Bear attacks, eats dog in town

It’s the kind of thing people expect from a Grizzly Bear far out west somewhere, certainly not in Highlands where black bears and people co-exist relatively peacefully.

However, early evening, Friday, Sept. 20, the Reese family suffered the unimaginable when a 250 lb. bear literally ate their 13-year-old beagle, Tinkerbell. Tinkerbell suffered seizures so she had to be leashed when outside – but always near her doggie door so she could go inside whenever she wanted. Since she was old and prone to seizures, the Reese family did not want to take any chances.

After graduating from Highlands School, I went to work in Highlands as a 13-year-old beagle, Tinkerbell. I am a Macon County native, born in Cullasaja but I grew up in Highlands. I consider myself a true Highlander. My wife, Betsy and I have been married for 40 years. We have two great sons and four fabulous “grand’s.” Lucas & Erin have one son, Foster and one daughter, Eliza. Jarret & Callie have one son, Crew and one daughter, Essie.

Candidates line up for Highlands Town Board

This week begins at 5-week Q&A with the candidates running for the Highlands Town Board – the mayor’s seat and two commissioner seats are open. Mayor David Wilkes’ seat is open and Commissioner Brian Stehler and Pat Taylor are running for that position. Commissioner Gary Drake’s and Commissioner Amy Patterson’s seats are open. They are both running as incumbents. Vying for their seats are Donnie Calloway and Michael “Bud” Rogers. Commissioner Gary Drake said he will not be participating in the Q&A in Highlands Newspaper.

Question 1:
Please tell readers a little bit about yourself and why you want to run for office. If you are an incumbent, please stress why you feel you should keep the job. If not an incumbent, explain what you might do different from the current administration.

Donnie Calloway
I am a Macon County native, & Callie have one son, Crew and one daughter, Essie.

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The law went into effect Tuesday, Oct. 1

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Letters

Don’t waste your money

Dear Editor,

My brief opinion on the position of the Main Street Coordinator, which was discussed in last week's edition of Highlands Newspaper, is that this is a waste of tax money.

Putting a local government person in the middle of local business matters has the potential of not being a good thing. The business of what a property rents the property for is between the property owner and the business space renter. I know that rents must be high and that there is a big turnover in businesses every time we come to Highlands. As a shopper that is not all that bad of a thing.

If stores stop renting then the rental price will come down. My guess is that part of the problem is that a lot of the business owners (or managers) are new to this type of retail business and have a hard time being successful in such a high priced environment.

Bob Brotherton
Dunedin, FL

Jake Brake discussion still on

Dear Editor,

I appeared at the September meeting of the Board of Commissioners and commented on the obnoxious noise made by Diesel trucks in our community when they are down shifted to slow down, an exercise commonly called Jake or Jacob braking. The following are a few facts that you should know when thinking about this excessive noise.

1. Jake braking is not automatic in trucks installed with the Jacob Braking system. A properly installed and maintained system has a switch in the truck cab, and the driver is able to turn the system off and on at will. It can and should be turned off in towns such as Highlands.

2. The braking system is designed for and is properly used on steep downhill inclines, not relatively level streets such as in Highlands. If it is used in Highlands, it is being misused.

3. Federal law and regulations specifically allow local governments to treat the issue as a noise abatement matter, and Highlands already has a Noise Ordinance. However it may need some modification as to the maximum decibel level allowed.

4. Our neighbor, the Town of Fletcher, North Carolina (Asheville-Hendersonville Airport area), recently reached its level of tolerance of this obnoxious practice and adopted a prohibitory ordinance for one of its roads. If Fletcher can, so can Highlands. It is my intention to be at the October 17 Town Board meeting and address this issue once again in the Public Comment period, which occurs immediately after the meeting is called to order.

If you feel strongly about this matter, please attend. I will ask those in attendance at the meeting to stand if they are in agreement that this matter should be addressed by the Commissioners. After that, I intend to leave the meeting, and unless you have some reason to stay, I suggest that you leave also. Therefore, this should only take a few minutes of your time, but it will be time well spent.

Please attend, stand and show your interest in having a peaceful Highlands! The more who attend and show their support, the more likely it is that something will be done.

Mike Little
Highlands

The system isn’t broken; it’s fixed

Dear Editor,

If we hadn’t figured it out by 2008, we should have at least gotten a clue. The congressional and White House phones and emails were jammed with unprecedented pleas from We the People. Not only were the lines jammed; the polls strongly indicated that We the People oppose the banker bailout.

Regardless, the banks got bailed out and We the People got sold out.

Corporate privilege continued into the next administration. We see now that the health care reform effort – had little to do with the care of our health, but a lot to do with the care of healthy profits for private insurance conglomerates. Elizabeth Fowler, Wellpoint VP in charge of government lobbying, was invited as chief advisor and principal drafter of ObamaCare. In contrast, advocates for the health of We the People such as physician Margaret Flowers, were barred–even imprisoned for the impudence of insisting that the People’s voice be heard.

Whether one supports or opposes ObamaCare and the coming mandate, the shameless advancement of corporate privilege throughout its passage and implementation is impossible to deny. In 2010, after helping with initial implementation as a special assistant to the President, Wellpoint’s Fowler left the administration to lobby for Johnson & Johnson. The pharmaceutical industry, one of the biggest backers of ObamaCare, will be one of its greatest beneficiaries. Fowler is one of many jumping the ship of “public service” for the conglomerate plunder to come.

These are only two examples of the egregious privilege our government grants at our expense to corporate conglomerates. The list is endless.

We are not helpless. As ObamaCare open-enrollment begins this month, remember that we are NOT sheeple; we have the power to make a difference. A People’s movement is underway to reclaim the vision of the Founding Fathers and amend the Constitution, to put the freedom of We the People above the privilege of the mega conglomerates that have taken control of our government. We can be empowered through action with our friends and neighbors by joining local affiliates of Move To Amend. www.MoveToAmend.org. At the very least sign the petition to make your voice heard: http://movetoamend.nationbuilder.com/petition

The system isn’t broken. It’s fixed!

