

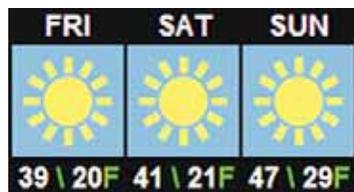
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 6

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Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011



• This Week •

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. Children \$5, Adults \$10. Call 787-1958 for info.

Saturday, Feb. 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.6 mile hike, 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 10 a.m.; drive 25 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Bill & Sharon Van Horn at 369-1983 for reservations.

• 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.

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. 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.

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 mere-

ly 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 back 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 naming the 3,200-acre Overflow Wilderness Study Area in Blue Valley the Bob Zahner Wilderness Area. The decision barely registered on the radar screen.

Making the change would literally take an act of Congress which Congressman Health 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



Photo by Jim Lewicki

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

•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

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

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 anew 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

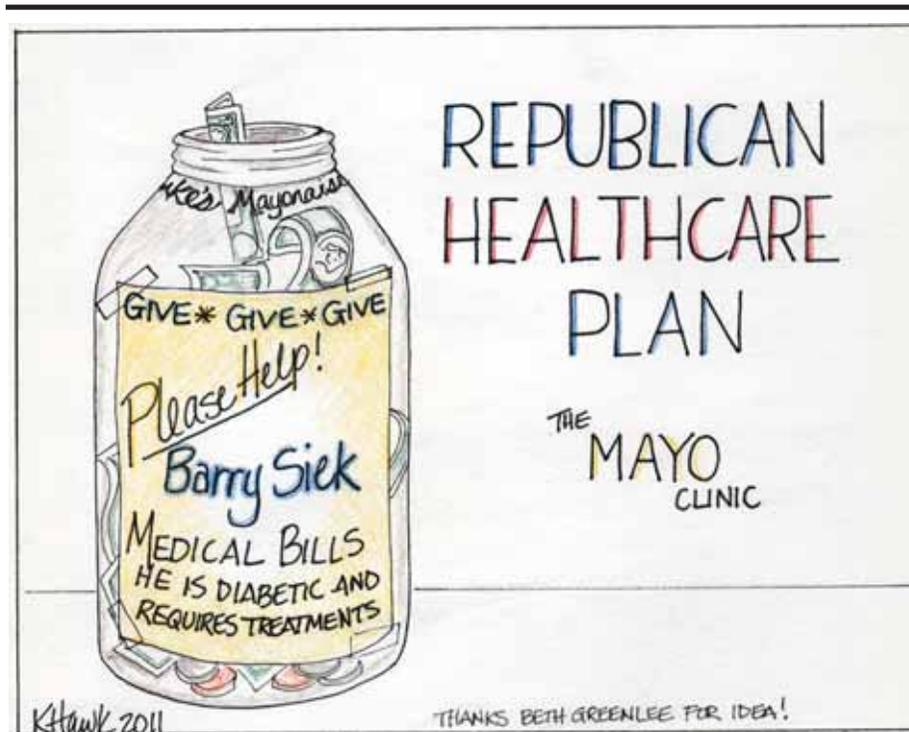
Dear Editor,

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

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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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 to 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 Administrators office should remain autonomous and under the

• See LETTERS page 7

• OBITUARIES •

George Harold Fleming

George Harold Fleming, age 89, of Shortoff Road, Highlands, 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 the retired founder of Better Business Forms, Inc., located in St. Petersburg, 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 internationally for his printing expertise and innovations. George was a member of Kiwanis 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 husband 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 Humane 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.

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 Saturday, 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 daughters, 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 coming to Highlands since 1932 when his parents built a summer home on Satulah Mountain. 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 branch office of his firm operated in Cashiers from 1972 until 1997.

He was a passionate land conservationist long before conservation practices became popular and he directed his engineering practice accordingly. His abiding interest in the Southern Appalachians, and especially in this corner of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 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

• See OBITUARIES page 4

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

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 feud-in', 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 image how politics could've been uglier than in Miami Beach. Highlands is a far cry from Miami Beach.

