

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 24

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Thursday, June 14, 2012

Thurs., June 14-Sun., July 8

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 526-2695 for ticket information.

Thursday, June 14

• Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at WCCC. Call Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

• At the Nature Center, from 1-4p, a basket weaving workshop and a lecture with Doug Elliott. Register in advance; the \$35 registration fee includes all materials.

• At the Nature Center amphitheatre, Doug Elliot shares his Woodslore and Wildwoods Wisdom: Stories, Songs, and Lore Celebrating the Natural World at 7 p.m.

Friday, June 15

• Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street. Mountain Hoo Doo with Lisa & Steve McAdams.

• At Shakespeare & Co., poets Shannon Tharp and Whit Griffin will give readings at 7 p.m.; the event is free.

Saturday, June 16

• Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park from 10a to 2p. Call Ann Wilson for more info: 864-888-1111.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, with Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society invites all for roadside birding on Rich Gap Road in Highlands. Meet in Highlands Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms at 7:30 am. Binoculars available.

• Join entertaining author John Yow at The Bascom in Highlands as he talks about his latest book, *The Armchair Birder Goes Coastal* at 4 pm. It's free.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway monthly work trip. Register with Ran Shaffner at 828-526-5622. Meet at the large upper parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, June 19

• At Hudson Library, "Falcons, The Ancient Connection" with Peter Kipp at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. It's free.

Wednesday, June 20

• Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2p.m. Secretariat.

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Town budget spurs 'Room Tax' talk

The discussion of funds allocated for projects in the FY 2012-'13 budget was fodder during the Public Comment session of the June 7 Town Board meeting.

Town Manager Bob Frye went over the budget, noting that over-

all revenues and expenditures were increased to \$13,046,515 from last week's 13,019,315 as was the General Fund Balance appropriation to \$178,668 from 155,168 to balance across all funds. Instead of \$74,138, \$94,138

was used to balance the General Fund budget and the remaining \$84,530 was transferred to the Recreation Special Revenue Fund.

"We neglected to include \$3,600 for the Pine Street main-

• See ROOM TAX page 11

Meadows & Patterson face off at debate

On Saturday, June 9, The Macon County Chapter of FreedomWorks hosted a debate between the candidates in the July 17th run-off election for the 11th Congressional District, Mark Meadows and Vance Patterson.

At 8:30 a.m., about 60 people – many FreedomWorks members – crowded into the cafeteria meeting room at Angel Hospital where Senator Jim Davis was moderator during the 1 ½ hour long, 12-question forum.

All but three questions were prepared; toward the end of the program, three questions were taken from the audience.

The purpose of the debate was to differentiate between the two candidates, as the winner of the July 17 run-off will run against Democrat Hayden Rogers in November.

• See DEBATE page 19



This bear was photographed by Terry Hill who lives in Village Walk. The bear is standing on all fours, but she was actually holding her left leg up most of the time which means it's likely injured. The Hills had put their birdfeeder out 10 minutes before the bear showed up, but she took off when they came out on their screened in porch.

Bear visits are on the rise

This is the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears sans the chairs and beds and probably more than three bears but bears, who like Goldilocks' bears, have been entering homes and helping themselves to vittles of all kinds – not just porridge.

So far tales tell of bears who

have eaten cakes, ice cream, a variety of cheeses, Girl Scout cookies, brisket, and shrimp – some from the seats of cars, some off tables inside houses, some off kitchen counters and even from within refrigerators and freezers – all within the last few weeks.

• See BEARS page 9

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Creek/lake residents question town's plans

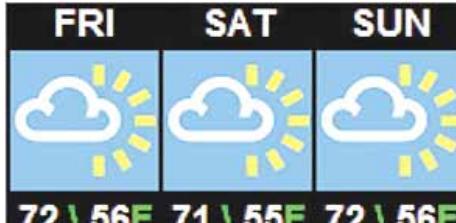
For years there have been talks, studies and cost estimates compiled on dredging Big Creek of silt – silt that continues to plague the town's water intake valve and the "health" of Big Creek.

Big Creek and Lake Sequoyah are Highlands' two Class I water sources so silt and the turbidity associated with it affects Highlands' water distribution system.

At the June 7 Town Board meeting, a Public Hearing was held concerning the "Environmental Assessment for Lake Sequoyah Raw Water Intake Improvements," basically the study McGill Associates conducted to justify moving the primary intake valve from Big Creek near the US 64 bridge to the Sequoyah Lake dam.

The Sequoyah dam intake

• See CREEK page 23



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

"Once unique" Town of Highlands is gone

Dear Editor,

Webster's "old" dictionary describes "unique" as: without another of the same kind; unparalleled. Highlands for years was truly "unique," but sadly it is now just another Gatlinburg, etc. All we need on one of the mountains is a theme park like Dollywood and it would be compete. Oh gosh, did I really say that? I certainly don't want to give anyone any ideas.

But thank you, Suzy Foley Jackson for your letter to the editor in the May 31 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Old Highlands is long gone." It mirrors my feelings as a "natural born," "local" Highlander.

Now, I would hate to be put in the same category as the president, giving an opinion before knowing all the facts, but here goes mine anyway and if you don't like it well as Rhett Butler says to Scarlet O'Hara in "Gone with the Wind," "Frankly, I just don't give a dam."

Suzy is totally correct in saying that Highlands has become the playground of the very wealthy. But it was also that way in the '40s, '50s and early '60s when I was growing up here. Those wealthy people who came here then loved the town as it was "unique" and did not try or want to change it. They were what we called "old money" and did not show off their money by building everything new or acting greedy by wanting more and more profit. "The love of money is the root of all evil."

The kids who grew up in "Buttermilk Level" had sheltered, but wonderful childhoods. In the '40s and '50s we were not inside the city limits, but we knew everyone in town and surrounding areas, because my mother, Myrtle Henderson Reese, had what was known as Reese Gardens. She sold flowers, fresh vegetables, milk, eggs and butter to the public. Can't do that these days! But, thank goodness we can have the farmers' markets. The wealthy came to our house every week during the summer

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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Circulation 10,000

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-3228

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor– Tom Merchant

Cartoonist – Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C. , 28741

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and if they did not come, they sent their servants who were the nicest people you would ever want to meet. I was in awe of the neatly pressed white uniforms, gloves and hats for the men, black dresses, while hats and aprons for the women.

Suzy also listed the places that she frequented, as we all did that are gone now. Bill's Soda Shop, Helen's Barn, the Putt Putt, the Galax Theater, Crane's Stables, People's Department Store, Anderson's 5 & 10, and Doc Mitchell's, as we called his drug store. (My sister, Faye worked for Bill Holt at Bill's Soda Shop and my brothers, Ray and Furman worked for Mr. Summers at The Galax.) These were all part of the "uniqueness" of the town. What is being built now is certainly not "unique."

I remember being so afraid of the house and the property where the new post office is now. There used to be one gate into it and it was dark and scary to us kids. We went just about everywhere else, but I did not like going through there. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Woodruff and her family for all they have done for the town of Highlands. I feel everything they have contributed has benefited the town and the people who live there.

There is not much a family with several kids can do now. Highlands needs to be more accessible to all ages and types, not just the very wealthy. Their money is just as good as the wealthy even though they may not have as much of it.

Look at Cashiers and the great job they did with the park they established. There is the perfect place where Highlands could have a wonderful park or even camping area for families that could be built right in town. That is the property where the Old Creek Lodge was located on Hwy 106. The old build-

• See LETTERS page 20

• CORRECTION •

In the June 7 edition of Highlands Newspaper the headline on the front page headline "Highlands budget hearing set for July 21" should have read June 21. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

• OBITUARY

Danise Lee Barry

Danise Lee Barry, 49, of Highlands, died Saturday, June 9, at her residence in Highlands, NC. She was born in Lexington, KY, the daughter of Dan and Joann Sturgeon Chapman. She was a devoted mother to two daughters and committed to a life time of service to many different community organizations. She was a member of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church.

Surviving in addition to her parents is her husband of 30 years, Michael J. Barry, two daughters Tiffany L. Ahlers and husband Travis of Sahuarita, AZ and Lauren H. Sapp and husband Owen of Ft. Lewis, WA. Sister Laura Ann Rosenthal and husband Mark with their daughter Eve of Highlands, NC., two grand-

mothers Thelma Sturgeon of Walton, KY and Marie Blizzard of Diamond Bar California, and several loving aunts, uncles and cousins.



help those around her. She was a friend to those in need, always willing to listen and inspired those around

Danise was a student nurse at Clayton General in the Emergency Room and at West Paces Ferry Hospital in the nursery department. She was an active member of organizations helping the military, animals and the American Cancer Society. Danise enjoyed exercising outdoors and participated in a triathlon after age 40. She will be remembered for her love for her family, passion and enthusiasm for life, desire to

with her positive attitude and faith in God. As a testament to her wonderful desire to help others, during her illness she continued to give her love and time to volunteering.

Funeral Mass was Tuesday June 12, 2012 at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church with Father Dean Cesa officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

Donations in honor of Danise's lifetime of service can be made to Friends for Life/Forever Farm, a lifelong sanctuary for senior and special needs animals. P.O. Box 340, Sapphire, NC 28774 <http://www.friendsforlifeforeverfarm.org>.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Highlands will always flourish: God Bless this beautiful place!

When my police captain, Duke Sistrunk, tossed his Horse Cove cabin keys from his desk to mine, I didn't realize what an impact that would have on my family's life. "It's in Highlands....way up in the mountains," he said with a big smile. "Even though it's a long way from Miami Beach, take your family there this summer. It's my treat."

It was, of course, an offer and not an

order. The year was 1968 and who knew where Highlands was? I didn't care. It was a free vacation and I was broke, splitting most of my paycheck between my home mortgage and the Catholic Church where my kids attended school. But all I had to buy was gas and food. I loaded my very pregnant li'l missus and my two small children into our '61 Chevy, filled the tank with 33-cent a gallon gas and off we went to a place called Highlands.

We were doing fine until we turned



**with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com**

onto Highway 246 at Dillard. There, we were notified of a bridge closure that would detour us to a side road to the right. Georgia was replacing the wooden bridge over the Little Tennessee River with a concrete one. I have long forgotten the route we were forced to take but it was nothing like the detour we took last May. We

eventually made it to Highlands and, like so many others before and after us, fell in love with these mountains and have been coming ever since. Now, 44 years later,

the DOT just finished replacing the bridge again and it brought back awesome wonderful memories of my early life in Highlands. We feel so blessed.

Consider this. In spite of the US Forest Service efforts to, once again, deprive visitors of the use of Dry Falls for yet another season, Highlands will continue to flourish without this major attraction. And in spite of the DOT temporarily closing the main northern route to Highlands for over one month while replacing the bridge and then making US 64 from Walnut Creek to NC 106 one-lane while paving is done, Highlands will continue to flourish. In spite of high gas

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 16

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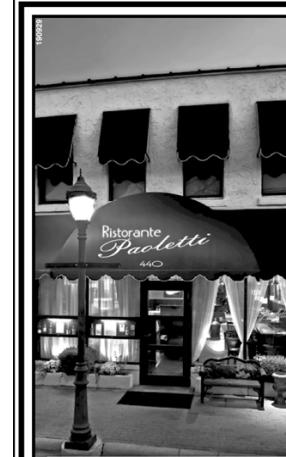
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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Let me decide what's best for me

Things can sure change in a week. At the end of May, my greatest concern was Bull's algebra grade. That was before the biopsy report came back.

My PSA, prostatic specific antigen had been creeping up for the last year or two. Ironically, my most recent test was drawn before the United States Preventative Services Task Force announced its decision that PSA should be abandoned as a routine screening test for healthy men. The USPSTF concluded that the test led to more problems than it solved.

The PSA is prostate specific, but not prostate cancer specific, often leads to prostate biopsy, which may cause infection or other complications. In my case, it was painless and led



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:

hosalzarulo@aol.com

only to a few days of blood in my urine, an event I'd been warned of, in advance. The argument is that screening prevents only one death for every 1000 men tested, and that aggressive treatment cause two or three deaths per 1000 patients. There are complications from treatment, but before 1990, when the test became widely used, 21% of men with the disease had bony metastases when diagnosed, which meant the disease was incurable. Today that number is four percent. It's also true that many men have slowing growing cancers which will not kill them before heart disease, stroke, or some other, more aggressive cancer does them in.

There are other truths. There were no urologists or cancer treatment specialists on the panel. The task force chair, Dr. Virginia Moyer, is chairman of pediatrics at Baylor School of Medicine. I'm not suggesting that a woman can't interpret the science of health problems in aging men just as well as an aging man, but we need only remember the uproar when aging men were making decisions that affected women's health care to call out, "what's good for the goose is good for the gander."