Allen Lomax
Sylva, NC
Curtis Denzel Miller, 75, of Franklin, NC, died Monday, September 30, 2013. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Edgar and Eva Woodard Miller. He was a lineman for GTE Telephone Company in Lakeland, FL and loved to go to flea markets, fish and watch golf. He was a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church.

Mr. Miller is survived by three sisters, Eva Jo Coggins and husband Norman of Fayetteville, NC, Willadean Holland of Hendersonville, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymber Miller and wife Gertrude of Hen- bando Robert of Penrose, NC; 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...Q&A continued from page 3

We have two beautiful daughters. I am running for office because as a local I see Highlands changing and not always for the good. I want to offer a local perspective to the Board and I also come with a hard working work ethic. I believe we live in the most beautiful place on the planet and I want to see us preserve that beauty and keep Highlands a place where people want to continue to live and raise their families.

Brian Stiehler

I have served as a commissioner during the last 2 years, elected in 2011. I have really grown to enjoy learning about our town and what is needed to lead a municipal government. Time spent as a commissioner is invaluable to serving as Mayor. I came to Highlands in 2001 with my wife of 13 years, Hilary. I have an 8 year old daughter, Anna, who is a 3rd grader at Highlands School. I am the golf course superintendent at Highlands Country Club where I oversee 25 employees, a $2 million bud-

• See Q&A page 6
Rustico

AT THE LOG CABIN

Northern Italian Cuisine
Full bar, wine & beer
Dinner daily from 5:30p
For reservations, call: 828-526-0999
130 Log Cabin Lane
Highlands

World Tour

October
9th - 15th
Welcome Aboard the Palace on Wheels. Touring Rajistan India in an iconic luxury train
16th - 22nd
The River of Time in Mexico
The culinary evolution from the Olmecs to the modern day
23rd - 29th
The Great Grandmother’s Recipe Box
A historic southern Appalachian mountain menu

Skyline Lodge

Fine Dining w/Full Service Bar
Open for dinner Wed.-Sat. 5:30p
Breakfast Thurs.-Sun. 8-11a
Sun. Brunch 12-2p $20
Gourmet foods and Loulou’s homemade desserts
Warsteiner back on tap!

Call for this week’s specials!
(828) 526-2121 and 1-800-5-Skyline
Directions: Take Flat Mtn. Road off US 64 east and turn left on Skyline Lodge Road to 470 Skyline Lodge Road

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get and care for their largest asset, valued over $15 million. I understand how good business decisions are made and have a business background. I am a graduate of Penn State University.

It is important we continue to treat the town as a business. During the last 2 years, I have sat on the Rec Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Finance Committee. In all cases, we maintained conservative spending and at the same time made some much-needed infrastructure improvements. It is a delicate balance. As the state of NC deals with its own financial issues, I believe municipalities will be forced to continue to fend for themselves. Highlands needs a Mayor with strong business skills that can manage the town as if it were a business, which it is. I bring that to the table along with a lot of energy to work for the people of Highlands. I have also led scholarship fundraising and brought in an additional $65,000 with the help of my friends at Wildcat Cliffs CC.

In 2010, I was appointed to the Macon County Economic Development Commission by the Chairman of the County Commission. I have vast leadership experience and served as President of the following organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Rotary, Leadership Highlands, and Literacy Council.

See Q&A page 7
Men can be impossible

If you’re a split-tail and are having trouble with your guy then gather ‘round, ladies, cause I have some wonderful news for you. I’m an expert on this subject because I’ve been a guy for a very, very long time.

I realize that some of you babes out there think that men are shallow, unceptive, uncaring, incommunicative, empty suits who are not interested in relationships and not very understanding. NOT TRUE!

We need more from our women than just showing up naked and bringing beer and pizza. We are complex creatures who also have needs. Follow a few simple rules and you can transform your relationship with your Martian into heavenly bliss. Here’s how.

Rule #1 – At least one day a year, tell your man he’s right. He doesn’t actually have to be right, just tell him he is. I know it will be very difficult for you to form these words. Practice is necessary. I suggest you go to a men’s department store, walk up to a mannequin and say “you’re right” several hundred times. If you do this, I almost guarantee you’ll see a remarkable change in the number of times he leaves the toilet seat up, which brings me to rule #2.

Rule #2 - Issue “Leave the toilet seat up.” coupons. When your man has an insatiable need to leave the toilet seat up, he simply pulls a coupon from his book and presents it to you. He now has your approval to leave the seat up for a full twenty-four hours.

Rule #3 – One day a month, allow your man to have complete control over the TV remote. Here, another major attitude change will be needed on your part. Even consider giving him his very own disabled remote. Giving your man his very own remote that doesn’t work and telling him he’s right one day a year will give him a feeling of great power. Also, tell him he never has to watch the “Lifetime” channel again, even if it’s not true.

And finally, here’s an important tip. When you decide to present him with his very own gift wrapped disabled TV remote and toilet seat coupons, do so in the nude and don’t forget to bring beer and pizza.

...Q&A continued from page 6

of Highlands. I have a proven record of leadership experience and the time to represent the people of Highlands. It is my goal to tap into the vast resource of local people and of course, my door is always open as it has been the past 2 years. I am committed to the town for the long term, proven by my commitment to the Highlands School. For the next 12 years, I have agreed to match the 10% value of the QZAB loan through donations to the maintenance of the soccer field. Simply put, I committed $130,000 of materials and labor that was needed to renovate the school this past year. The school and its teachers are very important to me.

When I moved to Highlands in 2001, I was greeted by the friendliest people. You helped make this area a home for me and my family and I want to give back. Let me use my energy and resources to work for you!

Pat Taylor

I have had a 40 year career in public service. As an educator and a magistrate I have fulfilled my duties for the benefit of the public and for the good of the community. At this point in my life, I no longer have a full-time position, so I have a flexible schedule that will allow me to meet the extensive duties as mayor. It will be an honor to serve all the people of the Highlands community.