Here's a little friendly unsolicited ad-

vice 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



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

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 playin' 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. Hmmmm, 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 tricky 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 folk's shorts in a wad, they would find ways to fire you next....cut-throat politics

at its finest. Remember the cat.

On Miami Beach, the first thing our 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 city 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 manger 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 extreme dislike for most politicians. And when I think about it, Miami Beach did employ the 'good ole boy' system.

Watch for ***The Scam***, only in *The Highlands Newspaper*

... 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 Summer-ville 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 Hervey, Brenna Roper, and Cindee 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.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

It's about how you slice it

A good many people believe dessert is the best part of the meal. The idea is to save the bet 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 cherries jubilee was quite an experience, as much for a 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 cheery pie.

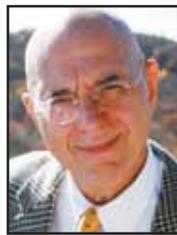
I was the son who said, "Joana, this is the best cherry pie I have ever tasted. It's better than yours, Mom. The student has surpassed the master."

At the time I said it, I thought I was complimenting both my mother and my sister. Mom's reaction still puzzles me, although dozens of friends and two sisters have declared it 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.

Mom had no desire to be cast as a giant. No character parts for her. Nope. She wanted to die the leading lady of the kitchen, so the mere idea that Joana's pie was better than her own reduced her to great heaving sobs.

I'll 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 resided in perfect bal-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

ance. The color would have shamed the richest Burmese ruby. The filling was thickened with corn starch from the sweetest ear ever plucked 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 play dates 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 Conroe, 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

... CULLASAJA from 1

occurred. Cooper fell approximately 150-160 feet to the base of the falls.

Another individual was slightly injured in the incident but was not transported to the hospital.

Cullasaja Fire and Rescue was the first-responder on the call assisted by Highlands Fire and Rescue.

Traffic was diverted around the area for approximately an hour.

The Australian method of rappelling is considered a dangerous form of the sport. About 20 feet of rope is repeatedly let out

• See CULLASAJA page 16

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

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 freak out at the very mention of the Bible, calm down.

Genesis 1 starts, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep." I would have sworn chaos was in there – wrong. But, however, after seeking out Wikipedia's information on "chaos," I felt somewhat redeemed. Chaos, in Greek mythology and 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.

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 its just a coincidence, but it is being used, Nonetheless.



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

unemployment compensation. Unfortunately, making it possible for people not to work creates people who cease looking for work. You may wonder with more people being unemployed how the unemployment rate is declining. If you stop looking for work, you are no longer considered unemployed in calculating the unemployment rate.

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 be all but doomed. The Muslim Brotherhood is the best organized and most prepared to take over. Obama's administration is putting pressure on Mubarak to vacate the office immediately, knowing this would open the door for the MB to take over. 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 ripe for a takeover.

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

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, warts and all, but evidently enough voters bought the idea to put him in office.

Initially, he made several apology tours abroad, blaming the ills 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 real ills of the country. While unemployment rose to 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 unemployment while pushing legislation to allow folks 99 weeks of

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• 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.

...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 that department and 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 neither garner favoritism nor retribution,

whichever is expedient to the political soup of the day, but rather their decisions be adjudicated impartially and free from political persuasion, and based on unbiased public policy and the merit of the matter at hand, and not the whims or desires or special interests of certain individuals in the community.

There has been a years-long dogged, and concerted effort to have the Chief of Police fired, led by a certain individual in town, and followed by a few other individuals in our community. The Highlands Police Department has been treated shabbily by this administration and Town Hall over the entire term of this current administration.

As if that were not enough, further suspicion has fomented in our community in light of the fact that Joe Cooley was summarily dismissed with a handsome severance package including \$30,000, as was revealed at the last Town Board meeting, conditional for him not

disclosing the actual circumstances regarding the dismissal, all of which was at the expense of the local taxpayers.

