Charter/ordinance coming to a head

Step one in the second round to amend the town's ordinance to align with the boiler-plate version of the Charter regarding the Council-Manager form of government began with an unpublicized 4 p.m. work session on Wednesday, March 2.

In a surprise move, at the conclusion of the 4 p.m. meeting, the item was stricken from the March 2 Town Board agenda at the request of Mayor David Wilkes, on the grounds that the verbiage changes from the work session should be considered a clean document at the March 16 Town Board meeting.

However, the issue was discussed again at the 7 p.m. public work session, but only at the urging of Commissioner Amy Patterson, despite a vote by Commissioner Gary Draketo disallow her to put it on the agenda.

Calendar hot topic with BOE

At Monday night’s Macon County School Board meeting something rare happened. Twice the chairman had to break a tie to pass a motion – something rarely experienced at school board meetings since members usually agree on everything.

The two hot issues were the proposed calendar for the 2011-2012 school year, and a new student-based organization in Highlands called Gilliam’s Promise.

The vote was 2-2 with board members Amy Patterson and Carl Jung voting against the item.

Money awarded to clean Upper Cullasaja

By Jason Meador
Watershed Program Coordinator

This past January, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (LTWA) was awarded a 2-year grant to study the Cullasaja River basin from the north to the south.

The grant will allow LTWA to hire a scientist to conduct a stream survey and water quality testing to identify pollutants, and to conduct stream and land use mapping.

The project will help provide a better understanding of the water quality of the Cullasaja River basin and develop strategies to improve the water quality of the river.

Drug-free promise could net big bucks

New club ‘Gilliam’s Promise’ to start up

By dangling at $1,000 a year scholarship “carrot” in front of 6th-12th graders at Highlands School, the board of a new student/community based coalition hopes to end illegal drug and alcohol use in Highlands from the ground up.

At Monday night’s Macon County School Board meeting, Melissa McComb, executive director of Gilliam’s Promise, asked for permission to distribute a fact-finding survey to faculty, students and parents of Highlands School to determine the extent of drug, alcohol and violence in the Highlands community.

The vote was 2-2 with board member Amy Patterson voting against the item.

Calendar

Thursday, March 3

t- 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.

- A Highlands Democrats Precinct meeting for the Election of Officers at 6 pm at the Highlands Civic Center.

Friday-Sunday, March 4-6

- The Highlands-Cashiers Players present “You Know I Can’t Hear You When The Water’s Running,” at PAC at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 on Sunday.

Saturday, March 5

- The Nantahala Hiking Club 12-mile hike to Mt. Cammerer from Deep Creek Ranger Station at 8 am. Call leader Don O’Neal at 586-5723 for reservations.

Monday, March 7

- Harlem Ambassadors at the Rec Park at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and seniors; $7 for adults in advance or $10 at the door. Also a $5 per ticket raffle to shoot for a $10,000 prize compliments of Harry Norman Realtors.

Tuesday, March 8

- At The Highlands Dialogue’s Tuesday discussion, Lewis Doggett: The Red Book; Carl Jung’s Diary of the Unconscious at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 10

- Highlands School PTO dinner and meeting. Dinner is 4:30 – 6 in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Freshman Class. Dinner plate $5 – includes red beans and rice with smoked sausage, Chinese salad, cornbread, drink and dessert. Child’s plate $4 – includes hot dog, chips, drink and dessert. The PTO meeting begins at 6 p.m. and includes book fair, science fair and cash raffle.

Free every Thursday

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
To Hank from Dubai

Dear Editor,

Kudos to Hank Ross for his selection of the Zelkova serrata tree to decorate and green up Main Street. It appears to be a beautiful full shade tree that blooms in the Spring.

Since nothing is from America anymore, it’s appropriate that we have Japanese trees along Main Street. But I did view a 1,000-year-old tree that was as large as a Banyan with a giant trunk, but let Highlanders a 1,000 years from now worry about that.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands

Hospital care is more than ‘good’

I want to publicly thank the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital team that took such great care of me during a Monday evening trip to the ER and an unexpected 2-day and night stay at the hospital. I expected the professional competence and care. My birthday present was the feeling that I was being cared for by my extended family.

Personal and special thanks to Drs. Craig Moore in the ER and Richard Carter and Richard Matthews that treated me and prevented a potentially dangerous infection from ever becoming a reality, to nurse Mary Ann and the OR team that rushed back to the hospital after just getting home from a long day shift, to Megan and Alex in Radiology who took enough pictures of me to start a family album, to my charge nurses Dixie and Mary Ann who made me feel like there wasn’t another patient in the hospital, to Shelly their nursing assistant, to Helen the gentle and caring, night shift Florence Nightingale from the lab, to the...
Academic honors at WCU

A total of 1,856 students have been named to the Western Carolina University dean’s list for fall semester 2010. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 on a regular semester’s work of not less than 12 hours. From Highlands noted are: Rachel Earlene Alford, Ganna Volodymyrivna Beshlyeva, Aliaksandr Kikoin, David Michael Paradise, Teresa Rose Pearman and Katherine Virginia Pierce.

... THANKS continued from page 2

housekeeping lady from Lake Toxaway with the wonderful smile and upbeat greetings every day, and the others whose names I regretfully missed.

Everyone was so upbeat and positive for me while they went about their work. Amidst the “newsy” hospital gossip that seems to always be aound, we often get distracted from the real blessing we Highlanders have in this hospital and its dedicated team of caregivers—some of whom travel a significant distance every day and night to be here for us. THANK YOU!

Bob Wright
Highlands
Part one may be read on-line at www.highlandsinfo.com and click on LOCAL NEWS or at the Highlands Newspaper office at 265 Oak St. in Highlands.

I 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 the early ’70s. Drug lords from Mariel, Cuba, would not take over Miami’s drug traffic. 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.

Sunday, 5 AM, in the musty room at the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) building in Miami, FL, two weeks after the Piccolo’s Restaurant incident.

