

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 6

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
37 \ 20F	39 \ 21F	40 \ 22F

This Week in Highlands

Through Feb. 20

- Highlands Little League Registration will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center. Information and registration forms are at the Rec Park. Cost for the first child is \$50 and each additional child in the immediate family will be \$40. Registration fee includes jersey, hat and socks. To coach or umpire, call Jerry Moore at (828) 482-2032.

Thursday, Feb. 11

- Town Board Budget Worksession at 4 p.m. at the Community Building.

Friday, Feb. 12

- Whiteside Mountain Café and Grill at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is offering a "Sweetheart" Pancake Breakfast on Friday at 7:45 - 10 a.m. for \$3 per person for pancakes, sausage or bacon. Tea and coffee will be included. The Whiteside Mountain Café and Grill is in the hospital's cafeteria. Call ahead for large parties or orders at 526-1419.

Saturday, Feb. 13

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike from Rock Gap to Winding Stair Gap. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations.

- The Macon County Soccer Club registration for the season is 10 am - 2 pm at the Highlands Recreation Park. For more information call Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

Sunday, Feb. 14

- Highlands Hop for Haiti 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands School Old Gym. Anyone you cannot make the event, but would like to donate, can drop off their toiletry or monetary donations at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on the corner of Main and 5th streets in Highlands. The mission team is now looking to fly to Haiti the week of Feb. 15, so postponement of the Hop will not delay the delivery of the donated items.

Thursday, Feb. 18

- The Macon County Soccer Club registration for the Spring season is 6-8 pm at the Highlands Recreation Park. For more information call Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

County replaces full-time attorney Moxley with part-time counsel

County Attorney Lesley Moxley has been absent from the last several county commission meetings and Monday night the public learned why.

Following a closed session, Chairman Ronnie Beale announced

that the full-time, legal services of Attorney Moxley were no longer needed, that the board had accepted her resignation and had worked out a mutually agreed upon severance package.

Though a full-time, on-staff

county attorney isn't necessary by law, North Carolina law does mandate that counties have legal counsel so the board will be using the services of outside counsel — Attorney Chester M. Jones -- as Inter-

•See ATTORNEY page 14

Group set to change school calendar

On Feb. 3, the executive committee of the Macon County Association of Educators voted unanimously to petition the NC General Assembly to pass legislation which expands the authority and flexibility local school boards have over setting the school calendar.

"We are asking the General Assembly to modify the school calendar legislation it passed in 2004 which prevents most school districts from starting school for students before Aug. 25 and demands the student school year end by June 10," said member John deVille.

Among other things, proponents of local calendar control say the lack of local flexibility prevents Macon County Schools from being able to coordinate its calendar with Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University.

"Those students who wish to participate in dual enrollment experience a two-week gap in instruction toward the end of the first semester as high school students approach final exam week," said deVille, a teacher at Franklin High School. "The lack of flexibility constantly forces the superintendent and the school board to make diffi-

•See SCHOOL CALENDAR page 14

Regular season coming to end



Junior Michael Shearl defies gravity at a recent Nantahala game played in Highlands. On Thursday, Feb. 11 Highlands plays Hiawassee Dam at home and Friday, Feb. 12 it plays BlueRidge. For more Highlands School Basketball, see page 13.

Photo by Noel Atherton

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Highlands Police Dept. earns top ranking for traffic safety

By Tom Crosby

Once again the Highlands Police Department has been noted by Triple A as the state's Top Traffic Safe Community in its population category for the past three years.

The rankings are done by AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety based on research conducted by the University of North Carolina - Charlotte.

Rankings compare similarly-sized communities throughout the state to find out which departments are best at reducing traffic accidents, including pedestrian, bicycle and motorcycle accidents.

Highlands has been AAA's top Traffic Safe Community in North Carolina for communities under 10,000 population each year beginning with 2006.

