

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •

Defend Thyself

Dear Editor,

After hearing a car slowly drive by at 11:30 PM and almost immediately hearing the back screen door open and slam shut I called 911. I personally explained some other reasons that I was fearful. The officer assured me that someone would quickly be on their way.

The dog is growling and barking at the "would be" intruder. After the door slam, I am waiting for someone to start breaking down the door to "do me in."

While holding my loaded 38 Saturday Night Special I began to recall my CW class that I attended. The students and instructor had laughed about my target practice. It seemed that I was aiming for the chest of the "dummy" and each time the shot hit between his legs. The instructor quipped that no one would ever be guilty of a rape at my house.

I'm remembering that the Highlands police won't come because I'm just outside the city limits but actually less than 10 minutes from downtown. However, I've read that there is a county officer stationed here in Highlands from 6PM to 6AM so what do I have to worry about tonight?

While I'm on the phone with my daughter she reminds me it's already been over 30 minutes. On the second call to 911 the officer chuckled as I explained that if someone was going to do me harm I would already be dead - somehow I didn't think it funny. After two more calls to 911 he apologized that it had been almost an hour and he couldn't reach the officer by phone. Duh, there is no cell service here, a "dead zone." Hmm, "dead zone" didn't sound encouraging either.

This is not Mayberry, is it? They won't send over Barney, will they?

I am thinking now the intruder would have had time to kill me, clean up the evidence, pop a cork for a nice glass of Merlot or raid the fridge and may have had time to rush home to catch the late show on TV. Wonder why I didn't just pull out my handy iPad and dish out a quick note on Face Book? I could make them aware of my predicament and someone may come over to help me or give advice on proper shooting techniques. Maybe I



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.
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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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should just Google?

By this time the officer has driven back and forth by my house because he is lost. My daughter, in disgust had called her son and he comes barreling up the road along with the officer. It seems that he stopped and told the officer how to find my house.

The officer was really nice, well mannered and kept apologizing for the long wait. He has no electronic equipment in his car, no GPS and a cell phone that won't work in my area. He explained that the officers have to go to Franklin to eat supper because there is nowhere for them to eat in Highlands. Eat supper at 11:30 PM? Hmmmmnn.

I once heard a radio talk show host, Neal Bortz, I think, explain that the police are great at solving murders. That's after the fact - but, you are really on your own and if you want to be safe you had better protect yourself. My advice is to run, don't walk, get yourself a gun, some ammunition and be prepared. This Pistol Packing Mama is ready and waiting and not afraid to shoot if I feel that my life is in danger.

And remember, "That it's easier to explain to a jury of 12 than to be carried away by six."

Anne L. Brissey
Highlands

Passion!

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see that my April 19th letter entitled, "Tasteless Attempt," in response to Fred Wooldridge's April 12th humor column entitled, "Once Upon A Time," moved Alice Nelson to respond with a letter entitled, "Such Passion," in the April 26th edition.

I was particularly gratified that Ms. Nelson was so exercised by my letter, while being concerned with my health. Although I believe in keeping discourse as civil as is possible, sometimes such sensitive or uncomfortable subjects can bring out what may be the best, and what may be the worst in all of us. We all owe a pledge of civility, so that important conversations can continue.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

Give fund balance to citizens

• See LETTERS page 3

Vote "NO" on Marriage Amendment

Dear Editor

Go to the polls on May 8th and vote "NO" to amend the NC Constitution, an amendment that if passed, would further codify the denial of rights for certain groups of North Carolina citizens.

Amendments to the Constitution, whether it be State or Federal, should only be used to expand or defend the rights of citizens, rather than to deny or restrict the rights of certain groups of citizens.

The proponents of this amendment are attempting to create a second class of citizens, and they are trying to circumvent the founding principle of inalienable rights of all citizens that were established during the Second Continental Congress on July 4th, 1776. The Declaration of Independence, drafted by that Congress says it best, and I quote, "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, that among them are Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness." In the Declaration, our wise forefathers didn't refer to, "their Creator," as

"their Conservative Christian Creator," but only as, "their Creator."

Regardless of how anyone feels on the issue of marriage or religion, we should all stand firm against any attempt to deny or restrict any of our rights by the State or Federal government, especially when targeted against certain groups of people, even if against groups that we may not agree with, for whatever reason. The preserving

•See LETTERS page 9



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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Dear Editor,

I was concerned when I read in the County's 2010-2011 Annual Audit Report that its Fund Balance was considerably above the level of the Commissioners' self-imposed target.

I had strongly disagreed with the property tax increase imposed by Commissioners for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and continued in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, a time when many had lost their jobs and were losing their homes.

The County claimed it needed that extra tax money to pay for school construction. No it didn't! The approximately \$1.4 million raised by the tax increase went straight to the Fund Balance, which increased by \$1.55 million by year end. It was financially unnecessary and fiscally unwise. Former Commissioner Jim Davis was the only Commissioner with enough sense to vote against the tax increase.

One reason I'm running for Commissioner is to bring to the attention of Macon County taxpayers that even though we have a low tax rate, due to the lack of a reassessment of our over-assessed properties, the County's bank account continues to grow unnecessarily at taxpayers' expense.

That excess money sitting in the County's bank account should be returned to taxpayers' pockets where it belongs.

The people of Macon County, perhaps even some Commissioners, are unaware of the County's excessively strong financial condition. Why are Commissioners considering "no county tax increase," when they should be considering "how much should the county tax decrease?"

During public comment at the Commission meeting on April 10th, I suggested that the Commissioners consider reducing the property tax rate by 2.5 mils in order to reduce the excessive \$16,785,216 Fund Balance reported in the last Annual Audit Report.

Commissioner Beale said my figures needed to be brought up to date because the Fund Balance is now down to \$14,500,000, leaving only an eight percent "working margin."

So I have updated my figures using numbers provided by the County's Finance Director. The Fund Balance at the end of March was \$26,316,081. Adjusting for upcoming transfers and "reserved items," the actual figure is close to \$19,700,000.

That leaves plenty of room for a significant property tax cut starting July 1. Informed taxpayers of Macon County should expect nothing less from our County Commissioners.

Vic Drummond
Franklin, NC

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

with Fred Wooldridge
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I never say "Yes, Dear"

I've already done the big macho wear the pants thing...do as I say and not as I do thing...I'll be home when you see me in the driveway thing...that kind of stuff. Hey, don't forget I was a cop who usually couldn't show up when I was supposed to. My smokin' hot li'l missus, known as "Saint Maddy" by all our friends, endured my 28 years of police work. You can't imagine what I put her through.

I must admit life was interesting back then. And you already know from past columns that I now believe a happy wife equates to a happy life. It took a while for me to figure that out. I've been married to the li'l missus for a long, long time and now I'm well trained and happy. I know what wads her shorts and what pleases her. For example, I never say "yes, dear" because she thinks



the term is condescending. I thought it was more of a giving-in gesture....kinda like me lying on the sand and putting her foot on my neck; something like that. Wrong! It may have worked for Friday but not in our house. Surely you remember the novel, Robinson Crusoe. Maybe not.

When she says, "I've asked you three times to put away the card table" I'm not permitted to say "Yes, dear." She says the remark is patronizing. What do I know? I'm a male. "What should I say?" I once asked. She shook her head and said, "Say nothing. Just put away the friggin' table." I don't think she realizes I use the rule of three.

Years ago, the li'l missus and I decided to stop arguing. Instead, we debate. Police work taught me to be a

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 5



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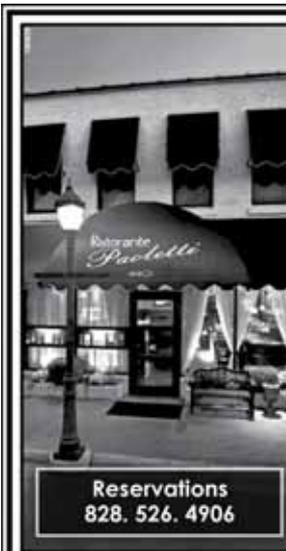
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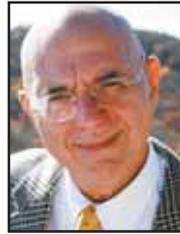
• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Men do care how they look, although it might not always be apparent. You think the red neck guy with the uncombed hair, shaggy beard, plaid shirt, dirty jeans, work boots, and wallet on a leash doesn't care? Why do you suppose he looks exactly like every other guy in the neighborhood? Coincidence? He might not look like much to you, but in his culture, he lives at the pinnacle of sartorial splendor. He's as comfortable in his attire as a Wall Street investment banker is in his three piece Italian suit and silk French tie. They all wear uniforms.

It's an interesting thing about uniforms. Most people claim to hate uniforms, but a majority wear them, in one form or another. Schools kids protest against them, but if the dress code is lifted, the kids adopt their own uniform. The main difference is that theirs is offensive to parents and teachers, and to our eyes, inappropriate. They call it self expression to dress just like their classmates.