It is precisely because these two departments have been under fire by this administration and its political cronies, possibly as a result of undue influence by one or a very few individuals, that these proposed changes in the management hierarchy of our town's administration are suspect to dubious motivations and intentions.

Is this proposed change merely the next step in the process of firing the Chief of Police, as has apparently been dictated; a process that will afford political cover for the elected officials? If so, the elected officials need to muster the courage to break the stranglehold of, according to local lore, old guard bullying tactics this town has known in the past and is apparently still subjugated to. Do so, and you'll most likely be rewarded with re-

•See LETTERS page 14

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• COACH'S CORNER •

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 out 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 these 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



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

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.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

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 Highlanders with 18 points and Robbie Vanderbilt added 10.

On Monday night, Highlands trav-

eled 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 Highlanders. 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 possibly a share of the conference championship. Junior Emily Munger scored 22 for Highlanders.

The Highlander men were looking to avenge a blowout loss suffered to Hiwassee Dam in Highlands earlier this season. Despite trailing early, the Highland-

ers 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 Highlanders. 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!

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...WILDERNESS continued from page 1

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 bon a 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 when 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

• See WILDERNESS page 14

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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, 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.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925.

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.

Thursdays through March 10

• 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.

Fridays through Feb. 18

• At The Bascom, "Pre School Creativity Classes," instructor Katy Calloway, 9:30-10:30 am. The very young, joined by a parent, will learn basic art skills to support personal creativity. Lessons will include scribbling, cutting, joining, modeling and painting. Ages 2.5-5. Class size is limited, pre-registration is required. \$30 for a six-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Fridays through May 27

• At The Bascom, "Highlands High School Ceramics," 8-9:30 am. Ceramics for high school age students desiring 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 Shortoff 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.

Saturdays

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. 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,

'You are not alone' – Learn about mental illness

NAMI Family-to-Family Education — a free, 12-session program for relatives and friends of people diagnosed with a mental illness — will be offered in Franklin on Tuesdays from 7-9:30 starting March 8. Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required.

Sponsored by NAMI Appalachian South, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the course provides up-to-date information about bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, clinical depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and other mental illnesses.

Trained family members teach the course, which balances education and skills training with self-care, emotional support and empowerment. The curriculum, developed by a clinical psychologist with an ill family member, is taught nation wide and recognized for its excellence.

Some comments from previous attendees:

"It let me know that I am not alone."

"I felt like I had been under water for a long time.

The Family-to-Family class let me surface and take a deep breath."

"It helped save my son's life."

"Finally, concrete information about biological brain disorders. It changed my life."

"By far the most pertinent, informative and family oriented class I have ever taken."

This extensive curriculum covers:

- Coping skills, and handling crisis and relapses
- Listening and communication techniques
- Problem solving, setting limits and rehabilitation

• Understanding the experiences of someone living with a mental illness

• Medications and their side effects

• Connecting to and receiving community services and

• Advocacy and fighting discrimination.

Confidentiality is maintained. To register or learn more contact:

Ann 828-369-7385, Debbie 912-481-2339, or Carl 706-746-5139

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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 entree 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*. Author David Macaulay hosts an hour of spectacular location sequences and cinema-quality animation celebrating France's most famous cathedrals. *Cathedral* tells tales from the period, revealing fascinating stories of life and death, faith and despair, prosperity and intrigue.

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 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 almost 50 years loves to paint out of doors. 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 luscious landscapes. She has a studio



Jack Stern is one of the regional artists to show at The Bascom.

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 rabbits 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 SWEENEY will also be representing the Art League of Highlands of 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 outstanding 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 highly classified, their successes usually remain unknown to the rest of the world.

SOAR of WNC, a 501c3 non-profit, consists of a group of local volunteers who are dedicated to doing events to support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The Foundation (SOWF) celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. The Foundation has been awarded for the fourth year, a four-star exceptional rating by Charity Navigator, a charity watchdog group.

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 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.

Donations for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation may be sent to: SOAR, POB 923, Highlands, NC 28741.

