

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 27

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Through -Sun., July 8

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for tickets.

Wednesday, July 4

• **Hudson Library closed.**

• For July 4th activities, see cutline on page 1.

Thurs, Fri., Sat. July 5, 6, 7

• At the Lost Hiker on Carolina Way. Karaoke Thurs., Live bands Fri. & Sat. at 9 p.m.

• Live Music at at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, on Flat Mountain Road, Norma Jean, Hal Philips and Jacob Deaton. Call 526-2121.

Thursday, July 5

• Live Bluegrass music at Fressers in Helen's Barn at 6 m.

• At 7 p.m. Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center, For more info call (828) 526-2221.

Friday, July 6

• Preview Party & Auction \$15 per person – the precursor to the Follow the Star...Bazaar at HUMC– 5-7:30 p.m. Includes heavy hors oeuvres at the church on Main Street..

Saturday, July 7

• Follow the Star...Bazaar at HUMC 8a to 4p. Breakfast from 8-10a; and lunch from 11:30a-1:30p

• The Bascom celebrates the 50th anniversary of the studio glass movement with Joan Byrd from 3-4 p.m. for presentaion and book signing.

Monday, July 9

• Jamming with James at 6 p.m. at Fressers in Helen's Barn.

Tuesday, July 10

• 15% of ...on the Veranda sales go to the 2012 Relay For Life of Highlands. For reservations, call 526-2338.

Wed., July 11

• A free Interlude concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 pm. Dress is casual. Trey Clegg, organ.

Town has no plans to develop K-H Park

Kelsey-Hutchinson Park was one of the subjects discussed passionately at the Thursday, June 19, Town Board meeting, but it wasn't just about its uses.

Lila Howland, a member of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust which was instrumental in acquiring the park, said the Land Trust has no problem with craft shows, but does have a problem with the town not moving forward on developing the park.

"What does the town have in mind?" she asked.

Mayor David Wilkes said the

town doesn't have a plan at this time and nothing has been budgeted for FY 2012-13. When Howland said "that's a shame," the mayor said the item could be put on a future agenda.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said it was her understanding that the town never was going to make it into a park; that private funds were going to develop it.

Town Manager Bob Frye said that the town's construction plans "set" as in sunset, in 2009.

Howland reminded the board that the Land Trust contrib-

uted \$50,000, the town \$100,000, the county \$200,000 and the community \$500,000 to purchase the park.

So, where plans concerning the park go from here, is anyone's guess.

What was decided concerned uses – basically that only town approved nonprofits can use the park but no one, other than the town, can use it on holiday weekends like Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day.

In other news, the board

• See K-H Park page 21

Work begins on 'CP Plan'

At the June 25 Planning Board meeting, members began discussing a Comprehensive Plan for Highlands – which is a step up from the Land Use Plan on the books which was completed a decade ago.

A comprehensive plan is a back drop to a town's to-do list," said Town Planner David Clabo. "It describes a vision for the long-term future of a town considering regional context and current growth trends and is a guide for decision-makers on a wide range of issues including capital investment decisions."

Like the two Land Use Plans the town adopted over the past 20 years, the Comprehensive Plan requires substantial citizen input – both through surveys and com-

• See CP PLAN page 6



Highlands Community Child Development Center pre-schoolers beckon in July 4th with their annual parade down Main Street, Tuesday, July 3. Town-wide activities include fun and games at the town ballfield at 11a; M.A.M.A. helicopter landing at noon; Rotary cook-out 11a.-2p; Rubber Duck Derby at 1:30p on Mill Creek at the Spruce Street culvert; Freedom the Eagle at the Bird Barn at Falls on Main 11a-1p; free annual Patriotic Concert at 8p at First Presbyterian Church before fireworks display; annual fireworks around 9p; live band at Lost Hiker at 9p.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Meadows & Patterson face off – Part 4 –

This week we begin with answers to question seven of 12 questions posed GOP candidates for the 11th District Mark Meadows and Vance Patterson at the June 9 FreedomWorks sponsored debate.

The winner of the July 17 run-off will run against Democrat Hayden Rogers in November. For part 3 of the Debate Series see the June 28 edition.

When answering questions, Meadows and Patterson were asked to explain how their positions on issues differ.

Question 7: What areas do you see regulations having the greatest economic detriment?

Mark Meadows:

There isn't one place where regulations don't affect our economy. You can see a direct correlation between poor job growth and regulations. We have lost 4.8 mil-

• See DEBATE page 20

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Main Street: the only street in town

Dear Editor,

The Town Board must be commemorated upon their effort to make Highlands as dull and bland as any other mountain town. After all why should Highlands hold an event that would make a visitor remember something unique about the town like an outdoor art show, an antique show, a plant sale, or a farmers market. It would be best if all visitors would stroll up and down Main Street and purchase \$12 sandwiches for their children. They can go home and remember that Highlands has a Main Street and can't wait to get back to go up and down Main Street again.

Let's keep everything on Main Street. I do hope that the nurseries are protesting the plant sale that takes sales away from them. Definitely do not have an antique show that would bring visitors into town to stay in hotels and eat in the restaurants. What is the farmers market doing to the local groceries? An outdoor art show is really the biggest problem. It creates parking problems for two days that requires a rocket scientist to come up with a solution – oh my, how do we deal with that in addition to breaking Main Street merchants. I love it when everyone is on Main Street where there is never a parking problem.

Tom Roddy
Highlands

Trump would be proud of Meadows

Dear Editor,

Let me be the first to congratulate our very own Mark Meadows, who while in a run-off for the GOP 11th Congressional District, said that if Republicans are successful, this fall, they "we will send him [our President] back to Kenya or wherever it is." Donald Trump would be proud.

Mark Herstik
Highlands

A citizens coffee hour

Dear Editor,

After reading about the confrontation at the last Town Board meeting between the mayor, the manager and several citizens, I suspect tensions are high in "High Shangri-La." There may be a growing perception among citizens that elected representatives are not attentive to their views concerning town issues. On the other hand, the mayor and board are required to have rules of order and substantial agendas in place that may limit spontaneous citizen input and reaction at Town Board meetings.

With the Town Board only meeting once a month, further distancing between the commissioners and the citizenry may continue. There are even rumors that certain elected officials have regular morning coffee sessions behind the secure walls of Town Hall.

I humbly request that the Mayor Wilkes take a proactive step to improve access and communication between the board and town residents. Why not have a public coffee hour at Town Hall? The reno-

vated Town Hall has a wonderful meeting room and garden area. Let's have an open to the public coffee hour, say once a month. It could be on a Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 am, or any weekday.

The mayor along with the town manager could attend. Town commissioners could also attend if they so desired. Citizens could ask questions, state opinions, and communicate with town officials. The coffee hour would not be a meeting. No agenda or votes would be involved. And, elected officials and town employees would of course have the option to decline or limit comments concerning any sensitive issue that may come up for a formal vote.

A "Citizens Coffee Hour" may just be a wonderful way for this little local republic to strengthen the grassroots of town government. Let's give it, or something like, it a try.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

Lake Sequoyah not the 'best' water

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the recent articles about Big Creek and the town's in-

take valve.

To date, I have not read the new Environmental Assessment on a new raw water intake on Lake Sequoyah conducted by McGill & Associates of Asheville. Neither did I attend the meeting referenced in the articles. But I do want to be sure the community knows a little more about this issue.

I understand the reason why residents who live within the Big Creek Watershed want to restore their mountain stream and high quality watershed back into the healthy stream system it was; before the Randal Lake's Dam failed and hurricanes Frances and Ivan struck the community.

These events caused excess amounts of sediment to be deposited into this stream. This excess silt has led to build up in Big Creek which is problematic for the current primary water intake for the Town of Highlands. Due to the fact that the "turbidity of raw water has increased and is causing serious drinking water quality issues at the water plant and within the water distribution system"; the Town understands the importance of agreeing on a solution and working towards securing funds to implement a long term fix.

Folks are discussing the engineering and costs associated with this new water intake which will be the primary source of drinking water for the Town of Highlands, including the drinking water for 2,271 residential and commercial property owners. However, the article doesn't mention anything about the best option when it comes to the highest quality source of drinking water.

The Upper Cullasaja watershed can be divided into four sub-watersheds associated with the four main tributaries of the Highlands Plateau: Big Creek, Mill Creek, Munger Creek and the Cullasaja River, which flow from their headwaters into Lake Sequoyah. The Cullasaja River and Mill Creek flow into Mirror Lake which then

• See LETTERS page 3

• CORRECTION •

In last week's edition in the article "Board dismisses public's concern," we stated the next Town Board meeting is Thursday, July 21. It is on Thursday, July 19 at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Rec Park. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

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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... LETTERS continued from page 2

discharges into Lake Sequoyah, whereas Big Creek and Munger Creek flow directly into Lake Sequoyah at opposite ends of the Lake.

Big Creek is rated as having good water quality by the State of North Carolina; however, it was negatively impacted by the hurricanes and dam breach listed above. Many tributaries of Big Creek flow through the Nantahala National Forest and low-density residential areas. Big Creek is the least developed of the four sub-watersheds flowing into Lake Sequoyah.

Mill Creek is rated as having fair water quality and is on the North Carolina 303(d) List of impaired streams. Monger Creek is also considered to have similar problems as Mill Creek. Mill Creek and Monger Creek capture all the storm water runoff from the downtown area.

Has anybody brought up the fact that the water quality in Lake Sequoyah is not as high as the quality of water that is in Big Creek. If the Town of Highlands proceeds with the new intake on Lake Sequoyah they are not offering the highest quality option available to the community. This lake collects all the runoff from the downtown area and the lawns upstream.

Do you know how many toxic chemicals wash off our roads and roofs and into our streams? Not to mention the herbicides and pesticides that wash off our lawns. Can the water treatment plant filter out all these chemicals?

Turbidity can create a problem for water plants and water distribution systems--BUT cleaning up and protecting Big Creek- the Town's current primary water supply- is a much healthier choice for the residents of Highlands, North Carolina.

If the Town along with all the property owners work together to restore Big Creek to its greater glory with the help of state and federal agencies- the Town can solve the current water quality problems. Once this is underway the Town should work with other landowners to protect

and preserve the remaining 3 sub-watersheds that make up the headwaters of the Cullasaja River.