I can't help believing that there is an economic component to the decision. Biopsies cost money. Surgery is expensive. Radiation, either traditional radiation, or the recently introduced proton beam radiation cost money. Given the age of the victims, a cash strapped Medicare is often the payer. It is not unreasonable to prioritize health care spending, or ration it, which is a more inflammatory way of saying the same thing. Just tell me Medicare can't afford to treat my cancer, and I'll pay for it myself. Or I'll gamble that my cancer won't kill me before an outraged reader gets me. If I didn't know,

• See SALZARULO page 16



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• BACK DAYS •

The story of the family of Ethel Mae Potts Paul ... descendants of WT and Mattie Potts

By Guy Warren Paul

Though the old "White House" was where Guy Warren Paul first saw the light of day, his memories are of the newer house, of Highlands' muddy or dusty Main Street, of the lane parallel to that Main Street and of just about the total population of that day. His recollections, along with memories gleaned from his brothers and sisters, make up this account.

Just a bit of a girl and hardly a woman yet, Ethel toiled hard and long days to fulfill what she understood to be her duties to God, community, husband and children. You could add to those her duties to father, mother, brothers, church and school – just about in that order.

Memories of her while we lived in the White House include her washing clothes for a family of nine in the not-so-good, old-fashioned way. The black washpot, the galvanized washtubs, and several of us children would be down at the spring. The spring itself was nestled underneath a rhododendron thicket next to what is now Spring Street. It was across the lane and below the White House garden. Garments were boiled in the pot, scrubbed white on a washboard and blued before rinsing. Great buckets of water were used and Ethel must have done most of the work with some help from little Frances and Frank, then in their early teens. Water from this spring was also carried to the house for cooking, bathing, washing and cleaning.

The spring was ever faithful, and we children can remember that neighbors came from all around to fill their buckets during the drought of 1924. Guy can remember going that summer to the corner of what is now 4th and Oak streets to watch Fayette Speed and other men dig a well.



Guy and Ethel Mae Potts Paul

– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

Other good springs that Guy recalls were at the Mabel Hays residence, where the Highlands Hospital is now (The Peggy Crosby Center), at the Gotwall residence across from the ballpark and at the Lamb residence at the foot of Satulah Mountain. He doesn't remember whether it was the summer of the drought, but he recalls that one summer the spring in the hollow between the Carl Zoellner house and the J.E. Root residence was blamed for causing typhoid fever. It seems to me that either the Harve Beales or perhaps the Muck Joneses lived there at the time. Anyway, Guy can recall seeing Mrs. Callie Beale ironing there.

As children, we had no friends who were not also friends of our mother. She enjoyed the companionship just as much as we. Corinne's chief playmates, especially while we lived in town, were Bernice Rice and Nancy Hines. The three spent hours cutting out paper dolls from old Sears Roebuck catalogs. Then they would spend more hours pretending that the dolls were real people. Bernice's older sisters, Elizabeth and Eolise, were contemporaries of Frances and Frank and were often at the White House.

At 10 or 11, Charlie must have had his cronies around town. Corinne remembers them as Luther (Little Luke) Rice, John Pierson, Jim Hines and Lawton Chastain. We recall how Charlie used to hang around what was then known as the Health Center, the ground floor of the Masonic Hall. That's where Miss Margaret Harry carried on the business of the Red Cross in close harmony with Dr. Mary Lapham.

Charlie was a rather close confidant of both charming ladies. He often accompanied Dr. Lapham on her house calls and did not hesitate to give us an unexpurgated account of each day's activities. All of us got a big bang out of his story about Dr. Lapham's stopping her Dodge touring car in the middle of Mud Creek Road and unceremoniously squatting in front of it to relieve herself. "More room outside than inside," she allegedly told Charlie.

The Health Center was forever holding rummage sales for the benefit of the Red Cross operations, and Ethel Mae liked to go to them for both diversion and sometimes bargains...

• To be continued ...

• COACH'S CORNER •

Thoughts from Game 1 of the NBA finals

I'm sitting here at Casa de Potts waiting on Game 1 of the NBA finals to begin, and I must say...ABC's pregame coverage is pretty horrible. This column is full of pure, unadulterated thoughts that actually go through my head while watching game 1.

Ironic that the first points of the NBA finals are scored by Shane Battier. He then hits another trey to give Miami an early lead. If the Heat role players are hitting shots, Oklahoma City will struggle. On a side note-Battier's head is not nearly as wrinkly as it used to be.

Here's why Kevin Durant is special...the Thunder are struggling early, there are a lot of nerves out there, and then Durant steps up and hits back to back threes to stem the tide. Oh yeah-he is 6'10" and has a seven and a half foot wingspan.

Miami is 5-7 from behind the arc right now-they won't continue shooting this well. OKC has to defend better, though. They have now built a 7 point lead at the end of the first on the backs of Shane Battier and Mario Chalmers.

Wow, Lebron just made one of those amazing plays that let you know what kind of athlete he is. He read Durant's eyes, anticipated, stole the ball and then outran Durant for a dunk.

We have moved to halftime, and Miami holds a 7 point lead. Some 1st half thoughts would have to include how poised Miami has looked as opposed to OKC, which is to be expected due to the youth of the Thunder. Mike Wilbon just made a great point on the ABC halftime show in that it is not a good idea for OKC to focus on Lebron and Wade and ignore Miami's role players. Lebron and Wade are still getting their points, and now Battier and Chalmers have been left wide open and have found their stroke. I look for the Thunder to adjust their defense in the second half-but they have to feel good about things seeing as though they are only down 7 at the break.

Right out of the half OKC looks quite a bit more energized. This second half is going to be a classic.

Russell Westbrook is a phenomenal athlete, but he kills OKC with his jump shooting-needs to watch Rajon Rondo and learn how to pass to set up his jump-



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

er.

Ten minutes to play, and the Thunder have taken a 5 point lead. They just look a lot fresher right now than Miami, but I think Miami has one more run in them. Lebron needs to really step up now if Miami wants to stay in this game.

Dwyane Wade is killing Miami right now-he is taking some horrible shots and throwing his body around looking for foul calls. Miami needs Lebron to facilitate the offense for them if they want success.

Thunder have pulled away here at the end to win game 1, and while I am not one to pile on Lebron, you have to definitely give game 1 to Durant in the fourth. Not only was Durant terrific, but Russell Westbrook was much more under control in the fourth quarter and the Thunder defense was superb. My facebook feed is blowing up right now with people killing Lebron. Just a fact-Lebron averaged 46 mpg in the Eastern Conference Finals-he was gassed tonight in the fourth.

• THANKS •

Gratitude

The word gratitude can be connected to so many areas of our lives. I feel the desire to express my unwavering gratitude to the place my mother called home the last 5 years of her life. Moving from Connecticut to North Carolina brought many changes that were for the best. However, finding the best place to nurture my mother in her increasing state of Alzheimers dementia caused apprehension. We were fortunate to have found Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in the beautiful mountains of Highlands, NC. The quality of care my mother received was outstanding. The staff gave me comfort and relieved my worries. I will forever be grateful to the entire staff and all that make up the Fidelia Eckerd family. I hope that if ever you are in that time of life where you must consider placing a loved one somewhere other than their own home or yours, you will consider Fidelia Eckerd Living Center the next best thing. Gratefully...

Jeannine Legeyt
Highlands

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

What in the world?

Foreign policy is a tough one to analyze. Always subjective, shrouded in secrecy,

diplomatic yin and yang, lack of transparency; who really knows what's going on? Certainly not me. Therefore, I will rely on the opinions of folks who claim to know and get their opinions in print.

From Syracuse.com: "President Barack Obama has failed miserably in foreign policy, with his approach to Iran's theocracy his No. 1 oversight. On March 14th, 2006, Iran's leading clerics described Iran's nuclear program as 'irreversible.' This was at a time when it was apparent to a number of world leaders that Iran was definitely seeking to develop nuclear weapons to enhance the destructive power of their short- and long-range missiles.

"It was also well publicized that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was widely recognized as the most radical, anti-Semitic leader in the world and called by some 'the 21st century Adolph Hitler.' It has also been no secret for years that Iran is a world leader in the support of terrorism, for years furnishing bombs, arms and financial aid to Iraqi insurgents, as well as the terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

"Obama took office in January 2009, spouting words such as 'I still believe we can replace acrimony with civility,' and 'We can talk with anyone, even our enemies,' and promptly gave Iran a pass to keep working on its nuclear development, advising that he was giving Iran a year-end deadline for a nuclear deal with the United States.

"Iran continued to stall the Obama administration for the past two plus years, through unproductive tacks and other negatives, while Obama did little except seek sanctions, which were then watered down by Russia and China, while Iran continued working to develop nukes. Obama, if not re-elected may leave the United States facing a nuclear armed Iran. Our only salvation may then be Israel coveting a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. If he is re-elected, Iran will certainly join the nuclear community of nations.

Foreignpolicy.com disagrees with what's number one in Obama's policies:



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged.
Email
swandonson@dhnet.net

"Topping the list is Obama's failure to work out a an agreement with Iraq to maintain a U. S. troop presence beyond the end of 2011. This has been a disaster and may prove to be one of the gravest errors of Obama's first term, for which he or his successor will pay a high price.

"If Iraq unravels into sectarian warfare, it could easily suck other regional powers into the conflict – especially Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Just as importantly, it would set back democratic progress in the region. Iraq is almost as much an anchor in the Arab world as Egypt. The decision to give up on the admittedly difficult negotiations with the Iraqis was clearly motivated by the White House's desire to run on 'ending' the war in Iraq. This was as unnecessary, as it was unwise."

Another writer in foreignpolicy.com has another idea. "Obama's biggest failure has been the management of Israel – not the failure to achieve a peace agreement, which is a serial failure on the part of many presidents – but in framing the entire issue in such a way that once the United States had demanded an end to the settlements and Israel refused, any subsequent U.S. accommodation of Israel looks like capitulation to the very Muslim world that Obama set out to court. As a result, it is still not clear that Obama will accomplish one of his own top goals: resetting the U.S. relationship with the Muslim communities around the world.

"He also failed to establish a consistent strategy for Pakistan, alternating between embrace and embarrassment in ways that often make our policy as inconsistent and frustrating as the Pakistanis are themselves. But at the moment it's hard to figure out even what our stated policy is, much less to implement it."

As luck would have it, Obama's true nature is being exposed in recent revelations concerning his and his administration's foreign policy activities. From techworld.com: "The Obama administration is deliberately leaking information on US cyber-attacks against Iran in order to portray itself in a favorable light

• See SWANSON page 16

... BEARS continued from page 1

Across North Carolina bear country – specifically districts 7 & 8 which are the central and western mountains – bear stories are rampant, said Greg Daniels, district captain with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Since the berries and acorn mast aren't out yet, this is the time of year when hungry bears are on the prowl looking for food for themselves and their offspring.

"Once the berries and mast come in, things will calm down," said Daniels. "Right now they are just trying to locate easy food and that comes in the form of dirty barbecues, bird food, pet food, fish food, garbage, food inside houses and cars or food in the form of leftovers tossed out into a yard."

So far there are allegedly at least two injured bears prowling about – a mama with two cubs and one yearling.

A Highlands Falls Country Club (HFCC) resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, reported firing buckshot to the left of a 400-lb. bear who over the course of a few weeks had been compromising the family's safety. First it attempted to scale a deck 15-ft. off the ground even though the residents were on it and two bulldogs were below it. The bear was not afraid and was only deterred by the cantilevered nature of the structure. Another time, with people nearby it tried to get into the back seat of their car which had a coffee cup inside but also probably smelled of dogs.

Since the bear was clearly aggressive and not afraid, the family bought pepper and bear spray and also a 12-gauge shotgun. The dogs weren't allowed outside without an owner with them and they carried the spray for self defense.

Shortly after that incident, the residents came home one day and found the bear near the house, but it wasn't until the bear charged the owner that the gun was used in self-defense. "It was about 20-feet away and I shot to the left of it to scare it, but I think I wounded it because I heard a yelp, but there was not a blood trail," he said. "I immediately contacted law enforcement who directed me to the NC Wildlife Commission officer who said I had done the right thing."

He said he felt really bad about shooting at the bear and will probably never shoot the gun again, but said he and his family felt constrained and unable to live comfortably. "The bear was obviously not afraid of us and hung out around our house like an alpha animal."

Since then, NC Wildlife Commission agents tranquilized and then euthanized a bear that was down and unable to get up, but no one knows if it is the same bear.

HFCC residents tell other tales – one of a polite bear who rather than barging into the house uninvited, leaned against the doorbell. When it rang, the woman of the house went to answer the door and found the bear outside. Another got into a home and helped himself to food in the fridge, another came in through the front door.

Daniels said people are allowed to shoot at bears if they are threatening a person or damaging their home or property – inside or outside.

"But just because a bear is in your backyard is not a reason to destroy the bear," he said.

Daniels said if a bear has done substantial damage to property – as in entering a home or vehicle – the first thing citizens should do is take photographs. The second thing they should do is call the NC Wildlife Resources Commission at 800-662-7137 so an officer can be assigned to the case.

In addition, if a person shoots a bear in defense of life or property, photos should definitely be taken to show proof of damage, and a call to the 800 number should always be made.

