Moratorium set for gaming businesses

The Town Board wanted to regulate electronic gaming operations in town with an amendment to the zoning ordinance, but after a public hearing and much discussion, a 60-day moratorium on the opening of gaming establishments in town was put into effect instead.

Commissioner John Dotson initiated the moratorium based on the number of questions everyone on the board had about the particulars of the industry and how the town’s ordinance would apply to it.

To safeguard against potential damage to the economy, the moratorium was put into action.

Help the F&R dept. preserve a piece of history!

Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is in the process of restoring Highlands’ first fire truck – a 1953 FWD. the engine had to be repaired and body re-painted. The estimated cost is $10,000. Eventually the truck will be on display at the fire station on Oak Street and used in parades and possibly for rides on Open House Day in August. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending a check to Highlands’ Fire & Rescue, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 or by visiting the Fire Station.

Public Health officials investigate change in common flu strain

Julie Henry
StatePoint Media

Flu cases are on the decline across the state, but state and federal health officials continue to examine virus activity during this year’s flu season. The N.C. Division of Public Health is notifying physicians in North Carolina of an ongoing investigation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) into a cluster of influenza B viruses from North Carolina that appear to show less responsiveness to a common antiviral drug than typical flu viruses.
Schilling wins prestigious award

Dr. Rebecca Schilling has received the Member of Honor Award from the South Atlantic Region (SAR) of the National Garden Club (NGC) for 2011. Schilling, representing the Mountain Garden Club of Highlands, was presented the coveted award at the SAR annual convention in Greensboro, N.C. on March 20th.

This award honors one garden club member in each region whose volunteer efforts, during a period of five years, have made outstanding contributions to club and community in the following areas: Civic Development, Horticulture Therapy, Youth Activities, Conservation, Horticulture, Design, Landscape Design, and All-Around Excellence.

Because the importance of intermediate sensitivity to oseltamivir in these samples is not yet clear, the N.C. Division of Public Health and the CDC are advising physicians to follow existing antiviral guidelines, but to consider this new information when caring for North Carolina patients who are hospitalized with severe influenza B infections.

Influenza B virus infections have accounted for almost half of all specimens that tested positive for influenza at the State Laboratory of Public Health since October. Public health officials plan to monitor this situation closely throughout the year and provide updated information as available to North Carolina physicians.

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.
**Birth Announcements**

**Aiden James Montague**

Aiden James Montague was born March 1, 2011 at 2:59 p.m., weighing in at 7 lbs, 5 oz and 20.5 inches long.

Aiden is the son of Danny and Courtney Montague, of Seneca, SC. Grandparents are Gilbert and Amanda Montague of Seneca, SC, and Pam and Edwin Lair of Canton, Ohio.

Aiden’s maternal great-grandparents are Josephine Hendricks of Ohio and the late Bert Hendricks. Paternal great-grandparents were the late James L. Pionion and Helen Pinion of Seneca, SC, and Daniel Dean Montague and Margaret Jane Crane Montague who both died January and February, 2008. Margaret Jane, formerly of Highlands, was born 1936 at the Crane homeplace, which is now the site of “The Bascom.”

Aiden joins his sister Addison Claire of the home.

**Greyson James Potts**

Christopher and Kelly Potts of New Port Richey, FL are proud to announce the birth of their son, Greyson James Potts, born March 26, 2011, weighing 8 pounds 12 ounces and 22 inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Terry and Karin Potts of Highlands, NC and great grandmother Vellamae Potts of Highlands, NC.

Maternal grandparents are Pete and Dale Greeley of New Port Richey, FL and Ken Robertson of Cameron, NC; great grandparents Joan Greeley of New Port Richey, FL, Helen Jones of Dover, Delaware, and Mary and Ken Booth of Broadway, NC.

**Lottery Jackpot Jacks**

**Roy Lee Baty**

Roy Lee Baty, 74, of Highlands, NC died Monday, April 4, 2011 at his residence. He was a lifelong resident of Macon County, the son of the late Harry and Lillian Webb Baty. He was a carpenter and was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Dase Baty; two daughters, Connie “Renee” Jennings of Glenville, NC and Melissa Ann Baty of Seneca, SC; three sons, Charles Floyd Baty, Roy Eugene Baty and Russell Scott Baty all of Highlands, NC; one sister, Judy Deal of Highlands, NC; three brothers, Robert Baty of Franklin, NC, Carl Baty of West Union, SC, and Roger Baty of Highlands, NC. Ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by one sister, Connie Jenkins and one brother, Clarence Baty.

Memorial services will be held Monday, April 11, 2011 at noon in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. - noon, one hour prior to the service, at the funeral home.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.
know what you’re thinking but
you’re wrong. You are bad, bad, bad.
This is not going to be one of my tacky
columns about motorcycles. If you’re
not thinking motorcycles, then I
definitely know what you’re thinking and
you’re bad, bad, bad, bad, again. Because I was a
cop, you’re rethinking guns. Ha, wrong again
hog-breath. I’m talkin’ about those smelly,
wannin’, breathin’, snortin’ four-legged
creatures lounging in the mud. For pleasure
kinda critters. Ya know, the real deal.

Being a city slicker, you’d think my experiences
with swine would be limited. Ha…not!

Many years ago, the lil’ missus and I attended a
celebration party for our newly appointed Chief of
Police at his home. The goal
must have been to do
whatever we could to
embarrass him in front of
his family. Why else would
someone hire a stripper
dressed as a policewoman to
dance for him while slowly removing her
clothing? Once she was down to her g-string and high heels, she began
removing his clothing. At one point, the chief said to
the stripper, “Are you aware my mother is in
the room?” Oh, and just so you’ll know,
we locked his three kids in a closet upstairs.
Ask me if they were ticked.