Unfortunately past events make it necessary to dredge Big Creek to remove the excess silt that has clogged the stream and damaged the ecosystem. Dredging alone will not be enough - all landowners in this watershed must be part of the solution. Protecting the waterways by planting woody vegetation along the streams, installing best management practices throughout the watershed and inspecting and retrofitting existing dams will help preserve and protect Big Creek.

The dam at Lake Sequoyah may be in need of repairs but Lake Sequoyah is not the highest quality source of water for the Town of Highlands. Maybe the Town employees

• See LETTERS page 6

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Peeing with Doctor Bill

While playing bridge at the Recreation Center, I took a quick break, walked into the restroom and found my Bridge buddy, Dr. Bill Geary, standing at the urinal. I sauntered up to the next urinal and asked, "How's your game going today, Doc?"

"Oh, pretty good, how 'bout you?" he responded. "Don't ask," I shot back.

After a pause, I said, "Ya know, when I was young, I used to pee all day long. Now it takes me all day to pee." We both chuck-

led and after another brief pause, Dr. Bill said, "When I was young, I could pee over the fence....now I'm lucky to get it over the ends of my shoes." We chuckled again and zipped up. I think the good doctor has a few years on me and so it was fun to exchange corny geezer jokes about peeing....it's a guy thing.

Washing our hands, Dr. Bill continued, "Since I've gotten to know you better, I've decided you are a blessed man and must have one hell of a strong Guardian Angel watching over you."



with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
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Not wanting to admit I didn't believe in such things I agreed and changed the subject. Early the next morning while sipping coffee from my favorite chair, I thought about Guardian Angels and what Doctor Geary had said. Was it just luck or fate that I have escaped so many deadly and dangerous encounters in life or was an angel actually watching out for me? Did God realize I was too stupid to stay alive on my own and would never make it through life for the amount of time God wanted me here? Did he send

an angel with instructions to keep me alive?

Then, being a practical man, I dismissed the thought. Then, while sipping my second cup, I remembered a time long ago where I had reached a serious crossroads in my life and was unable to know what to do. A decision was so unclear so, as usual, I resorted to prayer, not ever thinking I might have an angel watching out for me, I prayed hard for a solution, reminding God I'm sometimes not the sharpest tool in the shed and asked Him to hit me hard up side of my head with his answer.

But was it my Guardian Angel or God

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 27

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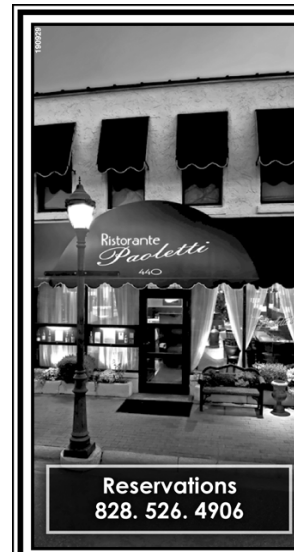
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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Are the Olympics still exciting?

The 2012 Olympic games will be held later this month. Ho, hum. There just seem to be much interest anymore. Years ago, we followed the games, and the deal count closely. The games have become irrelevant, the biggest event in the Beijing games were the opening ceremonies. It may be simply that we no longer care who can run faster, jump higher, or lift more. The world is changing, and with it, our tastes.

Winter X Games are far more popular than Winter Olympics. Shaun White is the only winter athlete who quickly comes to mind. Maybe a Mary Lou Retton, Bruce Jenner, or Jesse Owens could restore enthusiasm for the competition, although it is unlikely Owens' feats would have been as memorable had he not single handedly destroyed the myth of the master race. I think what is lacking is an arch



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

enemy. We miss the Soviet Union and it's Communist cronies. We need the villainous East Germans and the unbeatable Romanian gymnasts.

We tried to cast the Chinese in the role, accusing them of steroid use in the wake of their rapid ascent to dominance in women's swimming. After their girls bested our girls in gymnastics, we claimed that they used underage girls. That argument never made much sense. There are age limits in the Games, but the crime is usually sneaking an underage pitcher in Little League rather than entering underage girls in Olympic. It's frightening to imagine how skilled they might have been had they waited until they were 16 to compete. Somehow the Chinese just didn't pan out in the role of arch enemy, despite

• See SALZARULO page 27



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... CP PLAN continued from page 1

mittee participation. Comprehensive plans usually precede and inform zoning and development ordinances, capital improvement plans, and staffing decisions.

Monday night, the Planning Board agreed to incorporate the following categories in the Plan: population/economy, transportation, road safety, recreation, utilities, housing, environmental resources, community facilities, cultural/historical resources and land use. Each subject will be seen as a "chapter" in the Comprehensive Plan.

At the July 23 Planning Board meeting, the board will look at surveys used when the first and second Land Use Plans were initiated and could either pare them down or expand them. There will be at least two – a commercial and residential survey.

"The Town has a history of progressive planning, but has yet to bind together all the adopted policies and visions into a single plan," said Clabo. "A Comprehensive Plan will have all the information in one place which can be used as an education tool, as well as a resource backdrop for

ordinances. Since the development of a Comprehensive Plan involves significant data collection and analysis, numerous opportunities for public feedback, and integrated policy recommendations it's likely to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Planning Board members are Thomas Craig, Linda Clark, Patrick Leonard, Alan Marsh and new to the board, Glenda Bell and Mandy Neumann. One more member is needed to complete the board.

The next Planning Board meeting is Monday, July 23.
– **Kim Lewicki**

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... LETTERS from 2

who plan to install the fiber optics can also take an active role in the necessary dredging throughout Big Creek Watershed to help minimize costs as the town works to restore its water supply watershed.

I do hope the Town of Highlands considers the water quality not just the water quantity and the cheapest option. If you are a local resident, seasonal resident, tourist or visitor—please take a few minutes and contact the Town of Highlands' Manager and elected officials to urge them to invest in the highest quality water supply for the Town of Highlands. They can be reached at Town Hall, online or at 828-526-2118.

The Town of Highlands is unlike most – it is "above it all" – it has control over the headwaters and it has the power to offer Highland residents, second homeowners and tourists, a high quality water supply that many communities wished they had access to. Please act today- get involved and let the people with the power hear from you about this important issue, before it is too late.

They need to hear from all residents not just Big Creek and Lake Sequoyah residents. Tell them you want the highest quality water available to the Town of Highlands residents and that they should restore Big Creek and keep it as the primary water supply.

Michelle Price
Highlands

• COACH'S CORNER •

Hoisting the Colours

One of the questions that I am asked fairly often (although not as often as "just how tall are you?" and "when are you going to get a new picture in the paper?") is how I managed to come to my various sports allegiances. Since it is baseball season, my facebook page is littered with updates for my beloved Pittsburgh Pirates, and people wonder the reason why in the heck I became a Pittsburgh Pirate fan. Today, I answer the question of the day I first hoisted Pirate colours and why, after 19 straight losing seasons, I am a Pirate fan through and through.

The year was 1991 and I had become good friends with a student who had moved here a few years earlier. Her family had connections to Pittsburgh and it just so happened that the Pirates were playing the Atlanta Braves in the National League Championship Series. When the teacher asked who was cheering for the Braves, almost every student in the room raised their hand. However, being the chivalrous (and contrarian) young man that I was, I raised my hand when asked who would be cheering for the Pirates, and so I began my journey as a Pirate fan.

That first NLCS was not kind to me, as the Pirates lost in 7 games in what was a classic series. I didn't love baseball at that point, and therefore I was only slightly disappointed when the Bucs dropped the series. Game 7 was anti-climactic for me as Brian Hunter hit a homerun in the first inning and my 11 year old self went to bed in disgust. Despite this, by the time the 1992 NLCS rolled around, I was really into Pittsburgh baseball. I watched a special on This Week in Baseball about Doug Drabek's curveball and taught myself how to throw it. The Pirate outfield was spectacular with Andy Van Slyke and a young Barry Bonds, and a young guy by the name of Tim Wakefield had revitalized the pitching staff with his knuckleball. I even liked erstwhile closer Stan Belinda...that is until October came around.

Despite falling behind 3-1 in the se-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

ries against Atlanta, I kept the faith and was rewarded as the Bucs forced a game 7 behind a stellar performance from Wakefield in game 6. As I think back to sitting on the couch (ok, I lied, it was the floor-which is where I always sit when the games get serious) and watching game 7, all I really remember was Drabek pitching a phenomenal game and Pittsburgh scratching out a couple of runs to lead 2-0. My parents forced me to go to bed after the 7th inning, with Pittsburgh leading 2-0...which was probably the worst possible thing that could have happened.

When I awoke the next morning for school, I asked my dad what happened and he told me I would just have to watch Sportscenter to find out. The last time that I asked him something like that was when Duke beat Indiana in the NCAA Tournament semis and he wanted me to see the highlights for myself. Therefore, I was super excited to turn on

ESPN and see how the Bucs were going to the World Series. Instead, I saw one of the worst things in my life as the Braves had rallied in one of the most dramatic comebacks in sports history. It was the first time in my life that sports had ever hurt...I remember being in a daze all day because I couldn't believe it had happened. I still hate Francisco Cabrera and Sid Bream to this very day. A few years ago, I rewatched the game on ESPN Classic and felt the pain all over again, this time with all the "what-ifs" that I'm sure Bucs fans were going through in 1992. (What if the home plate ump hadn't collapsed and been replaced by Randy Marsh...who has a strike zone roughly the size of my thumbnail? What if Chico Lind hadn't booted that ground ball in the 9th? Etc. Etc.) Anyway, one of the reasons I am writing this is because by the time you read this I will have completed a pilgrimage to PNC Park in Pittsburgh to watch my beloved Buccos and their resurgent young team. I am hoping that this is the year that they break the horrible streak that began almost 20 years ago, but even if it takes another 20 years-I will still be there to raise the jolly roger when they do.

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2012

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TUES	OVEN OFF NIGHT 2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS. BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE ON THE SIDE, AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A FRENCH BAGUETTE. SERVES TWO.	\$21.95
WED	JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.	\$31.95
THURS	BABY BACK RIBS COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD. SERVES TWO.	\$21.95
FRI	SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.	\$22.95
SAT	IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS. SERVES TWO.	\$20.95

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Better buckle up



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged.
Email

swanson@dnet.net

If you are one of us news wonk types, Thursday the 28th was your Fourth of July, New Year's Eve and the Superbowl wrapped into one. Perhaps the most important issue of the day was the Supremes' announcement that most of Obamacare was Constitutional. The results came as a great surprise to most pundits and everyone else as Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the libs to make it 5-4 in favor. What would have caused an alleged conservative George Bush appointee to go over to the other side?

