Ordinance ‘change’ process questioned

Last week amending the Charter Implementing Ordinance was stopped in its tracks by citizens and by Commissioner Amy Patterson who pointed out flaws in the proposed amended version. Patterson showed how merely striking out the word “board” and replacing it with the words “Town Manager” — 127 times in the eight-page document — disregarded several “umbrella” portions of the General Statute to which everything must refer and comply. This made the amended version illegal, she said.

That disclosure joins a list of questionable processes that have occurred since January concerning the Charter Implementing Ordinance.

Starting backwards, citizens • See ORDINANCE page 18

Camps face off over Wilderness’ label

Back at the June 2, 2010 Highlands Town Board meeting, commissioners unanimously agreed to sign a resolution in favor of renaming the 3,200-acre Overflow Wilderness Study Area in Blue Valley the Bob Zahn Wilderness Area. The decision barely registered on the radar screen.

Making the change would literally take an act of Congress which Congressman Heath Shuler was willing to initiate as long as he got an OK from the Highlands Town Board and the Macon County Commission. Though non-binding, it was the only assurance he needed.

Initially, at least in Highlands, the renaming seemed like a no-brainer. Who wouldn’t want to honor Highlands own - the late

• See WILDERNESS page 9

Man falls to his death from Cullasaja Falls

At around 4:15 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6, rescue crews responded to the Cullasaja Falls area on Highway 64 west concerning a rappeller who had apparently fallen from near the top of the falls. Upon arrival, they found the body of fatally injured Gregory Cooper, 19, of Dawsonville, GA in the water below the falls.

Cooper and two other friends had been rappelling above the falls practicing a method known as “Australian” rappelling, which involves rappelling down a rock cliff while facing forward toward the ground, when the accident occurred.

• See CULLASAJA page 5

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Highlands a NC virtual public school

North Carolina 2nd in nation’s enrollments

This year’s 2010 Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning, lists North Carolina’s Virtual Public School (NCVPS) as the nation’s second largest virtual school in terms of enrollment. In just 3 1/2 years, the school has become one of the fastest growing virtual schools in the country, topping 70,000 in enrollments by the fall of 2010.

“This big increase for North Carolina shows that more of our students are turning to technology to solve the rising demands within our school systems,” said Gov. Bev Perdue. “During difficult economic times we must continue to find innovative ways to meet expanding needs for our schools systems so all students graduate.”

• See VIRTUAL page 15
USPS to break ground on new site in spring

Dear Editor

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that the United States Postal Service has agreed to our hopes of building a new Highlands Post Office.

We will begin to clear the site on the property near the corner of NC 106 and US 64 as quickly as possible. I understand that the Historical Society as well as the Emergency Council have now removed all items of interest from the former “Furniture South” building and the original Altstaetter home. I am glad those items could be saved for sound, sentimental and useful purposes.

Weather permitting we hope to begin construction on the new facility in the spring.

Many thanks again to the friends and supporters of this much needed project. We hope the plans will make many people happy and proud of this addition to our wonderful town.

Jane Woodruff
Highlands

Say ‘no’ to stepping over the line

Dear Editor,

I think I watched my last Super Bowl on Sunday night. I have always enjoyed watching one of the best football games of the year and the hype and excitement surrounding the event. It can also be entertaining to watch the creativity of the marketing gurus; however, I think several companies took it too far this year and some Super Bowl commercials should have received an X rating.

With an audience of approximately 100 million viewers, many being children, it is disgusting to have pornography shoved down our throat during prime time television. I say to the networks and the companies that support them, enough is enough. I will no longer support those companies who want to use provocative sexual behavior to sell their merchandise and would encourage others who are enraged by this behavior to do the same. It is interesting to note that in 1952 even the word “pregnancy” was not allowed to be uttered on network television which appears to be one extreme. However, as we gravitated to the other extreme, in 1981 an actor on Saturday Night Live was fired for saying a profane word but the same circumstances in 1997 and 2009 led to no consequences. We should not allow ourselves to be like the frog in boiling water who will happily boil to death if you slowly increase the heat on the pot of water. Stand up to the networks and the companies and let them know enough is enough.

Jerry Moore

Highlands doesn’t want or need a Town Czar

Dear Editor,

Recently, there has been an all out effort by some to consolidate all the power and authority of the elected town officials into the hands of the relatively new town manager.

In fact, under the Council/Manager form of government all departments of the governing administration now fall under the purview of the town manager, except for that of the Police Department and the Zoning Administrator, which now fall under the purview of the Town Board and consequently, the Mayor’s office, as has always been the case here in Highlands.

In all due respect to the Town Manager, Mr. Jim Fatland, and with all due respect to the honorable Mayor David Wilkes and the other elected officials who are promulgating and lobbying for this change, there are several important reasons why the Police Department and the Zoning Administrator’s office should remain autonomous and under the
• OBITUARIES •

George Harold Fleming

George Harold Fleming, age 89, of Shortoff Road, High-
lands, NC died Monday, January 31, 2011 at Fidelia Eckerd
Living Center. Born in Washington Co., NY, the son of the
late Harold David and Dazie Mae Rowell Fleming, he
served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during WWII. He
was a retired founder of Better Business Forms, Inc., located in St. Pe-
tersburg, FL, as well as an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, golfer and bon vivant.

George was one of the founders of International Business Forms Industries, and
was known and respected interna-
tionally for his printing expertise and in-
novations. George was a member of Ki-
wanis Club, a Mason, and a member of
Lakewood Country Club, St. Petersburg, FL where he was club president
in 1976. He was married to Mary Elaine Kelley Fleming for
68 years on January 9, 2011.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Betty Ann Emmert and hus-
brand Ty of St. Louis, MO, Gail
Fleming and Sandy Fleming both of Highlands, NC; two
grandchildren, Kathy Terrio
and Sharon Smith and two great-grandsons, Joshua Smith and Benjamin Smith.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations
may be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hum-
ane Society, PO Box 638, Highlands, NC
28741, Highlands Fire Department, 322
Oak St., Highlands, NC 28741 or Highlands
EMS, 312 Oak St., Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge
of arrangements.

• See OBITUARIES page 4

John Craig Cranston

John Craig Cranston, age 85, died February 2, 2011 in Highlands, NC after a lengthy
illness. Graveside services were held at Summerville Cemetery in Augusta, GA on Satur-
day, February 5, 2011. A memorial service will be held at the Church of the Good
Shepherd in Cashiers at a later date.

Mr. Cranston is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marie Teague Cranston, two daugh-
ters, Catherine Whitham (Wayne) of Richmond, VA, and Elizabeth Cleckler (Mike) of
Birmingham, AL; four grandchildren, Ann Whitham Cundy (Steve), Craig Cranston
Whitham, Joseph Bryan Boudreaux (Kathleen), and James Scott Boudreaux, Jr.

He was born in Augusta, GA on January 2, 1926 to John Craig and Catherine
Verdery Cranston. He graduated from the Academy of Richmond County and from
Clemson University in electrical engineering in 1949, following a tour of military duty.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1944 until 1946 and again during the
Korean War in Greenland from 1951 to 1952, ultimately reaching the rank of Major in
the Air Force Reserve.

He was a part-time resident of the North Carolina mountains and had been com-
ingo to Highlands since 1932 when his parents built a summer home on Satulah Moun-
tain. He was president and later chairman of the board of Cranston, Robertson, and
Whitehurst, P.C., an engineering and surveying firm he founded in Augusta in 1963. The

He was a passionate land conservationist; long before conservation practices be-
came popular and he directed his engineering practice accordingly. His abiding interest
in the Southern Appalachians, and especially in this corner of the Blue Ridge Moun-
tains, was evident to all who worked or walked with him during his many active years
in the area.