What does this have to do with hogs,
you ask? Everything! Just when it got to the
point where we would have to escort the
chief’s mother upstairs to join her
grandkids, someone released a piglet into
the house. It was white and sported a large
pink ribbon. There’s nothing better than a
piglet running through a house to break up
a striptease act. This was during the era when
cops were called pigs. Everyone was relieved
this would be the only hog on display that
night. Of course the cop who owned the
piglet was the same one who stuck a
bloody pig’s foot in Officer “Miss Piggy’s”
mailbox. Surely you remember Miss Piggy,
the cop, from an earlier column. If not, go
to archives for May 27, 2010 to see how we
treated our policewomen.

Once the stripper left and the chief got
his clothes on, we released his children.
They were thrilled to see a piglet racing
through the house, pooping on the chief’s
recently installed carpet.

Everything went great until the party
was over and it was time to take the piglet
back to the farm. The kids had bonded with
it and were in tears. The chief had to take
his kids out to the farm for the next several
weekends to visit their four-legged house
guest who was gaining about 20 pounds a
week….and getting uglier and uglier.

Little did I know it
would be almost 20 years
before I would meet
“Spuds” of Highlands’
fame. Ole Spuds was a
lovable 400-pound sow
owned by Billy and
Sabrina Hawkins. She
was their loving pet and
a real cutie.

On a Monday
evening, I’d head over to
Billy’s farm to watch
Monday Night Football
on their giant TV. I should
mention the Hawkins’s also owned a half
doze not always friendly Chow dogs.
When I would roll up in my Wrangler, the
dogs would surround the truck and look
menacing. The secret was to move real
slow and not make any quick jerky
movements while saying, “Good boys,
nice doggies.”

I would find Spuds waiting on
the front porch, curly tail wagging and her
400-pound body wiggling away. She
would get so excited and I knew what she
wanted. I’d pick up a short two-by-four
and scratch her back. Spuds would
fall over in ecstasy, demanding I rub her
tummy.

When the football game was over, I
could never leave through the front door.
Ole Spuds always parked herself right up
against the screen door and wouldn’t
budge. Calling her name and demanding
she move only made her tiny tail wag
faster. Then there were the dogs waiting
outside. Billy would escort me through
the garage to my truck.

Unfortunately, my story has a sad
ending. Spuds roamed free and because
she loved humans so much, she would
approach everyone she saw hoping to get
some scratches or a snack. Someone put a
bullet in her and enjoyed the pork. The
Hawkins’s were devastated (me, too) and
the culprit has never confessed. If you
killed Spuds, would you at least send over
a dozen not always friendly Chow dogs?

If you would like to
read Fred’s new
mystery/thriller titled Deceived if you are
fainthearted.

Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email: askfredanything@aol.com
The power of Pastor Jones

As if there weren’t enough violence in the world, Pastor Terry Jones has incited more. Pastor Jones is the publicity hound who threatened to burn copies of the Quran on the anniversary of 9/11. After enormous pressure, he backed away from his idiotic, but constitutionally protected bonfire. It seems Pastor Jones felt left out in the cold after the last embers of his celebrity cooled, so he recently turned up the heat again, this time actually burning a copy of the Muslim holy book. He conducted a mock trial of the Quran, charging, and convicting it of murder, rape, and terrorism. Execution was swift, delayed only long enough to soak the holy book in kerosene.

The event may well have been a non-event, in fact went largely unnoticed, until Afghan President Karzai chose to condemn the action. The predictable result was a firestorm of protest in Afghanistan where President apparently has more influence than we realized. His unwillingness to let books burn in anonymity had the predictable effect.

Once the Muslim population became aware of the affront, demonstrations ensued. Of course, the demonstrations turned ugly and resulted in the deaths of several United Nations staffers. It is particularly grisly when victims of such religious fervor are beheaded. The violence continues and it is unknown at this time if it will spread throughout Afghanistan and into central Asia and the Middle East.

It’s likely that Muslims will turn their rage on infidels in Indonesia, Europe, and the United States. Muslim reaction to a series of cartoons defaming the Prophet Mohammad a few years ago may serve as a template for the response to this recent provocation.

So what was Pastor Jones trying to accomplish? He said he was sending a message to Muslims around the world. The only message that comes to mind is, “Open fire.” It’s pretty certain that he didn’t think his outrageous act would cause Muslims to abandon the Quran, or accept the findings of his kangaroo court. It’s more likely that his message was intended for a domestic audience of Islamophobes and right-wing kooks.

The website for Pastor Jones’ Dove World Outreach Center features a slide show soliciting financial support from like-minded people who want to change the world and the way our government responds to the perceived Islamic threat. He seems to favor a Crusade, although his website doesn’t specify the change. He claims he needs money to disseminate his message, but he’s been pretty successful with a gallon of kerosene and a Quran.

My guess is that he is far more interested in raising money for the comfort of Pastor Jones than for a battle against Islamic choruses.

Before starting his church in Gainesville, FL, Jones founded, and was subsequently expelled from a church he started in Cologne, Germany. He ruled that church in an autocratic and tyrannical manner, much as one should expect from one who had been appointed by God. It was not only his increasingly Islamophobic rants, but his incessant demands for money that led to his expulsion.

Most people who have commented on Pastor Jones have used various terms to describe him as insane. I don’t think they followed the money trail. I think he is a shrewd con man, who has parlayed his 50-member “outreach center” in Florida into a thriving money machine. People have died and more will die in the future. After successfully convicting the Quran, the Pastor has promised next to try the Prophet Mohammed. That bit of judicial theater should capture the Muslim world. When angry Muslims respond in predictable fashion and kill a few infidels, Pastor Jones will smugly declare that he was right about Islam, and make another trip to the bank. He has a keen business mind, even if he does have a screw loose.
Ah, the joy of spring

It's a great time of year. Those yellow bushes are being yellow, red buds are being lavender (they didn't get the memo) and the pear trees are being just plain beautiful. By the time you read this, the Final Four will have concluded, and March Madness will have ended - in April. A sure sign of spring has appeared, and officialy ended Wednesday after a winter of relentless mountain storms that piled snow up to three stories high could keep ski resorts open to the Fourth of July.