The Highlands Police Department is to be commended for its dedication to enforcing traffic laws because its results have reduced accidents and saved lives.

• Tom Crosby is the President of AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety.

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Thank You Fred

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Fred Wooldridge's letter to me in the Feb. 4 issue of Highlands' Newspaper.

So Fred, I appreciate your invitation to join your deep throat group, but I am more comfortable continuing with my old ways. From time to time I will write letters to the newspapers, even though I may set myself up to be taken to the wood shed of public opinion.

I will also go to town board meetings periodically if I have concerns. I have found those Highlands politicians, our elected representatives, to be very receptive to folks speaking at the beginning of the meeting during the public comment period. A citizen can even speak at the first few minutes of the meeting and then leave.

The commissioners and mayor don't always agree with comments. Nevertheless, hearing different views in an open and public forum is a part of the grassroots democratic process that begins right here in Highlands and all across small towns and neighborhoods in America.

Pat "my own voice" Taylor
Highlands

This note may help 'right' America!

Dear Editor,

With all the political gridlock and current contention in the Congress, perhaps we should review how we choose our politicians? The current T-parties symbolize our general electorate discontent and may be a subject for consideration.

My proposal is to initiate a voting system that allows NEGATIVE votes as well as the usual positive votes (one for each party candidate).

Right now, a no-vote is deemed an abstention (and a negative) and that's why in an average election, less than 50% of the electorate votes! The non-voters are simply showing apathy and a big zero vote.

In this new system of voting, the candidate with the highest positive or lowest negative number of votes wins!

Look at Robert's Rules. Consider the party slate a 'motion' or an 'amendment' proposed and seconded by a regular political nomination committee. The popular votes are then 'for,' 'against' or 'abstain.' The candidate with the highest positive count, or least negative, wins!

So this system potentially could:

a) create a higher voter turnout,

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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b) provide an outlet for the frustration we all have for useless attack ads (those candidates get a big minus sign vote), and
c) encourage getting rid of incumbents.

Yours for a more FREE and complete election process.

Pete Sarjeant
Bedford, VA

highlandsinfo.com keeps previous resident in touch

Dear Editor,

I look forward to Thursdays because I can catch up with what's happening in a town I still hold dear in my heart even though I'm no longer a resident. Great weather pictures; I'm happy to experience them vicariously.

You're doing a great job. I know how hard running a newspaper is, especially in these times. I'm so glad you have taken your own path.

Keep up the outstanding work.

Mike Cavender
New Bern, NC

• THANKS •

From Doshie's family

Thank you so much for the excellent care and Love that was shown to our beloved Mother and Grandmother Doshie during her time with you. It means so much to us that you gave her the extra special care and so much Love and compassion during her last days with us. Doshie knew you loved her and she loved you all, too. Thank you for all you did for the family to make us as comfortable as possible and to give us our precious time with her before, during, and after her passing. It all means so much to us.

The Family of Doshie M. Wilson —
Clarence, EllaMae, and all the Wilson family and Frances Reed and family

From Johnny's family

Thank you to everyone who sent flowers, money, food, cards or said a prayer throughout our time of sadness. This has been a difficult time, but we have found comfort in knowing that so many people care.

A special thanks to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, the Rev. Junior Jenkins and the Harmony Valley singers for the beautiful service.

May God bless you all.

The Family of Johnny Henry

• OBITUARIES •

George Stanley Picklesimer

George Stanley Picklesimer, age 51, of Cumming, GA, formerly of Highlands, died Friday, February 5, 2010 in Cumming, GA.

He was a native of Macon County and a son of the late John L. and Bertha Owens Picklesimer.

Surviving is a sister Kathy Bale of Franklin, NC; one brother, John Picklesimer of Cumming, GA. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Graveside services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010 at Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery with the Rev. Rusty Wolfery officiating.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Joy Lowe Dooley

Joy Lowe Dooley, age 64, of Highlands, NC went to be with her Lord, Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010. She was born in Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late James N. and Bernice Rice Lowe. She was married to Rev. Edward L. Dooley who died in 1997. She was an assistant administrator for 12 years at the First Baptist Church of Highlands where she was also a member. She loved the Lord and enjoyed her Church work.

