

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 17

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Thursday, April 29, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
72 \ 50F	74 \ 54F	69 \ 50F

## This Week in Highlands

### NOTICES

- Mayor Wilkes asks business owners and employees not to park on Main Street. Parking restrictions went into effect April 15.
- Town Hall on NC 106 will be closed May 3-10. It will reopen at 210 Fourth Street on Tuesday, May 11 at 8 a.m. Staff will be taking phone calls.

### Thursday, April 29

- Taize in Highlands is 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.

### Saturday, May 1

- Mountain Findings opens for the season. Monday-Saturday 10 am to 4 p.m. on Spruce Street.
- The annual Mountain Lakes 5-K race is Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Rec Park. Call Richard Betz at 526-5213 (evenings).

- The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics in the Highlands at the Community Building and at the Scaly Mountain Post Office. 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.

### 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. Everyone is welcome and invited to come.

- The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert is free but donations will be accepted.

### Tuesday, May 4

- Primary elections at the Rec Park and Scaly Mountain Community Building Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 6

- Taize in Highlands is Thursdays at 5:30 PM. at the Holy Family Lutheran Church. Taize is a nondenominational service of prayer, meditation, scripture and simple, beautiful music.

## What room tax figures likely mean

*Proceeds moving back to pre-recession levels*

If room tax proceeds are any indication, the economic pendulum is swinging in a positive direction here in Highlands.

At the April 21 Town Board meeting, Commissioner Gary Drake, who is the town's representative on the Travel and Tourism Commission (TTC), said room tax

proceeds since January 2010 indicate business is up in Highlands – at least the renting of rooms and homes.

By state law, the 3% room tax, levied by all accommodation businesses in Macon County, is sent back to the two TTCs to fund the promotion of tourism in their ar-

reas. That figure is considered a "business" gauge. The two TTCs in the county are the Highlands TTC and the Franklin/Nantahala TTC.

Beginning November 2009, the county began taking an 8% administration fee from the room tax money collected — which is re-

• See ROOM TAX page 3

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## Highlands lagging in Census 2010 response

*In other news, county hears about benefits of Auto Pulse CPR devices*

The public's response to the Census 2010 has been good, which will be a good thing for Macon County when Federal funds are allocated over the next 10 years.

At the Monday, April 26 MC Commission meeting, Derek Roland, Macon County Planning Director, said compared to the 2000 Census, responses are up considerably in Macon County and the state but not in Highlands.

"In 2000 only 85 of the state's counties responded with a 66% rate and of those 85, 60 counties' responses were below the state average of 50%, and 10 were below that" said Roland. "Macon County's response was 51% in 2000."

The number one reason people didn't respond in 2000 was because they lacked information or didn't understand how responding to the census would be beneficial

• See CENSUS page 18

## Highlands School says 'thanks' for soccer field



The project started some three years ago so though the current school board was commended for Highlands School's new regulation-sized soccer field, so were past BOE members Donnie Edwards and Susie McCoy. Also thanked was the Macon County Commission and Jeff Weller, Hank Ross, Jim Tate and Brian Stiehler and all the volunteers who helped make the field a reality. "Soccer is our football, it's just spelled differently," said Principal Brian Jetter. Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Brian McClellan said the project represented what can happen when Franklin and Highlands work together and when communities get behind a worthwhile project. Ross also thanked Macon Bank and OEI for each donating \$3,000 for the score board at the field. Teacher Sabrina Cashion and her Consumer Science classes embroidered soccer towels and made refreshments for the group. Everyone was also given a certificate of appreciation. Coaches Ryan Potts and Chris Green said the students love the field and not having to wait for field time at Zachary Field.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## School system FY 2010-2011 budget finalized

The big news at the April 26 School Board meeting was the FY 2010-2011 school year budget.

This time of year the school district must determine its budget

prior to knowing exactly what will happen at the state level, whose final budget could come anytime June – September 2010.

"We've whittled down our

fund balance to \$500,000 but we're also looking ahead to FY 2011-2012 and so have to keep some in reserve in preparation for what might hap-

• See BUDGET page 20



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Town should appreciate PAC board's diligence

Dear Editor,

As an 11-year full-time voting resident of Highlands, I have read with interest the reporting of the negotiations between the Town of Highlands and PAC, Inc., over the contract to operate the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. In the interest of fairness to all, I think that a little history is in order.

The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) is just a building. PAC, Inc., is the organization formed by the individuals and groups who came up with the idea of a performing arts center to raise the money, create the performing arts center, and to manage it.

Foremost among these groups was the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival which had taken the original contract to purchase the Community Bible Church for \$300,000 to create a permanent home for the Festival which was then (10 years ago) in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

Due to a zoning issue and because the idea of a full scale performing arts center (music and theater) had taken root, the originators gifted the building to the Town of Highlands in return for a commitment from the Town to provide the utilities and exterior maintenance. PAC, Inc. was formed to raise the funds necessary to create a performing arts center.

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival took the lead in fundraising with the Highlands-Cashiers Players joining in. With the support of many individuals who contributed funds to PAC, Inc., the Performing Arts Center became a reality. Nell and Bill Martin contributed \$200,000 and the building was named for them. Sandy Cohn and Ruth Gershon contributed \$100,000 and the auditorium bears their names.

What is very important to remember is that over the ensuing 10 years many improvements were made to the building. The addition with the elevator, dressing rooms, and backstage Green Room was built; the large downstairs Reception Hall, Board Room, and Galbreath Rooms with retractable theater-size screen for showing films were created; the new state-of-the-art catering kitchen was built; the inadequate heating and air-conditioning systems were improved just to mention a few of the major improvements.

PAC, Inc., through its fundraising efforts and management of the building is

solely responsible for the funding of all of these improvements with no funds from the town. It is also responsible for raising the necessary \$8,000-\$9,000 each month to keep the building operating (over and above the town's utility and exterior maintenance contribution).

The net result is that the asset valued at approximately \$300,000 when gifted to the Town is now, 10 years later, an asset worth \$1.8 million to the town.

As to the issue of public access, in 2008, PAC, Inc., succeeded in modifying its lease which had limited use of the building to the performing arts in order to make it MORE accessible to the general public.

Private parties may now rent the facilities from PAC, Inc. PAC, Inc., has created a children's theater facility to bring the theater experience to the youth of our town.

While three independent not-for-profit organizations (Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, Highlands-Cashiers Players, and Center for Life Enrichment) are the largest utilizers of the building, they are tenants and pay rent to PAC, Inc., for the privilege. PAC, Inc., produces other performances to help generate its operating budget.

In short, PAC, Inc., and its volunteer board has been a very successful manager of the town's asset and our Town Board would serve us, the citizens of Highlands, well to appreciate that fact.

PAC, Inc., should continue to manage the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center under the same terms with the same de-

gree of professionalism reflected in the success of the past 10 years. They are good stewards of our asset.

Jack L Sapolsky, M.D.

### Fred's right on

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in regards to Fred Wooldridge's column in the April 15 issue entitled "Bowing Out."

Thank you very much for your "letter" to the President, Fred. If not so serious, it would have been amusing; but nothing he does is amusing to me. Everything he does is a shame and disgrace upon the office of the U. S. presidency he, his thugs, and Soros hijacked.

Everything he does puts our beloved country in more danger of collapse... which is obviously exactly what he wants.

Nancy Hammett

### Hostas are invasive

Dear Editor,

An article (in the April 8 edition referred to HOSTAS as a native plant. It is, but it is a native of Japan which was later stated in the article body. Hostas are considered to be an invasive species in the United States. This according to my daughter a Forestry professor at Auburn University and a specialist on invasive species.

Walter Stumpff

### Weekend youth theatre tops!

Dear Editor,

Anyone who missed the performances at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands last weekend missed a real treat! My husband Jim and I attended the performance of six one-act plays on Sunday afternoon, along with almost 150 other people. The shows we saw would be considered great theatre under any circumstances, but the casts just happened to be made up of 25 students from Highlands School, Summit Charter School, Blue Ridge School and home-schooled children.

The plays were obviously selected in order to expose the students and audiences to a variety of theatre: pantomime, melodrama, comedy, and even fantasy, complete with a cast of 15 extra-terrestrials wearing identical blue wigs and all made up by makeup artist Betsy Johnson with blue faces and hands! Awesome!

This is the third year of PAC's Youth Theatre program that resulted from recognition of the fact that Highlands is fortunate enough to have as a resident a retired educator with a genius for acting and directing theatrical productions in the person of Dr. Ronnie Spilton. Better yet, Dr. Spilton has been able to persuade Jim Gordon, who has years of experience in the technical aspects of theatre (as well as acting and directing) to join her in providing the program for young people in the area. Neither of them has received any compensation for their services. (Can this possibly continue?)

The plays we saw Sunday afternoon April 25 showed that Dr. Spilton and Mr. Gordon had spent untold amounts of time reviewing and selecting scripts that would provide roles for every single student who took the opportunity to participate. Then more time, much more time, was spent planning the blocking (movements on-stage) of the actors to create genuinely impressive results.

But this Youth Theatre program was not mere entertainment for folks like Jim and me: it provided training that will benefit these students for the rest of their lives. Parents told me during intermission that they could honestly watch their child's self-esteem improve as they went through the program. The discipline of memorizing a script and making time for every rehearsal resulted in flawless performances. I can honestly say that if any student "flubbed" a line, it escaped my notice!

What a tremendous contribution PAC, Dr. Spilton and Jim Gordon have made to this community with this addition of Youth Theatre to PAC's ever-expanding offerings! Thanks on behalf of the almost 500 people

• See LETTERS page 6

## LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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# Comparative Room Tax Figures Jan.-May 2007-2010

FY Year (admin. %)	January	Amt. Prior to % Deduction	February	Amt. Prior to % Deduction	March	Amt. Prior to % Deduction	April	Amt. Prior to % Deduction	May	Amt. Prior to % Deduction
2007-08 (15%)	9,355.05	11,005.94	5,324.39	6,263.99	6,398.67	7,527.85	4,569.99	5,376.46	12,337.64	14,514.87
2008-09 (15%)	7,010.55	8,247.71	4,957.86	5,832.78	4,706.53	5,537.09	5,169.91	6,082.25	6,985.45	8,218.17
2009-10 (8%)	10,351.00	11,251.09	6,061.07	6,588.12	6,906.28	7,506.83				

turned to both TTCs — rather than the 15% it had been taking for years. Obviously, that alone shows an increase in proceeds.

All accommodation businesses — hotels, motels, inns, bed & breakfasts, campgrounds and vacation rentals, whether rented out by the owner of the property or by a real estate company hired to manage the property — by law must charge a 3% room tax fee. Only long term rentals of three months or longer are exempt from charging the 3% fee.

Several yeas ago, the county raised its administration fee from 3% to 15% to fund the work of an outside consultant who was hired to determine which accommodation businesses weren't paying room tax fees or which ones weren't turning room tax fees they levied into the county.

That process and study is now over and so the county has decreased its administration fee from 15% to 8%. (See story "County only keeping 8% of room tax money" in the Oct. 29, 2009 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.)

At the combo-meeting of the Highlands Town Board, the Franklin Town Board and the Macon County Commission in Franklin Thursday, April 22, Mayor David Wilkes echoed Drake's sentiments but went a step farther singing Old Edwards Hospitality Group's (OEI) praises — basically accrediting the increase in room tax proceeds this past winter in Highlands to its efforts and "its incredible marketing plan."

But what Mayor Wilkes didn't say is that there are several messages in the room tax proceeds figures.

One is that it's likely the entrepreneurial spirit of Highlands' entire accommodation industry which is responsible for keeping the lights on in area B&Bs, inns and hotels — and subsequently brought room tax money to Highlands.

Of accommodations queried — Mountain High Lodge, Mitchell's Inn & Cottages, Colonial Pines Inn B&B, Main Street Inn, Chandler Inn and Hampton Inn — various discounts were offered this winter, some ranging from ½ price rooms, to buy two get the third room ½ price, to rock bottom costs during the week. In fact, some discounts began in November 2009.

