

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 8

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
56 30F	54 37F	56 45F

Through Saturday, March 5
 • Highlands Little League Registration will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center. Fee is \$50 for the first child and \$45 for each additional child and includes a shirt and hat. Ages 5 through 14. Please call Jerry Moore at (828) 482-2032 with any questions

Thurs.-Sun, Feb. 24-27
 • The H-C 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.

Sat., Feb. 26
 • At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring police, firefighters and EMS from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Featuring the Wild Hog Band. Call 526-2112 for more information.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate four-mile hike, with an elevation change of 800 feet, to Turtleback Falls/ Rainbow Falls/ Stair Step Falls. Call leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations.

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Cost: \$20 per person refundable with case purchase.

Tuesday, March 1
 • At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Robert E. Smith: "Exploiting Doubt" from Merchants of Doubt by Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 3
 • Rotary Bingo from 6:30-8:30 at the Civic Center. The cost is \$1 per card per game. There are 15 games, so 15 chances to win money. Half the proceeds go to Highlands Boy Scout Troup 207.

Counties send requests to legislators

North Carolina's 100 counties adopted 54 legislative proposals at its Legislative Goals Conference in late January which county governments hope state representatives will consider if not champion during upcoming legislative sessions.

County Commissions' representatives - Vice Chairman Ronnie Beale is Macon County's representative — formulated five priority goals and accepted 10 issues identified at the Association's

Youth Summit. The top five and the majority of the other 49 proposals center around money — basically keeping the state from further raiding county coffers either directly or indirectly.

• See REQUESTS page 13

• Inside •

FORUM	2
Wooldrige	4
Salzarulo	5
Conservative POV	6
Coach's Corner	8
Events	10
Spiritually Speaking	12
Classifieds	17

Students bake for those in need

By Abigail Hewins

Instead of the dusty smell of chalk, markers and paper lunch bags, the fragrance of freshly baked bread fills the hallways, of Highlands School lately, sometimes creeping through the cracks of busy classrooms.

On Feb. 9, Highlands School Life Skills Instructor, Paula Gray with The King Arthur Flour Company from Norwich, VT demonstrated the art of making bread during an assembly for 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th graders and a group of high school students from FACS instructor Mrs. Cashion's classes.

During the time spent with Gray, the students learned the tricks of making yeast breads. Following the assembly, each group went on to the foods lab to make

• See BAKE page 15



Varsity Girls put Highlands on the map with conference and title win.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

Lady Highlanders take home title

By Ryan Potts

It was a moment that the Lady Highlander seniors had looked forward to for four years, as they first defeated Blue Ridge 65-21 before facing archrival Hiwassee Dam on their home floor with a chance to win a Little Smoky Mountain Conference title.

Following a thrilling JV

Championship game in which the JV Highlanders prevailed over Hiwassee Dam, the crowd was hot as the Lady Highlanders faced off in what would be another fantastic chapter in the HD-HHS rivalry.

In what would be a back and forth affair, the Lady Highlanders used a 1-3-1 zone to attack the

shooters

As the Lady Highlanders continued to battle the Lady Eagles, foul difficulty began to plague the hometown squad as two starters fouled out in the fourth quarter after Highlands had built a slim 6-point lead. Despite the foul troubles, the Highlanders were able to

• See TITLE page 7

The **SUMMER HOUSE**
 'Home Furnishing Center'
Monday-Saturday 9-5
 2089 Highway 106
 828-526-5577

Nature's Website
 HighlandsInfo.com

"We are all about birds!"
 526-3910

 the bird barn
 at the Falls on Main

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Control of Highlands government still an issue



Kim Lewicki
Publisher

Even though the majority of people who spoke during the Feb. 2 Public Hearing on revising the Town Ordinance for Consistency with Town Charter Amendment for Council-Manager Form of Government were against changing the ordinance, the issue is back on the March 2 agenda.

Due to the issues and opinions put forth by the citizens, who clearly didn't want to give the Highlands Town Manager ultimate power, and due to the discrepancies outlined by Commissioner Amy Patterson in the proposed amended ordinance, those pushing for the change – Commissioners Gary Drake, Dennis DeWolf, Larry Rogers and Mayor David Wilkes – agreed the issue deserved further consideration.

Since the ordinance wasn't amended, Attorney Bill Coward said the process has to start over from scratch. Wednesday night, March 2, will be the first step in the "new process."

So citizens have another chance to show support for or against changing the ordinance and to speak on the issue during the Public Comment period of the meeting.

A state-mandated Public Hearing prior to an ordinance change is powerful, but so is the Public Comment period of any Town Board meeting.

In the past, particularly during the heated Performing Art Center lease discussions between the Town Board and the PAC board and its supporters, Commissioner Drake told the audience that the Town Board takes the comments of those who turn out for Town Board meetings very seriously and "were apt to do what they want because they came to the meeting and voiced their opinions."

Time will tell if he and those in his corner will be true to those words.

Arguments for changing the ordinance to give the Town Manager power over everyone and everything include "That's the way it's done elsewhere," and "That's how it's done in corporate America" – two arguments that don't hold water in Highlands.

Citizens say Highlands is not like anywhere else, and they like it that way. Furthermore, very little in Highlands is done as in "Corporate America." People in Highlands have either shed the mantle of Cor-

porate America or have never worked under that yoke and never will.

Taking power away from the Town Board, which is elected by the people, and giving it to one person who can then confer with whomever he or she wants without guidance or knowledge of the people or the board they elected is not democratic.

Democracy is messy but we in America like it that way. Town Board members who think "messy democracy" is too much work, should step down.

Citizens who want to retain control via their Town Board should step up on March 2. Even if talking in public isn't their thing, a show of bodies is a strong picture.

• THANKS •

My note of gratitude & thanks

My heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, cards, flowers, visits, calls, gifts and well-wishes during my recent illness and hospital stay.

I send my sincere gratitude to my doctors: Dr. Lindsay, Dr. Noell, Dr. Stewart and Dr. David Wheeler for your care of my extreme condition. I cannot ever thank my nurses enough for their compassion and their prompt response to my needs during my hospital stay!

My deepest appreciation to Pastor Paul and Beth Bowser for your comforting presence on your visits to me. Enlightening!

Thank you also to my girls at Images for carrying on for weeks. You are so special!

Thank you Dennis for your nourishing care in the hospital and during my on-going recovery!

We Highlanders and all who ever have to experience a need for hospital

care here in our little village should be grateful we have such an awesome little hospital! I am very impressed by the medical staff we have, the quiet days and nights (for healing rest) and last but definitely not least, the cleanliness!

Blessings,
Jean Smith

Overwhelmed!

Dear Editor,

The family and I would like to say "Thank You" to the Presbyterian Church for the funds provided and to the Construction Ministry Team in fixing up the home place.

We had slightly neglected the repairs while taking care of my wonderful wife and mother up until her passing. With all trials and tribulations that came afterwards we were quite overwhelmed and we appreciate all the time and effort put forth in making it our comfortable and cozy cabin again.

We especially want to thank our friends and good neighbors, Duncan and Ann Greenlee, who anxiously stepped forward to help in our time of need. Together with Don Fisher, Martha MacMillian, Hillrie Quin, Dale Sticka, Skip Taylor, Simon Lake, Bob Tietze, Marshall Buck and Bob Wright, they gave up their weekends, braved the weather and worked hard at putting it all together. What an inspiration it has been for us to see such a friendly group come together and help others as they do.

We also want to thank the volunteers who intended to help but were hindered by the weather. Just the thought means as much to us as being there. May God Bless you all.

Frank Derreberry and family
Highlands

TB Meeting Agenda Community Building Wed., March 2, 7 p.m.

- Call to order
- Swearing in of Auxiliary Police Officers
 - Public Comments
 - Reports from departments
 - Animal Control Ordinance
 - Final Design for Sidewalk Improvements at Fourth & Main Streets
 - Hudson Library Sidewalk Improvements
- Post Vacancy to Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Appointments to Town Committees
- Revision to Town Ordinances for Consistency with Town Charter Amendment for Council-Manager Form of Government
- Closed Session: Personnel

Highlands' Newspaper

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

Member N.C. Press Association

FREE every Thursday; circulation over 7,500

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-0782



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

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

• BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT •

Hudson Tilley was born to Ross and Rachel Tilley on Feb. 21 at 5:06 p.m. He was 8 lbs 8 oz. and 21 1/2 inches long.



Hudson is the grandson of Jim and Kim Lewicki of Highlands and Dale and Gayemell Shepherd of Seven Lakes, NC., and the great-grandson of Clara Lewicki of Highlands; of Bob and Delores Shepherd of Morganton, NC, and Rosser and Grace Campbell of Sanford, NC.

• MILESTONES •

Graduates and academic honors

UNC-Greensboro

Bachelors Degrees — Claire Elizabeth Frederick, daughter of Allen and Deliah Frederick of Highlands, graduated with a Bachelors Degree magna cum laude from UNC-Greensboro in December, and was named to the Chancellors List for the Fall 2010 semester.

To make Chancellor's List, full-time undergraduates must have a cumulative grade-point averages of at least 3.65 of a possible 4.0. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of course work.

Southwestern Community College

Southwestern Community College announced the President's and Dean's lists for Fall 2010. To earn the honor of President's List students must achieve and maintain a 3.85 Grade Point Average. Students with a GPA between 3.50 and 3.84 earn the honor of the Dean's List. T

From Highlands on the Dean's List were Caden Brown, Aaron Burton, Eva Romero, Bobbi Talley, and Sayward Thompson.

From Highlands on the President's List were Karen Dyer, Anna Ramos, and Justyne Reese.

Western Carolina University

Justin Gene Taylor, son of Jerry and Sharon Taylor, all of Highlands, graduated in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

UNC-Chapel Hill

Brice Jenkins, 2010 Highlands School graduate, makes Dean's list for the fall semester at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Brice is pursuing a double major of Economics and Religious Studies.

Chase Jenkins, 2007 Highlands School graduate, ends the fall semester on the Dean's list. Chase will graduate this spring from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double major, one in Political Science and one in Asian Studies: Chinese.

Musty Odor? It's Mold!



Be **Healthy** and Protect your Family!
Call 828-505-6780
www.ahomehealthy.com **ahomehealthy**
CRUISESPACE SOLUTIONS **home**



What's for Dinner?

