

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 15

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 15, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
74 \ 47F	67 \ 42F	60 \ 39F

This Week in Highlands

Thursday, April 15

- Fundraiser for Sheriff Robert Hollands at Nick's Restaurant from 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 17

- 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.

- The 2010 Earth Day is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Highlands ballfield on US 64, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's free. Music, food and fun.

- Free Handbell Tour Choir at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 p.m. The Mt. Bethel Methodist Handbell choir from Marietta, GA will perform. The church is at 471 Main Street.

- Zorki at the Downhill Grill in Scaly Mountain, 7-9 p.m.

- Musician Trip Hazard playing at Cyprus Saturday night at 9 p.m.

Sunday, April 18

- Primary Democratic candidate for the 11th District Aixa Wilson will be speaking at the private home of Jan & Farrel Zehr located at 31 Highlands Walk on Sunday April 18, at 2 pm. He is ready to share his platform with all who are interested. Rep. Shuler was invited but did not respond. Light refreshments will be served with wine and beer. Call for directions. 526-3363.

Monday, April 20

- Macon County Senior Games registration deadline. Registration forms available at the Highlands Rec Park. \$15 to register. The games are from April 20-May 15 in various areas in Franklin. For more information call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090.

Thurs.-Sun., April 22-25

- PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day 1-Act Play Festival. Call 526-8084 for times. \$5 for Adults, free to students.

Thursday, April 22

- PAC Youth Theater presents the One-Act Play Festival. Featuring *The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong*. It all starts at 7:30 pm. Students are free; Adults are \$5

Hospital has new President and CEO

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors approved at a special board meeting on April 8th the appointment of Craig Bowen James, FAHE, to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. This decision was made after a

nearly six months search process was completed by the hospital's six-member CEO Search committee. Mr. James will begin at the hospital on June 1st. He and his wife, Sheryl, plan to move to the Highlands-Cashiers area.

The James' have lived in Wise, VA since October 2007, where

Craig has been the CEO in charge of two hospitals within the Mountain States Health Alliance Hospital system: Norton Community Hospital, a 129 bed facility that includes an Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, and Dickenson Community Hospital, a 25 bed critical access

• See CEO page 3

Littering is rampant in Highlands

Citizen calls for action

Sometimes it takes a fed up citizen to get things done and that just might be the case concerning the litter that lines Highlands' roadways.

On Tuesday, April 13, Doug Landwehr, who lives on Queen Mountain and who with other members of his community are routinely on "litter patrol" along NC 28s including the overlooks, called a meeting of the press and USFS personnel to hopefully figure out a way to stop littering and dumping in the area.

"We would like to heighten public awareness and address several potential severe safety issues, especially fire from cigarettes and alcohol consumption while driving – as evidenced by the numerous beer and alcohol containers littering the road," he said. "The Satulah Overlook is a popular location for visitors and the litter around and over the embankment of the overlook certainly casts the Highlands community in a bad light, ultimately affecting the attraction of tourists which affects the area's economy."

Since catching a Litter Bug is near impossible for law enforcement – and because they can't commit full time efforts to litter bugs – the state has initiated its "Swat a Litter Bug" campaign.

• See LITTER page 15

Ranger Falls Trail off Flat Mtn.



Ranger Falls Trail is Highlands' newest accessible waterfall. It's 40 feet high and can be accessed from the Flat Mountain Ranger Station Trail head or from Cliffside Lake Trail head. For more information about area Waterfalls and Hiking Trails go to HighlandsInfo.com/hiking.htm.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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Zoning Board denies variance; OKs SUP

The Zoning Board of Adjustment heard two cases Wednesday night. It said yes to one and no to the other.

The Special Use Permit requested by Fred and Carla Bowers for an ice cream shop with deck seating at 114 N. 4th Street was OK'd quickly with the understanding that the Bowers would adhere to the Appearance Commission's stipulations.

Those stipulations were that a semi-transparent sealer be used on the new construction; that the existing deck railing and the new deck railing match in color; that the lattice deck underpinning be fronted with box planters where it meets the pavement and that the umbrellas on the tables on the deck be a solid color.

The Bowers said they would follow the Appearance Commission's requests and that was that.

The other case presented by builder Thomas Craig involving changes to the Robert Whitelaw home at 1073 Franklin Road took a lot longer.

Two variances were requested – one to encroach into the 50-ft. water supply watershed setback with a new retaining wall and another to change a patio to a deck that would extend from its original footing.

• See ZONING BOARD page 9

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

I'll never read 'Fred' again!

Dear Editor,

I really, feel sorry for your columnist Fred Wooldridge and I feel sorry for me since I just spent some time reading his column in the April 8 edition of Highlands' Newspaper. It was a waste of time and I will never read his column again. I feel sorry for him — it takes more to work at McDonalds than to be President?

Well I did not know that McDonalds employees campaigned across the country, answered thousands of questions from every form of media, and had to win the electoral college vote. When he said "You were born in the U.S." — how stupid.

Do you realize that John McCain would have been the only U.S. President that would not have been born in the U.S.? That is a fact. It is a stupid argument and that is why you never hear a Democrat saying it. But if you want to make stupid arguments, McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone which is not part of the U.S. Oh wait, that sounds stupid... kind of like everything you have said. Can he get a real job and put that pen down because this country needs people working and making a positive change not stupid stuff like this. I am also sorry that someone may read his words and believe anything he says. He owe us all an apology.

Tim Burns

Archive edition of Highlands' Newspaper helpful

Dear Editor,

Here is a unique method of retrieving lost information. My husband and I wanted to contact a service person who we used last year to do some yard work. Somehow, we lost the last name and telephone number.

"We thought all was lost until my husband remembered that this gentleman had placed an ad in Highlands' Newspaper last April (2009). Lo and behold, he went to your archives and there it was! Since the entire newspaper is uploaded to www.highlandsinfo.com with copy and ads just as the paper is in the street, we found it easily. This man was contacted and all is well! Thanks for being there!

Marlene Salo
Highlands and Florida

I agree with Barney

Dear Editor:

At the risk of sounding like a Barney Frank fan, I agree with him when he said he doesn't understand why America is so upset with the president. They're getting exactly what they voted for.

Fred Wooldridge

PAC/HCP's honesty questioned

Dear Editor,

In response to Ron Leslie's remark at the April 7th Town Board meeting as reported in your article "Playhouse and PAC leases in limbo."

Neither Collin nor myself OK'd the production of Papa's Angels by the Highlands-Cashiers Players, (HCP) ever.

I personally am not honored by their choice. I am disgusted and angered by him saying his group is honoring Collin and myself by doing the play. Mr Leslie was just promoting his own agenda of exclusivity. I am taking him using our names very personally, while mourning the loss of my wife, very personally.

If the HCP really wanted to honor Collin and myself, they would have welcomed The Instant Theatre Company into the PAC. When I offered to help to book and produce shows

into the PAC this year, the PAC president Stewart Manning said the HCP is "uncomfortable" with our presence in PAC therefore, "No."

Where is the honoring there? Where is the nurturing of all the performing arts in Highlands that Collin lived for and I continue to fight for in our community?

Ron Leslie knew Stewart Manning refused my request to produce in the PAC when he spoke to the Town Board. Yet, he said no one had been refused. Honor? Is lying honor? I want no part of their "Honoring." They have no honor.

Scott Paxton

PAC's stance is possessive & exclusionary

Dear Editor,

In reading the account of the last Town Board meeting (reported in the April 8th paper) I want to commend Amy Patterson for raising the issue of who controls the use of the PAC and on what grounds. Manning's statement that the PAC Board "didn't want another theater group or chamber music group to come in and basically compete with the core groups already in place at the PAC" seems difficult to understand and does not seem to serve the community well.

I would think the more quality cultural opportunities available in our town, the better; that such opportunities ought not to be filtered, but that competition will allow the cream to rise to the top, and the public will be better served. It is not as if the competition would hurt the "core" groups, as the nights a performance occurs would not conflict, given they are using the same facility at different times.

I really do not understand his possessive, exclusionary stance.

Carole Light, Ph.D.

PAC not performing 'Papa's Angels' ... HCP is

Dear Editor,

In the interest of clarity, two points in last week's story concerning the Performing Arts Center lease renewal need to be explained.

First, the Fall 2010 presentation of Collin Wilcox Paxton's play "Papa's Angels" will be produced by the Highlands-Cashiers Players, not by the PAC.

Second, some of the reported statements by Commissioner Amy Patterson are her interpretations and opinions, not necessarily facts.

Dean F. Zuch

Highlands' Newspaper

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• THANK YOU'S •

From the Munger Family

The Fred Munger Family would like to send a special "Thank You" to all family and friends for the prayerful support during Fred's two surgeries and continued chemotherapy. Please continue to pray for God's will in our lives. Thanks so much.

Fred, Madge & children

From the Satolah FD

The Satolah Volunteer Fire Department thanks one and all who came to its annual barbecue and bluegrass benefit last Saturday. The weather was great and we could not have asked for a better turnout of friends, families, neighbors and supporters who gave generously to this cause.

We also must especially thank the news media that gave us such wonderful publicity as well as the individual firefighters who cooked all that barbecue meat (beginning at 4:30 a.m. that Saturday morning.) John and Joe Munger, and Charles Reed and Michael Geoghagen in particular! Thank you, too, to the hard-working women of the Ladies Auxiliary, who are so crucial to making this event a success.

We also want to thank Centerline Auto Parts, Audrey Owens, Sam Schmitt, Bryson's Food Store, and the Farmer's Market for their donations. We also want to thank Foxfire and Oliver Rice and the Blue Ridge Mountain Band for that wonderful gospel and bluegrass music.

This was the 31st year that local people in this three-state area have risen to the occasion to support this volunteer fire station, support that is crucial to our work. Many, many thank yous.

James Reed

Chief, Rabun County Station No. 8
Satolah Volunteer Fire Department

• CORRECTION •

In the April 8 issue of Highlands' Newspaper in the article "PAC and Playhouse leases in limbo," we stated that the Highlands Playhouse lease was being considered for renewal. It has a 10-year lease as of 2008. The discussion involved an amendment to that lease and nothing else. PAC's lease is up, however, and is now on a month to month basis. Also the name of Stewart Manning was misspelled. We regret the errors and are happy to set the record straight.

... CEO continued from page 1

hospital in Clintwood, Virginia. His responsibilities included all operations, 650 employees and the integration of both hospitals to the operational and financial systems of Mountain States Health Alliance.