The point of notifying the commission isn't so charges can be levied but to ascertain the extent of the problem and to try to educate people on how to protect themselves and their property in the future, said

• See BEARS page 12



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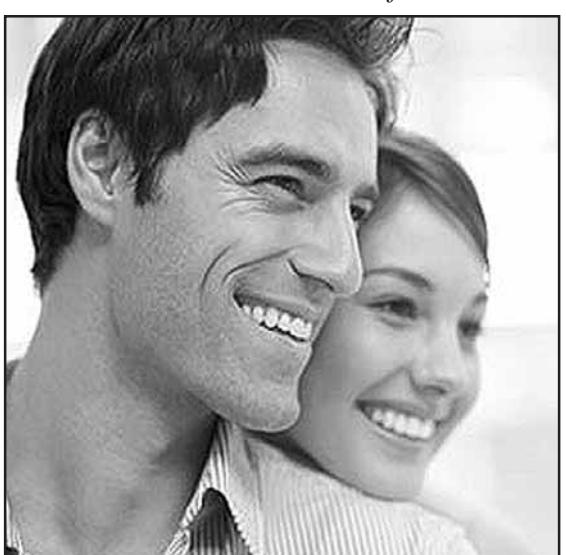


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• **HEALTH MATTERS** •

Move over ladies, men have discovered cosmetic surgery

Men are discovering the benefits of cosmetic surgery as they, too, do not like the person looking back from the mirror or need to compete more effectively with those who are younger. Even then, this probably would not be happening if the procedures were not getting more natural results with faster or no recovery. Men now account for 9% of all cosmetic procedures. The most common surgical procedures for them, in order, are liposuction, rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty, gynecomastia surgery and facelift. Men constitute 20% of all rhinoplasties (nose remodeling) done, 23% of chin implants, 15% of blepharoplasties (eyelid surgery) and 35% of otoplasties (ear reshaping). Men also make up around 9% of most nonsurgical procedures, except that they make up 15% of Botox® injections, a significant amount of dermabrasions and one-third of all laser tattoo treatments.

Although facelift appears to be just at the average 9%, rejuvenation and remodeling of the central face seems to be more prevalent in males than females. Chin augmentation to give a stronger appearance to the jaw, is frequently combined with rhinoplasty. The eyes also appear to be a more central focus, at least presently, for men than the jowl and neck, though treatments of the latter are climbing in popularity as they discover that these areas can be treated with minimal recovery and dramatic results. In fact, facelift and removal of the "turkey neck" we inherited from our fathers is the fifth leading surgical procedure in males and only seventh on the list in females. Otoplasty is as common as it is because of the shorter hair styles which expose the ear more.

Among the nonsurgical procedures, Botox® injection is the most common procedure, both in females and males. Filler injections to reduce wrinkles and folds are also as common in males as in females. Males, however, tend to utilize laser and intense pulsed light (IPL, laser like treatment for brown and red areas) more frequently than women.



Dr. Robert Buchanan
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Men have also discovered the benefits of skin rejuvenation. This is particularly true of those who have spent significant time outside in sports and other activities without any skin protection up to now. They are using the IPL and other procedures to reduce both brown spots and red areas and are also adopting other skin care. Women, who have been taught the use of cosmetics and moisturizers since childhood, have been slow to adopt a medical treatment of damaged skin. Men, having never done anything, are now amenable to medical rejuvenation of the skin as they see what it can do for them. They recognize that this can improve both the color and the texture of the skin. I know from my own experience that a good medical skin rejuvenation system such as the Obagi Nu-Derm System can correct significant dark spots and other sun damage with little effort. Having never done anything other than wash my face, I was worried that anything was too complex. In fact it takes less time than brushing my teeth, something that allows skin care to fit my schedule.

The one procedure that is restricted to males is that of gynecomastia surgery or male breast removal. Males can develop breasts for a number of reasons. These include abnormalities in hormone production; multiple drugs including many antihypertensives, food and other dietary sources and genetic variations. The resultant breast tissue can be anywhere from a small "button," which shows through tee shirts, to essentially full female breast development. The first part of treatment is deciding the cause and eliminating it if possible. Then surgery removes the abnormal breast. Surgical treatment depends upon the amount of breast development present and the size of the areola. No matter what is done, the psychologic

... ROOM TAX continued from page 1

nance contract and \$21,000 for computer software licenses," said Frye.

Figures may change again, as the county said no to fire tax increases for four of five departments that requested an increase. Highlands requested .010 per \$100 valuation, up from last year's .009.

But it was the \$20,000 Frye is budgeting for the Small Town Main Street Wayfinding project that initiated comment from Alan Marsh during the Public Comment period. So far the town has financed \$27,500; if another \$20,000 is allocated the total will be \$47,500.

But the first thing Marsh discussed was that the "compensation" he received as the town of Highlands representative on the county's Planning Board, which he served on for 12 years, was for mileage and nothing else. Commissioner Eric Pierson made note of the compensation at a previous Town Board meeting when he nominated John Underwood to replace Marsh. He didn't explain that Marsh's "compensation" was for mileage.

Most of Marsh's discussion, however, centered around the use of Room Tax money. He explained how other communities spend their room tax money, and suggested Highlands could do the same.

Highlands room tax money is mostly spent on advertising outside the area, and is used for Visitor Center operational expenses and to augment the operation of the Chamber of Commerce which shares the building, equipment and personnel. Chamber of Commerce President Bob Kieltyka's duties often overlap with those of Visitor Center personnel.

After the county's administration fees, room tax

proceeds to Highlands January through April 2012 was \$41,149.70; the total for 2011 was \$286,328.32.

"I don't think taxpayers should pay any of the wayfinding project," said Marsh. "I think the Chamber of Commerce and the merchants should pay for it."

Instead of only using the money for advertising and operational expenses, Marsh said Highlands should consider expanding the use of its room tax proceeds.

He said in Asheville, room tax money was used to develop the Grove Arcade as well as the Orange Peel. "If they can do it, other municipalities can do it, too," he said.

In North Carolina, room tax money, which is a tax all lodging establishments levy their customers, must be used to promote tourism or to pay for services/projects which are impacted by tourism.

In Charleston, SC, a mix of state, county and municipal room taxes add up to 6% with some of the money going to city and county general funds, the Charleston Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, and some to extra police and park maintenance when activities impact tourism.

In Durham, NC, the county room tax is 6% and half goes to the city and county government, 1/3 to the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau for marketing. One penny goes to the city-owned Performing Arts.

In Buncombe County, room tax money was used for its Wayfinding Program, to develop the Pack Square Park and Pavilion, the Asheville Civic Center, the Health Adventure Momentum project, the Asheville Art Museum, the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex, the

Asheville Visitor Center, the Bob Moog Museum, the Navitat Canopy Tours, the Montford Park Players, Smoky Mountain Adventure Center, the SNC Veterans' Memorial at Pack Square Park and the Buncombe County Civil War Trails.

Marsh also said in most places the room tax percentage are higher than Highlands – 4%, 5%, and 6% instead of 3% – and suggested the town follow Franklin's lead and initiate its own 3% room tax for a total of 6% in Highlands.

"Think about it. Don't let Franklin get a step up on us and if you did this, taxpayers wouldn't have to pay for these things," he said.

However, the laws that allowed Franklin to impose its own 3% room tax on top of the county's 3% have changed and that window has closed. When the window was still open, Highlands commissioners neglected to jump through.

State law now requires that in order to increase the rate of occupancy tax a county must create a countywide Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

"Franklin got it's legislative approval before that measure was enacted by the General Assembly, while Bob Carpenter was still in the Senate, but didn't enact the authority until sometime in 2008," said County Manager Jack Horton. "For Macon County and/or Highlands to increase the percentage of occupancy tax, county commissioners would have to create a countywide TDA to handle all the room tax revenues."

All lodging establishments in Macon County must submit the room tax proceeds to the county each month. The county retains a portion for handling and then returns the money to the two TDAs – Franklin/

Nantahala and Highlands to promote tourism.

Spring Street

Also during the Public Comment part of the meeting, Margaret Brown wanted to discuss the fact that the town made Spring Street between S. 4th and 5th one way east – the same direction as Church Street.

"You didn't make an adequate effort to consult with residents about this issue," she said.

Mayor David Wilkes said the issue might be on the June 21 Town Board agenda and Frye told her that he would have to receive the request for it to be included on the agenda in writing by Wednesday, June 13.

Brown assured him he would have the necessary paperwork.

— Kim Lewicki



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... BEARS continued from page 11

Daniels.

"We have built homes where bears have roamed for centuries and to compound the problem, we have more bears and less acreage than ever before," he said. "This is bear country and we have to remember that we are living in their back yards; not the other way around."

He said people living in bear country have to be vigilant to make their residences unattractive to bears. That begins with never, ever feeding the bears, and means taking your birdfeeders in and keeping your garbage in the house until pickup/recycle day.

"The problem is when a bear is bold enough to go into someone's house, that means it has lost its fear of humans, and those are the bears that cause problems. To them 'people mean food, so I have to get into their house,'" he said.

Highlands' bear stories are racking up and they involve more than one bear and probably at least two bears who have been mildly wounded – one in the shoulder and one in the foot.

The only time the Wildlife Commission comes to the rescue of a wounded bear is if it can't get up. Then it will be euthanized and if it's a mama with cubs, the cubs will be taken to the Wildlife facility to be raised. Otherwise, wounded bears are left to their own devices.

Jan and Ferrel Zehr who live in town at Pinecrest and the Cashiers Road had a visit from a bear Monday, June 4 between 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The Zehrs had gone to Asheville for the day and when they got back they noticed three windowpanes broken out of a floor to ceiling, double-hung window on the porch. Once inside the foyer, it was obvious a bear had come for

cake.

The Zehrs have a bakery business and leftover cakes from Friday's sale were neatly wrapped and sitting on a wooden table covered with a plastic tablecloth which was set in the large entry/foyer of the home.

"This was the most polite bear you've ever seen," said Zehr. "She (he) took three cakes off the table, without disturbing the cloth and ate them without leaving one crumb. I didn't even have to vacuum!" she said. "Except for the window panes, and some bent clasps on a screen it lifted from the window, there wasn't any damage to the house." The bear took a fourth cake with it when it left the house, remnants of which were found on the porch.

The next night the bear returned, this time around midnight but the Zehrs had piled metal porch furniture against the window and so they heard the bear trying to get inside.

"We were upstairs and we didn't know if it had gotten in again, so I threw DVD cases down the stairs and made a lot of noise to scare it away."

Knowing they were now on the bear's route, they notified neighbors that they would be doing "noise aversion" – blowing air horns and car horns.

That's when a neighbor told her that a bear had opened the door of her parked car and taken two boxes of Girl Scout cookies off the seat. Now she keeps her car doors locked.

There is also a mama bear with two cubs that has been making the rounds. Representatives of the B.E.A.R. (Bear Education and Resources) Task Force say she was shot in the Highlands Falls Country Club area a couple of weeks ago and has been spotted favoring her left front foot in Sherwood Forest, Big and Little Bear Pen, Bowery Road and Sagee over the last few weeks.

Recently, her cubs were in a tree in the yard of a Task Force member in Sherwood Forest crying for their mother who was apparently out back on the HFCC golf course because they heard people yelling at her to go away. Eventually, the cubs came down and scampered off.

Bill Lea, a black bear expert/wildlife photographer in the B.E.A.R group, says that cubs squealing only means that the mother has left them up a tree while she goes off to eat, so not to be alarmed by it. Since she has been getting around a large area over the past several weeks, she is obviously thriving and caring for her cubs, he said.

"We are asking people in the area to be vigilant while they are outside; to carry walking sticks, whistles, air horns or pepper spray in case they see this mama bear and she acts aggressively," said Cynthia Strain, chairman of the B.E.A.R. Task Force. "Also, make noise while you are out walking so that she will know you are there and she can leave the area. The worst thing is to surprise a bear, especially a mother with cubs or a wounded mother with cubs."

Another resident in Horse Cove – a self-proclaimed bear lover who also wishes to be anonymous – had a bear enter her home and help herself to food in the kitchen, while she and her husband were out hiking.

On Saturday, June 16 between noon and 3 p.m., a mama bear entered their home through a back door that was not shut tightly – one that opened into the house.

(They know it is a mama bear because baby paw prints were found on the glass door.)

When they returned from their hike, they noticed

• See BEARS page 22

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Sycamore Cabinetry & Custom Furniture
Saturday, June 16 • noon-4p
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All products are hand-crafted in Highlands
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Now is the time to buy your mountain home!

Housing headlines have been very equivocal the past several months. Are prices going up or down? Are sales increasing or not? Has the market hit the bottom yet? You will see messages signaling both directions. This represents the sawtooth pattern of growth we can expect to continue in the foreseeable future. Recovery in the housing market is not going to look like a straight incline on a graph. Instead it shows an upward trend with small peaks and valleys within that rise.

Every local market's recovery is different. In some markets, prices may go down a bit more before resurgence. In other markets, prices are already rising. Due to this uncertainty, it is important to focus on the big picture. Here are five facts which indicate that NOW is the time to buy on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau:

'Fox' next HCP show

An uproarious, laugh-out-loud new Ken Ludwig comedy, "The Fox on the Fairway," has been scheduled in August as the first play for the Highlands Cashiers Players' 2012-2013 season.