Your favorite lunch place now has homemade dinner to go. All served hot and ready to take home. Mon - Sat pick up from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

Each Dinner feeds a family of four

Mon	Buffalo Wings or Chicken Tenders and hand cut fries	14.95
Tue	Premium in-house made soup large salad and dinner rolls	15.95
Wed	Chicken or Steak pot pie and a large salad	14.95
Thu	Roasted Meatloaf , homemade mashed potatoes, and a large salad	14.95
Fri	Wild fried shrimp , baked potatoes, handmade hush puppies, and coleslaw	18.95
Sat	In-house smoked BBQ , coleslaw, apple and bacon baked beans, and yeast rolls	16.95



Mon - Sat open at 7 am and Sundays at 8 am.
 Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 828-526-2400

• LOOKING AT LIFE •

The Scam – Part One

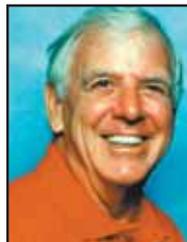
Fred Wooldridge worked four years as an undercover narcotics officer. This true story occurred in the early '70s. Drug lords from Mariel, Cuba, would not take over Miami's drug traffic for another eight years. Most of the bulk drug business coming into Miami was run by Colombians. The names in this story have been changed but little else. I'm able to write of these events because I was an active participant. These were some of the most frightening times of my career. As always, the language was atrocious but has been cleaned up for print. Note: Not suitable for children.

Just after ten o'clock on a busy Friday evening, two black limousines pulled in front of Mi-

ami Beach's famous Piccolo's Restaurant on South Beach. The attending valets had been directed by restaurant management not to approach either car.

I looked out through the dark tinted windows of the limo while pulling my hair back into a short ponytail, holding it in place with a rubber band. Glancing into a small lit mirror, I noticed my scruffy beard was beginning to grey.

Pulling my nine millimeter automatic Smith & Wesson from my waist, I slid back the slide just far enough to



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

identify a round in the chamber, then closed it and shoved the weapon back into my pants, covering it with my dinner jacket. I always checked the chamber out of nervousness....and mostly for reassurance. Tonight's event could easily turn into a bloodbath. And now it was show-time.

I pushed the intercom button and asked the limo driver, "Have you heard from Peter? I'm ready when he is."

"He's sitting in the limo behind us. He and his people have been waiting on us. Let's do it," the driver replied.

The two of us stepped out of the limo and I was stunned to come face-to-face with an off-duty uniformed police-

man I knew well. We gave each other quick blank looks as the driver and I walked into the restaurant.

"Good evening, gentlemen....a table for two?" the maitre d' asked.

My driver spoke, "No, we have reservations. Gallo, party of eight."

"Oh, yes, your guests have already been seated. Right this way, please," the maitre d' responded.

"No, I have to get Mr. Gallo. He'll be in shortly," I said.

I walked out to the other limo and, as I reached to open a rear passenger door, it swung open. A well dressed, burly man stepped out but didn't speak.

"They're ready for Mr. Gallo," I said.

Two other well dressed men exited from the other side and walked to the rear of the limo. A wheelchair was removed and opened. The burly man reached into the limo and lifted a frail, small figure of a man from the back-seat, placing him in the wheelchair.

"Good evening, Mr. Gallo," I said, stooping to lift his feet onto the folding foot rests.

"Are they here?" he asked.

I smiled, grabbed the handles of the wheelchair and headed for the restaurant entrance. "Yes sir. As planned, everyone is here."

Peter Gallo turned in his wheelchair as I pushed him into the main portion of the crowded restaurant. Speaking to his small entourage of armed gunmen, he whispered, "Let's keep cool heads tonight, gentlemen. This could easily turn to sh--. Don't forget how squeamish these scumbags are."

As we approached the large round table, we saw Carlos Martinez, a Colombian drug lord, and two of his armed gunmen sipping wine and chatting together. The three men stood simultaneously as Peter Gallo rolled his wheelchair toward the table. The leader, Carlos Martinez, smiled and spoke, "Ahhhh, Mr. Gallo, we meet again, this time I pray under more pleasant circumstances. And you are, once again, late for your appointment, I might add. I am a punctual man, Mr. Gallo. I must

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 15

• Highlands Fine Dining •

Ristorante Paoletti

Uptown Italian Dining Since 1953
Downtown Highlands Since 1984

Exceptional Wines and Robust Cocktails

Dinner/Bar from 5:30, Thurs.-Mon. • Reservations: 828.526.4906



Serving Highlands Since 1999

Serving Lunch, Dinner,
Sat. & Sun. Brunch
Extensive Wine & Beer List

www.fresserseateryhighlands.com

the Bakery at Fresser's Express

470-Oak Street, Highlands 828-526-8867

WILD THYME GOURMET

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round!

Gourmet Foods, Fine Wine and Beer

Wed.-Sat.: Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dinner from 5:30.

Closed Sunday-Tuesday



www.wildthymegourmet.com

526-4035 • 490 Carolina Way • Highlands

ANNAPWEAR



Many
Items
\$29
or less!

Except:

Free People:

20%-60% off

Michael Stars:

50% Off

Jeans:

(Hudson, Joes, 7)

\$20-\$100 Off!

355 Main Street
in The Galax Theatre
526-4660

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

A honest look at the survival of Social Security



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

joy a reasonably lucrative medical practice. When I applied for benefits at 65 years and 8 months I had no idea of the bonus the government had in store for me. My son, then 10 years old was entitled to benefits as a minor child of a retiree, even though I wasn't, and am still not. Lizzie benefited as well. She has also received benefits equal to Bull's, apparently for caring for him while I drool my

oatmeal, chase nursing home attendants, or play cribbage in the park. I haven't sent any of it back, but I wouldn't vote for a guy who introduced the system, probably a congressman from a state with a large retirement population.

My Dad died at 52 and left two young daughters, aged 6 and 8. The payments Mom received helped her immensely. She was able to stay home and raise them. As I recall, the checks continued while my sisters attended college, after which Mom endured a brief hiatus until she reached retirement age and returned to the dole.

I don't know the answer to the problem, but it is pretty clear there is a looming catastrophe in the foreseeable future. Raising the retirement age seems like a good place to start, trimming benefits, especially for guys like me might be a good second step. Even cutting off Bull doesn't seem unreasonable. It would cost some congressmen some votes. It might even cost them their cherished jobs. But unless the Social Security administrators can sniff out, and invest in, the next Google, Microsoft, or eBay, there's little chance the system can ever regain financial security.

We shouldn't feign surprise. The statisticians have provided all the information we need. Each year we delay, each congressional term we bow to the gray and salt-and-pepper panthers, we inch closer to the collapse of a safety net that has served the American people well.

When Social Security was adopted in 1935, the life expectancy was 61.7 years. White males, who made up the bulk of the labor force, were expected to live just under 60 years. Babies of both sexes and all races born in 2005 had an expected 77.8 years of life.

One way at looking at those numbers is that we've done a terrific job keeping people alive longer. Another way is that the social security system is doomed.

Back in 1935, a retiree could expect a gold watch, his first Social Security check, and a lovely funeral spray in rapid succession. At the inception of Social Security payouts, the retirement age was 65. We've added 16 years to our life expectancy while increasing the age at which one can claim full retirement benefits from 65 to 67 years. The 67 plateau won't be reached until those born in 1960 or later reach retirement age; 2027 and beyond. Back in 1940, when the first monthly checks were distributed, there were 42 workers paying into the system for each retiree drawing from it. Today, there are just under three. It is as if every three working Americans are supporting an additional aging dependent parent. But it gets worse. The Social Security Trust Fund is expected to be exhausted by 2037, which means the benefits paid will come directly from the taxes collected in that year, which will be quite a burden for the two guys left working in America.

One might think it's time for a change but remember, aging Americans are a massive and growing electoral force. Remember also that the primary goal of elected federal officials is reelection. I use the term "elected officials" rather than the more commonly applied "elected leaders," because I'm not seeing any sign of leadership.

None of this is a problem for me. I've been collecting benefits for just over four years while continuing to en-

It is a shame that our politicians can't read the tea leaves when they are printed in bold face print. It's a shame to burden our kids. Social Security won't be around to provide for their needs. Taxes they pay today will evaporate in the dry desert of an aging America.

It could be worse. I could have decided to tell you about the future of Medicare.

• Eateries & Specialty Foods •

DUSTY'S

493 Dillard Road (NC 106) Highlands
(828) 526-2762

Butcher Shop, Bakery, Produce, Salads, Wine, Beer, Specialty Foods & More.

Your one-stop Grocery Store!
Now offering Wraps, Hot Soup and Salads for lunch every day!

Saturday morning Beignets 9-10

Open Tues.-Fri. 8-5:30 • Sat. 8:30-5:30.
Closed Sun. and Mon.

365 Main Street
526-5660

Your family friendly pizzeria & sub shop



The Pizza Place

Monday-Saturday
11 a-9p

Chris and Charlie on in Franklin on the Highlands Road!

Cor ey James Gallery



20% to 70% OFF SUPER SALE
Open daily until sundown!

Paintings, Antiques, Lamps, Furniture, Orientals, Crystal, Bronzes, Porcelain, Estate Jewelry, Nick-nacks, & more
Corner of Spring & 3rd. • 526-4818

Whole Life Market

Stop by and see our wide selection of
Local Organic Produce,
Specialty Gourmet Foods, Quality Supplements, Organic Body Care, Natural Health Books & References, & Local Hand-Crafted Gifts.

"For a Healthier Life"

On the Corner of Foreman Rd. & Hwy. 64E

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5:30 pm

Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm

Call 526-5999

Gourmet Sauces & Spices



Casafina

- Accessories
- Gourmet Kitchenware
- Dinner Settings

Open Mon - Saturday • 10am to 5pm
450 Main Street Highlands, NC 828-526-5226

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

While not literally taken from the Bible, the above is cobbled together from phrases taken from Genesis and Job and refer to man's cycle of life. Lately, I've been seriously thinking about where we all stand in the greater scheme of things.

It is not a pretty picture.

I have come to the conclusion that the world has become so complex that it is beyond man's capacity to manage it. This may have been obvious to you for some time, but it just struck me. The civil

unrest in the Middle East prompted me to think about what caused it to happen. The greed of the tyrannical ruling class has kept things more or less together until now, with some exceptions.

Look at Egypt, since it has become relatively transparent. Mubarak has suppressed his people, most of whom live in a constant state of poverty, and have done so for decades. While we have pumped aid to Egypt for years, ostensibly some of which was intended to help the people, their plight seems not to have improved

much. At the same time, Mubarak has amassed a personal fortune in the billions.

Technology entered the scene and, through the social media, notably Facebook and Twitter, the people learned how some of the rest of the World lives, and wanted some of it. They became unmanageable, at least for now.