Special Agent Peter Spoto, also known as Peter Gallo, walked to the podium and tapped the microphone before speaking. “Is this thing on?” he asked, not directing his question to anyone. Blowing into the mic, he looked out over a large group of plain clothes DEA agents and police detectives from Miami Beach. Then, looking at me, he smiled and said, “Before we get started, I want to acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice made by the Miami Beach Police on this project, more particularly, Mister pain – in – the-ass Wooldridge. He actually conned Piccolo Restaurant owners into doing this.”

Boos rang out. (Field drug agents never applauded good work and showed their approval by booing. No one knows why.) I stood and smiled, turning and bowing as everyone continued to boo even louder. Then I said, “DEA still owes Piccolo’s for two cases of expensive wine. But that’s our story change for Spoto.”

“Don’t hold your breath!” someone called out from the audience.

“Alright, let’s get to it. We are communicating on alpha four. Is there anyone that doesn’t know his assignment?” Peter asked, changing his demeanor to serious. “Speak now ‘cause I’m not asking again. Don’t screw this up! Just like at Piccolo’s, it should go down smooth and quick or turn to bloodshed. I’m using the same front guys as at Piccolo’s, Gus will drive, Fred shotgun, Jim and Snake with me in the back.” He paused, adjusting and focusing his rifle scope while the other used binoculars to look over the parking lot. The overhead light was turned off as one agent lifted his gun to the vent housing, utilizing the tape as a swivel. Standing on their tackle boxes, the two agents assembled a 30.06 caliber sniper rifle and duct taped the barrel to the vent housing, utilizing the tape as a swivel. The overhead light was turned off as one agent lifted his gun and spoke. “Fisher one, we are go.” Seconds passed before they got a response. “Copy” was their only response.

Four DEA agents and two Miami Beach detectives parked their unmarked vehicles along the MacArthur Causeway in an attempt to spot Martinez heading for Miami Beach, hoping he had not changed rental cars at the last minute. Another DEA agent would park his vehicle in the lower level of the dog track’s parking lot and would block the down ramp if shooting started. Peter, Jim, Gus, myself and Snake walked to the roof of DEA’s parking lot. Peter climbed into the back of the van and plopped in his wheelchair, locking its wheels. He reached under the chair’s seat and removed a Brown...
It takes a middle class to resurrect a country

It’s been over a year since a devastating earthquake shook Haiti. The precise death toll will never be known. Estimates range from 200,000 to more than 300,000.

The staggering loss of life resulted not only from the severity of the quake, but also from the fact that it struck Port au Prince rather than San Francisco. Strictly enforced building codes would have made a huge difference. There were no codes in Port au Prince. Nearly every building was poorly built. The American Embassy, built to modern standards, was the only building left standing and sustained only minor damage. A modern health care system and effective emergency medical response would have further reduced fatalities, but like building codes, are nonexistent in Haiti.

The inability to precisely count the number of fatalities says a great deal about Haiti. Imagine a catastrophic event in the United States in which the government, a full year later, reported between two- and three-hundred causalities. We count, and account for, our citizens, a luxury Haiti can’t afford. The fact that Haiti has a population of some eight million compared to more than 300 million in the US further magnifies the disparity. Haiti is such a primitive country that it is incapable of counting either its living or its dead.

Little has changed in Haiti since the earthquake, unless one considers a cholera epidemic that has claimed more than 4,000 lives and a contested presidential election that precipitated days of violent protests. Haiti’s election commission included President Préval’s handpicked successor in a two-candidate runoff, despite compelling evidence that, despite fraud, intimidation, and stuffed ballot boxes he had finished third in the voting. A million people are still living in tents and under tarps. Births have skyrocketed, the product of rapes of unprotected women and girls in the camps. The promise to rebuild Haiti better than it was has stalled, and Haiti wasn’t much better before the quake.

Aid teams continue to help the Haitians help themselves. Through the years, I’ve noticed a paternalistic attitude on the part of my friends who travel to Haiti. “I love the Haitians,” they might say. “Surely not all of them,” I think. “Only the poor,” they might respond if they could read my mind. I agree that the poor might be more lovable, if only because the wealthy are so despicable. A homeless puppy is infinitely more lovable than a snarling German shepherd.

If life in Haiti is ever going to improve, jobs must be created. Many years ago during my first visit to Haiti, I met a sincere and dedicated young American. As we sat at the airport waiting for the trucks to take us inland, he gave me a primer on Haiti. He complained bitterly of the sweat shops. Eighty-five per cent of the population is unemployed, and wages are five cents an hour, he told me. I asked him if five dollars an hour and 100% unemployment would make him happier.

Later I proposed teaching metal working or pottery to unemployed villagers. The idea was that they could create and sell pots and metal art to create a cash economy. To jump start the project, I suggested we bring the work to the US and sell it through 10,000 villages and similar outlets. “Why,” I was asked in a scolding tone, “is it more important to create jobs in metal craft than in health care?” The answer was obvious to me; because nobody had money to pay for health care. The health care workers would be permanently dependent on gifts from abroad for their income. Independence under those circumstances would be unachievable.

Last week I happened to meet an American of Haitian-Cuban origin. Marcus is starting a trading company to export lumber and rice to Haiti. In the future he hopes to import coffee and mangos. It’s going to take people like Marcus if Haiti is going to succeed. Coca Cola is getting into the mango business in Haiti. Fifteen hundred Haitians will work for them and have an income. South Korean companies are taking a chance and opening sewing shops in Haiti. My friends would call them sweatshops. That may be true, but they’ll be sweatshops in Haiti instead of Bangladesh or Pakistan. Wages and working conditions may offend our sensibilities, but it is a start.

My greatest fear is not that Haitian employees will be exploited, but that corrupt officials will demand such a tribute that the Koreans will give up and look elsewhere. A middle class is essential to a functioning nation, and a middled class starts with jobs.
Let’s take off the gloves...

