

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 39

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Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013

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, Tinkerbelle.

Tinkerbelle 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

•See BEAR page 9

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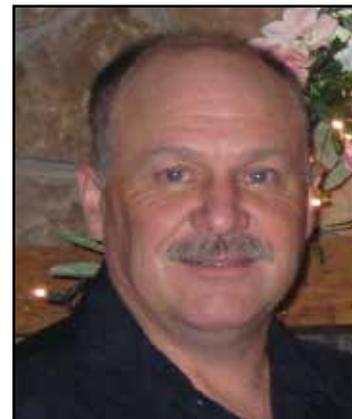
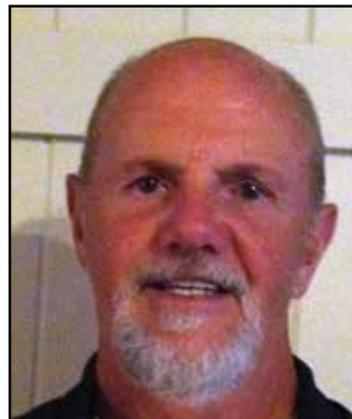
BOE discusses 'gun and teacher tenure' laws at mtgs.

At the Monday, Sept. 23 Board of Education meeting and again at the Tuesday, Sept. 24 continued meeting, members grappled with the ramifications of recent legislation affecting school districts across the state.

At Monday night's meeting held in Highlands, Attorney John Henning, Jr. said it's not worth trying to pass a ban on concealed weapons on school property because under the terms of the new law people with a concealed weapons permit are allowed to keep their weapons in a locked box in a locked vehicle on school property. However, they aren't allowed to retrieve the weapon for any reason while on school property.

The law went into effect Tuesday, Oct. 1

•See BOE page 12



Clockwise: Donnie Calloway, running for Town Board Commissioner, incumbent Amy Patterson, running to keep her seat on the Town Board, Michael "Bud" Rogers, running for commissioner, Brian Stiehler, running for mayor, Pat Taylor, running for mayor. Not pictured is incumbent Gary Drake who is running to keep his seat but said "Thanks but no thanks" to participating in the 5-week Q&A in Highlands Newspaper.

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 Stiehler 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. Com-

missioner 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,

born in Cullasaja but I grew up in Highlands. I consider myself a true Highlander. My wife, Bitsy and I have been married for 40 years. We have two great sons and four fabulous "grands." Lucas & Erin have one son, Foster and one daughter, Eliza Ruth. Jarret & Callie have one son, Crew and one daughter, Essie.

After graduating from Highlands School, I went to work in the furniture industry and now

•See Q&A page 3

Thurs, Oct 3

• Bingo to support the Highlands Historical Society (HHS) on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. at the Highlands Community Building.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 4-5

• At The Bascom, Celebration! Art, Design, Craft. Friday auction is 6-10 p.

Fri., Oct 4

• SOAR and MountainTop Rotary Golf Tournament at Highlands Falls Country Club. To play, contact Bill Zoelner at (828) 787-2323.

• At The Center for Plastic Surgery, an Obagi Healthy Skin Open House from 10a to 4p. 20% off Obagi and Jane Iredale products.

Sat., Oct. 5

• "Fall Leaf Colors" family program 2 – 3:30 pm at the Nature Center. Fun and educational for all ages; cost is \$5 per person. Advanced registration is required; please call 526-2623.

• A pumpkin festival 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.

• Macon County Public Health will sponsor Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin and Highlands area on Saturday. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

• Pour le Pink 5K Walk/Run for Breast Health and Women's Services beginning and ending on the campus of the hospital at 9am. Open to male/female walkers and runners, all ages. Pre-registration is \$30. Call Callie Calloway at 828-526-1313.

Sun. Oct. 6

• Blessing of the Animals from 2-5 p.m., Kelsey Hutchinson Park, Pine Streets.

Tues., Oct. 8

• AARP Driver Safety Course from 1-5 p.m. at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 201 Jane Woodruff Bldg. Sat. Call 743-7910.

