

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 20

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Thursday, May 17, 2012

Thurs.-Sat., May 17-19

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival, a celebration of wine, food and the arts auction. For additional information about receiving an invitation to become a Benefactor or to attend Collective Spirits, please visit [TheBascom.org/collectivespirits](http://TheBascom.org/collectivespirits) or call 828.787.2896.

Thursday-Sunday, May 17-20

• Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Friday, May 18

• Relay For Life of Highlands will hold a casual gathering at Sports Page Restaurant from 4:30pm -6pm to honor and support our cancer caregivers.

May 21-May 25

• The Town of Highlands has set a White Good Pick-Up Week annually since February 1987. This year the Annual White Goods Pickup will be the week of May 21st through May 25th. Please, contract Town Hall at (828) 526-2118 to be placed on the pickup list.

Saturday, May 19

• The John Armor Estate Auction at 11 a.m. on site on Kettle Rock Road off NC 106.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work trip this Saturday. To register leave a message at 828-526-5622 or email [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com).

• The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust with Highlands Plateau Audubon Society are sponsoring a joint nature walk along a scenic portion of the Bartram Trail, near Jones Gap. The primary emphasis of the Eco Tour will be bird watching and identification as well as general natural history. Sign up by calling 526-9938. Lunch is included.

Sunday, May 20

• The Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe concert on Sunday at 5 P.M. in the Episcopal Church sanctuary. To reserve a seat please call, 404-378-0064 or email, [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)

## 'Main Street' group agrees on priorities

By Luke Osteen

The Highlands Small Town Main Street Committee took a major step in its effort to boost the fortunes of downtown Tuesday night.

The group of concerned citizens agreed to focus its efforts for

the next 12 months on three issues: making the town more attractive to pedestrians, fostering better understanding between business owners and landlords, and once again taking a crack at affordable housing for those who make their living in Highlands.

"All three of these dovetail – they're vital to having a healthy town," said Mayor David Wilkes. "I think if we can follow through on these issues, we'll have a brighter future."

Ran Shaffner noted that the  
• See MAIN STREET page 9

## Olvera glad to be moving on

Those expecting a big crescendo over the messy and very public 2010 sexual harassment, gender and race discrimination case against the town won't be hearing any more on the issue.

The town of Highlands, agreed to the settlement paid to Erika Olvera by Traveler's Insurance – the town's insurance company – for \$30,000. This officially closes the discrimination case filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission by former police officer Olvera.

Olvera filed charges of discrimination on April 14, 2010 when her concerns about rumors involving an extramarital affair between herself and Police Chief Bill Harrell fell on deaf ears.

She and Harrell were asked to take a polygraph test by former Town Manager Jim Fatland which Olvera said was demeaning and humiliating. Though both she and

• See OLVERA page 14



Edwin and Kay Poole and Monica and Kevin Vinson were named "Fans of the Year" at this year's Highlands School Athletic Banquet.  
Photo by Ryan Potts

## Highlanders honored at Athletic Banquet

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Rotary Club sponsored a fried chicken dinner on Monday evening to honor the

athletes of Highlands School as they completed their sports seasons for the 2011-'12 school year.

• See ATHLETIC page 19

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## Brigman's interim successor found

The search is on for a Macon County Schools superintendent, but meanwhile, an interim has been found to fill the slot.

Following the executive session of a special called Board of Education meeting Monday, May 14, the board authorized Chairman Tommy Cabe and BOE Attorney John Henning to negotiate the salary, as well as Personnel Director Dan Moore to begin all necessary background checks for Dr. Finley James Duncan.

Duncan will then serve as Interim Superintendent of the Macon County School System, effective July 1, 2012.

Duncan officially retired from education in 2007 but has been living in Otto, NC, and working as a part-time contractor for North Carolina and Tennessee in EVAAS staff development.

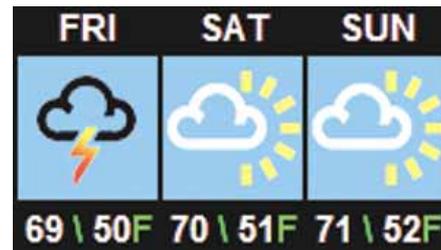
Prior to retiring, he was Superintendent of Wilson County Schools in Lebanon, TN from 2000-2007, and knew MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman during that time.

Brigman's resignation is effective June 30.

Brigman, 43 was unani-

• See INTERIM page 14

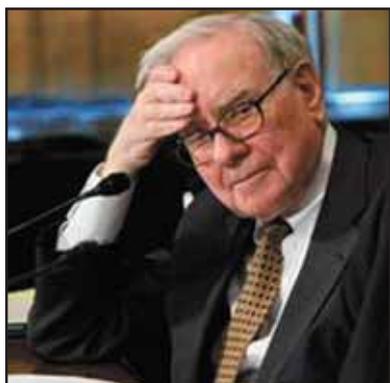
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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### Warren Buffett offers one of the best quotes about the debt ceiling



Warren Buffett

"I could end the deficit in 5 minutes," he told CNBC. "You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for re-election.

The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18 year-olds) took only 3 months & 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple!

The people demanded it. That was in 1971 - before computers, e-mail, cell phones, etc. Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took one (1) year or less to become the law of the land - all because of public pressure.

Warren Buffet is asking to pass this message on. This is one idea that really should be passed around.

Congressional Reform Act of 2012  
1. No Tenure / No Pension.

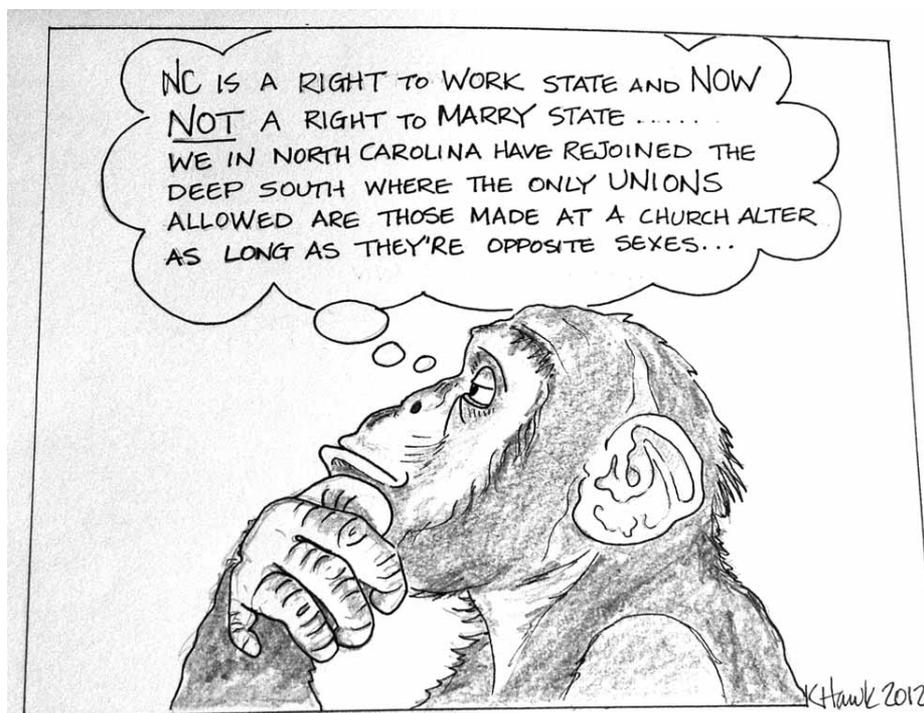
A Congressman/woman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they're out of office.

2. Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security.

All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security sys-

•See FORUM page 18

## • 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

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

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Circulation 10,000

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

Email: [HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)  
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C. , 28741

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## • LETTERS •

### Cut Trees

Dear Editor,

Perhaps if we had been more vocal in our praise of the Town when they planted that lovely row of Maples... perhaps if we had expressed our approval and appreciation of a gesture that would ultimately have given Highlands a much grander entrance...perhaps if the Town board had known how important trees are to its constituents, this needless and incomprehensible cutting would not have occurred.