“Hi. My name is Dr. Snarky, what’s yours?” “I’m Thor, ma’am.” “Thor, you must be frozen out here. How long have you been demonstrating in front of the Capitol?” “It’s my second day, but the cold doesn’t bother me. I’m used to it.” “With all the yelling you are doing, don’t you have a sore throat?” “Nope, I’m good.” “Standing around for two days, aren’t your feet sore?” “Nope, I’ve got good boots, no problem with the feet. Dr. Snarky, why are you so interested in my health?” “Well, do you know that by missing two days of work, you could lose your pay unless you have a doctor’s excuse?” “I know, but I’m here to support our cause, and I’m willing to lose pay for the time I didn’t work.” “You are?” “Yes, I am.”

“But Thor, you may be here for several more days, and I can write you an excuse for as long as you want.” “I feel fine, there isn’t anything wrong with me and I’m not going to beat the system by presenting a phony medical excuse.”

“That’s a lousy attitude. Do you realize the teachers union pays me $100 for each one of these bogus medical excuses I write, and I’ve wasted time on you I could have been spending on someone who isn’t so hung up on principles and appreciates a good scam?” “Wait just a minute, Doctor, don’t call me principal. I bailed out on my class to be here, and so many of us did they had to close the school. It’s the kids who are getting screwed.” “Listen Thor, this isn’t about the brats. You can make a buck, I can make a buck, the kids can fend for themselves.”

“OK, Snarky, now that you put it that way, write me one for two days, and one per day for next week. How’s that for a deal?” “Sounds good to me, Thor. I’ll tell you what – I’ve made my quota for the day. Let’s go back to my hotel.” “Yeah, the union is paying me to holler all day, but with this crowd, they’ll never miss me. Let’s boogey.” “By the way, Thor baby, what do you teach?” “Ethics, Snarky, ain’t that a hoot!”

Now where did they get the idea to abandon their responsibilities and bolt the scene? Why, from the Wisconsin Senate Democrats, of course. When it came time to do their job, and vote on Governor Walker’s budget bill, rather than do what they were elected to do and operate within the system, they fled to a resort in Illinois where, at the time of this writing, they stay bunkered in. The State Assembly (House) just passed it, where there were sufficient votes to legislate.

And now it remains to be seen where the bill will go from here.

The Indiana State Legislature is stuck in neutral with 44 of its elected Democrats choosing to leave the scene rather than do their job and vote on proposed union legislation. A few months ago, a writer from Russia’s Pravda referred to Americans as “sheeple,” comparing us to animals that have no direction of our own, but must be led around in a herd. I was jealous of the writer and wish I had come up with the term, but since that was not to be, my entry is “fleeple,” referring to the cowardly legislators that left their post and chose to hide out rather than doing their jobs.

And if you think that cowardice and desertion is reserved for activities at the State level, RedState.com would have you know otherwise. “Only in Washington can politicians get away with complaining about a government shutdown, while going on vacation for a whole week.”

“Senate Democrats took to the air on Sunday to warn the American people about a shutdown on March 4th. They argued that the Senate may not agree to the House passed Continuing Resolution, because the bill’s $61 billion in cuts to spending for the remainder of the year are too much. Yet the problem is not serious enough for these same Senators to come back to the Capitol to debate and negotiate the House passed spending measure this week to avoid a shutdown.

You see – the Senate has a vacation scheduled for this week – can’t miss that.”

The SEIU (Service Employees International Union) turned out in force to intimidate legislators in all 50 states, kicking off Obama’s 2012 campaign and giving you a preview of the fist-pumping slogan chanting we can expect.
Moving to Australia was an act of defiance and desperation. I had broken off my engagement to John, and he countered by marrying someone else three months later. Moving halfway around the world is a very liberating experience. You can reinvent yourself; you can be whoever you want to be. On the other hand, it is a situation of total solitude. You have no back-up.

My first job in Sydney was working for the Alliance Française. I was to run the bookstore, and the entire department supplying educational materials to Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

The big boss was, in fact, a rather short Frenchman, who was a walking caricature. He wore open-necked shirts, unbuttoned to the waist, and several gold chains which got tangled in his three chest hairs which he swore he teased for volume. Sent to Australia for having seduced the daughter of a major communist party official in the former Soviet Bloc, he countered by seducing the daughter of the advocate-general of Australia.

This otherwise delightful young woman was named Barbara, and she was typical of the fauna which populated the office. The average office worker was a tiny, gorgeous blonde with large soulful eyes. Office dress was usually a clingy t-shirt with a plunging neckline, and a short skirt or tight-fitting slacks. Every morning and every evening, we had to line up, and kiss the boss. It was like working on the set of the James Bond movie. At 5:30, I towered over Jean-Michel, who acted as if he'd come to the office, and found a giraffe sitting at one of the desks. The uneasy peace between us was shattered the day I came to him with what I thought were reasonable demands.

I was working six to seven days a week, and being paid for five. I was working from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and being paid for working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I was doing heavy physical labor with no assistance. Having listed my grievances clearly on paper, I went to Jean-Michel's office, and handed him the note. He laughed, and patted me on the head, patronizingly. And then he did something I still can't explain, almost 40 years later. Speechless with rage I quit my job, and walked out the door. Oh, and when I got to the door, I moaned.

My next job was working for the Australian office of Club Med. It was my first real experience working mostly with Australians, and it did not begin well. At 5 p.m., the office would grind to a halt, with people turning off their typewriters and pulling plastic covers over them. Alone, I would sit at my desk until whatever I was working on was finished. After a week, the head of accounting came over to chide me. "You're making the others look bad, mate," he growled in my face. Thus warned, I made a point of turning off my machine at 5 p.m., no matter what I was doing. This must have softened the blow of having an American working in their midst, because the crew grudgingly asked me to go to the pub after work, a commonplace occurrence. It was at the pub that I realized how offensive they found Americans.

The Australian participation in the Vietnam War had ended only two years earlier – in 1973 – and anti-American feeling was still very strong. In the opinion of many Australians, Americans were war-mongers who took advantage of their friends, dragging the poor peace-loving Aussies into a war that wasn't really their business. (Many Australians refer to their country as "Oz," and Aussies pronounce "Ozzie" and not Ausky.)

Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war, with 521 killed and over 3,000 wounded. While Australia was initially enthusiastic about the war, fearing a domino effect would bring Communism to their island nation, anti-war feeling increased as the war went on. The Vietnam War was the longest and most controversial war Australia ever fought. To make matters worse, there was terrible discrimination of Vietnam War veterans. As the length of service for each soldier was for one year only, many World War II veterans accused them of not being "real soldiers," and barred them admission to the RSL clubs (Returned Servicemen's League, the equivalent of our Veterans of Foreign Wars) and from marching in the ANZAC Day parades.

But it got worse. Americans were fat and spoiled, insisting on ice cubes in their drinks, air conditioning, and central heating. They didn't speak proper English. Having removed every trace of a regional accent in elementary school, it was hard to determine my origins. I was repeatedly asked what part of Canada I came from. When I replied that I was, in fact, American, they retorted with, "Oh, you can't be American. Your English is too good." In the end, tired and frustrated at having to constantly be the lone defender of my country, I claimed to be from Toronto. According to my colleagues, every American working in Australia was taking a job from an honest, hard-working Aussie. I was tolerated, not. I was touched to see that most of my Australian colleagues were mortified at my plight, and actually sorry to see me go.

The big boss in Sydney was John Y., a rude, terrifying man who had Anglicized his name to cover his Czechoslovakian roots. We referred to our run-ins with him as "passing a bad Czech." My two-year stint came to a crashing halt when I refused to take the rap for a mistake made by a superior. I was expendable. He was not. I was touched to see that most of my Australian colleagues were mortified at my plight, and actually sorry to see me go.

I then worked briefly for a small outfit that made custom kitchens. The only woman in a company which employed around 20 men, I walked a fine line. Trips to the workshop were made even more embarrassing due to the plethora of
Hate is an integral part of sports in the US today, and by hatred I am referring to the good, clean sports hate that is a part of our everyday lives. My loyal readers (all four of you...love ya, mom and dad) know of my particular targets for sports hatred...yes I am looking at you Mr. Favre. However, with Saturday marking the end of the regular season in the ACC and another titanic UNC-Duke collision, I thought it apropos to bring you a list of my 5 favorite moments of hatred from the Dukeyside of the Duke-UNC rivalry. I have listed them here in no particular order.

1. “We Beg to Differ” — After a particularly hairy incident in which the Cameron Crazies crossed the line of decency, the Crazies decided to be on their best behavior against UNC in 1984. Fans held signs offering “A hearty welcome to Dean Smith and the Tar Heels,” and chanted “we beg to differ” after a bad call from the officials. Many Crazies even fashioned halos for themselves from tin foil and coat hangers.

2. “Newspaper War” — Even the Duke Chronicle newspaper gets in on the hatred, with their finest moment occurring in 1992 when Duke featured Christian Laettner and Bobby Hurley and UNC had stars Hubert Davis and Eric Montross. The Chronicle took out an entire page of their sports section and left it blank, declaring that “this big useless white space is here in honor of Eric Montross.” Montross had the last laugh as UNC won 75-73, but it was a tremendous effort in hatred from the Duke Chronicle.

3. “There’s no place like home” — A more recent induction, for Roy Williams first game as head coach of the Tar Heels in 2004 the Cameron Crazies greeted him with a yellow brick road, students dressed as Dorothy, Toto and the Tin Man, and a pair of red slippers left on the UNC bench to remind Ol’ Roy that he wasn’t in Kansas anymore.

4. “Would you like fries with that?” — During UNC’s great run in 2005 with Sean May, Ray Felton and company May was met at Cameron with a sight that he couldn’t help but laugh at. During warmups, a Duke student dressed as May could be seen chasing after a fishing line “baited” with a Big Mac.

5. “Speedo Guy” — This classic moment was even featured on ESPN, as it was a part of a special on Rivalry Week. During the Duke-UNC game in 2005, UNC guard Jackie Manuel was shooting two free throws when the unthinkable occurred. Out of the sea of Crazies in the endzone unfurled a man in nothing but a blue speedo. With all of the other Crazies hushed in silence, the man in the Speedo began dancing and cost Manuel both free throws. Speedo Guy was then discouraged from appearing again by Coach K himself, but not before making a name for himself in the annals of the Duke-UNC rivalry.

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders completed their season last Friday night in the 3rd round of the state playoffs with a 53-32 loss to the Cherokee Lady Braves. The game marked the Lady Highlanders’ first appearance in the Sectional Finals in 28 years.

To advance to the 3rd round, Highlands defeated Hayesville 54-38 on Wednesday night, using a combination of pressure defense and good shooting to build a double-digit lead. Senior Courtney Rogers had a very strong performance for Highlands, scoring 19 points. Fellow senior Marlee McCall added 11 for the Lady Highlanders, who advanced to host #4 ranked Cherokee in what would be their third matchup of the season.

The previous two matchups with Cherokee had seen the Lady Braves use their size and depth to wear down the smaller Lady Highlanders over the course of the game. Friday night followed the same pattern, as the Lady Highlanders played fantastic defense in the first quarter but were unable to capitalize, trailing 13-9 at the end of the first. “We were definitely a little nervous,” said Highlands coach Brett Lamb, “we missed several makeable shots early in the game and it hurt us because we were holding Cherokee down and missed a chance to take advantage.” Lamb also lamented four turnovers in the first quarter. In the second, the Lady Highlanders put on the pressure defense that had served them well all season, but once again Cherokee was able to capitalize on their size and depth. The Lady Highlanders will now have to regroup and prepare for their third matchup of the season against the younger Cherokee Lady Braves.
The Medi-Spa

The Medi-Spa at the Center for Plastic Surgery offers a unique combination of traditional spa services and medical aesthetic treatments designed to actually reverse the skin damage to help you look and feel your very best.

Medical Spas like ours are a relatively recent addition to what is available to you to improve your skin. As Plastic Surgeons recognized that surgery alone could not rejuvenate the face, we sought other methods. We soon recognized that advanced skin care was not available in normal spas, but the experience people had then was well worth imitating.

