

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 33 6,000 Internet Reads at www.HighlandsInfo.com • Click Local News Wednesday, Aug 17, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
80 59F	81 60F	80 58F

Wed., Aug. 17
 • Literacy Council Gala at PAC. See a preview of "Sirens" and more. Call 526-0925 for tickets.

Aug. 18-25
 • At Exurbia Sotheby's, an Et-cetera Trunk Show. Call 526-4101 for details.

Aug. 18-21
 • HCP's "Sirens" at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Through Sun., Aug. 20
 • At Highlands Playhouse, "Always Patsy Cline." Call 526-2695 for tickets.

Friday, Aug. 19
 • Relay for Life is at the Highlands Rec Park. Ceremonies to begin at 6 pm.

Sat-Sun., Aug. 20-28
 • Premiere book & exhibition event at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, 3872 Dillard Rd. Southern Appalachian Celebration In Praise of Ancient Mountains, Old-Growth Forests and Wilderness Master Works Ancient Forest Collection: In Search of the Southern Appalachian Giant Trees and Falconry. Call 526-5838.

Mon. & Tues., Aug. 22-23
 • Auditions for the HCP Fall play Monday and Tuesday at 5.m., at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands. The play, The Kitchen Witches comedy runs Oct. 27 - 30 and Nov. 3 - 6. There are parts for two middle-aged women. Copies of the play are available to read in the Hudson Library and Cashiers Library. For more information call director Ronnie Spilton at 828-226-1689.

Wednesday, Aug. 24
 • At 2 p.m., the Interlude Concert Series will feature Market Street Brass Quintet. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church. It's free.

Highlander part of WNC meth ring

A 10-month investigation utilizing undercover agents and confidential sources netted eight Western North Carolinians as well as one man from South Carolina in a crystal methamphetamine distribution ring.

Arrested were William Wesley Hargett, William Andrew Estes, Ricky Dean Fisher, Johnny Ray Frady, Kirsten Beaubien McGilivray, Lonnie Payne, Jr., Pedro Avila Sorrano, Michael James Taylor, and Larry Michael Wat-

kins.
 "On or about the dates of November 2010 to present in the counties of Macon, Jackson and Swain, in the Western district of NC, the defendants did know-
 • See METH page 10

Five line up for Nov. election

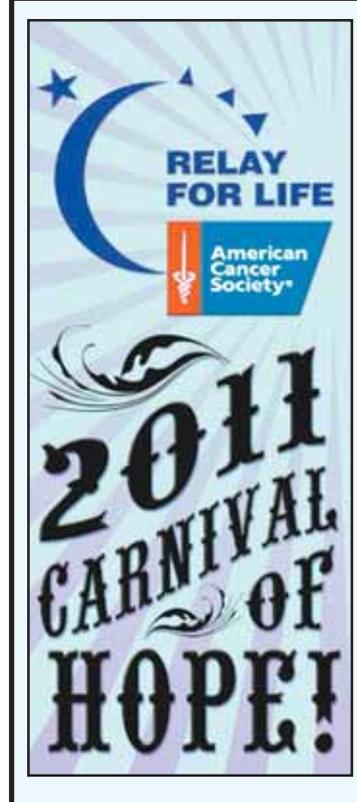
Since press time last week, the race for the three open seats on the Highlands Town Board has firmed up and filled out.

Two incumbents are running for their seats - Commissioners John Dotson and Larry Rogers which means father and son - Larry and Michael - will vie for a seat at the table.

Last week Larry Rogers said he would be ready to relinquish the reins to the younger generation as long as he could be assured ETJ would be abolished. Now he's ready for a fight.

Michael Rogers whose family has been in Highlands for generations, owns and operates Michael David Rogers Landscaping and is a member of the Highlands Zoning Board and sat previously on the Highlands Appearance Commission. He is married to Tina and has two college-age girls, Maggie and Courtney.

Also joining the race is Brian
 • See ELECTION page 18



The Relay For Life of Highlands is this Friday, Aug. 19 from 6pm to 6am at the Highlands Civic Center. This community wide event is held annually to REMEMBER those that we have lost to cancer, CELEBRATE our cancer survivors, and FIGHT BACK by supporting the local, state, and national efforts of the American Cancer Society. This year's theme is "Carnival of Hope" and will have great food, great live entertainment, and great games and activities for young and old! Please come join us for a great time!
 The presenting sponsor for this year's Relay is Mountain Brook Suites - which, along with all of our sponsors, helps make our Relay the best it can be! For more information on our relay, please go to www.relayforlife.org/highlands.

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Room tax proceeds good biz indicator

Though still recovering from the nation's economic downturn, if Occupancy Tax proceeds are any indication, the business of doing business in Highlands is on the upswing.

For the past few months, a rise in Occupancy Tax proceeds distributed to Highlands from the county finance department has members of the Highlands Tourism Development Committee (TDC) which is an offshoot of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce - grinning ear to ear.

Hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rentals and campgrounds must charge patrons a 3% Occupancy Tax which the county re-distributes to The TDCs in Highlands and Franklin each month. By state law, the TDCs, which were set up by the county in each mu-

• See ROOM TAX page 7

Parking citation fee rising

Housecleaning was the theme of Tuesday night's one-hour Town Board meeting.

The big news is the citation fee for illegally parking in a load-

ing/unloading zone will now cost \$50 after the first violation which costs \$10.

Some people are paying the
 • See FEES page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Refill the Social Security Trust Fund

Dear Editor,

For more than 25 years after the 1983 amendments to Social Security, the federal government collected more in Social Security payroll taxes each year than it paid out in benefits. Those surplus revenues were supposed to be saved, but instead Congress spent every last dime of them and replaced the excess payroll tax revenue it looted from the Social Security Trust Fund with I.O.U.s written to itself. At the end of 2010, the federal government owed the Trust Fund \$2.61 trillion. Congress has drained the Trust Fund dry. (Source: Forbes)

This should outrage every American who receives Social Security benefits and every American who has paid or is currently paying Social Security payroll taxes. What can we do about this? First, contact your Senators and Representatives in Congress and demand that the funds they stole from us be returned immediately. It is called a Trust Fund for a reason.

Second, demand that these funds be designated for the payment of Social Security benefits and nothing else, under penalty of law.

Third, remove the cap on payroll taxes. Finally, spread this news to your family and friends. It matters not what political party you belong to. What matters is we have been robbed by the very people we trusted. If they will not put the funds back and implement the changes necessary to protect the Trust Fund, make them pay at the polls.

Jim Hartje
Otto, NC

Let's start the Integrity Party

Dear Editor,

While Don Swanson and the vast majority of political pundits of all stripes continue to play the blame game, Fred Wooldridge took the high road and got it right. In his article titled

"The slime inside the beltway," in the Aug. 10 edition of this paper, Wooldridge wasn't playing partisan politics, which only divides us, making us easy to conquer. Instead, he wrote the truth about national politicians and the acquiescence of We the People in the sad game we call American politics.

Fred pointed out that our campaign finance system is rotten and that people of good faith used to run for high office to help this country, but now it's a career path that sets someone up for life at the taxpayers' expense.

While Wooldridge has identified some of the main causes of the problem, the problems beg solutions.

At this point, the only thing that makes sense is to start an Integrity Party. Its charter or constitution would include denying special interest money, fair and straight-forward rules for the legislative process, complete transparency, and personal accountability. Further, the na-

tion's interests, not the party's, would take precedence. If a member violated these tenets, they would be expelled. Period. Of course the devil is in the details, but I believe there are enough people of good faith throughout this nation to hash out those details.

It is time to get past Left and Right and figure out what's best for America and Americans in the short, medium and long term, and do it without bias and corruption. If we don't unite around this common goal, surely we will fall as a nation.

Dan Kowal
Franklin

Tea Party funding started with Stalin

Dear Editor

Many years ago the father of the two Koch brother millionaires who are

funding the Tea Party movement in our country of late was closely in business with Josef Stalin in Russia. This is where he made his big bucks that in his passing he bequeathed to his two sons, who have never had to work a day in their lives. Now they are funding the Tea Party movement here in the US, buying a slew of politicians, buying the Economics Department of Florida State University, dictating and what the curriculum in economics will be. Stalinism?

They are funding just about every politician in Texas and today we hear that Rick Perry is now stepping up to run for president. Another politician on the dole.

The truly sad part is that there are many ordinary folks caught up in the rhetoric of "catch words" such as "death taxes," "smaller government," "lower taxes," and on ad infinitum.

In my previous letter I gave Mr. Swanson credit for a modicum of intelligence. I withdraw that compliment. He is another one of those suffering from the Dunning Kruger Effect. He does not know when he is wrong and is not equipped to find out why he is wrong.

We have had a string of Presidents and representatives who have touted the lower tax, small government mantra. And guess what? We have that now. And look at what it has wrought. Severe loss of jobs, depression, failing dollar, vanishing middle class, attacks on Social Security, and Medicare. The TEA PARTIERS have what the tea partiers want.

Now let's find some one who will fix our government, tax the wealthy, get rid of corporate personhood, and fix our country. Lets get rid of the conservative right wing small government, cancer that is eating away at this country.

Ralph Milton
Highlands-Cashiers
Gainesville

Government isn't downsizing

Dear Editor,

"The government is like a baby's al-

• See LETTERS page 3

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.

Please EMAIL letters by

Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• MILESTONE •

Samuel Norton Chambers earns Masters

Samuel Norton Chambers, son of Thomas and Vickie Chambers, grandson of Gene and Emily Houston and Tony and Isabel Chambers, graduated August 13 from Clemson University with a Master of Science degree in Forest Resources. The title of his thesis was "Social and Spatial relationships Driving Landowners Attitudes towards Aquatic Conservation."

He is a 2001 graduate of Highlands School and received an Associate Degree in Forestry from Haywood Community

College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources with a minor in Fire Ecology from the University of Idaho. He is also a member of the **Society for Conservation Biology**.