Does the future hold anything much better for them? I doubt it. If Democracy is not instituted, another oppressive form of government will descend to rule the people. We can only hope. This general scheme of things pervades nearly all the countries of Northern Africa and the Middle East. Rulers are losing their grip; the people are becoming more and more unmanageable.

Let's look closer to home. Take the way we are governed. What is mantra of those who wish to govern you? I'll fight for you for this; I'll fight for you for that.

What ever happened to reason? The way I figure it, fighting is at best a zero sum game. Even the winner in a fight has suffered some damage. No wonder most experienced politicians appear to be punch drunk, with them fighting all the time.

For the moment, forget about the government protecting us from outside forces. How about the total lack of SEC enforcement action against Bernie Madoff as he was scamming investors of billions? Aside from the fact that it was impossible to return 22% to investors, year after year, as any sensible financial person would know, there were whistleblowers presenting proof of the scheme for years. Were the government folks really that stupid, or were they on the take?

Shortly after Madoff's prosecution, Allan Stanford, another multi-billion dollar scammer was arrested for a similar scheme. Yes, they were finally caught, but only after costing others billions. We didn't manage that well, did we? How about the Mexican Border? Tens of thousands have been killed because we are unwilling or unable to manage the situation.



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

One of the more dramatic blunders of recent times is the enactment of the Ethanol bill (or whatever it's named). Our managers decided that by a future date, a certain amount of the fuel our cars burn must be ethanol. Naturally, like all bad ideas, the government had to subsidize something, in this case corn, and naturally, farmers turned much of their land into cornfields. This was fine for the ethanol business, but their is a shortage of corn for food, and,

with more land devoted to corn, less was used for other grains, so they are in short supply, as well. So now, grain prices are sky high and going higher. Bad management.

When Lotto entered the scene, I figured the end couldn't be far off. If we need to encourage folks to gamble on the pretence of helping to pay for our educational system, that can't be good. Especially when you consider that about 16% to 20% of the amount wagered ever gets close to being spent on schools. Bad management.

The control of the NEA (teachers' union) over our government at all levels, has been seriously destructive for decades. While most people choose to ignore it, our society dances to its tune, and its true colors are being shown in Wisconsin, Ohio, and elsewhere. It's all about them, and they won't give up anything, even when states are broke and worse. They call in sick and then go to the state capital to shout down the elected officials as they try to solve the fiscal dilemma. What allowed the NEA to get such power? Bad management.

Perhaps the most baffling of all recent happenings was the Fort Hood massacre, where political correctness rose to an outrageous level. A Muslim madman, who somehow made it in the army to the rank of major, and who advertised his pro-Islam allegiance on his business cards, killed many of his fellow soldiers in the name of Allah. How did this lunatic bring a gun into a location where

• Salons & Spas •

Images Unlimited Salon

225 Spring Street • Highlands

Highlights, Color, Cuts & Perms
- Yonka Facials -
Microdermabrasion -
- Manicures & Pedicures -
- Acrylics & Gel Enhancements -
Gift Certificates
828-526-9477



Color, Cuts, Up Do's, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training

OPEN: Tues. - Sat. • Monday by appt.

Located behind Highlands Decorating Center
on Highway 106 (The Dillard Rd)

NC LMBS #1429

(828) 526-4192

All Seasons Salon

Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women

Razor Cuts • Color • Perms

Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang's
Oak & Fifth Streets

Barbara & Van • **526-0349** • Open Mon - Sat



Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.

549 East Main Street "Falls on Main"
Highlands, NC (828) 526-3939

Walk-Ins Welcome!

Opening at 9 am, Tuesday - Saturday

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo,

Stylist: Heather D. Escandon,

Stylist: Christa Hooper,

Massage Therapist: Betsy Phillips



...TITLE continued from page 1



Last Thursday was a good night all around for Highlands School. The JV Boys beat Hiwassee Dam for tournament and conference champs and the Varsity Girls won against Hiwassee for tournament champs and #1 in conference.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

make nine free throws in the fourth quarter and finish off Hiwassee Dam with a 51-47 victory, much to the joy of the home crowd. Said Highlands coach Brett Lamb after the game, "It feels real good, these seniors have worked hard and battled for four years and their hard work paid off tonight. It shows the value of persistence to our younger players."

Beating Hiwassee Dam in the finals was also sweet for Lamb and his girls, "Six years I have been here and all six years we have played them in the championship game, so we are glad that we got them this year." Senior Taylor Buras scored 13 points and Emily Munger scored 21 for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlander men looked to complete a Championship sweep as they faced off against the Eagles in the LSMC men's finals. Things looked bleak early as the Highlanders came out flat and trailed 11-0

early. Despite the early deficit, the Highlanders battled back to close the gap at half-time and set up what looked like a fantastic finish. The second half saw both teams play some terrific basketball, with each team making a run that would then be countered by the other squad.

The fourth quarter featured the Highlanders taking their first lead of the ballgame, but the Eagles responded in a back and forth affair. Unfortunately, several questionable calls against the home squad (including a technical foul) marred what was an extremely well played half by both teams.

The Highlanders trailed by three with three seconds left and had a chance to tie, but a long three-pointer rimmed out and the Eagles clinched the tournament championship in a 73-70 victory. Senior Josh Delacruz scored 18 points for HHS, Logan Schmitt added 17 and sophomore Taylor Osteen followed a stellar 23-point performance in the semifinals with 12.

Larry Rogers Construction Company, Inc.

Serving Highlands and Cashiers from over 25 years
Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe
Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities

(828) 526-2874

776 Dillard Road • Highlands



Mountain Rarities



Featuring a new line of clothing from Denmark -- Skovhuus

Christine Alexander Clothing
50% OFF

Silver, gold, and gemstone jewelry, too!
Come and enjoy our flights of butterflies and bugs, and explore our unique treasures.



326A Main Street Highlands
828-526-8244

Storewide

SALE

20% off!



Deluxe, Indoor
Climate
Controlled
Self Storage
With covered
loading zone

• Units Available •

Highlands Storage Village
828-526-4555 • Cashiers Road



DUTCHMANS*"Transforming Your House into a Home"***Rowe Sleeper Sofas****Robin Bruce****Upholstery****Mattresses****Pinecone Hill****Bedding****Dash & Albert Rugs****Bramble Wood****Furniture****Lamps****Great Gifts****Open****Year Round
342 Main Street
Highlands, NC
828-526-8864****DUTCHMANS
CASUAL LIVING
Become a Fan Today!****www.DutchmansDesigns.com****Live Blog ...****Ryan Potts**
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

We are live here tonight in the confines of the Coach's casa for some live thoughts from the Duke-Georgia Tech game Sunday evening. Right now we are just finishing up the NC State-Maryland game, where it has been confirmed that State is the worst coached team in the nation.

20:00 — the game is underway as Kyle Singler takes a terrible shot to open the game. He's been not so good in the last couple of games.

16:28 — to play in the first half-Tech is 3-3 from the field right now, which tends to happen when teams go into Cameron. Play has been halted momentarily for a clock issue, which also tends to happen in Cameron.

14:13 — This game is already getting rough, which has been the MO for Paul Hewitt's teams when facing Duke or UNC. Tech certainly gets up for these games, but the reason Hewitt is a terrible coach is because they don't play like this against anyone else.

11:03 — Duke makes their first three in the game off of an offensive rebound. Tech has a good strategy right now, switching all screens on the perimeter and daring Duke to beat them in the lane.

10:16 — Coach K gets a technical after two terrible calls in a row-Duke haters everywhere rejoice. K only gets about one a

year, so good to see that he's still got it.

7:22 — Mason Plumlee with a turnaround J followed by a steal and a dunk...if he plays like this then Duke is going to get a lot better.

2:05 — Duke has taken the lead with some timely three point shooting, but Tech is playing well right now. This has been a tough weekend for top teams, and I think a lot of it has to do with the grind of a 30+ game season. There's a lull in conference play between the beginning of conference and then the tournament stuff in March.

Halftime — Tech has played some good D in the first half, but their offense has been basically dribbling around and trying to go 1-1. Duke finishes the half on a 9-0 run to lead 37-28

18:23 — Duke with a flurry out of halftime to extend the lead-a bit of a danger time now for Georgia Tech.

15:48 — Kyle Singler just scored his 1,000th ACC point of all time-pretty darn good for one of the slowest players in the league. He could have a good career in the NBA like Mike Dunleavy Jr, or he could go bust pretty early.

11:55 — This has turned into a blowout pretty quickly. Paul Hewitt will be fired at the end of this year if Tech is smart.

7:45 — I may have to switch this over to the NBA All Star Game if it continues to be like this. Oh, well it looks like I just woke up the dead body of Paul Hewitt with that comment as he calls a timeout and Tech goes on a 6-0 run.

5:30 — Nolan Smith with the steal and the run is over. Smith now has 24 points.

Duke puts the Yellow Jackets away with a 22 point victory. Nolan Smith finishes with 26 points and ladies and gentlemen he is your ACC player of the year without question. For Georgia Tech, they will lose Iman Shumpert after this year and they will need to rebuild. As for Duke, the one black spot on this game is the continued struggles of Andre Dawkins, who is an offensive weapon for Duke who is not performing well at this time. Coach K is now only single digit wins away from becoming the all-time wins leader in college hoops history.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •**Lady Highlanders advance in State Playoffs****By Ryan Potts**

Lady Highlanders coach Brett Lamb has a short memory. It was just two years ago that the Lady Highlanders defeated Hendersonville and advanced to the second round of the NCHSAA playoffs. Monday night, the Lady Highlanders provided déjà vu, defeating the Rosman Lady Tigers 57-48 to advance to the second round.

Highlands used a series of zone presses and a 1-3-1 zone to rattle Rosman early, but never seemed to be able to put the Lady Tigers away despite building a 9-point lead on three separate occasions. "We knew it would be tough," said Lamb, "they are a young team but one with a lot of potential

and a bright future. We made some runs and they responded, but we showed some toughness despite some foul trouble."

Junior Emily Munger provided some excitement for the hometown fans as she hit buzzer beating three-pointers at the end of the first quarter and just before half-time. Munger and Senior Sarah Power also hit some crucial free throws late in the fourth quarter to help preserve the victory. Munger scored 22 for Highlands, Power finished with 11 and Taylor Buras added 10 points.