However, because OEI has the ways and means to both spend the big bucks marketing outside the area and to absorb dirt cheap price-

leaders, it has enjoyed solid bookings — at least in the old inn — weekends January through March.

OEI's January's discounts reportedly included a deluxe room for two, breakfast, lunch and dinner at Madison's Restaurant with spa treatments for \$190 a night.

"It's about value for your dollar," said one inn owner who requested to be anonymous. "We've all done it. If you can stay at a 4-star inn and spa and get three meals a day plus spa treatments for \$190 a night, of course you'd do it!"

But, said several accommodation proprietors who also requested anonymity, "We can't compete with that. Even if we give ½ price discounts, we can't offer three meals a

day. We'd have to offer our rooms for free to compete with them!"

According to OEI's website, special package deals, which represent a significant discount to OEI's regular prices, continue to be available through May, though not as cheap as its January specials.

Still, through April, \$325 per night gets you deluxe accommodations for two at OEI, including breakfast, lunch and dinner at Madison's with \$95 spa specials extra.

Though the innkeepers in Highlands consider themselves a "tight" group, some do have concerns.

Some accommodation proprietors wonder if OEI has "cheapened" the Highlands experience. They further question whether

they can do enough business — even offering heavy discounts — to compete with OEI's marketing plan.

"The mantra these days is 'What's good for OEI is good for Highlands,' but at what cost," said one innkeeper. "Will we be around in 10 years?"

The second thing about the room tax statistics is this: Once the county's administration fee is factored into the equation, what the room tax proceeds January through March 2010 indicate is that Highlands is climbing back to 2007-08 room tax figures. (See chart).

Obviously, FY 2008-09 is when the economic bottom fell out in the United States,

• See ROOM TAX on page 5

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## • HIGHLANDS EATERIES •

### Sports Page



### Sandwich Shoppe

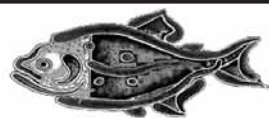
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## Aixa Wilson candidate for 11<sup>th</sup> District US House Seat

Aixa Wilson, candidate on the Democratic Primary ballot to represent the 11<sup>th</sup> District in the US House of Representatives, will run on a platform of direct communication with constituents, rejection of special interests, and respectful pragmatism instead of the divisive polarization that has threatened to gridlock our country. For more information about Aixa Wilson, and to contact him, please visit [www.wilson411nc.com](http://www.wilson411nc.com).

Aixa Wilson's family has lived nearby East Tennessee for over 100 years. "I have known, traveled, and loved the WNC area for as long as I can remember," said Wilson.

Wilson acquired a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from Tulane University. As

well as working full-time, Wilson is pursuing another degree in entrepreneurship to launch a non-profit corporation that will focus on various initiatives to benefit the people of Western North Carolina, including developing job opportunities, veterans' mental health, expanding local food production to help low-income residents, supplementing education resources, and developing renewable energy resources, in addition to other initiatives.

Between 2000 and 2008, Mr. Wilson served in the US Army Reserves for two and a half years during which he spent a year in Kuwait. Wilson was honorably discharged in 2008 after attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6).

New to politics and without special-inter-

est ties, Wilson entered the race for Congress because he saw people across the district being ill-treated by government and corporate entities.

Candidate Wilson wants to focus on sustainable, thoughtful economic growth in the district while maintaining environmental health as well as personal protections and freedoms. "I want to empower small business and corporate constituents who are positive actors in the community. But when businesses prefer profit over the well-being and safety of people, that is wrong and I will not tolerate that behavior toward the 11<sup>th</sup> District constituents," he said.

## • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

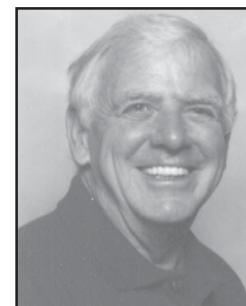
### If you're a realtor, raise your hand

OK, let's start with a little quiz. If you're a realtor, raise your hand...Yikes, never mind, I can't count that high. Let me approach this differently. If you're not a realtor raise your hand.....ahhhh, that's better. I can count to 20.

Are you enjoying the new 'Investing at 4118 feet' column appearing each week in the Highlands' Newspaper? Is that clever, or what? I'm having fun reading about the ins and outs of today's real estate market in Highlands. Things have sure changed a lot since I was a Florida slum lord. Our paper features a new Realtor each week on a different topic. Kim has an ever expanding list which will run out.... let's see, in 2024.... maybe. She should pick the older Realtors first because they might be buying a small plot of land at Highlands' cemetery before they get their turn.

I know I've told my regular readers about this but I was once a real estate investor.... but never a Realtor. No, no, no, not like A. L. Williams or any of his ilk. I was a slum lord and proud of it. There was a point in my police career where I realized that if I wanted to live comfortably in my retirement, I would need added income. I took five grand out of my savings and bought a 40-year-old house in poor condition in an old section of Hollywood, FL.

Are you sitting down? Banks had this wonderful little gift called "assumable mortgages." Most of the folks I bought from were elderly and had paid off more than half their mortgage. They were more than motivated to sell because they were unable to keep up with repairs on the house and had already looked at several condos they could afford. All they needed was a buyer. I would slither in wearing my



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!

email:

[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)

black top hat and black waxed mustache and say, "I'll buy your house." Best of all, I worked with a realtor who loved to work with investors. Looking back, that was the key to my success.

Jan knew how to work a seller. She would present my insulting offer to the sellers and they would throw her out. Then, after not hearing from anyone for a couple of weeks, she would call and raise the offer by one grand. Patience, patience, patience is the key

to being a successful investor. I can't think of even one time where that system didn't work. Seller motivation is the name of the investor's game.

The great thing about working with investors, is we don't care that the bedroom is painted bright pink or the house is laid out terribly. I'll never live there and I had acquired a drunken painter to do most of the handiwork and make the place presentable. I know that might sound cruel or heartless, but once the sellers got past the shocking offer, they were elated to have me buy their house so they could move to their new condo.

Anyway, once our rentals were fixed up to a modest livable condition, I would rent it out, usually to newlyweds or young folks shacking up who couldn't afford to buy a house. In those days, you actually had to pass a rigid credit check and prove you could afford the mortgage. Is that silly, or what? Oh, by the way, "shacking up" was the acceptable term for what we also called "living in sin at the Holiday Inn." (Har) I was such a prude in those days, I'm proud to say I never did that, not even once, nor did my li'l missus. In the 50s, no one shacked-up.

Once our investment was rented and the income began to flow in, I bought another house, and another, another. And oh, the stories I can tell. My Realtor was an expert at finding motivated sellers. We once walked into a house for a look/see and found the drunken owner passed out naked on his bed. Jan didn't bat an eye. She opened the drapes, filling the room with bright Florida sunshine. She pointed out the extra large closets and the size of the master bathroom. The poor slob on the bed never budged. Three days later I bought it and poor guy never knew we had seen his... well, how should I put it... his wherewithal.

Call me for the definition of wherewithal.

## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

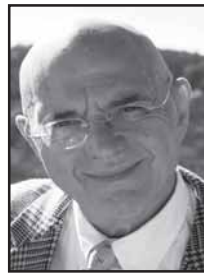
### Set up the dunking machine

Lizzie told me my column is killing her business. I've written things about Islam that were pretty unflattering, and at the risk of mixing religion and politics, have been critical of the State of Israel, but until now no one wanted me fired. I do this for you guys, to give you something to think about, maybe introduce a new way of looking at a problem. Sometimes I want to teach you to laugh at yourselves. I laugh at myself all the time. I laugh until my eyes are filled with tears.

Lizzie didn't get a single Catholic listing last week. On the other hand, a nice Wickan couple from Asheville and a Methodist family from Atlanta inquired about property. It won't be easy finding a five-pointed house, but we'll try. I don't want to hurt Lizzie's business, but it's inevitable unless I write about cabbage recipes instead of climate change.

As a penance, we could set up a dunking booth in front of the office and give you a chance to get even. Anyone willing to donate a dollar to Partners in Health ([www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org)) or leave with a real estate brochure could have three tosses to dunk me. The volunteer handing out balls and accepting donations would be instructed to remind celebrants that my head is not the target. I've never dunked anyone, never tried. I didn't want to risk hearing the jerk in the booth mock my errant throws.

At a school fund raiser, the vice-principal is everyone's prime target. The first one to unseat him is the only real hero.



• **Feedback is encouraged.**  
email: [hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)

Dunking loses a lot of its luster after his three piece suit is dripping. After he's been in the water four or five times, and he's wearily climbing back on his perch, it's best to move on to the school librarian. Students are eager to get even with the guy who taunts them, but who wouldn't be?

The P.E. teacher/coach who wears tight polo shirts and screams at the kids in gym is a favorite target and a villainous taunt. The last thing he says before splashing into the tank is, "You can't hit me. You can't even get the ball up here. You have a wet noodle for an arm." I prefer to believe he's a mock bully, but the determination on the kids' faces tells a different tale. It's great when a kid who really does have a wet noodle brings him down. I feel a little sorry for the quarterback who was waiting patiently for his turn, but he'll have other moments. Let the little kid with thick glasses and a weak arm have his moment of glory.

If he gets wind of it, Bull will think the idea of putting me in a dunking booth is a great marketing idea. Fortunately he doesn't read my column. He's a Fred guy. Maybe Fred and I could set up a cooperative dunking booth. We could offer packages; 10 balls for so much, or for a little more unlimited balls until you give up or dunk both the SOBs. I wouldn't show up in a wet suit. That is so very 'Bush' league. We could split the take, half to Partner in Health ([www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org)) and half to the Policemen's Benevolent Society, or Fred's favorite charity.

### ... ROOM TAX continued from page 3

so a truer picture of Highlands' economy is represented by the 2007-08 figures.

January 2007-08 room tax proceeds were \$11,005.94 (\$9,355.05 once the 15% was deducted). In January 2009-10, it was \$11,251.09 (\$10,351.00 once the 8% was deducted).

February 2007-08 room tax proceeds were \$6,263.99 (\$5,324.39 once the 15% was deducted). In February 2009-10, it was \$6,588.12 (\$6,061.07 once the 8% was deducted.)

March 2007-08 room tax proceeds were \$7,527.85 (\$6,398.67 once the 15% was deducted). In March 2009-10, it was \$7,506.83 (\$6,906.28 once the 8% was deducted.)

This mirrors what businesses across the board and country are seeing — compared to this time last year, the economy is looking brighter, a good thing for all.

The total amount of room tax received by the Highlands TTC for FY 2007-2008 was \$233,715.70. The amount for FY 2008-2009 was \$222,709.38. The total for FY 2009-2010 will be reported sometime after the start of FY 2010-2011.

The highest amount of Room Tax ever received by Highlands since FY 1995-1996, which represents the first full year room tax was levied, was FY 2006-2007 for \$240,408.71.

— Kim Lewicki

## • MORE HIGHLANDS FINE DINING •

### Ristorante Paoletti

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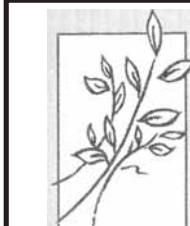
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### ... LETTERS continued from page 2

who I am told bought tickets during the four days of performances (\$5 for adults, \$1 for children!) And of course thanks to the Killion Family Foundation, the Eckerd Family Foundation and the Rotary Club of Highlands for helping defray such costs as purchase of scripts, costumes and blue wigs!

Elaine Whitehurst

### Last column was tops

Dear Editor,

Fred Wooldridge's column entitled "Global Hogwash" about politicians and religion was among his best.

Paul Thompson

## • HIS & HERS •

### Not protesting about Obama and the constitution

by John Armor

I've thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity to talk about the Constitution while dressed and speaking as Benjamin Franklin. Then, President Obama decided to make a vacation visit to the Grove Park Inn, in Asheville, NC. That's just a hop, skip and a jump from my home.

