




# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 13

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Thursday, April 1, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
72 \ 45F	67 \ 42F	65 \ 41F

## This Week in Highlands

### Friday, April 2

• Noon. Stations of the Cross. A mini pilgrimage starting at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic church and walking from church to church in downtown Highlands. Scripture and music as we go. All are welcome.

### Saturday, April 3

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sarah Valentine will be taking photos. Also during that time, kids of all ages can get their face painted and enjoy refreshments (to include Chick-Fil-A sandwiches) from the Highlands United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Youth Groups, who are raising money for a mission trip to Haiti this summer.

• An EggFest, at noon. The egg hunt of all egg hunts! Kids will enjoy food, bounce houses, petting zoo, prizes and a hunt for over 3,000 eggs. Families can meet at noon at the Highlands Town Baseball field for a great time! For more information, call CBC at 526-4685.

• Live music with Zorki at the Down Hill Grill at the Scaly Outdoor Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, April 4

• Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. This is an outdoor event. Bring a blanket and come hear the birds sing as the sun rises! These are ecumenical events — ALL are welcome!

### Monday, April 5

• New! A Working Women's Bible Study will begin on Monday, 5:30-7:30 pm at the home of Carol Bowen. The topic will be The Inheritance, a Beth Moore Bible study. \$5 for a listening guide. For info, call Carol Bowen at 526-5168.

### Tuesday, April 6

• Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University addresses economic development and related issues in our area 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-5841.

### Thursday, April 8

• Candidate Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters at Tartan Hall at the Presbyterian Church in Franklin at noon.

## Big Creek dredging still on the books

A recent letter from the town to Big Creek property owners has citizens upset, angry and a bit confused.

"Mr. Coward's March 23rd letter was the first time property owners were told that the Town actually *planned* on dredging Big Creek," said Sarah Fenton, who with her husband Bob owns property on the

creek. "Since last fall, we have been told that the Town 'might' dredge if owners signed off on the easements and if the funding became available."

Then, according to the letter, the project had been nixed.

The letter dated March 23, 2010 reads: "As you are aware, the Town was planning to dredge the Big

Creek arm of Lake Sequoyah if it received 100% cooperation from affected landowners in the execution of easements for that purpose. Since there has not been 100% cooperation from the landowners, this project will not take place. If you were one of the homeowners who returned the easement, we

• See BIG CREEK page 5

## Service transfer may have affected 9-1-1 service

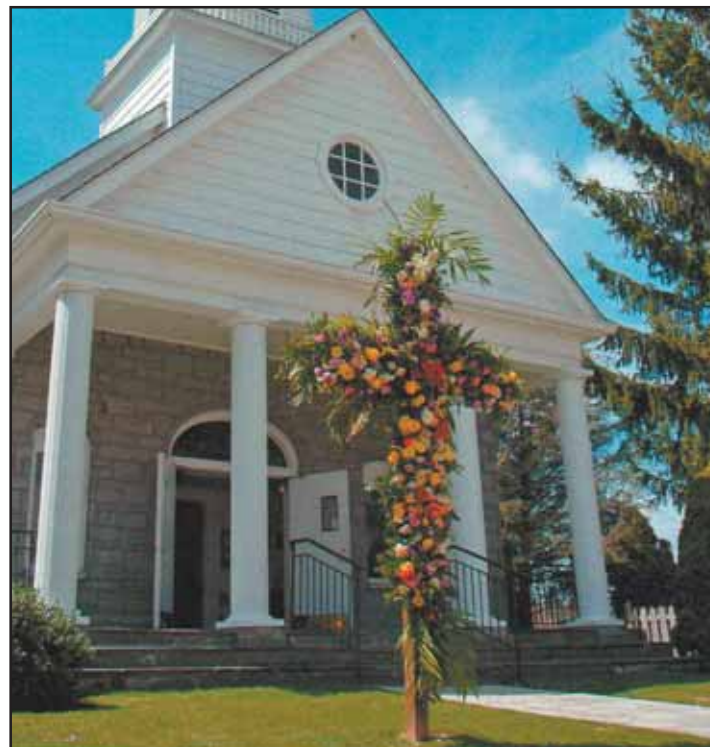
A wide-spread telephone outage affected 9-1-1 telephone service and some other telephone services apparently including long distance in Macon County in the early morning hours of March 29.

Service was restored around 9 a.m. People could not connect with the 9-1-1 system and instead would hear a busy signal, though some seven-digit lines were still operational in the 9-1-1 center.

Citizens were directed through local media outlets and through a reverse 9-1-1 system by phone, text message, and email to call the 9-1-1 center through alternate numbers. They were also instructed to call or travel to their local fire department or EMS base, or to con-

• See 9-1-1 page 4

## HUMC 'Living Cross' exemplifies Easter



In Highlands, Easter begins with the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, then its Easter egg hunts on Saturday, the ecumenical daybreak service at the Nature Center on Sunday followed by services in area churches. Photo from HUMC

## UDO almost complete

The impossible is almost complete. All the town's ordinances have been incorporated into an easy-to-use manual where definitions and regulations — and the application of them — are clear and mean the same thing throughout.

LandDesign was hired for \$40,000 to create Highlands' Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and when it's finished the summer of 2010, it will include the zoning ordinance, the subdivision ordinance and the soil and erosion control ordinance, as well as all the new ordinances of late — temporary subdivision signs, uninhabitable buildings and the stormwater control — in one body.

At a special Planning Board meeting Monday night, LandDesign presented a "working draft" of the proposed UDO — the first of several public viewings of the docu-

• See UDO page 16

## 15 local candidates line up for May 4 primary

This issue begins our 5-week Q&A series with the Macon County candidates facing off for the May 4 primary.

Each week we will feature a new question. Almost every "seat" is being opposed. Since Vic Perry, Clerk of Superior Court, and Todd Raby, Register of Deeds, are running unopposed, they won't be featured in the Q&A.

Question 1: Tell us a bit about

your background — your age, your family, vocation, education, organization affiliations, offices you have held and where you're from, etc?

### • Michael "Bud" Rogers — County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)

My name is Michael David Rogers known to some as "Bud." I am 47 years old I have lived all my life in Highlands. I graduated from Highlands School and went directly into

business with my father, Larry Rogers. I have been in the contractor-grading business all my life and now own my own landscape/grading business. I have been married to Tina Crowe Rogers for 27 years and have two awesome daughters, Maggie who is a junior at Western Carolina University and Courtney who is a junior at Highlands School. I am a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church where I run a Christian-based recovery program. I am also

involved in offering a substance abuse program to the inmates in the Macon County jail. I have been newly appointed to the Appearance Committee for the Town of Highlands.

### • Allan "Ricky" Bryson — County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)

I am 53 years old, father of two and grandfather of two. I have owned and operated Highlands Outdoor

• See CANDIDATES page 3

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### WANTED Communications Director for the Town of Highlands

Salary minimal, but satisfaction priceless. Must have flexible hours, a strong back to carry the burden, protective clothing for when the doo-doo hits the fan and a great sense of humor. Must know how to use the telephone to make and return calls. Must know how to use the computer to send e-mails and reply to multiple taxpayer and media concerns within 24 hours. Must be willing to reach out to taxpaying citizens regarding important Highlands issues as needed. Must have the ability to turn purple instantly if you avoid citizens, lie or tell a half truth. Knowledge of web design would be helpful so that the Town website can be updated to reflect detailed information about important Highlands issues. Must have sufficient super hero power to be able to sneak into closed session Town Board meetings and let the people know what's really going on behind those doors. Please apply in person, but it may take a few days to find any *power people* around to take your application. Please keep trying and just remember — Town Hall needs YOU!

All semi-joking aside, the Town really does need SOMEONE who can reach out and speak to people with full disclosure and no cryptic hidden agenda on a regular basis. There is no doubt that our new Mayor David Wilkes truly cares about what's best for Highlands. But, he is one man — who certainly has his hands full and can only do so much on his own. Early last fall, the Town instructed the Town attorney to send multiple letters and easement requests to Big Creek property owners, when all it really needed to do was have a conversation with us FIRST. Had the Town listened to property owners and considered their concerns in advance, there would only have been the need for one successful legal document and the clean-up of Big Creek could potentially move forward with ease.

From road pavings and closures, to Main Street parking, to normal income housing, to sewers, to tree trimming, to parks and doggy parks, to zoning and development issues, to our Town's water supply — the lack of *real* communication is legendary at this point. If the issues that face us weren't so vital to the well being of our town, one might be inclined to laugh at the absurdity of it all. We trust that our new Mayor will be able to turn this communication thing around.

In a town the size of Highlands, some level of personal communication and a respectful exchange should be commonplace. Mayor Wilkes has made himself available, but if other town employees are too busy to communicate, and there's no money in the budget for a real communications person, ask for volunteers! The members of our community are perhaps our most valuable resource. Many are willing and able to help. Listen to our concerns. Consider our advice and warnings. Let us help you think outside of your comfortable, closed box so we can get things done. Allow us to work diligently **with** you. Work **with** us, not overtly against us.

Be careful not to turn purple or need protective clothing.

Sarah Fenton  
Highlands (Big Creek)

### Underwood defends early departures

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your article in last week's issue entitled "PB says 'no' to rezoning request" in which you make note of my leaving the meeting early.

Yes, I did leave early from the meeting. I told the chairman that I would be leaving in 10 minutes and at that time he told ev-

eryone that if they wanted my vote they needed to wrap up their arguments. At that time both the attorney and Mr. Shearl got up and started repeating what they had already said during the meeting.

I warned them I was leaving and I do what I say.

We in Scouts practice two deep leadership for the safety of the children. With my absence my den had to join another den to follow the rules.

When I make a commitment I do my best to live up to my responsibilities. I was already 30 minutes late for the scout meeting and felt it was time to leave and fulfill my other commitments.

As for leaving any other meetings, I left for the same commitment, again after letting them know I would be leaving.

Have I not voted the way you would?

John Underwood  
Highlands

### Town's lack of communication unsettling

Dear Editor,

I am writing to summarize my experience with the town officials regarding the dredging of Big Creek.

I have been surprised and perplexed by communications from the town and its legal representatives over the dredging of Big Creek. It was not made clear from the start that a permanent easement was needed for Army Corps of Engineering funding nor was it clear that the town intended to dredge regardless - as is implied in the most recent letter from the Town attorneys. It does not surprise me therefore that there was not the 100% positive response needed to move forward. In the most recent letter from the town attorney, I was told that the Town is abandoning plans to dredge the creek. This is the FIRST time I heard that the Town actually PLANNED to dredge the creek!

This is yet another poorly handled communication from the town. The whole experience does not instill confidence that building a home and owning land in Highlands was a wise move on my part. This is not rocket science and I do not think it's too much to ask when I call for clear, transparent policies by the town on matters vital to its homeowners and taxpayers.

I urge the appropriate town administrator to write something for the newspapers outlining the town's plans for our water supply and Lake Sequoyah. The uncertainty has lingered for years and it's time to end it before there is further damage to the credibility of our elected officials.

Ray Vito  
Highlands, Atlanta

### Town's lack of disclosure leaves Big Creek residents high and dry

Dear Editor,

As property owners on Big Creek, we are confused and frustrated by the Town's poor communication with us regarding the possible dredging to remove siltation from Highland's source of drinking water.

