

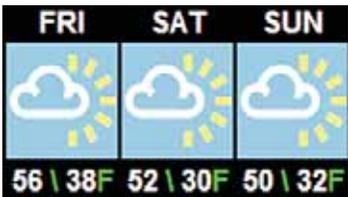
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 7

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011



• This Week •

Saturday, Feb. 19

- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meeting at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m.

- Chess and Checkers Challenge at the Rec Park 1 -4 p.m. The HS 5th Grade class is earning money for its annual 5th grade trip to Charleston, SC. "Can you beat a 5th grader?" \$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 bird houses are on display at local banks. Bid now at silent auctions.

- At The Bascom, Art Cinema in the Loft Gallery at 2 pm, *Cathedral*. Fascinating stories of life and death, faith and despair, prosperity and intrigue.

Sunday, Feb. 20

- At the Episcopal Church, "Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, BK1 (1-12)" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike on Lakeside Dr. walking trail in Franklin. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 .

Tuesday, Feb 22

- At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Peter Ray: Doonesbury: A 40-Year Retrospective. At the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

Thurs.-Sun, Feb. 24-27

- The H-C Players present "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," at PAC at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 on Sunday. Call 526-4121 for tickets.

TB considers fast-tracking streetscape project; animal control ordinance

At the Wednesday, Feb. 16 worksession and later that night at the Town Board meeting, commissioners considered an aspect of the streetscape plan for the current budget year – if it can be completed prior to the startup of the season.

Interim Zoning Administrator Mark Maxwell said right now the sidewalk from the corner of Main up S. 4th street to Church

Street Alley is damaged and doesn't match what is upstream, downstream, and across the street. "When fixed, it will tie in with the sidewalk on Main Street and

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Girls play for 'Breast Cancer Awareness'



Last week, the Highlands School Girls' Varsity Basketball team played with a pink ball for breast cancer awareness week. Seniors and team captains Courtney Rogers, Sarah Power, Marlee McCall and Taylor Buras and Fitness Coach Tina Rogers presented the ball to Coleen Fogle who is fighting breast cancer. Coleen's daughter Aimee is a classmate of the four seniors.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

HS juniors ask community to help them win national 'Prom Contest'

By Ryan Potts

The Junior class at Highlands School has been spending a lot of time on the computer lately, and while one might assume that their

internet time has been spent on Facebook and Twitter, it has actually been used to help win money for the Junior-Senior Prom later this spring.

The website – Stumpsparty.com – is offering a \$1,000 gift card to the North Carolina school with the most votes

• See CONTEST page 7

Work starts on landslide warning system

Macon County in top 4 of 19 counties to be mapped first

By Jane Nicholson

Director of University News
Appalachian State University

Most individuals know what steps to take when the National Weather Service forecasts a winter storm: head to the store for groceries, and maybe a container of ice and snow melt.

But when it comes to the potential for landslides, few in Western North Carolina know what actions to take and when to take them. How to accurately predict a potential landslide is a challenge as well. That may soon change.

Appalachian State University hosted meteorologists from the

• See LANDSLIDES page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

EMS crew is exemplary

Dear Editor,

There are many great things about Highlands. One of the greatest is our team of Emergency Medical Service personnel.

Several times in the last few years it has been necessary for me to call them. Each time their response has been very quick. The demeanor of the men is quite professional and caring and so polite that each one's mother would be proud.

We are fortunate to have such a fine service available in our community. Thank you EMS!

Madaline J. Huie
Highlands

If it's 'historical,' what homeowners want doesn't matter

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the small article about the Highlands North Historic District in the Feb. 10 edition entitled "Highlands poised for new historical district." My first draft was so long, detailed and utterly boring that I found myself actually watching Lady GaGa perform on the Grammys. So I will start again with this sentence and simple question.

An entire historic district at the state and national level was set forth in Highlands without the consent or input of the property owners involved and includes only one of two brand new condo buildings. Why?

My house is the one pictured in Highlands' Newspaper paper. It is private property owned by me. I objected to an individual historic listing five years ago. I was only informed by the state of this new district by mail in January of this year with carbon copies sent to our mayor and county

commissioner. I did not receive a map or details about this district until the day before it was to be voted on by the state - Feb. 10 - and only after requesting it over the phone.

The State of North Carolina nor The Town of Highlands never once contacted me regarding this district.

Every piece of paperwork or phone call involving the state has been punctuated with the words "by law" on their part. Every piece of paperwork or phone call involving the state has been punctuated with the words "tax incentive." Every piece of paperwork or phone call involving the state has been punctuated with the words "local issue."

"By law" is the right of North Carolina to declare private property historic according to laws set forth in 1966 by the National Register.

"Tax incentives" are there for the taking as long as you give up the rights

to do what you want with your private property.

"Local issue" is the state's response when the question is posed of a governing town historic committee being organized in the future.

Every private property owner within a district receives a letter that starts with the following: "Listing in the national register places no requirements, obligations, or expectations on owners of private property. It does not require present or future owners of property to make changes to the property, or even to preserve it."

These were the same words presented to the owners of homes and buildings in every city and town across America - that is until a sanctioned local preservation committee was formed to decide what was best for that private property.

Stephen E. Barnwell
Highlands

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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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor - Tom Merchant

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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...LANDSLIDES continued from page 1

National Weather Service's (NWS) regional offices in Blacksburg, Va., and Greer, S.C., geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Kentucky Geological Survey, Virginia Division of Geology and Mineral Resources, and N.C. Geological Survey (NCGS) in the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), and N.C. Emergency Management representatives to discuss the best ways to use data to predict the potential of landslides along steep slopes and how to alert residents in a timely manner about the dangers of landslides following significant rainfall.

The workshop, "Landslides and Weather: Anticipating the Hazard-Communicating the Threat," was designed to provide a forum where the scientists could discuss the limitations of their data and move toward constructing a more useful model or approach to providing landslide warnings, explained Dr. Kate Scharer, an assistant professor in Appalachian's Department of Geology and one of the organizers of the event.

"Geologists know the factors that make land sliding more likely, so interacting with the National Weather Service about the timing of the weather data they collect and learning about their warning systems is an important first step towards translating geologic knowledge into other hazard warnings associated with storms," she said.

"There is so much we can do together to help with community preparedness, communication and community action," said Steve Keighton from the NWS's Blacksburg office. "Our goal is to do the best we can to protect life and property, and the more quality data we have to do that the better."

Forecasting a snowstorm or rain event is fairly easy, thanks to the tools of satellite imagery, computer modeling and radar. Factors leading to a specific landslide or slope movement aren't as easy to determine. Meteorologists, geologists and emergency management each have a piece of the puzzle toward achieving the goal of forecasting landslides and responding to such events.

Among the tools for anticipating landslides are landslide hazard maps being created by the N.C. Geological Survey in NCDENR. That project began in 2006 as part of the state's Hurricane Recovery Act

• See LANDSLIDE page 14

• MILESTONE •

Highlands School Junior Emily Munger scores her 1,000th point



Emily Munger with Coach Brett Lamb with the ball she dunked for her 1,000th point Feb. 8, 2011.

By Ryan Potts

Lady Highlander junior Emily Munger has been making memories for herself since the day she put on a Lady Highlander jersey. Well, really since she could carry a basketball. Like most kids in town, serious basketball started for Emily at the Rec Park under the tutelage of her parents Jesse and Michelle.

