

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 9, Number 2

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Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011

<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
30   15F	34   20F	38   25F

**Fridays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18**  
 • At The Bascom, Pre-School Creativity Classes. Call 526-4949 for more information.

**Saturday, Jan. 15**  
 • The Greenway Trail group will meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM prior to working on the new trail in the Rec Park where a culvert will be constructed and a section cleared to connect to the Highlands Historical Society. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or [hmquin@frontier.com](mailto:hmquin@frontier.com).

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls with great winter views from the ridge above Whitewater Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10AM; drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

**Sunday, Jan. 16**  
 • At the Episcopal Church, "Beethoven at Incarnation" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger performing Sonatas 3 and 5. Donations accepted.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Mud Creek Falls trail to a pretty waterfall. Meet at Smoky Mountains Visitors' Center in Otto at 2 pm; drive 18 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands, Cashiers, or Clayton. Visitors and children ten and older are welcome, but no pets please.

## Form of government questions linger

The issue of revising the Town Ordinance to match the Town Charter, which was amended to the Council-Manager form of government over two years ago, has been raised again.

The item was on the Nov. 6, Jan. 5, Jan. 12 and is also on the Jan. 19 Town Board agenda.

The Jan. 5 meeting was postponed to Jan. 12 due to weather.

At the Nov 6 Town Board meeting, the issue was discussed at length and three of the five commissioners – Amy Patterson, John Dotson and Dennis DeWolf – agreed to leave the ordinance as it stands – that is, the Police Chief and the

Zoning/Watershed Administrator answer to the Board of Commissioners and not to the Town Manager.

"If it's not broke, don't fix it," said Commissioner Patterson.

She said the Town Board has a direct connection with the citizens

• See QUESTIONS page 7

## Homelessness an issue in the county

The new Macon County Commission board sat for the first time Tuesday, Jan. 11 with Kevin Corbin sworn in to take over Jim Davis's vacated seat.

One issue heavy on Commissioner Ron Haven's mind was the homeless and needy in the county.

Ever since winter hit Macon County early in December, Haven has provided shelter for several homeless citizens in some of his motels.

He said he is glad to do it, but said the fact that so many people are without a place to live or stay is of concern.

"People don't see the homeless in Macon County, but being a motel owner, they come to me and I have been taking them in to keep them from freezing. If one person freezes to death, that's too many. But Macon County should have an option available for these people," he said.

However addressing the homeless issue is a sticky one. Not only is there a stigma attached to being homeless there is the issue of "If you build it they will come."

That is, if Macon County offers facilities for the homeless, that segment of the population will come.

• See HOMELESSNESS page 2

## Prime real estate on Main Street



It's all how you look at it! Some might see a pesky mound of snow on Main Street left by snowplow crews who grappled with yet another dumping of snow, but others see something else. Since snow shut Highlands down Monday, Trinity Dendy, Caitlin Wilson and Lisa Northrup made Main Street home -- complete with a comfy igloo.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Fire destroys home in town

About 6 p.m. Monday, a resident in the vicinity of Satulah Ridge Road called the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. to report smoke was billowing out of the attic of a house.

Shortly after the fire department arrived the smoke had turned into flames.

The home, at 261 Satulah Ridge Road valued at about half a million dollars and owned by Scott Cole, was burned beyond repair.

"It will probably have to be torn down," said Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart who was the first on

• See FIRE page 6

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## Highlands 'Vision Statement' finalized

About 14 people turned out for the January Main Street Program meeting at the Rec Park where the vision statement for the program was finalized.

Lewis Holloway, from the NC Dept. of Commerce's Main Street Program, manned the meeting and said the vision statement was gleaned from words participants used at previous meetings to describe Highlands.

"When constructing the statement, we tried to take into consideration the variety of vision words which stressed connectivity – both the physicality and sense of community, and the family friendly aspects – in this case the need for more activities for youth and places to hang out and the need for more assisted living options – while keeping in mind the way the environment plays a key role in Highlands – naturally, culturally and socially," said Holloway.

After a few minor changes by participants, the following Vision Statement was accepted and will be used from now on out in regards to

• See VISION page 8



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Another 'locals' take on bear hunting and other issues

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Ms. Keener's letter in the Jan. 6 issue regarding locals, bear hunters and other things.

Thank you Ms Keener for expressing your side of this sensitive issue so well. I have heard since my first letter-to-the-editor that many or most of the hunters around here in town are not local. Someone told me hat the hunters like the in-town bears because they are better fed or some such. Then when these out-of-towners get caught, they beg off by saying they didn't know they were on private land.

Now bears are scary but at least they are photogenic. I have never seen a photogenic rattlesnake and never hope to see another one. The copperheads are not so good either.

I am greatly relieved that the hunters I heard about treeing a bear and making it fall to the dogs are not around anymore. .. or at least, I hope they are not. Cruelty does not have a place in this world.

I understand hunting. My son and grandson deer hunt and eat every bit of the meat they get. I eat meat and enjoy it

greatly, and think maybe hunting is more humane than the horrible way cattle, hogs and chickens are caged and treated before they are slaughtered.

There are simply two sides to this issue. I grew up in a town in Georgia and never thought two seconds about where hamburgers and hotdogs came from. Now everyone knows and it seems to be a real appetite suppresser.

I hate to be one of the people you consider a "wannabee." I never thought locals only had the right to wear jeans and boots. They are so comfortable and I know many town folks that live in their jeans. I do look in the mirror, though, and realize that the older I get the less cute these outfits are.

We are so very grateful to live in this town. We are blessed by friendly people, the ability to know almost everyone at the post office, and the friendly trucker waves. My prayer is for all of us to get along.

Maybe in this new year there will be understanding and open communication. God help us all

Glenda Bell  
Highlands

### Remember who feeds Highlands' tax rolls

Dear editor,

I can stand on my back deck and throw a big fat slick river rock that would land on top of Highlands' sewer lines running down NC Hwy 28, yet I cannot seem to get Highlands to run a sewer line to the homes on Many Road just up the hill.

I understand the issue of Affordable Housing in Highlands is being considered again and just in case the town is considering infrastructure for such a project, I say this ...

It would be unfortunate and extremely unfair for our Town Board to supply water and sewer service to folks living in "affordable housing" outside the town limits while not attending to taxpayers living within the town limits first. Take care of the people who feed your tax rolls. That issue, and only that issue is my concern.

Fred Wooldridge  
Highlands

## • THANK YOU •

### Reese family says 'thanks'

The family of Sue L. Reese extends our most sincere appreciation to everyone who held out their hand and expressed their warm heart throughout the loss of our Mama. Your words of kindness and prayers sustained us throughout the long hospital stay and gave us strength to endure thereafter.

Thank you for the many phone calls, blessings of warm food, cards, flowers, and visits to our home, as well as prayers of love and faith to help console our grief. This wonderful warm little town we call home wouldn't be what it is today without the extended network of family and friends that hold us together in difficult times.

A special heartfelt thank you to Pastor Charles Harris, Cecil Deas, The First Baptist Church family, and Bryant Funeral Home for all their hard work, as well as a beautiful, loving service.

We have lost both our parents/grandparents within three months, but they have made us what we are, and that is strong beyond measure, and we will persevere because of them and you.

May God bless each of you by taking your hand, like he now holds Mama's, as you, too, walk down your path of tomorrow.

In closing, we quote our daddy Dugan, "Thank Me and Bye Now"....

