

Highlands' Newspaper

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Volume 9, Number 37 6,000 Internet Reads at www.HighlandsInfo.com • Click Local News Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
55 \ 48F	60 \ 49F	62 \ 50F

Through Sept. 15

• At the Book Worm at the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street, a 1/2 price book sale. Open Tues.-Sat., 10a-4p.

Wed., Sept. 14

• At Highlands Smokehouse, the Corbett Brothers perform at 9 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 15

• Taize at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 16-17

• At the Hen House on Main Street, Ray Pottery signing 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

• At ...on the Verandah, a sing-a-long with the piano man 9-11p in the Dug Out Lounge.

• Dazzling Dahlias! Tickets are \$50. Call Joyce Franklin at 526-9418.

• 12th Annual Native Plant Symposium at PAC. For tickets call 526-2221 or 787-1050.

Sat., Sept. 17

• At Ruka's Table, a wine tasting 4:30-6:30p and Jazz Music starting at 6:30p.

Sun. Sept. 18

• Highlands Playhouse Annual Auction extravaganza at the playhouse in the lobby and theater. To donate items or for more information call 526-2695.

Monday, Sept. 19

• The Highlands Bolivian Mission "All Male Beauty Pageant" at the Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. with a complimentary wine bar beginning at 7:30 p.m. compliments of Bryson's Food store. The tickets are \$100 each and all gifts are fully tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased by calling 526-3605.

Tues., Sept. 20

• B.E.A.R Talk – in Your Neighborhood Albert Carlton Community Library, Cashiers. 5:30 p.m.

Fight on for Highlands magistrate position

Tuesday night, Macon County Commissioners were asked to sign a resolution to help fight the state's decision to eliminate the part-time of Magistrate in Highlands.

As per the recently adopted

2011-12 state budget, on Jan. 1, 2013, Highlands will no longer have a magistrate – a position fought for and won some 25 years ago.

Once Magistrate Pat Taylor's stint is up, when law enforcement

in Highlands arrests someone – either the Highlands Police Department or the Macon County Sheriff's Department – officers will have to leave the plateau and drive down to Franklin to appear

• See MAGISTRATE page 19

Final OK sought for reading program

By Luke Osteen

Last week, Macon County schools moved a step closer to using a reading program that was given a summer tryout by local students and teachers.

The Board of Education signed a letter of intent Tuesday, Sept. 6, to implement the Lindamood-Bell Learning Program in elementary and middle schools. If the board approves the program and its materials, a summer reading program and professional training at its September 26 regular meeting, the total cost would be approximately \$340,000.

According to the county schools' director of Elementary Education Carol Waldroop, the funding would come from carry-over funds and a careful parsing of Title I At Risk and Supplemental

• See READING page 26



Photo by Karen Hasbrouck

Citizens urged to attend NC-DOT info session on proposed semi turnarounds

Meeting is set for Thursday, Sept. 22, 4-7 p.m. at the Cullasaja Fire & Rescue Dept. on US 64 west.

Monday morning at 7:30 a.m., a semi stuck heading to Highlands on the Gorge Road caused traffic to come to a standstill as it maneuvered its way through the curve.

Even though it's illegal for 4-axle semis with 53-ft-long trailers to travel the Gorge Road, getting stuck behind a snared semi

is a common plight for citizens traveling the Gorge Road to and from Highlands.

To alleviate the problem, the NC Dept. of Transportation is considering building four semi turnarounds so truckers who find themselves on the Gorge Road route have a chance

• See SEMI page 19

• Inside •

Letters	2
Obituary	3
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
Just Hers	6
Coach's Corner	7
Conservative POV	9
Police & Fire	20
Classifieds	24

Firetruck restoration a reality

By Stell Huie

Members of the Highlands Country Club have given the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. individual checks totaling \$9,475 which will be used to complete the restoration of the town's first fire truck.

"We are grateful to the club members for contributing," said Fire Chief James "Popcorn" Manley.

Those who contributed were: M/M William Benedict, M/M Richard Boger, M/M Lovic Brook, M/M Gary Carnes, M/M Clisby Clarke, M/M Alex Crumbley, M/M James Doss, M/M Allen Hardin, Ms. Florence Monroe Hendee, M/M John Hopkins, M/M Harry Howard, M/M Ridley Howard, M/M Vincent Hughes, Mr. Stell Huie, M/M David Lacy, M/M William McCoy, M/M Ray McPhail, M/M Lyle Nichols, M/M George Pettway, M/M Charles M.

• See FIRETRUCK page 20

Don't miss
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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Tea Party leader had facts wrong

Dear Editor,

President Chapman of the Local Tea Party recently had a letter published. The purpose of this letter is to "refute" the spurious statements she made regarding the core beliefs of the Tea Party.

While Ms. Chapman goes on at length to defend her Tea Party with zeal, one should question her proclamation that the TParty is a "political phenomenon of the 21st century." Ms. Chapman, I was born at night, but it sure wasn't last night. Tea Partiers are an old crusade in different packaging. How can you claim to be of the 21st century, while advocating the failed policies of the 18th century?

A study done by Notre Dame and Harvard University further illustrates the true "origins" of the TParty. The study took a representative sample of 3,000 Americans interviewed and compiled research on their political attitudes in 2006; and followed it until today. The result of this study was the ability to predict who would become TParty supporters long before this movement began.

Ms. Chapman described the TParty as independent and nonpartisan. The analysis shows that on the contrary that the TParty supporters of today were highly partisan Republicans, long before this movement ever took shape. The study goes on to show that the single strongest predictor of TParty support today is past Republican affiliation. This would then explain why the Macon GOP leader responded in defense of a letter directed to the TParty, not the GOP.

Another forecast that can determine TParty affiliation can be derived from what members have in common. The overwhelming majority of TPartiers are white. When compared to other white Republicans, they have a low regard for immigrants and blacks long before Barack Obama became President; and they still do. They were also disproportionately socially conservative in 2006; and still are today. The second-highest predictor of a TParty member was a strong urge back in 2006, to see religion play a major role in politics. To this end they continue these views.

Then as if on key, Ms. Chapman drops the "socialism" card, because everything the TParty disagrees with is demonized as socialist, Marxist, far-left, or foreign in its derivation. I assume this is why the TParty is pushing to privatize Medicare (a social program) into an \$8,000 voucher system. A voucher for people over the age of 55, but for us Americans who aren't as "seasoned" and the effects once the \$8,000 is used-up, they have no plan.

The simple fact is that for years prior to now, the TParty has existed in one form or fashion. From McCarthyism and the John Birch Society in the past to the John Locke Foundation and the Americans for Prosperity today; all of these organizations play off of the xenophobic sentiments that still exist in our society. While these organizations proclaim the defense of "freedom" and "liberty" their actions undercut individual rights to freedom of expression or belief. They create a countersubversive tradition which casts the fears and insecurities of its members on others they demonize.

Justin Karr Conley
Franklin

Don't be misguided about the oil industry

Dear Editor,

All we are hearing lately is let's tax the oil and gas industry. Well let's look at a few of the facts. The oil and gas industry currently supports more than 9.2 million American jobs. They contributed more than \$470 billion to the U.S. economy in 2010. That is more than half the size of the 2009 federal stimulus package yet they did not require a congressional vote or tax payer dollars. They pay about 86 million dollars a day in taxes, fees and royalties, in cash, to strapped federal, state and local governments.

This country has approximately 85 billion barrels of oil and 419 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that remains undiscovered according to government reports. We have 28% of the world's coal and the world's largest oil and gas potential. It is estimated that there are 1.5 to 1.8 trillion barrels of oil equivalent that will last us hundreds of years just in the Green River formation in the Rocky Mountains. In a

recent study it was found that the Marcellus Shale that exists in New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia is expected to be the world's largest gas field. To date the producers have spent \$4.5 billion to develop those resources, generating \$389 million in tax revenues and creating more than 44,000 jobs. The Marcellus formation alone could provide a 20 year supply of natural gas and generate \$6 billion in local, state and federal taxes while employing 300,000 jobs by 2020. While in the offshore U.S. there could be enough oil to fuel more than 130 million cars for 25 years and enough natural gas for 20 million houses for 90 years.

The largest American oil company is Exxon - Mobil and you might be surprised to know that it is only the 13th largest in the world and dwarfed by really big oil companies - all owned by foreign governments or foreign government sponsored monopolies that dominate the world's oil supply. Those foreign oil companies lock-up approximately 94% of the world's oil supply. Exxon - Mobil buys approximately 90% of the crude that it refines for the U.S. markets therefore, the price at the pump is controlled by foreign companies. Another reason our gasoline and oil prices are high is because our Government has not and apparently will not permit American companies to find and develop the reserves we have right here in America.

The lack of us having an energy policy has severe consequences for the economy now and in the future costing hundreds of thousands of jobs, potentially over 500,000 and billions of dollars in lost revenues.

As we face lengthy and difficult times, jobs are the number one priority. This industry does not need to be taxed more but be allowed to create high paying jobs that would generate and add billions of dollars to our economy and deliver the much needed revenues to the local, state and federal governments that area currently strapped with budget shortfalls.

Additionally, taxes will only increase the prices of energy. What is needed is to allow access to domestic oil and gas areas that will provide safe and reliable domestic energy that can help our nation become an economic and energy powerhouse. If you feel as I do let your congressmen know.

Paul S. Horvath
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 10

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

Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Bonnie Jean Siek

Bonnie Jean Siek, age 72, of Highlands, formerly of Belleair, FL died Thursday, September 8, 2011 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Born in Midland, MI she was married to George E. Siek, Sr. for 34 years. Bonnie was a loving wife, mother and grandmother; was an awesome cook; loved to knit, and was a great card player. She volunteered for Head Start and Highlands Community Day Care Center; served on the NC Community Foundation Board and was co-founder of the Museum of American Cut and Engraved Glass in Highlands.

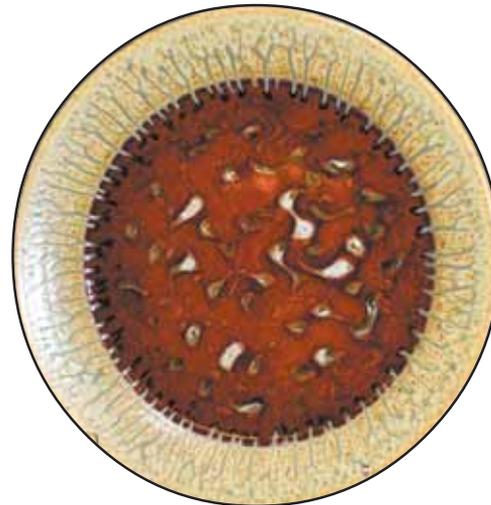


and wife Debbi of Charlotte, NC; Danny Siek and wife Trese of Franklin, NC; one brother, William Dennis Huber of Charlevoix, MI. Eight grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by one brother, Jack Huber.

A memorial service will be held Friday, September 16, 2011 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands. The family will receive friends from 1- 2 p.m., one hour prior to the service, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Museum of American Cut and Engraved Glass, 218 Whiteside Mtn. Rd., Highlands, NC 28741. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Beth Siek of Tampa, FL; four sons, David Schaller and partner Leel Knowles of Sorrento, FL; John Schaller and wife Amanda of Harbor Springs, MI; George E. Siek, Jr.

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Is the end of time really coming?

December 21, 2011



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

OK so it didn't happen as predicted. Instead it was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Highlands. But just in case, I strapped myself to a lawn chair on my back deck, poured a glass of red and waited. I wanted a front row seat. Nothing happened except another great sunset. Bummer!

When the end didn't happen three reds later, I walked into the house and realized I couldn't take another minute of world news networks and their stupid predictions on practically everything. Between MSNBC, CNN and Fox News, the message gets worse each day. How much of Chris Matthews and Brit Hume can one stomach? If you watch Matthews regularly you must be on Lithium in order to take that spastic hype

mentary, I fall asleep with drool running from the corner of my mouth. (I have pictures.)

