

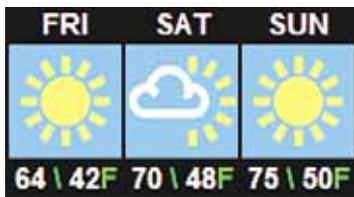
Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 15

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, April 12, 2012



Saturday, April 14

• Relay for Life "Kickoff Event" at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department at 5pm. Admission is free. There will be hot food, hot entertainment, hot door prizes and hot information about Highlands Relay For Life 2012. The 2012 theme is: "TURNING UP THE HEAT ON CANCER!"

Tuesday, April 17

• Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. History of Western Philosophy: Thomas Hobbes (DVD, The Teaching Company). Focus will be on the effect of fear as a motivator. Coordinator: E. J. Tarbox. For more info, contact John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

Wednesday, April 18

• Adult Movie at "The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Midnight in Paris."

Thursday, April 19

• Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

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Issues bind Macon County & Highlands

This time of year, budgets are the talk of the town, county, school board and the state — even political candidates are talking budget rhetoric, offering "better ways."

At the Tuesday, April 10 Macon County Commission meet-

ing, budget talk revolved around the Macon County Schools system, which has been heavily impacted by the state's economic woes.

Using information from the joint MC Commission and School Board meeting held the

night before on Monday, April 9, commissioners grappled with the severity of state cuts to schools.

Since the school system is the largest component of the county's budget, everything the state fails to do for system ends up on the

• See ISSUES page 18



At the Rabun Gap Post Office, turn right onto Kelly Creek Rd.



If you miss the detour, you will be greeted with this sign at 441 and SR 246 at the Holiday Inn Express and gas station.

Georgia's detour to Highlands explained...

A well-marked, picturesque detour through Georgia will keep you on your way to Highlands this spring and early summer.

The bridge over the Little Tennessee River on SR 246 is being repaired, so SR 246 to Highlands

(which becomes NC 106 when it crosses the NC state line) is closed just below and above the bridge.

The 3-mile detour on Kelly Creek Road takes you behind all that and lets you out on SR 246 above the bridge.



From Highlands, signage directs you to turn left on Kelly Creek Road.

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Dry Falls closed until September

Gates block ingress and egress

Work to repair the trail from the parking lot to the falls at Dry Falls has begun with the closing of the parking lot.

The \$466,000 project will reconstruct and replace the entire walking path. The work will remove tripping hazards and protect water quality through drainage control measures.

Nantahala District Ranger Mike Wilkins said this is the first major work on the Dry Falls trail in more than 30 years.

"Parts of the trail degraded over the years, making it unsafe for the hundreds of visitors who enjoy the site daily during peak season," said Wilkins. "Restoration of the trail will promote public safety, while maintaining and preserving the historic integrity of the popular recreation area."

The construction project, which is funded by Federal Highways Grant of \$208,000 and matching agency funds of \$258,000, is expected to be finished by September 2012.

The parking lot at Dry Falls was built up and resurfaced, and an overlook deck was constructed in 2008, work that also required closing the site for several months.

• See DETOUR page 18

• THE PLATEAU'S POSTION •

• LETTERS •

Simply Stunning

Dear Editor,

Compliments and appreciation are in order to Anne deVille for her thoughtful letter to the editor in the April 5th edition entitled, "Before You Cut Family Benefits, Shop Around", offering several practical common sense suggestions regarding the apparent town's budgetary shortfall. Also, thanks to Richard Betz, a refreshing blast from the past and from simpler and less complicated times, for his informed letter in the same edition entitled, "The Town Should Rethink Family Coverage". Mr. Betz is uniquely qualified and his insights and suggestions should be given very careful consideration while contemplating a path forward. Together the two letters touch on all the pertinent concerns that have emerged surrounding the health insurance coverage issue for our town's employees, and I would like to echo those same sentiments. The town's employees deserve to be complimented and thanked for the services they cheerfully and dutifully deliver to us everyday. We are blessed to have these high quality individuals serving in our community.

It should be no great surprise to Highlands that the town's employees are now being asked to pay for the years of inefficient bickering by some elected officials regarding what form of local government we should have, along with the high costs associated with all the politically motivated hirings and firings that have occurred during this same period. In doing so, they have also ignored the wishes of the majority of the citizenry in the process. The town's employees are now being squeezed and asked to sacrifice as a result of the time wasted on ill-conceived political shenanigans, or at best poor decisions, and it can only be construed as being emblematic of poorly placed priorities. Another casualty of these misguided priorities, is a diminishing of the public trust in our local government, and an undermining of the good faith and character of our town. It appears that the town's attorney has been the only one who has made out so well or benefited from these poor deci-

sions and missteps.

It seems that far too much time, treasure and energy have been expended or wasted on these unnecessary and ineffective exercises over the last several years and at the additional expense of a more progressive agenda for our community. The quality of our town's human capital resources, and what has made our community what it is today and what we've come to expect, is worth preserving.

If I understand the figures correctly as reported, the approximate \$9,000 to \$10,000 annually per family for health insurance coverage really doesn't sound like a very good deal for group coverage, considering the size of the group, and it makes one wonder whether or not competitive bids have been sought in order to save the taxpayers money, and perhaps consequentially, the preservation of the town's employees benefits. I'm certain that there are many providers or carriers with competitive plans across the country who would like the opportunity to bid openly on a substantial insurance package of this proportion. It should be a priority of our elected officials to shop for the very best deal with the best benefits for our employees every year, especially considering the ever changing market and the fact

that health care is such a major component in any budget and so vital to the overall quality of life of our employees. For an expenditure to the taxpayers of this size, scope and significance, why wouldn't our officials shop diligently and competitively in a more open bidding process for something as important as health care is for our employees? That is a question that needs to be thoughtfully addressed and considered by the taxpayers and voters in our community.

The reaction shown by some of our town's officials to the rising costs of health care for our town's employees, "our most valuable asset", as was so aptly stated by Mr. Betz, is yet another example and the result of the apparent poorly placed priorities by some of our town's elected officials, but thankfully, not all of them. I respectfully submit that our town's employees that have dedicated themselves and careers to serving our community deserve better than the "hit the road" mentality that has been espoused by some. Considering the circumstances and ongoing debate, it may be prudent and timely to consider returning to those simpler, less complicated times when we had a more cost effective board and town administrator form of local

government that also seemed more responsive to the citizens, and more amenable and better suited to the needs and small town charm of Highlands. Why did we even need to fix or change what wasn't broken or in need of change in the first place?

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

The UDO and Conditional Zones

During the public comment period at the last town board meeting, I asked a question about the conditional zoning language in the UDO. The question created some confusion. I wanted to make sure that the UDO statement was not the same as the Conditional Overlay Zone language which has been under review by the Planning Board. Mr. Clabo, the Director of Town Planning, correctly pointed out that the language on the UDO was the same as what is currently in place. Since the meeting I have learned that my concern could be traced to the mislabeling of terms in the UDO, rather than any significant changes.

Nevertheless, my worry was that the two different and distinct processes would become commingled in the adoption of the UDO. Currently, the town allows Conditional Use Zoning. The Conditional Use Zoning requires review by the Planning Board and the Appearance Commission. After obtaining these initial recommendations, the application must be approved by the Zoning Board and finally by the Town Board.

A property approved for the current Conditional Use Zoning still has to meet the basic requirements of the existing zoning district. This requirement was a problem with Old Edward Inn's (OEI) effort to create employee housing at the old Northland Cable TV property on NC 106. The R3 multi-family zone did not allow for a higher density sought by OEI to meet their operational and financial needs. The proposed solution by the town was to create a Conditional Overlay Zone which would allow higher densities and flexibility for employee and affordable housing.

My concern is that the Conditional Overlay Zone will potentially override existing zones that the town has had in

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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• OBITUARY •

John R. Lupoli, Sr.



genuine man. He let the parents know that he was concerned about seeing that their children received a good education."

John and Florence began spending their summers in Highlands in the late 1950s. He retired at the age of 59, moved permanently to Highlands, and purchased Colonial Pines Inn, still operational today. The family owned and operated the Inn for more than 12 years.

Their love of community was recognized in 1999 when they were awarded the Robert Dupree Award, which is given for outstanding community service by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. They were best known for their work with the non-profit organization Mountain Findings where he served as President.

John is survived by two children, Jonna McDowell (spouse George) and John

•See OBITUARY page 8

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with Fred Wooldridge
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Once upon a time

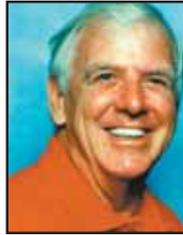
Here's another of my famous children's stories you can read to your little ones at bedtime. Remind them this is not real. Warning to parents: This story is so over-the-top, it might cause young children to wake up screaming from nightmares. Are you ready?

Once upon a time there was a scary looking Hispanic man who shot and killed a handsome clean cut unarmed black youth. (Everyone shout "booooo.") The Hispanic man had

called the police before killing the unarmed black youth. Is that weird, or what?