I am an energetic 65 year old who has lived in Highlands for 14 years with my wife, Sallie. We have two children, James Taylor and Rebecca Owens. We became grandparents for the first time last year, and we have another grandchild on the way this week!

I began my career in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. I have an undergraduate degree in art and a master’s degree and a doctorate in art education.

I taught art in the public schools for 6 years, and 24 years at the university level. Along with teaching, I was in university administration for 20 years. As an administrator, I was responsible for managing budgets, personnel, program development and assessment.
For the last 10 years, I was a Macon County Magistrate primarily assigned to the Highlands area. As a magistrate, I was on call around the clock. I was responsible for issuing criminal charges, setting conditions of release, determining bonds and issuing involuntary commitment orders.

This election is the first time I have run for public office. Nevertheless, I served on the Town of Highlands Planning Board and the Appearance Commission for 6 years. I have also attended Town Board meetings on a regular basis for a number of years and have expressed my views publicly on many occasions concerning town policy.

Along with service on town boards, I have participated in community organizations. I was the Facilities Committee Co-Chair for the Bascom Center for the Visual Arts for 4 years. I was the Bascom Owners Representative for construction of the new facility for 2 years. I was the Bascom Volunteer Potter-in-Residence for 2 years. For 7 years I was on the Highlands Greenway Committee and Board. I am a Member of the Highlands Rotary Club and a mentor and board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands. I was one of the original organizers of the Highlands Dog Park.

Highlanders have a wonderful sense of community involvement. I believe we want to preserve and sustain our “can do” spirit as we face new economic, environmental and cultural challenges. Responsive and effective government has to be an important partner in this ongoing effort.

I want the mayor’s office to be a conduit for accessibility and openness to town government. The mayor should be an advocate for the people, businesses and organizations of Highlands. I have the time for regular office hours and to meet with all citizens. I have been on call as a magistrate, and now I am ready to be on call for Highlands.

The mayor must work cooperatively with the Town Board. I will work closely with the town manager to ensure daily town operations are met. I will also move about the town, interact with residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders to insure their needs are addressed.

For the last 12 years I have operated a pottery business. I have worked with my hands, operated a small business and endeavored to make a profit. I am acutely aware that government tax revenue comes from citizens that have worked hard, made money and have paid their taxes. It is the fiduciary responsibility of elected officials to spend public funds wisely for the good of the community.

I believe Town Board meetings should be held at times that allow and invite public access. The current Thursday meetings conflict with many nonprofit and community activities, especially during the season between May and October. I would like the Town Board to consider another meeting time.

To improve communication with the citizens, town government should use internet more effectively to communicate about meetings, events, and public notices. The improvement of internet and media resources is essential for sustained business, community and educational development.

I would also like to see the development of a law enforcement and citizens advisory committee as a way of improving relations between our police and citizens. If there are issues concerning how our police department operates, public input and review should be welcomed. I am certain the police chief is willing to address concerns, employ best practices and make changes to provide the most effective law enforcement for the community.

As mayor, I will always consider the impact of town decisions on the sustainability of our valuable natural resources. Our beautiful, natural environment is a primary resource for our economy and overall quality of life in our small mountain community.
the family couldn’t allow her to roam the neighborhood.

Close to 6 p.m., Tinkerbell yelped one time. Assuming she was calling for supper, Bill Reese, who lives with his wife Gail on Cullasaja Drive in town, went out to feed her and “walked into the face of a bear,” said Gail.

Standing over the dog, whose neck had been broken and stomach gouged, was a 250 lb. bear “with a big head but a thin body.”

When the bear saw Bill, it took off into the woods, but didn’t go very far.

They called the Highlands Police Department and three armed officers arrived, ready to do battle, if necessary; but the bear was just out of sight.

According to Gail, the police told them, they could shoot the bear if it returned since it was considered dangerous.

Later that night, the bear returned, lurking at the edge of the property where it borders the woods, watching the house, but it never ventured into the yard-proper.

They called the police again and they returned but the bear had gone.

The Reeses believe the bear had been watching the house and knew the routine – that Tinkerbell was weak and leashed when outside, so was easy prey.

Interestingly, a contractor who was at a neighbor’s house to give an estimate on some chimney work earlier on Friday, said a bear came up the walkway to where he was parked and butt-headed truck. The Reeses assume it was the same bear – a bear with a problem.

The day after the attack Animal Control visited the Reese family, but there wasn’t anything it could do at that point.

Years ago, before there was a B.E.A.R. Task Force, folks at the Highlands Nature Center told citizens that bears are just like people -- there are crazy, sick, mean bears; bears who are a little “off,” so don’t assume they are all friendly or that they have a respectful fear of humans.

“This was an unfortunate incident, and I feel bad for the Reese family,” said Cynthia Strain chairman of the B.E.A.R. Task Force here in town. “Hopefully, this will, at the very least, serve as a learning experience from which the Highlands community can learn.”

Even though 85% of a bear’s diet is plant material they are categorized as carnivores.

“Most of their “meat” comes in the form of bees, ants, larvae and such, but they do eat small animals and, occasionally, even carrion. However, they won’t expend a lot of energy to chase an animal, so a small dog tied up is fair, easy game to a hungry bear,” said Strain.

Bears are now in their hyperphasia period, meaning they go from eating 2,000 calories to 20,000 calories a day to add several inches of fat for winter hibernation.

“Highlanders will need to be extra vigilant to protect their homes (and pets) by not having any attractants on their property,” Strain said. “Allowing bears access to food removes their natural fear of humans and endangers us all – not just by eating dogs – but because they can cause serious damage if they get into homes and cars.”

Strain said not removing “attractants” endangers the bears because quite likely someone who is not as tolerant of their behavior will eventually shoot one.

Meanwhile, the Reese Family thinks something needs to be done about the bear population in Highlands.

“Maybe not kill them, but move them away from populated areas. There are a lot of bears around,” said Gail.

NC Wildlife says if bears are relocated they often find their way back or just become a nuisance somewhere else and so typically, nothing is done.