I could not believe my eyes when I saw the picture in the paper of the trees being destroyed. I was shocked, incredulous, horrified and finally, with a sinking feeling in my stomach, very discouraged to think that I live in a town that would do such a thing, using my money to do so!

So, I ask, have they lost their minds? What could possibly be the reason for this? I asked several people and was told by one that the owners of the shops behind the trees thought they were being obstructed from the view of potential customers. What a remarkable perception they have...if this be true! I see it as quite the contrary.

People walking this town, as customers do, would have been enticed to continue in the direction of the shops by the beauty of the trees and the little benches in the shade where they could rest, after which they would have been very likely to investigate the shops behind.

With the heat we have had already this year, I would think it would have been recognized that a long stretch of baking sun would cause potential customers to turn on their heels and go back into town for an ice cream.

The article in the paper indicated the reason for removing the potentially large trees to be the possibility of cracked sidewalks. It's true we don't want people tripping as they gaze up at the splendor of the leaves, but I believe if the desire to preserve is a high priority, we can be very imaginative creatures. Perhaps an elevated area of sidewalk made of wood or its man made substi-

•See LETTERS page 18

# CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

In the April 19 edition about locals on track to becoming full-time firefighters, the information submitted was wrong. The two men completed 440 hours of training not 44 hours.

In the May 10 edition, the Alexander Family "Thank You" said Bryson's Food donated the fried chicken. It was Terry Watson who is employed by Bryson's Food Store. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

In the May 10 edition in Fred Wooldrige's column he mentioned he had Hepatitis B. It was Hepatitis A. We neglected to make the change when asked to do so prior to printing. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.



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## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

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

## Twenty pair of underwear ...Heading for Highlands

The li'l missus and her hubby (li'l ole me) are truly blessed. We are well traveled and packing has become an art form....for her. You would think after years of travel I would remember to bring sport shirts on a Caribbean cruise. Wrong! When we got home I found them all gathered together in the closet right where I left them. DUH! Fortunately our first stop was Key West where they sold cheapo collared sport shirts for five bucks. I now own shirts in every color with a Key West logo on them. I can't believe they were only five bucks. And when folks see the logo and ask, "Are you from Key West?" I sarcastically answer, "No and when I wear my Miami Heat shirt I'm not living at American Airlines stadium." And you would think I would remember to



pack shorts before heading to Dubai where it's hot. Wrong again! Thank God my son is the same waist size because short pants are difficult to purchase in his neighborhood.

Are you still reading? At another time I loaded our luggage into the back of our Rav and headed for the cruise port. While unloading at the dock, I realized I was missing a suitcase....mine. Soooo we packed the car and headed home. I found it in full view sitting on

the kitchen floor. DUH, AGAIN! We still made our cruise with hours to spare.

At our winter hangout in North Palm Beach, the gardenias are in full bloom, signaling it's time to start packing for Highlands. The inside of our home smells

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 17



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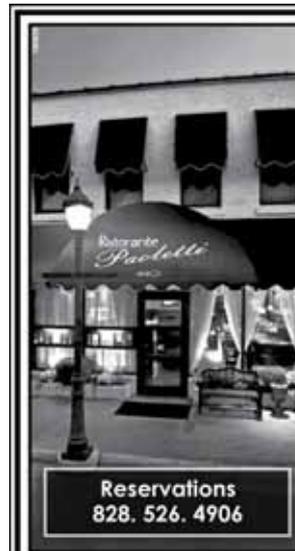
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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Why does Mitt want to be president?

Mitt Romney wants to be president. I asked myself why he wants the job, and I answered, for the same reason a popular high school senior wants to be student body president. Which is to say, he wants it because he wants it. Or he wants it because he's never had it, which is pretty much the same thing.

It is the rare high-schooler who really aspires to increase acceptance of gays, widen the parking spaces in the student lot, or replace the Coke machines with fresh juice dispensers. Before you write; I'm not equating gay rights with parking places and juice boxes. I'm neither minimizing nor marginalizing the quest for full rights. In fact, quite the opposite is true. I'm attempting to draw a sharp distinction between the trivial and the grave, between the ridiculous and the sublime, between reasons and excuses. Having dealt with that distraction, let's get back to Mitt and his quest for the nation's highest office.

It's quite possible he may merely succeed where his father had failed, much in the way it is rumored that George W fabricated reasons to go war with Iraq to finish a job his Dad started. It's not an unreasonable supposition, but I think control of Iraqi oil is a more plausible explanation. Few people remember, and there hasn't been much said about it, but Mitt's Dad, George, sought the office in 1968. His bid ended when he cried in public, lamenting his earlier support for the VietNam war, claiming to have been brainwashed.

He might want to be the first, and probably last Mormon president. Mitt is an enormously wealthy man. Financial motivation is unlikely. What is even less likely is that he wants the job because he wants the job. It is clear that he has no visionary world view. He discards positions as they lose favor, or when he addresses a new constituency. His world view is limited to, "Romney for President." As a Republican governor of the liberal state of Massachusetts, he supported gay rights and universal health care. I like that in a Republican. In his quest for he presidency, has abandoned these positions and courted conservative, often Bible thumping, homophobes; the Party's base. These folks have been seduced, much as medieval commoners were seduced to join the Crusade, to pursue an idealistic goals, when, in truth, the puppe-



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email: hsalzarulo@aol.com**

teers just needed manpower, soldiers in one example, voters in the other.

I don't believe Mitt Romney, or any of the unsuccessful Republican candidates, really want to see gays deprived of the same rights the rest of us enjoy. I don't believe they cherish the thought of people dying in the streets from hunger, or treatable disease.

To get elected, a candidate has to throw meat to the dogs. It happens on the left as often as the right, and maybe some-

day I'll get around to critiquing President Obama. Today I'm writing about a plastic, two dimensional candidate. Mitt Romney has no vision to change the world or to enrich America. He has a vision to be President.

This isn't to say Romney might not be a serviceable President. He has proven to be a capable administrator, and perhaps he could bridle the bureaucracy in a way Jimmy Carter could not have imagined. Mitt Romney cannot be a great president, even if great challenges confront him because he wants to be president in much the same way as the senior quarterback wants to be student council president; to enhance his resume.

A great president must display courage and conviction, even when popular opinion swings against him; when he is alone, isolated, and facing electoral defeat. In such a moment, one the defines both a presidency and a man, Mitt Romney would raise his finger to test the wind.

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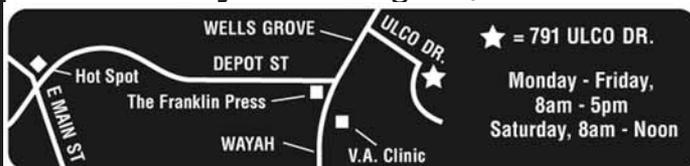
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## • BACK DAYS •

### ***The story of the Frank and Belle McKinney Potts family***

***(Next week the story of the family of Ethel Mae Potts Paul)***



**Frank and Belle Potts**  
– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

**By Nancy Potts Coward**

Jack remembers one time when Daddy sent Uncle Arthur to Seneca Wholesale Grocers for a load of supplies. The owners refused to let him have any. Daddy went himself the next day and came back with the goods.

He played solitaire when he wasn't reading. Once I went to bed while he was playing and when I got up, he was still playing. I was frightened for there was something terribly wrong about a world in which Daddy didn't go to bed. Much later I understood that he couldn't sleep because he was on the verge of losing his business. Jack, who was old enough to understand all too well, said he thought if Daddy slapped one more card down on the table, he would go berserk. Doc Dalton, who was working for us at the time, remembers filling the front porch full of wood and returning the next morning to find it had been burned during the night. Somehow Daddy was able to hold on through the '30s until the arming of Europe increased prosperity in the United States.