I think we should exercise some restraint in our choices. Just because hip huggers are popular doesn't mean they're for everyone. I'm amazed that grossly overweight women wear them, and presumably think they look good. Abdominal fat looks like a hungry amoeba engulfing the waist band or tsunami breaching a dike. Their navels look like someone forgot to turn off the post hole digger.

The male equivalent is the guy with



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

the sleeveless old fashioned undershirt. Some guys look great in "wife beaters," but not many. Most of those who do are models and have teeth. The guys I see aren't and don't. I've got plenty of teeth, but you won't catch me in one of those.

The fact is that I'm somewhat ashamed of my body. I work hard to stay in reasonably good shape, but I'm not crazy about my shape. A dive buddy who knew me before I started working out, commented, "you've lost weight, and you're shaped." I guess shaped is somewhat less desirable than cut. "I could work out every day for the rest of my life and never achieve "cut." You won't see me take my shirt off in public, unless it's on fire. I knew a 300-pound guy who wore a Speedo, and brought back pictures from St. Kits to prove it.

Most men don't go to the gym to get

strong. Unless they're on a tug of war team, they go to look strong. That's why some men are going to plastics surgeons to have implants that look something like muscles. At Halloween little kids dress up in Superman costumes with built in molded plastic muscles. These guys are having them permanently installed. It seems silly to me, but I guess it's OK if it makes a person feel better about himself. Besides, it makes the uniform look so much better.

Spring Sports continue to roll

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander baseball team pulled out a thrilling 13-12 victory on Tuesday against Rabun Gap down in Dillard, GA. What many thought would be a pitcher's duel early turned out to be a slugfest, as both the Highlander bats and the Eagle bats were strong throughout.

With the game knotted at ten headed into the sixth the Highlanders were able to take the lead when freshman Kenan Lewis knocked home Isaac Beavers to give Highlands the lead for good, but the Highlanders were not finished. Highlands added another run in the 6th and Cody St. Germain added an insurance run in the top of the 7th that turned out to be crucial, as the Eagles staged a 2 run rally in the seventh that fell short. St. Germain picked up the win for the Highlanders, who have now won 5 games on the season. The Highlanders will host the Eagles again on Friday in what will be senior night for Highlands.

The Lady Highlander soccer team clinched a NCHSAA playoff birth on Tuesday with a dominating 6-0 victory over the Cherokee Lady Braves.

Highlands took the lead just 9 minutes in on a goal from Kirstyn Lamb. Lamb would follow with two more goals for Highlands, and Mary Gillan Renfro, Emily Munger and Cara Hedden all notched goals for the Lady Highlanders. Highlands will finish their regular season on Thursday when they travel to Brevard to face the Lady Blue Devils. Due to a cancellation by Swain on what was scheduled to be senior night, the Lady Highlanders will now hold senior night in their first round playoff game Wednesday against a yet to be determined opponent.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

good debater. During my career, I spent a lot of time debating with superiors by saying, "Yes, sir and no, sir" which seemed to please them. And it's the same with my marriage except I'm not allowed to call her "sir" either.

During our debates, there are key words and phrases I listen for to gauge how the debate is going. For example, if I hear her say "buddy boy" I'm in big trouble and know I'm toast. Another one is "What are you talking about?" or even better "Give me a break!" Then I know I'm done for. The worse one is "Are you kidding me?"

I know I'm winning when she stares at me in silence. That's when I throw the one-two punch and then she says, "I don't wanna' talk about it anymore." POW! I

won.

And you know that old saying "love is never having to say you're sorry." Ha, I don't know what clown started that lie but it doesn't fly in this house. When we goof up, "I'm sorry" is required and accepted by both of us. Also, I'm not allowed to ask "What's for dinner?" at 7:30 in the morning. You can't imagine how that wads her shorts.

I could go on and on but I have a debate scheduled in one hour and must prepare. The first topic is "Why I leave the refrigerator door open" followed by "Snoring is my way of saying I love you." I'm having difficulty preparing talking points on the snoring thing. Write in if you think of what I can say.

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• BACK DAYS • PART 12

The story of the Frank and Belle McKinney Potts family

By Nancy Potts Coward

Actually, Steve, was more mischievous than Jack. He says he would climb up on the woodshed to get away from Mama, but he didn't mind her lickings anyway -- they didn't

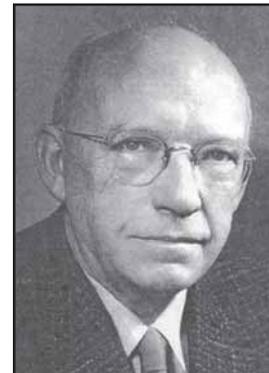
amount to much. HE didn't feel so nonchalant about punishment from Daddy. He recalls the worst whipping he ever got was for mimicking Granddaddy, who smacked his lips when he ate. Because Jessie was next to

him in age and because she fought back, he took great delight in mashing the end of her nose everytime he passed her. Jessie declares the cartilage was permanently damaged. In winter he would mild the cows by lantern light, eat breakfast which Mama would have ready, walke the mile to school and arrive by 7 o'clock -- not so much in eagerness to learn but to get started on his day's activities. Kate Rhinehart, who now lives in Webster, was a special target for his tricks. There were two doors into her classroom. One April Fool's Day he rigged a bucket of water over one door and then locked it, leaving the other standing open. Accustomed to his tricks, Kate was certain he wanted her to enter by the open door. She shook the handle of the locked door and called, "Steve Potts! Steve Potts! Open this door this minute." He unlocked it and she walked into his trap. As she spluttered from the drenching, he defended himself by saying, "But you told me to do it!"

He loved to tease Mama and once he reached the age to date, he would sing to her, "Hang out the front door key." Then he fell in love with Mae Hicks, who lived in the little strip of Georgia that sticks up between North and South Carolina. The road wasn't paved and when the weather was bad, Steve would take Jim Henry along to help him get the car out if it got stuck.

Neither Steve nor Mae has ever told us what Jim did while they courted. That road created other problems, too. We did what little shopping for new clothes that was done in Seneca, not in Franklin or Asheville. Many times Jessie and I went to bed in excited anticipation of a trip the next day, only to wake up to rain, which meant we stayed home rather than try to make it through the red-clay mud.

Probably a little before Steve



Frank and Belle Potts
– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

started dating Mae, another Georgian, Jay Chapman started calling on Betsy.

At the time, he was with the Civilian Conservation Corps at a camp in Horse Cove. Jessie and I thought he was so stiff that he should have been a sergeant in the army. There was a chair in the living room so straight-backed that only a poker could have sat in it. We called it the "Chapman Chair."

They were married in the Methodist Church in Highlands, January 31, 1937. After the reception, while Betsy was getting ready to leave, Jay started playing with Jessie and me and teasing us. Imagine our surprise to find we really liked this new brother-in-law!

Years later when I told him of our impression of him, he explained that Frank Potts's attitude toward the man who was trying to take his oldest daughter away from him did not encourage joviality.

One little story will perhaps indicate Daddy's feelings toward his first-born.

When she was very little, she wore pinafores, which were called aprons. She would climb up into Daddy's lap, stick her hands in his shirt pockets, look down at her dress and say "Apy's; pockets. Uh-uh!" He made Mama sew new pockets on the old faded pinafores.

By the time of their wedding, Jay was working for the postal service and they went to live in Atlanta and later to Florence, SC. Their two daughters, Carol Chapman Smith and Susie Chapman Blythe were the only grandchildren Mama lived to see.

Daddy was a non-practicing Baptist; Mama and Betsy being Methodist; all the other four children became Presbyterian. Perhaps Daddy had religion in too-large doses, once Granddaddy (W.T. Potts) became a preacher.

At any rate, his church-going was confined almost entirely to weddings and funerals. Jack says he did go back once and was elected Sunday School superintendent that day. He never went back.

Though Daddy wasn't a church-goer and the rest of the family split between two denominations, Sunday was a special day. We often had fried chicken for Sunday breakfast, the birds killed and cleaned that morning.

Daddy sometimes opened the store, being careful to specify that it was so that people could get bread and milk, though he never refused those who wanted to purchase cigarettes, pickles, fig newtons or other unnecessary items.

• To be continued ...



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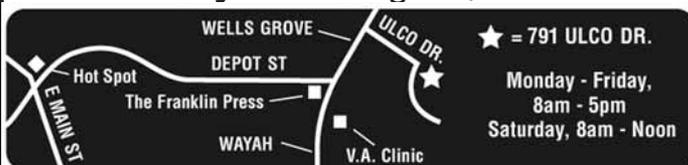
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• COACH'S CORNER •

Carpe Diem



Ryan Potts
ryanpotts@hotmail.com

I had the good fortune to move this weekend, and in the midst of cleaning out a bunch of junk I found some old game film from when I was in high school. Naturally, I was forced to drop everything and watch this, and I was able to make a few observations and conclusions. First of all, if my students were old enough to know who Al Bundy was, they would say that this game was my Al Bundy moment. (fun fact: I did actually at one time sell women's shoes) It was sort of surreal to watch the actual film and compare it to my memories and see what was real and what was embellished over time. However, before I get into that, a few bullet point observations from viewing this film.