Last Tuesday night against Cherokee, she made another entry in that scrapbook by scoring her 1000th point in a Highlander loss to the SMC Champion Lady Braves. With her milestone Tuesday night, Munger joins former Lady Highlanders Toni Schmitt and Kayla McCall as members of the modern era 1000 point club. For the season, Munger is averaging 17 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists per game and is the leading scorer in the Little Smoky Mountain Conference.

When asked to comment on her recent accomplishments, Munger shows the typical humility of a teenager when asked to speak publicly. "I don't really know how to describe how it feels," said Munger, "I guess it just feels really good."

Despite reaching a memorable personal accomplishment, Emily says that her main goal is to "just win as many

games as possible and do whatever I can to help my teammates. I have great teammates and as a team our goal is to win every time we step out on the court."

Lady Highlander Coach Brett Lamb had many good things to say about the milestone from his Junior guard, but also stressed the importance of teamwork in this type of accomplishment. "It's a great honor for anyone to score 1,000 points," said Lamb, "but to do it in three years is significant both for Emily and her teammates." Added Lamb, "It's very hard to accomplish something like that without the trust and support of your teammates."

Lamb describes Munger as an intense player, one who works hard on her game year 'round and thrives in big moments; "We've had a lot of girls step up this year for us, and there have been some games where Emily was huge on offense."

Still only a Junior, Munger plans to finish out her high school career strong and hopefully play basketball at the next level. Until then, however, she will look to try and take care of some unfinished business tonight against Hiwassee Dam. "We want a conference championship," says Munger, "we're hungry and we feel like it's our time."

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Deceived 101

Isn't it amazing how famous people like Obama, Bush, Palin, Reilly, Beck, etc., crank out multiple books over short periods of time? All of the people I mentioned are not writers by trade....they're just important....or famous and important. Beck has written seven books in three years and some are still on the best seller's list. Astounding....or is it? Are we deceived?

Here's how it works. First, you become nationally famous by whatever means you can conjure up. You don't have to be smart or gifted, just famous. Do you think that mountain climber Aron Ralston is a gifted writer? The guy worked part-time at a mountaineering store and didn't even have the common sense to tell his mommy, or anyone, he was going climbing. Duh!

Nope, all ya gotta do is get your arm stuck while climbing, realize you're gonna die, cut it off and live to tell about it. TADA, you're a famous writer, selling thousands of books and giving speeches everywhere. Personally, I've decided to keep my arm and remain a nobody. Well, maybe I'd be willing to give up the tip of my left pinky finger for a national best seller....maybe not.

If all of this sounds sarcastic, it is. Most writers struggle to get their material published and, in most cases, are not willing to go to extremes to get published. Even find-



Fred Wooldridge

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email:
askfredanything@aol.com

ing a literary agent willing to find a publisher is next to impossible. I know. There's a huge number of talented writers out there who will never get published. Boy, do I have stories to write, but who cares?

I'm not making this up. A few years ago, I found a news article about a young college student who was given a four million dollar publishing contract by Penguin Publishing for the first book he ever wrote. A professor saw potential in his work, contacted a few friends in the literary field and, poof, he's a millionaire. Ask me if I'm envious.

If a person is lucky enough to become famous by whatever means, there'll be ghostwriters waiting in the wings to write

for them. Glen Beck didn't write seven best sellers in three years. If you think so, you're deceived. He has ghostwriters at his beck (excuse the pun) and call. So do all the other famous people who crank out best sellers one after another.

Seven years ago I started another book. Am I crazy, or what? It's a fiction mystery/thriller about a few trusted police associates and a Colombian kingpin drug lord who must remain nameless. I became friendly with the Colombian after he went to work for my police department as an informant. He was dangerous and ruthless. The man is dead now but his family would think nothing of ringing my doorbell and putting a bullet in my head because I demeaned the family name in a book. That's how it is in the Colombian drug world and how easy it would be to take me out.

Halfway into my book, I began to struggle. It became work and I hated it. If you write, you know about love/hate relationships with what you write. Then the worst happened. I forgot to back up 80 pages of some pretty complicated stuff and lost it. I was devastated and angry. I didn't touch the book again for two years. Then, as predicted by some, I put aside my deep disappointment and personal blame for being so careless and finished the book. But my disappointment had just begun. It sat in my closet for another two years.

For all my hard work, I had a large stack of rejection notices from both publishers and agents. Gifted writers who read portions of the book are captivated by it. Who cares? It doesn't matter. Reality set in. Unless I'm willing to flush all that hard work down the drain and go to my grave with it still in my closet, I'll have to self-publish. Ahhhh, I hate that.

Putting my last book together for publication was a snap....and lots of fun. My current work of fiction was not. The storyline is complicated, gritty and grizzly. It's about love, hatred, loyalty and deceit. (No, it's not about Highlands.) The book is titled *Deceived* and should be out soon. Most of the characters' personalities existed as portrayed but are transformed into fictional situations. I have fallen in love with *Deceived* again. Please watch for it.

Also, look for *The Scam*, starting next Thursday, only in the Highlands Newspaper.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

How much of a survivalist are you?

I think survivalists are my favorite. It's great to be surrounded by all that optimism.

Jack Cox was the first one I ever met. He made his six-year-old twins train with .22 caliber rifles. They'd march around for a while, and then he'd put up targets. The targets were life-sized drawings of people, usually homeless people, but once in a while he'd throw in a liberal politician for variety. The boys shot the hell out of whatever Jack put in front of them, which was what Jack had in mind.

By 1975 he had loaded 20,000 rounds of ammunition and had kegs of gun powder sitting around in his basement. I suspect he just kept loading, year after year, adding to his formidable arsenal, thanking his luck for extra time to prepare, and never imaging the glue that holds society might have been stronger than he realized.

He had dried food, canned food, and a year's supply of water. He had twin sons who would stand with him at the front door or barricades if the mob drove them from the house. I don't think Jack would have considered surrender, or being driven from the homestead. It never occurred to him that he could save his own and his family's lives by clearing out and leaving the canned beef to all those hungry people. Funny thing though; Jack was a survivalist who would rather die than share. I don't think that's uncommon. He also had a wife and daughter. Their missions were less clear cut, maybe just heating water and ripping sheets for bandages.

It's a funny thing about bandages in battle. If a couple hundred frightened, hungry, desperate, hopeless people are headed up your driveway, and one of them wings you, it would make sense to ignore the wound for a little while. At that moment, an infected wound is among the least of your worries. I'm sure Frank had bandages. He was a plastic surgeon and the hospital had weak inventory control.

Unlike today's survivalists, Jack ac-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

knowledged a limited role for government which included raising a militia, maintaining roads, and dispensing Medicare payments.

The new survivalists reject any legitimate role. I know a guy who thinks we should privatize everything. Pay some company to run the schools; contract with UPS to deliver the mail. Get rid of all those burdensome regulations, so we can compete with China and cook the

planet. If you are homeless and hopeless and without a job or means of attaining one, if you're old, or weak, or sick, maybe we could find a voucher, but otherwise you are on your own. This guy thinks we got real value when we hired Black Water to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are nuts at both ends of the political spectrum. There are liberals who want to return Manhattan to the Indians and provide for every want and need. They believe, despite considerable evidence to the contrary, that the government is just better at taking care of us than we are of caring for ourselves. The survivalists believe Big Government has made us soft and dependent. I think Microsoft and MacDonald's are more culpable, but something has changed us.

Somewhere out there a survivalist has read, or at least started to read, this opinion. He believes I'm a dupe, and he may be right. If he's right, and I am hungry, and he has food, I'd ask him to share, without any expectation that he would. He'd remind me of my doubts, of my ridicule. He would let me know that I deserved whatever came to me, but it wouldn't be his beans.

