allergies = Misery**

Many who suffer from Dry Eyes don’t even know they have it. They just assume it’s allergies. While allergies definitely exacerbate the problem, Dry Eyes is an easily diagnosed and treatable problem. To learn more, visit bluelasergroup.com or call to schedule an appointment here at our Highlands or Franklin offices.

**Make Every Side Your Good Side**

The way you look can have a great impact on how you feel. Occasionally Mother Nature needs a little help. Call 526-3783 to schedule a consultation.
On going and Upcoming Events

Ongoing
The Hudson Library parking lot will be closed to vehicular traffic for 6 weeks. Please park on Main Street and walk on the center sidewalk to the side door to enter the library.

Join us this Easter…
celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at

HIGHLANDS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
315 Main Street
with Pastor’s Paul Christy and Beth Bowser

Sunday, April 24
EASTER SUNDAY
6:45 a.m.
Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Join us and other churches at the amphitheatre behind the Biological Research Center for sunrise service.

WORSHIP SERVICES
THE LIVING CROSS
8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.
Bring a flower to place on the cross before each service.

COVERED DISH
BREAKFAST
9:30 a.m.
Bring an egg casserole/quiche, fruit salad, or coffee cake/muffins to share as we have breakfast together.

CHILDREN’S
EASTER EGG HUNT
10 a.m.
The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more information please call 828-526-3376

Celebrate Earth Day at the Highlands Botanical Garden

The Highlands Biological Foundation will sponsor a Botanical Garden clean up day and spring wildflower walk in honor of Earth Day on Friday April 22, from 10 am to 1 pm with a lunch provided. Earth Day is an excellent time to visit the Botanical Gardens. The spring ephemeral wildflower display is in full glory. Our new Horticulture Supervisor, Max Lanning, will lead you through the gardens to view the delicate beauty of blooming trillium, Virginia bluebells, tiny bluets and many other perennial favorites. Celebrate nature by getting your fingers in the dirt, spreading mulch to conserve water, and sharing fellowship and knowledge with your fellow Highlanders.

The Highlands Botanical Garden is located on the campus of the Highlands Biological Station. The Garden was established in 1962 by the Biological Foundation as a refuge and demonstration garden for over 400 species of southern Appalachian plants. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road. For more information, or to let us know we can count on your support, please call 526-2602 or email highlandsbiological@gmail.com.

Ongoing
• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.
• Registration is now open for the 2011 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: “WOW! – a World of Wonder” (ages 4-6), “Amazing Animals” (ages 7-10), “Nature-Works” (ages 8-11), “Mountain Explorers” (ages 10-13), and “Junior Ecologists” (ages 11-14). Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623.
  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.
  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.
  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.
  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 Olivera at (828) 526-0025.
• 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 homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the 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.
  TUES. & THURS.
  Every 3rd Wednesday

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EASTER EGG HUNT
10 a.m.
The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more information please call 828-526-3376
On going and Upcoming Events

369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Saturday, April 16

• Highlands Plateau Greenway Work Trip. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@frontier.com. We will meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. We will be working on the new trail in the Rec Park, we will finish a section to connect to the Highlands Historical Society. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing warm layers of clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• The Little Tennessee Watershed Association is hosting its annual birding and kayaking outing led by naturalist Jack Johnston on Saturday, 8:30-noon. Come explore the beauty of Lake Emory and learn about the interesting waterfowl and plant life found there! Please meet at the Frog Quarters Coffee Shop in Franklin at 8:30 am. From there, you can follow the guides over to the lake launch point. The event is expected to last until noon and is free. Participants should bring their own boat and water. For more information contact the Little Tennessee Watershed Association at 828-369-6402.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a short, but steep 1.5 mile moderate-to-strenuous hike up Chimneytop Mtn in Sapphire with a 360 degree view. Meet behind the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9 am. Drive 6 miles round trip, returning to Cashiers between 12-1 p.m. Bring a walking stick and snack if you wish. Call leader Walker Taylor, 743-6977, for reservations.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have a work weekend on Saturday to continue building the new section of trail that connects the Rec Park Loop Trail to the Highlands Historical Society. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool. If interested, email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com and they will get back in touch for further details.

• The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will host a Highlands roadside clean-up on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at Peggy Crosby Center, bring gloves, volunteer cook-out following. Contact Debbie Lassiter at (828) 525-0890 x 320 or adminjmca@dnet.net.

• The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will host a community spring clean-up on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12. Meet at Cashiers Community Center, bring gloves, volunteer cook-out following. Contact Michelle Price at (828) 525-0890 x 256 or mprice@j-mca.org.