Kevin, Karen, Donna, David, Tara, Devon, Michael, Austin, Alexa, and Channing

### ... HOMELESSNESS continued from page 1

ment of society could come just for that reason. That's an issue most municipalities don't want to deal with politically or financially.

Kathy McGaha with Healthy Carolinians said her organization and others have been grappling with the issue for some time and have come to realize the best way to help the homeless is to help prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place.

"We have been working on a positive solution in the county for some time poisoning ourselves to be ready for federal grant funding for the prevention of homelessness, which is more efficient than spending tons of money on shelters and the liability associated with them," she said. "If you think about it, it's better to keep people in their homes, if possible, and we can do that by helping them financially, helping them through education and helping them get a job."

She said due to the stigma of being homeless, many times, even if a shelter is available, the homeless don't use them.

On January 26, counties across the state will be conducting a state orchestrated "Point in Time" count to try to determine how many homeless people exist in North Carolina. The count is done the last Wednesday of each

January.

In an urban setting counting the homeless is easier than in Macon County, because most homeless end up in a shelter. Here it's a bit more difficult.

"For us it will be a best guess," said McGaha. "CareNet is a central place where the hungry and homeless frequent so an interview station will be set up there and 24 hours after the official count date, we will glean numbers from the county's DSS office, R.E.A.C.H, the police departments, the sheriff department, schools, emergency rooms and other outreach locations."

Currently, the homeless have few options in Macon County. Most are sent to shelters in Asheville or Murphy or given one or two nights free at area motels paid for by CareNet or the Sheriff's Department with funds donated by area churches – or at the door of a benevolent innkeeper.

Vacated school buildings in Macon County, as well as churches which are empty most of the week, would appear to be perfect facilities for the homeless – either as permanent shelters or a place for temporary housing — but McGaha says besides the stigma, the liability issue is crippling.

– Kim Lewicki

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARIES •

### Elsie Frankfurt Pollock

Elsie Frankfurt Pollock died January 5, 2011, 10 days short of celebrating her 100th birthday. Elsie was born in Henderson, Texas to Jenny Bergman and Benjamin Frankfurt. The family moved to Dallas, Texas around 1920. Elsie entered Southern Methodist University and studied mathematics and design. Shortly after graduating, she designed a unique outfit for her sister Edna who was pregnant. The success of the design spurred the sisters to open a maternity shop and begin manufacturing dresses under the name Page Boy.

The first shop was opened in late 1937 and in 1938 Edna and Elsie were issued a patent for their maternity design. Within five years, the third sister Louise had joined Page Boy and the company owned shops from coast to coast and was selling to fine clothing stores. During World War II the company maintained a low profile but managed to continue manufacturing and by the time the firm was 10 years old they were dressing Hollywood stars such as Margaret Sullivan, Loretta Young and Helen O'Connell.

Elsie served as president of Page Boy and in 1952 was elected as the first female member of the Young President's Organization and throughout the next decade she was recognized for her innovations in marketing and manufacturing. In the early 1960s Page Boy introduced a program of relaxation using yoga into the manufacturing plant, and the company actually closed down operations for 15 minutes each afternoon.

Elsie also participated with several other businessmen as an emissary to Tunisia representing the Small Business Administration. In 1982 President Ronald Reagan ap-

pointed Elsie to serve on the National Advisory Council on Continuing Education. Elsie met industrialist Franklin Pollock at a dinner party in 1966 and within three months they were married. Elsie continued to run Page Boy but moved first to New York and finally to California when Pollock retired. After moving to California Elsie involved herself in several charities including the Women's Guild of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

She is survived by her daughter Penny Pollock Mawyer, of Highlands, her sister Louise Frankfurt Gardner of Dallas, and several grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

### Helene Mahan Talbot

Helene Mahan Talbot died peacefully at the age of 99 on Thursday evening, January 8, 2011, in her home in Macon, GA, surrounded by her children and one of her granddaughters.

In the 1960s Helene and husband Frank owned a Joe Webb log cabin on Bear Pen Mountain in Highlands where the family spent many summers. In their later years The Mountain Club became their summer residence.

Helene is survived by her five children, Virginia Talbot and her husband Dean Zuch of Scaly Mountain, NC; Roberta Vickers and her husband Sam of Jacksonville, FL; Thomas Talbot and his wife Betty of Macon; Carolyn Talbot of Macon; and Merrill Rowell of Macon; 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and one great great-granddaughter. She was predeceased by her beloved brothers John and Robert Mahan, her husband of 62 years, Frank Talbot and a great-grandson Brian Talbot Thomas.

The daughter of William Robert Mahan and Esther Brockway Mahan, Helene was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1911, and spent her childhood years in nearby Wilmette. She met her husband, Frank Merrill Talbot, at Indiana University. They were married in 1935 and moved from Indiana to Macon, GA, in 1948 when Inland Con-



tainer Corporation opened its new corrugated box plant there. Their first home in Macon was on Jackson Springs Road in the Shirley Hills neighborhood. They were members of the First Presbyterian Church and Idle Hour Country Club.

In keeping with her life-long love of music, Helene was a member the Morning Music Club. Reflecting her interest in history and genealogy were her mem-

berships in the Mary Hammond Washington Chapter of the DAR and the Governor Francis Lovelace Chapter of the XVII Century Colonial Dames.

In 1957, the Talbots built their dream home on 100 acres north of Macon, which Helene named Fieldstone Farm; and later under her inspiration, the property was developed into spacious home sites. Here, Helene could enjoy her love of animals; having many dogs, cats, and raising Tennessee Walking Horses that won awards throughout the Southeast.

Helene was a gracious, caring, and engaging person to all who knew her. She was especially fond of children and her family and friends remember her great creativity and the amusing and entertaining activities that she invented.

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### ...on this day from the History Guy

Jan 13, 1610

Galileo Galilei discovers Ganymede, 4th moon of Jupiter.

Don't know why it wasn't found sooner,  
 this particular item lunar.  
 to be fair I suppose I should  
 point out that's farther out in the neighborhood.  
 Don't think that everyone else was stupider,  
 and never thought to look at Jupiter,  
 the odds of that would be astronomical,  
 so small as to be almost comical.  
 though Galileo was a smart feller,  
 had an intellect you might call stellar,  
 and a way to look at things anew,  
 might say a more farsighted view,  
 and it paid off well indeed,  
 he was the first to spot Ganymede.

New additional block ad positions are available on both the Black and White map page and the Full Color back page for 2011.

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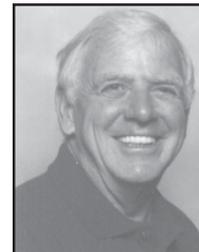
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## • LOOKING AT LIFE •

### Don't ask, don't yell ... I mean tell (I'm about to get in big trouble)



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

So I walked up to this rugged, tough looking Marine and thanked him for his service. He smiled and thanked me for supporting the military. I couldn't help but ask, "What do you think about the "don't ask, don't tell" changes recently made by Congress?"

He smiled again and responded, "When I joined the Corps, gays were illegal, then they became optional. I'm gettin' out before it's mandatory."

At the risk of being called a homophobe, an overused term used to vilify people like me who are not flag-waving pro-gay. And if one is not flag-waving pro-gay, they are automatically homophobic. I'm not pro- or anti-gay. I accept them. Why isn't that good enough?

During my years as a Miami Beach cop, I got to know many gays. We had gay and lesbian cops on our department...some good...some bad. I judged them on performance and not their sexual preference. Miami Beach has always had an abundant gay population and that's fine with me.