She is survived by her son, Rev. Jeremy Dooley and his wife Jaime of Auburn, AL; three brothers, James L. Lowe and his wife Nancy, Bill Lowe and his wife Christine all of Highlands, NC and Rev. Roy Lowe and his wife, Clara of Franklin, NC; one grand-



son, Ryne Dooley. She was preceded in death by a sister, Lenora Lowe.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at the First Baptist Church of Highlands at 2 p.m. with Rev. Roy Lowe, Dr. Dan Robinson and Rev. Jeffrey Porter officiating. Burial were held at Highlands Memorial Park.

Greg Porter, Joel Porter, Tim Gibson, Caleb Bowers, Phillip Lowe, Josh Bryson,

Brian Lowe and Bobby Sanders served as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be the Deacons of the First Baptist Church of Highlands.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONES •

Hornbeak celebrates her 103rd birthday at Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center



A five-year resident at FELC, Nona Hornbeak celebrated her birthday with a party attended by family, friends and staff. Pictured with granddaughter, Pamela Miller, Nona enjoyed cake and good company at last week's gathering.

"It's always exciting to celebrate the birthday of one of our residents," said Shauna Mellott, FELC Administrator, "but more so when they achieve such a remarkable age and we, the staff at FELC,

are privileged to be a part of that celebration."

Nona spent much of her life raising a family on their farm in rural Tennessee. She was active in her community church and a committed member of the local PTA. When she wasn't busy raising her family, Nona enjoyed traveling. She now looks forward to the regular visits from her granddaughter Pamela, and spending time with her friends at FELC.

Highlands student named to Dean's List at Elon University

Rebecca E. Dotson, daughter of Buz and Mary Dotson of Highlands, NC, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2009 fall semester at Elon University.

The Dean's List is composed of students with no grade below a B- and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Elon University, which was founded in 1889, is recognized as a national model for engaged learning, with renowned programs in international study and community service. Elon is one of the more selective universities in the nation and ranks #2 in Masters Universities in the South.

Elon emphasizes an excellent foundation in liberal arts and sciences along with nationally accredited professional programs in the schools of law, business, communications and education. Elon's 5,600 students come to North Carolina from 47 states and 49 other countries, creating an academic community of global citizens and leaders motivated by concern for the common good.

Rebecca Dotson was a 2006 graduate of Highlands School. She is currently scheduled to graduate this spring with a major in English and minor in Political Science.

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WCU's Dean's List announced

The following students were on the Western Carolina Dean's List for the Fall semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 on a regular semester's work of not less than 12 hours, excluding remedial courses, with no grade of D or F.

From Highlands:

Rachel Earlene Alford
Robert Davidson Edwards
Laura Renee Kremser
Christopher Andrew Mouchet
Matthew Preston Neely

Teresa Rose Pearman
Rebecca Ramey Shuler
Andrew Steven Willhide
Allison M Winn

From Cashiers:

Justin Richard Caudell
Gregory Matthew Ferrin
Brittany Nicole Hoxit
Eduardo Jose Teixeira Moreira
Grant Davis Newman

Coming Feb. 18th issue of Highlands' Newspaper

Highlands' Newspaper will present a 3-part police drama entitled "Tommy & Madison" taken from the life of Major Fred Wooldridge. This true story is about two young people and the unfairness of life. Every teenager in Highlands should be encouraged to read this dramatic story. Watch for it.