Sunday, April 17

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile hike to Rough Run and High Falls, with beautiful wild flowers and some scrambling over rocks near the falls. Meet at the Cashiers Post Office parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Drive 18 miles round trip. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. The rain date for the hike is Monday, April 18 at 10 a.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1 mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail to see waterfalls and early wildflowers. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 20

See EVENTS page 14

Learn about state of US schools at Cashiers Library

Edward (Ned) Fox, Jr., education reformer to lead discussion after documentary film on schools in America.

An outstanding program is coming to the Albert-Carlton Cashiers Community Library on Thursday, April 21st. At 3:00 the documentary on the state of our schools will be shown. Although licensing regulations prohibit the publication of the title, here’s a hint: it has to do with waiting for a certain superhero.

After the film, charter school advocate and activist, Ned Fox, Jr. (ED.D., Nova Southeastern, M.A.T., Johns Hopkins, B.A., Rice) will lead a Q&A session. Fox served as Headmaster (now emeritus) for Charlotte Latin School from 1976-2001. He is a “school watch-er,” both of public and private institutions. His professional background is a rich tapestry of activities from Bible teacher to wrestling coach to writer to board member and workshop leader and founder of Edward Jordan Fox, Jr. Middle School at Charlotte Latin. His passionate involvement in educational quality and the evaluation thereof is international, and his work has led to accreditation reform in thirty states for public and non-public schools. For further information call the library at 743-0215.
(StatePoint) As the weather warms, Americans spend more time in their backyards and gardens, taking advantage of their outdoor living and dining space.

Recent decorating trends are helping homeowners create inviting outdoor spaces. It’s no longer about simple picnic tables on patios or decks. There now are many new ways to create welcoming ambience.

More homeowners are using innovative products for the backyard and garden made with recycled materials — a small way to make a big difference. For example, recycled plastics are being used in functional yet stylish decking, vertical gardens, flower pots, bird houses, furniture and more, diverting this valuable material from landfills.

“Consumers have many options today to create beautiful backyards and other home spaces with recycled products,” says Steve Russell, vice president of plastics for the American Chemistry Council. “For instance, recycled plastics can be used to create all sorts of functional and fashionable products, from modern lawn chairs to chic accessories to long lasting fences.”

Here are some great tweaks for your outdoor spaces this season:

• Divine Decking: To create decks, gazebos and other outdoor structures, many builders are now using composite lumber, some of which is made with recycled plastic shopping bags. These composites are typically stain and water-resistant and don’t attract those pesky backyard bugs that enjoy wood.

• Light It Up: When entertaining outdoors at night, the right lighting adds ambiance while illuminating pathways for safety. You can uplight trees for dramatic effect. Energy-efficient solar lighting is a great choice, as you avoid dealing with cords in or under your yard and save electricity in the process.

• Feel-Good Furniture: Homeowners nowadays can lounge on brightly colored chairs and benches and dine on stylish tables made with recycled plastics and other innovative materials. Green minded consumers can choose furniture made from post-consumer containers, such as plastic milk jugs, detergent containers and margarine tubs. And best of all, you’ll save time and money by not having to stain or weatherproof this second generation furniture.

• Grow-Up: Short on space in your yard? Vertical gardens are a conservationist’s dream, allowing plant lovers to create hanging gardens in even the smallest corners, indoors and out. Vertical gardens often are made with recycled plastics, and can create a flower or vegetable source on just about any type of wall. They help turn even the smallest studio apartment or backyard deck into a green oasis.

For more tips on how you can help “close the recycling loop” by using recycled products to create a greener sanctuary for your home and garden, visit www.plasticsmakeitpossible.com.
Spring Home Improvement

Great home improvement projects for spring

- **Tinker with Plumbing**: Because bathroom and kitchen renovations often require plumbing changes, the warmer months are the best for these projects. Now's the ideal time to expand that half-bathroom with a shower stall, or to upgrade your master bathroom with a whirlpool tub. And there are many choices of eco-friendly fixtures from such brands as Delta, Kohler, American Standard and others.

- **Install Skylights**: With longer days and clear, starry nights, it's the season for gazing at the sky. But allergens can make sky gazing difficult for some. Consider installing skylights in your home this season.

- **Sand the Floor**: Most people think of floor maintenance as a cool weather activity, but floor sanding kicks up incredible amounts of dust. In warmer weather, you can throw open doors and windows and set up fans to suck the dust outward.

Some improvements can enhance both indoor and outdoor spaces.