So I planned a one-man demonstration, dressed as Franklin, as close as I could get on public property, to the main entrance of the Grove Park Inn. My wife protested that I really should "leave the guy alone when he's on vacation with his family." I thought about it, reluctantly agreed. So, this here is my version of "Standing on a Corner, Watching All the Presidents Walk By."

My main subject is respect for the Constitution. Obama has no such respect. The latest example came just today, Friday. Obama made a public statement that the new, stiff immigration law just signed into effect by the Governor of Arizona, involved "violations of civil rights."

It involves no such thing. The Supreme Court has long since ruled on a case concerning police stops for ID purposes. The Court ruled that a brief stop asking any citizen to identify himself is constitutional. Someone who was a Professor of Constitutional Law, as entirely too many reporters have misidentified Obama, would have known that. (Obama was the lowest order of faculty, a lecturer in law, and that only because some Trustees of the University of Chicago insisted that the Law School find a spot for Obama, somewhere.)

The main point is that Obama does not give a tinker's dam about the Constitution. He is only concerned whether the preferred parties in any case are more likely to win than the politically disliked parties. Arizona has every right to pass a law that applies only to its territory, and for the benefit of its own citizens, concerning the legality of anyone who is in the state.

The Arizona law makes no new definition of who is an illegal alien, but accepts word for word the federal definition. Therefore, its new law will be ruled constitutional. I predict a 5-4 vote in favor of Arizona, because only four Justices on the Court believe that the Constitution is not a real barrier to whatever the current Administration wants to do.

This anti-constitutional position of



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

Obama is not an isolated event, but commonplace. Look at Professor Liu, whom he nominated for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. Liu consistently wrote as a Professor of Law at the University of California, that judges have a right to change the meaning of the Constitution. Before the Committee, he assured them that he

would "obey the Constitution" if confirmed.

People who respect and care for the Constitution do not want a second Justice to join the Court by lying about his or her prior career and writings. Anyone who has to lie about his or her own background to get on a court, doesn't belong on the Supreme Court or any other court. But these are exactly the kind of judges that Obama prefers. They reflect the President's views that the Constitution is like a ball of Silly Putty, to be reshaped at the will of a judge to favor a particular party.

Hint to Diane Sawyer and ABC News. Fire your researchers. Obama did not say what you reported, that he wanted his Supreme Court nominee to "Follow the Constitution." Obama only wants them to "follow the law" as he defines the law.

Here's how I wanted to demonstrate against Obama's false view of "the Supreme law" of the nation. I wanted to dress as Franklin, and carry a sign that said, "Who Do You / Trust with Your / Constitution? / ME? / or / Him" Never mind me; think of Ben. Did he and his colleagues in Philadelphia, and the men and women through 1992 (the last Amendment) know and respect the Constitution? Shouldn't the President, and all judges he nominates, share that respect?

Post Script: While we're considering basic law, let's talk about the Somali pirates. There is a well-established Law of Piracy, older than the United States. Under it, pirates confronted or captured in the course of attacking another ship, can be executed on the spot. There is no need for the international tapdance of nations, including the US, on where and how to try these pirates in any court.

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



## • COACH'S CORNER •

### At 37, Hill regains "old" form

After getting torched in Game 1 of their series against the Portland Trailblazers, Phoenix Suns coach Alvin Gentry felt the need to do something drastic. The definition of "drastic" for most NBA coaches involves calling a player out in the media or something of that nature, but in this case, "drastic" meant something markedly different.

You see, Portland guard Andre Miller had just been lighting up the Suns (OK, so the Sun is already lit, but you get the idea) most athletic defender, and had led Portland to a first game upset of Phoenix in Phoenix when Gentry became desperate.

Surely it would be desperation to turn Miller over to someone 8 years older than Richardson and decidedly less athletic. However, Grant Hill rewarded his coach by stifling Miller in games 2-5 and helping Phoenix build a 3-2 series lead. Additionally, Hill has contributed highly on the offensive end, averaging double figures in points and 8 rebounds a game as well.

Many people may remember Hill from his college days at Duke, particularly his pass to Christian Laettner for what most people consider to be the greatest shot in tournament history. What people may not remember is that Hill was well on his way to an NBA Hall of Fame career after his first six seasons in the NBA.

In his first six seasons, Hill averaged 22 points, 8 rebounds and 7 assists while being Rookie of the year and a six time All Star.

As a young man growing up, I revered Hill. The guy was a perfect role model for



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

young players because of his all around game and commitment to defense. Hill was like a Swiss-army knife on the court, because he could do a little bit of everything.

He often brought the ball up the court as a point forward, passed like a point but rebounded like a power forward. He led the Detroit Pistons in scoring, rebounding and assists for three straight

seasons, which had not been done since Wilt Chamberlain. Hill was destined for stardom until he suffered a sprained ankle just before the 2000 NBA playoffs.

Determined to get Detroit out of the first round for the first time, Hill played on the injured ankle and suffered a much more severe injury. The injury would rob Hill of the next 5 seasons, and the prime of his career. Despite almost dying from a staph infection after one of his numerous ankle surgeries, Hill decided not to retire, instead playing out the rest of his contract in Orlando before signing with Phoenix.

The last three years in Phoenix have been kind to Hill, as he has played in over 70 games each season and helped Phoenix earn a 3 seed in this years NBA playoffs. This year he was named the Sportsman of the Year award for the third time, and continues to play the role of Swiss-army knife for Phoenix.

Last week I wrote about role models, and for the need to support those worthy of the title-you would be hard pressed to find a better one to support than Grant Hill.

## • HS SOCCER •

### Highlanders drop game with Franklin

**By Ryan Potts**

Thursday the Lady Highlanders hosted the Franklin Lady Panthers with hopes of avenging a 2-0 loss earlier this season in Franklin. Unfortunately for the Lady Highlanders, a couple of unlucky bounces early gave Franklin a 2-0 lead in the opening ten minutes that they would never relinquish.

After the opening shaky ten minutes, the Lady Highlanders were again the recipient of bad luck on their best scoring opportunity of the match. A shot from Emily Munger ricocheted off the post and off of the Franklin keeper, then hit the post again before going

out, denying the Lady Highlanders an opportunity to cut the Lady Panther lead in half.

Despite playing from behind, Highlands showed better effort in the second half, but could not put points on the board, falling 4-0.

Midfielder Carmen Damien had an excellent match for the Lady Highlanders, who dropped to 5-6 on the season after the loss.

Highlander senior night was rained out last Tuesday, but will be made up this coming Tuesday at 5pm in what will be the last regular season game for the Lady Highlanders.



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## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### Cap and trade – insanity

After watching one of the most exciting finishes to a ballgame ever; wait, just in case you missed it, the Braves were playing the Phillies and looking bad doing it. They were behind 3-0 going into the last of the ninth, hit two homers to tie it and won it on a walk-off homer in the 10<sup>th</sup>. Anyway, I remembered CNBC was doing a documentary on carbon trading, and since the whole idea just grates me, I thought I'd better watch it.

You may wonder why I take this global warming issue so seriously. Well, you may find out sooner than you think. With the success of passing health care legislation, this administration may go for the jugular before the mid-term elections. In the past, I have railed against such government intrusion into our lives and have done so for several reasons. First, your president said c-a-t would cause your energy bills to "skyrocket". Second, American industry will expand to China and India, both of which have pledged never to join the circus. Exporting American jobs; brilliant. Third, it's just another tie to one world government. Without going into details, the UN loves the idea. There's more, but not for now.

Getting back to the CNBC documentary, it tracks the effort of a Canadian huckster to take advantage of individuals and companies that feel guilty about leaving a carbon footprint and buy "credits" to neutralize their supposed effect.

One Canadian gentleman had such guilt feelings and bought a credit. The offset was supposed to be the planting of mulberry bushes that would someday absorb enough CO<sub>2</sub> to "offset" the activities of the buyer, you know, like exhaling. The fellow decided to follow up on the "offset" and found a few dying or dead bushes in a swamp. What a fraud.

Just to be clear, this is a single example of the experiences of one individual. Expand this by millions of times and this is what has been happening on a large scale in Europe and Canada for years. This is a quote from a paper put out by the Transnational Institute a couple of years ago.

"With the second phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), (Europe's equivalent to c-a-t) due to start in 2008, at some point soon, Brussels will have to admit that it isn't working. Carbon emissions aren't going down, indus-



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

tries aren't switching to clean energy technology and, so far, the scheme's guiding principles seem to have been "polluter profits" rather than "polluter pays".

From the Wall Street Journal last summer prior to the vote on the Waxman-Markey bill (which your Congressman Heath Shuler voted for): "The hit to GDP is the real threat in this bill. The whole point of cap and trade is to hike the price of elec-

tricity and gasoline so that Americans will use less. These higher prices will show up not only in electricity bills or at the gas station but in every manufactured good, from food to cars. Consumers will cut back on spending, which in turn will cut back on production, which results in fewer jobs and higher unemployment. Some companies will move their operations overseas, with the same result." Are you loving it yet?

Don't lose sight of the fact that Al Gore is in the center of this scam and is profiting hugely. Published in the Foundry on April 21<sup>st</sup>; "Speaking to Politico, John Kerry told them it was up to Harry Reid to pass Cap-and-Trade. In the end, it will be Sen. Reid's responsibility, as majority leader, to put the pieces together as he did on health care and to decide how the Senate is going to proceed.

In other words, the Senate plans to force sweeping, expensive, job-destroying changes to America's energy policy in much the same way they forced ObamaCare upon unwilling Americans.

Next week, Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) plan to unveil their plan aimed at combating global warming, an issue that Americans rank as the country's least pressing priority. With gas prices already nearing \$3 per gallon, Americans will have little appetite for another energy tax proposal."

And from the mother nature network on April 22<sup>nd</sup>; "The Climate Project, founded by Al Gore, is launching a new website designed for teens who want to live greener and fight climate change. What do you do if you want to live green but have no influence on household consumption or legislation? That's the problem that faces teenagers across the world. That is, until now. The Climate Project's new Inconvenient Youth website is the new one-stop shop for eco-minded teens." If you can no longer spoof the adults, try the kids.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## It's all in the numbers

I would like to preface this article by explaining that I spend most of my time "speaking in numbers" to our agents and clients, so some may find the content too full of statistics for their liking, but I am hoping these numbers and statistics will better explain the shape of our current local market. I would also like to explain that my use of "our market" does not include any listings or sales in towns such as Cherokee, Murphy, Bryson City or Sylva. There is some data recorded in the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service which does include towns "out of our market," so I have excluded that information from my research findings and information in this article.

In the past couple of years, many buyers have come into our market with the mindset that the real estate market here will mirror that of their "hometown" market which may be selling for 50% of the listing prices. That is just not so in this market. According to the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service, of the number of homes which closed in 2009 in our market, the average listing price versus sales price was 85%. Only 1 of those homes sold for less than 50% of the listing price. Only 12 sold for less than 70% of the listing price. This year so far,

the listing price versus the sales price is down to 74%, but our snowy winter even kept a great deal of us local residents off the streets. Hopefully, the snow is now behind us for a few months.

The media and buyers seem to be drawn to REO's (bank owned) properties. In our market, however, bank owned properties are currently representing only 2.5% of the total active listings. Of that 2.5%, more than half of those listings are vacant lots. Sold REO properties represented 7.5% of our market last year. Bank owned properties have never represented a significant share of our market.

Last year banks did seem to put the brakes on lending for a while. For the most part, the banks have "reopened their doors" to lending this year. Speculative lending is still frowned upon, but some local lenders are back to lending on lots, and some lenders are back to lending up to 90% for second homes. Good credit is still a must and "no doc loans" are still part of the past – for now. According to the National Association of Real-



**Cathy Garren**  
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tors®, "interest rates continue to remain the lowest in 50 years."