- They say the camera adds ten pounds, which is fortunate for our team because I cannot fathom how scrawny we would have looked without the extra 10 pounds.

- In addition to being scrawny, we were also goofy looking. I remain goofy looking into my 30s, but my high school classmates had dyed their hair and it hasn't aged well.

- While we may have thought we were intimidating...the camera doesn't lie -- it is hard to be a badass when your huddle weighs approximately 500 lbs. combined.

- One thing that actually HAS aged well was the old gym and the atmosphere there-that place was packed full and my particular memories of the crowd were all validated.

- Even the old Highlander guy painted on the middle of the gym floor looked awesome-he was rocking Tom Selleck's mustache.

- One sad thought from this video is how different Coach Smart looked back then-cancer is such a horrible disease.

Anyway, like I said before, this game was sort of a high water mark in my athletic career, but that's not what this column is about-it's actually about something completely different. You see, one of the things that I noticed was the passion that my teammates played with. (I can't speak for myself, because everything my 17-year-old self did just looked doofy) None of those guys were worried about their future -- no one was thinking about getting a

college scholarship for basketball or worried about who was watching. All of those guys were doing one thing and one thing only-trying to win the game. That stood out for me, 15 years later, looking at the game partly through nostalgic eyes, but firmly with the eyes that have coached kids for 10 years now. The video only captured about 2 seconds of the celebration, and I wish I could

have seen more of that part because it was representative of the true joy of a monumental occasion, or at least, what was a monumental occasion for 17 year old kids.

I hope that all of our players at Highlands have moments like these, moments where they feel pride in their accomplishments. These are the moments that last forever, whether it be in memory, or on the unbiased eye of a video camera.

AGENDA

Highlands Town Board Meeting
Community Building, 45 Poplar Street
Thursday May 3
7pm

1. Meeting Called to Order Mayor
2. Adjust and Approve Agenda Mayor
3. Approval of April 17th Meeting Minutes
4. Public Acknowledgement of Generous Donation
 5. Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendments to Regulate Fencing and Outdoor Lighting
 - A. Open Public Hearing
 - B. Staff Comments/Recommendation
 - C. Public Comments
 - D. Close Public Hearing
 - E. Council Action
- 6 Regularly Scheduled Public Comment Period
 7. Reports
 - A. Mayor
 - B. Commissioners and Committee Reports
 - C. Town Manager
 8. Financial Matters
 - Macon County Schools Grant Request
 9. Miscellaneous Matters
 - A. Council Meeting Schedule List
 - B. Board Appointments
 - C. Spring Street: One Way Traffic
 - D. Scholarship Committee Funding Approval
 10. Discussion: Play House Funding Request/Lease Mayor/Council
 11. Adjournment



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Cosmos to Earth...

A few days ago, we all celebrated Earth Day. Wha hoo! Since I am always interested in knowing what we are celebrating, I looked up Earth Day. I discovered that it was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. My, that date sounds familiar. I remember now; it was Vladimir Lenin's 100th birthday. What a coincidence. Or... is it?

According to the LubbockOnline: "It is not coincidental that the first Earth Day was on the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin. The Left was looking for a way to continue its attack on Capitalism if the Vietnam War were to end. Forty-two years ago, some of the Earth Day supporters made their wild assertions.

'I'm scared,' Paul Ehrlich wrote in the 1970 Earth Day issue of Look (magazine). 'I have a 14-year-old daughter whom I love very much. I know a lot of young people, and their world is being destroyed. My world is being destroyed. I'm 37 and I'd kind of like to live to be 67 in a reasonably pleasant world, and not die in some sort of holocaust in the next decade.'" He'll soon be 80.

"Population will inevitably and com-

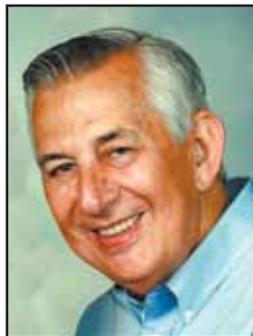
pletely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make' Ehrlich said in 1970. 'The death rate will increase until 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next 10 years.'"

This is the kind of "the-sky-is falling" rhetoric that created the "need" for Earth Day.

Dennis Hayes, one of the organizers of the first Earth Day, claimed, "It is already too late to avoid mass starvation. Demographers agree almost unanimously on the following grim timetable: by 1975 widespread famines will begin in India; these will spread by 1990 to include all of India, Pakistan, China, the Near East and Africa."

Obesity, not famine, is the world's pandemic today. I guess that settled science - "demographers agree almost unanimously" - isn't necessarily good science.

Again, from LubbockOnline: "Earth



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

Day was created to champion the control of all property by a centralized government. This has already been achieved to a large degree in the United States by use of the Endangered Species Act and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"When the politicians and bureaucrats are in control, the goal of the government is not to own everything but to control everything. This is the Fascist brand of Socialism.

"Today, school children are indoctrinated with Green and Far Left ideology. The

United States is portrayed as the Great Polluter, using the Earth's resources and creating environmental pollution and poverty. Parents really need to keep a close check on what their children are being taught in schools, as much of it has been Progressive Left propaganda."

WorldNetDaily has a timely piece on that subject. "A 12-year-old girl has responded with the stunning 'I wish we didn't exist' to questions about how she feels about pollution and humanity's impact on the earth, according to a new video released by Brian Sussman, author of "Eco-Tyranny: How the Left Green Agenda will Dismantle America."

The girl, 'Kalie, has been green-washed to the point where she readily admits, "Sometimes I wish we didn't exist.'" Sussman asked her "I guess you mean there are too many humans on the planet." "Yes" she replied. "What are they doing to harm this Earth?" he asked. "They're polluting all kinds of stuff. And the birds and animals are eating it and they die," she said.

Al Gore, Ehrlich and the rest of the loonies see and preach the answer to man's assault on the Earth is to drastically reduce the number of us humans and then everything will be manageable and they would do the managing. It all falls in line with the Gaia (Mother Earth) religious philosophy that the Earth comes first and humanity doesn't.

So, how did this year's Earth Day go, you ask? The Huffington Post comments: "San Francisco may be the greenest city in the nation, but some residents have a funny way of showing their appreciation. On

Earth Day, Marina district residents took their celebrations a little too far, leaving behind a Fort Mason disaster zone. Fort Mason wasn't the only park to take a hit on Earth Day. Mission residents also woke up to a severely less beautiful Dolores Park this morning." Shame on those greenies who would save the Earth.

And finally, from BBC News/Technology: "US introduces \$60 LED light bulb. A prize-winning light bulb that lasts for 20 years is going on sale in the US on Sunday - also known as Earth Day. Made by Dutch electronics giant Phillips, the bulb swaps filaments for light-emitting diodes to provide illumination. The first versions are set to cost \$60.

The bulb triumphed in the Bright Tomorrow competition fun by the Department of Energy that aimed to find an energy efficient alternative to the 60-watt incandescent light bulb. Phillips was the only entrant for the competition and its design underwent 18 months of testing before being declared a winner.

Sales of more energy efficient bulbs are being aided by official moves to end production of higher wattage incandescent bulbs. Production of 100-watt bulbs has ceased in the US and Europe. Production of 60-watt bulbs has been stopped in Europe and is being phased out in the US. From 2014, incandescent bulbs of 40 watts or above will be banned in the US." Happy Earth Day, sucker.

Rec Camp News

The Highlands Parks and Recreation Department first four-week Summer Recreation Camp Program is Monday June 4 through Friday, June 29. The camp is closed Monday, July 2-6 and reopens Monday, July 11 for the second four-week session until Friday, August 3. It's open to children ages 5-12 years old. (Children must be 5 years of old as of June 14 and no older than 12 years old as of August 3, no exceptions.) Camp runs from 8 am until 5:30 pm daily.

"Drop-ins OK. The child must be signed in each day by a parent/guardian and a complete registration on file.

There will be three or four field trips during the summer which will require a small additional charge to cover the entry fees. Notification will be given in advance.

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... LETTERS continued from page 3

of this founding principle is tantamount to protecting the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

It is puzzling that Christian conservatives, or Christian fundamentalists, seem so threatened by the gay and lesbian communities. What is so fragile in their own relationships with their Creator or God, or in their own relationships with their opposite sexed spouses, that they feel compelled to deny to others the same rights and benefits that a marriage compact between two people affords, and that they themselves enjoy? Isn't that starkly hypocritical, or do they simply consider themselves holier than the rest?

We should all be for the uninhibited enjoyment and practice of everyone's personal and/or religious beliefs, right up until the point that they feel the urge to impose those beliefs on others. Fortunately, freedom of religion can only be construed as being equal to, freedom from religion.

Please understand the implications regarding the NC Marriage Amendment and vote, "NO". If this amendment were to pass, the sex police could come for you next!

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

of malaria and small pox in a way that leads to greater understanding than a sectarian "feel-good" proposition.

For many, the "hope" is the process of understanding the truth, as much as possible; not to be comforted by interpretations of why bad things happen to good people. The science and understanding of the natural world does not lead to despair or to a "meaningless" life "with ultimately nothing to look forward to," as Mr. Shepard falsely deduces.