James' prior experience includes the CEO position at Person Memorial Hospital of the Duke University Health System in Roxboro, NC 2001-2007 and the President and CEO of Tazewell Community Hospital (Carilion Health System) in Tazewell, VA November 1996-2001. In addition, he was the vice president of operations at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir, NC and has worked in other hospital management positions since 1982.

James is a graduate of The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a Masters Degree in Public Health – Policy and Administration. He also has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration from Appalachian State University.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center have a long and successful history of providing quality health care services to the citizens of this region. I look forward to joining the dedicated team of Board Members, Physicians, Employees and Volunteers as we continue to focus on the growth and expansion of services provided by the Hospital and Living Center. I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to relocating to the area in the near future," said James.

Charles V. Sheehan, HCH Board Chair



Craig James

added, "I believe Craig is extremely well qualified and equipped to lead our wonderful community hospital and I am most pleased with the thorough process completed by the CEO search committee.

The six-member search committee was chaired by hospital board member Griffin Bell, and included representation from the community - Mr. Derek Taylor, medical staff - David Wheeler, foundation - John Bauknight and hospital board - Julian Franklin and Frances Oakley.

"We have been meeting regularly since November. This being one of the most important decisions for the hospital, we felt it was necessary to take the time to be as thorough as possible. We had a very large pool of candidates to sort through. We also felt it was important to involve key hospital people in the final selection process," said committee chair, Bell. The two finalists each spent more than a day at the hospital touring the facilities, interviewing with hospital and foundation board members, medical staff, and hospital staff members.

"On behalf of the hospital board I want to express our appreciation to the search committee for a job well done and also to express our confidence and excitement about the days ahead for our vitally needed Hospital and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. Together, we seek to partner with our communities' citizens to assure healthcare excellence for our beautiful Highlands-Cashiers area," said Sheehan.

• BIRTH •



Mckynzie Jade Fielding, was born Easter Sunday, April 4th at 11:46 am, she weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and is 20 inches long. Her parents are Brittany and Eric Fielding and big sister Ivy Elizabeth, age 2 of Highlands, NC, Grandparents are Terry & Karin Potts of Highlands, NC, Guy and Marjorie Fielding of Highlands, NC, and Janet and Thomas Cummings of Clayton, GA, Great Grandparents are Vellamae Potts of Highlands, NC, Carolyn Fielding of Thomasville, GA and Sue & Cecil Turner of Clayton, GA

• OBITUARY •

Michael Crae Atkinson

Michael Crae Atkinson, age 49, of Glenville, NC, died Saturday, April 10, 2010, at his residence. He was a native of Kamas, Utah, the son of Lois Evans Atkinson of Denver, Colorado and the late Crae Atkinson.

He had worked in a restaurant, and was a member of the Cat Fanciers Association.

He is survived by his partner of 29 years, Michael Wayne Cook, his mother, two sisters, Sue Lewis and Jill Rietow both of Denver, Colorado; a brother, Todd Atkinson of Denver, Colorado, and three nephews. No services are planned.



CARROLL POINDEXTER

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 Performing Arts Center

• HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

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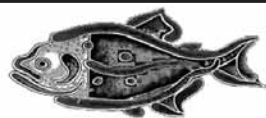
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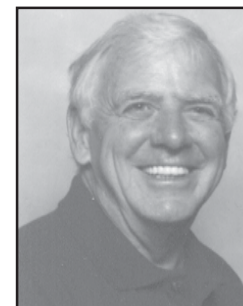
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Beware of the one-eyed snake!

Here's one of my wonderful but very tacky children's stories specifically designed to terrorize rug rats under the age of six. Also, it will help them better understand why parents sometimes call each other snakes. You may thank me later for this valuable story.



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com**

Once upon a time, in the land of the great mountains called Appalachia, there lived a small, loving snake family. They lived peacefully in and around the outcroppings of a place called Satulah Mountain. Jake, the male snake, was black and nonpoisonous. His friend snakes called him, "Jake, the Snake." His wife, Kate, was also black and nonpoisonous. Her snake friends called her...well; you guessed it...Kate, the snake.

In time, Kate and Jake decided to have children. When their first born was hatched, they noticed, while it was also black, it only had one eye located right in the middle of its head. They decided to call it "Sneaky" since it was always slithering around into dark, wet, damp places and getting into spots it shouldn't. Everyone called him...yep, you guessed it, "Sneaky Snake." (Are you falling asleep yet? No, well keep reading; I'm workin' on it.)

Sneaky was always in trouble. Even though his parents warned him about humans and their fear and hatred of snakes, Sneaky loved to freak out people by suddenly appearing inside their picnic baskets, hissing at them and making sure they saw his scary one eye. When they ran away, he would snack out on their lunch. Life was soooo good for Sneaky.

Then one day a man wearing a turtleneck sweater (Are you holding your breath?) came to Satulah Mountain carrying a stick and cloth sack. Sneaky saw the man and planned his move to scare him. As the man poked around with his stick, Sneaky lurched out from behind his hiding place, hissing, mouth wide open and his one eye in full view. (Wait, don't stop reading. It gets better...I mean worse.)

Instead of being frightened of Sneaky, the man quickly reached down and grabbed him. Sneaky panicked and lunged for the man's hand, biting him hard as he was shoved into the sack. Sneaky had never bitten anyone or anything in his life. He just wanted to have fun and scare people but

now realized he might spend the rest of his life in a cage. (Show a sad face.)

His parents watched helplessly from a nearby rock. They had heard stories about humans who captured snakes but had never seen one. The man continued to poke around the rocks with his stick, obviously looking for more snakes. Horrified, Sneaky's parents had no choice but to slither away and leave their child behind. (Here, show a sadder, pouty face with lip out.)

But just as Jake and Kate were frantically packing their stuff to leave, the man sat down and started to throw up. They noticed his bitten hand was swollen. Then the man keeled over dead. Sneaky's parents were shocked. As they approached the dead man, Sneaky was able to work his way out of the sack. He rapidly slithered to his bewildered parents for a hug but didn't get one. Sneaky was a deadly poisonous snake.

Jake looked at Kate with suspicion and said, "Black snakes aren't poisonous and two blacks don't make a deadly white. Explain yourself, Kate!" (This is why your parents sometimes call each other snakes 'cause they do things they shouldn't but this time it was mommy who was bad. Can you say "bad mommy" three times real fast....Isn't that fun?)

Kate looked at Jake with shame before speaking. "Remember when we went to the opera to see *Madame White Snake*?" Well, I was so enthralled with the power of that demon snake, I just had to sleep with one. It happened one afternoon while you were away eating blackberries. Will you forgive me?"

"Pack your stuff and get out of my pit," Jake demanded. "And take your deadly illegitimate one-eyed half white snake with you."

Not wanting to leave his home on Satulah Mountain, Sneaky slithered away and hid inside the dead man's sweater. This turned out to be a big mistake. Kate looked everywhere for Sneaky before leaving Satulah Mountain.

The following week, the newspaper's headlines read. "Deadly one-eyed snake killed in dead man's sweater." Everyone on Satulah Mountain was relieved...kinda. (Now, hug your little listeners and tell them to never go near a one-eyed snake hiding in a turtleneck sweater.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

How 'true' is 'The True Faith?'

Criticism of the Catholic Church for its handling of abusive priests continues to mount. It's apparent the Church was more concerned with the well being of the predatory priests than of their victims, more aggressive in protecting the wealth and influence of the church than safeguarding acolytes. This isn't what Jesus had in mind when he instructed his followers to love the little children.

A few years ago I reported a story of abuse related to us by a taxi driver in Vera Crux, Mexico. I grew up in the Catholic Church, was an acolyte, and was not abused, although I may have narrowly escaped. When my brother was 11 and I was 10, a kindly parish priest took an interest in us. Dad worked long hours and didn't have much time for us. We didn't have a pool in my home town.

During summer months Father Ryan frequently came to the house and took us to a swimming pool in a nearby town in which he claimed to have meetings. I'll never know what he was doing while we were swimming. Maybe he was doing priest stuff. Maybe he was sitting in the parking lot reading vespers or looking at pictures of naked boys. I do know that on one trip he was drunk. A state policeman stopped him for driving erratically. My brother told our Dad, who declared that we would never ride with him again. At the time I thought Pete was a tattle tale, because I really liked those trips. I feel differently now, recognizing that we might have been targets. I don't know if Father Ryan ever molested a kid; don't know if the thought ever entered his mind. Sometime later, he was asked to retire and spent his remaining days in a home for impaired priests.

It's hard for me to understand why people remain in the Catholic Church. I was taught ours was the "True Faith," but I suspect, the Lutheran and Baptist kids down the street were told they had it right. By now everyone must realize religions are the creations of man and neither the pedophile priest nor the millionaire mega church pastor bears any resemblance to Christ. It's inconceivable that our spiritual home offers about as much security as a tar pit provided for a saber tooth tiger.



Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

What twisted individuals would take advantage of those who trusted them above all others, and what a corrupt organization could protect predators for decades, in violation not only of decency and morality, but of the law? If the Church in America were not so powerful, I suspect it might be prosecuted under RICO

statutes. A church, whose priests prey on its weakest members, continues to thrive worldwide.

Perhaps a vast majority of Catholic clergy serve their flocks faithfully and well. Many devout Catholics continue to support their church. I simply can't understand devotion to an institution that has put its own welfare and that of criminal clergymen above the billion souls it is intended to serve.

The Catholic Church has turned the, "I was just following orders," defense on its head. Instead of low ranking officials blaming superiors, church leaders deny responsibility for actions of subordinates and failure to address them.

The Church, with the Pope as its head, features a rigid hierarchy. Once elected, the Pope cannot be removed. He claims infallibility. There is no formula for impeachment. Yet the Pope denies responsibility.

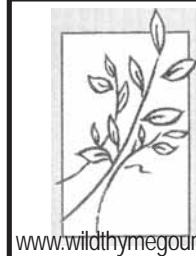
The truth is no one wanted to act. No one cared about abused kids, at least not enough to risk damage to Mother Church. Any hint of scandal threatened the Church. It was easier and safer to ignore the victims and shuttle predatory priests from parish to parish. More recently our suspicions have been confirmed that misconduct and criminal cover-up were not limited to the Church in America.

I can't escape the conclusion that the primary goal of the Church is self preservation. It's time for devout clergy and devoted members to agree on the core values of their faith, incorporate them into a new structure and abandon the Roman Church. They might start by allowing priests to marry. Revolution by Church faithful is unlikely because for too many centuries they have been taught that disobedience is sinful, disagreement is heretical.