Day spas and resort spas can offer only services that are allowed by their licensing boards. Whatever treatments they do provide cannot actively change the skin cell and the products used cannot be prescriptive. While the treatments they do provide are all that many people with minimal skin damage need, those with more damage require advanced treatments and prescriptive products to make any real difference. Anything less merely camouflages the damage instead of rejuvenating the issues. A Medi-Spa fills this gap by offering prescriptive products and advanced services under the guidance of a physician.

At the Medi-Spa, clients can relax and are pampered just as in a regular spa, but are assured that only the finest quality ingredients with proven efficacy are used during any of their treatments. All European Facials include a warming hand treatment, facial skin analysis, steam and a deep exfoliation process followed by extractions of small cysts or other imperfections if necessary. Facial massage, acupuncture, and lymphatic drainage are used as needed followed by a custom blended mask suitable for each individual skin type.

Medical grade skin treatments offered in a Medi-Spa setting can also include DermaPlaning, a skin scraping treatment to eliminate dead cells on the surface of the skin, or aggressive Microdermabrasion treatments, a sanding exfoliating process to achieve similar results.

Glycolic and Lactic acid treatments can be used also as a chemical reaction for the elimination of dead cells, and they can stimulate collagen, the building block of healthy skin. To achieve the depth of penetration an acid peel, most have to do both, and an esthetician working under the supervision of a physician is required. They are trained to know what to look for while performing these treatments. This markedly reduces the risk of serious injury or discomfort.

Many times the esthetician will recommend additional treatments that only the doctor can provide, or she may simply suggest a scheduled visit with the doctor to discuss further treatments. These additional treatments can include IPL (intense pulse light) treatments to correct red or brown areas, Laser and deeper chemical peels such as TCA (TriChloroAcetic acid) or Phenol/ Croton Oil that can even rejuvenate leather-like skin, or injectables such as Botox, Juvéderm or Radiesse to erase deeper wrinkles and folds.

A new treatment in our Medi-Spa is

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 15

Each 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!
On going and Upcoming Events

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

Registration is now open for the 2011 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), “Amazing Animals” (ages 7-10), “NatureWorks” (ages 8-11), “Mountain Explorers” (ages 10-13), and “Junior Ecologists” (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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.

Tuesdays, through Feb. 22
• At The Bascom, “Tuesday After School Art,” 3:15-4:30 p.m. 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
• 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 p.m. 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.

Tuesdays
• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
• ClosedAA 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 p.m. 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.

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• ClosedAA Women’s meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

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On going and Upcoming Events

- 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.
- A Highlands Democrats Precinct meeting for the Election of Officers, Thursday at 6 pm at the Highlands Civic Center.
- Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church, 69 Lolita Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred.

Fri.-Sun., March 4-6
- 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.

Friday, March 4
- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, March 4th, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Brenda Holt from Greenville, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. For more information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344.

Saturday, March 5
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12-mile hike to Mt. Cammerer from Deep Creek Ranger Station. Meet at the Huddle House at Sylva at 8 am; drive 120 miles round trip from Sylva. Bring water, lunch, wear hiking boots. Call leader Don O’Neal at 586-5723 for reservations.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.2 mile hike on the Standing Indian Campground loop trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 pm; drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

Sunday, March 6
- At The Highlands Dialogue’s Tuesday discussion, Lewis Doggett: The Red Book; Carl Jung’s Diary of the Unconscious (Note: 1 copy available through the Fontana Regional Library). Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. Discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information please e-mail John Gaston at johnhaston@aol.com.

Monday, March 7
- Harlem Ambassadors at the Rec Park at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and seniors and $7 for adults in advance or $10 at the door. There is also a $5 per ticket raffle to shoot for a $10,000 prize compliments of Harry Norman Realtors.

Tuesday, March 8
- At The Highlands Dialogue’s Tuesday discussion, Lewis Doggett: The Red Book; Carl Jung’s Diary of the Unconscious (Note: 1 copy available through the Fontana Regional Library). Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. Discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information please e-mail John Gaston at johnhaston@aol.com.

Thursday, March 10
- Highlands School PTO Dinner and meeting. Dinner is 4:30 – 6 in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Freshman Class. Dinner Plate $5 – includes Red Beans and Rice with Smoked Sausage, Chinese Salad, Cornbread, Drink and Dessert. Child’s Plate $4 – includes Hot Dog, Chips, Drink and Dessert. The PTO Meeting begins at 6 p.m. and includes book fair, science fair and cash raffle.

Friday, March 11
- 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. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred.

Saturday, March 12
- Highlands Annual Chili Cookoff 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Tickets are $20 and includes food and drink. Children under 12 are free. To enter the cookoff call Jan Healey at 526-5841.

The Highland Cashiers Players’ production of “You Know I Can’t Hear You When The Water’s Running” is off to a great start. The show, a collection of four vignettes, combines comedy, drama, familiarity, and I suppose you could say a little history as well.

Nine talented actors (Playing over a dozen parts), four directors, and a team of tech and stage crew brought Robert Anderson’s acclaimed play to live at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center this past weekend to enthusiastic audience response. Each one of the four acts have some funny and some deeper parts, as we watch these characters deal with the problems brought about by people who care about each other, but sometimes fundamentally misunderstand each other. The stories all take place in the early 1960s, but the reactions could be from any time or any place, as the cast deals with the challenges that come with changing attitudes on topics that run from business, art, parenting, marriage, and memory.

The show will be back on stage this Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., and a Sunday matinee at 2:30, don’t miss this theatrical gem, and don’t wait until the last minute, tickets are going fast. Call 828-526-8084. The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center is located on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.
A late Easter

I’ve been hearing many different reactions to the late date of Easter this year. One said that they couldn’t believe it was so late. It is about as late as it can be. Another said that they didn’t like the fact that the date of Easter changed each year. It was too hard to keep up with. However, sacrificing the moveable date of Easter would disconnect us from its meaning. It is inextricably linked to the Jewish Passover. Without that connection, we lose Christ’s fulfillment of it. We lose sight of the redemption one for all. Still another person thought it was coming too fast. Well, a late Easter, which also means a late Lent, is giving us some extra time to prepare.