The Lady Highlanders hosted the Hayesville Lady Jackets in the second

• See PLAYOFFS page 9

... on this day

Feb 24, 1709

Birth of Jacques de Vaucanson, inventor credited with creating the first true robots, the first automated loom, and the famous Digesting Duck, with over 400 parts. It could flap it's wings, drink water, eat grain, and defecate.

To some his work was thought quixotic, this groundbreaking inventor of things robotic.

He made things automatic, like mechanical musicians that were symphonic, and using clockwork parts, all interlocking, created a way to improve a silk stocking. But most amazing, with hard work and luck, did innovative work on an artificial duck.

It ate and it drank, and was perfect for imitating all aspects of real ones, including eliminating.

I can't think of one skill it was lacking except possibly, what was needed for quacking.

... from the History Guy

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Dealing with Macular Degeneration

In the United States nearly 10 million people 55 years and older will be affected by Macular Degeneration according to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation. This disease is being seen in epic proportions and causes blindness more often than cataracts and glaucoma combined.



Dr. Blue
Blue Laser Group

Macular Degeneration is caused by the deterioration of the central portion of the retina which is located inside the back of the eye. The retina records the images we see and then sends them to the brain via the optic nerve. The central portion of the retina is known as the macula and is responsible for focusing central vision which enables our ability to read, drive, recognize faces/colors and see fine detail.

There are two types of Macular Degeneration; Dry Macular Degeneration or dry AMD / ARMD and wet macular Degeneration or wet AMD.

Dry AMD is much more common than the wet form and affects 80%-90% of all AMD patients. Dry AMD can be caused by the aging and thinning of macular tissues, deposits of pigment in the macula or both. Gradual central vision loss may occur but is not as severe as in wet AMD.

In about 10% of AMD patients, this condition progresses to wet AMD which is a much more advanced and damaging form of this disease. With wet AMD, new blood vessels grow beneath the retina and leak blood and fluid causing permanent damage to light-sensitive retinal cells which then die off and create blind spots in the central vision.

Macular Degeneration is an eye disease where early diagnosis and treatment can make all the difference in the prevention of loss of eye sight. Regular eye exams play a significant role in the detection and treatment of this disease.

Since a patient affected with this condition is typically unaware of any symptoms until the disease is advanced, early detection with OCT imaging used by Blue Laser Group is key. This device is so sophisticated it takes into consideration your individual age and the possible presence of a cataract.

Another invaluable use of this technology is that your images are saved in the computer for future comparison making it possible to detect very subtle progression over time and preserve your eye sight. Our Cirrus OCT is one of only several in the state providing unprecedented accuracy and detail.

Dr. Blue has the ability for some, to treat wet AMD with laser therapy. Although this treatment will not restore lost sight, it can prevent further damage and sight loss. This quick typically painless procedure is performed in-office and is covered by medical insurance and Medicare.

...PLAYOFFS from 8

round on Wednesday evening, but results were not available at press time. If Highlands wins, they will host another NCHSAA playoff game Friday evening at 7:00 PM.

Highlanders season ends vs. Swain

In what has been a tumultuous season for the Highlands Men's Basketball team, Monday night provided an early ending as the Highlanders fell 61-52 to Swain County. The Maroon Devils were able to jump out early thanks to some hot shooting from Cody Booher, and the Highlanders trailed

•See PLAYOFFS page 15

We see the possibilities

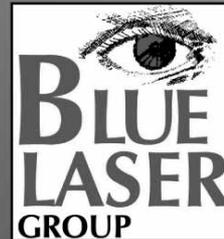
Let us show you.

Come in for a complimentary consultation.

Center for Plastic Surgery
Robert T. Buchanan, MD, F.A.C.S.
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon
209 Hospital Drive • Suite 202 • Highlands, N.C. 28741
526-3783 • Toll Free: 877-526-3784
www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com

• Area Health Specialists •

Flex For Lasik!



295 Dillard Rd - Highlands
(888)2-DR-BLUE bluelasergroup.com



Each new year, many of our patients elect to go ahead and use their Flex account to have the All Laser Lasik procedure. Many even file their tax returns early and use their refunds to help fund the procedure. Others decide to use one of our several convenient payment plans.

So why wait another day to make such a positive change in your life when there are so many ways to make Lasik a reality for you? *Go on and make those bad eyes Blue!*

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

278 East Doyle St. • Toccoa, GA
706-886-9439 • 800-884-9439
www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com



You are only 50 miles away from 30 years experience in top-notch, high-tech, one-stop dentistry known for its gentle touch.

- Dental Implants
 - Root Canal Therapy
 - Single Visit Crowns
 - Orthodontics including Invisalign
 - Wisdom Teeth Extractions
- and of course Fillings and Cleanings!
(IV Sedation, too)



PULL OUT

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.

Through Saturday, March 5

• Calling All Baseball Players! Highlands Little League Registration will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center. Fee is \$50 for the first child and \$45 for each additional child and includes a shirt and hat. Ages 5 through 14. Please call Jerry Moore at (828) 482-2032 with any questions

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 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.

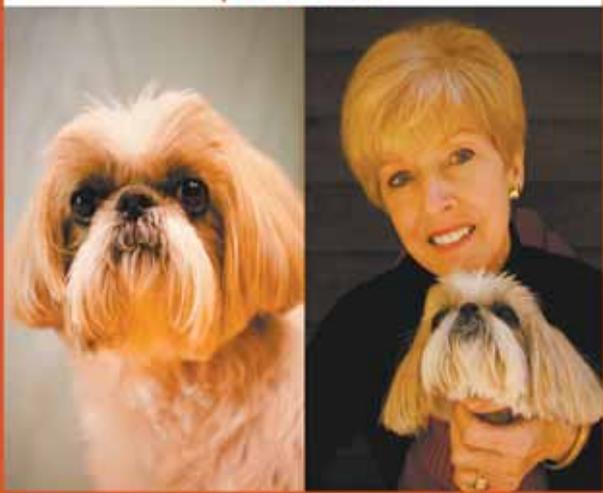
Through -April 2

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

**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"
By Appointment Only
Call 828.342.1995

**Lets keep them alive with beautiful
portraits!**



Harlem Ambassadors tour coming to Highlands again!

The internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors will be visiting Highlands for a game at Highlands Civic Center March 7 at 7 p.m. – thanks to the Rotary Club of Highlands – MountainTop which is sponsoring the event.

The Harlem Ambassadors offer a unique brand of Harlem-style basketball, featuring high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks and hilarious comedy routines.

The Ambassadors feature non-stop laughs and deliver a positive message for kids wherever the Ambassadors play. "At our shows, we want the kids to know that they're part of our team too," Coach Ladè Majic said. "We invite as many kids as we can to come sit on the bench, have a front row seat during the show, and get involved in all of the fun stuff we do."

The Ambassadors set themselves apart from other "Harlem-style" basketball teams by working with local not-for-profit and service organizations and holding Harlem Ambassadors shows as community fundraising events. For the Highlands event the Ambassadors have

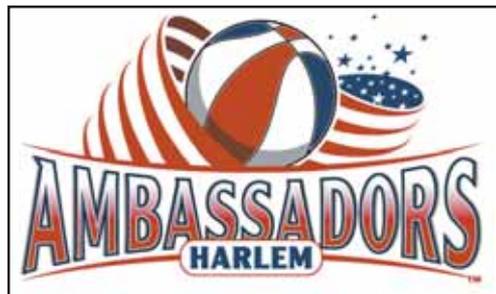
partnered with The Rotary Club of Highlands – Mountaintop to help raise funds for local and international Rotary Projects.

The Ambassadors have worked extensively with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters and American Red Cross as well as Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs in communities throughout the U.S., and perform more than 200 shows a year. Those shows

have helped raise millions of dollars – an accomplishment of which Ambassadors President Dale Moss is very proud.

"It feels good to be able to provide quality entertainment and create memories that the fans will take with them," Moss explained. "We're able to give even more when we can help provide funding for a Habitat for Humanity house or new computers for the school library, and that feels great."

Doors open at 6:30 pm; tickets are \$5 for students and seniors: \$7 in advance for adults or \$10 at the door.



On going and Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

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.

Sat., Feb. 26

• At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring police, firefighters and EMS from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Featuring the Wild Hog Band. Call 526-2112 for more information.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate four-mile hike, with an elevation change of 800 feet, to Turtleback Falls/ Rainbow Falls/ Stair Step Falls. Mostly gentle slopes, but also a couple of steep ascents of 100 yards or so. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9 a.m. drive 16 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, a camera if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Walker Taylor at 743-6977 for reservations.

Tuesday, March 1

• At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday

discussion, Robert E Smith: "Exploiting Doubt" from Merchants of Doubt by Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway (2 copies available through the Fontana Regional Library) at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

For more information please e-mail at John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk

hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

Thursday, March 3

• Rotary Bingo from 6:30-8:30 at the Civic Center. The cost is \$1 per card per game. There are 15 games, so 15 chances to win money. Half the proceeds go to Highlands Boy Scout Troup 207.

The winner could be you ...

Harry Norman Realtors ready to award \$10,000 at upcoming Harlem Ambassadors event



From left Elizabeth Salzarulo owner/Broker Harry Norman, Realtors® with Harlem Ambassadors event coordinator for the Rotary Club MountainTop, Carol Mathews.

There is a new twist to this Basketball Show this year at the Harlem Ambassadors tour at the Highlands Civic Center March 7 at 7 p.m. — Harry Norman, Realtors is sponsoring Basketball Shot Contest to be held at Half Time and one lucky winner has the opportunity to try to win \$10,000 in CASH.

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each, one ticket will be drawn. There is no limit to the amount of entries. The contest rules will be divulged after the winner is picked. Advanced tickets may be purchased at Harry Norman, Realtors® and at the

Basketball Show.

"We are delighted to be a part of this great event and we hope someone truly deserving wins the cash prize," said Harry Norman, Realtors®, owner Elizabeth Salzarulo. "The Highlands Rotary Club -Mountaintop is to be applauded for bringing a wholesome event for the families of the area to enjoy. Harry Norman, Realtors® has long history of community service and we feel it is a privilege and honor to contribute to the well being of our local families and businesses."

Winter Barn Dance at The Bascom Honoring police, firefighters and EMS

The second Bascom Winter Barn Dance of the season is on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 7-10 pm. Celebrate the service of our police, firefighters and EMS to the community. Gather with friends and neighbors and relive the memories of a great Highlands' tradition. Enjoy the music of Cashiers' "The Wild Hog Band" sponsored by Jon and Bobbie Golden.

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.