Without evidence that the universe was "intentionally created" with humans in mind, we should continue ever-increasing our knowledge and understanding of what is possible to learn.

Jennifer Royce
Highlands

Consider Highlands' representation

May 8th is an important election for not only Macon County but the Town of Highlands and District 1. As you know, Macon County is divided up into districts. District 1 not only includes the Highlands Township but also a portion of what I consider Franklin, Ellijay. May 8th has two can-

•See LETTERS page 18

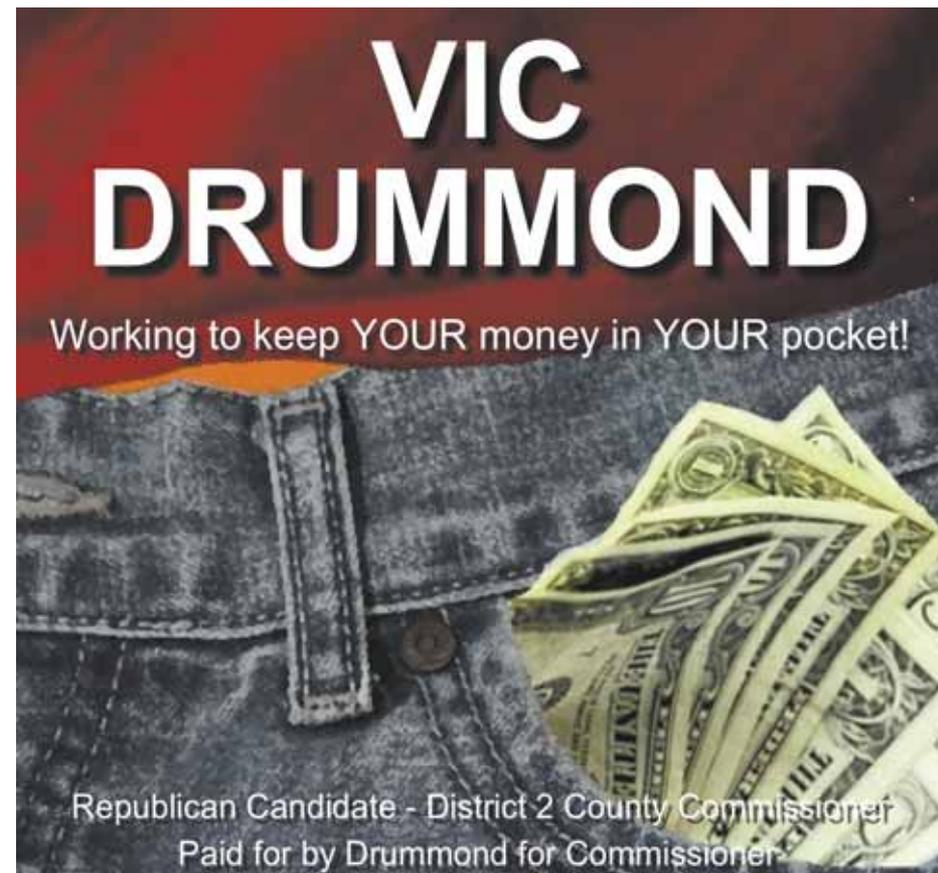
To learn, look at every angle

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on Mr. Shepard's letter in the April 26 issue of Highlands Newspaper in which he concludes that those with a worldview that does not turn to the supernatural need not bother to "hope for anything." And explanations that attempt to satisfy our desires to "make sense of pain and suffering" will always be unsatisfying, given the premise of a "loving god," and have been a challenge to the human intellect for centuries.

What we do know is that pain and suffering are aspects of existence that all living creatures endure. For many creatures, life literally depends upon it. That fact does not lessen life's meaning, but, in fact, comes from an ever-growing understanding of what life is. I think the "hope"

Mr. Shepard refers to is a sectarian one that refers to an afterlife, the meaning of which will differ, depending upon who is feeling it. To reject the truth of the processes that we do understand is an abandonment of reason, which, for many, is the loss of "hope." While natural selection can and does explain apparent design in nature, it also gives us insight into "the point"



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Having your cake and eating it, too

While it sounds like a good idea of having the best of both worlds, sometimes it could come back to bite you. The phrase itself is somewhat of a paradox if the word 'have' is taken to mean to eat your cake and then still have your cake preserved for later. This phrase is most often used as a negative comment to acknowledge one can't have it both ways.

According to Wikipedia, different languages translate it: "both the wolf is fat, and the lamb is whole" or "it's hard to have a sit in two chairs at once" or "to want the butter and the money for the butter," anyway you say the phrase, it reminds me of yet another saying "If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.."

You may wonder what this has to do with the real estate market - well just hold your horses, I mean horses. No, I really do mean houses. Having your home listed for sale for the last few years has been challenging. We've always known that pricing is crucial, as well as staging and marketing, etc., but we also know that even the

sharpest pencil doesn't create buyers.

One way to help supplement the everyday costs of your home, whether it's listed for sale or not is to offer the home as a rental. Highlands lends itself perfectly for vacation rental homes to thrive. Over the years, we've managed many homes that started out as a vacation rental then developed into a sales listing, and vice versa. The first seems to be the easiest since there are probably plenty of 'ready made buyers' coming from a list of people that have rented the home in the past. The latter is a little trickier -- you have a home on the market for sale, and you decide to offer it as a vacation rental as well, 'until it sells.' It's a perfect way to get more marketing and traffic to your home -- people who otherwise may



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

not be in the market to buy may change their mind once they 1) stay in Highlands a short while, and 2) live in your home while here. This sounds so simple, but it works, and has been working for years.

This is where the "if it sound too good to be true" statement comes into play.

This business model can work for several rental seasons.

The homeowner really wants to sell his home, but the rental income is good, too -- yep, you got it -- "having your cake and eating it, too." But what happens when someone eats up all the cake? In other words, let's just say a home is contractually listed for sale and also contractually listed for rent and let's throw one or more contractually rental leases in the mix.

Well, for one thing you could very well have several brokers involved as well as a buyer, seller, and renter(s). Many Sellers have passed this off as, "We'll just cross that bridge IF we come to it" or "Now wouldn't THAT be a good problem to deal with?"

They deal with it like the parking problem in downtown Highlands -- some view the only parking problem is when the parking spaces are empty. Sellers that are also Landlords view it a problem when their home is empty. Some consider it a pure win-win situation to have renters while their home is listed for sale.

There are plenty of potential problems with the above 'win-win' scenario, but not to worry, in walks the hero - N.C. General Statute 42-A, the Vacation Rental Act. This Act became effective July 2000 and has concise language that deals with the rental lease/home sold conundrum.

Purely to aid the consumer (the renter in this case) from becoming a cake left 'out in the rain' (as in McArthur's Park -- Popular '70s song sung by Richard Harris/written by Jimmy Webb.) The song was another 'somebody's done somebody wrong song' -- (gee there's another one -- that was a song by B. J. Thomas, but I digress). The Vacation Rental Act was put into law to ensure that all parties are treated fairly -- buyer, seller

and renter. Thusly, GS 42A-19 in part states that:

"The grantee of residential property voluntarily transferred by a landlord who has entered into a vacation rental agreement for the use of the property shall take title to the property subject to the vacation rental agreement if the vacation rental is to end not later than 180 days after the grantee's interest in the property is recorded in the office of the register of deeds."

So, legally, a vacation rental lease within six months of the recorded date of the sale is enforceable by the renter. One way that has been used to smooth the transition is for the Seller of the property being sold/transferred to offer an 'upgrade' to the incoming renter of another rental home -- this is one way to make everyone happy -- the Seller gets to sell his home, the Buyer gets to move into/use the home they want, and the Renter gets an equal or even better home to rent.

Sounds good on paper, but believe me, there's an awful lot of legwork involved -- but when it's all said and done- the objective is 'happy campers' all around.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are brokers and owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS in Highlands, specializing in 'second home' investment homes and vacation rentals.. 828-526-3717
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... HEALTH MATTERS from page 11

Unfortunately, most evidence concerning minimalist movement is anecdotal, but it is noteworthy that the leading professionals in the fitness industry are wearing "bare wear" and researching the benefits of minimalist exercise. Nonetheless, those who begin an exercise routine minimalist in nature should understand that thus far, little research has been devoted to this style of exercise.

New minimalist exercisers should understand that the transition to minimalist running takes a very long time (6 months for me) and those who are senior citizens, diabetic, obese, have poor blood circulation, or have Plantar Fasciitis should avoid switching to a minimalist exercise routine.

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• HEALTH MATTERS •

Minimalist running: Fashion or function?

Have you heard of minimalist or barefoot running? Have those "toe shoes" caught your eyes? There is a new exercise trend which calls for humans to revert back to our natural form of locomotion by taking a barefoot approach to our footwear. Often times this is referred to as minimalist exercise. Often times minimalists get reactions along these lines: "Has that person lost their mind?" "But, they're not wearing any shoes?" or, "Those shoes are hideous!"

