

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 46

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012

Thursday, Nov 15

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

Friday, Nov. 16

• At Hudson Library, an Open House featuring samples of items canned in honor of the new display "We ate what we can, what we can't we can." Samplings will be at 3 p.m. in the meeting room.

Sat. Nov. 17-Sun. Jan. 6

• At The Bascom, 'Tis the Season Giving Trees. Live and artificial trees will be decorated for the holidays by area nonprofits. Donation boxes will be at each tree.

Saturday, Nov. 17

• The Basom's annual Egg Nog-Off 9a to 5p. Go to www.TheBasom.org for more information.

Tues. & Wed., Nov. 20 & 21

• Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leaving a message with your name and phone number. This is the ONLY time in 2012 you will be able to purchase a pumpkin roll, but – you don't have to pre-order to be able to get one.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

• Highlands Community Thanksgiving Supper at the Rec Park at 6 p.m.

• Due to its early demise, thanks to Hurricane Sandy, the Do-Tell saplings sculpture will become a giant bonfire at 6:30 pm. The local fire department will use the controlled burn as a training exercise and the community is invited to attend and celebrate the sculpture's role in establishing The Bascom's 2010 campus.

Maconian is new BOE superintendent

The search for a Macon County Schools superintendent began shortly after Superintendent Dan Brigman announced his resignation at the May board of education meeting, effective June 30, 2012.

In five short but intensive months, that replacement has been found and this time it's a born and raised Maconian.

At a special Board of Education (BOE) meeting Thursday, Nov.

10, the board voted unanimously to hire current Franklin High School principal Dr. Chris Baldwin as Macon County's next superintendent for \$105,000 per year, effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017.

"We believe we are picking a person to lead this county for many years for the betterment of our students," said BOE Chair Tommy Cabe. "We knew Chris

was the man for the job, but we still we had to go through all the hoops."

After Superintendent Lonnie Crawford retired in 2001 following a 23-year career as Macon County's superintendent – the school system has been lead by two superintendents from outside the area – Rodney Shotwell and Dan Brigman – who used Macon

• See SUPERINTENDENT page 11

Highlands U12 soccer team wins championship



Highlands U12 Soccer Team was undefeated this fall in the Macon County Soccer League! They beat out three Franklin teams and won the championship game on Sunday, October 28th. Kneeling in the front from left: Ethan Tate and Timmy Bronaugh. Second row from left: Matt Campbell, Taj Roman, Diane Dallmann, Sarah Futral, Jessica Campbell, Sayla Roman, Brent Sleight, Dillon Schmitt and Jon Miller. Back row from left: Doug Campbell (assistant coach) and Tay Bronaugh (coach).

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Town Board to vote on PB's ruling

At Thursday's, Nov. 15 Town Board meeting, commissioners will decide how to rule on the Planning Board's recent recommendations concerning Conditional Use District requests.

To be considered is Phase 2 of Town Place Condominiums and Old Edwards Inn Hospitality Group's request to turn the third oldest existing house in Highlands at 594 Main Street – into a wedding/event venue.

At the October Planning Board meeting, the board ruled

• See TOWN BOARD page 22

Reading goes viral in MC

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• See READING page 11

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Thanksgiving issue will be on the streets Wednesday instead of Thanksgiving Day. If possible, please submit copy, columns and advertising by the close of business Friday, Nov. 16



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Tour of Greenway a delight

Dear Editor,

My husband and I enjoy frequent visits to Highlands and we enjoy taking advantage of all the things that are available to do. We enjoy the Bascom, music events, tours, and other activities. This past weekend we took advantage of the guided hike offered by the Highlands Plateau Greenway. What a delightful event that was! As we walked, our guides provided much history of Highlands and the area.

It was quite entertaining and educational! You are to be commended for getting this Greenway established. What a great way to protect plants and animals, the historic Kelsey Trail, and provide a place for recreation and foot traffic. The next time they offer a guided tour, I plan to be in town! We plan to use this trail when we are in town at Christmas with our extended family. It will be enjoyed by many!

Cheryl Welch
Madison, MS

Register now for MC Basketball

Registration for Macon County Boys Basketball signup at the Highlands Recreation Park through Wednesday, Nov. 21. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate. The fee is \$35. The league is open to boys ages 6-18 who turned six by August 31, 2012. There are five age divisions: Developmental - 6-7 year old; Bidy - 8-9 year old; Junior: 10-11 year old; Senior: 12-14 year old; Varsity: 15-18 year old. Call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

Scholarship Barbecue

On Oct. 13, the Order of the Eastern Star Highlands Chapter #284 held its second annual BBQ on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church. The event was held in memory of Walter Wilson. The BBQ was provided by his nephew Dennis Wilson. Sauce was by Caroline Whistler - available through OES members. Proceeds from the event were equally divided between OES scholarships and Rotary scholarships. Sponsors were Bryson's Food Store, Mountain Fresh Grocery,



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.

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• OBITUARIES •

Gene Siler Passmore

Gene Siler Passmore, age 51, of Franklin, NC, died Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Siler and Minta Bell Hicks Passmore. He was employed by Rhodas paving and loved to hunt; loved NASCAR racing and collecting NASCAR memorabilia and antiques. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and was a member of Cartoogechaye Church of God.

Mr. Passmore is survived by his wife of 20 years, Bettie Sue Couch Passmore; a daughter, Amanda Witiak and husband Kyle of East Earl, PA; a step-daughter, Valerie Dills of Franklin, NC and a special step-daughter, Alyssa Birdsell; three sons, Stevie Mason, Gene Siler Passmore II and Gary Michael Passmore all of Franklin, NC and a step-son, Ray Dills and wife Amanda of Maiden, NC and two brothers, Willard and Dillard Passmore of Franklin, NC and 13 grandchildren

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Passmore.

Funeral services were held Friday, November 9, 2012 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Dryman and Rev. Mark Bishop officiating. Burial was in Aquone Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Nathan Harris, Willard Passmore, Harold Mathis, Randy, Kevin Passmore, Bud Elliott and Fred Russell.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Aquone Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Velva Bateman, 108 Bateman Branch, Topton, NC 28781. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Aletha Bernice Keener Talley

Aletha Bernice Keener Talley, 82, of Highlands died on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at her home. She was a native and lifelong resident of Highlands. She was a member of Shortoff Baptist Church. She had been employed at both Highlands Cleaners and Laundry and Peoples Department Store in Highlands. Her most important career was that of a loving wife and mother. She was the daughter of Claude and Alma Henderson Keener of Highlands and was preceded in death by her brother Ben Keener.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Ed T. Talley, a daughter Belinda Lind-

• See OBITUARIES page 3

... OBITUARIES continued from page 2

say of Fletcher, NC; sons, Tommy Talley of Norcross, GA and son, Kenny Talley of Highlands; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral were held Monday, November 12, 2012 at the Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Interment will be at the Miller Cemetery in Highlands. The family will receive friends Monday from 1:00-2:00PM, one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that contributions be made to the The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke, DUMC, PO Box 3624, Durham, NC 27710 or the Shortoff Baptist Church, PO Box 1217, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

ers, Conley Bascombe Shope and Edd Lake Shope both of Otto, NC and Fred Jess Shope of Lavonia, GA; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six sisters and four brothers.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 10, 2012 at Clear Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Jim Kinard and Rev. Everett Wilson officiating. Burial was in Clear Creek Community Cemetery. Pallbearers were Den Chastain, David Chastain, Charlie Hicks, Doc Wilson, George Schmitt, Steve Nix, R. L. Wilson and Edwin Wilson. Honorary pallbearers will be Josh Wilson, Clarence Wilson, Craig Dale McCall, Peyton Ivie, Willie Mahler, Jacob Bowen and Ryan Bryson. Franklin VFW Post #7339 and American Legion Post # 108 performed full military graveside rites.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

James Frank McCall



James Frank McCall, age 91, of Highlands, NC died Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late William Bryan McCall and the late Maude Conley Shope. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving during WWII. He was a carpenter and was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved to hunt, fish, and make wooden bowls and lamps and loved doing things for others. He was a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church where he was former Sunday school superintendent and deacon and trustee of Clear Creek Community Cemetery.