As a youth, he frequently walked from Whiteside Cove through Hiram’s Cove into
Highlands and knew every foot of granite on Whiteside Mountain. As an adult, he hiked
almost every path along the Chattooga River and knew obscure logging roads for miles
around. He was also an ardent advocate for planting trees and sustaining the Southern
forest. Those who knew him could always count on a story about early Highlands-
Cashiers residents from the 1930s or ‘40s and how the area developed.

Mr. Cranston was actively involved in his communities. In Augusta, he served on
the board of directors of SunTrust Bank and was a dedicated volunteer and leader with
I’m for the ‘good ole boy’ system….So boilerplate this!

Well, Highlands tried to act like a big city and I guess it didn’t work out so well. There’s feudin’, fussin’ and a fightin’ and lots of locals have their shorts in a wad. I was bettin’ it wouldn’t work but kept my mouth shut since I don’t vote. Highlands is not Chicago or Miami Beach (thank God) but it seems like it wants to act like it is.

I was a city employee for almost 30 years in a resort town with a pure City Manager form of government. The manager was king….kinda. It worked OK for a city as big as Miami Beach. They say that small town politics can be much uglier but I can’t imagine how politics could’ve been uglier than in Miami Beach. Highlands was a far cry from Miami Beach. Here’s a little friendly unsolicited advice to the locals from a guy who knows how most politicians and city managers act. After all, I had my fill of each. First, stand out on Main Street and look west from Fifth Street. If you stand in just the right spot you can see most of downtown Highlands. Take a good hard look at what Highlands is. Unless your head is in the clouds or you’re delusional, you’re looking at a tiny, quaint mountain town where most all the locals get along pretty good and feel blessed to live there. Highlands needs to act like what it is. Big cities would kill for you have.

Personally, I like the ‘good ole boy’ system to get things done in a small town. In the old days, council members would agree to meet in someone’s back office for some card playing and whiskey sippin’ to discuss matters of mutual interest. Most of the members were born and raised in Highlands and knew their town better than a bunch of outsiders with degrees wanting to make change with big city ways. Hmmm, maybe a candidate should be born in Highlands to qualify to run for office.

The ‘good ole boys’ attending this meeting knew exactly what would and would not upset town folk. Decisions were made for the good of the people because the goal was to not aggravate your neighbors. You would have to face them next Sunday at church and get an earful and a finger in your chest. And nobody cared what outsiders felt.

Back in Miami Beach, it didn’t matter what form of government was employed. If they wanted to fire the Police Chief or a Zoning Administrator…or whoever, it got done. There are many ways to skin a cat. Who reports to whom may make the firing a little trickier but it got done. What’s so great about the ‘good ole boy’ system, if you fired an employee that everyone loved and that got the town’s shorts in a wad, they would find ways to fire you next….cutthroat politics at its finest. Remember the cat.

On Miami Beach, the first thing your police chief did after his appointment was rally a dozen or so of his closest and trusted allies. Their job was to go out and dig up ugly scandalous dirt on each of the council members. If they’ve been in politics long, there’s dirt. You just knew that some of them were sleepin’ around and the rest were crooked. Then, in a subtle way, usually at a friendly luncheon, the chief would let each politician know exactly the dirt he had on them. The message was, “Leave me alone or I’ll make trouble.” Believe me, I watched this system work. The city manager may want to fire the chief but since he answers to the city council, he can’t. If the chief goes, the manager goes. Ta Da, a perfect political standoff.

Now that I’m safely retired, it’s fun to look back on all that corruption. I once worked for a police chief that was so hated by the city manager, he had nightmares about him. The manager couldn’t fire him because the chief had the city council in his pocket. Fun, fun, fun. So the city manager dug up dirt on several council members that supported the chief and threatened them with exposure if they didn’t fire their friend, the chief. Goodbye chief.

I guess by now you know why I have an extremedislike for most politicians. And when I think about it, Miami Beach did employ the ‘good ole boy’ system.

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

many local historical and community initiatives. He was a trustee of Historic Augusta, Inc. and an honorary life trustee of the Augusta Museum of History. He served lengthy terms as chairman of the Board of the Cemetery of the Village of Summerhill, and as president of the Trustees of the Academy of Richmond County. He was also a member of the Society of Colonial Wars in Georgia.

In North Carolina, he was a founding member of the Highlands Land Trust, a member of the Jackson County Planning Board, and a member of the foundation board of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The family would like to thank all who cared with great compassion for Craig over the past several years, especially Janet Hall, Kim Harvey, Brenna Roper, and Candee Salisbury. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the Highlands Land Trust, or the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.
A good many people believe dessert is the best part of the meal. The idea is to save the best for last, win a prize for eating vegetables. I remember two meals with photographic clarity, but only one dessert.

Margaret Cottle made quite a cheese cake. It was packed with 500 calories per slice and hypnotic properties. I was intoxicated by its taste and texture on a regular basis during my years in Oxford, Ohio. But I don’t remember a single occasion in which one cake declared its dominance over all others. Her cakes might rank two through 10 on my all time list, but aren’t even close to the top spot.

My first cherry jubilee was quite an experience, as much for the column of flame pouring from the ladle as for the taste. Neither flaming ice cream nor Mo’s cheese cake had the power to ruin an old lady’s Mother’s Day with her children. I know a dessert that did. The woman was my Mom; the dessert Joana’s cherry pie.

I was the son who said, “Joana, this is the best cherry pie I have ever tasted. It’s better than yours, Mom. The student has surpassed the master.”

At the time I said it, I thought I was complimenting my mother and my sister. Mom’s reaction still puzzles me, although dozens of friends and two sisters have assured her utterly predictable. Mom was devastated. I guess she didn’t see herself as a teacher, but as a virtuoso cook. Mirror, mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all?

How could I have guessed that Mom wouldn’t want Joana to surpass her skill? I thought that’s how civilization advanced; that we all wanted our kids to reach new heights. We stand on the shoulders of giants and they are expected to welcome the load.

I never be able to forget the pain I caused, but I remember the bottom crust of that pie even more. Joana’s pie came from the oven the color of a Kansas wheat field at sunset. Sweet and tart residued in perfect balance. The color would have shamed the richest Burmese ruby. The filling was thickened with corn starch from the sweetest ear ever plundered from an Indiana corn patch. But the miracle was in the bottom crust, which exploded into a thousand flakes when cut with a fork. It was a perfect replica of the top crust.

I’m no food writer, but I can tell you the dessert was a symphony, a perfectly harmonious creation, played against a tale of an old woman’s torment. I was sorry that I hurt her, but I still believe parents should want their kids’ lives to be better than their own.

Don’t believe me? How’d they sell all those encyclopedias? To open horizons for junior, give him a shot at a better life. Do you really believe the “play date” was invented for kids to have fun? No. It’s about networking with the right kids. Otherwise Moms would arrange playdates with poor kids. No one ever called a fourth generation welfare mother of 11, and suggested a play date. “Lord,” she might laugh, “Why in the world would we need a play date here? We’ve already got two basketball teams and a cheer leader.”

That was one hell of a cherry pie and the best dessert I ever tasted. The prize for best dinner was split between Penny Ellis’ cannelloni in Conrose, South Carolina and fried oysters at the Galveston Mardi Gras in the mid-80s.

My friend Nick Rockecharlie was my host in Galveston. A Mexican woman was frying lightly dipped oysters over a gas flame in the open air. She dispensed each as soon as it left the oil, like tossing crumbs to the gulls. Celebrants pressed against her table like so many hungry Guatemalan children. Those oysters, fried to perfection and eaten immediately, ruined every subsequent oyster for me. Come to think of it, every cannelloni after Penny’s was kind of disappointing, too, like yesterday’s pancakes.