There are opinions flying around as to which side really won, and what did they win? We'll get to that, but first, some interesting theories came out of the woodwork. First, Michael Savage on his radio program following the decision:

"I'm going to tell you something that you are not going to hear anywhere else, that you must pay attention to. It is well known that Roberts, unfortunately for

him, has suffered from epileptic seizures. Therefore, he has been on medication. Neurologists will tell you that medication used for seizure disorders, such as epilepsy, can introduce mental slowing, forgetfulness and other cognitive problems. And if you look at Robert's writings you can see the cognitive dissociation in what he is saying."

Are Savage's observations valid? The following is excerpted from a New York Times story that appeared in an August

1, 2007 article: "Despite his quick recovery from the seizure he suffered on Monday, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. faces a complex diagnosis and a difficult decision. Because the seizure was his second - he had a similar one in 1993 - he meets the criteria for epilepsy, and he and his doctors will have to decide whether he should take medication to prevent further seizures, said neurologists.

But the drugs can have troubling side effects, including drowsiness or insomnia, mental slowing and forgetfulness. Many patients can be treated with minimal side effects doctors say, but it may take trial and error to find the right drug."

So evidently Savage may have some validity in his conclusions.

Getting back to winners and losers, The Washington Times has an article that pretty well sums up my views: "Traitor! Turncoat! Benedict Arnold! Those contemptuous epithets and more were hurled by Republicans and conservatives at Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. moments after he single-handedly saved Obamacare, joining liberals on the bench to break a 4-4 tie.

The Supreme Court has abandoned us,' Texas Gov. Rick Perry declared. 'Simply disappointing,' Florida Gov. Rick Scott moaned. 'Activist court' Rep. Michele Bachmann cried. Even Ari Fleischer, the former spokesman for George W. Bush, who appointed Chief Justice Roberts to the court, joined in. "I miss Justice Harriet Miers," he whined. But they all miss the point, and more, by looking purely at the political, they miss the forest for the trees.

In voting to uphold Mr. Obama's di-

• See SWANSON page 20

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

NC Council of State women to attend WNC rallies

The 11th Congressional District Democratic Party announced today that all four women on the Council of State and the Party's candidate for Lt. Governor will be coming to western North Carolina on Saturday, August 11 for two major rallies.

The McDowell County Courthouse in Marion will be the first stop on these candidates' swing through the mountains with festivities beginning at 10:30am. In the afternoon they will travel to Sylva where rally activities start at 3:30pm in the Community Room of the historic Jackson County Courthouse.

Each candidate – Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State; Beth Wood, State Auditor; Janet Cowell, State Treasurer; June Atkinson, State Superintendent; and, Lt. Governor candidate, Linda Coleman have all expressed excitement about coming westward and sharing their vision for North Carolina's future.

After first serving in the state senate, in 1996 Secretary of State Elaine Marshall became the first woman ever elected to a statewide executive branch office. As part of her duties, Marshall oversees state securities and investments and is committed to holding powerful interests accountable when they've misled investors.

Because of her extensive auditing experience, Beth Wood was elected North Carolina's State Auditor in

Tour 8 mountain gardens: 2012 Mountain in Bloom Garden Festival Garden Tour

The highlight of this year's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival Garden Tour, on July 13th and 14th, is an opportunity to visit the sumptuous gardens of eight homes in the Ravenel Community. These gardens are almost never opened for public viewing.

Garden tour times are filling fast! Tickets are \$80 per person and include a delicious box lunch on The Bascom Terrace. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call 828.787.2896, stop by The Bascom or visit TheBascom.org/mountainsinbloom.

Balentine, an independent, employee-owned investment management firm with offices in Atlanta and North Carolina, is the lead sponsor for Mountains in Bloom. Other Mountains in Bloom partners include Old Edwards Inn and Spa, The Outdoor Lights, Franklin Ford and Moss Robertson Cadillac. Delta Air Lines is the official airline of The Bascom.

The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

2008. Her background included auditing municipalities, counties, and large not-for-profits. As State Auditor, Wood is responsible of assuring that all state agencies use taxpayers' funds wisely.

North Carolina's first female State Treasurer, Janet Cowell, oversees more than \$70 billion in pension fund investments for the state's 850,000 public employees. Her commitment to solid economic policies has kept NC in secure financial standing.

State Superintendent June Atkinson oversees more than 2,500 public schools with enrollments of over 1.5 million students. Under her tenure, NC's high school

graduation rate has increased every single year. Atkinson energetically promotes adequate funding for state's schools; increased verbal, math and science skills; and an expanded access to technology.

Linda Coleman, candidate for Lt. Governor, has served three years in the North Carolina House and was selected by Gov. Perdue to be Director of NC's State Employees Association. Coleman has been a strong supporter of early childhood education programs and tax credits to help small businesses provide health insurance for their employees.

Featured Dinner Items

Antipasti

Melanzane Alla
Parmigiana - 9

Eggplant sliced and lightly
breaded, filled with Ricotta
cheese and spinach, baked
with Mozzarella and Asiago
cheese, and Marinara sauce
Frittura Di Calamaretti - 10

Fried calamari with
zucchini, mushrooms and
roasted pepper aioli
Carpaccio Di Manzo - 12

Thinly sliced raw beef
tenderloin, baby arugula,
truffle cheese, lemon and
olive oil

Prosciutto e Melone - 10
Fresh seasonal melon
wrapped with Prosciutto Di
Parma

Insalate

Brutto Pomodori - 9

The famous "Ugly
Tomatoes" Buffalo
Mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh
basil and balsamic honey
reduction

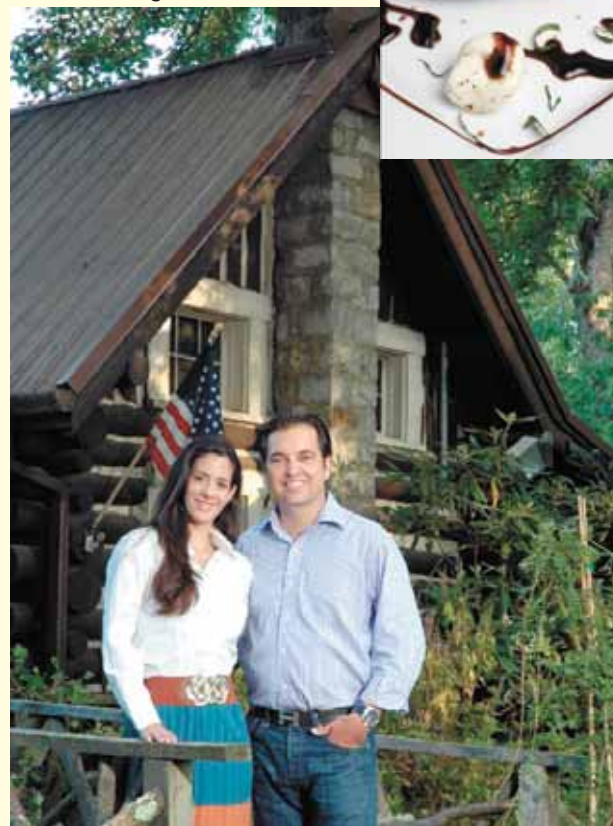
Insalata Di Pere - 8
Mixed greens, caramelized
pears, Gorgonzola cheese,
candied walnuts & Cham-
pagne vinaigrette

Insalata Di Rucola - 8
Baby arugula, heart of
palms, artichoke, sundried
tomatoes, kalamata olives,
shaved reggiano, with a
lemon olive oil vinaigrette
and drizzled with truffle oil

Insalata Di Barbabietole - 9
Beet, arugula, romaine,
spinach, fresh orange wedges,
candied pecans, red onion
and gorgonzola cheese in a
ginger citrus vinaigrette

Rustico at the Log Cabin

828-526-0999
130 Log Cabin Lane
Highlands



Restaurateurs Heinrich and Pamela Lowenberg of Cafe Via Flora on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, Florida, bring their vision to Rustico at The Log Cabin, on Log Cabin Lane in Highlands. Beginning July 4 at 5:30 p.m., they will be serving fine northern Italian cuisine in the elegantly rustic atmosphere of the Log Cabin.

Pasta & Risotto

Linguine Alle Vongole -22
Linguini tossed with steam
little neck clams, garlic,
white wine and red crushed
pepper

Ravioli Di Cinghiale - 26
Ravioli with slowly braised
wild boar and mixed with ar-
omatic herbs and vegetables,
Mascarpone cheese in a

Chianti jus
Risotto Ai Frutti Di Mare - 24

Arborio rice with shrimps,
scallops, clams and calamari
Pappardelle Con Vitello-23

Parpadelle pasta with veal
ragu, mushrooms,
parmesan cheese and
truffle oil

Carni & Pesci

Cotoletta di Vitello -33
Grilled veal chops with a
Barolo jus, creamy
rosemary polenta and
sautéed rapini

Filet Mignon -30
Seared and roasted prime
beef tenderloin with a red
wine reduction, confit
fingerling potatoes and pesto
stuffed Roma

tomatoes with gorgonzola
Salmone Arrosto -26
Wild Sockeye Salmon with a
lemon butter mango
salsa, with roasted
potatoes and grilled
vegetables

Coniglio Scarpariello -24
Rabbit with Italian
sausage, kalamata olives,
roasted potatoes and fresh
tomatoes in a red wine
demi-glaze

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• JUST HERS •

Driving Miss Michie • Part 1

You get a unique perspective on life by seeing it from the passenger seat. Some people think that being a passenger means being spoiled, or at least passive. I disagree. For years, I have been an active passenger, reading maps, looking out for signs and places of interest, and generally being alert and helpful. And while the front passenger seat is losing its nickname of the "death seat" (we even call it "la place du mort" in France), it is not without its hazards.

Seat belts and air bags have made this position in the car a safer one, but not before I got a chipped tooth in the Highlands of Scotland. We were driving down the road at a reasonable speed when a ewe stepped into the road, trying to cross over to her offspring on the other side. I was bent over, trying to find a local radio station, and wound up changing dial channels with my front teeth. Woolly mother and child were unscathed, I am pleased to report. My teeth? Not so much.