Contact Nancy Horwitz at (828) 526-0224 for auction, golf, and donations. Contact Marianne Vines at (828) 743-2052 to volunteer to help with the Adventure Race.

For information go to: www.soarhighlands.org.

• SPIRITUALLY 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 saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “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 blahs—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 dormant 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 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 ancient world, the salt used is not manufactured by boiling clean salt water, nor quarried from mines, but is obtained from marshes along the seashore, as in Cyprus, or from salt lakes in the interior, which dry up in summer. The salt from these sources contained many impurities. The Latin word “*Salarium*,” is a derivative of *sal*, “salt” The origin of the word “salary” originally denoted a allowance 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 than taken for granted as it is today. Because it was perishable, this made “good” salt all the more precious in the ancient world. In the book of Numbers, vs. 18:19, an everlasting covenant is called a covenant of salt. In (*Lev.*

• See SPIRITUALLY page 13

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: 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
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

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Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

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Worshipping 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 & 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 am: Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's
Program, Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts
Group, 5 p.m. High School
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 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
Wednesdays: 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 S in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.
MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
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
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

Buch
prosth

• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

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



Dr. Robert Buchanan

it over 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!



Pamela Miller celebrates with grandmother, Nona Hornbeak at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center.

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 last week's gathering. "It's always exciting to celebrate the birthday of one of our residents," said Ava Emory, Chief Nursing Officers at FELC, "but more so when they achieve such a remarkable age and we, the staff at FELC, are privileged to be a part of that celebration."

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 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.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 12

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 as we are 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, inconspicuously, gradually.

After proclaiming our "saltiness," vs 13, Christ, in the next verse from Matthew, proclaims that we are also the "light of the world!" Two completely dif-

ferent images. Salt and Light. Light is far-reaching and brilliant, flashing that it may be seen. Lest we get the big head, though, we should remember, that though we may be the light to the world, we are only the reflection. If you have visited a lighthouse especially the older ones, and climbed up the stairs to the very top, you 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 his 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 I 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 the humble, inconspicuous, silent, "salty" part of checking evil by a pure example before you can aspire to play the other part of raying 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 be good!

It's HARD to deal with brokenness and meanness. Thank goodness we have help in that regard — Christ himself sent a teacher 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 of 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.

...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 hubris 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 Highland Police Department, I am of course referring to how Chief Harrell has 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 corrupt-able 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've 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 re-enumerate the tawdry and disgusting details of what the Chief and department have endured now for years while trying to uphold their sworn duty as law enforcement officers of our community, not to even 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 hateful, 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 tax payers expense.

The silence from the top has been deafening, and it does make you wonder who all is complicit in this unseemly scandal. One misdeed 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 respectively 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 not have had to seek re-dress 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."

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Rotary recognizes 'Students of the Month'

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the Highlands School Students of the Month for January at its Feb. 1 meeting. From left are School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, middle school winner, Sarah Henry, elementary school winner, Brent Sleight, high school winner, Elizabeth Gordon, and Rotary President, Jodie Cook.



Keeble joins Signature Properties



Wally Keeble

Wally Keeble has joined Signature Properties in Highlands, NC, as a Real Estate Broker. A native of LaGrange, GA, he attended Georgia Tech on a Callaway Scholarship, graduating with a B.S. in Textile Engineering. While at Tech, Wally was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Upon graduation from Tech, Wally received a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Reserves. He served eight years in the Reserves.

Following management positions with Callaway Mills, Milliken and Co., and Burlington Industries, Wally founded Keeble Textile Machinery Sales, Inc. This was the beginning of 30 years of service to the textile industry in Georgia and Alabama. Wally was active in the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Assn, the Alabama Textile Manufacturers Assn, and the Textile Operating Executives of Georgia.

While living in LaGrange, Wally was active in the American Red Cross, the Bloodmobile and the Kiwanis Club. An avid golfer, Wally was a member of Highland Country Club in LaGrange. After moving to Columbus, GA, he became a member of Green Island Country Club. Wally currently resides in Flat Mountain Estates, Highlands, NC.

