

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 34 6,000 Internet Reads at www.HighlandsInfo.com • Click Local News Wednesday, Aug 24, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
80	61F 81	60F 79   59F

**Wednesday, Aug. 24**  
 • At 2 p.m., the Interlude -- Market Street Brass Quintet at First Presbyterian Church. It's free.  
**Thursday, Aug. 25**  
 • At Highlands Smokehouse, Karaoke at 9p.  
**Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 25-28**  
 • HCP's "Sirens" at the Performing Arts Center. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 matinee. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for students. Call 526-8084.  
**Fri. & Sat., Aug. 26-27**  
 • At ...on the Verandah, a sing-along with the piano man 9-11p in the Dug Out Lounge.  
**Saturday, Aug. 27**  
 • At the Hen House on Main Street, an in-store demonstration by Sallies Greatest Jams from 10-4.  
 • At Dusty's Afternoon Tea from 3-4:30p. \$10 per person. Call for reservations. 526-2762.  
 • At Ruka's Table, a Wine Tasting 4:30-6:30p and Jazz Music starting at 6:30p  
 • Eco Tour: Cherokee Trails of Jackson and Macon Counties Walk. Learn about local Cherokee heritage and the evolution of Indian trails to our modern road system. Contact: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.  
 • Scaly Mountain Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Scaly Mountain Community Center on Buck Knob Road.  
**Sunday, Aug. 28**  
 • At Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th Street, an Open House from 2-4 p.m. (next to the Civic Center).  
 • At Highlands Smokehouse, Fiddlin' Mitch at 6p.  
**Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 1-4**  
 • The Highlands Playhouse 2011 Cabaret Series with Libby Whittemore and musical director and accompanist Robert Strickland with Lyn DeRamus on bass and Dennis Durrett-Smith on drums. Showtimes are Sept 1-3 at 8 pm and Sunday Sept 4 at 2 pm. For tickets call the Box Office at (828) 526-2695.

## Group to push for safe slopes in county

**Will urge MC Commission to pass sensible slope ordinance**

The act of protecting owners of property on steep slopes, as well as those at the foot of steep slopes in Macon County, has become, like so many other

issues these days, a political football.

Though the Macon County Planning Board's Slope Development Committee was tasked

with the job of researching the need and then possibly coming up with an ordinance that would allow development on slopes

•See STEEP SLOPE page 10

## Reading program a winner

**By Luke Osteen**

The Macon County Board of Education Monday night examined the results of a summer reading program that produced significant improvement in students' performance.

Participants in the four-week Lindamood-Bell Learning Program held at East Franklin Elementary School – both teachers and students — took turns telling the board how they'd benefited. Fifty-four students and 18 teachers from throughout the Macon County system took part in the program.

"I used to not like reading because I just couldn't understand what they were trying to tell me," explained student Noah Baird. "Now when I read books, I understand them and I can picture them in my head. I can talk to my parents about them."

Reading teacher Katharine Brown said that over the years she'd tried six different reading programs before the Lin-

•See READING page 19

## Boys win first game of season



Wednesday, Aug. 17, Highlands School played at Pisgah, in Canton, a 2A school. The score stayed 0-0 until the last 5 seconds of the game when Isaac Beavers, above, kicked/assisted and Temba Lama chested it in for a goal and the win.

Photo by Lisa Osteen

## County stands up to State

On the heels of sending a resolution to the North Carolina Utilities Commission object-

ing to Duke's intention to raise rates by 17% comes the news

•See STANDS page 11

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## ETJ is on the line

Monday night's Planning Board meeting resurrected the ill feelings, mistrust, even hatred citizens in the ETJ harbor against the town, government in general, and the country clubs since November 6, 2005 when ETJ was adopted.

At the urging of Commissioner Larry Rogers who wants the Town Board to abolish ETJ, the Planning Board was tasked to recommend whether to keep or abolish it.

After a 1 ½ hour meeting where 30 citizens turned out to speak against ETJ, the board voted 5-2 to recommend abolishing it – as long as commissioners consider the mission of the town's Land Use Plan while doing so.

Thomas Craig, Patrick Leonard, John Underwood and ETJ representatives John Crowe and Mike Bryson voted to abolish ETJ. Linda Clark and Alan Marsh voted to keep it. For Clark and Marsh it's about protecting property rights, not taking them. But proponents of abolishing

•See ETJ page 19

The Highlands' Newspaper office at 265 Oak Street is once again Open for Business. All repairs have been made and the result is a fresh new face! Come see us!

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

### Americans need to grow a spine

Dear Editor,  
I do enjoy Fred's columns and sense of humor — maybe it is because we are both senior citizens! While I agree with much in your column "The slime inside the beltway" in the Aug. 10 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, you could have pursued one point further and maybe, just maybe, hit home in the heart of some readers who are guilty.

Yes, I believe that many elected officials become tainted and rich from the system — but I have known others who never benefited from the job but gave up.

However, my main concern is with the MAJORITY who refuse to become informed, or God forbid express an opinion just in case it offends someone within earshot. (I know that does not apply to you or to me.) I for years (and I lived in Broward County, FL for almost 40 yrs.) have spoken out to our officials about the benefits paid to our employees in the public sector — yes, yes I know your history! But it got out of hand and we could not afford it nor could the future residents. I remember a small town in Dade County going bankrupt because of its retiring work force.

I hammered acquaintances about the lack of qualifications about candidates — most importantly the current President/ Do they want to hear it? No! "Hush" they say, "don't talk politics or religion." Since when are they in the same category? The lack of knowledge astounds and saddens me.

I believe your newspaper leans way to the left, but because you and Don Swanson still write columns, I will continue to read it thoroughly and patronize those who advertise.

But since you are so well read by the public, touch on the subject of "taking a stand," getting their news from other than the liberal media, and form an opinion!

I fear for the cowardice of these "nice" Americans as they may take us



### 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.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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all to hell in a handbasket!

Thanks for listening and God Bless — we may not be able to put that in print soon!

Jeri Spinella  
Sapphire, NC  
Jensen Beach, FL

### Salzarulo offends Tea Partiers

Dear Editor,

I must say that I enjoyed Dr. Salzarulo's two columns – Aug. 7 and Aug. 10 issues — where he provides insight into his youth and how it has affected how he deals with his son. It is so much more heartwarming to hear him speak as a father rather than a critic.

I was too angry to write when he wrote the column on "snuff" films — I had no prior knowledge of the beast — but I soon came to realize it would not be to my liking.

However, in trying to be informative, did he find it necessary to offend by saying that there would be no shortage of applicants for the role from the Tea Party Group? He does not know me, but I have attended several rallies where people have cried out against some government policies. But because I chose to be active — not offensive — only carrying an American Flag, he lumped me in a category of which he knows nothing. I have been surprised that he offered no apology for that smear and frankly, I was shocked at him lowering himself to that level. I may not always agree with him but I thought he was more honorable. I'll bet Bull would not have approved!

Jeri Spinella  
Sapphire  
Jensen Beach, FL

### Wake up, America!

Dear Editor,

While I have not gotten to Highlands much this summer, I was there and read Fred Wooldridge's column in the Aug. 10 issue. It hit the nail right on the head. People in this great country of ours had better wake up, or we will lose it. I wish I knew how to send his article to every newspaper or magazine

• See LETTERS page 18

# • OBITUARY •

## Gordon Madison Houston

Gordon Madison Houston, age 31, of Highlands, NC, passed away peacefully at home, Monday, August 22, 2011. He was a native of Macon County the son of Jane Talley Houston of Highlands, NC and the late John Willis Houston. He was a 1999 graduate of Highlands High School, and loved to hunt and fish.

In addition to his mother he is survived by three brothers, Stanley Houston and wife Angie, Stacy Houston, and Scott Houston all of Highlands, NC; one neph-

ew, Christopher Houston of Waynesville, NC also survives.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, August 24 at 2 pm in the Chapel of BryantGrant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. Matt Shuler officiating. Burial will be in Clear Creek Community Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Christopher Houston, Mike Wilson, Lester Norris, and Buddy Miller.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# • THANK YOU •

## Thanks to our firefighters

To all the firefighters who came to our aid on August 8, a heartfelt "thank you." These words seem so underwhelming in trying to describe the feelings of gratitude and admiration we gained for our highly skilled Highlands Fire and Rescue team, as well as for the Cashiers/Glenville, Scaly and Cullasaja Gorge fire fighters. You came on the scene with a determination, not only to put out the fire, but to keep it from devastating our lives.

We recognize that many of you are highly trained volunteers, giving of your time and energy to serve and protect our community. We thank you for your competency and professionalism, not only in fighting the fire, but also in tending to us with an incredible sensitivity, as if our home was your very own. We are humbled by your unselfishness.

In Highlands, we can boast of many things—from lush, green, forested moun-

tains to starry, starry skies, yet these natural wonders pale in comparison to the quality, integrity and fine character of our own people, especially you, our fire fighters. We honor you for being selfless, skilled and committed to making our community stronger and resilient.

May God bless and watch over each and every one of you.

In sincerest gratitude,  
Rick and Margaret Eichman

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– Sally Dent Porth

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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### What's in your pie?



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!**  
**askfredanything@aol.com**

**T**o start, here's a few famous Mississippi sayings from the past you might enjoy reading....maybe not....especially if you're from Mississippi.

One of my favorites is, "I'd rather have a sister working in a whorehouse than have her live in Mississippi for even one day." And here's another. "Never marry the girl whose name appears on the water tower unless, as is usually the case, all the girls' names in town appear on the water tower." How about, "First Prize: One week vacation to Mississippi. Second Prize: Two week vacation to Mississippi. Third prize: Well, you get the picture.

Ha, obviously this is my week to pick on folks from the great state of Mississippi, a land full of weird people with close

together, beady eyes and large foreheads. And the reason I'm pickin' on Mississippi this week is because I just saw the movie "The Help" and I am furious....appalled....devastated....shocked

by what I saw. How could those maids and housekeepers have treated their masters....I mean their employers....in such a cruel way? Have they no respect for white folk? Ha, how about NO.

And what Mississippi couple would wake up one morning pregnant and want to name their baby "Skeeter?" What?

In the cultured state of Kentucky where I came from, a skeeter is a blood sucking insect to be swatted on warm summer nights. Skeeter? Get real. In Mississippi, a skeeter is a girl who writes about the plight of the hired help and eventually has to move to New York to keep from getting lynched...or swatted. I guess it could've been worse. They could have named her "Cockroach."