Mr. McCall is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dolly Wilson McCall; two daughters, Donna Ivie and husband Doug of Clarksville, GA and Cheryl McCall Wilson and husband Larry D. of Gainesville, GA; two sons, Bert McCall and wife Stephanie and Yogi Craig McCall and wife Lynn J. all of Highlands, NC; one sister, Vivian Chastain of Highlands, NC; three broth-

Charlene Gladys Bryant Hendricks



Charlene Gladys Bryant Hendricks, age 96, of Highlands, NC died Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Born in Graves County, KY, she was the daughter of Chester D. and Effie Givens Bryant. She was married to Samuel Hardin Hendricks who died in February 2008. She was an elementary school teacher in Duval County school system in Jacksonville, FL; was a member of Highlands Women's Club and a member of Community Bible Church where she was a Sunday school teacher.

Mrs. Hendricks is survived by one son, John Bryant Hendricks and wife Karen of Highlands, NC and two grandchildren, Hannah Marie Hendricks of Conroe, TX and Joshua Bryant Hendricks of Cullowhee, NC. She was preceded in death by a son,

Ronald "Ronnie" Hendricks; three sisters, Elsie, Mary Elizabeth and Betty and one brother, Willard Bryant.

Memorial services were held Sunday November 11, 2012 at Community Bible Church in Highlands with Pastor Gary Hewins and Pastor Steve Kerhoulas officiating. The family will receive friends Sunday following the service at the church. A

graveside service was held Friday November 9, 2012 at Jacksonville Memory Gardens, Jacksonville, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

'Get outta here; go back to Florida...and stay there!'

How dare Highlanders call me a Floridiot? Who do they think they are? A 'local' (whatever that is) recently said to me, "My grandmother's grandmother was born in Horse Cove so you can take your fancy long stemmed wine glasses, all your stupid bridge games, your big-shot bank account and go back to Florida...and don't come back." WOW -- I'm still trying to figure out what her ancestral heritage had to do with me getting kicked out of Highlands....and not coming back?

Another 'local' smiled and said, "Fred, you're an OK kinda guy....sometimes.... but to be perfectly honest with you, I can't wait until you and your ilk get out of Highlands. Oh, and don't take it personal...just get out."



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

Apparently there's a serene sense of tranquility that sets in over Highlands when the summer people, mostly Floridiot, leave for the winter. I have never experienced this wonderful tranquility because by the time everyone is gone from Highlands, I'm in my pool sipping wine from my fancy long stemmed wine glass, soaking up the sun and getting a tan in 80 degree temperatures and still trying to figure out what ancestral heritage has to do with me being ordered to leave Highlands.

And I keep looking at my bank account and it's not looking very "big-shot." Retired policemen, living on shrinking pensions, mostly because of infla-

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 14

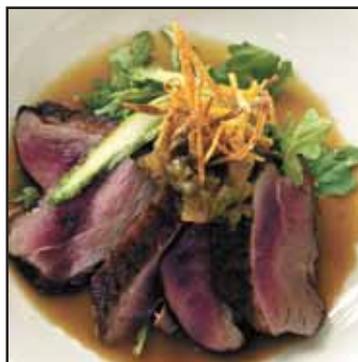


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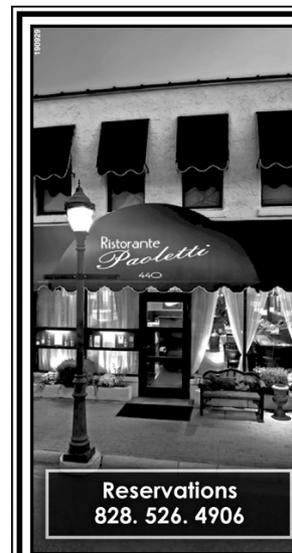


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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Election marks culmination of social change in America

I woke up this morning to a vastly different America from the one I grew up in. For the first time in history, white men were a minority among Democratic Congressmen. Of course some things never change. They remain a strong majority in the Republican House caucus.

Washington state and Colorado voters approved initiatives to legalize marijuana for recreational use: the same drug that remains outlawed under federal statute. Maryland and Maine voters approved same-sex marriage after a string of 32 consecutive defeats by voters. An African American was elected to a second term as President of the United States, supported by the mostly white and largely rural Midwest. Wisconsin voters elected Tammy Baldwin to the United States Senate where she will serve as the first openly lesbian member.

My medical school graduating class of 184 included only four women. When I was a kid, "Negro" was a polite

term for an African American. My Dad withheld wages from his black employees in the summer, when times were good, and doled them out through the lean winter months to assure their families would be fed and homes heated.

I didn't know an Hispanic while I was growing up. I don't think there was a single family in our eastern Indiana town of some 35,000. Girls were cheerleaders, and boys were not. At the dawn of girls participation in high schools sports, during the '70s, parents were required to provide both uniforms and transportation. I happened to be visiting when my younger sisters participated in a fundraiser for girl athletics. No such displays were needed for the well funded boys' teams. I wrote a letter to the editor of the local paper, pointing out the inequity, and earned lasting enmity.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

I'm sure I never met an acknowledged lesbian until I moved to San Francisco. That's about the same time I saw men walking hand in hand in the Castro district. Marijuana was dealt with in a movie in 9th grade health. The image of black hands rolling a joint stays with me today. The audio warned of this harmful drug, one used primarily by "coloreds" and jazz musicians.

The electorate was mainly male and mostly white. Virtually all elected officials were Caucasian men. Jim Crow laws existed in the South to disenfranchise blacks. Segregation was the law in much of the land. Gays and lesbians were deep in the closet.

My Mom, born in 1914, died in 1997, just before her 83rd birthday. She marveled at the changes she had observed during her life. She lived through a period where barn stormers were replaced by 747s. Calvary charges gave way to ICBMs. Mechanical typewriters, crank telephones and bulky radios were replaced by sophisticated computers, touch-tone phones, and tiny transistors. But not much changed socially during her life.

During the World War II African Americans were largely limited to segregated non-combat roles. Despite significant gains, blacks were still thought to lack the character and intellect to play quarterback in college and professional football.

Tuesday's election marked the culmination of social changes every bit as momentous and just as exciting as the technological changes Mom witnessed during her life.

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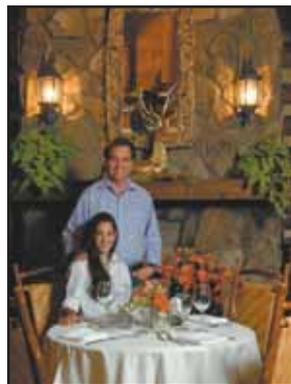
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• THE 'CONSERVATIVE' POV

I'm glad I'm old

Frankly, I have no words to describe my feelings regarding the outcome of the election. When "Revenge" trumps "Love of Country," I am left speechless. Fortunately, folks who live elsewhere, and are not directly affect-

ed, can speak objectively on the subject, and I'm going to use their words in this column.