Particularly appropriate for this area of many golf clubs, the play concerns two rival country clubs who are preparing for their annual golf tournament against each other—a contest which the Crouching Squirrel Club always wins. When the Quail Valley club manager attempts to sneak in a hot-shot non-member player, his deception is discovered and it looks as if the Squirrel will win again.

"Fox" runs Aug. 23 - 26 and Aug. 30 - Sept. 2.

In October: JAKE –A puppy is taught how to behave with humans by an older dog.

Feb.-Mar.: Social Security –An elderly widow surprises her children with a love affair.

May: LOVE, LOSS, and WHAT I WORE – Women remember events in their lives and the clothes they wore.

Subscriptions are \$70 per person for the four plays and can be purchased by mailing a check to HCP at PO Box 1416, Highlands NC 29741.



Jody Lovell
828-526-4104

1. Properties are better priced than they have been in the last decade;

2. The quality inventory at favorable pricing is disappearing;

3. Interest rates have never been better;

4. Most of the short sales and foreclosures have flushed through the market;

5. Most buyers are experiencing "frugal fatigue."

Many Sellers are finally recognizing that this market was not immune to the real estate price adjustment and they are more realistic with their expectations. There are some beautiful properties on the market. The traffic is already intense for this time of year. Thus, NOW is the time to buy your mountain sanctuary!

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Was \$389,000 NOW \$349,000. Make Offer! 5 bed, 4 bath on about 2 acres with creek, pond, gazebo. R.V. barn. 4,000 sq.ft. finished, 2,000 sq.ft. basement/garage.

Call Becky Simmons at Cabe Realty
(828)526-2475

• Jody Lovell is Broker/Owner Exurbia Sotheby's International Realty. Leaders in real estate sales for 12 years on the Plateau with two offices: At the gate of Cullasaja Club on Highway 64 and in The Old Edwards Inn complex at 216 South Fourth Street. Phone 828 526 4104.

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See available houses for sale at the

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 30

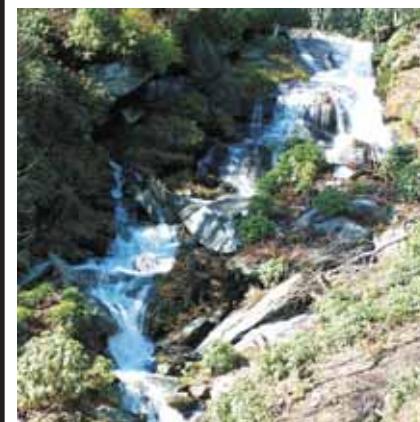
10a to 1p

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The property is forested with mature hardwoods, Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel & a plethora of wild flowers that bloom through the seasons. There are two waterfalls and several creeks adding charm and interest.

The land is gentle...making for easy building sites, lower building cost, more parking, easier ingress and egress, fewer erosion problems, child friendly and a great place to take a walk.

FALLING WATERS is protected by the North Carolina Planned Community Act and is well thought out, with reasonable covenants.

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From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.



PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events



Clayton Merchants & Business Association Events

www.downtownclaytonga.org

FIRST FRIDAY FESTS

Through October
6PM – 8 PM

Downtown Clayton
Shop Clayton/Concert at Rock House Park

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



Alex Osteen in Honduras

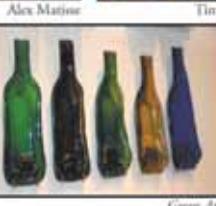


2012

Exhibitions

Alex Matisse: Ometto through October 21

Support provided by
Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor.



Glass Art

Tim Curtis: Suspended through August 26



Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
www.TheBascom.org

Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm

828.526.4949

Highlands, NC

Honduras fundraiser set for June 24

When Highlander Alex Osteen joined the Peace Corps two years ago, he was sent to San Luis Planes, a tiny coffee village in the mountains of Honduras.

Over those two years, Alex organized a coffee co-op that brought in an additional \$100,000 to these poor people and began an ecotourism project that will ensure a new stream of income and protect the rare cloud forest that's part of San Luis Planes' natural heritage.

These exciting developments prompted the villagers to dream about breaking the cycle of hardship under which they'd always existed. The centerpiece of this newfound optimism was to be a medical clinic staffed with a doctor that would serve San Luis Planes and two adjoining villages.

But once the plans were drawn up and the people had secured the promise of a doctor, the harsh realities of the 21st century intruded on village life. Mexican drug cartels, in the process of turning Honduras into a transfer station for a flood of narcotics bound for America, have turned the country into a war zone.

When one of the Peace Corps volunteers was shot in the crossfire between two

rival gangs, all of the volunteers were pulled from Honduras. It seemed that the people of San Luis Planes would be denied the health care that was so desperately needed.

But the villagers and Alex refused to give up. The people pledged to build the clinic using their own labor and the increased coffee revenue. Alex agreed to raise \$15,000 in America.

That's why at noon on Sunday, June 24th, Alex will stage a fundraiser at Highlands United Methodist Church.

"The fundraiser will be a Honduran 'baleada' luncheon – the baleada is a delicious Honduran village dish," explains Alex. "Entrance will be \$10 for baleadas and Honduran coffee. I will play the video that my townspeople made about the Health Clinic as well as show pictures of the people involved, as well as of the Health Clinic itself. Everybody is invited. Take out will be available. All proceeds from the event, plus any donations people may make, go to the construction materials for this Health Clinic project."

For more information, call (828) 200-2360.

Thurs., June 14-Sun., July 8

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Thursday, June 14

• Annual Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and use of the driving range and practice green. A 9 a.m. shotgun start followed by cocktails, lunch and an awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

• At the Nature Center, from 1-4p, a basket weaving workshop and a lecture with Doug Elliott, local storyteller, naturalist, and harmonica wizard. If you have them, bring a sharp knife and if possible a pruning saw, a rotary leather punch, and pruning shears. This workshop is open to all ages but there will be some knife use so an adult should accompany children. Please register in advance; the \$35 registration fee includes all materials.

• At the Nature Center amphitheatre, Doug Elliott shares his Woodslore and Wildwoods Wisdom: Stories, Songs, and Lore Celebrating the Natural World at 7 p.m. Elliott has been on PBS-TV and the History Channel.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Norma Jean. 6:30-9p. Call 526-2121.

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

meet Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. A \$50 gift card will be given away. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 828-369-9221.

Friday & Saturdays

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road 7p until. Hal Phillips. Also Jacob Deaton 2:30-4 on Saturday. Call 526-2121.

Friday, June 15

- Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street. Mountain Hoo Doo with Lisa & Steve McAdams.

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South, from 6:30 to 9PM. Vance McDaniels will be the caller. Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. A Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280

- At Shakespeare & Co., emerging, innovative, poets Shannon Tharp ("The Cost of Walking") and Whit Griffin ("Pentateuch") will give readings from their recently published—by Skysill Press at 7 p.m.; the event is free and refreshments will be served. Shakespeare & Co. is in Highlands Village Square, at the corner of 5th and Oak Streets, and just across from the rear of Wolfgang's restaurant. For more information please call 526-3777.

Saturday, June 16

- Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park from 10a to 2p. Call Ann Wilson for more information at 864-888-1111.

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, with Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

- Friends and family of Woodrow Cunningham, native of Franklin and Western Carolina who is suffering from usually fatal brain tumors, are holding a benefit at the South Macon Elementary School at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All donations will assist to defray his medical bills and expenses. A hot dog dinner and dessert will be provided by the school employees. \$5 donation. Please mail any funds on or before June 10th to Woodrow Cunningham c/o his sister, Louise Dills at 52 Pastureview, Franklin, NC 28734.

Deaton making the rounds this season



Jacob Deaton is part of the musical crew in The Playhouse's production of Spitfire Grill which opens Thursday. He also performs Saturday from 2:30-4 p.m. at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge. For more info call the Lodge at 526-2121. For tickets to Spitfire Grill call 526-2695.

• Local Audubon Bird Walk: Highlands Plateau Audubon Society invites all for roadside birding on Rich Gap Road in Highlands. Leader will be past HPAS president, Cynthia Strain. Meet in Highlands Town Hall parking lot near

• See EVENTS page 18

The Impressionists are coming to Highlands!

Her Impressions, featuring works of American women painters including Jeanie Gallup Motter whose work White Fox is pictured, will be at The Bascom from June 23 – Sept. 16.



Her Impressions, celebrating the achievements of the talented women artists who helped the Impressionism movement blossom in America, opens in the Bunzl Gallery at The Bascom on Saturday, June 23rd, with a public reception from 6 – 8 pm.

From household names like Mary Cassatt to lesser known artists like Ada Murphy and Sara Hess, the movement called Impressionism flourished within the community of American women painters despite the restrictions placed on them by the strict social mores of the late 19th century. Enhancing the exhibition are period furnishings and décor influenced by French Impressionists, which are included as a point of reference as to their influence on these American artists. Provocative conversations about the changing role of women artists and a closer look at the individuals associated with this exhibition will be held in conjunction with the show.

Her Impressions includes works on loan from The Huntsville Museum of American Art; The High Museum, Atlanta; Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Memphis; and Mason-Scharfenstein Museum of Art at Piedmont College, Demorest, GA. Support for the exhibition, which runs through September 16th, is provided by Koski Family Foundation; Harry Norman Realtors; Pat and Carl Hartrampf; Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor; and Delta Air Lines.

In addition to Her Impressions at The Bascom, The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center will present "Vincent" starring Ralph Stevens from June 7th – 10th and 14th - 17th. In conjunction to the performance, audiences will be treated to an art exhibition by the members of the Art League of Highlands, Impressions of a Van Gogh Painting which then moves to The Bascom from June 18th – July 8th.

The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

The Spitfire Grill Opens at the Highlands Playhouse

The Highlands Playhouse is thrilled to open their summer season on June 14th with the hit musical, The Spitfire Grill. The Spitfire Grill, with music by James Valcq and lyrics by Fred Alley, is based on the 1996 film of the same name by Lee David Zlotoff. The play opened off-Broadway in 1991 at Playwright's Horizon and won the prestigious Richard Rodger's Production Award. Critic John Simon wrote of that production, "It is not often that material moves me to tears, but this was one of those occasions. The Spitfire Grill has the heart and soul that other musicals cannot begin to approach. What even in normal times would be a joy is, in these troubled ones, sheer nourishment."

The play centers on a young girl who has just been released from prison. She finds her way to Gilead, Wisconsin where she begins to work at the local dive, The Spitfire Grill. When asked why he chose the show, Artistic Director DV Caitlyn said, "As part of the changing vision for the Playhouse and in response to preferences recently expressed by our audiences, I chose The Spitfire Grill for the depth of its book and the universal messages which are the fabric of its story. Add to that the scenic and conceptual opportunities presented by this unconventional Broadway venture, and its beautiful score and haunting melodies – The Spitfire Grill is exactly the unique sort of project I hope to continue to bring to the Highlands Playhouse."

The production stars talent from all over the country, including TV Star Ellen Crawford. Caitlyn is excited about how Highlands will embrace Crawford and the cast, "She's a true professional. And I remember years ago when I first had the pleasure of witnessing her perform in various productions in Los Angeles and in San Diego and in Film and Television, I thought 'this is one of the finest performers I have ever seen.' For me, being an actor prior to becoming an acting teacher, a director, and the Producing Artistic Director of Highlands Playhouse, Ellen is the kind of actor I still strive to become. And I'm very gratified to provide our younger performers with the opportunity to work with and learn from actors like her. It's the kind of experience I want the Playhouse to become known for within the Industry." Caitlyn said, audiences who know the Playhouse will experience a completely different look of the stage due to changes in design objectives; they will hear a completely different sound due to our brand new audio system thanks to the quick and expert install work of Bruce Jensen and B&R Audio in Asheville, and, with the new A/C system graciously provided by the town of Highlands, audiences will enjoy a heightened overall theatre-going experience.

The Spitfire Grill runs from June 14th-July 8th. Performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8PM, and on Sundays at 2PM. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 828-526-2695.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from 4

prices and increasing inflation on everything, Highlands will always flourish.

While high gas prices may cause some visitors to rebalance their vacation budgets, they will still come, maybe spending less on food and entertainment. The Forest Service could permanently close Dry Falls and Highlands would continue to flourish. Georgia could permanently close Highway 246 and folks would find another route. In any case, Highlands would flourish. We could close down all parking on Main Street and create a mall atmosphere and Highlands would flourish....maybe even better.

Remember this the next time politicians want to waste your hard earned tax money on a study, claiming the issue is affecting tourism and Highlands may fail without the study: People come to Highlands for the wonderful cool weather and the flora and fauna. All the other stuff is just icing.

And finally, isn't the US

Forest Service a complete and total disaster, even functioning worse than our postal service? Think about this. The DOT completely tore down and replaced a 44-year old concrete bridge in about a month, then repaved a large section of Highway 64 while the Forest Service needs seven months....that's seven months....to asphalt a short walking trail to the bottom of Dry Falls. It's just another example of your federal tax dollars not working well. But take heart, folks, Highlands will always flourish because they can't take away what's important about this awesome place....the wonderful cool weather and the green, green forest.