All of these numbers are indicative of several things:

- Every market is different.
- Buyers are still buying in our market.

- This is not a fire sale market.

- Banks believe in our market.

- Experienced agents are educating both buyers and sellers on proper pricing and local market conditions.

What the numbers don't tell us is just common sense. This

area is still one of the most beautiful areas in the world. Our central proximity and access to large cities hasn't changed. Primary residents, second home residents and tourists alike still flock here to enjoy the climate, culture, shopping and social networking.

• For real estate information, you may visit [www.HighlandsCashiersRealEstate.com](http://www.HighlandsCashiersRealEstate.com) or contact Cathy Garren at 828-787-2121. To receive monthly market statistics reports, you can email Cathy at [cathyg@c21mountainlifestyles.com](mailto:cathyg@c21mountainlifestyles.com).

## • TB AGENDA •

Town of Highlands  
Town Board meeting  
Community Building  
7 p.m. • May 5, 2010

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve minutes of April 21
5. Reports  
Mayor  
Commissioners  
Committees  
Town Manager
6. Consent Agenda
7. Public Hearing: John Shearl Zoning Request
8. Consider Approval/Disapproval John Shearl Zoning Request
9. Small Town Main Street Program
10. Macon County Economic Development Commission Update
11. Petition from Holt Circle Property Owners Requesting Paving
12. Adjourn



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# May Primary candidate Q&A series continues

This is the final week of our 5-week Q&A series with the Macon County candidates facing off for the May 4 primary. Don't forget to vote!

Question 5 is: 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?

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

I am the best candidate for County

Commissioner because I bring to this position energy and love for this county. I am a small business man who struggles daily to make ends meet, therefore I know the challenges the residents of Macon County face on a daily basis. I want to protect our economy as well as our environment for our children's future. I have a deep desire to help those who are less fortunate and want to make sure the county does not overlook those people. I am so passionate about this position and I pledge to do my best for all and will always be open to everyone even those I may

not see eye to eye with. Communication and honesty are the keys to success in any endeavor we take. I don't promise anything other than I will do my best.

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

My record of eight years of service on the Board of Commissioners proves that I am an effective representative of District 1 as well as someone who can see the county-wide "big picture." While I served, I devoted many hours every week, often at night and on the weekends, to getting the job done for the taxpayers while operating Highlands Outdoor Tool. I know what it's like to make a payroll for a small business, but I also know how to do it for a large operation like Macon County. I can do both in a fiscally responsible manner.

I was directly responsible for securing county funding for the following projects in District 1: the new gym and playground at Highlands School; Zachary Field for recreation and sports; space for the free clinic; the social services office; and water lines for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The key factor in all of these efforts was securing services at prices the taxpayers could afford without having to impose tax increases.

I am able to work "across the aisle" with my fellow commissioners as well as with all the various stakeholder groups that make up the Macon County taxpaying public. I am a listener who will take the time to hear all the sides, but I am also someone who can get the job done on time and under budget. My promise to the voters is that if I am elected, I will provide them the same high-quality service that they received in the previous eight years that I served.

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

For the past 14 years I have been very involved with all types of volunteerism and public service in both Highlands and Macon County. I have been humbled by the personal fulfillment that I have received from these efforts, and I have a deep desire to continue with my service at the County Commissioner level. My public service will be all about listening to and representing you, the taxpayer.

There will be some very difficult issues to tackle and decisions to make over the next few years, and I believe that I possess the tools and connections necessary to handle them. I want to work for the people of Macon County, and ensure that fiscal, equal and common sense decisions are made at all levels. I hope that the citizens of Macon County will provide me with this opportunity by electing me to serve District 1 as its representative.

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

I believe all the candidates who have filed for office have something valuable to offer. I am very appreciative and grateful for the trust that the people have placed in me for the past four years in representing District 1 on the County Commission. It is a tough job that

requires tough decisions monthly.

The experience I have gained is invaluable in understanding the issues we face and how they affect all of us. I believe we have some tough times ahead of us before things begin to improve.

My work experience gives me the knowledge to cut through the clutter and see what is important to all of us right here, and right now. I know what it is to lose a job or be laid off and how it affects people. I know what it takes to meet a payroll. I know how important it is to raise my children in a safe place with adequate educational facilities that don't put them behind everyone else. I know what it is to want to live free from too much government regulation but still desire a reasonable expectation from my neighbor.

And finally, I know what it is to love where we live and why we want to preserve what is good and special and unique about all that surrounds us. It is my sincere desire to continue to put this life experience to work for the people of Macon County.

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

First of all I would like to thank Kim Lewicki and the Highlands' Newspaper for taking their valuable time reporting on the candidates in this year's election. Kim attends all County functions, whether the meeting is daytime or evening. She has always reported the news in a non-biased manner. She is a credit to the citizens of Macon County.

As I have stated in the earlier questions, I have been privileged to be your Commissioner for the last eight years.

During these years we in Macon County have experienced one of the lowest tax rates in the State, and we have completed many projects that have improved the lives of all of us.

I bring this experience with me as a Candidate for 2010. I will continue to be open to all of Citizens, and will listen to you and my votes will continue to reflect your opinions.

I would like to see our Citizens continue their input to the Boards decisions. I will promise to continue making ourselves available so we all can have input.

I invite everyone to our Board, and Community meetings and express your opinions. You will be listened to. I thank you for the privilege of serving you for the last eight years, and look forward to the next four. Thank you.

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

At the end of the day it does not matter what I think about me, it is you the people here in the county that will need to decide if by looking at my abilities if you think I am the best for the job at this present time. The first mistake a person can do is promise something he knows he cannot deliver and people know it too. I would like the county government business and individuals come together to work to make Macon County the desire for people to live and work.

• **Ronnie Beale – Incumbent, Coun-**

• See CANDIDATES page 16

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# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

## Ongoing

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

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

## All Week

• YOGA – at Moonrise Yoga Studio, 464 Caro-

## Ruby Cinema

Hwy 441, Franklin, NC  
524-2076

April 30-May 6

### A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET rated R

Friday: 4:20, 7:10, 9:20  
Saturday: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20  
Sunday: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10  
Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7:10  
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10

### THE LAST SONG rated PG

Friday: 4:10, 7, 9:10  
Saturday: 2, 4:10, 7, 9:10  
Sunday: 2, 4:10, 7  
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7  
Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:10, 7

### THE BACK-UP PLAN rated PG-13

Friday: 4:15, 7:05, 9:15  
Saturday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15  
Sunday: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05  
Mon + Wed: 4:15, 7:05  
Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05

### AVATAR in 3D rated PG-13

Friday: 8:40  
Saturday: 2:00, 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

lina Way. 8am Tues/Wed, 10am Mon/Wed, 5pm Mondays, and 9:30am Saturdays All Levels. Mats provided. 526-8880. (5/20)

## 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.

## Through Aug. 13

• Mountain Fresh Foods has Relay for Life Star Cards for sale.

## 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. Amat 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](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

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

## Wednesdays

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

• A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, have a snack, helped with homework time and supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 pm in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3376.

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place will be in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn

• See EVENTS page 12

## HCP's May 13 production of "Rebecca" to coincide with duMaurier Festival in England

Daphne was born in 1907, grand-daughter of the brilliant artist and writer George du Maurier, daughter of Gerald, the most famous Actor Manager of his day, she came from a creative and successful family.

She began writing short stories in 1928, and in 1931 her first novel, 'The Loving Spirit' was published. It received rave reviews and further books followed. Then came her most famous three novels, 'Jamaica Inn,' 'Frenchman's Creek' and 'Rebecca.' Each novel being inspired by her love of Cornwall, where she lived and wrote.

The Daphne du Maurier Festival is an event that is recognized as one of the best Festivals of Art & Literature in England and takes place this year beginning, May 13 through the 23, in Fowery & St. Austell Bay, England. Whilst attracting numerous writers, broadcasters and performers with national reputations, the Festival is also a great opportunity for local groups and individuals to showcase their talents and participate in a high profile event. The heady mix of eclectic events taking place in and around Fowey every year continues to prove popular with festivalgoers, whether local or visiting from the UK or abroad.

If Daphne du Maurier had written only *Rebecca*, she would still be one of the great shapers of popular culture and the modern imagination. Few writers have created more magical and mysterious places than Jamaica Inn and Manderley, buildings invested with a rich character that gives them a memorable life of their own.

In many ways the life of Daphne du Maurier resembles that of a fairy tale. Born into a family with a rich artistic and historical background, she was indulged as a child and grew up enjoying enormous freedom from financial and parental restraint. She spent her youth sailing boats, travelling on the Continent with friends, and writing stories. A prestigious publishing house accepted her first novel when she was in her early twenties, and its publication brought her not only fame but the attentions of a handsome soldier, Major (later Lieutenant-General Sir) Frederick Browning, who married her.

Her subsequent novels became



**Dame Daphne du Maurier (Lady Browning) 1907 - 1989**  
**Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature**

bestsellers, earning her enormous wealth and fame. While Alfred Hitchcock's film based upon her novel proceeded to make her one of the best-known authors in the world, she enjoyed the life of a fairy princess in a mansion in Cornwall called Menabilly, which served as the model for Manderley in *Rebecca*.

In *Rebecca* du Maurier fuses psychological realism with a sophisticated version of the Cinderella story. It contains most of the trappings of the typical Gothic romance: a

mysterious, haunted mansion, violence, murder, a sinister villain, sexual passion, a spectacular fire, a brooding landscape and a version of the mad woman in the attic. Du Maurier's work, however, is much more than a simple thriller or mystery. It is a profound and fascinating study of an obsessive personality, of sexual dominance, of human identity and of the liberation of the hidden self.

*Rebecca* and the two short stories, 'The Birds' and 'Don't Look Now,' stand out among du Maurier's work as landmarks in the development of the modern Gothic tale. She breathes new life into the old form of the Gothic novel to come up with a classic tale of *The Other Woman*. *Excerpts from the Obituary written by Richard Kelly*

"*Rebecca*" opens on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and continues the 14, 15 & 16 and again the next weekend, May 20, 21, 22, & 23. The box office opens on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for Season subscribers and Saturday, May 8 for the general public. Call: 526.8084 for tickets. All performances are at the Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street, Highlands. Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30pm. "*Rebecca*" is sponsored in part by The Laurel Magazine. The Opening Night Reception is being catered by New Mountain Events.

For more information on duMaurier visit: [www.dumaurier.org](http://www.dumaurier.org)

"I walked this land with a dreamer's freedom and with a waking man's perception - places, houses whispered to me their secrets and shared with me their sorrows and their joys. And in return I gave them something of myself a few of my novels passing into the folk-lore of this ancient place."

– Daphne du Maurier



**PULL OUT**

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

about Rotary and enjoy fellowship while listening to an interesting speaker. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

- 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.

- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series every Thursday at 7 pm at the Highlands Nature Center May 13 through Aug. 5 It's free.