This quote was translated into English from an article appearing in the Czech Republic as published in the Prager Zeitung.

"The danger to America is not Barack Obama but a citizenry capable of entrusting a man like him with the Presidency. It will be far easier to limit and undo the follies of an Obama presidency than to restore the necessary common sense and good judgment to a depraved electorate willing to have such a man for their president.

"The problem is much deeper and far more serious than Mr. Obama, who is a mere symptom of what ails America. Blaming the Prince of the Fools should not blind anyone to the vast confederacy of fools that made him their prince. The Republic can survive a Barack Obama, who is, after all, merely a fool. It is less likely to survive a multitude of fools such as those who made him their president."

That article was written in the middle of Obama's first term. He hadn't seen nuttin' yet. The following was written by a German couple and appeared on a New Zealand website. I quote it in part.

"Where do you go from here?" "Today, Obama has been re-elected; all the efforts of many Christian leaders, prayer movements, and "concerned Americans" who have lobbied, written appeals, articles, books, letters - some have even done films - to warn not to vote for him have

come to nothing. Many of them have behaved as if the future of the Kingdom of God is at stake. Well, it is not.

"Can we, as foreigners who dearly love you as a people, say a few words in this situation? Because it is evident to us that God has a clear plan for your nation. But many don't seem to see it, and therefore run the danger of fighting the wrong fight, wasting precious time and resources, and even endlessly calling upon God to do what He just will not do.

"The German weekly, Der Spiegel, kind of a German Time Magazine, has a cover picture of Uncle Sam in bed, titled, The American Patient: The decline of a Great Nation. We think this is a prophetic picture. As your friends, we know, acknowledge and admire that America has had a great past. But how will your future look like?

"God chastises whom He loves because He knows: pride will come before the fall, and humbleness and brokenness is the only condition he responds to. We personally sense we need



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

to tell you: the destiny of your nation is in God's hands, not yours. It is not at all about Obama or Romney, it is about God using all the nations in the world according to His global and unchanging plans.

"Did you ever allow the thought that God in his sovereignty is using

Obama like a pawn on his chessboard to humble the US as a nation because He wants to show His grace to a nation gone completely self-sufficient? A nation so full of independence, individualism, nationalism and trusting a greed and fear based economy that there may be only one way to open and heal it from its idolatry and realign itself with the Kingdom of God: a crisis beyond anything that America has ever seen?

"If God is the one who 'deposes kings and raises up others' does it really matter what are the names of the current puppets set in place by God that advance both the New World Order and the Kingdom of God? Neither Herod, Pilate nor Caesar were truly im-

• See SWANSON page 17



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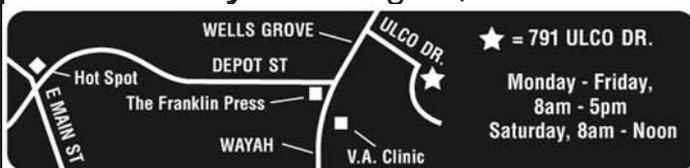
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• COACH'S CORNER •

Old age and treachery

By Ryan Potts

There's an old saying that old age and treachery will always defeat youth and skill. Unfortunately, I discovered this weekend that there was way too much old age in my life and not enough treachery.

It all started innocently enough, as the folks over at Blue Ridge School decided that it would be a good idea to have an alumni game featuring old time Highlanders versus old time Bobcats. It seemed like a good idea at the time, especially since we would split the proceeds...and therein lay the problem, because sometimes things that seem like a good idea don't turn out that way.

My first mistake was thinking that this would be like any other alumni game I had played in -- I would show up, put on a jersey that I am way too fat to fit in, play my 5 minutes and let the young guys do their thing, which would lead to a good time being had by all.

Imagine my surprise when I walked into the gym over at Blue Ridge and found a total of SIX (6) players for my team...and

all of us were over 30! All of a sudden, I realized that a good time was NOT going to be had by all, particularly because Blue Ridge had a team of 12 that included a bunch of younger guys. Ruh Roh.

Now, I understand that many of you may be laughing at the notion of a 32-year-old being "old," but in basketball that's almost ancient -- particularly if you possess the athletic ability of a footstool. Gravity pretty much dominated me back in the '90s when I was young -- now, gravity is like Oregon football and my legs are like Montana State...just a total mismatch. Anyway, we Highlanders played well enough in the beginning, but as Blue Ridge sent wave after wave of people onto the court, we began to falter.

My Highlander teammates acquitted themselves well -- they played valiantly. Unfortunately for them, I was pretty much worthless due to a combination of poor shape, fatigue, and the fact that somehow I have managed to turn myself into Joel Pryzbilla almost overnight (you could replace

•See COACH page 16



Ryan Potts and Erika Olvera at the alumni game at Blue Ridge School
Photo by Matthew T. Bradley

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T.G.I.O.

Wait. Didn't I mean T.G.I.E.? No, I meant T.G.I.O.- Thank Goodness it's OVER!- the Election, that is. Now, we can all get back to business, and according to the election results, the real estate business should do well.

Every election year, we hear the same story from people; "I'm ready to buy, but I'm going to wait until after the election..."; or "I want to list my house, but I think I'll wait until after the election to see what's going to happen to prices..." or even "Go ahead and 'pencil me in' for next year [for a vacation rental], but I don't want to commit until after the election..." Now, you can see why I'm excited the election is finally over.

You see, it doesn't matter who won in this case. With the election results being so close, there's a little over 50% that are happy with the results of the election, and another little less than 50% that are sad. It doesn't really matter which side of that equation I'm in., what does matter is half of the people that wanted to 'wait until 'after the election' to make a decision -- CAN.



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

But will they? The media is now warning all of us about the fiscal cliff. Will the 50% of the people that said they would wait until after the election, now say they have to wait until 'after the cliff'? Let's hope not, and here's why. When you picture a cliff -- what do you see? Like the 'glass half full/half empty' idiom, that's how we perceive the fiscal cliff.

There's a huge difference between Chicken Little and the Ostrich [head in the sand], and the media and the government is full of both. Look around you -- you can pick out both types easily among your friends. The real estate market is no different. We have clients;-- some are Chicken Little and some are the Ostrich, but thank goodness, most aren't the extreme of either.

I recently read an online blog posted by Politico.com. In it was a list of five scenarios for the 'Fiscal Cliff'. (In a much abbreviated fashion with my input, are)

1. Go over the cliff -- its sounds frightening, doesn't it? If that happens, by the end of 2013, we'll be deeper in a recession, but not of catastrophic proportions. (Poof! There goes those buyers) 2. Let's make a deal -- that would require both sides to actually agree on something -- with time taken off for campaigning, and almost time for Thanksgiving/Christmas break -- do we really see that happening? (A few buyers may take a seat and wait it out).