I had been planning to get my North Carolina driver's license for longer than a Kardashian marriage, in fact, longer than most marriages. While John was alive, he would make snide comments about this, but showed an equal lack of enthusiasm about teaching me to drive. On the rare occasions I did get behind the wheel – perfectly illegal, I now understand – his criticism did not encourage me to pursue this line of activity any further. Upon John's death, however, I was a widow with wheels, but no license – an odd state of affairs. Sudden widowhood had brought me face-to-face with many trials and difficulties. With so much to deal with, driving just seemed like one more insurmountable challenge.

This is America, though – the country where every teenager's rite of passage is getting a permit, so why didn't I have mine? As the youngest child, and only daughter, my parents were not eager to let me out of their sight. A month after getting his permit, my brother had wrecked our mother's car, skidding on gravel, and then turning the wheel sharply so that the car rolled over. As my mother confessed, "It was the first time I'd ever heard the word "totaled." As far as my parents were concerned, driving a car was something young men did to prac-



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

tice being stupid.

I was sick and tired of the daily litany from most of my friends and acquaintances in Highlands, "Have you got your license yet?" I developed a number of witty, sarcastic replies to this one. "No," I would say. "It gives you something to talk about. If I got it, then you'd have to start asking about my sex life." I realized people were getting annoyed with me, but I

was getting frustrated, too. It was a badge of honor not to bum too many rides off people, but I found that many single folks were delighted to have company on shopping trips, or just to go on rides in the country. I did my best to be helpful and entertaining, sometimes picking up the bill for lunch or gas.

And then it dawned on me. I'd been living for years in a town where people drove while texting, and talking on their cell phones. They didn't signal before they turned. They used two parking spaces to park. They wove down the road, crossing the double yellow line. They tailgated. They passed where it was forbidden. Did I really think I was going to drive worse than them? I had an epiphany.

North Carolina drivers' code at the ready, I decided to take fate into my own hands, studiously marking significant passages with yellow magic marker. Discovering that you could do sample tests online, I tried them all, failing on the first few, until I got a 97%, then a 100%. Finding a game that tested knowledge of road signs, I played it until I got them all right.

At last, I was ready. I saw my friend, Lee – one of the biggest campaigners for me to get my license, and one with whom I'd even had a few sharp words. "Are you doing anything on Friday, June 22nd?" I asked, trying very hard to be nonchalant. "Why? Whatcha thinking of doing?" she replied. "Oh, I thought maybe you could drive me into Franklin to get my Learner's Permit," I said. She looked at me, stunned. "Well, glory, hallelujah," she yelled – or words to that effect.

That fatal Friday, I was as wound up as an old watch. Lee picked me up at home, and we started down the Gorge Road, that local thoroughfare which re-

• See JUST HERS page 21

• INVESTING AT
4,118 FT. •

Who's Who in Real Estate



Pat Allen, Broker-in-charge

pat.f.allen@gmail.com

patallenrealtgroup.com

828-200-9179 (cell)

828-526-8784 (office)

There are so many articles already written that suggest you clean your house, paint your house, deodorize your house etc. if listing your house and so many articles that give statistics of our marketplace and suggest that this is the time to buy with historic interest rates and the fact that the "bottom" has been reached -so what else do I feel is important to the consumer?

That topic is agency. Who represents you as the seller if I have your listing and who represents the buyer if I show them your property? So here's my attempt to explain it all.

When a broker lists your house he/she and all agents in their firm become sellers' agents and it is their duty to promote your best interest, be loyal, use reasonable skills, care and diligence, and account for all monies they handle for you. The listing firm and all agents may not share any confidential information about you to prospective buyers without your permission as long as they are listed with you.

The listing firm and its agents are obligated to help you price your property, advertise and market your property, provide you with proper forms required by the Real Estate Commission, negotiate with you for the best terms and price, review all offers with you and promote your property in all aspects until the closing occurs.

When working with a buyer a broker represents the seller unless the buyer wants you to become a buyer's agent for

• See INVESTING page 26



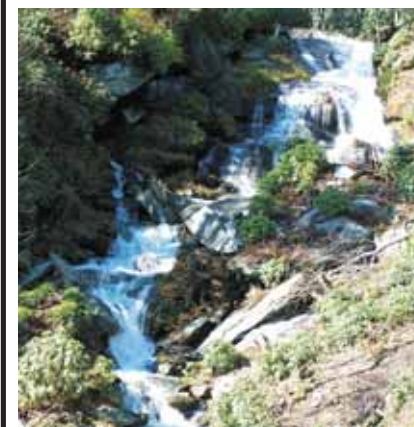
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Three Bed, 2 Bath. Great view home in excellent condition. Double garage with workshop, large covered front deck, cedar lined closets, landscaped yard, paved driveway. Offered at \$245,000. MLS #75514



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Extremely comfortable 2 BR 2BA home with gorgeous wood floors, walls and ceilings. Cathedral height throughout. Large screened in porch w/sound of water. Great room has beautiful stone fireplace. Large walk-in closet in master. Terraced and landscaped. Owners installed new AC system, granite in kitchen, new appliances, upgraded baths and kitchen hardware. Has single carport. Offered at \$339,000. mls #75277

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• REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS • Properties for Sale

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– Only \$144,900! –



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Cell: 770-337-1000

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(828)526-2475



Was \$389,000 NOW \$349,000.
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\$299,000
Webbmont -3 BR/ 3 baths all on one level with spacious rooms. Screened porch, being sold furnished.
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Walk to Mirror Lake. 3/3 1/2 on 1+ private acre with level yard.
\$329,000. MLS #73333



Panoramic Views Under \$200K!



Neat-as-a-pin and light & bright, this lovely 3 BR/2 BA home is located on the Atlanta side of Highlands in Sky Valley, GA. Charming fenced front yard; granite counter tops; spacious bedrooms; stone, wood-burning fireplace; vaulted ceilings; and covered decking to enjoy the panoramic views. Some furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$199,500. MLS #72440. *Bank-approved short sale!*

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Quintessential mountain retreat with 3 BR/3.5 BA. Open floor plan, large rooms, soaring ceilings, chef's kitchen w/ granite counter tops, built-ins, cocktail/breakfast bar, and a dining area that begs for a dinner party. Professional workshop and attached garage. Custom throughout. Fireplaces in dining area/master suite. Ample decking! Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$825,000. MLS #74426.

The Perfect Mountain View Lot



This pretty view lot is in the quiet neighborhood of Shortoff Farms and features a gentle building site, beautiful Shortoff Mountain views, and privacy. 3-bedroom septic permit and a shared well. (View is from the adjoining lot where the view has been cleared. The view from this lot would be more panoramic with trimming.) Shared well is 575' deep, with a flow rate of 30 gal./min. (One other house is on the well). Broker owned. Offered at \$155,000, MLS #73903, 1.02 +/- Acres.



Highlands Falls CC. 3/3 pristine home adjoins USFS with mountain view. \$539,000. MLS #73006



Shortoff Rd. 4/2 great family home with privacy and large screened porch. \$289,000. MLS #73899



Beautiful remodeled home offers 5 bedrooms all on one level. Unique find in Highlands. 3.7 acres. \$1,150,000 MLS #68645



Luxury mountain home in Brushy Face with amazing views of Blue Valley. Close to town. 5/5.5 \$2,850,000 MLS #75072



Stunning home built by Tommy Chambers on 5 private acres. Gorgeous grounds with mountain view. 5/5.5 \$2,247,000 MLS #71331



PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.
 - Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.
 - Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per calss.
- First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Thursdays, Fri., Sat

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Norma Jean. 6:30-9p. Call 526-2121.
- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.
- Free dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Friday & Saturdays

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road 7p until. Hal Phillips. Also 2:30-4 on Saturday. Call 526-2121.

Saturdays

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, 2-4p. Call 526-2121.

- The Highlands Farmers Market 9am-12 through October at Highlands School.
- The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is

Follow the Star...Bazaar is Sat., July 7th.



From left: Vangie Rich, Al Scudder of Scudder's Gallery, Gay Kattel, and Wiley Sloan. The Highlands United Methodist Church Bazaar committee members met with Al Scudder to finalize plans for the Live Auction part of the Preview Party which takes place on Friday July 6th at 5 p.m.. Tickets are required and may be purchased at the church or from committee members for \$15 per person. Included are refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres as well as the opportunity to have first pick of the many items available at the auctions as well as the Bazaar Shops.

Highlands United Methodist Church will stage its Follow the Star...Bazaar on Saturday, July 7th.

To give patrons a taste of the treasures available, there'll be a Friday night Preview Party and Auction, slated for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The church will be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres while the bidding begins on treasures like a weekend at the beach, paintings, a handsome bronze, jewelry, or a ski vacation.

Even Pastor Paul Christy is getting into the act - he'll be offering his services as a fly fishing guide.

But the preview party and auction is just the opening event for a sale that's stuffed with temptations and treasures.

Opening at 8 a.m., the bazaar will wind through the church. The Treasure Boutique offers quality home furnishings, lamps, needlepoint. Local artists will provide gorgeous pottery, quilts, afghans and paintings.

The Preschool Room will be transformed into a suite of gently-used furniture perfect for a dorm room or first apart-

ment.

Grandmother's Pantry is stocked with homemade jams, jellies, cakes, pies, pickles, casseroles, soups and other terrific treats.

The Garden Shop is located on the church's front lawn and offers decorative items for your garden including rhododendron trellis, archways, decorative accessories for the porch or patio or garden plus a wide variety of local plants.

Bring the children and spend the day. There'll be a special Children's Playground at the rear of the church with supervised activities.

In the Café, you can enjoy delicious breakfast items from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. and runs through 2 p.m. on the front lawn of the church.

Highlands United Methodist Church is located at 315 Main Street. For more info or to buy tickets to the Preview Party or to donate items call the Church office at (828) 526-3376.

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Highlands Area Upcoming Events



having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! Call Diane 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

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

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend. **Through - Sun., July 8**

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Wednesday, July 4

• All Fontana Regional libraries will be closed. (Hudson Library in Highlands). They will reopen on Thursday.
• Freedom the Eagle at the Bird Barn at Falls on Main next to Mountain Fresh Foods from 11a-1p.