Oh, I forgot to mention CNN's Wolf Blitzer. Take a hard look at that guy. He reminds me of a crazed U boat commander orchestrating an attack from the situation room. I never believe anything U boat commanders say, especially someone named Wolf Blitzer.

In hopes of improving my psyche, I decided to swear off news channels and watch ho-hum, mundane stuff. Watching mundane TV is easy 'cause it's most everything else. First, I clicked on Animal Planet for some fun, light viewing. The Houston Humane Society was removing four

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 22

regularly. He's about to explode. What's his blood pressure? On the other hand, Brit Hume, his counterpart, is so low key and boring with his dull grim news and com-

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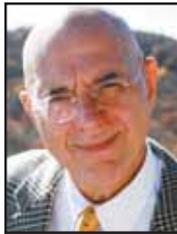
Strange bedfellows

Colonel Gadhafi is still promising victory or death in his struggle against victorious rebel forces. The former is impossible, the later unlikely. It is far more likely that he will pop up in Zimbabwe, Venezuela, or some other country that appreciates a recently deposed billionaire dictator.

Gadhafi has always had style, whether attired in a Gilbert and Sullivan inspired military costume or a drab tribal garment. His statements are so removed from reality that one is left to wonder if he is completely insane or merely toying with us. After popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, he urged Palestinians to take similar action against Israel. At the time, he was apparently blissfully unaware of his own vulnerability. And why should he have felt alarm? He had an asset which the Tunisians and Egyptians, and even the Soviet Union, had lacked. He commanded a military which would be willing to turn its weapons on fellow countryman.

When Libyan dissidents challenged his rule, he labeled them "rats" and "cockroaches," suggested that al Qaeda operatives had laced their milk with hallucinogenic drugs. Then he opened fire. He must have been amazed that he was unable to quell a revolution with a little civilian blood. The revolutionaries undoubtedly count an unknown number of Islamists in their ranks, but the suggestion that Libyan citizens needed to be stoned in order to recognize the brutality of four decades of despotic rule, is lunacy or theater.

The war is winding down. Hordes of political and military leaders have abandoned Gadhafi in recent months. For the moment, at least, the rebels seem willing to welcome their defection and ignore their previous role in the repressive regime. It's unlikely that they will be as willing to overlook our flirtations with Gadhafi. Documents retrieved following the fall of Tripoli reveal a cozy relationship between the CIA, British MI6 and the Libyan secret service. Liberated documents reveal cooperation between our spies and their Libyan counterparts.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

There is a certain inescapable logic in delivering detainees to a regime so competent in "enhanced interrogation" techniques. Even so, the idea of working with the architect of the PanAm bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland that claimed 270 lives is unsettling.

The desire of the American administration to entice Gadhafi to abandon terrorism and enter the family of nations is understandable, even admirable. It just seems that

cooperation in areas of agriculture or education would have been more appropriate. It is ironic that after labeling Libya a terrorist state, a richly deserved designation, we turned to them to do what they do best; terrorize. One detainee, who was kidnapped in Thailand and flown to Tripoli, came with instructions that his human rights must be respected. How does one say, "wink, wink," in a diplomatic communicate?

A CIA spokesperson, Jennifer Youngblood seemed dismayed at our collective squeamishness when, while refusing to discuss specific allegations, she said, "It can't come as a surprise that the Central Intelligence Agency works with foreign governments to help protect our country from terrorism and other deadly threats. That is exactly what we are expected to do."

Sunday was the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, so it was probably a bad day to discuss the hypocrisy of our intelligence gathering agencies. After all, as Ms. Youngblood said, "That is exactly what we are expected to do." It's just that I find myself among a small, but growing, number of Americans who would prefer that we preserve our ideals while protecting our safety.

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• Eateries •



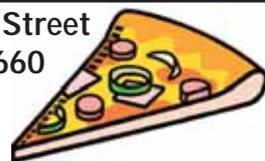
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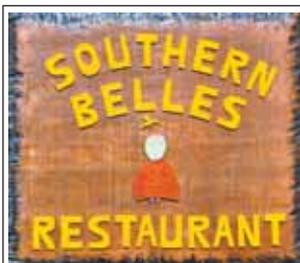
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• JUST HERS •

Running in Heels, Part I



Michelle Mead-Armor
Email:
michiemead@aol.com

Personally, I blame Katie Couric. Okay, maybe that's a bit harsh, but for years I held a grudge. I guess I had to blame someone, and I've always disliked "perky." September 11th dawned bright and beautiful. I wasn't going to work, however. I was going Downtown.

Jury duty is something my family takes very seriously. As Americans, we're not asked to do a lot for our country, so I figure that voting and jury duty are the least we can do as citizens. As fate would have it, I postponed my first two jury duty calls. The first time I got my notice in the mail, I was already booked to go scuba diving in the Turks & Caicos. The second time, it was cross-country skiing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. When the third notice came, I knew I had to show up.

The day before – September 10th – I'd been chosen to sit on the Cook case. Mr. Cook was a ponytailed Good Ole Boy from the Deep South with multiple tattoos and body piercings. He claimed to have sustained permanent and irreparable back and knee damage due to negligence on the part of the City of New York, and the construction company that had hired him to do work on one of the city's bridges. One by one, the lawyers grilled each prospective juror, until they came to me. "Mr. Cook has a rather, ahem, distinctive look, and speaks with a strong Southern accent. Would you have a hard time remaining neutral under these circumstances?" "Gentlemen, I was born and raised in the South. We think y'all talk funny!" was my reply. Not only did I get picked for the jury, I was chosen to be jury foreperson. Me and my big mouth.

On the morning of September 11th, I didn't wear my regular loafers, slacks and blazer. I didn't carry my usual backpack. Oh, no. I was the jury foreperson. I wore a dress. I wore pantyhose. I wore heels. I carried a briefcase. After all, I knew the dress code. I'd watched every episode of **Perry Mason**.

My usual job was five blocks and 10 minutes away in Midtown, but the Law Courts were way downtown, at subway stop **Brooklyn Bridge – City Hall**. After my morning shower, I always turned on the **NBC Today** show, while I ate a quick breakfast and got dressed for work. Although they can be entertaining, morning shows have a down side. Since they are supposed to divert before you may

have had your quota of coffee, they can be superficial. I don't remember what the topic was that day, but I found the silliness particularly annoying. I reach over and turned off the TV. If I'd left it on, I would have known that American Airlines Flight 11 had hit the north side of the North Tower, 1 World Trade Center at 8:46, the same building where we'd held our annual Christmas party (at Windows on the World) that past December. Sometimes, it doesn't take much to change the rest of your life. After all, Blaise Pascal had said, "Cleopatra's nose, had it been shorter, the whole face of the world would have been changed." In my case, it wasn't Cleopatra's nose, but Katie Couric's giggle, that changed my life forever. I switched off the television, and tiptoed into history.

Grabbing my handbag and my briefcase, I sailed out of my apartment, took the elevator down to the lobby of my building, waved a cheery hello to the doorman, and walked to catch the 6 train at East 51st Street. The train had just pulled into the station, so I was one of the lucky few to get a seat for the long trip downtown. A young man sat on my left. "Do you know what's going on downtown?" he asked. "No, why?" I replied. "Well, they're not letting people go all the way to the World Trade Center. They're stopping the trains one stop short, and making you walk the rest of the way." I mused a bit, and said something about construction. In New York, there were always delays for construction – digging, repaving, rewiring. In my neighborhood alone, there were a number of building projects underway, so many that we used to joke that the state bird of New York State might be the Eastern Bluebird, but the official bird of New York City was the

crane.

My young companion and I rode in silence most of the way downtown. The subway car filled up, and then disgorged, passenger after passenger, most armed with a hot cups of coffee and newspapers. Again, the young man turned to me. "I'm two hours late," he said miserably. "I went to a rock concert last night. Got drunk. God, my boss is going to kill me." "Oh, come on now," I said, in my best motherly voice. "It won't be that bad. He'll give you every crummy job in the office for a few days, and by the weekend, he won't even remember. Trust me on this one." He gave me a brave little smile, and plunged back into his thoughts.

Finally, we arrived at our stop. I trudged along the unfamiliar corridors of the station. Near the exit, a group of high school students was milling around, joking and shoving each other. "Shouldn't they be in school?" I thought. At last, I got to the exit, and the final staircase leading to the street. A man in a shirt and tie was putting yellow police tape across the exit. "Go back!" he yelled. "Go back down in the subway, and go back home!" "I can't!" I yelled back. "I'm on jury duty. There." I pointed in the general direction of the Law Courts. "Not today," he answered.

Bewildered, we all made our way back down the stairs, and onto the subway platform. No one knew anything. Standing by himself, a tall young man stood on the platform, sobbing quietly to himself. I went over, and put an arm around him. "Hey, it's going to be OK," I told him. "No, it isn't," he said petulantly. "It isn't! It'll never be OK – ever again." "Boy, what's gotten into him?" I thought, walking toward a group of women, who seemed to have some news. "We've been attacked by a foreign power," said one woman. "Four US cities have been bombed, and are on fire. The White House has been hit, and is completely destroyed. Bush has been killed."

We stared at each other, wild-eyed, trying to make sense information. Suddenly, the PA system came alive. "We are closing all subway stations, bridges, and tunnels. I repeat. We are closing all sub-

• COACH'S CORNER •

Pigskinpalooza

Opening weekend of the NFL was upon us this weekend, and when coupled with college football on Saturday it made for an excellent weekend of laying around watching the games and angering my pregnant wife. (Note to self: not a good idea) Therefore, here are some thoughts from the weekend in football.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

"Seven Nation Army" made for a really cool visual on the television.

This is the part of the column that I second-guess Dan Mullen for not throwing a pass on the goal line on the final play of the Auburn-Mississippi State game and therefore giving his offense two plays from the yard line as opposed to one. Now is the part of the column where I realize that

Coach Mullen is an actual college football coach and I simply play NCAA Football on the Xbox and therefore think I know something about football plays.

Finally, not to jinx it, but how about Rex Grossman (AKA Sexy Rexy – true story, my 5-year-old daughter asked me why I called him Sexy Rexy because I said it during the game on Sunday. Sigh...they really do hear everything) throwing for 300 yards in a Redskins victory on Sunday? I hope Grossman can keep it up this week.

...on this day

Sept 14, 1959 Nikita Khrushchev is barred from visiting Disneyland.

After banging the table with your footwear, you think we're going to let you go where? Shout at us "We will bury you!" and assume you will get through the gates of the Land of Enchantment while on a visit from the Soviet Encampment? Excuse me, pardon moi, izvinee, we don't tolerate behavior like that, don't you see?
So, ask the question, "Can I go to Disneyland yet?"
the answer, I'm sorry, has to be "nyet."
So, meet all the kings, prime ministers and presidents, Nicky, but you don't have permission to go visit Mickey.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Finger pointing



Rev. Lee Bowman
First Presbyterian Church

Much of the struggle *within* the Christian church and most of the accusations *about* the Christian church have revolved around who's pointing the accusing finger at whom and why. But what if we call a moratorium on finger pointing and guilt-inducing?

Eugene Peterson helps with his translation of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Here are some examples in Ch. 7.

Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment.

That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.
(vss. 1-2)

Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance—isn't going to get you anywhere with me... I can see it now—at the final judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say, 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'

(21-23)

Then Jesus tells a story about two men who are building houses — one on rock and the other on sand. Most of us have had a foot in both camps at one time or another — one foot on rock but the other on sand. Sometimes, truth to tell, we seem to tool through life building sand castles. It might take the form of watching one of the televangelists who affirm what we want to hear about ourselves and in the process make no demands of us. Or we may pin our hopes on the latest self-actualization theory that makes us feel good but fails to challenge who we might become. It's not that the sand is inherently wicked, it's just that it doesn't last. The first large wave can wash away our efforts.

Not only will sand not hold up a house, but it can actually cause you to sink. It reminds me of the parable about a crane on the beach that walked gingerly in the surf as the day was waning. The crane found a fish swimming in the surf and scooped it up in his bill, playing with it, and then tossing it back in the surf. The waves

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

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Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,

Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 p.m.