3. TAX-FREE -- if they remove some of the tax cuts from the equation (by leaving

• See INVESTING page 10



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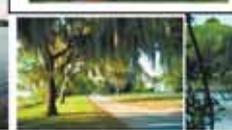
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A Relaxing Walk Around Lake Byrd

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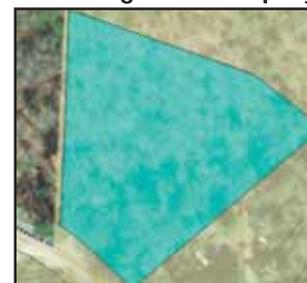
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• JUST HERS •

Post election post mortem

The older I get, the more I suffer from that problem related to aging. I have difficulty maintaining an election. It's fun to look back on those old photos of me in my hooded loden coat, holding an "I like Ike" sign, or the group shot of the Waynesboro Young Republicans, creating posters for Barry Goldwater. Those were the good ole days, the ones when I actually got excited about politics. Is it simply age and experience that has tempered my enthusiasm? There are certainly things I can still get excited about - just not these endless, expensive campaigns.

It's the same with Christmas. It used to be that we looked forward to Halloween, followed by preparations for Thanksgiving. The day after Thanksgiving, stores were miraculously decorated for Christmas. We wondered how it was done! It was easy to maintain excitement about Christmas, since we didn't have enough time to get bored with it. Now, the stores start stocking Christmas cards and decorations in August, along with the Back to School supplies. The same is done with modern campaigns. By the time we actually get to elect our officials, we know so

much dirt about all of the candidates; we think that none of them are really fit for office. And when I say we know everything, we really do know everything. Did a candidate cheat on his 11th grade chemistry exam? We know it. Did he get caught drinking a beer under the bleachers after a football game while too young to drink legally? We know it. It makes you wonder why people would subject themselves - or their loved ones - to that kind of scrutiny. It's become fashionable to cite the Founding Fathers as examples of politicians we aspire to elect, but none of them were candidates for sainthood. George Washington possessed no sense of humor, but did have a nasty temper. He was also a snob who did not enjoy mixing with people whom he considered his social inferiors. John Adams was fat, bald, and grumpy - traits which would have been a disaster on television. Thomas Jefferson declared that all men were created equal, but he was also a slave holder. Although we have no recordings of him speaking, Abraham Lincoln's contemporaries stated that he had a high pitched, nasal voice, and he suffered from clinical depression. It makes you wonder if any of these men could



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

make it in today's "tell all" campaigns.

So, as the amateur historian that I am, I went looking for someone who would look good on paper, at least; someone whom the American public could warm up to. And after much research, I think I found him. My candidate was born in the American Middle West, was married to the same woman for 34 years, with whom he had two children. He was a college graduate and spent four years in the U.S. Air Force. He was a Cub Scout leader, and active in his local church, where he was elected President of the Congregational Council. There's just one problem, a large problem, actual-

ly. This man, who seems to check all of the boxes of what we look for in a modern day candidate, is Dennis Rader (known as the BTK Killer), a serial killer who brutally murdered 10 people between 1974 and 1991. Back to the drawing board, eh?

It's often said that our public officials should be held to a higher standard than the rest of us. But are they really better than the rest of us, or do they just market themselves that way? I admired my late husband, John Armor, for many things. In all the years of knowing him, however, I failed to find his halo. In 2008, when he announced his candidature for the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina, he held up a picture of his grown up children with their respective families. "Aren't they a good-looking bunch?" he quipped. "I want you to take a good look at this picture," he continued, "Because it's the last time you're going to see their faces. It is

not their job to get me elected." Unlike his opponents, who distributed photos of themselves with their wives, their children and grandchildren, and even their dogs, John's photos didn't try to milk the voters of Western North Carolina.

John didn't work the religious card, either. He attended church every Sunday, where he ushered, attended adult Sunday school, and served on the board of our church's endowment committee. In spite of this, he never dragged his religious beliefs into the political arena. This was in striking contrast to a competitor, who took an air of martyrdom on the stage of a debate held by the League of Women Voters, declaring "Just like Jesus Christ, I have been persecuted for my beliefs!"

There's an interesting follow-up to some of those posed

•See JUST HERS page14



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... INVESTING continued from page 8

them alone), it may restore some confidence while they work on the rest (Ahh, more buyers will go ahead and buy knowing they can take advantage of the mortgage tax reduction.)

4. Buy more time -- Congress 'acts' better under pressure, but there are people that would prefer major decisions NOT be made during the lame duck session. One would hope that those retiring and/or leaving office would still have America's best interest at heart, but... (more buyer's take a wait and see) and,

5. Buy more time, BUT add some incentive -- some hope. This sounds like it would be the best of # 3 and #4 combined.

Whether you're in the market to buy, sell, or lease a home, or whether you're in Highlands or anywhere in the U.S. You have a say! We've just had an election; the people in office need to hear from YOU. Please, contact your local and state politicians- ask them to do their best to keep the mortgage interest deduction ALIVE. There are, of course many other things on the line as well, such as payroll taxes, estate taxes, and income tax.

Tucker and I recently hiked the Yellow Mountain Trail again. The biggest payoff is the view from the tower on top. The trail is a series of ups and downs, some nice wide

paths, but others are very narrow and parts have nasty jagged rocks to maneuver. Since it was Veteran's Day, I was thinking about our country. We owe a debt of gratitude to all Veterans! We also owe it to our country to vote and be heard. If you ask any stock broker, they'll tell you to 'look at the big picture,' 'stay in it for the long haul,' and 'don't panic and disrupt your long term goals because of a short term problem.' The same goes for real estate.

In Highlands, the real estate market has traditionally been protected somewhat from the economic cycles. People are here because they 'want' to be here. Just like the Yellow Mountain Trail, there will be ups and downs, nice paths and narrow paths, and even some rocky passages when real estate sales are slow, but real estate is still one of the best investments you can make in your lifetime. It's real and it lasts, and the big payoff? It's yours! Real estate operates in a cycle just like our economy -- hang in there -- the best is yet to come.

Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are co-owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, and specialize in residential investment real estate. 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 888-526-3717 or jsc@chambersagency.net

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County as a stepping stone. This time, the BOE wanted someone who would stick around.

"As we said from the start, we wanted to find someone who understood us, had our best interest at heart and who could take us to a better place," said Vice Chair Jim Breedlove.

Baldwin said he's honored and humbled by the opportunity.

"This is a great responsibility and I pledge to do my very best for our students and our schools because there is not better school system or better place for our students than Macon County," he said. "I thank the school board for its confidence in me. I know that working together we can continue a tradition of excellence in Macon County."

Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan has agreed to stay on through June 2013. Baldwin will assume the position July 1, 2013.

"This will make for an easy transition and give us time to find a principal for Franklin High School," said Cabe.

Breedlove said Baldwin's selection may be the most important decision the board has made to date, "but Chris's re-

placement will be the second most important decision we make for the upcoming year. We want to make sure we have the right person," he said.

Baldwin hails from the Nantahala community and follows in the footsteps of his father who was also an educator. His uncle Tommy Baldwin is a BOE member who lost his seat to Melissa Bateman Evans in the recent election.

Baldwin began his teaching career in the fall of 1990 at Nantahala School where he was the School Suspension teacher for two years. Later he taught science in grades seven through 12 until the fall of 2001 when he became the principal of Nantahala School. When Franklin High School principal Gary Shields retired in 2010, Baldwin took over as principal.

His education philosophy is straightforward.