* Wanna find Fred to give him "what for?" Well, each Saturday morning he's hiding somewhere in the Farmer's Market at Highlands School but, like Waldo, he's hard to spot. Look for his books and you'll see his disguise.

There is some agreement to

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

then I wouldn't be able to make an informed decision. If my cancer happened to be aggressive enough to spread to my bone, it could be slowed, but not cured, with estrogen, far cheaper than surgery or radiation.

The task force may have the science right, but they still missed the ball a mile. If there is a test, however imperfect, that may lead to early detection and cure, isn't it appropriate to

offer it? Let the patient and his doctor weigh the benefits and risks. There is no doubt that aggressive treatment would be a poor choice for many men my age, those with serious, life threatening, chronic health problems, or those who looked at the science and decided that the risk of operative death, incontinence, or impotence were worse than the risk of bony spread, pain, and death.

There is some agreement to

... SWANSON continued from page 8

to voters, Sen. John McCain has alleged.

"In a Senate speech and media interviews, McCain referred to sensational claims made by journalist David Sanger last week that the Stuxnet worm attack uncovered in 2010 was part of a longer-term, organized software campaign to

undermine Iran's nuclear and military capability.

"With the leaks that these articles were based on, our enemies now know much more than they even did the day before they came out about the important aspects of the nation's unconventional offensive capability and how we use them'

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restrict radical surgery and radiation to men under 65, men who are unlikely to outlast their cancers. If we knew that a man had only five years to live, and that his cancer wouldn't cause systems for at least ten years, treatment wouldn't make sense. My biopsy was the day after my 71st birthday. The average life expectancy for men in the United States is under 76, so why bother? I work every day and plan to continue for the foreseeable fu-

ture. I'd like to see Bull finish high school and graduate from college. With a little luck; if I stay active, keep my weight and cholesterol in check, and wear my seat belt, I may offer a toast at his wedding. Those are things no government knows, things they can never know, important factors that only my family, my doctor, and I can weigh.

Task force members suggested spending the money now spent on screening to develop a

better test. Did we abandon the horse and buggy while we awaited the development of the internal combustion engine? Did English archers lay down their bows until they could replace them with blunder busts? At stake is the right to makes one's own health care decisions, and to use the best available information to make those decisions. Am I the only one reminded of an ostrich by this decision?

McCain told the Senate. "They are intentionally leaking information to enhance President Obama's image as a tough guy for the elections. That is unconscionable, McCain said."

From stltoday: "Calls for investigations of national security leaks are growing louder on Capitol Hill, and Sen. Roy Blount is among those seeking a special prosecutor to find the source of recent stories on a 'kill list' for terrorists and cyberwarfare against Iran. The New York Times reported that President Barack Obama was deeply involved. Blunt echoed McCain's assertions that leaks were designed to enhance Obama's im-

age as a 'tough guy' in an election year."

If there were any doubt that Obama would do anything to hang on to power, the recent leaks jeopardizing the nation's ability to defeat our enemies should dispel that delusion.

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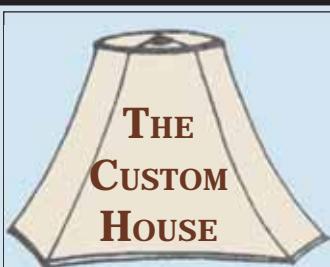
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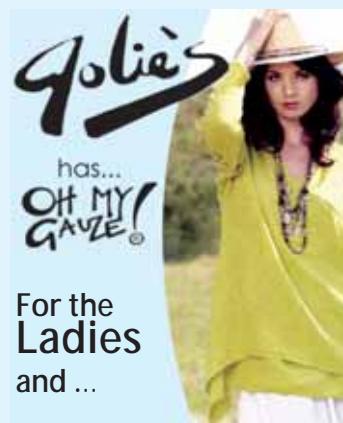
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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

R.E.A.C.H. fundraiser set for July 29



A wine selection is part of the R.E.A.C.H. auction.

REACH of Macon County will stage a fundraiser July 29th at the breathtaking home of prominent Highlands and Houston interior designer Tony Raffa and his partner Scott Allbee.

R.E.A.C.H. provides counseling, shelter, and life-skills training for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. They have presented programs in Macon County's schools, including Highland's, on anti-bullying and rape prevention. It's a little publicized fact that approximately 75 percent of men incarcerated in this country have been victims of abuse.

The gala event will feature cocktails and a live auction and silent auction.

The Raffa-Allbee home serves as a showcase for Raffa's nationally recognized design talents. With its 45 foot high vaulted ceilings and 10,000 square feet, this home feels cozy whether entertaining 200 people or just two.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with an open bar and heavy hors d' oeuvres. The silent auction items will be displayed on a large dining porch overlooking a waterfall that cascades into a koi pond. The live auction will be downstairs in the multi-level theater. It's an opportunity to tour an amazing home while supporting a much needed cause.

A few of the auction items are a fresco by Kathleen Macone; design consultation services by Raffa; A raised veggie garden by Tom Tracy and Brian Stiehler; refresher bridge lessons by Brenda Manning; advanced bridge lessons by Virginia Parrott; a painting by Atlanta artist Mary Lou Carpenter; private wine tours and tastings by Napa and Sonoma; a gift certificate by Aery Chiropractic; a cocktail buffet for 18 in your home; Jewelry by Wanda Drake of Drake's Diamond Gallery; tickets for Highlands Playhouse; landscape design services by Deborah Berlin; a painting of a Buck Creek farmhouse by Sarah Sneeden; instruction on grilling from Appetizers to Dessert; and a gift certificate from The Summer House.

If you can't attend this event but would like to bid on an item, leave a sealed bid with Wanda Drake at Drake's Diamond Gallery.

For reservations, call (828) 369-5544 or go to www.reachofmaconcounty.org. The cost is \$75 per person and space is limited to 150 people. Last year's celebration was a sellout, so make your reservations early.

the public restrooms at 7:30 am. Binoculars available. www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or 743-9670 for questions. Author to Speak on Birding Adventures. The program will begin at 4 pm and is free and open to the public.

- The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work trip this Saturday. Please register with Ran Shaffner at 828-526-5622 or email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com. Meet at the large upper parking lot behind the Rec Park at 9a for a brief orientation session. We'll continue constructing risers on the Highlands Historical Trail behind the Rec Park with the aim of finishing that trail. A barbecue lunch will be provided during the Greenway Annual Meeting, which immediately follows the work trip at noon.

- Ceremonial planting of three potentially blight-resistant American chestnuts and a presentation on the status of American chestnut restoration at The Southern Highlands Reserve, Lake Toxaway, NC from 4 to 6 pm. For more information, visit www.southernhighlandsreserve.org

Tuesday, June 19

- At Hudson Library, "Falcons, The Ancient Connection" with Peter Kipp, who has been training birds of prey for more than 42 years and has been a licensed master falconer since 1981. The program is Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. It's free.

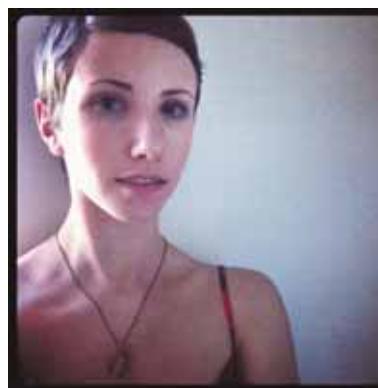
Wednesday, June 20

- Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Secretariat.

Thursday, June 21

- At the Nature Center, Lamar Marshall will take a group on an Ancient Cherokee Trails Hike from 10a-2p. Lamar Marshall is the Wild South Cultural Preservation Director, and is part of an initiative to find and restore the trail and road system of the Cherokee Nation in Western North Carolina. This event is

Emerging poets to read at Shakespeare & Co. Friday, June 15 at 7 p.



Emerging, innovative, poets Shannon Tharp ("The Cost of Walking") and Whit Griffin ("Pentateuch") will give readings from their recently published—by Skysill Press—works at Shakespeare & Co. Bookstore on Friday, June 15 at 7 p.m.; the event is free and refreshments will be served. Shakespeare & Co. is located in Highlands Village Square, at the corner of 5th and Oak Streets, and just across from the rear of Wolfgang's restaurant. For more information please call 526-3777. The poems have a human dimension, which is all the more compelling for its understatement; with their carefully chosen words and light construction, they teach us 'How to love quietly what wasn't seen before'

free but please register in advance. Call 526-2221.

Fri.-Sun., June 22, 23, 24

- History Live sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. The theme this year is "Our Mountains and the People Who Named Them." Friday and Saturday's production is at the Historical Village on N. 4th Street from 6-7:15 p.m. Sunday's production is at PAC on Chestnut Street at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and students are free.

Friday, June 22

- Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street. Johnny Webb.

Saturday, June 23

- Cashiers Bird Walk: Join the local Audubon society on a bird walk in Chinquapin in Cashiers. Meet behind Wendy's at 8:00 am. Carpool from Highlands should meet in the Highlands Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms at 7:30 am. to join the rest of the group in Cashiers. www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or 743-9670 for questions.

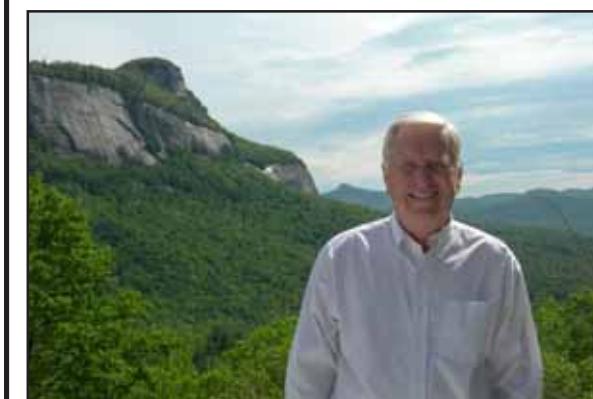
- Highlands-Cashiers free health screening at Blue Ridge School beginning at 7:15 a.m. Those wishing to take advantage of either screening can register by calling the Hospital at (828) 526-1435.

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, with Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

Sun.-Thurs., June 24-28

- Vacation Bible School at Highlands United Methodist Church. "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God. Come dive into the waters of God's word and discover what it means to have deep faith. Deep Sea Voyage Bible stores will introduce people from the Old and New Testaments who show a deep faith. All are invited to join us for this magnificent journey. 5-8 p.m. each night. Dinner is served from 5-5:30p.

History Live set for June 22-24



Kenny Youmans will portray Herman W. Alley in this year's presentation of "History Live!" sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. He is shown before Whiteside Mountain, the mountain he will discuss in the program. The theme of this year's historical presentation is "Our Mountains and the People Who Named Them." The dates for this year's production are June 22, 23 and 24, with Friday and Saturday presentations at the Highlands Historic Village on N. Fourth Street from 6 to 7:15 p.m., and Sunday's at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street beginning at 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults with students admitted free. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.



Mark Meadows



Vance Patterson

Though they differ in life and business experience, Meadows and Patterson appear to agree on the issues. Nonetheless, when answering questions, they were asked to explain how their positions on issues differ from each to help citizens know how to vote.

The questions posed were involved and many referred to policies conservatives, both mid-stream and far-right, consider key to their positions. So readers can understand the answers, policies will be explained and places for further education will be noted as those questions come up. To keep the debate going until the run-off, we will publish answers to questions posed in subsequent issue.

Prior to answering the first question, the candidates were asked to introduce themselves – they did this by mixing biographical information with issues they stand for.

Vance Patterson:

The question is which one of us is best qualified to solve the problems in Washington?

I have used the American work ethic to create 16 companies which created 312 jobs. I was the INC 500 Winner twice and the Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist S.E. Region twice. I can create jobs and prosperity for Western North Carolina and you won't have to wait for the county or the state to turn things around.

I am Tea Party. I am a manufacturer. I am a small business owner. Nothing else mattered to me until Obama got elected and then I knew I had to do something to save America for future generations. I initiated the Tea Party in Burke County. I am 9/12 and I am FreedomWorks. I believe in term limits. I am against raising the debt limit. If there is going to be a crisis, let it be now. I am against amnesty and if illegals don't go home, then that's amnesty. I believe the Dept. of Homeland Security should go back to the Dept. of Justice. I affirm God in government, not religion in government.

Mark Meadows

You know you are in the right place when you drive into a parking lot and there are more NObama stickers on the bodies of trucks than anywhere else in Western North Carolina. Send him back to Kenya or wherever it is he's from.

Macon County was good to me in May. I got 38% of the vote; missed the 40% threshold and that's why we are in a run-off.

We can beat Hayden Rogers.

I am for life, liberty and less government. I have strong conservative principals. Limiting the government is good

• See DEBATE page 25

• MILESTONE •

Jennifer Bauer nominated for prestigious international award



Jennifer Bryson Bauer, L.G., the daughter of Highlands residents Jim and Sheila Bryson and Judy and Donnie Billingsley, has been nominated for the 2012 Richard Wolters Prize. The Richard Wolters Prize of the International Association of Engineering Geologists has been awarded biennially since 1986 to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Richard Wolters, his significant achievements in the advancement of engineering geology and his important role in the development of the IAEG.