When the police arrived, they listened to what the Hispanic man said happened, then treated gash wounds to the back of his head and treated his broken, bloody nose. Can you say "bloody broken nose" three times real fast?

When the police didn't make an arrest, it caused the black community to



become outraged (this means emotion replaced brains) and so they called on the media for help. (Now altogether, children, shout "yea for the media" five times. There were speeches and parades but the police still made no arrests. (Everyone shout "booooo" again.) Then the mobs called for justice but still there was no arrest.

The Hispanic man's family had to go into hiding in fear of their lives.

They had to explain to the two young black children they were mentoring why the black community had turned on them. There were tears when they learned the Hispanic man and his wife had to find a secret place to hide and they would no longer mentor them.

Then, as fate would have it, the leader of this kingdom, King Yomamma, went on television and expressed his deep sadness over the death of this unarmed, handsome, clean-cut youth,

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 15

• Highlands Dining •

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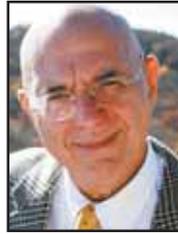
• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

The power of mug shots

It's impossible to look good in a mug shot. Mel Gibson and Lindsay Lohan, two pretty good looking people, look like the guy from a zombie movie did their makeup. Those unflattering images make a lasting, OK, indelible, impression. I'll never again think of Mel Gibson as the heroic William Wallace in Braveheart. He'll always be the disheveled wide-eyed guy who called the arresting female officer, Sugar Tits, and whose anti-Semitic rant cost him millions of dollars and earned eternal enmity. Yeah, and his picture looked like they used alum as a foundation layer. There is no need to describe it further. Anyone who saw it will never forget and anyone who didn't wouldn't believe it, unless, of course, they'd see other celebrity mug shots, all of which make the subject look too ugly, too unkept, too

stupid, or too scary to play Igor in the Frankenstein movies.

Poor old George Zimmerman never had a chance. He's the guy who shot Trayvon Martin, and the first imagine of him was a mug shot from years ago; a photo which showed a crazed, round faced, unshaven lunatic, with eyes uncomfortably close-set. George will always be that guy. Trayvon, other hand, was portrayed in a five-year-old photo as a beaming, innocent, preadolescent. The press seems to think we need our assailants and victims to be unambiguous. Subsequent photos revealed a thinner, less terrifying George. Trayvon had changed his wardrobe and



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

had some cosmetic dental work. None of this addresses guilt, innocence, motivation, or mitigation. The facts, whatever they are, will forever be distorted when viewed through the prism of the initial images.

Either makeup artists really are artists or the police have an ugly switch on their cameras. Unauthorized pictures of celebrities, those without makeup, reveal pretty ordinary looking people.

Makeup really does wonders. It's surprising men haven't caught on. Actually, all newscasters, most politicians, and a few cosmetic surgeons did get the message that beauty breeds success and credibility.

Morticians do a pretty good job with makeup. When I was growing up, it was customary to have open-casket funerals.

People would whisper, as if they were afraid they would wake the dead, "Doesn't he look wonderful; just like he's sleeping?" Of course, he looked nothing like he was sleeping, unless he slept under several layers of makeup. He looked like he had been painted. Customs change. I think open caskets are less popular than they once were and cremation is much more common. Nobody is going to want to see your ashes, so we do the next best thing and pick out a pretty urn.

Nobody looks as good in a mug shot as in a casket, perhaps because nobody is at peace in a mug shot, but more likely because the subject was doing something he should regret shortly before the photo was snapped. Drinking, debauchery, and mass murder distort the face as surely as they stain the soul. Or maybe it's just that the lighting is all wrong in the precinct photos.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

place since the 1970's, especially R1 and R2. For companies and developers holding multiple tracts of property this new overlay zone will streamline and ease their ability to rezone property, but for the local home owners the consequences could be very destabilizing.

The Conditional Zoning Overlay District has become the norm in larger communities in North Carolina, but for a small, unique community like Highlands, I am not sure it is the way we should go.

There is a solution for the zoning problem of employee and/or affordable housing. Instead of adopting a Conditional Overlay Zone, let's create a new multi-family zoning district with higher densities, and apply it where appropriate. If there is a hearing on the adoption of the Conditional Overlay Zone District, I will request the Town Board to consider an alternative multi-family zone.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

Move to Amend

Dear Editor,

Kudos to Franklin Board of Aldermen for unanimously passing a resolution calling on the North Carolina General Assembly to petition Congress that the U.S. Constitution be amended to firmly establish that human beings, NOT corporations, are persons.

In colonial days, before our Nation's birth, England empowered corporations to plunder colonial resources and gave them privilege and power far beyond that of the colonists. In 1776 the American Revolutionists rose against the Crown and its corporations to bring into being a

new Nation free of these oppressive forces. Given the colonists' unpleasant experiences, it is no wonder that our Constitution does NOT mention corporations and our Bill of Rights protecting our human inalienable rights, grants NO such rights to corporations.

Throughout the decades following the Revolution, court rulings (not legislation) began eroding the freedom from corporate tyranny for which, our forbearers fought and died. In 1886, the Supreme Court sanctioned "corporate personhood" in *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*. Ever since,

corporate-artificial-non-human entities have used the court sanctioned "personhood" doctrine to trump rights of humans. *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)*, just one in a long series of rulings relying upon the false notion of corporate "personhood," grants rights to corporations while trampling our human inalienable rights.

The early American experience demonstrates that corporations can thrive without "personhood." We can free our

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governance from the shackles of corporate rule. It is time for a new revolution.

I call upon all Western North Carolina municipal governments to follow the lead of Franklin's Board in passage of the same resolution – *humans, NOT corporations, ARE persons*. For more information: www.MoveToAmend.org

Dr. Allen Lomax
Sylva, NC

• See LETTERS page 9

• BACK DAYS • PART 11

The story of the John Edwin and Ellie Pierson Potts family, cont.

By **Eva Potts Massey**

At one time Mama and Aunt Helen had a tea room located where the Wit's End building is now.

Several years later, Mama and Daddy bought Fairview Inn.

Mama had wanted to operate a tourist home so she and Daddy decided to buy the Ervin Rice house, owned by Dr. Bennett and his wife from Hendersonville, NC. It is a three-story house, built in the early 1900s with 11 bed-

rooms and 6 ½ baths. They began operating it in 1938. For several years, we all worked hard to run the house. The main attraction was the meals we served. On Sundays we'd never finish lunch until after 3 o'clock as we could only serve 32 people at a time. The front porch would be full of guests who enjoyed visiting while they waited to be served.

We called this place the "Big House" and the other one on 5th Street that we still owned the "Little House." When it burned we missed it as we would have missed a member of our family.

World War II made many changes in our lives. Most of the men in our families went overseas to the South Pacific, Hawaii, France, North Africa, Italy, China-Burma-India area and to Europe.

Us girls stayed home with Mama and Daddy. From time to time one of the servicemen, a brother, husband, cousin, came home on leave.

When John Edwin (Daddy) died, he had felt bad for several days and thought he had caught Ellie's (Mama's) asthma. He consented to call the doctor and when Dr. Morton came from the hospital to Fairview (The Big House) and gave Daddy a shot but said, "Mr. Ed, I can do more for you at the hospital." Daddy went with him. Just as they had gotten Daddy in bed, he turned his head to speak to Emma who had just arrived and he was gone. He had a cerebral hemorrhage. He often remarked, "If God sees fit, I hope I can die with my boots on," meaning, of course he'd rather not have a long illness. The shock was traumatic for us all, but we were thankful that he didn't have to suffer for a long time as an invalid. He was 69 at his death and would have been 70 in one more month.

Eight months and three days later, Mama died. She had been in poor health with asthma and heart trouble for a long time. They were good to her at the Highlands-



John Edwin and Ellie Potts
Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

Cashiers Hospital, but some of us were with her all the time. Dr. Morton kept telling us she was better, but we knew Mama better than he did and we could see that she was nearing the end. He really hated to tell us, I believe. She died March 20, 1957 around 8 a.m. Mary was getting ready to go home after being there all night, and I was coming on duty. She died in our arms. I'm glad we could be with her, just as Emma was with Daddy. Ellie Pierson Potts was 69.

We had difficulty giving up Daddy and Mama in such a short time, but later we felt blessed that we'd had both of them so many years and felt blessed that they didn't have to experience long, drawn-out illnesses. God is merciful.

Living is an art and John Edwin and Ellie learned how to live and not just exist. They had enthusiasm for life. They were interested in the people around them and the world in general. They had a desire to do good and to contribute something to make the world a better place in which to live. There philosophy was that whether you build a dam or plant a flower, you are adding something of worth. Whether you feed thousands of hungry people or comfort a frightened child, you are being of service to someone. Theirs was really an art of living for which we feel most blessed. Some words in our language are inseparable – home, mother, father, family – and these are linked in fond and meaningful remembrances.

• Next week: The Story of the family of Frank Huffman Potts.