More than 61 feet of snow has fallen in the Sierra Nevada high country so far this season, second only to 1950-51, when 65 feet fell. And more snow is possible in April, raising the prospect of an all-time record. "Well, I say go for it. Al I think they've found the glacier you claim is missing. Sounding kind of puny in comparison, NBC New York tells us "Snowy, Wintery Fool's Day Forecast: Accumulations of up to 10 inches possible in certain areas (of New Jersey). Enough already." Now here is an item that might stimulate a little inspiration. From Politico: President Obama's approval rating and prospects for reelection have plunged to all-time lows in a Quinnipiac University poll just released. Half of the registered voters surveyed for the poll think that the president does not deserve a second term in office, while 41 percent say he does. In another Quinnipiac poll released just four weeks ago, 45 percent said the president did not deserve reelection, while 47 percent said he did. The decline in support for a second Obama term comes as his approval rating has dropped 4 percentage points since March, landing at 42 percent, a record low. Perhaps there is hope for us yet.

One assumes it isn't coincidental that his dropping popularity occurs as others about our involvement in Libya, choosing to remain moot (and mute) for longer than most were comfortable with, especially the lack of clarity of US stated goals for the mission. For those who have their heads stuck in the sand (or elsewhere), I'm sure his reluctance to take a stand on the issue is regarded as intellectual pondering. To those who live in the real world, he fails to lead because he doesn't have a clue, and the ninnies he has surrounded himself with are no great help. Administration out of control.

Then came an interview with Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Chairwoman of the Senate Majority Leader lamented that the GOP's proposed budget cuts would eliminate the annual 'cowboy poetry festival' in his home state of Nevada.

"The mean-spirited bill, H.R. 1...eliminates the National Endowment of the Humanities, National Endowment of the arts' said Reid. 'These programs create jobs. The National Endowment of the Humanities is the reason we have in
Now, before I get into the National Championship game from Monday that everyone poo-pooed as a “horrible game” or the “worst Championship game ever,” I want to say that I enjoyed the partnership between CBS and the Turner networks for this year’s March Madness. Not only was it great to be able to see all of the games, but we were also treated to Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith, and more Chuck is always good for my TV.

As far as the game goes, I enjoyed the first half immensely, but the second half became less about the great defense being played and more about the futility of the Butler Bulldogs on the offensive end. The physicality of the game was also a huge issue for me, as the officials seemed unable to handle the burden of calling fouls consistently due to the amount of physical play and simply decided “you know what, screw it … we are only calling fouls for attempted murder.” To me, the NCAA Championship game highlighted several of the flaws in today’s college game, but I have a couple of simple suggestions to fix the college game to make it a little more palatable to the average viewer.

1) Call more fouls. Call a lot more fouls.

Now, there will have to be some adjustment-one in particular would be to make 6 fouls a disqualification rather than 5, but something has to be done about the brutality of the college game.

2) Punish Cheaters

The worst part of this Final Four is that two known cheaters were participating and our new National Champions will likely face even more significant NCAA sanctions after former UConn player Nate Miles gives his testimony to the NCAA. Cheating has been around forever, but a guy like John Calipari is just rubbing our noses in the fact that Kentucky has turned into a prep school for the NBA as opposed to an academic institution of higher learning.

3) A couple of rule tweaks
   a) Make 5 seconds closely guarded within 8 feet rather than six. This will allow for more movement on offense as opposed to a guard dribbling for 20 seconds and reward the defense for playing tough. The current distance of six feet is almost impossible to maintain without handchecking.
   b) Make charging a violation rather than a foul. Reward the defense for beating the offense to the spot (even if it is deep in the lane) but make it a violation rather than an offensive foul.
   c) Go to the NBA rule of 8 seconds to bring the ball into the frontcourt. This will encourage pressing and faster basketball, but not punish teams who want to slow the tempo. (lowering the shot clock time would punish teams that depend on execution and precision)

Keep in mind that these are just suggestions, but I think that they would greatly improve the game and prevent the abomination that we saw on Monday night from occurring again.
The double cure

Rev. Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

In Romans 6:1 Paul asks “Are we to continue in sin that Grace may abound?” Some seemed, in Paul’s day, to believe, because they were freely justified by God’s grace, that increased sin in their lives would magnify God’s grace all the more. Paul answers “By no means! How can we who died to sin live in it?” (Romans 6:2).

Paul is not being impatient here. He is demonstrating in the verses that follow that such a practice is nothing short of foolishness because there has been a fundamental change in the life of the believer. His relationship to sin has changed. He makes that change dear with the words “We died to sin.”

Exactly what does that mean? He could not mean you never sin. If that were true, no one could claim justification because we all sin daily, even after we are saved. It cannot mean that you died to sin in the sense of no longer being susceptible to sin’s temptations. Peter shows that would be incorrect in 1 Peter 2:11 with his admonition “Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” Clearly, believers need to be watchful against the dangers of sin. So what does Paul mean?

This is where the double cure comes to light. Jesus came into this world to do for his people what they could never do for themselves. The two things man cannot deal with on his own is sin and its guilt. In the hymn “Rock of Ages, Cleft for me” you have the words, “Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.” Through his death on Calvary’s cross Jesus took the guilt of your sins upon himself, he paid the price for those sins you could never pay. He also, in living his perfect life, fulfilled all the law required for you to enter heaven, destroying sin’s power over your life. Because sin no longer exercises absolute dominion over you, you will no longer continue to live in sin as the predominant way of your life. Yes, you struggle with sin, and you do sin, but sin no longer rules over you as a master.

Jesus Christ secured for all who would hear and believe in him, as the One sent for heaven, this most marvelous double cure. He came and lived the perfect life, died the atoning death and won the resurrection victory. He destroyed the power of sin to rule your life. He took away the guilt of sin to haunt you. You are now, if you are in Jesus Christ, free from sin, free to live your life for him and to be his disciple showing this marvelous double cure to others.
HS teachers’ wishes come true

On March 25 kindergarten and 1st grade students at Highlands School started using new materials to learn about animal habitats, thanks to their teachers and $500 from the Mountain Garden Club.