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Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Worship Service – 11 am

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Sundays: Worship – 11

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Pastor Dan Robinson

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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

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Wed: Supper: 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult
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Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Rev. Clifford Willis

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Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Don't say I didn't warn you...

There are those of you who will say that I'm writing as a racist. Others will think that I am an anti-feminist. Well, turn the page and look somewhere else, because I'm writing solely from a politically ideological point of view, a subject assigned to me when first offered this column.

Four years or so ago, when Hillary Rodham and Barack Hussein were duking it out for the Democrat candidacy, I wrote about their mutual infatuation with a fellow named Saul Alinsky. Let me reintroduce you to Saul Alinsky. Alinsky is described as a charismatic community organizer who believed that the urban poor could become their own best advocates in a world that largely ignored them.

According to *The Washington Post* in March 2007, "Alinsky was a bluff iconoclast who concluded that electoral politics offered few solutions to the have-nots marooned in working-class slums. His approach to social justice relied on generating conflict to mobilize the dispossessed. Power flowed up, he said, and neighborhood leaders who could generate outside pressure on the system were more likely to produce effective change than the lofty lever-pullers operating on the inside."

The allure of Alinsky's strategy reached its peak in the '60s. From the Post: "Alinsky thought highly of 21-year-old Hillary Rodham, a student government president who grew up in the Chicago suburbs. She was in the midst of a year-long analysis of Alinsky's aggressive mobilizing tactics, and he was searching for 'competent political literates' to move to Chicago to build grass-roots organizations." She was offered a job and declined, choosing to build her educational resume.

"Seventeen years later, another young honor student was offered a job as an organizer in Chicago. By then, Alinsky had died, but a group of his disciples hired Barack Obama, a 23-year old Columbia University graduate, to organize black residents on the South Side. Obama embraced many of Alinsky's tactics and recently said his years as an or-



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

ganizer gave him the best education of his life."

There are many who think that was the only education he got.

So you see, no matter which won in the 2008 Democrat primary, if the winner prevailed in the general election, we were going to get a dose of Alinsky's teachings, on way or another. Hillary would have employed it on a more intellectual level, while Obama was

the master of street-level put-it-into-practice. He learned his lessons well.

What was the political philosophy that Alinsky espoused? His "Rules for Radicals," which become the handbook for revolution, starts with the following dedication: "Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgement to the very first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history... the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he

at least won his own kingdom-Lucifer."

The Prologue to "Rules for Radicals" reads: "The revolutionary force today has two targets, moral as well as material. Its young protagonists are one moment reminiscent of the idealistic early Christians, yet they also urge violence and cry, 'Burn the system down!' They have no illusions about the system, but plenty of illusions about the way to change our world. It is to this point that I have written this book."

Taking excerpts from of RFR: "In this book we are concerned with how to create mass organizations to seize power and give it to the people; to realize the democratic dream of equality, justice, peace... 'Better to die on your feet than live on your knees.' This means revolution."

"Radicals must be resilient, adaptable to shifting political circumstances, and sensitive enough to the process of action and reaction to avoid being trapped by their own tactics and forced to travel a road not of their choosing."

"A Marxist begins with his prime truth that all evils are caused by the exploitation of the proletariat by the capital-

ists. From this he logically proceeds to the revolution to end capitalism, then to the third stage of reorganization into a new social order of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and finally the last

• See SWANSON page 21

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The following 8 letters were submitted in defense of craft fairs in K-H Park

Can't Highlands businesses be a little bit open to artists and craftspeople?

Dear Editor,

As soon as I arrived in Highlands in 1999 I was invited to participate in the Downtown Artists Walk, provided I agreed not to sell my work, thereby avoiding competition with the merchants. I agreed, but thought it strange that this was the first community art event where I was prohibited from selling my work. I surmised that the Highlands merchants had a strong protectionist system in place. Nevertheless, I participated in the event because I believed it would support the community, and that I had to get past my short-term profit motives and focus on the "common good" of the community.

A few years later I was coordinating an art show of local artists and craftspeople at the Conference Center. We rented the building and paid local media for advertisement. One official representing the business community told me it was regrettable that we had scheduled our event on the two days after Thanksgiving because we would cut into sales of the downtown merchants. The protectionist mentality was still there.

After reading the article about the art show on Labor Day hurting downtown business, I realized that for some merchants the protectionist position is still alive and well. As a business person operating in Highlands, reading the article gave me a sad feeling that for some folks, either you are in the primetime of being on Main Street or you are relegated to the low priority of, let us say, the Back Street.

While I appreciate the fact that businesses have overhead and taxes to pay, it should not be forgotten that artists and crafts people, as producers and manufacturers of art, have overhead too. I pay sales taxes, property taxes, payroll taxes, insurance, entry fees, as well as production costs. And oh yes, I have maintained a business license in Highlands for over a decade. As a potter I purchase a substantial amount of fuel from a local vendor to fire my kiln and heat my studio. Each year I spend several thousand dollars buying from local suppliers in order to produce my work.

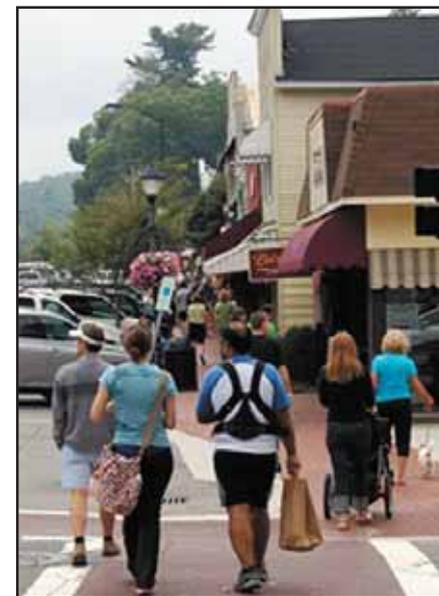


Photo of Main Street at 3 pm on Sunday, Sept. 4, Labor Day Weekend.

I purchase business insurance from a local agency.

My colleagues that participate in the art shows have similar obligations and overhead whether they live in the town, the county, or the region. They devote a lot of time and energy to participate in the art shows on Labor and Memorial Day, and unfortunately in many instances make little, or in some cases, no money. Like merchants, artist and craftspeople have seen their businesses hit very hard by the recession. Nevertheless, they enthusiastically provide a free art show for the citizens and guests of the community, thereby supporting the important concept that downtown is the central, public venue for the Highlands Plateau.

If the government leadership decides that these art events can not be allowed on town property, then a whole array of activities held at the Recreation Center and at other town sites may have to be reconsidered. Modifications and improvements to the art shows that address concerns should certainly be considered. But, I hope that our community has a broader view of how these art events can support and enrich the long term economic viability of Highlands and the surrounding area. In reviewing this issue let's transcend the short-term protectionist position and look toward the "common good" for the community.

Patrick Taylor

A lowly and Highlands Potter

• See LETTERS page 11

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... LETTERS continued from page 10

Dear Editor,

I read with disbelief the comments of the merchants re: the Labor Day weekend art show held in the Town park. Evidently, these merchants believe that if you don't live there, you shouldn't be there!

As an artist, I was excited to be asked to participate in the show-so excited in fact that I invited 2 other couples to join us for the weekend, rented a house for the duration, made reservations in the area restaurants, shopped Market Fresh, and my friends filled the foyer of our rental with packages of all sizes to take home. I heard many comments of what a unique & diverse show it was and saw countless logo shopping bags from downtown merchants being carried by show visitors. I guess the merchants won't mind when I ask my guests to return their purchases....I only wonder how we will "return" the meals to the restaurants?

Sue Nosach
Murrayville, GA

Dear Editor,

I was an artist displaying and selling my artwork at the labor day arts and crafts festival this past labor day. I just want to thank "Highlands" for making this lovely intimate venue available for the high quality artists in the area to display and sell their art. In the tough financial climate that prevails in the US today, the self employed independent Artist is one who's setbacks are not reflected in any unemployment numbers given to the media. We are the "soul" of our society who's talents would go without an audience completely if it wasn't for venues such as the one you had last weekend.

This show was a high quality show. The work was a wonderful cross section of artistic hand crafted works from the mountains. With our schools budgets being cut, the arts, music, and sports classes are being all but eliminated. Where will our children learn about the "beauty" that makes life glorious? If not for the outdoor art festival venue many of our children would go without exposure to such mountain art. I use a statement displayed in my booth that is an excerpt from a longer poem that I have written. "... Art is when my soul takes me by the hand..." . Young and old paused for a moment when they read this, this weekend and saidYES!

I applaud the city for saying Yes to a few "quaint" outdoor art festival venues.... I applaud Cynthia for keeping the

quality of the show high..... I applaud the people of the Highlands area for supporting the show with their purchases, and saying NO to letting our countries independent artists evaporate in this tough economic climate.

Susan Sorrentino
"Art-to-wear Jewelry"

Dear Editor,

I recently participated in the Village Square Art Show. I overheard that the Main Street Merchants object to the show? They need to grasp the reality that it's not all about them.

What's not to like? Six meals, one tank of gasoline, three nights lodging, shopping in your local grocery store and anything else that was open during the time I wasn't in my booth.

All of this at greatly inflated prices (really, a \$12 sandwich).

If there is a next time, I'll see to it I *spend all my money in Franklin or Cashiers*, they seem to like artist.

John Moore
Greenville, SV

Dear Editor,

I have been notified that the show might not survive in its current location. I am of the opinion that even if I'm not in the show that it is a plus for the town overall. This past weekend I spent around \$400 with the Highland Lodge, \$100 at Mountain Fresh Grocery, \$100 with Old Edwards Inn, \$75 with the Highlands Play House, \$50 buying gasoline and \$1.75 for a pack of gum.

I love Highlands but would not be there just for fun on Memorial and Labor Day's. I have one customer who stays in town longer just to make purchases with me. She has a home in Florida that she goes to around Labor Day but always stays in Highlands an extra day to see us. I think it would be a shame to kill the show as everyone loves it.

I guess we could move it to a private piece of property but that would mean less people coming downtown if the show were not in walking distance.

The bottom line is that market forces of supply and demand are at work. You can't make people spend money that they don't want to spend and they usually buy what they want when they want it. If I came to the show with inferior products no one would buy them and I would be forced to lose money or change my merchandise to induce the customer to spend money with me. Competition is one of the things that make the USA great!

Mark Edge
Atlanta GA

Dear Editor,

I would like to send my thanks to the town of Highlands for allowing Cynthia Strain to continue hosting the Village Square Art and Craft Show at the beautifully re-furbished Pine Street Park. Cynthia does a wonderful job of managing this event, and I feel it is a compliment to the unique flavor of the town by having a bi-annual show of this caliber. Many of my customers had shopping bags from the vendors on Main Street as well, and planned lunch and dinner at the local fine restaurants. I am a resident of your sister community of Cashiers, and bring my business often to many of the businesses in town. I do not think it could possibly hurt the town of Highlands to host this show, in fact I believe it helps the town's reputation if it supports these events. Many small mountain communities have Merchant's Associations that work to put on similar events, right on their main street! I think the only thing hurtful to Highlands in this subject matter is the negative grumbling of it's Main Street residents.

Deborah Bryant
Cashiers

Dear Editor,

It was an honor to be selected to participate in your Labor Day Arts and crafts festival, a very vital part of any town and its culture and heritage. I met and talked to many people from many different backgrounds and cultures who

have an appreciation for art and the people who create it.

However, it has been brought to my attention that it is being blamed for a loss of business to some of the local merchants of Highlands. These two shows only comprise a total of four days per year and the same people that visit this festival also spend their dollars on gas, lodging, local restaurants visiting local merchants' shops. These people enjoy themselves and many will return and spend more dollars. These shows are great advertising for a town that is built on art and culture.

I am saddened to hear that the town of Highlands is considering abolishing these art and craft shows.

Does Highlands want to be known as the first town in the country to start a trend in banning these festivals? What will our local artists do to make a living? Will this really be a solution to our struggling economy? It is my suggestion not to have fewer art and craft, but more arts and crafts to promote the town and its art culture and I urge all people to be a part of their arts community.