• Come and listen to stories at our last Swap for this year on Tuesday, 7 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 3-7 minute story to tell or read, call 369-1927. Pre-registration is required.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• 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 benefactors. 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

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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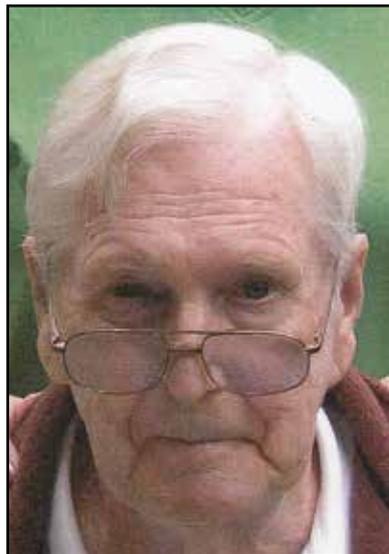
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OBITUARY

Curtis Denzel Miller



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 Franklin, NC and Yvonne Burch and husband Robert of Penrose, NC; one brother Wymer Miller and wife Gertrude of Hendersonville, NC and a number of nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Inez Teague and a brother, Willard Miller.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Buck Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Jamie

Passmore officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery; nephews will serve as pallbearers. The family will receive friends Thursday from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, one hour prior to the service, at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Buck Creek Baptist Church Building Fund, c/o Geneva Vaughn, 133 Embers Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.

A gathering in memory of 'Abuela'

Dear Friends,

Thank you to every one for all your kind words and thoughts. A gathering in honor of Delia "Abuela" Zapata will be held at Cyprus Restaurant in Highlands, NC on Saturday, October 5 from 12 noon - 2 pm. We hope you can join us to celebrate the life of our beloved "Abuela."



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...Q&A continued from page 1

own and operate my own business, Finishing Touches Unlimited. Being in business will definitely give me an understanding of the inner workings and operations of the town.

The town board is put in place to govern the town and operate it as a large business, which it is. We need to be good stewards of the taxpayers' monies. Especially now with this unstable economy. It is important to be wise in our spending. I hope to bring back stability and assurance to our town. I would like to improve the communication between the board and the community.

I began my political career when I was 26 years old. After being elected to the city council, I served 16 years, 8 consecutive 2-year terms. It was an honor to be able to do so. If elected, I hope to bring that knowledge with me.

I decided to run for town commissioner because of my love for Highlands. Growing up in this town I have seen it go through many changes. This town has been such a blessing to me and my family, and now it's time for me to give back.

Highlands is a place of great beauty and wonderful people. We need to lighten up and enjoy what we have been blessed with. So my slogan is simple, "Lets lighten up." I will always have an open door policy, so let's get together and talk or give me a call.

Amy Patterson

Education: BS Duke University, DVM the Ohio State University. I also have Grade I Wastewater Operator certi-

fication, a diploma in building trades, and an instrument rated single-engine pilot license.

The home in Highlands my folks bought in 1960 is still where I live. I have a solo veterinary practice and have spent my entire practice career of 29+ years in Highlands. I became a veterinarian because it fit my interests and skills and, just as importantly, it was a career that allowed me to live in Highlands. I was Highlands' first full-time veterinarian.

I believe to be a good town commissioner you need to be sensitive or in-tune with your town and its citizens. And that requires you to be observant, open, thoughtful and humble. Everyone has their own perspective that is influenced by where you've been, what you've seen and learned, where you are now, and what you believe and want the future to be. But when you are entrusted to make decisions for the Town's citizens, it is important to be open to seeing and understanding the different perspectives of situations. Balance, fairness, a sense of continuity, and a long-term view are essential to guiding a local government. I have always tried to keep those principles in mind when

I weigh my decisions. No one will agree with 100% of decisions 100% of the time. But you should always be confident that those decisions are carefully considered.

Bud Rogers

My name is Michael "Bud" Rogers. I am a native Highlander who married my high school sweetheart almost 31 years ago.

• See Q&A page 4



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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

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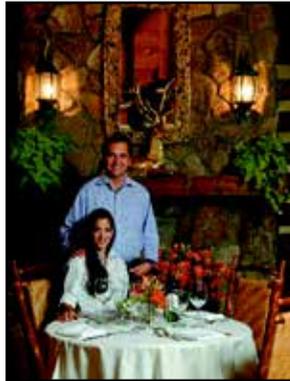
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...Q&A from page 4

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

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• THE FREDSTER •

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, un-receptive, 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 re-

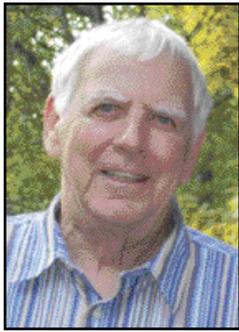
...Q&A continued from page 6

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



Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

markable 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.