Just as I'm attracted to women and never had to make a conscious choice about that issue, gays are attracted to people of the same sex and never had to make a conscious choice on that issue. Not everyone agrees.

I admit the world is changing in directions I detest. The gay issue with the military is only a small part of that. First of all, if you were never in the military, keep your opinion to yourself. Serve your country first and then voice your opinion.

I'm sure I served with gays while in the military but I didn't know it. In the 50s, being "in the closet" was a must for gays. If by some reason a gay person was discovered, it would have changed the dynamics of the unit. And that's where my concern lies.

I'm sure gays died at Iwo Jima and I'm sure many of their bodies lie at Arlington Cemetery. God bless them for their service and may they rest in peace. We'll never know or care about who was and was not gay. But I'm concerned about how openly gay soldiers will change the dynamics of our military, especially those in battle. I hope our government has not made another colossal mistake. They've made so many mistakes. This could be huge! Currently, we still have the best fighting force in the world but that could change.

What is this great need we have to shove this issue in the faces of our fighting men and women? Now Congress wants our military to yell their sexual preference? How many of our Congress persons who voted for this change served in the military? Did Senator Barney Frank serve 'cause he has a lot to say? Once again, we have politicians making decisions that don't affect their lives.

If 10 tough fighting men are told that gay men will join their unit and that causes half of those tough fighting men to quit, is that a good thing? Some would say if those men could not serve alongside gays, we don't need them in our military. While that's cavalier, I say we do need them in our military. The world is getting crazier by the day.

I would be uncomfortable with a gay doctor performing a vasectomy on me...or a circumcision. How about colon probes? Would that be a fun job, or what? I'm also uncomfortable with gay attendants in spas or restrooms. But if I didn't know these men were gay, I would never know and...oh, well. There lies my point.

This is about the straight peoples' rights, not gays. Why do the 98% of us have to adjust to the 2%? Our country has lost touch with logic where minorities rule and a cadre of equal rights nuts are on standby to jump at the chance to sue on any issue. Stop the world, I wanna get off.

Will someone please explain to me what was wrong with a policy where sexual preference wasn't an issue? A gay could join the military and was never asked about his sexual preference because that wasn't important. He didn't volunteer his sexual preference because that was equally not important. He served and sometimes died. Being gay, or not, had nothing to do with anything. Now the clowns in Washington have stirred a dangerous cauldron with unknown results. Dumb, dumb, dumb.

P.S. - What's next on the agenda? How about soldiers who are sexually attracted to children? We know you're out there

• Read Fred's column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

**Weather permitting ...**

1:15 AM, Monday, Jan 10, 2011. SNOW DAY!!

It's pretty clear already that there will be no two-hour delays today. Enough snow has fallen to traffic to the speed of honey flowing on a cold day. If not another flake fell, traffic would be snarled. We don't have enough traffic up here to actually snarl, but there'll be plenty of cars in ditches, or abandoned on the road, and sitting at crazy angles on hills they couldn't quite navigate. It's not going to stop snowing, at least not until several more inches have fallen, and at the rate it's coming down, that could happen in a couple hours.

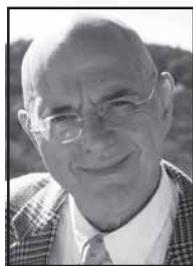
There's something different about this snow; the ferocity, the determination with which it falls. These flakes don't loll to the ground like dandelion seeds in the spring. They dive, more like Kamikaze pilots impatient to reach the target, like a billion spermatozoa swimming tirelessly to an uncertain prize. We are the target; we and our lawns, our driveways, our public roads, and our beautiful mountains.

Dawn would be beautiful, revealing a blanket of white as far as the eye could see. Unfortunately I don't expect enough light at dawn to see much of anything. I think it be will snowing just as hard as it is at this minute, and to be honest, it's snowing like hell. We'll get several more hours of heavy snow from this monster storm. It's been brewing for days. Warm moist air has been wafting up from the gulf and meandering across the south in a generally eastward direction while a cold air front drove relentlessly south.

As early as the middle of last week, computer animations of the collision of air masses were being shown. In the animations, the southern stream seemed innocent, unsuspecting, as much a victim of what was about to happen as we. It is the spawn of that union that I am watching now. On the weather map, it spread from Texas to Georgia. That was a few hours ago. The image would be different now. The storm's leading edge has breached our mountain defenses.

Hundreds of miles of snow laden sky pass overhead. In places to the south, it'll fall as rain. Those between may experience the nightmare of ice. I don't completely hate an ice storm. There is seductive beauty. Early on at least, the trees are beautifully clad in a glistening cast of shimmering ice. As the rain continues to fall and freeze on impact, trees sag under the weight. Massive branches groan, and then snap. Power lines stretch, looking like lazy parabolas between the towers. Some snap. Others are brought down by falling trees. The grid is strained. Pretty soon, a million customers are without power.

While we are kicking through the snow, enjoying the softness underfoot, they'll be



**Feedback is encouraged.**  
email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)

rushing out for kerosene space heaters. Outside is where the real danger lurks. The ice is treacherous. It can be clear enough to be nearly undetectable, or concealed beneath a blanket of snow. Older people and younger ones as well, fall on the ice. The younger ones, with more resiliency and denser bones can usually get up. All too often the penalty for venturing out is a broken hip or wrist. As many as 1/3 of the people who suffer a broken hip will die within a year of

the accident. You may remember we had minor icing just before Christmas. Six people with broken hips were admitted to Oconee Medical Center in just a few hours. It's likely that two of them won't see next Christmas. Another half dozen came in with broken wrists.

Weather can be brutal. It can be costly. Wrecked cars and frozen pipes are minor compared to massive transportation disruptions and the shutdown of the entire southeast. But weather can be fun.

In the morning, I'll dress warmly, including a toque and a hoodie, and trudge up to Sandy's house to submit my column. We don't have land line or internet service tonight, and I'm not going to try to type a column on Lizzie's Droid. I'll leave deep tracks and take a minute to examine the pattern my boots have made. I might check the snow report for Sugar and Beech, and consider a run to Banner Elk, but I'll decide to stay home. Snow days are best spent at home, and this is will be one to remember.

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... FIRE continued from page 1

the scene Monday night.

"When I got there, there was just smoke coming out of the eaves but shortly after flames were coming through the roof," he said.

The house was unoccupied – the owners had temporarily winterized it and gone back to Florida for the winter season – so the cause won't be determined until investigators are on scene. An electrical malfunction is suspected.

Gearhart said the Highlands Fire Department made a "good save" but there was so much smoke damage the home probably can't be salvaged.

Highlands Fire & Rescue, aided by the Cashiers-Glenville, Scaly and Cullasaja fire departments worked on the house until 10:30 p.m. Gearhart returned at 3 a.m. Tuesday to check again and the department foamed the site at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday as an added precaution.

"It was a really hot fire," said Gearhart. "The heat melted and disintegrated the blades on the ceiling fan and the window blinds."

— Kim Lewicki



Left below, a shot of what's left of the ceiling fan. The heat melted the blades. Right, a shot of the kitchen.