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 6

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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## A league of their own

One of the first Haitians I ever cared for was a young man who had walked 12 hours to reach our small hospital in Cange. He was suffering from a testicular torsion, a condition in which the testicle twists within the scrotal sack, interrupting its blood supply, producing severe pain and if untreated, death of the testicle. I can't imagine walking 12 minutes with a testicular torsion, but I'm not Haitian.

The only surgeon in our group was a gynecologist who was at first unwilling to operate. He suggested punting the patient to Port Au Prince, where he would have remained untreated. I'd seen the operation often enough so I persuaded Hank I could talk him through it. The testicle survived, though I have no way of knowing if it was still capable of producing sperm.

The story is not about our effort; it is about Joseph, a young man, a boy really, who trudged 12 hours, accompanied only by his older brother with a condition that would have left any of us writhing in our beds. I failed to learn a lesson about Haitians from the experience.

After the earth quake, surviving Haitians, most homeless, all hungry, and many injured, responded to the crisis with great dignity, patience, and virtually no violence. I saw a crowd of hungry peasants pressing close to truck unloading 50-pound bags of rice, hands outstretched for a bit of food. Guards easily drove them back using tree limbs for whips. Of course, there were tears and wailing when a family member died, as many did. But even in loss, the Haitians



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

managed to repress the rage they must have felt. I failed to learn a lesson about Haitians even from that experience.

Last week we returned to Haiti determined not to forget, as most of the world has done.

At the time of the quake, relief workers expressed a common concern, one I found myself parroting; "Haiti is a hard place to live, even with two legs. It will prove impossible to live after an amputation. We must provide prosthetic limbs." Even as we said it, we were well aware of the world's short memory span, and the difficulty of supplying, fitting, and maintaining the artificial legs. We still hadn't learned much about Haitians.

Our trip was somewhat disappointing. We weren't able to do as much surgery as we would have liked. There are always impediments to progress in Haiti. Inadequate maintenance and frequent power interruptions take a toll on equipment. There were days when we were forced to delay surgery until the hospital had water. We did what we could; removed a few rotting limbs, surgically corrected fractures so bones would heal straight, even removed a painful lumbar disk in a patient suffering severe pain. But as I guy who always wants more, I found it too little.

My heart was heavy as we rode back to the Port Au Prince airport. Then we witnessed a scene which, once and for all, taught me the lesson that for so many years I had failed to learn.

On a dusty field two teams were playing soccer. All the players were amputees.

• See SALZARULO page 6



Haitian amputees play soccer on a typical Saturday in Haiti.

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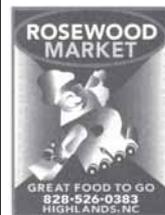
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Anyway, being born and raised in the cultured state of Kentucky during the '40s and '50s, "The Help" hit home with me and brought back many memories. My parents were in the restaurant business with lots of kitchen help and my Pa always said, "Be nice to the people who are fixin' your food." What a mouthful (ha) that statement was.

Even to this day, some rich people mistreat their kitchen help. What are they thinking? Well, they should be thinking the unthinkable. If you're reading this, have seven figures in your bank account and hire people, regardless of color, to cook and clean for you, get your fanny to the movies and see "The Help." And don't ja just know that every single person of means who has their food prepared for them will worry from that day forward. Fun, fun, fun! Even worse, how about the kitchen help reading this and a light just went off in their heads. Hmm, Hmm, Hmm!

And once again, years of police work have given me a view of the more seedy side of life. I've known lots of kitchen help in my day. I've known lots of kitchen help with criminal records in my day and I've known lots of kitchen help who hated cops who worked in restaurants where cops frequented. Are your getting the picture?

I once interviewed a criminal in the Dade County jail and during the course of our discussion he told me that in the 18 years he worked as a short-order cook, a meal for a cop never left the kitchen without his spit in it. He was sooooo proud of his achievement as he grinned at me, displaying three beautiful gold plated front teeth and said, "All the kitchen help like to spit on cops' food. Ain't it tasty?"

Years ago, the li'l missus and I were on a cruise and, as usual, were given seat assignments for dinner. There was this one couple I called "Mr. & Mrs. Complainer." He was worse than her.

Nothing was ever right and he sent back every plate that reached his table, sometimes twice. On about the tenth day at sea, I leaned over and whispered, "They're spitting on your entree. In fact, if you're lucky, that's all they're doing to your entree. They hate your guts and they know they'll never see you again." He was stunned and never complained about a thing for the rest of the cruise.

So remember, folks, be kind to those who prepare your food, especially when they serve you that delicious and awesome looking piece of chocolate pie. Yum, yum!

• Fred's new mystery/thriller titled Deceived is available at Shakespeare's in Highlands, Chapter Two in Cashiers and Prater's in Clayton....or e-book at all major outlets.

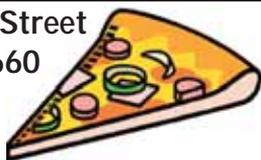
## ... SAZARULO from pg 5

Using their crutches, they vaulted down the field, kicking the ball as they went. They moved swiftly, gracefully on aluminum crutches and without fancy prostheses. We laughed when a player corralled the ball with his crutch, wondering if the maneuver was legal, if the crutch was considered a leg or an extension of the arm.

They were doing what they had done before disaster struck; having fun, playing soccer on Saturday morning. They were doing what Haitians have always done; making do, making the best of what they had, surviving despite torments imposed by man and nature. These Haitians, these amputees, had a league of their own, but more importantly, were in a league of their own.

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## Sports Page



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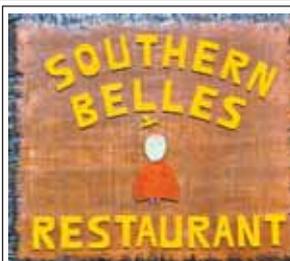
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# • COACH'S CORNER •

## Drury was one of a kind



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

game tying goal in the waning seconds to lead the Sabres to a series victory. Drury's last bout of heroics came in the 2010 Winter Olympics, when he scored what would prove to be the game winning goal in a 5-3 upset of Canada in group play.

While Drury's retirement may not be news to a great number of Americans who do

not follow hockey, I don't think one needs to be a hockey fan to appreciate the remarkable career that Drury has had. In the span of just over 20 years, the guy has won a LLWS championship, a NCAA Championship, a Stanley Cup, and his personal accomplishments include rookie of the year in the NHL and MVP of NCAA Hockey. To me, that is one heckuva resume that needs a bit more celebration.

## Victory at the last second

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders knew that traveling to Canton last Wednesday to face the 3A Pisgah Bears would be a good test for their revamped lineup, but they knew that as long as they worked hard, they would enjoy the outcome. Fortunately for Highlands, that outcome was a positive one as Junior Temba Lama followed home a free kick from Isaac Beavers to give the Highlanders a victory with only 5.1 seconds left in the match.

While the final score was certainly what the Highlanders were looking at, it was not a reflection of the play that Highlands demonstrated on the field. Their revamped lineup from last year is built more on speed than the aerial attack that they relied upon last season. More speed allows for more opportunities, and the Highlanders certainly had more than their share, dominating possession for the majority of the match but unable to put home a winner until Lama's late goal. "We certainly had our chances," said Highlander Coach Chris Green. "That's why perseverance is so important in soccer, because we had a lot of chances and it would be easy for these kids to become frustrated when you can't put a goal on the board. But they kept after it and kept

• See SOCCER page 17

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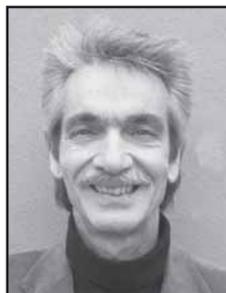
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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Give Jesus your hand; he's waiting for you

**Pastor Dan Robinson**  
Highlands Central Baptist Church



A couple of my friends just returned from Belize, Central America. While there, they went tubing. The expedition was replete with the river running through underground caves, life jackets and helmet-mounted lights.

At one point, the guide pointed to a certain spot wherein there lay a Ferdelance (the first time I'd heard the name). Also known locally as a Tommygoff. A snake.

This reptile, according to the guide, has an almost irreversible loathing for the water. The snake was stuck in the cave not by choice but by virtue of flooding waters. The rising river picked him up from wherever he was and deposited him where he didn't want to be. Soon the waters receded but the snake stayed put. Now, his options are only two; take the risk. Slide into the water and very shortly be back on blessed dry terra firma. Too bad that no one can tell the snake. The guide is rather certain the Ferdelance will end his days there in a dark, damp cave.

I think this story is an apt parable of our own lives. Carried from where we are to where we don't want to be, the waters of heartache, disappointment, poor health, failed marriages, wayward children, and much more, rise quickly and move fast.

When the waters abate, there we are in a place we never wanted to be. And our options, forgive me, are rather much like the snake's. We can stay there, mentally, emotionally, sometimes physically, and die or, we can take a risk and move on in life.

Jesus Christ is a great and loving Savior. Nothing is impossible with Him. He can extricate us from any place or situation. He isn't afraid of anything and he absolutely controls the waters. He can take you from where you are to the solid ground of a personal relationship with him.

Some would consider following Jesus Christ a risk. Uncertain. But that's not true at all. He is the only sure thing in all of life. Go ahead. Give Him your hand. Let Him lead you out of the dark, damp cave. You don't belong there. And do it now, won't you? He is waiting to give you His help.

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John 3:16

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Proverbs 3:5

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,

Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 p.m.

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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## • CONSERVATIVE POV

Delicious irony  
again strikes  
old buddy Al Gore.

I don't know about you, but with the country sizzling through July, I kept on waiting for Al to sound off and try and resurrect his global warming shtick. Nothing. Silence. Nada. Zip. What's up with that? Evidently world opinion has so discredited his hair-brained theory that he dared not use the really hot mid-summer to support it. He must, I'm thinking, be tied in knots (maybe it's just wishful thinking on my part.)

Anyway, evidently, Al could no longer be silent on the subject. Excerpting from newsmax.com: "Global warming crusader Al Gore lost his cool and dropped several s-bombs in a recent speech accusing climate change skeptics of manipulating the media. (I must interject at this point; you all know what a bull leaves behind after a good meal. Keep that in mind when I use the word bullroar, I am actually using it in place of what Gore actually said. Got it? OK.)