• HS SPORTS •

Baseball team defeats Cherokee 11-9

By **Ryan Potts**

The Highlands Highlander baseball team picked up their second win of the season on Tuesday with an 11-9 victory over the Cherokee Braves in Highlands. The game was an exciting one that featured quite a bit of hitting and a furious fifth inning rally by the Highlanders after Cherokee had taken an 8-5 lead in the top of the fifth. The rally began with a hit by freshman Kenan Lewis, then Philip Murphy was hit by a pitch, setting the stage for a couple of hits from Bryon Neumann and Ryan Vinson. After the Highlanders regained the lead, Davis Moore pitched the 6th and the 7th to close the game down for Highlands.

Lewis finished 3-4 for the Highlanders with 2 RBI's, Neumann had 3 RBI's, Vinson 2 RBI's and Moore and Murphy both added one RBI apiece. Moore's pitching line consisted of 3 innings pitched with just one earned run. Said Moore after the game, "It was an exciting win for us-hopefully we can keep improving and string together some wins." The Highlanders will host Oconee Christian on Saturday at 1PM here in Highlands.

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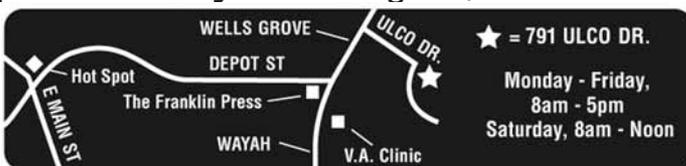
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• COACH'S CORNER •

Opening Day

Being a Pittsburgh Pirates fan means that for the most part, opening day is a pretty ho-hum affair. After all, seeing as the Pirates haven't had a winning season since 1992, there hasn't been much to get excited about. Sure, there was one year in 1999 where the immortal Todd Ritchie, the dependable Brian Giles, and a bunch of spare parts and castoffs almost won the NL Central despite having a losing record...but even that season wasn't much of a victory.

The Pirate organization has been one of no hope, forever relegated to a hellish cycle revolving around developing a few prospects, selling those prospects to the Yankees or the Red Sox, rinse, wash, repeat.

However, something interesting happened on the way to the rinse cycle last year – the Pirates were able to string together some wins and become an exciting young ballclub. They were pitching well, getting just enough hitting, and were even in first place in July. Then, one late evening in Atlanta, the house of cards came crashing down at the end of a 19-inning game (Jerry Meals...I still hate you). Now, Pittsburgh sits at the same place that they have been so many years before...they have a couple of nice young players and some decent pitching, but can they ever get over the hump?

That is the question that a great deal of fans are asking each and every opening day. Out of the 30 Major League Baseball teams, there are only a few who don't have legitimate holes. The Texas Rangers, the Detroit Tigers and the Anaheim Angels look like the class of the American League, which the National League is wide open for anyone who wants to take it. Which brings me back into the original premise of this article. For the first time in a great many seasons, Pirates fans have hope. While our hope for this season is based on the terrible premise that since everyone else in the



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

National League will likely be mediocre, so why can't we be mediocre, too – there are still some promising signs. The Pirates have a legitimate MVP candidate in Andrew McCutchen, they have a reliable bullpen and closer in Joel Hanrahan, and while their starting pitching lacks a top level starter,

they have three potential #1 starters in their farm system.

Sadly, the hope that exists this year could likely be all for naught. There are a laundry list of things that can and will go wrong, not only for my team, but for yours as well. Yet, the start of the baseball season brings a fresh start and renewed hope for the future, and that is the beauty of Opening Day.

Attention:
Beginning with the first Town Board meeting in May, Town Board meetings will be held Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Community Building. That meeting will be Thursday, May 3.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

That was 'The Week That Was'

When I first thought to use that title, I thought I remembered it referring to a week of huge significance – some series of worldwide events that shook the very foundation of civilization. Imagine my disappointment when the only reference I could find the TW3 was that it was a sit-com on BBC in the early sixties. Oh well, I used it anyway, because I thought it was a great week.

It started out with the NCAA National Basketball Championship Game. While the game turned out to be a dud, I did have Kentucky winning the title, so all was not lost. Then the Masters began on Thursday (as a matter of fact, it's just getting started as I'm writing this) and, even if the tournament turns out to be a snoozer, the beautiful scenery makes it worthwhile watching. Then came opening day for Major League Baseball.

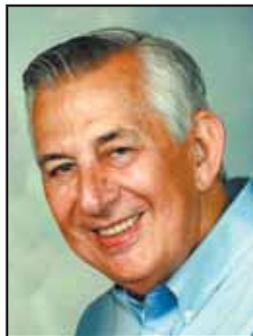
And the week ends with Easter, the Day that Christ was resurrected after paying the price for our sins. I hope you had a blessed Easter Day. I still have it to look forward to.

Meanwhile, President Obama was about knee deep in a hole and still digging.

It all started when the Supreme Court took up discussion on the constitutionality of the Affordable Health Care Act. For three days they listened to lawyers arguing the case and pondering how they would ultimately vote on the issue a few weeks down the road. From their questioning, one got the sense that the Supremes were leaning towards finding the beast unconstitutional.

Then, says Reuters, dated Mar. 30: "Supreme Court justices held closed-door deliberations on President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul law, likely casting preliminary votes on how they will eventually rule on their highest-profile case in years. In an institution known for keeping its secrets, no leaks are likely before formal opinions have been written and announced from the bench."

Oh yeah? Again, from Reuters, dated Apr. 2: "President Barack Obama took an



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

opening shot at conservative justices on the Supreme Court, warning that a rejection of his sweeping healthcare law would be an act of 'judicial activism' that Republicans say they abhor. Obama had not commented publicly on the Supreme Court's deliberations since it heard arguments for and against the healthcare law last week."

"Ultimately, I am confident that the Supreme Court will not take what would be an unprecedented (untrue) extraordinary step in overturning a law that was passed by a strong majority of a democratically elected Congress (untrue; 219-212), Obama said. "Why would Obama take on the Court if he hadn't heard a leak that the Supremes' preliminary vote went against him? He may be brazen, but that is just plain stupid.

"And I'd just like to remind conservative commentators that for years, what we have heard is, the biggest problem on the bench was judicial activism, or lack of judicial restraint, that an unelected group of people would somehow overturn a duly constituted and passed law," Obama said. "Well, this is a good example, and I'm pretty confident that this court will recognize that and not take that step," he said. Dig, baby, dig.

So, according to the President, the Supreme Court is "an unelected group of people." And the Beatles were just another rock band. Well, the Court didn't take his comments kindly. Headline from Reuters, dated April 4: "White House in Damage Control Over Obama Supreme Court Remarks." The story begins: "The White House was forced on the defensive as it sought to explain controversial remarks President Barack Obama made earlier in the week about the Supreme Court's review of his signature healthcare reform law." Tired of digging, he handed the shovel to Jay Carney, Press Secretary, to try to bail him out.

Good luck with that.

Meanwhile, The National Patriot reports: "It was a thing of beauty. A judge, Jerry Smith, from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, one of three Judges on that bench,

had had enough. Judge Smith had had enough of Obama's arrogance and his ideology. Enough. The Court had a federal Department of Justice lawyer in front of him while hearing a case related to Obamacare and to that attorney, Dana Lydia Kaersvang. Judge Smith let it be known that he had, indeed, had enough."

"Does the department of Justice recognize that federal courts have the authority in appropriate circumstances to strike federal statutes because one or more constitutional infirmities?" Kaersvang managed to utter a "yes" to the question but Judge Smith was not through. "I am referring to statements by the president in the last few days to the effect...that it is somehow inappropriate for what he termed unelected judges to strike acts of Congress."

Judge Smith then told Kaersvang that she had 48 hours to obtain a letter, no less than three pages in length, single spaced, from her boss, Attorney General Eric Holder, specifically addressing HIS stance on Obama's statement and position."

Holder says he'll respond, but hasn't as yet. I'm running out of space and can't wait for him. You'll know all about it by the time you read this.

For a senior lecturer (he was no professor) of Constitutional Law, Obama doesn't know spit.

... OBITUARY continued from 3

Lupoli (spouse Anita), seven grandchildren: Shonna, Jonna, Regina, Coree, Isabella, Juliette, and John III, and five great-grandchildren: Olivia, Dean, Alyssa, Adriana, and Alexandra.

In addition to his parents, wife Florence Lupoli and son David Lupoli preceded John's death. John and Florence were members of Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church in Highlands. A Funeral Mass was held Wednesday April 11, 2012 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in memory of John R. Lupoli, Sr. to the Highlands Emergency Council, PO Box 974, Highlands N.C. 28741 or Mountain Findings, 432 Spruce Lane, Highlands N.C. 28741.

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... LETTERS continued from page 5

Call them statesmen, not 'Republicrats'

Dear Editor,

There has been too much name-calling in the media lately criticizing the way in which some of our local elected officials do their job, the most recent being the angry response by Brad Seagle in the Friday, April 6, Franklin Press.

The writer assailed votes by two county commissioners, calling them "Republicrats" because they chose to represent all the people in the county, and voted in the manner which to them seemed to benefit the majority of the citizens. Mr. Seagle believes the two commissioners should be thrown out of office because they did not side with Republican Commissioner Ron Haven.

