

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 16

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Thursday, April 22, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
67 \ 48F	68 \ 50F	70 \ 49F

This Week in Highlands

Thursday, April 22

- Taize in Highlands is every Thursday at 5:30 PM. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Taize is a nondenominational service of prayer, meditation, scripture and simple, beautiful music. No offerings are taken—these services are a free gift to the community.

- PAC Youth Theater presents the One-Act Play Festival. Featuring *The Happy Journey, A Game. He Done Her Wrong*, 7:30 pm. Students are \$1; 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*, 7:30 pm. Students are \$1; Adults are \$5.

- Live music at the Downhill Grill in Scaly Mountain, 7-9 p.m. BYOB.

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*, 2 pm. Students are \$1; Adults are \$5. During Intermission food will be served downstairs.

- Live music at the Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain from 7-9 p.m. BYOB.

- Live music at Cyprus Restaurant on NC 106 at 9:30 p.m.

- Gorge pick up is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center. To volunteer call Jan at 526-2112. Lunch provided.

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*, 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 is presented by Ruth Ballard. Guests welcome. Call Dottie Bruce for further information, 828-743-7673; 864-877-2454.

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

PAC board to discuss town's terms

The issue of amending the Playhouse lease was discarded and the possibility of entering into a new lease with Performing Arts Center was tabled pending further discussion by both the Town Board and the PAC board.

Verbiage suggested for a new PAC lease at the April 7 Town Board meeting was massaged to include a 5-year term and quarterly meetings

with the town's Recreation Committee but the lease was not voted on Wednesday night.

Town Attorney Bill Coward requested a closed session to discuss the legality of the verbiage presented and Stewart Manning, president of the PAC board said he couldn't agree to the lease without first discussing it with his board which meets on May 9.

Furthermore, he said it appears the town is trying to interfere with the operation of the Performing Arts Center.

"PAC is doing everything it should be doing to be part of the community and we would like to keep working as it has been working," he said.

• See TERMS page 14

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Lady Highlanders win first game at new field



Pictured are: Katie Durham, Madison Taylor, Paige Strahan, Kate-Marie Parks, Susan Johnson, Carmen Damian, Jessica Gagne, Amy Fogle, Ana Damian, Monserrath Reyes, Stephanie Smart, Sayne Feria, Emily Munger, Rachel Lamb, Hayden Bates, Rebecca Johnson, Caroline Christy, Karaline Shomaker, Ali Cutshaw. Coaches are Ryan Potts, Brian Crook and Carrilea Potter. See page 9 for story.
Photo by Jim Lewicki

H1N1 puts public health system to the test

By Dr. Jeffrey Engel
N.C. State Health Director

One year ago this month, our state and nation faced the first-ever National Public Health Emergency with the arrival of H1N1 influenza. It has been a disease of historic proportion. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates one in five Americans have been infected with the virus, and one in 5,000 of those

infected have died. Unlike seasonal flu, which is typically most severe in the elderly, the impact of pandemic H1N1 has been on a younger population. In North Carolina, 88 percent of the more than 100 flu deaths reported since the pandemic started have been in people under 65. The past 12 months have tested our public health system and helped us identify oppor-

tunities for improvement.

While we had been preparing for years for a pandemic flu event – building infrastructure and systems to prevent and address widespread disease – this flu strain came much more quickly than we had anticipated. We expected the pandemic to arise in Southeast Asia, giving us several weeks to set up

• See H1N1 page 20

New State law tackles board ethics

Though ethical behavior on government boards is expected, NC Session Law 403 went into effect Jan. 1, 2010 to make sure ethical behavior is followed to the letter.

Ethics get murky at the city, county, and board of education levels, as well as on land use boards like appearance, planning and the quasi-judicial Zoning Boards of Adjustments – especially in small communities where decisions and appointments can blur when familial and associational relationships come into play, say proponents of tightening regulations.

The question always becomes "Is it legal?" for a board member to vote on a motion involving a pet project or organization when his or her involvement and leanings are known.

Traditionally, the answer has always been, "Yes, unless the board member stands to gain financially."

The new session law that was adopted Aug. 5, 2009 and went into effect Jan. 1, 2010 and which nails down some aspects of ethics, is twofold.

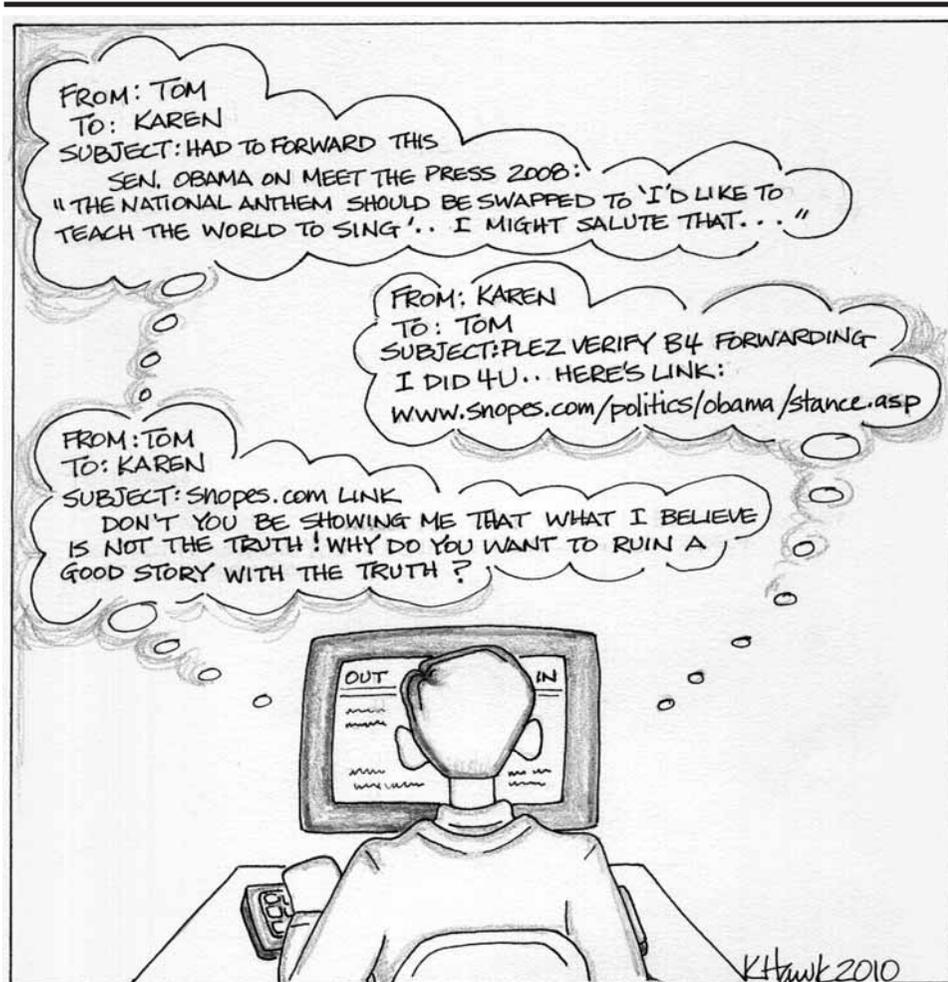
First all cities, counties, local boards of education, unified governments, sanitary districts and consolidated city-counties must adopt a "Code of Ethics for the Governing Board." At the minimum, those ethics should include:

- The need to obey all applicable laws regarding official actions

• See ETHICS page 3

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• FROM A STUDENT'S EYE •

The iPad: Does it live up to its hype?

There is no doubt that lately you have heard a lot about the new Apple iPad. Whether you have heard good or bad things, you know that the iPad is the biggest gadget since the iPhone. *Maybe* the laptop, but it doesn't seem to match up *that* well.

So, if you live under a rock and don't know what an iPad is, or even who Apple is, let me describe it for you now: The iPad is a large touch screen computer that allows users to browse the Internet, listen to music, read books, watch video, play games, look at very detailed maps on a 9.7" screen, write e-mail, use a calendar, display your photos, and much more.

Now, whether or not this device is actually any good is in the eye of the beholder. The device fits in your hands very well and feels lightweight. The display is large and gorgeous, it's ultra-thin, and it's a wonderful hand-held jukebox. That being said, how well does it do what its supposed to do?

Round one: Portability. The iPad isn't the *most* portable gadget that you could buy to do the things it does at 1.5 pounds, but its thickness of just 0.5" is a killer feature. The 9.7" screen also makes the iPad just a little big to be carrying with you on a walk, which is why you may want to stick with your iPod for ultra-portability. The iPad is, however, much lighter than any laptop being offered now. And according to Stephen, a blue-shirted Apple employee, you'll find yourself carrying your iPad around more than your laptop, which Stephen says, you'll only need with you to do the really heavy jobs that require multitasking.

Round two: Display: The iPad has a wonderful 9.7" IPS display that integrates touch screen technology that is truly magical. Watching videos and browsing the Internet are great, as well as pretty much doing *anything* as long as it involves you touching the screen.

Round three: Compatibility: The iPad, like all other mobile devices made by Apple, will work with both PCs and Macs. However the biggest loss in compatibility is the lack of external ports that allow you to plug in other devices such as your iPod or iPhone so you can charge it. This sets the iPad back just a little on compatibility.

Round four: Ease of Use: The iPad uses a large screen for its display and navigating the device is amazingly easy. With just a pinch of your fingers, you can blow up a picture that you're viewing on the Internet to fill the screen of your iPad without the picture getting to grainy. Other things like reading, view-



Gardner Davis

ing pictures, watching video, or even listening to music are so easy to use even a caveman could do it. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)

Round five: Reading: The iPad supports an eBook functionality that allows users to buy and read books directly on their iPads. This is a clear shot at Amazon's Kindle, which is very well known for its ease of use and wide selection of books. There are ups and downs to

each platform, however.

So as you can see, the iPad is a very special device with great ups and bumming downs. So, should you get one? Not yet. Although the iPad is amazing, it will have several problems that Apple will need to address, and by the third or fourth generation, nice things like a camera will be included and battery life will be far extended. Also, prices will drop dramatically. (Remember the original iPhone started at \$499, the starting price for the iPad. Now it's starting at \$99.) That's why, I'm waiting until the second or third generation.

- grdnr.davis@gmail.com

• LETTER •

Fire Salzarulo!

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to Dr. Salzarulo's column in the April 15 issue entitled "How 'true' is the True Faith?" I have just sent Dr. Salzarulo a copy of an article appearing in the New York Times and I hope you will make sure he reads it.

I have just read the meanest, most spiteful column in your paper that I have ever seen. How can he suggest that I leave the Catholic church that as a Christian, I worship in.

Yes, our church is embroiled in a scandal, but as Nicholas Kristof writes in his column "A church Mary can love." (Please look it up in the New York Times and read it.) "So when you read about the scandals, remember that the Vatican is not the same as the Catholic Church. Ordinary lepers, prostitutes and slum dwellers may never see a cardinal, but they daily encounter a truly noble Catholic Church in the form of priests, nuns and lay workers toiling to make a difference."

And why don't you just fire Dr. Salzarulo for ruining your wonderful publication?