"Addressing the Aspen Institute in Colorado on Aug. 4, the former vice president declared that skeptics 'pay pseudo-scientists to pretend to be scientists to put out the message - 'this climate thing, it's nonsense. Manmade CO2 doesn't trap heat. It may be volcanoes.' Bullroar. 'It may be sunspots.' Bullroar. 'It's not getting warmer.' Bullroar."

Would the term "meltdown" (pun intended) be appropriate here?

The Hot Air Network's Green Room website, which reported the outburst observed: "It would almost be fascinating to listen to Gore lash out at those who harbor an opposing view if it weren't so pathetic."

New York Post columnist Andrea Peyser was even harder on Gore: "Has the guru of global warming, the Bozo of ozone and pooh-bah of the probably-not-so-endangered polar bear, gone completely off his bleeping rocker? I'm talking about Al Gore, the former vice president who, after losing the White House (Thank God!) reinvented himself as a minor deity - a Gulfstream-riding, energy slurping champion of Planet Earth."

once  
our



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

### It's getting hot in here!

One might wonder why I'm commenting on Gore's disgusting display when there are so many meaningful issues going on these days. Honesty compels me to admit - I enjoy it. I could write about the Obamarama bus tour. Maybe later.

I could write about his 10-day vacation to Martha's Vineyard. Maybe later. I could write about his promise to announce a can't-miss plan to eliminate unemployment and fix our tragic economy - in September. Why wait for a month? Why has he not put his plan into action months ago, yea, years ago? Maybe later.

Back to reality. From thenewamerican.com: "In recent years, former Vice President Al Gore has been the object of a great deal of humor - and ire - for his extremist views and hypocritical actions when it comes to the environment. But a bizarre rant from the man who was once heartbeats away from becoming President of these United States calls forth a term which Americans want nowhere near the Oval Office - unhinged.

The ideology of manmade global warming has fallen on hard times in recent years due to a series of revelations that have fundamentally undermined the credibility of the 'science' and its advocates. Beginning with 'Climategate' and 'Glaciergate' and continuing through such public spectacles as the implosion of the December 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, polling data has repeatedly demonstrated that the claims of climate change scientists have fallen on hard time with the public."

Enough of his lunacy. I don't take pleasure when someone truly does go off the rails but in his case, I think it's just the true vulgar nature of the man showing through. Good grief, he's made enough money from his "grand scam" - give it up Al; give us all a break. Although, I would miss his winter meetings when the coldest and snowiest weather in centuries invariably strike the meeting sites. I do believe that Gore has a supernatural ability, ironically, to attract cold weather. His record is nearly spotless in recent years.

There is an old saying - "good things

come in threes." I hold to the belief that it is true. I'm not superstitious, but I am hopeful. First, Bernie Madoff, swindler par-excellence, who, after 40 years of snookering the high-end, investing public out of \$65 billion, was outed and will now spend the next 150 years in the clink.

Second, back to good old buddy Al Gore, who was neutered intellectually but

still runs free, being vulgar and obtuse. Nobody knows for sure how much he has benefited by his various schemes based on the evils of what you are polluting the air with this very minute by exhaling CO2, but it is substantial, surely in the Madoff's vicinity. Al is still running around loose, but hopefully, someday, he will be subdued, shackled and sequestered.

What a wonderful completion of our hoped-for trifecta would it be to have our

• See SWANSON page 17

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## ... STEEP SLOPE continued from page 1

while protecting neighboring landowners, almost two years later neither the Planning Board nor the Macon County Commission can reach a consensus on how far the ordinance should go.

The committee, the Planning Board and the MC Commission are at a stalemate.

Of late, at the crux of the matter is the Slope Movement Hazard Maps which were created by the NCGS. The maps show evidence of "old" slope movement and potential new movement on slopes throughout Macon County, as well as Western NC, and as such are a logical tool to use in the formation of a steep slope ordinance, say proponents.

But minutes of the Aug. 2 MC Planning Board meeting illustrate the schism on the board.

Jimmy Goodman wanted the MC Commission to vote on whether the Planning Board should continue working on a Slope Ordinance at all and said he doesn't believe Macon County needs a Slope Ordinance right now.

But Al Slagle said the arguments concerning the maps were centered on emotions rather than facts and that the recommendations proposed by the Slope Development Committee represent compromise. "Any further compromise on the recommendations by the planning board would put public safety at risk," he said.

Larry Stenger said the Slope Movement Hazard Maps should be used as an educational component rather than a regulatory component because he's not comfortable with the "statistical probabilities" of the maps.

Lamar Sprinkle said he could not support a slope ordinance if the Slope Movement Hazard Maps were involved with the committee's recommendations. "I don't feel the maps created by the NCGS were created for the intent of developing ordinances," he said.

However, Lewis Penland said he didn't think the proposed ordinance recommendations were overly restrictive. "It would be a mistake to exclude the maps from a Slope Development Ordinance," he said. "Regardless of what happens with the ordinance, the maps will still exist and continue to be used more and more."

At the August Macon County Commission meeting, citizens against the steep slope ordinance – many who are aligned with Macon County's Tea Party and Property Owners of America — urged commissioners to scrap the idea.

But instead of completely scraping the idea, the board voted to uphold the Planning Board's decision which was to change

course for now and begin focusing on incorporating construction standards from the recommendations into the existing Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance.

But at the previous Planning Board meeting, Penland assured the Planning Board the Slope Ordinance would be revisited at a later date.

Now a group of Macon County citizens are fighting back.

MaconSense.org has launched a public outreach campaign to build support for a steep slope ordinance in the County.

Called MaconSense.org, the new organization has created a website with information about the issue, an online petition and other tools to allow the community to express its support for a slope ordinance.

Additionally, the group plans to reach out to Macon County citizens by organizing petition drives, planning public events and running public service advertisements on local media outlets.

"For too long special interest groups have dominated the conversation about steep slope development in

Macon County," said Kathy Tinsley, a spokesperson for the group. "MaconSense.org was created to make sure that everyday people have a voice in the future of their county."

The new group is not limiting itself to the slope development issue and hopes to bring together citizens of all walks of life and political persuasions to advocate for common sense solutions to important issues facing the county.

"Regular people have been pushed out of the process by all the heated rhetoric," said Tinsley. "That's a shame. We need our elected officials to move past partisan bickering and get back to serving the public

interest. The only way that is going to happen is if citizens feel like they have a say in the direction of our County."

According to MaconSense.org a slope ordinance would benefit the county by:

- Protecting property rights,
- Promoting economic development,
- Supporting local business,
- Reducing the risk of catastrophe,
- Preserving our valuable resources.

The most active opposition to a slope ordinance has come from property rights groups who oppose any land use regulation. But MaconSense.org contends that protecting citizens' property

• See STEEP SLOPE page 17

that Duke was already OK'd a 5% rate increase effective Sept. 1.

The 17% increase, which the company applied for in July to cover costs spent on retiring and replacing power plants and equipment to comply with environmental regulations, is a separate deal and if OK'd users could potentially see a 25% increase on their monthly bills. The 5% increase is to offset the company's recent fuel rating increase which incurred to generate power across its system. Duke maintains that the increase is needed to offset higher expenses for nuclear fuel and coal.

At it's Aug. 13 meeting, the Macon County Commission signed three petitions/resolutions requesting/opposing policies being considered by Duke in one case and the state in two other cases that will negatively affect Macon County and its citizens.

Duke's 5% increase was not discussed, as County Manager Jack Horton and the commission knew nothing about it. However, concerning the potential 17% increase, commissioners agreed "the timing and the size don't mix."

The resolution says "Macon County citizens continue to feel the effects of the downturn in the local, state and national economy, including a 10% unemployment rate in the county.

"Furthermore, there are many residents on a fixed or low income who are in no position to absorb such a significant increase and finally, "the timing of this proposed rate increase is particularly burdensome and would place an undue hardship on the citizens of Macon County."

Though encouraging the NC Utilities Commission to reject Duke's request, the commission doesn't expect miracles.

"The end game purpose of the county adopting this resolution is to decrease the potential increase," said Commission Chairman Brian McClellan.

Commissioner Kevin Corbin said unfortunately Macon County doesn't have much of choice because Duke is the only game in town.

But the board agreed if it says nothing, it would be like telling citizens to "just live with it" which isn't acceptable.

Macon County is just one of the state's 100 counties opposing Duke's increase.

The other two issues speak to the state's habit of lumping Western North Carolina into the same category as the rest of the state with no consideration to the area's topography or weather.

At the Aug. 13 meeting, the commis-

sion discussed a draft Petition for Adjustment to Need Determination which basically asks the state to issue a certificate of need for a dialysis center in Macon County.

Currently, the closest dialysis center is in Sylva, and given grueling winter weather of late, the life-sustaining and oftentimes life-saving trip from various points in the county to Sylva has been a tremendous hardship, reads the petition.

Having a dialysis center in the county would not cost the county anything, but private facilities need to know it will be profitable and before anything can happen, the certificate of need must be issued.

"There are only a handful of counties in the state - all in Western North Carolina - without a dialysis center and we are one of them," said Commissioner Ronnie Beale.

He said the mountainous terrain and road conditions during winter weather makes driving over Cowee Mountain for dialysis in Sylva very hazardous.

A final petition will be submitted for approval at the September commission meeting listing the adverse effects on the population if the certificate isn't issued; alternatives if the certificate isn't issued; the fact that duplication of services would not occur if the certificate is issued; and reiterating the fact that the commission is responsible for the safety, quality of life, access to medical care and the value of having a dialysis center in the county.

The third issue involves the opposition to the proposed merger of Southwestern Community College with others in the North Carolina Community College system.

"As commissioners we need to be proactive and tell our legislators not to throw a blanket over all the counties - to look at a map and see where we are," said Commissioner Beale.

Commissioner Corbin said he's all for sharing costs for the purposes of downsizing but legislators must look at the topography here where local control in this case is necessary.

Commissioner McClellan said it's clearly a hardship for students to drive 90 miles one way to take a specific course.

Among other things, the resolution states that SCC's three-county service area including Swain County is 1,534 square miles - an area 30% larger than the state of Rhode Island - and serves a population of approximately 78,000 people.

Also, based on the growing programs offered at the Macon campus; the coun-

• See STANDS page 17

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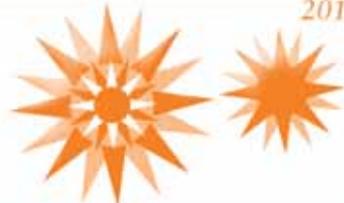
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PULL OUT

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

## Playhouse Debuts 2011 Cabaret Series



Even though the summer is slowly coming to an end, the Highland's Playhouse is still rocking all through September with their first ever cabaret series featuring Atlanta favorites Libby Whittemore and Nicole Chillemi.