Rae Barriner

Dear Editor,

I have been a visitor to Highlands since my dear friend from Atlanta bought a farm in Horse Cove several years ago. I am considering buying a home and moving to Highlands some-

• See LETTERS page 13

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Move or Improve?



Jody Lovell
exurbiasothebysrealty.com

The landscaping is mature, all of the decorating is done and you like your neighborhood, but the home that was once a perfect fit is now a tight squeeze. When there's everything to love about your home except for its size, you must now decide: move or improve.

The benefits of each option are tempting. Renovating is an opportunity to custom fit your home to your lifestyle. On the other hand, moving to a larger property lets you sidestep weeks or months of construction zone living.

There is no right answer and certainly no easy answer, which is why experts advise isolating the many variables down to a few manageable decision points.

1. Determine how a major remodel will impact your home's worth. If you already own the best house in a neighborhood, adding on to it will have very little impact on its value and might price the home out of the market when you want to sell. However, if your home is consid-

ered one of the more modest homes in an elite neighborhood, judicious improvements return 100% or more on your remodeling project.

2. Factor in ancillary costs. Comparing the cost of a new home against the cost of renovation work is just the first entry in the spreadsheet. A major remodeling requires an architect, engineer and may necessitate the need for a short-term rental if construction gets unwieldy. If you move, factor in moving costs, staging

costs, closing costs and possible tax implications on the sale.

3. Consult with an engineer or architect to understand all your options for expanding -- even when those options may appear limited. These professionals have visions that you may not see as they are faced with building challenges on a daily basis.

4. Revisit the market. If it's been awhile since you looked for a home, values in the upper tier of the market may surprise you. The biggest question to ask yourself is "Can I buy something cheaper than what it would cost to remodel?" Also, evaluate if you can sell your home in the current market for what you need to obtain for buying up.

5. Determine whether you have the stomach to withstand a major renovation. Can you live in a construction site? Do you have time to stay on top of the details? Do you and your partner cooperate in making these decisions, or will it cause tension in your relationship? It is very much a second job managing a renovation and if there is not enough flexibility in your life at the time, it could be a major stress factor.

6. List what you love about your current situation. It is often the intangible items that create enjoyment like the beautiful shade tree in the backyard. If it is hard to replace these intangibles, figure out a way to stay put and improve your space.

7. Consider potential sacrifices, both architecturally and aesthetically. Not all homes can "cope" with adding on as it may look unbalanced or out of proportion. Also, consider the impact to your neighbors. If expanding destroys privacy or a view, are you willing to live with the consequences?

Where you start the analysis is immaterial. The most important overall question is what are your long-term goals. Living in the mountains is bliss enough. Sometimes it is better to appreciate what we have instead of creating "house envy" over what we don't have.

• Jody and her husband, Wood, have owned their own real estate company for the last 11 years. Jody was the Number One agent on the MLS last year and Exurbia was the top-selling company in Highlands. You can reach them at 526-4104.

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...LETTERS continued from page 11

day. I also have had a booth in the Art Show that Cynthia Strain has developed since the inception.

Because of the nature of my business, I talk to people and educate them and if they are interested they purchase. So we have dialog and conversations that other vendors may not have. I have met many people who are 'visiting' friends who own seasonal homes in Highlands and Cashiers. Also, people who come up for the day and just for the show every year. They LOVE the art show and look forward to it as a tradition and part of the community and feel of the mountains and Highlands. Some of these people are now considering a home purchase or rental and then possible home purchase b/c of the way they 'feel' about their visit. I watch people connect with friends, family and vendors and connect on many levels. Truly the Art/Craft show is also very well executed, as I have seen many throughout the Atlanta area and this is the best! Of course, I am partial to Highlands.

Years ago I developed and worked a small chain of natural food stores in Atlanta, 25 employees. I know what it takes to bring in traffic and the cost of advertising. I also know that the 'cost' of a 'bad feeling' or disgruntled customer can negate whatever it cost the shop owner to bring in several customers. The most important lesson I have learned about any way of doing business is that: people don't buy what you have, they really buy WHY/you

have/or do what you do and HOW you do it.

My point is that the Art & Craft Shows and other events in Highlands bring 'good cheer' and feelings that people take home with them and in the end, the BIG picture, is that these kind of events are beneficial...small ambassadorial happenings for the WHOLE of Highlands. Seems to me that their can be some creative minds working together here to make it even a better experience and cooperating with one another could produce a new tradition for generations to come. Example: there could be an/ offering...more like a treasure hunt experience...get your special purchase with our sister shop on main street...Labor Day gift for you? etc. etc. There are many things that could be created and tried...then keep what works best. Perhaps the treasure hunt idea with a map...make it fun...interesting...cultural...historical...I am always amazed at all the talented people I meet who live and work in Highlands.

From my perspective, and 35 years of retailing and networking, this is an opportunity to make things better for Highlands by creating a win-win situation for merchants, vendors, customers and the community.

Janet Dee
National Marketing Director,
NSA, Inc, (Juice Plus) Memphis, TN
and Atlanta, GA

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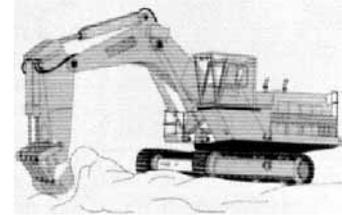
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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Daily

• CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Carolina Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)

Mon-Fri

• The Nantahala Tennis Club meets at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Mon., Wed. & 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.; 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (9/29)

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 \$40 a month

Mondays & Wednesdays

• Pilates Mat Classes — Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm, The Jane Woodruff Clinic, Main Floor, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Call 526-5852 for info. (6/23)

Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

• Monday Madness at Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. \$5 burgers, \$1 off beers all day.

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.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Every 3rd Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing

exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, 6-7 p.m. through Labor Day, an exciting new program each week and they are free.

Every Third Saturday

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

Throughout September

• The Sapphire Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild (ANG) is having an exhibition of needlework at the Hudson Library.

Through Sept. 15

• At the Book Worm at the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street, a ½ price book sale. Open Tues.-Sat., 10a-4p.

Wed., Sept. 14

• At Highlands Smokehouse, the Corbett Brothers perform at 9 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 15

• NAMI Appalachian South presents Dr. Mary Ellen Griffin as its guest speaker at the Community Facilities Building in Franklin at 7 p.m.

• Taize at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

• Free wild gingseng production seminar at the Cashiers Library from 10a-2p. Call 526-4009 to register.

• DANCE at the Franklin (NC) Community Building, Hwy 441 South-across from "Whistle Stop Mall" Thursday Sept. 15, from 6:30- 9 PM. Music by "SWINGTIME BAND." For more information Call 828-369-9155.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 16-17

• Macon County Public Health will be giving flu shots at the Macon County Fair on Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 9 pm (while supplies last). The shots will be available for adults and children at a cost of \$25. Insurance will be filed for BCBS, Medicare, Medicaid, Tri-Care, Crescent, and Medicare replacements, so bring your card. The flu shot station will be located outside in a mobile unit and no appointment is necessary. Please call 349-2081 for more information.

• At the Hen House on Main Street, Ray Pottery signing 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

• Patron Party for the Dazzling Dahlias! event is Friday, 6:30-8:30 PM at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Franklin, III who will host the party at their historical home, the former home of Dr. Henry Martin Bascom. Tickets are \$50. Guests who attend the party will be able to tour Dr. Franklin's lovely gardens and grounds and tour the historical portion of

Highlands Playhouse Annual Auction extravaganza is Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.



The Highlands Playhouse is excited to be holding their annual AUCTION this Sunday, September 18th at 6 p.m. The event, which will be held at the Highlands Playhouse (in the theater and lobby) beginning at 6 PM, is sure to be a can't miss event. The Playhouse team, led by Board of Directors President Scott Allbee and Board Treasurer Dwight Bryant, has assembled an incredible and diverse array of items that are sure to intrigue and excite everyone!

The Auction will include a plethora of items donated from businesses throughout Highlands and across the country. The Highlands community has been extremely generous as many shops, hotels, and restaurants have donated items for this year's auction. "The Highlands community has always been supportive of the Playhouse and this year is no different. Anyone who is a fan of shopping, eating, or staying in Highlands will be able to find exciting things to bid on," Board of Directors President Scott Allbee said.

The auction will include such incredible items as an Orlando Vacation Package which includes tickets to Disney World and a Wheel of Fortune Prize Package including four VIP Passes to a taping of the show, a piece of the wheel signed by stars Pat Sajak and Vanna

White, and a signed 8x10 of the stars as well. Theater fans will be excited to see tickets to theaters in Atlanta, Asheville, and Pigeon Forge. The Carolina Hurricanes, Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Bobcats are just a few of the sports teams which have sent memorabilia packages (including many signed items).

Movie stars Dustin Hoffman and Tim Allen as well as playwright A.R. Gurney have signed memorabilia at the auction. Allbee can not wait for the Highlands Community to see the lineup, "The list of donated items is incredible. We wanted to have something for everyone and we certainly accomplished that. This isn't just a theater auction - we have a little bit of everything."

Need more reasons to join? Admission is free (although the Playhouse will gladly accept all donations!) Also, there will be an open bar with a generous selection of wines.

If you have any items you would like to donate to the auction or if you have any questions about the event please call the Office at 526-2695.

Seagrove potters at Hen House Fri. & Sat., Sept. 16 & 17



Seagrove, NC, potters Paul and Sheila Ray will be at the Hen House on Main Street Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 & 17 from 10a to 5p to sign a new pattern for 2011 - exclusive to the Hen House. Vibrant colors await!

Highlands Area Upcoming Events


PULL OUT

their home. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

- 12th Annual Native Plant Symposium at the Performing Arts Center. For ticket information and reservations, call 626-2221. 12th Annual Native Plant Symposium at the Performing Arts Center. For ticket information and reservations, call 626-2221.

Saturday, Sept. 17

- Dazzling Dahlias! Highlands first annual Dahlia Festival is Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Highlands, N.C. at the Historic Village; the site of the Highlands Historical Society located at 524 N. Fourth Street in Highlands. The Festival is free, with an Exhibitor fee of \$10 is for hobbyist and amateur Dahlia growers. Registration may be made by completing forms available throughout the Highlands and Cashiers area or by contacting Joyce Franklin, chairperson of the event at 828-526-9418. Judging of the many beautiful dahlias will include 5 categories with prizes awarded for each. Music and refreshments will be served. The Museum and The Prince House will be open for touring. For more, call the Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050.

HCLT's Elk Excursion offers two trips

This autumn, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will bring back by popular demand their Elk Excursion to Cataloochee Valley, on two different dates as part of their popular Eco Tour Outreach Program. On Thursday, September 22nd and again on Wednesday, September 28th, eco tour participants will enjoy special presentations by a GSMNP elk specialist, the opportunity to view the elk in their habitat and a picnic dinner in the valley. The September 22nd trip will include a seated presentation while the September 28th tour will include a walking tour.

Not only does the early fall offer spectacular views in the valley but it is also a great time to visit and experience the rut. The "rut" is the season when the male elk, or bull, compete for dominance and the right to mate with the female elk, or cow. An important, and quite enchanting, part of the process is the bull warning call to other males, known as the "bugle." The call, which has been described by many as eerie or haunting, provides an audible cue

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to Windy Falls, a rarely-visited falls on the Horse Pasture River. The last half mile is steeply downhill with an elevation loss/gain of 600 ft. A side trip to a small cave is available to those who wish to see it. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Sun. Sept. 18

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 1 mile easy-to-moderate loop hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail with some rock hopping to a lovely falls with wildflowers along the way. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- Highlands Playhouse Annual Auction extravaganza is Sept. 18 at the playhouse in the lobby and theater. To donate items or for more information call 526-2695.

Monday, Sept. 19

- The Highlands Bolivian Mission announced the date for the "All Male Beauty Pageant" for 2011. It will be held at the Highlands Playhouse at 8 p.m. with a complimentary wine bar beginning at 7:30 p.m. compliments of Bryson's Food store. The tick-

ets are \$100 each and all gifts are fully tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased by calling 526-3605.