The payoff was big.

‘Thank you!’ the students shouted in unison.

What made it possible?

Last November kindergarten teacher Julie McClellan and first grade teacher Donna Sizemore talked with the Mountain Garden Club about materials they needed in their classrooms.

Using that wish, 1st Mountain Garden Club members researched sources and prices.

The teachers then picked 33 items—DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games from the National Wildlife Foundation, Disney and others.

‘It’s a joy to work with Ms. McClellan, Ms. Sizemore and their teaching assistants—Ms. Francie Jetter and Ms. Regina Marrone,’ said Dr. Becky Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club. ‘These educators truly do nurture the future.’

‘Their students know a lot and are eager to learn,’ said Diana Rethorst, also of the Mountain Garden Club. ‘Fascination with plants, animals and insects offers a way to gain new skills as well as knowledge. And these jigsaw puzzles will last!’

Funds for the classroom materials came from the 2010 Mountain Garden Club plant sale, an annual fundraiser held on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend.

This year’s plant sale will be Saturday, May 28, 9 am until noon, at the ball field on Highway 64. Rain date, Sunday, May 29, 1 to 4 pm.
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.

- 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), “NatureWorks” (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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.
- Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

On April 16, join your friends from Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and hit the trails on their first Eco Tour of 2011, a hike to the breath-taking Rough Run. Enjoy two waterfalls on this moderate 5 mile, guided wildflower expedition as well as lunch on the trail led by botanist, Dr. Gary Wein. Spring is the perfect time to explore this route as you are likely to see at least 20 different kinds of wildflowers in bloom!

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust protects over 2000 acres of significant land resources in our area. They launched their Eco Tour program in 2007 as a way to gain support and to educate our community. The program has grown steadily in popularity. Eco tours are $5 for HCLT members and only a $35 donation from new friends covers admission to the hike, including lunch and a membership with HCLT! This is a phenomenal deal and a fun way to learn more about these mountains that we call home, all while supporting HCLT’s important land conservation work. To learn more about your land trust or to reserve your spot call 526.1111.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is hosting a Highlands street litter clean-up event on Saturday, April 16 at 10 am. Everyone is welcome; wear your work clothes, bring gloves if you can and have fun cleaning up our beautiful town. Starting point is at the Peggy Crosby Center (5th Street “just up the hill from Highlands School”). End at the Highlands Rec. Center at noon and enjoy a complementary picnic lunch.

J-MCA will also be hosting a clean up in Cashiers on the same day and time, to benefit both of our plateau townships.

Earth Stewardship Month; A Celebration of Acting Locally challenges all to do something positive in the month of April. Other organizations’ activities are planned throughout the month, look for their announcements.

For more information or questions, contact Debbie Lassiter at 526-0890 ext. 320 or jmca@dnet.net.

## Highlands Clean-Up!

On Thursday, April 14, join your friends from Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and hit the trails on their first Eco Tour of 2011, a hike to the breath-taking Rough Run. Enjoy two waterfalls on this moderate 5 mile, guided wildflower expedition as well as lunch on the trail led by botanist, Dr. Gary Wein. Spring is the perfect time to explore this route as you are likely to see at least 20 different kinds of wildflowers in bloom!

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## Rummage & BBQ Plate Sale!

Saturday, April 9
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at 451 N. 4th Street
(Across from Wild Thyme Restuarant)

Benefit for Cyrus Bowers
Diagnosed with neuroblastoma: Stage 4 Childhood Cancer
All proceeds will go to the Bowers family for Cyrus’s medical expenses
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.
- The Highlands Writers Group is now meeting at 1 p.m. at the Library on Thursdays. At one o’clock they will have their free writing exercises.

You may bring a seven minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

Thursdays, April 28-June 2
- FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE course at The Highlands United Methodist Church, 6:30-8 p.m., led by Tina Rogers who has taught marriage and family Bible studies for the last four years. This class is open to everyone in the community. Learn how to protect your marriage based on the teach-

**Create at The Bascom!**

For beginners or intermediate students, begin your ceramics experience or take it to the next level. This class will focus on skill building and specific projects.

Versed in the basics and looking for a space and time to work? The Bascom offers “Open Studios” in April:

- Exhibitions – Tuesdays and Wednesdays, year-round.
- Ceramics – Thursdays, through April 28 from 1-4 pm and Saturdays, through April 30 from 2-5 pm.
- Life drawing, open medium and printmaking “Open Studios”, along with additional days for ceramics, will be offered beginning in May.

Spring youth art programs at The Bascom include:

- **Kids Open Studio Saturdays**, through June 4, 10 am-12 noon, six to twelve year olds. This drop-in program will allow kids to explore their creativity either individually or through a group collaborative.
- **Clay for Youth**, Wednesdays, April 13-May 18, 4-5:30 pm, eight to twelve year olds. Students will enjoy a variety of creative experiences and learn clay techniques. Everyone will get to use the potter’s wheel.
- **Play in the Clay**, Friday-Saturday, April 22-23, 10 am-1 pm, 10-16 year olds. For beginners and intermediate young potters, instruction will cover basic techniques, coil and pinch pots. An optional glaze day will be available on Saturday, May 7 from 10 am-12 noon. Scholarships are available for qualified applicants.

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.
Spring Home Improvement

Get a head start on your garden

(StatePoint) What can keep you fit, give you peace of mind, save you money on groceries and add flavor to your dinner plate? Gardening!

And whether you have a green thumb or just a sprouting interest in gardening, starting your seedlings early is a great way to get a head start on your spring and summer blossoms.

Here's what you need to know to get a jump on your favorite gardening activities:

Plan Your Garden

When deciding what seedlings to grow for your garden, consider how the sunlight falls in your yard. Some flowers and vegetables need constant sunshine, while others need a shady nook. Consult a gardening book or a local gardening expert for guidance.