The Richard Wolters Prize specifically recognizes meritorious scientific achievement by a younger member of the engineering geology profession.

This prize will be contested during the International Symposium on Landslides/North American Symposium on Landslides 2012 in Banff, Alberta. The competition among six nominees from around the world took place on Monday, June 4 and the prize was awarded at the Thursday, June 7 Award Luncheon during the Symposium. Jennifer is a Principal Geologist and Owner of Appalachian Landslide Consultants, PLLC, a geology consulting firm in Asheville, NC (www.appalachianlandslide.com). She is a 1997 graduate from Highlands High School.

Jennifer Bauer was nominated as the USA representative to compete for the Richard Wolter Prize for outstanding young Engineer/Geologist. Six nominees presented: USA, Greece, China, New Zealand, Canada and England at the 11th International & 2nd North American Symposium on Landslides held at the Banff Springs Fairmont in Banff Springs, Alberta, Canada last week, June 3-8. Dr. Saroglou from Greece won the prize.

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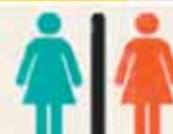
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... HEALTH MATTERS from page 10

boost is tremendous.

In summary, cosmetic procedures are becoming more common in males as they discover the psychologic as well as the business and social benefits. For the most part, this trend follows that seen in women. However, men are much more likely to treat the central face or the ears or to treat the skin itself.

Males make up a significant part of Dr. Buchanan's practice at the Center for Plastic Surgery on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus. For more information, visit PlasticSurgeryToday.com or TodaysFacelift.com.

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

in all the world to buy my very small portion of it.

My wish is the same as yours, Suzy, but I am afraid that the people who control the future of Highlands could care less about what we think. It was built by "unique" individuals, locals" and "summer folks" whose work should count for something. All I know is that Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Kelsey and Mr. Hutchinson are "spinning" not "turning over" in their graves, if you know what that means!

Elizabeth Reese Wilson
Clemson, SC

Idea for new use for 'old' Post Office

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to Fred Wooldridge's column in the May 24 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Ha! Post This." It got me thinking and I'm somewhat serious here, what do you think of someone, me, leasing the Old Post Office and make a shooting range out of the building? We could call it "Going Postal Shooting Range."

I'm sure there is a market for a shooting range, we could get off-duty law enforcement to help staff it. How about Ladies Night --females shoot free. I know we would have to have Muslim Night and Gay Night but what the heck...that is a Fred Spin.

We could have packages where kids over eight could have birthday parties. Teachers night, Old Edwards Night. We could use local celebrities who agree to go along at the Mayor, commissioners Amy, Buz, Drake, you and me and have targets made with their pictures and the money could go to one of the 500 nonprofits we support in Highlands.

There is plenty of parking for the all the pickup trucks. You know me and parking. Wright Square parking lot is pretty empty without the Old Fireside, now we are a "lunch in a basket town" but I'm regressing.

We could offer concealed weapon classes, sell weapons, targets, ammo, gun safes and keep all those pesky skateboarding kids and locals off the street. As you can see I'm bored but in a half-baked way I might have something here. How about a contest on what to use the Old Post Office Building for? I got dibs on the shooting range idea.

Allan Schultz
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 21

ings that had beautiful white pine paneling inside were all torn down or demolished. They were offered for sale at \$2,000 each if you could move them in less than a wee. WHAT? At least that is what I was told by the man in charge then. I told him that was a stupid decision and whoever made that it certainly was not interested in really selling them at all. After that they stood there for several years before they were torn down.

Of course, the property is owned by Mr. Williams, but if he really is the person some claim he is, he would donate it to the town for a park. Some of the trees on the property are well over 100 years old. He will never be able to purchase the remainder of the land on that side of the road anyway, so he may as well do something that will benefit everyone.

By the way, the old building that was torn down where the million dollar townhouses are now at NC 28 and S. 4th Street was very historic and could have been saved, but was instead burned down. The chestnut cottage at the old King's Inn property was probably one of the last buildings in town with real chestnut lumber in it. Some people just do not like old things, do they? Unless they make you lots of money. It's nice to know there are some towns and cities that do preserve their history like Charleston and Savannah.

But hey, there are still enough things left to remind me of the "old" Highlands. And I appreciate the efforts of many who have tried and are still helping to preserve it. My great grandfather was hired by Miss Ravenel to paint the original building of the Presbyterian Church. My father as a boy carried water to the men building the Baptist Church for a nickel a day. My other great grandfather built a lot of the rock walls in different places in town. One thing I will truly miss which was not that old is Cyrano's Book Shop, because Ethel Callaway, my 5th grade teacher, instilled in me a love of reading that I have to this day. I met some wonderful authors there over the years.

In this economy today, most families cannot afford to go to a spa or even the high priced stores in town. One store owner even bragged to me about getting rid of a "cheap" store in town. Suzy states she goes to Franklin or Clayton to shop. What does that tell you when the "summer folks" have to shop somewhere else? Sounds bad to me. Yes, "old" and "unique" Highlands is long gone and I miss it. I was very fortunate to be able to grow up in it. There is not enough money

Dogmatic answers are a shortcut to truth

Dear Editor,

It's always fascinating to try to gain insight on anything that the human mind produces. I am referring to the letter in the June 7 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Amendment 1 controversy."

I was not aware that there could be more than one instructive purpose of the Genesis account of God's judgment passed upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A nonsexual view, reportedly more prevalent in Judaism, focuses on the cultural importance of hospitality and the teachings against cruelty. It seems that the variables of translation and people of deep faith often result in a multitude of different, yet meaningful ways of understanding.

United States history shows us that efforts/laws designed to prevent particular US citizens from having the same civil rights guaranteed to everyone else, will eventually be overruled by reasoned arguments, notwithstanding scriptural interpretation. The 1965 Freedom Marchers loved the same Bible as the state troopers who beat them with billy clubs as they walked. It appears that people of God can be found on all sides of change. This is not reflective of a disdain of religion, but of the capacity of being human.

The laws of the US government don't "rely strictly on the words in the Bible," to allow equal rights, as evidenced by the fact that we no longer lawfully own, sell or barter people as property (Exodus 21:7; Lev 25:44; Rom 13:1-5; Eph 6:5), made unlawful by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1864. Until 1965, all of the southern states relied upon the "feelings and interpretations" of some to uphold laws that prevented black people from marrying whites until the US Supreme Court decision, Loving v. Virginia (1967) and from voting (Voting Rights Act of 1965), among other civil rights available only to white people.

Congress extended suffrage rights to women by the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920, without the support of 12 of the 48 states. The last six states to subsequently ratify the amendment after previously rejecting it were: Florida (1969) South Carolina (1969), Georgia (1970), Louisiana (1970), North Carolina (1971), and Mississippi (1984). Most states also have laws enabling the

prosecution of parents who provide prayer-only to their sick children, despite the parents' reference to scripture or what they claim to believe. Of course most parents don't interpret scripture in this way, but some do, and our laws use good reasoning to reject such justifications.

The bar has continually been raised for our government to create its laws through fair and reasoned arguments and not from a literal interpretation of a particular religious belief, even if all of the Founding Fathers happened to have been of the Christian faith. Despite the fact that most were slave owners and probably didn't imagine non-whites or women voting, or that our planet spins on its axis at 1,000 mph, or that we could ever view distant galaxies from outer space, chemistry, electricity, anesthesia, the polio vaccine, molecular biology, electromagnetism, x-rays, atoms, DNA, the fact that all living creatures contain the same genetic code, the human genome, or a 50% divorce rate, the Constitution is an objectively great work that doesn't contain a single reference to scripture, but does open with "We the People." Was this disrespect of scripture or of religious faith? There is nothing that suggests that it was.

It would seem there are good people by the millions who don't agree on the "literal words" of their religious beliefs – people of deep faith who view their own experience of God in completely different ways. Therefore, questions and "criticism" of ideas should "trump" dogma if we're ever going to learn anything about each other. Then, we must permit ourselves to seek truth and understanding by asking good questions. Do any of us want to live in a society where the line between theology and politics is unrecognizable and non-negotiable? Millions do.

No matter what our faith, we must not fail to recognize the difference between those who condemn and intimidate and those who do not. It's not a matter of migrating toward what makes us feel better; it's a matter of connection with truth in all its forms. Why is it that not all Christians refer to the Genesis account of Sodom and Gomorrah as an "answer?" Why were we taught not to call names on the playground, but that it's considered by many to be righteous in some churches? Should "truth" depend upon feelings or culture or faith? Homosexuality is either a sin or isn't; it can't be both.

If it turns out scientifically, without a doubt, that "who we love" is as involuntary as being left or right-handed, would

• See LETTERS page 30

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... BEARS continued from page 12

"another" rock overturned in the driveway which is lined with rocks. Bears often turn rocks over in search of grubs and so this is a common occurrence at their house.

Then she noticed an ice cream carton in the yard – the same ice cream she had served at a party the night before and once in the house it was clear the bear had come for lunch.

"The refrigerator door was open and she even opened the vegetable drawers but didn't do any damage," she said. "It literally took me a few minutes to tidy up."

The bear ate the cake out of its bin on the counter; brisket from the fridge and after she ate the leftover shrimp, left the tails

in a neat little pile.

"She was just an opportunist; and she was very neat. She came in, ate and left. The only thing she did was leave the refrigerator door open but it was clear she wasn't there long based on the state of the ice in the freezer," she said.

To keep the bears from returning, at least from entering their homes, both parties now hang strips of cloth soaked in ammonia or apple-cider vinegar outside all the windows and doors.

Neither party wishes the bears any harm. "I moved into their territory, not the other way around," said the Horse Cove resident. "I have to change my habits; they don't have to change theirs."

Evidently, apple-cider soaked strips work as a deterrent. The bear returned the next day making a 10-ft. arc around the house looking for way in but left when she saw it was fruitless.

B.E.A.R. Task Force representatives expect a lot of incidents and complaints this season and encourage residents to relay their stories.

"It is important to get the word out so people can do everything they can to reduce the possibility of problems," said Strain. "It would be horrible to have someone or their pet seriously injured by a bear, but it could happen."

Copies of task force bear brochures are available at Mill Creek Gallery, Town Hall, the Hudson Library, the Chamber of Commerce and the Post Office.

E-mail Strain at bearwnc@gmail.com with questions or concerns, and also with stories of bear encounters.

"We are collecting stories so we can better understand what the situation is and see how people are responding to incidents so we know what we need to be doing," she said.

"Living with Bears" by Linda Master-
son as well as the www.getbearsmart.com website are good reference materials to keep on hand.

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission's website, offers excellent information on black bears, as well. www.ncwildlife.org/News/NewsArticle/tabid/416/IndexID/7911/Default.aspx

B.E.A.R., whose mission is to promote the safe, harmonious coexistence between humans and bears, is offering several informational presentations this summer. Watch for events in this paper.

- Kim Lewicki

... CREEK continued
from page 1

would become the primary valve and the valve in Big Creek would become the secondary intake valve.

Due to the cost associated with removing silt, as well as right-of-way issues, over the last couple of years, the town has been discussing moving the intake valve to deep water at the dam.

But for years, property owners have been discussing the silt problem with town officials who initially gave the impression that silt cleanup would happen with the help of Clean Water Trust Fund grants and matching funds from the town as long as property owners along the creek gave the town right-of-way to stage operations.

Negotiations fell apart over permanent vs. temporary right-of-way issues, as well as deciding on a place to put the silt once removed from the creek.

Subsequently, town officials began considering other alternatives, which has Big Creek property owners and Lake Sequoyah property owners upset.

Big Creek property owners say not cleaning up Big Creek is not only bad for the town but bad for their property values and their creek-lifestyle.

Town Manager Bob Frye said the project has been under consideration for some time now. "While there are currently no plans to proceed further with this project, it made sense to get the Environmental Assessment completed and out of the way so that if any type of funding came available, the town would be in a position to apply for it."

Former Commissioner Hank Ross, who lives across from Lake Sequoyah on US 64 picked McGill's assessment apart, questioned the town's decision to abandon Big Creek, and asked where the \$300,000 that the town had been saving over several years to remove silt from Big Creek has gone.

"I am disappointed that the board is moving in this direction to move the intake valve," he said. "For 18 years, I have been canoeing and there is a tremendous amount of silt coming into all the coves and there is six-inches of water over 90% of the Cullasaja River."

He said he hoped commissioners would check it out because Big Creek has taken the lion's share of silt.

He went on to question the logic because when the projects are compared there is a \$193,000 difference – \$2.1 million to dredge Big Creek which would basically keep it from becoming another

• See CREEK page 23

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Mirror Lake wetlands, compared to \$1.93 million to move the valve to the dam.

The assessment talks about construction problems (the removal and dumping of silt) and the probable difficulty in acquiring temporary easements from Big Creek property owners.

But Ross said the town owns acres of property along Big Creek which would be eligible for the project. Furthermore, Big Creek property owners represented by Sarah Fenton, said they would gladly work out temporary easement issues.

Ross said the study suggests the traffic noise on US 64 would basically drown out the noise associated with the intake at the dam, but he begged to differ.