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• HIS & HERS •

The town the census forgot

by John Armor

This is more or less an open letter to Robert Groves, Director of the Census Bureau.

Dear Bob. Can I call you Bob? I feel I know you since you've been all over the TV explaining that the screw-ups that have occurred in your Bureau about operations and cost will all be resolved. Well, here's another screw-up for you to put on your plate.

The Census has a rule that it will not mail Census forms to Post Office Box addresses. As a general rule, I understand and support that. There are probably more than a million people in the US who use P.O. Boxes to cheat on their spouses, run investment scams, sell useless or non-existent products on the Internet, etc. However, every rule has its exceptions.

We live in Highlands, North Carolina. The summertime population grows to about 25,000 every year. But the permanent residents are only about 3,000 Americans, plus about 500 Mexicans. Because we are a small town, the Post Office by its own rules does not deliver to anyone's home, except a handful of folks who live so far out of town they qualify for RFD. We say they live 20 miles south of nowhere. RFD, in case you don't know, stands for Rural Free Delivery.

After four weeks of seeing your cute but annoying ads for the Census, and not having a form sent to us, we found out by accident that we weren't going to get any forms mailed to us because of your anti-Box rule. Now, missing 3,500 people doesn't amount to a hill of beans.

However, there are other towns just like us. Maybe you should pull out your company phone book, and look up the number for the Postmaster General. Give him a call. Ask him how many small towns there are in the nation where almost no one gets their mail delivered except to the Post Office.

If there are 1,000 such towns, then you are missing 3.5 million people. That's a significant number. Plus, our demographics are not the same as everyone else. Half of us are retired. The other half are young people with kids, trying to make do and survive. Our town has the demographics of Brazil.

Now, I know you have hired a whole bunch of people in localities across the na-



**Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor**
michiemead@aol.com
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

tion. I know you've hired some locals in Highlands. They are supposed to have "special knowledge" of their areas. Haven't any of them told their supervisors about the P.O. Box problem here, and elsewhere?

The alternative to mailing forms and getting them back by mail, is sending people out to every house. Again, local knowledge is your friend.

Most of us live at the end of long, gravel roads. Ours, for instance, goes a half mile from the nearest paved road to our house. That's a fur piece as we say. Only people who are lost, Jehovah's Witnesses, workmen, UPS drivers, and personal friends make that trip.

Do you have a clue how much time and money will be wasted by your Bureau to visit every house in Highlands? And you'll have to budget for multiple visits, because all of us drive into town every day to run errands and get our mail. (Remember, it comes to the Post Office.)

Do we have addresses? Why yes, we do. So, fire, police and ambulances can reach us in emergencies, all of us have actual street addresses. I'll bet your local people could get those from the Emergency Network. Then, you could mail our forms to the Post Office, and cross reference the reported addresses with the Emergency list.

Just trying to help you run an efficient, effective Census. And, you could have added a question on the form whether the respondents were American citizens. I have my copy of the Constitution handy, and it says the legitimate purpose of the Census "enumeration" is for reallocating the seats in Congress, every 10 years. I sort of had the impression that Members of Congress were only supposed to represent legal residents. (Except in California, and parts of a few other states.)

Cordially, Your so-far uncounted fellow citizen at the end of a gravel road, J. Armor, Esq.

- 30 -

About the Author: John Armor practiced in the US Supreme Court for 33 years. John_Armor@aya.yale.edu His latest book, on Thomas Paine, will be published in September. www.TheseAreTheTimes.us

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Masters shows that Tiger's struggles are only beginning

OK, before we begin, full disclosure here =just to preface this highly critical string of thoughts that I have put together. I don't like Tiger Woods. I never have -- I didn't like him when he was young and my PGM buddies at Campbell were idolizing him, I didn't like him when he won the "Tiger Slam" of golf events, and then I REALLY didn't like him when all this stuff came out about him cheating on his wife.

Now I could go on and list the reasons why I don't like Tiger. (pompous attitude, disingenuousness, lack of connection with fans, poorly developed façade of humor, etc.)

OK, so I just listed some of those reasons -- but the main reason is that the guy is entirely too robotic for his own good.

Americans hate hypocrisy — which is one reason why the media works so hard to tear people down. We would much rather see Tiger in his hooker-loving, gambling, cursing, ubercompetitive skin than as a pro-



Ryan Potts

tryanpotts@hotmail.com

grammed, cliché spouting advertising machine.

Before this scandal, Tiger bored some people, but his reputation was pretty solid outside of some cursing issues and some temper tantrums on the golf course.

However, now that we have seen the "true Tiger" there is nothing that can stem the tide of questions and heckles that will be coming his way on

the golf course. His image rehabilitation will take years, and despite a media willing to snatch up a redemption story, there will always be people out to get the worst out of Woods.

Regardless of the scandal, what we can learn from Tiger's performance at the Masters last weekend is that the man who promised to "change" and show off a "new Tiger" is not quite ready for prime time.

Dropping profanity on the golf course is nothing new for most of us (especially me -- &^%# clubs are too short) but when you have publicly promised a Zen attitude

about things and to respect the game of golf and then you drop a blasphemous naughty word on network television it is not a good thing. It is especially not a good thing when it is your *first match back* from a career changing scandal.

And folks, it's only going to get worse — especially when you get Tiger away from the controlled galleries of Augusta and into the frenzied fans of the smaller tournaments. I seriously doubt that Tiger will be the only one screaming "you suck" at himself when

he plays in some of the smaller events on the tour.

Call me a hater if you will, because I understand that Tiger has fans and that they want him to find redemption. I myself love redemption stories, and would be glad to admit my faulty perception of Mr. Woods if he indeed does change his stripes.

There's always room for diversion in this long journey we call life, but I fear that Tiger's new path is not one that he is going to navigate smoothly.

NC DOT and USFS updates for MC

The 2010 fiscal year is coming to a close and just now, the state released NC DOT funds targeted for Macon County for 2010.

"We have a little more than two months to spend this abbreviated allocation, but I'm told we will have more next year," said Bryon Burch, Division Maintenance Engineer, at Monday night's MC Commission meeting.

Most of the monies set aside for Macon County and other counties in the state, were transferred to the state's General Fund in 2010 with just a little allocated for 2010 Secondary Road Improvement Program.

Allocated for Macon County in 2010 is \$364,145, so with the \$53 left over from 2009, the balance available is \$364,198.

Horizontal and vertical improvements will be made on SR 1372 (Iotla Church Road) in the vicinity of the Iotla School driveway for \$150,000.

Grading, drainage, and paving will be done on SR 1521B (Onion Mountain Road) for \$214,198. That completes work on Onion Mountain.

Chairman Ronnie Beale also requested work be done on Buck Creek Road — particularly along the 1-2 miles from its intersection with the Highlands Road — and to consider it a high priority.

A new state law prohibits trucks over 20,000 pounds from traveling the Gorge Road and they are being directed on to Buck Creek. Consequently, the road has taken quite a beating.

"This is a truck alternate route and I really hope you move this up the DOT schedule," said Beale.

Commissioner Bobby Kupperts requested work be done on Wayah Road where hard winter weather caused a portion of the road to rise up, buckle and sink back down.

They also requested work be done at the new 5-6 school where a narrow road and abutment makes the scenario of two school buses passing a scary one.

Wesley Grindstaff, DOT district engineer, agreed with the commissioners and said it's just a matter of money.

Evidently, the 2011 Secondary Road money will not be transferred to the state's general fund which means about three times more will be available for Macon County.

In other county news, Mike Wilken, USFS District Ranger, said ARRA funding means improvements will be made to towers at Wayah, Cowee, Albert and Yellow Mountain as well as trail work and step work at Glen Falls. He also said he's trying to get money for work on the trail down to Dry Falls.

He said several "sweet smelling toilets" are being put at various campgrounds across the forest including at the Cliffside campground.

He said the second phase of the Dry Falls renovation will take place with a Federal Highway Grant. A bridge will be built across the road linking the Dry Falls parking lot and the parking lot in the vicinity of the McCall cabin across the road.

He said in the season upwards of 500 people a day visit the falls so more parking is needed.

— Kim Lewicki

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

And they're Off....

On Thursday, April 15th, early voting for the primary election began in Macon County. There are a number of important races that will be on the ballot, races that will determine who will run to represent us in the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, the North Carolina Senate and House, our Sheriff, various Judges, our County Commission and various other offices.

The pitifully puny turnout for previous mid-term primary elections has led to some inferior elected officials being chosen. We pay the price for these bad choices every day.

When the general Election Day comes, and you have a choice of A or B, when C may have been the better option, government at some level suffers. How can you be sure you're voting for the best choice? You can never be certain, but you can maximize your chances by learning as much as you can about the candidates from forums, websites and, at the very least, asking someone you know to be politically aware their opinion. Whatever you do, vote in the primary.

And now, on to a subject that continues to haunt me and many others of like mind. The National Security Strategy of the United States is a document prepared periodically by the executive branch of the government for Congress which outlines the major national security concerns of the United States and how the administration plans to deal with them.

On March 16, 2006, the latest National Security Strategy was issued. It restates America's commitment to supporting democracies and defeating terrorism, puts forth a plan to restructure institutions related to national security, and discusses the challenges of globalization.

The current administration is in the process of writing Obama's version of the NSS and in doing so, according to FoxNews.com, "Obama's advisers will remove religious terms such as 'Islamic extremism' from the central document outlining the U.S. national security strategy and will use the rewritten document to emphasize that the United States does not view Muslim nations through the prism of terror.

The change is a significant shift in the National Security Strategy, a document that previously outlined the Bush Doctrine of preventative war and currently states: "The struggle against militant Islamic radicalism is the great ideological conflict of the early



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

years of the 21st century."

Combine the changes described above with Obama's rude treatment of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister in his recent visit to Washington, the lack of his conviction in dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions, and many other manifestations of his partiality to Islam and one wonders where this will lead.

How anyone with an open mind can view events of the last 40 or 50 years involv-

ing Islamic attacks on American assets and not realize that we are at war with a religious ideology is a mystery to me. My concern is that open minds are not at work here. There are simply too many sources of smoke that Obama's administration is partial to the Muslims for there not to be fire. I wonder how that fits in with the oath he took upon inauguration.

BREAKING NEWS - Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) is in the process of announcing his decision not to run to keep his seat in November. Surely you remember that Stupak was the standard bearer for the pro-life proponents in the recent health care bill battle. He and his small group of legislative friends jumped ship at the last minute to give Nasty Nancy enough votes to push the legislation over the goal line.