**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 Mountain 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 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

**Every Fourth Saturday**

- Friends of Pantherdown 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](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

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

**Monday-Thursday, through May 15**

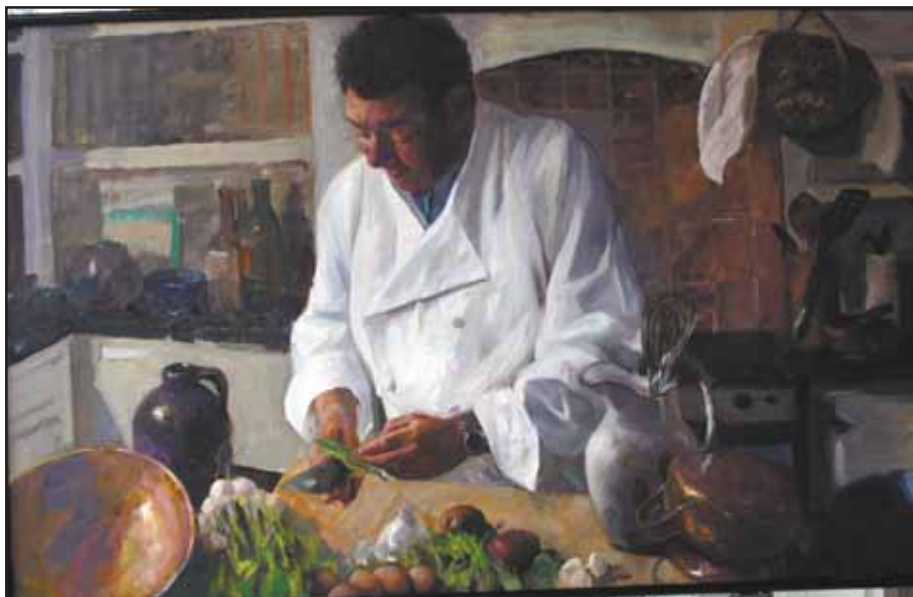
- The Macon County Senior Games hosted by the MC Recreation Department. Events are scheduled over a 4-week period For more information, call 828-369-0832 or 838-349-2090. Registration deadline is April 20. Forms are available at the Highlands Rec Park.

**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

## Top-rated instructors to teach painting, ceramics workshops at The Bascom



Marc Chatov, whose work is pictured above, will instruct "Facial Features Workshop" at The Bascom in Highlands for non-beginner to advanced ceramics students May 20-22. Pre-registration is required for the workshops. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

Four superior instructors will lead students to new creative heights when The Bascom launches its 2010 season.

On May 20-22, acclaimed sculptor Elder G. Jones will teach "Wet Carved Concrete – Planters for the Garden" for all levels of students. Students will be guided through the process of mixing sand and cement, and pouring the mixture into a form that will later be carved with designs. You will leave with the knowledge of a process that can be repeated in your own backyard. Tuition: \$295 Bascom members/\$320 non-members.

Also May 20-22, popular instructor Marc Chatov returns to The Bascom, teaching "Facial Features Workshop" for non-beginner to advanced students. The class will focus on drawing and painting the eyes, nose, mouth and ears, plus learning constructive and color anatomy. Tuition: \$450 Bascom members/\$475 non-members/\$30 model fee.

On May 25-28, potter Joe Frank McKee will teach "Advanced Throwing Techniques" for non-beginner to advanced ceramics students. Students will improve

their production abilities and learn tricks of the trade for faster throwing and how to throw off the hump. Tuition: \$375 Bascom members/\$400 non-members.

Also May 25-28, Karen Weihs, who has a home in Cashiers, will teach "Still Life: Out of the Garden" for all levels of students. Using subjects found in the garden, students will learn form, texture and color harmony. Emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals of setting up the palette to understand temperature and organization to facilitate mastering color. Students will come away with a greater understanding of oil painting by employing simple organizational skills. Tuition: \$400 Bascom members/\$425 non-members.

These are just four of the nearly 400 educational programs offered at The Bascom in 2010. Pick up a catalog of offerings around town, or download one at [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-registration is required.

To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

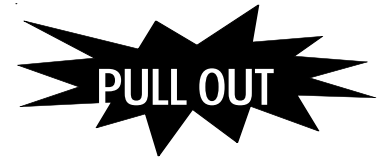
## Atlanta Boy Choir at Episcopal Church Sunday, May 2



The men and boys of the Atlanta Boy Choir will present a concert on Sunday afternoon at the Church of the Incarnation at 5 p.m. This concert by this famous choir will be directed by Fletcher Wolfe its founder over a half century ago. Since that time they have sung all over the world for Popes, Presidents and many heads of States. Appearances in major world festivals as well as concerts given in the world's great concert halls like Vienna's Musikverein and Russian's St. Petersburg Great hall of the Philharmonic have brought much renown and attention to Atlanta and the State of Georgia. Although seating is on a first come basis, the front section of the church will be reserved for sponsors and patrons who are supporting the Scholarship fund for the choir's upcoming Italian tour. Sponsors are \$100 and Patrons \$500. Others may contribute by freewill offering. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Seats may be reserved by calling The Boy Choir at 404-378-0064 or email at [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



makers relevant and meaningful information about the economic future of Macon County and Western North Carolina. The dinner also serves to recognize key business leaders for their contributions to the economic health and wellbeing of the community. The dinner will feature key note speaker Dr. Harry M. Davis, NC Bankers' Association Professor at Appalachian State University, will be delivering his views on the economic outlook for Macon County. This event is open to all business owners of Macon County; it is a free event, however a ticket will be required to attend. You may obtain a ticket by contacting Trevor Dalton at [edc@maconnc.org](mailto:edc@maconnc.org) or calling 828-369-2306.

## Friday, April 30

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. Dean Kinion will start calling Round Dancing at 6:30. We do Western Style Square

Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943.

## Saturday, May 1

• Mountain Findings opens for the season. Monday-Saturday 10 am to 4 p.m. on Spruce Street.

• 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](http://www.tourdecashiers.com), call (828) 743-9924 or email: [tour@cashiers.com](mailto:tour@cashiers.com).

• Wild & Woolly Native Plant Sale and Book Festival. The Sheenhan Barn in Persimon 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 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](http://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

• See EVENTS on page 14

## Crowd-pleasing chefs to wow crowd at May Collective Spirits wine festival

Fourteen stellar chefs will whet the appetite and prime the palate for the wines being served at the fourth annual Collective Spirits wine festival in Highlands May 21-22.

"These chefs are true crowd-pleasers who consistently draw fans not only in the Highlands-Cashiers area, but also off the mountain," said Dick Boger, event co-chair. "They have an array of delectable, mouth-watering treats in store for festival attendees."

The chefs will be from the following participating restaurants or food purveyors and will set up stations at the wine festival's "Stock Your Cellars" Wine Tasting Party on Friday night, May 21: Buck's Coffee Cafe, Canyon Kitchen at Lonesome Valley - Chef John Fleer, Cyprus, Epting Events, The Gamekeeper's Tavern, Highlands Smokehouse, Log Cabin Restaurant, Madison's, The Main Street Inn, Oak Street Café, ...On The Verandah, Rosewood Market & Distinctive Design by Tim Lundy, Ruka's Table and Wild Thyme Gourmet.

In addition to the fine food and wine celebrated at the Friday night event, Collective Spirits also features private wine dinners (exclusively for Sponsors and Benefactors), a gala dinner, live and silent auctions 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 Bank of New York-Mellon, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies/Lanigan Insurance Group and Hennessy Automotive Companies. Bronze sponsors include Franklin Ford, Harry Nor-



Delectables like these, photographed at Highlands restaurant On The Verandah, will be a key part of Collective Spirits' Friday night "Stock Your Cellars" Wine Tasting Party. The party will feature food from 14 different chefs, plus an array of wine. Collective Spirits is a multiple-day festival; all proceeds benefit The Bascom. Tickets are on sale now at [www.collectivespirits.com](http://www.collectivespirits.com) or by calling (828) 526-4949. Photo by Gil Stose Photography.

man Realtors-Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, Highlands' Newspaper, The Laurel magazine, Moss Robertson Cadillac, Wines Down South and WNC magazine.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.collectivespirits.com](http://www.collectivespirits.com) or by calling (828) 526-4949.

## SOAR event lineup set for June

The Special Operations Adventure Race Committee members are beginning work on the eighth annual events for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The Committee members have pledged to preserve the legacy of fallen Warriors through the funding of a free college education grant for the children they left behind.

All members of the military forces are placed in harm's way and are considered heroes.

The Special Operations Warriors are specially formed units of men who are constantly being deployed on the most hazardous missions. Their training is highly demanding, and only a select few earn the coveted badges of the Army Green Berets, Delta Force, Navy Seals and Marine and Air Force special operations units. Because many of their missions are highly classified, their successes usually remain unknown to the rest of the world. Hence, they are known as the silent warriors or quiet professionals.

As the war on terrorism continues to unfold, Special Operations forces will be facing new challenges frequently.

In fact, there has never been a greater need for Special

Operations forces than right

Now—and Special Operations forces will continue to be the force of choice time and again during the tumultuous period.

Special Operations personnel are conducting more missions in more places and under a broader range of conditions than ever before. These missions entail high operational tempos, heavy and unpredictable deployment schedules, personal hard-



ships and by their very nature, inordinate casualties both in operations and training.

Most of these casualties occur at an early age, at the beginning of their

careers, thus leaving behind families who have yet to accumulate the resources to provide for their surviving children's college education.

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation strives to

relieve Special Operations personnel of the one concern, their

Families, that might distract them from their peak performance when

They need to be—and when America needs them to be—at their very best.

Today more than 700 such deserving children exist who should not be denied the education their fallen parent would surely have wanted for them.

The Foundation has become part of a unified effort in addressing the needs of Special Operations personnel wounded in the war against terror.

The Warrior Foundation coordinates with the Special Operations Command to ensure all the needs of the wounded Special Operations forces are met, including providing \$2,000 to meet immediate needs their families face when Special Operations members are hospitalized.

The last seven years have been successful with the help of many volunteers and the generous donations from the Highlands/Cashiers/Sapphire

Communities. The SOAR committee thanks donors and volunteers in advance for the 2010 year.



**PULL OUT**

# 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](http://www.christanglicanchurch.com)

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.

• The Thomas Legion Camp will host a Confederate Memorial Day Celebration from 10 am – noon. This event will be held at the Dowden Pavillion located on the grounds of the Zachary-Tolbert House. A traditional soldier meal of grits and fatback will be served. Special events will include speakers, music, etc. The camp color guard will also be there in uniform. Membership information will also be available. Everyone is invited to attend. No admission fee.

• The Macon County Soccer Club is hosting a recreation league soccer referee clinic on Saturday from 10am to 12pm at the Macon County Public Library. The clinic is for anyone 12 years and older that would like to referee recreational level games for the MCSC. The MCSC pays referees for each game. Instruction will cover the duties and procedures for center refs and assistant refs. Rules of the games will be reviewed and materials will be given to the attendees. The MCSC always needs energetic and dependable referees. Please visit the MCSC website at <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or call Guy Gooder at 828-421-4845 for additional information.

## 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.

• The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform in Highlands on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The concert will feature the boys, men and a very special alumni group of African Americans named *Africantor*. The concert is free but donations will be accepted and the first two rows will be reserved for Sponsors for \$100 up and Patrons at \$500 up. Funds raised will be used to fund a performance trip to Italy this summer.

## Tuesday, May 4

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

## Wednesday-Friday, May 5-7

• The North Carolina Lake Management Society (NCLMS) will host the 19th Annual Southeastern Lakes Conference, "Managing Extremes: Watershed and Climate Disruption" in Winston Salem, NC at the Hawthorne Inn. In addition to the main conference all day pre-conference workshops on "Algae Identification" and "Man vs. Stats" will be featured. Main conference sessions cover Technical Training, Watershed Management, Reservoir Management, Water Quality and an Open Forum for lake and home owner associations that includes a presentation on grant writing. Conference registration continues until the Conference opening on May 5th. Information on the Conference and the Hawthorne Inn can be found on the group's website [www.nclakemanagementsociety.org](http://www.nclakemanagementsociety.org). Interested parties may also email [nclakemanagementsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:nclakemanagementsociety@yahoo.com).

## Thursday, May 6

• Taize in Highlands is every Thursdays at 5:30

PM. at the Holy Family Lutheran 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.

• A movie at the Cashiers Library at 3 p.m. "Up in the Air" depicts the high-flying life of businessman Ryan Bingham, (George Clooney). After meeting Alex (Vera Farmiga), he realizes that life isn't just the journey, but the connections along the way. Rated R. Movies are free, but donations are appreciated.

## Friday and Saturday, May 7-8

• Relay for Life fundraising. Heather Mangum will be fundraising @ Bryson's Market from 11am-2pm selling Sun Stars & Feet Cards, Scratch & Donate Cards, Purple Bows, Luminaria & Tiki Torches.