• First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will present the annual patriotic concert at 8 pm on Wednesday. The free concert will last approximately 45 minutes, ensuring plenty of time to watch the town fireworks display. Featured will be Larry Black, trumpet, Angie Jenkins, organist, and the Highlands Male Chorus under the direction of Joe Powell. Come dressed as you are. In the event the fireworks display is cancelled due to rain, the concert will

still take place. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• Rotary cook-out and first ever Rubber Duck Derby. The cookout begins at 11 a.m. and the derby begins on Mill Creek at the Spruce Street culvert at 1:30p. \$5 gets you a luncheon plate. Two flights back to back with cash prize of \$250 for first place. Ducks are available for purchase the day of the event. One duck is \$10, Quack Pack is \$50 for six ducks. The Super Quack Pack for \$100 gets you 13 ducks. All proceeds fund Rotary community projects. For more information, call Brian Stiehler at 787-2778.

Thursday, July 5

• Taize service at Incarnation Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m.

• Live Bluegrass music at Fressers in Helen's Barn at 6 m.

• At 7 p.m. on July 5 the Highlands Biological Foundation will kick-off the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at the Highlands Nature Center, where researchers affiliated with the Highlands Biological Station (HBS) will give short presentations on the research that they conduct with HBS. All Zahner Conservation Lectures take place at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road, and are free and open to the public. Please note that parking is very limited. For more information about the Highlands Biological Foundation, or these programs, visit

www.highlandsbiological.org or call (828) 526-2221.

Friday, July 6

• Preview Party & Auction – the precursor to the Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church – 5-7:30 p.m. \$15 per person includes preview party and auction with heavy hors oeuvres at the church on Main Street..

Saturday, July 7

• Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church 8a to 4p. Breakfast will be available from 8-10a; and lunch from 11:30a-1:30p

• The Bascom celebrates the 50th anniversary of the studio glass movement and its founding father Harvey K. Littleton with Joan Byrd from 3-4 p.m. A member of Littleton's first glassblowing class at the University of Wisconsin in 1962, Byrd now teaches ceramics at the College of Fine and Performing Arts, Western Carolina University, in Cullowhee, N.C. Join The Bascom for a presentation and book signing.

• Live at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

• Calloway Family Reunion at the Owens field in Satolah, GA. Bring a dish or two, drinks, chairs, tent, instruments and family members. The meat will be provided

ed so please RSVP with number of those coming. Call Donnie and Bixy Calloway at 828-526-9755, 828-200-9884 or 828-200-9885. It begins at 11 a.m., and food will be served at 12:30p. From Highlands, take NC 28 south (the Walhalla Road) for 8 miles until you come to Walkingstick Road, turn left. Saty on the road until you come to the big field on the right.

Monday, July 9

• Jamming with James at 6 p.m. at Fressers.

Tuesday, July 10

• Relay for Life, ON THE VERANDAH PERCENTAGE NIGHT. On the Verandah Restaurant will be donating 15 percent of their sales to the 2012 Relay For Life of Highlands. Please call the restaurant to make a reservation at 828-526-2338 or make reservations online at <http://www.opentable.com/on-the-verandah?ref=10048&tr=1>.

• Come and listen to the stories at the Story Swap on Tuesday 7:30 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 5-7 minute story to tell or read, sign up at the pub or call 369-1927. Pre-registration is required.

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers li-

• See EVENTS page 18

The return of ...

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Wednesday, July 4

at 11a-1p


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Wednesday, July 11

\$125 members, \$140 non-members
Leave Highlands at 8:00 a.m.

Return in the evening

THE ART OF WOODY ALLEN

Presenter: Colin Mackey
Fri, July 6, 10:30-12:30 at Hudson
Library, \$20/\$30

POWERFUL INTIMACY:

The Chamber Music of Ludwig van Beethoven
Presenter: Dr. Ben Arnold
Sat, July 7, 10:00-12:00 at PAC, \$20/\$30

THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN POETRY

Presenter: Philip Deaver and Susan Lilly
Tuesday, July 10 10:00-12:00 at PAC,
\$20/\$30

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For more information and complete schedule:

www.clehighlands.com or
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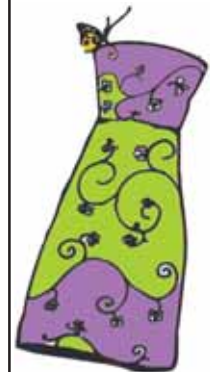
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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

brary. The meeting will begin at 7 PM preceded by a casting clinic at 6:15 PM. The speaker is Alex Bell, owner of AB's Fly Fishing Guide Service and co-creator of the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail which outlines 15 prime fishing stops in Jackson County. Fol-

lowing the meeting, a raffle will be held featuring flies, accessories and the grand prize of a handmade fiberglass rod for small streams. Everyone is welcome. Call 828-885-7130 for additional information.
Wed., July 11

• A free Interlude concert presented by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and are held at 2 pm. Dress is casual. Trey Clegg, organ at the Presbyterian Church.

Thurs., July 12-Sun., July 22

• At The Highlands Playhouse, Walter Cronkite is Dead. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Thursday, July 12

• At 7 p.m. the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series will continue with Ben Steere from the Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program at the University of Georgia. Ben will give a talk titled "The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project:

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Political play 'Walter Cronkite' opens JULY 12 at The Playhouse

Theater and politics. The two words have gone hand in hand since early Greece when playwrights such as Aristophanes would write bawdy comedies that sought to incite social change and draw attention to the issues of the day. In today's polarizing political climate "red" and "blue" have taken on new meaning, and we seem to track politics in an overly-partisan way.

The Highlands Playhouse's Walter Cronkite is Dead works these partisan ideals through this hysterical comedy about two women stuck at Reagan National Airport during a storm. Do not be alarmed though, as this play pushes stereotype only far enough for identification. Audiences will quickly identify the Southern Conservative who drinks Coke and reads Paula Deen's Magazine and the Liberal Washingtonian who loves white wine. The crux of the play runs deeper though, as these women discuss their faith, their families, and their thoughts on the world that they live in. "Highlands is such a diverse place, and this play reflects that diversity," Exec-

utive Director Tina Rogers said, "The play explores politics and partisanship without ever saying 'This is right' or 'This is wrong.'"

The play, which features ER star Ellen Crawford and Los Angeles actress Jacquelyn Riggs, is a Highlands Premiere and is sure to excite the crowds who come and see it. The play transcends just talking points and becomes an open dialogue – as these two women work to accomplish what so few can when talking about hot button issues, listening to the other side's point of view. The table is set by a line of two words early in the play, "Let's talk." And talk they do.

Walter Cronkite is Dead opens on Thursday, July 12th and runs through Sunday, July 22nd. The show opens after the critically acclaimed production of The Spitfire Grill closes this Sunday, July 8th. Tickets to either play can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 828-526-2695. Visit www.highlandsplayhouse.org for more information.

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Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

New perspectives on human settlement in the southern Appalachians." All Zahner Conservation Lectures take place at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road, and are free and open to the public. Please note that parking is very limited. For more information about the Highlands Biological Foundation, or these programs, visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call (828) 526-2221. Friday,

Fri.-Sun., July 13-15

- The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival. On the 14th, it's eight gardens in the Ravenel area. Tour participants will also enjoy a gourmet box lunch served on the Terrace at The Bascom between 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Tickets for the garden tours are \$80 per person. Group discounts are available. At The Bascom campus, on Friday and Saturday, July 13-14, from 9a-5p, free-admission juried Flower Show with nationally recognized judges. Then on Sunday, July 15 it's a private tour from 1-3 pm tour. Benefactors are also invited to the premier event for Mountains in Bloom, the "Flower Drum Song" Benefactor Party on Sunday. Stroll through the magical and enchanting, lushly landscaped gardens at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn. Music by Jim Gibson of Hickory Cove Music. A seated candlelight dinner with exquisite cuisine prepared by New Mountain Events will follow. For information call 787-2866.

- The 5th annual Highlands Motoring Festival at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street 10a-4p. All proceeds to benefit the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. Over 125 automobiles of various makes and models will be on display at this event. Participants will be vying for over 30 awards to be presented in a number of classes.

Friday, July 13

- Kindermusik Summer Classes begin for children newborn to 7 years and meets once a week in Cashiers at The Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. Activities are designed to increase your child's learning potential, and include singing, dancing, playing instruments, and fun! Contact Lori Richards at The Music Village 828-293-5600 for more information or to try a free class.

H-C Chamber Music Festival launches its own fireworks!



From left: Charae Krueger, Dominic Salerni, William Preucil, and Yinzi Kong

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival launches its 31st season in the shadow of the Fourth of July with its own "fireworks" display.

The season begins on Friday, July 6th, and Saturday, July 7th, with Musical Fireworks -- a dazzling display of the virtuoso pyrotechnics of Kreisler, Liszt, Saint-Saens and more with violin wizards William Preucil and Dominic Salerni, and William Ransom on piano.

Those performances will be followed on Sunday, July 8th and Monday, July 9th, with Preucil and Salerni; violists Daniel Avshalomov and Yinzi Kong; cellist Charae Krueger; and Ransom performing Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak.

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival season, concerts will be held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be staged at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Cen-

ter in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

The 2012 Performance Schedule stretches all the way from Friday to Sunday, August 12th, culminating with a final gala concert at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and a Dinner Party at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The season will feature festival favorites like The Attacca String Quartet and The Eroica Trio, plus a sprinkling of new talent.

With all that talent, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival can't help but spill out into its host communities. Everyone is invited to attend the free "Beer & G Strings Concert," featuring The Vega String Quartet and Krueger from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11th, at The Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands.

The Vega Quartet will offer another free show at Buck's Coffee Shop on Main Street in Highlands from 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 25th.

The Linden String Quartet will stage a free concert at Buck's Café in Cashiers (at the Crossroads) at 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 1st.

Bach at Buck's is as natural a combination as, well, rich coffee and warm, mellow notes.

Even the Center for Life Enrichment is getting into the act. Dr. Benjamin Arnold will offer "Powerful Intimacy -- the Chamber Music of Ludwig van Beethoven" on Saturday, July 7th, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. For registration or more information, call CLE at (828) 526-8811.