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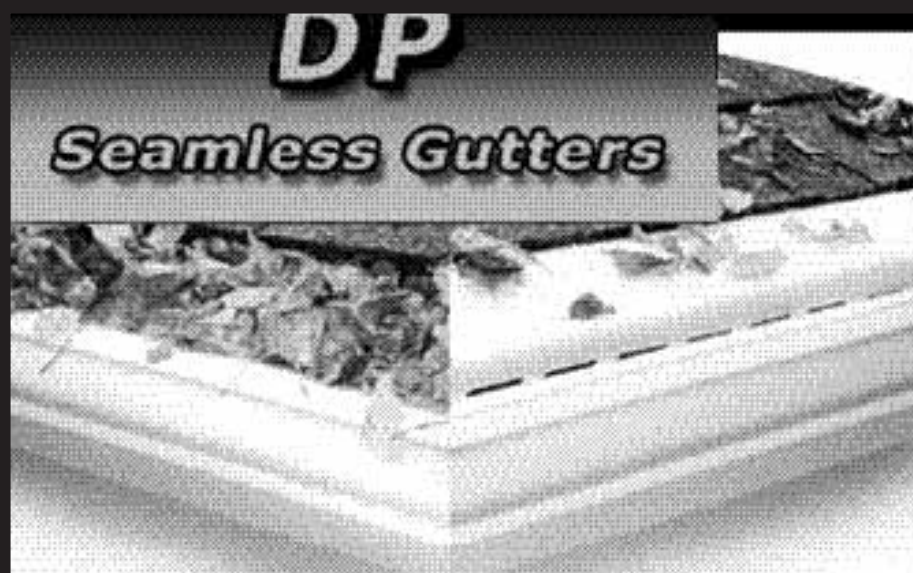
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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

Rotting bodies — inspired by the tragedy in Haiti

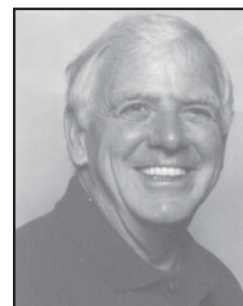
Warning: Don't read this while eating

Policemen see the world different than the rest of humanity. Some call us cold hearted and they're partially right. We view a person like a banana, the peel being the physical body and the fruit being the personality or soul of the person. At death, the banana is peeled away and the fruit taken by our maker. The peel is discarded because its job of housing the fruit is done. So rotting dead people, like the banana peel, is worthless in the eyes of a policeman. If I didn't think that way, death would have eventually overwhelmed me. I've been retired from police work for more than 20 years but I still have the stench of rotting flesh inside my nose. Oh, how I pity the rescue personnel working in Haiti.

Miami Beach used to be the place for retirement. After working in the textile mills or automobile manufacturing assembly lines, folks from the north would pack their retirement watches and head for Miami Beach where they hung out until death.

Miami Beach retirees, mostly Italians and Jews, lived alone in modest accommodations. One of the most common calls for an officer was the ole "strange smell" complaint. Retirees would pass away and, because there was no one to check on them, would begin to rot. Depending on how hot it was, it only takes a short time. For police officers, this is not gruesome but part of the job ... and a part of life. We became "flip" about death and rotting bodies because we saw so many of them. I could sometimes stand on the street and my nose would tell me the building to go to. In Haiti, it must be everywhere. You never forget the smell. And when I got home from work, my wife could tell by the odor on my clothes I had been on a "stinker."

One hot summer afternoon, I got a call of a strange smell coming from the trunk of a car. At this point in time, Miami Beach was the number one crime capital in the country. It happened a few years after the Mariel boatlift and finding dead bodies in car trunks was common. Like most officers on my department, I had become an expert on the smell of rotting flesh.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:

askfredanything@aol.com

The car was sitting on a South Beach street in front of a small apartment building. Thousands of flies lined the rim of the truck. After a short discussion with my fellow detectives, we agreed there was a rotting body inside. We called for crime scene technicians and started our application for a search warrant. Crime scene tape was strung around the area and a locksmith was en route.

While we're waiting for dispatch to give us the car owner's name, an elderly overweight man waddled out of his apartment building and headed for the car. "Are you the owner of this car?" I asked, stopping him from getting any closer. He was stunned.