Sam and his wife will be moving to Tucson, Arizona as he has been accepted to continue his education for his Doctorate degree in Arid Lands Resource Sciences at the University of Arizona at Tucson, where he will serve as a Research Assistant.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

imentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other." (Ronald Reagan)

The majority of the media says that the Tea Party and conservative Republicans won the debt limit standoff to reduce government spending. Can someone explain how increasing the debt limit by a biggest amount in history (\$2.4 trillion to \$17 trillion), a whopping 16%, reduces out of control government spending?

For the first time in USA history, our national debt is more than 100% of our entire country's yearly production (GNP). Our government has joined the ranks of underdeveloped countries in irresponsibility!

The media said that the stock market would fall and our bond rating would be downgraded if the debt limit was not raised. Congress raised the debt limit and the opposite occurred. The stock market crashed by over 500 points and our debt rating was downgraded. Why would anyone believe what these liberals state?

The debt rating agency, Standard & Poor's, downgraded the USA's AAA rating because of its unsustainable debt and then blamed the Tea Party's for trying to cut the unsustainable debt. Do these political Obama hacks think we are all that stupid?

There is talk of further reductions over 10 years. Anyone who understands the concept of the discount future value of money knows that a dollar in the pocket today is worth a lot more than a dollar promised 10 years from now.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a 6% increase in

government spending each year for the next 10 years is no increase in spending! That means that anything less than a 60% increase in government spending over the next 10 years will be considered a 'cut.' And the supposedly one time trillion dollar stimulus projects were included in the starting point baseline!

According to the rest of us, if we do not increase spending each year for the next 10 years total government spending would be approximately \$35 trillion

• See LETTERS page 6

• OBITUARIES •

Eugenia Gilbert Maxwell

Eugenia Gilbert Maxwell, 93 years old, died on August 8, 2011 at the Eckerd Center in Highlands NC. She was the widow of Tom Maxwell, who started radio station WIBB in Macon GA in 1948. Jean and Tom were married for 59 years when he passed away in 1998.

Jean will be greatly missed by her family. She was almost always cheerful and tended to make the best of any situation. She was a wise steward of all resources and as a "depression baby" was never known to waste anything.

Besides raising her children and taking care of her home and husband her passion was to play golf at Idle Hour, where she served as Ladies Golf Association president; and to play competitive bridge.

She is survived by two daughters and a son in law: Sharon Meyerson and Glenda and Griffin Bell. Her five grandchildren are Griffin Bell III, Katherine McClure, Stephanie Train, Sissy Spiers, and Robert Train III. She is also the great grandmother of 12 children.

In remembrance donations should be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Atlanta Post Office Box 550831, Atlanta GA 30355 or to the Eckerd Living Center, PO Box 190, Highlands NC 28741

• See OBITUARIES page 26

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

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I am not making this up!

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The woman, the mother of three small children, was stunned. Finally, she turned to them and said, "Girls, you have to close your lemonade stand. I'm sorry and I'll try to explain it to you later."

The li'l missus and I vowed long ago to never live in a gated community. We would never have inflicted that kind of life on our children. The stories, like the sinister lemonade stand, are numerous



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

and only strengthen my convictions. Policemen are often called to referee HOA disputes. It was always ugly and tensions were high. Now, years later, our children have moved away and guess what? We're

living part-time in a gated community named Prosperity Harbor along the Intracoastal Waterway in North Palm Beach, FL.

When the lemonade story occurred, I made notes and squirreled them away. It's a fun story and points out just how whacky we're all getting.

Several days after the stand was shut down, a local TV news reporter called the mom and asked for an interview. The elaborate homemade lemonade stand was rolled out of the garage and, with her three small children in attendance, the camera rolled.

It went something like this. The news reporter asked, "We understand you were made to close your lemonade

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 5

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Strong words have little affect



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

years later I marveled that anyone would ever burn such a wonderful symbol of manhood. A short time later, I lit up in front of my parents, neither of whom smoked. I had, it seemed, achieved adulthood. I think kids still start to smoke because it's "cool." It's grown up and it's a sign of independence. Youthful experimentation is to be expected. Unfortunately, these kids get hooked. I recently interviewed a 45 year old patient.

When I asked her smoking history she responded that she had smoked for two years. I asked her why in the world she had started in mid-life after avoiding the temptation as a young woman. "Divorce," she answered simply.

People are still trying to express their independence through tobacco. One hundred seventy-three countries are signatories of The Global Treaty on Tobacco. The United States is not. We're really not joiners. However, our new warnings are in compliance with the terms of the treaty. I guess Costa Rica has signed on. It issues the strongest possible warning, "SMOKING KILLS." Of course, one can buy cheap cigarettes at the duty-free shop. The Costa Ricans might consider adding a second warning, "DISCOUNTED DEATH."

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

stand. Why do you think they did that?"

The smallest of the children, around six years of age, sheepishly smiled at the camera and responded, "Our mom says the people who complained never had children and don't understand. That's OK and we forgive them."

"What were you going to do with the money from selling your lemonade?" the reporter asked another child.

An older girl responded, "We were giving the money to a friend of ours from school who has become disabled. We weren't keeping any of it. Actually, my mom says the Crystal Light lemonade cost more than the 25 cents we charged our customers."

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 11

What will it take to make Americans stop smoking? Lizzie picked up two cartons of Marlboro Lights at the duty-free shop at the San Jose, Costa Rica airport. The carton was emblazoned with a message in bold print, "SMOKING KILLS." It's hard to get much clearer. I winced as I read the caption. I would have put them back on the shelf and replaced them with Swiss chocolate. Lizzie didn't seem to notice.

Beginning in September 2012, cigarette manufacturers will be required to post stern warnings and disgusting pictures of the effects of cigarettes. The messages have been selected to have the greatest impact on the consumer. I think "SMOKING KILLS" is the clear winner, and yet Lizzie brushed it off like lint off a jacket.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control act requires that 50% of the package be covered with disgusting images, of among others, cancerous lungs and oral cancers. Written messages accompanying the pictures will warn of health risks to the smoker and those he comes in contact with. Still, I favor the elegant simplicity of "SMOKING KILLS," and in my study of one smoker, it proved a dud.

A far smaller percentage of Americans smoke than did before the first Surgeon General's warning appeared on cigarette packs in 1965, but the number has been stuck at roughly 20% of the population for the past five years. After World War II, cigarette manufacturers boasted that they sent free cigs to veteran hospitals. When I was in medical school all the emphysematous vets, could buy cigs for a dime a pack in the Indianapolis Veterans Administration Hospital. By my junior year, those cheap cigarettes bore the message, "Caution: Cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health." At that point, half the men in America, and 40% of all Americans, smoked.

I know why I smoked my first cigarette. Smoking was synonymous with maturity. At 16 I got my first driver's license. At 18 I got a draft card. A few

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Sports Page



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... LETTERS continued from page 3

(the present budget of roughly \$3.5 trillion a year times 10). According to the CBO, no increase means they will spend about \$50 trillion because they assume a 6% increase each year. So a cut to the CBO means only that the projected rate of increase will be cut, i.e., increasing spending by \$5.5 trillion to \$40.5 trillion instead of to \$50 trillion means it is a cut of \$9.5 trillion. Once one understands how they are calculating things, one realizes they are not cutting the size of government at all.

Also under the CBO's creative accounting, they have assumed that there will be \$5.3 trillion in additional tax revenues if the Bush tax cuts are allowed to expire. Anyone who has looked at the historical results of tax increases knows that tax revenues usually decrease with tax increases, because businesses must cut back taxpaying

staff to be able to pay the additional business taxes, causing more unemployment.

Congressman Connie Mack suggested a much more simple and effective solution. Cut government spending 1% a year until the budget is balanced. None of our leaders would even entertain the idea of this real cut, no matter how small!

As Senator Obama said in March 2006, "The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the US Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our Government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that, "the buck stops here." Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."

Since his becoming President in January 2009, our Federal national debt has almost doubled (from \$8 to \$14.6 trillion). President Obama has been given the green light by Congress to spend another \$2.4 trillion before the next election, most of which will undoubtedly go to special interests that will help Obama and Democrats get elected (e.g. to pay the salaries of Federal, state and local employees and subsidizing union dominated failed companies like GM, etc.)

For this, John Boehner should be stripped of his leadership post in the House. As fine a human being as he is, Boehner clearly was not up to the task. Had he offered a compromise to cut the Federal budget only 1% a year, he could have made the history books in a positive light. Instead he will be remembered as another Neville Chamberlain who promised "Peace in our Time."

NC Senator James F. Davis

• See LETTERS page 21

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Things I have learned

One of the things that I have learned since I have married again is that I don't know nearly as much as I think I do. (My wife reminds me of this all the time.) However, I have actually learned a few things over the past 31 years, so here are just a few bits of acquired knowledge.



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

No matter how difficult the game or how hard the team has played, there is always one kid on the team who has a little too much energy after the game. It blows my mind to watch a kid jump up and grab the rim after playing in a basketball game or stick around to shoot a goal after a soccer game.

I've learned that apparently it is OK to ask strange questions of tall people and pregnant women, but it is not OK to ask the same questions of people who are overweight. For example, people say to me all the time "Wow, you are huge! How tall are you?" Now, just imagine what would happen if I went up to someone in a Wal-Mart scooter and said "Wow, you are huge! How much do you weigh?"

I've learned that momentum can be a funny thing, because despite all of the glorious statistical analysis of all of our sporting events, momentum still seems to reign supreme. Case in point, my beloved Pittsburgh Pirates were in first place just three weeks ago. Then, an umpire named Jerry Meals robbed them of a game in the 19th inning because he was tired and wanted to go home. Since that point they have gone 4-18 over the last 22 games and have fallen to 4th in their division. They have lost games in which they led after 8 innings 3 times. They have lost with the tying run on third and no one out. They lost this Sunday when their closer recorded a strike-out but the catcher didn't catch the ball and therefore the batter reached first anyway. Contrast that with the Milwaukee Brewers, who seemingly can't lose right now, and recorded victory on Monday thanks to a triple play. Momentum can be a very powerful thing in sports.