In addition to its nationally-recognized program of concerts, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is laced with a series of Feasts of the Festival. They're a chance to meet fascinating people and enjoy marvelous food and drink in some of the most breathtaking homes in Western North Carolina. Feasts continue through September and will feature an irresistible series of locations and menus.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org or call (828) 526-9060.



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... SWANSON continued from page 8

sastrous health-care overhaul, the chief justice took away the president's main line of attack that surely would have been deployed had the court voted 5-4, along party lines. The Divider-in-Chief, already bent on stoking cultural warfare – upper-middle class vs. lower-middle class, white against black against Hispanic, gay against straight, believers against non-believers – had no doubt hoped to win one more target for his bilious bifurcation.

Were the five justices appointed by Republican presidents to have stuck together in opposition, Mr. Obama would have toured the country (at taxpayer expense) to decry the court's action as nothing more than political usurpation – how dare those five men take away the will of the people?

But Justice Roberts did just the opposite (and adhered to the original intent of the Constitution in doing so). Obamacare is unconstitutional if it were to be

enacted via the Commerce Clause, but not if it is simply a tax, the justice wrote. 'Because the Constitution permits such a tax, it is not our role to forbid it, or to pass upon its wisdom or fairness.'

In doing so, Justice Roberts has just busted Campaign 2012 wide open. The high court's ruling leaves in place 21 tax increases costing nearly \$700 billion. Of those taxes, 12 would affect families earning less than \$250,000 per year. Now, Mr. Obama and congressional Democrats have enacted the largest tax increase in history."

Was Roberts medicinally deluded or wise as a fox? I think the latter.

On to Holder, who, on the day of the Supremes vote, was the subject of another vote. CNN.com reports: "The House of Representatives voted Thursday to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt for refusing to turn over documents tied to the botched Fast and Furious gun-running sting – a discredited operation that has become a sharp point of contention between Democrats and Republicans in Washington.

The House approved a pair of criminal and civil measures against the attorney general marking the first time in American history that the head of the Justice Department has been held in contempt by Congress." A headline from the Chicago Tribune tells the next step in the saga: "Justice Department won't prosecute Attorney General Holder for contempt of Congress." No kidding. His own underlings won't bring him to trial. SHOCKING! There is more to come – don't despair. He'll twist in the wind for months.

The third item, for which I have no space to pursue, is huge in the international economic scheme of things. A headline from The Telegraph is as far as I can go for now. "Debt crisis: Germany caves in over bond buying, bank aid after Italy and Spain threaten to block 'everything.' Germany has caved into demands made by Italy and Spain for immediate eurozone aid to bring down their soaring borrowing costs, sending the euro and markets higher (Dow up 277 Friday)."

That's all, Folks.

... DEBATE continued from page 1

lion jobs because of regulations. 90% of our natural resources are regulated: nuclear power plants, and now no Keystone pipeline due to regulations. We have to decide – jobs or a radical agenda like the president's. We need a good energy policy.

Vance Patterson:

Regulations are oppressing areas of the American economy. The Keystone pipeline would have pumped 1.3 million gallons a day. There are regulations regarding human resources, questions a business can't ask so business owners can't tell whether they are getting a good employee or not. It's oppressive. That's one way the government is holding back our economy. There are over-time regulations. It's getting worse and you need a businessman to stop it.

Question 8: What should be done about the influx of undocumented immigrants?

Vance Patterson:

The key difference between me and Mr. Meadows is that I am against amnesty. And if you don't send them home, it's amnesty. I think we should build a fence and seal the border because the influx needs to stop. We can't have an un-secure border. If we take away the attractions that gets them here, that will help. Take away their health-care. These are tough decision. Take away their education benefits. Once the tough decisions are made we can figure out how to deal with it.

Mark Meadows:

I am not for amnesty. We have tried that twice before and it doesn't work. We need to control the border. Agriculture is the largest employer of immigrants – it's a big attraction. We need a path to legal immigration. The democrats say government is the answer to every problem except immigration, then they say business is responsible. Another thing is English is our official language and we will reclaim America.

Next week Question 9: Can you explain what happens to good men who go to Washington and then lose their way? What would you do to keep from this happening to you?



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... K-H Park from pg 1

agreed to continue its participation in the Small Town Main Street Program (STMS) whose two-year stint is up, as long as it doesn't involve any money.

Except for occasional travel expenses for consultants, Town Planner David Clabo said there isn't any money associated with the partnership. Frye said when the Planning Department's travel money is gone, no more will be allocated for FY 2012'13.

Frye has allocated an additional \$20,000 for the STMS Wayfinding project for the fabrication and installation of signs around town. That aspect of the project is estimated to cost \$33,000-\$44,000.

The town already spent \$27,500 to fund the consultation/design portion of the project.

President of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob Kieltyka said his board agreed to allocate \$10,000 toward the project.

The board voted 4 to 1 to meet once a month – the third Thursday – rather than the first and third Thursday. Commissioner Patterson said she would go along with it but the first time the meeting runs over 3 ½ hours “she's out.”

Frye believes preparing for a meeting once a month versus twice a month will save staff considerable time which translates to money. He also said staff comp time will decrease since staff members required to be at meetings are paid with time off rather than money.

The next Town Board meeting is Thursday, July 19 at 7 p.m. but will be held at the Rec Park that night only. The normal meeting place is at the Community Building next to the ballfield however, the community building had been reserved for more than a year for another function on that date. Since the town recently changed its meeting dates from Tuesday to Thursdays, there was a conflict.

— Kim Lewicki

... JUST HERS from 10

minds you that getting behind the wheel can get you killed, in so many interesting and colorful ways. I tried to make witty conversation, all the while reviewing details of the driving code in my head. I even tried to bring facts into the conversation. “Oh, look!” I said. “That's road maintenance! See the diamond-shaped orange sign with black lettering?” When we were stopped briefly to let traffic go on the other side, I rolled down my window to make conversation with the workmen. “I'm getting my license at the DMV!” I bragged shamelessly. On reflection, most of them must have thought “Who's that old bat, and why has she waited so long to get her permit?”

We got to the bottom of the Gorge, and looked at each other blankly. How did you get to the DMV? Lee commented that it would be the irony of all ironies to get lost on the way to take my test. I didn't laugh so hard. I was beyond irony, somewhere between blind terror and sheer panic. We took a wild guess at directions, and to our great relief, eventually wound up at the DMV. I took a deep breath, and opened the car door. “Come on,” I said to myself. “You're a bright woman. There are so many stupid people who've managed to get their licenses. Surely you can't be any dumber than they are.” Ah, but was I? I walked to the door of the DMV like Marie Antoinette walking to the guillotine, minus the drum rolls and shouting peasants. “You can do this,” I chanted to myself, over and over. I opened the door, and Lee and I walked in.

• Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. Michelle is saddened that her late husband didn't live long enough to see this part of her life play out. She is sure that if he were still alive, he'd be saying those encouraging words, “Turn the wheel, dammit, now shift down! No, shift up! No, wait! Brake!”



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John 3:16

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Proverbs 3:5

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Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

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

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

Cafe, Cashiers

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

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

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

Healing Service at noon

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship

Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS

Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal beginning at

9:00am. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service held at 10:30am in the Main Nave of the Church.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day; School - 9:30

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

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School - 10 am, Worship Service - 11 am

Bible Study - 6 pm

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Randy Reed, Pastor

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Sundays: Worship - 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening

Worship, 6:30 p.m.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult

choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

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

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

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Louggins

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

God's sovereignty and generosity

By Pastor Charles Harris

Highlands First Baptist Church

Someone has said "New Testament parables are heavenly stories with an earthly setting." Parables normally have one main thrust...i.e., one main emphasis. Jesus often taught using parables.

The parable that I am focusing on is interesting, but confusing. Jesus told this parable after the rich young ruler had questioned him regarding eternal life. In this one case Jesus knew that "the young man's possessions were possessing him." Therefore, Jesus told him to sell all of his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor... then become a committed disciple. Jesus and the disciples watched sadly as the young man walked away without eternal life. Then Simon Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, made a statement and asked a question "We have given up everything to follow you. What's in it for us?" Jesus shared this parable in response to Peter's statement and question (Read Matthew 20:1-16).

Let me share my insights regarding this parable using seven topics.

Five important truths regarding this parable:

The emphasis here is on Christian service and not on salvation...Salvation is God's gift to us and can't be earned or purchased.

- This parable teaches that good intentions have some value...obviously not equal to deeds, but have some value verses doing nothing.

- Jesus is sharing a spiritual principle...not a business principle.

- The primary emphasis is on the landowner's generosity, not his fairness in hiring and paying his workers.

- The most important truth taught in this parable is that God is much more generous to us than this landowner was to his workers

Summarization of the parable:

- The vineyard owner went to the market place to hire day laborers

- He hired workers at five different times during the day beginning at six a.m. • He negotiated the amount of pay only with those hired first because they wanted to know up front how much pay they would receive for their labor

- Those hired later in the day had no stipulated or agreed amount...just the owner saying "I will pay you what is fair."

- Those hired last were asked an important question before they were hired "Why are you not working?" Their honest answer was "Because no one has hired us!"

Insights into those hired last (at 5 pm)

- They had been waiting eleven hours to be hired...Waiting is often harder than working.

- They had been willing to work, but had no opportunity.

- They immediately went to work with only one hour until "quitting time"

- They received a job offer, but no assurance of pay....only the simple instruction "Go!"

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 22

There were three surprises at "Quitting Time."

- Those hired first were paid last
- Those hired last were paid first
- They were all paid the same amount!

Two responses from those hired at 6 p.m.

When they saw the amount paid to those who worked only one hour was equal to their negotiated amount, their expectations of pay increased.

• They complained and grumbled to the land owner... "The amount you paid us is not fair compared with the pay given to those who worked less hours!" They were right regarding fairness.

The landowner's response:

• The landowner replied "Be satisfied, I have paid you the agreed amount!"

• Then the landowner raised two poignant questions: "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Are you envious because I'm generous?"

My conclusions:

• What this landowner did was not fair, but it was right

• This parable teaches us two things about God:

First, God is sovereign... i.e., in control. Ron Dunn, a popular preacher who is deceased, often said God's sovereignty

simply means "God has a right to do whatever He wants to do and whatever God does is always right!"

Second, God is generous... much more so than we can imagine.