Stupak is saying that he has served long enough and his withdrawal is not a response to pressure. To quote one of my favorite sayings, "you lie."

Almost immediately after his philosophic reversal, the public mounted a multi-faceted campaign to make his life miserable. Tea Party enthusiasts organized to convince Stupak that he is not the type of politician this country wants in office.

Liberals have initiated an effort to blame "Tea Party" adherents for everything from dressing well (remember the Brooks Brothers comment) to dressing poorly, to being bought and financed by some unnamed source of funds (you know, like George Soros), being racists, militants, uneducated, unwashed and un-American.

You will hear slings and arrows coming from many directions and this should tell you one thing; they are desperately afraid of the power of the people and their ability to see through the Marxist agenda of people currently in power. When Obama's Acorn legions and SEIU members were convinced that he would lead them to the promised land, we slept. We have been painfully awakened - "Power to the People" has changed hands.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Why Highlands? ... Why now?

• This is the second contributor in Highlands' Newspaper's newest column "Investing at 4,118 Feet" for which eight Realtors will write.

Next up in the April 22 issue is Buz Dotson of Preferred Properties.

Discussions of the real estate market these days are generally met with mournful sighs. Does this mean that property ownership should be discouraged? Not according to our founding fathers.

Have the mountains and specifically Highlands become a less desirable location? Those of us who have made a permanent or secondary home on this plateau would argue this point into eternity.

Let's examine the definition of real estate. Real: absolute, concrete, irrefutable. Estate: property, person's possessions, assets. Real property is a *limited, absolute* commodity in which *location* determines its value. Although we are tempted to complain about the changing economy, some things have not changed. Location, location, location has always been the determining factor in real estate values and for the majority of successful businesses. Our town is still uniquely situated amongst one of the most beautiful and majestic lands of God's creation. The climate remains ideal for those wanting to escape the summer heat.

Steeped in history, our community has



Lynn W. Kimball
Signature Properties
Owner/Broker

continually offered a rare combination of down-home comforts with a flair for the refined. And perhaps the greatest natural asset found in Highlands is the warm and welcoming spirit of its people. These are some of the many reasons we chose to come here and why others will continue to flock to our area.

Economists tell us that the real estate industry drives the economy. Real estate values in Highlands are the best they have been in many years, while interest rates are

the lowest we have seen in this generation offering a rare opportunity.

Real property is the only commodity that is no longer being made and does not disappear. It is suggested that investment portfolios with a basis in real estate have the most stability and opportunity for growth.

For all of the reasons stated above, the timing is perfect to make an investment in Highlands' *real* future.

We are on the verge of our busiest and most visited season in Highlands. An optimistic attitude is essential to our success in business and all areas of life.

Spring is an ideal time for new beginnings and fresh attitudes. Signature Properties wishes each and every one of you a joyous and prosperous season.

For real estate information, you may visit www.sigpropnc.com or contact Lynn Kimball at 828-526-4101.

... ZONING BOARD continued from page 1

The watershed setback and trout water buffer setback were both put in place long after the house was built so it is currently a nonconforming building – but legal as it stands.

In such cases, problems arise when homeowners want to expand the structure in some way. Typically, it's not legal to make a nonconforming structure more nonconforming.

The variance would have allowed the removal of an old cross-tie retaining wall near the house and the building of a new concrete retaining wall closer to the lake, and filling it to make more of a lawn.

Erecting a new retaining wall in the 50-ft. watershed buffer was the issue. That variance was denied 4-1 with Bill Conway voting against denying the variance.

The other variance involved removing a concrete slab patio and steps and replacing them with impervious material and a new

deck over the patio area which would extend past the original foot print.

After much discussion, the board's findings of fact – as required by law – were that there was no hardship for the homeowner at any level if either variance wasn't granted.

The finding of hardship on several counts is the only way a variance can be granted, the main one being that the owner can't make reasonable use of the property without the variance.

On another level, members were cautious about setting a precedent.

"If we allow him to extend the deck everyone on Mirror Lake will want to do that," said member Allen Frederick.

Almost all the houses on the lake are nonconforming to today's standards and allowing one owner to make his house more nonconforming could cause problems later.

That variance was unanimously denied.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •



Auxiliary members pictured: from left Jolene Niblack, Jean Whitby, Patty Hutchins, Elaine Reynolds. Sitting from left is Polly Dean and Jean Shields.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Auxiliary looking for new members

The HCH Auxiliary has been instrumental in funding various projects throughout the Hospital, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and community programs. Their fundraising efforts have enabled HCH to purchase Physical Therapy equipment, Radiology and mammogram equipment, wheelchairs, patient lifts, thermometers and ventilators, a blood bank refrigerator, computers, landscaping and outdoor furniture just to name a few. The items totaled over \$300,000.

The Auxiliary also raises funds for a "Healthcare Scholarship", used to provide financial support for area young people who wish to enter healthcare in such fields as nursing, medical technologies, or various kinds of therapy. The funds also help the hospital recruit and train skilled medical personnel of all types. Anyone wishing to pursue a career in the health care field, including those already in the field who wish to further their education, can apply for this scholarship.

The members also participate in an annual fundraising tradition by raffling a hand embroidered quilt that is displayed at the Highlands Arts and Craft Show each October. The members embroider native wildflowers on fabric panels which are then quilted together. Proceeds from the raffle are then donated to support the hospital.

The Auxiliary was established in 1953 by Ella B. Carter, R.N. Its primary purpose was to assist the hospital by sewing and mending linens, stitching layettes, and furnishing kitchen equipment as needed. To provide funding for these projects the Auxiliary rallied the churches and local organizations to hold a bazaar. The 1993 bazaar proceeds fulfilled the Auxiliary's five year pledge of \$120,000. The Auxiliary enlists volunteers to assist in all departments of the hospital and to staff the gift shop.

"The Hospital Auxiliary has been an important asset to the hospital for many years. Without dedicated members to carry on this tradition, all of this progress will not be possible in the future", said Frank Leslie, VP of Operations. The current Auxiliary Members are asking supportive residents to help in keeping the Hospital Auxiliary a thriving asset. Members include: Kitty Barber, Joanna Baumrucker, Betti Bunnell, Jeannelee Butt, Polly Dean, Ann Emerson, Patty Hutchins, Thelma Jotcham, Jolene Niblack, Elaine Reynolds, Jean Shields, Marie Sharpe, Polly Touzalin, Jean Whitby, and Kate Raulerson.

The Auxiliary Club meets at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month. If you would like further information or if you would like to join this group of volunteers, please contact Earlene Bennett at 526-1345 or email erich@hchospital.org



Back Row front left: Dr. Richard Matthews, Dr. John Baumrucker, Dr. "Gus" Dozier, Dr. Robert Buchanan, Dr. Leila Martin, Dr. David Register, Dr. Paul Cabiran, Dr. Toby Lindsay. Front Row from left: Dr. Scott Baker, Dr. William Noell, Dr. Richard Carter, Dr. "Clay" Smallwood, Dr. Herbert Plauché, Dr. Rodney Stinnett, Dr. David Wheeler.

H-C Hospital doctors celebrate 'National Doctors Day'

On Tuesday, March 30th, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital joined together with hospitals across the nation in honoring medical staff members on National Doctors' Day.

Hospital Staff, Board Members and Volunteers gathered for a special breakfast as a way to show gratitude to dedicated Physicians at HCH. "All (100%) of our Physician's continue to achieve board certification year after year. They voluntarily complete rigorous testing and evaluation, in their particular specialty. Additionally, it signifies a board certified physician's commitment and expertise in consistently achieving superior clinical outcomes in a responsive, patient-focused setting. Our physicians strive for the highest standard of quality patient care available," Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

HCH is unique in that all of our Medical Staff members are required to acquire and retain board certification. They use the most current evidence-based guidelines and standards within their specialty. With the Board Certified physician, the patient can expect the best medical knowledge, professionalism and patient focused skills.

The benefit of the certification program means that we are giving people confidence when choosing one of our physicians; confidence that they have chosen the most competent physician for their needs," said Leslie

"We all understand the importance

and impact our Physicians make within our community. We want to thank them for not only their care giving but for the contributions they make every day to our health and well-being."

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

"HCH is a community hospital that provides diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care to the public through on-site professional services, or as a referral to regional support providers. Our emergency care facility is Physician staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, monitoring their visit with personal care and attention. We make the extra effort to assure that you get "best of class care", and feel "special" every time you pass through our doors. HCH also provides Physician Clinics, a skilled Nursing Facility, Hospice Care, Skilled Rehabilitation, and Medically-Based Wellness Programs allowing individuals and families nearby access to professional care in these critical areas. The hospital continues to expand its programs to provide the public the broadest possible range of quality healthcare. Our *Board-Certified Physician Staff* continues to grow to better serve you, as do our medical specialties now covering 14 areas of healthcare, specialties usually only found in much larger facilities. We continually update our range of diagnostic procedures by adding new state-of-the-art equipment."

Our goal is to be the healthcare partner to whom you can entrust your life.

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.

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

Through May 7

• RBC Bank is collecting non-perishable food products for donation to The Food Pantry of Highlands Emergency Council. Donated items can be dropped off at our branch location at 225 Franklin Rd in Highlands during normal banking hours.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

• 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.

• 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 am. 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 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.

Thursday, April 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to

• See EVENTS page 12

Ruby Cinema

Hwy 441, Franklin, NC

524-2076

April 16-22

KICK-ASS

rated R

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

DATE NIGHT

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

CLASH OF THE TITANS

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

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

Handbell choir to perform Saturday at First Presbyterian



Free Handbell Tour Choir at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 p.m. The Mt. Bethel Methodist Handbell choir from Marietta, GA will perform. The church is at 471 Main Street.

PAC Youth Theater One-Act Play Festival

Thursday, April 22 through

Sunday, April 25

Students – \$1; Adults – \$5

Thursday, April 22

Starting at 7:30 pm

The Happy Journey

A Game

He Done Her Wrong

Friday, April 23

Starting at 7:30 pm

The Stronger Gender

Impromptu

The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue

Saturday, April 24

Starting at 2 pm

The Happy Journey

A Game

He Done Her Wrong

Intermission – Food will be available for purchase downstairs at PAC

The Stronger Gender

Impromptu

The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue

Sunday, April 25

Starting at 2 pm

The Happy Journey

A Game

He Done Her Wrong

Intermission – Food will be available for purchase downstairs at PAC

The Stronger Gender

Impromptu

The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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.

• Fundraiser for Sheriff Robert Hollands at Nick's Restaurant from 5-8 p.m.