I've learned that my house will never be clean, no matter how much time or effort we put into it, it just isn't going

to happen...especially with two kids and a third on the way.

And finally, I have learned not to put too much stock in the NFL preseason. I can recall Danny Weurffel starting at quarterback for Steve Spurrier when he was debuting as coach of the Redskins and tearing it up. That didn't turn out too well in the long run. I can also remember guys like Tom Brady and Drew Brees scuffling in the preseason only to turn it up once the real lights came on. So enjoy these preseason games, but do it with a grain of salt.

... ROOM TAX from 1

nicipality, can only use the money to market their areas by promoting travel and tourism.

The amount of money sent back to the county's municipalities each month is a good indicator of tourism – at least overnight tourism.

"A projection of Occupancy Tax distributions is determined early in the calendar year for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1," said Bob KIELTYKA, president of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Highlands TDC. "The projection is based on recent historical distribution figures, Western NC and North Carolina economic trends – including projected vacation travel figures for the mountain region, and projected percentage of room occupancy and average room rates in addition to the national economic picture."

A few years ago, the county took over the distribution of the occupancy tax proceeds as a checks and balance procedure to ensure the monies were being spent correctly and solely used to promote travel and tourism. For its trouble, the county charges 8% of the proceeds as an administrative fee. Since FY1994/1995, when the collection of Occupancy Tax began, that percentage has ranged from 3% to 15%.

Though the effect of the nation's downturn in the economy hit Highlands later as well as less severely than elsewhere in the country, the decrease in occupancy taxes collected was an indicator of lean

• See ROOM TAX page 10

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Extra side of maple syrup	1.79

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Of rabbit holes and control

By Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

I've enjoyed the printed *repastee* in the Letters section recently, especially as they concern the existence or not of heaven and or hell. In spite of my enjoyment, I would like to throw a bucket of living water on the discussion. I do so because a discussion as such is akin to running endlessly through the tunnels of a rabbit warren (hole). I.E., there is no end.

Discussion as such, while amusing, always proves to be fruitless when such concerns ultimate Reality. Indeed, when we're talking of proving or disproving the existence of heaven or hell, a cousin-version of the argument, is there really a God, the task is impossible. Our finite minds cannot handle or come close to comprehending infinitude. God, heaven, hell and the like can only be experienced by those who know them. They cannot be described from "outside." In the case of the latter 2, you would have to be physically dead or reborn to experience them. In the case of the former, God, you have to be born not only of water (physical life) but also the Spirit (spiritual, unending life) (cf. John 3). We can neither prove, disprove nor comprehend the reality of God unless we're born again.

For sure, God may be described with great precision and depth. He sent his Word and left his word, the Bible, to aid us in that regard. But the totality of God is incomprehensible. If we could wrap our minds or arms around the whole of God, he would not be God. Were he to be held within our grasp, if we could control him, then he's not God. By definition, God cannot be controlled. This brings us full circle to the Letters to the Editor discussion. The printed exchange really boils down to our human desire to define, wrap our minds around, or control God—no matter which side of the argument you happen to be on. That's the same sin that came in the Garden of Eden, controlling God or seizing control from him.

A clergy friend of mine is fond of saying, "It's not how much of the Holy Spirit (God's presence in each Christian) you have but how much of you the Holy Spirit has" Another way of expressing the same truth is, we normally only want as much of God as we can control. Generally speaking, in regards to the Christian church, these sentiments seem to be right on target. We usually allow the Spirit of God only a limited amount of time and only a tightly controlled exercise of authority in our lives.

I suppose that it is human nature to attempt to control our environments. Control is an important method that we can use to gain a sense of security in life. Control in many situations can be a valuable

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Sundays: Worship – 11

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Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening

Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50 a.; Youth 5 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

God or government ?

As I write this, there is civil unrest around the world. Europe is facing the prospect of imploding, our stock market, as well as all the European markets are plunging, and we face falling back into recession. We poor schlubs sit here, heads spinning, wondering what in the world is going on, while those that govern us are on vacation.

To illustrate how desperate matters have gotten, European leaders are prematurely returning to their offices from their summer vacations to face the problems mushrooming at home. Rumors abound that France is in danger of losing their AAA credit rating. Just a rumor so far, but the failure of Bear Stearns was a rumor just before the fall.

Let's look around the globe to understand just how pervasive the global unrest is. The most visible at this time are the riots in Great Britain, where the burning and looting is in its fifth night in London. Excerpting from CNBC.com, "London's press has reported that discontent has been simmering among Britain's urban poor for years, in neighborhoods like Tottenham, where the riots started. The protests have now spread to other cities, with violence reported in parts of Birmingham, Liverpool and Bristol.

In Israel, some 250,000 people took to the streets of Tel Aviv, over the rising cost of living. Demonstrations actually began last month when a few people set up tents in an expensive part of Tel Aviv to protest rising property taxes. The protests have moved to



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swansonson@dnet.net

other cities in Israel, where some 50,000 people rallied.

In late June, riots broke out in Athens and other parts of Greece as the country's parliament voted to approve severe cut-backs in government spending. Dozens were hurt and businesses destroyed as police battled rioters with tear gas and nightsticks.

In Spain, thousands of people turned out in late May to protest the country's 21 percent unemployment rate. They also demonstrated against government corruption and austerity measures to reign in the country's debt. Hundreds of people set up tents in a Madrid square and spent a week there in protest. Portugal saw massive strikes and protests last March in response to government spending cuts. At least 200,000 people gathered in Lisbon.

Syria continues to be in dire straits, with demonstrators calling for economic as well as political changes. President Assad sent troops and tanks to quell the mostly Sunni Muslim city of Hama in central Syria and the army launched a similar assault against Deir-al-Zor. Reports say at least 1,600 people have been killed by government forces so far.

Why am I dragging you through the woes of the world? To drive home a point. What is the common thread of all the reasons for discontent? They were all man made. No matter what the form of government involved, it was the failure of Man that created the condition that was responsible for the expression of misery we see going on today.

The manner in which the

rulers attained power is irrelevant. Whether elected or having

seized power, ultimately, the leaders will fail to please the

people. Some are disgruntled
• See SWANSON page 18

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... METH continued from page 1

ingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate and agree with each other and others to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine," reads the complaint filed with the US District Court of the Western District of North Carolina which was filed Aug. 5, 2011.

The information in this article was taken directly from the 15-page complaint and affidavit.

Over the 10-month period, Special Agent with the US DEA, Daniel R. Guzzo worked with the Macon County Sheriff's Office and the NC State Bureau of Investigation investigating the large scale crystal methamphetamine trafficking organization operating in Macon, Jackson and Swain counties called the Taylor Organization.

Michael James Taylor was ID'd as the head of the organization and operated out of his Budget Inn in Sylva, NC.

Taylor obtained large quantities of

crystal methamphetamine from sources in SC some of which was delivered to NC by Pedro Avila Serrano.

The retail crystal meth dealers Taylor used to distribute in Macon, Jackson and Swain counties among others are Kirsten B. McGillivray, of Highlands, Lonnie Payne, Jr., Larry Michael Watkins and William Wesley Hargett.

William Andrew Estes assisted Taylor in his narcotics trafficking activities to include collecting monies owed the Taylor organization.

Hargett re-distributed the meth he got from Taylor to Johnny Ray Frady and Ricky Dean Fisher for further re-distribution to their customers.

Using five confidential sources who sought favorable dispositions after being arrested for drug related activities - most of whom had dealings with the Taylor Organization - investigators were able to clearly define routes, times, and quantities, as well as individuals involved.

Confidential sources wore wires, and under court order, cell phones were tapped, to further corroborate testimony from confidential sources and set up search and seizures of product and money.

Taylor used a different distributor in each town from Highlands, to Dillsboro, to Bryson City, to Balsam. In Highlands Kirsten McGillivray was the distributor.

After months of setting up controlled buys by confidential sources in each town the final break came when through further telephone interceptions and corroboration by the fifth and final confidential source, investigators learned that Pedro Avila Serrano had left Greenville, SC and was headed to Taylor's motel in Sylva with a large quantity of meth

At a traffic stop and consensual search, 513 grams of meth was found in a plastic container in the back seat. His cell phone verified calls and text messages to

Taylor.

Since November 2010, each step along the way led investigators back to Taylor and the Taylor Organization - with all members implicated in the ring.

The Highlands Police Department assisted when on June 20, 2011, when investigators learned that Hargett was driving from SC to Franklin through Highlands. Later that night, a truck registered to Taylor and being driven by Hargett was found in Highlands. Hargett consented to a search and 5.8 oz of meth was found in a tool box. He was allowed to continue on his way and was monitored by law enforcement as he traveled to Franklin.

The U.S. District Attorney's office said the arrests, complaint and affidavit are the first step in the process - next comes the eventual indictments.

- Kim Lewicki

... ROOM TAX continued from page 7

times.

"In recent years, data indicated the wise course was to project Occupancy Tax receipts conservatively," said Kieltyka. Keep in mind the next year's TDC budget was based on the previous year's occupancy tax proceeds.

"Surprisingly, Occupancy Tax receipts during the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year in the Highlands District have far surpassed expectations," he said.

Kieltyka cites several contributing factors most recently a reduction in the Macon County administrative fee - 15% to 8% - but also Highlands close proximity to several large urban areas making the nearby mountain location a driving destination for those seeking cooler temperatures - a reason visitors have been coming to Highlands since its inception. Now the significance of that trend means even more due to high fuel costs

"Of course there is a broad range of attractions including the outdoors, a pedestrian-friendly and safe downtown, great shopping, restaurants and the arts among others, which draw people here," he said.

The total sent back to Highlands for 2010-11 is \$282,294.99 - way up from previous years - more in fact than in the history of the tax being collected since FY 1994-1995.

In 2009-10, the total was \$226,931.51; in 2008-09 it was 222,709.38; in 2007-08 it was 233,713.10 and in 2006-07, the previous highest amount ever collected, it was \$240,408.71.