Our nation had already entered WWII when in 1942 Mama started dragging one leg. I remember the letter in which Jack told that he was being sent overseas. Censorship, of course,

prevented him from saying where. She read it, turned and went upstairs to make the beds. In my memory I still hear her talking one step and then dragging the other foot up.

For a long time, the local doctor insisted that it was a case of nerve brought on by her anxiety over her sons who were in service. When he finally diagnosed her illness as cancer, it was too late for treatment. He gave her three months to live. Jessie stayed home from college that fall and took a major share of the responsibility. Daddy cared for Mama at night. At the very end we took turns sitting up with her. Just about dawn on June 16, 1944, she took her last breath. She had lived almost exactly a year from the time of her diagnosis, just a week past my graduation from high school. I have always through she lived on sheer will power until her last child had finished school. Jack, who served in Panama but was back in the States, was able to get home for the funeral. Steve, in England for the Allied thrust against Germany, could not.

By 1945, Jay was also in the service, so Betsy came home to make a home for her two little girls and us. In 1946, the war was over and Daddy, Steve and I were married within the space of a few months.

When Daddy told us that he and Eloise Griffin Franks were to be married, Betsy felt that she should move from the homeplace as to not interfere with their plans.

Since Jay had not been released from the Army yet, she rented a house on the property that now is the site of the Peggy Crosby Center. At closing time that day, Daddy appeared at her door, ate supper and accepted the room she hastily assigned to him. He lived with her until his wedding took place April 4, 1946. Steve married his Mae on May 5, 1946 and I married Orville Coward Sept. 8. Jessie married William Owens on June 16, 1957 and Jack added the last member of our generation to the family when he married Doris Jones on June 28, 1967.

Frank Potts died December 24, 1960 from emphysema, in the little hospital at Highlands. He had needles in his arms, through which the doctor was giving him something. The coldness crept up his body. The tubes bothered him, and he kept fighting them. Finally, we had the medical personnel take away the life-support system and he left life with the same dignity he had lived it.

• To be continued ...

# • COACH'S CORNER •

## Top Ten Warm Up Songs

Every once in a while I get an idea for a top ten list, and this one came to me as I was in the car the other day. A song came on that reminded me of basketball, and I thought about some of the greatest songs played either to pump up the crowd or to pump up the players before a game. Here are my choices for the best songs to be used in that manner.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

2. Machinehead-Bush- One of the best opening riffs of all time-this is probably my personal favorite. If you hear this song in the car-plan on increasing your speed, because the adrenaline will start to flow.

1. Crazy Train-Ozzy Osbourne- Immortalized in both a Saturday Night Live sketch and in every

stadium in America, this is probably the most well known crowd pleasing songs in history.

10. Sirius-The Alan Parsons Project-You probably haven't heard this one on the radio, but you would recognize it if you heard it. It was part of the Chicago Bulls warmup back when they had Michael Jordan.

9. Hells Bells-AC/DC- One of the best introductions to a song of all time...Trevor Hoffman used to run out to this before closing games for the San Diego Padres.

8. Rock and Roll Part 2-Gary Glitter- You know it best as the "Hey Song," but it is one of the classic arena rock songs of all time.

7. Breathe-The Prodigy- One of the best techno anthems of all time, this song and the inappropriately named Smack My \*\*\*\*\* Up are both tremendous warm up songs.

6. Thunderstruck-AC/DC- AC/DC probably has this genre locked up, seeing as the majority of their songs come from below the belt. This particular song has all the great elements of a crowd song-a long intro, a crowd participation segment, and heavy guitar riffs.

5. Shipping Up to Boston-The Dropkick Murphys- It's not only for Irish people, this anthem is an awesome pump up song for any stadium, but particularly one in Boston, MA.

4. We are the Champions-Queen- Classic song, still a staple of any good championship celebration.

3. Enter Sandman-Metallica- Mariano Rivera's longtime entrance theme-heavy guitars and pounding bass will get anyone's heart pounding.

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<b>WED</b>	<b>JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO</b> LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.	<b>\$31.95</b>
<b>THURS</b>	<b>BABY BACK RIBS</b> COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD. SERVES TWO.	<b>\$21.95</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED</b> WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.	<b>\$22.95</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ</b> SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS. SERVES TWO.	<b>\$20.95</b>

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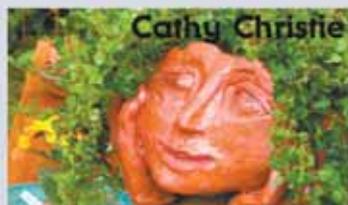
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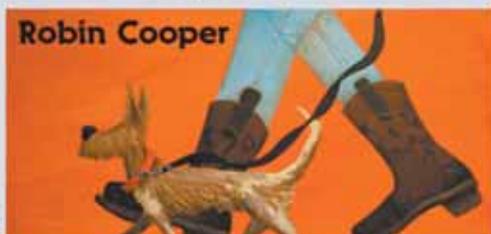
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## • CONSERVATIVE POV

### The plot thickens...

I was going to be a responsible journalist and explain the unemployment rate situation and the games that are being played to get it down prior to the election, but frankly, I got so twisted around with statistics that my mind refused to pursue it further. So, a conspiracy theory will have to do, and I enjoy that stuff more anyway, and, after all, I'm doing the writing.

A couple of months ago, I wrote a column memorializing Andrew Breitbart who died on March 1st. As you may recall, Breitbart was a big-time blogger who exposed some nefarious activities: ACORN, for example. His work cut ACORN's ties with the IRS and the Census Bureau, and Congress voted to suspend its funding to ACORN. He also outed Anthony (the Weiner) Weiner as an amateur soft-porn star on Twitter. Weiner was a liberal congressman from New York City at the time, with eyes on the mayor's job in the future.

Just an aside, this one broke me up. According to Wikipedia, Weiner's religion is Judaism. In May, 2009, Weiner became engaged to Huma Abedin, an aide to Hillary Clinton. Wikipedia lists her religion as Islam: "a practicing Muslim." Talk about unequally yoked. To add to the quirky union, Former President Bill Clinton presided at the wedding. Can you imagine how conflicted baby Jordan Zain Weiner will be if he survives? He won't know whether to zig, zag, or run for cover.

Based on these two matters, and several more not mentioned, it is plain that he was an active, effective foil of liberal causes. A short time before his death, he let it be known that, as it turned out, on the very day of his death, he was going to expose enough damaging information to assure Obama's defeat in November.

So, he goes to a neighborhood restaurant lounge for a glass of wine and some conversation, packs it in at midnight, and starts walking home, a few blocks away. On the way, he collapses. A neighbor sees what happened and calls 911. Emergency crews rushed him to the UCLA medical center where he is pronounced dead.

The word gets back to the lounge and Lawrence Sinclair of Sinclair News, with whom Breitbart was speaking shortly be-



Don Swanson  
Feedback is encouraged.

Email

[swanson@dnet.net](mailto:swanson@dnet.net)

fore, calls the Medical Center to check up on Andrew. The hospital denied that anyone by that name had been admitted within the previous 72 hours. Evidently further calls produced the same result.

Curiosity number One.

Much of the input for the column comes from WND (World Net Daily), which has been pursuing the strangeness of following events. Now I'm not claiming that they are the most dependable news source in the world, but they do take

on causes and tend to ride them to ground. Jerome Corsi, their Harvard graduate Phd reporter, has done much to refute global warming and challenged Obama's qualifications to be president. Corsi is on this case.

The weirdness continues. From the Inquisitr: "The coroner who examined Breibart - 61 year old Michael Cormier - himself died suddenly and under suspicious circumstances the very day Breitbart's cause of death was released, April 20th. And it would appear that Andrew Breitbart's coroner died of arsenic poisoning, news sure to bring out conspiracy theorists that said all along that Breitbart's sudden death was highly suspicious.