Tues., Sept. 20

- B.E.A.R Talk – in Your Neighborhood Albert Carlton Community Library, Cashiers. 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 22

- DOT info session on semi-truck turnarounds

from 4-7 p.m. at the Cullasaja Fire Dept. Four turnarounds are being considered.

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants. We will return mid-afternoon so bring a light picnic lunch. Meet at the public parking area

• See **EVENTS** page 16

Celebration! at The Bascom Offers Craft Art, Motown Music and Gifts Galore

Imagine a rustic twig chandelier, a unique Gee's Bend handmade quilt, fine turquoise necklace, and a vacation in your own Caribbean cottage! These are fantastic gifts for any occasion, and are available along with additional distinctive artwork at Celebration!, the annual fundraiser for The Bascom, a center for the visual arts.

Celebration! features two evenings of entertainment:

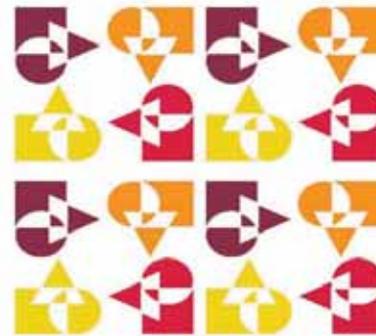
- Friday, September 30th – Motown in the Mountains party on The Bascom Terrace, including live music by the Sensational Sounds of Motown, barbecue from Cashiers Farmers Market, wine selections and more. Tickets \$35. Children under age 5 – free; ages 5 to 12 – \$5.

- Saturday, October 1st – Dinner Gala and Auction at The Bascom. Don't miss this elegant party offering fine dining and spirits, silent auction and the exciting live auction! Also during the live auction will be "Touching a Heart Through Art," a paddle raise to support The Bascom. Tickets \$225.

Complementing The Bascom's Celebration!, the "Tools in Motion" exhibition showcases repetition and motion in common, everyday tools and hardware. This witty traveling exhibition comes from The Hechinger Collection and was organized by Arts and Artists International of Washington, D.C. On view at The Bas-

Celebration!

● Art ▲ Design ■ Craft



September 30-October 1, 2011



com from October 1st through December 23rd, "Tools in Motion" is sponsored by The Alma Lee and H.N. Saurage Fund, Baton Rouge Area Foundation; Fay and Barrett Howell; Marsha and English Robinson; and Valerie and Peter Whitcup.

All proceeds from Celebration! support programs at The Bascom. This event is made possible through contributions from our generous benefactors and corporate sponsors, including Delta Air Lines, Wells Fargo Wealth Management Charlotte, BNY Mellon, J.T. Turn-

er Construction, Pure Insurance and Wells Fargo Insurance Atlanta, Franklin Ford, The Highlander Newspaper, The Laurel Magazine, Moss Robertson Cadillac, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, WHLC FM104.5 and WNC Magazine.

The Bascom is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for workshop offerings or for more details on all activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

For more information: www.TheBascom.org/celebration, www.Celebrationartdesigncraft.org, or call 828.787.2896.



that fall has arrived at Cataloochee Valley.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn more about the elk reintroduction program during this beautiful time of year. The cost for the Elk Excursion is only \$10 for HCLT members and \$35 for new friends which include an HCLT membership. A picnic dinner will be provided. Space is limited. To learn more and to reserve your spot contact Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at (828) 526.1111 or julie.hitrust@earthlink.net. The mission of HCLT is to protect valuable land resources for all generations.

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

next to the town hall at 7 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

- **Eco Tour: Elk Excursion.** Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for an expedition to Cataloochee Valley. Learn about the elk reintroduction program, taught by elk specialists, and then enjoy free time to view the elk in their natural habitat. For information and to sign-up contact: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or (828) 526.1

- **Friends of Pantertown 2nd annual membership picnic and free public concert** will be held from 5 - 8 p.m. at The Village Green in Cashiers, NC located at the crossroads of NC107 & US64. Live music and entertainment. Bring your own picnic supplies (basket, food, beverages, blanket, chairs, etc.), bring your friends and come on down to the Village Green to enjoy some great mountain music in a beautiful setting.

Friday, Sept. 23

- **Laurel Garden Club Patron's Party for Tour of Kitchens at Rainwater**, one of Highlands' glamor-

ous mountain top estates, 6 to 8 PM. Tickets are \$125 each for the patrons' party. A limited number will be sold. Tickets can be purchased online from the club website www.HighlandsLaurelGardenClub.com, and by mail, at Laurel Garden Club, P.O. Box 142, Highlands, NC 28741. Call (828) 526-8334 for more information.

- **Highlands Male Chorus with Angie Jenkins on the piano at PAC at 7:30 p.m.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets call 526-9047. A reception follows.

Saturday, Sept. 24

- **Laurel Garden Club of Highlands, North Carolina, is planning a Tour of Kitchens 9 to 5.** Tickets are \$50 per person for the tour. A limited number will be sold. Tickets can be purchased online from the club website www.HighlandsLaurelGardenClub.com, and by mail, at Laurel Garden Club, P.O. Box 142, Highlands, NC 28741. Call (828) 526-8334 for more information.

- **Highlands Farmer's Market in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, 8-11 a.m.** Homegrown

and home-made.

This date has been designated Family Hiking Day. The Nantahala Hiking Club will sponsor one or more short hikes appropriate for children to encourage family hiking. Look for hike details and how to sign up on www.appalachiantrail.org/familyhike.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

- **Town of Highlands Public Hearing on ETJ at the Rec Park at 7 p.m.**

Wed., Sept. 28

- **Eco Tour: Elk Excursion** Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for an expedition to Cataloochee Valley. Learn about the elk reintroduction program, taught by elk specialists, and then enjoy free time to view the elk in their natural habitat. For information and to sign-up contact: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or (828) 526.1111.

Friday, Sept. 30

- **Motown in the Mountains party on The Bascom Terrace**, including live music by the Sensational Sounds of Motown, barbecue from Cashiers Farmers Market, wine selections and more. Tickets

\$35. Children under age 5 - free; ages 5 to 12 - \$5.

- **An AARP Driver Safety Program** will be taught at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on Hwy. 107 in Cashiers from 9a to 1 p. To register call 743-2359 and leave a clear messaging giving your name and contact information. Upon completion of the 4-hour course graduates may be eligible to receive a discount on their insurance premiums.

Sept. 30-Oct. 9

- **At Highlands Playhouse, "Hear What's in the Heart."** Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

Sat., Oct. 1

- **Dinner Gala and Auction at The Bascom.** Don't miss this elegant party offering fine dining and spirits, silent auction and the exciting live auction! Also during the live auction will be "Touching a Heart Through Art," a paddle raise to support The Bascom. Tickets \$225.

- **The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 4-mile moderate hike to Whiteside Mtn. and the Devils**

Rock n' Roll returns to Highlands in the PAC on Sept. 23



By Angie Jenkins, Farrel Zehr

"Remember when you held me tight. . ." Whether it was happier and simpler then or just that we were young, those warm sweet sounds of early Rock and Roll will return to Highlands, Friday, Sept. 23, at the Performing Arts Center.

Will it be a pop group of the '50s? No, those ageless "rock stars" of the Highlands Male Chorus (Joe Powell directing, Angie Jenkins accompanying) will sing the songs of their youth and gyrate(?) to the oldies. You won't be able to stop swaying with them. Even the youngsters among us will know all the words. Their parents played them over and over and over while they were

growing up.

One of the first hits of the Rock and Roll era, "Rock Around the Clock" turns up the tempo. The "Great Pretender" gets you swaying. Will Elvis make an appearance? Only he knows. For sure, Highlands King of Swing, Wayne Coleman, will sing a reprise of "Blue Suede Shoes."

Be sure to find your seat early and avoid standing (or dancing) room only for this popular singing group.

Tickets (\$12) are available by calling the Performing Arts Center at 526-9047 or at the door which opens at 6:30, September 23. Performance starts at 7:30. A reception follows.

B.E.A.R. TALK Program Series

The B.E.A.R. Task Force is beginning its fall black bear education series. On Tuesday, September 20th, B.E.A.R. TalkIn Your Neighborhood will be presented at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers at 5:30 pm. The program is free and handouts will be provided.

The program will begin with a short film *Living in Bear Country—Practical Advice on Living Responsibly in Bear Country*. Following the film, wildlife experts Anne Allison and Kathy Sherrard will share important information about black bears and explain actions people can take to reduce human/bear conflicts. Allison and Sherrard have been wildlife educators for over 15 years and currently work as volunteers for Appalachian Bear Rescue and B.E.A.R.

"Nuisance bears" are a product of human behavior. B.E.A.R. is challenging all neighborhood communities to come and discuss ways they can live more responsibly in bear country.



October Programs

B . E . A . R . TALK....Hunting and Your Property Rights

On October 4th, 5:30 pm, Hudson Library in Highlands This program will delve into new laws pertaining to hunting and trespassing in relation to property rights as well as

other hunting regulations and what is and is not legal in the town limits.

Presenters- Capt. Greg Daniels, NC Wildlife Resource Commission Officer, Chief Bill Harrell, Highlands Police B.E.A.R. TALK.... Hiking and Camping in Bear Country

October 11th, 5:30 pm, Albert Carlton Community Library in Cashiers. Presenter-Tanya Poole, Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, NC Wildlife Resource Commission For more information on any of these programs or to request a program or assistance for your club or neighborhood, contact B.E.A.R. at bearwnc@gmail.com or Chair, Cynthia Strain at (828) 526-9227.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events **PULL OUT**

Courthouse, near Highlands NC, with an elevation change of 900 ft. and awesome views. Meet at the Whiteside Mtn. parking area at 9:30 am. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sun. Oct. 2

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Mud Creek Falls trail near Sky Valley GA, a gentle climb to a spectacular waterfall. Meet at the Smoky Mtn, Visitors Center in Otto, NC, at 2 pm. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or alternate meeting place. Optional stop for ice cream. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

• B.E.A.R. Talk – Hunting and Your Property Rights, Hudson Library, Highlands., 5:30 p.m.
• Composting and Vermicomposting, Free Seminar at the Cashiers Library 2-4 pm. Call 526-0890 x320 or mprice@j-mca.org to register.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

• Art & Fashion for Fur – a fundraiser for the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. 7-10 p.m. at Jorge's Place in Cashiers. Tickets are \$35 in advance available at Jorge's Place and Gallery on the Green in Cashiers. For more call 828-743-5752.

Thursday, Oct. 6

Taize at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8

• Highlands Farmer's Market in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, 8-11 a.m. Homegrown and home-made.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile loop trail with an elevation change of 600 ft. to Black Balsam Knob off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Meet at the Bi Lo parking area in Franklin at 9 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 120 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Tues., Oct. 11

• B.E.A.R. Talk – Hiking and Camping in Bear Country, Albert Carlton Community Library, Cashiers. 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 14

• Laugh Loudly and Carry a Big Stick: J-MCA presents Theodore Roosevelt in Highlands, NC at the Performing Arts Center. Box office opens at 5:30 pm, the 90 minute show begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$35 per person. For tickets and more information call 828-526-0890 ext. 320 or Buy tickets online at www.j-mca.org. **Saturday, Oct. 15**

• Pour Le Pink 5-K Walk/Run for Breast Health and Women's Services - organized by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, a new 5-K beginning and ending on the campus of the hospital. Funds raised will go toward maintaining HCH's state-of-the-art equipment as well as financial aid for HCH patients. The event begins at 8am, fun walk begins at 8:15am and is open to male/female runners and walkers, all ages. Pre-registration is \$20, if received by Sept. 29th, and \$30 thereafter. To register, become a sponsor, or for additional race details please visit www.highlandscashiershospital.org or call (828) 526-1313. The race is being organized with assistance by Highlands Roadrunners Club

• Laugh Loudly and Carry a Big Stick: J-MCA presents Theodore Roosevelt in Cashiers, NC at the Orchard Restaurant. The Orchard will host a period style brunch using fresh from the farm ingredients to accompany this 60 minute performance. Doors open at 11:30am; Farm Style brunch begins at 12 noon with the performance immediately follow-

ing. \$50 per person. Seating is limited. Buy tickets online at www.j-mca.org or call 828-526-0890 x320.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 12-mile strenuous hike with an elevation change of 3,000 ft. to Mt. Cammerer in the Smoky Mts. National Park via the Chestnut Creek and Appalachian trails. Only hikers in excellent shape should take this hike. Meet at the Huddle House in Dillsboro NC at 8 a.m. Drive 120 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723.