Then he'd gesture threateningly, emphasizing his point with a sawed off shot gun, that it was time for me to leave. I'd trudge down the drive, hands shoved in my pants pockets, and remember stories my grandparents told about the depression.

Grandpa never lost his job, so while they never had much, they always had something, which was more than most people. They never turned away a hungry man. They'd let him sit on the back

porch, with a bowl of soup and a hunk of bread. He'd offer to work it off. Sometimes they'd find a little chore, but usually they just wished him well, and challenged him to help somebody else, once he got back on his feet. My grandparents weren't survivalists, but they and millions of Americans, some better off and some not, survived. They lived through times a lot rougher than these.

I think we've got more mettle than the survivalists give us credit for. Yesterday I took Bull and his friends John and Boyd to a gun show in Greenville. It sure made me think.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Who's on first? What's on second?

The complete bumfuzzlement of the Administration regarding the Egypt situation is discomfoting, to say the least. The one consistent condition within the White House these days is panic. Bear in mind, I'm writing this about a week before you read it, so the situation may change dramatically by then, but for now, it's a mess. For all I know, PeeWee Herman may be running Egypt soon.

One of the most startling examples of the incompetence of the leaders of our

intelligence effort was a statement made by James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence. Speaking before the House Intel Committee, Clapper stated that the Muslim Brotherhood was a "largely secular" organization that had "eschewed violence." Really? Let's do some of the homework that Clapper evidently failed to do.

What would not come as a surprise to most home schooled second graders, Wikipedia opens its discussion this way; "A Muslim is an adherent of the religion

of Islam." To extrapolate, the Muslim Brotherhood would be a brotherhood of adherents of the religion, would it not? Clapper made them sound like a desirable group of do-gooders that would be just fine to lead Egypt. Aside from the fact that high on their agenda is the elimination of Israel, they sound good to me.

Hours after Clapper's idiotic statement, a White House spokesman, Jamie Smith announced that of course "he is well aware that the Muslim Brotherhood is not a secular organization." Well, Jamie, he certainly has got millions of folks, who heard the original statement, confused. This is not the first occasion that Clapper has demonstrated his lack of awareness of the world around him.

ABC's Diane Sawyer is not someone I watch as a news source, but after listening to her interview of December 22, 2010, her credibility has increased in my mind.

Picture this. Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security; John Brennan, Deputy National Security Advisor for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; and James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, sitting across the desk from Sawyer. She was incredulous to hear that we are quite safe due the work of the Three Stooges, the Times Square Bomber and the Christmas Bomber notwithstanding.

Then, according to ABC News: "First of all, London," Sawyer began. "How serious is it? Any implication it was coming here? Director Clapper?" "London?" Clapper said after a pause. Earlier in the day, 12 men were arrested in London in an attempted terror plot. "I was a little surprised you didn't know about London," Sawyer told Clapper. "Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't," he replied.

Several hours after the world knew of the foiled attempt, the Director of National Intelligence learned of the incident. Embarrassing.

By the way, Mubarak just resigned, evidently turning the country over to the



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

military until the elections. The scene may change significantly in the next few days. My purpose is not to give a blow-by-blow account of the leadership of Egypt. It is to point out the total and complete ineptitude of our "intelligence" structure.

Enter Leon Panetta, head of the CIA, who is as far out of the Egypt loop as is the Commander-in-Chief. Both were certain of the timetable that Mubarak was on, and it turned out they were shooting in the

dark, along with the rest of the world. Panetta said he learned about the announcement the same way we did - the news media. One would think that billions of dollars of aid (to Mubarak's net worth) would at least entitle us to a heads-up, but it didn't happen. Buying friendship ain't all it's cracked up to be.

The Times Square Bomber failed; the Christmas Bomber failed. Was this due to the brilliance of our intelligence apparatus? I think not. For whatever reason, in spite of our failure to honor Him, God seems to be sparing us, at least for the time being. I think we're stretching His patience.

So, while the world waits to see the cascading effect of Egypt's striving for democracy within the Middle East, what else is shaking back here? The increasingly hopeless Lindsay Lohan is facing hard time for klefting \$2,500 worth of jewelry. Football is over, baseball is not yet, and March Madness is weeks away. The black hole of the sports schedule is upon us.

The GOP presidential sweepstakes is underway with no shortage of entrants. While there is no lack of ability on the program, the fear is that they will have so sliced and diced each other that there will be no one left standing when the primary bell rings. We have some interesting times ahead - stay focused, stay informed.

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...STREETSCAPE continued from page 1

the work done along S. 4th Street to West Church Street Alley," he said.

Considered a safety hazard and an aesthetic issue, plans include the replacing the crumbling concrete with brick pavers, installing new drainage (curb, gutter and piping), and providing benches and plantings. A pedestrian pod that will protrude slightly onto Main Street in the vicinity of the lane that motorists now use to scoot onto S. 4th next to Highlands Hill Deli is also planned.

The estimated to cost is around \$65,000. Town Manager Jim Fatland said the Street Department budget has the funds for the project.

The trees suggested by Landscape Architect Hank Ross, who has designed the project, are Zelkova serrata – a green vase Zelkova. He said the tree is considered one of the best large shade trees with a vase shape and a rapid growth rate — excellent for modern city landscapes.

•See STREETSCAPE page 18

...CONTEST continued from page 1

on their website. Additionally, the website is also offering prizes for schools who reach certain milestone votes. HHS currently has over 14,000 votes and has already won 100 free candy bars and a banner to use at prom. Visitors to the website can vote for their chosen school and are not limited to the amount of votes that they contribute per day. Currently Highlands trails Jones Senior High School by a mere 1,000 votes with just 30 days left in the contest.

The money won in the contest will go to decorations, favors and a DJ for the annual Junior-Senior prom. The opportunity to win a free prom has been very exciting for members of the junior class, who sponsor the prom each year. "It would be great to win a prom," said Highlands junior Emily Murphy, "especially since we are going up against larger schools with hundreds of kids."

Murphy says that the money saved on prom can be used to go towards graduation or to provide a nicer meal for the prom. Junior sponsor and HHS math teacher Gina Billingsley is also excited about the possibilities that would result from an HHS victory. "It is just great for our kids," said Billingsley, "they have an opportunity to get something for free simply by putting some time in and supporting their school."

Highlands Principal Brian Jetter agrees that a win for HHS in this contest would be a show of support for the school

in general. "Anytime you have an event at a small school like the prom, it impacts the community," said Jetter, "Winning a contest to help offset the cost of this event would not only benefit the seniors, but also the entire school."

If you would like to help the Highlanders in their quest for a free prom, please go to www.stumpsparty.com. On the left side of the home screen there will be a link that says "win a free prom." After clicking this link, click on the green vote button. The green button will take you to a screen where the states are listed...pick out North Carolina and scroll down to Highlands High School. Once you select HHS, you must enter the security code and provide an email to verify the vote. After your first vote, you will be sent an email from the website to confirm your vote. After the initial vote, you will no longer get a confirmation email but you will be required to provide an email address with each vote. Please note that Stumps Party will not use your email for any solicitation purposes, so feel free to vote as many times as time will allow each day.

The Highlands Junior class would like to request that as many people as possible help them with the voting process. The majority of the schools participating in the contest are much larger than Highlands and will naturally have the capacity to create more votes. Your support for Highlands School is greatly appreciated!

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Finally...The Rock, has come back

For those of you out there reading this (all 5 of you...thanks Mom) who find pro wrestling to be boorish and not a real sport...be forewarned that this column is about wrasslin'. If you choose to stop reading now, well it won't be all that much different than usual.