The highest month in 2010-11 was Au-

gust when \$48,024.57 was sent back to Highlands, followed by November with \$41,099.27 and September (usually considered a slow month) brought in \$39,947.73, July brought in \$34,266.36.

Kieltyka said one significant contributing factor to the upswing in Highlands' Occupancy Tax proceeds may be the fact that Highlands has become a wedding destination.

"What seems clear from all of this is that tourism has continued through these challenging economic times and is clearly a major contributor to the economy of Highlands and Macon County in terms of occupancy tax, sales tax and jobs," he said. "According to officials, this results in the saving of several hundred dollars annually for each household in the county."

Now with the Occupancy Tax proceeds on the rise for Highlands, the TDC begs the question "Does the county need to take an 8% processing fee regardless of the amount distributed or can the processing fee be a set figure rather than a percentage?"

"We have not decided on any specific request to the county in terms of the occupancy tax administrative fee which has ranged over the years from 5% to 15% and is currently set at 8%," said Kieltyka. "When last adjusted, the Macon County Commission tasked the Finance Department with reviewing the cost to administer the tax annually so the fee would reflect the actual cost of processing and this may mean the fee could change."

- Kim Lewicki



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The reporter continued, "I see that your home is on a street with a cul-de-sac. How much business did you expect to get?"

The middle child answered, "Once the word went out that we were trying to help a disabled friend, people went out of their way to buy our lemonade. Business was good and we got lots of tips."

Then the reporter turned to face the camera for a wrap, "So there you have it. Deep within the heart of a seemingly idyllic neighborhood, something sinister lurks.... An illegal lemonade stand. It seems that in a community named Prosperity Harbor, prosperity is not going to happen for these children or their disabled friend. I'm Vince Norman for Channel 5 news."

Wait, it gets better....I mean worse. The newscast got picked up by the wire services and was broadcast nationwide as a human interest story to close out news segments. People in our community were getting calls from friends who lived as far away as Texas asking, "Did this really happen?"

The phones at the property management office were ringing off the hook. Some very ugly things were said that can't be put in print. Most called to protest the decision, further complaining the bad

publicity was killing their property values.

The police were never called to this dispute because the mom was willing to cooperate even though she thought the decision was ridiculous.

If I had been called to this dispute as a policeman, I would have recommended she remove the "Lemonade - 25 cents" sign to comply with the rule, then give away the lemonade so it was no longer a business but have a nearby bowl labeled "For our disabled friend" and throw in a few five dollar bills as bait money.

The news media had already given these children the best advertising they could have ever gotten. The donations would have poured in and the children could continue to have fun while helping their disabled friend.

Anyway, panic set in with the HOA board. There were emergency meetings and lawyers were called. We've been part-time residents of this community for eight years and I've never seen the board act so quickly. Suddenly, out of nowhere, we have a new set of rules that allows lemonade stands. Oh, the power of media.

To watch this outrageous event, go to <http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/kids'-lemonade-stand-curtailed-by-their-home-owners-association>

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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Ongoing

• The open air Highlands Farmers Market starts July 9th. If you have something you'd like to sell please call Andrea Gabbard 526.4858

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

• Register for the 2011 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623.

Daily

• CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Caroli-na Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)

Mon-Fri

• The Nantahala Tennis Club meets at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Sundays

• Hymn-sing service from 7-8 p.m. at the Little Church in the Willdwood in Horse Cove.

Mon., Wed. & 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.; 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (9/29)

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 \$40 a month

Mondays & Wednesdays

• Pilates Mat Classes — Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm, The Jane Woodruff Clinic, Main Floor, High-

lands-Cashiers Hospital. Call 526-5852 for info. (6/23)

Mondays

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

• Monday Madness at Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. \$5 burgers, \$1 off beers all day. Rebecca White performs 7-9 p.m.

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.

Wednesdays

• 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.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, 6-7 p.m. through Labor Day, an exciting new program each week and they are free.

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Fridays in August

• FREE Learn to knit classes. Bascom Knitters host "Introduction to Knitting" at 10:30 am on the Terrace at the Bascom. Learn to knit with a Community Knitter. Questions? mscarolray@yahoo.com or 526-1741

Fridays through Aug. 26

• At the Bascom, the very young (ages 2 ½ -4) joined by a parent, will learn basic art skills to support personal creativity. Activities include scribbling, cutting, joining, modeling and painting. To register, call 526-4949.

• Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce presents "Friday Night Live" a series of outdoor music events every Friday from 5-7 pm. at Town Square.

• See EVENTS page 14

North Carolina Premiere



Sirens

A Dramatic Comedy
by Deborah Zoe Lauffer

Directed by
Virginia Talbot

Sponsored in part by:
the LAUREL Magazine

August 18 - 21

August 25 - 28

2011

Evenings 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Matinees 2:30 p.m.



Martin Lipscomb
Performing Arts Center
507 Chestnut Street
Highlands, NC

For Tickets Call 828-526-8084

ETCETERA TRUNK SHOW

August 18TH to August 25TH

at

EXURBIA SOTHEBY'S

ON THE HILL NEXT TO PESCADO'S

CALL JODY LOVELL

FOR DETAILS 526-4104

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Highlands Area Upcoming Events


PULL OUT

Meet Your Neighbors Aug. 25 at The Highlands Nature Center

On Thursday, August 25th at 6 p.m., award-winning natural history photographer Clay Bolt will be at the Highlands Nature Center to share his experiences photographing South Carolina's wildlife as well as the story of how he came to co-found "Meet Your

Neighbours" (MYN). MYN is a global photographic initiative that reveals the wildlife living amongst us in an extraordinary way. These creatures and plants are vital to people: they represent the first and, for some, the only contact with wild nature we have. Still, they are often overlooked and undervalued. Clay Bolt partners with organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, to highlight environmental issues. You are guaran-



teed to leave with a new appreciation of how special our native flora and fauna truly are! We highly recommend a visit to www.meetyourneighbours.org for more information.

In addition, Clay Bolt will hold a photography workshop on Friday, August 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to teach the techniques behind the style of the MYN photographs. Cost is \$30 and registration is required. Bring a picnic lunch!

For more information about our programs, or to become a member of the Highlands Biological Foundation and show your support for our activities, please call 828-526-2221 or visit our website at www.wcu.edu/hbs.

Jolie's of Highlands is celebrating its 19th year in Highlands!

So far, 2011 has been our BEST YEAR EVER!
If you want to find out why, stop in for a visit.
We sell Ladies Clothing most at 20%-90% off.
Our Back Room is filled with clothing for men and women from 50% to 90% off.
How can we do this and stay in business?
Simple ... we buy for less.
We buy 40% of our Ladies Clothing at below the wholesale price.

100% of our Men's Clothing is bought below wholesale and we pass the savings on to YOU!

Jolie's is open 7 days a week, so stop in and let us save you some cash!

— Ralph Stevens —



Highlands Fun Place to Shop!
446 Main Street ... 828.526.3963

Don't Miss Saturday, August 20th at The Bascom

The Bascom is the place to be on Saturday, August 20th. Become a member of The Bascom and participate in the opening reception for The Art Library at The Bascom. The *Bascom Members Challenge*, sponsored by WNC Magazine, and Wilby Coleman's *Irony Metal Sculpture*. Events begin at 5 pm and include a book signing at The Shop, a gallery talk and Irish-Scottish Folk Music.

After the reception, The Bascom's final Barn Dance of the season takes place from 7-10 pm. Gather with friends and neighbors and celebrate the nostalgia of Highlands' yesteryear. Experience the ageless sound of Timeless Highway. This band of talented musicians will set your soul on fire. Don't miss it.

Admission for the August Barn Dance is free. Barbecue from Mountain Fresh Grocery and beverages from The Ugly Dog Pub and The Bascom will be available for purchase. The Bascom's Summer Barn Dances are sponsored by Diane and Ray McPhail, Highlands His-

torical Society, Mountain Fresh Grocery and the Ugly Dog Pub.

And, don't forget to stop at the Shop at The Bascom! From hand created pottery, textiles, jewelry, wood, glass and basketry to Bascom wine and wine glasses to art books, we have something for everyone. All our art work is produced by regional artists and we are currently featuring the ceramics of our resident potter, Frank Vickery. Since everything is unique and one-of-a-kind, you will be a star during gift-giving season.

The Bascom is now open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949

Place AngelFood orders by Sun. Aug. 21

The August AngelFood menu features the new Shelf Stable Pantry Box (B9). This box includes 2 cans of white meat chicken, baked beans, 2 cans of tomatoes, pasta, rice, dry beans, peanut butter, grape jelly, fudge brownie mix, quick oatmeal, pancake mix, cereal, and 2 cartons shelf stable milk—all for only \$21.

The menu also offers the regular boxes that are available every month, i.e., the Golden Cuisine Convenience meals, the Bit O' Blessing Box, the Bread of Life Signature Box, the Bountiful Blessing Box, and the 3 "After School" boxes. Special #1 is the Combo Box (steaks, pork chops, boneless chicken breasts) for \$30; Special # 2 is a 10lb. box of chicken breast tender fritter pieces for \$21; Special #3 is the Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box contains cantaloupe, honey dew melon, mango, peaches, lemons, navel oranges,

raisins, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, green onions, red potatoes, yellow onions, & celery—all for \$24 (a very popular box).

Additional Specials are available when ordered through the AngelFood website.

Go to www.angelfoodministries.com and click "Order Online." Select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, zip code 28741. You may pay with your credit or debit card.

AngelFood menus are available at various locations around the Highlands-Cashiers area or stop by the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Reception area and pick up a menu and place your order. This food program is open to everyone. There are no restrictions and no forms to fill out. To place an order by phone or to use an EBT card call 526-9191 or 371-2373. All orders, including online orders, must be placed by Sunday, August 21st. Distribution is Saturday, August 27th from 7-8:30a.m.