They were fine meals, the best, but Joana’s pie takes the cake, or the grand prize, it wasn’t just its taste, appearance, and texture that made it so memorable. It had an impact. I wouldn’t have thought possible for mere food. I wish Mom could have enjoyed it.

\[ See CULLASAJA page 16 \]
When chaos reigns, it pours

With all the attention being paid to Tunisia and Egypt these days, the term “chaos” has been used and overused to describe the conditions in the distressed areas. We all think we know the meaning of the word, but further study discloses meanings that we may not be familiar with. Way back in the recesses of my mind, I thought I remembered something in the very beginning of the Old Testament: “Now those of you who are familiar with. Way back in the recesses of my mind, I thought I remembered something in the very beginning of the Old Testament.” Now, those of you who rashly jump to conclusions and overuse the term “chaos” may want to think a little harder before using it. In Greek mythology, cosmology referred to a gap or abyss; at the beginning of the world, or more generally the initial, formless state of the universe.” Pretty close.

Chaos, in

It was out of the Chaos that God created everything that was, including Man, who was made in His image. To believers, God had created a world of peace and a paradise for his human creations. It didn’t take long for Man to screw that up, and we have been doing it ever since. Now, I don’t know if today’s Man is using the same formula on purpose, or it’s just a coincidence, but it is being used. Nonetheless.

When one observes the agenda of the Obama administration unfold for the last two years, unless you are just a blind follower, you have to wonder why their activities often seem to be counterproductive to the United States.

First, let’s start at the beginning.

While campaigning for the Presidency, Obama promised the transformational change for our country. Nobody knew what he meant by that, but an electorate brought up on jingles and not accustomed to critical thought, were listening. Personally, I was pretty happy with our country, wars and all, but evidently enough voters bought the idea to put him in office.

Initially, he made several apology tours abroad, blaming theills of the world on the US. He further emphasized that the exceptionalism that brought the US to the apex of its existence was a myth and that we are the bad guys on the world scene. He wasted no time offending our most valuable ally, Great Britain, and, at the same time, bowed to heads of Islamic states. His allegiance to the country he swore to lead and protect was brought under considerable doubt.

Why did he do these things?

He pushed a legislative agenda that he considered more important than addressing the ills of the country. While unemployment rates reached intolerable levels, he thought time and energy spent on taking over the health care system of the US came before working to fix the immediate problems facing his people. He is still giving lip service to the immediate problems while pushing legislation to allow folks 99 weeks of unemployment compensation. Unfortunately, making it possible for people not to work creates people who cease looking for work.

Currently, there is a serious problem in Egypt. Listen to what is being said about the fear being bandied about concerning what will fill the void left if the Egyptian ruler, Hosni Mubarak, is forced out of office. The Muslim Brotherhood is being mentioned, and if it came to pass that they took power, Israel would beall but doomed. The Muslim Brotherhood is the best organized and most prepared to takeover. Obama’s administration is putting pressure on Mubarak to vacate the office immediately, knowing this would open the door for the MB to takeover. Why would he do that? Draw your own conclusions.

Glenn Beck has quite a following these days. Personally, his delivery is often too intense for me to listen for long. His message, however, has been pretty accurate over the recent years. He warned about the worldwide economic collapse years before it happened. Beck now opines that the Progressives, with Obama in charge, are purposely creating chaos in the US, so that the people will be prepared to take over.

Without going into great detail, with food inflation starting to rage, with jobs not being created, with policies that hinder business—it is hard to see chaos in this country soon. When the masses are hungry, trouble looms.

Correction

In last week’s article “Citizens oppose changing ordinance,” we identified Elaine Johnson as Elaine Reynolds. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

When chaos reigns, it pours

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LETTERS continued from page 2

...purview of the Town Board and the Mayor’s office, or our elected officials, and not under the purview of the Town Manager, that is not elected, and is not really accountable to the citizens or voters of Highlands.

The primary reason for the proposed change that was stated by those promoting this change at the Feb. 2 Town Board meeting is that there are just “too many details” regarding the governance of a town the size of Highlands for the elected officials to see to them all.

A second point that Mayor Wilks announced as reason to consolidate power into one person was that he thought that the change would remove “politics” from the equation, and that the change brought the town into full compliance with the Council/Manager form of government. I respectfully submit that the citizens will be better served if in fact the politicians remain fully accountable to the voters or constituents for their actions and their decisions while in office. Politicians who seek public office should not then be allowed to absolve themselves from the decisions they made while in office.

Another reason as stated by Larry Rogers, a board member that I have the utmost respect for, is that, “it is too hard to get five board members to agree on anything.”

To the first point, if it is the case that six elected officials and their staffs and committees can’t handle the details of governing a town the size of Highlands, then my question is how can one manager handle all these details more effectively? It seems to me that argument is self-contradicting. It would logically follow then that six elected officials, with the help of democratic process, can better serve the public’s interest than one single, albeit all powerful, individual would be able to do. That is, of course, if there are “too many details” to see to as the mayor and some board members have asserted.

Another alternative would be if one doesn’t want to deal with the “details” of running a town the size of Highlands and be responsive to their constituents, then maybe they shouldn’t run for that office, or maybe they should not be re-elected to that office.

It would also follow then that if the job is too large for one mayor, or even five individual board members to accomplish, that there would be an excellent case made for why there needs to be autonomous departments with ethical and professional department heads to make the decisions germane to their expertise. In that case decisions made by those departments would be supported by Town Hall because the decisions being made would be in an environment of efficacy and professionalism.

Instead we seem to have petty power struggles and turf wars within the administration leaving the citizens holding the bag with ineffective leadership and poor, unaccountable, inefficient and expensive governance.

To the second point that Larry Rogers made regarding five board members not being able to agree on anything, I would respectfully submit to Larry; the process of democracy in progress can be a very messy endeavor; however, it’s far better than any other form of government or governance, particularly better than one of a dictatorial nature.

Another very important reason why these two departments in particular need to remain autonomous is that they and their respective heads play a very important role in seeing that these positions of authority are not used politically or capriciously to further certain individuals or constituents.

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Drew demonstrates a disturbing trend in athletics

Those of us in the coaching world always dread it when we get the phone call. The call usually starts with an exchange of pleasantries, followed quickly by a variation of the phrase, “why isn’t my kid playing more.” Since the beginning of time, coaches have had to deal with parents who want answers. Some parents readily accept the opinion of the coach and advise their children to work harder in order to get more burn. However, there are other parents who will find fault with everyone but their own child on a regular basis. It is this type of parents that can be very challenging for coaches of all ages.

Last Friday, University of North Carolina junior PG Larry Drew II made the decision to leave North Carolina. The timing of this decision was questionable, since Drew II will not be available to play until the 2013 season under NCAA transfer rules. Later, the news broke that Drew II’s parents were the reason behind his transfer, particularly his mother, who had had many conversations with the North Carolina coaching staff during Drew II’s tenure with North Carolina. Apparently, the decision to go with freshman Kendall Marshall at starting point guard was too much for Momma Drew to take and she told her son to take his ball and go home.

This is disturbing on many levels to a fan of college athletics. Perhaps the most appalling thing about this situation is that Roy Williams, (despite his awful fake tan…hey UNC fans, Coach K does look like a rat, but you have to admit that Roy’s tan is really bad) is a hall of fame coach with two NCAA titles to his name. To have someone question his decision making privately is a concern, but to do something as public as this is an embarrassment to college athletics. And you can be certain that if it is happening at a high level program like UNC, then it is happening everywhere. One of the by-products of the advancement of our society technologically is the fact that everyone has a voice now, and the loudest voices are usually the ones who get heard.