LAPD Lt. Alan Hamilton concedes that not only did Breitbart's coroner die of poisoning, but that foul play cannot be ruled out." Curiosity number Two.

Then, an eyewitness to Breibart's demise dropped out of sight, causing a further stir among the skeptical among us. After a nationwide search, Christopher Lasseter turned up. Back to WND: "Meanwhile, an eyewitness who saw Breitbart drop dead outside the Brentwood Restaurant and whose whereabouts were unaccounted for has now been found.

Los Angeles private investigator Paul Hubl has located Lasseter. As Lasseter described the sequence of events, Breibart jaywalked across the street at an angle. Lasseter said he did not initially notice anything unusual about how Breitbart looked. When Breitbart reached the curb across the street, Lasseter said 'he dropped like a sack of bricks.'

Lasseter further said he noticed a

• See SWANSON page 17

## ... MAIN STREET continued from page 1

Highlands Greenway, with its five miles of walkways and trails, is a good start to making Highlands a better pedestrian experience. Mayor Wilkes added that the new Post Office and brick sidewalk being installed in front of Wright Square will further encourage walking.

When the conversation drifted to making Highlands friendlier to bicyclists, Wilkes admitted that there's little that can be done.

"I can guarantee that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is not going to widen any roads so that people can ride bikes safely," he said. "A few years ago, they (NCDOT) put up signs saying 'Share the Road,' but we had them take them down – we don't want people thinking that it's safe to ride on the Cashiers Road or the Gorge Road. We'd have people killed in bike accidents."

The group agreed that a successful pedestrian plan would rely upon keeping sidewalks and paths litter-free.

That prompted Shaffner to recall an idea hatched by former town employee and local character Littlejohn Smith, who noticed that the Gorge Road leading from Highlands was inevitably lined with beer cans. Smith's solution was to install basketball hoops with large garbage cans beneath the nets at strategic points along the road to Franklin. Smith contended that no one could resist pitching their beer cans at a hoop while they're barreling down the Gorge.

The committee will work to ensure that local business people have the resources to develop a business plan that's realistic for a town with such a seasonal economy. Part of that plan will rely on the expertise available through Western Carolina University's Entrepreneur Program and Asheville's Mountain Business Works. Part of it will be predicated on helping landlords better understand the needs and limitations of their business tenants.

"We need to incentivize it for landlords – help them to understand that it makes good economic sense for them to develop a long-term relationship with their tenants," said Wilkes. "There's no benefit for them or the town when businesses move in and out of their property with the seasons."

NC Small Town Main Street Coordinator Sherry Adams told the committee that workforce housing is a constant issue in towns like Highlands.

"Towns set up for tourists and second-homeowners have a hard time surviving, if they can't solve this problem," she said.

Wilkes noted that a lack of affordable

housing is a roadblock for attracting new businesses to Highlands and an impediment when existing businesses consider their long-term prospects.

"We've tried working on this before, but there was opposition because some people have preconceived notions about affordable housing – they have images of blocks of government housing," he said. "We have to find a way to overcome the stigma of 'affordable housing.'"

In other developments:

Shaffner reported that a town logo – a circle with a tree and the legend "4118" – would be presented to the Town Board for approval tonight (May 17). Shaffner said that, if approved, the logo could be used for letterheads, license plates, brochures and anything that can be unmistakably Highlands. "4118" – Highlands' elevation was selected because it's immediately recognizable and it's timeless.

Regina Lupoli reported that the Town Square project is on schedule, with work expected to be completed within a couple of weeks. Mayor Wilkes said that Town Square owner John Lupoli will be responsible for the upkeep of the public restrooms at the center of the property.



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Alex Matisse

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### It's just common sense

Sometimes we simply analyze things to death and then stand watch over the coffin wondering what happened. The case in point has to do with real estate and current conditions in Highlands and Cashiers. "Have we reached the bottom, how low will sellers go, how much is our market down?" I am asked this over and over again.

As a real estate broker, I compare this to asking your stock broker what the market will do next Tuesday. In these current economic times there are just too many unknowns to predict, and in my humble opinion I think the stock market is a risky place to put your money for the next two years. Given the current debt in this country, uncertainty with healthcare and taxes, and an election year upon us the stock market will be a roller coaster ride with more lows than highs.

The great news for buyers is twofold: prices have adjusted to new lows and interest rates are the lowest I have seen!

Save a spot in Highlands Newspaper's RE Snapshots in the Memorial Day issue. \$20 for a full color block. Email: [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)



[pat.f.allen@gmail.com](mailto:pat.f.allen@gmail.com)  
[patallenrealtygroup.com](http://patallenrealtygroup.com)

Three percent money for mortgages is a "no-brainer!" And, yes, banks are finally making loans again. I just helped two clients obtain loans and one was a jumbo loan. I will be glad to recommend banks if you contact me. There has never been a BETTER time to invest in Highlands and Cashiers real estate. There is money to be made here!

Investing in real estate is buying something you can live in and share with family and friends, while enjoying Highlands and Cashiers to their fullest. You aren't glued to the iPhone watching the stock market numbers and having your days ruined and reaching for the Prilosec!

What's more, you can enjoy a wonderful dinner in one of our excellent restaurants, go to Scudder's Auction and be entertained by Al's humor, stroll to the Hummingbird Lounge to hear Cy Timmons, and get a good night's sleep in your own bed, with fresh mountain air and katydids that lull you to sleep or waiting for the excitement of the first snowfall.

With the beginning of our "season" fast approaching there is no better time to explore all Highlands has to offer. Exceptional mountain beauty, the best golf courses, great boutiques, fabulous restaurants, plays and an array of events to attend and small town Main Street to simply "people-watch" while enjoying your ice cream flavor of choice!

And best of all, the house you bought will INCREASE in value as the years go by while memories are being made. Your children will cherish the time spent with you long after the inheritance is gone. It is just common sense.

Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group, author of "Mouth of the South Cookbook" and has a dog website, The Dogs Street Journal: <http://facebook.com/thedogsstreetjournal>. You may reach her at 828-526-8784 or 828-200-9179. Or email: [pat.f.Allen@gmail.com](mailto:pat.f.Allen@gmail.com) and website: [patallenrealtygroup.com](http://patallenrealtygroup.com).

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# • HEALTH MATTERS •

## Lasik Candidacy

By **Richard Blue, M.D.**

In the ever-changing field of medicine and in an age when there is an infinite amount of information AND misinformation instantly accessible, the medical community faces the constant challenge of dealing with the propagation of myths and inaccuracies of all kinds. With regards to my own chosen field of medicine, Ophthalmology, and more specifically the LASIK procedure, I have conversations with patients nearly every day in which the patient has been given some kind of misinformation regarding their particular candidacy for LASIK. Some of the most common reasons patients are told that they are not a LASIK candidate are that they have astigmatism; their prescription is too high or low; there may be age restrictions; they have cataracts; they are told LASIK can cause scar tissue; they are told that they'll probably end up back in glasses anyway; or, they are simply told they are not a candidate and not given a reason.

There are certainly rare occasions in which a patient may have a condition that makes him or her a less than ideal candidate. The good news is that, for experienced LASIK practitioners, today's incredible level of diagnostic technology allows us to easily identify that rare person who is not an ideal LASIK candidate. It must be understood, though, that this person is indeed rare. The vast majority of my patients who report having been told they are not a candidate turn out not only to be candi-

dates, but are among my happiest patients.