Isn't it curious how people see the same event differently? Having voted Republican all of my adult life, I thought that when all of the members of one party and two-thirds of the other party voted together it is the best decision for all. Could it be that Mr. Haven voting against all four Republicans and Democrats is the one politician that is out of step with the citizens of Macon County and his own party?

After the election is over, the winner becomes everyone's Commissioner, and he or she is obligated to represent the citizens in their district and the county. I was brought up with the belief and understanding that an elected official who worked with members of both parties and voted for the benefit of all the populace was to be considered a Statesman, a term far more fitting to describe the characters and high standards of the two commissioners who were maligned in last week's letter-to-the-editor. They were not elected just to be a mouthpiece for their political party.

Frankly, I have to applaud Kevin Corbin and Jim Tate for having the integrity and political courage to vote for the best alternatives for Macon County instead of simply voting with Mr. Haven because they are all Republicans. Isn't that exactly the kind of thinking what the whole country is disgusted with our elected "representatives" in Washington about?

I am glad to find at least one thing upon which I agree with the writer. The coming May 8th primaries are critically important to Macon County and our state representation. It is our opportunities as voters to silence those that call themselves "the real conservatives." It is

our opportunity to decide if Macon County moves forward in a positive direction or backwards.

Our votes on May 8th will decide the candidates we get to vote for in the general election in November. NOW is the time to let persons of integrity like Kevin Corbin, Jim Tate, Bobby Koppers, and Ronnie Beale know that we appreciate their personal dedication and that we agree with the way they are doing their jobs. Don't let the naysayers make your decision for you. THANK YOU, Commissioners.

Bob Wright
Highlands

Tone down the diatribes

Dear Editor:

I'm going to be as "tacky" in my public response to Mr. Swanson's letter in the April 5 edition of Highlands Newspaper, as he was in his response to Ms. Abel's letter which appeared in the March 29 edition - both available for free on line at www.highlandsnewspaperPDF.com.

This gentleman, in his attempt to kill

a message, kills the messenger. This is not the first time, and seems his usual method. Confusing the issue is his forte. But, to give credit where credit is due, he does respond quickly. Perhaps that's why his diatribe shows little thought and clearly misunderstands the point of Ms. Abel's message.

She does not advocate, nor hint that she advocates "Higher Taxes, More Government, OR Less Freedom."

He fails to address the correct message, and instead invents his own scenario in his typical knee-jerk response. He chooses to defend his local Freedom Works group and goes on to detail his views. One can only conclude that Mr. Swanson is either willfully ignorant, or woefully lacking in simple comprehension. It's most likely a combination of both, and seems to be a malady that infects the Far (out) Right.

Regarding the Freedom Works group visit to Sen. Snow's office and the alluded to statement, I can't comment since I wasn't there. However having heard the Senator's opinions on the importance of education and funding required, the reportage seems, at best, incomplete.

Ms. Abel's letter was not "about" Sen. Snow or his loss of the 2010 election. That issue was used as an example. And why would Mr. Swanson even address "2012 rules" if he thinks her letter was about a past (2010) event?

She apparently forgot to add the designation "PAC" or "Super PAC" to the paragraph he should have realized referenced the Supreme Court "Citizen United v. FEC" decision. That decision allows unlimited and hidden contributions from billionaires and corporations whose sole purpose is to create a beneficial outcome for themselves. Their behind-the-scenes efforts manipulate elections. The influx of their dollars is used to persuade the easily led, low information persons who vote just by name recognition. Names only recognized simply because those less informed have received a daily dose of bad information, deceitful innuendo, and outright false statements in their mailbox and television, as well as rabid, un-authored internet emails, and malarkey-drivel on drive-time radio.

Heavy mailings in particular have happened here in Macon County. Ms. Abel's letter asks that we all be aware of what we know occurred in the past because it will very likely happen again.

Funds from national organizations and their PACs, funneled through a local group, create an unfair advantage when their message is heavily weighted with misinformation.

That said, the Freedom Works group does deserve kudos for giving Sheriff Holland contributions, and participating

•See LETTERS page 15



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• JUST HERS •

The Color of Hope

Hope is an odd thing. Not only does it mean different things to different people, it often doesn't mean the same thing to a per-

son at different times of his or her life. I acquired two objects recently which were symbols of hope. One was a lottery ticket. The other was a can of paint.

Gambling is not something that brings back happy memories in my father's family. Grandpa Mead was a charming, utterly irresponsible man. He never made much money, and wasted the little he did have. We used to joke that he lost his money on "fast women and slow horses." I'm not so sure about those ladies, but I do know that he was a huge fan of horse racing, harness racing in particular. Grandpa would make himself comfortable in front of the TV, beer in hand, and watch little



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

men in bright jerseys race pretty horses in carts around the Saratoga race track. My father never said anything about the gambling – he didn't have to – but later on, it was an unwritten rule. The Meads don't bet. The Meads don't gamble. The Meads don't play games of chance. It was our way of respecting the uncertainty that had plagued my father's childhood, and our way of making sure that this nev-

er happened to any of us. My French grandfather, Eugene, was also a great fan of horseflesh, but always accompanied by a plate of my grandmother Mamie's homemade French fries. There is a family story about the first time I ate horsemeat at age 11 in Paris. They claim that I looked down at my plate, and brightly inquired, "Is this one of Grandpa Mead's losers?"

How do you go to college in Maryland, and avoid the Preakness? A wealthy college dorm mate threw a Preakness Party my senior year, and badgered my friend Debbie and me into helping, in spite of the fact that we were NOT invited. At the last minute, Carolyn rushed into the common room. "Two of my guests have cancelled at the last minute!" she cried. "So you know what that means?" Debbie and I looked at each other hopefully. "You get to eat the leftovers!" she gushed.

In Sydney, the big race was the Melbourne Cup, and in our office at Club Med, everyone drew a horse's name out of a hat. I did not want to participate, until the social consequences of non-participation were made very clear, especially in my role as the token Yank. Grudgingly, I pulled out my wallet, threw my money in the pot, and pulled a name out of the hat. I knew nothing about horse racing in Australia, but it didn't matter that much. That year, my pick, Hyperno, won the Melbourne Cup. In great triumph, I was ushered across the street to the local pub, where I was told it was my duty to treat my colleagues to as many rounds as possible until all of my money ran out.

Gambling may seem like such an easy thing to avoid, but it isn't. No matter where I worked, there seemed to be an office pool about something. In later years,

I'm sure feelings were hurt as I turned down offers repeatedly for various tombola and charity drawings, usually involving a friend's children's church, scout group, and elementary school. It's not fun being the childless meanie that won't chip in for Little Susie's raffle tickets. "I'm sorry," I would say, shrugging my shoulders. "I don't gamble. It's a family thing."

I must have been in deep thought when the phone rang last week, because I jumped at the sound. It was my next door neighbor, Pat. "The big drawing is tonight! Do you want to go into Dillard, and get a ticket? We can have dinner at that nice new place you discovered (the Valley Café)." OK, I'll admit it. I was up for the drive down the mountain - not for the lottery, but for the excellent food. Besides, it was a gorgeous day, and what could be lovelier than a drive in the mountains in the spring? I told Pat I was game for the expedition, but wouldn't be joining her on the lottery thing. I hadn't even realized there was a big jackpot. It was just a matter of going along for the ride.

The countryside was even prettier than we'd hoped. We arrived in Dillard, and pulled into the parking lot of the gas station. Suddenly, I remembered my late husband John, who occasionally enjoyed what the Brits call "a flutter" (check out **The very Best of British: The American's guide to speaking British** at <http://www.effingpot.com/slang.shtml>). "Oh, what the heck," I thought. "This one's for John." Big spender that I am, I plopped down the royal sum of two bucks. I didn't play any lucky numbers. I took what the lady gave me. And, no, I didn't win anything. I wasn't expecting to win. I certainly didn't want \$640 million, either, although a cool million or two would have been nice. Sometimes what you don't get is more important than what you do.

A few weeks ago, a magazine ad caught my eye. Ace Hardware was offering a free can of paint on Saturday, March 17. My printer had died, so I went to the Hudson Library, and paid \$0.25 to print out my coupon. So much for free! I walked over to Ace Hardware to get my can of paint. "What color would you like?" said the nice lady. That's when it hit me. I don't have my own home any-

•See JUST HERS page 15

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PULL OUT

Upcoming Events

• Registration is now open for the 2012 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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., 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.
• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

• All meetings of the Mountain View Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. and proceed a few steps down to the library.

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.
• NAMI offers Peer-to-Peer Recovery Education Course. NAMI Appalachian South, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is offering a 10 week education class in Franklin on Tuesdays, starting March 13, 6:30-8:30. This is a nationally recognized course designed for individuals living with the challenge of mental illness. The course covers the major mental illnesses, treatments, coping strategies, relapse prevention, recovery and wellness in a confidential setting. There is no charge. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register contact: Paul 524-9133 or Hank 342-34789.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.
• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

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.