For Christians, Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday next week, is a time for reflection, deliberate sacrifice and assessment of our habits good and bad. We choose to eliminate those bad habits by abstaining from them and replacing them with good ones. This type of sacrifice has reflection as a prerequisite.

There was a stroke victim who recounted the experience as a remarkable time of joy. As the left side of their brain filled with blood and began to shut down, that internal voice which spoke continuously was silenced. At the loss of language, what remained was just the moment, just experience of the senses. They noted a feeling of oneness with everything that surrounded them. The idea of being separated from the rest of creation and being an individual vanished. All that was left was joy. I, for one, am thankful that they recovered their speech and could share that experience.

This is what real reflection strives for. In the quieting of the mind’s seemingly endless monologue we find joy. It leads us to the truth of the unity of our experience with the rest of creation. We lose the preoccupation with ourselves, which often leads to selfishness, and replace it with an experience of connectedness which directs us away from our own selfish concerns toward the good of another. Ultimately, it brings us in union with the God who loves us.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the lament of Zion over the mistaken idea that God had left them. They are reminded that even if a mother could forget the child in her womb, God would never forget them. We abandon God, not the other way around.

But we can return. We can stop allowing the separation induced by uninterrupted activity to have its way with us. We can, in a way, have our own self-inflicted stroke. We do that by taking the time needed to be quiet with the Lord. It seems paradoxical, but separating ourselves from the noise even within ourselves leads us to a deeper connection with both the creator and the creation.

If you’re having trouble finding a place for that quiet reflection, may I suggest 315 N 5th Street? It’s always open and awaiting your visit. Have a joyful Lent.

**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

- **BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**
  - Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
  - Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
  - Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
  - Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

- **CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**
  - Sky Valley, GA
  - Church: 706-746-2999
  - Pastor’s residence: 706-746-5770
  - Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
  - NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
  - Sun.: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45, Ducks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
  - Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at members’ homes - 6 p.m.
  - Wed.: Men’s Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
  - Thurs.: 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 a.m.
  - Prayer - 6:30 p.m.
  - Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

- **COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**
  - www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
  - 3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
  - Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
  - Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School
  - 10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children’s Program, Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. High School
  - Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

- **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**
  - 526-2968
  - Reverend Denson Franklin
  - Sunday: Breakfast: 9 A.M. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
  - Monday: 4 p.m. Women’s Cursillo Group
  - Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men’s Cursillo Group
  - 4:30 PM. 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 p.m.

- **HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

- **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 a.m.
  - 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 Serenity Chapel at Trillium Village, Glenville.
  - 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 p.m.
  - 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.

- **SHORT OFF BAPTIST CHURCH**
  - Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
  - Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
  - Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7 p.m.

- **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

- **WHITE SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
  - Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
  - Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley donates money for Vital Signs machine at FELC

As part of their ongoing effort to better the lives of community members, the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley provided a special donation to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

Given in memory of the late Steve Willett, a devoted Rotarian, the club granted the hospital funding to purchase an automated vital signs monitor for the residents at FELC. The new equipment is a portable unit that captures blood pressure, temperature, pulse rate and oxygen blood levels, all within 45 seconds.

FELC’s Chief Nursing Officer Ava Emory said “this instrument called ‘Rosebud’ replaces four pieces of equipment and will greatly decrease the time spent collecting vitals. Because we collect about 40 sets of vitals per day, my nursing staff will be able to spend more time providing personalized care for our residents. The machine will store the patient’s medical information electronically, helping to decrease human error.”

Rotary President Bob Starkey said, “Our club proudly supports The Mission of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. This is a wonderful example of how our club can directly benefit our community and we are honored to be part of such a wonderful advancement for their living center. Our participation furthered our efforts to recognize our late member Steve, concurrently recognizing HCH.”

A plaque with the RCCV Rotary Logo inscribed “vital signs equipment in honor of Steve Willett a Great Rotarian” will be displayed at the hospital.

Eckerd Living Center gets outstanding assessment score

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center received impressive scores on the annual Patient Satisfaction Assessment conducted last month by My InnerView, a National Research Company, commissioned by the North Carolina Healthcare Facility Association.

More than 4,900 long-term care facilities across the nation participate in the survey which queries residents and family members of each facility.

My InnerView is charged with inspecting each survey and preparing the results and benchmarking for the survey. The findings are then released and reported to each center including their Boards of Directors, Medical Staff, and Department Managers.

“Overall, we are extremely pleased with the report of the latest survey,” said Ava Emory, FELC Chief Nursing Officer. “Out of 4,974 facilities, we rank in the top 93% in overall satisfaction, components of which are recommendation to others, quality of care, and benchmarking for the survey. The findings are then released and reported to each center including their Boards of Directors, Medical Staff, and Department Managers.

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As during the Feb. 2 Public Hearing on the issue at Wednesday night’s meeting, the majority of people in attendance were against amending the town ordinance.

During the Public Comment period, Pat Taylor told the board the citizens of Highlands want an open government with checks and balances in the hands of the elected representatives who are accountable for the operation of the town. “Five heads are better than one,” he said.

At the 4 p.m. meeting, Mayor Wilkes and Gary Drake reiterated the importance of the Town Manager having ultimate power because one man is less likely to be “influenced” than five, said Wilkes. Drake said he had spoken to several retired mayors who said problems in their towns disappeared once the Town Manager was put in charge of the Police Chief.

Surprisingly, at the 4 p.m. meeting, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said he would like to maintain the sections of the ordinance referring to the Town Board’s authority over the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator “in some fashion.”

In his comments, Taylor also criticized the amendment being added to the ordinance saying the Town Manager must consult with the Town Board in a closed session prior to firing anyone. Though commissioners considered that a good thing, Taylor said unless the subject of the closed session can state his or her position to the Town Board prior to the point of termination, hidden agendas are suspected.

Jane Lewis said she completely agreed with Taylor, as did Bonnie Earman, and said she appreciated Commissioners Patterson and John Dotson for upholding what citizens wanted of them when they elected them.