* Add a Fireplace: Fireplaces are great focal points to any home, and now homeowners can double their impact by adding see-through fireplaces that can be installed between rooms or even to warm a patio. Versatile fireplaces, like the Montebello See-Through by Lennox Hearth Products, can be installed between a kitchen and dining room or between a living room and patio, creating a dramatic effect. You can learn more at www.lennox.com.

* **Check the Perimeter**: Inspect your home's exterior, making sure to check your siding. Mold and cracks can be a sign you need to re-paint or replace boards. Also, now may be a good time to repave your driveway. Asphalt needs the right factors of temperature and moisture to set properly. Better weather leads to better driveways.

* **Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately!**

(StatePoint) For many Americans the warmer weather of spring means it's time to focus on all those home improvement projects that would be inconvenient during winter.

Adding an extension, sanding wooden floors or replacing a roof are lot easier when you're not worried about the weather and diminished day light. Also, contractors are less likely to have weather-related delays that blow timelines, making spring renovations run more smoothly.

Here are some home improvement projects you may want to start this season:

- **Replace the Roof**: If your roof is starting to leak or you notice dramatic increases in heating or cooling bills, it may be time to replace it. The best time to do so is when the weather is warm and dry. Keep in mind the U.S. Department of Energy recommends light roofing colors, which will keep down cooling costs and help reduce global warming. For more energy-saving home improvement tips, visit www.energy.gov.

- **Check the Perimeter**: Inspect your home's exterior, making sure to check your siding. Mold and cracks can be a sign you need to re-paint or replace boards. Also, now may be a good time to repave your driveway. Asphalt needs the right factors of temperature and moisture to set properly. Better weather leads to better driveways.

- **Sand the Floor**: Most people think of floor maintenance as a cool weather activity, but floor sanding kicks up incredible amounts of dust. In warmer weather, you can throw open doors and windows and set up fans to suck the dust outward.

The better weather makes almost all home improvement projects more enjoyable. So take advantage of the season to upgrade your home!
On going and Upcoming Events

The American Still Life, Yesterday and Today and Young at Art exhibits open this Saturday at The Bascom

On Saturday, April 16, The Bascom unveils American Still Life, Yesterday and Today during an opening reception from 5-7 pm. Enjoy this juried exhibit, selected by guest juror Kevin Grogan from the Morris Museum in Augusta, Georgia. The exhibit runs through July 4.

Observe some of the innovative ways contemporary artists visit the still life genre, creating illusion through objects that are constant.

Still lifeders from the Dutch word stilleven, coined in the 17th century when paintings of objects enjoyed immense popularity throughout Europe. This exhibit features a combination of works by contemporary American artists enhanced by historical still life examples borrowed from museum collections including

Wenonah Day Bell’s Table Top Still Life (c. 1930); Ella Sophonisba Hergesheimer’s Still Life - Nature’s Bounty (undated) and George Cochran Lambdin’s Roses (1876).

Also opening on Saturday, April 16 is Young at Art, an exhibit of works by kindergartners through twelfth grade students from Blue Ridge School, Highlands School and Summit Charter School. The exhibit will open to the public through May 14.

Admission for the exhibits and the April 16 opening reception of American Still Life, Yesterday and Today is free.

The Bascom is open Tuesday through Saturdays from 10 am-5 pm. For more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526.4949.
On going and Upcoming Events

‘Nothing but fun’ cast set for HCP spring play

Rehearsing for HCPs next play, Leading Ladies: Carlos Green, as Rev. Wooley, phones the police; Dean Zuch as Doc takes the pulse of ailing Widow Snider, played by Jody Read; Melissa Church as Audrey pats the cheek of Rick Siegel, who plays Jack Gable; Kathryn Cochran as Meg gazes lovingly at Chris Hess, who is temporarily standing in for David Spivey, who will play the part of Leo Clark. Not pictured is Allen Kamp, who plays Doc's son Butch. The play, directed by Tanji Armor, opens at PAC on May 12 to run through May 22.

“Nothing but fun” is a perfect description for Ken Ludwig’s comedy Leading Ladies, to be presented by the Highlands Cashiers Players May 12-22 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Highlands.

The cast has been chosen and is rehearsing now, laughing all the way as they learn their lines under the direction of Tanji Armor assisted by Virginia Talbot. Included in the cast are several popular veteran HCP actors. David Spivey and Rick Siegel play two down-at-the-heels British actors touring the U.S. who learn that a dying elderly widow is searching for her sister’s children, Max and Steve, to whom she intends to leave her fortune. The actors hatch a plan to pose as the missing heirs but hit a snag when they learn that Max and Steve are female. Jody Read plays the irascible old lady, Kathryn Cochran plays her niece Meg, Dean Zuch is the crusty old family doctor, Allen Kamp plays the doctor’s son Butch, Carlos Green is the minister engaged to Meg, and Melissa Church, plays Audrey, the roller skating girlfriend of Butch.