Minimalist footwear is revolutionary, shocking and socially deviant in part because the designs of shoes have changed little over the past 200 years. Also our culture teaches that to exercise we need shoes with tight laces, toe protection, ankle support a thick sole and an elevated heel.

While many might hope that minimalist footwear will soon fade like an exercise craze or a bad teen fashion statement, many top fitness professionals think it is here to stay.

Minimalist foot wear is not a fashion statement. In my opinion minimalist footwear is quite ugly. One man in his early 80s commented that my shoes were "very attractive." I think he was just



R. Garrett Tandy, Jr.
hattersboy1@yahoo.com

trying to be nice. True barefoot runners develop calluses and scars. However, feet are supposed to be ugly and the minimalist idea behind this "trendy" movement is to keep the orthopedics of our bodies healthy.

Minimalists feel that the human body was not born to wear the typical 20th century shoe. The general theory is that the typical shoe prevents the muscles, ligaments, ten-

dons and bones of the lower leg from functioning properly. It is the minimalist belief that the shoe acts as a cast similar to the one which gets placed on a broken arm. After six or eight weeks in a cast, the hand and wrist loses flexibility and strength.

Studies have shown that when a shoe is placed on the foot of an individual from a culture that does not wear restrictive shoes for six to eight weeks, their feet lose a great deal of their dynamic abilities.

Furthermore, minimalists feel that when you add in a heel to a shoe, it disrupts proper body alignment. Also, a thick sole makes the ankle more unstable in addition to the unnatural ankle support provided by the shoe preventing ankle support from being developed by the ankles muscles, ligaments and tendons.

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 10

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Highlands Events

... PLAYHOUSE continued from page 1

ed \$100,000 to winterize the Playhouse – previously a “pie in the sky” dream for the Playhouse Board.

As anyone who has ever renovated an old structure knows, one project often leads to another as the layers of time are stripped away, and such has been the case at the Playhouse where limited funds have forced a piecemeal approach to renovations. In 2013, the Highlands Playhouse will celebrate its 75th anniversary – the building was the Highlands School gym in its earlier days.

Now, with the estimated \$40,000 the Highlands Town Board discussed spending to install a new HVAC system, coupled with the \$67,000 the town recently spent to bring the Playhouse electric system up to code and replace the roof, the Playhouse has a real chance at becoming a comfortable theater throughout the year.

At the first budget meeting for FY 2012-'13 last Thursday, commissioners agreed to fund the new HVAC system in time for its first show of the season – Libby Whittemore – which opens May 25.

Two five-ton units, including duct work and roof repairs is estimated to cost about \$40,000. Firmer figures will be discussed at the Thursday, May 3 Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building. The previous HVAC, a single, 5-ton unit on the roof of the building, failed last August and removing it will necessitate minor roof repairs. The new system will be put on the ground, not the roof, and ductwork will be in the floors, not the ceiling.

The Winklers have been in Highlands since 2003 and during that time have been substantial contributors to the Highlands' community. Benefactors of their generosity include the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, The First Presbyterian Church, The Bascom, the Performing Arts Center, the Highlands-Cashiers Free Health Clinic, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and also the Highlands Playhouse.

The Playhouse board also tries to give back to the community. Every dress rehearsal night is “pay as you can” and earmarked as a donation to another worthy non-profit. Last year's donation of over \$2,000 was given to R.E.A.C.H.

In the near future, the Board hopes to get the Playhouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“As a year-round facility, the Playhouse will be able to offer various activities throughout the year, including holi-

day events and we even hope to be able to offer movies on a ‘big screen,’” said board member Wanda Drake.

Last week commissioners also agreed to re-negotiate all its leases with tenants of town-owned buildings and to use a standard commercial lease with rent based on a square-footage rental rate so every tenant pays the same rate. “We need to get to a level playing field as far as our leases are concerned,” said Commissioner John Dotson, who sits on the Playhouse board.

Commissioner Eric Pierson agreed. “We need a uniform lease for all our buildings,” he said. “We need to take control and understand exactly what is going on in our buildings because year after year tenants come to us for money for repairs.”

Currently there are five town-owned buildings each with a different scenario – Highlands Emergency Council, the Highlands Playhouse, the Historical Society's Old Jail, the Performing Arts Center and the old EMT/Police Station. Each tenant pays \$1 a year except PAC which pays \$10 per year. Except for the Playhouse and the EMT/Police Station, the town pays utilities. Each tenant except PAC is responsible for repairs. Leases range from 3-, 5-, 10 and 49-years.

The Town Board plans to assess the physical needs of each of its buildings, to prioritize projects and to get on a 3-5 year budget plan. In addition to being responsible for all repairs on all its buildings, commissioners are considering paying the utilities for all its tenants but charging a square-footage, monthly rate for rent.

Though how each entity got to where it is today is a different story, Town Manager Bob Frye said the town needs to remove current inequalities between the various leases and to better address the maintenance needs of the various buildings the town owns. Each lease varies in length but both the town and the entity has the right to break the lease with 30 days notice.

“These are town buildings and if we are going to keep them, then we need to determine what needs to be fixed and schedule work so we don't get caught off guard like this,” said Frye. “We have a public responsibility to fix it and fix it right.”

Often tenants come up short for repairs and the town usually agrees to fund them but since they aren't usually in the town budget, the money has been coming out of the fund balance in a hit and miss fashion.

– Kim Lewicki

Thursday, May 3

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome, Appointments preferred! For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, May 4

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

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 River-view Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 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).

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, May 4th at the Macon County Community Building in Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Tony Simmons from Greenville, SC will be the caller. Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information, call 828-349-0905

Saturday, May 5

• 20th Annual Tour de Cashiers, *Ride for Health* - presented by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Foun-

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

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society field trip around The Bascom starting at 7:30 am. Walk will conclude with a guided tour of The Bascom's exhibit “Chicks: It's All Gone To The Birds”. Call Russ at 404-558-1085, or visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

• The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin and Highlands area on Saturday. Veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

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

Sunday, May 6

• The North Georgia Children's Chorus, under the direction of Ruth Purcell, will present a free concert at

Singer Eric Hendrix coming to the Hudson Library May 9



Local Singer/Songwriter, Eric Hendrix, will perform his original songs at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room on Wednesday, May 9 at 4 p.m.

Eric's lyrics and melodies weave local stories from the Western North Carolina Mountains and the Hendrix family infused with his Spanish roots. Born in Long Island, Eric was raised a military son in Turkey, Panama, Georgia and South Carolina before enlisting in the United States Army and serving in Munich, Germany. He moved to North Carolina in 1983, raised a family and remains in the area.

Dillsboro's Tuckasee River comes alive in many of his songs as a vehicle to convey multiple themes of life's journey and the changes we all face that strength-

en us. Eric accompanies himself on the guitar; but also performs locally with his group, Eric Hendrix and Friends, consisting of his wife, Norma Hendrix (Flute and vocals), Pete Cortese (percussion and vocals), and Dave Magill of Webster (Bass and vocals). He will be performing solo May 9th.

Eric holds his Masters in Literature and Creative Writing from Western Carolina University where he taught for several years. He currently owns and operates Eric's Fresh Fish Market in both Sylva and Franklin.

The public is enthusiastically invited to attend this special presentation which is free. Refreshments following the program will be provided by the Hudson Library Board.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

Highlands United Methodist Church on Sunday at 3PM. This accomplished children's chamber choir will present a repertoire of both sacred and secular music in a wide range of styles.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 1.5 mile easy hike with an elevation change of only 200 ft. to the Albert Mtn. Fire Tower for good views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- The Brevard College Chamber Chorale will perform in a concert at 2pm on Sunday, May 6 at First Presbyterian Church. The group will also participate in the 11 a.m. worship service that morning. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the morning worship service as well as the afternoon concert, which will take place in the

sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church. The church is located at the corner of Main and 5th Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

Monday, May 7

- 23rd Annual Golf Tournament at Highlands Country Club. 11am Shotgun Start. Lunch on the 10th tee as well as snacks and beverages provided on the course. Tee gift. \$150 per player. Hole sponsorships available (\$100) Other sponsorships available as well. To register, call Brian Stiehler 787-2778 or Joyce Baillargeon 526-050.

Tuesday, May 8

- Birding Outing at Southern Highlands Reserve Gardens at 7:30 am. Must call for registration.

- Come and listen to the stories at the Story Swap on Tuesday at 7:30 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 5-7 minute story to

tell or read, sign up at the pub or call 369-1927. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, May 9

- Local Singer/Songwriter, Eric Hendrix, will perform his original songs at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The public is enthusiastically invited to attend this special presentation which is free. Refreshments following the program will be provided by the Hudson Library Board.

- The Mountain Patriots Tea Party will hold their monthly meeting, Wednesday 1 p.m. at Blue Ridge Roadhouse Grill, Franklin. Guest speaker is Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman. For info call 828 524-6964.

Thursday, May 10-Sunday, May 20

- Highlands-Cashiers Players production of "The Dixie Swim Club" back by popular demand. Evening performances begin at 7:30 on the respective Thursdays, Fri., and Sat., May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19, with matinees at 2:30 on the Sundays of May 13 and 20. For ticket information, call 828-526-8084.