Also, this Saturday at 2 pm, sit back and enjoy our feature Art Cinema presentation, Elbert Hubbard, An American Original. Elbert Hubbard founded the Roycroft artisan community in East Aurora, NY after he through away his lucrative career at the forefront of business and advertising. Through evocative cinematography and compelling storytelling, explore Elbert Hubbard's extraordinary life and its important reflection of this uniquely fascinating time in American history. Admis-



This Saturday, celebrate the service of our police, firefighters and EMS to the community and relive the memories of a great Highlands' tradition at The Bascom's Winter Barn Dance. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

sion is free. Sponsored by Synergy Films. Check out the exhibitions at The Bascom. Admission is free.

Regional Art Leagues, Selected Works, through April 9th. This exhibition initiative is to show our support for the work of individual artists and arts organizations in the region surrounding our mountain plateau. Plan to join us as we celebrate this inspiring endeavor, and the art and artists

who enrich our communities.

Out Back and Down Under, through-March 25. Recent works by photographer Greg Newington are featured. Works included will be from his recent Aussie tour down under, and images from out back on our mountain plateau.

The Bascom is open year round. Winter dates are from January 7 to April 2. The galleries and The Shop are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more details on all Bascom winter activities, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526-4949.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Monument to the unknown citizen



Archbishop ++John Erbeling
Senior Pastor, Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, GA

We have made special days of remembrance and erected obelisks and structures in their honor. It seems few towns are without some sort of memorial structure to remind us of some important date or happening in that community, but I feel we have unjustly forgotten to construct a monument, and I would like to bring this forgotten unknown citizen to our attention.

The patriotic people of America, after building monuments to honor those military leaders who distinguished themselves on the battlefield in various conflicts and wars, set up one more altar — that to the Unknown Soldier — a monument to those who fell unknown, whose names and faces were anonymous, but whose courage and sacrifice were the stepping stones to this free and democratic society.

Perhaps there is a need for another monument of this same type, an altar to the Unknown Citizen, an enduring tribute to the little guy, to John Q. Public, to the man who pays the bills, but never gets his name in the newspaper, a monument to the Unknown Citizen, both male and female, who fights the daily battles with the demands and pressures of surviving in a free society.

For it is, after all, this Unknown Citizen, this unsung hero, who keeps the system alive.

Without him, those who are elected would have no one to elect them; without him, those who govern would have no one to govern; without him, those who raise taxes would have no taxes to spend.

Without the Unknown Citizen, there could be no known citizens.

And so, a monument to this nameless supporter of governments, preserver of freedoms, builder of cities, I would place this inscription at its base:

To the steelworker, whose sweat is mortar to the steel which is used to frame the bridges and skyscrapers of a modern nation.

And to the carpenter, whose skill houses the inhabitants of that nation.

To the mother, who gives life to it; to the teacher, who educates it; and to the businessman, who risks and dreams for it.

To all the people who lay the bricks, plant the corn, and bake the bread, who pay the taxes to build the roads, educate our children, protect the safety of our people, care for the elderly and infirm, and to provide for the military and the government process; to all who quietly, good-naturedly, and almost always anonymously play out their supportive roles in the drama and dreams of America; to these, this day, a tribute — a monument of word and gratitude with this brief inscription: To the Unknown Citizen — founder, builder, benefactor of nations.

• 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

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: 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

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

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.

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

...REQUESTS continued from page 1

Knowing not all their concerns will be heard or even have a chance of consideration, the NC Association of County Commissioners settled on five top priority goals gleaned from topic categories. From the Intergovernmental Relations category: Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties; from the Public Education category: Reinstate ADM and Lottery Funds for school construction; from the Health and Human Services category: Ensure adequate mental health funding; and two of the top five priorities came from the Tax and Finance category: Preserve the existing local revenue base; and Authorize local revenue options.

At almost every Macon County Commission meeting lately a discussion has been had over revenue shifting – that is the state's habit of shifting its responsibilities to the counties, including funding teaching positions and maintaining roads, to name just two. County commissioners are basically asking that despite its \$3.7 billion shortfall, the state not pass on additional financial burdens but if it does provide counties with the tools necessary to meet the needs of their citizens.

"The counties have to govern and take care of our own problems to make the burden as light as we can on our citizens," said Commissioner Beale during the commission's worksession last month.

The No. 1 goal reflects state proposals to force county governments to maintain secondary roads and/or fund expansion projects have been floated in past legislative sessions. Some of the state's more rural counties would have to increase their property tax rates by as much as 30 cents to generate the amount of revenue needed to maintain the same level of service currently provided by the Department of Transportation.

The No. 2 goal is to seek full reinstatement of lottery funds and ADM (Average Daily Membership) funds for school construction. For the 2009-11 legislative biennium, the General Assembly redirected all of the Corporate Income Tax proceeds that should have been allocated to the ADM fund to other general fund needs. This cost counties approximately \$100 million each of the two years of the biennium. In 2010, the Legislature appropriated a fixed amount (less than \$114 million) from lottery proceeds for the Public School Building Capital Fund, equating to only 25% of the budgeted lottery proceeds for the year. The total loss for the past two years amounts to more than a quarter of a bil-

lion dollars in school construction funds.

Other priority goals adopted by counties are to ensure adequate funding for the mental health system, to protect the local revenue base from any further incursions by the state (such as the raid on school construction funds) and to authorize all counties to enact any revenue options – such as prepared meals taxes or hotel taxes – that have already been granted to at least one county.

"We aren't seeking new revenue streams, but why do we need a vote by the General Assembly to get something done?" asked Commission Chairman Brian McClellan.

County Manager Jack Horton agreed. "As it stands now, not all counties have to go through the legislative process, in particular, some counties out east. "We are just want all the counties to be treated the same way. We need the control here in Macon County without having to put it in a referendum," he said. "It's the Fairness Goal. Even if we don't use it we want the option to be left to the county commissions to decide if it's something they want."

The complete list of Legislative Goals, including the top five follow.

Agriculture

Support conservation of working lands and farmland preservation – Support legislation to promote and preserve working farmlands by including these lands in the state tourism plan, by retaining the current authority for the present use value system, by maintaining funding for the Ag Development and Farmland Preservation Trust, and by authorizing counties to implement transfer of development rights; Fund agricultural research and extension services – Support legislation to increase ag research and extension services and maintain existing research stations at current levels; Support Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council recommendations – Support legislation to implement the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council's recommendations including a prohibition against municipal involuntary annexation or regulation of farm or forestry activities within a voluntary agricultural district or conservation district and support state funding to maintain and enhance the North Carolina Transition Network; Maximize availability of adoptable animals – Seek legislation to increase adoption opportunities for county animal control facilities by clarifying ownership proof and increasing shelter director discretion.

Environment

Enhance river basin monitoring and streamline rule-making – Enhance monitoring for all river basins in North Carolina and review the rule-making process to enhance regional cooperation; Streamline water supply reservoir permitting – Seek legislation to streamline local water supply reservoir permitting without sacrificing the scientific rigor of Environmental Impact Assessment and ensure adequate opportunities for public and local official comment; Authorize county oversight of bio-solids disposal – Support legislation to authorize counties to regulate, but not prohibit, bio-solids application activities, including the acceptable "classes" of bio-solids for application and the prohibition of bio-solids application in certain environmentally sensitive areas; Clarify yard waste facility runoff statutes – Seek legislation to clarify that runoff from yard waste staging areas at county landfills does not require wastewater treatment; Create study commission on horizontal drilling, hydraulic fracturing and uranium mining – Seek legislation to create a Study Commission on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for shale gas deposits and uranium mining.

Health and Human Services

Ensure adequate mental health funding; Seek legislation to ensure adequate capacity of state-funded acute psychiatric beds; Oppose legislation to close state-funded beds until there is adequate capacity statewide; Seek legislation to maintain the existing levels of state funding for community mental health services; Retain state aid to counties – Seek legislation to retain the State Aid to Counties to maintain federal matching funds; Allow county flexibility to organize local human services; Seek legislation to allow counties to organize human services based on community need, including the removal of the population threshold in 153A-77; Oppose legislation that would mandate consolidation of social services functions; Maintain childcare subsidy funds and allocate to counties; Seek legislation to allocate all childcare subsidy funding directly to counties; Oppose legislation that would reduce childcare subsidy funding; Maintain TANF funds to counties – Seek legislation to maintain existing levels of county TANF funding to support and fund county DSS programs; Maintain childcare subsidy administration – Seek legislation to maintain the Child Care Subsidy Administration funding at 5 percent; Increase state/county special assistance residency requirements – Seek legislation to increase the number of days to establish residency for Special Assistance from 90 to

180 days, except for persons who have entered the state to be supported by a close relative; Require back-up generators for adult-care homes – Seek legislation to require all new adult-care homes to have back-up generators prior to receiving certificates of occupancy and require all existing adult-care homes to be equipped with back-up generators within three years; Expedite NCFast automation and policy simplification – Seek legislation to expedite the implementation of NC FAST and ensure automation builds on program and policy simplification and includes interface protocols; Retain "electing" counties' financial incentives – Seek legislation to retain financial incentives for counties to be "electing" counties.