Libby will be appearing on the playhouse stage for the first time, performing Broadway hits from "Anything Goes," "Gypsy," "Les Miserables" and any more. She also pays tribute to songwriters George & Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Rogers and Hart, plus female singers including Judy Garland, Patsy Cline and many more. Libby Whittemore will perform over Labor Day weekend, September 1-4. You do not want to miss her quick wit and powerful vocals.

Nicole Chillemi is also set to make her first appearance at the playhouse. She will feature her fresh versions of "The Best is Yet to Come", "You go to my Head", "Where and When" plus renditions of Tom Waits and Nick Drake. Nicole's Cabaret show will run from September 9-11.

Finally, *Always...Patsy Cline* is in its last week and will close this Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by the raffle drawing for the beautiful 2011 Ford Fiesta, courtesy of Franklin Ford. Tickets are still available for *Always...Patsy Cline* and the raffle. You can purchase your tickets for both and the Cabaret series by calling the box office at 828-526-2695.

### 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 Carolina 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, Highlands-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 Amer-

ican 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

### Through Aug. 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

## HCP'S 'Sirens' continues Thursday through Sunday

The North Carolina premiere of the charming and clever comedy, "Sirens," is the Highlands Cashiers Players first play of their new season. It continues Thursday through Sunday, August 25-28, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

The story concerns a middle-aged couple, Sam and Rose Abrams, who take a cruise to the Greek Islands, hoping to bring a little romance back into their marriage of 25 years. On this voyage, Sam and only Sam hears an irresistible melody wafting over the water and follows it to a strange destination where he encounters a siren—yes, a beautiful siren of ancient legend, luring ships to their destruction. Sam's adventure and its unexpected consequences when he returns home are totally entertaining.

The cast includes professional actor David Milford, four of HCP's veteran actors—Jenny King, Laura Zepeda, Michelle Hott, Marsha Shmaló—and a talented new actor, Chris Hess. The pro-



Laura Zepeda as the Siren in the Highlands Cashiers Players' production "Sirens" running through Sun., Aug. 28, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

duction team includes Steve Hott, Jim Gordon, Tanji Armor, Ruby Sanders, Ken Knight, Lance Trudel, Dean Zuch, Andy Timan, and Katie Flynn. John Williams designed the sound.

Comments heard among last week's audiences: "totally professional in all aspects".... "very modern with face-

book and cell phones"..... actors did a great job".... "tender and hilarious moments".... "a production worthy of the premiere in North Carolina."

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 matinee. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 person for groups of 15 or more. Seating is reserved, but tickets can also be purchased at the door before performances. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events


**PULL OUT**

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.

## 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. For more information, call 526-2112.

## Fridays & Saturdays

- At ...on the Verandah Restaurant on Lake Sequoyah, a Sing-A-Along between 9-11 p.m. featuring golden hits with resident pianist, cabaret songwriter-on-the-loose Chad Reed. Plus, Tantalizing Drink Specials!

- 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 Needlepointers 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.

## 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.

## Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 25-28

- HCP's "Sirens" at the Performing Arts Center. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 matinee. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for students. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

## 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

- A dance at the Franklin (NC) Community Building, Hwy 441 South-across from "Whistle Stop"

• See **EVENTS** page 14

## Come eat pancakes in Scaly



Plan to bring your family and friends to Scaly Mountain for a sumptuous breakfast in the mountains at the newly remodeled historic old Scaly School House.

The breakfasts are held on the fourth Saturday - May through October from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. This is the seventh year that the women in Scaly Mountain Women's Club, who are known for the culinary skills, have sponsored these breakfasts.

It will feature a full meal of piping hot homemade pancakes (with or without blueberries), patty sausage, coffee and juice in the historic old Scaly School House. (It is on the corner of N Highway 106 and Buck Knob Road in downtown Scaly).

Guests will be treated to a seated meal either in the old school house or on the deck overlooking the mountains. Cost is \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

The breakfast will be served by club members or you may order takeout, if you choose.

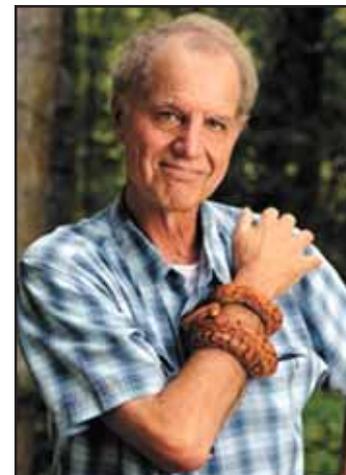
Proceeds from the event provide scholarships for local students of all ages who wish to continue their post-secondary education. They also benefit area non-profit human service agencies that serve the Scaly Mountain community. Come and join the best cooks in Western North Carolina for a morning of fun enjoying the friendly folks in Scaly Mountain and an unforgettable breakfast..

For more information, call Susan Bankston, (828) 526-9952.

## Thursdays at the Nature Center

### Sept. 1

*Some we love, some we hate, some we eat*



Our relationships with animals are varied and complicated. We can love some, hate others, and eat the rest. Anthrozoology is the study of the relationships between humans and animals, and is the basis for Dr. Hal Herzog's book, "Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals."

Join us on Thursday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> at The Highlands Nature Center for our "Think About Thursdays" closing event with Dr. Hal Herzog. Professor of Psychology at Western Carolina University, Dr. Herzog has investigated the complex psychology of our interactions with other species for over twenty years. He is an expert in the field with a sense of humor, ensuring that this Zahner Conservation Lecture will be beyond worthwhile. Visit [www.halherzog.com](http://www.halherzog.com) and be sure to check out his blog. The presentation will take place at 6 p.m. and is free of charge.

For more information about our Think About Thursdays series, 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](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

## Pianist to perform to benefit HCCDC

Pianist Randall Atcheson will perform at 5 p.m. Sept. 3 to benefit the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

The free concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. Patron and sponsor reserved seating is available by calling 526-0355. Donations to the HCCDC will be greatly appreciated.

Tuition and state subsidy programs cover only about 60 percent of the operating budget. Parents of the approximately 66 children who attend the center work for 50 to 60 businesses in our community.

The families depend on HCCDC and the businesses depend on these workers. This is a win-win situation for all. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this acclaimed pianist while supporting the HCCDC.

Randall is known as a musical Renaissance man who has recently performed his 10<sup>th</sup> solo concert at Carnegie Hall. This is an opportunity that will be unforgettable.



**Pianist Randall Atcheson**

**PULL OUT**

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events



2011

## The Shop at The Bascom

Enjoy Early Holiday Shopping  
Before Leaving the Plateau!

Hand Created by Regional Artists

Pottery

Textiles

Jewelry

Wood

Glass

Basketry

Art Books

and more

Unique and one-of-a-kind!



Currently featuring the ceramics of  
**Frank Vickery**  
Resident Potter

Monday-Saturday, 10 am-5pm  
Sundays, 12 noon- 5 pm

[TheBascom.org](http://TheBascom.org)  
828.526.4949

## The Center for Life Enrichment

PRESENTS:

- Fri, Aug 26 **Can the USA Democratize the World?** with Dr. Charles Wise, Founder of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, 10-12 at PAC \$25/\$35
- Wed, Aug 31 **Brunch at Morningside B&B** with Martha Porter 9:30-2:00 (Lunch included) \$50/\$60
- Th, Sept 1, 8, 15 **King Lear** with Dr. Terry Nienhuis, 10:00-12:00 at PAC \$75/\$95
- Wed, Sept 7 **The Lonely Hunter: The Work of Carson McCullers** with Dr. Thornton Jordan, 10:00-12:00 at PAC
- Fri, Sept 9 **The Mount Vernon Ladies' Assoc.: 150 Years of Preservation** with Boyce Ansley, 10:00-12:00 at PAC



Classes are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members unless otherwise noted.

For more information call **828 526-8811** or go to [www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com) for our full schedule.

*(Certain classes may not be listed here if they are already full)*

Mall" Friday from 6:30 to 9 PM. Music by "SWINGTIME BAND." For more information Call 828-369-9155.

• 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.

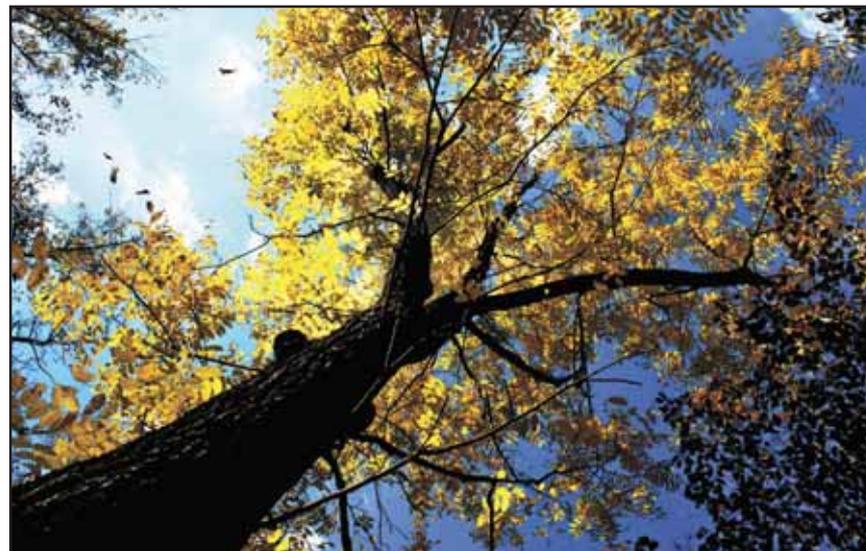
Saturday, Aug. 27

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

• At Dusty's Afternoon Tea from 3:04:30. \$10 per person. Call for reservations. 526-2762.

• 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

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Symposium September 16-17



Clear your calendar – the Highlands Biological Foundation's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plant Symposium will be held this Sept. 16 and 17 at the Performing Arts Center.

This year's symposium promises to be our best yet! Woody plants will take the spotlight for the symposium, with field trips and guest speakers focusing on the value of native trees and shrubs in gardening and landscaping. Registrants can choose their field trip from a list of wonderful options that includes a tea party held in the Botanical Garden, a tour of the Southern Highlands Reserve, and several guided hikes. We can't think of a better way to spend your time in Highlands than learning about the area and its native plants.