• Free Dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Every Saturday through March

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! For More Information call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

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.

Through June 17

• At The Bascom. Chicks It's All Gone to the Birds, Bunzl Gallery. The gallery will be filled with a plethora of art works that portray an avian theme. Despite the focus on a single theme, the exhibition offers rich variety. Artists pursue the topic through a range of approaches and media. This exhibition, devoted to our feathered friends, provides a broad look into the world of contemporary and traditional art, letting divergent approaches take wing. From the traditional to the way out and wacky, visitors will experience a flight of fancy. Presented in partnership with the Highlands Biological Station and the Highlands Audobon Society.

Thursday, April 12

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center in Franklin. Special guest speakers will be Sarah Bishop of the American Cancer Society and Toby Blanton and Margaret McConnell, co-chairs of the Franklin Relay for Life. There will be light refreshments and every attendee will receive a free T-shirt. Everyone is invited to attend. For more info, call 369-9221.

• Joe Doyle of Athens, GA, will speak on weapons used during the Civil War at 6:30 p.m. at the Cashiers Library. He will be displaying a portion of his collection. This event will be held courtesy of the

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Fri. April 13

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-5 mile easy-to-moderate hike to Rough Run and High falls on a mostly level trail with many wildflowers and some scrambling over rocks near High Falls. Meet at the Cashiers ball park parking lot near the post office at 10 a.m. Drive 17 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Saturday, April 14

• Relay for Life "Kickoff Event" at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department at 5pm. Admission is free. There will be hot food, hot entertainment, hot door prizes and hot information about Highlands Relay For Life 2012. The 2012 theme is: "TURNING UP THE HEAT ON CANCER!"

Sun. April 15

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy-to-moderate hike with an elevation change of 400 ft. on Jack Rabbit Mtn. loop trail at Lake Chatuge. 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. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, April 17

• Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. History of Western Philosophy: Thomas Hobbes (DVD, The Teaching Company). Focus will be on the effect of fear as a motivator.

Coordinator: E. J Tarbox. For more info, contact John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

• The Macon County Democratic Women will meet in the board room at the Franklin Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

• The Macon County Poultry Club meeting is at 7 p.m. at the NC-CO-OP Extension office in Franklin on Thomas Heights Road next to the Dodge dealership. For more information call 828-524-1667 OR 828-200-3336. It meets the third Tuesday of each month.

Wednesday, April 18

• Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Midnight in Paris.

Thursday, April 19

• Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 5:30 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-5 mile easy-to-moderate hike to Rough Run and High falls on a mostly level trail with many wildflowers and some scrambling over rocks near High Falls. Meet at the Cashiers ball park parking lot near the post office at 10 a.m. Drive 17 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Friday, April 20

• The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust eco-tour of the Kelsey Trail 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with botanist Dr. Gary Wein and herpetologist Kyle Pur-



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Spring Home Improvement

Easy and Inexpensive Home Decorating Tips

(StatePoint) Every living space needs a change from time to time -- but re-decorating your home from scratch can cost you a lot of time and money. Luckily, there are headache-free, cost-effective ways to completely revamp your rooms.

Make interior design a cinch with these simple tips:

Rearrange

If you're feeling cramped, but you're not in the market for new furniture, you can rearrange what you currently have to create more space or give the room a whole new feel. Moving larger furniture against the walls will open up the central floor space. Be sure to give ample space between furniture for foot traffic, especially if you have pets or children.

Do an honest appraisal of your knick knacks and adornments. Less can be



Rotating favorite photographs and children's artwork is an easy way to transform a room.

more when it comes to these items. Consider getting rid of some of the clutter for a sleeker look that will require a lot less dusting.

A well-placed mirror is a quick way to make the room feel twice as big.

Change Your Mind

If you hate commitment, consider periodically rotating your artwork between several favorite pieces. You can transform the entire feel of the room sim-

ply by changing what is on your walls. Consider doing so on a seasonal thematic basis, whenever your kids come home with a new creation, or simply when the mood strikes.

Make this process easy on yourself, and opt for a frame that comes ready to hang. For example, Lakeside Easy Change Artwork Frames, has sawtooth hangers on the back, and include a compartment to store about 50 pictures behind the

one on display. More information can be found at www.lakeside.com.

Go Bold

Give your space a splash of color and pizzazz by painting an accent wall or the molding with a funky or decadent color. It will be easy to opt for a bolder color if you are not painting every inch of your room.

The walls are not the only surface that deserves a color treatment. You can add color to the floor with a beautiful area rug. And don't forget how far a few throw pillows can go to add texture and color to a drab couch.

Liven It Up

A couple of house plants will lend any drab room a sense of vitality. Choose a sunlit corner for your plants. Low maintenance plants that can thrive even under the care of the most irresponsible plant owners include African Violets, Jade and spider plants.

You don't need to break the bank, or your back for that matter, when giving your home's interiors a facelift. Quick easy changes can make a big impact.

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Spring Home Improvement

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Waterfalls are magical but they are not magic – professionals and homeowners can create them, it just depends on how elaborate you want to go.

Beside the visual and calming effects of moving water, moving water also prevents mosquito larvae while attracting every creature you want in your garden from hummingbirds and flutterbys to shy starlight eyes all the while offering soothing, mesmerizing fun.

Waterfalls and water gardens can transform your outdoor living area into another world all its own.

You can build your own waterfall in a relatively short amount of time with a few components and no skills. Using natural elements adds to the beauty – rocks and boulders and the natural fall of your property are all pluses.

If you plan to go big, building a small waterfall first will be a valuable lesson in the dynamics of all



This waterfall and water garden feature is a creation by Singley Lay Design of Highlands.

water features.

A re-circulating pump and water containment are the common denominators to any man-made waterfall or water garden. All that really changes between a large feature and a small feature are the sizes and the capacity to hold and move water.

Everything you need to build a great, little, water garden is listed below. You can use the little water garden outdoors in the summer and bring it inside in the winter where it can become a pretty home humidifier. For instance, Big Cat falls evaporates 32 ounces of water every three days.

Purchase:

1. Copper, brass, cast

iron or any nice piece of weather proof container that holds 2 to 3 gallons,

2. Little Giant PES40PW pump (available at Reeve's Ace Hardware or online at LittleGiant.com),

3. 3/8" clear tubing - a foot will be plenty (available at Reeve's Ace Hardware),

4. Spray paint to match container,

Cover the inlets of the pump with masking or painters' tape then spray paint the pump, cord, tubing and stand with a "natural looking" color of your choice (gray, brown, green, etc.) and let dry for 24 hours.

To add interest, put the pump under a pot or a can - making a hole for the tubing – and top it with pebbles, fossils, rocks or driftwood to act as a water spreader or baffle. You can fiddle with it until the moving water makes an interesting tune you can live with.

For a simple burbler, suction the pump feed to the bottom of the container, cut the tube just to water depth and plug it in. (Always use a grounded 3-prong outdoor rated extension cord.)

Small water gardens can accent outdoor spaces like patios and decks and just like waterfalls, they can become a focal point on your property offering a soothing oasis for your senses.

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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

sel. New HCLT friends can join for \$35 which includes the lunch and membership. For HCLT members, it's \$5. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (828) 526-1111 or emailing Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Sat., April 21

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center and The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance are teaming up for the Spring Gorge Cleanup on Saturday at 8 am. Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated. Breakfast

will be served from 8-8:30am, then the clean-up will begin. After the Clean-Up is complete lunch will be served. Volunteers will be given a T-shirt for participation. For more info, contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at 526-2112.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 5.5-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike in Panthertown to School House, Granny Burrell, and Wilderness falls and over Little Green Mtn. for great views of the valley below. Meet at the Cashiers ballpark parking lot near the Cashiers Post Office at 10 am. Bring water and

lunch. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 9-mile strenuous hike with an elevation change of 2200 ft. on Wesser Creek Trail to the Appalachian Trail, descending to the Nantahala River, passing the Rufus Morgan shelter. Meet in Franklin at Bi-Lo parking area at 8 a.m. Drive 60 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, April 24

• Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. Season Wrap-up and Social Gathering. For more info, contact John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

Thursday, April 26

• Cyprus Restaurant is participating in the "Dining Out for Life®" (DOFL) AIDS fundraiser and will donate 20% of its daily sales to the cause.

Saturday, April 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike in Panthertown beginning at Salt Rock entrance, ascending Black Rock Mtn., then on to the Sassafras Gap loop trail where many pink shell rhododendrons are likely to be in bloom. Three gradual climbs of 300 ft. bring the total for elevation change to 1500-1800 ft. Bring water and lunch. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

Sun. April 29

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy

2-mile hike on the nature trail at the Highlands Biological Center. Meet at Bi-Lo parking area in Franklin at 2 p.m. Hikers from Highlands or Cashiers areas meet at the Biological Center at 2:40 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Wednesday, May 2

• Children/Family Movie at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. The Last Unicorn.

Friday, May 4

• Highlands/Cashiers Community business leaders can access the knowledge and experience of renowned leaders by attending Chick-fil-A Leadercast at Community Bible Church in Highlands.