Anyhoo, Monday night as I was flipping through the channels and stopped when I saw the WWE on my television. OK, that's not entirely true...I was actually watching wrestling when they announced that the new host of Wrestlemania would be appearing later in the evening. Imagine my surprise when at the end of the show out came The Rock, who was the biggest wrestling superstar in my generation.

As a teenager in Highlands, one's choice of activities was limited, particularly on school nights. Therefore, my buddies and I became fans of the weird and wild world of pro wrasslin'...particularly the so-called Monday Night Wars between WCW and WWE.

Out of this era came two major wrestling icons who belong with Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair as the most well known wrestlers in history; Stone Cold Steve Aus-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

tin and the Rock.

While Austin was the working class hero who drank beer and spewed profanity, The Rock was the flashy superstar with the million dollar smile and the physique to match. The Rock's catchphrases set off an era in the WWE where every superstar had to have a phrase that identified with their character something that the fans knew was coming and could cheer or boo based on the reaction. With that physique, those catchphrases and a major dose of attitude, Dwayne Johnson was able to create a huge following in the WWE that would eventually translate into even greater success.

While the Rock was one of the most well known wrestlers on the planet back in 2000, he later became able to do some-

thing that no other WWE superstar has ever done-he became a legitimate movie star. Sure, Hulk Hogan made some movies back in the day, but he was unable to overcome the fact that the balding hipster look just couldn't cut it in Hollywood. (Case in point...never watch Santa with Muscles...I mean not even if you want to waste 90 minutes of your life. You would be better off watching C-SPAN...trust me) The Rock was able to become a successful actor without remaining attached to wrestling, and hasn't been in a WWE ring in seven years.

The fact that the Rock has been gone for so long is what makes this such a significant development. This is a man who can draw huge crowds of people who aren't necessarily wrestling fans as well as bring back nostalgic memories for older people such as myself. Seeing the Rock in the ring Monday night and listening to all of those catchphrases and hearing the roar of the crowd brought back some great memories, and my friends on facebook had the same level of buzz that I did when it was over. Congratulations, Rock, you have convinced me to watch Wrestlemania-I hope it is one heckuva show...if you smell what I'm cookin'.

... on this day

Feb 17, 2003

London Traffic Congestion Charge begins, charging vehicles to drive in the Metro area, to reduce traffic and CO2 emissions.

They worked very hard to craft it, how to charge to play in traffic. See, now if you want to drive a round about, you'd better be able to throw a pound about.

If you want to take your car out in the day, it is required that you now pay. It may cause you to rant and rave, but there is a way for you to save, you can keep your hard earned brass if you give your car a pass when there's lots of cars in London you can avoid an automotive conundrum.

- from the History Guy

• **HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL** •

Highlanders dominate Blue Ridge, prepare for conference tournament

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders traveled to Cashiers last Friday night to finish out the regular season in a rivalry game with the Blue Ridge Bobcats.

The girls game started with a bang for the Lady Highlanders, as they began the game on a 16-2 run and never looked back for a 69-35. In her final regular season game as a Lady Highlander, Taylor Buras led Highlands with 19 points. Her fellow senior, Courtney Rogers, chipped in 13 points and Emily Munger also added 13.

The Highlanders also looked to finish out the season strong, and did so by begin-

ning the game on an early 12-0 run led by some hot 3 point shooting from senior Michael Shearl. The Highlanders continued to pour it on in the first half, taking a 28 point halftime lead and finishing with a 73-26 victory. Shearl and junior Logan Schmitt led Highlands with 16 points each. Senior Robbie Vanderbilt added 15 for the Highlanders.

The LSMC tournament finals will be held today at Highlands with the JV Championship beginning at 5 p.m.. Please come out and support the Highlanders as they try to finish out a successful season and prepare for the NCHSAA playoffs.

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Heart Health at H-C Hospital

In recognition of American Heart Month, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offers information about heart health to our communities. First, understands the importance of "time" in the treatment of heart attacks. HCH's participation in North Carolina's RACE (Reperfusion of Acute Myocardial Infarction in Carolina Emergency Departments) program plays a critical role in the survival and recovery of many heart attack patients.

NC's standardized RACE program focuses on the way emergency departments throughout the state treat heart attacks (myocardial infarction or MI) by restoring blood flow to the heart and other tissue (reperfusion). The program coordinates the efforts of EMS, emergency departments and hospitals to reduce the amount of time it takes for heart attack patients to receive lifesaving treatment.

"Time is muscle," said Dr. Baumrucker. "The longer a coronary artery remains partially or totally blocked the greater the chance of damage to the heart muscle. We identify possible symptoms of a heart attack, and then make a diagnosis using an electrocardiogram (EKG)." Speed in such circumstances is essential, and from the time the patient enters the Emergency Room at HCH to receiving an EKG, is usually less than 5 minutes. Clot-busting medication can be administered and the patient is then transported to the nearest catheterization center.

The RACE program has set the standard time "door to door" from ER to Cath lab at 90 min. When the RACE program was initiated in 2005 at HCH, the "door to door" time fell to well within the 90 min standard and often exceeds it.

"From our ER doors to the Cath. Lab at the receiving facility, the time elapsed is often times quicker than if the patient had walked into the ER at another facility," said Baumrucker.

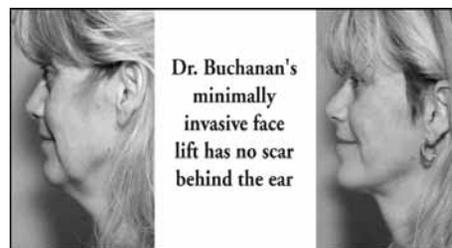
Recently, a 61 year old male presented to HCH's Emergency room complaining of chest pain. Within four minutes of arrival, he received an EKG which confirmed an acute heart attack. Within 25 minutes of arrival, he was given Thrombolytic, a clot busting drug. The patient was then transferred to Mission via MAMA (helicopter) arriving pain free.

He underwent heart catheterization and a stent was placed to keep the coronary artery open. After two days, the patient was discharged home.

In addition to the excellent emergency care, HCH promotes heart disease prevention through community education, as well as its HealthTracks programs. "Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention" presented by family medicine specialist Dr. Richard Matthews, is scheduled during HCH's Physician Forum series. Participants learn the latest information regarding heart disease and stroke, learning key factors of prevention and symptoms, tips to reduce one's risk, and how to recognize unusual symptoms that may mean the onset of a heart attack or stroke.

HealthTracks offers several wellness programs strictly geared to heart health. Cardiac Rehabilitation, a nationally accredited program, assists patients recovering from heart attacks and cardiac surgery while their Heart Disease Prevention Program is aimed at those with diagnosed risk factors, who have not yet developed any manifestations of cardiovascular disease. Both programs are physician supervised and include individually customized nutrition counseling from a registered dietitian, personal training sessions and an exercise regimen.

For more information are regarding heart health services at HCH, please call (828) 526-1313.