Most recently we received a letter from the town attorney stating that due to lack of "100% cooperation from the landowners, this project will not take place." After months of grass roots efforts amongst the landowners to contact and communicate with each other and with the town on this issue, we feel like we have been dropped by the town like a hot potato. Our position, as held by many of the other property owners, is that we want the dredging to occur, but without the *permanent* easement the town

### 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 Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 2

Tool for 26 years. Past president, Highlands Jaycees; Highlands volunteer fireman 21 years (12 years as assistant chief); two terms Highlands Planning Board; past chairman, District One Democratic Precinct; two terms, Macon County Board of Commissioners. Born and raised in Macon County, NC.

### • Jim Tate – County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)

I am very proud to say that my family has deep roots in the Highlands area. I recently stated that I am a fifth generation native of Macon County and my grandmother was quick to correct me. I am actually the sixth genera-

tion of my family to call Macon County home making my children, Ethan (age 7) and Eliza (age 5), seventh generation natives. I was born in Highlands and lived here until the age of seven when I moved to Homosassa, FL. Then I relocated to Fort Valley, GA and I graduated from high school at the Westfield School in Perry, GA. I then continued my education at the University of Georgia where I earned a BA of Landscape Architecture degree and most importantly met my wife, Allison. Even though I was not a full-time resident of Highlands for the majority of my childhood and adolescent years, I have always considered Highlands my true home. In 1997, I made the decision to move back to Macon County permanently. Since then, it has been very important to me to give back to this community. I am a 13-year volunteer for the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department and I have also worked as a full-time and part-time EMT-I for the Macon County Emergency Medical Services. Furthermore, I have had the privilege to not only serve but to also chair the Highlands Appearance Commission, the Highlands Planning Board, the Highlands Land Use Committee, and the Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment. Presently, I own and operate Tate Landscaping Services, Inc., was elected Captain of the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department and am a member of Highlands United Methodist Church. I also currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, the Zoning Board of Adjustment (alternate member), and the Macon County's EMS Quality Management Committee. I have a deep desire to continue my service to our community, and I hope the residents of Macon County will provide me the

• See CANDIDATES page 14



Michael David  
Rogers  
County  
Commissioner  
District 1 (Dem)



Allan (Ricky)  
Bryson  
County  
Commissioner  
District 1 (Dem)



Jimmy Tate  
County  
Commissioner  
District 1 (Rep)



Brian McClellan  
(Incumbent)  
County  
Commissioner  
District 1 (Rep)



Bob Simpson  
(Incumbent)  
County  
Commissioner  
District 2 (Dem)



Carroll Poindexter  
County  
Commissioner  
District 2 (Dem)



Ronnie Beale  
(Incumbent)  
County  
Commissioner  
District 2 (Dem)



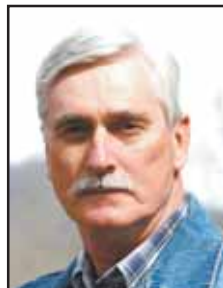
Ron Haven  
County  
Commissioner  
District 2 (Rep)

**Leatherman's  
photo was  
not available  
by presstime.**

Charlie  
Leatherman  
County  
Commissioner  
District 2 (Rep)



Ricky DeHart  
Sheriff  
(Dem)



George Lynch  
Sheriff  
(Dem)



Richard Davis  
Sheriff  
(Dem)



Robert L. (Robby)  
Holland  
(Incumbent)  
Sheriff (Rep)



Jimmy Goodman  
NC Senate  
District 50 (Rep)



Jim Davis  
NC Senate  
District 50 (Rep)

Next week in the April 8 edition, Candidates will answer Question 2 – “Tell us why you are running for office, specifically what you like or dislike about what’s going on — and why you are the right person for the seat you are attempting to get or keep and why you can do it better than your opponents?”

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Bunny  
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## ... 9-1-1 continued from page 1

tact a patrolling law enforcement officer if they had an emergency.

Luckily, there were no major incidents reported during the outage.

Although Macon County Emergency Services has not been informed of the exact cause of the outage, there is a transfer of telephone service underway between Verizon Communications and Frontier Communi-

## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

### The carpet Nazi!

I'm just sick of it. First it was our low mileage, four-year-old Toyota with a rusted drive train that would cost us a fortune to fix. Then our pool guy called to say there's a leak in the pool and it will cost mucho denari to get it repaired. Is he the brother of the Toyota service rep with his hand in our pockets? Worse, it's been a chilly winter in Palm Beach and, at this point, I've calculated its cost us about a 100 bucks per swim.

So I asked the pool guy, "What's this repair going to cost?"

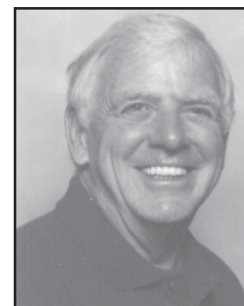
He smiled and said, "A lot less than when you got snookered into buying that new car in your garage. I think about six dump trucks of fill dirt will fix your pool problem."

In our younger years, the li'l missus and I used to marvel at how cunning vendors and slick talkin' salesmen would con old folks out of their pensions. Now I'm wondering if we've reached that stage. We've never had so much stuff break all at once ... or has it?

Then yesterday, our beloved Hoover vacuum cleaner started to make loud and weird noises. "Sounds like she's gonna blow," I shouted. "What? I can't hear you," the li'l missus shouted back.

We bought our Hoover about 18 years ago and paid a fortune for it. You pay extra for the Hoover name. It's self-propelled and top of the line. It still cleans well, even now with all the noise. Oh, by the way, my li'l missus used to work for a Hoover. He did not fix vacuum cleaners but he did suck the life out of organized criminals. But that's another story.

With our bills mounting, we decided to look into having it fixed. Does anyone actually fix old appliances anymore, we wondered? TA DA! As luck would have it, there was an official Hoover repair shop only a mile away. I must have passed it a thousand times without noticing. It may be the only one between Palm Beach and Larry at Mountain Findings.



**Fred Wooldridge**

**Feedback is encouraged!  
email:**

**askfredanything@aol.com**

Before going to the repair shop, the li'l missus had to prepare it for service. Like Monica on "Friends," she got out her portable vacuum called a Shark, and thoroughly vacuumed the Hoover. No, she doesn't have a vacuum to clean her Shark ... not yet. When she was finished, it looked brand new.

Cleaning old appliances for repair is a Venus thing. Kinda like making sure you're wearing clean underwear when going to

the emergency room. Oh, here's a tip: Never wear underwear when going to the emergency room 'cause they'll cut them off. If you go often, buy Velcro underwear from your local strip joint.

Anyway, when we walked into the Hoover repair shop, we were stunned to see over a 100 old vacuum cleaners waiting to be repaired. Without looking up from her paperwork, the lady said, "Just roll it over there with the rest and I'll get you a claim check." I hated leaving my beloved Hoover with such unsavory looking cleaners of every make. None of them looked as awesome as ours and, for certain, none were as clean.

"We'll look at it and call you tomorrow with an estimate. What's wrong with it?" the shop lady asked.

"She still sucks real good but makes a lot of noise," I responded.

The li'l missus turned and walked out of the store. I smiled at the vacuum lady, "So we'll talk tomorrow? I'm sure it's not much." I didn't get a response. I should've known then I was dealing with a carpet Nazi.

Five days went by and we heard nothing. I called the shop and got their voice mail. We called and called until their voice mail was full. Then it hit me. This shop has a monopoly. Where else can I take my vacuum to get it fixed? I dubbed her "Carpet Nazi."

Eventually, the Carpet Nazi told us our transmission was rusty and needed to be replaced. "Do you have a brother who works for a Toyota dealer?" I asked. "No, you say, maybe a cousin who's a pool guy?"

We left with our noisy vacuum. We'll use it until she blows. We've also decided to hunker down on costly repairs. The pool leak can ... well, just leak while I get estimates on fill dirt. We use ear protectors when we vacuum but, best of all, we don't own a Toyota that's trying to kill us.

— **Warren Cabe, Director MC EMS**

## ... BIG CREEK continued from page 1

would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this matter," read the letter.

Town Attorney Bill Coward, said the reason for the letter was because "the town doesn't want to take property by condemnation for the project, unless absolutely necessary. "Condemnation would have been required due to the lack of full cooperation," he said.

However, Fenton says she's had contact with 20 of the 30 property owners and all 20 of those owners were willing to sign at least a temporary easement, in fact had told her they had signed and returned it to Attorney Coward, she said.

"And 100% of those 20 people would have signed a permanent easement had the Town made some adjustments to the original agreement language and had owners been told that doing so was the only way to clean up Big Creek," said Fenton.

Now property owners assume the project has been nixed but aren't sure if it's because not all the easement agreements were returned, or because they had to agree to a permanent easement versus a temporary easement. "There's been no communication as to what the town's intentions or plans are or what it exactly wants and needs from us for this project to take place," said Fenton.

But Mayor David Wilkes and Town Manager Jim Fatland, say it's all a misunderstanding.

Fenton said in a meeting Tuesday, Wilkes acknowledged that Coward's letter had a fatalistic tone and could have been written differently.

In fact, on Wednesday, Fatland told Highlands' Newspaper the dredging of Big Creek is still in the town's Capital Improvement Project list. "We're just waiting for the money to come in from the Army Corps of Engineers," he said. In fact, he said the Corps of Engineers has said temporary easements would be fine.

The estimated cost for the project is \$2 million, with \$1.5 coming from grant funding and \$500,000 coming from the town.

"But the point is, if we had the money to do the job today, we wouldn't be able to do it because we don't have easement contracts back from all the affected property owners. But since we don't have the money anyway, we have time to work out the details and get all the easement contracts back," he said.

Property owners feel there has a lack of communication ever since the possibility of actually dredging the creek became a reality this past fall.

At the Town Board meeting in the fall, Attorney Coward said an easement agree-

ment or contract would be needed – preferably a permanent easement contract so the town wouldn't have to go through the process again should future dredging be needed – but definitely a temporary easement was necessary.

The Town Board then instructed Coward to send a letter to all the Big Creek Property owners asking that they sign the easement contract and return it. Once in hand, the easement contracts would show the US Army Corps of Engineers that the town had the necessary community backing which might help expedite the funding of the project.

After that initial letter was sent out, the only formal communication on the subject came in the form of the March letter, say property owners.

However, the issue of "easements on Big Creek" has been the subject of a few closed sessions at Town Board meetings since the fall. When asked what transpired in the meetings, the press was told "No action was taken; no decisions were made."

However, sometime after the most recent closed session on the issue – March 3, 2010 — the letter was sent to property owners.

– Kim Lewicki

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## from the history guy ...

April 1, 1957

The Spaghetti Tree Story was a famous 3-minute report broadcast on the British Broadcasting Corporation's current affairs program, "Panorama," detailing work of a southern Swiss family hard at work during the Spaghetti Tree harvest season.

On the BBC, have you heard about this particular orchard? It's from here you get what are best of the season's spaghetti harvest. It's the first pick from the arborialist, so get some and cover it with pesto. They have carefully grafted, grown and pruned, so don't overcook it, it'll be ruined. Ever been there to look and seen a branch covered in semolina? I'd like to go to where they grow these trees and and ask them please and prego, let me pick some of this fruit of durum, take them home, cook and stir em, that's what I want to get, see, this year's crop of spaghetti.