To learn more about living with bears, pick up a B.E.A.R. Task Force brochure at Town Hall or the post office. The brochure spells out many steps people can take to “bear-proof” their property.

– Kim Lewicki
Cardiac patients graduate from H-C Hospital’s HealthTracks

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Program through HealthTracks graduated two patients this past month. Both of whom, with overwhelming stories of survival, completed the nationally certified eight week rehab program heart healthy and strong.

After a routine stress test performed at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Highlands resident Duncan Parham found himself on the operating table undergoing triple bi-pass surgery. An otherwise healthy active person, Parham had no associated pain and was just as surprised as the doctor when he was told of the 100% arterial blockage. Soon after the test findings, catheterization and cardiac surgery at Mission Health under the care of Asheville Cardiology’s Dr. Oliver Binns and Dr. Laura Verde, he is now back on his feet with the completion of Cardiac Rehab.

“Like many of our cardiac rehab patients, Mr. Parham came to us in early June feeling very anxious, apprehensive and in a deconditioned state of health,” said Yvonne Smith, Registered Dietitian and HealthTracks Program Director. “But, a primary difference was his motivation and dedication to regain – or even surpass – his former state of health! He stayed very focused on getting stronger, getting healthier and getting off oxygen while exercising. He assumed responsibility for his health, and that made all the dif-


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Pour Pink 5k Walk/Run
Supporting HCH Breast Health and Women’s Services

Saturday, October 5th @ 9am
Day of registration begins at 7:30am

ALL funds raised support HCH’s Breast Health and Women’s Services. Open to all ages and fitness levels, male/female. To register or for race details please visit www.highlandscashiershospital.org or call (828) 526-1313.

During race activities, sign up for a drawing for a FREE Digital Mammography Screening. The race is being organized with assistance by Highlands Roadrunners Club.
Dutchman’s Annual October Furniture SALE!

Daily at the store:
342 Main Street
AND
Fri.-Sun. at the Warehouse:
417 N. 4th St.
(Above The Brick Oven)
Come Early!
828-526-8864

From left: Cardiac graduates Duncan Parham and Jerry Calabretta.
• See CARDIAC page 21

...CARDIAC continued from page 10
I have tried to express where I think we are on this matter. It needs to be discussed further in the sense that we need to emphasize what this change in the law is not,” he said. “It is not a direction to carry a concealed weapon or to retrieve it from the place it is supposed to be locked within. Retrieval is still a crime.”

He said there are some really dangerous misconceptions about the law and the Board of Education needs a policy emphasizing what is allowed, what isn’t allowed and what is expected of staff should a shooting threat occur.

Superintendent Chris Baldwin said students in particular have to be educated about the law.

“Students don’t understand that. They think since it’s OK to carry a concealed weapon in a locked box in a locked vehicle it should be OK to carry a gun that doesn’t require a concealed weapon permit, like a hunting rifle,” he said. “There are a lot of misconceptions about the law.”

Board members said even though a ban isn’t possible, the rules need to be made clear.

“This doesn’t mean teachers can go out to get their weapons if an episode occurs,” said board member Melissa Evans. “Their first job is to take care of their children. If a teacher takes their gun out of a locked container on school property, he or she is breaking the law whether they have a concealed weapon permit not. A tragic chain reaction is very real.”

Baldwin reminded the board that concealed weapon training to obtain a permit is nothing like a School Resource Officer’s training.

Sheriff Robert Holland attended the meeting and said this year while doing mock drills at area schools he will show repercussions of a teacher leaving a classroom to get a gun.

“That really worries me,” he said. “A teacher might figure if they don’t have a class or are on break and he or she has a gun 100 yards away, there will probably be someone who tries to get it. They need to understand the repercussions of that. We all want to defend our children, but an officer doesn’t know all the teachers or staff. The reality is, if something happens, and an officer sees that person with a gun, he won’t have time to ‘Say, stop, what are you doing, can I see your ID.’ He is going to take the person out before he gets to the door. That’s cold hearted reality.”

With Chairman Jim Breedlove’s direction, Superintendent Baldwin will issue a directive to all employees to make sure they understand what is legal under the law and exactly where their responsibilities lie.

Part of reason this is an issue is because someone decided a teacher should be armed if someone comes into the building to do harm,” said Henning. “If that was never mentioned, we wouldn’t be talking about this right now.”

At the continuation meeting held Tuesday, discussion centered around new legislation regarding teacher tenure/supplements/contracts and school safety procedures as outlined in Senate Bill 402 and SB 91 Expunction Inquiry.

“Each day we are learning more information about the implications regarding these new laws,” said Attorney Christopher Campbell at the meeting.

The state is phasing out Masters pay for all staff whose job doesn’t require a Masters. From now on, no teacher will get Masters pay or receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the 6-year degree or at the doctoral degree level for the 2014-15 school year unless they were paid on the Masters salary schedule or received a supplement prior to the 2014-15 school year.

However, this doesn’t affect salary supplements associated with National Board Certification and it doesn’t alter administrator salary supplements for advanced degrees, as they are typically required of the position, but Campbell said the General Assembly could address this in the future.

As it stands now, local BOEs can no longer grant career status; teachers with career status retain it until June 30, 2018; on July 1, 2018, all teachers with career status will lose it; for the 2018-19 school year, teachers in their first three years of teaching for a district will only get a one-year contract; teachers who have taught more than three years are eligible for a 1-, 2- or 4-year contract but multi-year contracts will only be awarded teachers showing proficiency.

During the 2013-14 school year, superintendents must recommend a 4-year contract and a $500 annual pay raise for each year of the 4-year contract beginning the 2014-15 school year for 25% of teachers who have worked more than three years in the district as of Sept. 1, 2013.

Campbell said this pool of teachers doesn’t include career teachers who have not taught in the district for longer than three years. If teachers accept the offer, they voluntarily relinquish career status.