We used to have respect for professionalism—a title or degree once carried a certain amount of respect, but that is no longer the case. Don’t misunderstand, the fact that Ol’ Roy gets paid millions of dollars to coach basketball means that he has to deal with criticism from the media and the fanbase…after all, heavy is the head that wears the crown. However, he shouldn’t have to endure criticism from within his own program. For those irrational parents who can ruin a program, no degree is good enough, and no amount of public praise and private conversation can appease the overbearing mommy who thinks that their son or daughter hung the moon. These are the parents who would question Mozart if their kid was studying music…and it is unfortunate to all that are involved, and of all the people who suffer it is the player who suffers the most. It is the player who will never be able to handle adversity because they were never allowed by their parents to experience it and handle it for themselves.

Highlanders winding down season

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders and Lady Highlanders played three games each this week as they prepare for the LSMC tournament next week.

On senior night, the Lady Highlanders honored their five seniors in a 58-34 win over Nantahala. Sarah Power scored 20 points to lead the Lady Highlanders, and Taylor Buras, Marlee McCall and Courtney Rogers all added 8 points. Senior Mary Warner chipped in one point as well. The Highlander men then honored their 7 seniors with a 53-52 win over Nantahala. Senior Josh Delacruz led Highlands with 18 points and Robbie Vanderbilt added 10.

On Monday night, Highlands traveled to Hiwassee Dam to face the Eagles in another LSMC matchup. The Lady Highlanders stormed out of the gates, taking a 13-point halftime lead. However, the Lady Eagles made a run in the second half and it looked as if the home team would again find a way to pull one out against Highlands. With just seconds to play, senior Marlee McCall blocked Hiwassee Dam’s final shot and the Lady Highlanders held on to a 51-50 victory and possibily a share of the conference championship. Junior Emily Munger scored 22 for Highlands.

The Highlander men were looking to avenge a blowout loss suffered to Hiwassee Dam in Highlands earlier this season. Despite trailing early, the Highlanders made a run in the third quarter and took a lead midway through the fourth quarter. However, a couple of missed FT opportunities would doom the Highlanders, who fell 63-61. Logan Schmitt scored 15 and had 7 assists for Highlands. Josh Delacruz added 14 and Robbie Vanderbilt scored 13.

Both Highlander teams hosted Cherokee Tuesday night but results were not available at press time. The Highlanders will travel to Blue Ridge Friday night for the regular season finale against the Bobcats. Next week the Highlanders will host the LSMC tournament, starting Tuesday night. Come out and support your Highlanders as they play for the conference championship!
Bob Zahner, the man who single-handedly worked to preserve green areas and promote green practices on and around the Highlands Plateau long before it was popular.

But since June the idea of making the Study area into a bona fide Wilderness area has stewed and now fractured into two camps – the preservationists who would prefer as little human interaction in the area as possible and the conservationists who believe man and nature can and should co-mingle.

Specifically, Conservation is the sustainable use and management of natural resources including wildlife, water, air, and earth deposits. Conservationists accept that development is necessary for a better future, but only when the changes take place in ways that are not wasteful. Conservation of natural resources usually focuses on the needs and interests of human beings, for example the biological, economic, cultural and recreational values such resources have.

Preservation attempts to maintain in their present condition areas of the earth that are so far untouched by humans. This is due to the concern that mankind is encroaching onto the environment at such a rate that many untamed landscapes are being given over to farming, industry, housing, tourism and other human developments, and that too much of what is natural is being lost.

Still some preservationists support the protection of nature for purely human-centered reasons. However, stronger advocates of preservation adopt a less human-centered approach to environmental protection, placing a value on nature that does not relate to the needs and interests of human beings.

And that’s what worries those against the new designation.

The longer the issue lingered, the more time people had to think about the ramifications of relabeling the area. Because of a general mistrust of government and its habit of changing the rules of the game, citizens from both camps, and as it turns out some Macon County Commissioners are wary.

Those leaning toward the preservation line of thinking worry that not relabeling the area won’t ensure logging and development will never take place.

Those leaning toward the conservation line of thinking worry that attaching the Wilderness label won’t ensure that the recreational and road uses currently in place will continue.

During the public comment segment of the Tuesday, Feb. 8 county commission meeting, Highlands resident Lee Hodges spoke in favor of the proposed designation – suggesting it would be a draw for visitors thereby increasing tourism dollars to the county.

“As commissioners you have the chance to permanently protect an area of Macon County on a national level. You hold the key,” she said. “This designation supports tourism which is the root of our economy in Macon County so if you support the designation of a Wilderness Area you are in fact supporting the economy. If not willing to protect this area, you leave the area vulnerable, which leaves Macon County vulnerable.”

However, the commission was not convinced.

“After studying this for more than a month and a half and considering all the aspects of the proposed change, we have no consensus on the board and will not be signing a resolution in favor of designating the Overflow Creek Wilderness Study Area the Bob Zahner Wilderness Area,” said Chairman Brian McClellan. In a separate interview, McClellan said Shuler can still proceed on his own.

Even though the Forest Service says the Study Area is currently being managed like a Wilderness area, if Shuler can get the Wilderness bill through Congress, additional stipulations could be enacted concerning uses including how the area can be managed – and that’s what people against the new label are worried about.

For instance, currently, camping, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and hiking...
On going and Upcoming Events

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

Mon. & Thurs.
• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Upper Level Jones Hall, Mon., and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. $10/hour. (12/31)

Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. $20/month.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.

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

Tuesdays
• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays, through Feb. 22
• At The Bascom, “Tuesday After School Art,” 3:15-4:30 pm. After school art for elementary aged students. Lessons include drawing, ceramics. The curriculum follows NC state guidelines and develops in various artist’s styles. The students’ own style will be explored for the final painting. Class size is limited, pre-registration is required. Sixth through twelfth grade. $80 for an eight-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Fridays through Feb. 18
• At The Bascom, “Paint Like a Master,” 3:15-5 pm. After school art classes for middle and high school students. Each class will introduce a different artist and painting technique. Students will complete paintings in various artist's styles. The students’ own style will be explored for the final painting. Class size is limited, pre-registration is required. Sixth through twelfth grade. $80 for an eight-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Thursdays through March 10
• At The Bascom, “Friends Around the Globe,” 1-3 pm. Fun, hands-on lessons will be taught. Lessons include drawing, painting, modeling and collage. Kindergarten through sixth grade. $30 for a six-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Thursdays through May 27
• At The Bascom, “Highlands High School Ceramics,” 8-9:30 am. Ceramics for high school age students designing to learn the art of ceramics. The curriculum follows NC state guidelines and develops valuable skills Free. To register contact Highlands School, 828.526.2147.

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

Last Sat.of the month through May 28
• At The Bascom, “Friends Around the Globe,” 1-3 pm. Fun, creative, educational activities to build skills through the visual arts. Lessons will include a variety of media including drawing, painting, clay and other media. A collaboration with the International Friendship Center. Free. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

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

Great inexpensive wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: $20 per person refundable with case purchase.

Friday, Feb. 11
• Valentine’s Dinner and Dance, 6-9 p.m. at Highlands Country Club’s Hudson House. Line Dance and Swing Dance Lessons after dinner. All ages welcome. Buy tickets early or buy that night! Children $5, Adults $10. Call 787-1958 for info.