Ann Urbanski

... ETHICS continued from page 1

taken as a board member;

- The need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member's office;
- The need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board member's official duties;
- The need to faithfully perform the duties of the office;
- The need to conduct the affairs of the governing board in an open and public manner, including complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.

However, the city of Albemarle took it a bit further, spelling out conflicts of interest in its resolution:

- No member of the Board shall seek to influence a decision, participate in any action or cast a vote involving any matter that is before the Board which may result in a private benefit to themselves, their immediate relatives or their business interest.

A member may be excused from voting on a particular issue under the following circumstances:

- If the matter at hand involves the member's own official conduct; or

- If the member has such close personal ties to the applicant that he cannot reasonably be expected to exercise sound and impartial judgment on behalf of the public's interest.

- If the member has a direct financial interest in the outcome of the matter at hand. Unfortunately, there are a lot of gray areas – particularly surrounding the definition of "conflict of interest" and therein lies the rub.

Traditionally, a "conflict of interest" has always only been about money. In other words, if a board member stands to gain financially, then there is a "conflict of interest" at which point he or she can excuse him- or herself. This sentiment has been echoed by Highlands Town Attorney Bill Coward as well at the Highlands Town Board over the years. Consequently, all the town's boards have followed suit claiming the money issue is the only one to be concerned about otherwise one needs only to be impartial when voting.

According to Tom Terrell, who writes for the NC Legal Landscapes on the web – most recently in a series entitled "Legislating Eth-

ics" – in the broad view, people often think that the essential characteristic of impartiality is simply open-mindedness.

"Although the ability to be open-minded is critical, the more important focus is on freedom from competing loyalties or conflicts of interests," he said. "A board member is elected or appointed to take care of the public's business, not to use the powers bestowed by the people to look after him or herself – or the folks who happen to be related or connected in some other way – in simplistic terms, a man cannot serve two masters.

Thanks to N. C. General Statute sections 160A-388 and 153A-345 that deal with

- See ETHICS on page 5

• THANK YOU •

From the Ivester Family

The family of Lucille Ivester would like to thank each and everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to us during her illness and death. The cards, phone calls, food, words of love and support meant so much to all of us.

We would also like to thank the wonderful doctors, nurses, and staff at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Fidelity Eckerd Living Center. Their compassion, care and love for her was wonderful. We are truly blessed to live in such a caring community. May God bless each of you.

- The Lucille Ivester Family

• MILESTONE •

Relay for Life fundraising begins!



Relay for Life of Highlands announces the 1st place winner and 2nd runner up of its March Madness Bracket Challenge. For a donation of \$5 participants filled out their brackets and were awarded points for their teams reaching each round. The participant with the most points was Merlin Crowe with a total of 95 points. Merlin was awarded a season pass to all Highlands School Athletic Events. Second runner up was Lorraine Talley who won a Relay For Life tote bag filled with Relay goodies, including a "Fight Like a Girl" t-shirt. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all who participated. Their donations to Relay For Life are helping it save lives and celebrate more birthdays. Pictured from left are Lorraine Talley, Debbie Grossman, chairman of this year's Highlands-Cashiers Relay for Life, and Merlin Crowe.

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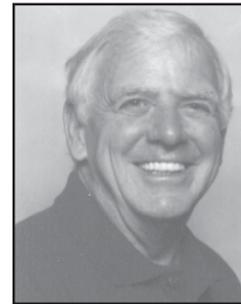


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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Global hogwash



Fred Wooldridge

Wouldn't it be great if, when candidates sign up to run for political office, we make them stamp the word "liar" in indelible ink across their foreheads?

Write this down and remember. If Americans wanna believe, then they'll believe, no matter how outrageous the topic. We are driven by prejudice, lack of knowledge, little or no research and a terrible memory. Does that make sense? Maybe seeing "liar" on the candidate's forehead will help a little ... probably not.

Remember this famous lie? "But I wanna say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm gonna say this again. I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinski. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time . never. These allegations are false and I need to go back to work for the American people." Hey, I believed the guy because he looked America right in the eye and said it . and don't forget, it was my president looking me straight in the eye and saying it. How duh was I?

Now, make note of this. If Americans don't want to believe, there's usually nothing anyone can say or do to change their minds. When's the last time you actually saw a Democrat change a Republican's mind or vice versa? Folks believe what they want, discard the things they don't and are usually driven by emotion and prejudice. Like most Americans, I was sorrowfully a member of this group. But I'm changing. Change is good ... right?

Every four years we get to vote for president of the United States. We listen to the candidate's blah, blah, blah and make our choice. Would having the word "Liar" stamped across their foreheads make a difference?

Our emotions and prejudices govern our choice. (A little circus music, please.) In reality, we don't want to believe we're being lied to but we are. We forget, and in most cases, don't want to remember that all politicians lie. Lying has become acceptable and everyone is lying except my candidate.

What a joke. As Americans, we're hopeless. We hope for the best and never get it ... never. We remain ignorantly and hopelessly optimistic. Guess what? Not me ... not anymore ... I'm done!

And do you remember this outrageous pack of lies? Forty years ago, on January, 11, 1970, *The Washington Post's* headline reported "Colder Winters Hold Dawn of New Ice Age – Scientists See Ice Age in the Future." I

wanted to believe what the scientists wrote because they're not lying politicians. They're supposedly honest so I became concerned about global cooling. Four days later *The Los Angeles Times* headlines read "Is Mankind Manufacturing a New Ice Age?" blaming our lifestyles for the cause of global cooling. Like most Americans I believed the scientists and followed their recommendations. Every politician in America jumped on the ice age bandwagon to win our

favor. What saps we were.

Take your head out of the sand and do some research. Between January 11th, 1970 and November 14th, 1979, a period of almost 10 years, every single major newspaper in this country had several front page headlines and follow-up articles about the coming of the next ice age, quoting notable and reputable scientists who supposedly could prove it through research. I believed. What reason would they have to lie? I had faith. I expect politicians to lie all the time, but not scientists. I was concerned because our world was in the process of freezing to death. Sitting here typing this, I feel like such an ass.

On June 24th, 1974, *Time Magazine's* cover was titled, "Another Ice Age?" In 1974, if that magazine said it's going to happen, then it's going to happen. I believed because of their reputation for honesty. Was I gullible or what?

Then in 1976 *The New York Times* reported that the CIA was worried American farms would not be able to produce enough food to feed our country due to global cooling and the impending ice age. I'm not kidding ... do your research. I began to stockpile food. How dumb is that? (More circus music, please.)

Now, 40 years later, I live in a world where I believe nothing. I have lost faith. The sky is not falling and never was. I'm called a cynic because I am a cynic. Please, how many lies can I tolerate? There's no global cooling or warming and all politicians lie all the time, even if they're preachers ... especially if they're preachers.

While I'll never lose my faith in God, I've lost my faith in organized religion ... all of them. Sometime when you have three hours to kill, stop me and ask how I feel about pedophile priests and the institutions that protect them. I know a lot about pedophiles.

Finally, here's what I believe. I believe in God and I believe in my family. I believe they'll always be there for me. Regretfully, I believe in little else. Pray for me and I ain't lying.

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

A slice of life

I awakened remarkably refreshed, and opened my eyes to the gray light framed by an overhead skylight. It should have been black. "Shoot," I muttered loud enough to wake Lizzie, although I didn't know it at the time. It was 6:34 AM; an hour and 34 minutes later than usual. I hoped it was Saturday. Sure, that would explain it.



Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

potting soil in the back. It would be several miles before I reached a legal passing zone. Some double lines can be safely ignored. The Oconee County school bus rumbled slowly from house to house. Everyone between Long Creek and Westminster must have school-age children, all of whom walk in slow motion.

I'm 68 years old, a partner in the clinic. The chance that I might be fired is remarkably slim. It wasn't the first time I'd been late, but it was the first time I'd overslept in more than 20 years. I was about 40 minutes late the morning after Hurricane Ivan. I drove from Highlands to Seneca with a chain saw in the bed of the truck. I was tardy the morning I rolled my SUV down a slope just above Sky Valley. I went home, showered away shards of glass, got another car, and drove to work. Two winters ago, I had to back-track from Highway 76, which was closed due to an ice storm, to War Woman Road, which was barely passable. My record had been excellent. Unfortunately, it was Friday, not Saturday.

I thought about lying, nearly did. I had to detour one morning because of a fallen tree across the road, but the incident hadn't delayed the start of surgery. I almost dragged it up and used it as an excuse today. Instead, I called the OR and explained that I would be 45 minutes late. For clarity, I added that I had overslept. I was unshaven. I'd brewed no coffee. My shoes were untied and my teeth unbrushed. I hadn't showered. It wasn't until later learned that my tee shirt was inside out.

When I reached work, I apologized to everyone in sight. No one seemed the least bit upset. Indifferent would be another way of saying it, bored with my groveling apologies an even more accurate description. Our first patient's father was a doctor. Dad did what the staff had not; mildly chided me for my late arrival. His son was quiet and wife seemed a little embarrassed. I don't know if her discomfort stemmed from her husband's comments or the fact that my shirt was inside out.

I could have, perhaps should have, taken a few minutes to get ready. What difference does another half hour matter? I had weighed the meager savings from speeding against the lengthy delay of getting caught. Then I sped. I followed a slow moving pickup truck with bags of

I felt a little silly for acting like a kid called to the principal's office. Except for a single understandably nervous parent, no one mentioned it again. Or, so it seemed.

Following our first operation a nurse from the clinic walked into the operating area. She smiled wickedly and said, "Dr. Salzarulo, did you enjoy sleeping in?" Only then did I fully realize the news had spread throughout the building. Yesterday's deeds are quickly forgotten. I hope memories of yesterday's flaws are similarly fleeting.

... ETHICS from page 3

boards of adjustment, some of the conflicts that impair impartiality are codified and so guide a board or board member incapable of putting aside self-interest or the interest of someone close to them when making a public decision.

(e1) "A member of the board or any other body exercising the functions of a board of adjustment shall not participate in or vote on any quasi-judicial matter in a manner that would violate affected persons' constitutional rights to an impartial decision maker. Impermissible conflicts include, but are not limited to, a member having a fixed opinion prior to hearing the matter that is not susceptible to change, undisclosed ex parte communications, a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with an affected person, or a financial interest in the outcome of the matter. If an objection is raised to a member's participation and that member does not recuse himself or herself, the remaining members shall by majority vote rule on the objection.

This applies most stringently to Zoning Board's of Adjustment which are quasi-judicial and whose findings must be based on fact. But why shouldn't the law demand that all boards act in such a manner? ask proponents of tightening regulations.

What happens in a proceeding when a preexisting relationship is so strong or compelling the decision-maker can't put feelings for that person or organization aside to be completely non-biased?

• See ETHICS page 14

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• HIS & HERS •

Since You Didn't Ask, Part 3

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

During my 14 years in Paris, I really was Alice in Wonderland. There's a huge difference between growing up in America, speaking French to your mother, and actually living in France. Fortunately for me, I had a number of great medical professionals to help with my transition.