We have another exciting line-up of guest speakers this year, featuring Dr. Michael Dirr, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia, who is the author of the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants and is a legend in the horticulture world. In addition to field trips

and guest speakers, the symposium will conclude with a wine reception and native plant auction.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the symposium go to the Highlands Botanical Garden, which residents and visitors of Highlands have enjoyed since 1962 when it was established as a refuge for over 450 species of southern Appalachian plants. Within walking distance from town, and open to the public every day of the year, the 12-acre Garden is an invaluable resource to the region and we look forward to celebrating the Garden's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2012!

Because seating is limited to 200, early registration for the 2011 Native Plant Symposium is encouraged. Visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs/NPSymp.htm](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/NPSymp.htm) to register on-line and download a brochure, or call 828-526-2221. We also welcome visitors to our office, located at 265 North Sixth Street. Thank you for supporting the Highlands Biological Foundation.

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

road system. \$5 for HCLT members or \$35 for new friends. 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.

- Good nutrition prevents disease! BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS. Come learn some simple steps that could dramatically change your life and your family's health. Instruction & demonstration will be given on on milling grains; recipes shared and samples to taste! Saturday anytime between 11am-2pm at Tommy's Coffee Shop in Cashiers. Sponsored by Nutrition Counselor, Carol Johnson and Meadow Grains supplier, Rebecca Cothran.

- The MC Republican Party's general meeting for August is Saturday at noon at the Highlands Community Center, 869 N. 4th Street (the corner of Cashiers Road (N. 4th Street) and Poplar St. in Highlands. Guest speaker is Mike Hightower, Duval County, FL GOP Chairman and Republican fundraiser. Senator Jim Davis, on behalf of the Macon County Republican Party, will posthumously award Senator "Bob" Carpenter a Life Time Achievement Award. Senator Bob's wife Helen Carpenter will accept. Lunch will be a BBQ pork buffet @ \$10 per person (cash please). A car pool for Franklin area members will meet at 11 a.m. at the BI-LO parking lot (Highlands Rd. & the Bypass) on the ABC Liquor side of the lot. A bus will be available for those who wish not to drive. Questions? Call Chairman Chris Murray at 421-2191.

- Scaly Mountain Pancake Breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Scaly Mountain Community Center on Buck Knob Road.

#### Sunday, Aug. 28

- At Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th Street, an Open House from 2-4 p.m. (next to the Civic Center). Come Join Us!

#### Monday, Aug. 29

- The Art League of Highlands will have their next meeting on Monday at PAC, at 5p.m.

#### Throughout September

- The Sapphire Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild (ANG) is having an exhibition of needlework at the Hudson Library.

#### Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 1-4

- The Highlands Playhouse 2011 Cabaret Series is excited to announce a limited engagement performance by Libby Whittemore. Known around Atlanta for her fantastic cabaret's featuring Broadway classics as well as songs from the American songbook. Audiences will be dazzled by Libby's powerful vocals and quick wit. Libby will be joined by her brilliant musical director and accompanist Robert Strickland along with Lyn DeRamus on bass and Dennis Durrett-Smith on drums. Showtimes are Sept 1-3 at 8 pm and Sunday Sept 4 at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at (828) 526-2695

## Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show Sept. 3 & 4 at Village Green

The Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley invites everyone to an Arts and Crafts show on Labor Day Weekend, at the Village Green in Cashiers. Gates open on Sat. and Sun., Sept. 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

There will be 57 vendors of fine arts and crafts along with food and fun. Admission to the show is \$3 dollars and all entrance fee proceeds go to the charitable work of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club.

In addition, a raffle winner can choose a large, flat-screen TV, a stainless barbecue grill or \$2,000 cash. Tickets are \$10 dollars each and there will be some available at the show. Also buy tickets from Rotary Club members until the drawing on September 4th.

Help support numerous projects in Cashiers and surrounding areas, and enjoy a day with friends and family with some of the finest artists and craftspersons from across the country.



## Bel Canto hits year 19

Once again Bell Canto will bring some of the finest performers in the world of opera to Highlands for one performance of beautiful music.

Bel Canto will celebrate its 19th year with a recital on Sept. 11, 2011 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Following the recital will be an elegant dinner at the Highlands Country Club. Patrons have long been used to world-class performers and this year will be no exception.

This year's performance will feature a soprano and a tenor. This week we'll feature the soprano.

The soprano performing this year will be Rachel Cobb. Hailed as "fiercely dramatic" (The London Times) having presented "one of the best impersonations I have seen" (Opera Magazine) and possessing a "pure soprano [with] charm and fragility" (Classical Voice) and "real vocal thrust" (Opera News), she has earned critical acclaim in the United States and Europe as a total performer with incredible dramatic intensity.

Past engagements for Ms. Cobb include Miss Jessel in Glyndebourne's production of *The Turn of the Screw*, as Mimi for the Duluth Festival Opera, Opera on the James and in Opera Pacific's production of *La Bohème*, for which she was named "Most Promising Young Artist," as Cio Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*, as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Madison Opera and the Westfield Symphony, as Pallade



Athena in Gluck's *Paride ed Elena* at The Caramoor Festival, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, and as Beauty in Giannini's *Beauty and the Beast* with Baltimore Opera and Kitty Hart in the Opera Pacific production of *Dead Man Walking*.

Past years' performances have provided funds for the Highlands School Music program as well as the permanent art collection of The Bascom Gallery and in 2009 we added the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

So put Sunday, September 11 on your calendar now and plan to attend the nineteenth Annual Bel Canto Recital! To contact Bel Canto and get on the mailing list, please call 828.526.1947.

## House of Wong

....Betty Wong  
Cordially invites

you to a

Ladies Only

TRUNK SHOW

Aug. 24- Sept. 9

By appointment

Only

10 am - 4 pm

Call

526-3865

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

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



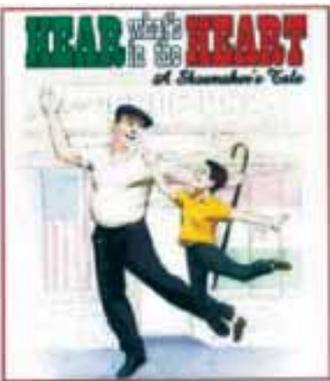
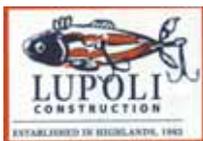
73 Years of  
Professional  
Theatre  
in Highlands

Tickets:  
\$12 for children  
\$30 for adults

Hear What's in the Heart  
On Stage  
September 30-October 9

Join us for  
appetizers &  
full bar  
Offered by  
Oak Street Cafe  
in cabaret seating

2011 Corporate  
Sponsor



For Tickets, call or visit  
the Box Office:  
828-526-2695 362 Oak  
Street, Highlands

## Understanding agency relationships

**A**s a Buyer or Seller, your success depends, in part, upon how well you understand what I consider to be one of the most essential aspects of real estate: agency relationships.

Unless you are experienced in real estate transactions, the term and its meaning are a bit foreign (and, admittedly, the term sounds completely boring and bureaucratic). In fact, you may be tempted to just gloss over understanding it when your agent introduces you to the concept.

Warning: when it comes to agency/fiduciary relationships, what you do not know can, in fact, hurt you. So let's dive in and see what all the fuss is about.

What exactly does agency relationships mean? In its most simple form, agency relationships explain for whom the real estate agent/firm works – Buyer or Seller (or both). In other words, to whom does the agent owe her or his loyalties and advocacy, and what is the agent permitted or required to do for each party?

Let's say you want to sell your property, and you decide to interview several firms as a part of your decision-making process. Upon meeting the agents, one of the very first items an agent should discuss with you (as required by law) is agency relationships. Not only should you understand how the agent may bring Buyers to you (as an agent of the Seller, as a Buyer's agent, or as a dual agent), but also you should be aware that until you have a signed listing agreement in place, your confidentiality is not protected.

For example, let's say you sit down with Agent A and immediately begin talking about your need to sell quickly and what you want to net out of the sale. You delve into personal and financial matters and before you know it, Agent A knows considerable sensitive information about your situation. (Now an ethical Agent A would stop you immediately before you disclosed anything and would carefully explain agency relationships at that point so that you would be protected. For purposes of this explanation, let's assume Agent A does not provide the required disclosure to you.)

You meet with two other agents (say Agent B and Agent C) and repeat the process with both (and assume again that neither provide the required disclosure). Now there are three agents who possess this information. You decide upon Agent B and sign listing documents.

Soon after you list the property, Agent A shows your property to a Buyer as a Buyer's Agent (in this instance, Agent A's loyalties lie solely with the Buyer, not you). Agent A has a fiduciary relationship to the Buyer and by law, must disclose everything she or he knows



**Susie deVillie Schiffli,**  
**ME, ABR, SFR**  
**Owner/Broker-in-Charge**  
**White Oak Realty Group**

about your property and your situation. The Buyer now knows your level of motivation, as well as precisely what you would accept in an offer. Needless to say, your ability to negotiate with strength and receive top dollar for your property and best terms has been severely compromised.

Remember: as a Seller, do not disclose anything other than material facts about the property or your personal situation to prospective listing agents. Once you have a signed agreement in place, everything you disclose must be protected as confidential.

Another area of confusion in the agency relationships realm is dual agency. Dual agency comes into play when the Seller has sanctioned the listing firm to act in that capacity which enables the firm to represent both the Seller and the Buyer. The key difference in a dual agency role is that the firm may not advocate for one party at the other's expense and **must remain neutral** throughout the entire process (from writing the Offer to communicating the Offer to closing the transaction).

This type of agency requires additional focus and finesse from the agent, and if handled professionally and properly, can prove to work exceedingly well for all parties in the transaction. If you sanction dual agency, continue to ask your agent for clarification throughout the process when any questions arise. A key point to remember: if **any agent** (not just your listing agent) within your listing firm brings you a Buyer as a Buyer's Agent, dual agency is in play.

To learn more about agency relationships, please reference the NC Real Estate Commission's brochure entitled "Working with Real Estate Agents." You may download a copy from the Commission's website ([www.ncrec.gov](http://www.ncrec.gov)), or feel free to stop by our office anytime to pick up a copy and ask us questions.

Knowledge is power. Understanding fully who is representing whom in a real estate transaction places you on the path to success.

• Susie deVillie Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit [WhiteOakRG.com](http://WhiteOakRG.com) or call (828) 526-8118.

## ... STEEP SLOPE continued from page 10

rights is one of the main reasons the county needs to take action.