Saturday, Feb. 12
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.6 mile hike,
On going and Upcoming Events

with an elevation change of 1,000 feet, on the Appalachian Trail from Long Branch to Glassmine Gap to Rock Gap in the Standing Indian Area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 10AM, drive 25 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Bill & Sharon Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

* At The Bascom Art Cinema in the Loft Gallery
  at 2 pm, Art & Copy, Inside Advertising’s Creative Revolution

Meet the inspiring cultural visionaries who revolutionized advertising during the industry’s golden age in the 1960s by creating slogans to live by and ads we all remember. From the introduction of the Volkswagen to America to the triumph of Apple Computers, Art & Copy explores the most successful and influential advertising campaigns of the 20th century.

* Tuesday, Feb. 15
  An American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED and Child CPR/AED + Infant CPR course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center required before Monday, Feb. 14. For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

* Macon County Democratic Women will meet at 1 PM at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin. Men are invited.
  Feb. 19-April 2
  • At The Bascom, view Regional Art League’s annual exhibition.
  • Saturday, Feb.19

* Chess and Checkers Challenge at the Rec Park 1-4 p.m. Come support Highlands School’s 5th Grade Class. The class is earning money for its annual 5th grade trip to Charleston, SC. “Can you beat a 5th grader?” Sign up early to reserve your game! $20 entry fee (plus $5 if you lose) Call 787-1958 for info.

* Birdhouse Auction and Final Bidding/Silent Auction at the Rec Park. Personally designed and decorated, these bird houses are on display now at local banks. Bid now at silent auctions.

* At The Bascom Art Cinema in the Loft Gallery
  at 2 pm, Cathedral.
  In the last 8 years, SOAR of WNC has raised over $400,000 for the Foundation. This has been successful due to the generosity of the Highlands/Cashiers-Sapphire communities. The SOAR of WNC committee thanks the donors, merchants, and volunteers.

Watch for these upcoming events: June 6: Bill Horwitz Memorial Golf Tournament at Cullasaja Country Club; June 9: Silent/Live Auction at the Highlands Community Building; June 11: Special Operations Adventure Race.

In addition to giving the over 800 deserving children a college education, including books, boarding and counseling, the foundation coordinates with the Special Operations Command to ensure all needs of the wounded Special Operations forces are met. This includes providing $2,000 to meet immediate needs their families face when members are hospitalized.

In the last 8 years, SOAR of WNC has been awarded for the fourth year, a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, a national rating system that evaluates 4-star charities based on their effectiveness, accountability, and financial health.

** Art League show at The Bascom opens Feb. 19 **

The Art League of Highlands is well represented in the Bascom Winter Regional Show, Feb 19 Thu Apr 2. There will be a reception the evening of Feb 19th 6-9 p.m.

JACK STERN, a well known landscape artist from Tuckaseegee, NC, where he captures the natural beauty of the mountains, rivers and local scenery. Jack who is originally from California, started painting at 14. He was encouraged by his artist Grandmother. His first paintings were of the ocean which was a natural him being a California surfer. Jack has received numerous awards and his work is shown and collected across the country.

MARY LOU CARPENTER an award winning artist whose work is shown and collected both nationally and internationally is a new resident to Highlands. The sophisticated work is fluid and colorful. She is equally comfortable in both abstract and traditional techniques. Her mediums include sculpture as well as paintings. Classes and workshops will be available with her at the Bascom this summer.

KEN BOWSER who has been painting for at least 50 years loves to paint outdoors. Ken credits moving to the mountains for his inspirations. Light and shadow play an important part in his work. The result is a more exciting and interesting work of art. His beautiful floral “Rodos” will be in the Bascom show. Ken is a member of Blue Valley Gallery in Cashiers.

ANNELL METSKER works in oil and photography combined to create unique images rich in color and texture. She is well known for her portraiture as well as her luminous landscapes. She has a studio in Charlotte as well as Highlands. You can see more of her work at the Blue Valley Gallery in Cashiers.

MURIEL KOLB was one of the founding members of the Art League of Highlands. Her passion is exposing children to art. She has taught many workshops and classes and is in part responsible for the annual Children’s Summer Art Camp here in Highlands. Muriel’s pastel landscapes project the beauty of the mountain vistas.

KATHRYN ASKEW is known for her whimsical, light hearted style. The bear may be red and the rabbit is blue but you will feel her personal touch in all her work. She paints mainly in acrylic and her free flowing style is heart warming.

CHARLOTTE MAY CAMPBELL and BOB SWEEENY will also be representing the Art League of Highlands in Highlands.

Be sure to come to the opening reception on February 19th and meet the artists.

If you are an artist or art appreciator and would like to connect with a great group of fellow art lovers, consider joining the Art League of Highlands. We are a supportive, friendly group and would like to meet you. Regular meetings will resume in April and we have great programs featuring outstading artists or other dignitaries in the field of art. Contact Dottie Bruce, President for more information at 828 743-7673

** Upcoming 2011 SOAR Events **

The New Year, 2011 brings the SOAR of WNC committee members together for the 9th year, to work on the annual events for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. As committee members, we have pledged to continue to work diligently to preserve the legacy of our fallen warriors through the college education of the surviving children they left behind.

All of us are indebted to the many military personnel who are serving throughout the world so that we may live here in peace and safety. The Special Operations Forces are special operations personnel from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. Although our forces voluntarily place themselves in harm’s way, it is not without personal sacrifices. Their training is highly demanding and only a select few earn the coveted badges. Because many of their missions are classified, their successes usually remain unknown to the rest of the world.

SOAR of WNC has been successful due to the generosity of the Highlands/Cashiers-Sapphire communities. The SOAR of WNC committee includes the donors, merchants, and volunteers.

In addition to giving the over 800 deserving children a college education, including books, boarding and counseling, the foundation coordinates with the Special Operations Command to ensure all needs of the wounded Special Operations forces are met. This includes providing $2,000 to meet immediate needs their families face when members are hospitalized.

In the last 8 years, SOAR of WNC has been awarded for the fourth year, a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, a national rating system that evaluates 4-star charities based on their effectiveness, accountability, and financial health.

Visit our website www.soarhighlands.org for more information and to view our events.
Spirituallly Speaking

Salt and Light

Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its
taste, how can its saltness be restored? It is no longer
good for anything, but it is thrown out and trampled un-
derfoot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a
hill cannot be hid. (Matthew 5:13-14)

My husband, Jon was recently put on a low salt
diet by his doctor. It was a great surprise to me
when I next visited the grocery store to find just
how much sodium is in everything we eat. It took some
real effort to find products with reduced sodium. It’s not
surprising that salt is in just about everything we eat. Salt
has long been used as a preservative for food stuffs of all
kinds. We need some salt in our diet or we would quite
literally perish.

Light is another thing we can’t live without. Just ask
anyone with the winter blues—tired of the long
hours of darkness in a 24 hour day. We all know that
even house plants put in a sunny window tend to go dor-
mant in the winter, as well as all outdoor vegetation.

A third thing absolutely essential to life as we know
it is water. In our baptism, through water and the Holy
Spirit, we adopted into the family of God. Baptism
marks the beginning of our spiritual life and journey
and nourishes us and refreshes us on that journey.

Today, though, let’s focus on Salt and Light.

Salt—we know it as table salt— is sodium chloride.
Sodium chloride contains electrolytes which are very
important to our bodies. The salt we use in the America
comes from sea water or from mining. It is purified and
additives such as iodine are sometimes added. In the an-
cient world, the salt used is not manufactured by boiling
clean salt water, nor quarried from mines, but is ob-
tained from marshes along the seashore, as in Cyprus, or
from salt lakes in the interior, which dry up in summer.

The Latin word “Salarium,” is a derivative of sal, “salt.”
The origin of the word “salary” originally denoted a al-
lowance given to a Roman soldier for buying salt or a
“salt allowance,” salt being in former times a valued
commodity over which wars were fought, rather that
forgone as it is today. Because it was perishable,
this made “good” salt all the more precious in the an-
cient world. In the book of Numbers, v. 18:19, an over-
living covenant is called a covenant of salt. In (Lev.