Dr. Pierre Frade was my first doctor in Paris. Even though my grandmother, Mamie, and I lived in the same neighborhood, it never occurred to me to use her doctor. Mamie and I were 50 years apart in age, and I figured the same doctor whom she terrorized on a regular basis wasn't necessarily a good candidate. I asked around the neighborhood, and heard glowing reports about Dr. Frade. A handsome 40-ish GP, Dr. Frade was smart, kind and thorough. Once in his office, you knew that he would take as much time as necessary to deal with your concerns. Since he did this with everyone, however, that meant that cooling your heels for two hours in the waiting room was not uncommon. Folks arrived with knitting, embroidery, crossword puzzles, and the horse racing and soccer results – just to pass the time. One woman peeled potatoes and snapped green

beans. Of course, most of us just chatted and gossiped, which was much more fun.

Dr. Frade and I became good buddies, and while I didn't look forward to getting sick, I enjoyed my appointments. Realizing that his sense of humor was as wacky as mine, I went out of my way to surprise him. No challenge was too great. When a urine sample was requested, I presented the item in question in a cleaned and sterilized wine bottle, complete with personalized label extolling the virtues of **Château Mead**. Another time, I had to get a shot in the butt (shots in the butt are a great mainstay of French medicine). When I arrived for my appointment, I had drawn a dart board circle on a piece of paper, and taped it to the target area. Dr. Frade was laughing so hard, his nurse had to administer the shot in question.

When I moved from the 14th arrondissement (near the Belfort Lion) to the 18th (near Sacré Cœur), my search for a



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

good doctor began again. My husband, Colin, and I settled on Dr. M., an unsmiling physician with no known sense of humor. There couldn't have been a bigger contrast between Dr. Frade and Dr. M. The son of doctors, Dr. M. was snooty and condescending. His waiting room did not look like a reality show casting call, the way Dr. Frade's had. In matters

medical, however, he was fine – just not warm and fuzzy. I have broken my toes over 15 times – the result of walking around barefoot. After seeing how Dr. M. taped a broken toe to the next toe over, I didn't bother to see him the next time I broke one. Months later, I admitted to him what I'd done. Outraged, Dr. M. explained to me that "do it yourself" meant repainting your living room or wallpapering your bedroom – not setting your own broken bones. I was duly chastened.

Across the street from us on the Rue Francoeur lived a complete loony, whom

we referred to as "Le Fou" (the nut case). He and his wife were raving drunks, and shortly after we moved into our new apartment, he began stalking me. The phone would ring 30-50 times a day. If I left the apartment, he would follow me in the street. On laundry days, he would pace back and forth in front of the Laundromat, glaring at me. Calls to the phone company and the police department were useless. As far as they were concerned, it was my problem.

One day, nerves frayed and deeply depressed, I dragged myself to Dr. M.'s office. Having received no help from the local authorities with my stalking problem, I'd gone on French national television to tell my story. Dr. M. had just happened to see the show. For the first time, his manner was kind and caring. "Why didn't you tell me?" he repeated. "I could have done something." Then his voice dropped, and he became secretive. "You mustn't tell this to a living soul," he began. "I have someone who can help you." I looked blankly at the doctor. "His name is Freddie," said Dr. M. I blinked in disbelief. My face must have betrayed my horror. "Oh, not to kill your stalker, of course. Just to mess him up a bit."

• See HIS & HERS page 7



Women on the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Have a New Reason to Stay in Town.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Role models

One thing before we get started in this week's show — I never knew so many people felt the same way about Tiger Woods that I did. If the feedback I got this week is any representation of the rest of the US, Mr. Woods is going to be in a lot more trouble than I even imagined.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Hearing people's thoughts about Tiger, and then reading the sordid details of the Ben Roethlisberger case this week, I started thinking about athletes as role models.

Many years ago, Charles Barkley famously proclaimed "I am not a role model." Despite this proclamation (which Barkley was chastised for), the majority of our youth idolize professional athletes. I see it myself, not just in the classroom, but at the various AAU basketball tournaments I have attended and the youth football camps that my students have attended at past schools.

While at first glance it may seem that men like LeBron James or Alex Rodriguez are the role models that these young men seek, the sad truth is much more harsh than this.

Unfortunately, the role model for these young men is not a single man, but a lifestyle. Being a rich professional athlete comes with its own set of rules and own agendas. While our youth may admire LeBron's personality or want to emulate the moves that Adrian Peterson makes on the field, the true idol for these youth is the money, the fame, the fortune. The idea of having your face plastered all over Sportscenter, or the ability to walk into any club in any city in the world and have access is the stuff that teenagers dream of these days. Not to mention the fame, the glitz, the girls that can come with being a famous athlete... it's a life that no college education or studying in the library could ever bring.

My students often complain about the unfairness of it all, how it is that athletes can make more money for hitting a baseball than a teacher or firefighter can make in 20 years. Rest assured though, this isn't unfairness... it's simply the market at work. There are only a few rare athletes in the world that throw 99 mph with control or run a 4.3 forty-yard dash. Thus, with the American sports industry being a multi-billion dollar industry, it stands to reason that the demand would be extremely high; and thus, the high salaries and even higher profile of these superstar athletes.

So what is the lesson that we can take from guys like Roethlisberger and Woods? It's simple really.

Kids will always dream of their heroes and there is nothing that any of us can do to stop it. The real challenge for us, particularly in the media, is to make heroes of those who deserve it. We need to showcase the guys like Bruce Bowen, who

worked his way up from obscurity to become first team NBA all-defense, or Marty Gilyard, who was an All-American at Cincinnati after being out of football for years.

It's in who we choose to show on TV and in magazines and on the Internet that we can reduce the greed and shadiness that has pushed into our youth athletics. Ultimately, the media needs to be responsible for creating role models that our youth can admire... not the athletes themselves.

... HIS & HERS continued from page 6

Dr. M. clasped his hands together, and forced the first smile I'd ever seen on his face. As in the USA, when someone goes to the doctor with a gunshot or stabbing wound in France, the doctor is supposed to report it to the police. Freddie had shown up on the doorstep of our good doctor, bleeding profusely and refusing to give any of the gory details. Unwilling to get involved in any bureaucratic messiness, Dr. M. had simply patched up Freddie and sent him on his way. Freddie had turned up several months later, completely healed. He made a promise. If Dr. M. ever had need of his particular talents, all he had to do was call. He handed over his phone number, written almost illegibly on the back of a café napkin. Dr. M. pushed the paper napkin across his desk in my direction. I thanked him profusely, but said I'd pass on Freddie. I'd learned my lesson, though. Like many quiet and reserved folks, Dr. M. was capable of surprises.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, VA, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. They are members of the Highlands Writers Group. As far as she knows, Michelle's current GP is not a source for hit men.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Black gold or hot air?

As most of you lazy septuagenarians snooze in the morning's early hours, your faithful reporter is filling his mind with mostly insignificant information by way of CNBC Asia, Europe and finally the US.

Sometimes good stuff comes along and it makes sleeplessness worthwhile.

The other morning, T. Boone Pickens was being interviewed and naturally the "Pickens Plan" was the topic of discussion. Now I realize there are many Pickens people reading this column, and I don't want to leave the impression that I don't think some of his ideas aren't sound, but when a Texas oil billionaire is trying to sell something, I tend to listen with a bit of skepticism.

Perhaps his timing is unfortunate, but I sort of relate his fervent message to that of my old buddy, Al Gore, who sold the world a pig in a poke.

I get the feeling that there is a cult mentality involved, something like the one that surrounds Texas Congressman Ron Paul. I don't mean this in a derogatory way, it's just an observation. One gets the idea that some people are looking for somebody to attach themselves to, like Obama, for instance. But I digress.\

The Plan promotes the use of wind generated power (does Pickens own wind farms? I'll bet he does). But the real push is to convert our vehicles to run on natural gas, starting with the country's fleet of 18-wheelers. During the course of the interview, Pickens said "we have to do this" many, many times. Kind of reminiscent of one of Obama's sales pitches. It became a mantra.

We have to do what?? We have to convert all our over-the-road cargo carriers to burn natural gas for fuel. Does Pickens own substantial natural gas reserves? I'd guess he does. Why an 82-year-old man with all the money he could ever spend would work so hard to sell a project is a mystery to me. Maybe it's truly an altruistic endeavor. Maybe.

He was in Washington to sell bills in both houses that would evidently finance the cost of the conversions necessary to pull off his dream. He emphasized extensively the fact that all that is needed for the government to kick in \$65,000 per vehicle to pay for the conversion and voila, we've cut our dependence on foreign oil. In 10 years, all 8 million trucks will be clipping along on natural



**Don Swanson
Feedback is
encouraged. Email
swansonson@dnet.net**

gas and it would only cost \$65,000 per, as he repeated over and over. What he didn't say was the total cost to the government to put his plan in action is \$520,000,000,000. In today's parlance, A HALF A TRILLION DOLLARS.

Oh, I see. It would possibly be a more worthy expenditure than others we are throwing our money away on, but I just don't like the way it's being sold. "We

have to do it" unsettles me just a little. We "had to do carbon credits" too, and we all learned what a fraud that turned out to be.

The thing that fascinates me is that enough votes in Congress can be bought by the environmental lobbyists to keep offshore drilling off limits. I know Obama recently made a grandstand announcement concerning opening up new offshore areas to exploration, but if you drill down into the issue, nothing was changed. The leases he claimed to open were opened years ago under previous administrations.

Let's switch directions, shall we? While your little darlings are being taught to worship Mother Earth (Earth Day, don't cha know?), Mom is spewing so much volcanic ash into the atmosphere, planes can't fly, vegetation is smothered as it settles to earth, and, oh yeah, you can't breathe the air. Almost instantly, global warming is being blamed for this deeply subterranean activity. I have yet to hear how.

Curiously, according to Wikipedia, "Volcanic ash can lead to breathing problems, malfunctions in machinery, and from more severe eruptions, years of global cooling." How cool is that? If you believe that we humans are causing volcanoes, which seems absurd to me, then I say Father God provided the means to offset the effects of our alleged irresponsibility through the Iceland blowup. So then do we, who supposedly cause global warming and thus volcanoes, get credit for causing the source of global cooling? It's all too convoluted for me.

Pop quiz for you sportz nutz. What city claims the Thunder, and what sport do they play? Did you get that one? How about the Coyotes? They're getting harder. The Earthquakes? Oklahoma City, NBA; Phoenix, NHL; and San Jose, MLS (soccer). If you got them all, you're watching way too much ESPN.

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Forget the cheese, just get me out of the trap...

That saying seems to apply to more situations this day and age that we would like to admit, and particularly to homeowners with “upside-down/underwater” mortgages. Mortgages and other over-commitments are putting pressure on people across the globe. Highlands and the surrounding areas are not immune to the increasing need for cash.

One of the local chuckles over the years is that there have been three lines of investment thought: The Dow, NASDAQ and Highlands. It has always seemed, and rightly so, as if Highlands was a sure bet when it came to realizing a profit, but our over-heated real estate market has come to a time of correction.

What we as sellers of Highlands real estate must admit is:

#1: Future need or desire does not affect current value. Just because we want to retire with a million dollars, does not make our “investment” in Highlands worth a million.

#2: There are bank foreclosures and short sales on the market and every buyer wants the best deal available (you would, wouldn't you?)

Therefore, if you have competition in your market from a REPO or “short” sale,



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you must offer the better deal – otherwise be prepared to wait until all the “sales” are sold.