"What? Why do you want to know? Aren't you supposed to read me my rights or something?" the old man asked.

"Sir, we are currently getting a search warrant for your car. It would make things a lot simpler if you would agree to open the truck for us." I responded.

"I want to speak to a lawyer," he demanded.

"Well, sir, that leaves me with little choice but to put you in temporary custody," I said, pulling out my handcuffs. I sat him in the back seat of my detective unit and waited for the search warrant and locksmith.

Hours later, when the trunk was finally opened, we found no rotting body. We did find a bag of rotting squid and a small satchel containing bookmaking material. The old guy was a bookmaker. No wonder he was uncooperative. I would have sworn there was a dead body in that trunk.

I walked back to my car and sat next to the old man. Removing the handcuffs, I said, "We found your bookmaking material and I'm confiscating it. Can you tell me why there's rotting squid in your trunk?"

The old man smiled, "I use it for bait. I forgot to put it back in the frig. If you confiscate my bookwork, I'll be out thousands and I live on a small pension. I'll trade you my bookwork for a great fishing spot."

"I don't fish," I replied, hesitating before speaking further. "But I'll let you keep your bookwork. Be prepared for a visit from the vice cops."

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

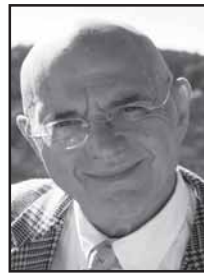
Do it for 'our fellow man'

My Mom said, "Travel is broadening." I never checked "broadening" to learn if it is a real word. I knew what Mom meant. She meant we learn from travel, learn foreign cultures, learn to appreciate the USA, and in Mom's case, learn the best shopping districts in several countries. If we look, we can learn we ignore the opinions and accomplishments of others at our peril.

I've just returned from foreign travel, not a vacation, but an experience to rival and surpass the best vacation I've ever had. Many of you have followed my journey. I was part of a superb team, a group of talented and dedicated health care professionals. The majority were from Boston. Three Haitian-Americans live in New York City. I was there, too. I've written that we became an indivisible unit. We were not divided by the return to our daily lives. Our team met in Boston last night, the first of what I suspect will be many reunions. I was absent in body, but not in spirit.

My friends called last night. They were eating Indian food and drinking Prestige, a Haitian beer, and as far as I know, Haiti's only export. My friends share a secret, one I've tried to share with you. How can a journey of help leave one so satisfied, and yet so empty? At first I denied, or was unaware of the sense of isolation my teammates felt. I was, and am, so happy to be back with Lizzie and Bull, back at work at Blue Ridge Orthopaedics, back home where I belong.

We did much, but we left a job unfinished. Others will, have already, followed. They will close the wounds we left open, revise the amputations we left unfinished. They will mend the hurt feelings we left among the Haitian staff. They will build upon the trust we earned among our patients. A reporter asked me last week about the toys Bull had sent for his Haitian brothers and sisters. She asked if I had used them to try to gain trust with the Haitian children. I was somewhat offended by the question. It seemed as if she had mistaken me for a



Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

Jesuit missionary handing out rosary beads to naked natives. I told her that the toys were Bull's own idea, that I was nothing more than a delivery boy, that his offering was a case of kid to kid solidarity. We speak much of solidarity, not only the solidarity of our surgical team, but among those who have contributed so generous-

ly to the Haitian relief effort, and between our people and theirs.

So much remains to be done, because there was so little in Haiti before the quake. A lady, a patient, instructed me about Haiti last week. She described herself as an "addict" and has watched CNN since the disaster. She talked of rebuilding Haiti, without realizing how little there is to rebuild. She didn't realize that few Haitians go to school, that there are few roads, that electricity, which we accept as a necessity, is available to few, in many areas, only those fortunate enough to own a generator.