## Friday, May 7

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series begins with Dr. Shepard Krech's lecture "Spirits of the Air," at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Nature Center.

• The American Cancer Society will Paint the Town Purple. Business and residents can show their support in the fight against cancer by ordering a purple bow to place on their property. The bows are available for a suggested donation of \$10 and all proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and patient service programs. This year's Relay for Life of Highlands will be held at the Highlands Recreation Park on Friday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. through Aug. 14 at 7 a.m. The Relay for Life is the society's signature fundraising event. Teams of people camp out for 24 hours, walking laps on a track, socializing and participating in planned activities. Teams can be made up of family, friends, co-workers or community groups. For more information or to order your purple bow, contact Lisa Duff at 828-994-0431 or [Lisa.Duff@cancer.org](mailto:Lisa.Duff@cancer.org)

## Saturday, May 8

• The 2010 Fun Run, slated for Saturday, at 9 a.m. It is one of the major fundraisers for the Highlands School Boosters Club. The event, open to all ages, begins in front of Highlands School, travels the road around Harris Lake and then ends back in front of the school. For more information, please contact Michelle Munger at (828) 342-3551.

## Zahner Conservation Lecture Series begins May 7 with 'Spirits of the Air' at the Highlands Nature Center

The Highlands Biological Station continues its tradition of conservation themed lectures on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The series is named for the late Dr. Robert Zahner and his wife Glenda, of Highlands, in honor of their significant contributions to the conservation of land on the Highlands Plateau.

The series serves to educate and inspire the public through a series of talks by premier scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers.

This year's series will kick off on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with a talk by Dr. Shepard Krech, Professor of Anthropology and the Director of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University. Dr. Krech is the author of 11 acclaimed books. He will discuss his latest work *Spirits of the Air: Birds and American Indians in the South*.

Using examples from art, decoration, politics and culture Krech helps us understand the complex relationship early Native Americans of the south had with the natural world.

On Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Biological Station's own Dr. Jim Costa, back from his year-long, worldwide book tour, will dis-



**Dr. Shepard Krech**

cuss his most recent book, *The Annotated Origin*, an annotated edition of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published by Harvard University Press.

We are all aware of Darwin's earth shattering theories on evolution, but Dr. Costa's passion for the subject and his years of teaching experience bring Darwin's more elusive concepts into a relevant context for modern readers. Costa shows how elegant the theory of evolution

truly is.

Don't miss these exciting lectures and keep your Thursday evenings free this summer for the remaining 12 Zahner Lectures.

Following the kick-off on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, lectures will be held at 7 p.m. each Thursday evening from May 13<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands.

For a full schedule of lectures, as well as information on other programs and resources available at the Highlands Biological Station, please visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs) or call the Highlands Biological Station at 828-526-2602 to have a schedule mailed to your address.

## The Mountain Garden Club presents...

### Bring bugs to your garden; it's a good thing

Spring is just around the corner. Folks are beginning to prepare areas and stock up on pesticides. OH, WHOA — we may not need all those chemicals. Mother Nature can help us. Are you aware that there are certain bugs and insects that can do much to control aphids, ants, etc. from ruining our gardens? So, this is a brief, abbreviated paper on "Bugology 101."

Some good bugs/insects are pollinators and some are predators. We are all familiar with Bees, the best-known of the pollinators. Now, predators control things mostly by devouring the pests, thereby preventing the bad guys from taking over our gardens. Once you have determined the types of pests you have, you will be better able to design your garden to take advantage of the good bugs/insects.

The following information, excerpted

from an article by P. Allen, Garden Smith, Garden Consultant for "Good Morning America," may be of help to you in starting your research.

Good guys are Ladybugs which combat aphids and like to eat ajuga, and Queen Anne's lace; Hoverflies combat aphids and mealy bugs and like to eat cosmos, alyssum and zinnia; parasitic wasps combat moths, flies and white flies and eat lobelia, marigold and sedum.

Remember, low-growing plants give protection to the good guys, and tall plants attract them by color and scent.

So, bring bugs to your garden. To pollinators we say, thanks and to predators we say bon appetite.

Remember, save this date - May 29, for Mountain Garden Club's 28th Annual Plant Sale.



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Feeding the hunger within



**The Rev'd Jim Murphy,  
Christ Anglican Church,  
Highlands-Cashiers, NC**

From the perspective of Christian peace, and from one who has dedicated himself to being a "Peacemaker" in the manner of our Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus, I regularly reflect upon the fact that there seems to be a dearth of peace in the world today. Why is that? Reports of war, murder, poverty, disease, divorce, abortion, and violence of all sorts consistently fill the airwaves and the headlines. What's "gone missing" that peace has become so elusive?

*Much* is missing. Indeed, for most people, an entire third (1/3) of their (our) lives has "gone missing," has been ignored—ignored so as to atrophy unto virtual uselessness. Try riding a tricycle with only 2 wheels. It's impossible to make peaceful progress! Try resting a plate on a trivet that has only 2 feet. It'll never be at level rest (peace). Try living life with only 2 healthy parts of your being intact. It's not conducive to real peace.

We are tripartite beings. We each have 3 bona fide parts of our humanity. Everyone is born with a physical body, an observable mind, and something a little more nebulous, a spirit or soul. The body and the mind are readily apparent. While the soul is more difficult to pin down, we all know we have one. The soul is the seat of the emotions, it is the part of us that craves peace, the part that longs to love and be loved, the part that cries when we see injustice or tragedy.

We readily and regularly feed our bodies. For the most part, we eat every day without giving it much thought. We feed our bodies because we know that besides avoiding hunger, we need to eat to survive. We also feed our physical selves by exercising or simply doing things. Our bodies need to be used.

In like manner, we feed our minds each day. We feed and exercise our brains with news, or perhaps by reading a book, watching another form of entertainment, playing a game, or talking to others. There seems to be no limit to the manners in which and the opportunities we have to feed our minds. So we might say, at least 2 parts of our lives are regularly well fed and exercised.

It's the third part, the soul, which does not usually fare so well. It requires feeding too, but for the most part it is ignored. When a boyhood friend had a cast on his broken leg for 8 weeks, it was in a terribly weakened condition when the cast was removed. The muscles had atrophied. They had not been used, exercised or fed. That is the same condition that we can expect to find our spirits or souls in if and when we fail to feed or exercise them.

We can attempt to take care of our spirits in a variety of ways but there is only One who truly feeds our souls, the God who created us. Jesus can feed us when we read his Word, by pray to him, through real Christian fellowship,

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

# • PLACES OF WORSHIP •

## BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## Chapel of Sky Valley

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 706-746-2999

Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770

Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

## CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

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

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

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

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

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

## CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

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

Prayer – 6:30 p.m.

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

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

Pastor Gary Hewins

3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands

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

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

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

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

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.

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

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

## FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977

Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.

(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's

Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Youth – 6:30 p.m.; Choir – 7:15

Wednesdays: Dinner – 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids – 6 p.m.; Prayer – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:30 p.m.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30 & 9:45.

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

## HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

## HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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

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

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

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

## HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

## MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

## MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

## OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Parish office, 526-2418

Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm

## SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

## SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

## SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second

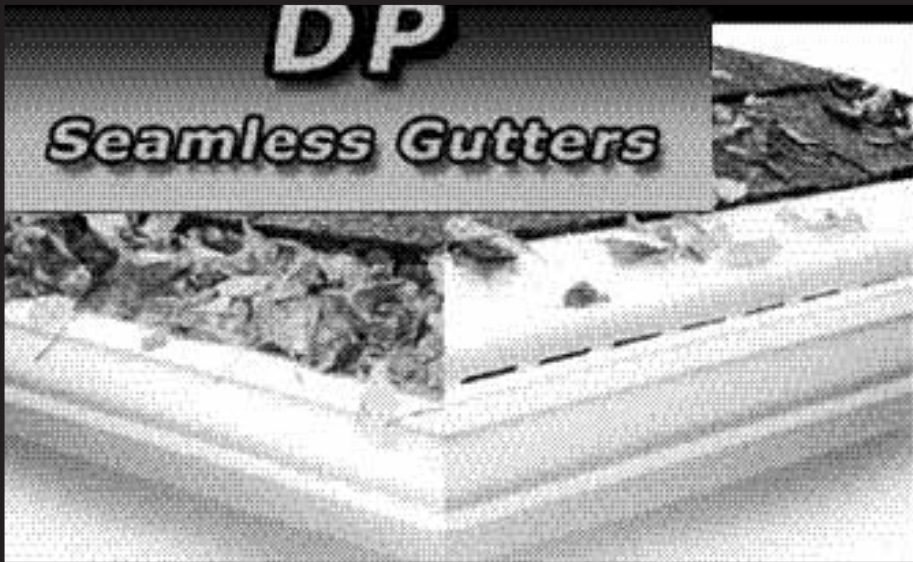
Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

## WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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





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## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 10

### ty Commissioner District 2 (Dem)

I believe that I have shown the citizens of Macon County that I will always put them first whether it be for better mental health services, looking to find ways to improve day-care for our children or providing a better environment for the children and our senior citizens.

I promise to maintain an open door policy and work hard every day to improve the quality of life for all Maconians.

Looking to the future I believe it is time that we take a very serious look at housing in Macon County. This study will be very comprehensive such as the daycare committee report and other projects that I have had the pleasure to work on.

What has been proven over the past three and a half years that communication with the citizens and municipalities in Macon County is very productive and with the citizens support this spirit of cooperation will continue.

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

The only thing I promise is to give my all to get the economy in our county in order. I have to make tough decisions daily to make my businesses survive in this economy and have had to for many years. I think my track record for my decisions in business qualifies me to do the same for my county.

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

Leatherman's answer did not arrive by press time.

### • George Lynch – Sheriff (Dem)

I will ensure complete patrol coverage to every area of Macon County to include full time officers in Highlands and Nantahala. The primary duty of patrol officers will be the protection of life and property, to assist Fire Departments and Emergency personnel with traffic control and safety issues, and meet and interact with the public. I will practice an open door policy, listen to your concerns and interact with you the year round not just at election time. I can and will devote 100% of my time and energy to serving as your Sheriff. This election is important as your vote will help elect the leadership of Macon County for the next four years. I am asking for your support and I urge you to vote on May the fourth.

### • Ricky DeHart – Sheriff (Dem)

DeHart's answer did not arrive by press time.

### • Richard Davis – Sheriff (Dem)

I have 14 years experience as a law enforcement officer. I started as a patrol officer with the Macon County Sheriff's Department where I was active in the community in the public protecting our families. Once I was promoted to investigator I gained extensive experience working crime scenes, and helping victims recover. As a Captain with the Sheriff's Department I gained management, and practical skills, supervising other officers and coordinating a joint effort within the department. As Chief Deputy for two and a half years I became proficient in managing personnel and the daily responsibility of administering a successful sheriff's department. I have worked in all facets of law en-

forcement. And I understands how to lead others to accomplish the objectives of serving the community, protecting the public, and making Macon County a better place for all it's citizens.

When elected Sheriff, I will work to develop a better relationship between the community and the Sheriff's Department; by consistently assigning deputies to individual communities where they can become familiar with each individual within that area, so as to better understand the needs and specific circumstances pertaining to that area. I will also be placing an investigator to each 12 hour shift to give us the best chance at solving cases in a quick and efficient manner. Thus also allowing our deputies to turn the crime scene over to the investigator and get back out in the community to protect the public.

Another emphasis would be to allow the Highway Patrol to serve their function as traffic enforcement. We are fortunate to have outstanding Highway Patrol officers here in Macon County. And I know they are more than capable of monitoring traffic and issuing citations when needed.

Another change would be to move the office of the sheriff (my office only) to the Macon County Courthouse, where I will be more accessible to the public. Major emphasis will be placed on the escalating drug problem here in Macon County, and the entire force would be dedicated to combat this destructive epidemic. Macon County has such a major drug problem this includes a very prevalent prescription drug problem among teens and young adults.