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## • HIS & HERS •

### Are you serious? Are you serious?

by John Armor

I've been preparing for a series of appearances as Benjamin Franklin at several different Tea Party events in Dayton, Ohio, from April 10 - 13. Despite his long and varied public career, Franklin had very little to do with partisan politics; Most of his service was as a diplomat, first in England and later in France.



Michelle Mead-Armor &

John Armor

michiemead@aol.com

John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu

There is one quality that all successful diplomats share. They know how to hold their tongues. Enemies now may become friends later, and vice versa. Therefore, effective diplomats make an absolute minimum of public, personal attacks on anyone in a position of power.

It was a proper choice for Franklin. It might just be a proper choice for this columnist in this time of crisis for the United States. With that said...

Last fall, a reporter asked Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, whether the proposals for Health Care "Reform" were constitutional. She responded, "Are you serious?" To show how absurd she considered the question, she repeated her dismissive reply, "Are you serious?" Now, the Health Care Act is passed and signed into law. We are only now discovering some of the requirements and taxes hidden in the nooks and crannies of its 2,700 pages, all told. At the same time, just days after the signing of the revised, revised bill into law, 13 sovereign states have already filed suit, claiming the Act is unconstitutional. According to press accounts, upwards of 24 other states may also file such suits.

Never in the history of the United States have 13 states (much less 30 or more states) claimed in court that any action of the federal government was unconstitutional. The only remotely similar event was when 11 of the then 33 states seceded from the union, precipitating the Civil War in 1861. The issue then, as now, was overreaching by the federal government.

Some who read about the multiplicity of state suits against the federal government look at the history of Supreme Court litigation and say, correctly, that this is slow remedy. They think a final decision might not come for three years.

Not so. The federal courts can and do move very quickly when there is reason to do so. (My first win in the Supreme Court went from final decision in the trial court to emergency relief in the Supreme Court

in just two months. *McCarty v. Briscoe*, September, 1976.) Odds are, the Health Care cases will be consolidated. For sure, the first case will go up in a matter of months under the Supreme Court's rules for Emergency Relief.

There are several issues in the various cases which I believe will lead the Court to declare the Act unconstitutional,

but probably by a margin of only 5-4. The Court will not allow the Commerce Clause to stretch to authorize Congress to tell individual citizens to purchase a required product, or tell individual states how to organize their governments and raise and spend their state taxes.

The Court might even go as far as to revisit its most unfortunate Commerce Clause decisions, *Hodel v. Virginia Surface Mining*, 1981, and *Wickard v. Filburn*, 1942. That should happen, but I am not hopeful that it will. Still, even if those cases remain standing, they don't reach far enough to justify the Health Care Act.

The Court should not strike this law down because it will bankrupt the United States. It will, and only a series of lies promulgated through the Congressional Budget Office and directly by the Administration have papered over that conclusion. The Court should not strike down this law because an obscure clause that protects the fees of liability lawyers.

Both those issues are a matter of political wisdom, and it is not the business of the courts to second-guess the politics of any legislative decision – in Congress or the states. The Act should be struck down because both the Administration and Congress have acted in cavalier disregard of the provisions of the Constitution. Under the basic tenets of checks and balances, when two branches of the federal government have violated the Constitution, it is the duty of the remaining branch to uphold the Constitution.

It is a matter of whether at least five Justices of the Court will obey their oaths to protect and defend the Constitution. A majority of the House and of the Senate, and the President have all violated similar oaths. But the subject remains open.

• About the Author: Never mind who I am. All citizens need to read, understand, and respect the US Constitution. Last step, they need to reject all leaders and judges who have not done the same.

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Thoughts on a terrific weekend

What a wonderful hoops weekend as the Final Four is set for Indianapolis, big news from the college hoops coaching carousel, and we have a NEW world champion crowned at Wrestlemania. (ok, I know you are saying..."which one of those things doesn't belong")

First off, we have to discuss everyone's favorite Cinderella, the Butler Bulldogs. One note though ... pssst (hushed voice) *they aren't really a Cinderella*. Butler has won 23 straight games, possesses the best NBA prospect of the Final Four in Gordon Heyward, and has experience and leadership at the guard positions. Give that resume to a "big name" school and they would be the odds on favorite to win the whole thing, but yet Butler continues to smile graciously at being called Cinderella. (although one thing that does make them look not ready for prime time, the fact that I would card their coach if he came into the Rib Shack and ordered a beer)

Michigan State proved that they had a great deal of heart against Tennessee, but also that Tom Izzo now is on the cusp of getting in the conversation with the all time greats such as Wooden, Dean Smith, Bob Knight and Coach K. I still am not sure that Izzo is there yet, particularly since he only has one title, but if my favorite team is facing Izzo in the tournament I am not feeling good about my chances. The sustained success of that program is simply remarkable.

Also remarkable is what Bob Huggins has done at West Virginia. By mixing John Beilein's system with an influx of JUCO talent, Huggins has brought WVU back to the Final Four. Intense, physical and athletic, the Mountaineers will pose a similar challenge to Duke that Baylor did in the Regional Finals.

Speaking of everyone's favorite team to hate, Duke returns to the Final Four for the first time since 2004 (where they were royally jobbed out of another national title in the Final Four loss to Connecticut. Worst game I have ever seen...people who hate Duke and think that the referees favor them should



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

watch that game and squeal with schadenfreude.) This year, Duke leads the Final Four in three categories — offensive rebounding, number of people rooting against them, and lack of melanin.

Quick thoughts on coaches.

St. John's made a good choice to hire Steve Lavin -- he's marketable and will connect to the New York area re-

cruits well.

Boston College fires Al Skinner ... dumb move. Skinner's style was boring, but the man could coach and had consistently over-achieved at BC.

Auburn also made a good hire in Tony Barbee.

And finally, the granddaddy of them all, Wrestlemania! I was totally stoked to watch this with my buddy Matt, and a good time was had by all. Highlights included The Ladder Match, in which there were several amazing athletic feats including Kofi Kingston walking on ladderstilts and Evan Bourne doing a gainer off of a ladder. Randy Orton turning into a face (good guy/fan favorite) was nice because I have been a fan of his for a while now. The Edge-Chris Jericho match was very good as well.

I will close however by designating a paragraph to Shawn Michaels, who retired following a loss to the Undertaker. Michaels has been one of my favorite wrestlers since I was a kid growing up. The guy had it all-athleticism, work ethic and most of all, charisma that is unmatched. Very few men have been able to work the crowd the way that Michaels did, from his expressions to his speeches, the guy always had us in the palm of his hand. Even today, at age 44 he could still put on a classic, and in a way I am glad that he is hanging it up relatively early and not embarrassing himself like Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan. At the end of the match, the crowd was chanting "Thank you Shawn" as he exited the ring-I just wish I had been there to chant along with them.

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## • HS SOCCER NEWS •

### Highlanders split a pair of games

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Lady Highlander soccer team traveled to Cherokee last Thursday to play the Lady Braves on their new soccer field. Unfortunately for the Lady Braves, Highlands did not make for a welcome guest as they dominated the Lady Braves to the tune of an 8-0 final score. Madison Taylor scored 3 goals, Jessica Gagne added 2, and Sayne Fera, Paige Strahan and Ali Cutshaw all added one goal

apiece for the visiting Highlands.

Tuesday, the Lady Highlanders looked to open the new Highlands School soccer field with a victory, and after dominating the first 30 minutes it looked like they might do so. Unfortunately, the Rabun Gap Lady Eagles were able to find their footing and scored a goal in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute of the first half to take a 1-0 lead.

The second half started as dubiously as

the first half ended for Highlands, as Rabun Gap struck again in the first minute of the second half to lead 2-0. Despite winning numerous scoring chances, Highlands could not find the back of the net. As the frustration mounted, so did the goals for Rabun Gap as they pulled away with a 5-0 victory.

The Lady Highlanders would like to thank the commissioners who voted in favor

of our new field, as well as Principal Brian Jetter and Assistant Principal Jim Draheim for their role in working to obtain our new field at Highlands School. Special thanks also go to Jeff Weller, Hank Ross and the Rotary Club for their immense help in preparing the field for this week's games. The next Highlands home game is Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> against Swain County.



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## What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine

I was reminiscing through some old files and came upon a column, published on January 22, 2009, two days after the socialist takeover of our government. I guess I was a little short-sighted concerning the damage that could be wreaked and the short time it would take to wreak it. That column follows.

...

**"T**he government cannot give anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else." Who said that anyway? I'm not sure, but I am sure that Gerald Ford said "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take it from you." Pithy. Who knew the President the media loved to denigrate had such a profound grasp on reality?

We find ourselves somewhere in between the two statements. It's too late to whine about it. The people have spoken and it is what it is. President Obama is the man, Speaker Pelosi is the woman and Harry Reid is ... I don't know. I do know that we have reached the tipping point that de Tocqueville saw as the end of us - "The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money".

So what does it feel like to live in a Socialist society? Most of you all under 60 will doubtless find out in the next 20 years, 40 years tops. I can't answer from personal experience however I did live in South Florida for 25 years and saw dozens if not hundreds of news reports of flimsy rafts, leaky overcrowded boats and inner tubes loaded with Cubans risking their lives to escape the glorious Republic of Cuba.

Socialists advocate the creation of an egalitarian society (political, social and economic equality), in which wealth and power are distributed evenly. In order to achieve this, obviously, the haves must give up some of what they have so that it can be given to the have-nots. Who orchestrates this transfer, you ask? Why, the government, of course. And we all know how efficiently the government handles wealth and property.

I suppose the socialist theory has a certain appeal to those who are on the receiving end of such unmerited goodies and don't know they cost them their freedom.



**Don Swanson**  
**Feedback is encouraged. Email**  
[swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

The biggest threat to the free market economy that has prospered us since our beginning used to be the government taking over the healthcare system.

While this is certainly still on Obama's radar, the activities of recent months put our entire economic system on the block.

With the recent bailouts, and with those to come, the government has and will continue to take "a piece of the action" from businesses they "help". They will insist on having representatives on the Boards of Directors. They will be involved in determining executive compensation and dividend policies. In time, labor unions will be revived, and will play an increasing part in management policy and decisions.

Cuba's plight is a matured story. The U. S. assisted Cuba in its liberation from Spain in 1902. U. S. businesses invested in Cuba's economy and, along with a strong economic injection from tourism, a

healthy middle-class developed and things were pretty good in Cuba. Fidel Castro, and his small band of malcontents managed a successful takeover of U. S. businesses and installed a socialist society. The U. S. threw up an economic embargo and Russia stepped in to help Cuba's economy, now starting the inevitable downslide. With the collapse of the USSR, assistance to Cuba declined and additional misery ensued.