#3: Second and third homes are luxury items for most. But, just like primary homes, over the past decade that luxury was made available to many. That leap of faith probably should have not have been taken by some.

Has the bottom fallen out as it has in numerous other communities across the country? – NO. Are there still buyers for real estate in Highlands? – YES

Thankfully Highlands is a very unique environment, and what made us so desirable for so many years has not changed. Unlike other markets that are affected by business swings and industry changes, Highlands is graced by its unchangeable altitude, limited availability, change of seasons and gracious people – all four of which are in great demand by those who live almost anywhere else.

We all anticipate the time our economy will settle back to a more normal cycle. Let us all hope it is sooner rather than later.

Note: A quick take on the title of a book called *I Don't Want Any More Cheese, I Just Want Out of the Trap* by Richard Templar.

• HS GIRLS SOCCER •

Highlanders win first game at new field

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders took to the field last Friday looking to defend their home field, and they ultimately did so with an emphatic 3-1 victory over the Towns County Lady Indians.

The Lady Highlanders came out strong, dominating possession and taking a 1-0 lead 17 minutes into the first half on a goal from Emily Munger. Unfortunately, this lead did not last long, as a mere 17 seconds later Lady Indian striker Missy Conrad took advantage of a sleeping Lady Highlander defense to equalize.

The sudden response from the Lady Indians seemed to put Highlands on the defensive, but they held on, keeping the score 1-1 at the half.

At the start of the second period, Highlands found its attack, getting a goal piece from Munger and Paige Strahan to lead 3-1. The

Lady Indians did not back down, as they had several scoring opportunities late in the second half, but strong defense from Ana Damien, Caroline Christy, Madison Taylor and Kate-Marie Parks secured the 3-1 victory for the Lady Highlanders.

Tuesday night is senior night for Highlands, so 7 seniors will be honored before the final home match with Cherokee. The game starts at 5 p.m. Come out and support the Lady Highlanders.



Sayne Feria-Cruz and Stephanie Smart at the Towns County match. Photo by Noel Atherton

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May Primary candidate Q&A series continues

This is week four 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 4 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 tax-

tion?

• **Michael “Bud” Rogers – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

If I were to say what everyone wanted to hear it would be no taxes and to decrease what we are already paying! The reality is that taxes are a necessary evil needed to fund the things we have come to expect and enjoy. I do, however, believe it is our responsibility to keep taxes as low as possible without cutting needed programs and to be fiscally responsible. I understand that with the decrease of funds from the State hard decisions will

have to be made and I am willing to do what is necessary to protect the residents of Macon County.

• **Allan “Ricky” Bryson – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)**

Roads are the purview of the state of North Carolina, not the counties. Taxes need to meet the needs decided by past boards for the building of schools and infrastructure. However, at this time of deep recession, we need to remember that the taxpayer wants to get a dollar's worth of service for every dollar paid in taxes. Considering the fiscal condition of the state and federal governments' budget deficits, we need to be very cautious and frugal with our own budget due to cut-backs and mandates passed down by the state and federal governments. We also need to conduct the revaluation so that the tax burden reflects the state rule that no one pays more than 100% of their property's value.

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

I have said this many times, but during a time when our Country and State are going deeper and deeper in debt, then we, at the very least, need to be responsible and wise with our decisions and finances at the local level. Due to the fact that Macon County now has a large debt load and faces the possibility of several more years with less than expected revenue, I believe that our County will only have two choices: increase the tax rate or streamline the current system.

Increasing the tax burden upon our residents during a time of a lagging economy is not and cannot be the right option. Therefore, the County should investigate streamlining every service offered in order to save money. We need to investigate where cuts might be made, where services might be contracted out to the private sector and where services might be eliminated all together. These will be some extremely tough decisions, but now, more than ever, they need to be made to allow taxpayers to keep as much money as possible in their wallets versus the County's bank account. I also believe that the County should not incur any more long term debt until the economy stabilizes and expected revenue is back on track.

Unfortunately, the 2009 property revaluations were postponed until 2013 by a unanimous vote of our current Commissioners. This was particularly unfair to the residents of District 1. Decisions like this must change and, given the opportunity, I will change them.

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

I believe the people of Macon County deserve to have a Board of Commissioners who understand the needs of the people and will make tough decisions on how their taxes are spent. I held out for a revenue neutral budget when the last property revaluation was made. A revenue neutral budget requires low-

ering the tax rate on property when property values increase to generate the same revenue as before. If property values are decreased when the next revaluation occurs I will NOT be in favor of a rate increase to cover the shortfall but will work for a decrease in spending to match any shortfall that occurs. This is what we did for the current budget year when we decreased the budget by ten percent to match expected revenues with further cuts built into the budget as a contingency. Prioritizing our needs and keeping law enforcement, education, and infrastructure at the top of the list will allow our county to remain in good financial shape and keep our tax rates low. This is extremely important in attracting and keeping businesses in our county that provide jobs for our people and allow us to maintain our quality of life here.

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

Since my election in 2002, our tax rate has been lowered each year. We have been the lowest or next to the lowest in the state for both my previous terms. We have managed to keep our taxes low by good financial management and growth.

With the current economic conditions it would not be prudent for the commissioners to raise taxes. Our county is suffering a great deal, and putting more burden on families who are barely making ends meet is not the answer.

We as commissioners, do not know what is coming down from the state in the form of unfunded mandates and what the school budget will reflect due cuts in its state funding.

I have had eight years experience in county budgets as well as being self employee for more than 30 years. I have handled these problems each day. I can and will make the proper decisions that will be the best for all our citizens.

With a decrease in revenues to the county, funding cannot remain at the present levels. The commissioners cut \$4 million from this year's budget and will probably still experience a shortfall. When we cut departments, then services will be cut also. These will be hard decisions for all commissioners.

The Federal, State, and Local governments have so far been exempt from this recession. The private sector has shouldered the burden. Governments should operate as businesses.

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

Taxes are something we know we have to have in order to enjoy our county and provide state of the art services, along that line, I have went through the budget, incoming money versus expense the county has held a good line. We need to continue getting good

• See CANDIDATES page 16

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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 nonperishable 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., Wed., & Thurs..

• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Monday & Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:4. 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

• See EVENTS page 12

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April 23-29

THE BACK-UP PLAN

rated PG-13

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

AVATAR in 3D

rated PG-13

Friday: 8:40
Saturday: 2, 8:40
Sunday: 6:40
Mon + Wed: 6:40
Tues + Thurs: 6:40

HOW TO TRAIN A DRAGON in 3D

rated PG

Friday: 5, 7
Saturday: 5, 7
Sunday: 2, 5
Mon + Wed: 5
Tues + Thurs: 2, 5

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

KICK-ASS

rated R

Friday: 7:10
Saturday: 2:10, 7:10
Sunday: 2:10, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 7:10

CLASH OF THE TITANS

rated PG-13

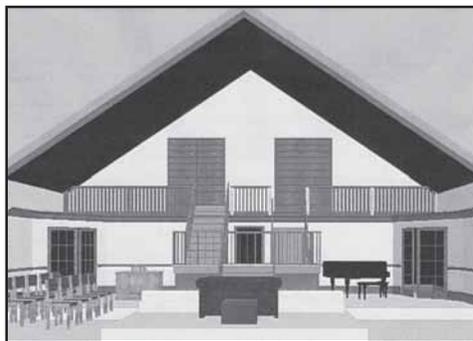
Friday: 4:30, 9:30
Saturday: 4:30, 9:30
Sunday: 4:30
Mon + Wed: 4:30
Tues + Thurs: 4:30

HCP's Rebecca begins May 13 at PAC

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again." Who could forget the opening line from *Rebecca*? It lets us know that this is a story about a house, and it's no ordinary pile of bricks. It's Maxim de Winter's ancestral estate on the Cornish coast. But even though Manderley looks like a dream home, it turns out to be a nightmare for Maxim and his new bride.

Rebecca is known to millions through its outstandingly successful stage and screen versions; and the characters in this timeless romance are hauntingly real. Brilliantly conceived, masterfully executed. Daphne du Maurier's unforgettable tale of love, mystery and suspense is a story-telling triumph that will be read and re-read. *Rebecca* is a Gothic romance, in which the Cinderella fairytale goes wrong. Gothic romances usually feature great houses like this one.**

Recreating Manderley is a challenge for HCP. Manderley is a character in itself. How to transform the stage at PAC into a massive estate is in the capable hands of three very talented professionals. The set was designed



Artist's first draft of upcoming set.

by Chad Lucas, (Lucas Patton Design) a familiar face on and off the stage to theatergoers in Highlands. The set construction is being lead by Steve Abranyi (Green Mountain Builders). The set décor is being accomplished by interior designer Debby Hall, (Hall

& Assoc.) a new full time resident of Highlands. It takes a lot of work to mount a play ... not just by the actors but by all the behind the scenes participants. Our area is very lucky to have so many people willing to volunteer the time to create "Good Plays, Well Done."

The Highlands Cashiers Players production of *Rebecca* opens Thursday, May 13 through May 16 and May 20 through 23, all performances are at the Performing Arts Center, Highlands. The Box Office opens Thursday, May 6 for Season Subscribers and Saturday, May 8 for the general public. For tickets call: 828.526.8084.

The opening night reception is being catered by New Mountain Events. *Rebecca* is sponsored in part by the Laurel Magazine.

from the history guy ...

April 27, 1859

Oil is discovered in Titusville, PA, leading to the worlds first commercially successful oil well.

Something happened in Titusville that continues to affect us still' deep under all the soil was found lots and lots and lots of oil.

You can bet that they were thrilled to have picked that place and drilled.

All things considered, I have to tell that over all, it went pretty well, nothing about could have been thought rude, tho I suppose you could say it was rather crude

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



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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

Friday & Saturdays

- Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Moun-

tain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m.. BYOB.

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

- 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.

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

- Taize in Highlands is every Thursdays at 5:30 PM. at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Taize is a nondenominational service of prayer, meditation,

scripture and simple, beautiful music. No offerings are taken—these services are a free gift to the community.

- 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 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

Atlanta Boy Choir concert to feature 'Africantori'

The Atlanta boy Choir concert on May 2 at the Episcopal Church will feature a group of African American en who were boy singers under Fletcher Wolfe's direction many years ago.

Since his recent return as director, 40 men have joined together to form the Alumni Choir and 15

of them are African Americans who call themselves Africantori. They will be featured on the upcoming Highlands concert singing several well known spirituals.

The wonderful 40 voiced Almuni Choir will join the boys in performing some numbers and represent only a few of the 5,000 boys who sang under Mr.



Wolfe during his half-century as conductor of this world famous group.

The men and boys will travel to Italy this June where they have been invited to sing Mass at St. Peter's in Rome and the Siena Cathedral. They also will perform at Pope Benedict's weekly audience as well as give concerts at St. Francis of Assisi and in the

Arena of Salmona.

The 5 o'clock concert in Highlands on May 2 is free and open to the public on a first come basis although there will be reserved seats for patrons who contribute to the choir's needy boys' scholarship.

For patron's reservations, call 404-378-0064.

Fabric printing and silk scarf painting workshops on The Bascom's spring lineup

Two sought-after fiber artists will bring their expertise to The Bascom this spring.