To try and combat this type of drug abuse I would like to have a prescription drop off box installed at the Macon County Sheriff's department to allow citizens to bring in their unused prescription pills. I believe this will aid us in keeping them out of the wrong hands. I will also make it a priority to utilize the county inmates for roadside cleanup detail. While I am Sheriff the trash which defaces our county will be picked up frequently, year round, keeping our county the beautiful place that it is.

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

I believe I am the best candidate because I have a record I can stand on. I have worked to bring the overall crime rate in Macon County down—at a time when crime has gone up in surrounding areas.

We have arrested and convicted more people for property crimes since I became Sheriff. You have seen more arrests for drug offenses than ever before. I have implemented programs to keep our roadways safer and drunk driving arrests have increased significantly during my tenure.

I have always recognized that the Highlands community is part of Macon County and that is why we have a Sheriff's Office Sub-Station located in Highlands.

Since my first day serving as your Sheriff you have received 24/7 services from the Sheriff's Office. These are just a few examples of why I think I am the best candidate for Sheriff.

I am very proud of all these facts which were made possible with the help of a great

• See CANDIDATES page 17



## ... CANDIDATES continued from page 16

group of dedicated officers and employees at your Sheriff's Office. While we have made many accomplishments, we also understand we still have much more work ahead.

I am confident I am the man that can continue to lead your Sheriff's Office in the right direction. I will continue to lead an aggressive fight against drugs, the leading cause of our crime. I have, and will always be, dedicated to our youth and will always stand as an advocate for these most vulnerable citizens.

I believe in building partnerships with you, the members of the community, and with your help I will continue to expand our crime prevention efforts. As always, I will remain available to you and keep my home number listed in the phonebook as it has been my entire law enforcement career.

I will continue to do all this while always providing the citizens of Macon County with a fair, honest, and professional law enforcement. My wife and I would appreciate your support and, most importantly, your prayers during this election process. It has been an honor serving as your Sheriff and I respectfully ask for your vote in November.

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

This race isn't why I am the best candidate for the job. It's about jobs and the economy in North Carolina.

In North Carolina we have had a liberal controlled Senate for 100 years. What do we have to show for that? Increased spending, increased regulations, increased taxes and a financial crisis in North Carolina. They can't even afford to give back the hard earned

money that the taxpayers over paid in income taxes.

If we keep going down this road the liberals in Raleigh will bankrupt us. The time has come to make some hard decisions in North Carolina. The government is too big and needs to be reduced in size.

The only way I know how to do this is reduce spending and reduce taxes.

Raleigh is as good as Washington at manufacturing artificial and trumped up "crises" - just so they can reach deeper into taxpayers' pockets for more of our money. They pretend to balance budgets thru federal government assistance and bailouts. **Guess what — that's our money too!** They apparently do not care that us regular folks are losing our jobs, our homes and our security. **I'm the candidate in this race who wants to put a stop to this shuck and jive politics.**

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

Serving as a county commissioner for close to a decade has given me the experience and knowledge required for the job of state senator. My record confirms that I believe in a limited and efficient government.

My promise to constituents is that I would do my best.

The changes for which I would work are to reduce the size of our state government, reduce burdensome regulations, reduce state debt, promote tax policies that encourage business and reward hard work, reclaim state sovereignty, put a marriage amendment before the people, and push education dollars down to the classroom.

## Highlands School benefits from 'fitness' grant



Teachers and coaches Brett Lamb, Ryan Potts and Butch Smart are trained on the equipment by Danny Young of Prosource Fitness Equipment.

Thanks to a \$1.3 million, 3-year grant from the Carol M. White Physical Education Program, Macon and Jackson county schools are getting money to begin or expand fitness programs. Highlands School's weight room off the new gym is now the site of a bona fide fitness room equipped with machines and devices to promote cardio, strength and stamina. PE teachers will be using the equipment as part of their curriculums, coaches will keep their teams in shape and teachers and staff will be able to use the equipment as part of a wellness program which is being promoted by the insurance carriers. The state health plan offers discount incentives for employees who stop smoking and lose weight and Principal Brian Jetter said use of the room will be structured so teachers can access it, too. The curriculum associated with the grant encourages PE teachers to include movement throughout their class time and with the various components in the weight room, that will be possible. Most everything can also be moved into the gym when more room is needed. Equipment includes, ellipticals, cross-trainers, recumbent bikes, treadmills, bocus, dumbbells, resistance bands, jump ropes, aerobic steps, mats, weighted rods – everything to address group fitness and a total body moving class.



## 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.*

Do you want a Commissioner who represents you to have a background in some of the following? . . .

- In-depth accounting
- Budgeting
- Personnel Management
- Business Law dealing with contracts
- Value analysis
- Familiarity with the interior of our local government
- Not a politician but someone who believes in being a public servant for all of Macon County

If You Want Me to take this background to the board . . .

**VOTE FOR ME! EARLY VOTING CONTINUES!**

Let's have a great turn-out; that's what makes our system so great!

Thank You For Your Support!

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Paid for by the committee to elect Carroll Poindexter County Commissioner District II

## Clubs fight against litter bugs continues



The Girls' Clubhouse spent Friday afternoon picking up trash on its two second route in town. On this one, Spring to second to NC 28 and back up to S. 4th Street, they collected four bags of beer cans and bottles, fast food wrappers, even a couch pillow! 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 club's account at RBC Bank on the Franklin Road in Highlands. Pictured are Veronica Garcia, Shannon Welch and Elizabeth Houston.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 15

in self-giving ministry, and in unfettered worship of our Triune God.

When King David invited his audience (Psalm 34) to "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good!" he was not advocating cannibalism. He was recommending an activity which he had learned through personal trial, error, and after much atrophy of spirit. He was recommending that we try feeding our souls in the manner in which they were meant to be maintained and strengthened—by feasting upon the Truth of God.

If your tricycle is missing a wheel or your trivet is short one leg, don't try to limp along any longer. Allow the Prince of Peace to restore you, to heal you, to get you balanced once again through worship, prayer, study and the rest. Then and only then will you and the rest of the world have the chance to experience real peace and to thrive as a whole person.



## ... CENSUS continued from page 1

to them, he said.

Thanks to a concentrated effort across the country, state and locally by the Macon County Planning Department, as of April 23, 2010, Macon County's census response is 74%, up 23% from 2000.

Specifically, Franklin is at 73% but Highlands is at just 57% — which may be because census forms were not delivered to post office boxes, the mode of mail delivery for many in Highlands.

For a while census forms were available at the Rec Park in Highlands, but no more. Citizens who didn't receive a census form in the mail, and who didn't pick one up at the Rec Park when they were available can either call 1-866-872-6868 to answer the questions over the phone, or they can wait for a visit from a census taker which will begin May 1 and run through July 10.

Ronda Blanton, also in the county's planning department, said census takers will attempt to make contact three times in person and three times by phone. "They will be wearing a census badge and will have a photo ID on hand so you know they are who they say they are," she said.

But if citizens don't want to be bothered by a census taker, but still need to complete the census, the best thing to do is call the 866 number, said Blanton.

The 866 number is for English speaking citizens; people who need to hear the questionnaire in another language are encouraged to go to the census website at [www.2010.Census.gov](http://www.2010.Census.gov) where a list of phone number associated with about 50 languages are available.

### Auto Pulse CPR device

With a large percentage of Macon County citizens over the age of 55, county commissioners are seriously considering the purchase or lease-to-purchase of a new CPR device on the market that could not only save lives but ensure quality of life after a heart attack.

At the Monday, April 26 Macon County Commission meeting, Todd Doster, Southwestern Community College's EMS Facilitator and Trainer explained and demonstrated the benefits of the new Auto Pulse computerized CPR device on a dummy. "High quality CPR makes the difference in surviving a cardiac arrest," said Doster. "Using this machine rather than performing manual CPR in the back of an ambulance while maneuvering mountain roads is better all the way around."

Doster said getting quality CPR within 4-6 minutes of a heart attack is crucial; quality CPR refers to the amount of blood flow that gets to the brain.

"The sooner someone gets CPR the better and the idea is for first-responders to use the Auto Pulse until the EMS crews can respond and begin using the defibrillator," he said. "The brain starts dying if a person who has suffered a heart attack doesn't get blood to the brain within 4-6 minutes," said Doster.

In addition, manual CPR, if done cor-

rectly, can only return 30% of blood flow to the brain, which really isn't enough, he said. The Auto Pulse machine, however, delivers 120% blood flow. Furthermore, the survival rate jumps from 4% with manual CPR to 37% when the device is used.

Plus, he said if a patient is lying on the Auto Pulse board with the computer-run CRP band around his or her chest doing the work, the attendee in the ambulance can be belted in his or her seat which makes for a safer situation.

"The Auto Pulse can do CPR for 45 minutes whereas a person tires after 10 minutes," said Doster. "In addition, while ambulances are maneuvering mountain roads, attendees are trying to maintain their footing while administering CPR. It's difficult to maintain compression while trying to stay erect. This machine delivers perfect CPR without human error or fatigue," he said.

The computerized compression band is placed around the upper torso of a victim who is placed on a plastic board. After it is automatically sized to fit, 30 compressions are automatically delivered, then paused for two breaths, and delivered again until a defibrillator can be used by EMS crews upon arrival.

Macon County has 11 volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments which are the first-line of defense for emergencies, including people suffering a heart attacks. When 9-1-1 is called the nearest fire and rescue team responds to stabilize and assess the situation until EMS crews can get there. There are 424 volunteer fire & rescue workers in the county who are the first-responders at the time of an emergency.

It's Doster's hope, and now the county's, too, particularly after hearing the presentation, to get a Auto Pulse CPR device for every volunteer fire and rescue department in the county as well as one for training purposes at the SCC Training Center.

EMS, Fire & Rescue, and the National Parks Service, volunteers and employees regularly attend SCC's training center to become certified in various aspects of EMS and law enforcement training. SCC's training center is one of nine in the country and enjoys a reputation as "the best in the county," said Commissioner Jim Davis.

Four-month training programs are administered throughout the year where crews from volunteer fire & rescue departments and law enforcement agencies from Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties, including the Qualla Boundary, as well as similar agencies from across the country attend SCC training center for certification purposes.

One Auto Pulse costs \$15,000 but the manufacturer is offering 12 units to the county for \$175,000. Or, a lease-to-purchase plan for \$39,279 a year with the first payment due 12 months after the lease is signed.

Customers are guaranteed a replacement machine should one need to be repaired. The representative said if during the week a replacement is needed it is over-nighted and if



A new Auto Pulse CPR device was demonstrated at this week's Macon County Commission meeting. The county would like to have one at every fire & rescue department in the county. Unit prices are \$15,000.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

over the weekend one is needed, he personally delivers one from his base in Knoxville. "That means in two hours who can have another machine," he said.

The county is deep in the budget process and just learned that tax collections are about \$1.3 million behind — about the same as this time last year — so committing to the Auto Pulse program at this time isn't possible.

"We will go over this with our Finance Director and County Manager and see what we can do," said Chairman Ronnie Beale. "This is a rural county and two miles out of

the center of town is a long way away on winding mountain roads. If this can save one life, it's worth it."

Meanwhile, three grants are being pursued through Blue Cross, Blue Shield of NC, the Kate Reynolds Foundation and Bayer of USA — to either purchase the 12 devices outright or to fund the lease-to-purchase pool. Currently, Haywood County has 10 devices and Graham County has two. "If you are going to have a heart attack, those are the counties you want to be in," said the Auto Pulse representative

— Kim Lewicki

## County and municipalities break bread and talk



At the combo-meeting Thursday night, Mayor David Wilkes told members of the Franklin Town Board and the Macon County Commission how lucky he was to join a board with so much experience and applauded the leadership of the past board; outlined the new sewer projects in town; said that hospitality is the number one commodity in Highlands and even town employees are behind the concept now — "We've got everyone thinking in the right direction now with a new enthusiasm," he said. He also discussed the rise in room tax proceeds over this time last year, "indicating bookings are up." (See story on page 1.) Though the towns typically take time at these quarterly meetings to tell the county their wish list, County Chairman Ronnie Beale made it clear that this year's budget was going to be a tough one. Photo by Kim Lewicki



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**PATIENT ACCT REP/INS. BILLER** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experience in processing medical and hospital claims preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at

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## POLICE & FIRE

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from April 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

### April 20

- At 8 p.m., suspicious people on the porch of a home on Foreman Road was reported. When questioned, they said they were there to take photos of the property.