Superintendents and BOEs have until the end of the 2013-14 school year to make offers to the 25% pool of teachers to receive a 4-year contract. Campbell
day of each. Afterwards, visitors will be led to identify many species of trees by leaf change color, deciduous versus coniferous, and 3:30 pm at the Highlands Nature Center. They can be mailed to HHS at P. O. Box 2584, Highlands, NC 28741. Call HHS at (828)787-1050.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 4-5
• At The Bascom, Celebration! Art, Design, Craft. Call 526-4949.

Fri., Oct 4
• SOAR and MountainTop Rotary Golf Tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club. Those interested in playing or who would like more information should contact Bill Zoellner at (828) 787-2323 or call toll free at 888-489-2323, or forms may be mailed to P.O. Box 2584, Highlands, NC 28741. Tournament registration forms are available on the club website at mountain-toprotary.net

• The High Mountain Squares will play Bingo to support the Highlands Historical Society (HHS). This event will be on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. at the Highlands Community Building located at the corner of Poplar Street and Highway 64, next door to the ball park. Bingo games cost $1 per card per game. The night consists of 15 games of Bingo with the last game being a surprise cash prize. Each month half of all money paid to play Bingo goes to the non-profit partner and the other half goes to lucky winners. Players enjoy one hundred per cent of the fun to play generated by the game. Supporters of the Historical Society can go the “extra mile” to show their support through being a table sponsor. Sponsors buy a full page table ad for $50.00. All of the money paid for sponsorships/ads goes to the Historical Society to support the preservation of the village and undertake the outreach programs which share Highlands’ history throughout our community. Checks for table ads should be made out to the Rotary Club of Highlands. They can be mailed to HHS at P. O. Box 670, Highlands 28741. Call HHS at (828)787-1050.

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Spots still open for players in Friday’s Special Operations Tounery

There is still time to clean up the golf clubs and enter this Friday’s golf tournament to benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands and the organizers of the Special Operations Adventure Race are holding the benefit tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club and the shotgun start will be at 9:30 a.m.

The format will be a best ball scramble and unlimited Mulligans will be sold for $5 each. Organizers will match up individuals to make foursomes. The cost is $150 per person.

Anyone interested in playing or who would like more information should contact Bill Zoellner at (828) 787-2323 or call toll free at 888-489-2323, or forms may be mailed to P. O. Box 2584, Highlands, NC 28741. He can also be reached by email at bill.zoellner@wfadvisors.com.

For 33 years the Special Operations Warrior Foundation has provided college educations to the surviving children of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations personnel killed in the line of duty. Additionally, the Warrior Foundation provides immediate financial assistance to families of special operations personnel severely wounded so they can be by the bedside of their loved one during their recovery.

Real ‘Jersey Boys’- The Hit Men - concert tour to PAC this Sat.

Gerry Polci and Lee Shapiro... They may not be household names but back in the 70’s, you bought all of their records. You heard them on the radio. Saw them on TV; Went to their concerts; The songs you danced to and knew all the words to.

So who are they? They are the former stars of the hit-making factory known as Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. These guys toured the world with Frankie; recorded numerous hit albums with him. And sang the lead vocals on songs like Oh What a Night – the biggest Seasons hit of all time. When they met in 1973, they were two authentic Jersey Boys barely out of their teens, and the Four Seasons hadn’t had a charted hit record in years. Along with Valli and songwriter/producer Bob Gaudio, Gerry Polci and Lee Shapiro successfully transitioned the group’s sound from ‘60s doowop to ‘70s pop with mega-hit songs like Who Loves You and Oh What a Night.

Spurred by the runaway success of Jersey Boys, the Tony Award-Winning Broadway musical based on the Four Seasons career, these former Seasons, who are now in their late 50’s and early 60’s, decided to re-unite along with an A-list group of musicians who wrote, recorded and performed with Carly Simon, Cat Stevens, Elton John, Jim Croce, Chicago, Luther Vandross, The Ramones, Carole King and other mega-star acts of the era and give touring one more shot. They now call themselves The HIT MEN.

Their show is an amazing look back through rock and roll history, including fascinating back stories of what it was like being on the road and in the recording studios with Frankie, Tommy, Carly, Cat, Jim and Elton. And, of course, there are all those amazing hits...with The HIT MEN performing great songs from the Four Seasons song book (from Rag Doll, Dawn, and Walk Like a Man to Can’t Take my Eyes Off You, Marianne, and Sherry), plus other mega hits that The HIT MEN helped make famous back in the day such as Cat Stevens’ Peace Train, Jim Croce’s Leroy Brown, Carly Simon’s You’re so Vain and Tommy James’s Mony Mony.

Lee Shapiro, music director and former Four Seasons member, says “This show is a chance for everyone to relive the glory days of rock and roll with a great groups of guys who actually lived and breathed the experience. You’ll walk out of the theater exhilarated, excited and wanting more. We guarantee it.”

The Huffington Post says “If the HIT MEN are any where near you...Go See Them!”

The HIT MEN are presented by: Beth & Dan Riley, Diane & Ray McPhail, Minnie Bob & Mike Campbell, Louise & Rick Demetriou, Ruth Gerlshon & Sandy Cohn, Jane Webb & David LaCagnina, Elizabeth Salzarulo (Harry Norman Realty), Carole Simmons Cindy & Rick Trevathan and Peggy Woodruff.