"It begins with the belief that every child can learn when provided with a safe, caring, and stimulating atmosphere. I believe that education is about teaching students, not subjects. It is about engaging students in their learning, and maximizing the academic and social potential of each and every child," he said. "My goal as an



Chris Baldwin and Tommy Cabe

Photo by Kim Lewicki

educator is to enrich the lives of students by helping them become articulate, critical thinkers who are lifelong learners. These traits allow students to grow into adults who are socially responsible, resilient, and engaged in the world around them."

In this day and age when the public school system is under attack, particularly in North Carolina, Baldwin feels it is an important foundation of society.

"The public school system is important to our society and to the world because it provides our children with an equal educational opportunity which is important because first, an educated electorate is an essential requirement for a democracy. Every child in the public education system must, at a minimum, gain a basic understanding of the operations of our nation and our world. They must also develop the ability to learn, and have a basic understanding of the issues facing our society. Secondly, highly educated, creative, and hardwork-

ing students are crucial to our nation's success in the current highly competitive global economy."

He said Macon County Schools has made great strides in the recent past and has a bright future.

"The Macon County School system has been able to adapt and improve through the cooperation among all of its stakeholders. Our teachers and administrators are caring professionals who maintain high expectations and strive to see students excel. They understand that our communities are essential extensions of our schools," he said. "As a school system we must continue to value and foster relationships with parents and community. When the significant adults in a child's life are working together great things are possible."

Because he was born, raised and schooled in Macon County for the first 12 years of his academic life, he has a strong sense of indebtedness to the school system and feels this will aid him in the decisions he makes as the next superintendent.

"This sense of indebtedness inspires me to work hard for our students and provide them with opportunities to succeed in life," he said. "I also have a unique understanding of the importance that each of our communities place on their respective schools. This is particularly evident in Macon County's two K-12 schools. These schools are extremely important to the communities of Highlands and Nantahala and a source of pride for Macon County by routinely commanding recognition for academic and athletic excellence."

- Kim Lewicki

... READING continued from page 1

Rotary Club of Franklin have joined forces with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program provides age-appropriate books directly to children from birth to 5 every month for free. After seeing the success her Imagination Library had in Sevierville, TN, in 2000, Parton began branching out to other communities.

Data shows that more than 50% of Macon County children are ill-prepared for kindergarten - lacking skills to recognize letters, sounds, identifying colors, shapes or a basic vocabulary.

"What a great program this is," said Macon County Chairman Kevin Corbin at Tuesday night's meeting. "Study after study shows that the higher the ability to read when they start school, the more success children will have in school and later in life."

Brittany Parker, who works with the school system's Read2Me initiative, explained the program to commissioners and stressed the need for community support.

Ever since the Macon County School system kicked off its Read2Me program, books have been distributed at various events throughout the county, but Parker said partnering with Parton's Imagination Library will expand the Read2Me mission greatly.

"We have a three-prong mission: to increase public awareness and involvement in early literacy, to get books in the hands of children beginning at birth to 3rd grade and to train parents on how to raise a reader," she said.

In addition, matching grants from Highlands Literacy Council and the Rotary Club of Franklin, turns \$30 into \$60 and one child into two. Both entities have agreed to match whatever is donated by citizens.

The Highlands Literacy Council has been getting books to children for some time so partnering with Parton's Imagination Library is a perfect fit.

To sponsor a child, drop a check off at the Hudson Library, Highlands School, or mail it to the Literacy Council, PO Box 2320, Highlands, NC, 28741.

There are 1,900 children ages 0-5 in Macon County yearning to learn. All donations are tax-deductible and the money goes directly to the Imagination Library - there are no local administrative costs.

Parents must register their children to participate in the program. Registration forms are at all Macon County libraries, schools and the Highlands Literacy Council.

For more information, call the Highlands Literacy Council at 526-3031.

- Kim Lewicki

HIGHLANDS
Through the
SEASONS

Cynthia Strain

Full-color coffee table book celebrating Highlands
by the "Highlands Photographer" Cynthia Strain
Signed copies available at Mill Creek Gallery on Oak Street (828) 787-2021
Also sold through select locations in Highlands & Cashiers



Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Ongoing

• Eastern Star will also be selling pecan pieces and pecan halves from the 2012 crop. The pecans are in 16 oz bags and will be on sale for \$9/bag. Please call Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Call backs will be made once the pecans have been received in mid-November.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.
• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free. Bring a friend on Friday and get a free class.

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets

at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the H-C Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

• Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers- Community Library at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Thursdays, Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road. Call 526-2121.

Thursdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

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

Second Thursdays

• The regular meeting of Highlands Chapter #284, Order of The Eastern Star is held at 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, free wine tastings from 2-4 p.m.

• Simply Homegrown is a local farmers market in Rabun County, GA. Celebrating its 11th season as the area's original sustainable farm market. Open 9 am to 2 pm at the new location 0.7 mile west of Clayton on Highway 76 West. Look for directional signs on Routes 441 and 76 in Clayton. Our website has detailed directions www.simplyhomegrown.org.

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

• Bascom Community Knitters welcome all knitters, crocheters, smockers and needlepointers to join us on the Terrace at the Bascom. 10 until noon. From now until Thanksgiving! Come and knit or come and watch. mscarolray@yahoo.com

Every Third Saturday

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

Through Wed., Nov. 21

• Registration for Macon County Boys Basketball signup at the Highlands Recreation Park. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate. The fee is

\$35. The league is open to boys ages 6-18. Must be six by August 31, 2012. There are five age divisions: Developmental - 6-7 year old; Bidy - 8-9 year old; Junior: 10-11 year old; Senior: 12-14 year old; Varsity: 15-18 year old. Anyone interested in coaching should fill out a coaching application and other forms, also available at the Highlands Recreation Park. For more information, contact Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551.

Thursday, Nov 15

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

Friday, Nov. 16

• At Hudson Library, an Open House featuring samples of items canned in honor of the new display "We ate what we can, what we can't we can." Samplings will be at 3 p.m. in the meeting room.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30-9 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Call 828-349-0905.

Sat. Nov. 17-Sun. Jan. 6

• At The Bascom, 'Tis the Season Giving Trees. Live and artificial trees will be decorated for the holidays by area nonprofits. Donation boxes will be at each tree.



Giving Trees and In These Mountains

Nog Off Competition

Saturday, November 17, 5 - 7 pm

Exhibitions Opening Reception

Do Tell Bonfire

Tuesday, November 20, 6:30 pm

Artist Marketplace

Friday & Saturday, November 23-24

10 am - 5 pm

Gingerbread Workshop

Friday & Saturday, November 23-24

10 am - 12 noon and 1 - 3 pm



Display at the Hudson Library features people who can!

What can they do? Straight from the garden, they take what they grow and can it, or otherwise preserve it for healthy and economical eating during the winter months. They know what's in it and how it was processed. One of our contributors has named this display, "We ate what we can, what we can't, we can."

So many talented cooks have contributed to this array of excellent food. They are Margaret Calloway, Beth Crisp & Mozelle Edwards, Gerri Crowe, Mary Lou Dendy, Gail & Ellis Head, Doris Henry, Mary Keener, Joan Levinson, Ursula Long, Robin Phillips, Doris Picklesimer, Martha Porter, Shirley Ann Rose, Anita Williams and Jodie Zoellner.

Included in these preserved foods are a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including some of rare heirloom types.



Many of these cooks have supplied cooking pots, bowls and utensils—many of these are genuine antiques and passed down through generations.