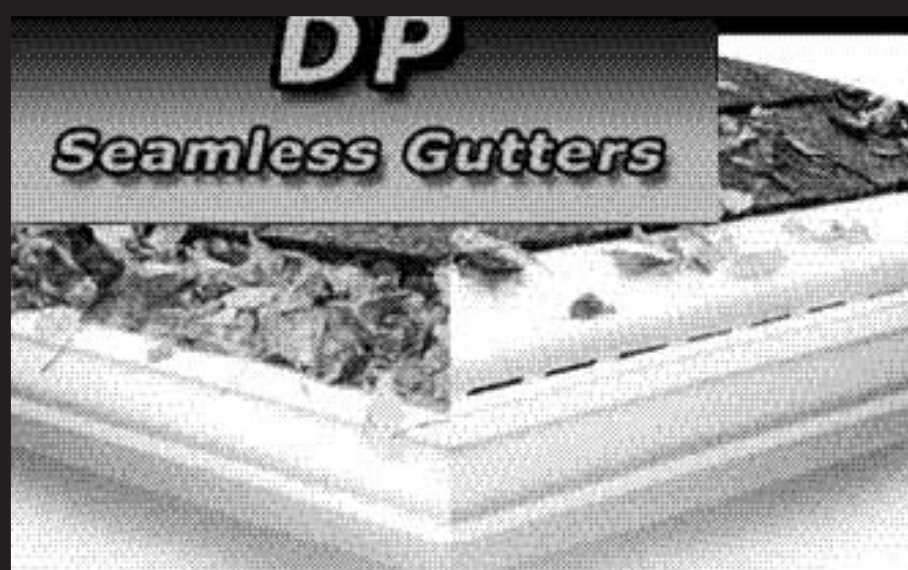
A more current example of evolving socialism is Venezuela, where Hugo Chavez is desperately trying to get the people to allow him another term as President since a term limit would end his reign before he could complete his social reform.

His opponents are calling his re-election proposals "anti-democratic, unconstitutional and against the national interest." Chavez' answer is to order them tear gassed and beaten - "the government cannot look weak".

So now we have an ultra liberal president, an ultra liberal House Speaker, a liberal Senate majority leader and many far-left members of the new cabinet and presidential advisory committees, not to mention liberal committee heads.

No checks, no balance; a liberal press to add to the tsunami - can full-blown socialism be far behind?

Just in case you doubt the politicians have the clout to pull it off, remember Obama's campaign rhetoric about the need for a domestic police force "at least as large and well funded as our present military". What do you suppose he had in mind when that was proposed?



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# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



## Ongoing

• Registration is now open for the 2010 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

## Sundays

• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

## Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4 p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852. (4/15)

## Mon. & Thurs.

• Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Winter Hours:

Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (4/29)

## 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 \$50 a month.

## First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

## Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

## Mondays & Saturdays

• Yoga classes in March at Moonrise Yoga, 464 Carolina Way in Highlands. Mondays 5 to 6:15 p.m. and Saturday 9:30-11 a.m. 526-8880. All levels instruction. (3/25)

## Tuesdays

• Tuesday After School Classes for grades K-6 are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

## Tuesdays & Wednesdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays Zumba Gold/Beginner, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498. (3/25)

## Wednesdays

• Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (ages 2 1/2-5) are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, have a snack, helped with homework time and

supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 pm in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3376.

## Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place will be in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn about Rotary and enjoy fellowship while listening to an interesting speaker. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

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

• See EVENTS page 10

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April 2-8

## CLASH OF THE TITANS

rated PG-13

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Saturday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

Sunday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10

## HOW TO TRAIN A DRAGON in 3D

rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7, 9:10

Saturday: 2, 4:10, 7, 9:10

Sunday: 2, 4:10, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:10, 7

## THE BOUNTY HUNTER

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:25, 7:15, 9:25

Saturday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25

Sunday: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7:15

Tues + Thurs: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15

## DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

rated PG

Friday: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

Saturday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

Sunday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05

Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

## LETTERS TO GOD rated PG

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## TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

### Town Board Meeting

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

APRIL 7 - 7 p.m.

\*\*\*AGENDA\*\*\*

Call to order

1. Public Comments

2. Approve agenda

3. Approve minutes of March 17, 2010

4. Reports

A. Mayor

B. Commissioners

C. Committees

D. Town Manager

1. Consent Agenda

A. Set Public Hearing for May 5, 2010 for John Shearl Zoning Request

B. Award Stone & Sand Bid

2. Public Hearing: Non Habitable Structures

3. Public Hearing: Stormwater Ordinance

4. Ordinance to Ban Dogs from Ball Park

5. Lease Agreement with Performing Arts Center

6. Lease Amendment with Highlands Community Theatre

7. Proposed FY11 Special Revenue Fund Budgets

A. Fire Department Budget

B. Recreation Fund Budget

8. Property Owners Request for Curb Cuts on Oak Street

9. NCLM Environmental Assessment Coalition Project Participation Agreement

10. Renovation of ABC Store for Police Department

A. USDA Loan/Grant Resolution

B. Architectural Services

11. Adjourn

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PULL OUT

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

• 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 Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

#### Every 3rd Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

#### Thursdays

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

#### 1st & 3rd Thursdays

• NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

#### Every Third Saturday

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

#### Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

#### Saturdays

• Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 6:30-8:30. Singer/songwriter Zorki on acoustic guitar playing original music and classic covers by Peter Gabriel, Tom Petty, Paul Simon, Traffic. BYOB.

• Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

• NA open meeting every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. of the ACC Satellite Group at the Graves Community Church, 242 Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers. Call 888-764-0365.

#### Thursday, April 1

• "The Boys Are Back" tells the story of a witty sports-writer (Clive Owen) who, after his wife's death, finds himself a single parent of two boys: a six-year-old and a rebellious teen. His child rearing philosophy to bring joy to his boys forces the father and his boys to grow up. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

#### Friday, April 2

• Noon. Stations of the Cross. Amini pilgrimage starting at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic church and walking from church to church in downtown Highlands. Scripture and music as we go. All are welcome.

• On Good Friday, at 7 pm at Community Bible Church, bring a friend and enjoy a moving journey through the last week of our Lord's life. Drama, dance, and moving worship will accentuate the depth of the love of Christ as He moves ever so intently toward the cross. For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit [www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com).

#### Saturday, April 3

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sarah Valentine will be taking photos. Also during that time, kids of all ages can get their face painted and enjoy refreshments (to include Chick-Fil-A sandwiches) from the Highlands United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Youth Groups, who are raising money for a mission trip to Haiti this summer.

• An EggFest, at noon, it will be the egg hunt of all egg hunts! Kids will enjoy food, bounce houses, petting zoo, prizes and a hunt for over 3,000 eggs. Families can meet at

noon at the Highlands Town Baseball field for a great time! For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit [www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com).

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-5 mile moderate hike on the Coweeta Hydrological Lab upper trail, an old logging trail through the pines, ending up at Shope Creek with a secluded waterfall nearby. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

#### Sunday, April 4

• Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m. at the Highlands Nature Center. This is an outdoor event. Bring a blanket and come hear the birds sing as the sun rises! These are both ecumenical events — ALL are welcome!

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Little Tennessee River Greenway, shuttling from Big Bear Park to Macon Co. Library, and hiking back to Big Bear Park, observing seedpods, nuts, fruits and early wildflowers along the way. Meet at Big Bear Park, Main Street, Franklin at 2 PM. Drive 2 miles for the shuttle car. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

• On Easter Sunday, at 10:45 am at Community Bible Church, we will share in the "Convincing Proofs" of the resurrection power of Christ in a careful look at the evidence of Christ at work in our lives and in the world following His resurrection from the dead. For more information, call 828-526-4685 or visit [www.cbchighlands.com](http://www.cbchighlands.com).

#### Monday, April 5

• New! A Working Women's Bible Study will begin on Monday, 5:30-7:30 pm at the home of Carol Bowen. The topic will be The Inheritance, a Beth Moore Bible study. The only cost is \$5 for a listening guide. For further details please

Passionate Hearts  
for All,  
Because of Jesus'  
Passion for Us!

Chris  
Anglican Church

#### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

#### Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday.

9 a.m. Worship Service at Whiteside PCA Church facilities, 621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers. Adult Christian Education & Fellowship to follow at Buck's Coffee at the Cashiers Crossroads.

#### Monday, March 29:

Seder Meal, 6 p.m., Boone House, Chestnut Hill Retirement Community.

#### Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday.

5 p.m. Observance of the occasion of the Last Supper & New Commandment with opportunity to participate in Foot-Washing and Communion. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

#### Friday, April 2: Good Friday.

5 p.m. Observance of the occasion of our Lord's crucifixion and passion. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

#### Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday.

9 a.m. Festal Communion and Worship Service.

No Adult Christian Education this morning. Whiteside PCA Church, Cashiers.

The Reverend Jim Murphy, Rector  
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701  
[www.christanglicanchurch.com](http://www.christanglicanchurch.com)

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Rec Park to benefit Relay for Life, and summer mission trips to Haiti



The Relay for Life of Highlands is bringing the Easter Bunny to the town Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. The Easter Bunny will be at the Highlands Rec Park from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sarah Valentine will be taking photos. Also during that time, kids of all ages can get their face painted and enjoy refreshments (to include Chick-Fil-A sandwiches) from the Highlands United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Youth Groups, who are raising money for a mission trip to Haiti this summer.

## PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day, 1-Act Play Festival April 22-25

Highlands-Cashiers Players mainstays Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon have joined forces to cultivate and perpetuate youth theater in Highlands.

Thanks to a \$25,000 donation by Nancy Eckerd the PAC Youth Theater is now in session.

Stipulations attached to the funds mandate they are used for youth theater and Spilton has been named overseer of the funds.

Students in grades 7-12 from Highlands School, Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter and homeschools have been invited to participate in the program which kicks off with a 4-day, one-act play festival at the Performing Arts Center presenting six plays April 22-25.

About 25 students are involved this time around which meant finding an appropriate script. To ensure every student got a specified part and decent stage time, Spilton and Gordon decided on six on-act plays.

"Doing it this way they are actually get-

ting valuable one-on-one tutoring in theater," said Spilton. "This affords them the opportunity to learn all the components of theater."

April's Youth Theater program will feature "The Happy Journey to Camden and Trenton" directed by Gordon; "A Game" directed by Spilton; "He Done Her Wrong or Wedded But No Wife" directed by Spilton; "Impromptu" directed by Gordon; "The Girl Who Was Asked to Turn Blue" directed by Spilton; and "The Stronger Gender"

directed by Spilton.

Also under the PAC Youth Theater umbrella, will be the "Act Up at PAC" program for children in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade which will teach the basics of acting. To register, call 526-9047.

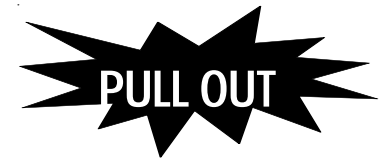
Act Up at PAC will meet every Saturday in May from 10-noon and two weeks in June and will end with a performance.

• Additional funding came from Rotary and the Cullasaja Women's Club.





# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



call Carol Bowen at 526-5168.

## Tuesday, April 6

- Leadership Highlands; three-part program produced by The College of Business at Western Carolina University addresses economic development and related issues in our area 4-6 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce via e-mail at 828-526-5841.

- The Mountain High Republican Women's Club first luncheon of the season will be held at the Inn at Millstone on Tuesday April 6, 11:30 AM. The Inn is located on Highway 64 between Highlands and Cashiers. All MHRWC members and Republican women from Jackson, Transylvania, and Macon Counties are invited to attend this premier event of the newly formed group. Speakers expected will address current political information. For reservations contact President, Melisa McKim at 828 200-0437.