This concert is sold out, but call to be put on a waiting list. Become a PAC member and receive advance notice of all concerts. www.highlandspac.org 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC
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  - 2-inch gusset: $24.95

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Highlands Mountain Club condo with 3br/2ba, mountain views, wood floors, fireplace and furnished. $269,000. MLS# 73758

Highlands Falls Country Club. Sitting by a stream, enjoy this 3br/3ba with large deck for entertaining, fully furnished. $397,000. MLS# 76006

Village Walk. Walk to town from this decorator 3br/3.5ba single family condo. Covered porch with fireplace, great patio. $849,900 MLS# 74743

VZ Top. Million Dollar mountain views from this fully furnished 3br/2ba condo with wood floors, fireplace and great condition. $197,000. MLS# 74892

Highlands Falls Country Club. Whiteside Mountain view from with 3br /3.5ba, elegant Viking kitchen and stone fireplace. $987,000. MLS# 75205

Highlands Falls Country Club. Beautiful Arts and Crafts 4br/4.5ba home on private lot with great view of Whiteside Mountain. $1,477,000. MLS# 77337

Highlands Falls Country Club. Great golf course view from this 3br/3ba furnished, maintenance free condo. $357,000. MLS# 73808

MLS # 77499 – 161 Cherokee Drive –Adorable 2/2 cottage on one level with great yard. Close to town. $298,000

MLS #77720 – 140 Netsi Place – Renovated 2/2 cottage with view of Mirror Lake. Lovely landscaping and yard $300,000

MLS # 77758 – 341 Wyanoak - Great 2/2 mountain cottage in Mirror Lake area. 2 great decks, one screened $375,000

MLS #77220 – 205 Mirrormont – Perfect year round or summer cabin. 3/3 Two car garage $385,000

MLS #78056 – 382 Foreman Road – New everything and completely renovated, one car carport $395,000

MLS #77437 – 212 Pheasant Run – Sweet home with 3/3 sitting in Cold Springs with privacy and gardens. $497,000

MLS # 77916 - 99 Balsam Lane, Highlands Falls CC – Totally renovated 2/2 plus 2/2 guest house, good mtn view $597,000

MLS #78141 – 170 Mountain Ash, Wildcat Cliff CC – wonderful large three bedroom family home with great mtn view $612,000

MLS # 77338 – 408 Napa Ridge Lane, Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove. Koenig built 3/3/1 with great golf & mtn views $895,000

MLS #73335 – 2079 Upper Divide Highlands Falls CC – Very private 5/4, view of Whiteside from oversized deck $1,127,000
We all hear rumors about the Highlands real estate market. It brings to mind the old real estate adage: “Buyers are liars… and sellers are too! We can add a whole bunch of people to that network, not so much because people lie intentionally, but mostly due to repeating one another and each time the story is told it changes or is not even the same subject matter!

Almost everyone I talk with asks about the real estate market. I personally like to apply statistics to the equation. Thanks to Judy Michaud, Owner/Broker of Meadows Mountain Realty, who provided these statistics (taken from the Highlands-Cashiers MLS as of the end of August), let’s take a look at the historical numbers from the past five years to see where we stack up.

The following are the residential numbers for the Highlands Township. As you can see, although the number of sales continues to increase year over year along with the list to sale ratio, prices have not rebounded and actually declined. We expect that this trend will continue until our inventory of unsold homes begins to decrease.

Sales to Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sales #</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days/mkt</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>1184</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med Price</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
<td>$551,153</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
<td>$427,000</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>$355,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg price</td>
<td>$624,861</td>
<td>$662,508</td>
<td>$635,519</td>
<td>$501,438</td>
<td>$580,609</td>
<td>$616,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List/sale %</td>
<td>89.51%</td>
<td>86.60%</td>
<td>86.32%</td>
<td>86.87%</td>
<td>87.16%</td>
<td>88.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fore/SS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Although distressed sales have not inundated our market, they still affect property values and appraisals).

Following are the end of August numbers for 2013 residential closed sales compared to the same time period for 2012.

Number of Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$300K and under</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$301K-$500K</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$501K-$750K</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$751K-$1M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1M-$2M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2M and over</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are currently 25 homes which are either under contract or pending.

The median price of a closed property in Highlands for the first eight months of 2013 is $355,700 and the average price is $516,760. We all like to compare numbers to our glory years, 2005-2007; in 2007, the average sold price was $742,345 and the median price was $532,500. Properties sold at almost 92% of the listed price and were on the market an average of 315 days.

The inventory was nearly identical last year at this time. Here are the numbers of unsold residential listings by price range:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$300K and under</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$301K-$500K</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>$2M and over</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
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Cozy Cabin Tucked Near Mirror Lake

Charming 3BR/2BA cabin with locust log external walls, on lush lot in the Mirror Lake area. Features include pine floors, knotty white pine paneling, stone wood-burning fireplace, breakfast bar, tray ceiling & spacious, screened front porch. Extensively renovated from 2011-13. Offered at $379,000. MLS #77945. Some furnishings negotiable.

Contact Susie DeVille at (828) 371-2079.

Close to Town with Amazing Views

Breathtaking views of Whiteside from almost every room of this 4BD/4.5BA home on over 3 acres off of Bowery Road. Large family room w/ board and batten walls, stone fireplace, and rustic wood accents. Top of the line kitchen with fireplace. Breakfast nook and formal dining area. Master suite has a fireplace and deck access. Guest suites are on lower level all with deck access. Offered at $2,300,000. MLS# 77603.

Contact Wick at (828) 421-0500 or Leslie Ashburn at (828) 421-5113.

From Main St. Only $234,000!

3 BR/2BA furnished chalet, 2 mi from Main St. Only $234,000!

Leslie Ashburn
wick@WhiteOakRG.com

Leslie Ashburn at (828) 421-5113.

Highlands Area’s Best Lake Property

This spectacular, 44-acre lakefront, gated estate with gentle topography is without compare. Features of the 4BR/4.5BA home include walls and gables constructed from Hebel; 3 fireplaces; expansive, Montana-style covered deck; wood paneled library; and heart pine flooring. Perfect for subdividing, private estate, or corporate retreat. Offered at $4,280,000. MLS #70953.

Contact Susie DeVille at (828) 371-2079.

The inventory was nearly identical last year at this time. Here are the numbers of unsold residential listings by price range:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</table>

There are currently 25 homes which are either under contract or pending.

The median price of a closed property in Highlands for the first eight months of 2013 is $355,700 and the average price is $516,760. We all like to compare numbers to our glory years, 2005-2007; in 2007, the average sold price was $742,345 and the median price was $532,500. Properties sold at almost 92% of the listed price and were on the market an average of 315 days.

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<tr>
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</table>
This lovely custom home is located at Highlands Falls Country Club – Where membership is not necessary with your home purchase. This 4/5 bedroom home is at the end of a quiet cul-d-sac. It has an amazing view and large back porch for entertaining. Come see this home for only $765,000 MLS# 77734.