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

For more information, call 526-2112.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Highlands Historical Society Museum is open each Friday and Saturday through October 31st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays

• Highlands Knitting and Needle-

pointers meet at Bascom on the Terrace from 10 am til noon. Rain, shine, or gloom! All needle-crafters welcome. For more info: mscarolray@yahoo.com

• Young Readers group at Shakespeare & Co. in Village Square meet every Saturday at 2 p.m. Call Arysa Bredson at 727-458-1678 for more information.

Through Sunday, Aug. 21

• At Highlands Playhouse, Always Patsy Cline. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

Wednesday, Aug. 17

• Sigma Chi Fraternity Alumni members will gather for their monthly dutch treat lunch at 12:30 p.m. Lester Freeman is taking reservations. Call 743-9013.

Thursday, Aug. 18

• Taize in Highlands at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 19

• Relay for Life is at the Highlands Rec Park. Ceremonies to begin at 6 pm. www.relayforlife.org/highlands.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Stan Russell from Greenville, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-2280

Sat., Aug. 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike to MARTIN CREEK FALLS south of Rabun Bald. This GA Section of the Bartram Trail begins at Warwoman Dell east of Clayton. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 9 am. Drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or an alternate meeting place.

• The Mountain Patriots Tea Party meeting is at the 441 Family Diner. Dr. Dan Eichenbaum will be speaking on "The Free Market: Basis of Liberty" at 2 pm. Come early to socialize and make new friends. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

• Friends of Panthertown Trail Work Day in Panthertown Valley this Saturday. Volunteers will help maintain the Overlook Trail, a popular hiking trail featuring magnificent long-range views of Panthertown. This popular 6,295 acre backcountry wilderness is located in the Nantahala National Forest near Cashiers, NC. Friends of Panthertown is the only organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining this precious natural resource. Tools are pro-

vided and all are welcome to participate. Volunteers will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Salt Rock entrance at the end of Breedlove Road and work is expected to be completed by 2 p.m. Volunteers should bring a lunch, plenty of water and wear good shoes.

Sat-Sun., Aug. 20-28

• Premiere book & exhibition event at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, 3872 Dillard Rd., in Highlands. Southern Appalachian Celebration In Praise of Ancient Mountains, Old-Growth Forests and Wilderness Master Works Ancient Forest Collection: In Search of the Southern Appalachian Giant Trees and Falconry: The Ancient Connection Program with James Valentine of Quest Foundation, Peter White of the NC Botanical Garden and Gary Wein, director of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and James Costa director of the Highlands Biological Station. For more information, call The Mountain at 526-5838.

Sun., Aug. 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on TERRORA PARK TRAIL along the Tallulah River in GA, mostly on an old railroad bed. Share a parking fee of \$3 per car. Meet at Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2 pm to carpool. Drive 60 miles round trip with possibility of supper out. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Mon. & Tues., Aug. 22-23

• Auditions for the Highlands Community Players Fall play will be held Monday and Tuesday at 5 m., at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands. The play, *The Kitchen Witches* is a comedy which will run October 27 - 30 and November 3 - 6. There are parts for two middle-aged women. Copies of the play are available to read in the Hudson Library and Cashiers Library. For more information call director Ronnie Spilton at 828-226-1689.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

• "Cherokee trails of Macon and Jackson Counties" 7 pm, Cashiers. Learn about local Cherokee heritage and the evolution of Indian trails to our modern road system, presented by Lamar Marshall of Wild South. Discover what makes this region so special at this free educational community event brought to you by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and Village Green as part of their summer Village Nature Series. Everyone is welcome, no reservations necessary. To learn more

Cherokee Trails of Jackson and Macon counties, Lecture and Eco Tour in August

For at least a thousand years – and perhaps as many as 10,000 – the Cherokee have been masters of the mountains, using trails that often went straight uphill to move between sacred sites, commercial centers and other places in their vast homeland.



Lamar Marshall to discuss Cherokee Trails

Two years ago, with the first of two Cherokee Preservation Foundation grants and guidance from the Tribal Heritage Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Wild South and its partners started out toward their goal to re-find, restore and reemphasize the trail and road system of the Cherokee Nation in Western North Carolina and surrounding territory.

The Cherokee Trails Project covers approximately 150 linear miles and 47,000 acres in the Pisgah, Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests containing Cherokee historical sites. Wild South Cultural Preservation Director Lamar Marshall says that what has unfolded is "clear evidence that the main arteries of our 20th century road system in the Southeast were built direct-

ly on Cherokee trails and corridors – the Cherokee developed the circuitry for modern transportation."

On Tuesday, August 23rd Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Village Green will bring Lamar Marshall to the Cashiers Library for a free

community event, *Cherokee Trails of Macon and Jackson Counties* as part of their Village Nature Series. Everyone is welcome. The program starts at 7 pm, rain or shine. This will be the final lecture of the 2011 Series. Now in its fifth year, the Village Nature Series has been made possible by a partnership between Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green.

Then on Saturday, August 27th join Lamar and HCLT for a guided Eco Tour on a "Cherokee Trails Walk." Reserve your spot by calling 828.526.1111 or email julie.hitrust@earthlink.net. This Eco Tour is only \$5 for HCLT members and \$35 for new friends, which includes a Land Trust membership. HCLT has been saving special places in our area since 1909. To learn more visit them at www.hicasht.org.

Interlude Wed., Aug. 24 to feature Brass Quintet



At 2 p.m. on August 24, the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature Market Street Brass Quintet. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, and will be the final Interlude Concert of the 2011 season. There is no admission charge for the Interlude Concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual – come as you are. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

contact: julie.hitrust@earthlink.net

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 6-mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. on ROUND MOUNTAIN-JAKES BRANCH loop in Panthertown, with an optional side trip to SCOTSMAN CREEK FALLS. Some steep sections and stream crossings. Meet at Cashiers Post Office parking lot on Frank Allen Rd. at 9:30 am. Drive 22 mi. round trip, returning by 3 pm. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for more info. or reservations. Visitors welcome. No pets please. Rain date Thurs. 8/25.

- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Village Green will bring Lamar Marshall to the Cashiers Library for a free community event, *Cherokee Trails of Macon and Jackson Counties* as part of their Village Nature Series. Everyone is welcome. The program starts at 7 pm, rain or shine.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

- At 2 p.m., the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature Market Street Brass Quintet. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church, and will be the final Interlude Concert of the 2011 season. There is no admission charge for the Interlude Concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual – come as you are. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Thursday, Aug. 25

- At Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers, the Second Annual Cashiers Favorite Poem Night. Drop by the library and submit the titles of your favorite poems along with your reasons for liking them. To be included in the evening's program, poems must be submitted by Saturday, Aug. 20. All programs sponsored by Friends of the Library are free to the public, although donations are gratefully accepted. Membership in Friends is open to all who believe in the importance of the library to individuals and to our community. Membership forms are available at the library's front desk.

Friday, Aug. 26

- The annual Alpha Delta Pi Sorority alumni luncheon is at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club at 11:30 a.m. All ADPIs are invited to come and renew acquaintances and college memories. To make a reservation or for more information, call Emily Buskirk at 787-1015 or Beverlyl Howell at 482-0473.

Saturday, Aug. 27

- At the Hen House on Main Street, an in-store demonstration by Sally's Jams from 10-4.

- Eco Tour: Cherokee Trails of Jackson and Macon Counties Walk. Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and Wild South Cultural Heritage Director, Lamar Marshall, and learn about local Cherokee heritage and the evolution of Indian trails to our modern road system. Everyone welcome: only \$5 for HCLT members or \$35 for new friends includes membership! For details

and to sign up contact: julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.8 mile hike on the Appalachian Trail with an elevation change of 800 ft. from Tellico Gap to WESSER FIRE TOWER with 360 degree view. Meet at BiLo in Franklin at 9am. Drive 42 miles round trip. Call leader Nancy Falkenstein, 369-9052, for reservations.

- HCLT for a guided Eco Tour on a "Cherokee Trails Walk." Reserve your spot by calling 828.526.1111 or email

'SIRENS' opens Thursday, Aug. 18 at PAC



Jenny King and David Milford

"Sirens," the first play of the Highlands Cashiers Players new season opens Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands to run through Sunday, Aug. 21, and Thursday, Aug. 25 through Sunday, Aug. 28. The production is the North Carolina premiere of this new play by Deborah Zoe Laufer, and is sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine.

Described as a dramatic comedy, "Sirens" is a modern love story of sorts, humorous, imaginative, unusual. Characters Rose and Sam Abrams take a Mediterranean cruise trying to revive their faltering marriage, but when Sam hears the siren song, he must follow it, for such a call—as told in ancient legends—is irresistible whether it leads to good fortune or disaster. Sam's adventure and its unex-

pected consequences are totally entertaining

The cast includes professional actor David Milford, four of HCP's veteran actors—Jenny King, Laura Zepeda, Michelle Hott, Marsha Shmalo—and a talented new actor, Chris Hess. The play is directed by Virginia Talbot, who urges everyone to "follow the siren's call to PAC."

The HCP box office at PAC is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., Saturday 10 till 2, and at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 person for groups of 15 or more, except on opening night. Seating is reserved, but tickets can also be purchased at the door before performances. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Upcoming at CLE

The Center for Life Enrichment (CLE) continues to present interesting and informative programs to the community. This week is no exception. Please note



Charlie Wise

there are a few changes from the information that is listed in the brochure.

Unfortunately a couple classes have been cancelled due to unexpected conflicts.

Cancelled is *A New Look at Eating Right*, which was scheduled for Aug 19 and also cancelled is *How the 20th Century Changed Art*, which was scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 23.

However, don't dismay, there is still space available in the following programs this week:

What happens when you mix plants, inks, paper, cloth and creative people? You have an unforgettable art class with Heather Fortner. This two-part series, *Impressed with Nature*, will feature printmaking techniques using parts of nature to create small pieces of art such as note cards, frames or even a handmade book.