Friday, April 16

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 7-9 p.m. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

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.

• Free Handbell Tour Choir at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 p.m. The Mt. Bethel Methodist Handbell choir from Marietta, GA will perform. The church is at 471 Main Street.

Sunday, April 18

• Primary Democratic candidate for the 11th District Aixa Wilson will be speaking at the private home of Jan & Farrel Zehr located at 31 Highlands Walk on Sunday April 18, at 2 pm. He is ready to share his platform with all who are interested. Rep. Shuler was invited but did not respond. Light refreshments will be served with wine and beer. Call for directions. 526-3363.

• 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.

Monday, April 19

• The Jackson County GOP announces the next in the series of Orville Coward Forum presentations on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Jackson County Community Services Building in Sylva. The topic is The Fair Tax and the speaker is local authority Laura McCue who is the NC District 11 Director for Americans for Fair Taxation. Contact Forum Chair Fran Webster at 828 586-3577, Jackson County Chair, Ralph Slaughter at 828 743- 6491.

Monday, April 20

• Macon County Senior Games registration deadline. Registration forms available at the Highlands Rec Park. \$15 to register. The games are from April 20-May 15 in various areas in Franklin. For more information call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090.

Thurs.-Sun., April 22-25

• PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day 1-Act Play Festival. Call 526-8084 for times. \$5 for Adults, free to students.

Thursday, April 22

• PAC Youth Theater presents the One-Act Play Festival. Featuring *The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong*. It all starts at 7:30 pm. Students are free; Adults are \$5

Friday, April 23

• PAC Youth Theater presents the One-Act Play Festival featuring *The Stronger Gender, Impromptu, The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue*. It all starts at 7:30 pm. Students are free; Adults are \$5

Saturday, April 24

• PAC Youth Theater presents six, One-Act Plays. Featured will be *The Happy Journey, A Game. He*

Done Her Wrong and following Intermission, *The Stronger Gender, Impromptu, The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue*. It all starts at 2 pm. Students are free; Adults are \$5. During Intermission food will be served downstairs.

• Gorge pick up is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center. If you'd like to volunteer please contact Jan at 828-526-2112. Lunch provided.

• The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin area on Saturday. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on



Earth Days Celebration April 17 at the Ball Field

On Saturday, April 17 the Highlands-Cashiers community will be celebrating locally for the sixth year!

Highlands Prominence Committee is hosting the event with the generous support of the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association.

We are especially excited to be bringing the event to Highlands for the first time.

The celebration is FREE and will be held rain or shine or snow.

Earth Day in the Mountains 2010 will feature live music from John Warren and Friends, Silas Kenna solo acoustic, the Odd Meters, a jazz funk duo from Brevard and Trip Hazard from Asheville, featuring Highlands' own Jay Calloway on drums.

Trip Hazard will also be playing at Cyprus Saturday night, great music you won't want to miss!

Food is being provided by Fresser's Eatery and will benefit Relay For Life.

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.. Come and celebrate with us!

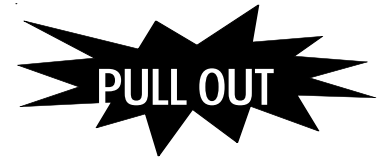
Atlanta Boy Choir to perform at Episcopal Church May 2



On Sunday, May 2, The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert will feature the boys, men and a very special alumni group of African Americans named *Africantor*. The concert is free by donations will be accepted and the first two rows will be reserved for Sponsors for \$100 up and Patrons at \$500 up. Funds raised will be used to fund a trip to Italy this summer where the eight boys in the choir will perform in Sulmona and the great Basilica of St. Frances of Assisi, the Vatican

at Sunday Mass at St. Peter's and at the main mass at the famous Siena Cathedral. Aside from these they also will sing for Pope Benedict's audience for thousands of worshipers as well as concerts in Poggibonsi and San Gimignano. The proposed tour cost for each boy is \$2,700 and each of these young lads are supremely qualified but come from single family, mostly minority mothers who are doing their best to raise their sons with dignity and respect. Whether or not a boy can pay his own way, we have not or ever will leave a boy behind because of this.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

Monday-Thursday, April 20-May 15

• The Macon County Senior Games hosted by the MC Recreation Department. Events are scheduled over a 4-week period. For more information, call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090. Registration deadline is April 20. Forms are available at the Highlands Rec Park.

Sunday, April 25

• PAC Youth Theater presents six, One-Act Plays. Featured will be *The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong* and following Intermission, *The Stronger Gender, Impromptu, The Girl Who Was Asked To Turn Blue*. It all starts at 2 pm. Students are free; Adults are \$5. During Intermission food will be served downstairs.

Monday, April 26,

• The Highlands Art League meeting is 5 P.M. at the Civic Center Rec Park. The program on iconography in art presented by Ruth Ballard. Guests welcome. Call Dottie Bruce for further information, 828-743-7673; 864-877-2454.

Thursday, April 29

• The Economic Development Commission is hosting the first annual Macon County Enterprise Banquet at the Mountain View Intermediate School on

Clarks Chapel Road beginning at 6:30 p.m. The banquet's purpose is to provide business decision makers relevant and meaningful information about the economic future of Macon County and Western North Carolina. The dinner also serves to recognize key business leaders for their contributions to the economic health and wellbeing of the community. The dinner will feature key note speaker Dr. Harry M. Davis, NC Bankers' Association Professor at Appalachian State University, will be delivering his views on the economic outlook for Macon County. This event is open to all business owners of Macon County; it is a free event, however a ticket will be required to attend. You may obtain a ticket by contacting Trevor Dalton at edc@maconnc.org or calling 828-369-2306. There is a limited number of tickets, therefore only two tickets per business. RSVP by April 9.

Saturday, May 1

• The annual Tour de Cashiers bike ride is Saturday at 9 a.m. There are three rides this year that graduate in difficulty: 1/4 Century, Metric and Century. All three rides depart the Village Green at the Cashiers Crossroads. Registration Desks Open at 7:30 a.m. and riders should be assembled at 8:45 a.m. For more information or to register for one of the three rides, visit the website at www.tourdecashiers.com, call (828) 743-9924 or email: tour@cashiers.com.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 11-mile hike with an elevation change of 2,000 feet to Standing Indian Mountain, taking the Lower Ridge Trail and returning via the Appalachian and Kimsey

Creek trails. Bring water, lunch; wear boots. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.3

• See EVENTS on page 14

Highlands high schoolers learn ceramics at The Bascom



Highlands School high schoolers work on ceramics projects in The Bascoms Studio Barn. Photo by Patrick Taylor

They come each morning on the Highlands School activity bus, arriving in the early hours ready to learn new techniques and hone their recently acquired skills. There, in the quiet space of The Bascom's Studio Barn, they plug in their iPods, turn up the volume and dig their hands into clay.

For more than three months, 15 Highlands School sophomores, juniors and seniors have been learning basic ceramics under the tutelage of their art teacher, Sallie Taylor, and her husband, acclaimed Bascom ceramics instructor Patrick Taylor.

From 8 to 9:30 a.m., these students learn wheel throwing and extensive hand-building techniques. They are required to keep a notebook of ideas, notations and ceramic terms. During the class time, they have a variety of activities they can pursue: wheel throwing, trimming, hand-building or glazing. They are required by the end of the semester to turn in a completed notebook of assignments and 25 finished clay works — 10 wheel thrown and 10 hand-built works.

"They are greatly enjoying the freedom from the confines of the school that this great location offers them," Sallie Taylor said. "Not only is it fun to teach, it's evidently fun to learn."

And not only are they having fun, Taylor said, but they are learning useful skills — skills they can carry toward a career in

pottery and other professions, as well.

While Highlands School has a strong art curriculum, it does not have a ceramics studio or a kiln barn, both of which The Bascom is offering to the students free of charge. Adding to the program is Patrick Taylor's volunteer instruction. Taylor, Ph.D., is the retired chair of the art department at Piedmont College in Georgia and former chair of the department of visual arts at Kennesaw State University.

"This is a tremendous partnership between Highlands School and The Bascom, and we really appreciate the endorsement of Principal Derek Jeter, who is allowing these students to have this experience in The Bascom's state-of-the-art Studio Barn," said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom education director. "Not many administrators are able to be this visionary and this committed about the importance of youth art education, which we know to be integral to a well-rounded education."

Ceramics and other work by the area's high schoolers will be on display at The Bascom later this season, and the public is encouraged to come and view their creations. "Regional High School Showcase" will be exhibited in The Bascom's Children's Gallery May 15-30. Admission is free.

For more information on The Bascom and its art education offerings, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

A student's perspective on PAC's 4-day, 1-Act Play Festival April 22-25

By Cai Roman

10th Grade
Highlands School

Spring has come once again, and it looks as though the "acting bug" has followed me throughout the year. When theatre season rolled around again, I was dying to go back to the PAC and act to my heart's content. I had missed the feeling you get when you step into someone else's shoes, when you lose your self in a character. The way that even though you're almost tired of each other by opening night, you form bonds that last for a long time. I was dying to get up in front of the audience and show them how far we've come since last year's *The Inner Willy*. And as odd as it may sound, I was even looking forward to camping out on the stage for Ronnie's three- and four-hour long rehearsals.

This year, the PAC Youth Theatre program has brought something new to the table. They opened up auditions to grades 7-12 as well as to Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter School, and home schooled children; because of the huge turnout, Ron-

nie and Jim decided to do a one-act play festival of six plays. This has been an interesting experience for me, as I have to move in and out of multiple characters on a day-to-day basis.

Hopefully this will help me hone in on the many aspects of acting, like vocalization and physicality. I have also gotten the chance to work with different casts and directors, which has shown me what it will be like if I continue to pursue acting after high school. With the absence of Matt McClellan,

whom I admired as a fellow actor, I have had to try to fill the shoes he left behind, which has been a challenge. Even with all of these changes, this year has been just as, if not more enjoyable than last year.

We have a lot of hype to live up to after the smash success of *The Inner Willy*, but I think that we are ready to step up to the challenge and show Highlands that we aren't just riding the wave from last year's performance. With the help of my fellow actors and directors, we can put on a show that won't be soon forgotten.