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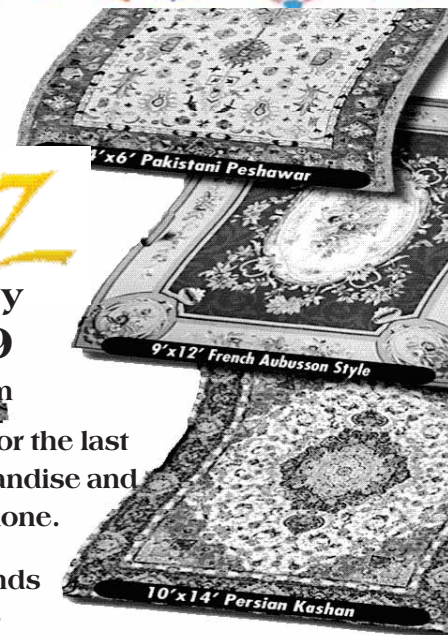
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"An Evening at Frog Pond Farm"

Thursday, June 21st – 6:30 PM – \$125/person – 14 Places

Hosts: Barry and Paula Jones

Menu: Cocktails in Jones' famous flower garden;
Local trout and homegrown organics

"Sunset on Lake Glenville"

Tuesday, July 17th – 5:30 PM – \$125/person – 14 Places

Host: Hyonja Lee Abrons and Gray McRimmon

Menu: Cocktails and boat ride on Lake Glenville followed by a specially prepared dinner at the Landings Club.

"Dueling Pianists"

Tuesday, July 24th – 6:30 PM – \$125/person – 40 Places

Hosts: Chip and Susan Robert

Tim and Gail Hughes, Hays and Anna Mershon
Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor

Pianists: William Ransom and Victor Asuncion

Menu: Fresh appetizers served in the garden; grilled flank steak, herbed chicken, fresh orzo salad, fresh asparagus, caprese salad and hot biscuits

"Evening with The Eroica Trio"

Sunday, July 29th – 7:15 PM – \$125/person – 12 Places

Hosts: Julian and Margo Franklin, Bob and Olivia Holt

Menu: Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres overlooking Whiteside Mountain; Salmon Sant' Ambrogio, Salade Nickrenz, Park-er House rolls, assorted desserts



"Capriccio Italien" or

"My Big Fat Italian Festival Feast"

Saturday, August 4th – 6 PM – \$125/person – 12 Places

Hosts: Peter and Valerie Whitcup
with Edoardo Catemario

Menu: Rosemary pork roast with marsala mushroom sauce, chicken francaise with lemon butter, olives and capers, crabmeat stuffed shrimp with polenta, papardelle bolognese with other savories and sweets.

"A Royal Feast"

Thursday, August 9th – 6:30 PM – \$150/person – 10 Places

Hosts: Ed and Penny Mawyer

Menu: Cucumber and avocado soup with spring greens and garden vegetables, beef wellington with mushroom duxelle and peppercorn sauce, asparagus and fingerling potatoes, French apple and custard tart with fresh berries.

"A Cocktail Reception Extra-Ordinaire"

Thursday, September 20th – 6:00 PM – \$100/person – 25 Places

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Nadine Paradise joins BlackRock Realty Group

Doug Helms, Managing Member and Principal Broker of BlackRock Realty Group, LLC is pleased to announce that Nadine Paradise has joined the firm as Real Estate Broker and Partner.

Nadine attended Oakland University and started her professional career in Information Technology with a major insurance company. Later she enjoyed a practice with an Executive Recruiting firm that specialized in Fortune 500 companies. Nadine was licensed as a Real Estate Broker in 2002. She was awarded outside "Broker of the Year" at Trillium Links and Lake Club. Nadine is licensed in the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Utah.

Nadine has been recognized for her outstanding customer service, dedication and professionalism in the real estate industry. "She is the perfect addition to BlackRock as she shares our work ethic and our commitment to providing professional real estate services to our clients," said Helms, who continued; "She is consistently a top performer in the Highlands Market and maintains a loyal client base."

Nadine is based at the Firm's offices in the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 South Fifth Street, Suite #213. She can be reached at 828-526-0000 or 828-371-2551.



Nadine Paradise

Russians are thrilled by choir



The Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Fletcher Wolfe has just returned home after a concert tour in Russia.

Their performances in St. Petersburg's Imperial Capella Hall, connected with the Winter Palace, and The Great hall of the Philharmonic were sold out with all three balconies filled to capacity.

The choir, longtime favorites of Russian audiences were the guests of the famous Glinka Choir College in St. Petersburg. Sadly, only days before their arrival, Maestro Wolfe's longtime friend and colleague, Sergei Dzevanovsky, director of the college, died following a long illness.

The choir dedicated their concerts to his memory and after a moment of silence sang the moving Pie' Jesu from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem Mass.

Molly McKim, well known Highlands soprano soloist was joined by the choir, instrumentalists and the two boy sopranos in presenting this work.

It was reported that never have the Russian audiences responded more enthusiastically to any concerts given there than to those by this choir.

They went wild with their applause and some likened their response to a rock concert audience. The choir had to repeat various encores many times before the large audience would depart.

One of the most outstanding events took place at St. Petersburg's Great Hall of the Philharmonic when the famous Glinka Choir joined the Atlanta Boy Choir in a performance of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Maestro Wolfe conducted the one hundred and fifty voices accompanied by the Great Hall's fabulous pipe organ as well as instrumentalists. Since this was the finale of the concert, the audience stood and clapped and shouted bravos for 10 minutes.

The U.S. Consul General, Bruce Turner, and his wife attended the concert at the Imperial Capella and renowned European conductor, Mark Stringer, himself a former choir boy under Wolfe attended the Great Hall performance. Maestro Stringer, the only American ever invited to teach at the prestigious Vienna Conservatory credits his experience under Mr. Wolfe for his great success.

The Atlanta Boy Choir was heard in Highlands recently before they embarked on this tour.

Maestro Wolfe, longtime music Director at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation was joined by current Incarnation Director, Robert Henry. Dr. Henry is the choir's permanent accompanist and Mr. Wolfe's assistant director.

Richard Wayne, Physicians Assistant from the Highland Cashiers Medical Center accompanied the choir on this trip to make sure everyone stayed healthy. Fortunately, everyone did.

Garden Club beautifies gardens at Eckerd Living Center

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Living Center (FELC) residents have much to look forward to this season thanks to the dedicated members of the Mountain Garden Club and the use of a little flower power.

Since 2010 when the club voted to adopt the gardens as an ongoing project to improve the interior grounds at FELC they have weeded, deadheaded, pruned, planted, mulched, fertilized and created flower beds for seasonal blooms. A 15+ member committee continues to work with the staff and volunteers of the FELC, ensuring that the center's courtyard and greens are visually attractive throughout the each year.

"Our goal is to increase the resident's activity by providing outside areas they truly can enjoy," said project organizer Midge Rothermel. "We have big plans for this year's landscape including a large dahlia exhibit and



Back Row from left: Mountain Garden Club Members Ann Maxwell, Ginny Harris, Midge Rothermel, Candy Field, Suzy Mosely, Caroline Cook, Ginny Dunwoody, Cecil Hines, Chris Boltz, Molly Leonard and Carol Strunk.

herbs that will allow the residents to benefit from the home grown gardens. The residents are beginning to get to know us and the excitement on their face keeps us motivated."

"Resident involvement is imperative to the success of our living center," said Ava Emory, Chief

Nursing Office at FELC. "We are very thankful to have so many dedicated garden club individuals that donate their time and energy to our facility and residents. It is help from our volunteers that affords our residents the activities that boost their quality of life," said Emory.

Family makes generous estate gift hospital Foundaiton

A generous donation made on behalf of the late John and Betty Haire to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation has established a Nurse Support Fund

to enhance the profession of nurses at HCH. Mrs. Peggy Haire-Laval, daughter of John and Betty Haire, dedicated funds of the Haire estate to honor the many

nurses in her family. The fund will provide scholarships to qualified nursing recipients to assist in ob-

• See HOSPITAL page 25

taining advance certifications as well as to provide opportunities for career enhancement education.

"My parents, John and Betty Haire were a loving and devoted couple who would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this year on June 24," said Peggy. The Haires' were the founders of the George Mason Land Company in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The success of this venture enabled the Haire family to be active in and generous to numerous charities in Iowa and later in Vero Beach, FL, where they were winter residents.

Now a summer resident of Highlands Peggy said she is pleased that her family has reached out to Highlands by including Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in their estate gifts. "Mom and Dad would be delighted to know that I was able to designate their gift of more than \$70,000 to support the profession of nursing. This is a wonderful tribute to two generations of nurses in our family."

"We are extremely grateful for this lasting tribute to The Haire Family and their interest to help our nurses advance their professional careers, said Robin T. Taylor, Executive Director of the Hospital Foundation.




The late Betty and John Haire. Their recent estate gift created the Haire-Laval Nurse Support Fund at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Book Release: Highlands Botanical Garden: A Naturalists Guide

"Highlands Botanical Garden: A Naturalist's Guide" is now available for \$25.

Featuring the photographs of Ralph M. Sargent, a founder and ardent champion of the Highlands Botanical Garden, A Naturalist's Guide is the first-ever guide to the garden, with maps, historical overview, and profiles of a generous selection of its hundreds of native plants. Not so much identi-

fication guide as botanical celebration, A Naturalist's Guide introduces readers to little-known aspects of our native plants, from the backstory to their names to their ecology and natural history. This book is a great way to support the Highlands Biological Station and Foundation. Call the station at (828) 526-2602 for more information.



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... **INVESTING** continued from page 11

him. There is a form that must be signed and usually no compensation is required. The commission is still paid by the seller. What does that mean for you as the seller if the broker has your listing? It means you are now a dual agent which North Caroli-

na allows. In your listing agreement there is a box to be checked allowing the agent to take on that role.

Many people are confused as to what that means exactly. A dual agent's responsibilities include representing both fairly without divulging confidential information to either party. In other words they remain neutral and proceed in the best interest of

both parties to get the property sold with terms acceptable to the buyer and seller. To some it seems a conflict of interest but who better knows the property than the listing agent? Legally they must divulge any material facts they are aware of. A professional broker knows how to perform dual agency and I have done many myself with very positive results. With a dual agent -and if you are the buyer- you can rest assured you are represented in a professional manner and nothing will be done to harm you in any way because the broker has to promote

your best interests, be loyal to you, use reasonable skills, care and diligence, and account for all monies they handle for you.