Impressed with nature

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 23 and 24 from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Place: The Mountain, Dillard Rd. Fee: \$125 for members and \$155 for non-members plus \$30 per student for supplies. Fee includes a buffet lunch expertly prepared by the staff of The Mountain.

On Friday, August 26, Charles Wise, Ph.D, will tackle the hotly debated subject of the US involvement in democratizing other countries in his lecture *Can the US Democratize the World? Should it Try?* Dr. Wise is

Founding Director of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, where he is currently a professor and serves as the Project Director of the Parli-

amentary Development Project funded by the US Agency for International Development to assist the Parliament of Ukraine in developing as a democratic institution and he was recently in Serbia where he accompanied Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard, and a delegation of more than two-dozen Ohio officers and non-commissioned officers as part of the 62-nation National Guard State Partnership Program.

Can the US Democratize the World? Should it Try? Friday, August 26 from 10 am -12 pm. Place: Performing Arts Center. Fee: \$25 for members and \$35 for non- members.

Plan ahead for this new class: CLE has added another Apple 102 class in October. Popular Apple instructor Nigel Sixsmith will cover Safari, Mail, iPhoto, iTunes, iMovie, iCal, Address book, Time Machine, and cleaning and maintaining your Apple. So if you are somewhat familiar with Apple you are sure to learn some new tips and tricks. The dates are Wednesday and Friday, October 5, 7, 12, 14 from 10am – 12noon at the Presbyterian Church. Fee is \$95 for members and \$110 for non members. This class is limited so please call to register.

To register or to receive additional information, call 828/526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

"To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul."

— Simone Weil

Let me start off by saying that I think Highlands is one of the best places to live on this earth. I don't have much experience living elsewhere, having only lived in one other town, so you may say I have no foundation to make that statement, but most of you will agree with me nonetheless.

I have talked to many clients over the years who have decided to buy in Highlands based upon just one visit. I've had many others tell me that "Highlands reminds me of or Highlands is just like....." Other places in the world they've been and loved, I usually jokingly say, "Well, thanks, I've always wanted to go there, but now I don't have to — it's all right here in Highlands, why would I need to go anywhere else?"

Highlands has much to offer starting with the natural beauty and the

Do you belong in Highlands?

great climate and it just keeps going from there.

Highlands is a place where you can sequester yourself if you want, become almost reclusive, or you can move into town one day, and become a very important person in the community just by being involved — by belonging. It has been said that most people will have a short list of around three to five major affiliations, and others as they have time.

Where do you belong in Highlands? Probably more places than you realize. To be such a small community — Highlands offers enormous opportunities to belong. Like the current catch phrase "There's an app for



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

that" — just about whatever your interests, in Highlands, there's a place you belong.

One of the first questions you may ask yourself when moving to a new community is, "Where do I belong? Where can I fit in?" or if you are a professional that offers a state or national affiliation, you may wonder what the benefits

of belonging would be. The answers go hand in hand.

People tend to gravitate to like-minded people. If you like or want to know more about gardening, look for a garden club, if you are concerned about our environment, join one of the environmental groups like the Land Stewards, of the JCMA, Highlands History,

join the Highlands Historical Society, Scouts for the younger set, school bands. Some organizations have places for young people to be apart of their organization as well. There are writing groups, singing opportunities, crafting clubs, dancing, and on and on. The benefits you can realize by belonging to an organization are limited only to what you put into it. Don't just join — be a part — be 'on board' by getting on

• See INVESTING page 26

Super deal!

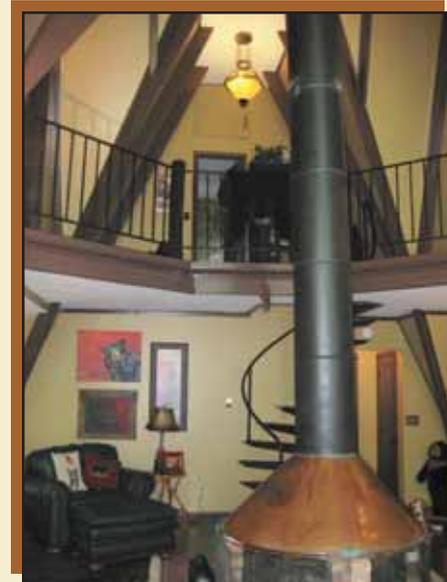
Was \$600,000 now \$389,000!



5 bedroom, 4 bath on almost 2 acres with creek, pond, gazebo. R.V. barn. 4,000 sq.ft. finished, 2,000 sq.ft. basement/garage.

Call Becky at Cabe Realty (828)526-2475

Webbmont • True Highlands Retreat in the Woods



Newly remodeled but kept all the fun, whimsical qualities of the original 1960s Chalet!

Open Floorplan surrounds center fireplace and
2-story windows bring beautiful foliage into your everyday decor

4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors, Kitchen features copper Farm Sink, wine rack, stainless appliances. Relax or dine in the trees on new expansive deck, also stone hardscapes and firepit for marshmallow roasts!

Winter views, walk to Lake Sequoyah or to dinner at ...on the Verandah, less than 2 miles from town

Sale includes many furnishings!!

\$409,900

WHITE OAK
REALTY GROUP



(828) 200-2642
mal@WhiteOakRG.com

Mal Phillips, Broker
125 South 4th Street

• REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS •

Properties for Sale



3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HOME WITH 2-CAR GARAGE, OFFICE, WALK-OUT BASEMENT IN PRIVATE GATED COMMUNITY THAT SURROUNDS A 17-ACRE LAKE. Offered for \$549,000 by Highlands Mountain Realty. Call Andrea Gabbard Owner/Broker 828-526-4858 for information.



GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD INSIDE HIGHLANDS CITY! Must see to appreciate this well built 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 1.8 acres with Satulah Mountain views, 2 car garage and partially finished basement. Contact Melanie Nix at Signature Properties at 828-200-0146.



EXCELLENT VALUE FOR HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP! 3.55 acres with well-maintained manufactured home, mountain view, mature landscape, end of road privacy and borders USFS. Must see to appreciate! \$167,000 Contact Melanie Nix at Signature Properties: 828-200-0146.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

The Best Mountain Views & a Home to Match! Large 3bdrm/3ba home with multiple decks, wine & media room. Comfort, awe-inspiring view, two-story stone fireplace. \$998,000. Call Mal Phillips (828) 200-2642.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

Bright Mountain, Cashiers. Quaint mountain home on 1.97+ gentle acres in a quiet setting featuring 2 bdrm home, 1 bdrm (as-is) guest house with kitchenette & workshop, \$190,000. Call Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

In-Town View Cottage. Updated and renovated, this 3 bdrm, 3 bath Mirror Lake area home features spacious master suite with fireplace & wet bar. Great mountain view! \$495,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffli (828) 371-2079.



COTTAGES ON CHESTNUT STREET." Highlands Best Kept Secret."Choice lots \$79,000 - \$150,000. Lots with cottages \$119,000 - \$209,000. Owner financing available. Call Charlie Dasher, developer/owner at 828-526-8645.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

Lodge-style Log Home with Exceptional Mountain Views. 4 bd/3 1/2 ba, gourmet kitchen, 3-acre lot, high-end finishes, gated community. \$798,000. Call Mal Phillips (828) 200-2642.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

6 Minutes to Town. Sweet cottage with beautiful Blue Valley views, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, open decking, and screened porch, \$274,000. Contact Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

44+ Acre Lakefront Estate. Scaly Mtn. Secret retreat on your own 8 acre lake, 1.5+ acre pond, 4bd, 3 fireplaces, hearty interiors finishes. \$4.28M. Call Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.



New Home

Exceptional view lots
828-371-1870

Hardscrabblerridge.com



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

Main St. Biz Opp. After 24 years, Highlands Hill Deli is available for some savvy entrepreneur. Great location (corner of Main & S. 4th, across from OEI). Cash cow. Call Mal Phillips (828) 200-2642.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

Spring St. Commercial/Residential. Zoned B-3. Charming, streamfront cottage perfect for retail or professional use. Great visibility! May be converted to walk-to-Main Street rental home. \$389,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffli (828) 371-2079.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP

3 Creekfront Lots. Tucked away in one of Highlands' most beautiful areas, these creekfront lots feature gentle building sites & lush vegetation. 2 lots inside private gate. Prices start at \$99,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffli (828) 371-2079.



Now only \$219,000!

60 OWL PINE, HIGHLANDS. Was \$249,900. Adorable furnished chalet only 2 miles to Main Street. 3/2 w extra parking. Call Tammy Mobley, Broker, Highlands NC Realty. 770-337-1000. www.HighlandsNC.info



Now only \$719,000!

91 BEARFOOT LANE, HIGHLANDS. Custom 3/3.5 with majestic mountain views, stone fireplace, 2 large decks and 4 miles to Main Street! Call Tammy Mobley, Broker, Highlands NC Realty. 770-337-1000. www.HighlandsNC.info

Vacation Rentals



VACATION RENTAL ON MIRROR LAKE - Lakeside, canoe & paddleboat, 3 private suites with bath, fireplace, kitchen, w/d, family and pet friendly. Call 828-342-2302.



COZY VACATION RENTAL COTTAGE FOR TWO ON MIRROR LAKE - fireplace, w/d, kitchen, bath, canoe and paddleboat access. Pet Friendly. Call 828-342-2302.

... ELECTION continued from page 1

Stiehler.

Stiehler is the golf course superintendent at High-

lands Country Club, he is 33 years old and has lived in Highlands since 2001. He sits on seven boards — Leadership Highlands, President, Rotary Club of Highlands, President Elect, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer and Chair Elect, Board member, Literacy Council, Board member, J-MCA (Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance), Macon County Economic Development Commission and the Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament Chair

He is married to Hilary and has a 6-year-old daughter, Anna, who is in 1st grade at the Highlands School.

Eric Pierson's family has been in Highlands for generations, too. He is self-employed – building, construction and project management. He served on the Highlands Planning Board for six years, on the Appearance Commission for six years, on the county's planning Board for eight years and currently sits on the Highlands Zoning Board and the ABC Board.