In honor of this display and the generosity of the contributors, an open house with samples will be held on Friday, November 16, at 3 p.m. in the meeting room of the Hudson Library. The public is enthusiastically invited to attend.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

Saturday, Nov. 17

- The Basom's annual Egg Nog-Off 9a to 5p. Go to www.TheBasom.org for more information.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 10 or 13.5 mile strenuous hike with elevations changes of 500 or 1800 ft. to Hemphill Bald via Polls Gap with views overlooking Cataloochee and Jonathan Valleys. Group option for hike extension to Caldwell Creek and Rough Fork Trail. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations.

Sun. Nov. 18

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike with elevation change of 500 ft. from Wayah Bald to Wilson Lick Ranger Station on the Appalachian Trail with a short car shuttle. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza opposite Burger King at 2 p.m. Drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Nov. 19

- An American Red Cross Adult/Child CPR/AED course will be conducted through Macon County Public Health on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 pm at Macon County Public Health located at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center by Friday, November 16th. For more information on class fees and to pre-register please call Melissa at 349-2459.

Tues. & Wed., Nov. 20 & 21

- Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leaving a message with your name and phone number. This is the ONLY time in 2012 you will be able to purchase a pumpkin roll, but – you don't have to pre-order to be able to get one.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

- Highlands Community Thanksgiving Supper at the Rec Park at 6 p.m.

- Due to its early demise, thanks to Hurricane Sandy, the Do-Tell saplings sculpture will become a giant bonfire at 6:30 pm. The local fire department will use the controlled burn as a training exercise and the community is invited to attend and celebrate the sculpture's role in establishing The Bascom's 2010 campus.

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 22-23

- Macon County Public Library will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 23-24

- At The Bascom, Artist Marketplace from 10a to 5p. Call 526-4949 for more information.

- At The Bascom, Gingerbread Workshop from 1-3p. Call 526-4949 for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 24

- Highlands annual Tree Lighting ceremony

with caroling in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street at 6:30p followed by photos and wishes with Santa at the Visitor Center on Main Street.

Monday, Nov. 26

- Combined North and South Jackson County Republican Meeting is Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Sylva Republican Headquarter Office, 58 D Sunrise Park, a retail complex located behind Rite Aid Drug on Highway 107 across from the Asheville Highway intersection. Reports will be given on election results that elected Republicans to key offices and turned Jackson County and North Carolina politically red. The Republican Annual Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. at the Jarrett House in Dillsboro. For information call Ralph Slaughter, chair at 828 743-6391.

Tues., Nov 27

- Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m "Journey of Mrs. Bosh-Bauer, the 'painting.'" Coordinator: Isabel Allen.

- Relay For Life of Highlands Spaghetti Dinner

at Fressers Eatery, 5-8 P.M. Tickets are \$10 and must be presented at door. Please contact Heather Mangum 526-3419 or Debbie Grossman 526-4188.

Friday, Nov. 30

- The Ladies Auxiliary of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Tree of Lights Celebration will be on the Hospital Campus, Friday from 6-7:30pm. There will be indoor/outdoor ornaments available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one, free hot chocolate and cookies, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa Clause, and a special tree lighting ceremony. All proceeds will go toward the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

- The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary invites you to a reception for the Tree of Lights celebration on Friday from 6-7:30pm. There will be ornaments available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one, and free hot chocolate and cookies. All proceeds go toward the H-C Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

'Farewell Bonfire' for Patrick Dougherty sculpture is Tuesday, Nov. 20

Gale force winds from Hurricane Sandy caused the early demise for sculptor Patrick Dougherty's monumental saplings-and-sticks sculpture on the campus of The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts on Monday, October 29, 2012. "We knew this extremely popular sculpture would eventually have to be taken down as it gradually decomposed, but had hoped it would manage to stay upright until the first of the year," said Jane Jerry, Executive Director.

Created in 2010 by groups of community volunteers led by Dougherty and funded through the generosity of Mary Ann and Knox Massey, the giant sculpture has symbolized the intersection of art, fun and community access for The Bascom. "Do Tell" was a magnet for children and Bascom staffers would often see families playing hide and seek there, or watch groups of children exit one "eyehole" and run into another as they played tag. "Do Tell" was always open—all day and every day; consequently hundreds of visitors and many wedding parties had their pictures taken there.

Plans to ignite a giant bonfire when the sculpture was dismantled have been moved up to Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 pm. The local fire department will use the controlled burn as a training exercise and the community is invited to attend and celebrate the sculpture's role in establishing The Bascom's 2010 campus.

Patrick Dougherty fans can also view the world premiere of "Bending Sticks: The Sculpture of Patrick Dougherty" at the historic Carolina Theatre in downtown Durham, North Carolina, on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 pm. Purchase tickets on or before November 21 and receive a two-dollar discount per adult ticket and be entered into a drawing to win an autographed copy of Dougherty's new monograph "Stickwork." Regular tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. Call 919-560-3030 to order.



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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

tion, usually don't have "big-shot" bank accounts and most don't have to apologize for drawing a pension they've well earned. Helloooo Highlanders, all summer folks are not rich....but most are smart. Write that down!

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From what I've been told, when winter arrives, you could fire a cannon down Main St. from Mountain Fresh Grocery and the cannon ball wouldn't hit a thing until it slammed into a pickup truck parked at Reeves Hardware where local contractors and merchants have gathered to try to figure out how to make payroll for the next six months now that all the money has dried up. Is that what they mean by tranquil and serene? I guess that's cool.

And the li'l missus and I are big time movie goers. We miss our movie watching while in Highlands. Now that we Floridiots are gone, we don't have to make the treacherous 40-mile roundtrip run to Ruby Cinema where we are regulars. In Florida, the decision is "do we walk or drive" to Cobb theatre just down the street to watch one of 16 selections? If we walk, we'll get sweaty....so we'll drive. I can't understand why one of Highlands' many philanthropists won't build a movie theatre for its citizens and just let it run in the red....like the post office.

And if you're sitting in Highlands and beginning to get your shorts in a wad while reading this, then don't! Remember that old show tune "I Love Paris?" It's exactly how the li'l missus and I feel about our twice-a-year migration. It goes like this, "I love Highlands in the spring time. I love

Florida in the fall. But why, oh why, do I love Highlands? Because it has it all....kinda....almost," Good, huh?

And so please unwad your shorts and know that we love the "locals" (who or whatever locals are) because they are the ones that make Highlands so quaint, giving this place that mountain flavor that certainly doesn't come from Buckhead. And we don't care that you don't want us around; we love you anyway.

And we love the year-round Highlanders who think they're 'local' but aren't. Most are big city transplants who bring wealth to Highlands and are the reason our town is so tony. And we don't care that you don't want us around either. We love you anyway.

And so, like it or not and God willing, we'll be back in May. Please try to get over us coming back and love us back.

Read Fred's column this winter online and remember he has two awesome books, Deceived and I'm Moving Back to Mars you can purchase at Amazon as e-books from your living room.

... JUST HERS from page 9

Brady Bunch photos of the smiling candidate surrounded by his Stepford wife (yes, I know there ARE female candidates, but they are, alas, still a minority in this country), and well-scrubbed children. It's the strained photo op which occurs later on when the wife decides to clean the closets of the Governor's mansion, and finds her husband in one of them. Or the pinched look on the face of a wife when her husband announces that he's "hiking the Appalachian Trail", an expression which has become a euphemism for cheating on your spouse.