Thursday, May 10

- The May meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

Collective Spirits Friday Night Fun Fest at The Bascom

Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival, a celebration of wine, food and the arts, from May 17th - 19th, marks the opening of the Summer Season on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. This year's Wine Tasting & Market and the Collective Spirits and Soul Dance Party on Friday, May 18th offers treats for all of the senses.

Featured Wineries during the Wine Tasting & Market from 5 - 7 pm include:

Anomaly Vineyards, David Arthur Vineyards, Failla Wines, Gabrielle Collection, Gruet Winery, Hendry Ranch Wines, Hook & Ladder Winery, Jeff Rundquist Wines, Merry Edwards Winery, Mutual Distributing Company, Pietra Santa Winery, Ramey Wine Cellars, Rutherford Wine Company, Schug Carneros Estate, Solena Estate, Tryon Distributing, Vias Imports, Zacherle Wines.

Then, dance the night away at the newest addition to the weekend's line up. From 7 - 10 pm, the Collective Spirits and Soul Dance Party welcomes the Sensational Sounds of Motown, brought to you by Wilmington Trust. You don't want to miss this fabulous opportunity to enjoy great wine, music and dancing!

Other Collective Spirits 2012 events include Private Home Wine Dinners dinner on Thursday evening and Saturday's gathering on the Terrace at The Bascom for the Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction at 6:30pm.

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



Dance to the Sensational Sounds of Motown at The Collective Spirits and Soul Dance Party on Friday, May 18th from 7-10 pm.

invitation to become a Benefactor or to attend Collective Spirits, please visit TheBascom.org/collectivespirits or call 828.787.2896.

Wilmington Trust is the Platinum Sponsor of the 2012 Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival. Support is provided by Delta Air Lines; Old Edwards Inn and Spa; The Laurel Magazine; Franklin Ford and Moss Robertson Cadillac; J.T. Turner Construction; and Sysco.

Box office opens for HCP'S 'The Dixie Swim Club'



Five vivacious ladies of HCP's production of "The Dixie Swim Club" are left to right Carla Gates, Mary Adair Leslie, Lee Lyons, Jenny King, and Bonnie Earman. The comedy-drama runs Thursday, May 10, through Sunday, May 20. Call 526-8084 for reservations or more information.

With opening night only a week away, the box office is now open for the Highlands Cashiers Players "back-by-popular-demand" production of The Dixie Swim Club. Thursday and Friday, May 3 and 4, are days reserved for season subscribers to make their reservations, but on Saturday, May 5, and continuing through the run of the play the box office will be open for all reservations at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands, 507 Chestnut Street, 828-526-8084.

The play itself, a delightful comedy-drama, opens at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10. Five Southern women, who met on their college swim team, have been getting together every few years for weekends at a beach cabin on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We see them at four of these weekends from age 40 to 70. Though personalities and life experiences differ greatly, their

friendship has held through fun and crazy times and times of loss and sadness.

Five of HCP's favorite actors play the five unforgettable women of The Dixie Swim Club. Four appeared in HCP's first production a couple of years ago—Lee Lyons, Mary Adair Leslie, Jenny King, and Carla Gates with Bonnie Earman joining the cast for this second time around.

The play runs Thurs., May 10, through Sun., May 13, and Thurs., May 17, through Sun., May 20. Evening performances start at 7:30; the Sun. matinees, at 2:30. Individual tickets are \$20; \$10 for students. Call 525-8084 for reservations or stop by the Performing Arts Center during box office hours, Thurs. through Sat. 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., and an hour before the 7:30 performances and the 2:30 performances on Sundays.

Right: Incumbents Bobby Kuppers, District 3 (D), Kevin Corbin, District 2 (R), and Jim Tate, District 1 (R);

Far Right: Vic Drummond, District 2 (R) and Rick Snyder, District 3 (D).

Photos by Kim Lewicki



Bobby Kuppers:

Infrastructure is the challenge Macon County faces. We are crawling out of this recession. We need to keep the budget low, but not at the cost of infrastructure. Otherwise what we have isn't what we need. We need to figure out how to recover and reclaim any infrastructure that was put on hold during the recession. For instance, in the military we were on a two-year rotation for technology. Because of state and local cuts, Macon County Schools is on a nine-year rotation for technology. You can put technology on the back burner but you can't keep going that way. Also, recreation used to be the crown jewel in Macon County. No longer true. When times are bad, it falls to the wayside. Children can't live

without it; they only have one childhood.

Kevin Corbin:

Education has to be a top priority. If you don't care about that, then you don't care about our children. In 2000 we were 80th in the state in technology. Now we are 11th. But due to state cutbacks, there are problems. We will need to allocate money from the fund balance for school technology. It just makes sense to take care of our kids.

Jim Tate:

I'm a rookie at this but in three months I've been on the board I've realized that Macon County government isn't about me, or us or the board, it's about you. We are here to serve. Education, safety, EMS, social services, solid waste, it goes on and on. It's a

big enterprise with layers and it has to work efficiently. We need to be professional, efficient, keep taxes low, keep our education system top-notch for our kids and adults and keep communities as safe as possible.

Rick Snyder:

Without a growing economy, the tax burden goes back to the residents. We need to make Macon County a destination not just a pass-through. We need affordable day care and housing. Look at all that is going on and vote accordingly.

Vic Drummond:

The two most important issues are decreasing the cost to taxpayers. You do that through the budget and through budget amendments throughout the year and through what regulations are adopted.

The budget is supposed to hold spending and hold the current property tax. But I think the board should consider reducing the property tax rate by 9% in the next budget. Return \$6.8 million to taxpayers by making the fund balance 25% not the current 33% by lowering taxes. I'm not a life-long resident, but it doesn't mean I have any less love or respect for the county.

One Stop Early Voting at the Courthouse in Franklin ends Saturday, May 5.

The polls are open Tuesday, May 8 at the 15 precincts from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The precincts for District 1 in Highlands are at the Highlands Civic Center (Rec Park) and at the Scaly Mountain Fire Department on Hale Ridge Road in Scaly Mountain. Don't forget to vote! - **KL**



On May 8
Keep your Highlands' representation in place

VOTE
Jim Tate

for
District 1 Representative
of the Macon County Board of Commissioners

Believes in:

- Making responsible decisions for our county
 - Safeguarding our communities
 - Maintaining low taxes
- Providing exceptional education for our children
- Being a good steward of our natural heritage

- Paid for by Tate for Commissioner -

John 3:16

PLACES TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers

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

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

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

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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. School – 9:30

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor

828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704

Independent Bible Church

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge
Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Who tells you who you are?



**Lee W. Bowman, First
Presbyterian Church of
Highlands**

At the beginning of the last century the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke produced a volume entitled *Letters to a Young Poet*. It was loving advice to a young protégée. Several years ago, William Sloane Coffin, pastor emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York City, published his final book, a reminiscence of Rilke's earlier work. He called it *Letters to a Young Doubter*, and it's written to an imaginary young friend with whom he corresponds about problems of faith, the difficulties of personal life and the ever more confusing problems of today's world.

"Dear Tom," Coffin begins, "let's be clear about the ground rules: I won't treat you as if 18 were too young, and you won't treat me as if 80 were too old. Actually, my part of the bargain may be easier. St. Benedict said, 'God often shows what is better to the younger.' You, on the other hand, may think wisdom comes with age. Believe me, Tom, age often comes alone."

"Allow me," Coffin continued, "to change your doubts into 'questions.' Tolstoy once suggested that certain questions are put to humanity not so much that we should answer them but that we should spend a lifetime wrestling with them. I don't recall Tolstoy listing any such questions, so here's one of my own: 'Who tells you who you are?'"

Not a bad question for us to ask ourselves from time to time. Imagine what it would be like if you woke up one day and your whole life had been erased from your brain. I read an article in the newspaper about a woman named Jean Burke, who over 20 years ago suffered a brain stem aneurysm. In the wake of that trauma, Jean did lose everything—her ability to walk, talk and care for herself. She lost her friends and the career that she might have had. Her mother Betty stayed by her side and taught her who she was all over again, how to walk again, how to talk again. And a friend named Marie Houlihan took Jean to church so that she could learn about God again.

As I read that story, Bill Coffin's question kept coming back to me. Who tells you who you are? One answer to that question is a peculiarly American myth—you are what you achieve. You are the captain of your own destiny, the author of your own story. The only limits placed upon you are your own ingenuity, discipline and desire. How many times have you heard, "You've just gotta want

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

... BUDGET continued from page 14

January 2013, Frye said the town will have to increase electric rates by 6% and incorporate the rate increase into the rate structure for the coming budget year but won't increase rates for citizens until January 2013. This will bring in an extra \$125,000 to the town.

To make the Sanitation Dept. self-sufficient as an enterprise fund and not depend on fund balance transfers to operate, a fee adjustment of 15% is needed. This will generate an additional \$86,896,000 which means the department will be operating in the black.