So why are so many patients told that they are not candidates? Since it wouldn't be a productive exercise to engage in speculation, my best response to this question is simply to arm patients with the right questions to ask in order to form their own conclusions. Is the person who made the claim a Medical Doctor who specializes in LASIK and therefore uniquely qualified to judge your candidacy? Does this person use the specialized level of equipment and technology necessary to make an accurate judgment of your LASIK candidacy? And finally, does this person and the industry he or she represents have anything to lose by your having the LASIK procedure? Once these answers are found, patients can usually understand why LASIK myths have been perpetrated, keeping them in glasses and contacts unnecessarily.

As Medical Doctors, it's not our job to convince patients to have or not to have a particular procedure. Instead, our duty is to give our patients the best facts and information we can based on our knowledge, experience, technology and our analysis of each individual patient's situation. Most often, LASIK is a great option for those who seek to end their dependence on glasses and contacts. In rare cases, it is not. It's my job to accurately discern the difference and give you all the best information you need to make your own decision and it is the joy of my professional life to have the opportunity to do so every single day.

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# LASIK Questions?

Attend Dr. Blue's next free LASIK seminar in Franklin, NC on Thursday June 14 @ 6pm!

If you're interested in learning more about whether LASIK is right for you, attend our next LASIK Seminar at our Franklin office. Dr. Blue conducts the seminars personally, answering your questions and giving you all the info you need to make the best decision for you!



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PULL OUT

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Thurs.-Sat., May 17-19

- The Bascom's Collective Spirits Wine and Food

Festival, a celebration of wine, food and the arts will feature some amazing auction lots including fabulous rare and large-bottle format wines, spectacular wine themed trips

and specialty dinners during Saturday night's Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction. A wonderful assortment of wine. Collective Spirits raises essential operating funds to maintain quality exhibitions, enrichment activities and studio art instruction for learners of all ages. For additional information about receiving an invitation to become a Benefactor or to attend Collective Spirits, please visit [TheBascom.org/collectivespirits](http://TheBascom.org/collectivespirits) or call 828.787.2896.

Thursday-Sunday, May 17-20

- Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim

Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Friday, May 18

- Franklin Relay for Life Blood Drive at the Franklin High School Field House, 100 Panther Drive, Franklin, 3:30 pm to 8 pm. Please call 369-9221 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Appointments honored first. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-



## Annual Arts & Craft Fair Memorial Day Weekend

Amy Wald will be one of the many fine artists and crafters at the Village Square Art & Craft Show on Memorial Day weekend. The show features numerous local and regional artisans with pottery, jewelry, garden accessories, old-fashioned mountain crafts, as well as mountain music. Fresser's in the square will have breakfast and lunch, and the kids can have their faces painted by Patti Cakes. The show runs from 10 to 5 Sat. and Sun. at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine St. Call (828) 787-2021 for info.

## Molly McKim to sing with Boy Choir on Sunday



The Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will present a concert this Sunday afternoon in The Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5 p.m.

Featured on this program will be the very moving piece "Pie Jesu" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem Mass."

Molly McKim, well known Highlands soprano soloist will be joined by the men and boys in singing this piece which has been made famous by Lloyd Webber's former wife, soprano Sarah Brightman. Ms. McKim will be joined in this piece by the young Korean-American boy soprano, Kevin Park.

This will be one of many well known audience favorites on this program.

Other works include the men's choir singing Spirituals and Broadway melodies. The Boy Choir will sing "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," songs of the Holocaust. This piece will be narrated by the famous Atlanta Jewish actress, Mira Hirsch. Ms. McKim, longtime vocal student and choir associate of Maestro Wolfe has traveled abroad on several occasions with the choir and appeared as soloist in Venice Italy in the famous Basilica of Saint Marks.

Mr. Wolfe and the choir will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia at the end of this month where they will sing in The Great Hall of the Philharmonic. They will be joined in this performance by Russia's world renowned Glinka Choir. Mr. Wolfe has been invited to conduct both choirs for this concert. Accompanying the choir for their Highlands concert will be several members of the Columbus Symphony. These will include Candace Keach, flute; Tom Underwood, oboe; Barbara Careaga Mitchell, violin and Guang Wang, cello. Also performing on this concert will be the prize winning pianist Robert Henry. Mr. Henry is the regular accompanist for the Boy Choir and also is an assistant director for Maestro Wolfe. Robert has been associated with Mr. Wolfe for most of his musical career.

This concert is free and open to the public on a first come basis, although some seating will be reserved for those wishing to support the choir's scholarship program for needy boys.

For information concerning reserved seats please call the choir at 404.378.0064 or email [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)

## A triumphant return for the 'Dixie Swim Club'



The Dixie Swim Club returned to the Performing Arts Center to four nights of raucous laughter and four nights of standing ovations! With a subtlety improved set and a new light design, the marvelous acting of Jenny King, Bonnie Earman, Carla Gates, Lee Lyons, and Mary Adair Leslie, had audiences on their feet every night. The play has four more performances starting Thursday this week at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30, Friday and Saturday evening at the same time, and a Sunday matinee at 2:30. Don't miss the last chance to see this very warm, funny, and poignant story of friendship and loyalty at The PAC this weekend. Photo by Sarah Valentine, Valentine Photo Studio.

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

• Relay For Life of Highlands will hold a casual gathering at Sports Page Restaurant from 4:30pm-6:00pm to honor and support our cancer caregivers.

## May 21-May 25

• The Town of Highlands has set a White Good Pick-Up Week annually since February 1987. This year the Annual White Goods Pickup will be the week of May 21st through May 25th. Please, contact Town Hall at (828) 526-2118 to be placed on the pickup list.

## Saturday, May 19

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work trip this Saturday. To register leave a message at 828-526-5622 or email [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com).

• The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust with Highlands Plateau Audubon Society are sponsoring a joint nature walk along a scenic portion of the Bartram Trail, near Jones Gap. The primary emphasis of the Eco Tour will be bird watching and identification as well as general

natural history. Sign up by calling 526-9938. Lunch is included. **Sunday, May 20**

• The internationally acclaimed Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will give a concert here on Sunday afternoon at 5 P.M. in the acoustically perfect sanctuary. To reserve a seat please call, 404-378-0064 or email, [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)

## Monday, May 21

• Mountain View Intermediate School Blood Drive, 161 Clark's Chapel Road, Franklin, 2 pm to 6:30 pm. Please call 349-1325 to schedule an appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Thursday, May 24

• Landmark Realty Blood Drive, 49 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers, 11:30 am to 4 pm. Please call 743-0501 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins Welcome, Appointments preferred! For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-

800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Friday, May 25-Monday, May 28

• At The Highlands Playhouse, Libby Whittemore. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

## Saturday, May 25

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake

Breakfast Saturday from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Old Scaly School House at 41 Buck Knob Road - at the corner of NC Highway 106 and Buck Knob Rd. Includes a full course breakfast featuring piping hot homemade pancakes (with blueberries if you like), patty sausage, coffee and juice. Cost is \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

## Pussy Willows are winners

New this year to the annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale will be a variety of pussy willows.

After an interesting lecture and presentation by Lou Christenson, also known as 'Mr. Pussy Willow', and Ann Miller of Happy Berry Farm earlier this year, the club decided to add pussy willows to the plants we'll offer at our sale on May 26.

The pussy willow is a natural for our climate; it loves the cold winters and thrives in a well watered, sunny environment. The unique foliage and seasonal changes add a fresh and beautiful presence to the garden. Pussy willow branches are also a must-have for the flower arranging enthusiast. The "catkins", the furry little buds, are the first sign of spring. They may show their faces as early as December but more typically appear in January or February.

A native of Canada and the eastern United States, pussy willows are woody shrubs and small trees that thrive in a cool, wet area. They are fast and easy to grow. The harvesting of the attractive buds should be done in January or February. This not only gives you bouquets of willow stems which you can use in arrangements, give as gifts or use as grafts to



produce more pussy willows, but also pruning keeps the shrub healthy and well shaped.

The pussy willow that Mountain Garden Club will be offering will reach approximately 8' in height. They become fuller if trimmed and may eventually reach diameters of 8' when mature.