"Other than during 'rush hour' there isn't a large amount of traffic noise on US 64 but noise would continually emanate from the mechanical structure," he said. "We will be affected."

He further criticized the study because it didn't include any mitigation for noise absorption, like a building built over the mechanism.

"Sound travels like a waterbug across the lake," he said.

He also questioned the 12-inch water main that would have to be installed on the north side of US 64 where the NC

DOT right-of-way is ditch to ditch rather than the regular 60 feet. He said the town might have to consider purchasing right-of-way along US 64 to make the project happen which would escalate costs.

"I'm very disappointed that the town is pursuing this option which basically leaves Big Creek out of the picture," he said.

Fenton also spoke and read from a statement signed by 14 property owners along Big Creek.

"We are opposed to any project that would involve moving the intake structure to a new location unless it also includes a viable plan for and promise of removal of existing excess silt in the underwater portions of Big Creek within the next five years.

"For well over a decade, property owners have expressed their concerns regarding the siltation because it is the town's drinking water supply and an important aesthetic feature of our community.

"As a group, we have always been receptive to granting the town temporary easements to the underwater portions of our property for cleanup as long as we are fully informed in advance and any easement document is clear, concise and fair to all involved.

•See CREEK page 25

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"Sunset on Lake Glenville"

Tuesday, July 17th – 5:30 PM – \$125/person – 14 Places

Host: Hyonja Lee Abrons and Gray McRimmon

Menu: Cocktails and boat ride on Lake Glenville followed by a specially prepared dinner at the Landings Club.

"Dueling Pianists"

Tuesday, July 24th – 6:30 PM – \$125/person – 40 Places

Hosts: Chip and Susan Robert

Tim and Gail Hughes, Hays and Anna Mershon
Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor

Pianists: William Ransom and Victor Asuncion

Menu: Fresh appetizers served in the garden; grilled flank steak, herbed chicken, fresh orzo salad, fresh asparagus, caprese salad and hot biscuits

"Evening with The Eroica Trio"

Sunday, July 29th – 7:15 PM – \$125/person – 12 Places

Hosts: Julian and Margo Franklin, Bob and Olivia Holt

Menu: Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres overlooking Whiteside Mountain; Salmon Sant'Ambrogio, Salade Nickrenz, Park-er House rolls, assorted desserts



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"A Royal Feast"

Thursday, August 9th – 6:30 PM – \$150/person – 10 Places

Hosts: Ed and Penny Mawyer

Menu: Cucumber and avocado soup with spring greens and garden vegetables, beef wellington with mushroom duxelle and peppercorn sauce, asparagus and fingerling potatoes, French apple and custard tart with fresh berries.

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Thursday, September 20th – 6:00 PM – \$100/person – 25 Places

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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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

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

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day: 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 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; 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)

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Chaplain Margaret Howell

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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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Rev. Clifford Willis

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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.

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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 •

"God, shock us, please!"

Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Remember the "Shock and Awe" military campaign in and around Baghdad? This military strategy is technically known as "rapid dominance," a military doctrine on the use of overwhelming power, dominant battlefield awareness, and spectacular displays of force to paralyze an adversary's perception of the battlefield and destroy its will to fight.

In America's first deployment to Iraq in 1991, 400 cruise missiles exploded in Iraq over 40 days. In 2003, the U.S. "Shock and Awe" campaign bombarded Baghdad with 800 cruise missiles in only 48 hours! Do you think the Iraqi military and civilian populations were overwhelmed? They had to be emotionally jolted beyond comprehension. Why is it that there must be such an extreme provocation to invoke such a change of behavior?

It gets tougher and tougher to be shocked in our culture. We seem to be greatly "desensitized." We are frequently bombarded by images and situations that once would have been shocking but today are simply commonplace. Because of modern technology, it isn't unusual to see people rioting in the streets somewhere and being beaten with clubs. It isn't uncommon to view massacred men, women and children in body bags in Syria or somewhere else in the world. Scandals abound in our culture (Secret Service, Department of Justice, various mega-church pastors, even a sexual liaison in the Oval Office). Our athletes are on the "juice" and their homerun records have an asterisk beside them. I cannot remember a week that a celebrity didn't file for divorce or be implicated in some sort of illegal activity. Apart from tragedies like the 911 assault what really shocks us anymore?

Words are diluted as well. Awesome is no longer "awesome", not really. What about "patience?" I "Googled" something the other day and 1,070,000 bits of information popped up in only .13 seconds. What if it had taken 3 whole seconds. Would that have compromised my patience? We used to write something called a "letter" and mail it with something called a "stamp" and we were thrilled that it reached its destination in 3 or 4 days. In this information age, three days is an eternity.

So culture changes and shifts. So what? Well here's the potential problem. God gets diluted as well. He gets brought down to everyday culture and gets disempowered in our own minds. We live in a world where it becomes increasingly difficult to be blown away by our "Diluted Deity." His "set apartness" erodes when we take His Name in vain on prime time television. His enduring love dwin-

... DEBATE from 19

for private business. They are going after the Constitution, church and Congress ... enough is enough. Let's turn it around and reclaim America from the White House to the Court House. We need to protect the Constitution which is under attack by Executive Order. Obama blames Bush, Congress and now Europe. I say the buck stops in the White House and Congress and it's time we take it back.

Obama has increased 250,000 government jobs and lawyers by 26%. He's all about creating green jobs – bicycle repair businesses, bus drivers and janitors to the tune of \$38 billion. That's \$1 million per job. The private sector can do a better job.

I'm about less government, liberty, protecting the constitution and protecting life.

We, the people need to reclaim America.

• Next week in the June 21 edition: the first question – Do you see the threat of Sharia law in America as a major threat, minor threat, or no threat?

i.e. Patterson's reference to 9/12: Remember who we were on 9/12/2001. "The 9/12 Project's mission from day one has been to educate ourselves, give back through service and show others through our Principles and Values that America is still the greatest nation."

... CREEK continued from page 23

"Some property owners have always been interested in assisting the town with the cleanup and some would even be receptive to contributing financially to the joint project.

"Should the town move the existing intake, our fear is that the issues in Big Creek will continue to be ignored and that in time, Big Creek will resemble Mirror Lake and become primarily wetlands. This would be devastating to our local environment, to our property values as well as to our current waterfront way of life."

She also requested that Big Creek property owners be given 30-days notice of any future meetings or hearings regarding the proposed project.

Property owner Ray Vito said they have never gotten a clear message from the town as to what its plan is concerning Big Creek.

"We've invested money on Big Creek. If it's going to be another Mirror Lake, then just tell us," he said.

He suggested the town take care of the problem at hand, "As an engineer, it's my professional perspective that our silt problems will not go away."

Because it was a Public Hearing, no one from the Town Board posed any questions, shared any information or made comments to any of the speakers.

-- Kim Lewicki

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 24

dles in our minds as "love" is replaced by objectifying women in culture. His incredible Presence is confused with seeking His hand instead of His face. Many people have never sensed His actual physical Presence. How sad is that?

Somewhere along the way, this nation missed the immensity and intimacy of the Lord. Subsequently we lost our way. Once God was integrated into culture as something other than a loving relational powerhouse to be both enjoyed and revered we headed toward serious problems. This great nation needs to be "shocked" with a spiritual defibrillator. America could use a jolt by the deep love of God that precipitates a deep longing for Him and warrants a deep reverence for His rule and reign.

As the 4th of July approaches, consider praying for an outpouring of His Spirit on this land. By this I mean a "shocking" bombardment of His grace and forgiveness that whether you admit it or not-we all long for deep down inside.

America needs pulpits that stop playing games with the Word of God. America needs ministers that preach the Bible to hungry congregations not what people's "itching ears want to hear" (2 Tim. 4:3). We need ministers disciplined enough to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15). We need courageous ministers that are "voices crying in the wilderness" (Matt.

3:3) not timid spiritual wimps fearful of losing "their flock" and "their offerings." We need to bolster our ministers that dare to believe in a supernatural God that heals, restores and refreshes not a "culturalized" natural God. We need to exalt the Christ that he will draw all men and women and children to Himself (John 3:14).

We as a nation need to celebrate our incredibly costly liberty and independence with an incredible dependence upon the Lord. Our great nation always follows the lead and example of the church of Jesus Christ. As the church goes, so goes the nation. It always has been this way. Either the church leads and the nation follows or we flounder about with a "diluted definition" of an immensely powerful God. Righteousness exalts a nation (Prov. 14:34). May the Bride of Christ cry out to God for a deep desperation for God (Ps. 42:1). This nation seeks after what she wants. May we long for God again! Ask Him for a hunger and a thirst for righteousness-He will give it to you (Matt. 5:6)

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from April 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 28

- At 3 p.m., a breaking and entering with larceny was reported at a residence on Dog Mountain Drive where \$4,260 worth of jewelry including a Marion County Sheriff badge with ID was taken.

May 12

- At 4:10 p.m., petty larceny of a cloth wallet was reported from a gas station at 515 Franklin Road.

May 19

- At 2 p.m., a group of motorcyclists were reported driving on US 64 west, but officers couldn't locate them.
- At 8:05 p.m., officers responded to two noise complaints about a band at The Bascom. The noise level didn't exceed 63 decibels but the band turned down the music a bit.

May 20

- A little past midnight officers assisted another agency at a residence on Owl Gap Road.
- At 1:30 a.m., officers received a call about an impaired man who had fallen on Main Street but they couldn't locate the person.

• At 7 a.m., officers assisted The Highlander newspaper's cleaning lady get into the building after she locked herself out.

May 21

- At 1:17 p.m., officers responded to a call from a women at a residence on Azalea Circle who was having a fight with her boyfriend who wanted her out of the house.

- At 7:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at S. 4th and S. 5th streets.

May 22

• At 4:40 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported in the Bank of America parking lot. He needed directions to Tennessee.

May 26

- A little after midnight, officers were asked to check on an overdue drive. All was OK.
- At 12:25 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at Piermont House. OEI security handled it.

May 27

• At 12:35 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at Highlands Smoke House. The closed the windows and doors.

- At 2:15 a.m., officers received a call about a bear on the porch of a residence on Laurel Street.
- At 1:22 p.m., officers received a call about a dog left in a car with the windows up in Highlands Plaza.

May 28

- At 10:14 p.m., officers received a call about a dead deer on NC 28.

May 29

• At 5:40 p.m., officers received a call about a wounded bear which had been shot near Bonavista Drive. They were unable to locate the bear.

- During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 13 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from May 16.

May 17

- At 4:07 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Morewood Rd. It was a faulty detector.

May 18

• At 1:46 p.m., the dept. searched for a lost hiker between Buck Circle Road and Yellow Mountain. He was found an given a ride home.

May 19

• The 4 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a man who had broken an ankle while walking below the Cliffside Lake Dam. He was assisted out.

May 21

- At 10:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co² alarm at a residence on Center Drive. It was due to a low battery.
- At 2:50 p.m., the dept. assisted EMS with a resident on Clear Creek Road.

May 24

• At 4:40 p.m., the dept. to a call about a noisy ventilation fan on a roof at a home on Chestnut Lane. Residents were afraid it might catch fire.

• At 10:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a call at a residence on Spring Street where an outside gas fireplace wouldn't turn off.

May 26

• At 12:59 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Glenville-Cashiers Fire and Rescue when a woman fell 16-ft. from a cliff on Whiteside Mountain and broke two ankles.

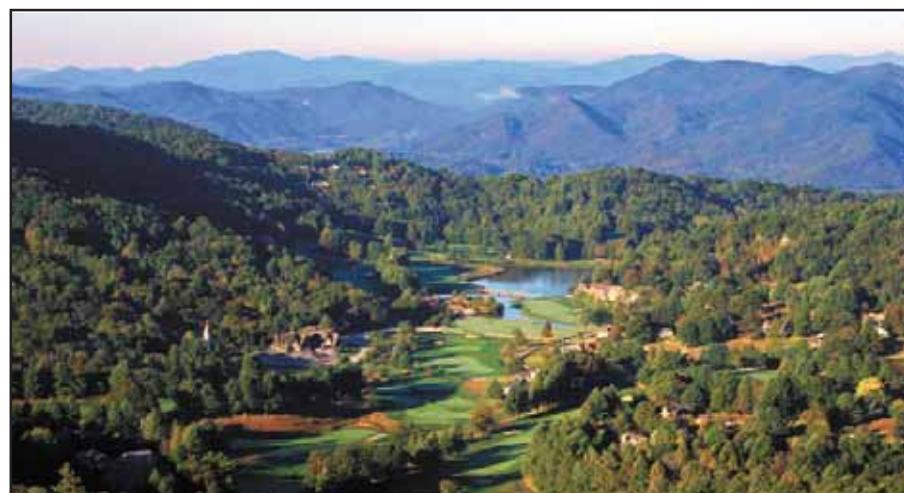
- At 5:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Road. It was false.

May 27

• At 3:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Cullasaja Drive. It was a controlled burn that had spread. There was no damage.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Property owners purchase Sky Valley Golf course



Sky Valley Club, Inc announced it has completed the purchase of Sky Valley Resort & Golf Club from BB&T. Terms of the sale were not disclosed. The effective date of purchase is May 29, 2012.