Intergovernmental Relations

Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties – Oppose legislation to shift the state's responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to counties; Modernize annexation laws – Seek legislation modernizing the annexation laws as follows; Requiring the development of joint utility service plans for urbanizing areas; Requiring cities to reimburse counties for the loss of sales tax due to an annexation; Increasing the degree of urbanization required to annex property; Allowing the Board of Commissioners to request a referendum on any proposed involuntary annexation; Requiring the direct provision of municipal water and sewer services to customers within three years of an annexation; Providing that counties have the option of continuing to provide utilities to annexed areas; Setting the effective date for involuntary annexations to be June 30 following the date of adoption or final resolution of an appeal. Prohibit municipalities from annexing across county boundaries without prior consent of the Board of Commissioners of the affected county. In an instance where a municipality has already annexed across county lines, further annexation cannot occur without consent of the affected county; Oppose collective bargaining for public employees – Oppose legislation to authorize local governments to enter into collective bargaining agreements with public employees, or to mandate dues check-off programs; Implement combined motor vehicle registration and property tax collection system – Seek legislation to ensure that the combined motor vehicle registration and property tax collection system is implemented within the statutory deadline; Protect local control of ABC system – Seek

DELUXE

- 2 WSB (ABC)
- 3 WUNE (PBS)
- 4 Local Channel
- 5 WAGA (FOX)
- 6 WYFF (NBC)
- 7 WSPA (CBS)
- 8 WYCW (CW)
- 9 Trinity
- 10 TBS
- 11 WMYA-TV (MyNetworkTV)
- 12 WHNS (FOX)
- 13 WLOS (ABC)
- 14 Local
- 15 Hallmark Channel
- 16 Headline News
- 17 National Geographic
- 20 Fox News
- 21 HGTV
- 23 Fox Sports Net
- 25 Discovery Channel
- 26 Lifetime
- 27 CNBC
- 28 Cartoon Network
- 29 A&E
- 30 The Weather Channel
- 31 The Learning Channel
- 32 TNT
- 33 History Channel
- 34 Turner Classic Movies
- 35 ESPN
- 36 ESPN 2
- 37 USA
- 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

- 18 HBO
- 22 Encore
- 24 Cinemax

DIGITAL

- 201 BBC America
- 212 Discovery Kids
- 217 Style
- 241 Independent Film Channel
- 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)
- 900-929 DMX Music Channels

FREE HD

- 400 WSPA HD (CBS)
- 401 WHNS HD (FOX)
- 402 WYFF HD (NBC)
- 411 ESPN HD
- 457 Outdoor Channel HD

HD PLUS

- 410 Discovery HD Theater
- 412 ESPN 2 HD

DIGITAL HBO

- 330 HBO East
- 331 HBO West
- 332 HBO Family East
- 333 HBO Family West
- 334 HBO Plus
- 336 HBO Signature
- 338 HBO Comedy
- 339 HBO Zone

DIGITAL CINEMAX

- 300 Cinemax East
- 301 Cinemax West
- 302 More Max East
- 303 More Max West
- 304 Action Max
- 305 Thiller Max

DIGITAL STARZ/ENCORE

- 310 Encore East
- 311 Encore West
- 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
- 370 Starz! East
- 371 Starz! West
- 372 Starz! Edge
- 375 Starz! Cinema
- 376 Starz! Kids & Family
- 377 Starz! Comedy

DIGITAL SHOWTIME

- 350 Showtime East
- 351 Showtime West
- 352 Showtime Too
- 354 Showtime Showcase East
- 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

... REQUESTS continued from page 13

legislation to protect local control of the local ABC system including all local revenue streams generated through local ABC store operations; Authorize counties to offer broadband through partnership or direct service – Seek legislation to authorize counties to provide high-speed internet through direct county service or public-private partnerships; Eliminate second primary and run-off elections – Seek legislation to eliminate second primary and run-off elections; Authorize electronic notice of public hearings and other legal notices – Seek legislation to provide counties with options for notice of public hearings, notice of delinquent taxpayers, and other legal notices, through electronic means. (Paid-for-papers have long had the lock on charging counties and municipalities for legal notices even though statistics show most citizens read the free local papers or use the Internet); Repeal public employee personnel record changes – Repeal HB 961; Seek legislation that will better clarify issues regarding privacy of public employee personnel records and release of other public records. (This recently adopted bill has concerned local and county governments

and school systems. Both are reluctant to give up too much in the way of "closed door" discussions or decisions concerning employees including what's in their personnel jackets.); Protect privacy of citizen email notification and distribution lists – Seek legislation to protect the privacy of email notification and distribution lists of citizens who have requested electronic communication with their local governments; Modernize public records retention – Seek legislation to modernize public records retention to permit records storage in digital format; Support Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) – Support legislation to maintain the funding for rural transportation planning organizations (RPOs); Reform workers' compensation – Support legislation to reform North Carolina's workers' compensation system to reduce disability findings and open-ended streams of payment, to address the trend in favor of long-term disability findings, to diminish control over these findings on the part of claimants and their legal representatives, and to curtail adoption of rules that limit return-

•See REQUESTS page 16

...SWANSON continued from page 6

many people were present, unarmed, on a military base? Bad management.

Are we too stupid to manage the world we've created? Are we too crooked? Do politicians give up trying to manage because society has created problems that can't be solved? Do we remember Jeff Immelt (CEO of GE) and Obama yucking it up before the election? What do you suppose they were plotting? Does it surprise you that GE makes the heavy

equipment that goes into high-speed rail systems, the huge expense that nobody wants, except Obama and Immelt?

Stupid? Crooked? What difference does it make? The outcome is the same.

If hope and change is your thing, you might think about putting your hope in the Creator, and, if you need to, change your way of living to please Him. He made Eden, we've made a mess. He really is the only answer.

Share more
moments with
Unlimited Calling.

Call (828) 526-5675

NORTHLAND
HOME PHONE SERVICE

\$25⁹⁹
/MO.

UNTIL JULY 1, 2011



479 S. St. • Highlands, NC 28741 • yournorthland.com

Offer ends 3/31/11. Unlimited pricing limited to direct-dialed domestic calls. After promotional period, regular monthly fees apply and may change. Activation fee due on activation. Installation not included. Offer valid for new phone customers. May require credit check, deposit and/or payment by credit card. Rates exclusive of fees, taxes and, if necessary, equipment rental. Equipment necessary for some services. Not available in all areas. Subject to terms and conditions of Northland's Subscriber Agreement. See www.yournorthland.com/offers for details.



NORTHLAND CHANNEL LINEUP

... BAKE continued from page 1



Highlands School students use King Arthur Flour Life Skills class to learn how to make bake goods to augment the selection of food at the Food Pantry.

bread in a variety of forms — from cinnamon braids to cheese baguettes. Half of the bread made will be donated to the local Food Pantry and students get to take the other half home.

What is the secret to this bread success? The students soon learn that it is the small things that make a loaf of bread into a perfect culinary creation.

Some of these “small things” include reading through the recipe *twice*, having all equipment and supplies ready and available, measuring flour from a separate container fluffing it with fingers or measuring cup before measuring, using a dough scraper to level off measuring cups and to clear the preparation surface of dried pieces of dough.

Others tips include kneading dough in a “fold- push-turn” motion, testing water for the correct temperature to ensure a proper environment for the yeast, and finally slashing the top of the bread to aid in expansion and to boost the overall appearance of the end product.

Presenter Gray taught students that yeast is a living organism which requires warm water, sugar for growth, and time for complete anaerobic respiration — that is the rising of the bread prior to baking which is due to the carbon dioxide which builds up in the raw dough.

Students learned that baking bread involves science, math, English, and patience because the process may take up to three to four hours.

In typical Highlands School fashion where older students often teach younger

students, high school students have been helping elementary school students learn the intricacies of bread making.

Some of the scrumptious creations mixed up in Mrs. Cashion’s foods classes include cinnamon rolls, cheese bread, pizza, cinnamon bread, and other creative concoctions. However, all the students say “The most rewarding part of the entire experience is to know that you are giving a blessing to those less fortunate than us.” Next week bread made by students under the tutelage of King Arthur and Mrs. Cashion will be delivered to the Food Pantry.

The “Baking Across America with King Arthur Flour” has been a very rewarding event for the students and the cross curricular activities have been a huge benefit to the school and ultimately those in the community who are less fortunate than others.

...PLAYOFFS from 9

by 7 at the end of the first. The second quarter saw the home team show some life, using a 8-0 run to take a one point lead before a late basket from Swain gave the visitors a slim 1 point halftime lead. Highlands was unable to muster a comeback in the third, as Swain scored 7 straight points out of half-time and never looked back in what was a disappointing loss for Highlands.

In his final game with the Highlanders, Josh Delacruz finished with his 20th double-double of the season with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Logan Schmitt led Highlands with 15 points and Senior Robbie Vanderbilt added 11.

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

assume you are not.” He reached to shake Gallo’s hand while each of us took a position at the table but remained standing.

Peter Gallo rolled forward to his place at the table and looked over his dinner guests. “Before we begin to enjoy our evening together, Mr. Martinez, I want to put you on notice that if you ever have your goons shove a gun in my face and pull me from my chair to the floor to check my identification, you’re a dead man. Do you understand that? A dead man...and you’re right, I’m not punctual. Get used to it.”

Well, so much for everyone remaining cool, I thought to myself. Mr. Gallo had ratcheted up the tension so thick you could cut it with a knife.

Ignoring the harsh threat and still smiling, Martinez, realizing he would not get a handshake, slowly lowered his arm and sat. At that moment, everyone’s bodyguards sat.

Turning the pages of his large book-sized menu without looking at it, Peter stared into Martinez’s eyes and spoke, “I recommend the veal or scallops over angel hair. They offer a magnificent wine and portabella cream sauce. A killer’s choice, if you’re excuse the expression, Senor Martinez.” Peter laughed, trying to remove some of the tension that filled the air. No one laughed.

As attendants began to fill the remaining water glasses and waiters began to take our orders, I couldn’t help but notice from my vantage point that men wearing black suits were forming in the outer lobby next to the bar. There must have been 10 of them.

“Then I will take your recommendation and enjoy the veal,” Martinez said, slowly closing his menu and handing it to his waiter. As our orders were taken, the men in the restaurant’s lobby quickly rushed to our table, surrounding it. Each drew a semi-automatic handgun from under his coat.

“We’re with the FBI,” one agent softly announced to our dinner party, hoping not to frighten the other guests. “Everyone place both hands on top of the table and don’t move.” Another agent moved close to me and shoved his weapon against my temple, leaning forward so his coat would shield it from the other tables. Each agent had an assignment and in a few seconds, we were all facing guns.

Guests at nearby tables saw what was occurring and became alarmed. A woman stood and said loudly, “Oh my, let’s get out of here.”

The maitre d’ pulled a portable microphone from his desk drawer and stepped a short distance into the main seating area. “Ladies and gentlemen, there’s no cause for alarm. Please remain seated. You have nothing to fear. Our beautiful restaurant has been filled with agents of the FBI who are making arrests. Sit back and enjoy this most unusual moment while I have waiters bring a bottle of our finest wine to your table, compliments of Piccolo’s Restaurant.”

As the restaurant crowd calmed, the agents slowly removed weapons from everyone except Martinez and Gallo who weren’t armed. Then the lead agent said, “Mr. Peter Gallo, we have a federal warrant for your arrest and you will come with us. Everyone else is free to go. Assuming there are permits for your weapons we confiscated this evening, you may pick them up tomorrow at the Miami Beach Police Dept. after you show a valid gun permit and bill of sale.”

An agent grabbed Gallo’s wheelchair and quickly rolled him from the restaurant. Pretending to be stunned, I sat at the table and stared at Martinez and his gunmen, wondering if the FBI had missed any of their weapons. Martinez leaned forward and spoke. “This is a surprise and it answers some questions I was going to pose to Mr. Gallo this evening. Tell him I will speak with him again soon.”