A 15% increase across the board is suggested for all Sanitation fees which means \$18.50 per month for residential/commercial rates; \$17.25 per month for small cardboard pickup; \$46 for dumpster pickups and \$5.75 per month for commercial 95-gallon containers.

Parks & Recreation

Over the last several years the Parks & Recreation budget has continued to increase and revenues haven't kept pace with expenditures. Total expenditures for FY 2011-12 were \$839,006 and revenues were \$587,256. After user fees in \$165,350 was factored in, to fill in the gaps, \$94,114 was

transferred from the fund balance.

"As a stand-alone enterprise fund, the Parks & Recreation Fund as it now exists will never be able to generate sufficient revenue to meet its existing program commitments," said Frye.

He said he's not suggesting cutting services, but to get a better handle on expenditures, he suggested a cap on the amount of money transferred from the fund balance to the Parks & Recreation Fund. He also suggested returning the department to the General Fund. "This won't stop fund transfers, but it makes more sense from a budgeting standpoint since it will never be capable of supporting itself as an enterprise fund," he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked Frye to use the fact that the town might have to cut services as a negotiating point when talking to the county about how much it contributes to Highlands' Parks & Recreation. "If we have to put a cap on transfers we might put a cap on Zachary Field," she said.

The county owns the field, by the town pays all its expenses – maintenance, utilities and trash pick up.

– Kim Lewicki

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

it!"

The pressure to succeed in this scenario is profound. And of course, the best chance we have to believe that we are what we achieve is while we are young, naive and full of promise. But the increase in the use of anti-anxiety drugs among our young people shows that even they are not exempt from the weight of this standard. We can add to that the near epidemic numbers of students cheating on exams and plagiarizing research papers.

Who tells you who you are? Consumerism fuels another answer to this question. Consumerism says you are what you have. The 'keep-up-with-the-Joneses' ethos of my parents' generation has given way to an 'outdo-the-Joneses' determination in this most affluent of all countries. After we come down from the rush of acquisition and understand the falseness of this consumerism claim—that we are what we have—we understand it's no better than the achievement ethos.

Into that cacophony of false claims Jesus says categorically that you cannot know who you are apart from the one who gives you life. We think immediately of mother and father but Jesus was speaking in ultimate terms about the origins of humankind. I am the vine, he said, you are

the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

When Bill Coffin was coming of age himself, when he began to entertain various questions of faith and the pointed question—who tells you who you are?—he found his way to a church. "Sunday by Sunday," he recalled, "Jesus became more and more real to me. I loved the way Jesus relied on narrative and example rather than on precept and principle." What Coffin began to see was that Jesus wasn't telling people they had to be upright—as in uptight—but instead he wanted them to experience life lived with a joy that could absorb sorrow, a hope that could surmount despair, and a tough, uncompromising love that is the greatest thing in life.

It's a love that finally tells us who we are—child of God, made in God's own image and likeness. Think of that. I hope that's exactly what Jean Burke learned the second time around after her mind was so tragically and completely erased by a brain aneurysm. And for you? Think this week about God's love for you. And if you don't fall to your knees in gratitude as you think about this God who created you in love, for love, I'll be surprised.

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... LETTERS continued from page 9

didates pitted against one another in District 1, a Highlands native and a gentleman from Ellijay.

Our county commissioners do a lot of good work for the entire county. County politics is an extension of the State. At a time when the state continues to pass along its shortcomings to the counties in NC, it is so important we have representation in all areas of the county.

The county controls the most important budget item, our schools. In an area that generates a majority of tax revenue for Macon County, we need representation and make sure someone is fighting on our behalf; someone who knows first-

hand the needs of the Highlands School and the needs of the entire District. 48% of the total county budget is dedicated to Macon County Schools, a great priority, and we need to make sure we see our fair share.

The county also controls the return of occupancy tax dollars (through the Tourism Development Commission) generated in Highlands. When a guest stays at a local inn, they pay a 3% occupancy tax. Of that, the county keeps a processing/administrative fee (currently 8%) that can be adjusted. That total sum of money (in the tune of \$300,000) comes back to the Visitor Center to market Highlands. The good work done by the Visitor Center ultimately brings

more people to Highlands which it turn, benefits all of us who make a living in Highlands.

We need good representation that understands the need to keep this administrative fee as low as possible. In the past, it has been as high as 16%. This cuts in to the amount of marketing the Visitor Center is able to do. These are just two example of why we need someone from Highlands representing our District.

Vote carefully and ask yourself which one will represent you the best.

Brian J. Stiehler
Highlands

What does 'Conservative' mean?

Dear Editor,

We just got back to our mountain home in Cashiers. It's been six months and, as I've just turned 60, it had been a grueling tax season for me. I thought I would give my keyboard a rest and just try to relax, and I wasn't going to read Swanson or even Fred because what they say usually goes against everything I stand for. BTW, I said "even Fred", because I have grown to realize that he gets in trouble more from his warped sense of humor and less from his mean spiritedness; and I can't say I've grown that much when it comes to Swanson. But I did pick up the April 19th Highlands Newspaper and was intrigued to read the three letters to the editor; and by golly, all three expressed some outrage at Fred and Swanson. And I thought to myself....maybe this IS a blue state after all.

OK, OK, I won't get carried away; and I'll get back to Swanson in a minute. It is election season (which usually brings out the best in us) and I notice that the trend in campaign commercials on TV is that they have to start off with the phrase...I'm a "Christian Conservative." One of the big Realtors in town thinks it is very important to plaster across his white and blue sign, the word "Conservative" in big red letters. Why is that and what does it even mean? I consider myself liberal, but what does that even mean? Do they mean fiscal conservative or social conservative? I'm a partner in a CPA firm. We employ 14 people. I have to think conservatively for my business to survive, but I like to think I'm liberal toward the social concerns of my employees. Wouldn't it be great if all the ads and signs were able to just say "Human." We would all know what it means, but now I'm asking too much, right?

Anyway, the three letters to the editor embolden me to read Fred and Swanson. Fred was vanilla this week...just talked about small town politics. And Swanson,

well it was his typical hateful, conspiracy-theory garbage about anything that sounds "Democrat." But here's the thing, and its so telling about where he's really coming from - in his last paragraph, he couldn't just scold Hilary Rosen (the Democrat strategist) on the merits, for saying something about Ann Romney that was arguably not as well thought through as it could have been. He had to end it with "to date no word from Rosen's lesbian partner...probably at home taking care of the twins." Can't make your political point without bashing someone different than you, Don? Kind-a makes you lose credibility huh!

How about, Hello my name is (fill in the blank) and I'm running for Congress, and I'm a Human being!

Rick Lundy,
Cashiers, NC

Agree to disagree

Dear Editor,

We have been given the privilege and opportunity by our government to show support during an election. One of the ways our government has allowed everyone to avail themselves is to place campaign signs in designated areas. This is a freedom for all of us. Not only is this privilege provided to us, but our state has laws protecting this right. (ie. Senate Bill 315: Class 3 misdemeanor)

Up until now five VoteFORMarriage signs have been taken. When I see that, I just wonder why someone that feels differently does not exercise their American rights. There was room where our signs were for all points of view to be displayed.

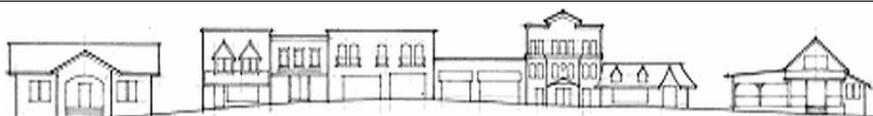
Again, where one of our signs had been taken down, this person(s) placed a sign expressing their point of view. As we respected their sign, we placed another VoteFORMarriage sign along side of theirs. And again, this person(s) took the VoteFORMarriage sign out of the ground and left it. Their sign was still standing and as we witnessed this - we respectfully left their sign standing.

I say all this because we often say that our country seems divided. In instances such as this (the removal of signs), it is an opportunity to say you disagree without being disagreeable.

Pastor Rick Warren (who delivered the invocation at President Obama's inauguration) said something recently that is very fitting and that was, "you can walk hand-in-hand without seeing eye-to-eye. What we need in our country is unity, not uniformity."

I see this, as an opportune time to do just that.

D. Allison Thompson
Highlands



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Downtown Clayton

Shop Clayton/Concert at Rock House Park

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Tiger Mountain Vineyard

WWW.TIGERWINE.COM

SAT. MAY 12 & SUN. MAY 13,

11:30AM - 4PM

Red Barn Cafe Opening

Tiger Mountain Vineyard

WWW.TIGERWINE.COM

SAT. MAY 19 - SUN, MAY 20

Warrior Dash

Blue Ridge Camp

Mountain City, GA

WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM

FRI. JUN 22 - SUN. JUN 24

Chattooga River Festival

WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM

SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM

4th Annual Clayton Crawl

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG

SAT. OCT 6, 10AM -5PM

Foxfire Mountaineer Festival

WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG

SAT. OCT 27, 10AM - 1PM

Halloween Hay Day

SAT. OCT 27, 1PM

Halloween Trick or Treat

Main Street, Clayton

SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM

Festival of Trees Preview Party

Rabun County Civic Center

WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

THURS. NOV 22, 8AM

Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot

FRI. NOV 23, 5PM - 8PM

Christmas in Clayton

FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM &

SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and
Festival of Trees

Rabun County Civic Center

WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

SAT. DEC 1, 5PM

Christmas Parade

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 25

• At 10:20 a.m., damage to real property was reported at S. 4th Street.