So you can see that as a buyer you do not need to be concerned if a listing agent is showing you his/her listing and is a buyer's agent for you. I hope this helps explain dual agency. If you still have questions feel free to contact me. Enjoy your summer in beautiful Highlands!

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REACH fundraiser set for July 29

REACH of Macon County will stage a fundraiser July 29th at the breathtaking home of prominent Highlands and Houston interior designer Tony Raffa and his partner Scott Allbee.

R.E.A.C.H. provides counseling, shelter, and life-skills training for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. They have presented programs in Macon County's schools, including Highland's, on anti-bullying and rape prevention. It's a little publicized fact that approximately 75% of men incarcerated in this country have been victims of abuse.

The gala event will feature cocktails and a live auction (courtesy of Steve Day of radio station WHLC), and silent auction.

The Raffa-Allbee home serves as a showcase for Raffa's nationally recognized design talents. With its 45 foot high vaulted ceilings and 10,000 square feet, this home feels cozy whether entertaining 200 people or just two.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with an open bar and heavy hors d' oeuvres. The silent auction items will be displayed on a large dining porch overlooking a waterfall that cascades into a koi pond. The live auction will be downstairs in the multi-level theater. It's an opportunity to tour an amazing home while supporting a much needed cause.

One of the items offered is a refresher bridge course taught by Brenda Manning.

So often we hear people say they played bridge in college, military, early adult years, etc., and stopped due to career and family demands. Now, they want to play again but are unsure where to start updating their game. These three lessons will point your game in the right direction, and provide references to continue your game for bridge in 2012. You do not need a partner to sign up. Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Thursday, August 16th; Monday, August 20th; and Tuesday, August 21st. Class is limited to

the first 12 to sign up, with a minimum number of 4. Cost is \$100, checks or credit card, payable to REACH.

Brenda is an experienced, award-winning teacher. She taught at The University of Georgia for 25 years, and was an invited teacher to the University of Notre Dame, Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China; and consulted with the Walt Disney Company. She is a bridge life master and a certified bridge director.

Besides this "refresher" bridge course by Brenda, Teri Dolci will be giving an advanced bridge seminar.

A few of the auction items are a fresco by Kathleen Macone; design consultation services by Raffa; a raised veggie garden by Tom Tracy and Brian Stiehler; Wanda Drake's famous banana pudding; a painting by Atlanta artist Mary Lou Carpenter-Bilbro; private wine tours and tastings in Napa and Sonoma; gift certificates for massage by Aery Chiropractic; a cocktail buffet for 18 in your home; necklaces from Drake's Diamond Gallery; tickets for Highlands Playhouse; Landscape design services by Deborah Berlin; a painting of a Buck Creek farmhouse by Sarah Sneed; wine from Mountain Fresh Grocery; a painting by Rosemary Stiefel; a gourmet five-course dinner by Barbara Werder and Virginia Parrott; Peachy Staley's Country Dinner with Wine; Pat Buchanan's Mexican Fiesta Dinner; dinner for six at Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro; a pair of lamps from Tony Raffa and much more!

If you can't attend this event but would like to bid on an item, leave a sealed bid with Wanda Drake at Drake's Diamond Gallery.

For reservations, call (828) 369-5544 or email jvparrott22@nctv.com. The cost is \$75 per person and space is limited to 140 people. Last year's celebration was a sellout, so make your reservations early.



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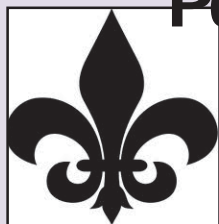
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from June 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 17

• At 5:15 p.m., a person reported a stolen purse stolen containing a camera lens and memory cards valued at \$220.

June 18

• At 11:20 a.m., officers went to a home on Cullasaja Drive when it was learned that someone had answered the phone when no one was supposed to be there.

June 20

• At 10 a.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

• At 10 p.m., Ruben Contreras Lopez, 28, of Tiger, GA, was arrested on NC 106 for DWI and traffic violations.

June 25

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call about an open door at a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 4:38 p.m., officers received a report about an accident on NC 106 where a driver backed into a motorcycle and knocked it over.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from June 22.

The new fire ratings go into effect on July 1, 2012. In-town rates went from 5 to 4 and outside town in the 5-mile limit they went from 9-5.

June 22

• At 3:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at HUMC. It was false.

June 23

• At 1:07 p.m., the dept. was called to help search for a missing child on Hickory Knut Gap Road who was found by a parent before the dept.'s arrival.

June 24

• At 1:24 p.m., the dept. responded to an accident where a driver hit an utility pole on US 64 east and Cullasaja Club, where the vehicle went over the embankment.

June 25

• At 2:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive. It was sounded due to burned food.

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

June 26

• At 11:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

... SALZARULO continued from page 5

sports writer insistence on calling them the Communist Chinese, long after even the United States had abandoned the pretense that there was another China, and that the legitimate government of China resided on the island of Formosa.

Once in a great while, an athlete appears who is so dominant that he needs no foil, one who challenges and bests the world. Lance Armstrong and Tiger Woods come to mind. Of course, their American citizenship contributed to their marketability, so even they reaped the benefits of jingoism.

More frequently, a competitor is enhanced by, and partially defined by, an opponent. The USA vs. The USSR; Bird vs. Magic; matador against bull. Where would Montgomery be without Rommel; Churchill without Adolph Hitler? Contemplate Don Larsen if there no Brooklyn Dodgers or Nelson Mandela's place in history without the crime of apartheid. The legends of both Mohammed Ali and Joe Frazier were enhanced by the barbarism of their trilogy of bouts. Would Ronald Reagan have been listed without the greatest American presidents had there been no Gorbachev?

The answer may be as simple as changing tastes, but do we really care less now about the 100-meter dash than when Americans were routinely winning? It's revealing that many Americans closely followed the Tour de France while Lance Armstrong was winning seven consecutive titles. Does anyone know the 2012 Tour is currently underway?

... WOOLDRIDGE from 4

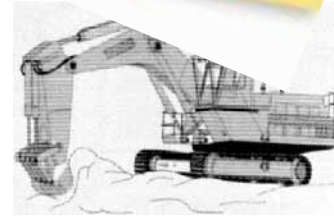
that did exactly what I asked? A week later I was slammed hard with an answer. Once that occurred, the decision I had to make was crystal clear. So, sitting there finishing my last cup, I added up the times I should have been killed and I began to think ole Dr. Bill might be right. Now I'm kinda feeling sorry for my angel who has had little rest. I hope my angel hangs in there with me to the end.

* Fred is in hiding at the Farmer's Market at the high school each Saturday morning peddling his books, I'm Moving Back to Mars and Deceived. Like Waldo, he's hard to spot but stop by anyway and give him "what for" if you can find him.

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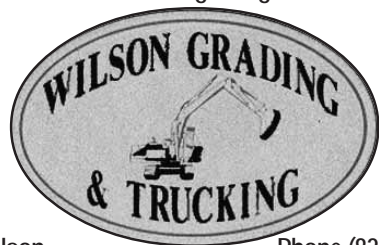
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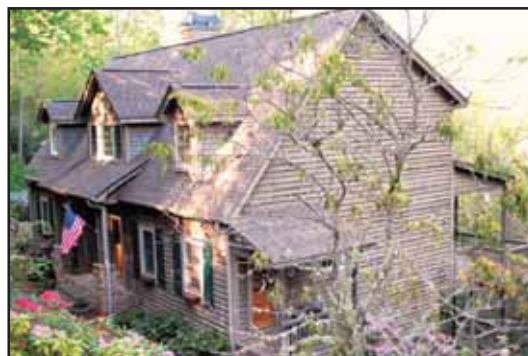
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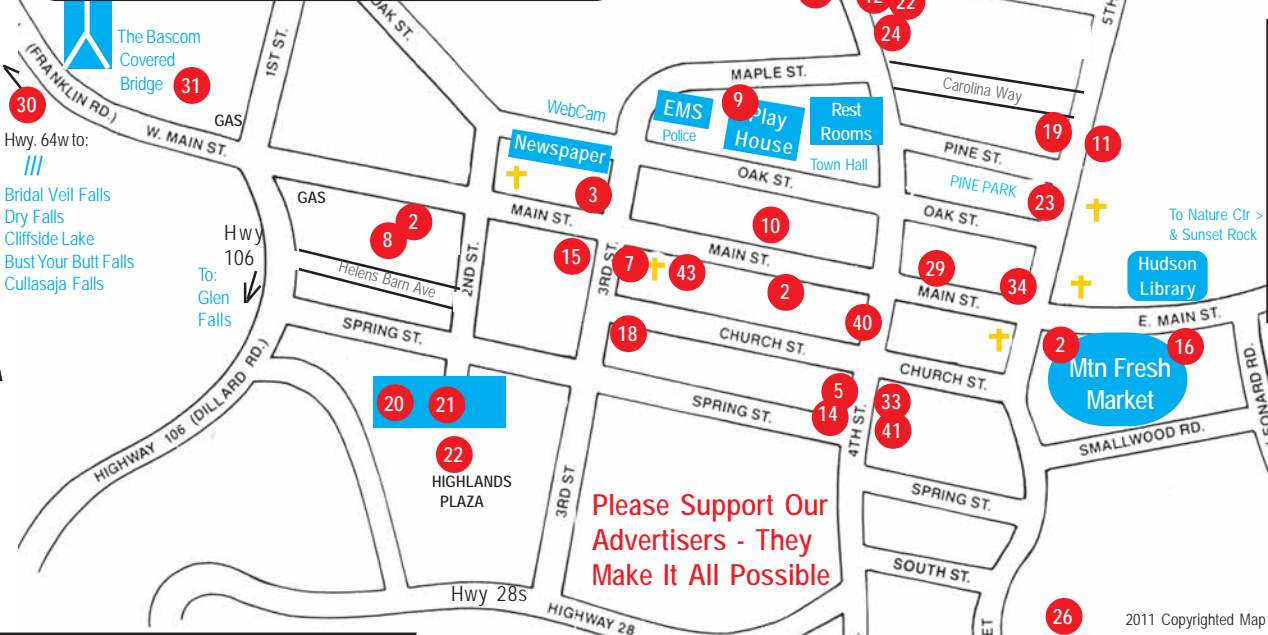


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