Places to Worship

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Sunday service every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.
BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesday: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshiping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum -
10:45, Buck’s Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Monday: Bible Study and Supper at members’ homes -
6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men’s Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First
Baptist Church
Thursday: Women’s Prayer Group - 10 a.m.,
Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at
noon
CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30 a.m. • School - 10:30 a.m.
Wed.: 6 p.m. • Rev. Clifford Willis
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
526-2968
Reverend Denson Franklin
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. • Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Monday: 4 p.m. Women’s Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group
4:30 PM, Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10 a.m. Daughters of the King
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.;
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,
Prayer Meeting - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:15-8:15 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; School - 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays - Choir - 7
HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sixth Street
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesday: Prayer & Bible Study - 7
HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
221 N. 4th Street
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45
a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.
Youth
Wed: Supper; 6: 7:15 - children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for
Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 - Women’s Bible Study (nursery)
HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 N in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Youth
Mon.: Bible Study & Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.
MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
Pastor Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: 10 a.m. at Blue Ridge School
Wednesday: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC
Church: 706-746-2999
Mass: 9 a.m.; Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Bible Study - 7 p.m.
SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Szemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.
SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second
Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m
WHITESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

* See SPIRITUALLY page 13
...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

2:13), Salt was required in all the sacrifices. Salt does its work by being brought into close contact with the substance upon which it is to work. And so we, brought into contact with the world — we are not to seek to withdraw ourselves from contact with the evil. The only way by which the salt can purify is by being rubbed into the corrupted thing. Salt does its work silently, inconspicuous. Thus, we are only the reflection. If we have visited a lighthouse especially the older ones, and climbed up the stairs to the very top, we will see a powerful light source surrounded by multiple mirrors. The light reflected out by the mirrors is powerful enough to be seen miles away, even in stormy conditions. However, if the source goes out, the light goes dark. It's obvious where I'm going with this — Christ is our light, our source of life and salvation. In this gospel lesson, he is telling us we need to become mirrors — to send the light of his love and teachings out into the dark and stormy world. That is one side of Christian work, the side that most of us like best, the conspicuous kind of it, but there is a very much humbler, and, as fancy, a very much more useful, kind of work that we have all to do.

We shall never be the “light of the world,” except on condition of being “the salt of the earth,” also. You have to strive to be humble, inconspicuous, silent, “salty” part of checking evil by a pure example before you can aspire to play the other part of sending out light into the darkness, and so drawing people to Christ himself. This may seem off-putting to most of us. It sounds like a lot of work! And so it is. Anyone who has suffered through a Thanksgiving dinner with dysfunctional family members knows that. It's HARD to begood!

It's HARD to deal with brokenness and meanness. Thank goodness we have help in that regard — Christ himself sent an agent and advocate, the Holy Spirit, to help us on our way. None of us, on our own, can be perfect — we know that from the apostle Paul and from our early days studying Luther's catechism. It is only because the grace of God, given to us as faith in the promises of Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Holy Spirit, that we can be "salty lights" to all the world.

Buchanan gets first look at new prosthesis now available to doctors

Dr. Robert Buchanan with the Center for Plastic Surgery in Highlands, Board Certified in both plastic surgery and hand surgery, recently attended a hands-on workshop on “New Concepts in Upper Extremity Arthroplasty.”

The symposium concentrated on newer methods of joint replacement in the fingers, wrist and elbow for painful arthritic problems concentrating on new joint replacement prostheses.

The new prosthesis is very similar to one that Dr. Buchanan has used for the last 25 years, but is made of pyrocarbon rather than stainless steel. The new device acts more like the bone and cartilage it replaces. They were developed in conjunction with the Mayo Clinic and have a number of advantages over the older style of prostheses.

Of significance is the implant designed for the base of the thumb where it articulates with the wrist. This is one of the most common joints in the body for severe arthritis which is quite limiting when present.

Dr. Buchanan said that he began using the prosthesis he has used 25 years ago because of the marked advantages of the procedures that were done at the time. He says that new implant has all the advantages he sought many years ago but with the further advantage of better tissue tolerance.

Additionally, he says that the technique of placing the new implant is essentially the same as the one he has been using for all these years.

The new implants are also available for the smaller joints of the fingers and the wrist joint, as well as the elbow.

All of the implants, as well as the techniques of use, were covered in both slide presentation and in the lab, using the actual implants.

Dr. Buchanan says that the main reason he went to the course is that he has known the developers of the implants from the Mayo Clinic for many years and has talked to them on multiple occasions about their work.

He says that although the Mayo Clinic has been using the implants for many years, they have not been available to other physicians. He was excited when they finally were released for general use because of the successes they have had at the Mayo Clinic.

104 years and counting!

With help from her granddaughter Pamela Miller, Nona Hornbeak, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s Fidelia Eckerd Living Center resident, blew out candles in celebration of her 104th birthday.

Nona along with family, friends, and staff enjoyed cake and good company at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center resident, Nona Hornbeak at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center.

Nona spent much of her life helping her husband raise cattle and crop on their family farm in Greenfield, TN.

While working in a Millinery Shop during high school, Nona met her husband, W.E. Hornbeak. They soon fell fast in love, running off to Alabama to wed. She was an active member of the local Greenfield Presbyterian Church where she played the organ for many years.

She looks forward to the regular visits from her granddaughter Pamela, and spending time with her friends at FELC.
...LETTERS continued from page 7

election, if so desired.

The citizens of Highlands deserve stability in these two important positions of authority, and more specifically the citizens do not deserve an unsupported police department or prejudiced zoning office.

I find it repugnant that the taxpayers actually have to foot the bill for concealing the facts they are entitled to be aware of regarding the Cooley dismissal, not to mention all the related attorneys fees involved.

The truth is nearly always free, and people, or in this case, institutions usually have to pay to conceal the truth which is apparently what has happened here. The use of tax dollars to conceal the facts regarding this matter is also both arrogant and a capricious use of positions of authority, and is indicative of governing hubs by our officials in charge, and does not represent good stewardship of our local treasury, that I am sure most of which are hard earned dollars by our citizens, and not play money.

In the case of the High and Police Department, I am of course referring to how Chief Harrell had had little to no public support from this administration or Town Hall, and I am referring to the disgrace and shame brought upon the community by recent events and the constant effort to undermine his and the departments' authority as chief law enforcement officers of Highlands.

The only complaint that I have ever heard regarding Chief Harrell is that he is not corruptable and will not perform as a puppet at the pleasure of the power brokers in our community, but rather, “goes by the book” to repeat a phrase that I have heard used regarding his tenure, and that he attempts to apply state law blindly and without prejudice pertaining to DWI citations, or yet still another even more petty complaint is that his officers issue citations for minor traffic violations without regard to who the offender is, and not allowing for preferential treatment depending on the financial or political status of that offender.

These are all petty grievances being used by those that think they should receive some special treatment, and for possibly more sinister motivations.

Instead, by all legitimate accounts, what we have now is exactly the kind of police chief and department that a law abiding citizen would appreciate in a time of need.

I really do not wish or care to reenumerate the tawdry and disgusting details of what the Chief and department have endured for years while trying to uphold their sworn duties as law enforcement officers of our community, not to mention the abuse that Miss Erika Olvera endured while her most basic civil rights were being trampled on by the powers that be in our community.

Most everyone in town knows about these shameful abuses and the details thereof, and exactly who is responsible for spreading the harmful, malicious and patently false rumors, that led up to this leadership debacle, even though, there has seemingly been a remarkable lack of courage and accountability in outing those responsible and those complicit in the scandal by our public officials, again all at the taxpayers expense.