Saturday, May 5

• 20th Annual Tour de Cashiers, *Ride for Health*- presented by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Foundation, a road bicycle tour consisting of 3 exciting routes ranging from 25 to 100 miles. Proceeds are given to local community non-profits in addition to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. All rides for the Tour de Cashiers start at the Village Green on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. To register, volunteer, become a sponsor, or for additional race details please visit www.tourdecashiers.com or call (828) 526-1313.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 5-mile moderate hike with a 900 ft. elevation change up Big Scaly Mtn. and down the north side to a hidden grotto of boulders. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations.

HCLT begins season Eco-Tours on the Kelsey Trail



Spring is here and that means more moderate temperatures, wildflowers in bloom and time for Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to start their popular Eco Tours. This year HCLT will host seven tours, all open to the public. The 2012 season is kicking off and you are invited to join them on Friday, April 20th for a walk on the historic Kelsey Trail.

Hikers will walk the existing historic trail and explore several other new trails recently constructed on Land Trust properties. You will be in good hands and should see some spring wildflowers on this trip led by Botanist Dr. Gary Wein and Herpetologist Kyle Pursel. This moderate hike begins at 10 am and should be done by 1:30 pm. New friends may join for \$35 which includes this outing, lunch and a HCLT membership! HCLT members are invited to attend for a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of lunch. Res-

ervations are required and can be made by calling (828) 526-1111 or emailing Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Be sure to mark your calendar for these other fun Eco Tours: May 19 Birding with the Audubon, July 20 Ridges of Cedar Knob, August 11 Cherokee Trails, Sept 20 Timber Ridge, September 26 Elk Excursion and October 13 Rock Mountain. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust also co-hosts the Village Nature Series which is a free educational lecture series beginning on May 22nd at the Crossroads in Cashiers. VNS programs are held every 4th Tuesday from May through September. Come learn about everything from hummingbirds to black bears to Appalachian music. No reservations are required for the VNS. The mission of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is to protect valuable land resources for all generations. To learn more visit www.hicashlt.org.

Two exhibits are for the birds! One at The Bascom ...one at the Hambridge Center

The current exhibition at The Bascom, "Chicks: It's All Gone to the Birds," is truly excellent. The staff is to be commended for both the selection of artwork and the way it is presented. Worthy of any audience in any museum in the world!

Not only is the exhibit note worthy, but also the fact that it is hosted by The Audubon Society of the Highlands Plateau, with special events involving the Highlands Biological Station as well. It is good for all concerned to have these collaborative events.

Right down the mountain in Dillard, GA, The Hambridge Center is featuring an exhibition titled "North, South, East ... NEST" that is a wonderful complement to The Bascom show. It is a

small jewel of an exhibition featuring several familiar names in the Highlands and North Georgia area.

Using the Advent of Spring and the welcoming songs of the birds as inspiration, these artists have mounted a beautiful exhibit. The wildflower trail on the 600-acre Hambridge campus are bursting forth, and well worth the drive which is less than 20 miles from Highlands. The Center is located at 105 Hambridge Court, Rabun Gap, GA, off Betty's Creek Road. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both these exhibitions remind me once again how lucky we are to live in an area that so nurtures the arts.

— Rosemary Stiefel

... JUST HERS continued from page 10

more. What was I getting a can of paint for when I didn't even know when and if I could ever use it? I panicked, and asked for time to reflect on my choice. "Come on," I thought. "This isn't rocket science!" I looked around, and asked to see a color palette. There were so many lovely shades and hues! Surely I could decide on one of them! I hesitated between a sage green and a Williamsburg blue. "The blue," I said, pointing to my

choice. "It's called 'Bella Luna'," said the lady. "Bella luna," I thought. "Beautiful moon." Many Amish paint their front doors blue, not, as some might think, because they have a daughter of marriageable age, but because a blue door or gate is supposed to be a talisman against evil. Some folk traditions hold that a witch cannot cross a blue threshold.

So, here I am, with my unlucky lottery ticket, and my lucky can of blue

... LETTERS continued from page 9

in patriotic events. Let me note, they are not alone. Many support the Sheriff's efforts, and many other groups hold and support patriotic events. Freedom Works does not hold a corner on this market.

It is also very noble to educate your membership, but many find your resource speakers and "trainers" views to contain twisted, missed or mixed factual data and therefore are considered biased and irrelevant.

As to the remark that a person who resorts to subterfuge should be "outed" - we are in agreement.

I do not represent a group, only me. My opinion is that Mr. Swanson should tone down his diatribes, and should only address what he sees as the stated issues, not the person making the statements. Gee, even John Hood recently said as much.

Sure, disagree, and make your points. Leave the personally disagreeable behind.

Tackily (as said in my first state-

ment), but fervently sincere ...

Esbie Tarr
Franklin

'To God's Ears'

Dear Editor,

I hope everyone read and heeded the incredible letter written by Shirley Ches, "What's Really Behind the War on Women," as printed in Highlands Newspaper on March 29. It was an intelligent explanation and discussion of the diatribe against women as currently being waged by American politicians, in state and national legislatures, and even by presidential candidates. I suggest that each reader copy her letter and send it on to everyone they know: men and women, the religious and the not, and especially the politicians.

Now, if only "from Ms Ches' pen to God's ear, and the voters' intelligence".

Julia Gary
Franklin

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

telling the world the boy looked like it could be one of his own. (Maybe he was?) Did I mention there were e-mail death threats to the Hispanic man?

Anyway, the black community became even more outraged once the king had spoken. A black militant organization issued a fatwa (decree) against the Hispanic man, offering a million dollar reward for his location. The Hispanic man had to quit his job and considered leaving the kingdom. And did you know the unarmed handsome black youth was caught earlier with women's jewelry and a burglary tool in his backpack? Hmmm!

When King Yomamma heard of this fatwa, he chose not to respond on TV again to denounce the fatwa but be-

cause the king spoke earlier of this tragedy, the incident received worldwide attention. There was no place on this planet the Hispanic man and his wife could hide. They were condemned to death on planet Earth. Even congressmen from the kingdom spoke openly from the senate floor calling for the Hispanic man's head.

In closing, please explain to your children this is a silly fairytale and could never really happen in America, the land of the free. Are they feeling better now?

• *What happens to Greg and Maggie in Fred's thriller, **Deceived**, becomes a nightmare for them Read it now on your Kindle or Nook.*

paint. I hope that one day, I may have a home of my own again, and maybe even paint the front door blue. In fact - and I'm not a gambler by nature - I'm even willing to bet on it.

• 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. Orion gave his Mama a big scare this week, but is on the mend. Who would have thought that cats can be allergic to pollen? My grateful thanks go to the nice people at the Animal Wellness Hospital of Highlands - those two lovely ladies and Dr. Brad.

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• THANK YOU •

Remembering Dominick

We're not sure how to even begin to thank everyone during this extremely difficult time of losing our father...but from the absolute bottom of our hearts, thank you. This has been an incredibly trying time but the love, support, and prayers from family and friends have been inspiring. Thank you to everyone for bringing food, for helping clean our father's home, for the hugs and kisses, for crying with us, for just spending time with us, and for helping us celebrate his life.

We can all agree that Dominick Sanchez was an incredible father, son, brother, and person, who truly changed the lives of others on a daily basis. From his unforgettable cooking to his signature guitar playing, he blessed all of us so very much.

Papi, we thank you for always believing in us and forever bragging about us. We thank you for teaching us to help anyone and everyone we can, all the time. We thank you for being the best father a child could ask for and teaching us what unconditional love is. There is not a day that goes by that we won't think of you. We are heartbroken that you're gone but glad to know you're finally at rest with your beautiful bride. We love you very much. We miss you but we look forward to seeing you again.

Love,
The Sanchez Family

John 3:16

PLACES TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers

Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's
Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship

Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS

Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968 • Reverend Bruce Walker

Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal
beginning at 9:00am. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service held at 10:30am
in the Main Nave of the Church.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

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)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Evening Worship
6:30

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor

828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening
Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 10:50 a.; Youth Group 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –

Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

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2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

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

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Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri: 9 a.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6
p.m.

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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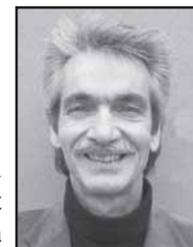
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The tragedy of Easter



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

The tragedy of Easter isn't the Cross. To the contrary....the Cross was a great triumph. In fact, there never was any other plan. The Bible says that Jesus Christ was slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8) To put it another way....before God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit made the world, they made a plan. Evil men didn't put Jesus on the Cross. No. Evil men couldn't keep Him off. It would have been a tragedy had Jesus not gone to the Cross.

So then, now that we're just a few days past Easter....what is the tragedy? I call it a "Half-Easter." This says: "Jesus Christ died on the Cross for the sins of the world. And three days later He was resurrected, thus by Resurrection vindicating His claim to be the Son of God." All true enough and certainly no tragedy so far. However, the tragedy is that while most Christians understand the imperative of the Cross, whereby Jesus gave His life for them....many do not understand the equal imperative of the Resurrection whereby He gives His life to them. If I don't understand that, I'll simply go on trying to live the Christian life from my own power, resources, will power and religion. That's a tragedy....that's a "Half-Easter!"