Photos by Ryan Gearhart

**DUTCHMANS**

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**Sheriff Dept. 'Think Twice' crew kept county roadways safer**



The Macon County Sheriff's Office conducted three separate motor vehicle checking stations on New Year's Eve with assistance from the Franklin Police Department and the NC Highway Patrol. These checking stations resulted in:

- 2 Driving While Impaired (Arrests)
- 2 No Operator License (Citations)
- 2 Expired Registration (Citations)
- 2 Drug Offenses (Citations)
- 1 Driving While License Revoked (Arrest)
- 4 License Restriction Violations (Warning Citations)
- 3 Failure to Carry License Violations (Warning Citations)
- 1 Inspection Sticker Violation (Warning Citations)
- 3 Equipment Violations (Warning Citations)

The Macon County Sheriff's Office also conducted its 2nd annual Operation Think Twice on New Year's Eve. This program offered free rides home to individuals between the hours of 9pm-6am. During the night, 51 individuals called the Sheriff's Office and requested rides home by Macon County Deputies and made a conscious decision not to drink and drive.

"I consider this prevention program to have been a success. While our check points produced two drunk drivers, officers on routine patrol arrested two other individuals for drunk driving. All four of these individuals refused to consider the consequences of their actions and did not take advantage of our program; instead of getting a ride home, they were arrested and got a ride to jail," said Sheriff Robert Holland.

# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## This should be a great year

Of course it should. Every year should be a great year. Only time will tell whether it will be or not. With the swearing in of a hoard of Republican House members, some of whom, hopefully, are politically conservative, the prospect of House/Senate battles (the Senate is still marginally Democrat) gives one hope that the balance of powers will improve the product.

One very graphic contrast between the old and the new was the dignified manner in which John Boehner was sworn in as Speaker. Who can forget the hoopla that accompanied Pelosi's ascendance to the Speaker throne? One would have thought that she

### ... QUESTIONS continued from page 1

who elected them and the Town Board is the way citizens have control of their government particularly as it applies to those positions.

"We need to answer to the citizens concerning our laws and the planning of our future. The firing and hiring for these jobs can't be in the hands of one man," she said.

Commissioner John Dotson said he remembered discussing that item with the headhunter during the process of changing, and the headhunter said the board could do anything it wanted.

Dotson said the general consensus of the board back in August 2008 was that those two positions should continue to work at the pleasure of the board, though they work under the umbrella of the town and are administratively supervised by the Town Manager.

"Because the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator are in quasi-judicial positions upholding laws and ordinances, they need to answer to the board rather than to just one person," said Dotson.

As allowed under the Local Modification Clause of the General Statute, Town Attorney Bill Coward said the town isn't in violation and it can keep the ordinance as it is.

The issue is back on the agenda because according to Town Manger Jim Fatland, "the board never voted on the issue," even though three of the commissioners thought there was no need for a vote because they didn't want to change anything.

Fatland also contends that Highlands is the only place in North Carolina with this form of Council-Manager government.

However, Highlands has always had legal, hybrid forms of government – first with its version of the Mayor-Council form and now its version of the Council-Manager form.

If the board decides to change the chain of command – that is have the Zoning/Watershed Administrator and Police Chief work at the pleasure of the Town Manager rather than the board — then different things have

had won the "Miss DC Cheerleader" award. It was undignified and disgusting. Boehner's, however, was thoughtful and provides hope that adults are in charge. Again, only time will tell.

Do we learn from the past? We should, but will we? In my opinion, we are on the brink of the abyss, and another year like the last one may render us irreparable. I was considering recapping the events of last year, when I received a column that my friend, James F. Davis, affectionately known as Clay County Jim, had written. Rather thnt steal



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

from it piecemeal, I decided to share it in its entirety.

As the year comes to a close, we must reflect on the 10 most significant accomplishments of Barak Obama in 2010:

1) Taxes. After spending his entire adult life saying that the rich have to pay a bigger share of taxes (even though the top 10% of income earners pay more than 70% of all taxes and provide virtually all new jobs) our President finishes off the year contradicting himself saying that we need to keep the Bush tax rates, otherwise the economy will collapse further. Such leadership!

2) Health Care. Obama and Liberals muscle a national health care plan through Congress promising that it will make the cost of healthcare less costly and more available. The opposite occurs as over 100 of the USA's largest employers say they are dropping giving health care insurance to their employees because of the prohibitively more costly new mandates. He bravely gives them temporary exemptions to the new laws hoping no one will notice.

3) National Defense. Obama and the Democrats negotiate and ratify a brilliant arms control treaty with the Russians by agreeing to reduce our nuclear weapons advantage and getting nothing in return. Brilliant!

4) Financial Reform. After the Democrats and President Clinton's Justice Department passed laws forcing banks to lend to unworthy borrowers and arranged for them to be guaranteed by Fannie Mae (etc.) and blocking auditing these government created entities until the managed crash right before the 2008 elections, they push legislation

through Congress that regulates all financial institutions except the ones that caused the problem.

5) Oil Spill Crisis Management & Leadership. After blocking all foreign help and refusing to allow the affected states from taking significant action to contain the spill damage for over two months, the President was able to extort \$20 billion from BP to clean up the mess that he blocked others from doing. And he extended the moratorium prohibiting offshore deep water drilling, further crippling our economy

6) Illegal Immigration. Refusing to take serious action to defend our borders from massive illegal immigration and drug smuggling, he heroically sues the state of Arizona for trying to enforce Federal law.

7) Stimulus Spending. This is also known as redistributing the wealth from those that earned it to Obama and the Democrats supporters.

8) Government Regulations. What he could not get through Congress, he has had his Czars and government agencies do to make the cost of everything much more expensive.

9) Transparency and Accountability. Obama has tried to block virtually all scrutiny of government action. As Pelosi said, "We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it."

10) Congress. Obama, Pelosi and Reid, with the above accomplishments managed to make the Democrat Party lose more Congressional seats than any time in our country's history.

The last was the only positive accomplishment of the Obama administration for the American people. Let's build on this to make a positive difference in the New Year.

—James F. Davis

to happen for each.

Where the Zoning/Watershed Administrator is concerned, the Planning Board must make a recommendation to the Town Board concerning a change at which point a public hearing must be set and finally a vote taken. If it's a 4 to 1 vote, the change passes, if it's a 3 to 2 vote, the process must be done again.

Concerning the Police Chief, a public hearing isn't necessary, just a motion to amend the ordinance. A 4 to 1 vote passes it but a 3 to 2 vote sends it to the next public meeting for a re-vote.

#### Background

• The board agreed to begin the process of amending the Town Charter to the Council-Manager form of government from the Mayor-Council form at its April 16, 2008 meeting, understanding that once changed the town couldn't revert to the old form of government for two years.

• According to the minutes, at the time commissioners felt the town was besieged with growth and was unable to make good decisions, that the town deserved a trained professional and the change would give department heads some tools to work with.

• At the May 7 Town Board meeting, Town Attorney Bill Coward was instructed to work on the "Resolution of Intent" which was the next step in the process.

• Consultant Bill Wilder was commissioned to help search for Town Manager candidates.

• At the June 25, 2008 Town Board meeting, the board officially adopted the resolution of intent to change the form of government. As required, a public hearing was scheduled for August 6 and held.

• At the next Town Board meeting on Aug. 20 – the board voted unanimously to Amend Section 4.1 of Charter, Sec. 4.1 "Form of government" to read, "The town operates under the Council-Manager form of government,"

Jim Fatland was hired as Town Manger Dec. 2008. — **Kim Lewicki**

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The Town of Highlands is taking applications for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Applications are available at Town Hall, the Parks and Recreation Department, or online at [http://www.highlandsonc.org/Forms/app\\_boards\\_committee\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.highlandsonc.org/Forms/app_boards_committee_fillable.pdf).