On May 14-15, Barbara Zaretsky will teach "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing" for all levels of students.

In the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. workshop, students will create and print unique designs onto soft organic linen cloth, learning to carve designs into a rubber-like material that will then be used, along with textile paints, to create surface patterns on fabric. Expect to leave with one to two scarves or runners of your own design. A 12x60" piece of beautiful organic linen will be provided for each workshop participant; additional fabric available. Tuition: \$175 Bascom members/ \$195 non-members

On June 1-5, Janet Taylor will teach



Barbara Zaretsky, whose work is pictured above, will teach "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing" at The Bascom in Highlands for all levels of students May 14-15. On her heels, Janet Taylor will teach "Silk Scarf Painting and Printing" June 1-5. Pre-registration is required for the workshops. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

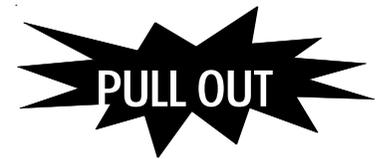
"Silk Scarf Painting and Printing" for all levels. In the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. workshop, students will create several luscious silk scarves covered with designs and patterns. The class will be guided in the use of acid dyes and vari-

ous techniques for dyeing white silk scarves to be printed in a second stage. Printing with objects and stamping with carved images will be followed by steaming and processing through bathes. Tuition: \$350 Bascom members/ \$375 non-members

Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$525 for Bascom members and \$550 for non-members.

To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.
Thursday, April 29

• Taize in Highlands is every Thursdays at 5:30 PM. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Taize is a nondenominational service of prayer, meditation, scripture and simple, beautiful music. No offerings are taken—these services are a free gift to the community.
• 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

• See EVENTS on page 14

Highlands' best 1-Act Play Festival is April 22-25 at PAC

By David Long

What do you get when you add 26 talented youth, two super directors

and three months of rehearsals? If you ask me, my answer will be

"The best One-Act Play Festival Highlands will ever see!"

Returning seasoned veterans and talented eager newcomers from five area schools are participating in this year's P.A.C. Youth Theater Program.

Students from Highlands School, Summit Charter School, Blue Ridge School, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and Son-Shine Knights Homeschool are all benefiting from a generous donation given to PAC to establish a theater arts program for youth in our community.

When I first saw with whom I was working, I was a little nervous. The level of talent here is remarkable! I was amazed by the skill and acting abilities of my peers, and their enthusiastic "gung-ho" attitude for learning is inspiring.

All strive to do the best they can and work hard to cooperate as a team. Even our stage managers, Kaycee Carver, Rebecca Clark and Katie Flynn, share their acting abilities. Whenever a cast member cannot make a rehearsal, she fills in and embellishes a little on what the character might do. This has helped immensely.

Of course our two directors, Dr. Ronnie Spilton and Mr. Jim Gordon, are two of the best directors in the business. I will always be indebted to these two for the inspiration they continually give me on becoming a better actor.

2010 marks my first year with the P.A.C. Youth Theater Program, but this is not my first time acting. It was actually while performing in *The Dining Room* last fall when



I first met Dr. Spilton, and she then invited me to get involved in the youth theater program. I said, "Sure," and I have no regrets. As rehearsals started for

The Stronger Gender, one of the six plays, I had the opportunity to work one-on-

one with Dr. Spilton. She challenged me to develop my character and in the process helped me learn a few things about myself. My confidence is growing, and she has helped me realize ways to connect with fellow actors on stage.

I met Mr. Gordon years ago when I was in first grade when he directed the Summit Charter School production *Gold Rush Kids*. Interestingly, pressure from my little brother is the reason I timidly agreed to be a part of a crowd scene whereas Daniel did not hesitate to jump right into a speaking part. This year I am under Mr. Gordon's tutelage again in *Impromptu*, another of the six plays. He is giving me valuable insight on the importance of remembering and practicing the basics.

All the students have tirelessly given much of their time and effort to this production. All are learning so many rewarding things about the theater arts, which in the process is creating a play festival that is truly extraordinary. It is exciting to be a part of a cast and crew that are working hard to bring Ronnie Spilton's and Jim Gordon's unique vision of these plays to life.

The experience has been priceless, and I am already looking forward to being here again next year! It takes a lot of hard work to bring into being a play festival of this size, but I think that all will agree it is worthwhile. Come and treat yourself to the PAC Youth Theater Program's production of Highland's best *One-Act Play Festival!*

Napa Valley cult vintner and humanitarian Dick Grace one of Collective Spirits' headliners

One of California's Napa Valley wine industry's pioneering superstars, Dick Grace, will be the highlight of the fourth annual Collective Spirits festival in Highlands May 21-22.

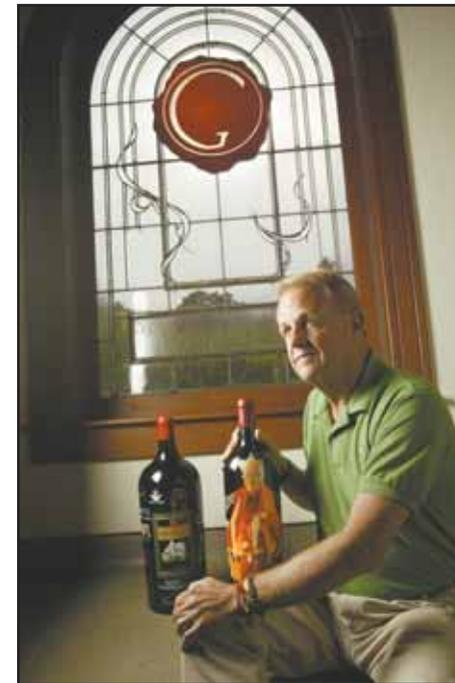
Grace, who owns Grace Family Vineyards and is one of the original "cult vintners" of Napa Valley, will speak at the "Chateau Bascom" Gala Wine Dinner and Auction on May 22.

The term "cult vintner" in California was coined in the late 1970s as a result of wineries

like Grace Family Vineyards (generally credited with being the "first") who are low-production wineries (only Cabernet Sauvignons in the case of Grace) that sell their wines only through exclusive mailing lists. The general public can only find these wines on the secondary or auction markets. Wine aficionados covet being on these mailing lists. In the case of Grace there are approximately 500 names on the primary list with another 5,000 on the wait-list.

"This is a tremendous coup for Collective Spirits," said Dick Boger, event co-chair. "In addition to his celebrity as a vintner, Mr. Grace has a very active family foundation that supports all kinds of worthwhile causes, which is why he is coming to Highlands - to help The Bascom. Through his own personal journey, he has converted to Buddhism and is actively involved with helping promote the travels and teachings of the Dalai Lama. We're supremely lucky to have attracted someone of his caliber."

Grace Family Vineyards' mission statement is "wine as a catalyst towards healing our planet." The winery led to the creation of the Grace Family Vineyards Foundation. Via their foundation, the Graces support



projects in India, Nepal, China, Vietnam, Bhutan, Mexico, the United States and Tibet. The projects concern themselves with bringing nourishment, education, and medical care to some of our planet's most needy inhabitants. The Graces are fully engaged in these projects and spend three to four months a year with the people who receive both care and comfort.

"The Graces directly touch the lives of hundreds of their under-

served sisters and brothers, and are enriched by the teachings they receive from the heroic individuals with whom they have such close contact," Boger said.

Collective Spirits features private wine dinners (exclusively for Sponsors and Benefactors), grand wine tastings with both value wines and rare bottles, a gala dinner, live and silent auctions, a culinary sampling by local chefs, and symposiums conducted by leading wine specialists. All proceeds benefit exhibition and education programs of The Bascom, nonprofit center for the visual arts that recently occupied a stunning new \$13 million campus.

Wilmington Trust is the presenting sponsor. Silver sponsors are Chubb Group of Insurance Companies/Lanigan Insurance Group and Hennessy Automotive Companies. Bronze sponsors include Franklin Ford, Harry Norman Realtors-Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, Highlands' Newspaper, The Laurel magazine, Moss Robertson Cadillac and WNC magazine.

Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or by calling (828) 526-4949.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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

Christ
Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.
Communion Service
Come and join us!

*Worshipping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church
621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers*

The Reverend Jim Muphy, Rector
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701
www.christanglicanchurch.com

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.

- Wild & Woolly Native Plant Sale and Book Festival. The Sheehan Barn in Persimmon Community of Rabun County. For more information, call 706-635-

8733.

- 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 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. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

- 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

- Singer, storyteller, and folk-theologian, Ed Kilbourne, will be performing at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service and will also give a concert at 3 p.m. that day. He is known for his collections of moving music, quirky humor, and insightful monologues. He combines acoustic guitar, singing and monologues with a storytelling style. Everyone is welcome and invited to come.

... ETHICS continued from page 5

The problem is towns and counties, large and small, can't function without close relationships in business, politics and civic life, said Terrell.

"Most of us can identify a "close associational relationship" when we see one," he said. "And for some reason we always think relationships that are "too close" can easily be identified before the issue comes up at a hearing or board meeting."

Some situations where impartiality would be compromised are written into law but each of these situations is still pretty board which is why "conflicts of interest" are rarely called out at meetings.

For a Code of Ethics to mean anything, it must have clear guidelines for proper conduct — and that may be the notion behind

the amended statute.

"It should be the purpose of an ethics code and ethics education to break these situations down into their many component parts for deeper understanding and practical application," said Terrell.

Highlands Town Planner Joe Cooley applauds the amended law.

"Clarification has been needed for a long time. The definition of ethics has long been pretty broad and it's needed tightening up," he said. "For instance, ethical standards has always been higher and more specific for judges than attorneys. And it's that way for quasi-judicial boards like the Zoning Board of Adjustment, too, where there can't be any impropriety in the findings of fact."

Kelli Kukura, director of Government

Affairs with the NC League of Municipalities said the new ethics language and training associated with it has been evolving for a while. "We supported it," she said.

The second part of the NC Session Law 403 requires members of all governing boards to receive education on Ethics Laws applicable to Local Government officials.

The deadline for sitting board members to receive two hours of training is Jan. 1, 2011. The ethics education is available through the NC League of Municipalities, NC Association of County Commissioners, NC School Boards Association, the School of Government at the UNC at Chapel Hill, or other qualified sources at the choice of the governing board via WebCast or on site.

After elections or appointments, the minimum of two hours of ethics education within 12 months after initial election or

appointment to the office and again within 12 months after each subsequent election or appointment to the office.

The ethics education must cover laws and principles that govern conflicts of interest and ethical standards of conduct at the local government level.

Terrell said though the General Statutes help, "they are only starting points, and the more you think about them the more you realize how muddy ethical waters can be."

"If there is a take-away point here, it's that fairness and impartiality are moving targets, and quasi-judicial decisions will never be completely 'fair.' All we can do is educate, be vigilant, and be willing to openly and honestly scrutinize business, family and other relationships when impartiality is required," he said.

– Kim Lewicki

... TERMS continued from page 1

When commissioners said no one was trying to interfere with PAC, Ron Leslie a PAC board member disagreed.

"You have refused to authorize a lease without engaging in a higher level of oversight than in the past," he said.