Also, make sure to select plants that can successfully grow in the climate. Just because seeds for almost every variety of plant are now available online or at the local nursery, it doesn't mean you can grow it in your backyard. Some of the easiest vegetables to grow in almost all North American climates are salad greens, cucumbers, tomatoes, and herbs like basil and cilantro.

More information on the healthful benefits of home-grown vegetables is available by visiting www.cdc.gov and searching for “gardening.”

Start Indoors

Seedlings can be started indoors and then moved to your garden as the weather warms. They can be started in almost anything, from cardboard egg cartons to washed yogurt containers. Just make sure to use sterile seed starting mix and poke enough holes in the bottom of each container for drainage.

Or you can grow a variety of seedlings in a proper seedling tray. For example, AeroGarden, an indoor growing system, has a seedling tray that can grow up to 66 seedlings in ready-to-transplant growing sponges. The lack of soil keeps your home neater, while the system’s grow lights and automated delivery of water and liquid nutrients help make seedlings perfect for re-planting in your garden when the weather is right.

Just make sure you time your seedlings so you can replant them at the optimum time. For more tips on growing seedlings indoors, visit www.aerogarden.com.

Prep For Transplant

Once the danger of cold nights has passed, you can prepare your outdoor garden for planting. You may want to test the pH level of your soil, as well as the level of nutrients like phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium, potassium and magnesium. You can start digging if the soil crumbles easily in your palm. Remove any weeds, branches or stones up to 8 inches deep.

Suddenly transplanting your seedlings outdoors can shock them, so begin by letting your seedlings live outdoors for a few hours each day. Gradually increase the time until any danger of cool evenings has passed.

Then transplant your seedlings to your garden bed and watch them bloom! In a few weeks you should have beautiful flowers or the beginnings of a bountiful vegetable harvest.
Spring Home Improvement

Get your deck ready for spring and summer

Elevating them or placing them on rollers will release the moisture and make them easier to rearrange.

• Beware of Welcome Mats: Mats can collect moisture and dry out too slowly, which can lead to water damage and/or wood rot. After precipitation, be sure to dry out the mat and allow the deck to dry.

• Watch Out for Your Grill: Grease from your grill is hazardous to your deck, so place it in an inconspicuous spot with a hard rubber door mat underneath it to keep your deck free of stains. If grease drips onto your deck, use a household cleaner to wipe it clean.

For more advice on caring for decks, visit www.wrcla.org.

“Make sure your deck is clean and safe before entertaining.

(StatePoint) As the days get longer, there’s nothing like barbequing and entertaining friends on your deck. But before you pass out those invitations, make sure your deck has weathered the winter and is ready for its seasonal duty.

The abuse a deck surface takes from the weather, foot traffic, barbeques, and food and drink spills can create both surface and structural problems.

“To make your deck last, clean it thoroughly every one to two years and restain every two to four years,” says Mark Clement, host of the radio program “MyFixItUpLife.” “It also helps if your deck is made from a natural, durable wood, such as Western Red Cedar, which holds oil based finishes for an extended period of time.”

Here’s how to get your deck ready for use:

• Clear Out: Clear all furniture and potted plants off the deck. Then inspect the deck for dirt and pollen buildup. Sweep it clean of debris that may have fallen during winter. For safety’s sake, make sure there are no nails sticking up from the deck or from any posts.

• Floss Between Planks: Clean between the planks and boards of any horizontal surfaces so rain can drain and air can flow between them. Reducing standing water and increasing airflow will limit the amount of moisture that can collect and stay on the surface of the plank, thereby making your deck last longer.

• Keep the Finish Sharp: Application of a quality wood stain or finish and periodic retreatment over time will prevent discoloration and degradation of your deck and extend the wood’s lifespan. Keep in mind that natural woods that are sustainable and durable, such as real cedar, can take and retain a variety of stains and finishes for more extended periods. Such woods are natural looking, as opposed to the faux finishes used on man-made composite products.

• Elevate Planters: Direct contact between planter boxes and wooden surfaces can trap moisture and leave stains. Elevating them or placing them on rollers will release the moisture and make them easier to rearrange.

• Beware of Welcome Mats: Mats can collect moisture and dry out too slowly, which can lead to water damage and/or wood rot. After precipitation, be sure to dry out the mat and allow the deck to dry.

• Watch Out for Your Grill: Grease from your grill is hazardous to your deck, so place it in an inconspicuous spot with a hard rubber door mat underneath it to keep your deck free of stains. If grease drips onto your deck, use a household cleaner to wipe it clean.

For more advice on caring for decks, visit www.wrcla.org.

“It’s easy to forget that decks need maintenance and care just like your lawn or roof,” says Clement “By performing routine checks and taking care of the warning signs, homeowners can extend the life of their decks so they can be enjoyed for years to come.”

Scott Baste scottbaste@gmail.com

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On going and Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 7
• Kindergarten Registration at Highlands School for both parents and students 10 a.m. in the school’s media center.
• Main Street Program monthly meeting 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic/Recreation Center.
• Rotary Bingo at the Community Building next to the ballfield on US 64 east from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Highlands Literacy Council.
• An American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED and First Aid Basics course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, April 7 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.
• As part of the Ninth Annual Spring Literary Festival, the Macon County Public Library will host Author Alan Weisman at Western Carolina University’s Coulter recital hall on at 7:30 PM. For more information on the Festival, call (828) 227-7264 or visit www.litfestival.org.