...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 chain saws 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 manhour 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 Jetter said the NCVPS is exceptionally important to Highlands School and to most small rural schools. “For instances, 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 continues as districts seek ways to solve scheduling conflicts and space issues and to expand course offerings. NCVPS continues to work to train districts on blended learning integration and many districts have signed on to be “GOLIVE” districts in order to take advantage of strategic planning services offered through NCVPS.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman said the NCVPS has been a tremendous resource for students throughout Macon County, particularly in its two K-12 schools as personnel and other resources are very limited.

“NCVPS has allowed our students to access advanced courses and other content to ensure each participant can be competitive when applying for colleges, universities, and other post-high school opportunities,” 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 districts throughout the state have recently experienced is a drastic reduction in state funding (\$122,000 in Macon County for the 2010-11 budget year) based on the initial formula. Though the formula is currently under review by a committee at the state level and will likely be revised prior to the upcoming budget year – it could impact the school district’s NCVPS offerings.

“As a result of the unexpected budget cut to support NCVPS when we received our state allocations last July, our participation has been reduced with the anticipation of utilizing each state and local dollar available to support personnel in the classrooms,” he said.

The current number of students who have registered for NCVPS in Macon County for the 2010-2011 school year are, fall: 44; year-long: 45 and spring: 31

– **Kim Lewicki and StatePoint Media.**

...LETTERS continued from page 14

As a fiscal conservative regarding governmental largess, I’m getting sick and tired of being asked to pay the bills for this crap, and crap is what it is. I believe that we can do better than what can only be described as questionable leadership and expensive an outrage by citizens of good conscience in this community.

Wouldn’t we have all rather those hard earned tax dollars been spent on something more beneficial to our community, such as conservation of our precious resources or beatification of our charming town?

I can think of many areas where the funds would have served the community much better. Even a second dog park makes more sense. All the moneys and energy spent on this nonsense would have gone a long way towards improving our community for the pleasure of the taxpayers rather than to line the pockets of a few with little to nothing to show for it except embarrassment for the citizens or taxpayers.

It is precisely these kinds of “details” that we expect our elected officials to be accountable and responsible for avoiding or mitigating.

Highlands’ citizens should not be forced to endure this kind of stain on our community and lack of leadership, and we should not as citizens allow our community to return to the days of past administrations; although not that long ago, when according to local lore, the police department was used as a tool or political pawn. According to lore, the powers that were, used the Police Department for intimidation, reprisal, harassment, and retribution towards individuals in the community who may not go along with their personal ambitions by participating as the last required component or cog in the wheel in the maintaining of a totally corrupt system of governance, rife with all the unsavory elements of a sophisticated crime syndicate.

I won’t bother to list those unsavory elements; they are apparent to anyone that is willing to remove their own blinders. At the very least, it does make one wonder why anyone would want a compromised or corruptible Chief of Police and Police Department.

Likewise, the office of the Zoning Administrator shouldn’t be utilized as a vehicle to garner political favor, or to perpetrate reprisal either.

These two departments should remain directly responsive to the citizens of Highlands, and the autonomy of these departments is the only barrier that citizens have against an oligarch cal form of government running on free money, defined as one which only caters to the benefit of a few, and one which is always abusive and corrupt.

We’ve certainly witnessed the abuses. Should we look further for the corruption? We do not want a town czar for our wonderful Town of Highlands.

Absolute power always corrupts and political cover should not be tolerated in the administration of the duties of our elected officials. The citizens of Highlands deserve an administration of elected officials that is responsive to all of its citizens and without hubris and in a democratic fashion, and not just responsive to a few individuals desperately trying to cling to power they may have once known in their glory days.

During the last Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Coward remarked that Joe Cooley was dismissed for “insubordination” and further remarked that “he (Mr. Cooley) was just not a team player.”