Rick Siegel, a HCP board member, initially read a statement into the record on behalf of the organization saying "HCP would like to maintain its relationship with PAC as it now stands and said scheduling should be open to any group who wants to use it" — which was the crux of the verbiage Commissioner Amy Patterson proposed.

However, after hearing Manning and Leslie, Siegel clarified his statement saying "HCP didn't want PAC's autonomy infringed upon in any way."

With that Mayor David Wilkes said the board would likely return to the May 5 meeting with a lease tweaked by Attorney Cow-

ard.

"The point is we have a difference of opinion both on the board and between the Town Board and PAC and a legal opinion we need to hear. So we will come back with what Mr. Coward suggests, will present a lease the majority of our board can approve and then the PAC board can make the decision as to accepting it or not."

Joanna Baumrucker said the Playhouse was perfectly happy with its current lease, which was entered into 2008 and runs for 10 years.

"We were not aware we had asked for the lease to be amended. If we did, we are to put it in writing to you and if you want it amended, you are to put it in writing to us at which point we come to an agreement," she said.

Mayor Wilkes shouldered the blame for the proposed amendment saying he just

thought everything should be equal between PAC and the Playhouse and apologized for bringing the issue up.

- Following the public hearing for the Stormwater Ordinance — which had been continued from the April 7 meeting — the board voted unanimously on three aspects of the ordinance which come straight from the state model but which commissioners questioned.

Criminal and civil penalties would be levied; a performance bond equal to the cost of the job plus 25% would be required of all large jobs but small jobs would be at the Stormwater Administrator's discretion; and a Maintenance Performance Bond would not be required at this time.

The engineering for proposals for the Intake Relocation and Sequoyah Dam repairs by McGill Associates \$105,000 and \$32,000, respectively, were accepted 4 to 1.

Commissioner Amy Patterson wasn't

convinced the money should be spent now when it could be included in the capital budget for 2010-2011 instead.

But Town Engineer Lamar Nix and Town Manager Jim Fatland explained that for the town to tap grants, it has to have the engineering studies in hand and be "shovel ready."

Nix also said the intake relocation is a lengthy process involving research underwater and chemically to make sure it was the right move for the future of Highlands.

- Architectural services by Summit Architecture not to exceed \$15 per sq. ft. were accepted unanimously on the grounds that Summit has done an exemplary job on Town Hall and because it came in cheaper than the firm originally hired from Charlotte.

The board went into closed session to hear Coward's suggestions concerning the PAC lease and after the Summit vote, Attorney Coward also requested a discussion on the town's bidding procedures.

– Kim Lewicki

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Easter has come and gone but Christ still lives



Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Well, Easter has come and gone and spring is no doubt in the air. Do you find yourself wearing this winter like a badge? Like you have somehow "earned" this beautiful weather?

Before we leave Easter totally in the dust, let's revisit the whole resurrection thing. All of Christianity hinges on this one reality. How do we really know that Christ came out of the borrowed tomb and is now accessible to us to intervene in our lives? Here are a few things to think about if you, in any way, doubt the resurrection of Christ.

First of all, the resurrection is undoubtedly miraculous. If you have a problem with miracles, consider this. Those who opposed Christ, many of the Jewish Pharisees, who actually wanted Him dead, did not deny that He did miracles (Matt. 12:24). In fact, those who opposed Christ acknowledged His miracles, yet attributed them to Satan. No one denied what they saw happening among the sick, the hurting and even among the dead.

Jesus' own family, early on in His ministry, thought He was out of His mind (Mark 3:21). But after His death on the cross, they ended up putting their lives on the line to preach the good news of salvation. After the resurrection, the disciples, who at one point scratched their heads in bewilderment over His claims of deity, found themselves dying for the cause of Christ. Thomas was impaled, Peter hung upside down, Andrew was martyred on an "X" shaped cross. The resurrection is the only explanation of why these men wrote and preached the Gospel despite the likelihood of death. No one earnestly dies for what they know to be a lie.

Something obviously happened to Saul of Tarsus. He was the most educated, passionate Jew on the face of the earth. His business was about imprisoning Christians. His zeal to persecute believers was astounding. Saul of Tarsus took on a new name, the apostle Paul. He went from persecuting Christians to being one. He was transformed from imprisoning believers to being locked up because he followed Christ. He actually wrote the majority of the New Testament. The only explanation for this transformation is that Saul, who became Paul, encountered the risen Christ as we read about in Acts chapter nine. Saul's entire paradigm of theology was totally transformed by a personal encounter with the resurrected Christ.

How can anyone explain Peter's turn around? He denied that he even knew Christ. In shame, he hung his head and went back to his career of fishing. The Bible says that the risen Christ met Peter on the beach and Peter was restored and forgiven. Later, Peter preaches and three thousand people accept Christ as their Savior. Only the resurrection explains the drastic turn around in the lives of those who followed Him.

Almost every world religion acknowledges Christ as a wise teacher and/or a prophet. Yet how wise can a man be that claims to be the Son of God and claims to have risen from the dead. The Christ embraced by the world is either a wise teacher or insane. You either take Him at His word and acknowledge His resurrection or dismiss Him as ludicrous. The hundreds of messianic prophecies regarding His birth, life, ministry and death all came to pass. What are the odds? They are beyond astronomical. Why then would anyone simply dismiss the prophecies regarding His resurrection? That doesn't make sense.

No. If Christ is risen from the dead and appeared to over 500 people over a period of 40 days (1 Cor. 15:6), then He is accessible to you. He loves you and He stills desires that you speak with Him. He has what it is that you need: identity, purpose, forgiveness, direction and provision. Consider such things as you call on Him. He is still alive!

• 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

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CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

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

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

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

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

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Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

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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.

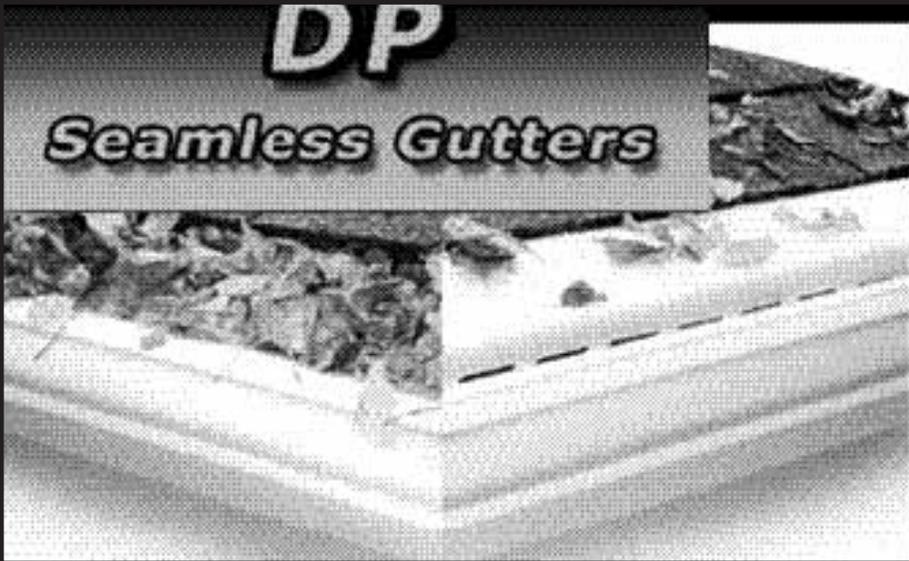
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

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



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... CANDIDATES continued from page 10

value for your tax dollars. If elected I would like to sit down with each department and see where they are at; it may be as simple as a fresh eye or the matter of asking the right question that may help in maintaining or a expense reduction without cutting services and along that line. I do not want to make this a political issue, this is more a personal thing but if elected the approximate \$9,300 salary will stay with the county for other things, that is approximately \$37,000 over 4 years. This county has been good to me and the people have been good over the years. One thing we ALL need to keep in mind is the state is tangled up in its own budget issues so I do not look for a lot of assistance there and the next budget will be set in July by the existing board. I feel for the present commissioners because it will be a tough nut crack.

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

When I was fortunate to be elected in 2006 the tax rate was 37 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. The tax rate today is 26.4 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to increase the tax rate by 1.5 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation beginning July 2010.

The tax increase that was implemented in 2008 was for the construction of the new 5/6 school and much needed renovations at East Franklin and Highlands Schools.

We are in the process of working on the 2010/2011 budget for Macon County. The board is looking at all possible ways to reduce the 1.5 cent increase for the new Iotla School and the renovations to Nantahala School. I realize that there is never a good or perfect time to increase taxes on the citizens of Macon County, but I also realize that as a commissioner it is one of my responsibilities to provide a safe learning environment for the children of Macon County. With the construction of the new Iotla K-4 school we will finally be able to move the children of Macon County from trailers into new schools that they and the community can be proud of.

For example, the 1.5 cent tax increase will add 15 dollars per 100,000 dollars per year valuation on property in Macon County. This tax increase is for the specific purpose of providing new and renovated schools and will not be used to fund the operation of any part of Macon County Government.

During my time on the Board of County Commissioners the only time I have voted to increase taxes was and will be for the sole purpose of providing new and renovated schools for the children of Macon County.

• Ron Haven – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)

1. I have a pair of twin sons in sixth grade, one is a straight A student and the other is a strong A/B student. I understand the importance of providing the best we could afford for all of our kids and our schools.

2. I am behind our law enforcement

100%

3. NC has long been known for having some of the best roads in the USA and I would be proud to provide my support to keep it this way.

4. There is a lot of federal grant money available for these projects. I would look at each of these issues with a conservative outlook to get the most with the least amount of tax dollars.

• Charlie Leatherman – County Commissioner District 2 (Rep)

Mr. Leatherman's answer didn't arrive by press time.

• George Lynch – Sheriff (Dem)

During these times when so many citizens of Macon County are having a hard time making ends meet, I would not be in favor of any tax increases. It is important that we use every tax dollar in the best possible way and look for ways to save while maintaining Officer safety, protection of life and property, and essential services to the public.

• Ricky DeHart – Sheriff (Dem)

Mr. DeHart will answer question #5 next week.

• Richard Davis – Sheriff (Dem)

I have always been a conservative individual. I believe that the lower taxes are the more money is available to stimulate the local economy. As sheriff I would reevaluate the budget one line item at a time looking for any potential savings. As Chief Deputy under Sheriff Holbrooks I was actively involved in developing the yearly budget. During that time the department's budget was nearly half what it is currently. I feel that there are many ways we can save the local taxpayers hard earned money.

• Robert L. Holland – Sheriff (Rep)

Taxes are always an issue during campaigns. Knowing that governments need tax revenue to provide services (law enforcement, schools, roads, and infrastructure) — all mechanisms that work toward a future — how do you approach taxation?

I have always made it a priority to handle every tax dollar in a responsible manner. I have carefully balanced fiscal responsibility with providing the law enforcement services that citizens need and deserve. I am always looking for ways to save tax dollars. One great example is our "Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew". Inmates and officers are in a different community almost every week providing free labor cleaning up our roadways, free labor working on school projects, free labor at the county landfill five days a week and free labor cleaning kennels at the animal control department seven days a week. This program alone saves tax dollars and its cost is extremely minimal. Otherwise the county would be spending tax dollars to pay someone to do these things.