He is married to Katherine and two children Cayden and Croft.

The experience and backgrounds of the incumbents will be reiterated in subsequent articles.

The municipal election is Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011.

– **Kim Lewicki**

The Highlands Playhouse 2011 Cabaret Series limited engagement performance by Libby Whittemore. Thurs, -Sun., Sept. 1-4



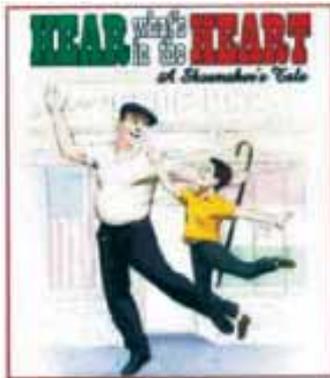
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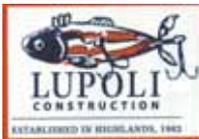
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... SWANSON from page 9

that austerity has rained on their non-stop party. Some see their freedoms being taken away. Some can't get a job. Some are just raising hell for the sake of doing so.

The best we can do when we go to the polls next November is to elect people who will fail us to some degree. Some of us thought that electing George Bush was the answer in stopping the mounting level of spending. The result was to the contrary. Granted, he had a Democrat Congress for most of his time in office, but I didn't see the leadership necessary to keep the genie in the bottle.

President Obama, he who was sent to save us, has turned out to be a total disaster. He has done more to destroy our country, and thus, our standard of living, than most of us thought possible in such a short period. His policies have not only allowed the unemployment rate to rise and remain horribly high, they have demoralized most of the country to the point of despair and hopelessness. Much of this has been created by his denying that we are a Christian Nation and his refusal to support Israel in their struggle with the Palestinians.

It is no surprise that the Godless countries of Europe are in deep distress. They decided long ago that they could prosper without faith. It's not working there, and it won't work here.

I'm not saying that a candidate who claims to be a Christian is going to save us from ourselves. I am saying that a leader who can restore the nation's Christian spirit that served us well until we abandoned it gives us a much better chance of overcoming the looming problems we face.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 8

tool. Yet, in terms of our faith, and especially as that relates to God, our same tendency to control can be counterproductive. If and when we retain control of any area of our lives from the Lord Jesus and His Spirit, we actually limit our possibilities. We diminish the very life we are trying to promote.

What do you think would happen if someone totally abandoned themselves to God? What do you suppose would be the ramifications if you were to give Jesus lordship over every facet of your life? How would our community, nation, and world be affected if the Church allowed the Holy Spirit to take total control of the Body of Christ?

The Holy Spirit of God came (and comes) to enrich and empower life, not to be controlled or to diminish life. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly—forever, starting right now! It's high time that we leave fruitless discussions behind and abandon our entire selves to God's Holy Spirit. Allow Him to dwell in you to empower and enrich your life. It may seem uncomfortable, and it may even seem unnatural but that is truly the only way to honest, abundant, Spirit-filled living.

Do God, heaven and hell exist? Sure they do. But I only know for sure because I've been born-again and know all three.



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... FEES continued from page 1

\$10 per incident fee daily if it means they can park where they want.

Commissioners agreed to charge \$50 per repeat offense after the first \$10 offense. The state maximum is \$50.

"The same people are doing it constantly; they know what they are doing; it's not a mistake," said Commissioner Gary Drake.

Chief Harrell said one repeat offender has received seven citations and has paid them all.

"Basically, they feel they can park where they want all day for \$10," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

The board tweaked an agreement between Highlands and Smith Rodgers Law Enforcement Legal Consultants to include an accountability clause in a contract with the town.

The firm is being hired to conduct a legal update, liability review and rewrite of certain portions of the Highlands Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual. The all inclusive fee is \$6,000 but Town Attorney Bill Coward said he thinks the town should know what the firm does and how long it took them to do it, regardless of the fixed fee.

Commissioners OK'd the closing of 4 ½ Street, Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 5-8 p.m. for a combined 150-year anniversary celebration of Colonial Pines and 4 ½ Street bed and breakfasts. Police Department road blocks will be put at the bottom and top of 4 ½ Street to deter through traffic but residents on the street will be able to drive to their homes.

Attorney Coward and Police Chief Bill Harrell continue to hammer out a firearms ordinance prohibiting weapons on town recreational property. It will mimic State Statutes as to the definition of weapons.

The brandishing of an AK-47 by a citizen on Rec Park property raised concerns when the police department realized there were no rules on the books prohibiting weapons on Rec property that are not concealed.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix suggested the town amend its pole attachment agreement to match the town's policy of charging per pole rather than per attachment which is how the ordinance now reads.

He also said, instead of defining distances between attachments – 52-inches or 40 inches – the ordinance should just say that all attachments, attachment clearances and associated facilities shall comply in all respects with all statutes, codes, rules, etc., required by the National Electric Safety Code, the Federal government, state of North Carolina, the NC DOT, the county, and the town. This way the ordinance is always in compliance with law.

Commissioners worried about the town losing money if not charging per attachment but so far the four companies – Northland, Frontier, Highlands Cable Group and Balsam West – only have one attachment each.

They decided that if in the future companies begin to put more than one attachment on poles and it looks like the town could make more money, the ordinance can be amended.

Town property is likely underinsured for replacement costs and so stock of all town property will be taken based on recent rebuilding, repairs, square footage construction costs, etc., so the insurance policy will cover the true replacement value of property.

Using the Performing Arts Center as an example, staff learned that the tax value is \$900,000, to build it from scratch would cost \$1.2 million but it's only insured for \$600,000.

Nix said a quick summation shows the town needs about three times as much insurance which begs a budget question.

"We need to know how much our premiums will increase and make sure we are budgeted for it," said Commissioner Patterson.

Applications for the Town Manager position are coming in daily.

– **Kim Lewicki**



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Highlander Soccer dominates second half of scrimmage

By Ryan Potts

Saturday morning saw the Highlands Highlanders face the Franklin Panthers in what would be the Highlanders final tune-up before beginning the regular season this Wednesday. Last year, Franklin and Highlands had two epic games, the first which saw the Highlanders erase a late deficit on the road and the second in which the Panthers came

back from 3 goals down to win in Highlands.

The first half was a neck and neck affair between the Franklin varsity squad and the Highlander varsity squad that ended at the break the same way it began, although the tie was 1 to 1. Isaac Beavers scored the goal for the Highland-

ers in the first half. In the second half, the Highlanders played their second group against the JV's of Franklin in what turned out to be no contest. Highlands scored 6 goals in the second half, with Beavers adding another and Matt Rodriguez finishing two. Dax Lloyd, Tyler Mu-

nger and Ryan Vinson all added goals for the Highlanders in what finished up as a 7-2 rout.

The Highlanders open their season today with a road game at Pisgah in Canton. Their first home match will be Tuesday, August 23rd against Brevard.

Lady Highlanders look to build on stellar season

By Ryan Potts

Last fall, the Highlands Lady Highlander volleyball team reached the third round of the state playoffs for the first time in school history, and with that in mind, expectations will be high for the

upcoming season. The Lady Highlanders return three players from last year's squad in Julianne Buras, Sayne Feria and Jenny Coram. While some might think that losing 5 seniors from last year's team might be cause for a rebuilding year, Lady Highlander coach Kyle McKim is cautiously optimistic about the upcoming season.

The talk in the preseason this year amongst McKim and assistant coaches Caroline McKim and Lindsay Gearhart has been the impressive turnout for volleyball this season. Nine incoming freshmen and a transfer student have helped to replenish the numbers vacated by the senior class, and it has allowed for some flexibility in preseason workouts. In terms of preseason workouts, the team has been focusing primarily on physical

conditioning and rotations in preparation for the season. Every evening, the girls can be found running on the track or around the lake before practice, and in the week before school started the girls had practice two times a day.

Despite the youth of the team and the losses from last year, Coach McKim still has high expectations for the season. "Our goal is always to win conference and make the playoffs," said McKim. "As long as we work hard and do our best, we are going to have a shot to reach our goals and perhaps even exceed them." The Lady Highlanders opened the season yesterday, but results were not available at press time. The next home match will be Tuesday, August 23 against Rosman.

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... LETTERS continued from page 6



Bob Weber, who first drew attention to the peril a 100-year-old Maple tree faced on the Post Office construction site, snapped these shots Aug. 10, from across the street at the Farmers Market. He heard the trackhoe operator say "That's a done deal." Weber and others in the community hoped it would be saved.

The 100-year-old Maple comes down

Dear Editor,

Well, Jane Woodruff is giving me, or shall I say, forcing on me, something I don't want and none of us need, namely, a new post office. Instead, she has taken away from me something I did want and all of us needed, namely, a stately old red maple tree. So much for philanthropy.

It will only be a matter of years before the new post office building becomes obsolete or undesirable for

whatever reasons, and will therefore be torn down in typical American throw-away fashion. Apparently, in some people's eyes, even 100-year-old trees fall into this category. So much for some people's self-professed conservatism and environmental consciousness. Is this what some people mean when they say "Go Green?"

Alice Nelson
Highlands

... on this day

Aug 17, 1934

First civilian prisoners arrive at Alcatraz.

Out in the Pacific, an island had risen that was a perfect location for a good prison.

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it was perfect for a house of correction.

A good deal of the mystique was, out of here, you could not sneak. Some of the folks who called it home were Machine Gun Kelly and Alphonse Capone.

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... the history guy



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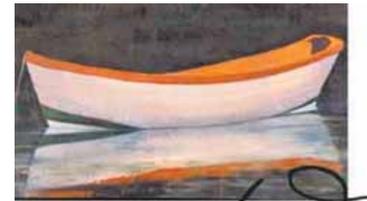
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

Highlands PD log entries from Aug. 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Aug. 9

• Officers conducted a canine search of a home while assisting another agency serve a warrant at a residence on Paul Walden Way.