In all due respect to Mr. Coward, we happen to need individuals with integrity that can think for themselves and that are not puppets to the power elite and the puppet masters in our community, and that do not just do as they are told, such as Mr. Cooley apparently was, and such as, Chief Harrell has tried to be, as heads of these very important departments, to see that policies are administered fairly and without prejudice for all of the citizens of Highlands.

Our Chief of Police, whom by all legitimate accounts is an honorable person of professional ethics and integrity, and our Zoning Administrator, whom by all accounts was doing a professional job, although willing to voice a differing opinion regarding zoning matters that apparently cost him his job. They do not need to be intimidated, and walk around on egg shells in fear of losing their jobs or having their authority undermined by “the czar” while trying to be that thin blue line between the citizens and a potentially corrupt and abusive local government run amuck.

Let these two departments remain under the purview of the elected officials

who can be re-elected or voted out by the citizens or taxpayers of our community for being unwilling or unable to attend to the “details” of governing a small town.

I remind you that a town manager or czar cannot be voted in or out of office, and that the potential certainly exists for the power and authority derived thereto, is subject to being ensconced by less than desirable means.

I encourage other citizens to speak out and become involved in this very important matter regarding the governance of our very special community of Highlands. There is no reason to live in fear of intimidation, reprisal, or retribution, and to do so is really not to live at all.

I have faith that the good citizens of Highlands will rise to the occasion and unite to protect the rights and principles they hold dear. It is a worthy pursuit and it is all of our civic duty to do so.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

In defense

Dear Editor,

In regards to Audrey Keener’s letter in the Feb. 3 edition entitled “Tell Ms. Doubleday Ms. Keener did see it!” where she referred to my letter in the Jan. 13 edition entitled “Another local’s take on bear hunting and other issues.”

This may or not be my last word on this issue. But, just for the record I am far from CLUELESS. There may be issues in which people disagree, but that does not make someone who argues the other side someone without knowledge or opinion.

Sometimes the criticism someone lodges against another and the way it is done says more about the one making the statements than the one accused.

Respectfully submitted ...

Glenda Bell
Highlands

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

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.



Susie deVille Schiffli

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, InnovationCompass, 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 retail 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.

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• 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.

• 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. 2

• At 8:50 a.m., personal property left at Mitchell's Lodge and Cottages was reported to the police who attempted to contact the owners.

Feb. 3

• A little past midnight, officers on patrol found an open door at Highlands Smokehouse. Everything was OK.

Feb. 4

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

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

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

• 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 construed as a way to be objective because he's not hiding his opinion or wishes behind the gavel of Mayor.

However, they 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 nonbinding 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 the position of Police Chief considered separately at the Jan. 19 Town Board meeting and only considered again at the Feb. 2 meeting when a super majority vote of 4-1 wasn't obtained?

Then they said there is the sequence of events to consider.

Presuming the Town Board considers the Charter Implementing Ordinance a "zoning" ordinance, according to "Land Use Law in North Carolina" by David Owens (NC School of Govt.), Ch. 11, pg. 75 — "Conduct of the Hearing (Public Hearings on Legislative Matters): "Public hearings on legislative land use regulatory decisions must be conducted in a fair and impartial manner designed to receive citizens' comments on the substance of the proposed action. The hearing mandated *before*

government board action on the proposed ordinance is a legislative hearing."

It would seem that a vote — specifically the 3-2 vote taken at the Jan. 19 Town Board meeting to amend the Charter Implementing Ordinance to give the control of the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator to the Town Manager — was a legislative action.

School of Government representatives say that if the town is proceeding based on Zoning Ordinance rules, a vote shouldn't have taken place concerning either the Police Chief's or the Zoning Administrator's positions until after the required Public Hearing — which was held Feb. 2.

Furthermore, they said the Public Hearing could have been the first of two required "reads" on the ordinance, and the vote taken the second read — all at the same meeting.

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 actions taken by the Town 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 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 today, Feb. 10 in Raleigh. This committee will decide whether to authorize State Historic Preservation Officer Jeffrey J. 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 Ran Shaffner, director of the Highlands Historical Society and the person who has spearheaded this effort believes will happen, 13 more sites will be added from the North District.