Sun. Oct. 16

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate hike on the Jack Rabbit Mtn. Trail at Lake Chatuge, with an elevation change of 400 ft. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 55 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Thurs., Oct. 20

• Taize at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22

• Highlands Farmer's Market in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, 8-11 a.m. Homegrown and home-made.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile

moderate-to-strenuous hike on the Chattooga River Trail from Whiteside Cove to the Iron Bridge with car shuttle. Some scrambling over rocks is required. Meet behind Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 am. Bring water and lunch. Drive 26 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 2.5 mile hike on a primitive trail to three gorgeous waterfalls on Middle Creek in the Scaly Mtn. area. Some scrambling down and up steep areas. Meet at Scaly Mtn. P.O. on Hwy. 106 at 10 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 3 miles round trip. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations.

Sat. Oct. 29

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike in Panthertown Valley with an elevation change of 900 ft. to Blackrock Mtn., Warden Falls, Granny Burrell's falls and her homeplace. Meet behind the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9:30 a.m. with plenty of water, lunch, two garbage bags with rubber bands for stream crossing. Drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.



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Laurel Garden Club Kitchen tour planned for Sept. 24



This Highlands cottage, tucked away in a family compound, has the quintessential mountain kitchen. Don't miss Highlands Laurel Garden Club's tour of six kitchens, Sept. 24.

Tickets are \$50 per person for the tour, and \$125 each for the patrons' party. A limited number will be sold. Purchase tickets online at www.HighlandsLaurelGardenClub.com, and by mail, at Laurel Garden Club, P.O. Box 142, Highlands, NC 28741. Call 526-8334 for more information. Photo by Sarah Valentine.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Highlanders open SMC play with win over Murphy

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander varsity soccer team opened conference play on Monday with a dominating 6-1 victory over the Murphy Bulldogs. The Highlanders opened their scoring when Dax Lloyd found the back of the net midway through the first half to put the Highlanders up. The Highlanders then added a goal when Tyler Converse scored again and then the rout was on. Converse added another goal and Philip Murphy, Tyler Munger and Clayton Creighton rounded out the scoring.

"It was a good win," said Senior Captain Isaac Beavers. "We started out slow in the first half, but we picked it up in the second half and played with a little more intensity. It was good to get in some of our younger players so they could get some conference experience." Beavers also added that "We are going to have to pick up the effort and improve our passing before facing Polk." The Highlanders travel to Polk County on Thursday to play the Wolverines in what looks to be one of the toughest tests remaining on the regular season schedule.

Highlander Volleyball scores win versus Nantahala, falls to Murphy

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Lady Highlander Volleyball team earned their first win of the season last Thursday against the Nantahala Hawks. Highlands was able to avoid the slow starts that have plagued them at times this season to jump out early and coast to victory in straight sets.

Unfortunately for the Lady Highlanders, the slow starts returned on Monday as they traveled to Murphy to face the Lady Bulldogs. The Lady Highlanders could not get their game going early and ended up dropping three straight sets to the Lady Bulldogs, 25-10, 25-9 and 25-9.

Middle School Volley Ball Team



Pictured from left: front row –Coach Debbie Moss, Kim Griffen, Erica Barnes, Maddie Schandolph, Sandra Garcia. Back row – Megan Vinson, Katlin Moss, McKayla Hensley and Stella Wilson. Not pictured: Coach Maggie Dearth and Assistant Coach Leslie Wilson

Middle School Co-Ed Soccer Team



Pictured are Manager Cole Wilkes, Courtney Henry, Allie Wilkes, Whitney Billingsley, Remy Adrian, Dylan Vinson, Colin Weller, Chase Harris, Manager Zach DeLaCruz, Andy Marquez, Jody Thorske, Ryan Houser, John Murphy, Amber Reese, Bethany Shuler, Benjamin Miller, Tucker Johnson and Preston McConnell. Student assistants are Kirstyn Owen and Jessica Tilson. Not pictured are Student Assistant Caroline Christy, Head Coach Jeff Weller and Assistant Coach Kevin Vinson.



Celebration!

● Art ▲ Design ■ Craft

Friday, September 30

"Motown in the Mountains" Party
The Terrace at The Bascom
"Sensational Sounds of Motown"
Cashiers Farmers Market BBQ
Tools in Motion Exhibition Opening

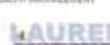


Saturday, October 1

Celebration! Auction Gala and Dinner
The Terrace at The Bascom
Live and silent auction



The Bascom hosts over 200 Celebration! Corporate, Community and Family Events



...MAGISTRATE continued from page 1

before the magistrate there.

Like the plan to consolidate community colleges within a 30-mile radius of each other, and deciding the county doesn't need a kidney dialysis center, legislators in Raleigh have neglected to take the geography of Macon County and its weather into account when making budgetary decisions.

On the map trekking to Franklin from Highlands doesn't look like a big deal nor does driving from Franklin to Sylva.

Macon County Clerk of Court Vic Perry was instructed to cut 1.5 positions from its 4.5 positions.

"One went in Franklin and the .5 position Highlands went," he said.

Perry said not having a magistrate in Highlands will place undue hardship on Sheriff Deputies and Highlands Police Officers as well as the three magistrates on staff in Franklin.

Regardless of the time day or night, law enforcement in Highlands will have to leave their posts to drive down the mountain which takes them off the streets.

"This also means the three magistrates

on staff who are on a straight salary and don't get overtime, will be working 70-80 hours a week because they are always on call," said Perry.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said it also puts an extreme hardship on the taxpayers of Highlands.

"Not only is public safety an issue when one of our officers must leave the plateau especially at night now that we have 6-7 new bars in town, but it's likely we will have to request funding for another officer to cover for the one who will be driving to Franklin and back," he said.

The part-time magistrate position is a \$20,000 a year position – whereas a police officer position will cost more.

He said the time it will take not to mention the fuel costs are all factors the state disregarded in its decision to cut the budget.

Highlands magistrate Pat Taylor, who is called out at all hours of the day and night, said he's not sure how it's all going to work.

Tuesday night, Sheriff Robert Holland and Chief Harrell presented a letter which

they are sending to Judge John Smith, Director of North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts requesting his intervention in the state's decision.

"We appreciate the financial circumstances that all levels of government must deal with in the current economic crisis and understand the need to eliminate a full-time Magistrate position in Franklin; however we are worried about the unintended consequences that will result from the decision to eliminate the part-time Magistrate position assigned to the town of Highlands. Eliminating this position will create financial hardships for both the Macon County Sheriff's Office and the Highlands Police Department, and safety concerns for the citizens of Macon County and Highlands," reads the letter.

It continues, "viewed on a map, the distance from Franklin to Highlands would appear to be insignificant to a person who is not familiar with the mountains of western North Carolina. In fact, the view from the driver's seat of a vehicle traveling U.S. Highway 64 is quite different; including steep grades, narrow lanes, sharp curves and a sheer drop of hundreds of feet on the river-side of the highway. This portion of the road is so hazardous that the Department of Transportation has restricted some commercial vehicles from traveling on it. The hazardous conditions become worse during severe weather and in the winter due to Highlands' elevation, which is in excess of

3,800 feet.

"Without a part-time Magistrate available on-call in Highlands, all arrestees and involuntary commitments will have to be transported down the mountain to Franklin. This will result in a lack of patrol coverage for the town and part of the county, unless additional law enforcement officers are hired. Involuntary commitments are increasing and the time spent by law enforcement in dealing with respondents is increasing at an even greater rate. Having the part-time Magistrate allows Highlands Cashiers Hospital to be utilized saving time and money.

"Other consequences will include increased fuel costs, vehicle wear and tear, and the absence of law enforcement presence for residents in and near the town. With increased travel on this road the chance of serious accidents will increase along with the risk of injuries or death to officers, individuals in custody and other travelers. Accidents involving officers will, of course, result in lawsuits for the town, county and individuals officers. Additionally, all of these consequences apply to the State law enforcement agencies that also utilize the Magistrate in Highlands

"Based on these concerns, we respectfully request that you review the decision to eliminate this position and retain the part-time Magistrate position in Highlands."

As it did concerning the consolidation of community colleges and the need for a dialysis center, the board signed a resolution stating its position.

Economy may affect county's property reval schedule

Tuesday night, Macon County Commissioners agreed to have a worksession to see if the county's finances justify a reval in 2013, as decided back in Nov. 2007, or if it will ask the state for a two-year extension pushing it to 2015.

Obviously, if a reval was done today or even in 2013 as decided back in Nov. 17, 2009, the tax value and money generated would likely be less than needed by the county to continue business as usual without raising taxes.

The state's Machinery Act requires a reval every eight years – but counties can opt for a different timeframe, one less than eight years, which Macon County did Jan. 1998 beginning with the 1999 reval.

The last reval was 2007 so the county has two more years to play with but will have to ask the state for an extension of two years and still hit the mandatory 8-year mark.

When property valuations were rising yearly, it behooved the county to do a reval every four years, thereby keeping its taxes low. But in 2011, with property values in the decline, depressed sales and market instability, Tax Assessor Richard Lightner suggested pushing the reval to 2013.

So far, that's still on, but commissioners must see figures to determine how it

will affect its finances.

"If all property has gone down 50% in value equally, the county would still need to raise \$26,000,000 in revenue to operate county functions," said Lightner. "These functions are mandated to represent about 85-87% of that total. Thus, even if all values went down 50% the amount of taxes paid on average would be what they were before the new lower value"

Lightner said since properties change in values depending on many variables, not all types of properties would increase or decrease in taxes paid at the same rate, thus, many people would see tax increases while a few would see decreases.

He said occupied primary residence change at a much different rate than say speculative properties, vacant land, lots, and secondary homes, and each of those categories have subcategories.

"Where as some types of properties may have gone down 30-50%, others are flat or marginally changed," he said. "The key to any appraisal is the availability of good comparables not ones tainted by foreclosures, quick sales or undue pressure. At this time we have about 1/4 of the normal sales we need to get an accurate reading of the market in each property type."

– **Kim Lewicki**

...SEMI from page 1

to turnaround before it's too late.

When drivers' routes are mapped, the topography of the land is not taken into consideration and so drivers oftentimes find themselves on the Gorge Road Road at a point when it's impossible to back up or turnaround. Of course, there are some who know the route and risk detection in lieu of taking longer routes in and out of Highlands.

The four turnaround spots being considered along US 64 are at US441/ US64, at Walnut Creek, at Deal's Farm Circle and at Chowan Drive in Highlands.

DOT is holding an information session Thursday, Sept. 22 from 4-7 p.m. at the Cullasaja Fire Dept. on US 64 west to get citizen feedback and to explain its plans. Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell asks that as many citizens as possible from Highlands attend.

The driver of the stuck semi in the above photo wasn't charged. Cell phone service isn't available at that point on the Gorge Road so he drove through town unnoticed.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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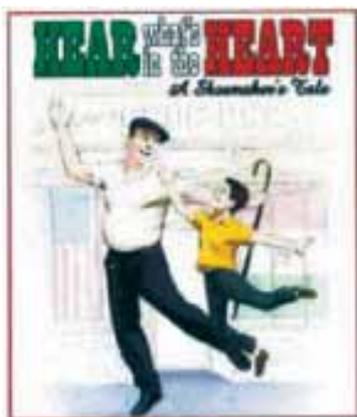
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... in the theater and the
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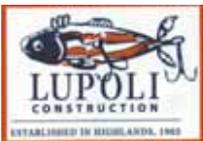


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• POLICE & FIRE WEEKLY LOG •

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

Sept. 6

• At 8 a.m., a broken window was reported at the Citgo Station on the Cashiers Road.