Tinsley points to the story of Macon County resident Harry Yoder as an example of why the County needs a slope ordinance.

"We sustained massive damage to our property from a landslide after a heavy rain," said Yoder. "Dozens of trees were toppled and large amounts of dirt and sediment thundered down on to our property. The slide came from a new home above us," Yoder continued. "As a property owner, I am very concerned about the lack of regulation to prevent this type of event from occurring anywhere in Macon County."

The group maintains that a slope ordinance would not only protect citizens, but would be good for the local economy – a statement which is diametrically opposed to the county's property rights activist who claim any regulation will hurt the economy.

To back up its claim MaconSense.org offers a side-by-side comparison of new developments in Macon County and neighboring Jackson County, which passed a steep slope ordinance in 2007.

The comparison, prepared by the county, shows that Jackson County has actually outperformed Macon

County in new development since adopting it's ordinance.

"The stats alone make a compelling case that the local economy will not be negatively impacted by a slope ordinance, but that's not the whole story," said Tinsley. "We have good local businesses in our county that know the right way to build on slopes. Unfortunately, as it stands now, they can be under-bid by people willing to take short cuts. We can't have honest local businesses competing on an unfair playing field. A slope ordinance will make it a fair fight."

According to Tinsley, the coalition feels that a meaningful slope ordinance would not only provide safeguards for building on the steepest slopes, but also protect people who are building in areas down slope of potentially hazardous areas.

"This is really about the will of the people. We have an opportunity here in Macon County to pass an ordinance that is a model of efficient and effective planning and be something that will benefit all of our citizens," she said. "In the end our expectation is that the board will do the right thing and stand with the people of Macon County."

– Kim Lewicki

## ... STAND continued from pg 11

ty's financial investment in that campus; the current multi-million-dollar construction of a new roadway by the state DOT to serve the campus and surrounding area; and the lack of another community college with easy or timely accessibility to Macon county residents, it would be difficult to achieve any true savings stemming from the proposed consolidation. The other nearby community college – Haywood Community College – has also been identified for consolidation.

The idea behind consolidating community colleges is to achieve administrative savings and to take advantage of group purchasing power and economies of scale.

Again, the state has neglected to take into account the topographical difference between driving 35 miles in the mountains to 35 miles in the piedmont, in addition to drastic weather differences, said Beale

– Kim Lewicki

## ... SWANSON from page 9

president exposed for the total fraud he is and be relegated to the scrap heap of history. The day of reckoning is coming, and if we could just skip the next 12 months, we would be deliciously close to that glorious day. While we can't expect a fast-forward of the calendar, we can spend that time getting real over the state of our union and seriously ponder his successor.

## ... SOCCER from page 7

working hard and didn't give up and we have a win to show for it."

The Highlanders hosted Brevard Tuesday in their first home game of the season, but results were not available at press time. The Highlanders will travel to Franklin tomorrow in what should be a renewal of the terrific rivalry between the teams in the previous seasons.

## The Village Square Art & Craft Show

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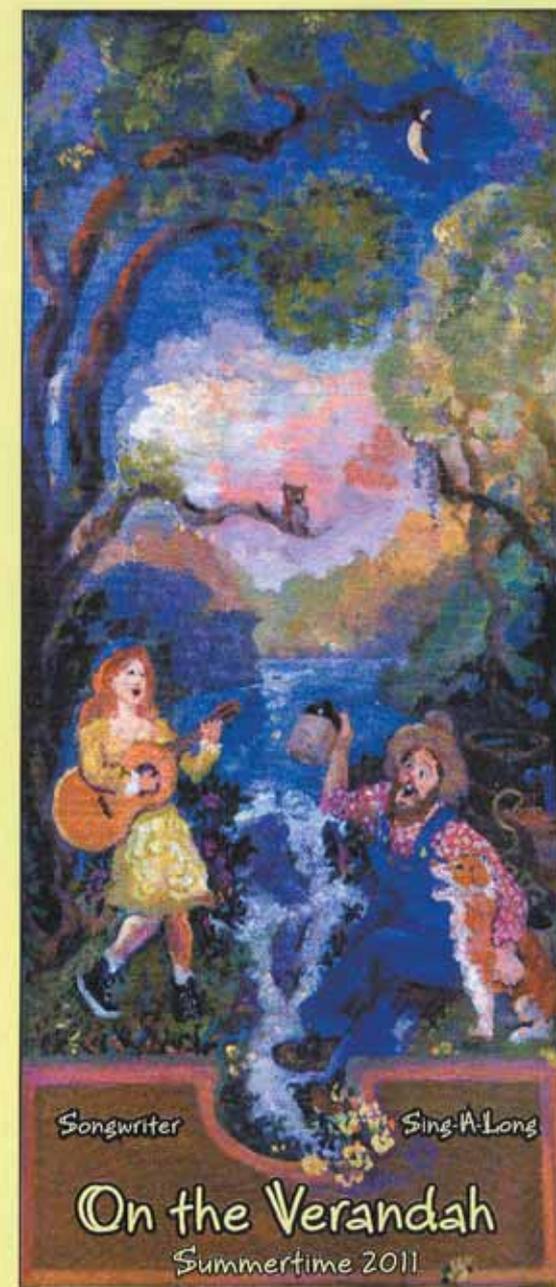
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... LETTERS continued from page 2

that would print it. Maybe we should get him elected vice president, as nobody in their right mind would want to follow the current president we have

now. Thanks again for the great column.

Haydn McLean  
Highlands and Georgia

## Free trade is the main problem

Dear Editor,

Ask yourself why our corporations haven't been doing well in recent times. Do you remember when all the corporations in America were doing well and providing for our parents and grandparents for many years? Bart McPherson of Glenville hit the nail on the head in his letter last week when he recognized that "Free Trade" has killed our economy. That now makes two of us who understand the real problem. Over recent

years, the lawyer/politicians, with no business experience, opened up our country to foreign raiders by enacting "Free Trade" laws without taxing the imports. "Every time you buy the \$6 toaster made in China vs. the \$15 toaster made in America, something terrible happens."

This open invitation for foreign companies to come here and take share of market from our corporations has crippled our economy. The prime example is our auto companies, all of which have seen hard times. GM is no longer the world's largest. Technically, they should all be out of business because it is very hard to compete against a foreign made auto that can be sold here for half the price of the American made one. Just look at the \$10,000 KIA and realize that an American made car like that would cost at least \$20,000. The only thing that kept our American car companies in business is that certain Americans were loyal to their brand of pickup truck, jeep or van.

There are two reasons that this is happening: foreign governments subsidize their auto companies by providing incredibly cheap steel from government owned factories that pay workers \$1 per hour. Secondly, the auto unions shake down our auto companies for outrageous wages and benefits, with assembly line workers making \$60 an hour or more. The autoworkers union negotiated one contract with an auto manufacturer which dictated that if they closed a plant, all laid off employees would have to be paid \$100,000 each for four years.

Businessmen went to the Chinese government and wanted to buy in to the government owned steel manufacturing companies and China said "No Way." Yet, in American, our decimated steel industry is now 53% foreign-owned. We no longer have the capacity to produce enough steel to win a war the way we did in the past.

GM manufactures and sells cars in China. The Chinese government requires them to buy all their materials in China. They do not want GM to bring anything from the U.S.

Last year, our lawyer/politicians called in our auto manufacturers to appear before congress and berated them. These inexperienced businessmen in congress had no idea what to ask them. I've run large and small corporations and I can tell that that they should have asked them for a report on why they are not doing well, and what can congress do to level the playing field and make them healthy again.

Congress needs to pass laws that

will restore the ability of our corporations to compete with international companies. Think about passing a law that says "All cars sold in the U.S. have to be manufactured with steel made in the U.S.". This would revitalize American industry. All the mills in PA and Ohio would open up again. Millions would be employed. Billions would pour into the U.S. economy. This would be the greatest stimulus plan we could create in this country. We would again become the world's largest steel producer.

We have a business problem in this country and it will take real businessmen to solve it. We elected a President because he is an outstanding orator. He strains to sound "Presidential!" He never worked in business, never had a real job, never punched a clock, never managed or supervised people, never ran a department, never created budgets and forecasts and never wrote a business plan. He and our congress seem to have no idea how to solve this business problem that is crushing our economy.

First, there should be a congressional investigation into the reasons why our large corporations aren't doing well with suggestions from them as to how we can level the playing field for them. (Read the book "Japan, Inc." and you will understand exactly what we should be doing). Secondly, we need to put appropriate taxes on imports and find other ways to make our corporations compete and prosper. This emphasis on expanding small businesses so they employ more people is ridiculous, not realistic and is way overblown. The real answer is in restoring health to the American corporations that provided for us for many years. Send real businessmen to congress.

Jim Sottile  
Franklin NC

***'The thing about ideologues is they don't let facts get in their way'***

Dear Editor,

My wife and I just arrived here to spend a few cool summer weeks. As usual we stop by *Ingles* to pick up a *Laurel* and the *Highlands' Newspaper*. On a lark, I took a look to see just how far

•See LETTERS page 22

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## ... READING continued from page 1

damood-Bell Learning Program. "I've never been so excited about the progress of my students," she told the board.

Parent Linda Browning said that, after only four weeks in the program, her son had advanced from a third grade to a ninth grade reading level.

Matthew Gardner, Lindamood-Bell's regional director for school partnerships, told the board that the summer session was designed to provide remediation for students as well as professional development opportunity. Over the course of four weeks, students improved their average comprehension score from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile, a gain of 9.3 standard score points. Students made moderate to high standard score gains of 4.1 and 5 on fluency and comprehension.

Participating teachers received 90 minutes of mentoring by a Lindamood-Bell consultant every day. "The teachers will tell you this wasn't easy - they were pushed," said Gardner.

That mentoring experience was crucial, said teacher Darlene McDowell. "There's no doubt in my mind that this works," she told the board. "This has made me a different teacher."

Also critical to the summer program's success was the level of community support.

"When we first started talking about trying this in Macon County, we had over 300 parents show up to learn more about

the program - the most I ever had prior to that was 40," explained Gardner. "I can tell you that this caused the corporate office to take notice."

Board member Stephanie McCall said that she was touched by the outpouring of support for the program. "It is awesome to hear the teachers excited about this, because they change children's lives," she said. "And when you're making the case for funding, it helps if you have the students explain how they've benefited. The fact that they were willing to come here tonight and tell us about their experience says so much about the program."