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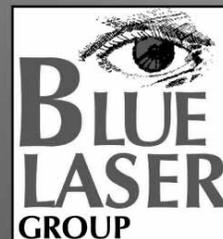
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On going and Upcoming Events

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

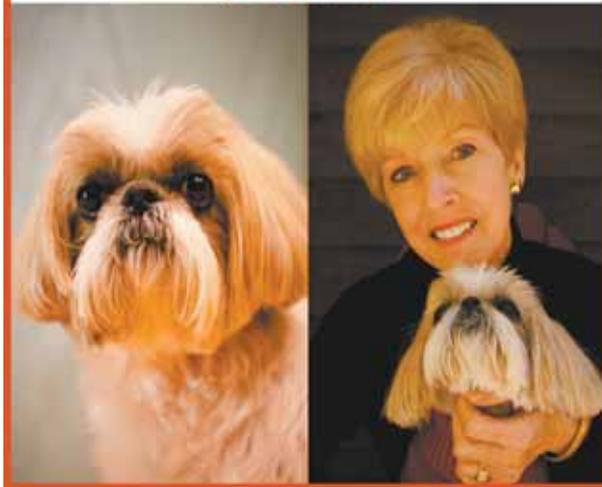
• At The Bascom, "Pre School Creativity Classes," instructor Katy

Enjoy winter activities at The Bascom



On Saturday, Feb. 12, *Collections: The Bascom and the Hudson Library* exhibition closed with a highly successful closing reception at The Bascom. Many of the artists featured in the exhibition were in attendance including Linda Anderson, *Winter Scene*, (given in memory of Norma T. Pierson) and Ken Woodall, *Deliverance* (Bel Canto donation); Lloyd Owle, *The Bird Clan*, (The Bascom Collection); and Bo Sweeny, *Pato and Wren*, (Bel Canto donation).

New Year's Special on Pet Portraits by Sarah Valentine 10% off when you bring ad to Valentine's Photo Studio
211 South Fourth Street @Greenleaf Gallery on "the Hill"
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Lets keep them alive with beautiful portraits!



There is so much to see and do at The Bascom. Discover Art Cinema this Saturday, February 19 at 2 pm in the Loft Gallery. Our feature presentation is *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. Admission is free. Art Cinema at The Bascom is sponsored by Synergy Films.

On February 19, *Regional Art Leagues, Selected Works* opens with a reception from 1-3 pm. Join us as we celebrate this inspiring endeavor, and the art and artists

who enrich our communities. The exhibition will continue through April 9th.

The next Winter Barn Dance, honoring police officers, firefighters and EMS is on Saturday, February 26th from 7-10 pm. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door. Admission for honorees is complimentary. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Don't miss it.

The Bascom is open year round. Winter dates are from January 7th to April 2nd. The galleries and The Shop are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am-5 pm. For more details on all Bascom winter activities, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526.4949.

On going and Upcoming Events

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.

Feb. 19-April 2

• At The Bascom, view Regional Art League's annual exhibition.

Friday, Feb. 18

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, February 18th, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, or 828-369-8344.

Saturday, Feb. 19

• Greenway work day. Call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@frontier.com. Meeting at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9: a.m. for a brief orientation session. We will be working on the new trail in the Rec Park. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing warm layers

of clothes that can get dirty is advised. Heather Mangum will provide lunch for the group.

• 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.

• Mountain Patriots Tea Party meeting at 2 p.m., on Saturday, at the 441 Family Diner in Otto. Come early to make new friends & socialize. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Sunday, Feb. 20

• At the Episcopal Church, "Bach's Well-Tempered

Clavier, BK1 (1-12)" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry. Donations accepted.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2 mile hike on Lakeside Dr. walking trail in Franklin. Meet at Macon Co. Health Center on Lakeside Dr. at 2 pm. No driving from here. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations. Visitors and children 10 and older are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Feb 22

• At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Peter Ray: Doonesbury: A 40 Year Retrospective. Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. Tuesday discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. Email John Gaston johnngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net for more information.

Thurs.-Sun, Feb. 24-27

• The Highlands-Cashiers Players present "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 on Sunday. Call 526-4121 for tickets.

'You know I can't hear you ...' at PAC Feb. 24-27



Laura Zepeda and Stuart Armor in rehearsal.

Plenty of laughs, a few tears, and a bit of tension all show up in this well crafted play performed by the Highlands-Cashiers Players in the upcoming production of "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," It ran for nearly 800 performances on Broadway, but if you want to see it here, you'll only have few chances to see it at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands, running Feb 24-27 and March 4-6, and is sponsored by Roto-Rooter Plumbing of Highlands and Highlands Medical Associates. Call 526-4121 for tickets.

Boy Scout Rotary Bingo set for March 3



The Rotary Club of Highlands will partner with Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 to offer Boy Scout Bingo on Thursday, March 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building next to the ball park.

Half of the Bingo money goes to Highlands Boy Scouts and the other half will go to Bingo winners. If you, a friend or family member was a Scout – do your best to support Troop 207. Boy Scouts of America is the first and the largest of the Scouting programs from the Boy Scouts of America.

Boy Scout Rotary Bingo will be an

evening of fun, a lot of laughs and a chance to yell, "Bingo!" The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with game 15 being the opportunity to win some serious money.

Play as many cards as you like and go with the Boy Scouts motto, "Be Prepared", join your friends, enjoy Chick-Fil-A® sandwiches and other refreshments offered by the Troop to raise funds to help Scouting in Highlands.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed to operate Bingo by the State of NC.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Soon many of us will be entering the season of Lent in our churches and in our lives. The 40 days of Lent commemorate Jesus' struggle in the wilderness with the Temptor after his baptism.

It's clear in scripture that during this wilderness time Jesus embraced his mission which was God's plan for Him from before time. He rejected the temptation to adopt the world's way of control, power, and force to achieve God's purposes, God's rule in people's lives and in their relationships. His commitment to mercy as his method and to suffering love as his strategy lead to conflict with authority. It still does. The journey that began in the wilderness lead to a skull shaped hill and a cross outside the walls of Jerusalem in three short years.

Our Lenten practice is a time for us to remember Jesus and to experience a renewed commitment to walk with Him in our lives. Lent is to be a wilderness experience for us, a time when we reject the temptations to live our lives in ways that reflect the world's strategies of success: the illusion of power and control; the deceptive idea of getting even or getting ahead. It is a time for us to renew our intention to be inclusive in our relationships and to be generous with our time and money.

Lent is a time when we learn again what Jesus is calling us to do when He said, "Take up your cross and follow me." We start with a reminder of our mortality when ashes mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. We are told: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Then we find ways to encourage self-discipline, repentance, and devotion to Christ and his work in the world during these forty days. Lent is a serious call to a holy life that issues into loving service to people who need us far and near.

When we live out the "church's invitation to the observance of a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self-denial", then we can truly know the joy of Jesus' resurrection and the Good News: "The Lord is Risen indeed". In His victory over evil and death is our confidence in his gift of life now and forever.

Lenten Taize' Prayer Services

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

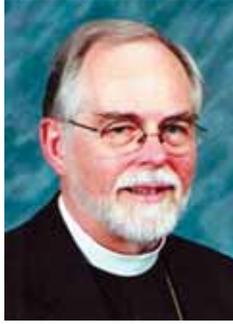
March 3: Holy Family Lutheran

March 17: Incarnation Episcopal

March 24: Highlands United Methodist

March 31: Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic

April 7: Highlands United Methodist



Rev. Denson Franklin
Episcopal Church of
the Incarnation

• 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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

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

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Childrens
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

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Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704

Independent Bible Church

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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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.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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• JUST HERS •

Us and them, Part II

I'd been unprepared for many things in life, but perhaps nothing as much as going off to college. Mine was not a life filled with memories of sleepovers, and cruising the local burger joints with my girlfriends. Every day after school I came home, did my homework, and my chores.