Perhaps we would do better to look for candidates who don't proclaim their virtue from the rooftops. Maybe a conscientious person with a B+ average would work harder for us than someone who made Law Review or a ton of money. That's the sobering thing about sainthood. In 1969, Pope Paul VI removed St. Christopher's feast day from the calendar of saints. St. Christopher does not appear in the Bible actually, although he is still widely venerated throughout the world. John and I discussed this several years ago. "What are you supposed to call him if he's not officially a saint anymore?" I asked. John took his time reflecting on the matter. And then, as my husband often did before he dropped a zinger, he grinned. "Mr. Christopher?" he said.

• Michelle lives in downtown Highlands. She and her cat Orion mourn their beloved Weasel, who cast her last vote on Election Day.



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Proverbs 3:5

Paradoxes worth considering regardless of your politics



Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

For now, our whole nation is processing the recent presidential election results. Roughly half our nation is certainly content and the other half -- perhaps not so much. As a minister I find the shifting cultural mores and political values fascinating. From a biblical perspective one can certainly identify a number of very interesting paradoxes that this nation will likely wrestle with for some time. Regardless of your personal political preferences, consider the dynamics of the following paradoxes that seem to reveal how we view our personal lordship vs. God's rule and reign over creation and the affairs of men, women and nations.

In our nation one is subject to tremendous fines and possible imprisonment if he or she destroys a bald eagle's eggs. Yet destroying and discarding the life of an infant is a "non issue." Isn't that fascinating to you? In fact, some are actually supportive of partially delivering a baby so that a probe can be inserted into the brain stem of an infant. How did we ever get to this stark paradox? Regardless of your political opinions, think that through.

We are a nation that seeks life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Liberty is a huge deal. Each American is interested in preserving their individual rights. Regardless of your political opinions, is it right for one person to enjoy the right to end a life and expect those that oppose that procedure to pay for it under a mandate? How do you get there logically? Where is the liberty in that?

There are many more issues difficult to understand - all of which are spelled out in the Bible such as borrowing from other nations, immigration, entitlements and the definition of marriage. America is certainly changed in the way we see morality. Who would question that?

Here are a few things to think about logically. The challenges we face as a nation are inseparable from a vast epidemic of fatherlessness, a spirit of entitlement and weak ministers who have for years watered down the truth, weakened the church, and redefined God -- all in the spirit of being relevant. All the while the most relevant thing we needed to hear was the truth spoken in love. Foreknowing the dilemmas of the future, the apostle Paul gave us a heads up. Is the following passage a possible depiction of our culture today? Are we more in-

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HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Kiwanis delivers dictionaries



As part of the Common Core State Standards for language arts in the NC school curriculum, the Kiwanis Club of Franklin has been supplying free dictionaries to all third grade students in Macon County for years. Shown here delivering dictionaries to an enthusiastic class in Highlands is Chris Brouwer with third grade teacher Jamye Christy's and her class. Kiwanis delivered over 300 dictionaries this year.

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... COACH
from page 7

Pryzbilla with Eric Leckner, Chris Dudley or any other big white stiff).

The Bobcats turned what was a close 4th quarter game into an 18-point blowout and I headed to Wendy's to drown my sorrows in a Frosty. It was then, as I was getting drunk on Frosty, that I came to the realization that I COULD quit drinking Frosty's, work really hard, push myself and get back into decent shape...but then I also realized that I could just not play in any more alumni games.

Highlanders fall to Hendersonville

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander Men's Soccer team ended their season on Wednesday night with a 4-2 loss to Hendersonville in what will be the last NCHSAA playoff meeting between the two teams.

Hendersonville has been a thorn in the Highlanders' side in recent years, and this year was no different, as the Bearcats struck in the first 5 minutes to jump out to a 1-0 lead. The Bearcats added another goal before Ryan Vinson scored to cut the lead in half and keep the Highlanders within striking distance at halftime. Despite getting a goal from Colin Weller in the second half, the Highlanders could not hold Hendersonville, and they advanced to the fourth round with a 4-2 victory.

The Highlanders will say goodbye to Senior Captain Taylor Osteen, who finishes up a stellar senior campaign by leading the team in goals scored. Osteen will certainly be a loss for the Highlanders, but they will return 10 starters and enter next season as the clear favorite in the SMC.

Additionally, now that the NCHSAA has finally moved Hendersonville to 2A, the Highlanders suddenly will see a clearer path out of the sectional round and have an opportunity to compete for a NCHSAA Championship.

... SWANSON continued from page 6

portant for the development of the Kingdom.

"The problem of the current commotion and insecurities arises when even the people that call themselves after God keep confusing the Kingdom of God with the United States of America. And when that happens, especially through Christians with a public voice, then we have truly lost all perspective of the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the predictions He has made that will precede His coming.

"America is being publicly

humbled by God; and He is going to use Obama – and those after him – to further advance His agenda that will lead all nations to kneel before that one true King Jesus very soon. If any nation wants to become a tower that

reaches up to high heaven, it will be humbled by a God who will not share His glory with people relying on their own strength."

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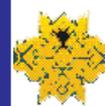


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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

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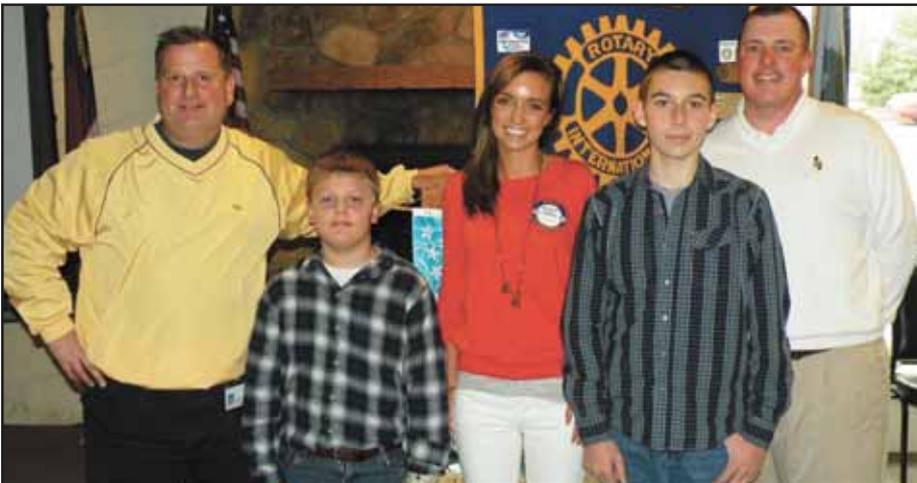
• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Winners of PNC Bank contest



PNC Bank sponsored its annual pumpkin decorating contest for Highlands School second grade classes. This year's winners, pictured with Highlands Branch Manager Sue Gorski, are Anna Stiehler from Ms. Miller's class and Sydney Figel from Ms. Hedden's class. Each winner received a bright orange bag filled with goodies. All the other students, who also worked very hard on their entries, received a small token of appreciation from PNC Bank as well.

October Rotary Scholars



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the October Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its October 30 meeting. Pictured from left to right are: Thomas Jesup, School Counselor, Will Chastain, elementary school winner, Hayden Bates, high school winner, Tucker Johnson, middle school winner, and club President, Brian Stiehler

MC Public Library gets two donations from the Nantahala Hiking Club



Kristina Moe received the donations from members of the club.