The North Historic District is bounded by 5th Street, Hickory Street, Chestnut Street, 4½ Street, and 4th Street.

The structures are Rideout-Whittle Cottage (ca 1883) 750 N 5th St., NW corner of Chestnut & 5th; Diffenderfer-Heacock-Melvin Cottage (ca 1889) 827 N 5th St., E side at end.; Edwards Family House (1891) & Grover Edwards Cottage (1949), 856 N 5th St.; Kelsey Trail Preserve (1883) end of 5th Street to Bear Pen Gap; Rice-Potts (Ed) House "Fairview Inn" or "4½ Street Inn" (ca 1910) 55 4½ St.; Nall House (ca 1950) 85 4½ St.; Gottwals House (ca 1892), 802 N 4th St., W side at Hickory Street; Gordon-Harrison Cottage (ca. 1945-6) 854 N 4th St.; White-Bridgers Cottage "Topside" (ca. 1923-24) 29 Martha's Lane; Downing-Stewart-Michael House (ca. 1890) 425 Hickory St., SE corner of 4th & Hickory; Smith-Froneberger-Wood-House (ca. 1890, 1918, 1956) 537 Hickory St.; Sheldon-Wade-Northrop House (1886) 608 Hickory St.; Johnson-Gillaspie Cottage (ca. 1940) 650 Hickory St.

Since no ordinance exists in Highlands to protect any structures, including those on 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.

"That is rather significant 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