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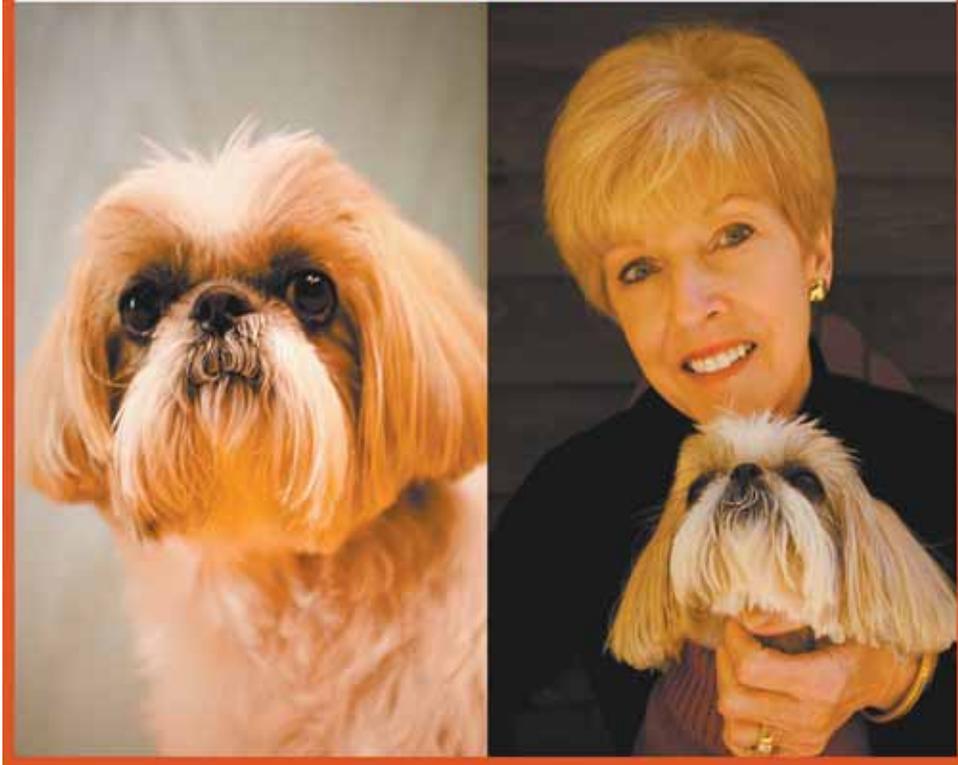
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• COACH'S CORNER •

**The "S" is for Superior**

Once again in a National Championship game the SEC has proven their superiority over the competition, as Wes Byrum kicked a 19-yard field goal to give the Auburn Tigers a National Championship. Auburn's victory provided the Southeastern Conference with its 5th straight BCS National Championship.



**Ryan Potts**  
[ryanpotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanpotts@hotmail.com)

The BCS National Championship was much closer than the ones in recent years, and Oregon certainly proved itself to be a worthy opponent, but in the end it was the brilliance of Heisman winner Cam Newton and the scintillating run from freshman Michael Dyer that allowed Auburn to get the victory. (Speaking of folks named Dyer...congrats to our own Dr. Christopher Dyer, one of the biggest Auburn football fans I know)

What is amazing about the run of dominance from the SEC is that of the last 15 national champions, eight of them have been from the SEC, and in that time period there have been five different schools represented in the National Championship. Florida, Tennessee, Auburn, LSU and Alabama have all obtained National Championships during this time period, and the SEC has beaten conference champions from the Big 12, Big 10, ACC and Pac-10 during the last 15 years. The SEC has also been the land of scandal in recent years, likely due to the intense pressure to recruit superstar players and the intense pressure to succeed that is placed on coaches in the SEC.

Perhaps the main reason for the success of the SEC is the priority placed on football by

the schools in the league. The SEC is home to huge stadiums, great recruiting and the best coaches in the country. Of those eight SEC champions of the past 15 years, names such as Steve Spurrier, Les Miles, Nick Saban, Philip Fulmer and Urban Meyer have become known throughout the country for their success in the SEC.

Amazingly enough, Gene Chizik, a man who was seen as a panic hire from Auburn at the start of last year is now the head coach of a national champion. All Chizik has done since he arrived on the Plains is lead the Tigers/War Eagle to their first National Championship since 1957 and the only outright championship in school history. It's hard to believe that a school that counts the likes of Bo Jackson and Jason Campbell amongst its alums has never had an outright national title, but all of that changed Monday night. In recent years the SEC has also been the stomping grounds of household names such as Mark Ingram, Tim Tebow and Jamarcus Russell. Cam Newton joined the ranks of those players earlier this year by winning the Heisman, but he joined the annals of history Monday night with a BCS title.

While we often enjoy stories of David and Goliath, the fact remains that often times Goliath comes out on top. We saw that in April as underdog Butler captured the imagination of the nation, but ultimately fell to college basketball royalty in the National Championship. While Oregon was certainly not the underdog that Butler was, it remains that the SEC is college football royalty, and on Monday Night, Goliath prevailed on the grandest stage of all.

**... VISION continued from page 1**

the program in Highlands. Holloway said as far as the program goes, it is very important to stress "downtown" Highlands.

"Cradled high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, downtown Highlands is a sanctuary for kindred spirits who live on or are drawn to this plateau. Considering its family-friendly charm, vibrant and comfortable commercial village, assorted cultural offerings and access to an unspoiled and diverse ecosystem, historic Highlands is a destination in every sense of the word. Mindful of how the Highlands' way of life is directly tied to its setting, downtown Highlands reflects in every facet of its exceptional offerings, a commitment to strengthening and sustaining this place and lifestyle."

Holloway said the vision the Main Street Program is attempting to solidify is for downtown Highlands and not Highlands-at-large, however, what happens due to the participation in the Main Street Program is meant to benefit all of Highlands.

After the vision statement was accepted, participants broke into groups – Promotion,

Economic Restructuring and Design -- to continue work on those aspects of the program.

The object of the Promotion group is to put together promotional activities that will be a draw for the entire family leading to an even greater economic impact on the downtown and the community as a whole.

The object of the Economic Restructuring group is to help retain existing and attract additional downtown businesses who are committed to a year-round marketplace.

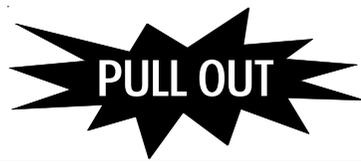
The object of the Design group is to improve the continuity of design throughout the downtown while extending and defining "downtown."

The next Main Street meeting is March 3 at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park when results of the two recent surveys – the Retailer survey and the Consumer survey – will be disclosed.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said a 33% return on the Retailers survey was required for the results to be considered viable. Fatland said there was a 35% return.

There is no meeting in February.

— **Kim Lewicki**



# On going and Upcoming Events

## Town Board Agenda

Jan. 19, 2011

- 4PM – Parking Study & Downtown Improvements
- 7PM
  - Special Recognition: AAA Safe Community Award
  - Consent Agenda
    - Public Services Department
    - Police Department
    - Parks & Recreation Department
    - Planning & Zoning Department
    - Treasurer's Report for Month Ended December 31, 2010
      - Monthly Calendar
      - Grant Status Report
      - Fire Department Request for New Full Time Position
        - Resolution to File Application for Main Street Solutions Funding
          - FY11 Budget Amendment
          - Revision to Town Ordinances for Consistency with Town Charter for Council-Manager Form of Government

## AngelFood

Three "After School Boxes" are featured in the January *AngelFood* menu.