## Thursday, April 8

- The April meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 7 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday.

- Candidate Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters at Tartan Hall at the Presbyterian Church in Franklin. at noon.

## Saturday, April 10

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Long Branch loop trail in the Standing Indian area, crossing the creek a few times. Bring hiking stick. Meet at Clubhouse in Franklin at 1 p.m. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

- Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom. Cost is \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members. Register now. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.

## Thursday, April 15

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to Rough Run and High Falls, seeing many wildflowers along the way and climbing over rocky terrain near the falls. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 9:30 am; Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- "Amelia" on April 15 looks at the life of legendary pilot Amelia Earhart (Hillary Swank) who disappeared while flying over the Pacific Ocean in 1937 while attempting a flight around the world. The movies will be shown in the Library Meeting Room at 3 p.m. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

## Saturday, April 17

- The 2010 Earth Day is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Highlands ballfield on US 64. the Highlands-Cashiers community will be celebrating locally for the sixth year! The celebration is FREE and will be held rain or shine or snow. Earth Day in the Mountains 2010 will feature live music, educational workshops, interactive demonstrations, and food. There will be games and crafts for the young and the young at heart. The event is an opportunity for local organizations and businesses to showcase their environmental interests and preservation efforts.

## Bascom Art Academy starts April 12



Have you ever wanted to try an art class but didn't know the first thing about paintbrushes, clay or drawing pencils? Or do you have art experience that you would like to rekindle or expand? The Bascom has created something to meet these needs: The Bascom Art Academy.

These ongoing classes for non-artist, beginner or continuing students are "gateway" experiences – entry points to, or expansion of, your art experience.

Starting April 12, The Bascom will offer its spring Art Academy session — eight weeks of beginning art classes that last through June 4.

Classes include:

- Life Drawing Open Studio, Mondays 5–7 pm (\$120 Bascom members/ \$145 non-members for eight classes)

- Drawing, instructor Knight Martorell, Mondays 2–4 pm or 6–8 pm (\$200 members/ \$225 nonmembers for eight classes)

- Photography, instructor Bill Rouda, Tuesdays 6–8 pm or Thursdays 10 am–noon (\$200 Bascom members/ \$225 non-members for eight classes)

- Artist's Way: Book/Discussion Class, instructor Diane McPhail, Wednesdays 10 am–noon (\$200 Bascom members/ \$225 non-members for eight classes)

- Painting, instructor Diane McPhail, Wednesdays 2–4 pm (\$200 Bascom members/ \$225 nonmembers for eight classes)

- Ceramics: Beginning to Intermediate, instructor Patrick Taylor, Mondays and Wednesdays 10 am–noon (\$350 Bascom members/ \$375 non-members, all basic materials provided)

- Watercolor Basics, instructor Robin Swaby, Thursdays 2–4 pm or 6–8 pm (\$200 Bascom members/ \$225 non-members for eight classes)

Three four-week summer sessions and one eight-week fall session will also be offered. To register call 52604949.

## Sunday, April 18

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1-mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail through woodlands with wildflowers and a steep section leading to a waterfall. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 PM. Drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over 10 are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to Rough Run and High Falls, seeing many wildflowers along the way and climbing over rocky terrain near the falls. Bring water, wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Highlands Inn & Kelsey Place Restaurant

Opening for our 130th Season!  
Friday, April 2



Join us for our Scrumptious Easter Breakfast Buffet  
8am - 11am  
in the Kelsey Place Restaurant

Adults \$13  
Children 10 and under \$7

Enjoy Fresh Juices, Coffee  
Scrambled Eggs, Bacon,  
Pecan Praline French toast,  
Homestyle Potatoes, Grits,  
Buttermilk Biscuits &  
Sausage Gravy,  
Fresh Fruit display

420 Main Street • 526- 9380

## Register now to ride in the Tour de Cashiers set for May 1 at the Village Green at the Crossroads in Cashiers

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Cashiers is Saturday, May 1. Knock the snow off your old bicycle and start getting in shape now for the 2010 edition of the Tour.

This distant bicycling event is regarded as one of the toughest yet most scenic rides in the country. The event attracts hundreds of riders from the surrounding states for this challenging tour of the regional mountains.

This year the Tour de Cashiers is partnering with the Walhalla, SC ride (Issaqueena's Last Ride) for the Blue Ridge Double. Ride both rides and you will have toured the Appalachian escarpment from bottom to top.

It will be held on consecutive weekends. Riders who complete the metric or full century in both will receive a commemorative Blue Ridge Double hat.



The Tour de Cashiers features three rides, from 24-miles to a full 100-mile century ride. The Century is right up there as one of the toughest rides in the country.

Started in 1992 by Clark Moore, the tour has grown into a great regional ride and trainer for some of the more competitive bigger rides in the spring such as the assault on Mt. Mitchell.

The Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties, sheriff and rescue squads will be assisting as well as dozens of volunteers. The ride is well supported with many rest stops and "sag wagons" touring the routes. If you would like to volunteer or donate to the tour email

at [tour@cashiers.com](mailto:tour@cashiers.com).

The after-ride lunch is open to spectators or anyone who would like to attend. It all starts at the Village Green in Cashiers.



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

# Welcome to the Easter Wonderland

**Rev. Brian Sullivan**  
**Episcopal Church**  
**of the Incarnation**



I am not sure how many of you have seen the new film Alice in Wonderland. If you have, you may have caught yourself feeling a sense of déjà vu or familiarity with Alice, because you know what it is like to fall into a rabbit hole (of sorts). I can tell you, a strange thing happens after you realize you have fallen. Upon impact, nothing really makes sense. It's disorienting. It can be lonely and desolate and filled with wandering in complete darkness. A moment later you can be surrounded by people who are so wildly different than you that you can't figure out how they made it down the same rabbit hole.

I can remember looking for a particular rabbit hole at a young age. I had learned a few words and some stories to help me find my way. But looking back, I am not sure how it happened. There was definitely no magical moment that I can look back on to let others know: "these are the directions." I did have some numinous experiences that brought me closer, but I am convinced it had more to do with the ordinary events of life. It has taken years to decipher where I first realized I was in a wonderland. However, I can say without a doubt, it exists.

Let me describe it for you. The first thing you might notice upon entering is an obvious void. There is no judgment. You cannot even detect slight judgment, like the kind people describe when they say, "I don't judge, but... you really don't belong unless you think/believe/do it my way." I suppose the reason for this void is the awareness everyone has of their own brokenness. Everyone is willing to admit that "I have moments when I goof up, say the wrong thing, and do the wrong thing." Instead of holding them back, this awareness sets them free. There is no longer a need to dwell on how everyone else falls short, which gives people a freedom to forgive. And that might be the greatest byproduct of the absence of judgment – forgiveness, which enables everyone to admit they are no better than anyone else.

Other things that happen because of this void are understanding, empathy, patience, peace, compassion, and love. When you realize you are as broken as everyone else, you find yourself putting yourself in others shoes (empathy). When you've "been there, and done that" it allows time for people to find their way and for you to see there is actually more than one way to do things (patience). It's easier to offer help, encouragement and create genuine friendships (kindness). There is lightness to the atmosphere when people realize they have more in common than they do differences (peace). And then one awakens to the greatest gift this wonderland has to offer, people sharing themselves with each other (love). As you look around something else is clearly missing – competition. It is no longer necessary, because everyone is helping and giving and serving everyone.

So how can you find "wonderland"? Imagine a person came along and embodied the source of all that I have just described. Now imagine this person dwelt among us and people began to follow him. You can imagine the influence such a person would have. Obviously being the only person living in such an attractive wonderland and teaching people how to get there, it would cause quite a disruption to the "normal" world. Questions would arise like, "what if everyone followed this way of living, without judgment or competition, the whole system would collapse?" Statements would be made

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
**Chapel of Sky Valley**  
Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy  
Communion each service

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe,  
Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study and Supper - 6:00  
p.m., members' homes

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

Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10:30 a.m.,  
members; homes

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
Pastor Gary Hewins  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
*Palm Sunday, March 28 Service at 10:45am*  
*Good Friday "A Walk to the Cross," April 2 at 7pm*  
*Saturday, April 4 at 12pm: EggFest at Highlands*  
*Town Baseball Field*

*Easter Sunday Service, April 4 at 10:45 am (kids*  
*grades k-5: special Easter Eggstravaganza)*

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.  
(nursery provided)  
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens  
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;  
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.  
Small groups available throughout the week.  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526--4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30  
a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15  
Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6  
p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion &  
Breakfast  
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Sixth Street  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7  
**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy  
526-3376

Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m.  
Youth Group

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

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

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

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**

Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group  
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor  
Parish office, 526-2418  
Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.  
Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Clifford Willis  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;  
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7  
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second  
Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FEET •

## Navigating the new real estate environment

### Part3 – Purchasing a Short-Sale Property

• This is the third article in Highlands's Newspaper's newest column "Investing at 4,118 Feet" for which area Realtors will write. Following deVillie Schiffli's multipart series, other real estate writers will be featured in a round-robin fashion, like our Spiritually Speaking columnists. If you're interested in participating, email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com). Conditions do apply.



**Susie deVillie Schiffli**  
**Harry Norman,**  
**Realtors**

Real estate investors are becoming ever more energized as the market begins to show signs of recovery. Understandably, bargain hunters are out, looking for properties that may offer them an unparalleled opportunity to either get into the Highlands-Cashiers market for the first time or add to their existing real estate holdings.

And as a part of this process, buyers have the option of considering a short-sale property (a property being sold for below what the current seller owes on the property, and the seller does not have the funds to make up the difference at closing), among the other active listings.

Short-sale transactions are animals of a different stripe, so it is important for buyers to fully understand ahead of time if they are a good fit for pursuing such an investment.

You may be an ideal buyer candidate for a short-sale property if you meet the following criteria:

- You are patient and are not in a hurry to close (many short sale closings may take 90 days or even longer)
- You understand the importance of offering a realistic purchase price (so the lender will accept your offer)
- You can handle the emotional roller coaster of not knowing until just days before closing whether it will actually go through or not
- You have few or no contingencies (e.g., your offer is not contingent upon the sale of another home)
- You are willing and able to write an earnest money check and have those funds tied up until the deal closes
- You are willing to pay for a home inspection without knowing if you'll actually successfully close
- You are a cash buyer or your financing is in order (you are preapproved and can close at any time)
- You have a real estate agent who can expertly navigate the short sale process

Once you have identified a short-sale property that is of high interest, make sure you do your due diligence. Go ahead and hire a licensed home inspector, get all your

inspections completed, and formulate a rough estimate of how much it is going to cost to repair or renovate the property. Next, in partnership with your real estate agent, determine the property's worth and its profit potential.

If you are still a go at this point, work with your agent to submit a reasonable offer (remember that the National Association of Realtors reports that "Freddie Mac has stated that their target sales price on a short sale is 88% of the broker price opinion") with your earnest money (again, know ahead of time that this money may be tied up for some time).

The short-sale contract is signed by the buyer and the seller (not the lender). The lender *approves* the contract (and is an additional contingency); therefore, even if the seller accepts the offer, there is no guarantee the bank will approve the contract.