Ongoing and Upcoming Events

moderate hike in the Whitewater River Gorge to see a huge array of wildflowers, mostly trillium in a variety of colors. There will be a slow descent of 800 feet over rough terrain for the 1st quarter mile. Boots, gloves, and hiking sticks recommended. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip, returning 3-4 p.m. Bring water, lunch, and a camera. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The annual Mountain Lakes 5-K race (3.1 miles) is Saturday at 10 a.m. Early registration fee – before April 23 – is \$15. Entry forms will be available at the Recreation Park's Civic Center and the Chamber of Commerce's Visitors Center, or on line at www.main.nc.us/hrc. Each participant will receive a quality T-shirt, and trophies will be awarded to the overall male and female winners, male and female

masters winners (over 40), and to the male and female first, second, and third place finishers in five-year age groups. For more information, call Richard Betz at 526-5213 (evenings).

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

Sunday, May 2

- The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert will feature the boys, men and a very special alumni group of African Americans

named *Africantor*. The concert is free but donations will be accepted and the first two rows will be reserved for Sponsors for \$100 up and Patrons at \$500 up. Funds raised will be used to fund a performance trip to Italy this summer.

Tuesday, May 4

- Leadership Highlands contact the Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 828-526-5841.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23

- Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform Rebecca at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, call 526-4084.

Fri. & Sat., May 14-15

- Barbara Zaretsky will teach a fiber art workshop, "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$175 Bascom mem-

bers, \$195 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Wednesday, May 19

- The Rotary Club of Highlands 21st annual Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday at Trillium Links and Lake Club, with a shotgun start at noon. Get together a foursome and sign up for an afternoon of golf and good fun. 100% of the money raised by this annual event is used to fund local Rotary projects and community needs. Registration for individual players is \$125, which includes golf, followed by an awards ceremony and a buffet supper. Call Rotary member Brian Stiehler at (828) 787-2778 to sign up.

HCP's Rebecca begins May 13 at PAC

The Highlands-Cashiers Players are hard at work rehearsing for its upcoming play, Daphne du Maurier's classic, "Rebecca."

British author, du Maurier, won critical acclaim for Rebecca, published in 1938. The next year she adapted the novel as a stage play and in 1940, Alfred Hitchcock won an academy award for his film version, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine.

The play opens as Maxim de Winter, a wealthy widower, returns to his beloved country estate, Manderley, with a new young bride. The new Mrs. de Winter quickly discovers how difficult it will



Matt Eberz and Kathryn Cochran rehearsing the roles of Mr. & Mrs. Maxim DeWinter.

be to lay to rest the memory of her husband's first wife, Rebecca, who is understood to have died in a boating accident. Lacking self-confidence and overwhelmed by her new life, the young bride is distressed by how powerfully Rebecca's presence is felt around Manderley, even though she has been dead for over a year.

Director, Mary Adair Leslie, has assembled a wonderful cast. Wealthy, aristocratic Maxim de Winter is played by Matt Eberz. The naive new Mrs. de Winter (she is never given a name by du Maurier) is

played by Kathryn Cochran.

Mrs. Danvers, the domineering housekeeper, and one of literature's most infamous female villains, is played by Virginia Talbot. Maxim de Winter's outspoken sister, Beatrice and her husband, Giles, are played by Laura Miller and Jim Gordon. Frank Crawley, the loyal estate manager is

played by Carlos Green. Rebecca's swarthy cousin, Jack Favell, is played by Stuart Armor. Dean Zuch plays Manderley's butler, Frith and Diane Rossaza play Alice, the maid. The Cornwall County Constable, Colonel Julian, is played by Rich Harrison and Ken Knight plays the part of William Tabb.

"Rebecca" sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine, will run May 13-16 and May 20-23 at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

Join the cast and crew downstairs after the opening-night performance for a reception sponsored by New Mountain Events. The box office is open Thursday, April 29th and Friday, April 30th for season-ticket holders. On Saturday, May 1st tickets go on sale for the general public. For tickets, please call (828) 526-8084.

celebrate

Earth Day
in the mountains

Saturday, April 17
Highlands Ball Field

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by Highlands Prominent Committee
promcmte@gmail.com

Live Music

Kelsey Trail
Eco-Tour - 1:00

Nature Programs
Crafts & Games
free!

Sponsored in part by: Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance,
Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association

... LITTER continued from page 1

"To communicate to motorists who litter, we are asking every citizen to assist us in making a cleaner and safer North Carolina roadway system," said DOT representatives.

Anyone who sees someone litter – either deliberately throwing trash from moving vehicle, dropping something as they walk or when unsecured material flies out of a vehicle – are encouraged to call 877-368-4968 with the license plate number or other identifying information, or they can fill out a complaint form at www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/Beautification/Litterbug/salform.html. All notifications are anonymous.

Upon receipt of the litterbug information, authorities will notify the vehicle owner of the littering offense, inform him or her of the penalties for littering and of course, urge the litterbug to stop littering.

According to NC Statutes, any person who litters in an amount under 15 pounds is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$100 (not including court costs). In addition, the court may require the violator to perform community service 4-12 hours – preferably picking up litter. Any subsequent violation in an amount under 15 pounds within three years after the date of a prior violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$200 including community service of 8-24 hours.

A 2009 recap issued by the Administrative Office the Courts shows 4,572 charges for littering and unsecured load violations in 2009 – but a little less than 50% end up as convictions.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said catching litter bugs as well as other motorist violations including driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is one purpose behind a new offshoot of the Governor's Highway Safety Program called WASP – Western Area Safety Program.

Though only part of the littering solution, through this program the seven most western counties of North Carolina are joining forces to conduct random motor vehicle checks to deter all motorist violations, said Harrell.

On Tuesday, Crystal Powell on the Recreation Staff for the USFS Franklin/Highlands district, said the problem of littering and dumping on Macon County roadways shared by the USFS is prevalent and it's clear the current solution isn't working.

"This is area-wide and a problem all over the National Forest and we are struggling to find a solution," she said.

At Monday night's MC Commission meeting, USFS District Ranger Mike Wilken said there are 11,000 miles of public/private interface for which his district is responsible.

Twice a year Powell said two USFS crews spend 4-5 days – typically once in the spring and once in the fall – trimming overlooks and picking up trash, but they and the state depend heavily on volunteers. Often convicts are used to pick up trash and that includes those in the Macon County jail.

The USFS's efforts coincide with the

National Litter Sweep program which is held the last two weeks of April and September. On Saturday, April 24 the annual Gorge Pick-up takes place 8:30 a.m. Call Jan at Highlands Chamber of Commerce at -526-2112 for more information.

Citizens also participate in the state's Adopt-a-Highway program which not only saves the state money but cleans up the byways.

In 2009, some 6,000 groups state-wide adopted approximately 12,000 roadside miles picking up trash and saving state's taxpayers more than \$6.4 million dollars in cleanup costs. A total of 3,226,720 pounds of trash was collected by Adopt-A-Highway groups in 2009.

Though commendable, it would be better if people didn't litter in the first place. Cigarette butts, considered litter by law, have been the cause of several forest fires along NC 28 in the last 10 years and litter is detrimental to wildlife, as well. Carolina Raptor Center representatives say trash attracts rodents and then raptors chase rodents and are hit by cars, as are raccoons and possums. Small mammals are often trapped in containers as evidenced by the skeletons found in cans.

Landwehr suggests garbage cans at overlooks, but once there Powell said it becomes a maintenance issue for the USFS and they have to be bear-proof otherwise they just add to the problem. Those cans cost \$1,200 each. It also means allocating man-hours traveling to the receptacles and emptying them.

Landwehr said the Queen Mountain Adopt-A-Highway group would be glad to empty the cans but Powell said history has shown that trash cans at overlooks just don't work.

"For whatever reason, they become targets of vandals who heave them over the embankments or sail the tops like Frisbees," she said. "Also, we've found that motorists driving by see a trash can and figure it's a good place to deposit a bag of trash."

Landwehr also suggested Macon County follow the counties along the shore and disallow plastic grocery bags which he said ultimately end up in trees, in the land fill even harming wildlife.

He also suggested boulder barriers deposited along the overlook fences to deter motorists from driving up to the edge to dump trash unseen and to perhaps install surveillance cameras at overlooks.

Again, Powell said there are reasons such suggestions won't work. The ingress and egress of overlooks are engineered and adding boulders could disrupt those measurements. Surveillance cameras mess with people's individual rights and would also mean more man-hours. The information would have to be transmitted to a central location and monitored regularly to be effective.

So the final answer may be citizen awareness.

The bottom line is it's illegal to litter and it could cost you money and time if someone is watching.

—Kim Lewicki

• BUSINESS NEWS •



DownHill Grill at Scaly Outdoor Center features new menu and live music

The staff at the DownHill Grill and Scaly Outdoor Center are gearing up for a great year. Every Friday and Saturday night there's live music with Zorki a regular on Saturday night. Coming soon is summer tubing for outdoor fun.

Bascom volunteers needed

Do you love people, enjoy being around beautiful objects and have a passion for learning and sharing knowledge? The Bascom has a spot for you. Volunteers are needed to help at The Bascom. Volunteer opportunities include office, gallery docent, benefit events, hospitality, flowers, installation, studio, library, landscaping, parking, recycling and building. No prior knowledge of art or museum experience is necessary. To get involved, call Margie Shambaugh at 828.526.4949, email her at mshambaugh@thebascom.org, or visit www.thebascom.org/volunteer.



Rotary Bingo benefits HS Interact Club



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands School Interact Club to sponsor Bingo on April 1. Frieda Bennett was the winner of the \$100 Super Bingo game. She is shown with Rotary President-Elect Jodie Cook.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Doubt has its place in our faith journey

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Our Lady of the Mountains Roman
Catholic Church



Several years ago there was an examination of the writings of Mother Teresa. Some were quite shocked to find that in her writings were not some pristine faith which is always perfect and unwavering, but rather one filled with challenges and times of doubt. From that first vision she had of Jesus calling from the cross, "I thirst" she had viewed Jesus as a demanding master. Those demands and many other experiences of her faith life brought her to times of doubt. Yet her faith remained and was even strengthened in these experiences.

This is the paschal mystery that we just celebrated on Easter – in the midst of horrible trial, unjust suffering, even death, God uses the experience to increase faith. Doubt becomes the means through which faith is increased. But only if one turns to God in the midst of that doubt rather than turning away. As Jesus called from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" we see him not allowing the doubt of abandonment to separate Jesus from God (as if that were possible – Jesus is God) but instead used a means to seek God, to trust in the care that God will provide.

Think of the story of the healing of a boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:14-29). The disciples are unable to heal the boy because of their lack of faith. The faith of the father has brought him to seek healing for his son through the disciples. He is discouraged that they cannot bring healing. Doubt begins to creep in. Can God really work through these men? Does God really care? What is essential here is that he expresses that doubt to the Lord. "I do believe, help my unbelief." Then the paschal mystery is repeated. The boy collapses as Jesus commands the deaf and mute spirit to leave. The boy is like a corpse. But Jesus raises him up. He tells his disciples that only prayer can make this happen. This is the prayer that does not contain doubt but gives it to the Lord for healing. And the result is increased faith.