The pussy willows come in many varieties, such as Silver, Curly, White, Black and Scarlet to name a few. A favorite of the Chinese, the branches are kept in the home and used in celebrations as a symbol of coming prosperity and good luck. They have also been used in Christian celebrations at Easter, replacing the traditional Palm leaves on Palm Sunday in countries where the Palm is not available.

Come shop for pussy willows as well as native plants, prize dahlia tubers, pass-along perennials, and hardy tomatoes and herbs at the 30th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale on Saturday, May 26, 9:00 a.m. to noon. The sale will be held at the Highlands baseball park on Hwy 64E, corner of N 4th and Hickory Streets. In case of bad weather, the rain date will be Sunday, May 27 from 1-4 p.m.

— Emily Compost

## Three new exhibitions at The Bascom beginning May 17

The quality and excellence of exhibits and programs, part of the core of The Bascom's mission, are highlighted this May! Alex Matisse: Ometto, Green Art and From Mud to Art, Highlands High School Ceramics all open on Thursday, May 17. Admission for these celebrated exhibitions is free!

Alex Matisse: Ometto is coming to The Bascom and you don't want to miss it! "In Italy, the word Ometto, meaning 'little man', is used to describe rock cairns that lead the way on hiking trails above the tree line," shares Alex Matisse whose works will be at The Bascom through October 21. The pots in the exhibition originate from the tradition of salt-glazed stoneware grave markers that were made in abundance

in the counties of the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina. "The Ometto will convene on the front lawn of The Bascom, holding vigil for a few months, before being marshaled into the world to take up their posts," he adds. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor and Delta Air Lines, the official airline of The Bascom.

Through July 8 in the Atrium Gallery, Green Art will deliver a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the American Studio Glass Movement; Harvey Littleton, its founder; and environmentally friendly art. Tracy Kirchman, a glass art-

ist who aided in the establishment of the Jackson County Green Energy Park in Dillsboro, NC, and her students from the Little Black Pearl Glass Lab in Chicago,

will be creating works of art from recycled glass wine bottles for this exhibition. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.

From Mud to Art, Highlands High School Ceramics is in the Landing Gallery through July 8. Explore with the Highlands High School students as they demonstrate their proficiency in pottery making and understanding of the science that makes it happen. Student work and an explanation of clay bodies, firing and glazing will be on

view. Now in its third year, the High School Ceramics Class is an ongoing partnership between Highlands School and The Bascom. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Koski Family Foundation.

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](http://www.TheBascom.org) or call 828.526.4949.



Alex Matisse: Ometto is at The Bascom from May 17 through October 21. For information, visit [www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org).

The Highlands/Cashiers Players present

**The DIXIE SWIM CLUB**

A Comedy Drama by  
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Directed by Rick Siegel

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and  
May 17 - 20

Evenings at 7:30 pm  
Sunday Matinees  
at 2:00 pm

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## Mother's Day weekend Bridge Tournament fills the Rec Park



Over the weekend affair, about 84 bridge players attended a seminar on the subject and about 184 players turned out for the tournament.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## ... INTERIM continued from page 1

mously appointed the new superintendent of Catawba County Schools at its May board of education's meeting. His four-year contract begins July 1.

Brigman has served as Macon County Schools Superintendent since October 2006. Prior to that, he was superintendent of a school system in Manchester, Tennessee. He has also worked as a director of middle grades curriculum and K-12 gifted education at Rowan-Salisbury Schools and as a high school principal and assistant principal in Transylvania and Alexander counties. Brigman started in education as a teacher and principal at a middle school and alternative high school in Tennessee.

More information regarding the interim superintendent as well as the superintendent search process will be discussed at the Tuesday, May 22, School Board meeting in Nantahala.

"The Macon County Board of Education now faces one of the biggest decisions it will make during its tenure - finding the next leader to serve Macon County School System," said Chairman Tommy Cabe. "Dr. Brigman has done an outstanding job and has successfully led our school system through some very challenging times."

- Kim Lewicki

## ... OLVERA continued from page 1

Harrell passed the polygraph test, she was told she could no longer ride in a patrol car with a male officer which led to the discrimination allegations.

After she filed charges, an EEOC mediation was attempted on Sept. 28, 2010, but it was unproductive.

Since no mediation was reached, Olvera hired Ed Buckley of Buckley & Klein of Atlanta, GA, who initially said he would likely file suit against the town. However according to the town's attorney in the matter, Patrick Flanagan of Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, no lawsuit was filed.

In addition to accepting the settlement, the town agreed to write a letter of reference for Olvera in which her final bi-weekly paycheck in February 2010 was referenced. It was for \$2,592.29 and included

comp time, vacation time and her wages.

As per the EEOC agreement, Olvera can't seek employment from the town and neither side can discuss the agreement or speak ill of each other.

All parties involved - town officials, Olvera and Police Chief Bill Harrell are glad this sordid chapter in the Town of Highlands history has been put to rest.

"I want to move forward from this devastating experience," said Olvera. "I am back in school and hope to be finished with my degree next spring."

Olvera, who was raised in Highlands and was a Highlands School graduate, said she is trying to raise her two children in the best possible environment. She is pursuing a degree in Paralegal Sciences.

- Kim Lewicki

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Wednesday, May 23

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Wednesday, May 23

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Wednesday, May 30

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Friday, June 1

**ISLAND LIFE**  
Monday, June 4

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From Downtown Highlands turn onto Hwy 106E/Dillard Road for 3 miles to right on Kettle Rock Road. Follow Signs



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John 3:16

# PLACES TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 3:5

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11  
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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

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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

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

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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**

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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.

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

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

**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. 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

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Randy Reed, Pastor

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Sundays: Worship - 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening  
Worship, 6:30 p.m.

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45 a.; Worship 10:50 a.; Youth Group 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper; 6: 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 -  
Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

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

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Choir - 6 p.m.

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

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**

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828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

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Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor - Parish office: 526-2418

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

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

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.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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



## A Sheep Dog Looks at the 23rd Psalm

Chaplain Margaret Howell,  
Holy Family Lutheran Church

On Sunday, one of the children in my congregation asked me why I wore a funny looking dog collar. I thought about it for a bit and then came up with the following.

The Lord is my Shepherd  
he sees to my every need.  
He feeds me and takes me into his home,  
so that I am safe.

My Shepherd tells me where to go.  
He sends me to and fro and back and forth  
tending his sheep.

When I am weary and foot-sore,  
My Shepherd finds a green comfortable place to rest  
with water that is good and clean and cold.

Once a beast threatened our sheep and I was almost  
killed  
but My Shepherd saved me,  
driving off the enemy with his slingshot and  
staff.

My Shepherd held me and tended to my wounds.  
He spoke gentle words to me,  
and told me that how precious I am.

My Shepherd loves me and I love him.  
I am his sheepdog, and will sit at his feet.  
I will dwell in his house and tend his sheep  
all the days of my life.

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## ... SWANSON continued from page 8

band of blanched white skin around the top of Breitbart's forehead, extending around the hairline to the back of his head. He described Breitbart's face and skin as 'bright red.' That would complete a troika of curiosities.

Now before you' all dismiss this as a phony baloney attack on some shadowy governmental hushup, some of you may remember the Marilyn Monroe story where Bobby and Jack Kennedy were alleged to be having affairs with the movie beauty. She died under suspicious circumstances at the age of 36. Her death could not be connected to the Kennedys due to "sloppy police work" and missing records. She

lived and died in Brentwood CA, the same town where Breitbart died.

The Vince Foster death, ruled a suicide, was the subject of great skepticism and investigation. Foster was the Deputy White House Council during the first few months of the Clinton administration. He was the Clintons' personal lawyer during the Whitewater scandal and knew a lot more than the Clintons' were comfortable with. There was evidence he died in his office in the White House, yet his body was found in Ft. Marcy Park.