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.

• See Q&A page 8

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNER TO GO MENU

MADE FRESH AND SERVED HOT.
MON - SAT PICK UP FROM 4:30 PM UNTIL 8 PM.

DON'T FORGET OUR GRILL IS OPEN
MON - SAT 11AM TO 8PM, SUNDAYS 11AM TO 4PM

AND THE WOOD FIRE OVEN IS OPEN
MON - SAT 11AM TO 8PM, SUNDAYS 11AM TO 6PM

EACH DINNER FEEDS A FAMILY OF FOUR

MON	CHOOSE EITHER: MEXICAN MONDAY: FOUR CHEESE AND FOUR CHICKEN ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM --OR-- 24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES	\$18.95 <i>serves 4</i>
TUES	IN-HOUSE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA WITH A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 <i>serves 4</i>
WED	CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 <i>serves 4</i>
THURS	ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 <i>serves 4</i>
FRI	WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW	\$21.95 <i>serves 4</i>
SAT	IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS	\$18.95 <i>serves 4</i>

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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.

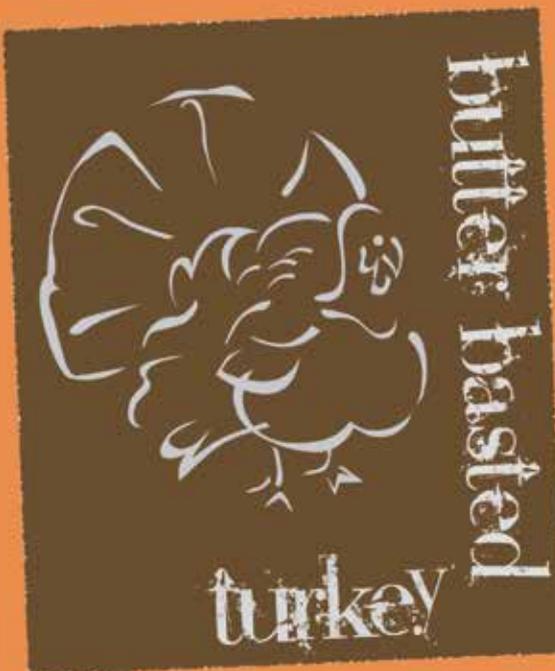
I would also like to see the development of a law enforcement and citizens advisory committee as a way of improving relations between our police and citizens. If there are issues concerning how our police department operates, public input and review should be welcomed. I am certain the police chief is 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

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 Dinner for Six \$165 Includes:

Butter Basted Turkey or Honey Spiced Glazed Ham
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...BEAR continued from page 1

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

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This is not one of the bears in the story.

Clyde Howell took this shot, recently of a mama and her cub drinking from a water feature under the deck of his mom's house on Little Bear Pen.



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-

• See **CARDIAC** page 11

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Think Pink in October!

Join HCH in recognizing Women's Health and National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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.





From left: Cardiac graduates Duncan Parham and Jerry Calabretta.

• See CARDIAC page 21

Dutchman's Annual October Furniture SALE!

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417 N. 4th St.

(Above The Brick Oven)

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GARLIC INFUSED OLIVE OIL, FRESH MOZZARELLA, PECORINO, BASIL MUSHROOMS

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TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, BASIL, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, SWEET SAUSAGE, HOT PEPPER FLAKES

FIG & PIG

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BUFALINA

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PEPPERONI

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, PECORINO, PEPPERONI

PANCETTA

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, ROASTED RED PEPPER, MUSHROOMS, PANCETTA,

CARNIVORE

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, SWEET SAUSAGE, PEPPERONI, HAM, PANCETTA.

BBQ CHICKEN

BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, BBQ CHICKEN, RED ONIONS, RED PEPPER FLAKES, GREEN ONION,

4 CHEESE

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...BOE continued from page 1

"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 directive, 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 Exemption Inquiry.

"Each day we are learning more information about the implications regarding these new laws," said Attorney Christopher Campell 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 of 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

• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Thurs, Oct 3

• Join your friends for an exciting night of 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 Historic Village and underwrite the outreach programs which share Highlands's 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.