Playwright Ken Ludwig has been dubbed Broadway’s reigning comic writer. HCP has produced two of his most popular plays: Lend Me a Tenor in 2008 and On Your Feet! Buffalo in 2002. The new Ludwig play, Leading Ladies, described as “a laugh-a-second comedy,” is expected to continue in the repertoires of regional theaters for decades to come. See it at PAC May 12 through May 22.

The Players’ box office at PAC will be open for season subscribers on Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6, and for general tickets beginning on Saturday, May 7, continuing through the run of the play.

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands
Holy Week 2011

Thursday, April 21
5 p.m.
Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae
A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ’s life. The service will conclude in Holy Communion.

Friday, April 22
12 noon
Stations of the Cross
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

Sunday, April 24
6:45 a.m.
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Service held at the Highlands’ Biological Center Amphitheater.
Rain—First Presbyterian Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School - All Ages Welcome
Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit www.fpchighlands.org

Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate
Hot Soup ($3.75/16 oz, $6.75/32 oz) Wraps & Sandwiches ($5.95) and Salads ($7.59)!

We have Spring Cake, Pops, Cookies and Salads, Wine, Beer, Specialty Foods

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the slice &
Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 11-4
Tues. Sat. 11-4
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Now offering good, affordable lunches: Hot Soup ($3.75/16 oz, $6.75/32 oz) Wraps & Sandwiches ($5.95) and Salads ($7.59)!
Call in your order for quick pick-up!
Call for daily specials or have them emailed to you!
We have Spring Cake, Pops, Cookies and many more goodies.

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Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat. 8:30-5:30 (Closed Sun)
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Call 526-5999

If you turn on the news today, you will likely hear that the US economic situation is improving, but still is not showing the promise that most people would hope for. One of the major issues in both the political world and the domestic world are the bleak economic times that our country has been experiencing in recent years. However, the silver lining in challenging times for investors is that prices for commercial properties are as reasonable as they have been in 20 years.

Properties in the past here on the plateau have been bought at high prices not necessarily based on their return on investment, but because they appreciated at a high rate during ownership. In the current market, many commercial properties are as close to getting a return on investment now as they have been in many years. It is not an every case, but in some specialized cases where people are just wanting to cash out on their properties as quickly as possible, people who have the liquid assets in cash to pick up good deals can pick up an excellent investment on the future.

The population of Highlands has continued to climb in recent years, and that trend will continue as more and more people discover the things that make Highlands unique. Traffic during the winter season has also increased in recent years, and commercial properties will soon no longer be just a seasonal endeavor. The natural beauty of the plateau has brought people to this area for many years, and the popularity of outdoor activities such as rafting, hiking or playing golf will ensure that entrepreneurs and investors will have plenty of potential customers. Increased attractions such as the Bascom Art Gallery, the Highlands-Cashiers Performing Arts Center, the Highlands Playhouse and the Old Edwards Inn and Spa will continue to be a draw to the area as well.

Over history, Highlands has primarily been somewhat immune to other economic hardships. This current housing crisis was, unfortunately deep enough to affect prices in Highlands, but smart investors will pick up these value properties to their benefit. Today, the right type of investment can become a major boon to the intelligent investor who can make good choices in the present that will pay off in the future.

Location is still a key aspect of investing, and the best locations always hold their value as well.

Herein Highlands, properties on Main Street have historically been extremely valuable, but as the town grows and the “downtown” area expands to include more property, more and more areas within the city limits open up for potential investors. Commercial property is usually based as a value on a multiplier of the rents, less insurance and any association fees to come up with a return on your investment. When you look at the commercial market in Highlands during this time period, prices across the board are more attractive than they have been in years, and now is an excellent time to purchase some property for those with the funds to do so.
Highlands Spring Shopping Specials

Spring Styles are BLOOMING at AnnAWeAR

Free People, Michael Stars, Charlotte Tarantola, RYU, Fashion Spy, Bluebird and more!

Jeans: Hudson, Citizen, 7, Joes ... plus shoes!
Visit our upstairs Sale Room!

355 Main Street (in The Galax Theatre) 526-4660

Come see our new spring sandals!

DUTCHMANS
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All Wood Furniture – 50% OFF
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Many country dwellers have a New York fantasy. For some people, it’s starring on Broadway. Some folks dream of launching the next big fashion trend. For others, it’s making it big on Wall Street. I actually worked on Wall Street, but it wasn’t my fantasy. No, my fantasy was much more personal, more down-to-earth.