The first box (B6) includes an assortment of child-friendly snacks such as fully cooked breaded chicken breast pieces, corn dogs, Stouffers Mac & Cheese, string cheese, 2 breakfast sandwiches, 4 PB&J jamwiches, mini stuffed sandwiches, cheese or pepperoni pizza, grilled cheese sandwich, watermelon Italian ice cup and a raspberry fruit juice sherbet cup (\$24).

The second box (B7) offers an instant oatmeal variety pack, cereal bowls, milk, beans & wieners, mac 'n cheese, ravioli, spaghetti & mini meatballs, chicken & noodles, cheezy mac ' franks, peanut butter, honey, tuna, applesauce and granola bars (\$24).

The third box (B8) is the Fruit and Veggie Box. It contains applesauce, raisins, apples, oranges, pears, carrots, celery and Trail Mix (\$16).

This month's menu also offers the regular monthly items: Bit O' Blessing Box (\$21), Signature Box (\$31), Bountiful Blessing Box (\$41), Convenience meals for \$28 (10 ready-to-eat meals) and the Allergen Free Food Box (\$25). Specialty boxes are: 8 New York Strip Steaks (\$1-\$24), Steak & Chicken Combo Box (\$2-\$23) and the Premium Fresh Fruit & Veggie Box (\$3-\$23).

Stop by the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 5<sup>th</sup> & Main to pick up a menu and place your order. The deadline for ordering is Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Distribution day is Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8-9 a.m. EBT cards are accepted. For questions, call 526-2968, 526-9191 or 526-9889.

### 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.

### 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 a.m.

• 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.

### Every Third Saturday

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

### 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.

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

### Thursday, Jan. 13

• The League of Women Voters presents Macon County Commission Chair Brian McClellan and Macon County Manager Jack Horton to speak on the state of the county at 12:15 p.m. in Tartan Hall at the Presbyterian Church. Lunch is available for \$6 at noon by reservation. Call Kristina at 371-0527 or e-mail lwvmacon@wild-dog-mountain.info.

### Friday, Jan. 14

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 Riverview Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### Fridays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18

• At The Bascom, Pre-School Creativity Classes. Call 526-4949 for more information.

### Saturday, Jan. 15

• The Greenway Trail group will meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM to begin work on the new trail in the Rec Park. A culvert will be installed and a section will be cleared to connect to the Highlands Historical Society. If interested, please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@frontier.com.

• There will be a meeting of the Mountain Patriots Tea Party at 2 p.m. on, at the 441 Diner in Otto. Come early to make new friends and socialize. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.5 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls with great winter views from the ridge above Whitewater Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 10:00 AM; drive 14 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

### Sunday, Jan. 16

• At the Episcopal Church, "Beethoven at Incarna-

tion" at 2 p.m. featuring pianist Robert Henry and cellist Charae Krueger performing Sonatas 3 and 5. Donations accepted.

• The High Mountain Squares dance classes on Sunday at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin from 3-5-PM. The first two classes are free, and everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, or 706-782-0943.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Mud Creek Falls trail to a pretty waterfall. Meet at Smoky Mountains Visitors' Center in Otto at 2 pm; drive 18 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

### Monday, Jan. 17

• Macon County Democratic Women will meet at 1 p.m. at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin. Installation of officers will be held.

### Sat., Jan. 22

• At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring educators from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for more information.

## This winter, come join us at The Bascom!



Relive the days of clogging, hoedowns and great music at The Bascom's Winter Barn Dances. For information, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org). Photo courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

Enjoy The Bascom year round! In January and February, enjoy, exhibitions, classes and Winter Barn Dances at The Bascom.

Two exhibitions are now center stage at The Bascom.

• Out Back and Down Under, January 7-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.

• From January 8-February 12, view Collections: The Bascom and The Hudson Library featuring 20th and 21st century American art in numerous media.

In conjunction with his Out Back and Down Under exhibition, Greg Newington returns to The Bascom on January 28-29 for Photography for Lovers. Part of Highlands Romance Weekend, learn how to add a sense of romance to

your photos using light, filters and Photoshop.

The first Bascom Winter Barn Dance of the season is on Saturday, January 22, from 7-10 pm. Celebrate the service of our educators to the community. Gather with friends and neighbors, enjoy the music of Highlands' own "4118" and relive the memories of a great Highlands' tradition. Don't miss it.

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased by calling 828.526.2112. Admission for honorees is complimentary. The Bascom's Winter Barn Dances are sponsored by The Bascom, The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Ugly Dog Pub and Sam Call Productions.

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**Facing the future**



**Dr. Charles H. Harris**  
Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church, Highlands

Every "New Year" forces each of us to end the previous year and begin facing the new year whether we want to or not. For the next several days, some of us will have to remember as we write checks and letters to change the year from 2010 to 2011.

January is the right month to begin this process because the word January has significant meaning. The word "January" is derived from the name of the Roman god "Janus." The Romans believed Janus was the god of "gates and doors." Janus is commonly depicted in early Roman culture with two faces...one facing forward and one facing backward, supposedly allowing him to look in both directions simultaneously. The idea being that Janus could see into the future and as well as into the past. Janus' dual-faced image often appeared on Roman coins and gates. One Roman temple, dedicated to Janus, had two doors...one facing the rising sun and one facing the setting sun.

I do not believe in the god Janus, but I do believe January is a great opportunity for us to look "backward and forward." All of us need to look backward and reflect on the past year. We need to reflect on our successes and failures; our joys and sorrows; and on our gains and losses, i.e., the positives and negatives that occurred in our lives in 2010. However, in our reflection, we must not dwell on the past very long. We need to realize that 2010 is now history. We can't change it in any way; we can't subtract from it; we can't add to it; nor can we improve on it. It is history pure and simple. We can do only two things with our history. We can learn from it and use it as a launching pad, enabling us to face the future with optimism and hope.

We should spend less time looking backwards and more time looking forward...i.e., "Facing the Future." Life is short, even if we live to be a hundred or more. The Apostle James says "Life is like a vapor (mist) that appears briefly then disappears" (James 4:14b). Young people may not grasp what James is saying, but those of us over sixty years of age do. Since life is short, we need to make every day count.

Sometimes we have to let go of the past before we can face the future effectively and confidently. I am told that some Italians use New Year's Eve as an opportunity to discard items they no longer want to keep. They sometimes open their windows and throw out valueless things to the street below. Whether this tradition is accurate or not, the idea is worth considering. Some things in our lives need to be discarded. Things like grudges, avoidable pain, unforgiveness, jealousy, hate and

• See SIRTUALLY SPEAKING page 12

**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

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Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:45, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers  
Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian - 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
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Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program, . Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. High School  
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
526-2968  
Reverend Denson Franklin  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.; Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. School - 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
221 N. 4th Street  
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Choir - 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
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828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

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**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

## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Wishing the best for 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of myself and Blue Laser Group, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and confidence in us. What a wonderful year it has been! Being a part of this community has been a rewarding and enriching experience.

Our practice brings to Highlands 25 years of experience with truly remarkable technology so that we deliver to you the very best in eye care. We are pleased to provide comprehensive care including routine eye exams, glasses and contacts, advanced diagnostics for the treatment of eye diseases and surgical eye care including LASIK.