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 dance this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Ricky Simpson from Carnsville GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001 or www.highmountainsquare.org

Sat., Oct. 5

• "Fall Leaf Colors" family program 2 – 3:30 pm at the Highlands Nature Center. Activities will focus on how leaves change color, deciduous versus coniferous trees, and winter survival strategies of each. Afterwards, visitors will be led on a walk through the Botanical Garden to identify many species of trees by leaf

type, shape, and color. Fun and educational for all ages; cost is \$5 per person. Advanced registration is required; please call 526-2623 to sign up.

• A pumpkin festival 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 ministries.

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

• Pour le Pink 5K Walk/Run for Breast Health and Women's Services – organized by the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, a 5K beginning and ending on the campus of the hospital. Funds raised will go toward maintaining HCH's state-of-the-art equipment as well as breast health and women's services. The event begins at 9am and is open to male/female walkers and runners, all ages. Pre-registration is \$20, if received by September 23rd, and \$30 thereafter. Registration includes an event t-shirt. To register, become a sponsor, or for additional race details, please visit www.highlandscashiershospital.org or call Callie Calloway at 828-526-1313. The race is being organized with assistance by the Highlands Roadrunners Club.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7.9 mile strenuous Challenge Hike for experienced hikers only from Tellico to Wesser Gap with elevation change of 3350 and 1200 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 am. Drive 80 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Rain date: Oct 19

Sun. Oct. 6

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a one-mile easy level hike around Black Rock Mt. Lake near Clayton, GA, then drive to the top of Black Rock Mtn. to see the view and visit the small nature museum at the Ranger station. \$3.00 parking fee per car. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center near Otto at 2 p.m. Drive 8 miles round trip in car pool. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

• Blessing of the Animals from 2–5 p.m., Kelsey Hutchinson Park, Pine Street,

Highlands. ALL animals and their humans are invited to participate in this fun, free event!

Tues., Oct. 8

• AARP Driver Safety Course from 1-5 p.m. at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 201 Jane Woodruff Bldg. Sat., For more information, call 743-7910.

• Come and listen to stories at our last Swap for this year on Tuesday, 7 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 3-7 minute story to tell or read, call 369-1927. Pre-registration is required.

Thurs., Oct. 10

• Wellstrung at ...on the Verandah at 6:30p.

• The October meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville, N.C. Drive to the back

of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 P.M., March through November.

Sat., Oct. 12

• Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9a to 5p at the Highlands Civic Center Rec Park. Fressers Eatery is selling breakfast and lunch. Free admission and parking.

Sun., Oct. 13

• The Cashiers Methodist Church's group Love Out Loud will serve free dinners from 4-6pm at the VFW Post on NC 107 in Glensville, NC.

Sat., Oct. 12

• The Met Opera Live in HD at PAC at 12:30 p.m. Features 10 Live Transmissions including four new productions. Tickets are available online at www.metopera.org.

• See EVENTS page 14

Meet the Leading Men of 'Murder Among Friends'



Stuart Armor is a familiar face in the theatre community of Highlands, having appeared on area stages for 20 years. He enjoys playing a variety of characters (the more ridiculous the better) as well as the process of being involved in a theatre project. He recently appeared in the Highlands Playhouse production of Annie. He is the owner / operator of Brick Oven Pizza.

Kevin Murphy is a newcomer to HCP. This is his second performance in Highlands, but this young actor is no stranger to the stage. He holds a bachelor's degree in Performing Arts. A native of Decatur, GA, he enjoys collecting vinyl records and will gladly take them from anyone wishing to part with a few.

Lance Trudel relocated to Highlands from San Francisco two and a half years ago. His mom and stepdad are Sarah and Ken Knight, who is also appearing in Murder Among Friends. Lance participated in theatre as a child and was pleased to rediscover it as an adult. He works art Mirror Lake Antiques and Oak Leaf.

Come to PAC and see these fine actors, along with Megan Mclean, Bonnie Earman, and Ken Knight as they light up the stage in Murder Among Friends. The show runs October 17-20 and October 24-27. Mature audiences only. Call PAC for tickets at 828.526.9047 or go to highlandspac.org.

HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS

highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands PAC: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Sat., Oct. 19

• The Highlands Bolivian Mission will hold its fall yard sale, lunch and bake sale on Saturday, October 19 from 11AM to 3PM in the fellowship hall, next to the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. All proceeds will go to the mission fund that serves many hospitals, clinics, churches, feeding and education centers and the foster home. The meal will feature choices of a bratwurst, premium hotdog, coleslaw, potato salad and a variety of homemade pies, including apple and pear. Jams and jellies and all sorts of fantastic baked goods will also be available to take home. The yard sale are needed. If you need items picked up, please call Dr. Baumrucker at 526-3605 or deliver the items to the church, but call first, 526-3376 for directions about where to put the items. Pens made by the foster home boys will also be available

Tues., Oct. 22

• Direct Uniform Scrub and Shoe Sale 7am-4pm, JWC First Floor Suite 103.