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

No, I didn't get paid an allowance for being good-looking; I got an allowance for doing actual work: polishing my father's shoes, washing the cars, mowing the lawn, doing the laundry, ironing, dusting, running the vacuum cleaner, washing the dishes. After all, both of my parents worked, and they made it very clear that we all had to chip in to make the house run smoothly. I was used to being part of a family; that's where I felt comfortable.

My father was the first one of his family to attend college, made possible by the GI Bill. By the end of high school, it was simply assumed that I would go to college. Mary Baldwin was a great school, but too close to home. The University of Maryland already had its quota of out-of-state students. The University of Virginia in Charlottesville would only go co-ed two years later, in 1970. In the end, I decided to attend Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia (now the University of Mary Washington), the women's division of UVA, tucked safely away in Fredericksburg, VA, some 70 miles away.

After 12 years of co-education, a women's college was a bold choice. I wanted to concentrate on academics, and this seemed like to good way to do it. Little did I know how much time is spent in women's colleges yearning, planning, scheming, and hoping for male company. All week long we would attend classes in jeans and t-shirts, with no make-up, only to blossom on Friday afternoons, visions of beauty. The girls who'd been braless during the weekdays didn't even have their bosoms in the same place during the weekends.

Early on, most women decided

whether they'd date military men from the surrounding DC area, or college boys, mostly oxford-cloth-shirted swains from UVA, Randolph-Macon Men's College, or Washington & Lee. While not a shy person, I was still miserable with the whole dating scene. In high school, I'd had years to get to know the boys I

dated. In college, it was "catch as catch can," a series of usually disastrous blind dates with both parties equally disappointed.

One blind date was particularly memorable. A dorm buddy had a boyfriend in the Green Berets, and she asked me if I'd like to tag along on a double date. My date Steve was a handsome guy, whose short hair made him quite different from all those long-haired college boys. He was also a wild man! When my shoes made walking around Georgetown painful, he carried me piggy-back. Eventually, we realized we'd have to get a move-on to make it back to the dorm by curfew. For some reason, Steve thought it would be fun to drive the wrong way down the highway. I was terrified. Of course, Steve got arrested, and I made it back to the dorm sobbing hysterically, with a police escort, just as our dorm mother was locking the front door. Months later, I got a post card from Steve. From Alaska.

The existence of a women's college in a small Southern town had created its own version of "us and them." Few of us dated local boys. Upon reflection, it must have been galling - all these young girls in short skirts, long hair blowing in the wind - unapproachable, unattainable. The inevitable happened. Women were followed in the streets; several were assaulted. With the dorms overflowing, a few apartments near campus were rented by the college. A man posing as a handyman talked his way into off-campus housing, and raped a student. We had more than our share of stalkers and flashers. It got to be that no one wanted to go off-campus alone.

I was a film fan, not of the kind that

•See JUST HERS page 15

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- 30 The Weather Channel
- 31 The Learning Channel
- 32 TNT
- 33 History Channel
- 34 Turner Classic Movies
- 35 ESPN
- 36 ESPN 2
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- 38 Spike TV
- 39 Golf Channel
- 40 FX
- 41 CNN
- 42 Nickelodeon
- 43 TV Land
- 44 Animal Planet
- 45 Food Network
- 46 Fox Movie Channel
- 47 SportsSouth
- 48 Sci-Fi
- 49 Outdoor Channel
- 50 Comedy Central
- 51 MSNBC
- 52 Great American Country
- 61 E!
- 62 C-Span
- 96 Channel Guide
- 99 QVC

ANALOG PREMIUMS

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- 22 Encore
- 24 Cinemax

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- 212 Discovery Kids
- 217 Style
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- 242 Lifetime Movie Network
- 243 WE: Women's Entertainment
- 253 Discovery Health
- 255 Science Channel
- 284 ESPNNews
- 285 Fox Soccer Channel

- 288 Versus
- 289 Speed Channel
- 701-704 Pay Per View
- 790 Playboy (Pay Per View)
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- 333 HBO Family West
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- 336 HBO Signature
- 338 HBO Comedy
- 339 HBO Zone

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- 312 Encore Action East
- 313 Encore Action West
- 314 Encore Love
- 316 Encore Mystery
- 318 Encore Drama East
- 319 Encore Drama West
- 320 Encore Westerns
- 322 Encore WAM
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- 371 Starz! West
- 372 Starz! Edge
- 375 Starz! Cinema
- 376 Starz! Kids & Family
- 377 Starz! Comedy

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- 352 Showtime Too
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- 355 Showtime Showcase West
- 356 Showtime Extreme East
- 357 Showtime Extreme West
- 358 Showtime Next
- 359 Showtime Family
- 360 Showtime Women
- 361 Flix
- 380 The Movie Channel
- 382 The Movie Channel Xtra East
- 383 The Movie Channel Xtra West



NORTHLAND CHANNEL LINEUP

... LANDSLIDES continued from page 2

following landslides and increased slope movement occurring in western North Carolina after Hurricanes Frances and Ivan in 2004.

Nineteen counties were identified for mapping, the first of which were Macon, Watauga, Buncombe and Henderson counties. Those four counties represent 41% of the population in the Hurricane Recovery Act counties based on the 2000 census data, according to N.C. Geological Survey senior geologist Rick Wooten. The maps are online at www.geology.enr.state.nc.us/Landslide_Info/Landslides_main.htm.

According to data compiled by NCDENR geologists, intense rainfall from the remnants of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan in 2004 triggered at least 400 landslides that caused five deaths, destroyed 27 homes and disrupted transportation throughout western North Carolina. A damaging landslide occurs nearly every year in the region, and landslides usually happen in the same general areas as past landslides.

Of the counties mapped to date, Watauga County had the most landslide activity, with more than 2,250 landslides of varying intensity identified, the majority of which were triggered by an August 1940 storm that killed 14 people and destroyed or damaged at least 32 structures. A landslide following Hurricane Frances in 2004 destroyed one home and resulted in eight others being condemned in the White Laurel housing community.

More than 1,200 landslide features (landslides and landslide deposits) have been identified in Buncombe County, 165 landslides were identified and mapped in Macon County, and 88 landslide locations identified in Henderson County.

"It's important for geoscientists to record the impacts from these record

storms," said Francis Ashland with the USGS in Virginia. "These storms are important case histories for understanding what can happen in this region."

While the regional offices of the National Weather Service issue outlooks, watches and warnings for flash floods, currently there is no specific protocol for issuing statements regarding potential debris flows, or landslides, associated with heavy rains. A better understanding the geology of landslides and communication between geologists and meteorologists will help the National Weather Service develop these protocols. Feedback from regional emergency management personnel helps the National Weather Service refine the language in the hazard warning.

Scharer, whose research focuses on the geology of earthquakes, said the workshop provided a better understanding of the different terminology used by geologists and meteorologists.

"Physical scientists like geologists and meteorologists always need to consider ways to communicate their data more clearly with the end users," Scharer said. "It's easy to communicate scientific data within your own discipline, but it becomes critical to be able to use a common vocabulary across disciplines and in potentially dangerous situations like these. Earthquakes and landslides are similar in that they have a low probability of occurrence on any day, but the effects can be devastating."

Scharer said the next step will be to generate different types of warnings that might be issued during landslide threats and determine how that information will be shared with emergency response agencies and the public.

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... JUST HERS from page 13

many enjoyed, but of small Indy or obscure foreign films shown on rare occasions at the local cinema. Unfortunately, I seldom had any takers to accompany me to the movies, so I would go alone, trying my best to get back to the campus before nightfall. In the late 1960s, few students had cars on campus. A trip to the local dentist had me asking a senior for a lift in her car, and I paid for a full tank of gas in return for the favor. In those days, give-aways were common, and I'd gotten a lone steak knife with my gas purchase.