The silence from the top has been deafening, and it does make you wonder who all is complicit in this unseemly scandal. One is indeed unaccounted for requires another to cover the original, and then another, and then another, and so it goes on and on. Thankfully, the voters are able to hold them accountable, even if involuntarily. They (the public officials) cite the ongoing case Miss Olvera as pending in Federal Court, and rightfully so, as the reason for not taking any public position or accountability in this matter.

I would respectfully submit to you that had our elected officials taken the appropriate actions in the first place, or even better not allowed themselves to be swayed and manipulated by undue and heavy-handed bullying influence, or even after the fact, had they been willing and able to be accountable and responsible for this deplorable scandal that occurred on their watch, Miss Olvera may or may not have had to seek redress and remedy in Federal Court in the first place, which unfortunately is not cost effective and will be at the taxpayers expense as well — that is if justice is served in this matter.

Instead, our officials have circled their wagons, denied all accountability in anything, and are now attempting to consolidate power to afford the political cover to protect themselves from similar future abuses they apparently foresee, again all at the expense of the taxpayers, referring to it all as mere “details.”

...WILDERNESS from 9

are all allowed but under the new label, a 200-foot buffer zone between roads and the wilderness area has been proposed to allow for the maintenance of scenic overlooks. Activity is typically not allowed in buffer areas so people wonder what that really means.

In addition, the area would be permanently protected from logging, additional roads or development — things which aren’t allowed under the current “Study” designation, anyway — which both camps generally agree is a good thing — but some are still afraid roads currently open will be closed.

Also, according to Brent Martin, the Southern Appalachian program director for The Wilderness Society and the one who first presented the proposition to the Highlands Town Board, motorized or mechanized forms of transportation, such as off-road vehicles and mountain bikes would not be allowed nor would the use of chainsaws to clear trails.

Clearing trails doesn’t concern the preservationists much — they say it can be done by hand — but like everything else that comes down to man-hour money.

Forest Service officials agree it’s faster and therefore more cost-effective to clear trails with a chainsaw, but clearing trails in the Overlook Wilderness Study Area aren’t high on their list anyway.

It’s those gray areas and the lack of a general consensus on exactly what the new label could mean that killed the idea.

The ball is now in Congressman Heath Shuler’s court.

— Kim Lewicki
...VIRTUAL continued from page 1

career or college ready.”

Highlands School principal Brian Let
ter said the NCVPs is exceptionally import-
tant to Highlands School and to most small
rural schools. “For instance, we do not have
the resources to have a physics teacher, a
Japanese language teacher, or a calculus
teacher. But, with NCVPs we have the
ability to access those courses for our best
and brightest students,” he said.

The demand for online classes con-
tinues as districts seek ways to solve sched-
uling conflicts and space issues and to ex-
pand course offerings. NCVPs continues to
work to train districts on blended learning
integration and many districts have signed on to be “GOLIVE” districts in or-
der to take advantage of strategic planning
services offered through NCVPs.

Macon County Schools Superinten-
dent Dr. Dan Brigman said the NCVPs has
been a tremendous resource for students
throughout Macon County, particularly in
its two K-12 school systems personnel and oth-
er resources are very limited.

“NCVPs has allowed our students to
access advanced courses and other content
to ensure each participant can be competi-
tive when applying for colleges, universi-
ties, and other post-high school opportu-
nities,” he said. “In addition, NCVPs has
provided access to basic courses for middle
and high school students who may be struggling
in core academic areas or those students
who need specific content not offered
in the traditional school setting (Spanish).”

He said the hardship all school dis-
tricts throughout the state have recently ex-
perienced is a drastic reduction in state
funding ($122,000 in Macon County for the
2010-11 budget year) based on the ini-
tial formula. Though the formula is cur-
rently under review by a committee at the
state level and will likely be revised prior to
the upcoming budget year – it could im-
pact the school district’s NCVPs offerings.

“As a result of the unexpected budget
cut to support NCVPs when we received our
state allocation last July, our participa-
tion has been reduced with the anticipa-
tion of utilizing each state and local dollar
available to support personnel in the class-
room,” he said.

The current number of students who
have registered for NCVPs in Macon Coun-
ty for the 2010-2011 school year are fall: 44;
year-long: 45 and spring: 31.

- Kim Lewicki and StatePoint
  Media.
deVille Schiffli launches Highlands real estate firm

Susie deVille Schiffli, Owner/Broker-in-Charge, has announced the launch of White Oak Realty Group, a Highlands, NC real estate firm.

The firm will be located at 125 South Fourth Street, across from the Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Renovations to the existing structure are slated to begin this month; deVille Schiffli anticipates an April opening.

“I am enormously fortunate to have Jeffrey Owens’ top-tier design talent on board for this project,” said deVille Schiffli. “We are going to create an elegant, unified façade that is in keeping with the neighboring architecture in this premier, downtown Highlands location. The upscale and professional interior will reflect the tone and tenor of the firm.”

deVille Schiffli is a native of Highlands and returned to the area in 1992 after living in Chapel Hill, Boston, and London. As the founding executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands and the Peggy Crosby Center, she enjoyed six years of nonprofit leadership before beginning her career in real estate in 2001.

As president of her consulting firm, Innovation Compass, deVille Schiffli has worked with executives, entrepreneurs, and educators from across the United States; co-developed and produced a multimedia entrepreneurial learning program for Fortune 500 company, Cisco Systems; co-created and taught Southwestern Community College’s inaugural, online introductory entrepreneurship course; as well as consulted with nonprofit organizations, including The Bascom, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

“The launch of this firm represents the realization of a dream I have held for nearly a decade,” said deVille Schiffli. “To say I am excited is a vast understatement. In building this firm, developing an unparalleled team of top-producing agents, and delivering a world-class experience, I will now be able to bring together everything I have learned from my experience in real estate, sales, marketing, nonprofit leadership, multimedia and online education, and corporate and entrepreneurial consulting.”

deVille Schiffli received a Master of Entrepreneurship degree from Western Carolina University as well as the Outstanding Master of Entrepreneurship Student award. She earned with Honors a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations, the Duke Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management, and the Western North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute.

deVille Schiffli earned the Accredited Buyer Representative designation in 2003 and the NAR Short Sales and Foreclosure Certification in 2010.

“While now is certainly a challenging environment, I have never been more optimistic about the opportunities for buyers and sellers in the Highlands and Cashiers, NC real estate markets. Buyers have deep market inventory from which to base their investment decisions, during a time of low interest rates and high seller flexibility. Sellers, in partnership with their real estate firm and agent, are now able to tap into what I consider to be the new frontier of marketing: mobile marketing. Mobile marketing turns the clock back to the advent of the internet, in my opinion, and affords us entirely new ways to reach prospects. Further, with our location in the heart of the real estate district in downtown Highlands, I look forward to putting the best in offline, as well as online, marketing strategies to work for all of our clients.”

deVille Schiffli may be reached via email: susie@WhiteOakRG.com, or by calling (828) 371-2079.

... CULLASAJA from page 5

prior to leaping out face forward and swinging downward in sections.

“No one knows exactly what happened, but something obviously failed to work and he basically fell to the bottom,” said Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief James Manley.

Highlands crews assisted Cullasaja Fire & Rescue rig off and lower a Stose basket to the bottom to retrieve the body which was officially recovered at 5 p.m.

Sunday was not the first time the group had rappelled Cullasaja Falls; the group had been there about a week before.

The incident is under investigation.
Classifieds Policy
Non-Commercial Classifieds:
$6 for first 10 words; 20 cents per word thereafter.
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$6 for first 10 words; 25 cents per word thereafter.