The Nantahala Hiking Club made two donations to the Macon County Public Library during the club's annual spaghetti supper. Bill Van Horn, volunteer with the hiking club, presented a check to Kristina Moe, reference assistant and program coordinator at the library. The donation came from grant funds provided by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy license plates, and will be used for hiking books and programs at the library. Dave Lippy, president of the hiking club, presented a new book, *The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America's Hiking Trail*, to the library.

Photo by Justin Moe

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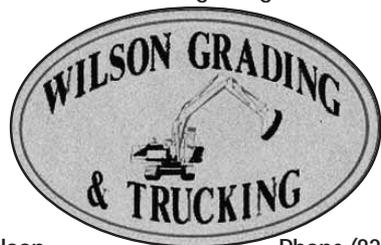
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• POLICE/FIRE DEPT. REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Oct. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Oct. 21

• At 12:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

Oct. 29

• At 4:50 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Dog Mountain.

Oct. 30

• At 7:35 p.m., Kellye M. Wert, 23, of Philadelphia, PA, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for a traffic violation on Main Street.

Oct. 31

• At 7:25 p.m., officers were called about a lost/stolen black wallet last seen at the Lost Hiker on Carolina Way.

Nov. 2

• At noon, a purse valued at \$60 and containing \$200 in cash and two credit cards was reported missing from a retail establishment on Main Street.

• At 2:49 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident near 3rd and Main Street.

Nov. 3

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about a simple assault in a parking lot on Main Street.

• At 12:30 p.m., vandalism in the form of graffiti was reported on a house on N. 5th Street.

• During this timeframe, officers issued 14 citations (warnings, ordinance violations and citations)

Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 6

Nov. 6

• At 2:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a single vehicle accident at 6th Street and Horse Cove Road. There were minor injuries to the mother and 4-year-old.

Nov. 8

• At 9:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Jenkins Road concerning a diabetic reaction.

Nov. 11

• At 11:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Zachary Road.

Nov. 13

• At 1:07 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers-Glenville FD on a structure fire on Spokane Drive.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Bingo benefits Gilliam's Promise



On Thursday Nov. 1, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with Gilliam's Promise to sponsor Bingo. All proceeds went to support Gilliam's Promise, a student-led Club for students grades 6-12, encouraging a drug free life. Pictured are David Long, President of Gilliam's Promise, with several club members, and Tamara Bronaugh, winner of the final Super Bingo game.

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 15

terested in being better off at the expense of being better people?

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If in fact we are spitting in the face of God, consider the ramifications while also considering this: There once was a culture that also spit in his face, even literally. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again (Matt. 27:30). We are given the freedom to mock God by God himself.

What good is the freedom that our flag represents if we lack the freedom to burn it? We as individuals can keep spitting on the face of God with our opinions. Never forget that very same God still awaits our return despite our self proclaimed Lordship. He wipes the spit from his face and patiently waits for our repentance. This is what makes him God and we, mere human beings capable of anything.

... TOWN BOARD from page 1

in favor of both Conditional Use District requests stipulating standing conditions plus some at Town Place Condominiums. Stipulations were also outlined for the R2 portion of the Main Street property which is split-zoned B3 and R2. However, no stipulations were imposed on the B3 portion of the property, which has some nearby residents concerned. (See story in the Oct. 25 edition.)

The Town Board isn't bound by the Planning Board's recommendations.

The board will also discuss the proposed lease with the Chamber of Commerce for its new location at First and Main streets and hear a request for a waiver of utility fees for one year from Chamber President Bob Kieltyka.

The board will also discuss the Playhouse lease; Main Street parking recommendations brought to light by Joe Luke of Reeves Hardware at the October Town Board meeting; hear the 2011-2012 Audit Report; as well as other items.

The meeting is at 7 p.m in the Community Building by the ballfield.

- Kim Lewicki

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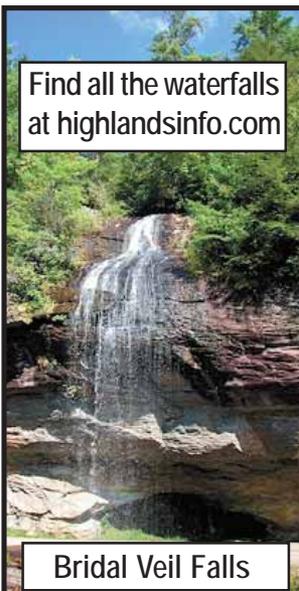
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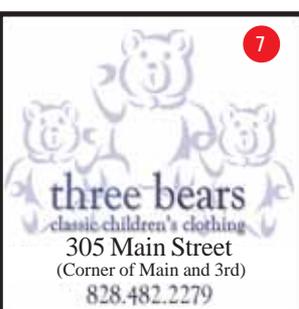
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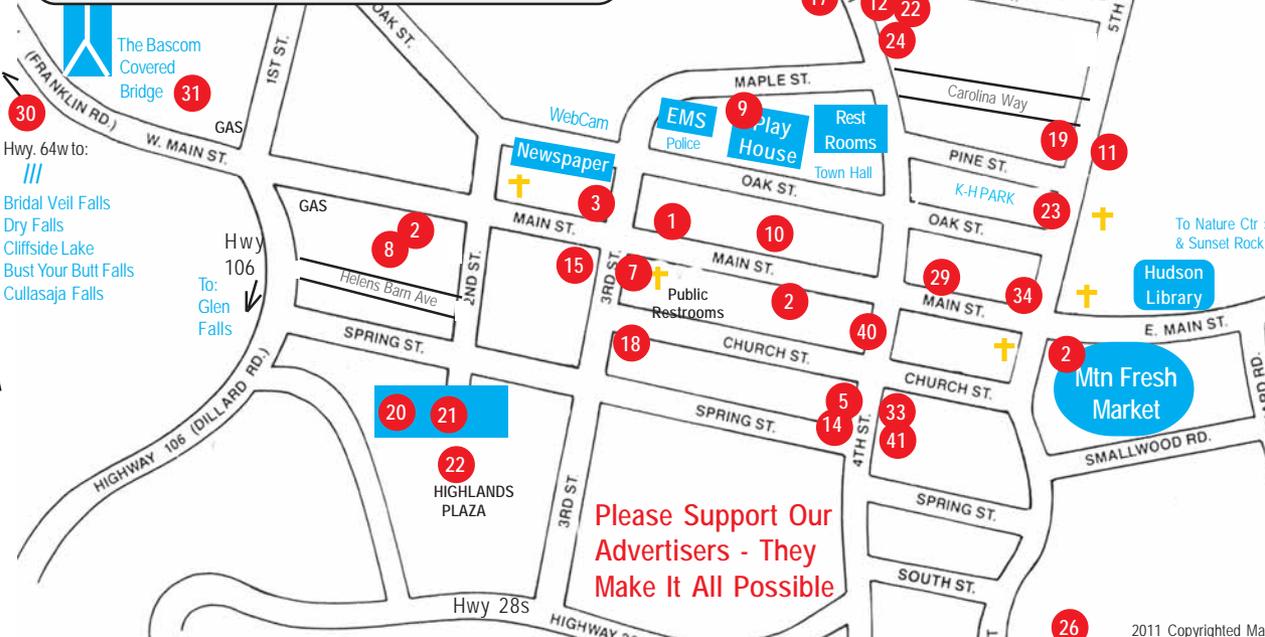


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 • Do Tell bonfire at The Bascom at 6:30 p.m.



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