Unable to find a buddy to attend the movie with me, I'd tucked the steak knife into my boot, just in case. The trip to downtown Fredericksburg was uneventful. The trip back was another story. Between the Mary Washington campus and the downtown area was a long stretch of residential housing, not the best neighborhood in town. I kept my head down, and walked fast, wishing myself already safe in my dorm. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a car following me. Then it pulled along beside me, keeping pace with my quickened steps. There were three good ole boys in a beat-up, rusty car, drinking beer, and talking trash. "Hey, College Girl! College Girl! Wanna come for a ride? Huh? Y'all wanna good time, College Girl?" I refused to acknowledge them, which must have made them even angrier. "Hey, College Girl! Think you're too good for us, huh? Think you're too good for us hometown boys?" Suddenly, the car stopped, and the guy in the backseat sprang out of the car, sprinted over to me, and grabbed my arm, trying to pull me into the back-seat.

I blessed my parents, who had taken me to see "West Side Story." Shaking myself free, I crouched down, and pulled the steak knife out of my boot. How would the Sharks and the Jets do this? I flashed the knife in the face of the stunned man. "Leave me alone!" I yelled. "Leave me alone, or you'll be leaving here without some parts I think you'll miss!" I snarled. I curled my lip. I tried to look menacing, as menacing as you can look at 18 with a steak knife from the Amoco station. "Damn! The bitch has got a knife!" one of them yelled, and they drove off in a squeal of tires. I ran the rest of the way back to the college, shaking like a leaf once I got to the safety of my dorm room.

Two years later, Mary Washington went co-ed. I don't know whether or not the presence of men on campus helped or hurt the security of the female students. I wasn't there to see it. I moved to Baltimore in 1970. I never went back to that Amoco gas station, either, so I never completed that set of steak knives. I still have that one knife, however – the one that saved my virtue. These days I use it for steak.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precious late husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. Michelle has had a life full of adventures - not all of them pleasant - but hopefully entertaining.

County Service Award recipients – Feb. 8, 2011



With Commissioner Kevin Corbin, 10-year employees Seth Adams, Karen Afonso, Rhonda Blanton, Lisa Browning, Clay Bryson, Sheila Conley, Cindy Dryman, James DuBose, Lisa Marling, Jeffrey O'Dell, Chuck Tallent, Jimmy Teem and Christina Wallace.



With Commissioner Ron Haven, 15-year employees Jennifer Alexander, Connie Baird, Sue Blaine, Teresa Curtis, Kyra Doster, Jennifer Hollifield, John Hook, Darryl Jamison, Diane Keener, Shane McConnell, Gene McDonald, and Teresa McDowell



With Vice Chairman Ronnie Beale, 20-year employees Rebecca Barr, Shane Corbin, Melissa Leatherman, Kathy McDonald, Debbie Reeves, Tamara Welch and Royce Woods.



With Chairman Brian McClellan, 25-year employees Robert Hunt, Richard Lightner, Patrick Muse and Bruce Wooten.



Above with Chairman Brian McClellan, 35-year employee Wilma Anderson and left 30-year employee Fred Campbell.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATON NEWS •

Relay for Life of Highlands 2011 – ‘Celebrate Remember Fight Back’

Relay for life is an exciting local activity that is driven by teams from all walks of life. Funds are raised both individually and as a group in many unique and fun activities both prior to and during Relay. The culmination of Relay is an overnight event where teams decorate their tents with a theme and celebrate survivors. It is filled with ongoing activities which energize the night as scores of people walk the track continuously during the night because “cancer never sleeps.” This is a time of celebration where the entire community joins together to show their support for survivors and the fight against cancer while enjoying activities, entertainment, camaraderie, and food. At every Relay, new friends are made, old friends are hugged, and hearts are touched by the magic that is Relay. It is an event like no other.

Relay’s signature activity began in 1985 by Dr. Grody Klatt in Tacoma, WA who walked around a track for 24 hours and raised \$27,000. Since then Relay For Life has grown into an international event that is held in 23 countries, on 6 continents, and over 4,600 communities. Today Relay For Life is the largest nonprofit fund-raising activity in the world with over 3.5 million participants. While each Relay For Life is unique, it’s greater power lies in the synergy created by all the Relays taking place worldwide.

Funds created through Relay For Life of Highlands support your community. Through Relay, you will become more knowledgeable about cancer prevention and early detection. You will also learn more about the services available for cancer patients and their families as well as

opportunities to become more involved.

By 2015, the American Cancer Society aims to prevent close to five million additional deaths from cancer, avoid six million new cancer diagnoses and measurably improve the quality of life for those with the disease. Your support is bringing us close to realizing these challenging goals.

This year Relay For Life of Highlands will be held at the Recreation Park starting at 6pm on August 19, 2011. I urge you to get involved. Helps us make 2011 Relay bigger and better than ever. Just to get things started, during the month of February, you may purchase two Luminaria for the price of one. Luminaria forms are available on our Relay website www.relayforlife.org/highlands or contact Christine Murphy @ murphycap@aol.com.

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• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 9

• At 9:44 a.m., officers responded to a call of a domestic dispute at Mountain High Lodge. The couple left the premises.

Feb. 11

• At 12:51 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Church and N. 4th Street.

Feb. 14

• At 3:15 p.m., offices responded to a call about littering at the Highlands Biological Center where someone had discarded a carpet.

• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarm and issued 2 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 10:

Feb. 10

• At 3:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chimney fire at a residence on Pine Circle Road. The area around the chimney was damaged.

Feb. 12

• At 6:24 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain Fire Dept. concerning a chimney fire. The call was cancelled en route.

Feb. 13

• At 4:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident at NC 28 south and Rich Gap Road. There was no one there. The vehicle was not in the roadway.

Feb. 14

• At 3:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hospital Drive where a patient was transferred from a doctor's office to the hospital.

NOTE: The State Forest Service has issued a NO BURNING BAN in Macon County due to low humidity and high winds.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Hampton Inn releases corporate branding March 1 becomes Highlands Inn Lodge

As of March 1, 2011 Hampton Inn will become Highlands Inn Lodge, according to current Hampton Inn franchise owner Sabrina Hawkins. This move will allow us to consolidate marketing and reservations and cross train staff and management with our other hotel property, the 136 year old, 31 room Highlands Inn on Main Street. The end result for our guests will be more and better services including room selection. According to Hawkins the overall cost savings this move will allow makes sense in tough economic times, particularly in a seasonal area such as Highlands.

The soon to be **Highlands Inn Lodge** has gone through a dramatic facelift this winter in anticipation of big changes. Bathrooms have been remodeled, rooms have been painted and carpeted with new artwork and lighting fixtures. In addition, The decision has been made not to further lease The Log Cabin restaurant on the hill above the hotel property. Instead this authentic, beautiful log cabin will be available for guest and local events such as reunions, car club gatherings, corporate and church retreats, wedding rehearsal dinners and receptions. If you have a 2011 need for this venue don't wait to inquire as a great many dates are already booked.

For those who have booked rooms with us, these changes in no way affect your deposit and reservation. We will be there for you, anticipating your arrival and the opportunity to serve your needs. The only change you will notice is the signage and the improved facilities.

...STREETSCAPE continued from page 7

"The question is whether to do the project before this season starts or to wait until next year," said Town Manager Jim Fatland. "The main issue is the timing of the project. To have the project done before the season, Town Engineer Lamar Nix would like to begin in March with construction. If not, we must wait to next year."