Board member Thomas Baldwin concurred. "I can't tell you how much it means to me to see the changes in the lives of these students and these teachers," he said. "When you get down to it, that's what we're about - changing lives."

Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman said that if the board wanted to offer the program throughout the year at Macon County schools, total cost would be approximately \$210,000 (reduced \$100,000 from the initial cost estimate).

Board member Jim Breedlove said that before the board acted on the measure, he'd like to examine how other year-round schools are faring. The board agreed to study the experience of the Bristol, TN, school system prior to holding a September 6<sup>th</sup> work session on the mat-

ter.

Board member Gary Shields urged the board to consider keeping the focus on the kindergarten through third-grade range to ensure the program's maximum benefit.

In other news, Highlands School cafeteria manager June Zachary was named Macon County Support Person of the Year and Dr. Brigman cited Mrs. Zachary's years of faithful service as the key to her winning the honor.



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## ... ETJ continued from page 1

ETJ believe neighbors can do whatever they want with their property and vice versa. They don't believe they need the government to intervene on anyone's behalf. Clark said on several levels the relationship between ETJ citizens and the town is a symbiotic one - but members of the audience disagreed, saying "Highlands needs them; they don't need Highlands."

Though the state of the nation's economy and the Obama administration peppered comments made by some citizens against ETJ, the crux of the matter - regardless of political party lines - centered around property rights, which is considered a sacred cow in Western North Carolina.

Previous County Commissioner and ETJ representative on the Planning Board Ricky Bryson was the first to speak and pointed out that since ETJ was adopted the county has adopted several land use ordinances - soil and sedimentation, height restrictions, high-impact and subdivision - which has taken care

of the concerns that spurred ETJ in the first place - protecting the corridors and the watershed.

"This is your chance to right a wrong," he said. "Very few municipalities take property for which they don't intend to give services or annex as Highlands did."

Adopting ETJ was initiated by the town's Land Use Plan whose mission is to protect the Highlands Plateau including the town's water supply, the natural environment and the highway corridors.

As such, ETJ encompasses a one-mile radius beyond the corporate limits of Highlands including portions of Horse Cove and Clear Creek even though those two areas aren't included in the zoning aspect of ETJ - the legality of which is now being questioned. According to the NC Institute of Government, it's legal to exempt areas within the one-mile radius but it's not legal to include areas like Horse Cove and Clear Creek and not zone them.

The two country clubs in the ETJ last so - Highlands Falls Country Club and Cullasaja Club - were exempted from ETJ

on the grounds that their building codes and land use plans are more stringent than the town's. That action has fostered an "us against them" attitude with citizens in the ETJ. They claim if protecting the watershed really was the reason for ETJ, the country clubs should have been included simply due to their golf course pollutants and sediment that have contaminated the plateau's watershed over the years.

Furthermore, trusting Highlands' town government was irrevocably jeopardized when at the November 2005 public hearing on the matter, ETJ was adopted despite the fact that 85% to 90% of those present objected to it.

"This whole thing has split the community and this is not the place it used to be," said Harold Neely of Clear Creek. "I have the right to do what I want with my property as long as I don't injure someone else."

That belief is the ember ETJ has fanned. Government, in this case Highlands' government, telling people what they can do with their property when the

citizens being regulated can't vote and have actually chosen to live outside the corporate limits due to the liberties that choice affords them.

Specifically, citizens in ETJ are concerned about zoning designations assigned their property along the corridors and beyond.

Basically, all property uses are grandfathered but if property changes hands, its designation could change. Property along the corridors is commercial (B5) so residential property on the corridors would become commercial and commercial property beyond the corridors would become residential if it changes hands. This represents a huge problem for citizens in ETJ.

"This means my son, who owns a business that has been in existence since 1946, can't sell it," said Merlin Crowe. That place of business is in an ETJ area now slated as residential.

The ETJ issue is far from over - it will be discussed at the Sept. 6 Town Board meeting.

- Kim Lewicki

## • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

### First Pour le Pink 5K Walk/Run

The first annual Pour le Pink, a 3.2 mile fun Walk/Run to support local breast health and women's services, will be held on Saturday, October 15 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH). The funds raised will go toward maintaining the hospital's spectrum of breast health and women's services as well as financial aid for patients.

"Pour le Pink will be a great benefit for our local communities. It will help to build a lasting fund for women's services enabling us to stay up to date with critical services, equipment and provide our patients the best quality care possible," said race organizer Callie Calloway, who is the Communications Specialist at HCH.

The race will start on the campus of HCH, travel to Buck Creek Road, down Cheney Lane, looping back to the hospital campus for the finish. Event goers are invited to participate as runners,

walkers and individuals or teams. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places female/male runners in each age group as well as team awards.

"We encourage everyone to join us in the fun," said Calloway. "The event will not only benefit HCH, but foster community awareness of women's health and wellness. This is a great opportunity to support the hospital that helps keep our community healthy."

Sponsorship opportunities from \$100 to \$1000 are available. Registration for Pour le Pink is underway. Early entry fee is \$20 for adults, if received on or before September 30th. Late entries received after that date will cost \$30. Child rate is \$5. The 5k race is open to male/female runners and walkers of all ages will begin at 8am; fun walk/run at 8:15am.

Call Callie Calloway, race coordinator, at (828) 526-1313 for more information,

### HCH'S director of Cardiac Rehabilitation lectures on diet

"Eating to live and eating to prevent chronic diseases is a reality" says Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's HealthTracks Wellness Center Director Yvonne Smith, MHS, RD, CDE. "A healthy diet consisting of inflammation-reducing foods can lower the risk of developing cancer, cardiovascular disease, arthritis and Alzheimer's."

Earlier this month on August 15, Smith presented "The Anti-Inflammatory Diet" to community residents at a complementary Lunch and Learn held on the Hospital's campus.

"Eating a wide variety of foods, emphasizing fresh foods of high nutritional quality, avoiding refined sugar and processed foods, while consuming the appropriate number of calories to maintain or attain an optimal/healthy weight are the basics of the Anti-Inflammatory Diet," says Smith. "Cold water fish, omega-3 packed flaxseed, fresh

fruits, steamed vegetables, tree nuts and organic meat, poultry and dairy are ideal foods to keep you on the right path."

Smith stressed that chronic inflammation is the root cause of many serious diseases. Inflammation can be seen on the body's surface as swelling, redness, heat, and/or pain but internally can be hard to detect. Although inflammation is the body's natural healing process, persistent inflammation damages the body and increases risk of degenerative diseases.

"This special anti-inflammatory diet is actually not a "diet" but a lifestyle change," said Smith. "Choosing foods across the color spectrum and foods low on the food chain provide a way of eating packed with anti-inflammatory nutrients."

Red foods such as tomatoes, pink grapefruit, watermelon contain lycopene

• See HOSPITAL page 23



### "It takes a lot to impress me."

"Over the years, I've seen it all! But I've never seen the quality surgical experience I had at the HCH Surgery Center. I had a hernia that popped up and it was not pleasant. I went to Dr. Noell and he performed laparoscopic hernia surgery assisted by Dr. Mark Shoptaugh. When I say that I was walking around town that same afternoon enjoying our beautiful community and in no pain, it surprised me, but I guess I shouldn't have been. I went to HCH because I had heard of their Board Certified Surgeons from friends. I'm writing this because I want others to know what a fine experience I had, so thanks to all at HCH Surgery for this and to all of you out there, if you ever need surgery, you can be assured that HCH surgeons are there for you as well."

-Lou Miller  
Highlands, NC



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# • HEALTH MATTERS •

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Another name you may know is Allegretto Wave. Since Blue Laser Group introduced Northeast Georgia's first Allegretto Wave laser the Allegretto's superior results have been amazing. This laser is used in the second step of LASIK.

Many patients who would have needed two treatments with other lasers have achieved 20/20 vision (or better) with just one treatment with the Allegretto's advanced technology. Your eyes are as unique as your fingerprints and the most precise laser vision correction technology addresses these highly individual characteristics. Wave front technology captures each eye's unique imperfections with far greater accuracy than ever before, translates that information into digital treatment

instructions and sends them directly to the Allegretto Wave Excimer Laser System.

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Investment in state-of-the-art technologies such as these is a factual measure of commitment to results. An independent LASIK surgeon like Dr. Richard Blue, committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for his patients, will choose the technology that meets his exacting standards. Dr. Blue won't compromise those standards by less precise but less expensive equipment or by renting equipment that has been taken office to office and used by other surgeons. Dr. Blue has shown his commitment by owning state-of-the-art technology to ensure the best possible outcomes for you.

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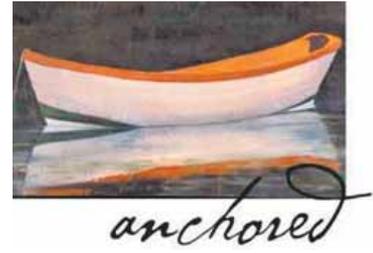
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"How do I know if I have glaucoma?" - Phyllis from Highlands, N.C.



Phyllis, Glaucoma is the sneaky thief of vision. Patients are often unaware that they even have it until it has taken a tremendous amount of their vision away. Treatment is typically very simple and is an easy experience for most patients. In my practice, we use a laser treatment and the majority of my patients no longer require the use of glaucoma drops. Early intervention is key with glaucoma, so I encourage people to make regular visits to their Ophthalmologist in order to prevent vision loss through early detection.

~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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## ... LETTERS from pg 18

into Mr. Swanson's article he'd go before he takes a swipe at the President with his usual biased nonsense.

So this week (August 17<sup>th</sup>) his article happened to be entitled "God or Government?"...and I'm thinking...oh boy, here we go...Obama is going to get nailed in the very first paragraph. But I

was wrong; he actually spent all of paragraphs 1 to 9 giving us a pretty unbiased recap of the turmoil going on in various parts of the world. He didn't even make his first fabrication until paragraph 10, when he wrote that George Bush's administration went on a spending spree, but that of course he had a "Democrat Congress for most of his time in office." As I recall, George Bush had a Republican Congress for six of his eight years (from 2000 to 2006).

But then, there it was, he ended his article, with paragraphs 11 to 13, where he did his woe is me...let's take our country back from the liberal black guy in the White House routine....wherein he says President Obama's policies have just about destroyed our country and our standard of living and caused unemployment (and he probably thinks he is the cause of tornados, floods and droughts too).