Sat., Oct. 26

• Scaly Mountain Womens Club pancake Breakfast at Old Scaly School House corner of 106 and Buck Knob road, Scaly. 7:30 to 10:30. Price is \$5.50.

Nov. 7-10

• Culinary Festival Opening Night Gala at Highlands Country Club Clubhouse Thursday, November 7 at 7pm. Tickets are \$75 You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone.

Fri., Nov. 8

• Culinary Festival's Sip and Stroll Friday, 11am-5pm. Tickets are \$35. You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone. Sip and Stroll.

Sat., Nov. 9

• Culinary Festival's Sip and Stroll, Saturday, 11am-5pm.

Tickets are \$35. You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone.

Sat., Nov. 16

• At The Bascom, from 5-7p, Giving Trees Opening Reception and Nog Off. The Bascom's annual holiday event and a celebration of local artists, organizations and vendors. Sample homemade egg nog recipes and tour the combined opening receptions for In these Mountains and Giving Trees. Call 526-4949.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 29-30

Spots still open for players in Friday's Special Operations Tourney

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 Op-

erations Warrior Foundation has provided college education 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 know 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 doo-wop 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,



The HIT MEN, from left and a very partial list of credits: Jimmy Ryan (Carly Simon, Elton John, Jim Croce, Paul McCartney), Russ Velazquez (The Ramones, LL Cool J, Chicago), Lee Shapiro (Four Season, Barry Manilow, The Shondells), Larry Gates (Bon Jovi, Carole King, Phoebe Snow), Gerry Polci (Barry Manilow, Four Seasons, and lead vocalists on Oh What a Night)

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 group 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 Gershon & 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

Leaf Lookers Shopping Guide!

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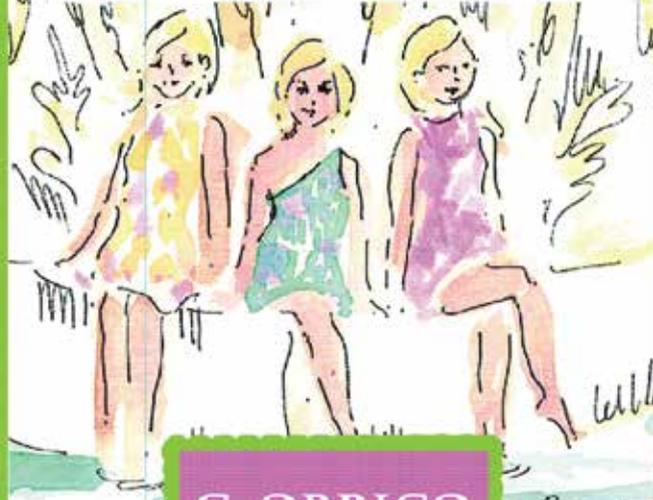
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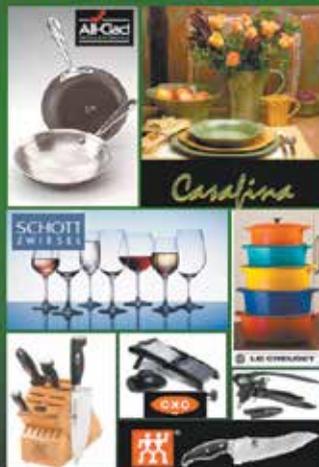


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A Blue Valley view with a pond and waterfall in your front yard, only 7 minutes to town. 4br/2ba/2half ba. A rare gem. \$867,000 MLS# 77015



Highlands Townsite. Walk to town from this 2br/2ba condo. Easy living with no maintenance. \$147,500. MLS# 77769



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

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What The Highlands Real Estate Sales Numbers Really Mean



Lynn Kimball
lynn@mountainmeadows.com

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 the average and median prices have declined. We expect that this trend will continue until our inventory of unsold homes begins to decrease.