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HELP WANTED

WELL ESTABLISHED REAL ESTATE COMPANY SEEKING QUALIFIED BROKERS, Call Gina McDonald at Mountain View Properties at 526-6126 or send resume to P.O. Box 2259, Highlands, NC 28741, (st. 1/27)

MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS. Deli, Grill and Cashier. Contact Jobs828@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

$103,000 LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. 55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2Bed/2bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 1/11)

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

STORAGE/OFFICE LOCATION FOR RENT. +/- 1,600 sq. ft., heat & air, bathroom, close to town. $700 per month. Call 828-526-9953.

TRILLIUM PLACE TOWNHOME End unit for spring/summer rental—3½/2, fireplace, walk to town Clean and ready Call 813 251-1201. (st. 1/27)

3 BED, 2 BATH APARTMENT ON SECOND FLOOR OF HOME NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL. WD and wood burning fireplace. Call 828-200-1064. (st. 1/6)

PRIME MAIN ST FRONTAGE COMMERCIAL RENTAL. 800 sq ft. can expand into 1600 sq. ft. Large window display and good storage. Call 526-3861.

TURN-KEY FURNISHED 1 BED, 1 BATH COTTAGE. Freshly painted, new carpet and appliances. WD. Includes two TVs plus TIVO and wireless Internet. No smoking. No pets. All utilities included. 2.5 miles from town on Cashiers Road. $650/month plus one-month deposit. Call 828-526-1566. (st. 1/6)


CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, WD, DW, wood stove. No smoking. $700/month utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 1/14)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/2BATH HOME. Stunnning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31/11)

1 BEDROOM/1 BATH, in-town furnished apartment, totally renovated. 2 decks, hardwood floors, granite countertops, washer/dryer. Call: 526-9523 (st. 9/30).

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

LOT FOR SALE, MILLION DOLLAR NEIGHBORHOOD. 1.45 acres, heavily wooded with stream. 4-BR septic permit. Mirromont area, walk to town, $198,000, 770-861-4249.

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEASE OR SALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details 203-0010 or 421-2144.


Vehicles for Sale


Services


WILL, SIT FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED OR CHILDREN. Your home or mine. 13 years childcare experience. By the hour. Call 828-966-3988. References.

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

TREE SERVICE – Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for “Woolly Adelgid.” 828-526-2251


Police & Fire Dept.

Highlands PD log entries from Jan 27 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 27
• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spring and S. 3rd St. There was a minor injury.

Feb. 1
• At noon, officers responded to a call for service concerning a suspicious man in a store on Main Street who was making the female clerk feel uncomfortable.

Feb. 2
• At 4:55 p.m., officers responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Oak Lane. The male agreed to leave the premises for the night.

Feb. 3
• At 8 a.m., personal property left at Mitchell’s Lodge and Cottages was reported to the police who attempted to contact the owners.

Feb. 4
• At 6:30 a.m., officers assisted a motorist who had been stranded since 2 a.m.

Feb. 5
• At 7:05 p.m., officers responded to a call from the Citgo gas station to help make someone leave the premises.

Feb. 6
• At 8:30 p.m., a man leaving a business found his vehicle had been damaged while inside the building.

Feb. 7
• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarm and issued 3 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 6:

Feb. 6
• At 4:18 p.m., the dept. was called to assist Cullasaja Fire & Rescue with the recovery of a body of a man killed in a rappelling accident.

Feb. 7
• At 10:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Road.

Feb. 8
• At 6:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. It was cancelled en route.

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ORDINANCE continued from page 1

...have questioned Mayor David Wilkes move of shedding the mantle of Mayor to Mayor Pro Tempore John Dotson to speak as a "citizen" during the Public Hearing in favor of the amendment.

It’s true that as documented in GS 160A-70, the Mayor Pro Tempore is to fulfill the duties of the mayor when he or she is absent or incapacitated.

Wilkes was neither absent nor incapacitated, but according to representatives at the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, his move though highly unusual was “probably not illegal.” They said since a mayor can’t vote, shedding the mantle is a way he can voice his opinion even if in an effort to sway the vote and could be considered as a way to be objective because he’s not hiding his opinion or wishes behind the gavel of Mayor.

However, the questioned other recent actions concerning the process of amending the Charter Implementing Ordinance over the past month.

First, why was the Planning Board requested to make a non-binding recommendation to the Town Board concerning the Charter Implementing Ordinance which could be considered different from the town’s Zoning (Land-use) Ordinance?

If the town’s Zoning Ordinance stipulates that the Planning Board must consider any and all ordinances—land use or otherwise—why were the positions of Police Chief and Zoning Administrator separated out for its consideration?

Also, why was the subsequent Public Hearing only required to consider making the hiring and firing of the Zoning Administrator the Town Manager’s job and not to also consider the Police Chief’s position?

Furthermore, why was the subsequent Public Hearing only required to consider making the hiring and firing of the Zoning Administrator the Town Manager’s job and not to also consider the Police Chief’s position?

The Planning Board’s position and the Planning Board’s position are separate issues.

In answering all these questions, Town Attorney Bill Coward refers to the amended NC Gen. Statute 160A-387 regarding Zoning (land-use), which assumes the Charter Implementing Ordinance falls under the same category as the town’s Zoning Ordinance.

He therefore says the following (GS 160A-387) explains all action taken by the Planning Board so far:

"In order to initially exercise the powers conferred by this Part, a city council shall create or designate a planning board under the provisions of this Article or of a special act of the General Assembly. The planning board shall prepare or shall review and comment upon a proposed zoning ordinance, including both the full text of such ordinance and maps showing proposed district boundaries. The planning board may hold public hearings in the course of preparing the ordinance. Upon completion, the planning board shall make a written recommendation regarding adoption of the ordinance to the city council. The city council shall not hold its required public hearing or take action until it has received a recommendation regarding adoption of the ordinance from the planning board. Following its required public hearing, the city council may refer the ordinance back to the planning board for any further recommendations that the board may wish to make prior to final action by the city council in adopting, modifying, and adopting or rejecting the ordinance. Subsequent to initial adoption of a zoning ordinance, all proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance or zoning map shall be submitted to the planning board for review and comment. If no written report is received from the planning board within 30 days of referral of the amendment to that board, the governing board may proceed in its consideration of the amendment without the planning board report. The governing board is not bound by the recommendations, if any, of the planning board."

It’s unclear when or if the issue will be taken up by the Town Board again.

— Kim Lewicki

Highlands poised for new ‘Historical District’

After 10 years, the nomination of Highlands’ Historical North District is being presented to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee at its meeting in Raleigh, February 10. The committee will decide whether to include the Historic Preservation Officer Jeffrey Crow to sign the nomination and submit it to the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, for final review and listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Highlands has 46 sites on the National Register within two residential districts—the Satulah Mountain District, the Playmore & Bowery Road District—four buildings on Main Street, and three individual homes.

If the nomination succeeds, which is uncertain at this time, the National Register, what an owner does with his property is his own business.

“By being on the National Register, all an owner gets is the honor of national recognition (until he tears his house down) and tax credits for improvements within National Register guidelines, which are pretty broad, particularly concerning interior renovations,” said Shaffner.

Owners can also request a plaque from the National Register for their homes.

Shaffner said if the North District is nominated, it will bring national recognition to Highlands for its 59 historic sites and three districts.

“[The nomination] is a significant matter for a town as small as Highlands,” said Shaffner.

— Kim Lewicki

The Gottwals House (ca 1892) on 802 N 4th St., at the west side at Hickory Street, is one of the 13 structures being considered for inclusion in the new North Historic District.

Photo by Kim Lewicki