The Bible tells us "...since we were reconciled to Him through His death, how much more shall we be saved through His life." (Romans 5:10) Jesus doesn't save so that we can give the Christian life our best effort. That philosophy borders on humanism. No. He saves us (the Cross) so that He can continue living His life through us (the Resurrection). Our responsibility is to pray, study the Word, and cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Jesus never intended for you to save yourself (nor can you). Likewise, He never intended for you to live the Christian life (nor can you). He gives it. He lives it.

In his little book, "The Indwelling Life of Christ", Major Ian Thomas writes: "The Lord Jesus came from Heaven to earth not just to get us out of hell and into Heaven...but to get Himself out of Heaven and into us. Grasp this well, for otherwise your Christianity will remain boring, sterile and impersonal. Christ Himself is the very life-content of the Christian faith." Well said.

I encourage you friend....go on into all that Jesus Christ has for you. Go on past the tragedy of Easter. Go on to the daily triumph of the Resurrection.

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Dentistry In 3-D

By Dr. Wilbanks

3-D is expected in a movie theater, but 3-D in a dental office? This cutting edge technology is called 3-D Cone Beam Tomography (CBCT). It is a special type of x-ray machine we use in situations where regular dental x-rays will not give us sufficient information.

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... **DETOUR** continued from page 1

School) and turn right onto Kelly Creek Road at the post office.

This is a 3-mile detour which will let you out on SR 246 above the bridge so you can travel on to Highlands.

If you don't turn right on Kelly Creek Road off 441, you will get to 441 and SR 246 at the gas station and the Holiday Day Inn Express and you will be greeted with

the "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" sign. This segment of the road will be closed through the third week in June.

From the Highlands side, you are warned with a blinking digital sign to "Use Kelly Creek Road" to get to Dillard and beyond. Kelly Creek is just after the RV park on the left clearly marked with signs that say "Begin Detour."



Clayton Merchants & Business Assoc. Events

www.downtownclaytonga.org

SAT. APRIL 28 – SUN. APRIL 29

Celebrate Clayton

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.CELEBRATECLAYTON.ORG

SAT. APRIL 28, 8AM

Celebrate Clayton 5K Run

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WWW.PEARLSJWC.ORG

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May-October

6PM – 8 PM

Downtown Clayton

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SAT. MAY 5

Annual Awakening of the Vines

Tiger Mountain Vineyard

WWW.TIGERWINE.COM

SAT. MAY 12 & SUN. MAY 13,

11:30AM – 4PM

Red Barn Cafe Opening

Tiger Mountain Vineyard

WWW.TIGERWINE.COM

SAT. MAY 19 – SUN, MAY 20

Warrior Dash

Blue Ridge Camp

Mountain City, GA

WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM

FRI. JUN 22 – SUN. JUN 24

Chattooga River Festival

WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM

SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM

4th Annual Clayton Crawl

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG

SAT. OCT 6, 10AM -5PM

Foxfire Mountaineer Festival

WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG

SAT. OCT 27, 10AM – 1PM

Halloween Hay Day

SAT. OCT 27, 1PM

Halloween Trick or Treat

Main Street, Clayton

SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM

Festival of Trees Preview Party

Rabun County Civic Center

WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

THURS. NOV 22, 8AM

Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot

FRI. NOV 23, 5PM – 8PM

Christmas in Clayton

FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM &

SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and

Festival of Trees

Rabun County Civic Center

WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

SAT. DEC 1, 5PM

Christmas Parade

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM

shoulders of the county.

Since the 2009-'10 fiscal year, the state has demanded school systems send money back to the state calling it Discretionary Reductions.

For Macon County Schools, in 2009-'10 it was \$673,694, in 2010-'11 it was 905,028, in 2011-'12 it was \$1,264,969 and for 2012-'13 it's \$1,488,519. That's a total of \$3.5 million.

To stop the hemorrhaging, Gov. Bev Perdue is asking the General Assembly to restore the ¾ cent sales tax for education which was instituted in 2009 as a temporary measure to make up for the loss of federal funding. The legislature voted against extending the tax when it expired last year.

The ¾ cent sales tax would eliminate discretionary reductions in school systems and it would restore salary step increases for teachers, which was eliminated four years ago.

But given the conservative bent of the legislature, no one expects the ¾ cent sales tax to pass.

That means the county will have to pick up the slack if school services are to continue as they are now.

In 2010-'11, there were 15 locally paid teachers (locally = the county), in 2011-'12 that jumped to 50 and for 2012-'13 65+ teachers will have to be paid by the county.

In addition, because state funding has dwindled over the years, Macon County Schools hasn't had the funds to keep up with its 5-year replenishment technology plan. Now the system is at a 9-year replenishment plan with no way to even make that happen.

To make matters worse, the state has mandated that all End-of-Course tests (EOC) and all End-of-Grade (EOG) tests be taken on-line during the 2014-'15 school year. That means each student must have access to some sort of computer device to complete the tests. This gives the school system, with county funding, two budget years to come up with the money.

"So basically, you have old computers and not enough of them right now," said Chairman Kevin Corbin.

Macon County Commissioner Candidate Vic Drummond spoke during the public comment period Tuesday night and suggested the county use more of its fund balance, while decreasing property taxes over the next few years until the fund balance is at the 25% level mandated by previous commissions. He suggested it was way above that, but Commissioner Ronnie Beale corrected him saying it was at about 33% right now.

Corbin said he agreed that the county should consider using more of its fund bal-

ance but noted the needs of the school system and suggested that over the next two years, the county use the fund balance to upgrade the technology needs so the school system can comply with the state department of education's testing mandate.

They asked Director of Technology Tim Burrell to return next month with specific figures so the county will know how to budget for the impact.

Citizens representing MovetoAmend.org spoke during the public comment period, as well.

There is a grass-roots groundswell afoot trying to get a new constitutional amendment that would reverse the US Supreme Court's decision on the Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission case. That's when the court defined corporations as "people" and money as a form of speech that can't be regulated for the purpose of limiting corporate political campaign contributions.

MovetoAmend proponents are bipartisan and have been asking municipalities like Highlands on April 3, and the county, Tuesday night, to sign a resolution in favor of the constitutional amendment.

Avram Friedman, who represents the Canary Coalition, a grassroots organization with more than 2,300 member businesses, individuals and professionals in the region, said money isn't a form of speech, it's a form of power and it has corrupted the country's political process.

"Ordinary citizens can no longer compete with the corrupting influence and our country is no longer of the people, by the people and for the people," he said.

The Franklin Town Board voted unanimously to sign the resolution and two states, New Mexico and Hawaii, have already petitioned Congress. A similar petition has been introduced in Wisconsin.

"We are in the process of gathering legislative support in the NC General Assembly to petition the United States Congress to pass this new amendment and send it back to all 50 states for ratification. Let's make North Carolina the first state in the southeast to step forward on this important issue," he said.

Both the Macon County Commission and the Highlands Town Board agreed to put the resolution on their agendas.

Smoking and the use of all tobacco products are no longer allowed within the county's parks system. There has been a policy in the past prohibiting the same – specifically, at Zachary Field in Highlands – but an ordinance has never been on the books. Tuesday night commissioners voted unanimously in support of the ordinance which goes into effect in 90 days – July 9.

– **Kim Lewicki**

And the winners are ...



Each year, Highlands School Cafeteria Manager June Zachary, conducts a jelly bean contest where students are invited to guess the number of jelly beans in a glass container. Winners get prizes. Pictured from left are: Emily Mathis, Jessica Campbell, Mykeal Espinal, Manager June Zachary, Brittany Damian, and Andrew Renfro. These students won prizes for guessing the closest correct number of jellybeans in the jar.

Photo by Carol Bowen

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• POLICE & FIRE •

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

April 3

- At 3 p.m., officers received a call about shoplifting at Wit's End on Main Street where clothes and furs valued at \$1,400 were missing.

- At 10:48 p.m. officers did a welfare check on a resident on Hickory Hill Road. All was OK.

April 6

- At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Memorial Drive.

- At 12:05 p.m., officers were called to SweeTreats Deli concerning an altercation.

- At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about a vehicle blocking the road at Spring and Church St. ext.

- At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at S. 4th and Spring streets.

- At 6:30 p.m., officers received a call about a reckless driver of a Chevy Trailblazer approaching Highlands on the Gorge Road.

- During the week, police officers

responded to 9 alarms and issued 11 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April 5.

April 5

- At 7:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a man who had fallen out of a truck bed near Bust Your Butt Falls. Turns out he was working on the truck.

- At 3:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ-Top. It was set off by workers.

April 6

- At 11:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holt Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 8

- At 8:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to S. 3rd Street where a 71-year-old woman had fallen. She was taken to the hospital.

April 9

- At 3:46 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Crescent Drive. It was set off by workers.