Friday, April 8
• Macon County Special Olympics at the Macon Middle School track. Opening ceremonies will start at 10 am. The rain date for this event will be the following Monday, April 11. For an athlete to be eligible to compete, they must be at least 8 years old and meet the intellectual disabilities requirements set by Special Olympics, North Carolina. If you or someone you know is interested in competing and meets the qualifications or if you would like to volunteer with Special Olympics – Macon County, please call Jennifer Garrett at 371-1404 or 349-2081. Come on out and be a fan and support our athletes!
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile hike to Rhapsodie and Aunt Sally Falls in northeast Panthertown. The hike has several creek crossings and rated easy, then strenuous in the last ½ mile. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 am. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. The hike is limited to 12 people.
• Rummage & BBQ Plate Sale. 10 am to 3 p.m. at 451 N. 4th Street, (across from Wild Thyme Restaurant. Benefit for Cyrus Bowers who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma: Stage 4 Childhood Cancer. All proceeds will go to the Bowers family for Cyrus’s medical expenses.

Monday, April 11
• The Macon County Childcare Committee presents a seminar for individuals and organizations who are thinking of becoming childcare providers. The seminar will be held at the Macon Bank Corporate Center from 7-8:30 pm. Information sharing and a question/answer session will be held with support agencies in the childcare field including Region A Partnership for Children, Southwestern Child Development Commission, NC Division of Child Development and Macon County Social Services. There is no charge for attendees. If you have any questions, please call Chuck Sutton at 828-524-4471.

Tuesday, April 12
• At The Highlands Dialogue’s Tuesday discussion, Rosemary Stiefel: Cave Painters. The Highlands Dialogue’s Tuesday discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10–11:30 a.m. Hand-
On going and Upcoming Events

• Eco Tour: Rough Run Wildflower Hike. Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and botanist, Dr. Gary Wein, on this magnificent spring wildflower hike. Everyone welcome: only $5 for HCLT members or $35 for new friends includes membership! For details or to sign up contact: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or (828) 526-1111.

Friday, April 15
• The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, AmeriCorps Project Conserve and Friends of Panthertown will sponsor a Trail Clean-Up at Panthertown Valley on Friday beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy a day on the trail led by local naturalists, and help keep this pristine valley in top shape. Call HCLT’s stewardship coordinator, Kyle Pursel, at (828) 526-1111 or email stew.hitrust@earthlink.net for details.

Saturday, April 16
• 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 8:30am. 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.

ANGELFOOD
Remember to order the Easter Holiday Box this month for only $36. This special box includes a Perdue roasted hen, a pork roast, 8 premium twice baked potatoes, green beans, corn cob bettes, cornbread stuffing mix, brown gravy mix, dinner rolls, and a Mrs. Smith’s apple-raisin spice pie. This box also is a great gift for someone special.

The Premium Box (B9) is new and includes 4 oz. Angus Fillet of Sirloin, 5 lbs. Pork BBQ, 5 Crab Cakes, twice baked potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, corn-on-the-cob, Brussels sprouts and sugar snap peas, all for a great price of $51.

Special boxes this month are the Combo Special (SL) which includes 4 Choice Ranch Steaks, 8 Bone-In Pork Chops and 8 Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts for $25. The Steak Special (S2) contains 8 choice Sirloin Strip Steaks for $25. The always popular Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box (S3) contains lemons, pineapple, cantaloupe, oranges, grapes, mango, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, green beans, onions and celery and is $23.

The regular monthly boxes include: The Bit O’ Blessing Box ($21), Bread of Life Signature Box ($31), Bountiful Blessing Box ($41), “Just 4 Me” after school boxes ($24 each), “Just for Me” After School Fruit & Veggie Box ($16), Allergen Free Food Box ($25), and the 10 Convenience Meal Box ($28).

Copies of the April menu are available in the reception area of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Fifth & Main. Orders need to be placed by 5 pm on Thursday, April 14. Distribution Day is Saturday, April 23 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. This food program is open to everyone. There are no forms to fill out. EBT cards are accepted. For questions, call 526-2968, 526-9191 or 526-9889.

Online ordering is also available at www.angelfoodministries.com

Have an old cell phone or two just hanging around?
Turn them into Green Mountain Builders & Realty Group during April

On April 22nd each year people around the world celebrate Earth Day in an effort to inspire awareness and appreciation for our planet. This year, in honor of Earth Day, local business owners, Steve and Mary Abranyi, of Green Mountain Builders & Realty Group, are promoting the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by collecting unused cell phones. If this sounds familiar, don’t worry, you are not alone. In fact, according to ReCellular, the world’s largest recycler and reseller of used cellular phones and accessories, “one in three Americans will replace their cell phones this year, adding to the 500 million unused phones currently waiting to be recycled or discarded.” The good thing about this news is that these unused phones have not yet made it into the landfill, protecting the environment from materials that are toxic if they leak and saving valuable land space for items that are unable to be reused or recycled.

Cell phones can be reused or recycled and by doing so reduces waste before it occurs. Cell phones will be collected during the entire month of April and can be dropped off at the office of Green Mountain Builders & Realty Group, located between Laurel Street and Spruce Street in Highlands. Call (828) 526-9523 for directions. Any proceeds received from the collected phones will be donated to local environmental organizations.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...it’s easier than you think!
Each school is considered a partnership—
but one that must adhere to the policy
amendments if the partnership is to con-
tinue.

“All activities of the support groups are
to be consistent with the educational mis-
sion, goals, and objectives of the individual
schools and the school system,” reads the
policy. “To foster a close, continuing relation-
ship with these organizations, the Ma-
con County Board of Education endorses
the following guidelines— which are in-
tended to be guidelines only—as the Board
recognizes that these organizations are or-
ganized and run independently of the
School System.”

However, the policy goes on to read
“nothing in this policy shall be construed
as direct control or management of sup-
port organizations by the Board or its em-
ployees. Organizations are cautioned, how-
ever, that failure to follow such guidelines
in their operation and management may
result in the inability of the School System,
its constituent schools, and its employees
to accept their support or continue relation-
ships with them.”

Specifically, it is suggested the Or-
ganizational Structure consistent of:

a. Each support organization is encour-
geaged to become incorporated as a non-profit
corporation.

b. At a minimum, each organization
will have a board of at least three (3) direc-
tors, who will select officers to conduct day-
to-day business. The principal of the sup-
ported school will be an ex officio member
of the board of directors, and must at all
times be advised of the organization’s ac-
tivities.

c. It is recommended that executive
board members be a parent or legal guar-
dian of a child within the school.