The entire process becomes even more complicated if there is more than one lender involved. If there is a second mortgage or a home equity line of credit, you'll need approval from all lenders.

Even though there has been quite a lot of discussion about the government and financial industry working together to enact a more streamlined, short-sale course of action, the reality today is that short sales remain a time-consuming process. If, however, you are able to handle the ups and downs of such a transaction, a short sale is definitely worth exploring, given the potential to snap up a great buy.

After becoming more knowledgeable about the short-sale landscape, you may decide you are not adventurous enough to proceed pursuing such a property. In that case, you might want to consider an REO transaction (REO stands for real estate owned) which is a property that the bank has already taken back in foreclosure.

Next week, we'll delve into the sphere of foreclosed and REO properties and learn more about this world from both the seller's and buyer's perspectives.

• Susie deVillie Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her blog at [www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com](http://www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com), or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.

## Holy Week at Holy Family Lutheran Church

2152 Dillard Rd/Hwy 106



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1

5:30 PM – TAIZE-style service

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 2

5:30 PM Service of Light/Darkness

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 4

9:30 – Coffee Hour

10 – Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 – *Service of Resurrection*  
*with Holy Communion*



## First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2010

Thursday, April 1, 2010

5:00 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday Service*

A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ's life.

The service will conclude in Holy Communion.

Friday, April 2, 2010

12:00 noon

*Stations of the Cross*

Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.

Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

Sunday, April 4, 2010

6:45 a.m.

*Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service*

Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.

Service held at the Highlands' Biological Center Amphitheater.

11:00 a.m.

*Easter Sunday Communion Service*

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School

Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit [www.fpchighlands.org](http://www.fpchighlands.org)



471 Main Street  
PO Box 548  
Highlands, NC 28741



Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate



## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 3

opportunity to do so as an elected official.

### • **Brian McClellan – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)**

I am 53 years old and have been happily married to my wife Julie for twenty four years. Julie teaches kindergarten at Highlands School. We have two sons, twins Matthew and Luke, who are freshmen at App State. Through my employment with Edward Jones Investments I use asset protection strategies to help people at or nearing retirement to ensure that they don't run out of money so that they have something to pass along to their children or favorite cause. I was born in Anderson SC and earned degrees from the University of SC and Clemson University. I am a member of the Highlands Rotary Club and a Past President. My family worships at Community Bible Church

where I served two terms as an Elder and along with my wife hosted Sunday night Youth Group for four years. I have served on the PTO Board at Highlands School and as a tutor at the Literacy Council. I have been a Big Brother in the Big Brother/Big Sister program at Highlands School and currently serve on the BBBS Board. Running is a favorite hobby with the Highlands Roadrunners and spending time with my whole family is the activity I enjoy the most. Serving the citizens of Macon County for the past four years has been one of the most humbling, rewarding, and educational undertakings of which I have had the privilege to experience.

### • **Bob Simpson – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

I am 61 years old. I have been married for

34 years to Margaret Setser Simpson. We have four wonderful children, Caroline 28, Stephanie 25, Jeffrey and Sissy are 16-year-old twins. I grew up right here in Macon County, as has my wife and our children. I attended our local schools and attended Western Carolina University. I have been self employed since 1970. I am a life-long member of the First United Methodist Church in Franklin. Also a Paul Harris Fellow in the Franklin Rotary Club. I have been your commissioner since 2002 and seeking re-election for my third term.

### • **Carroll Poindexter – County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

I was born in Franklin and grew up in Cowee Valley here in Macon County. I am 50 years old and my wife of 23 1/2 years and I live in the North Skeenah Community which is just south of Franklin. We have two sons and six grandchildren. I am a General Contractor and a part-time instructor for Southwestern Community College. I have a business degree and I'm a licensed North Carolina General Contractor, Electrical Contractor, Home Inspector, State Approved Electric Instructor for Continuing Education. I am a member of National Fire Protection Association and a Life Time member of Cambridge Who's Who.

### • **Ronnie Beale – Incumbent, County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

I am 54 years old and a native of Macon County. I am a 1973 graduate of Franklin High School. I have been married to wife Cissy for 29 years and we have 3 children – Cara, Evan, and Barrett. I am Owner/President of Beale Construction Inc. since 1980. Past affiliations include president of Cowee and Iotla Elementary School PTO, past president of Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, past president N.C. Community Foundation, past chairman Ma-

con County Social Services, past chairman Macon County Board of Equalization and Review, past chairman Macon County Planning Board, served on board of REACH of Macon County, past president of Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club, past master of Junaluskee Masonic Lodge and past ambassador to Shriner's Crippled Children Hospital. Currently, I am a member of Board of Directors of Macon Bank, a member of Board of Directors of Macon County Fair and was elected in 2006 to Macon County Board of Commissioners and have served as chairman since 2009

### • **Ron Haven – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)**

I am a 1975 graduate of Franklin High School. I am age 51. I am a native of Franklin, NC. My family for over 100 years were from Macon County. My wife of 24 years is Maricela from Los Angeles, CA. We have 11-year old twin sons Cody and Ryan. I have been in business for over 25 years in Franklin also. Although in my younger years I owned and operated several different type businesses, I am now a real estate investor and am owner or co-owner of four motels — The Franklin Motel, The Sapphire Inn, Budget Inn of Franklin, and Budget Inn of Hiawassee, GA. I currently serve on the Franklin Tourism Authority, Franklin's First Step Program, and the Appalachian Trail Gateway Program

### • **Charlie Leatherman – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)**

I am 59 years old and native Maconian. I am married to Melissa and we have three sons Lucas, Miciah and Gabriel and one daughter-in-law, Lauren who is married to Lucas. I am a teacher employed by the Macon County Board of Education and work at the Macon County Middle School. I also own and have operated

## • HIGHLANDS ART GALLERIES •

### *Greenleaf Gallery*

**& Custom Picture Framing**  
The "Robert Tino" place in Highlands!

featuring antiques & home decor, too  
**NEW LOCATION! ...on the hill**



[www.greenleafgallerygifts.com](http://www.greenleafgallerygifts.com)  
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### *Explore. Participate.*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN HILLIER

#### WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9-5.

Enter from ground-floor building rear.

#### HAPPENING NOW:

- Winter youth art classes (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays)
- Spring and artist-in-residence workshops (pre-register now!)
- Collective Spirits wine festival tickets on sale (May 21-22; [collectivespirits.com](http://collectivespirits.com))



*Exhibitions, shop,  
studio classes, nature trail*

**THE BASCOM**  
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS  
828.526.4949  
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## Art Glass

Fused Glass and  
Estate Silver

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(before The Bascom Bridge)  
828-526-4095

### **Corey James Gallery**

Fine Art and Collectables, Bronzes, Water  
Foundatins, Furniture and Accessories,  
Hand-made Signs & Custom Artwork

Corner of 3rd & Spring  
828 526 4818



## Holy Week Services at...

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**315 MAIN STREET with Pastor Paul Christy**

### **Thursday, April 1 – MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service.

We will share together in Holy Communion

### **Friday, April 2 – GOOD FRIDAY**

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Good Friday service

### **Sunday, April 4 – EASTER SUNDAY**

6:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Join us and other churches at the amphitheatre behind the

Biological Research Center for our sunrise service.

### **WORSHIP SERVICES / THE LIVING CROSS**

Join us as we celebrate at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Bring a flower from your garden or something purchased  
to place on the cross before each service.

### **9:30 a.m. – COVERED DISH BREAKFAST**

Bring an egg casserole/quiche, fruit salad, or

coffee cake/muffins to share as we have breakfast together.

### **10 a.m. – CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & STORYTIME**

The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more info ... please call 828.526.3376



## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 14

Leatherman Tax Service in Franklin since 1996. I have a B.S. from Western Carolina University with a double major in math and gifted education. I am a former county commissioner and served on the board from December 2000-December 2008; served as vice chairman from 2004 until 2006 and as chairman from 2006 until 2008. I am a veteran and served active duty in the US Army from 1970-1972 and in the reserve component from 1976 until 1991. I have three overseas tours of duty while in the armed forces. I have served as the District 17 Director to the NC Association of County Commissioners and was nominated for Commissioner of the Year in 2005. I have served as President of the Macon County Community Development Association, President of the Cowee Community Development Club, as president of the Personnel Policy Council for the Macon County School System, Board of Directors for the Cowee Volunteer Fire Department, board president for the Macon County Citizens for the Handicapped, board member for the Tom Raby Memorial Scholarship Fund, board member of the Wayne Profit Memorial Scholarship Fund, and board member of the Macon County Academic Foundation. I have served on the NC Teaching Fellows Scholarship Committee, currently serve on Smoky Mountain Mental Health Regional Board of Directors, as a member of the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Community College, am a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US Post 7339 and I'm a Board member of the Macon County Fair Association. These organizations as well as some other group affiliations keep me involved with local and regional issues and activities.

### • **George Lynch – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am a 61-year-old native of Macon County. My family (Fouts and Rickman) settled here in the 1850's. I attended school at Iotla Elementary and Franklin High. I have an Associate Degree in Forest Management. I married the former Nancy Arvey 41 years ago, we have no children, but have been blessed with many wonderful nieces and nephews to share our lives with. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army. I worked 34 years with the U.S. Forest Service, 20 years in Fire Control and Timber Management. In 1992, I attended The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA, and worked 14 years as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. I am a member of Iotla Baptist Church, where it has been a highlight of my life to teach a Bible Class for the past 34 years. I am a member of the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of Police.

### • **Ricky DeHart – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am 38 years of age, born and raised in Franklin, NC. I have always loved Franklin and all it has to offer. I'm married to Natasha DeHart we live in the South Macon district. We have two beautiful daughters, Tessa 5 and Jozy, 4. I also have three more beautiful daughters from a previous marriage — Tiffany 19, Hedi, 17 and Samantha, 13. I live a very laid back, responsible lifestyle. Most importantly, I'm a family man, a personable man and a common man for the common people. I interned with the Macon County Sheriff's department for eight months as a "ride along." There, I learned different procedures for many different situations and most importantly had a lot of hands-on experience. My goal for running for Sheriff is to make a change in the way people see law

enforcement in Macon County. I will be here to protect and serve the community in any way possible, at all times being available to the people.

### • **Richard Davis – Sheriff (Dem)**

I am 43 years old. I am a native of Western North Carolina, one of five children to a single mother who worked so hard to give us the best chance to have a successful life. I grew up knowing the importance of hard work, integrity, honesty, and getting an education. I have been married to my wife and best friend, Rebecca, for 23 wonderful years. We have 4 beautiful children who bring us such incredible joy. We have also been blessed to have two wonderful grandchildren. Our family is very close we try and get together once a week. I went through B.L.E.T the spring of 1995 and graduated in the fall of the same year. I started as a Patrol Officer, Investigator, Captain, and Chief Deputy at the Macon County Sheriff's Department. Each of these has helped me develop a strong understanding of what it takes to be a great sheriff. I have been very active in our community, I have been on the board of Burningtown Iotla Fire Department and a member of Franklin Church of God.