The acquisition includes the 18-hole golf course, the unfinished clubhouse and outdoor pavilion. The facility has been re-named Sky Valley Club and is located within the city limits of Sky Valley, Georgia.

Sky Valley Club was purchased out of foreclosure by Sky Valley Club, Inc., a locally based, privately funded entity comprised of area residents concerned about the future of the community.

The club was previously owned by Merrill Trust but was foreclosed by BB&T in 2008. Golf course communities have struggled through this economic downturn, including such Georgia notables as Sea Island and Reynolds Plantation, and Sky Valley Club was no exception.

Since 2008, private efforts to purchase the club repeatedly fell short. Purchase arrangements to include the backing of the City of Sky Valley proved unfeasible. Finally, a group of local residents and community leaders coalesced, raising sufficient capital to complete the purchase.

Sky Valley Club President Bob Larsen says "The golf course is in excellent shape and we are open for public play. Membership packages from the previous owner will be honored and we are working on a plan to finish the club house as soon as possible. We have a tremendous opportunity to do something good here."

Meadows addresses Republican women



Young Republican Blake Meadows, of Cashiers, son of Mark Meadows who is running against Vance Patterson for the Congressional District 11 Republican slot, spoke about conservative political issues to Republican women at their June meeting.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

WCCC Ladies Show Support for the Highlands Emergency Council



For the fourth year, the Wildcat Ladies hosted a "Party with a Purpose." This year's hostesses were Nancy Temple, Pegi Williard, Diana Rethorst, and Linda Arnold. Twenty-five ladies from Wildcat gathered for a luncheon at Pegi Williard's home on Thursday, April 12th with each guest bringing food or a monetary donation for the Highlands Emergency Council. In addition to being with friends, the ladies supported an important cause in our Highlands community.

Commissioners put 'party' aside



On Friday, June 1st, Republican Commissioners Kevin Corbin and Ron Haven joined Democratic Commissioner Ronnie Beale at Walmart in Franklin to raise money for the Children's Hospital. In a "Jail For Bail" fundraiser, they raised over \$400 in one hour. Franklin Police Officer Dwayne Cabe, shown "guarding" the "prisoners" raised over \$700 during his time in the "jail." They are all patriots in their efforts for a good cause!"

Pope to head up Harry Norman Realtors property mgt. division

Sherman Pope, NCRE Broker is a Florida native, educated at Florida State University, and enjoyed a successful career in business before moving to Cashiers full time, nine years ago. "We are thrilled with the addition of Sherman, whose expertise in residential and commercials sales will be invaluable to our firm. Also, his vast experience in Property Management will enable us to expand and better satisfy our clients' desires," says Elizabeth Salzarulo, Owner/Broker of the Highlands Office.

Harry Norman is presently offering Luxury short-term, long-term and vacation rentals in desirable neighborhoods such as Highlands Country Club, in-town Highlands, and The Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove. For more information, on any Real Estate need, please contact Sherman Pope at 828-342-4277 or Sherman.Pope@harrynorman.com

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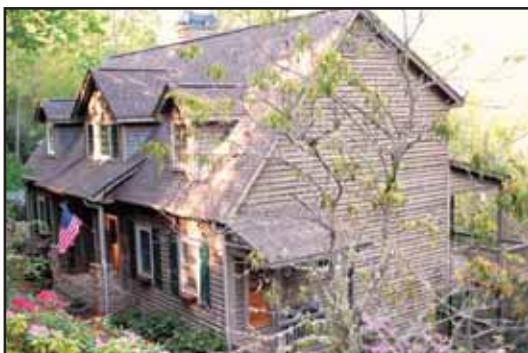
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3 BED, 1 BATH, IN TOWN. Wilson Road. Available June 15. \$900 per month plus utilities. Call 526-2508. (st. 6/7)

3 BED, 2 BATH HOME IN SKY VALLEY, GA. \$750/month. Call 706-746-7279. (St. 6/7).

4-HORSE STALL BARN ON 4.6 ACRES FOR LEASE. Arena, horse fencing, hay loft and 5 minutes to National Forest trails. \$700/month. 828-713-6101. (st. 5/17)

FURNISHED SMALL COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET FOR RENT – available May and June (not July) then August on. No pets or smokers. Suitable for single or adult couple. \$500 plus utilities, or \$250 per week. 828-526-8645 (st. May 3)

UNIQUE LARGE, UPSTAIRS MAIN ST APT with open porch area. 2/2 with den and open living area. Washer/dryer, unfurnished but could be partially furnished. Call 526-4044 or 200-0036. (st. 4/19)

2BR/2BA FURNISHED CONDO IN

TOWN. \$800 per month. Call 828-342-4277 (st. 3/22)

VACATION RENTAL

JUST RIGHT FOR TWO – Extra nice, very private, upstairs garage apt. nestled in the woods, built in 2008 and seldom used. Full kitchen, new King bed (Westin Hotel Heavenly Bed), light, airy and nicely appointed. Located in Falling Waters, a well-groomed community just 2.6 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Rates from \$195 per night and from \$1,050 per week. Call 828-526-9622. (st. 5/31)

INCREDIBLE MOUNTAIN VIEWS. 3 bed/2Ba house with large screened porch and fireplace. Total electric utilities, W/D, dishwasher, cable TV. All utilities included. Available Aug, Sept, Oct. \$1,500 per week. Call Ann at 828-200-4266 or email nanarose39@gmail.com. (9/6)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REDUCED! 3.55 wooded acres, Blue Valley/Clear Creek area. 3 bed, 2 bath manufactured home with 2 large decks, workshop, storage building and covered parking. \$144,000. 828-526-8191. (8/16)

GLENVILLE – acre, power, septic, water, house site, driveway, mountain view, telephone, \$24,000. 743-6216 (6/7).

LOT FOR SALE, NICE NEIGHBORHOOD – 1.45 acres, heavily wooded w/stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirrormont area, walk to town, \$169,900, 770-861-4249. (7/19)

SEE FALLING WATERS – 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic. Peaceful, quiet and private. Offered in parcels of .75 acres to 10+ acres. Carve out your creekfront, waterfall view or multi-use estate. Owner financing. 828-508-9952. From Main St. take Hwy 106 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mr. Laurel Dr., 3-tenths mile turn left on Moonlight. Entrance on right. www.hightlandsnchomesites.com (st. 5/3)

2/2 SINGLE-WIDE WITH GREAT VIEW AND PRIVACY, backs to national forest and move-in ready. \$89,000. 526.1971 or 482.2050.

MOVING SALE

DOWNSIZED -- items need a home: leather chairs, dining tables, armoires, buffet, wormy chestnut. Lamps, pictures, rugs, leather books, wicker, etc. Highlands Storage Village 2821 Cashiers Hwy. 9a-4p Sat 6/16. 828-200-0361.

PETS FOR SALE

NEUTERED, HYPO-ALLERGENIC, LABRADOODLE. 3 yrs old, cream & apricot. Poodle coat that needs grooming. Well-trained.

Great disposition. Has allergies but are manageable. Has papers. \$599 OBO. Call 828-349-8906. (st. 5/24)

ITEMS FOR SALE**CUSTOM MADE KING SIZED HICKORY LOG BED W/ NIGHTSTAND \$1,500.**

Chippendale Dining Room Table w/8 Chairs \$3,000. Solid Cherry TV Armoire \$1,000. Unique Sassafras Loveseat/Bench \$400. Log Swing Set & 2 Matching Rocking Chairs \$400. Oak Rolltop Desk \$600. Antique Style Curved Glass Oak China Cabinet \$600. Carved Side Table with Matching Mirror \$500. Woman's Snow Skis, w/boots, bindings, poles \$400. (Never used). Whirlpool Washer/Dryer \$400. 828-200-9176. (st. 5/24)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2009 HONDA FIT 5 DOOR SPORT – Bright Milano Red – only 7,200 miles – 33mpg - garage kept – adult driven – mint – loaded with extras – under priced at 15k. Research this beauty then call 526-3063 to see this exceptional car.

2 MOTOR SCOOTERS – low mileage. 1984 Honda Aero, 125 cc, \$750 OBO. 1987 Honda Elite, 150 cc, \$875 OBO. 828-482-1239. (st. 5/31)

SERVICES

IF YOU'RE A PSYCHOLOGICAL/SPIRITUAL SEEKER, YOU'LL LOVE THIS 5-WEEK BOOK STUDY CLASS ON THE BOOK "CALLINGS," led by Betty Holt, beginning 2nd week July. Details 526-5558 or bjholt@frontier.com. (6/14)

RN'S, LPN'S, CNA'S AND CAREGIVERS looking for independent contract work caring for the elderly in the Highlands/Cashiers area. 828-200-9000. (st. 6/7)

PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLEANING by Rondel Contract Services. Call today for all your cleaning needs. 828-342-4546. Ask for Paul. (st. 5/17)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (7/19)

AVON - for catalogs & orders, call local sales

representative Amy Jenkins Ramey 342-2279.

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HIGHLANDS CLEANING SERVICES – house, office, auto. Expert floor restorer, minor repairs. For estimates call 828-526-1971.

CRAWLSPACE MOISTURE PROBLEMS? Musty smell in your home? Call 828-787-1673. (St. 4/28)

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

LEGALS**Town of Highlands
Notice of Public Hearing**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners at the Highlands Community Building, 71 Poplar Street, on the 21st day of June 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m., for the proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

All interested residents/citizens are encouraged to attend and be heard. A copy of the proposed annual budget is located on the Town Website www.hightlandsnc.org and on file at Town Hall for inspection by all between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Rebecca R. Shuler, Town Clerk
(6/7, 6/14)

**... LETTERS continued
from page 21**

we change our minds, or are our minds already made-up on the matter? What are we to learn from the many Holocaust survivors who kept or regained their faith in God, and from ones who didn't? Insight into these answers seems instructive and that human experience, including that of faith can be very personal and complex. But aren't there objectively better and worse ways of gaining knowledge and insight? Isn't it objectively true that dogmatic explanations to complicated questions are an inferior way to experience the truth?

Jennifer Royce
Highlands

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for ticket information.

Thursday, Friday & Saturdays

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge. Call 526-2121.

Friday, June 15

• Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street.
Mountain Hoo Doo with Lisa & Steve McAdams.

Saturdays

• The Highlands Farmers Market 9am-12 through October at
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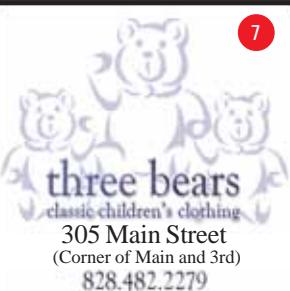
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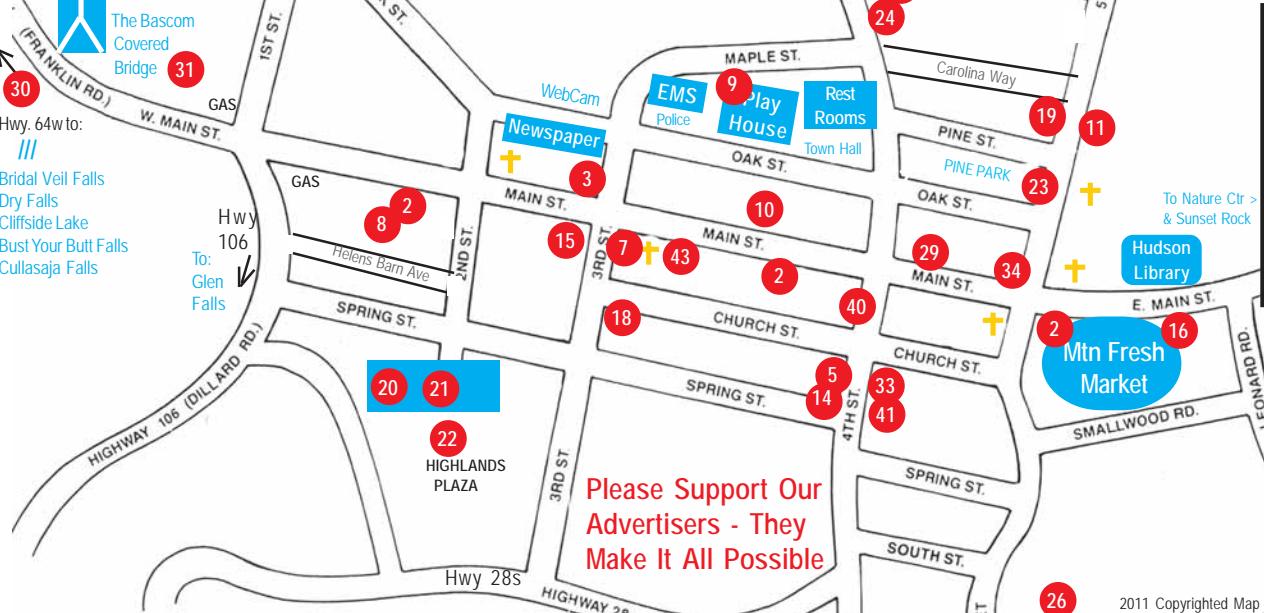


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