Sales to Prices

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
# sales	61	60	37	52	7	581
Days/mkt	301	1184	494	520	541	422
Med Price	\$425,000	\$51,153	\$575,000	\$427,000	\$450,000	\$355,000
Avg price	\$624,861	\$662,508	\$635,519	\$501,438	\$580,609	616,760
List/sale %	89.51%	86.60%	86.32%	86.87%	87.16%	88.30%
Fore./SS	0	8	4	17	16	11

(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

	2013	2012
\$300K and under	29	26
\$301K-\$500K	26	16
\$501K-\$750K	10	16
\$751K-\$1M	7	4
\$1M-\$2M	7	13
\$2M and over	2	0
Totals	80	75

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:

•See INVESTING page 20

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

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.

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 decking; 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.



Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
susie@WhiteOakRG.com



Wick Ashburn,
wick@WhiteOakRG.com
Leslie Ashburn
leslie@WhiteOakRG.com



Rustic Elegance Steps from the Lake



Immaculate, pristine, ideal Mirror Lake area cottage just steps from the lake. Gorgeous wooded lot with secret garden. This 3BR/2BA cottage features an expansive kitchen, sun room, hardwood flooring, fireplace and bay window, covered porch, and single garage. A stunner! Offered at \$425,000. MLS# 77904. 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.

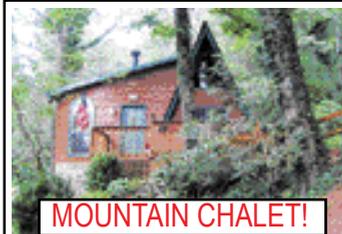
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REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS



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 Great 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.



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...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	91
\$2M and over	36
Totals	532

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.

...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 con-

tract thereafter.

Concerning 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



Close to town and bordered by a stream. 3 BR/ 2 baths- covered porch, wood floors, established perennial landscaping. This home has that 'Old Highlands Charm' everyone wants. \$295,000 MLS #77497 526-3717 / 421-8225



High Elevation of over 4100 ft. 2 BR/2 baths with extra sleeping room. Impeccably maintained with easy access, mountain ridge view and large rooms. \$339,000 MLS #78074 526-3717 / 421-8225



Lake Frontage with private dock 3 BR/3 baths - Log cabin. This home has great rental history and is being sold furnished and ready to go \$585,000 MLS #76311 526-3717 / 421-0187



Cobb Road in Highlands Country Club. 3 BR/ 2.5 baths - Golf course frontage. Seller is original owner of this 1950s home with beautiful wood floors. \$799,000 MLS #77249 526-3717 / 421-0187



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...CARDIAC continued from page 11

ference. His progress in less than three months has been excellent. As he ends his program, I feel certain he will continue on a path of improved health, strength and quality of life.”

Jerry Calabretta's story is somewhat different; what some would call a miracle. A seasonal resident of nearly 15 years, Calabretta shares his time between Sapphire and Juno Beach FL. After almost a decade of various cardiac events and treatments including a heart attack at age 43, triple bi-pass surgery and placement of a defibrillator, his heart was worn and tired. An aggressive advocate for his own health, he persuaded his medical team for a more permanent prognosis and in early 2012 his name was placed on the heart transplant list at the Duke University's Medical Center. Nearly five months in waiting, Calabretta received a new heart. Three days after transplant surgery, he was walking. With will power, faith and his supportive caregiver, as of today he is healthy and has completely two eight week sessions of Cardiac Rehab.

“Jerry arrived at our Cardiac Rehab in January of this year after having had a heart transplant in November 2012. Incidentally, this was the first heart transplant patient we had ever admitted to the HealthTracks Cardiac Rehab program since its inception,” said Smith. “Jerry's determination and motivation to be fully well was to be admired. He has dedicated himself to improving his physical endurance and strength and has been very successful in exceeding the goals we normally set for our patients and clients. It has been an excellent journey for him and our cardiac rehab staff as he travelled through our program. And, he has certainly been an inspiration to our other patients in cardiac rehab.”