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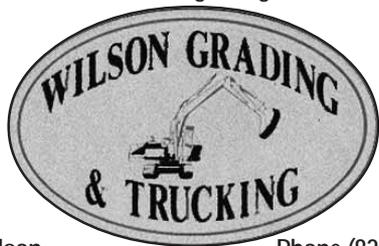
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2012 Town of Highlands Boards and Committee Vacancies

The Town of Highlands has current and upcoming vacancies for the following Town Boards and Committees:

1. Zoning Board ~ 1 Alternate position
2. Planning Board ~ 3 openings
3. Appearance Commission ~ 2 openings
4. Scholarship Committee ~ 2 openings

Board and Committee applications can be accessed at www.highlandscnc.org or at Town Hall. For more information, feel free to contact the Town of Highlands at 828.526.2118. (4/26)

• MILESTONES •

Founder of Atlanta Boy Choir, Fletcher Wolfe turns 80!



Eckerd Foundation family members join Maestro and Mrs. Wolfe in celebration of his 80th. From left: Ben Hill, Allison Eckerd Hill, Attorney Lyle Nichols and wife Nancy Eckerd Nichols, Bobbe Wolfe, Fletcher Wolfe.



Atlanta developer Charlie Brown is joined by wife Brenda, left and attorney Lesli Seta right in congratulating Maestro Wolfe center.

Right: Attorney Burt Tillman and Dr. Bruce Ashendorf, Alumni choir members along with their mentor and choir director.

Over 100 guests arrived at the Atlanta Boy Choir's Druid Hills home on Tuesday evening March 20th to pay tribute to the choir's longtime founding director Fletcher Wolfe.

International celebrity violinist Benjamin Beilman along with Atlanta Symphony assistant concert master Yun-Ching Lin joined forces with Prize winning pianist Robert Henry in thrilling the party goers with exciting renditions in the choir's magnificent Concert Hall.

Attorney Russell Waldon, Board of Trustees Vice Chairman welcomed the impressive guests in honoring Maestro Wolfe and announced a gift of \$25,000 from the Eckerd Foundation creating a scholarship in his name.

Nancy Nichols, daughter of Jack Eckerd, founder of the drug store empire attended this event along with her attorney husband Lyle and her daughter and son in law Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hill.

Charlie Brown, renowned developer and builder of many Atlanta landmarks including Atlantic Station and Lenox Park attended with his musician wife Brenda.

The Browns, longtime friends of Maestro and Mrs. Wolfe contributed a fine pipe organ to the Concert Hall along with many of the buildings other outstanding

features.

A magnificent dinner was provided by the Alumni Mother's Association, Donna Angel President. Mrs. Angel is founding director of The Capitol City Opera Co.

Included in the variety of Atlanta celebrities who turned out for this auspicious occasion were five priests. These were Father T. J. Meehan, Monsignor of Sacred Heart Basilica, Father Austin Ford, founder of The Emmaus House, Father Brian Sullivan of St. Benedicts and Dr. Dwight Andrews, Pastor of Atlanta's First Congregational Church.

Maestro Wolfe jokingly remarked that with all these priests in attendance perhaps they were expecting him to pass on quickly. He also introduced the choir's administrator Neil Cardwell, himself a Baptist Minister who has taken over this choir position on a full time basis.

The choir now in the fifty-fourth season has trained over 7,000 boys in its long history and many of these have achieved fame in their own fields.

At this evening's event two of the boys who were in the very first choir of 1958 were in attendance. These were Superior Court Judge Jack Partian and Geo-physicist Steve Persons.

There were many alumni on



hand and men all decked out in black tie and their lovely ladies in their beautiful evening dresses made this an event to remember.

Both Maestro Wolfe and his lovely wife Bobbe certainly don't look or act like octogenarians and everyone said they hoped to come again for their 90th celebration.

• BIZ NEWS •

HCCDC achieves 4-Star Rating

The Division of Child Development and Early Education for the state of North Carolina has granted the Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC) a four-star license. After the most recent intensive inspection by the state the Center has moved from a three star program to a four star program. The Center has met most of the four-star requirements since before moving to its current location in 2005 but the commitment to staff continuing education over the past several years made the center a candidate for the upgraded license. The four-star license requires a lower teacher/child ratio, use of individual child centered Creative Curriculum, and meeting strict environmental standards along with a higher level of staff education.

"I am very pleased and excited about this development" said Nancy Bruns, President of the Board of Directors for the Center. "Pat Hedden, the Director of HCCDC, and her staff work hard every day to provide the best quality child care and learning environment for the children. I congratulate them on this important achievement!"

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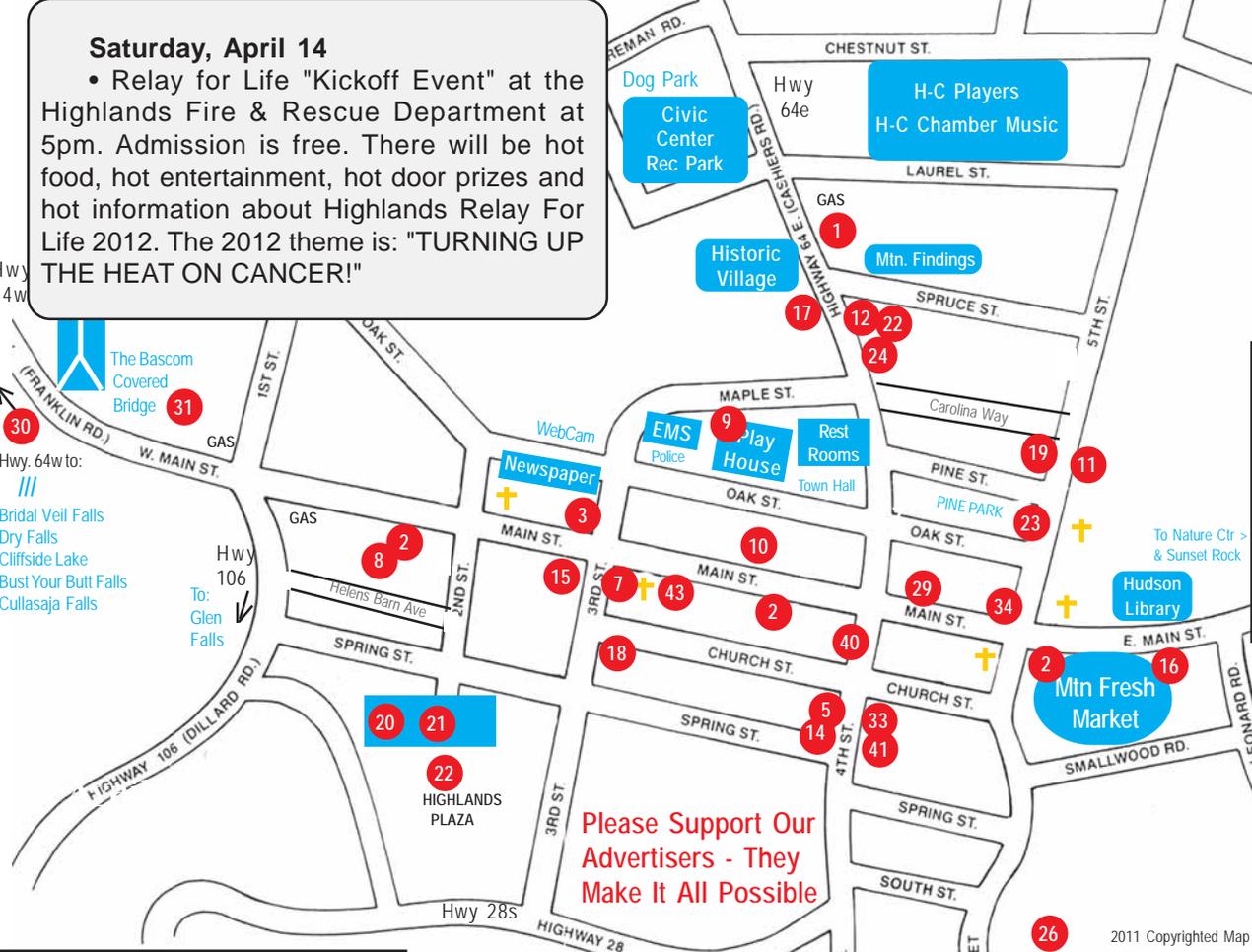
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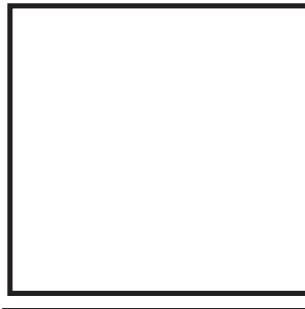
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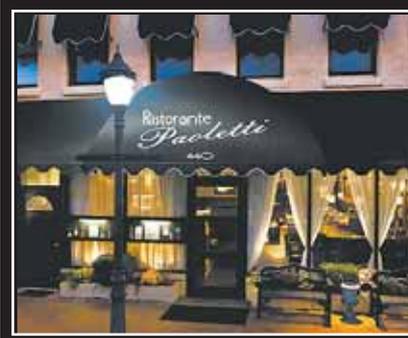
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