### • **Robert L. Holland – Sheriff (Rep)**

I'm 43 years old and am married to Marci, my wife of 16 years. We're both members of Pine Grove Baptist Church. I'm the son of the late Arvil Holland, a native of Macon County. I was born in Naples, FL and moved here permanently 21 years ago. I'm among the 6th generation of Hollands to call Macon County home. I have 19 years of law enforcement experience and am serving my 8th year as Sheriff. I'm proud to be a Sheriff who has not forgotten the Highlands community—as evidenced by my implementation of 24/7 coverage for this area. Feel free to call me anytime — home 369-6096 office 349-2152.

### • **Jimmy Goodman – NC Senate Dis-**

### trict 50 (Rep)

I have been a resident of Macon County for 20 years. I am the self-employed owner of Jimmy's Custom Cabinets. I am married to Jan Goodman. We have one child Kevin Williams and two grandchildren, Zach, 10 and Logan, 4. I graduated Opelika High School in 1976. I am a member of FreedomWorks and have served four years on the Macon County Planning Board.

### • **James W. Davis – NC Senate District 50 (Rep)**

I was born in Lynchburg, VA and my education includes graduation from the Shenandoah Valley Academy, the Southern Adventist University where I earned a BA in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and was selected to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." After teaching science at the Highland View Academy I graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. I maintain dentistry licenses in NC, GA and CA. I practiced family dentistry here in Franklin while earning my Masters from Loma Linda University Graduate School with Master of Science in Orthodontics and I maintain practice in Franklin, North Carolina 1989 to present. I am married to Judith N. Salyers and we are members of the Franklin Seventh-day Adventist church where I have been a deacon, elder, class teacher and board member. I have been a member of the Franklin Jaycees, the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin Lion's Club, the Macon County Board of Health and I was a Macon County Commissioner 1996-2000, 2004-2008. In 2008 I ran for the commission unopposed; my term ends 2012.

Question 2, which will be answered in the April 8 issue is: Tell us why you are running for office, specifically what you like or dislike about what's going on — and why you are the right person for the seat you are attempting to get or keep and why you can do it better than your opponents?

## POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from March 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### March 24

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S 64 and Spruce Street.

### March 26

• At 10:35 a.m., a officers responded to a call of a trespasser at a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

### March 27

• At 3:40 p.m., a canvas hand bag was found at the Rec Park and returned to the owner.

• At 10:25 p.m, officers on patrol found an open door at the Rec Park. It was secured.

### March 28

• At 2:30 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 from an address on Main Street.

During the week, police officers responded to 8 alarms and issued 6 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 24:

### March 24

• At 10:03 a.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Oak Street. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### March 25

• At 9:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an accident on Turtle Pond Road. It was unfounded.

### March 26

• At 8:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a accident at Sliding Rock where a person sustained minor injuries. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Turtle Pond. There was minimal damage.

### March 27

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Biscuit Rock Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### March 28

• At 1:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 8:42 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by a water system at a residence on Country Club Drive,

• At 5:03 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

### March 29

• At 2:57 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive. It was cancelled by the alarm company.

## • CLASSIFIEDS •

### LEGAL

### NOTICE

### CALL OF SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING OF MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC

A special information meeting of the Town of Highlands, a North Carolina public body, is hereby called to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center, for the transaction of business of said town, located at 869 Poplar Street, Highlands, North Carolina. It is desired by the Highlands Town Commissioners that a loan be secured from Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, in order to obtain sufficient funds for the construction of the Old Highlands ABC Store renovation for the relocation of the Highlands Police Department. All, or substantially all, of the assets and property of the project acquired as part of this project may be encumbered by the loan agreement.

Mayor David Wilkes  
Town Manager, Jim Fatland  
3/25, 4/1

### HELP WANTED

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** has an experienced butcher position available. Call Kevin at 526-2400. (st. 4/1)

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** is looking for a smiling face to join our team as a cashier. Apply in person corner of 5th and Main Highlands. (st. 4/1)

**FRESSERS EATERY** now taking applications for experienced waitstaff and line cooks. Call Debbie at 526-8847. (St. 3/18)

**FULL TIME OR PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE.** Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (St. 3/4)

**(1) POLICE OFFICER, HIGHLANDS, NC.** SALARY GRADE: (12) \$28,457.00- \$45,492. Full Family Medical REQUIREMENTS: Successful candidate must be 21 years of age; BLET-certified; and submit to an extensive background investigation, drug screening, and psychological evaluation. Applicant must possess a valid North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia driver's license, for the state which they reside in as a permanent resident. Applicant must successfully complete the Highlands Police Department application process. CLOSING DATE: Until Filled CONTACT: Highlands Police Department, Capt. R.L. Forrester, 310 Oak Street. Highlands, NC 28741. (828) 526-8734. (st. Feb. 28)

**PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. NC license required. Primarily orthopedic caseload in an outpatient clinic. Experience preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**PRN-RN's** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**CNA** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour with shift and weekend differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**RESPIRATORY THERAPIST** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN position working 12 hour shifts. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

### WORK WANTED

**LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK.** Have tools. Please call Alferdo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

• See CLASSIFIEDS on page 16



## • CLASSIFIEDS •

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**ADORABLE 2/2 JOE WEBB LOG CABIN** only a stone's throw from Mirror Lake. Completely furnished for only \$499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pictures at [www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics](http://www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics) (5/27)

**TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY** - Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

**\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME**, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

### RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

**SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT.** full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 3/25)

**WALK TO TOWN** from this 3/3 furnished older home near Bascom. Year-round, consider seasonal. \$1,250/month includes electric. 526-5558. (4/8)

**1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, FURNISHED 1 1/2 FROM DOWNTOWN.** \$600 per month, incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer/dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (4/29)

**LOCATION, LOCATION!** 2BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (st. 2/25)

**REALLY NEAT DUPLEX** - Two bed, one bath. Screened porch, garage, etc. 122 Dog Mountain Road. \$750/mth plus utilities and \$200 deposit. Call 828-508-0664. (St. 1/14)

**ONE BED, 1 BATH**, plus den with trundle beds - fully furnished, new construction, including utilities, cable TV, W/D, wireless Internet access. Smoke-free environment. 1,200 sq. ft. plus 2 outside decks. Walk to Main Street. Near new Bascom. \$950/month. Call 813-428-2359. (4/15)

**ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES.** Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental \$2,500 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (4/1)

**ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN** - 535 N. 4th Street. \$600 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

**CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE.** 2BR/1BA. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. Pets negotiable. \$900/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 10/22)

**FULLY FURNISHED 4-ROOM CABIN SUITE** off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person. \$700/mo. includes electric, heat, satellite TV and wifi. Visit <http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com/> for virtual tour. Phone (828) 421-7922. (st. 11/12)

**ROOM FOR RENT** - furnished. Non-smoker, must love dogs. Whiteside Cove [6 miles to town] \$50/wk. No utilities. Call 828-787-1515 (4/15)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT** - newly furnished one bed/one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. \$795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/30)

**GREAT 2 1/2 BATH APARTMENT** - Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

### COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

**FOR SALE - BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS** - 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

**RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD.** - Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

**RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE** - Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-5673. (st. 4/16)

### VACATION RENTAL

**RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN** - Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828) 526-8645 e-mail: [chestnutcottages@yahoo.com](mailto:chestnutcottages@yahoo.com) (ST. 11/5)

### ITEMS FOR SALE

**PIANO** - Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates Plays Beautifullt \$7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

**COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR.** \$500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

**2005 BOBCAT 334 G SERIES** - Enclosed cab/heat, 800 hrs./hydraulic thumb, 16 & 24 in. bucket. Asking: \$21,500 OBO. Call: 526-5793 (st. 12/3)

**CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002** - Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9)

### SERVICES

**ANY OUTSIDE WORK** - Landscaping, Tree climbing, roofing or stone work. Insured & Legal employees. Call 828-206-0207. (4/22)

**GOT DUST?** - Letson Cleaning Service provides Residential, Deep Cleans, Rentals, Offices and Property Management. Call us today! Office: 828-369-9127. Cell: 828-421-4239 (5/27)

**HANDYMAN SPECIAL** - Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-342-7864. (4/8)

**DEBRIS AND TREE REMOVAL CLEANUP.** Roof and gutter repair expert. Call 371-1103. (st. 2/25)

**THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN** - Anything and Everything. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031.

**24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE** - 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. \$2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603. (4/8)

**TREE SERVICE** - Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for "Woolly Adelgid." 828-526-2251 (4/29)

**J & J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** - Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251. (4/29)

## ... UDO from page 1

ment between now and summer.

Since the UDO is an amendment to the town ordinances, the planning board is required by state law to review and make recommendations to the Town Board. "However, we are not at that point yet," said Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley. "This has turned into a much larger task than even I had imagined."

But it will be worth it.

Cooley said when the UDO is finished, it will be easy to understand and user-friendly for laymen, building professionals, committees and boards.

With the comprehensive UDO in hand, hopefully protracted Zoning and Planning board meetings interpreting conflicting definitions and regulations will end.

"Poor or no definitions of things like 'cluster developments' have caused big problems in the past," said Planning Board and UDO Committee member Pat Taylor.

There is a detailed Table of Contents and numerous charts and tables in the UDO which incorporate several aspects of a scenario defined by codes - "P" for permitted, "L" for permitted with restrictions, a blank if not permitted, etc.

In addition, state statutes will be included in an appendix so people understand the regulations behind ordinances, said Cooley. Applications and permits, recommended plant lists, and a calendar outlining dates for application and permit submittal and review will also be in the "book."

A separate Specification Standards Manual will also be developed outlining construction specifications - things engineers need to know for the actual construction process, said Cooley.

For now, the Planning Board will look over the document and email suggestions back by April 6 so they can be incorporated in time for a mid-April meeting with the UDO Committee. — **Kim Lewicki**

Deluxe, Indoor  
Climate Controlled  
Self Storage  
With covered  
loading zone



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Generator

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828-526-9325

Cell: 828-200-1139

email: [allandearth@msn.com](mailto:allandearth@msn.com)

J & M Collision Center

Auto Body Repair and Detail Shop

Owner: Jeff Miller



65 Brooks Rd.

Highlands

828-526-1507

3/25



## ... LETTERS from page 2

originally requested. What property owner in Highlands would be willing to give the town permanent access and control to a portion of their land, to conduct a repair which should only take months to complete? We favor a **temporary** easement along with a few stipulations including the timely removal of dredging equipment from the creek and surrounding land upon completion of the project. These conditions seem prudent and reasonable and we believe they should be incorporated into the agreement before the work commences. These conditions were presented to the town with 100% agreement amongst the 20 landowners who responded to this issue, in hope that the language of the agreement could be modified to reflect these concerns, and the project could move forward.

Does the town feel that "100% cooperation" means

"their way or the highway?" Why have there not been open meetings provided to communicate to the residents what the town DOES mean to do about this? When the town discusses Big Creek dredging, why does it go into "closed session", preventing residents and even the newspaper reporters from learning of their plans? And why do they seem to disregard the North Carolina Law which states:

143-318.9. Public policy. Whereas the public bodies that administer the legislative, policy-making, quasi-judicial, administrative, and advisory functions of North Carolina and its political subdivisions exist solely to conduct the people's business, it is the public policy of North Carolina that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of these bodies be conducted openly. (1979, c. 655, s. 1.)

§ 143-318.10. All official meetings of public bodies open to the public. Except as provided in G.S. 143-318.11, 143-

318.14A, 143-318.15, and 143-318.18, each official meeting of a public body shall be open to the public, and any person is entitled to attend such a meeting.