At that moment the maitre d’ approached our table and said, “Gentlemen, under the circumstances, it would be best if you would leave the restaurant...now.”

I purposely waited until I was the last at the table. Then I walked from the restaurant alone and stood outside in the drizzling rain, looking for either limo. They were both gone. I had a valet signal for a cab, got in quickly and asked the driver to take me to the nearest pay phone.

• *Part two will be presented next Thursday.*

Note: Coming soon, look for Fred’s new mystery thriller, *Deceived*, at your local bookstore or e-book.

...REQUESTS continued from page 14

to-work efforts; Oppose contributory negligence tort reform – Oppose tort reform legislation that would overburden county budgetary constraints, unfairly shift fault to counties, or increase demand for court facilities; Promote utilization of 911 centers by protecting confidentiality – Seek legislation to promote the reporting of criminal activity by protecting the confidentiality of callers by using either transcripts or voice-altered recordings to prevent recognition and to make appropriate amendments to public records laws.

Justice and Public Safety

Protect county jail system; Seek legislation to protect the fiscal viability of the county jail system by reinstating the reimbursement rate for state inmates housed in county jails and increasing the reimbursement rate for state inmates awaiting post-trial prison transfer; Oppose legislation to increase time counties are mandated to house state misdemeanants; Improve inmate medical care cost containment – Seek legislation that would authorize med-

ical care providers to charge the state and counties no more than the rates set in the Medicaid or Medicare schedule of charges for inmate medical care; Maintain funding for gang prevention and adolescent substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment programs; Allow court facility fee flexibility – Seek legislation to allow counties to collect additional fees to support specialty courts and help fund capital, operational and other needs associated with increasing demands on our judicial system; Authorize inmate electronic monitoring cost reimbursement – Seek legislation to authorize counties to seek reimbursement from defendants for electronic monitoring, based on ability to pay.

Public Education

Reinstate ADM and lottery funds for school construction – Seek legislation to fully reinstate the Average Daily Membership funds and Lottery proceeds to the Public School Building Capital Fund; Authorize county use of lottery funds for technology – Seek legislation to authorize

counties to use lottery funds to address school technology needs; Increase high school graduation rates – Support legislation that encourages students to complete their high school education by recognizing alternative graduation methods and by excluding from the definition of dropouts those youth enrolled in high school equivalency programs at community colleges.

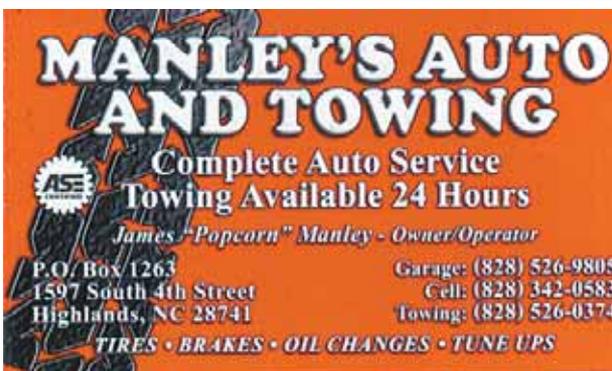
Tax and Finance

Preserve the existing local revenue base; Authorize local revenue options – Seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution or, at the option of the Board of Commissioners, by voter referendum any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county; Recover costs through in rem foreclosure fee – Seek legislation to increase the reimbursement rate for in rem foreclosure collection efforts to recover actual costs, including legal expenses; Set property tax relief application deadline at June 1 – Seek legislation to establish June 1 as the statutory deadline for exemption, deferment and other property tax relief applications; Clarify centralized listing and assessing of cellular and cable

• See REQUESTS page 17

\$17 weekly

• Service Directory •



MANLEY'S AUTO AND TOWING
Complete Auto Service
Towing Available 24 Hours
James "Popcorn" Manley - Owner/Operator
P.O. Box 1263
1597 South 4th Street
Highlands, NC 28741
Garage: (828) 526-9805
Cell: (828) 342-0583
Towing: (828) 526-0374
TIRES • BRAKES • OIL CHANGES • TUNE UPS



J&J Lawn and Landscaping
Serving Highlands & Cashiers for 20 years!
Phone: 526-2251
Toll Free: 888-526-2251
Fax: 828-526-8764
Email: JJlawn1663@frontier.com
John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4th St. Highlands

Michael David Rogers
Native grown trees and plants
Erosion Control Specialist
Landscape Installation & Maintenance
515 Wyanoak Drive • Highlands
828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268
tinarogers@nctv.com

FIREWOOD!
Big LOAD!
Only \$250!
Call 526-4946 or 200-0268



Don't Scream..
Get the help you need with **TempStaffers!**
Quality help for a day, a week, a season.
526-4946 • 342-9312
www.tempstaffers.net



CROWE CONSTRUCTION
New Construction • Remodels
Maintenance and Repairs
Owner- Kenneth M. Crowe
(828) 526-5943
Cell: (828) 332-8290
crowecrazy@yahoo.com
1540 Blue Valley Rd.
Highlands, NC 28741

Allan Dearth & Sons
Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
email: allandearth@msn.com

BRYSON
GRADING & TRUCKING
SNOW PLOWING
Office: (828) 526-9348
www.brysongrading.com



Advertise your business
HERE
Call 526-0782 or email
highlandseditor@aol.com

• CLASSIFIEDS •

Classifieds Policy

Non-Commercial Classifieds:

\$6 for first 10 words; 20 cents per word thereafter.

Commercial Classifieds:

\$6 for first 10 words; 25 cents per word thereafter.

Email Copy To:

highlandseditor@aol.com
or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

HELP WANTED

WELL ESTABLISHED REAL ESTATE COMPANY SEEKING QUALIFIED BROKERS. Call Gina McDonald at Mountain View Properties at 526-8128 or send resume to P.O. Box 2259, Highlands, NC 28741. (st. 1/27)

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

STORAGE/OFFICE LOCATION FOR RENT, +/- 1,600 sq. ft., heat & air, bathroom, close to town. \$700 per month. Call 828-526-8953.

TRILLIUM PLACE TOWNHOME End unit for spring/summer rental—3/2 fireplace, walk to town Clean and ready Call 813 251-1201. (st. 1/27)

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

2-BED, 2 BATH, loft, finished basement. Central heat. Long view. Near boat dock. 828-508-2542. (st. 11/4)

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. \$795/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 11/4)

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

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

SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHEST-NUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. \$650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

3/2 COTTAGE ON 3.46 ACRES (3 LOTS TOTAL), recently restored and renovated; 3 miles from town with great mountain views. By owner for \$294,000. See photos and more information at this web page: <https://sites.google.com/site/highlandsnccottageforsale/> or contact Owner at 119DendyKnob@gmail.com. (st. 2/24)

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

ON MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE – 2/2 nicely furnished, screened porch, 2 large skylights, W/D, surrounded by Nantahala Forest. Motivated owner. \$169,000 419-967-0796 (st. 2/17)

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

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEASE OR SALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.

FOR SALE OR FOR RENT – BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$299,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CLUB GOLF CART 2005 Precedent Electric, 4 new batteries, charger and cord, good tires, side rain covers, club cover extension, \$3K, come ride @Burlingame, Sapphire, 883-3823. (st. 2/17)

MERCEDES BENZ 1995, C220, \$5,900. New tires, brakes, battery, hoses. Garaged. Perfect, dependable, exceptional, 32 mpg regular gas, 182,000 miles. 706/745-3993 or 404/520-0852. (st. 6/17)

SERVICES

SEASONED FIREWOOD/SNOW REMOVAL. Call 828-342-4043. (2/24)

HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry, painting and pressure washing more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-421-4667.

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

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

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

J & J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. 20 Years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

...REQUESTS continued from 16

companies – Seek legislation to implement the central listing and assessment of cellular and cable companies; Clarify definition of charity eligible for property tax relief – Seek legislation to clarify the definition of charity and set a cap amount for hospitals, facilities financed through Medical Care Commission bonds, and continuing care facilities, and require that any property valuation exclusion formula provide for a higher test of charity; Allow hospital authority access to setoff debt collection – Seek legislation to authorize hospital authorities to participate in the setoff debt collection program; Require sales tax reported at zip+4 – Seek legislation to require that large vendors report sales tax by the 9-digit zip code; Simplify register of deeds fees – Support legislation to require that all real estate recording fees charged by the Register of Deeds be set at appropriate flat rates, with a single rate paid to a single state agency, provided that implementation of this legislation not reduce any revenues to any county; Standardize local vehicle fees – Seek legislation to require that all local vehicle fees be adopted at the time the tax rate is adopted and impose the fees on all registered and unregistered vehicles; Allow solid waste authority access to setoff debt collection – Seek legislation to authorize solid waste authorities to participate in the set-off debt collection program; Manufactured home taxes paid before transfer – Seek legislation to require that all taxes levied on manufactured homes be paid before the home may be moved, repossessed or sold on site.

– Kim Lewicki

Jury finds Picklesimer guilty of murder in first degree

Monday, Feb. 21, a Jackson County jury found James Keaton Picklesimer, 66, guilty of first-degree murder in the 2007 shooting of George Gunter, 73, who authorities found dead from a gunshot wound to the back of the head in a cottage in Whiteside Cove.

After the two-week trial, it took the jury 2 ½ hours of deliberation before handing down the guilty verdict. Judge Gary Gavenus sentenced Picklesimer to life in prison without parole.

In closing arguments, Assistant District Attorney Reid Brown said Picklesimer shot Gunter in the back of the head with a Winchester rifle.

However, all along Picklesimer has said he acted in self-defense and his attorney, Jack Stewart recounted his story in court.

But the prosecution claimed though a loaded gun was found in Gunter's pocket, it was in a holster and did not have a bullet in the chamber.

Stewart said his client went for a 30-30 Winchester to defend himself and Newton, and Gunter turned to hide his gun from view just as Picklesimer fired.