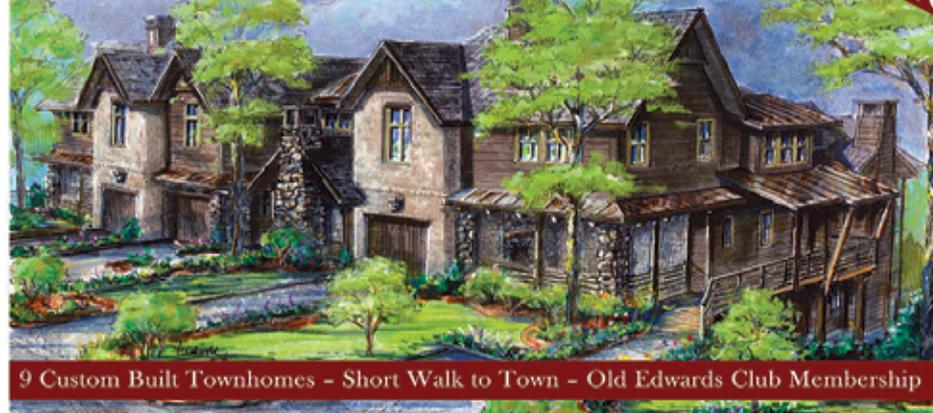
HCH's nationally certified Cardiac Rehabilitation program provides continuous cardiac monitoring of patients during exercise sessions, which include a combination of cardiovascular and strength training. The program also provides education in heart healthy nutrition, stress management, evaluation by a mental health specialist, and education in all areas of the function of the heart. In addition to improving cardiovascular health and strength, the program prepares its patients to carry on lifestyle changes and practices learned in the 12-week/36 session program. The Cardiac Rehab Program is directed by Smith, a Registered Dietician, and her staff of cardiac nurses and exercise specialists. The team works in close conjunction with board certified physicians, counselors, physical therapists and other medical professionals to make sure all programs are safe, as well as effective. Their goal is to provide the community with the tools needed to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

For more information on the Cardiac Rehabilitation program at HealthTracks, please call 526-1469.

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6 REMAINING



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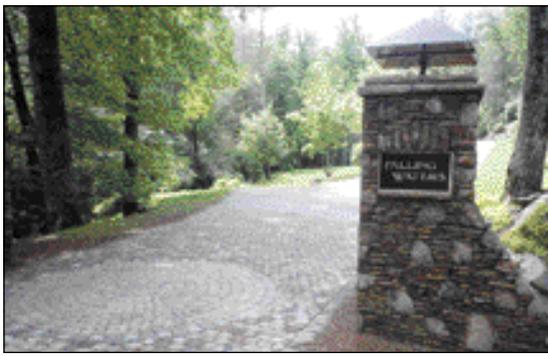
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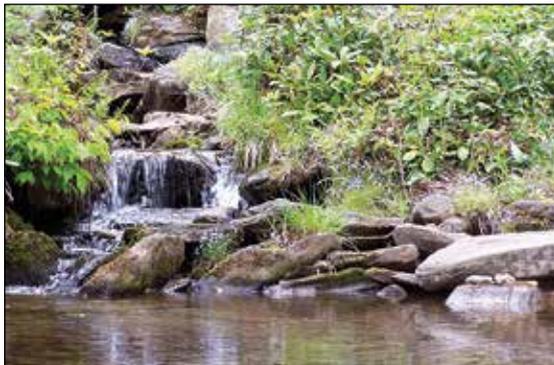
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Pumpkin Festival at HUMC

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 ministries.

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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 remainder of the quilts with the Protocol Officer, Mr. Joel Jenkins, since there were 12 more PTSD patients (soldiers) on a separate floor but they were interned, not allowed to come out or be visited.

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.



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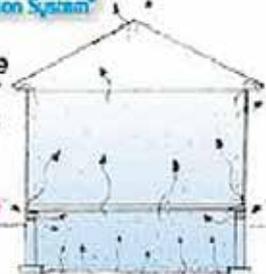
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New songs for our Souls



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 go to church or go on a mission trip, 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 a window—try that on the man who lost his job shortly before retirement age so his pension doesn't vest. Or this: 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 belittling 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

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 25

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

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

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am

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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

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Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

Highlands PD log entries from Sept. 11.. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Sept. 11

At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in Wright Sq.

Sept. 17

At 1:20 p.m., Stephany Nicole Smith, 22, of Franklin, was arrested for larceny and possessing and concealing stolen property. She was issued a \$5,000 secured bond. Her trial date is Oct. 10, 2013.

At 1:35 p.m., officers responded to a call of larceny shoplifting from 4th Street Boutique.

Ablyse valued at \$139 was taken. Sept. 18
At 10:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Moorewood Road.

Sept. 19

At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Mirror Lake Road.

Sept. 20

At 4 p.m., officers were called to a residence on N. 4th Street concerning a bear on the property.