- At 8:10 p.m., officers took a report of the mail box at the Peggy Crosby Center being damaged and the security camera being unplugged. The damage was estimated at \$75.

### April 22

- Officers received a call from a bystander at a ball game at Highlands School claiming a person on the sexual predator list was at the game. Officers confronted the person and learned that he had yet to appear in court and had neither been convicted or acquitted for any crime at this time.

### April 23

- At 11:25 a.m., officers responded to a call for service on Pine Street where a woman attempting to cross the construction zone on foot fell. She drove herself to the hospital and was treated and released.

- At 1:45 a.m., a nuisance dog on Sassy Lane was reported. The resident said someone was coming to get the dog so

### April 25

- At officers received a call from a woman in Michigan who said her old boyfriend in Highlands was calling her and making threats. She was instructed to contact the magistrate in Highlands and in Michigan.

### April 26

- At 6 p.m., a resident on Leonard Street reported \$75 of firewood missing from the home.

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

- During the week, police officers responded

to 1 alarm and issued 16 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 21:

Note: Since April 21, the dept. responded to 8 fire alarms.

### April 21

- At 2:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on Oak Street where a trunk fell on a woman.

- At 4:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident with minor injuries on Buck Creek Road. There was no transport.

### April 23

- At 5:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a barn fire on Cinnamon Lane. Highlands was assisted by the Satolah FD. The barn was destroyed but the house was protected.

- At 10:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clubhouse Trail where someone had fallen. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### April 25

- At 3:58 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a structure fire on Pone Creek Road.

### April 26

- At 3:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Point. The victim was taken to the hospital.

- At 7:17 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers for a structure fire on Big Ridge Road. Highlands stood by at their station.

### April 27

- At 5:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Rocky Hill Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### April 28

- At 9:45 a.m., the dept. provided traffic control for a vehicle that ran off the road near Bridal Veil Falls. There were no injuries.

## ... BUDGET continued from page 1

pen then," said Superintendent Dan Brigman. "We already know that we have to revert \$1.3 million to the state but we don't know what could happen in the future."

Macon County Schools Financial Director Angie Cook presented the budget, which the Macon County Commission has requested so it can begin formulating the county's 2010-2011 budget.

The budget is divided into two parts Capital Outlay and Current Expense.

Total revenue and expenditures in the Current Expense portion is \$9,021,524.

This includes everything from supplies and materials to salaries, FICA, retirement, hospitalization, workshop expenses, non-capitalized equipment, overtime, workmen's comp. insurance, unemployment insurance, liability insurance, property insurance, co-curricular officials, board of education pay and legal expenses, natural gas, fuel, copier payments, uniforms, custodial services and supplies, postage, telephone, telecommunication services, garbage collections, water/sewer fees, central office supplies, pest control, contract repairs for maintenance of buildings and equipment, and more.

Revenue for the Current Expense portion of the budget comes mostly from the county — \$6,911,000 — the next largest revenue sources are from the fund balance (\$500,000), supplements (\$454,273), Medicaid Reimbursements (\$100,000), fines and forfeitures (\$275,000), Timber Sales (\$217,000), More at Four Grant (121,951), and SEC Tuition (\$180,000).

The next part of the budget is the Capital Outlay portion. It's set at \$902,835 and was the subject of much discussion at Monday night's meeting.

What concerned commissioners most was the potential scraping of the boiler and oil tank expenditures set at \$87,000 and \$80,000, respectively.

"I know we instructed you to prepare a

'status-quo' budget," said Board Chair Jim Breedlove, "But not taking care of these two items worries me. The Federal program is ending for the removal of the tanks."

The \$80,000 was to pay for the removal and replacement of oil tanks, currently buried on the campuses of Highlands, Franklin High, Nantahala, and East Franklin schools. They are single-walled and not leaking according to an environmental study done last year, but the state mandates they be replaced with a double-walled version.

A Federal program that pays for the replacement of two boilers is set to end this fiscal year, so the board agreed it would be foolish to let the opportunity pass.

The other capital outlay expense involves the replacement of boilers at Highlands, Nantahala and Franklin HS — estimated to cost \$87,000.

Schools Maintenance Supervisor David Curtis said they would probably last a few more years, but the cold weather this past winter did tax them. "Those boilers didn't get one bit of rest over the winter this year," he said.

Board member Tommy Baldwin said if it gets cold next year like it did this year, then there would be repair costs to deal with "and they're not going to break when it's warm," he said.

"We might have to ask the county to help us with this part," said Baldwin.

Curtis said though Highlands School has two boilers and one could heat the entire campus, it might be uncomfortable with only one boiler working.

Revenue for Capital Outlays comes from the county — \$882,835 and \$20,000 comes from the school budget's fund balance.

In the end the board passed the budget unanimously and agreed to send it to the county as requested.

— Kim Lewicki

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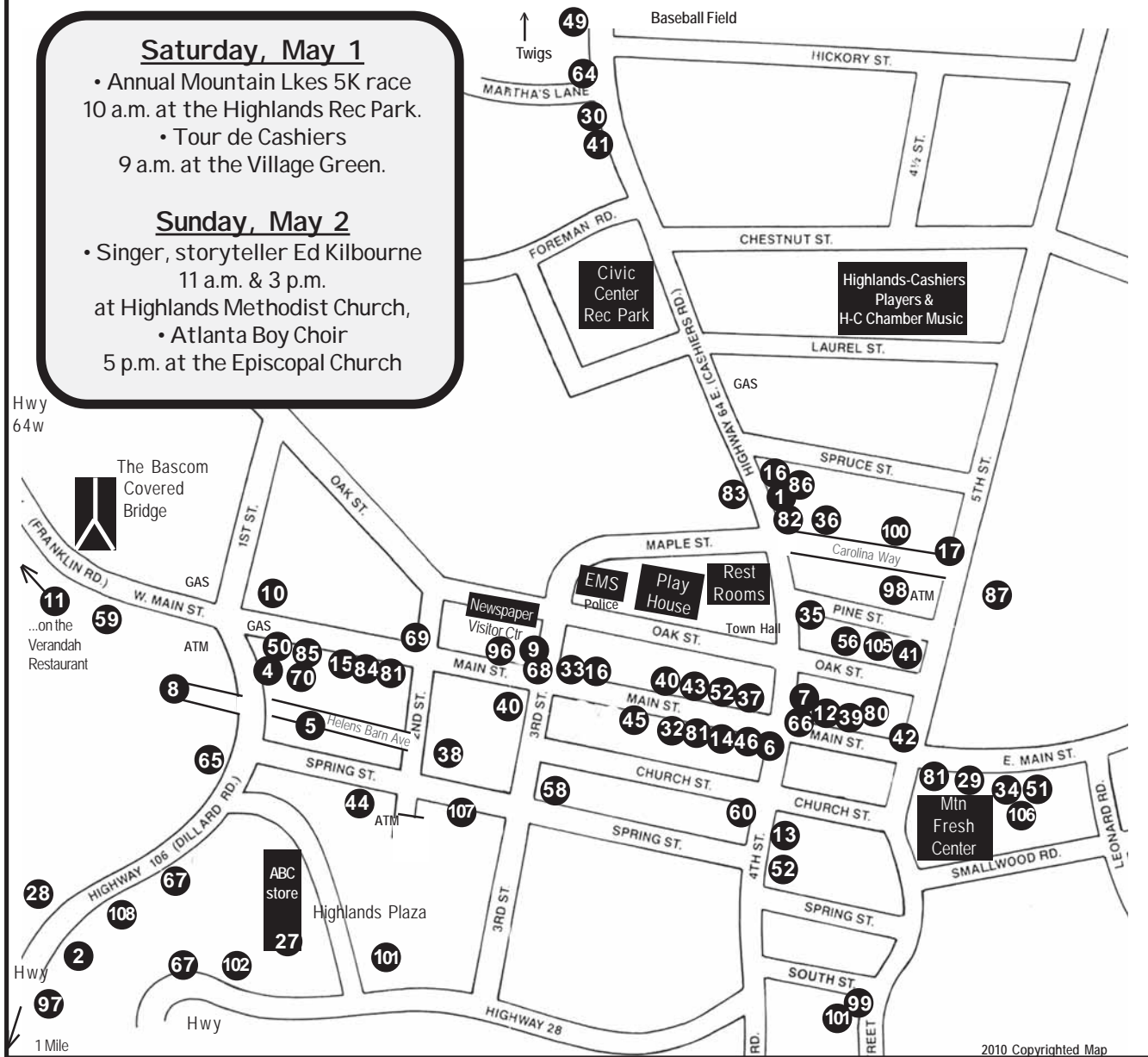
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**Saturday, May 1**

- Annual Mountain Lkes 5K race 10 a.m. at the Highlands Rec Park.
- Tour de Cashiers 9 a.m. at the Village Green.

**Sunday, May 2**

- Singer, storyteller Ed Kilbourne 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. at Highlands Methodist Church,
- Atlanta Boy Choir 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church



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3		19		34	Bird Barn	50	Wholesale Down	66	Highlands Inn	82	Harry Norman	98	Macon Bank
4	Flipside	20		35	C.K. Swan	51	Wine&Cheese	67	Mitchell's Lodge	83	Meadows Mtn.	99	Northland Cable
5	Fresser's	21		36	Custom House	52	McCulley'sCashmere	68	Main St. Inn	84	Preferred Prop.	100	Wayah Insurance
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7	Kelsey Place	23		38	Drakes Diamonds	54		70	Prestige/Rentals	86	Signature Prop.	102	Post Office
8	Log Cabin	24		39	Dry Sink	55		71		87	ChambersAgency	103	
9	Main St. Inn	25		40	Reeves Hdware	56	Mill Creek	72		88		104	
10	Nick's	26		41	Needlepoint	57		73		89		105	All Seasons Salon
11	on the Verandah		MARKETS	42	Hen House	58	Corey James	74		90		106	CreativeConcepts
12	Paoletti's	27	Brysons	43		59	Bryant Art Glass	75		91		107	Images Unlimited
13	Pescado's	28	Dusty's	44	Highlands Photo	60	Greenleaf	76		92		108	Taylor Barnes
14	Pizza Place	29	Mtn. Fresh	45	Kilwins	61		77		93		109	
15	Ruka's Table	30	Whole Life	46		62		78		94			
16	SweetTreats	31		47		63		79		95			



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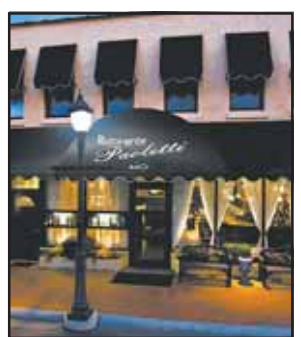
**Nature's Website**  
**HighlandsInfo.com**

Waterfalls | Hiking | Fly Fishing



Landmarks: Cullasaja Falls, Lake Glenville, Whiteside Mtn., Sliding Rock, Iron Bridge, Silver Run Falls, Chattooga Trail, Horse Cove Rd, Glen Falls, Dry Falls, Sky Valley, Scaly Mtn., Norton Rd, CASHIERS, Sapphire Valley, Whitewater Falls, Bust Your Butt Falls, Cliffside Lake, Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls, Hwy 64w & 28n To Franklin, Hwy 106, Hwy 107n, Hwy 107s.

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map  
HighlandsInfo.com/mapit.htm



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