There is little industry, and too little political stability and too few educated workers to attract foreign investment. Haitians lack adequate nutrition and safe drinking water. There is too little top soil to support an agrarian society.

It will require a massive international effort to bring prosperity to Haiti. It can be done, but I fear the world will lose interest long before the job is done. It is not a matter so much of rebuilding as it is of building.

We rebuilt a shattered Europe after WWII. We can do the same in Haiti, but only if we retain our focus. A Haitian physician, a friend of mine, told me that 90% of the Haitian people would be pleased if America took over. I answered that Haitian by saying "because Haiti didn't sit on a sea of oil, we wouldn't be interested."

There is nothing in Haiti for us to exploit. Whatever we do, we will do for the sake of our fellow man, citizens of a country which has known centuries of misfortune. That fact makes an effort both more difficult and more noble.

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from the history guy ...

Feb. 11, 1963

Julia Child's "The French Chef" premiers on television.

With a greeting "Bonjour, Bonjour!"
She would introduce a new kitchen chore,
perhaps we will have a chance to see
the proper method for a fricassee,
or, I wonder, might this be the day
we learn to make the perfect chocolate soufflé?
You can cure nearly any malaise
with a sauce of butter, white wine, or Bearnaise,
compose a grand culinary homage
to the many kinds of fine fromage,
it takes hard work and patience, don't be hasty
to compose the absolutely ideal pastry.
If, when boning a duck, what is the technique?
She can tell you, at it she's magnifique.
Any thing at all, from soup to fish,
she's the master of any dish.
And the show's not over, not complete,
until she's wished us "Bon Appétit."

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• HIS & HERS •

Goal oriented

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

Football and I got off to a rocky start. My first memories of the sport go back to my high school days. Sure, Waynesboro High School had track and field, baseball, and even a reasonably good basketball team, but the school year really revolved around football. The football players ate at their own table in the cafeteria, where they were allowed to eat as much as they pleased, though they paid no more for their meals than the rest of us.

High school is a tough time, and hormones play havoc with the best of us. Many high school males still looked like little boys, while their classmates were already shaving. Some girls looked like they should still be playing with dolls, while others looked like they could be posing for Playboy.

The football players stood out for several reasons. The coaches insisted that they come to school wearing blazers and ties, but their dress code didn't seem to include actually wearing their shirts tucked into their pants. The football players ranged from stocky to downright fat, and possession of what would pass for a neck seemed optional.

In the periods between classes, they could be seen milling around their lockers wandering like lazy oxen off to their next class, or flirting with the cheerleaders who threw themselves at the players with lemming-like enthusiasm. One assumed that later in life, these charmed couples would marry, and produce carbon copies of themselves – another generation of neckless young men and perky blondes with turned-up noses and perfect hair. To think otherwise would have been heresy.

Being a bookish sort, I had little contact with the football players until I wound up sitting next to one in civics class. Charlie was a sweet young man – rather like a large-pawed puppy who resists housebreaking, not out of malice, but simply because he doesn't understand that the rules apply to him.

I was rather flattered that Charlie talked to me at all, until I realized that his intentions were not altogether innocent. Our teacher enjoyed springing pop quizzes on us, and watching the hysteria as those who were not keeping up with the reading went into blind panic mode.



Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor

michiemead@aol.com

John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

Mr. Jameson handed out the tests, and then walked out of the room. I put my head down, and concentrated on the task at hand. Charlie sat there, mesmerized by the fly on his desk. Suddenly, Charlie broke out of his dream-like state, turned around, grabbed my paper, read my answers, and proceeded to copy them onto his paper. I was outraged, and

vowed to tell the teacher. "No, you won't," said Charlie, good-naturedly. "I'm an important player, and if you have me kicked off the team before the big game, no one will ever speak to you again for the rest of high school. No one will date you. People will move away from you when you sit next to them at the cafeteria. You'll never get a recommendation to go to a good college. Nope, you're not going to turn me in." And I didn't.