Further, it states that: Every public body shall keep full and accurate minutes of all official meetings, including any closed sessions held pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11. Such minutes may be in written form or, at the option of the public body, may be in the form of sound or video and sound recordings. When a public body meets in closed session, it shall keep a general account of the closed session so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding of what transpired.

The property owners of Big Creek want full disclosure, answers, and a spirit of cooperation from our town, which can only come from open dialogue. The town's decisions on the Big Creek issue affects the entire Highlands community, just as they do when money goes to new roads, new schools, landfill sites, etc., so everyone should be privy to the discussions and the plans. We urge the town to publicly clarify their position and plans for the cleanup of the town's water source and to work with the community to achieve an agreement to move forward, should funding become available.

Frank and Jill Harrison  
Highlands

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 12

like: "it will be total anarchy without someone in charge and a system to allow us to remain in power."

One might find ways to keep things the way they are, even with this message in the world. One way might be to give people rules and strict ways to follow this message. One might set up institutions based on these rules. The institutions could look like the rest of the world, with hierarchy and power structures. Thus, people could rely on the familiar judgment and competition of the world. People could get back to defining each other by groups and maybe even deciding who is following the rules "the best." We might invent categories for those good people, calling them: religious or holy or tribal or pious or devout. However, if this kind of religion became a reality, it would water down the message.

Unfortunately, that is what happened. Two thousand years ago no one had to imagine this person who embodied the source of life, he dwelt among us, and people called him Jesus. He gave this wonderland a name, calling it the Kingdom of God. He even had a way of getting people there. It had nothing to do with following directions or rules or laws like many before him had tried. He simply said, turn away from the way the world does things, and accept this message as the way of life. He promised a wonderland for those who turned away, or in his words, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is near!" Unfortunately the pure truth of that simple message got him killed. Ironically it was the same truth of that message that woke people up to its power. It took three days, but eventually his followers began to embody that truth and made it their way of life. We call the moment of this awakening Easter. And even two thousand years later people are still awakening to the fact that death has no dominion over the truth of life. The fact is, there is a wonderland filled with compassion and acceptance and forgiveness and love. Can you feel your feet slipping? Welcome to the Easter Wonderland. Welcome to the Kingdom of God! Happy Easter everyone.

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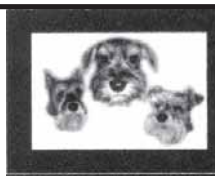
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Sage Woods. Excellent neighborhood and the most reasonable house in this area. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, sunroom, fireplace, fresh paint, Low maintenance roof. Two car garage, large storage shed. Great privacy with possible additional building site. Offered at \$795,000. mls #69625 virtual tour



Cold Springs - Great condition and recently updated! This is a great year round or weekend getaway! Main floor has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, open kitchen and living room with wrap around decks that have some view of the lake. Lower level has family room with fireplace, bedroom, bath and large workshop. Offered at \$ 576,500. mls #69909



HOME SWEET HOME! Inviting, cozy and solid. 2BR/1.5 Bath cottage just 4 blocks from Main. Up to date and up to code, yet maintains that 'Old Highlands Feel'. Enclosed Sleeping porch, large covered deck, full attic storage and a garden shed. Private, spacious yard with a stream. Offered for \$439,000. mls #69505



Cullasaja Club - Lovely Fairway cottage is great location walk to the Clubhouse! 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplace and gas stove. Carport, workshop. Meticulously maintained and a great course and mountain view! Wonderful stacked stone fireplace and screened porch. Offered at \$ 645,000. mls #69425



Walk to town from this lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath located on Wilson Road. Quality finishes with the popular open floor plan and stone fireplace with cathedral ceiling. Steel roof, huge decks. Walk to Harris Lake and lakeside dining. Low maintenance lot and good privacy. Most of the furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$539,000.



Lovely Mirror Lake Cottage- Move-in ready 2/3 with 2 bonus rooms for overflow guest. Wonderful living space with vaulted ceilings and real wood burning stone fireplace. Great curb appeal on a gentle lot. Being sold mostly furnished with minor exceptions. Just bring your toothbrush! Covered front porch and lots of outside deck space make this a wonderful mountain retreat. MLS#67027



Quintessential Highlands Cottage- Cute, cute, cute. This one has it all! Features stone wood burning fireplace, hardwood floors throughout, vaulted ceilings, amazing pasture view and a circular drive. This could be a family retreat or seasonal rental property. Only 5 minutes to Main Street and walking distance to Glenn Falls. Recently reduced 100K and priced for immediate sale! MLS 65968



Walk to town location with a view of Harris lake with this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath on a flat usable lot. Open floorplan, fireplace, covered porch to enjoy the outside. In excellent condition and a bargain price! Offered at \$399,000. mls #69448



Sagee Mountain - Wonderful privacy with this large lot located in one of the best residential areas in Highlands. Gentle yard with small pond and Spectacular View. House has been well maintained with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths on the main level, family room, bedroom, bath and computer room on lower level. garage. A great value for this View! Offered at \$1,295,000. mls #6996



Views of Cashiers Valley from atop the plateau come with this lovely Highlands home located off Rhody Road. The owners kept the Old Highlands Charm of the original 1950 home and did a quality home renovation in the 1980s to give it the comforts of modern living. Large private lot! 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Ready for a new owner to personalize! Offered at \$595,000.



2 bedroom 1 bath home in excellent condition on 1.00 +/- acre close to town. New furnace, range, hot water heater and new electrical system. Offered at \$249,000. mls #69371



Excellent condition 2 bedroom 2 bath home is close to downtown on Highway 64 near Lake Sequoyah and the Veranda Restaurant.. Low Maintenance yard with small pond. Master bedrooms on main and upper level. A great starter or year round home that is in Move in condition. Offered at \$249,900. mls #69377



Buckberry - Great year round home is mountain contemporary with clean lines and totally move in ready. Spacious rooms, screened porch, workshop, 2 car garage. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths on main level, Kitchen, living, and dining on main level, bedroom, bath, family room and workshop on lower level. Level access with circular driveway. Offered at \$749,500. mls #70018



Great Mirror Lake Location on Chowan Drive! Almost new, this lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath cabin sits high on a hill and is in immaculate condition! Large covered porch and open deck, spacious open living room with fireplace. If you are looking for a mountain home, this one is not to be missed. Basic designer furnishings may be purchased at additional cost. Offered at \$595,000, MLS#69266





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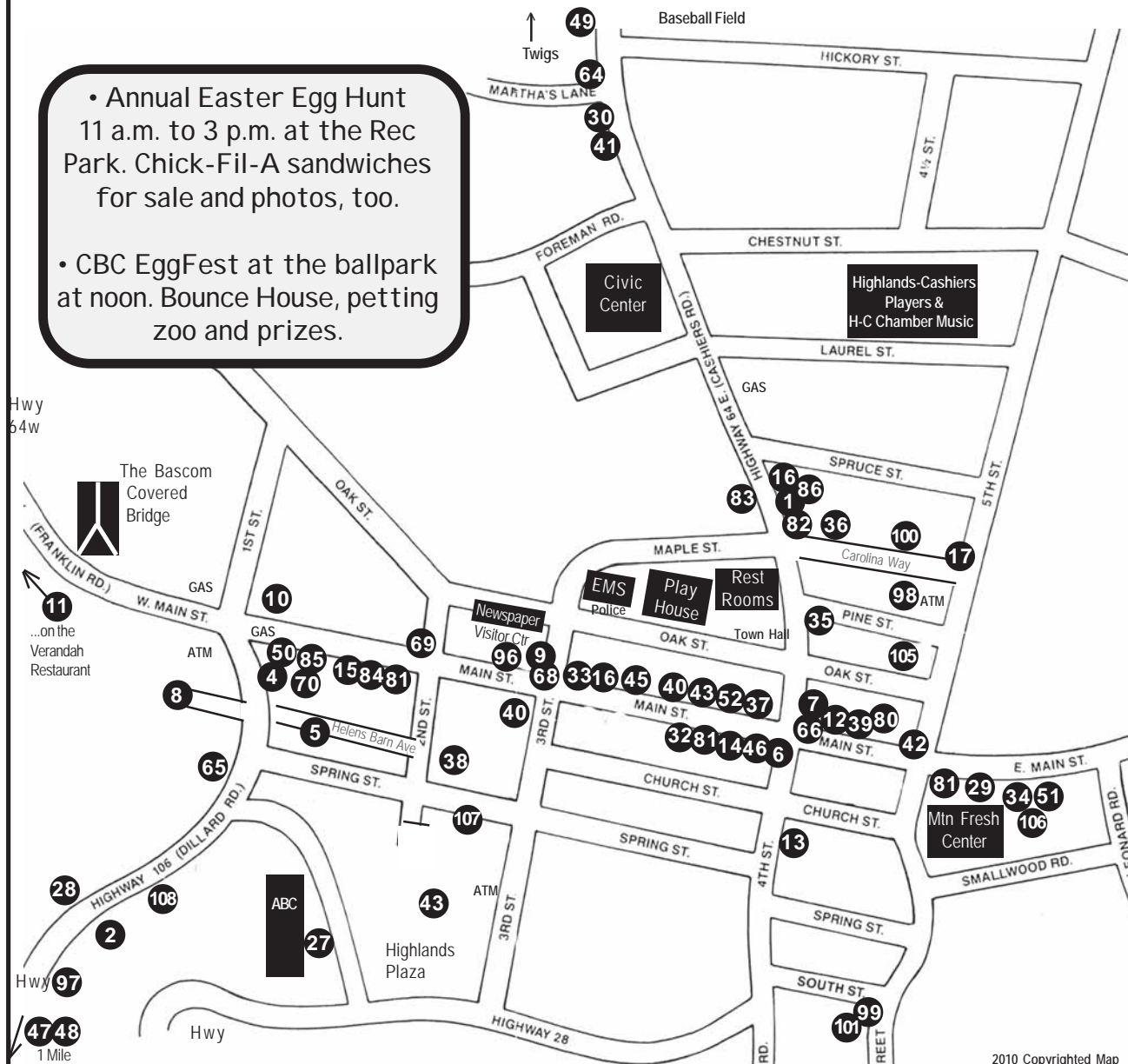
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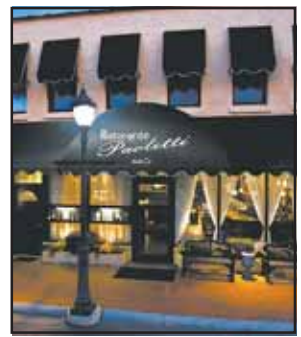

HighlandsInfo.com

**Highlands-Cashiers  
Waterfall & Hiking Map**  
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



Map labels include: Cullasaja Falls, Bust Your Butt Falls, Whiteside Mtn., Cliffside Lake, Dry Falls, Hwy 106, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, Lake Glenville, Norton Rd, CASHIERS, Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Sliding Rock, Horse Cove Rd, Glen Falls, Chattooga Trail, Iron Bridge, Silver Run Falls, Hwy 107s, Hwy 64, Sapphire Valley, Whitewater Falls, To >>> White-water Falls & Brevard.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map  
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