Alan Marsh said that the board that voted for the Council-Manager form of government left the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator to the Town Board for a reason. “We wanted it that way; it wasn’t a mistake.”

When item 15 on the agenda concerning the revision of the Town Ordinance finally came up, Commissioner Patterson made a motion to instruct Attorney Bill Coward to return on March 16 with ordinance changes as outlined at the 4 p.m. meeting, but with sections authorizing the board to oversee the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator retained and not deleted from the ordinance as requested by Mayor Wilkes.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf seconded the motion but before it could go for the final vote, Attorney Coward questioned the clarity of the motion and Mayor Wilkes and Commissioner Drake requested the issue be discussed at the next meeting when a cleaned up version of the amendment could be considered.

To “clean up” the motion, Patterson specified exactly what she wanted.

In Section 2-47 (a) of the Highlands Code — Other officers and employees – the verbiage would be “New positions deemed necessary by the Town Manager shall not be made prior to board approval. All officers and employees shall serve at the pleasure of the manager and receive such compensation as from time to time may be prescribed by the pay plan approved by the board.”

Concerning the newly added Section 2-48 of the Highlands Code, “The Town Manager shall consult with the Board of Commissioners in closed session, prior to the hiring of any employee or the termination of any employee, unless circumstances require immediate termination.”

The “hiring” part is different from what was added in January, though “circumstances requiring immediate termination” is still left up to interpretation and whose definition was questioned by Commissioner Rogers at the 4 p.m. meeting.

Concerning other changes, all the commissioners agree that since an old statute still on the books referring to a volunteer police force doesn’t apply to Highlands anymore — Sec. 10-56, 10-57 and 10-58 – should be stricken. “This is from the days when towns didn’t have paid police officers,” said Fatland.

Commissioners Patterson, Dotson and DeWolf voted to have the ordinance cleaned up by Coward and brought back to the board for a vote. Commissioner Rogers voted no.

Another motion to have the ordinance cleaned up by Coward including the deletion of the sections giving the Town Board’s authority over the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator was made by Commissioner Drake. It passed 3-2 with Commissioners Dotson and Rogers voting yes. So now, both versions will be voted on at the March 16 Town Board meeting. Whichever version gets the 3-2 vote will be the version discussed and voted on after a mandated Public Hearing.

– Kim Lewicki
Bascom hires new Executive Director

Jane Jerry has been appointed Executive Director of The Bascom Visual Arts Center. Willis Willey, Chair of the Board of Trustees, made the announcement following the conclusion of a national search.

“Jane has extensive experience in developing and directing audience-focused institutions and we are delighted that she will be at the helm as The Bascom advances to its next stage of development,” Willey said.

Jerry, currently a resident of Nashville, TN, was most recently the Project Planning Director for Exploration Station, the Republic of Ireland’s first interactive science center. Its exhibition and program plan will be grounded in the fusion of science and art.

Prior to her appointment in Ireland, Jerry was the President and CEO of Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art in Nashville, Tennessee (1994-2004). During her tenure at Cheekwood, she led a capital campaign that resulted in an $18.5 million investment in the gardens and facilities. During that time, the Cheekwood Museum of Art attained accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Additionally, Jerry was the founding executive director of the Children’s Museum of Rhode Island from 1976-1984 and the Houston Children’s Museum 1984-1994; the latter was rated the No. 1 children’s museum in the nation by Parent’s Magazine this month.

The Bascom is a vibrant visual art center that serves the communities of Highlands/Cashiers, N.C., the surrounding region as well as the entire south. Founded 25 years ago, The Bascom was recently reborn on its new $14 million campus that includes over 25,000 sq. ft. of new, yet historic timbered facilities located on a 6+ acre pastoral property. It offers world class exhibitions, learning opportunities and open studio time for visitors of all ages and abilities. Its goal is to serve both seasonal and full time residents and to act as a premier destination for those interested in art (both fine art and craft) throughout the South.

In addition to holding leadership positions at the American Association of Youth Museums, Jerry served as a Board Member of AAM from 1993-1996 and Chaired the Museum Assessment Program Advisory Committee 1993-1996.

Jerry follows Linda Steigleder who led The Bascom throughout its major growth phase when its facilities not only expanded, but also its visitation went from 9,000 people in 2008 to 25,000 in its first six months of open hours in 2009.

Bryant's work spotlighted at Atlanta show

Dwight Bryant of Bryant Art Glass in Highlands was awarded a “Best in Show” ribbon for vendors at the Southeast Flower Show in Atlanta recently. Dwight has been traveling the country showing and selling his work at shows.

...HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 9

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

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France and Britain declare war on China to force their right to sell opium.

Now there are some who might gripe about this change that came down the pipe. See, France and Britain declared war on China to force their right to sell opium. Now there are some who might gripe about this change that came down the pipe.

FELC also scored 93% in overall satisfaction when compared to 170 North Carolina Long Term Care Centers, averaging 89%. FELC showed high percentages in care of nursing staff at all levels, Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants. They reached 96% in the category of Respectfulness of Staff, and a near perfect 97% in Overall Care and Concern.

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Despite the loss, this season will be remembered as a success for the Lady Highlanders. Early in the season, the Lady Highlanders listed as their goals to win the Little Smoky Mountain Conference regular season and tournament, and to go as far as they could in the state playoffs. In those respects, the mission was accomplished with a 17-12 overall record and a 5-1 conference record. One other major positive to come out of a season full of great milestones was that Highlands hosted a Sectional final in what was a tremendous atmosphere on Friday night. “We can’t say enough about our fans,” said Lamb, “we have had a ton of support from the community this year and we are so appreciative of everything that they did for us.”

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thrive as an issue for Highlands in the second and third quarters, saying that Cherokee was focused on pounding the ball inside and getting to the free throw line. The second half saw the Lady Braves increase their lead by dominating the interior as well as methodically taking advantage of a Lady Highlanders team that only shot 6-46 from the field. Cherokee didn’t shoot much better, shooting 17-44 but held a 20 point advantage from the free throw line. Emily Munger led Highlands with 16 points.