When elected, there were several immediate budgetary needs that had to be corrected. This was due to a lack of funding. Some officers (meaning not all of them) did not have adequate safety equipment (such as bul-

... CANDIDATES continued from page 16

letproof vests and duty weapons) and officers were driving a dilapidated fleet of patrol vehicles. I tackled these needs first because I feel officer safety and public safety CANNOT be compromised. During my first term, several officers left the MCSO for other employment. During their exit interviews most stated this was due to opportunities to make higher salaries elsewhere to better provide for their families. Beginning in 2004, I initiated a three year plan to bring my officers salaries more in line with other agencies. We could no longer be a training facility for other agencies. This was accomplished with the unanimous approval of County Commissioners. Some of those officers that previous left to seek higher wages to provide for their families have now returned to the MCSO. During my tenure, I have also been able to obtain 4 new patrol positions which allowed us to have 5 officers on each shift, rather than 4 and each are assigned a zone for better coverage for Macon County.

Each year, I also go through a lengthy budgetary process in which I prepare a report for all Commissioners, the County Manager and Finance Officer. In this report, I provide a detailed justification for every tax dollar requested and every tax dollar spent. I have made it a point to regularly present information as to the status of my department — accomplishments and current needs — at County Commissioner meetings called "State of the County." All this is done in an effort to be as

transparent and open as possible with the citizens we serve.

• **Jimmy Goodman – NC Senate District 50 (Rep)**

I would support going through all government programs that we now have, look at what the intention was when they started, then decide if we still need them. Government has gotten to big and bloated from the federal level to the local level. We are in one of the worst economic down turns of my life time.

We have some hard decisions to make. Do we want to continue down the road to bankruptcy at the state level or do we make the hard decisions that will keep the state solvent.

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

Our first hurdle is to determine what are the legitimate functions of government. With that goal in mind, my bias is to raise the minimum revenue needed to accomplish the purpose and do it in a way that is most likely to place the burden on those using the service.

• Answers to Question 5 will be in the April 29 issue.

The question: To recap, why are you the best candidate for the office you hold or wish to hold and what would you promise your constituents? Include what you would change, if anything, or something new you would try to initiate?

The Girls' Clubhouse attacks litter bugs!



The Girls' Clubhouse spent Friday afternoon picking up trash on one of its two routes in town. On this one, Oak from 3rd to US 64 along Main Street back to 3rd, they collected four bags of beer cans and bottles, fast food wrappers, construction debris and more. Next week they will clean Spring, 2nd and NC 28. Besides cleaning up Highlands, the group is raising money for their community service/end-of-year trip to Pigeon Forge in June. To donate to its cause, mail checks to The Girls' Clubhouse, P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, NC 28741 or make a deposit in the clubs account at RBC Bank on the Franklin Road in Highlands.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

CARROLL POINDEXTER

For County Commissioner District II

I believe as a concerned resident of Macon County you are looking for a commissioner to represent you with the background & abilities that will be an asset to our county.

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---	--

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In honor of our DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

During National Volunteer Week, we would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to more than 140 volunteers who give their time in our Hospital, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, Highlands-Cashiers Hospice, and Gift Shop. For all you have done and all you continue to do for our patients, residents, and families, we thank you!

V is for the **Very** special people that you are

O is for the **Overwhelming** support and compassion you offer to others during their time of need

L is for the **Little** things you do that make such a difference in someone's life

U is for the **Unspoken** words that sometimes mean just as much

N is for the **Need** you fill when others aren't able

T is for the **Time** you give of yourselves on top of your own busy schedules

E is for the **Emotional** support you continually give

E is for the **Endless** energy you seem to possess

R is for the **Responsibility** you have taken on, and never once complained

S is for the **Smiles** you bring to patients and families by just being you

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
& Fidelia Eckerd Living Center

• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

Radiologist staff gear up for digital mammography unit

In preparation for the new digital mammography services HCH will be offering, Dr. Stinnett and staff have spent the last months attending educational seminars and completing continuing education courses focused on breast health and digital breast imaging. Beginning Wednesday, March 31st, Digital Mammography Services will be available by appointment. To schedule an appointment call 828-526-1450.

Dr. Stinnett attended the AHEC (Area Health and Education Center) in Charlotte as they celebrated their 14th Annual Breast Imaging Weekend Seminar. The seminar offered accredited programs focusing on Dig-

ital Mammography, Ultrasound Guided Breast Biopsy, and MRI sessions.

"Digital mammography uses sensors much like a digital camera to record the image. With the new technology and training I have received, I can utilize computer software to increase the image brightness and contrast, which can make it somewhat easier to see slight changes that might otherwise be hard to see in denser tissue," said Dr. Stinnett.

A recent large study found that digital mammograms were more accurate in finding small cancers in women younger than 50 and in women with especially dense breast

tissue. Very small calcifications will show up better with digital mammography in denser tissue. The micro calcifications are tiny specks of calcium in the breast, that may appear alone or in clusters. While they do not necessarily mean early cancer is present, the shape and layout of micro calcifications help radiologists judge whether a biopsy or other imaging tests should be performed.

Radiology Director, Laura Ammons, and staff have been adding continuing educational credit hours with digital mammography specific training. The courses focused on what

to look for with tumors and calcifications and acquiring those images, assessment testing, how to use equipment and the difference between film screen and digital images.

"We all are very excited about the installation of the DM unit and advancements in imaging that it will bring. There are a great many tools out there these days to help us diagnose breast cancer early, but none of that matters unless women who should be getting screened take advantage of the technology," said Dr. Stinnett.

Hospital lab earns 'gold seal' of approval

The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest standard-setting and accrediting body in health care, recently awarded full two-year accreditation to the hospital's laboratory and its related services, following a bi-annual survey conducted back in February.

Accreditation is the Gold Seal of Approval for health care quality and safety.

Founded in 1910 as an independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. It evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

Reaccreditation by the commission also means the hospital's laboratory has met the requirements of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA), a designation required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in order for a hospital to continue to receive reimbursement for services provided to those covered by those programs.

To earn and maintain The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, laboratories must undergo an on-site survey by a Joint

Commission survey team at least every two years. "This was a very intensive review, and we are glad to have done so well," said Ann Greenlee, Director of HCH's Laboratory. "I am also extremely proud of our dedicated staff for the continuation of this prestigious accreditation."

Joint Commission standards address the organization's level of performance in key functional areas, such as patient rights, patient treatment, and infection control. The standards focus not only on an organization's ability to provide safe, high quality care, but on its actual performance as well. They also provide education and "good practice" guidance that will help staff at HCH continually improve the laboratory's performance.

"This is a direct reflection of our staff; not only do they meet the highest standards of quality and safety, but they also love the patients. Some of our patients visit us once, even twice a week. They become our friends and apart of the family at HCH," said Greenlee.

Last year alone, HCH's laboratory completed over 41,000 tests and procedures.

Hospital gets grant to improve emergency preparedness efforts

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is among other health care organizations throughout North Carolina that have been awarded nearly \$82,000 each in funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop new approaches to improve the hospital's emergency preparedness efforts.

"As a grant recipient, HCH is now afforded the ability to improve existing disaster relief plans and purchase needed medical equipment," said Bryan Deviney, RN and Emergency Preparedness Director.

"The funds will assist our Emergency Preparedness team to better prepare our hospital, patients and staff for a large scale influx of patients during any disaster event. HCH has to set the bar with preparedness and be able to handle pandemics or any type of disaster. Even though we live in such a small community, we still are susceptible to traumatic events."

Over the next year, HCH will be purchasing an Alternate Care Facility Support Trailer containing a support package equipped with equipment and supplies needed to quickly establish a 25-bed Alternative Care Facility on or off site.

This road-ready 16-foot bumper-pull trailer includes up to 25 emergency treatment beds with disposable linen kits and pillows, staff and patient masks, Nitrile gloves, staff gowns, BP cuffs, stethoscopes, IV poles, hand sanitizers, tables, chairs and office supplies.

"The mobile unit will be established as staging area if a major disaster event was to occur here at HCH. If we ever have to evacuate the main building, we would have an alternate facility with the same patient capacity for patient care," said Deviney.

"The addition of the ACC Trailer will complement our existing preparedness plan," said Frank Leslie, VP of Operations.

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

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POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 14

• At 7:24 p.m., officers were called to Highlands Ball Field to "keep the peace" when an adult tried to remove a player from the field.

April 15

• At 9:10 a.m., Herlinda Mendoza Garcia, 30, of Doraville, GA, was stopped for speeding 50 mph in a 35 zone at U.S. 64 and Webbmont and then arrested for driving without a license. He is being held without a bond.

April 16

• At 8:30 p.m. officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on N. 4th Street. Residents said the phone malfunctioned.

• At 9 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Brushy Face to help EMS with a patient.

April 17

• At 10:40 p.m., officers responded to a call of a prowler at a residence on Poplar Street where residents said someone had turned the door handle and tried to get inside.

April 18

• At 3:18 p.m., officers were called to the Biological Station concerning a reported fight between youth.

April 19

• At 1:17 p.m., officers responded to a call concerning a vehicle blocking U.S. 64 west.

• At 9:49 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hangup from a residence on N. 4th Street. Residents said the phone malfunctioned.

April 20

• At 2:55 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint on N. 4th Street. It was unfounded.

• During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 6 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 14:

April 14

• At 2:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a sprinkler alarm on Church Street that was set off by workers.

April 15

• At 10:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Falls Drive west. It was unfounded.

• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD while it fought a brush fire.

April 16

• At 4 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on N. 4th Street where a vehicle hit a power pole. The vehicle caught fire. There were no injuries.

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah, GA fire department while it fought a brush fire on School House Lane.

• At 6:42 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Main Street. It was cancelled by the alarm company.

April 17

• At 11:21 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Falls Drive west. It was false,.

April 19

• At 12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Clubhouse Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 20

• At 8:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a three-vehicle accident at the entrance of Highlands Falls Country Club. There was one injury.

• At 4:52 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD for a chimney fire. The call was cancelled en route.

... H1N1 continued from page 1

quarantine stations at our ports of entry. After the first cases of pandemic H1N1 were detected in Mexico, it arrived in North Carolina within a matter of weeks.

With no vaccine available, we used our pandemic preparation resources to educate the public about prevention. We taught schoolchildren to cough and sneeze into their sleeves, urged everyone to wash their hands more frequently, and encouraged employers to let workers to stay home if they were sick. When vaccine arrived in October, it came in small shipments, so we targeted it first to those at highest risk for complications. The public responded. In our state alone, more than 637,000 people were vaccinated against H1N1 in a seven-week period between October and November. When supplies ramped up, we expanded access and to date, more than 1.7 million North Carolinians have been immunized, thanks to the support of hundreds of partners like local health departments, private physicians and hospitals, school systems and university health centers, and pharmacies. The news media also has been an essential part of our effort to keep the public informed about H1N1.

So what are the lessons learned from this pandemic? First, planning and preparation remain essential. The first cases may arise literally in our own backyard, giving us little time to prepare. At the national, state and local levels, it is imperative to have protocols and personnel in place to respond as quickly as possible. In the case of H1N1, while vaccine was manufactured in record time, we were challenged with unpredictable supplies, hampering our distribution efforts.