Concerning Activities:

a. Organizations are encouraged to
plan fundraising activities early and in-
volve the school principal in the planning
of these activities.

b. Organizations are encouraged to
meet at least two times per semester with
notification being sent to all parents and
guardians advertising scheduled meeting
dates.

At Highlands School, PTO already ad-
heres to more stringent guidelines than the
new policy suggests.

“We function as a 501C3 nonprofit.
Our board consists of a parent and teacher
representative for each age group (elemen-
tary, middle, and high school) as well as
four executive board members, a past pres-
ident and Principal Jetter. All funding re-
quests are approved by the board and all
checks require two signatures,” said High-
lands PTO president Andrea Chalker. “I
think the new policy will be helpful in
establishing guidelines for organizations
that are in need of direction. I am proud
that the Highlands School PTO is ahead
of the curve.”

Though Highlands School PTO al-
ready meets or exceeds the policy require-
ments, Principal Brian Jetter said he thinks
the district-wide structure required by the
policy is a good thing.

“That structure gives guidance to, and
requirements for the PTO organizations
to have safeguards in place to ensure that
all monies raised by them go to support-
ing the school at which they function,” he
said.

— Kim Lewicki
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The number one key to buying and selling real estate has always been location... location... location. While location is still an important factor, today's number one key is PRICE... PRICE... PRICE.

It has been a difficult transition, for sellers and Realtors alike, to come to this conclusion. My advice to most sellers has simply been “wait until the market comes back before selling.” Although this works for some sellers, waiting can be a hardship on others. The truth is we don’t know when the market will come back or how far it will come. A better economy will help, but only after a significant decrease in the current inventory of available properties. There are approximately 1,400 residences and 1,350 vacant land listings in the Highlands-Cashiers MLS. Buyers are few and far between. This means buyers need to be enticed to buy in these uncertain times.

The majority of buyers in the Highlands/Cashiers area are looking for second homes or investment property, not primary residences. This takes the NEED to buy right out of the equation. Although our area has seen fewer foreclosures and short sales than most, it is predicted that 2011 will see far more of these than any year on record.

After reviewing the closed sales in MLS it appears that most are coming from foreclosures, short sales and deeply reduced listing prices. With so many properties to choose from, there needs to be something specific to draw attention to a property. That something is PRICE.

Many sellers have been reducing their properties little by little over a period of time. This has resulted in chasing the market downward with little results. A major price incentive below comparable listings and closer toward those which actually sold is the best way to bring attention to a property. Listing a property at a higher price to “see what happens” has already proven to have little or no lookers.

Now is the most important time to find a Realtor you can trust. An experienced professional will always appreciate applying for the position as your Realtor. After taking the time to find someone you can trust, you can settle back and allow them to do what they do best... provide the service and expertise you need in selling your property.

Signature Properties has been committed to selling real estate in the Highlands-Cashiers area for over 25 years. For a sample of the Signature Properties marketing approach, you may visit www.signatureproperties-nc.com or call 828-526-4101. You will see why this user-friendly website attracts a wide variety of buyers.
GAMING continued from page 1

litigation, Town Attorney Bill Coward suggested the board include reference to HB 80 which was passed in 2009 about the gaming industry as well as North Carolina Gen. Statutes 14-306.1A and GS 14-306.4 which clearly define all matters of electronic gaming including their definitions, in the moratorium.

Commissioner Amy Patterson voiced concern over having a Public Hearing on an ordinance neither the Town Board or the citizens had seen, but since it had been advertised, it proceeded.

Two citizens spoke against allowing electronic gaming in Highlands but when they learned the town couldn’t disallow it asked if the town was being stringent enough.

As it stands now, the Planning Board’s recommendation limits hours of operation to 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week; a maximum of 10 machines per business, where required by zoning district, one parking space for every two terminals or one space per 200 sq. ft. of total floor area (whichever is greater) and one space per employee. If food or beverages are served, Macon County’s Health Department requirements must be met, but no alcohol can be sold for consumption on the premises and electronic gaming businesses must be 200 feet from a residential district or from family-oriented operations.

Commissioners Gary Drake and Patterson suggested adding the words “or consumed” in the amendment, as well.

Attorney Coward said technically electronic gaming is outlawed by the state — though no one is being prosecuted due to claims of unconstitutionality — so the town doesn’t have to be as lenient in its ordinance application as suggested by the Planning Board.

Planning Board member Mike Bryson said the board was trying to be fair by not imposing stricter regulations on gaming operations than it would any other business but set the limit at 10 machines to keep stand-alone gaming businesses from opening up. The idea was that 10 machines wouldn’t be enough to pay the rent on a stand-alone business.

But it looks like the Town Board may want tighter regulations particularly to the number of machines allowed and based on whether the business is a principal (stand-alone) gaming establishment or an accessory operation (as in a gas station).

Other questions they want answered before considering the ordinance center around differences between primary or accessory establishments under the state statutes; whether the town should impose distance regulations between electronic gaming businesses and not just distance regulations from residential areas or family-oriented operations; and whether 10 machines are too many. Commissioner Dennis DeWolf suggested five machines were enough.

Attorney Coward said municipalities across the state have imposed distance regulations from 500-ft to 1/2-mile between gaming establishments to keep a “red light” district from opening up.

That initiated discussion concerning areas in town — now vacant — which could lend themselves to several gaming businesses in a row if not regulated by the town. Wright Square was named as one such area.

Board members asked the Interim Planning & Development Director Mark Maxwell to describe exactly where gaming businesses could potentially open up in town, side by side, if not regulated.

They also discussed imposing annual business license fees as in other towns, Franklin included, ranging from $1,500 to $2,000 per year machine per year.

Police Chief Bill Harrell said the Attorney General’s office has applauded Highlands for getting ahead of the curve by working on an ordinance but was warned about keeping the fee “reasonable.”