Picklesimer will serve his term in a Raleigh, NC penitentiary

165327



Highlands-Cashiers
HOSPITAL

Fidelia Eckerd Living Center
US 64 Between Highlands & Cashiers, NC

Positions Now Available

ER and Med/Surg Registered Nurses
Scrub Tech
Systems Administrator
CNA

Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376, or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

• HS HIGH SCHOOL BBALL TEAMS •

Girls Varsity Team



#3 Kalyn Billingsley, #4 Emily Gabbard, #5 Taylor Buras, #10 Courtney Rogers, #14 Cara Hedden, #15 Karaline Shomaker, #20 Rebecca Johnson, #21 Sarah Power, #22 Caroline Christy, #24 Juliane Buras, #30 Emily Munger, #32 Stephanie Smart, #33 Emily Murphy, #34 Mary Warner, #40 Marlee McCall, #42 Abigail Hewins, #50 Rebekah Parks, #52 Emily Shuler and Manager Elizabeth Gordon. Coaches: Brett Lamb, Bryan Dearth and Tina Rogers.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Corbin and Davis speak at FreedomWorks meeting



Recently elected Sen. Jim Davis and newly appointed Commissioner Kevin Corbin were the featured speakers at FreedomWorks monthly meeting. A full house showed their appreciation for their fine presentations with frequent applause. Their stands on many pertinent issues were in line with the groups conservative values and attendees were pleased to hear the speakers' views.

Photo by Don Swanson

Boys Varsity Team



#2 Tim Fogle, #3 Taylor Osteen, #4 Jose Feria, #5 Cody St. Germain, #13 Collin Taylor, #15 Isaac Beavers, #22 Logan Schmitt, #23 Michael Shearl, #24 Robbie Vanderbilt, #25 Cai Roman, #30 Clayton Lassiter and #42 Josh Delacruz. Coaches: Butch Smart, Ryan Potts, Ross Brooks and Eric Schmitt.

Boys JV Team



#2 Tim Fogle, #4 Temba Lama, #12 Tyler Munger, #13 Collin Taylor, #15 Isaac Beavers, #20 Parker Sims, #21 Austin Baty, #23 Clayton Creighton, #25 Clayton Dunn and #32 Cai Roman. Coaches: Ryan Potts and Jesse Munger.

Available

Country Club Properties
 "Your local hometown
 Real Estate professionals."

3 Offices 828-526-2520
 www.CCPHighlandsNC.com



Main Street Inn & Bistro on Main
 526-2590 • www.mainstreet-inn.com

Available

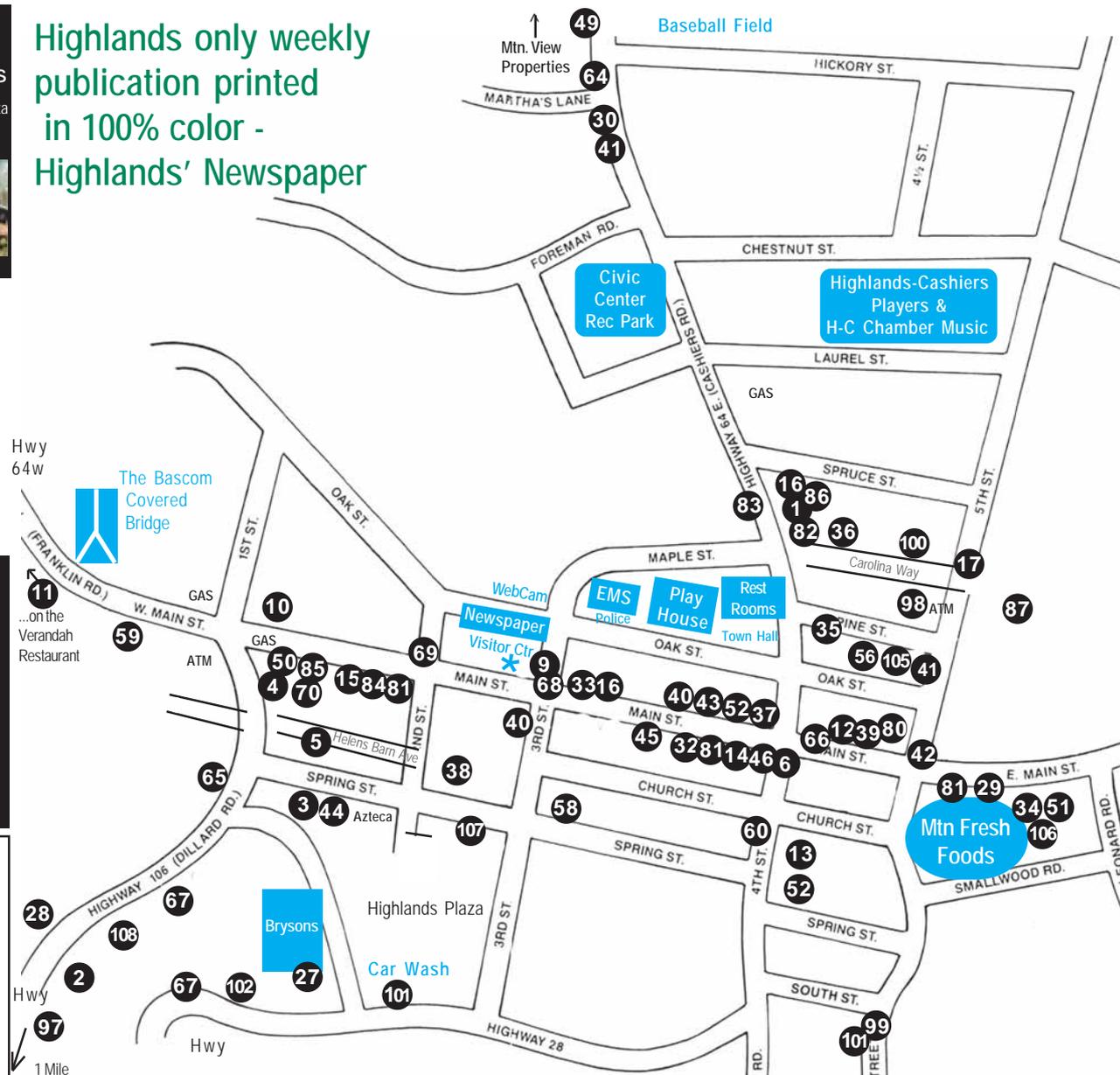
Greenleaf Gallery



Robert Tino Art
 Custom Picture Framing • Art
 Pottery • Jewelry • Home Decor
 211 S. 4th St. • 526-9333

greenleafgallerygifts.com

Highlands only weekly
 publication printed
 in 100% color -
Highlands' Newspaper



2011 Copyrighted Map

The Chambers Agency Realtors

Homes and Land For Sale
 Vacation Homes for Rent
 526-3717 OR 888-526-3717
 401 N 5th St, Highlands
 www.chambersagency.net

Available

Available

"Ace is the Place!"

Reeves Hardware

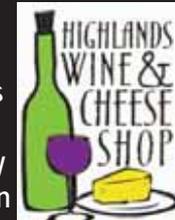
At Main & 3rd streets
 Highlands 526-2157

the bird barn

"We're All About Birds"
 Next door to
 Mountain Fresh Grocery
 at The Falls on Main
 828-526-3910

Available

Enjoy Wine Tastings every Saturday afternoon



The Falls on Main • 526-5210
 highlandswine@nctv.com

MACON BANK

THE PEOPLE YOU TURN TO.
 THE BANK YOU TRUST.
 800.438.2265
 WWW.MACONBANK.COM

MEMBER FDIC
 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The Computer Man!
 But you can call me James!

- Computer Sales
- Computer Services
- Computer Parts



526-1796
 68 Highlands Plaza • Highlands NC 28741

Available

Needlepoint of Highlands

 Barbara B. Cusachs
 526-3901 • 800-526-3902
 Village Square • Oak at 5th

Our passion for the mountains starts with you!



HARRY NORMAN,

828-526-8300 REALTORS[®] Hwy 64 &
800-223-8259 Since 1930 Carolina Way
www.HighlandsRealEstate.com

THE
GAME KEEPER'S
TAVERN

Dinner: from 5:30
Lounge: 4 until
(828)743-4263

3646 US 64 East
Sapphire, NC

www.gamekeeperstavern.com



HARRY NORMAN
REALTORS[®]
Since 1930

NADINE PARADISE, BROKER

828-526-8300 (OFFICE)

828-371-2551 (CELL)

nadineparadise@gmail.com

www.NadineParadise.com

MOUNTAIN BROOK CENTER

HWY 64 & CAROLINA WAY, HIGHLANDS

Mountain
View
Properties



Premier Highlands-Cashiers Properties

Let Our Expertise Work for You

828-526-8128 or 828-526-8581

www.mountainviewpropertiesnc.com

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP



Voted #1 Realtor
in Highlands!

828-200-9179
828-526-8784

pat.f.allen@gmail.com
patallenrealtygroup.com

Pat Allen, Broker-in-charge

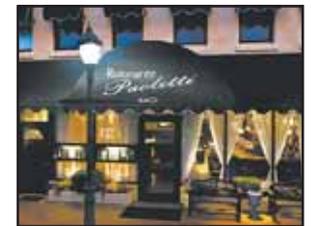
2010
Highlands #1 Agency

Exurbia
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

and
Highlands-Cashiers
MLS #1 Agent



Jody Lovell
828-526-4104
exurbiasothebysrealty.com



Ristorante Paoletti

Dinner from 5:30 Thurs-Mon
Reservations: 526-4906



Available

...on the Verandah Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

828-526-2338

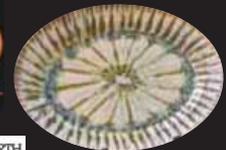
www.ontheverandah.com

PEAK
EXPERIENCE

Gallery of
Fine American
Handcrafts
including jewelry, pottery,
glass and much more!

2820 Dillard Road
828-526-0229

Hours: Thurs & Fri: 11-4
Sat: 10:30-4:30
(weather permitting)
828-787-2473



THE GOOD EARTH
POTTERY

488 Main Street • Highlands

Cut n Patch
Quilt Shop

Custom Quilts
Fabrics, Notions

526-9743
Highlands
Please call for hours &
directions

Building Green Building Value



CIMARRON
BUILDERS

828-526-2240

www.cimbuild.com



Home of the DownHill Grill!
Food and Live Entertainment
Friday & Saturday 7-9 p.m.
828-526-3737
www.scalymountain.com

McCULLEY'S
CASHMERE



Scotland's Best Knitwear
Top of the Hill • 242 S. 4th St.
526-4407 • Open 7 days a week



Brad Smith, DVM
Stephen Arbitter, DVM
Amanda Whitlock, DVM

828-526-8700

Large, Small, & Exotic
Animal Medicine & Surgery
Laser Surgery Available

Next to Freeman Gas @ 19 Cabe Place, Highlands



341 Main Street
Town Square
Highlands
828-526-3788

Open Monday through
Saturday

Buy One Caramel
Apple & Get One Caramel
Apple FREE

Equal or Lesser Value
Expires Feb. 28, 2011

Available

Available