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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)
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SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. $650.00 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 mountain views. By owner for $294,000. See photos and more information at this web page: https://sites.google.com/site/highlandsncottageforsale/ or contact Owner at 119DendyKnob@gmail.com. (st. 2/24)
$103,000! LOWER CLEER 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 IN FRANKLIN — 2/2 nicely furnished, screened porch, 2 large skylights, W/D, surrounded by Nantahala Forest. $169,000 419-967-0796 (4/28)
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 — 2/1 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.
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POLICE & FIRE DEPT.

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.
Feb. 22
• At 8:15 a.m., officers were called to Highlands School to conduct a canine search of lockers and book bags in the high school and middle school wings as well as the gym. The dog showed no interest at the lockers but showed interest at a book bag in the gym, but didn’t not alert.
• At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from Church Street.
Feb. 24
• At 1:25 a.m., officers responded to a suspicious vehicle parked on S. 4th Street. It was moved.
• At 2:20 a.m., Cody Lyn Lindberg, 24, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for failing to stop at a stop sign on S. 4th Street.
• At 5:13 p.m., Gerald Hedden, 37, of Highlands, was arrested on 10 counts of simple physical assault—six counts against a female and four counts against a child under the age of 12 at their residence on Catabaw Trail in Highlands.
• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 4 citations.
Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 16.
Feb. 16
• At 12:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cabot Place.
Feb. 17
• At 11:17 a.m., the dept. was called to assist Cashiers FD at a structure fire, but the call was cancelled.
Feb. 18
• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. was called to put out an electric heater on fire at a residence on Shortoff Road, but it was out upon arrival. The heater and all wires were removed from the residence.
• At 6:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row. It was false.
Feb. 19
• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Whiteside Mountain Road. It was out upon arrival.
Feb. 20
• At 7:29 p.m., the dept. was called to 62 Oak Lane concerning a CO leak but the odor was due to a leaking gas can.
Feb. 21
• At 3:57 p.m., the dept. extinguished a brush fire on an acre of land off Sassafras Gap Road. The fire was caused by a downed power line on a tree.
• At 6:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 south. The vehicle was stabilized and the driver was extricated and taken to the hospital.
Feb. 22
• At 10:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street. It was set off by workers.
Feb. 24
• At 8:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle rollover on NC 106. It was in the Scaly FD district and handled by them.
Feb. 28
• At 4:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Skyline Drive. It was cancelled en route.
March 1
• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street. There was no problem and the system was reset.
... CALENDAR continued from page 1

with local control removed from NC school districts, all public schools started at the end of August with the first semester ending after students returned to school late in January following Christmas break. The Dept. of Commerce lobbied for this set up so students could be used in the business community during the tourist season/summer months.

Not only did this upset the timeline for end-of-course testing – which was further postponed this year due to inclement weather, particularly in Macon County – it made it impossible for students’ schedules to align with those of Southwestern Community College as well as virtual classes taken through other learning institutions. Virtual learning and online classes through local colleges and universities is a way for students to get courses not available in small school districts and away to get a foot up on collegework. (See “Highlands a NC virtual public school” in the Feb. 10 issue of Highlands’ Newspaper at highlandsinfo.com/PDFarchives.htm.)

After years of outcry, legislators are now considering HB 175 which would give local control back to school districts. But no one knows when or if the bill will pass.

In the interim, the State BOE is giving school districts the option of applying for a calendar waiver if they can incorporate Remedial and Enrichment Intercession periods throughout the year to justify starting school earlier in August, ending in May, and ending the first semester prior to Christmas.

Those stipulations were incorporated into Calendar 4 — the object of discussion Monday night. It incorporates the required Intercession blocks and has to accompany the waiver request which was due Tuesday morning, March 1, in Raleigh.

Opponents to Calendar 4, which included board members Jim Breedlove and Gary Shields and Franklin High School teachers Bobby Kuppers and Josh Johnson, dislike the weeks designated for Intercession, the fact that teachers and parents already have jobs or plans for the summer of 2011 which would be interrupted if Calendar 4 is initiated for the 2011-2012 school year, because snow days are associated with holidays, and because there is a good chance that House Bill 175 will pass making the need for a waiver/calendar moot.

Snow days for Calendar 4 would be built around holidays — Dec. 22, Jan. 4, Feb. 13, April 5, May 25 and 29 and Saturdays, if necessary. Brigman agreed that if HB 175 passes, Macon County can construct a custom calendar to fit its needs without worrying about Intercession blocks now required with the waiver.

— Kim Lewicki

... PROMISE continued from page 15

feel that we can compliment each other, but the community needs a voice and a vehicle they can use to drive these poisons away and educate the public on the real threat they present in Highlands.”

The idea behind Gilliam’s Promise is to stop the use of drug and alcohol abuse in middle school before it starts and to keep it at bay through high school.

According to its mission statement the purpose is to provide youth in a community a focused, long-term, comprehensive program of education, positive reinforcement, and self-esteem building throughout the community from middle school to high school years to drastically reduce the use and abuse of illegal substances.

McKim said that children first begin experimenting with drugs and alcohol in middle school — ground zero in the fight against drugs, she said. She said middle school years see children self-segment themselves into groups where they try to fit in. “We need to reinforce every child at every touch-point possible. A child’s future is influenced and shaped by the community around him. We must take responsibility to keep them safe and hopeful for the future.”

McKim said students, their parents and the community are all equally important components of the program whose participation is critical to the program’s success.

If a student in the Gilliam’s Promise Club promises to remain drug-free 6th-12th grade, $1,000 will be placed in an escrow account for that student each year to be used to finance college or trade school education.

At Monday night’s Macon County School Board meeting, the Young Author State Winners were presented a certificate by Superintendent Dan Brigman and Chairman Tommy Cabe. Recognized were: Purshotam Aruwani, Aiden Bryson Carpenter, Sarah Carpenter, Nicholas Doyle, Briana Jenkins, Serenity McDaniel, Emily Peterson, Daniel Pickens, Breanna Teague, Sam Templeton, Tracy Hedden and Angela Pickens.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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