I wanted to walk into my favorite restaurant in New York, and have the maître d’ know my name. I wanted to have a favorite bottle of wine, a favorite dish that I always liked prepared “just so.” Hey, I’ve seen all the movies. I knew how it was done. Never mind that most of my New York dinners consisted of a Lean Cuisine meal zapped in the microwave after I stumbled in exhausted from the bank, or later still, from night school at NYU.

You see, I’d had another dream. All my life, I’d wanted a sheepskin coat, just like the one the Marlboro Man wore. Forget the mink and the diamonds. I wanted to look just like Burt Reynolds, minus the mustache, if possible. And then, I got to thinking sheepskin, sheepskin—hey, that’s another expression for diploma.

Freshly divorced and childless, there was no reason I couldn’t go back to college, and get my Masters, was there? No reason, indeed, other than the fact that I was working full time. And while I was debt-free, I didn’t have a whole bunch of money to throw around. So, I turned to debt-free, I didn’t have a whole bunch of reason, indeed, other than the fact that I was no reason I couldn’t go back to college, and get my Masters, was there? No

...and 30 somethings, who’d laugh too loudly over expensive date meals, purging themselves in the bathroom before they left the restaurant. That, and working out at the gym kept their dress sizes in the single figures. Over the weekends, I’d get together with my girlfriends and my gay buddies over brunch and The Sunday New York Times. After all, we had so much in common. We were all looking for Mr. Right.

Then, I read Susan Shapiro’s book, Five Men Who Broke My Heart (http://susanshapiro.net), and the rest is history. John came up to New York, we fell in love all over again, and I had to make one of the biggest decisions of my life. I’d grown up in a small town in Virginia, but had spent the last 30 years in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. I lived a block from the best bakeries, fish mongers, meat and cheese shops in all of New York. My kitchen drawer was full of menus from cheap and cheerful ethnic restaurants that actually delivered. I knew my dry cleaner and my shoe reparer man by their first names, and more importantly, they knew mine too.

Once, I’d bristled at the comments of my banking colleagues, who’d just returned from a due diligence trip to Western North Carolina. The accents! The big hair and make-up! The small talk which they found quaint and unsophisticated. They painted a picture of Southerners as having uni-brows, glued to the TV watching NASCAR when they weren’t chasing their sisters, or eating fried chicken, washed down with moonshine. No one sensible, no one civilized, no one sane would ever “go South.”

John and I never really discussed it. He’d left Washington, DC to move to Ketterler, the family home since in the 1920s, when his Henley grandparents had bought the 1916 farmhouse from Porter Pierson as their summer home. John showed no interest in New York. He hated the noise, the bustle, the people. We didn’t realize it at the time, but he already had a go South. John and I never really discussed it. He’d left Washington, DC to move to Ketterler, the family home since in the 1920s, when his Henley grandparents had bought the 1916 farmhouse from Porter Pierson as their summer home. John showed no interest in New York. He hated the noise, the bustle, the people. We didn’t realize it at the time, but he already had a go South.

No, when it came to sports, I was either going to have to fake it, or plead ignorance. So, I plead ignorance. I don’t know why people wave towels or wear red socks. I don’t know why people from Texas do that funny thing with their fingers that Italians do to ward off the evil eye. I phone people on days which must be sacred, since I am greeted with the enthusiasm which they find quaint and unsophisticated. They painted a picture of Southerners as having uni-brows, glued to the TV watching NASCAR when they weren’t chasing their sisters, or eating fried chicken, washed down with moonshine. No one sensible, no one civilized, no one sane would ever “go South.”

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I had gone to four years of women’s colleges, and while I were no co-ed, none of them have memorable sports teams that I know of. NYU? Who knows what they play? My father graduated from Kansas State, but his passions were the New York Yankees and the Washington Redskins. My brother is a Denver Broncos fan, and avid supporter of the University of Colorado at Boulder, my nephew’s alma mater. John lived for the Baltimore Colts until they deserted (or were kidnapped, depending on his mood). Of course, as a New Yorker for 15 years, I was carried along on the wave of New York teams, who yelled and screamed in either triumph or sadness on their way home from the local sports bars, cheerfully throwing up in the bushes in front of my apartment.

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... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 9

of patients to call violates patient confidentiality, many patients are quite happy to discuss their procedure with you. We encourage this if you are having trouble deciding about a procedure, as it gives a totally unique prospective.