Sept. 7

• At 10 a.m., a damaged Xchange propane tank was reported at the Farmers Market on NC 106.

• At 12:26 p.m., there were three 9-1-1 hangups from a residence on Spring Street. Nothing was found to be wrong.

• At 5:45 p.m., residents on Catabaw Trail reported a bear in their yard.

Sept. 9

• A little past midnight, a resident on Cook Road reported a tenant in the building communicating threats.

• During the week, police officers issued 11 citations and responded to 4 alarm activation.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Sept. 7

Sept. 7

• At 10:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Dendy

Orchard Road where a vehicle was stuck on an embankment. No one was hurt.

Sept. 8

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Spotted Bear Lane where a child was sick. He was taken to the hospital.

Sept. 9

• At 6:59 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. It was false.

• At 7:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Sawmill Road for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

• At 8:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Hicks Road for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

• At 9:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Laurel Heights for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

Sept. 10

• At 12:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

• At 7:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to residence on the Cashiers Road where someone had fallen. The person was taken to the hospital.

...FIRETRUCK from page 1

Shaffer, Jr., Mr. Joe Spence, Jr., M/M Yancy Stribling, M/M George Thomas, M/M Thomas Tracy and M/M Roderick White.

Donors outside the Highlands Country Club – Mr. D.G.E. Chidsey, Mrs. Elaine Fleming, M/M Kent Nelson, Mr. Bill Sands and C.A. Wilson Electric Service as well as citizens who turned out for the department's annual celebration in August donated \$3,120 toward the project. All tolled the department collected \$13,095.

There are 27 active firefighters in the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. and 21 of them also serve as first-responders in support of the county's EMS personnel whose office is in Highlands next to the fire department.

These men have been looking forward to the restoration of Highlands first fire truck, a 1953 Model FR-50T Four Wheel Drive Fire Truck. It is an important icon to the dept. The restoration will involve a slight modification so that benches instead of hoses and related equipment will be in the back to accommodate children and others for its intended ceremonial participation in parades and other public events.

This historic fire truck was built in Wisconsin by the Four Wheel Drive Company which was founded in 1909. Its founders developed the first four-wheel drive vehicles. The company manufactured many military vehicles for the country's efforts in two world wars. Known for years as simply FWD the company's distributor in NC, North Carolina Equipment Company, sold the truck to the Town of Highlands on February 10, 1953 for the sum of \$12,314.25 financed over a period of three years at 6% interest.

Chief Manley said restoration of the fire truck is important to the men and it has become a tradition for fire companies to recover and restore their first trucks as symbols for those who have served and continue to serve.

Manley hopes restoration will be complete in time for the Christmas parade this year.

**Pilgrimage to Ground
 Zero**

By Chis Ammons

Highlands native, Banks County, GA Fire & EMS

Then there was a firefighter strong and brave.

Very often his face he did not shave.

He was full of courage, honor and heart.

He was quick to decide and very smart.

6 foot 3 inches he stood.

Always ready, wearing a Nomex hood.

His gear is black from ash and soot.

Calm under pressure and sure of foot.

He was always fast to save a life,

And very loving of his children and wife.

Large muscles to him his job had given.

An honest man who worked hard for a livin'.

He steered clear of drugs of harm.

Any heart could be won by his charm.

In fear for the ones in the New York strife, on his way up north, he went to save a life.

With eyes of blue and dark brown hair.

On his way to each call he would recite a prayer:

"Father forgive me for my sins,

For if this day is my last, I want us to be friends,
 Give me the courage to battle the blaze; Help guide
 my path through the fiery maze.

And if something should happen so that I am no
 more,

Watch over my wife and son of four.

Take care of the men who work beside me,

Let them return safely to their family.

Lord, this I ask in your precious name,

For now it is time, I can see the flames.

• Chris is now with the Bank County, GA, Fire & EMS but was a Junior Fireman with Highlands Fire & Rescue when he wrote this poem.

....SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 8

went out and then came back again, bringing the fish back to the crane, which scooped the fish up again. The crane was so intent upon this play that he didn't move. This scenario continued for a time — the crane playing with the fish — until he finally decided to eat his prey. But in all of this, the crane had not noticed what was happening to him. He had become so preoccupied in playing with the fish that he didn't notice he was sinking in the sand, sinking so much that he was becoming stuck.

A man had happened by as the sun was sinking in the sky and saw this little drama being played out. He moved quietly over to the crane to try to help him extricate himself from the sand. But the crane couldn't intuit the man's motives. He began to peck at the man to keep him away, all the while being stuck in the sand as the water washed up on him. The man thought to himself, "I wish I could speak 'crane' so that I could help this crane."

I can't help but think it's that way with God. God sees us building our lives on shaky foundations and knows when we are headed for dead ends. God sees when we become so self-absorbed that we can't connect the dots. God sees when that innocuous behavior becomes self-destructive. But we can't hear what God is saying to us because we're not listening. We can't see the ways that God is working in the world because we are not looking. And when God tries to place us on solid ground, we often respond by fighting God. So like the man who watched the crane, God said, "I wish I could speak 'human' so that I could help this person." But instead of ending up frustrated like the man who tried to help the crane, God really did help.

You know the story. God decided to speak 'human' and the speech of God — the *Logos* — came forth in the birth of a baby born in Bethlehem. God wanted to speak to us so much. God wanted to help us get out of those stuck places of our lives so much that God came among us as a helpless baby. God gave us a part of God's own self — out of love. And that speech, that Word of God, began to talk to us about how to find solid ground for our lives.

... JUST HERS continued from page 6

way stations, bridges, and tunnels. Leave the station immediately." Leave? But we'd just been sent down here! Once again, we trudged up the exit stairs. The same man, who had been putting up the yellow police tape, was now taking it down. "What are we supposed to do?" I asked him. "Run," he said, his voice shaking. "Run north, as fast as you can," he continued. "And whatever you do, don't look back!"

Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. Michelle survived a Florida hurricane at the tender age of two weeks, the Great Kansas Flood of 1951, and the events of 9/11 in Lower Manhattan. As the cats remind her, this leaves her six more lives.

...SWANSON from page 9

stage—the political paradise of communism."

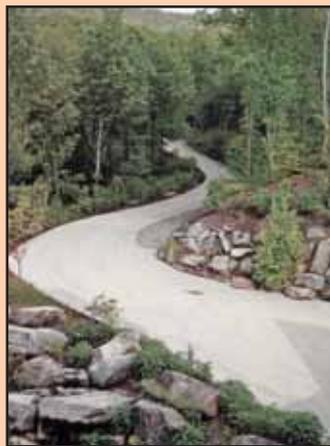
"An organizer working in and for an open society is in an ideological dilemma to begin with, he does not have a fixed truth – truth to him is relative and changing; everything to him is relative and changing."

"The end is what you want, the means is how you get it. Whenever we think of social change, the question of means and ends arises. The man of action views the issue of means and ends in pragmatic and strategic terms. He has no other problem; he thinks only of his actual resources and the possibilities of various choices of action. He asks of ends only whether they are achievable and worth the cost; of means, only whether they will work... **The real arena is corrupt and bloody.**"

Why mention Hillary at all? If Obama is marginalized to the point where he can't win, Hillary would be the likely alternative. Do forget, she started out Billy's term trying to ram through Hillarycare. Sound familiar?

Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa said the other day: "President Obama, this is your army (referring to union members). We are ready to march. Let's take these sons of bitches out (anyone who opposes today's unionism) and give America back to an America where we belong."

Obama: "We're not even half way there yet."



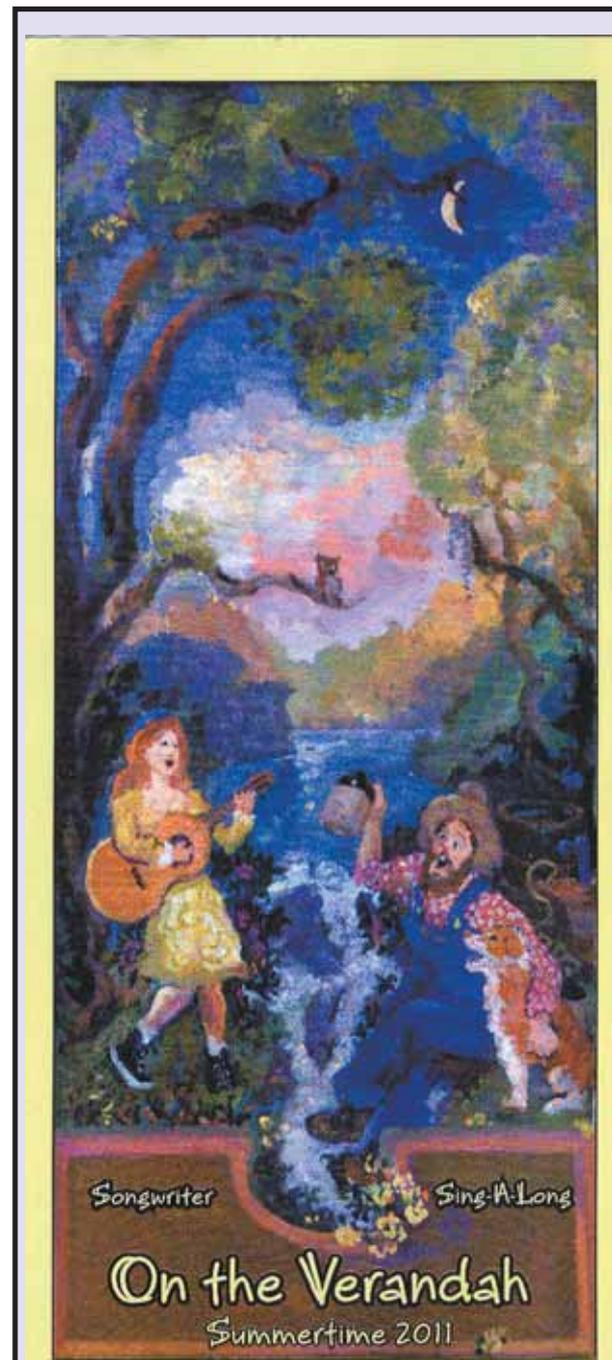
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Chad Reed, resident piano-man at ...on the Verandah, will have an

old-fashioned "sing-a-long" in the Dug Out Lounge every Friday and Saturday night 9-11 p.m. through Sept. 17 Tantalizing drink specials will also be featured.

Reservations Recommended

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

dead puppies from a home. They had been starved and tortured by their sadistic, mentally deranged owner. I was reminded of pro football player Michael Vick who just won another multi-million dollar ad segment to go along with his multi-million football contract; depressing. He should be treated like he treated his dogs, not made a millionaire. Enraged, I switched channels and thought, *hey, lighten up, Fred, that was Animal Planet, not world news.*

I shot over to the TLC chan-

nel 'cause they have a reputation for presenting easy to watch stuff. TA DA! Sarah Palin was pulling the trigger on a defenseless caribou that approached her hunting party. The dumb animal was curious 'cause it had never seen a human. Now it wished it never had. Anyway, I'm left wondering if Sarah was pretending it was a Democrat as she pulled the trigger. Oops, am I allowed to suggest or think that way anymore? Are the thought police coming to get me? The "kill" word is like the "ho" word that got Imus canned. Re-

member that clown? Stop the world, I wanna get off.

Then I made the huge mistake of going to the History channel. I figured that's a safe choice since they show a lot of WWII stuff and I know we won. But they were doing a special documentary on the end of time. Just as my finger was about to push the channel button and move on, they mentioned the number seven, my li'l missus' lucky number. I wish I had moved on. I got hooked, not on the drama, but on facts and scripture. You need to watch it before

Dec. 21st of next year. It's kinda spooky. (Am I allowed to say "spooky anymore? I'm not a racist.)

Let's see, there are the seven seals from God to be opened one at a time. Four of them are the four apocalyptic horsemen. Yikes! We're not sure how many have been opened, but it's close to seven. When the last seal is broken, only cockroaches...and maybe Chris Matthews, will survive. Tie that in with the Michel de Nostredame chronicles of doom that is still freaking me out, along with the legend of the red snake with seven heads trumpeting the end of time along with Hindu, Islamic and Mayan predictions and...well, watching Chris Matthews doesn't look so bad after all.