If a law is adopted, the Finance Committee will discuss fees which could be a lucrative revenue stream for the town.

Bobby Smith, who got a Special Use Permit to open a gaming business in Wright Square last fall but who decided against it due to the pending Dec. 1, 2010 law outlawing the games, spoke in favor of the industry.

“The gaming industry gets a bad rap,” he said. “It all depends on how you manage them and you either choose to go in or you don’t just like when you choose to buy liquor or cigarettes or you don’t.”

The Town Board sent the ordinance back to the Planning Board for further consideration.

In other news, in June the Town Board will hear from Fleming Bell from the UNC School of Government about the Council-Manager form of government concerning whether Highlands should change its charter to match its ordinance and if so, how, or even if it should keep the Council-Manager form or change the form of government back to the hybrid form of Mayor-Council-Town Administrator.

SWANSON continued from page 6

Northern Nevada (aka nowhere) every January a cowboy poetry festival. Had that program not been around, the tens of thousands (?) of people who come there every year would not exist.” WHAT? I don’t even know how to ridicule that one. It speaks for itself. The Senate Majority Leader is out of control.

In a week that turned out to be newsworthy after all, I am torn between two thoughts to dose with, so you get both. With all his education, intellect and knowledge, Obama did no better in his Final Four picks that I did. Of course, he had several weighty issues on his mind that probably distracted him, such as his trip to Brazil to encourage their oil drilling efforts while discouraging ours; avoiding leadership in the formation of a budget; both for the remainder of this year and all of next; and the onset of the golf season in the Washington area.

The other is that smarmy (or undignified, if you prefer) Chucky Schumer (D-NY) getting caught with his pants down and his mikes open. From The Daily Beast: “At least one staffer in Sen. Chuck Schumer’s office is probably having a very bad day. The New York senator was caught briefing colleagues on what to tell reporters during a conference call with reporters about the budget process. Apparently unaware that reporters were already on line, Schumer ran down a set of talking points, including suggesting that Speaker John Boehner was handcuffed by Tea Party members of his caucus and calling the GOP’s proposed spending cuts as extreme. ‘I always use the word extreme,’ Schumer said, ‘that is what the caucus instructed me to use this week.’” Chucky, you’re busted.
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LOT FOR SALE, MILLION DOLLAR NEIGHBORHOOD. 1.45 acres, heavily wooded with stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirrormont area, walk to town, $198,000, 770-861-4249.

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEASE OR SALE – 2˘ downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144

FOR SALE OR FOR 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)

MC Storm Statistics

April 4-5, 2011

• 9-1-1 received 134 calls, 85 of which required some type of response. (In comparison, for the same time period 24 hours earlier, 9-1-1 received 32 calls, 26 of which required sometype of response.)

• There was 1 structure fire reported in the Clarks Chapel fire district.

• There were 3 structures that received some type of weather related damage.

• There were 8 miscellaneous fire calls reported during this time period, such as trees down on power lines and on fire, etc.

• There were 13 burglary alarms reported.

• There were 29 reports of trees and/or utility lines down causing hazardous situations, including at least 1 broken utility pole.

• There were 7 EMS or Public Assist calls for service.

Highlands PD log entries from March 31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 31

• At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Carolina Way and Third Street.

• At 5 p.m., a tree on NC 28 was reported.

April 3

• At 1:13 p.m., officers responded to a call about a dog locked in a vehicle in the Mountain Fresh Market parking lot.

• At 4:25 p.m., suspicious activity was reported from Citgo when patrons went into the restroom and threw up. Police followed there vehicle and found a sick person inside but nothing suspicious.

April 4

• At 4:30 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported from Silver Eagle on Main Street when a $300 knife was discovered missing.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April 1.

April 1

• At 3:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza to assist EMS. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 4

• At 11:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cabe Place to assist EMS. The victim 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.
March Rotary students of the month

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the March Highlands School Students of the Month at its March 29 meeting. Shown with Rotary President, Jodie Cook and Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, are elementary school winner, Jessica Campbell, middle school winner, Allison Bolt, and high school winner, Ana Damian.

Sports Page sports expanded digs!

The crew at Sports Page, on Main Street, is stretching its wings in its expanded kitchen and serving area, as well as a the huge dining area. Owner Bobby and Kristy Lewis welcome you Monday-Saturday, 11-3 p.m.

... SCHILLING continued from page 2

gram for 6th graders. She also developed a month-by-month maintenance calendar that has provided a durable guide for the ongoing care of the Garden.

In 2005 and 2006, Schilling chaired the committee that worked with the Highlands School PTO on a landscaping project for the Middle School. She helped design solutions for drainage problems and was a major contributor to the new landscape design.

Since 2006, Schilling has spent many hours rewriting and redesigning the MGC Yearbook, which received the Catherine Williams Yearbook Award in 2007, 2009 and 2010, scoring 99 out of a possible 100 points in 2010.

In 2009, Schilling also organized a highly successful Project Learning Tree workshop, providing curriculum activities that emphasize the environment for Pre-K to 8th grade students. Seventeen area teachers attended the full day workshop and came away with new lesson plans and tools to interest their students in environmental conservation. Project Learning Tree activities have been used in Highlands School for the last two years.

Last fall, Schilling arranged for the 1st graders at the Highlands School to enter the Smokey Bear poster contest, providing them with materials, entry forms and a speaker from the Nantahala Forest Ranger’s office.

She has helped choreograph and design the MGC dance routines and costumes for several Town of Highlands Christmas parades. She has also produced advertisements and posters for the MGC Plant Sale, as well as nametags and MGC brochures.

Overall, Schilling has participated broadly in the MGC as a consensus builder and creative problem solver, with engagement and commitment that has brought enormous strength and continuity to the Club.
Help Highlands Fire Dept. restore the town's first Fire Truck, a 1953 FWD. $10,000 is needed. Donations now being accepted!