For the rest of term, I bit my lip as Charlie regularly cheated off my papers. Fortunately, he made mistakes in copying, so his grades were never as good as mine. I think Mr. Jameson caught on, too, and identified the source of Charlie's new-found wisdom. It was just one of those things.

Charlie was even rather generous with his gratitude. In a school where jocks and geeks didn't even acknowledge each other's presence, Charlie was the exception. He boomed his greetings to me from down the hall, sometimes waving a large hand in my direction, like a bear directing traffic. While we never became friends, and we certainly didn't date, we did have an oddly symbiotic relationship. Still, it hurt when he graduated, and was immediately accepted to the state university which rejected me when I tried to enter the following year. You see, the university had just gone co-ed, and quickly filled its quota of women. They also required a much higher grade point average if you were female, an outrage which I hope they have changed. Of course, if you could throw a football or a basketball, the Hallowed Halls put down the Welcome Mat. Stung by my rejection, I chose to attend a women's college, where hopefully my grades would reflect the field of knowledge – not the field of play.

When John and I were dating, in the early 1970s, he was a real football junkie.

• See HIS & HERS page 16

• COACH'S CORNER •

Feeling 'Super'

At around 9:29 pm on Sunday night, my phone exploded. The fine folks at Blackberry make a great product, and I would probably be lost without that particular piece of technology. However, no matter how great the Blackberry is, it was not designed to take 6 phone calls, 5 instant messages, 7 text messages and 14 facebook posts all in a matter of moments.

Personally, I had no idea that my phone had exploded, because I was running around like Jim Valvano looking for someone to hug after Lorenzo Charles provided the greatest upset in NCAA tournament history.

Tracy Porter had just picked off Peyton Manning and taken ... it ... to ... the ... house. I eventually caught Matt the Bartender after he jumped into my arms before settling down and reminding myself that there were five minutes left and they had Peyton Manning. Yes, Manning did drive the Colts down to the goal line, but the Saints D held once again and at that point I was noticing the smoke coming out of my Blackberry and contemplating whether my next child will be named Tracy or Drew. (I'm thinking Tracy, mainly because it's more versatile) Throw in the fact that the Rib Shack was full of Saints fans (mostly from New Orleans and in tears) and I had a smile that would need to be surgically removed for the rest of the evening.

A couple more quick thoughts from the evening.

1. I inadvertently blurted out my feelings about Sean Payton in front of the entire Sports Corner after the tremendous onside kick to start the first half. To all that were there, I apologize for giving you my opinion of the size of Coach Payton's ... um ... guts.

2. I really hope the Saints don't get rid of Reggie Bush this offseason. I know that he is overpaid, but the guy is such a lightning rod that he takes the heat off of his teammates, and is also a huge threat in the offense.

3. People can talk about history, destiny, etc. However, on Sunday night, the Saints were just flat out the superior team. After the first quarter jitters, the Saints outscored the Colts 31-7, outgained them, stuffed their offense, and dominated them on special teams.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Speaking of special teams, how great was it to see a kicker finally make a long field goal in these playoffs. Garrett Hartley was 3-3 from deeper than 40 yards and had a huge impact on the game.

4. Drew Brees. The guy was told he was too short to make it in the NFL. He was cast aside by the Chargers after being a pro bowl QB there. He was snubbed in favor of Daunte Culpepper by the Miami Dolphins. He has been consistently great for 3 seasons but overlooked by most of the mainstream media. His Saints were picked to finish 25th out of 32 teams in Sports Illustrated's preseason poll. The guy is the consummate underdog, and he earned the respect of millions on Sunday night. But to me, the lasting image of Brees from the Super Bowl will be him holding his son in tears before accepting the MVP trophy. For as great as a football player Brees is, he's an even greater human being. Some folks in New Orleans jokingly refer to him as Breesus, and while he is just a man his place in history will not be as merely a man, but as a Saint.

Remember the
ones you love
on
Valentine's Day!