The office for Realtor Susie deVillie Schiffl's White Oak Realty Group whose Special Use Permit (SUP) was unanimously OK'd by the Zoning Board and Appearance Commission last week will be part of the new look for the corner. White Oak Realty Group will be between the Highlands Hill Deli and the OEI executive offices. It will include a new façade to showcase a portion of retail showroom currently used by The Stone Lantern.

Professional offices under 800 sq. ft. are allowed in the district, but a SUP was required for the remodel of existing commercial buildings which would result in an increase in the number of business occupants in the building. Construction is to begin mid- to-late February and be completed by August 1.

Also considered at the worksession Wednesday was the amendment of the town's Animal Control Ordinance.

Town Attorney Bill Coward provided commissioners with a copy of the laws and ordinances from the state, Macon County,

Jackson County as well as Highlands' current ordinance.

Highlands recently agreed by resolution to abide by the county's animal control ordinance and thereby use its shelter, but since Highlands' ordinance is a bit more stringent, particularly dealing with nuisance (barking) animals, as well as the prohibition of animals in the ball park, Coward is urging commissioners to retain that portion of the Highlands' ordinance rather than only going by the county's ordinance.

By law a municipality's ordinance – any ordinance – can be stricter than a state or county ordinance, it just can't be more lenient.

Currently the Police Department can issue citations to owners of animals considered a "consistent" nuisance, as well as those who disregard the town's rules concerning loose animals on the ball park or Rec Park property. Coward suggests those components be left in the Highlands Animal Control Ordinance rather than deleting them to match the county's ordinance.

Also considered were amendments to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department's By-Laws concerning new age limits (18-45), new members and required training (36 hours).

The next Town Board meeting is Wed., March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Community Building. — **Kim Lewicki**

• HS MIDDLE SCHOOL BBALL TEAMS •



Remy Adrian, Preston Chastain, Craig Dalton, Kyle Gabbard, Chase Harris, Nathan Laderoot, Kenan Lewis, Philip Murphy, Clayton Pair, Luke Rodgers, Tanner Stephens, Dylan Vinson, Jacob Watson, Colin Weller. Coach/Managers: Steve Massey, John Murphy, Seth Satterwhite, Ghost: Scotty.

"We had a young team this year that learned a lot about team work and dedication. I think that by the end of the year, the boys learned what it would take to be champions, and that will be our goal in the conference next year. I'm very proud of all of our guys," said Coach Steve Massey.

Photos by Noel Atherton



#1 Whitney Billingsley, #2 Kirstyn Owen, #3 Valarie Billingsley, #4 Allie Wilkes, #5 Savannah Seay, #10 Ann Marie Crowe, #12 Courtney Henry, #14 Kassie Vinson, #21 Jessica Tilson, #22 Desiray Schmitt, #23 April Moss, #32 McKayla Hensley. Managers: Emily Crowe, Kelsey Billingsley, Megan Vinson and Katlin Moss.

"I was extremely proud of all my girls' efforts this year. They grew from the beginning of the season, both in their basketball skills and their ability to work together," said Coach Michelle Munger. "We struggled in the first half of the season to win games, but the girls realized they were capable of more. They worked hard to achieve success, finishing conference play with a 5-3 record, and battling to the last second in the conference tournament."

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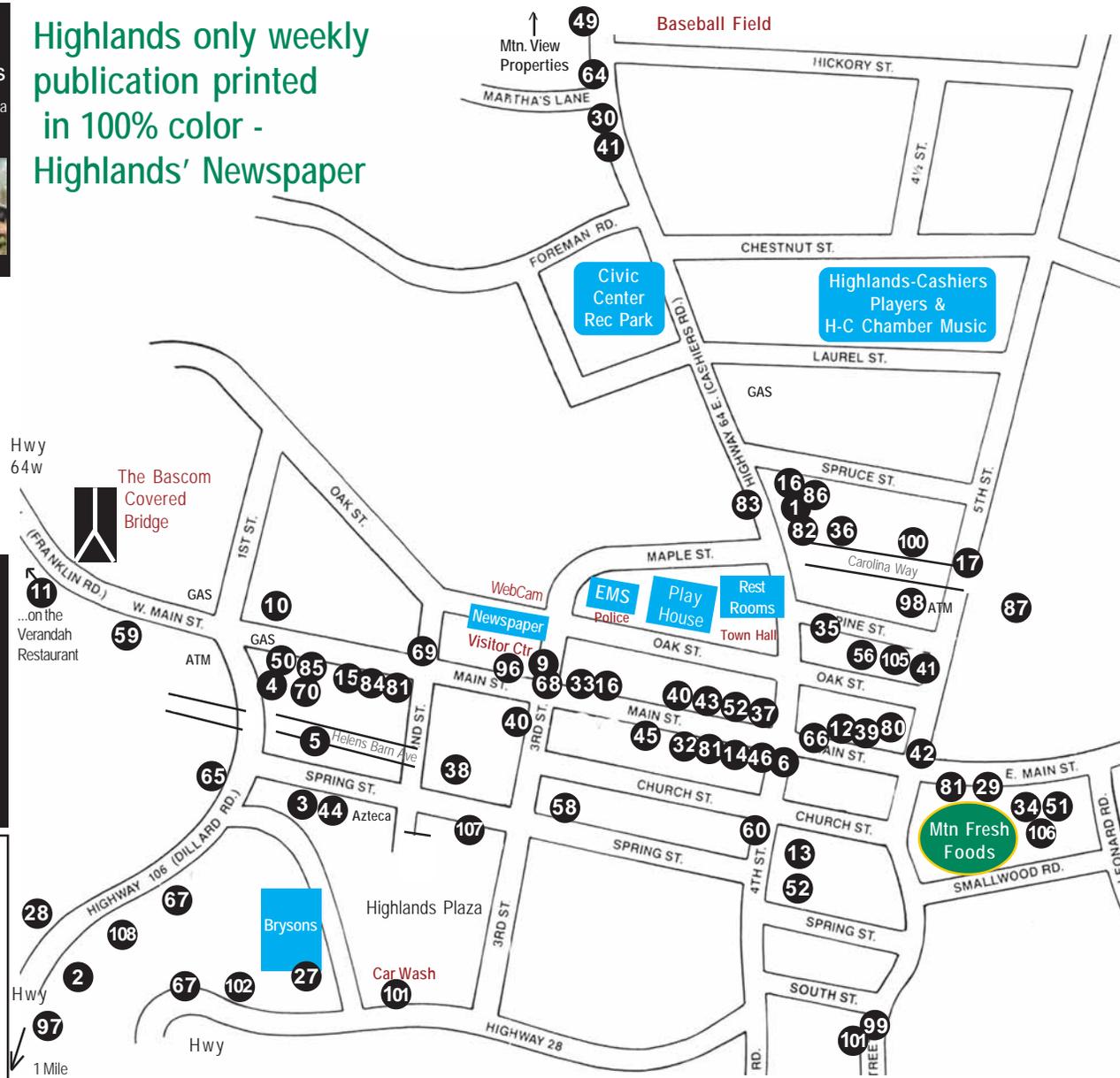


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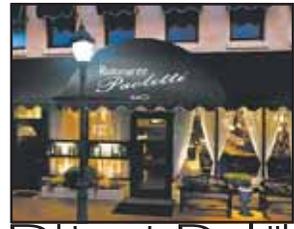
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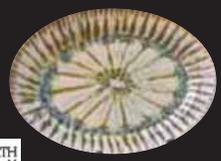
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