8. It is inappropriate to ask about results and risks. Not only is this NOT inappropriate, it is imperative that you do. The only way you can decide between several options that are frequently available, is to know everything you can about each. Also, choosing a surgery or procedure really entails making sure the benefits outweigh the risks. The only way to do this is to understand both. It is also important to know what a particular surgeon’s problems have been, as they sometimes vary from surgeon to surgeon. We keep before and after pictures available so you can evaluate the possible results, but you must translate these to what the procedure can do for you.

9. Plastic Surgery procedures cost the same. No matter who performs them, not true. They vary greatly, but you generally get what you pay for. Recently a number of people died or were hospitalized because they sought cheap Botox. The “Botox” used to reduce the cost, was a nonstandard fake. Where I used to live, a family practitioner did Breast Augmentation cheaper than anyone in town. He did this by using poor quality, non-approved implants in a non-certified, unsanitary OR, and allowing only three visits. If his patients had a problem or question, he told them to “see a Plastic Surgeon.”

10. Plastic Surgery is based on looks, not science. This is really not true. Most Cosmetic Surgery procedures are based on reconstructive ones. All those are based on different types of plastic surgery. The medical community has tried to define the role of plastic surgery, which is very difficult.

... WAIVER continued from page 1

turned to school in January following Christmas break.

Not only did this upset the timeline for end-of-course testing - which was further postponed this year due to inclement weather, particularly in Macon County - it made it impossible for students’ schedules to align with those of Southwest Community College as well as virtual classes taken through other learning institutions.

Virtual learning and online classes through local colleges and universities is a way for students to get courses not available in small school districts and a way to get a foot up on college work. (See “Highlands a NC virtual public school” in the Feb. 10 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper at www.highlandsinfo.com)

After years of outcry, legislators are now considering HB 175 which would give local control back to school districts. But no one knows when or if the bill will pass.

In the interim, the State BOE gave school districts the option of applying for a calendar waiver if they incorporated Remedial and Enrichment Intercession periods throughout the year to justify starting school early in August, ending in May, and ending the first semester prior to Christmas.

Opponents to the new calendar dislike the weeks designated for Intercessions but the district’s hands were tied.

“The Intercessions will provide us with the opportunity to remediate and/or enrich students throughout the school system,” said Superintendent Dan Brigman. “Passing of the House Bill 175 would restore local control and would certainly give our Board of Education an opportunity to revisit the approved calendar and the intercessions, so it’s possible further adjustments could be made to the calendar.”

For the 2011-12 school year, snow days have been built around holidays.

... SPIRITUALLY

SPEAKING from page 8

be partners in whatever endeavor we choose. The biblical and theological starting point for this approach to mission comes from the belief that the image of God is implanted in all of us, so there is no room for triumphalism in our relationships with others.

My friend, Philip Newell, a renowned authority on Celtic spirituality, once told me about a Mohawk elder who was lecturing about Celtic spirituality’s emphasis on the image of God. “I’ve been listening,” the man said to Philip, “and wondering where my people would be today if the mission from Europe had come to these shores believing they would find God’s likeness in us.”

As we continue to follow our Lord’s journey to the cross during this Lenten Season, our Bolivian mission has been an important reminder that the Christian tradition calls us to a certain modesty in our faith. It was Francis of Assisi who is purported to have said, “Preach the gospel…use words if necessary.” So may we all. A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you!
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Deadline: Mondays at 5 p.m.

HELP WANTED

HIGHLANDS INN NOW HIRING LUNCH SERVERS. Stop by 420 Main Street for application or call 526-9380 to schedule an interview. (st. 4/14)

HISTORIC HIGHLANDS INN LOCATED ON MAIN STREET HIGHLANDS AND HIGHLANDS INN LODGE (former Hampton Inn, located at Hwy 106 & Spring Street) Seeking full and/or part time front desk guest services staff to begin immediately. If you are a "people person" and enjoy meeting visitors from everywhere you could be the person(s) we are looking for. Ideal candidate is mature, demonstrates good communication skills, responsible with positive work history, has a love and knowledge of our beautiful mountains, and is able to work either a 7 a.m.-3 p.m. or 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. work schedule. Customer service experience is a plus. Seniors welcome to apply. Please stop by either property to pick up an application and schedule a job interview. (st. 4/14)

EXPERIENCED LINE COOKS AND WAITSTAFF needed at Fressers Eatery. Call 526-4188. (st. 4/7)

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE ON CAROLINA WAY. 1200 SF+/- Currently occupied by Mountain Fitness. Available May 1. $1200/mo. Call Tom Clark (404) 210-7979, (828) 526-4646. (st. 4/14)