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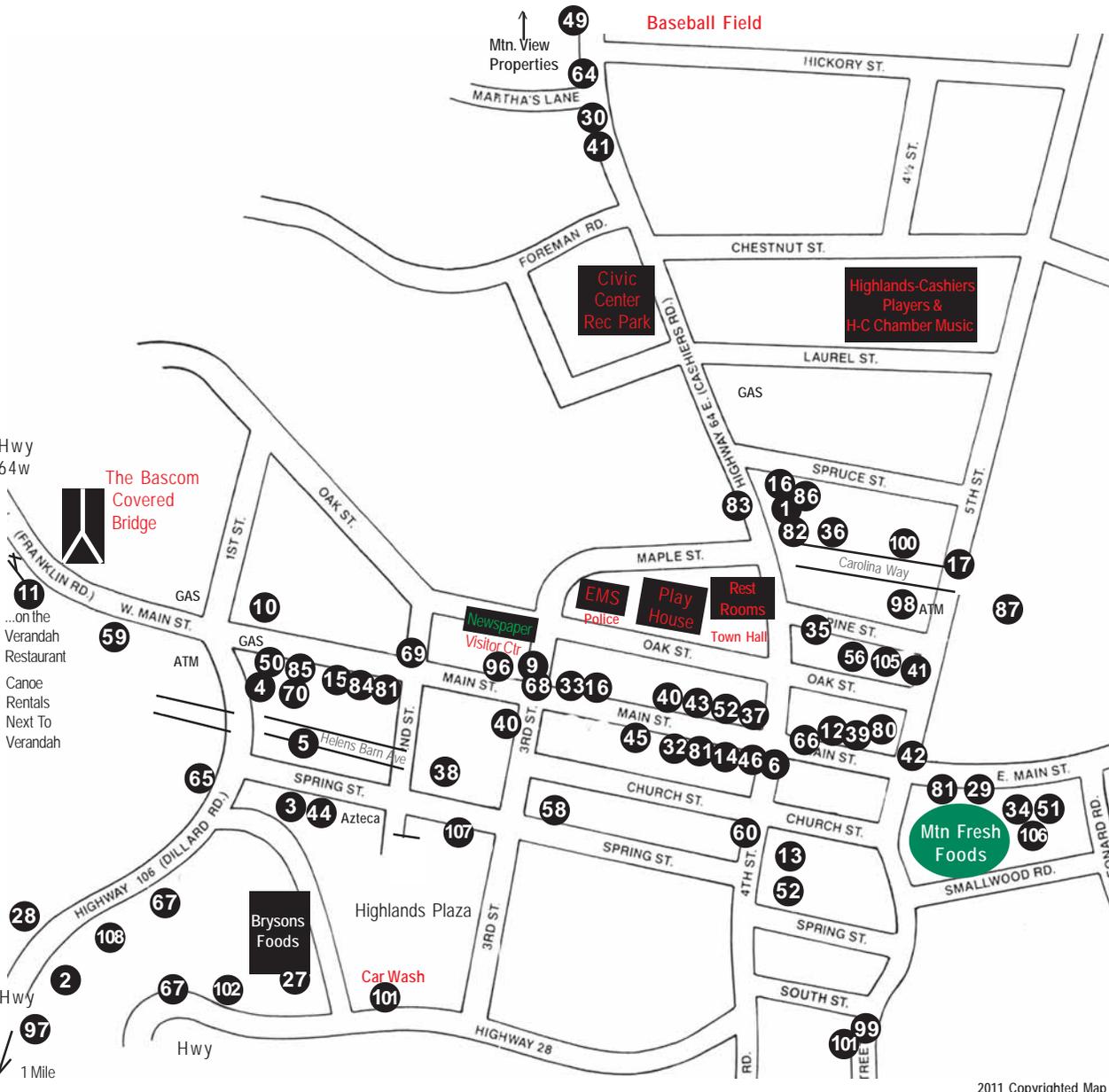
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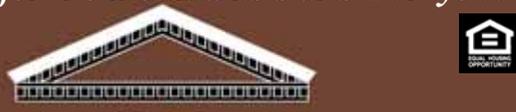
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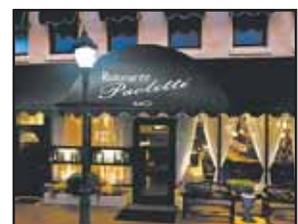
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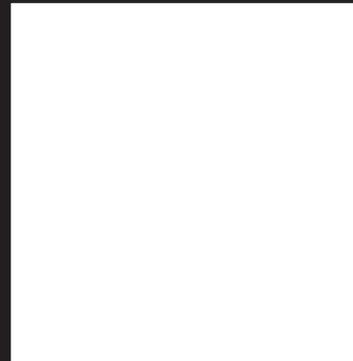
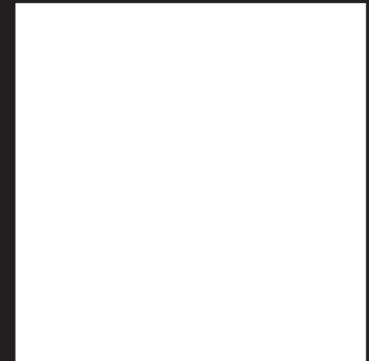
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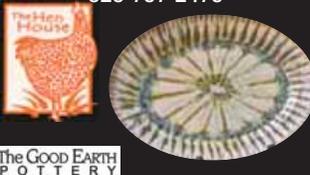
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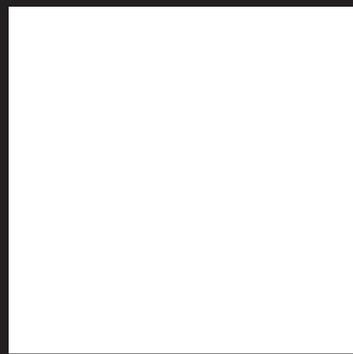


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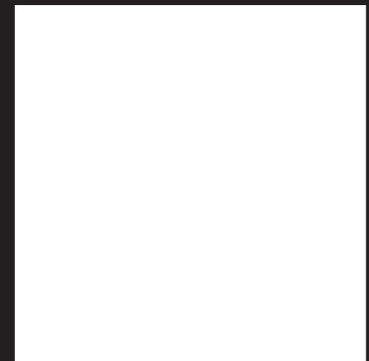
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