I could mention many more high-level governmental cover-ups, but the ball game is about to start and I'm sick of it anyway.

## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

like a funeral home. As always, I can't wait to smell the forest and play bridge with some really nice people. We play cutthroat bridge in Florida and no one smiles. As I gather a few items I remembered I don't have to pack underwear. (Are you paying attention?)

No, no, no, I still wear underwear....sometimes. At this stage of my life, I can now afford to own 20 pair of underwear in both places. Wait....that still does not put me in the 1% category so please don't write in and attack me....again.

We have exactly 17 cubic feet of storage room in our Outback. One cubic foot is all mine to do whatever I want. The other 16 square feet consists of a rod full of her hanging clothes, unwrinkled and perfectly placed, eveningwear first followed by casual and sport stuff followed by multiple suitcases full of her

stuff.

I once said to her, "Why not buy underwear and leave it in both places like I do? Wouldn't that be more efficient?" I got the "mind your own business" stare and she reminded me of how much stuff I've forgotten to bring over the years. Later, to prove a point she showed me 20 pair of her underwear folded neatly in the corner of a small suitcase. It would have fit in a cargo pocket of my shorts. I just walked away, remembering I should not debate packing with her. I'll lose every time. So batten down the hatches and hide the women and children, Highlanders, here I come.

Sick and tired of reading the same ole stuff in this column? Then read Fred's I'm Moving Back to Mars or Deceived from at local book stores or on your Kindle or Nook.

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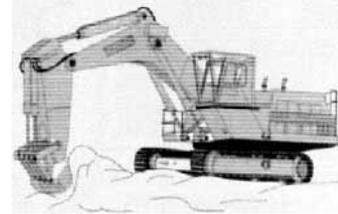
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## ... LETTERS continued from page 2

tute or maybe even a gravel area would have worked. Point is I'm sure we could have come up with a better alternative than this.

These trees would have provided the entrance to our town with not just shade but with grace and a sense of heritage that only large, old trees can, plus the spectacular color in the fall and delicate shades in the spring. I think I can honestly say I enjoyed them every time I came to town. And yes, the intention is to plant little trees that, though better than nothing, will never rise to the stature, make shade, or color (that wonderful seasonal exclamation point) equal to

what was cut and is gone, a done deal.

So why do I bother to write this? The answer is that our town officials need to know how much many of us care about our trees. I encourage all who feel strongly about this to follow suit and express your opinion please, so our representatives know what we value and thenceforth consider deeply before they cut.

How much happier I, and every individual I've spoken to, would have been if they had used my tax money to buy and plant trees in our new park that so badly needs them. Instead, we will be paying for new trees to put in front of the shops. Does this make sense? Cut, buy,

plant...there goes \$7,500. plus the price of the tree removal, not to mention the lives and years of growth of the trees we already had?

Sarah Harkins  
Highlands

## Government should stay out of people's bedrooms

Dear Editor

Simplified..Marriage is a civil right. The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is in the constitution. If religious institutions do not approve, they don't have to perform such unions. Again, we are in everyone's bedroom. What was the Catholic Church's reasoning for homosexuality and child abuse...The freedom of the 60's...What a country.

Mark Herstik  
Highlands

## Humans and corporations are different

Dear Editor,

We can have human inalienable rights or corporations can have inalienable rights but we cannot have both. I am not anti corporation. I use state chartered corporations to facilitate my business. When corporations operate as designed within the realm of privileges granted, they serve humans. When corporations go beyond granted privilege and take on human rights, they become the master and we humans the slave.

"... corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings. . . But they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established." Supreme Court Justice Stevens, January 2010.

Corporations endowed with personhood by unelected Court Justices, possess human inalienable rights. With these falsely granted rights, they govern over us. Their governance is without conscience, without beliefs, without feelings, without patriotism, without national allegiance, and without concern for human inalienable rights to

self-governance. As colonists, our founding fathers lived under corporate rule authorized by British law. In defiance to the influence that the West India Trading Company held over the British Crown, the colonists held a Tea Party in Boston Harbor and ignited a revolution that changed the world.

We can return our nation to its founding principles. ". . . We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. . . ." To return our governance to We the People, we must put an end to the false notion of "corporate personhood." You can help by signing the petition asking our local government officials to send a resolution to the NC General Assembly resolving that the State petition the US Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment, declaring that corporations are NOT people and money is NOT speech. To sign go to: <http://is.gd/jamayo>

Allen Lomax  
Sylva, NC

## ... FORUM continued from page 2

tem, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any other purpose.

3. Congress can purchase their own retirement plan, just as all Americans do.

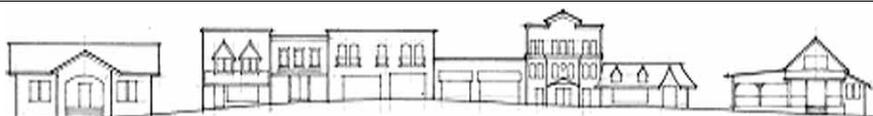
4. Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.

5. Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people.

6. Congress must equally abide by all laws they impose on the American people.

7. All contracts with past and present Congressmen/women are void effective 12/1/12. The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen/women.

Congress made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, so ours should serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.



## Clayton Merchants & Business Assoc. Events

[www.downtownclaytonga.org](http://www.downtownclaytonga.org)

### FIRST FRIDAY FESTS

May-October  
6PM - 8 PM

Downtown Clayton

Shop Clayton/Concert at Rock House Park

SAT. MAY 5

Annual Awakening of the Vines

Tiger Mountain Vineyard

[WWW.TIGERWINE.COM](http://WWW.TIGERWINE.COM)

SAT. MAY 12 & SUN. MAY 13,

11:30AM - 4PM

Red Barn Cafe Opening

Tiger Mountain Vineyard

[WWW.TIGERWINE.COM](http://WWW.TIGERWINE.COM)

SAT. MAY 19 - SUN. MAY 20

Warrior Dash

Blue Ridge Camp

Mountain City, GA

[WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM](http://WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM)

FRI. JUN 22 - SUN. JUN 24

Chattooga River Festival

[WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM)

SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM

4th Annual Clayton Crawl

Main Street, Clayton

[WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG](http://WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG)

SAT. OCT 6, 10AM -5PM

Foxfire Mountaineer Festival

[WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG](http://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](http://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](http://WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM)

SAT. DEC 1, 5PM

Christmas Parade

Main Street, Clayton

[WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM](http://WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM)



Above: Basketball Team champs; Right: Soccer Team champs and below right, Emily Murphy and Juliane Buras with their awards.

The awards ceremony was officiated by new Highlands Athletic Director Brett Lamb, and awards were presented to Highlander athletes by their coaches for various attributes including leadership and sportsmanship.

The Highlands High School Men's Soccer, Women's Basketball and Men's Basketball programs were all honored as Conference Champions as part of the ceremony, and at the end of the program all of the graduating seniors were given special plaques commemorating their 4-year accomplishments at Highlands.

One of the highlights of the night was the presentation of the Fan of the Year award, which is voted on by the Highlands School athletes and given in appreciation for supporters of Highlands athletics.

This year, the award was shared between two couples, Kay and Edwin Poole and Monica and Kevin Vinson. The Vinson and Poole families were recognized as outstanding supporters of Highlands athletics, and their names are inscribed on a plaque located in the Highlands School Gym for all to see when they enter.

The program closed with a piece written for the Highlands School Sunset Yearbook written and read by Cai Roman for retiring Highlands Coach Butch Smart.

Smart was honored as Smoky Mountain Conference Coach of the Year, as well as District 12 Coach of the Year, and was presented with a large framed photograph commemorating the Smart family and their enormous impact on Highlands School. Smart plans to return to Louisiana for his retirement, where he will be joined by his wife Judy. Stephanie Smart will attend nearby Louisiana Tech University in the fall.