Lasers are used in nearly every aspect of care at the Blue Laser Group which allows us to do remarkable things for you.

Diagnostic lasers allow us to identify macular degeneration, glaucoma and other eye diseases producing early diagnosis and treatment.

Treatment lasers can in many cases prevent damage and restore sight. Laser treatment for glaucoma can eliminate the need for expensive, irritating eye drops for some patients and laser vision correction (LASIK) gives patients the opportunity to say "goodbye" to glasses and contact lenses.



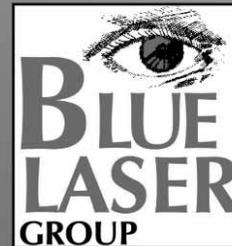
This beautiful region has become my second home and I would not want to be anywhere else in the world. I have been welcomed by this community with open arms. For that I sincerely thank you.

Your support not only within my practice but for me personally, has been overwhelming. So for each and every one of you I want to wish you a very Happy New Year. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming year!

Warmest Wishes,  
Richard Blue, MD

## AREA HEALTH SPECIALISTS

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## • BIZ NEWS •

### Smokies license plates continue strong in 2010



As 2010 draws to a close, Friends of the Smokies celebrate the success of their "bear" license tag and express appreciation for all the green and black tag owners across the state of North Carolina. Through their purchases throughout the year, more than \$356,000 will go to support a variety of important projects in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Some of the projects made possible by the plate revenues in 2010 include creating exhibits for the new Oconaluftee Visitor Center near Cherokee, which will officially open in the spring; providing educational programs for North Carolinian schoolchildren; supporting the ongoing elk project in Cataloochee, as well as black bear conservation

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efforts; and supporting the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob, near Maggie Valley.

"We want to thank all of the people who bought or renewed a Smokies plate this year," said founding board director John Dickson, retired Asheville Savings Bank President and CEO. "We have another ambitious list of significant projects that will help the park in 2011, and we hope North Carolinians will

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continue to help us preserve and protect the park through their support of the plate program."

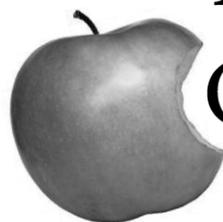
Of the extra \$30 annual fee for the specialty tag, \$20 goes to Friends of the Smokies to support projects and programs in the North Carolina portion of the park. Launched in 1999, the Smokies license plate has now raised more than \$2.2 million.

Friends of the Smokies is a non-profit

organization that supports conservation, education, historic preservation, and other priorities benefiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Smokies plate is available any time from any local North Carolina license plate agency office or online at the NC Department of Transportation web site. More information is available online at [www.friendsofthesmokies.org](http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org) or by calling (828) 452-0720.

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### Major Van Hook returns to Macon County

*Joins law firm of Jones, Key, Melvin & Patton*



At Tuesday night's Macon County Commission meeting, Major John Van Hook, who has just returned from duty in Afghanistan, presented the Macon County Commission and Sheriff Robert Holland flags that flew over the US airforce base in Kandahar and plaques explaining the gift. Commissioner Bobby Kuppert accepted the flag and plaque for the commission. Of the Sheriff's Department Van Hook said: "The Sheriff and his officers don't know their enemy, we do. His department takes care of the home front; we take care of the national front, but we are all on the same team." He also urged the commission and citizens to always remember the "private on the ground."

Photo by Kim Lewicki

### ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

failures...to name a few...need to be properly dealt with, and then we need to discard them...or at least put them out of sight.

Experiences in the past, even things like success, can serve as heavy weights that hold us back and cause us to miss life's best. The Apostle Paul challenges us to let go of the past so we can "grasp" the future (Philippians 3:7-14). Paul opens up his life to us and confesses that early in his life he had felt blessed. Prior to his conversion to Christianity, Paul was known as "Saul" of Tarsus. His bloodline was pure since both of his parents were from the tribe of Benjamin. His orthodoxy was unquestioned. He was a Pharisee, one of approximately 6,000. As a Pharisee, he strived to keep the religious laws and traditions flawlessly. Saul's ministry record was impressive before his conversion. He was a star pupil studying to be a Rabbi. He was a persecutor of Christians believing he was honoring God by protecting his religious beliefs. Before his conversion, Saul saw Christianity as an enemy of his religious views and beliefs.

After Saul met the "living Christ" on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus, his life was radically transformed. He discarded his precious heritage as "rubbish and garbage." Several things happened to Saul: 1. He changed his name from Saul to "Paul." Thus he had a

"new name." 2. Paul gained a "new position." Paul's new position was "in Christ." He used the phrase "in Christ" 164 times in his Biblical writings. 3. Paul discovered a "new purpose" in life. His new purpose was "to know Christ." Paul did not want to know about Christ, he wanted to know Christ personally and intimately. 4. Paul was energized by a "new power." Paul had been "grasped by the resurrected Christ" and Christ was now energizing his life and ministry. 5. Paul was directed by a "new perspective." Paul realized he had to constantly do two things. He had to release and let go of his old way of life and he had to stretch forth and reach out to his "new life in Christ." Like a trapeze artist letting go of one swing and reaching for the swing in front, Paul was constantly "releasing" and "stretching." 6. Paul was motivated by a "new persistence." He "pressed on" with persistence daily toward the goal of his "high calling" in Christ Jesus.

Paul pursued life and faced death while "pressing on" in daily ministry with a burning desire to spend eternity with Christ. He was executed in Rome as an enemy of the Roman Empire because his Lord was "Christ" and he refused to bow down and worship Caesar as "Lord." Using Paul as my example and his teachings in Philippians, this is how I am "facing the future."

What approach will you use?

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## • POLICE & FIRE DEPT. REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Jan 6 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 6

• At 7:45 p.m., officers assisted a motorist at Chestnut and N.5th Street whose vehicle had run out of gas.

• During the week, police officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 1 citation.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Dec.

25:

Dec. 25

• At 11:36 a.m., the dept. responded to an vehicle accident on NC 106 but it was cancelled en route.

• At 7:12 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Church Street due to something burning in the kitchen.

• At 9:40 p.m., the dept. responded to an accident on Walhalla Road. There were no injuries.

Dec. 27

• At 5:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands View Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 5

• at 7:40 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire Department while it fought a chimney fire. Highlands stoodby at the Scaly station.

Jan. 6

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street. It was false.

• At 3:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holt Road where someone had fallen. No one was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 7

• At 8:48 p.m., the dept. moved a vehicle that had been abandoned on U.S. 64 east off the road.

Jan. 8

• At 3:38 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department and stoodby at the station while they fought a structure fire.

• 4:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident with minor injuries on Buck Creek Road. No one was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 10

• At 6:01 p.m., the dept. fought a structure fire on Satulah Ridge Road. Highlands was assisted by Cashiers, Scaly and Cullasaja. There was severe damage.