Elegant stately stone house with gorgeous VIEWS! 4 private bedroom suites, Australian Cypress flooring, long range mountain range views, all within a private gated community. Close to National Forest hiking trails, golf & tennis. Offered for $1,095,000.

Offered FULLY FURNISHED for only $624,900!! Built and decorated by one of Atlanta’s BEST designers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths 2.88 acres 2 fireplaces, wood flooring...A MUST SEE - you will fall in love! MLS 77301.

There have been 19 land sales in Highlands, with an average selling price of $229,000. There are three sales pending and 245 unsold parcels of listed vacant land, with an average of 802 days on market.

There have been 10 condominium sales in Highlands at an average sales price of $324,200 with 5 more under contract. There are currently 75 unsold condo listings.

Well...there you have it. Take what you will, share what you want and I’ll bet this article is not repeated the same this time next week!

Lynn Kimball has 40 years of real estate experience, with 28 years serving the Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

...INVESTING continued from page 19

**Unsold Residential Listings by Price Range**

- $300K and under 77
- $301K-$500K 143
- $501K-$750K 111
- $751K-$1M 74
- $1M-$2M 36
- $2M and over 36
- Totals 532

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...BOE continued from page 12

BOE continued from page 12

suggests BOEs wait to see if the NC Dept. of Public Instruction or the State Board of Education offers guidance on selecting the 25% pool and the ramifications for those teachers accepting the 4-year contract and giving up career status.

Another zinger: from now on teachers moving between school systems in the state need to know that regardless of their status, when transferring to a new school system they are only entitled to a 1-year contract for their first three years and after that must meet proficiency on their evaluation to be offered a 1-, 2- or 4-year contract thereafter.

Regarding school safety, under the new law, all school systems that maintain a schematic design must give keys to local law enforcement. Those that don’t maintain a schematic do not have to comply with the law.

School Improvement Teams are now considered a public body and as such must follow Open Meetings Law.

Campbell and Henning said they will keep the BOE abreast of any new developments in these laws.

– Kim Lewicki
Like new 3br/ 3.5ba mountain home with a great view of Whiteside Mountain!

Being offered furnished (w/ a few exceptions) home has been immaculately maintained and quality features throughout. Easy access, private setting,

Viking oven and refrigerator, heated bathroom floor, jetted tub, full service generator, skylights, stacked stone fireplace, attractive landscaping and a great deck. Located in Highlands Falls Country Club, membership available but not required. Must see to appreciate! $987,000

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Pumpkin Festival
at HUMC
Don’t miss Highlands United Methodist Church’s pumpkin festival Sat., Oct. 5 at Highlands United Methodist Church. There will be face painting, pumpkin carving, a bake sale, hot apple cider, food and a 50% coupon for anything “pumpkin” at Kilwin’s with the purchase of a pumpkin. All money raised goes to youth ministeries.
Quilts of Valor delivery Tripler Army Medical Center Honolulu, Hawaii

By Maria Mattia

On Sept 15th, Liz View, her husband PJ and I arrived in Honolulu. Upon arrival we immediately were able to pick up our Quilts of Valor which were shipped by Delta Airlines.

Delta Cargo Manager Mr. Campbell extended the courtesy, again (as he did the previous year 2012 to Germany) to assist with complimentary wrapping and shipping of four boxes filled with 40-plus Quilts of Valor the day of our departure. We sincerely appreciate his generous assistance.

We carried 10 Quilts of Valor made by the Crafty Thread Quilters from Oldsmar, FL and 32 plus Quilts of Valor from the Cashiers Quilt Guild, Cashiers, NC.

On Monday Liz and PJ (a Marine/Navy veteran) and myself, prepared for our 11 am appointment at Tripler Army Medical Center to present 11 Quilts of Valor to a group of young soldiers diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

We were met by the Protocol Officer of Tripler Army Medical Center, Mr. Joel Jenkins and several other coordinators/nurses of the PTSD Treatment Program. My husband Michael, an Army veteran, and I initiated the first point of contact with the hospital to arrange the Quilt of Valor delivery.

The presentation to these young men turned out to be very emotional since they were close to be discharged from the hospital and we had no idea what to expect because we had never delivered and presented Quilts of Valor to Soldiers diagnosed with PTSD before.

We displayed a great number of quilts for selection before the young men came to the room where we were set up at. They each picked out the quilt they desired and before they went back to their rooms they chatted with all of us, gave us hugs and thanked us profusely for our time, effort and thoughtfulness. They could not believe we had traveled all the way from North Carolina to present these “blankets” to them. It made them feel so extra special that we cared so much about them. They were overjoyed to be able to place those “beautiful blankets” as they called them, to brighten up their hospital room and beds. After they went back to their rooms and placed the quilts on their beds, some came back to share their excitement on how much their room had changed with the beautiful quilts they had picked out, their rooms “were not so sterile now!” They seemed to like the ones with the eagles very much but an equal amount was picked from the colorful ones that were in the display of quilts.

At one point one of the young men diagnosed with severe PTSD came to me with his choice quilt a beautiful Eagle quilt, and expressed how much he liked that one. I wrapped the quilt around him, told him it would be his and that’s when he and I hugged each other! I held him for a few more moments since he seemed to cherish the hug then let him go. Upon stepping back the Protocol Officer, a nurse and a few other young men told me that this was the first time, since treatment, he had shown any emotions and that he allowed someone to touch him, both Liz and I were so touched by that, that it brought tears to our eyes!

We left the hospital with mixed emotions and realized that there will be more and more of the PTSD patients who need treatment and therefore we would like to focus on making sure we have the PTSD patients included in our quilt deliveries in the future.

If interested in helping fund any of these Quilts of Valor, donations are always accepted and appreciated.

Donations can be mailed to Cashiers Quilters C/O Mrs Lois Williams, PO Box 10, Glenville, NC. Checks should be made out to Cashiers Quilt Guild.