The Highlands School Athletic Department would like to thank all of the people who have been so supportive of our school's athletic program this season. Principal Brian Jetter and Assistant Principal Jim Draheim, School Board Representative Stephanie McCall and County Athletic Director Dan Moore deserve a great deal of gratitude for their support of Highlands School.

Additionally, the Highlands Booster Club, Bobby and Kristy Lewis, Jeff Weller, Jimmy Tate, Brian Stiehler, Kevin and Monica Vinson, the Highlands Rotary Club and countless others have done a great deal to support Highlands School students in their athletic endeavors this season.

Thank you very much for a great 2011-12 season, and we look forward to 2012-13.





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## • BIZ/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Rotary Bingo benefits Free Dental Clinic



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley to sponsor Tooth Fairy Bingo on May 10, 2012. All proceeds went to support the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic. Jenny Bryson won the Super Bingo game and took home \$100. She is shown collecting her winnings from the Tooth Fairies, assisted by Anna Stiehler, daughter of Rotarian Brian Stiehler.

### Rotary hosts Athletic Banquet



On May 14, 2012 the Rotary Club of Highlands continued its long tradition of support for the Highlands School by sponsoring the high school athletic banquet. Rotary members decorated the rec center gym and served dinner for the students, their families and their coaches. Senior Emily Munger, a basketball and soccer player, is shown with coaches Jeff Weller and Brett Lamb.

## • POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 20

- At 1:10 a.m., James Edward Bentley Jr., 59, of Highlands was arrested for DWI when cited for driving left of center on NC 106.

May 2

- At 8:54 p.m., officers were asked to tend to a domestic disturbance at a residence on Smallwood Ave.

- At 9 p.m., Sandra Baty, 56, of Highlands, was arrested per the Domestic Violence Statute 50b for simple assault on a minor at a residence on Smallwood Ave. The case was dismissed by the magistrate on no probable cause.

May 3

- At 5:48 p.m., a citizen requested police presence while she retrieved her belongings from her parents home on Smallwood.

May 4

- At 4:30 p.m., officers were asked to investigate suspicious activity at a home on Sagee Drive.

May 7

- At 2:03 p.m., officers received a call about someone dumping trash behind Warth Construction. It was workers cleaning up a lot.

May 8

- At 4:35 p.m., a silver and stone necklace valued at \$730 was reported missing from Silver Eagle on Main Street.

May 9

- At 3:30 p.m., town signs valued at \$61 were reported missing from Cullasaja Drive.

May 10

- At 9:46 p.m., a citizen reported seeing a suspicious person in the bushes on Spring Street watching Highlands School.

May 12

- A little after midnight, \$400 worth of telephone equipment was reported missing from The Ugly Dog Public House.

- At 7 a.m., \$2,000 worth of fire extinguishing equipment and infrastructure was reported missing from The Main Street Inn and first-degree trespassing was also cited.

May 14

- At 8:04 a.m., officers were called about an attempted suicide at a residence on Williamsburg Court.

- At 10:30 a.m., a citizen reported losing jewelry on Main Street.

May 15

- At 9:30 p.m., officers on patrol saw an aggressive mother bear and two cubs in the garbage cans on Oak Street.

- At 3 p.m., a bear was reported on the property of a Bowery Road residence.

- During the week, police officers responded to 11 alarms and issued 10 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from May 9.

May 9

- At 10:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

May 12

- At 3 p.m., the dept. assisted EMS when a woman fell 10 feet from a balcony at a residence on Foreman Road.

May 13

- The dept. responded to a Co<sup>2</sup> alarm at a residence on Cherry Lane. There was no problem,

May 15

- At 7 p.m., the dept. assisted three hikers who lost their way from Glen Falls to Blue Valley.

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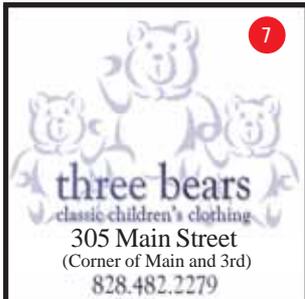
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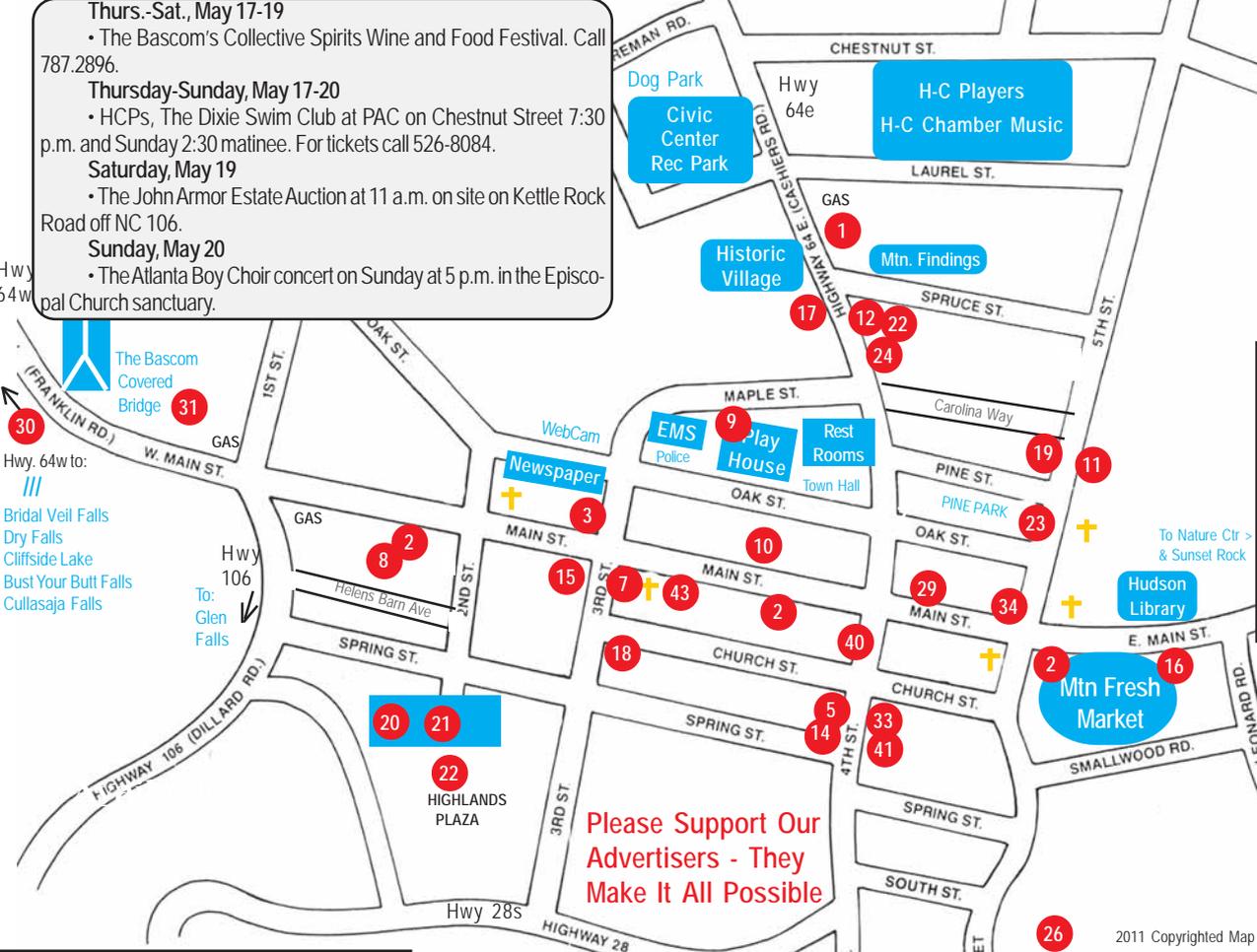
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