• At 1:40 p.m., a person was reported moving political signs on Brooks Road across from Manley Auto and Tire.

April 29

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to call about OEI construction traffic blocking Spring Street.

• Strange noises were reported at a residence on Morewood Circle. The noise was due to the pond's pump.

April 30

• At 10:45 a.m., Fressers Eatery requested police presence while an employee was dismissed.

May 1

• 9:02 a.m., officers responded to a domestic incident at a resident on Wilson Road.

• At 8:45 p.m., officers on patrol found an open door at Bryson's Food Store. All was OK.

• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 11 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April 25.

April 25

• At 11:24 a.m., the dept. was first responders to Highlands Plaza. EMS transported.

April 26

• At 10:08 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly-Sky Valley FD for a structure fire on Wild Azalea Drive.

April 29

• At 4:25 a.m., the dept. was first responders to Sassy Lane. EMS transported.

• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on the Franklin Road. EMS transported.

April 30

• At 2:56 p.m., the dept. was first responders to Buttermilk Lane. EMS transported..

School sports physicals May 11

A sports physical clinic for school athletic programs is being held at the Macon County Public Health Center in Franklin. The clinics are open to rising 7th grade -12th grade students who plan to participate in school athletics any-time during the 2012 -2013 school year. The clinic will be offered on Friday, May 11th from 4:30 to 7 pm. To schedule appointments call 371-8933. It costs \$15. Cash or checks are acceptable and no insurance will be filed. A parent or guardian must attend with the student and sports physical packets may be picked up from the front office of Franklin High or Macon Middle.

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Mark C. Shoptaugh, MD

Education: Louisiana State University Medical School

Residency: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Certification: American Board of Anesthesiology, Subspecialty in Pain Management

Memberships: American Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Interventional Pain Practice

Experience: 28 years Anesthesiology and Pain Management



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BIDS FOR LANDSCAPE SERVICE - Hudson Library is taking bids for next year. Bid information and specs are available at the Hudson Library or by contacting Dale Sticka at 526-1786. The Bidder must provide 3 references. Bids close on May 15, 2012. (May 10)

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Public Hearing for Environmental Assessment Town of Highlands

The Town of Highlands will be holding a Public Hearing for the proposed Lake Sequoyah Raw Water Intake Improvements and Dam Repair project. The Town of Highlands has prepared an Environmental Assessment to determine the proposed project's potential environmental impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed project includes construction of a new raw water intake within Lake Sequoyah to improve water quality within the municipal water system as well as repairs at the existing dam.

This Public Hearing will be held on:
Thursday, June 7, 2012
At 7:00 pm
Highlands Community Center
869 Poplar Street
Highlands, North Carolina 28741

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to afford all interested persons the opportunity to provide comments regarding the environmental assessment. Verbal and written statements will be taken at the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for public viewing starting on May 7, 2012 at Highlands Town Hall, 210 North Fourth Street, Highlands, North Carolina 28741.



Left: Chill, a Highlands treatery – frozen yogurt & more at N.4th and Oak streets – officially opened Friday, April 27. Mayor David Wilkes cut the ribbon with owners Debi and David Bock. Customers serve themselves from a variety of yogurt flavors and finish with toppings of their choice. It's 49 cents per oz, so you can be as "good" or as "bad" as you like!

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Right: Steve Day, Hillrie Quin and Ellen Bauman judged a selection of new appetizers to be offered at Fressers Eatery in Helens Barn this year. Fressers has undergone a facelift and a new small plate menu is in the works. The plates were judged on appearance, taste and commercial viability.

Right: one of the new offerings, Jamaican Shrimp.



The Kremser crew at Southern Belle's on US. 64 east next to the Community Bible Church is ready for year two featuring country cooking with a fresh twist. They serve breakfast all day, feature daily specials and offer a new menu all a great prices.

Photo by Guy Fielding

Interact Club Haiti Book Bag Drive is May 14-24

A book bag drive is the Interact Club's international project for this year.

The Interact Club is a student branch of Rotary. It will be collecting used book bags, duffel bags, cloth shopping bags, and similar objects during the drive.

During the students' fall break, some Interact members traveled to Cange, Haiti where Jane Chalker continues her mission there.

While in Cange students saw a need for book bags. They decided a good time to collect used book bags was at the end of the school year, since many of students get new book bags in the fall.

There are collection boxes at Highlands School, the Chamber of Commerce, Sport Page Sandwich Shoppe, Meadows Mountain Realty, and First Citizens Bank.

Please donate a used book bag in good condition for the children of Haiti.

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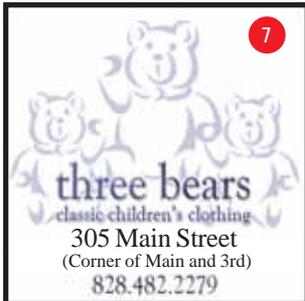
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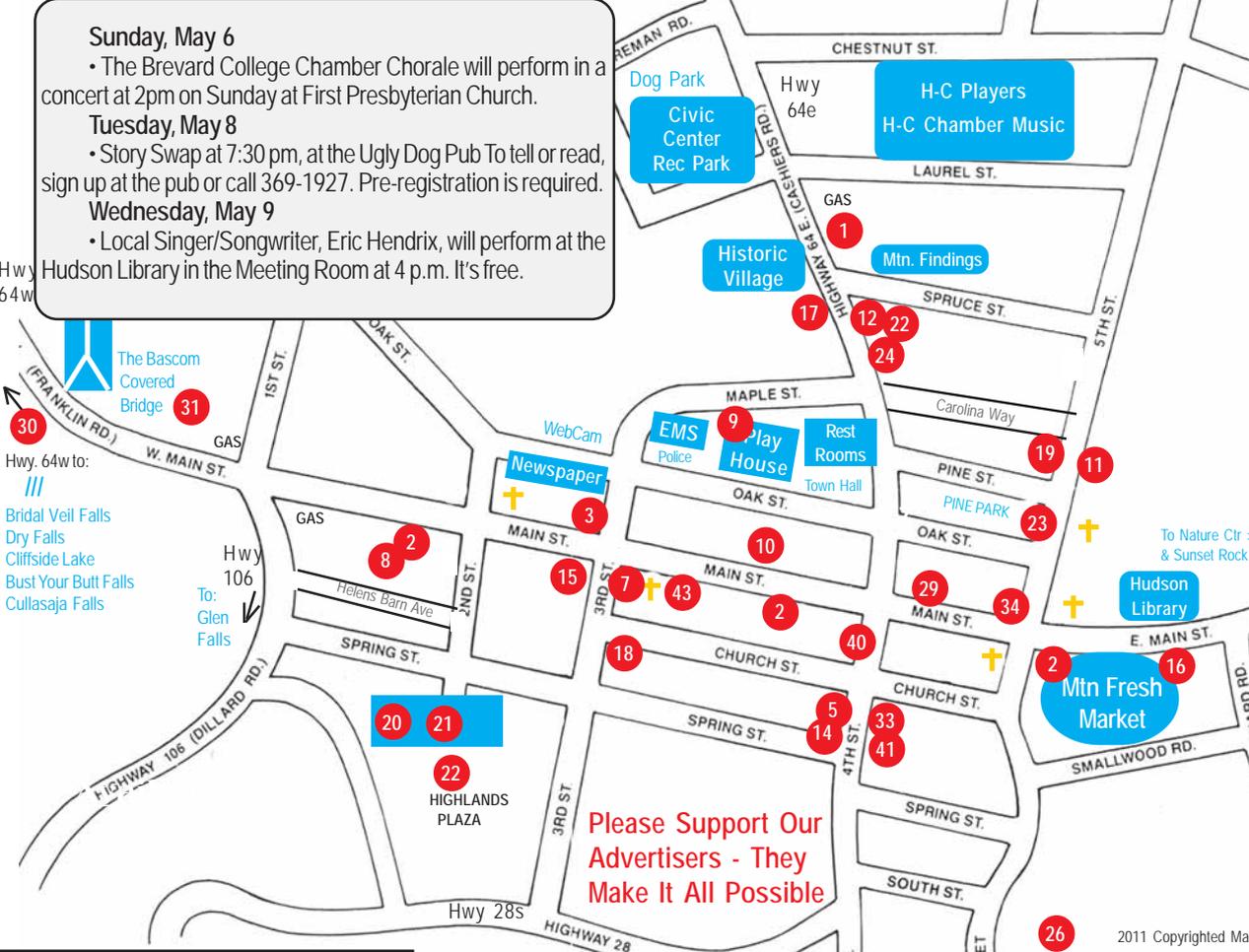


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Wednesday, May 9
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