• At 8:24 p.m., citizens reported a mama bear and two cubs being chased by a tourist on Spruce Street.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers assisted Highlands Fire & Rescue control traffic at the site of a rescue operation on the Cullasaja River.

• At 10:18 p.m., officers conducted a canine search of a car on NC 106.

Aug. 10

• At 10 a.m., a breaking and entering with a larceny of a 24 pk of Budwieser beer was reported at Bryson's Food Store.

Aug. 11

• At 7:55 p.m., people who parked their car

in a driveway on Brock Court were told to move it and not return.

Aug. 13

• At 9:15 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on Brooks Road.

• 4:40 p.m., Xtreme Threads on Main Street reported a \$49 item shoplifted from the store.

• At 4:50 p.m., Potpourri on Main Street reported about \$75 worth of goods shoplifted from the store.

• At 8:27 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 106 and HCC entrance.

• At 9:32 p.m., construction noise on N. 5th Street was reported but it was unfounded.

Aug. 14

• A little after midnight, an agitated mama bear and two cubs were reported outside the town's public restrooms.

• At 10 a.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at Bryson's Food Store where power tools, alcoholic beverages and

Aug. 15

• At 12:30 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

• During the week, police officers issued 24 citations and responded to 5 alarm activation.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from August 9

Aug. 9

• At 3:21 p.m., the dept. rescued a 18-year-old female who fell 25 ft. from a waterfall and landed on a rock in the middle of the river. The falls were above Bust Your Butt Falls. The rescue team used ropes and a basket to get her across the river. She was taken to Goldmine Church where the MAMA helicopter picked her up and

transported her to Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville. She had severe leg and other injuries.

Aug. 10

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 106. There were no injuries.

• At 4:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crescent Drive.

Aug. 14

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 10:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• REVIEW •

'Always...Patsy Cline' at The Playhouse

By Stuart Armor

Highlands Playhouse opened its third production of the 2011 season with 'Always...Patsy Cline' to a nearly sold out, enthusiastic crowd. This is the second time this show and these two popular performers have been on the stage in Highlands, and I think it is even better than it was the first time.

Cindy Summers, as both director and performer, and Maria Vee, playing the part of fan, then friend, bring author Ted Swindley's play to larger than life in this part musical review/part insightful view into a short period of two women's lives.

The story, by Ted Swindly, is based on the unlikely but true events that started in 1957, when Houston housewife Louise Seger first heard Patsy Kline on the author Godfrey Show. The show details the admiration Seger has for Cline's music, her eventual meeting with her hero in 1961 in a Houston clubhouse, the close friendship that developed, and her sorrow in hearing of Cline's all too early death in 1963. Through out the story, Patsy Cline herself (Well, you almost think it could be) sings some of her best, and best loved, songs, that fit the story so perfectly they might

have been written for the show. The songs and the story will make the entire house smile, cry, and sigh.

Summer's powerful and soulful voice and stunning 50's/60's stage outfits do indeed make you feel Patsy herself is in the building, and Vee's lively, funny, sexy, sweet portrayal of Seger, as well as both women's artful interaction with the band (in this show, the musicians are not just stuck in the pit, they are in the show and on the stage, from curtain to curtain) combine to bring plenty of action to the play.

In a completely unscientific survey, that consisted of me asking a dozen friends during the intermission, about half the audience called it Summer's show, and about half feeling Vee was the lead character.

The show sold out for many of the performances when it was last on stage at the Playhouse, and will probably do the same this time, so those who wait too long may be taking a risk of missing this terrific, engaging, piece of stage craft.

'Always...Patsy Cline' will be running July 28th through Aug 20, evening performances at 8pm, Sunday matinees at 2:30. Call the Playhouse box office for further information, 828-526-2695.



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... INVESTING continued from page 16

the board — that's truly the best way to see how any organization works.

One of the questions posed to Realtors is "Do you live here year round?" and then when we respond positively, they can't help themselves but to ask "But, what is there to do around here?"

There is not enough room in this paper to list all the things there are to do in Highlands — and a lot of them begin with BELONGING. Take church for instance. You can go to church, sit there through the sermon on Sunday morning, and go home and that's it until the next Sunday, or you can be in-

involved, join and/or teach a Bible study, Sunday school, the choir, volunteer to be on/and/or chair committees. The same goes for any group or organization of which you want to be a part. It does no good to complain about a group's activities (or inactivity) if you, yourself aren't in the trenches doing your best to follow the mission statement of your group to make it the best it can be.

The best way to get started is to evaluate your ideals, and maybe start with one or two groups. It's also important to listen. Listen to what is being

said, and refrain from trying to interject "This is how we did it where I came from..."

Most of the groups you will belong to are all volunteer-run. Community volunteerism is vital to the growth and well-being of any community, and makes us all feel needed — like we belong.

For our Highlands community, one of the best examples that come to mind is our Thanksgiving weekend celebration. Many years ago, the Christmas Carols were sung around the 'town tree' behind Town Hall. I've been there when there were only about 20- 30 people -- over the years it has grown to the big celebration held downtown each year. There are people that come to High-

lands just for that celebration; they want their children to be a part of a community that still does things together — to belong together.

Whether you are here year round, or just visiting, you're probably here because you want to be and isn't that a great feeling?

Get out a piece of paper and a pen, and write down where you would like to belong and then get involved, there are other people waiting to welcome you to their group with open arms.

• Tucker and Jeannie Chambers are co-owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, and have both belong to numerous organizations and serve on the boards of some, as is their family tradition.

Mountain Findings continues its quest

Right: J-MCA is a grassroots conservation organization whose mission is to address environmental issues through education, advocacy, collaboration and hands-on initiatives. The donation from Mountain Findings will be applied to fund the Highlands Sustainable Solutions Project. This project will build on local natural resources while fostering community involvement in local environmental protection problem solving. Pictured are Dot Wood (Mountain Findings volunteer), Michelle Price, Executive Director, and Robert E. Smith, Board Chairman.



... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

David A. Rohrer

David A. Rohrer, age 82, of Highlands, NC died Tuesday, August 16, 2011. He was born in Geary County, Kansas, the son of the late Harold A. Rohrer and Helen Whitehair Rohrer. He was a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army, serving 27 years, including time during WWII and the Korean Conflict. He worked as an engineer for John Deere and Prime Mover.

Later, he became known as "The Weaver" in Highlands, and produced elegant, artisan handwoven fabrics. He was a member of the Rotary Highlands Club and the WNC Civil War Round Table. Colonel Rohrer also served on the boards of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Zoning Board and the Hudson Library; and delivered Meals on Wheels for ten years. He was active in Our Lady of the Mountains church.

Colonel Rohrer is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marjorie Moon Rohrer; four daughters: Theresa Anne Jehlik and husband Richard of Omaha, NE, Jennifer Rohrer Rodriguez and husband Joseph of Marietta, GA, Catherine Lynn Hahn and husband Frank of Muscatine, IA and Jeanne Marie Carlson and husband Lyle of O'Fallon, MO; two sons: Richard Floyd Rohrer and wife Patricia of Kerrville, TX and Karl Andre Rohrer and wife Christine of Vienna, VA; one sister: Ruth Johnson of Albuquerque, NM; one brother: Hugh Rohrer of Naples, FL. Eight grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am. Saturday, Aug. 20 at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church. The family will receive friends Friday, Aug. 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC.



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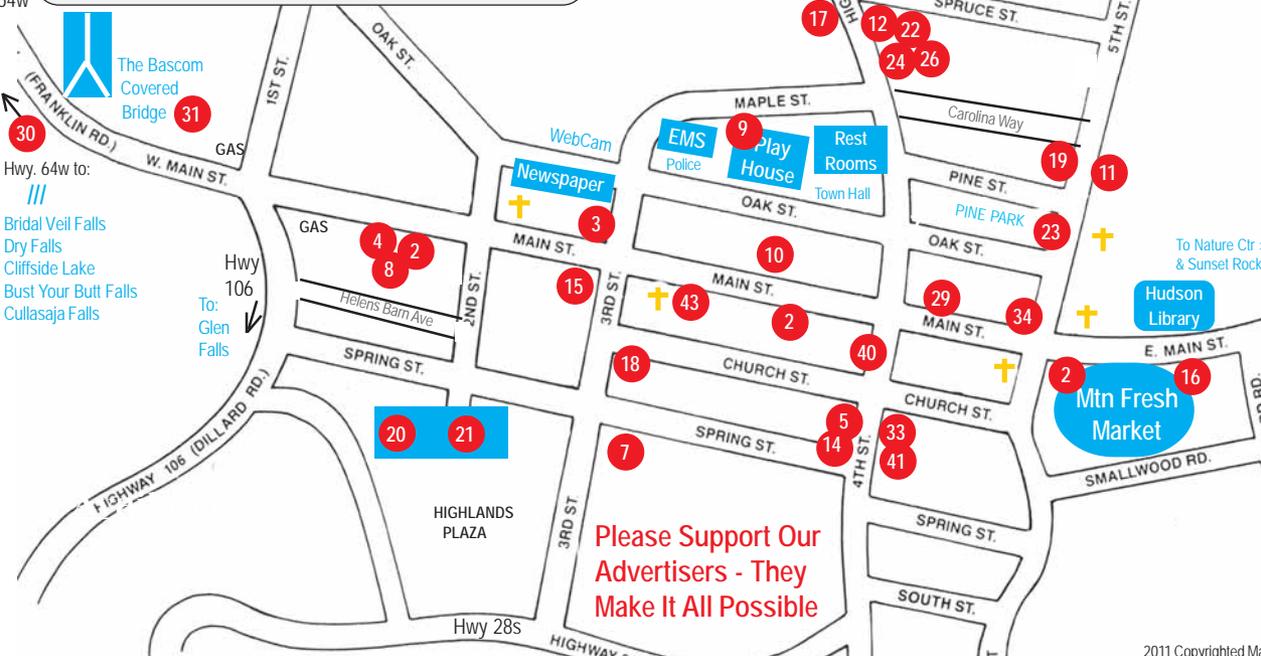
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