You may also directly contact Liz View, Quilt of Valor Chairperson of our Local Guild. She can assist you in making a Quilt of Valor. Please call 828 526 9743 or visit her Quilt Shop, Cut N Patch in Highlands.
By Lee W. Bowman, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Highlands

How does your faith affect the way you look at the world? How do life’s exigencies shape what you believe? In the normal course of things we live with the idea that there is a connection between what happens to us and how it impacts our relationship with God. That’s because in the normal course of things, at some level, we expect faith to be a transaction. In other words, we believe, then something happens. We pray, and something happens.

We’re unnerved when bad things happen because we are good people. We’re unsettled by God’s silence. We can’t make sense of the storm that did not pass us by. And sadly, our religion has historically offered some pretty bland assurances in the face of life’s devastations. You’ve heard them: God doesn’t give us more than we can handle—try that on the woman who was abused repeatedly for years. Or: God never closes a door without opening another. Unless God must have wanted her more—try that on the woman whose little unborn daughter never drew breath outside her womb.

Maybe for that very reason I am convinced that our faith needs to be tougher than convenient platitudes. It’s no surprise that the disciples implored Jesus, Give us more faith! When faith is viewed as a transaction, it can be understood in quantitative terms. And when we think about faith as quantitative, then we start calculating. If a little’s good, then a ‘lottle’ is better. But if our faith is to survive floods and hurricanes and disappointments and even death, it needs to be re-thought.

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, Jesus said, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. Unless some of you are holding out on me, I think I can safely say that most of us don’t have that kind of power over the natural order. So Jesus’ comment could sound like a put-down. But I don’t think Jesus is belititng his hearers. He’s saying that even if our faith is small—embarrassingly small—God can work with what we have. Because in the final analysis it’s not about our purity, our piety, our righteousness, our certainty or how long we spend in our quiet time. It’s about God’s faith in us, and God’s faithfulness towards us. That’s the first thing Jesus is saying.

Then Jesus follows up by saying, Suppose one of you...
has a slave who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, “Sit down and eat”? The example is shocking to our ears because it comes from a time when the institution of slavery was an accepted part of society. But Jesus is neither romanticizing nor accepting the institution of slavery in this example. Instead, he’s using its raw and ugly side to jerk us up and put us in our place. In relation to God, we have the status of a slave. We may think we’ve worked hard and sacrificed a lot and given a lot to other people, so God should be proud of us and save a favored position for us. Surely God will invite us in to the table because we have been so faithful and so good.

The hitch, of course, is that we’re not that good. We’re not worthy of God’s love. We don’t deserve to come to the table. So the point Jesus is making is twofold: first, know your place. Know that you don’t deserve to be here; it’s not your goodness that gets you an invitation. Second, take your place—not because of your deserving but because of your desiring. Whoever trusts in Jesus—even a little—is invited to come and have hungers fed and wounds healed and receive the gift of God’s grace.

This is not faith that sees Jesus as a magician. The faith that Jesus is talking about is not being sure where you’re going but going anyway. Beliefs without proofs, without answers, without assurance, without completed transactions.

May it be for us that if not yet, some day when we see the hurricane coming or the flood waters rising, our faith will lead us to say, If I suffer tonight, let me see the hand of God in the hand of my neighbor who comes to help. And if I am left safe, let me be that neighbor to someone else. May it be for us not a faith of transactions—this for that—but of new songs for our souls. For our Lord is setting the table and has invited us in!
Church of Highlands was held on September 15th in Coleman Hall and was a huge success! The main focus of the luncheon was to raise funds for the Highlands Emergency Council Fuel Fund. It was widely embraced by this congregation and the Highlands community and the gifts to date are still coming in. The $6,172 collected so far exceeded last year's contributions. A delicious meal was prepared by Joel & Anne Porter, and wonderful medleys of desserts were provided by members & businesses in the community. Thanks to those at the Highlands Emergency Council, the First Presbyterian Church's Ministry teams, our cooks, servers, decorators, fundraisers, donors and cleaner-uppers!
**Center for Life Enrichment celebrates successful 2013 Season and passes baton to new board members**

Sometimes things just fall into place. Thus was the reality of the 2013 season and here are the highlights:

- Our new 80 seat lecture hall with state of the art technology proved to be everything we had hoped for in accommodating our lectures and classes.
- The CLE website was revised to accommodate online class registration.
- Our Membership grew to 508 members.
- We offered 100 classes from April thru November.
- Computer and music classes were offered in the evening and Saturday in order to reach a broader spectrum of the community.
- Apple technology courses that started in April and will complete in November were filled to capacity with waiting lists that attracted many of the year round population.
- Highlands resident and Middle East expert Sandra Mackey gave a free community lecture on the situation in Syria and Egypt to a full house at Highlands Playhouse
- The 2013 freshman class of Western Carolina University welcomed the first members to its new Center for Life Enrichment Honors Scholarship Program, which was funded in part by CLE.

Our successful 2013 season reflects the outstanding board of directors chaired by Ed Mawyer. Retiring from the three-year board commitment were Marge Meeter, Frederika Flynt, Bruce Roellke and Alice Jackson.

Newly elected board members include Betty Ingrish, Thornton Jordan, Duane Meeter, and Trisha Roellke.

The 2013 season will conclude in November with courses in Facebook, personal computers and Mac. The 2014 season will begin in April with more personal technology classes.

Membership renewal for 2014 will soon begin and our new course calendar will be available in April. For more information contact The Center for Life Enrichment at 828-526-8811 or clehighlands@yahoo.com or visit our website at clehighlands.com.

**Amino Acids important to body’s functions**

Recently, Dr. Avery spoke to Mountaintop Rotary Club about the importance of amino acids in the body’s system. Amino acids are vitally important for proper digestion and deficiencies can result in cardiovascular problems, emotional disorders and fatigue.

Mountaintop Rotary meets Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. in the H-C Hospital’s cafeteria dining room (breakfast available). Dr. Avery is pictured with Rotary President Hillrie Quin.
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