2 BED, 1 BATH, $450 per month plus utilities. (2½bed, 1 bath for $550) Call 828-200-1064. (st. 4/14)


WANTED: ROOMMATE TO SHARE LARGE FURNISHED HOME. 10 minutes from Highlands. $450 per month plus 1/3 utilities. Call 828-713-6101. (st. 4/7)

3 BED, 2 BATH, large living room, wood burning fireplace, large deck, and covered porch. 7 miles from Highland post office, off Walhalla Road. $700/month. Call 706-782-3679 or 828-421-3025. (st. 4/7)

DOWNTOWN ON MAIN ST APT FOR RENT. Unfurnished and spacious, small pets allowed, walk in closet, outside balcony. $700 / mo. 526-3363. (st 4/7)

SKY VALLEY HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, fully furnished, deck, large lot, beautiful view, pets welcome. $800/month. Call 706-746-5695 (4/7)

TOXAWA VIEWS 2/2 TOWNHOUSE $650 per month. call 828-877-6672. (4/28)


SPACE OF RENT NEXT TO DRAKE’S DIAMOND GALLERY, 2nd Street off Main Street. Call 404-797-2050 or 828-526-3782 (4/7)

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Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376, or apply online at www.hchospital.org.
**CLASSIFIEDS**

**RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT:**
- **3 BED/3 BATH 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. (3/31/11)
- **1 BEDROOM/1 BATH.** In-town furnished apartment, totally renovated, 2 decks, hardwood floors, granite countertops, washer/dryer. Call: 526-256-8821.
- **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: chessnutcottages@yahoo.com or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645. (st. 4/22)

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**
- **3/2 COTTAGE ON 3.46 ACRES (3 LOTS TOTAL),** recently restored and renovated; 3 miles from town with great mountain views. By owner for $294,000. See photos and more information at this web page: https://sites.google.com/site/highlandsncottageforsale/ or contact Owner at 119DendyKnob@gmail.com. (st. 2/24)
- **$103,000! LOWER CLEAR CREEK.** 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. .55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2/bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 4/14)
- **RENT** FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED OR CHILDREN. Your home or mine. 13 years childcare experience. By the hour. Call 828-966-3988. References.
- **24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE** – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. $2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603.

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

**VEHICLES**
- **WELL LOVED 2005 JAGUAR XK8,** approx 25,000 miles. Serviced through Jaguar its entire life. Beautiful condition. $22,000. Call 828-526-8244 or e-mail mountainstar1@frontier.com. (st. 4/7)

**LEGALS**
- **TOWN OF HIGHLANDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
- **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners at the Highlands Conference Center, 45 Poplar St., on the 4th day of May 2011, beginning at 7 p.m., for the purpose of considering the following request for rezoning of properties within the jurisdiction of the Town of Highlands:
  1. Application #0111 by Highlands United Methodist Church to rezone approximately 2 acres from B-3 (business) and B-1 Conditional (business with conditions) to entirely B-1 Conditional (business with conditions). Said property is located at corner bordering Spring Street & South 3rd Street, Highlands, NC.
  2. Application #0112 by Highlands United Methodist Church to rezone approximately 2 acres from B-3 (business) and B-1 Conditional (business with conditions) to entirely B-1 Conditional (business with conditions). Said property is located at corner bordering Spring Street & South 3rd Street, Highlands, NC.

**POLICE & FIRE DEPT.**

**Highlands PD log entries from April 6.** Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.
- Since the morning of Feb. 28, officers have been investigating the graffiti painted on numerous state and town signs on the plateau.
  - April 6
  - At 10:19 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at a residence on Talley Lane. All was secure.
  - At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Oak and 5th streets.
- April 7
  - At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64 and S. 3rd Street.
  - At 7 p.m., officers responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Hill Dr. for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.
- April 8
  - At 12:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by workers at a residence on the Cashiers Road.
  - At 1:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.
- April 9
  - At 6:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a propane tank leaking at a residence on Dog Mountain Road. It was turned off.
- April 10
  - At 2:08 a.m., the dept. was called to rescue a worker who had fallen into a 3 ft. hole. He was taken to the hospital due to injuries.
  - At 11:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Cashiers Road. The person was taken to the hospital.
- April 12
  - At 9:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Hill Dr. for a medical call.
  - At 2:32 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Rocky Ridge Road where a ditch had caved in on a worker. He was taken to the hospital due to injuries.
  - At 3:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a residence on Arnold Road where an alarm was set off by workers.
  - At 6:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Ash Lane. The person was taken to the hospital.