Think about the scripture we heard proclaimed just last week from the gospel of John (20:19-31). We heard about the doubter – doubting Thomas – who always seems to get the bad reputation for his doubt. See what happens when this doubt is turned to Jesus. Thomas insists that he must both see and touch the wounds of Jesus or he will not believe. Thomas makes sure that he is there for the next appearance of Jesus. That prayer is heard by Jesus – so much so that Jesus himself comes to give Thomas the opportunity to eradicate his doubt. Notice that the invitation to probe the wounds is sufficient for Thomas. It never says that Thomas actually touched the wounds. Thomas' willingness to express his doubt and make himself available to the Lord opens him to receive faith. Thomas has his own resurrection where doubt dies and faith is reborn.

We too should have this willingness to come to the Lord with our doubts. Don't allow the doubt to drive distance between you and the Lord. Instead, use the doubt as prayer to the Lord and experience your own resurrection in increased faith.

• 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, Buck's 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

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group. 10:30am: Children's Program (Pre-K – 5th Grade), Merge for 6th Graders. 10:45am: Worship Service. 5 pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.

Tues.: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.

Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner. 6:00pm: Children's Program, Adult Teaching.

Thurs.: 7 am: Men's Bible Study.

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 children's

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

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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

Highlanders Girls' Soccer return from break on a high note

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders showed little effect after being off for Spring Break, beating the Towns County Lady Indians in Hiawassee 5-1.

The Lady Highlanders struck first, getting a goal from Emily Munger midway

though the first half. The Lady Indians responded with a goal of their own, and looked poised to take the lead on a breakaway by their star striker Melissa Conrad. However, Lady Highlander keeper stoned Conrad to keep the score tied, and then a missed PK by Towns preserved a 1-1 tie going into half-

time.

The second half was much kinder to the Lady Highlanders, as they were able to grab the lead 6 minutes in on a fantastic goal by Paige Strahan.

Having taken the lead again, the flood-

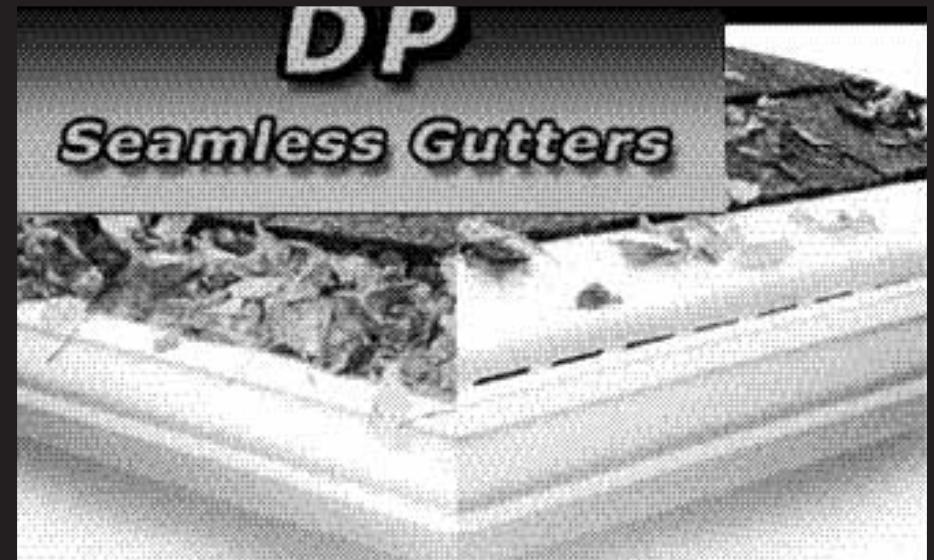
gates opened for Highlands as Emily Munger, Sayne Feria and Hayden Bates all added goals to complete the final score of 5-1. The Lady Highlanders will host the Lady Indians on Friday in Highlands at 5 p.m. — be sure to come out and support the girls as they try and push back over the .500 mark on Friday.

• BUSINESS NEWS •



March Rotary students of the month

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the March Highlands Rotary Students of the Month at its March 23 meeting. Shown with Rotary President, Paul Schmitt, and Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, are high school winner, Brice Jenkins, middle school winner, Rebekah Parks and grammar school winner, Selwyn Andrew (Drew) Chalker.



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The Hologic Selenia Digital Mammography Machine is helping women in our area take the steps they need to practice better breast cancer awareness. This new discovery in breast cancer detection will enable area women, even those with dense breast tissue, to assure they are in good health. Now is the time to make an appointment to protect you and your loved ones by calling (828) 526-1450.



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HOSPITAL

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May Primary candidate Q&A series continues

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

Each week we feature a new question.

Question 3: Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina - construction, real estate, tourism - how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

• **Michael "Bud" Rogers - County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

I feel there is a need for growth in our county but at the same time we do need ordinances and laws to protect our

environment as well as our citizens.

For example we are facing the steep slope issue right here in Macon County. Though the Planning Board has just been charged with working on the Steep Slope Ordinance, a lot of particulars need to be worked out.

We must remember that garbage trucks, fire trucks, etc. need easy access in subdivisions built on slopes, so adequate turnouts to keep the road to a minimum vertical retaining walls on the lower side of the turnout are needed to keep the road at the right width.

Through ordinances like the High-Impact, Subdivision, Watershed, Height and now the Steep Slope, a balance needs to be found so building can continue while keeping

the county's aesthetics in mind as well as safety for citizens while safeguarding their property rights.

• **Allan "Ricky" Bryson - County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

With the Town of Highlands right now finishing up the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), the county board of commissioners putting into place a subdivision ordinance, and the county planning board working on a steep slope ordinance, the most important aspect is fair enforcement at the county and town levels. Also, perhaps a repeal in the well inspections required by the state would free up county employees to do the jobs they were intended to perform, rather than fulfilling a costly and inefficient mandate.

• **Jim Tate - County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)**

This is precisely why I am excited about Macon County's Economic Development Commission, because part of its job is to lure the appropriate ideas, industries and jobs to Macon County. This Commission should help us eliminate the dependence on the real estate and the construction market.

But in answer to the question, I believe that if the county will continue moving forward with a proactive stance with the Macon County Planning Board, then the job of creating a feasible long range plan can be accomplished. By having a long range plan in place, we can definitely assist with the headache of managing growth. The Planning Board has a very difficult job on their hands because it is not easy to balance how the county will continue to grow in a controlled manner without infringing too much on property rights. As a commissioner, I would continue to support these efforts.

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

To strike the proper balance between protecting our environment and our citizens and supporting growth we must remember that without growth there is a shortage of jobs, which does not protect our citizens who must be employed to take care of themselves and their families. We must carefully consider both sides of the coin when we are considering changes or additions to our current ordinances and laws in our county. We have to balance the need for proper construction on slopes with individual property owners' rights. I do not want to render a person's property unbuildable nor do I want to allow shoddy construction that threatens our environment or those living adjacent or nearby. Public hearings and input are critical as we consider issues and solutions that ensure everyone gets to be heard and that all concerns have an opportunity to be aired. In this manner I believe the solutions can be found that are most fair to all of us in Macon County. We have developed and staffed an Economic Development Commission that is actively working to bring non-polluting jobs to our county. These are concrete steps that will pay dividends both now and in the future for our

county.

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

Macon County is driven by construction, real estate, and tourism. We will probably never see a smoke stack factory come to Macon County. With the creation of the new Economic Development Commission, we now have full-time positions working to bring clean high paying jobs for all our citizens; we have turned our sites to the smaller entrepreneurs.

Our mountains and a simple way of life is what we have to offer. If we allow the mountains to become cluttered with development and uncontrolled destructions of our views, we will lose our most valuable asset. This is where experience comes into play. There is a fine line we must walk when regulating our livelihood and our beautiful mountains. All of regulations and ordinances must protect our people, our environment and our way of life.

I was one of the leaders against the high rise development on US 64f, where we limited the building height to 48 feet. I believe that the gains were not worth the loss of beauty and peace of mind. There can always be compromise. I also work along side the Watershed Council to protect the pristine waters that begin in the Highlands area. Since my election in 2002 I helped make it possible for the Sheriff to give full-time deputies in the Highlands area as well as full time EMS workers. This has decreased the response time for your emergencies to a minimum.

Highlands is special to me. Each time I visit I marvel at the beauty and applaud its leaders for the great job they have done preserving such a unique area. I do a large amount of my personal business there. I will continue to support Highlands as I have done in the past eight years as your Commissioner.

• **Carroll Poindexter - County Commissioner District 2 (Dem)**

As a former code officer I am familiar with ordinances, that being said Macon has the same issues as other counties in the area where during good times large groups peeled off the side of mountains here in the western part of the state and went bust, these issues need to be addressed keeping in mind the industry as a whole, it is a fine line but with the information decisions could be made for all concern. Also we need to be pro active on a positive way to promote our county, I am seeing other areas here in the southeast doing this.

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

The construction and real estate industry are very vital to the economy of Macon County. As the past chairman of the Macon County Planning Board and as a Commissioner along with the remainder of the Board we have been able to enact ordinances such as the Flood Plain Ordinance, the High Impact Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance. These ordinances are designed to not only be of benefit to the environment but

• See CANDIDATES page 19

• HIGHLANDS ART GALLERIES •

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN HILLIER

WINTER HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9-5.

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- Spring and artist-in-residence workshops (pre-register now!)
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... CANDIDATES continued from page 18

also for the safety of the citizens.

The Steep Slope Sub-Committee of the Macon County Planning Board recently reported their findings and suggestions about a Steep Slope Ordinance for Macon County. This sub-committee was made up of builders, grading contractors, engineers and others. They came to the consensus that it is time for a Steep Slope Ordinance. The Macon County Planning Board will begin work on the report furnished by the committee. When that work is complete the ordinance will be presented to the County Commissioners for their review and/or changes. This ordinance will also be presented to the community for its input just as the other ordinances listed were done. We all recognize that these ordinances have an impact on property rights. I believe we must be very careful how this ordinance is crafted, but I also believe that future potential buyers will be looking for a safe place to construct their house and I do believe that a Steep Slope Ordinance will be of help in providing safety not only for the new homeowner, but also for their neighbors. I am also concerned that Macon County can craft a Steep Slope Ordinance that better suits Macon County than one mandated by the State.