At 6:46 p.m., officers were call to a residence on Cullasaja Drive concerning a bear attack on a dog. Sept. 21

At 6 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Sept. 23

At 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a call about the theft of a trailer valued at \$4,500 from the gravel lot below Highlands Plaza.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 25

Sept. 25

• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident where a van had run off the road. No injuries.

Sept. 26

• At 9:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence in Highlands Mountain Club.

• At 2:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Satulah Falls Lane.

Sept. 28

• At 2:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on NC 106.

• At 8:08 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD at Hampton Inn searching for source of smell of smoke.

Sept. 29

• At 9 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Drive.

• At 12:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Dogwood Drive.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 24

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!

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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Food for Fuel dinner fundraiser a great success thanks to many

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!

31ST Highlands Arts & Crafts Show

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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Kitchen Tour funds grant

Laurel Garden Club President Nancy Nichols presents a check for \$1,299.19 to John Stowers, Executive Director for interpretative signage on the North Carolina Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to White Rock.

The club raised funds for the donation through its recent Kitchen Tour. These funds are part of an ongoing Grants initiative by Laurel Garden Club. Monies are requested that further the interest of horticulture and conservation during two grant cycles that end January 30th and June 30th of each year.

Photography by Ann Sullivan,



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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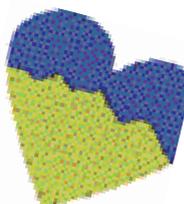
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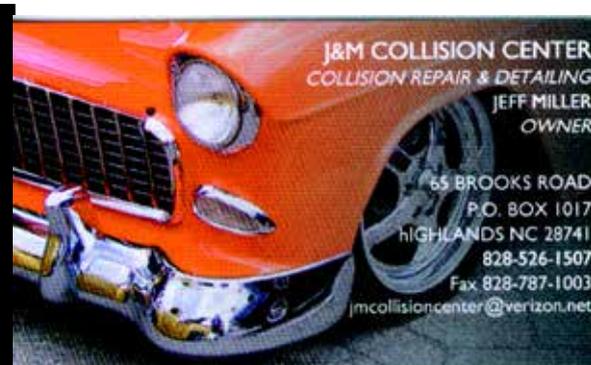
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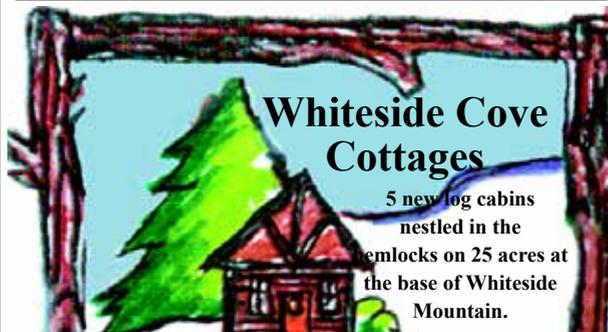
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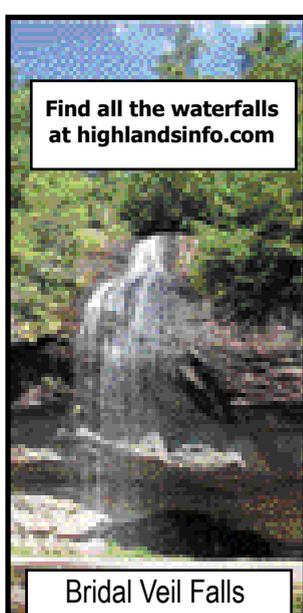
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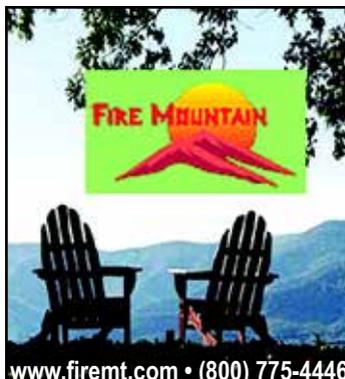
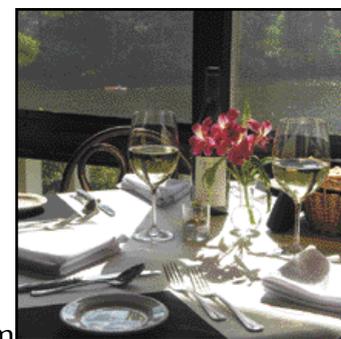
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