Another critical component is good information. All pandemics spread rapidly, but we need to know early on how severe the infection is - how many are hospitalized and how many are dying - to help us decide whether emergency actions like mandatory isolation and quarantine are needed to curb the spread. While it is our job to sound the

alarm, we must make sound medical decisions based on facts that are rapidly emerging in the field.

Last, we must continue to invest in preventive health. Four out of five deaths from H1N1 in our state occurred in people with underlying health conditions, none of whom had been immunized. These deaths and others may have been prevented with timely immunizations. Many underlying health conditions may be avoided by preventing tobacco use, another investment in prevention.

H1N1 has reminded us that influenza, no matter what strain, is a serious disease. Even if you aren't hospitalized, it can severely disrupt your life at any age. A vaccination is safe and effective and the best way to prevent the flu. As a reminder, flu deaths are continuing across the state, and it is not too late to be immunized against H1N1, especially if you are at risk for complications (if you are pregnant, have underlying medical illnesses such as heart, lung or kidney problems, or have immune deficiencies). Seasonal flu vaccines should be available as early as August this year and will provide protection against three strains of flu virus, including H1N1. Help us make the 2010-11 flu season a public health success by getting vaccinated this fall.

What happened locally?

• Macon County Public Health Center, (MCPCH) in partnership with Angel Medical Center and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital vaccinated over 4,000 Macon County residents for H1N1;

• MCPCH conducted over 12 clinics across the county for the general public once vaccine supplies improved;

• MCPHC also partnered with local doctors offices and EMS to immunize high risk population initially when vaccine supplies were extremely limited;

• MCPHC also conducted school based H1N1 and seasonal flu campaigns for students this year for the first time.

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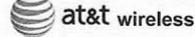
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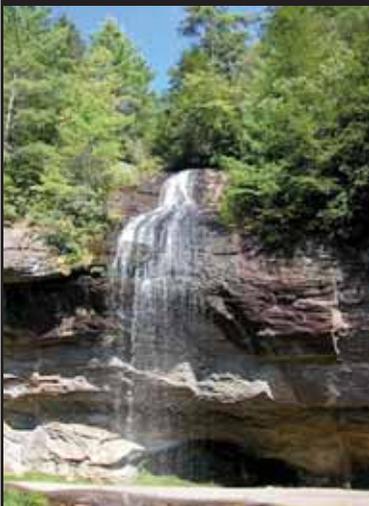
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Northland Cable Television announces new company name



Northland Cable Television, a leading provider of quality entertainment and communication services in the community, is pleased to announce its new company name, Northland Communications.

Northland began in 1981 as a cable television provider. Supplying the highest quality video services to the community, Northland has rapidly evolved over the years into a full-service communications provider. Recognizing that the company is now more than just a cable television company, the name Northland Communications better reflects the advanced services now offered and the limitless possibilities for the future.

Northland has invested millions of dollars building over a thousand miles of extensive fiber optic network to connect customers to the very best digital technology. Delivered by this advanced technology and supported by a cutting edge network control center, Northland offers the sharpest Digital and True High Definition TV, the fastest High-Speed Internet, and the clearest Digital Home Phone services to individuals and businesses in the community. With tens of thousands of satisfied telephone and Internet customers throughout its markets, Northland has become the best alternative to the high priced traditional telephone company.

"We saw an opportunity to better reflect our identity as a company," said Lee Johnson, Divisional Vice President for Northland Communications. "As technolo-

gy continues to advance and evolve, so will Northland."

Throughout many years of technological change, Northland has remained consistent in offering professional and courteous service provided by the local customer service and technical staff. Northland takes pride in the local community by living here, working here, and supporting businesses, schools, hospitals, community centers and more.

Bill Staley, General Manager for the Highlands area, said, "Our company name may have changed, but we remain true to what Northland has always strived for: to provide the very best services supported by our outstanding professional local employees."

Northland will be phasing in the company name change first in the Southeast region, then on to the Southwest region, and finally the Western region. For more information about Northland Communications call 828-526-5675 or visit www.yournorthland.com.

About Northland:

• Northland Communications is a leading provider of telecommunications services. Northland owns and manages smaller-market cable systems in Alabama, California, Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Washington. Northland is headquartered in Seattle, Washington and has a divisional office in Statesboro, GA.

Garren completes Short Sales & Foreclosures course

CENTURY 21 MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES is proud to announce that Cathy Garren, a Broker/Owner with the Highlands office, recently added the Short Sales and Foreclosures Resource (SFR) to her professional offerings.

Garren successfully completed the SFR Designation, a critical asset in today's marketplace because aiding sellers to maneuver short sales and buyers to purchase foreclosed properties is frequently part of business.

"By earning this Short Sales and Foreclosure Designation, I have enhanced

my ability to add value to each real estate transaction and ensure that CENTURY 21 MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES' clients receive the professional real estate services they expect and deserve," said Garren.

Cathy is a native of Western North Carolina. She has sold real estate in this area since 2000. She also has a banking background from First Union National Bank where she was a loan officer and trust and estate officer.

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dential, Recreational and Luxury properties. For additional information, visit www.HighlandsCashiersRealEstate.com.

• CENTURY 21 MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES services all areas of Western North Carolina with offices located in Highlands, Hendersonville, Weaverville and Asheville. Each office is independently owned and operated.

• The top listing agent for March was Derek Taylor. The top sales agent for March was Cathy Garren.



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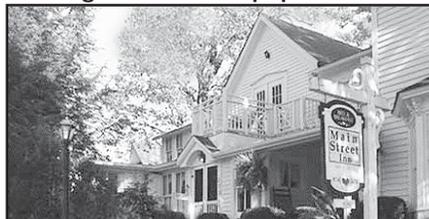
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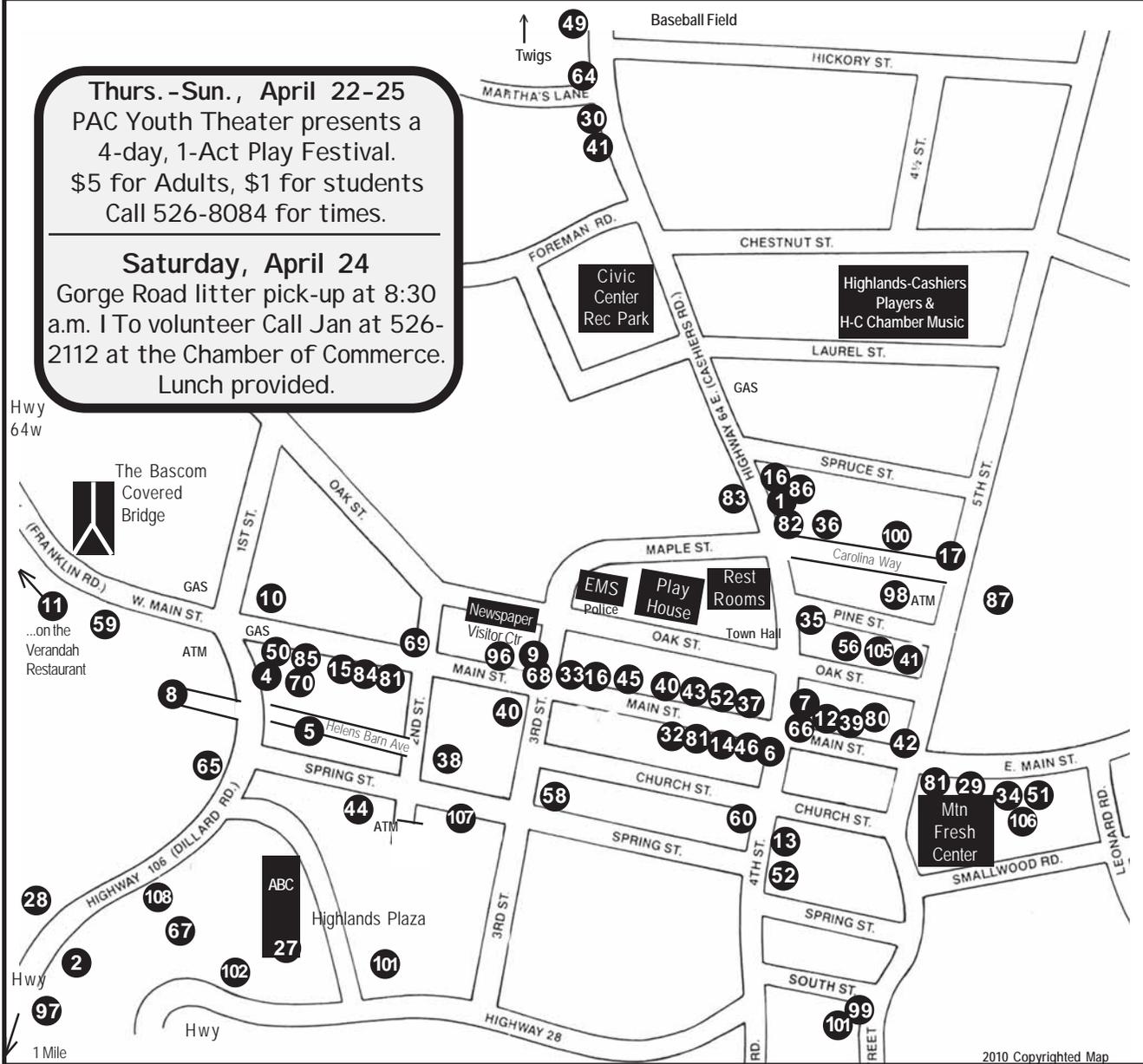


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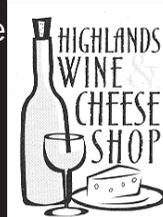


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Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper

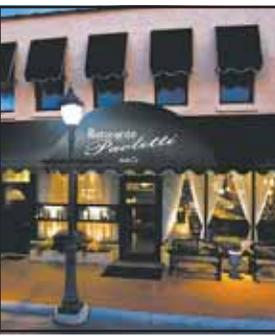


Landmarks include: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Sapphire Valley, Whiteside Mtn., Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Silver Run Falls, Chattooga Trail, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, Cliffside Lake, Scaly Mtn., Sky Valley, Norton Rd, Hwy 64, Hwy 106, Horse Cove Rd, Hwy 107n, Hwy 107s, White-water Falls & Brevard.

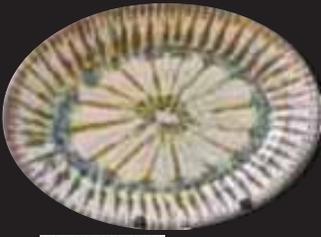
Trails include: Whiteside Mtn. Trail, Chattooga Trail, Iron Bridge Chattooga.

Other locations: Bust Your Butt Falls, Dry Falls, Sky Valley, Highlands, Cashiers.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
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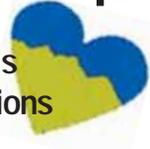



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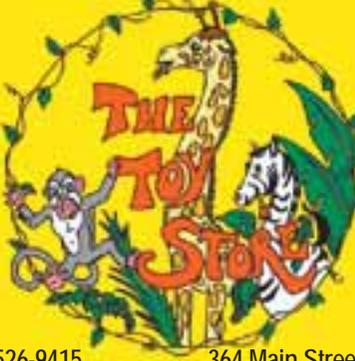
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