It is my opinion that with common sense ordinances that help protect the environment and provide a level of safety for our citizens will support new growth in the future.

To be successful and have continued support for our tourism industry we must continue to work to be a point of destination. Projects such as the Smoky Mountain Performing Arts Center and the Heritage Festivals are good examples, but we must never forget the best draw we have is the beauty of Macon County not only in its scenery but also in the quality of its citizens. With the support of the citizens of Macon County I will continue to work on these projects.

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

This is a question that I would base my decisions on one incident at a time.

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

No answer by press time.

• **George Lynch – Sheriff (Dem)**

In these times of economic difficulties for so many citizens in Macon County, I am not in favor of more ordinances or laws that would further restrict and hinder the building and construction industry. I feel that we have adequate laws and ordinances in place now to protect the environment and property rights if they are enforced.

• **Ricky DeHart – Sheriff (Dem)**

No answer by press time.

• **Richard Davis – Sheriff (Dem)**

Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina – construction, real estate and tourism – how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

As a responsible person I feel it is important to be environmentally conscious in all we do. I think we should all support positive change which reduces waste, and minimizes our impact on climate change. One way law enforcement can have a positive influence on our environment is by utilizing the county inmates for roadside cleanup. As Sheriff I plan to utilize this resource year round.

Personally, I think that in our current economy we should be pushing any policy which reduces unemployment and increases commerce in our local economy. However it is not the responsibility of the sheriff to create policies and ordinances, he is simply there to enforce the existing law.

I can say without reservation, that as Sheriff, I will enforce to the best of my ability all laws. A Sheriff must enforce the law and indiscriminately hold all citizens to accountability. As Sheriff I will work to always have transparency within my department. No one will receive special treatment, regardless of status, position, or ethnicity.

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

Our #1 priority is your safety and enforcing the law (not creating them). Commissioners and members of our Legislature are responsible for establishing ordinances and implementing laws but one important responsibility I do as your Sheriff is advocate for change.

Some changes I have advocated for are the Infant Homicide Prevention Act, additional regulations concerning laws pertaining to prescription medications and methamphetamine, and stricter requirements for convicted sex offenders. I assisted in establishing a nuisance animal ordinance.

I meet several times a year with agency supervisors of various WNC law enforcement agencies on all levels... local, state and federal. I also meet with elected officials from Raleigh and Washington to discuss issues and the latest trends affecting WNC. In 2005, with encouragement from the state of NC, the Sheriff's Office joined the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and started increasing our traffic enforcement. This decision was, in part, due to the complaints from Macon County citizens about inappropriate drivers in their communities. The substantial increase in drunk driving arrests and drug arrests can be credited, in part, to our participation in this program. According to a recent report from the Highway Patrol, this has also helped to decrease the rate of vehicle accidents and vehicle deaths on our roadways.

This enhances efforts already in place by the NC Highway Patrol and provides the Sheriff's Office with an additional tool in fighting drugs such as highway interdiction. Macon County has received more than \$100,000 (our tax dollars) from the State of NC because of our participation in this program. The safety of you and your family is my responsibility and my #1 priority. I will continue to use every available resource to accomplish this task.

• **Jimmy Goodman – NC Senate Dis-**

• See CANDIDATES page 21

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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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)

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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

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

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

MEDICAL ASSISTANT at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position in a family practice office. Experience preferred with a current certification. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork and housecleaning. Call 828-200-1038 or 5261025.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS on page 16

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 8

• At 10 p.m., an officer on patrol saw a woman cutting Yellow Bell plants at the OEI Rib Shack parking lot.

April 9

• At 1:40 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Holt Knob to ensure a person on a restraining order couldn't enter the house.

April 10

• At 8 p.m., Adam Lee Harner, 30, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for being drunk and disruptive and for resisting and obstructing arrest. He was released on a \$500 secured bond. His court date is May 20.

• At 9 p.m., officers assisted Dillard police apprehend a motorist on a motorcycle who was headed to Highlands on NC 106. He was stopped with spike stops at NC 106 and Main Street and taken to the magistrate's office. The motorcycle was taken to Franklin.

April 11

• Officers transported a person to the hospital.

• At 7:54 p.m., officers were called to the Rib Shack where an intoxicated person got disruptive when he was told he couldn't drive. He was escorted home.

• At 8:04 p.m., officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle on Highlands Country Club property. The vehicle wasn't located.

• At 9:38 p.m., officers assisted EMS with two intoxicated people at the hospital.

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

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 7:

April 7

• At 10:55 a.m., the dept. assisted EMS at Dry Falls where a child fell and cut his head. He was flown to Asheville on MAMA.

• At 4:09 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Satolah FD for a brush fire on Walkingstick Road. Highlands stood by at their station.

• At 8:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Webbmont Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 9

• At 9:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at

• See POLICE & FIRE page 21

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3/25

... POLICE & FIRE from page 20

a residence on Wyanoak Drive. There was only smoke damage.

April 10

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm but it was cancelled by the alarm company.

April 11

• At 10:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transported.

April 12

• At 10:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a gas alarm at a residence on Brushy Face. There was no problem.

April 13

• At 11:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on Crowe Dr. The driver had minor injuries.

April 14

• At 6:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The victim was transported to the hospital.

NOTE:

• There is a NO BURNING warning out. Staff at Highlands Fire & Rescue say no controlled burns should take place due to winds and low humidity.

... CANDIDATES continued from page 19

istrict 50 (Rep)

Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina – construction, real estate and tourism – how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

I believe this election is about the economy and jobs. I think we need to stop regulating and taxing entrepreneurs out of business. North Carolina is the highest taxed state in the southeast. I will work hard to make North Carolina a business friendly state.

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

Considering the engines that drive Macon County and Western North Carolina – construction, real estate, tourism – how do you or would you balance the need for ordinances

and laws (in the case of law enforcement) that basically protect the environment, (or citizens) and support growth?

Balancing regulatory restrictions on growth is always a challenge while protecting the 5th and 14th amendments to the United States Constitution. There are risks with freedom. Government has a responsibility to promote public health and public safety. Most of us want to be faithful stewards of the land. Those goals must be accomplished while protecting the rights of the individual. Not an easy task.

• Answers to Question 4 will be in the April 22 issue. The question is: Taxes are always an issue during campaigns. Knowing that governments whether they be counties or states, need tax revenue to provide services (including law enforcement), build schools, roads and infrastructure – all mechanisms that work toward a future — how do you (if an incumbent) or would you approach taxation?

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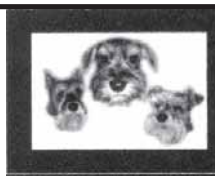
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Argentina Reunion: Shaky start to a happy ending

By Thomas Bates

On Friday, February 26 at 8:30 PM Lisa, Sara, Hayden and I boarded our flight from Atlanta to Santiago, Chile en route to visit Tucker, our son/brother who had spent the past six months as an exchange student in San Juan, Argentina. Somewhere over Peru at about 4:30 AM Saturday, the plane changed course. Following news of Chile's catastrophic earthquake, we were rerouted back to Atlanta.

After effectively traveling 12 hours to nowhere, we were initially devastated. However, while the earthquake had completely rearranged our travel plans, we quickly reminded ourselves that our temporary inconvenience remained a life changing tragedy for thousands of families in Chile. We were relieved to eventually reach Tucker by phone and learn that he was safe.

Two days and several standby attempts later, all four of us were ecstatic to receive our boarding passes for a flight to Buenos Aires. Knowing we would soon be that much closer to Tucker made this one of the happiest nine-hour flight of our lives. We stayed one night in Buenos Aires before completing our travels west to Mendoza.

Buenos Aires is often described as the "Paris of South America." Following our walking tour and dinner along the canals, we understood why. With warm temperatures, notable architecture, rich history and colorful night life, Buenos Aires was worthy of much more than our one-day visit.

On Tuesday morning we flew to meet Tucker for the much anticipated reunion at the Mendoza Airport. Later that day we also met his host family, the Pechuans, along with most of their extended family for an "asado" (festive barbeque of grilled meats) at a nearby park. Thirty five of our new best friends gathered around one outdoor table with an assortment of local foods – olives, cheeses, breads, greens, tomatoes, wines and various meats. Argentina is known, among other things, for its generous hospitality and the quality of its beef, two of the many reasons Tucker had hoped to live and study there in the first place. Our limited Spanish was assisted by Tucker's amazingly capable translation and lots of sympathetic smiles.

The next day we hiked in the arid foothills of the Andes, enjoyed lunch at the Pechuan home, and met several of Tucker's friends in downtown San Juan, before traveling back to the Mendoza region and the small town of Chacras de Coria. Mendoza is the heart of Argentina's wine country and known especially for its Malbec blends. Serendipitously, we had arrived during the Grape Harvest Festival. This was going to be fun!

Our accommodations in Chacras was a villa conveniently located in the middle of town, within walking distance of a small market and several restaurants. The first full day in Chacras included lunch and a tour of a nearby family-owned and operated winery, *Tempus*. Next was a tour on horseback of another vineyard, where we could pluck grapes as we rode along. Throughout our travels, everyone was warm, welcoming and full of passion for their farms, families and culture. Even the wild, green parrots squawking in the trees seemed friendly.

Day two was set aside for high adventure, rafting class II and III+ rapids on the Mendoza River whose waters originate high in the Andes to the west. Few things can match the family bonding that occurs during a wild, whitewater experience, especially in the beautifully rugged setting of the Andes.

Our final day together came too quickly, and saying good-bye again wasn't easy. As we flew over the Andes one last time, I quietly reflected on our abbreviated week together and was thrilled for Tucker and all that he has experienced and learned thus far in his exchange.

Lisa and I are convinced that the Rotary International Exchange is perhaps the greatest educational experience our children could ever have. We are deeply appreciative of Rotary International's support, both here and abroad, and we strongly encourage other families to seriously consider this life changing opportunity. Ask Tucker when he returns in July, I think he'll agree.

For anyone interested in learning more about international living for students and their families, we highly recommend *The New Global Student* by Maya Frost, or visit her website at www.mayafrost.com.



Familias de Pechuan y Bates with most of their extended family at an "asado" (festive barbeque of grilled meats) at a nearby park.



The Bates and Pechuan families hiked in the arid foothills of the Andes, which were adorned with a fresh fall of snow and then enjoyed lunch at the Pechuan home, before meeting several of Tucker's friends in downtown San Juan.



Another trek involved rafting class II and III+ rapids on the Mendoza River whose waters originate high in the Andes to the west.



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