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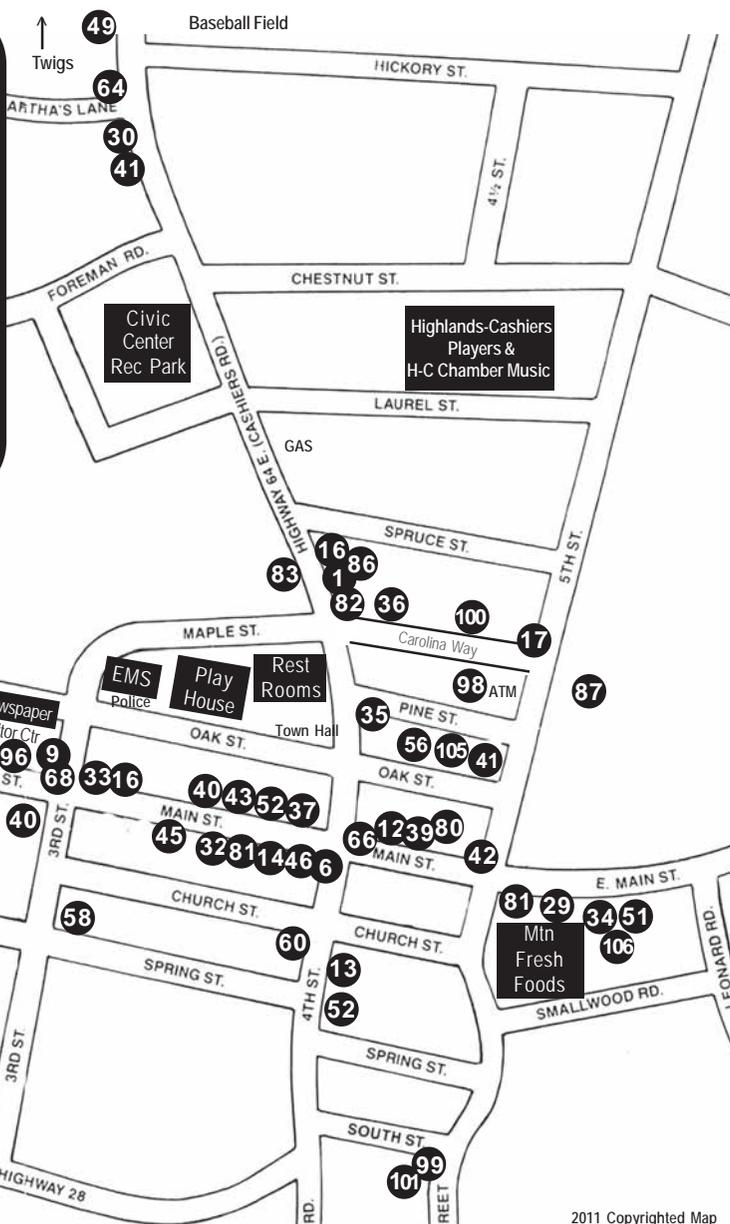


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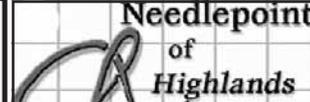
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3	Golden China	19		34	Bird Barn	50	Wholesale Down	66	Highlands Inn	82	Harry Norman	98	Macon Bank
4	Flipside	20		35	C.K. Swan	51	Wine&Cheese	67	Mitchell's Lodge	83	Meadows Mtn.	99	Northland Cable
5	Fresser's	21		36	Custom House	52	McCulley'sCashmere	68	Main St. Inn	84	Preferred Prop.	100	Wayah Insurance
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7		23		38	Drakes Diamonds	54		70	Prestige/Rentals	86	Signature Prop.	102	Post Office
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9	Main St. Inn	25		40	Reeves Hdware	56	<b>GALLERIES</b>	72		88		104	
10	Nick's	26		41	Needlepoint	57	Mill Creek	73		89		105	<b>BEAUTY</b>
11	on the Verandah	27	<b>MARKETS</b>	42	Hen House	58	Corey James	74		90		106	All Seasons Salon
12	Paoletti's	28	Brysons	43		59	Bryant Art Glass	75		91		107	CreativeConcepts
13	Pescado's	29	Dusty's	44	Highlands Photo	60	Greenleaf	76		92		108	Images Unllimited
14	Pizza Place	30	Mtn. Fresh	45	Kilwins	61		77		93		109	Taylor Barnes
15	Ruka's Table	31	Whole Life	46		62		78		94			
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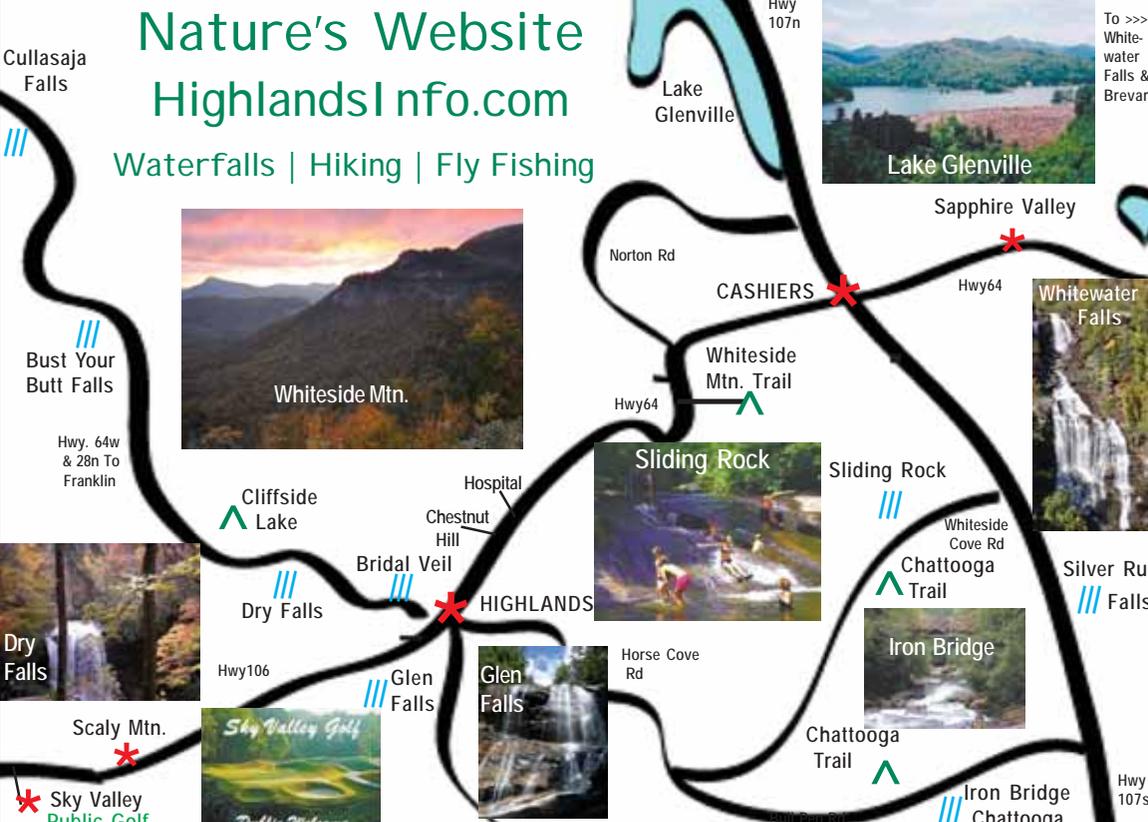
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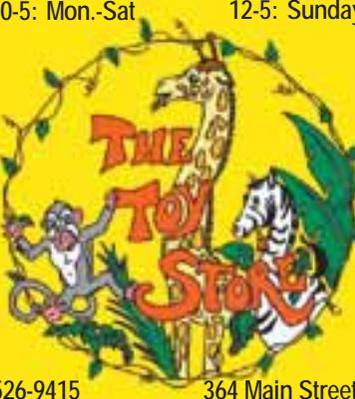
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