**NOTE:** Residents are reminded to trim foliage from fire hydrants and 911 addresses or fire department personnel will do it. The town as a three-foot right-of-way for emergency services trimming. Also, donations are being accepted for the restoration of the town’s first fire truck. Call 526-3645.
**FreedomWorks’ Raleigh Day**

Don and Min Swanson attended FreedomWorks’ Raleigh Day, where they were welcomed by Sen. Jim Davis. In spite of seriously violent weather, several hundred FreedomWorks attended the gathering, which had to be relocated undercover when their large tent was destroyed. A barbeque lunch was followed by speeches by several legislators, keynoted by Sen. Phil Berger, NC Senate President Pro Tempore for the 2011-2012 session. Berger encouraged the attendees with his conservative outlook on upcoming legislation. Members then visited the offices of legislators, drawing attention to their wishes for the State General Assembly this session.

**Laurel Garden Club gives to Library**

Members of the Laurel Garden Club presented a check for $5,000 to the Hudson Library to help fund our landscaping renovation project. From left are Glenda Bell, Barbara Landwehr, Bob Trevathan, Chairman of the Hudson Building Committee, Lila Howland and Margo Franklin.

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**... GOVERNMENT continued from page 1**

General Statutes, of having a hybrid Council-Manager form where the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator work at the pleasure of the Town Board.

All along Town Attorney Bill Coward and the consultant who got the town started on this course, have ruled the hybrid form legal by General Statute – in fact, Wednesday night, Coward said he could defend the town’s position in a court of law.

He also said the General Assembly granted the city of New Bern, NC, permission for its hybrid Council-Manager form where its police chief answers directly to its Town Board and not its Town Manager.

When asked how the town should make the charter match the ordinance, he gave three answers.

The easiest way would be to petition the General Assembly. “Going to the General Assembly and having them do it is the easiest thing to do because it’s just changing a couple of words,” said Coward.

The second way is to issue a resolution of intent to amend the charter, have a Public Hearing and then vote to amend it.

The third — and most expensive and time-consuming way — is to issue a resolution of intent to amend the charter, have a Public Hearing and then call for a referendum requiring at least 10% of the voters to petition for a special election on the issue.

Commissioner Gary Drake said the election would be a good way to do it because “then we will hear from the citizens who don’t attend meetings.”

Commissioner Patterson reminded him that the board hears from the citizens during the Public Hearings but Drake said that it’s likely people who won’t speak during Public Hearings would turn out and vote.

Interestingly, a query by Mayor David Wilkes may have alluded to what citizen Mike Bryson requested of the board during the public comment period of the meeting.

“While working on the budget this year, consider cutting it a little,” said Bryson. “A financially sound town would work on cutting the budget.”

The mayor said the board must do the most expedient and best thing for the citizens of Highlands in bringing the charter in alignment with the ordinance so they match.

“The only way to keep what the majority of the board voted on is to change the charter to match the ordinance or change the form of government,” he said.

Changing the form of government back to the Mayor-Council-Administrative Officer form would more align the charter with the current ordinance and save the town about $40,000 because a professional administrative officer earns less than a Town Manager.

Meanwhile, the board agreed to hear Professor Bell’s opinion on the issue sometime in June.

“We have to decide if we want to take the advice of our attorney or go with the School of Government’s opinion,” said Wilkes.

“Or we can just change the charter and then we’re not subject to interpretation and it will be in line with the ordinance,” said Commissioner Patterson.

Commissioner Dotson referred to G.S. 160A-152. Applicability of Part. If the powers and duties of a city manager set out in any city charter shall differ materially from those set out in G.S. 160A-148, the council may by ordinance confer or impose on the manager any of the powers or duties set out in G.S. 160A-148 but not contained in the charter… to justify the hybrid form of Council-Manager which the majority of the board voted for when it voted to keep the town’s ordinance the same.

Coward reminded Dotson and Patterson that he agreed with them on the issue, but also said the board voted to make the ordinance consistent with the charter so the process has to be decided upon.

At the end of the meeting he presented an organizational chart that mirrors the ordinance saying it’s necessary that everything is the same – the chart, the charter and the ordinance.

In addition, to clarify chain of command, the board agreed that the Town Board will conduct annual evaluations for the Town Manager, Police Chief, and Planning & Development Director and at Falland’s request, a Public Safety Committee made up of the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, the Town Manager and two commissioners will be established.

In other news:

• Charlie Dasher and Jack Peay were appointed to the Zoning Board through July 2014;

• The board voted unanimously to pay to improve and brick the sidewalk from the Episcopal Church to the library for a total of $22,200; and

• The finance committee (Dotson and Drake) asked Falland to prepare two 2011-12 budgets – one without salary increases for employees and one with cost of living and merit increases in preparation of state revenue cuts.

– Kim Lewicki