Now, on these matters of domestic current events, Mr. Swanson sticks with his typical ideology and never lets sound economic reasoning get in his way. Every economist says you must feed a recession (like Bush tried with TARP and Obama tried with the Stimu-

lus). Just because none of us (Democrat or Republican) likes the word "bail-out," it doesn't mean that it is not a necessary evil sometimes.

Without government help we would have lost at least two out of the big three auto companies (not to mention the jobs of three million Americans). Tax cuts for the rich would not have saved our auto industry, nor have our historically low tax rates helped stave off unemployment. I have no doubt that a Republican president might have had to try the same necessary evils that Obama has tried; and something tells me we wouldn't hear Mr. Swanson whine about it (endlessly). Anyway, blah, blah, blah...no news here...just typical Swanson.

But hold on...stop the presses...he then has the misguided audacity to say that most of our peoples' hopelessness and despair has been created by the President denying that we are a "Christian Nation" and his refusal to support Israel against the Palestinians (also an untruth...but that's a whole other article). And now I know that Mr. Swanson is just a fanatic with a keyboard. I happen to not be of the Christian faith (49% of Americans are not Protestant Christians), but I think its ideals and hopes for mankind are not that dissimilar to those of my own faith, or those of the highest tenets of many of the world's religions.

The founders of our country, the ancestors of whom escaped to our New World to live their lives free to follow the faith of their choice, would not have approved of the way religious zealotry has seeped into our government and politics. They escaped other countries to be free of religious persecution. Zealotry, in any religion, can be a dangerous thing. Mr. Swanson believes that it is the "Godlessness" of the countries in the world that is the cause of their turmoil. The problem, clearly, is that Swanson wants it to be HIS God to which those countries, and our country, must worship.

Although the positive teachings of Christianity, just like those of other religions, are most worthy of trying to observe, for our government to establish that we are a "Christian Nation" Mr. Swanson is an affront to the essence of our founding; and no one should even think about promoting such an agenda. In fact, keep that between you and your church; and let's do unto others Don, as you would have others do unto you.

We are indeed a melting pot, and our country was founded on ideals that

would ensure that we were free to believe as we wish. So don't bash the President because he doesn't want to get sucked into a *my God's better than your God* mentality. It is un-American to even think that that question is appropriate to ask of him.

Richard Lundy  
Cashiers, NC

## State budget's impact on public education

Dear Editor,

Now that our schools in western North Carolina are underway, it is time to take a look at the devastating impact of the Republican-led state budget on public education in our region. It is also important that a challenge be rendered to the rhetoric advocated by the Republican leadership and particularly by the State Senator from this district, Jim Davis in the Aug. 17 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.

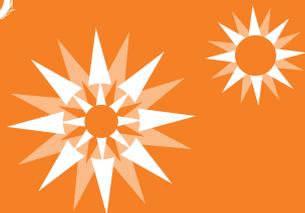
Contrary to the statements presented by Sen. Davis, the state budget for 2011-12 **did not fully fund** classroom teachers and teacher assistants. To prevent having to select which cuts to be made in a school system, the General Assembly instead required each system to return to the state a significant percentage of their allocated operational resources (\$428,000,000), better known as discretionary funds.

By this process, they actually placed the responsibility for making specific cuts on the shoulders of superintendents and local school boards. Since over 80% of education dollars are in people, this meant having to cut teachers, assistant principals, and support staffs or not replacing them as vacancies occur.

Macon County School system was required to return \$1.25 million on top of \$905,000 last year and \$600,000 the year before. These were the very funds that assisted in paying for teachers, state/federal mandated programs, supplies, equipment and student transportation.

Jackson County returned \$1.2 million; and, this summer, as teacher vacancies occurred, a number of those positions were not replaced, thus causing class sizes to be increased. In addition, two of its pre-school programs were shut down. Because student buses were not funded appropriately, bus

• See LETTERS page 23



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## • POLICE & FIRE REPORT •

Highlands PD log entries from Aug. 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### Aug. 17

• At 9:22 p.m., barking dogs were reported in the vicinity of Hickory and Wyanoak. It was unfounded.

• At 8:15 p.m., officers responded to a call of a unresponsive female in a vehicle on NC 106 whose seizure caused her to drive her vehicle across the road and into a tree.

### Aug. 18

• At 12:15 p.m., a resident on Paul Walden

## ... LETTERS continued from page 22

routes had to be extended and students' time on the road increased.

Clay County has had to return \$400,000; and, because of required reversion to the state over the past three years, they have had to cut 25 positions. This year it meant the loss of assistant principals and four teachers – one in art, one in the alternative school, and two teacher assistants. They now have only a half-time assistant superintendent and a half-time technology coordinator.

In each of the above counties, if it had not been for the Obama stimulus package and the wise judgment of county commissioners and school boards to place funds into reserve, this school year's challenges would be even more dramatic. Next school year, however, those reserves will have been depleted and even more drastic cuts will have to be made, causing a dilution of our children's education and impacting their future.

All other counties across our state are experiencing similar challenges. Wake County Schools, for instance, was required to return \$40 million dollars in discretionary funds. They released 70 custodians and cut the salaries of all their assistant teachers. As teacher vacancies occurred in Wayne County, they placed all their assistant principals into the classrooms as lead teachers.

As stated, it is absolutely time to correct the misleading rhetoric championed by Sen. Davis and by the local Tea Party faithful.

**Ben J. Utley, Chairman  
Macon County Democratic  
Party**

Way reported an aggressive bear chased him up the stairs to his home and scratched his leg. Wildlife has been notified.

• At 7:05 p.m., Adam Tyler Crook, 22, of Highlands was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct on Main Street.

### Aug. 19

• At 11:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spring and NC 28.

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64 and S. 4th Street.

• At 3 a.m., Michael Thomas Beshara, 24, of GA, was arrested for DWI on Main Street.

### Aug. 20

• At 12:35 p.m., the dept responded to a 9-1-1

## ... HOSPITAL continued from page 20

and have been found to reduce cancer risks. Purple foods such as grapes, berries, red apples, and red wine are high in anti-oxidants and contain anthocyanins which may inhibit blood clots. Orange foods with both alpha/beta-carotenes such as carrots, sweet potatoes, mangoes, squash, and pumpkin are also great sources of anti-oxidants. Yellow foods such as oranges, peaches, papaya, nectarines contain carotenoids that can guard against certain types of cancer by limiting the abnormal growth of cells. Yellow-green foods that contain lutein and zeaxanthin such as spinach, greens, yellow corn, peas, avocado, honeydew melon may decrease potential for vision disorders. Green foods such as broccoli, cabbage, kale (cooked) contain Indoles that help break down carcinogenic chemicals. And lastly, white foods such as garlic, onions, celery, pears, white wine, chives contain allicin that has been found to have anti-tumor effects.

"For the sweet lovers, a 1 oz. daily serving of dark chocolate (at least 70% or higher cacao content) provides anti-oxidant effects and helps decrease cravings for other simple sugars," says Smith.

Before closing, Smith emphasized the importance of consuming only nutrient-rich whole grains and avoiding highly refined and processed flour products. Bran, the outer layer of the grain, contains vital disease-fighting plant substances called phytochemicals, B vitamins and minerals. The inner portion of the whole grain has the endosperm containing healthy carbohydrates, protein and some B vitamins. The wheat Germ is a seed and the core of the grain, rich in vitamin E, unsaturated fats, phytochemicals and anti-oxidants.

For more information about future Physician Forums call 828-526-1313.

hang up from S. 4th Street but it was unfounded.

• 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.

• During the week, police officers issued 19 citations and responded to 3 alarm activation.

### Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from August 17

#### Aug. 17

• At 12:50 p.m. the dept. responded to a tree on power lines on NC 106.

• At 8:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders about a woman slumped over in vehicle at Cabe Place. Transported to the hospital.

#### Aug. 18

• At 3:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Honeysuckle Lane for a 92-year-old male who had

fallen and activated the life-line alarm.

• At 1 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Wyanoak Road for a medical call. Transported to the hospital.

• At 1:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street for a medical call. Transported to the hospital.

#### Aug. 20

• At 11:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street where a woman had fallen.

#### Aug. 21

• At 8:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to High Pond Road where a woman had fallen. Transported to the hospital.

#### Aug. 22

• At 4:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clear Creek Road where a man was deceased.

• At 10:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Pine Street where a woman had fallen. Transported to the hospital.

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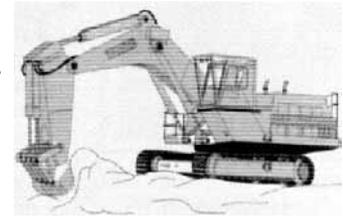
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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



### Mountain Findings continues to dole our donations

Left: R.E.A.C.H. provides services to the victims and children of domestic violence and sexual assault in Macon County. Over 10% of the families and children served annually are from the Highlands Community. The services provided include emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical accompaniment, individual and group counseling, court advocacy and referrals to additional resources. There are no fees to clients for any services. Mountain Findings is proud to make a donation to R.E.A.C.H. Pictured are Ann Van Harlingen, Executive Director, Cindy Trevathan, Board Vice President, and Mary Lou Fouser (Mountain Findings volunteer)

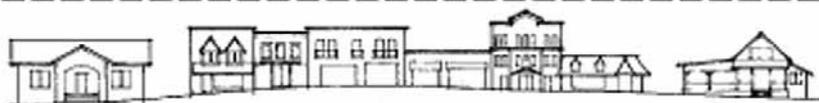


The Highlands School Booster club supports over 165 school athletes, providing them with uniforms, equipment, camp scholarships, letterman jackets and sweatshirts. Last year they constructed a concession stand for the newly installed regulation soccer field behind the school. The need they have for this year are the funds to purchase picnic tables to be constructed and installed outside the concession stand.

Pictured are Kevin Vinson, Vice President, Jeff Weller, President, and Margorie Crowe, Treasurer.



Donations from Mountain Findings are used by the Hudson Library to purchase books and other reading and viewing items for their collection, costing on an average about \$60,000 per year. The volunteers are delighted to continue their support of the library especially with the recently completed expansion. The lovely sign used as a background for the picture is a reminder of how the whole community participates and benefits from the library. Pictured are Sandy Carlton, Board Treasurer, Mary Lu Worley, Head Librarian, Bob Trevathan, Board President and Glenda Bell, Mountain Findings volunteer.



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**Civic Center in downtown Clayton**

**Sat., Oct. 22 - 10am-1pm**

**Halloween Hay Day**

**Thurs., Nov. 24 - 8 a.m.**

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