I have a plan so write this down. I'll bundle my life savings (that won't take long) and squan-

der it, making sure I'm flat broke and deep in debt by Dec. 21, 2012 at 11:11 AM when the end happens and we're all toast. Then I'll put my head between my legs and kiss my ever shrinking tuchus goodbye.

If the end doesn't happen, who cares? I'll simply join the welfare rolls and live off all you hard-working taxpayers' money like half the country is currently doing. Am I brilliant, or what?

PS - Don't look for me strapped into my lawn chair on Dec. 21st for the big event. I'm a winter weenie and will be long gone.

Deceived, a mystery/thriller, would make a great Christmas present. Pick it up at Shakespeare's book store, the book nook at The Toy Store or Chapter Two in Cashiers.



HEALTHline

"Caring For Our Elderly"

Ava Emory, RN, Chief Nursing Officer of Fidelia Eckerd Living Center

Today we are living longer than ever before and this increase in life expectancy underlines the importance of our decision making as to how we care for the elderly. For some, being caretaker to an aged parent or relative is a role they embrace willingly. However for most, the day arrives, and the realization sets in, that the aged person's needs are beyond their capabilities.

At the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center (FELC), enhanced elderly living is imperative to our success. The residents take part in activities such as making greeting cards, playing bingo, and traveling outside of the facility. Many FELC residents also get involved in the community by attending local churches, participating in community service projects and attending numerous events outside the facility. We are privileged to have the help of so many dedicated individuals who donate their time and energy to our facility.

FELC's residents are cared for by the same board certified physicians who care for patients at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and licensed nurses who have advanced qualifications in fields related to caring for the elderly. The mission of FELC is to provide each resident with the highest level of healthcare while bettering their quality of life through activities that keep their minds and bodies functioning to the maximum potential.

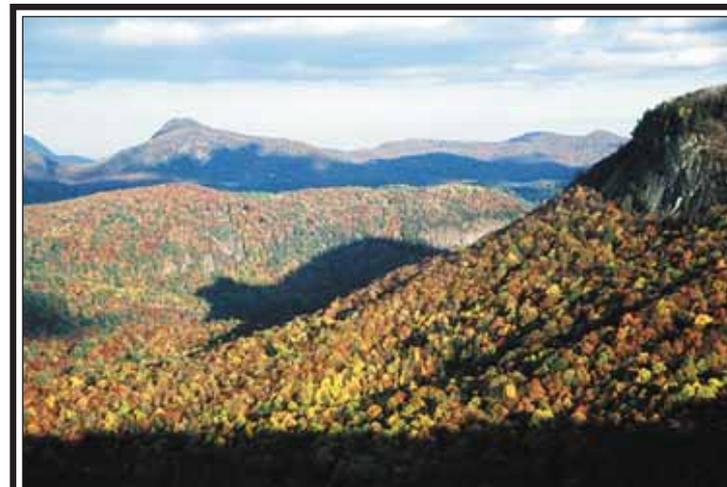
We encourage those of you wanting to entrust a loved one to our care, to ask questions of us and about us. More importantly, come and see us; experience for yourselves the friendliness and professionalism of our staff and the clean, modern accommodations.



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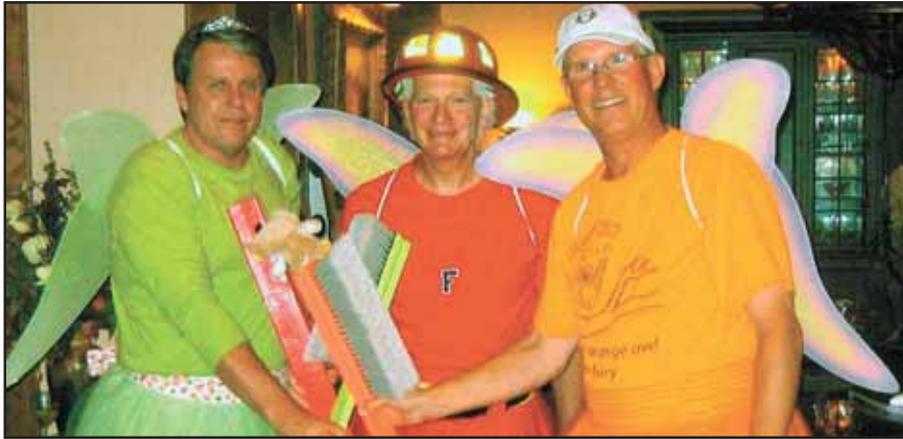
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The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic is pleased to welcome three new Tooth Fairies to the "Fraternal Order of Tooth Fairies." On Tuesday, September 6, Michael Devine (left), Ron Freeman, and Gary Leedham (right) recited their Tooth Fairy Oaths as Baby Huey, Firefly, and Hoot, respectively. The Tooth Fairies represent the Dental Clinic as ambassadors, attending schools, parades, and fundraisers in an attempt to raise awareness of the Clinic's mission to deliver high-quality dental care to people who cannot otherwise afford these critically needed services.

Left: The PAR 5K (Relay For Life of Highlands) was hosted at Highlands Falls Country Club on September 10. The weather was perfect for all of the racers, clear and sunny and the temperatures in the 60s. A wonderful breakfast buffet was offered to the racers and spectators after the 5K, donated by Highlands Falls Country Club. Each racer had a chance to win various raffle prizes during the awards ceremony, such great prizes as a chance to enjoy a round of golf on one of WNC's most beautiful golf courses-Highlands Falls Country Club. Local runner Brad Knops was the overall winner of the 2nd annual PAR 5K with the time of 19:58.



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~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Support Highlands School Sports – Buy a business banner!

Every year the Highlands School Booster Club sells banners that are prominently displayed around our school gym for the year. Your monetary support **directly** helps our student athletes and provides a bond between our children and the community. We still have available

spaces for more banners to be hung. If you as an individual or as a business would like to participate in the banner sponsorship program, please contact Monica Vinson-banner coordinator @ 526-9107 for more information.



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Rogers named Playhouse Ex. Director

The Highlands Playhouse Board of Directors is pleased to announce that local Tina Rogers has been named Executive Director. This newly created year-round position will continue to support the Playhouse while it makes its transition from a “seasonal” venue to year-round both for Playhouse performances and for other performing arts organizations in the area.

In addition to supporting the Playhouse in financial matters and leading and managing day-to-day operations, her new responsibilities include serving as liaison to the Board of Directors, community relations and fundraising efforts.

Rogers brings energy, enthusiasm, leadership and a needed sense of consistency to the Playhouse and its staff.

Scott Allbee, president of the Playhouse



Board of Directors, said that Rogers knows how to see a job through from start to finish, is a tireless multi-tasker and understands how important it is to pay attention to “details.” Plus her love of the Playhouse and the arts made her a perfect fit.

Previously, she worked 10 years as a loan closing secretary for law firms in the area, was a construction office manager for 11 years and has owned and operated her own businesses for five years.

“I am thrilled to be a part of the Playhouse, which has been an integral part of the community my entire life,” said Rogers. “I am particularly excited to help navigate the Playhouse as it works to become a formidable year-round venue for the performing arts.”

... READING continued from page 1

Education Service allocations – ensuring that LBLP would not take away from any existing programs.

Under the Lindamood-Bell program, students are taught that there are 44 distinct sounds that make up the English language and are shown the relationship between these sounds, letters and letter combinations, using structured lessons and controlled word lists. Once they have mastered these building blocks, students are gradually presented with the associations between letters, blends and words, and the fundamental relationship between sound and text. The next step in the process is critical: the students are taught to understand what is heard and translate it into written letters, words and sentences.

Underlying the entire program is an intensive mentoring and professional training system for the teachers.

This summer, 54 Macon County students and 18 teachers took part in a four-week Lindamood-Bell session at East Franklin Elementary School. Over the course of four weeks, students improved their average comprehension score from the 13th to the 30th percentile, a gain of 9.3 standard score points. Students made moderate to high standard score gains of 4.1 and 5 on fluency and comprehension.

Participating teachers received 90 min-

utes of mentoring by a Lindamood-Bell consultant every day.

“All schools, with the exception of our high schools will directly benefit from the Lindamood-Bell Processes through ongoing professional development for select teachers and direct ‘coaching/modeling’ from our two on-site facilitators during the year,” said Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman.

Highlands School would be one of the schools offering the program.

“The number of teachers from Highlands and the grade level that they teach will determine what the implementation will look like,” said Paula Ledford, who’s been charged with deploying the program in the county. “The emphasis will be on grades K-2. An Exceptional Children’s teacher at Highlands was part of the group that was trained this summer and she is already implementing in small groups with specially identified students that are struggling readers.”

Dr. Brigman released a survey of teachers and administrators concerning the use of LBLP in the district. Of the 105 respondents, 86 believed that the program would benefit the reading abilities of elementary students. Seventy-four were in favor of offering LBLP to all Macon elementary and middle schools.

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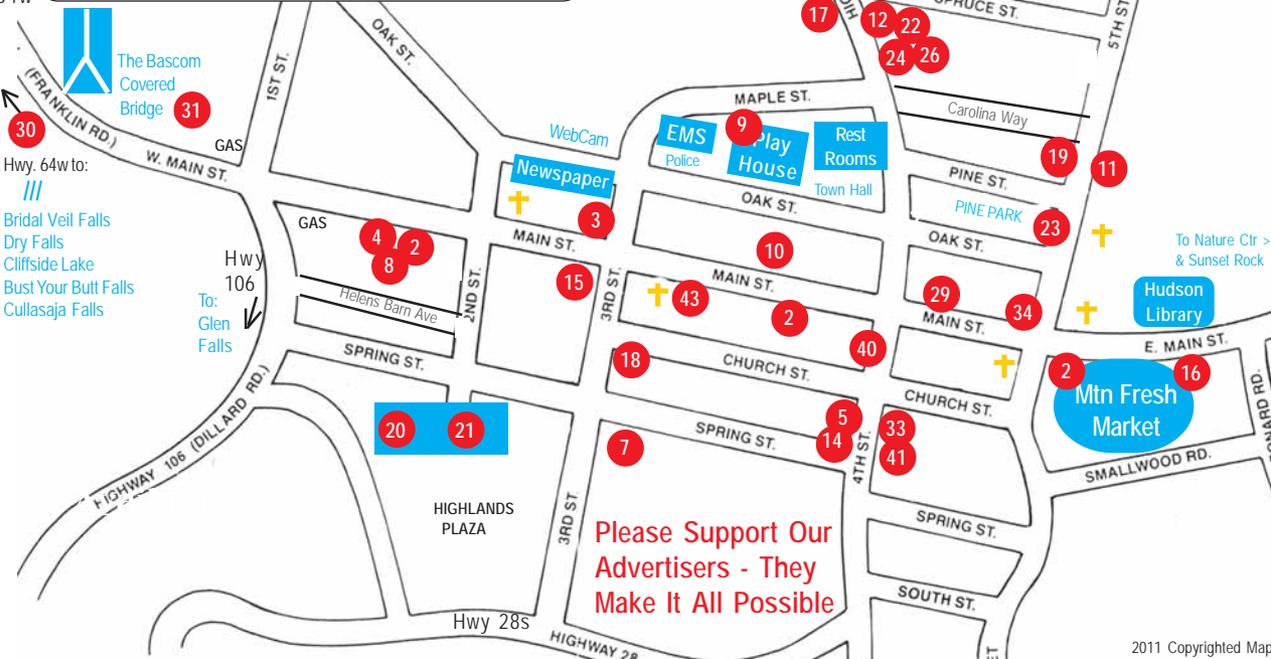
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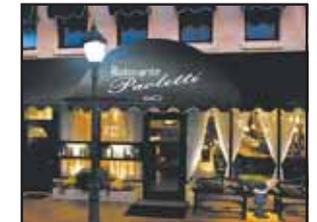
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