NAMI Family-to-Family education program, a 12-week class for relatives and friends of people suffering from mental illness, is being offered by NAMI Appalachian South in Franklin. The class provides up-to-date information about schizophrenia, bipolar, depression, panic disorder, and other mental illnesses. Trained family members teach the course that balances education and skill training with self-care, emotional support and empowerment. The

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Beginning mid-March: Class for families dealing with mental illness

curriculum, developed by a clinical psychologist with an ill family member, has been presented in 44 states to 80,000 people and is recognized as a best practice model. This extensive curriculum also covers:

- Coping skills, and handling crisis and relapses.
- Listening and communication techniques.

- Problem solving, setting limits and rehabilitation.

- Understanding the experience of living with a mental illness.

- Medications and their side effects.

This weekly class will start mid-March. Class size is limited. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Contact: Ann 369-7385, Debbie (912) 481-2339, or Carl (706) 746-5139.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Here I sit, watching a winter wonderland reemerge in my view for the nth time this winter, trying to think of something to boost my sagging spirits. The Dow was down 200+ today, football will be over when you read this, baseball hasn't started yet, March Madness is a month away and gloom looms. Wa wa wa. Perhaps the unraveled Al Gore would like to pay my heating bill, which is twice as high as last year's for January, proving once again that climate (or at least weather) does change. I've already had my quickie trip to Florida, the beneficial effects of which lasted for about three days.

You may have gathered that I'm filling space with innocuous stuff, because even though he is in my face 24/7, I refuse to mention his name or talk about him at all. The bad girls of the Hall of Shame continue to provide nothing in the way of worthwhile gossip. I certainly hope that this dearth of smutty news is not the new normal.

In my search for alternative issues to discuss, it occurred to me that the Muslim agenda has been ignored while we concentrated on our domestic devastation. I started my research by googling in Islam and the first item on the list was a Wikipedia site titled "Timeline of Muslim History." I found it very interesting.

Each century, starting with the seventh century with the ascendancy of Muhammad.

The site lists significant events (the seventh century had 80 or 90 individual bulleted items); the article states "this particular chronology is almost entirely of military and political nature." There are nonstop conquests and retreats from the outset of the religion, persecutions of, and by the Muslims.

I picked the 11th century at random, and here are the first four entries: "1001 - Mahmud of Chaznavid defeats the Hindu Shahis; 1004 - Mahmud of Chaznavid captures Bhatiya; 1005 - Mahmud of Chaznavid captures Multan and Ghur; 1008 - Mahmud of Chaznavid defeats the Rajput confederacy." You get the idea; if you want more detail, look it up.

Through the 1,300 years of their history, their bellicose nature is painfully evident. My wife and I have a large library of tapes and DVDs that contain the history of almost every European country. The theme that prevails throughout Eastern Europe is the need to defend their sovereignty against the "invaders from the



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

East." Walled cities, castles and battlements abound in the effort to keep the people from becoming part of Islam/Turkish/Ottoman Empire.

Being a number freak, the facts I gleaned from the last entry to every century's list of facts really fascinated me.

From the 7th century, for example, "By the end of this century (the first of Muslim existence), global Muslim

population had grown to 1 percent of the total." Interesting, I thought. I wonder of there is such an entry at the end of every century? There was, and what it disclosed was an amazing revelation. With each successive century, the percentage of Muslims to the total world population increased by one. As I paged through the screens, I was really in disbelief as the progression continued. Are these numbers rigged? Even if the powers behind Islam wanted to, they couldn't achieve such orderly growth.

As unlikely as it seemed, the relentless march continued through the 19th century when, "By the end of this century, global Muslim population had grown to 13 percent of the total." It was clear that most of the growth resulted by conquest and then the world powers eventually overpowered their military dominance.

It was the next entry, and the last in the series, that blew me away. "1999 - By the end of this century, global Muslim population had grown to almost 20% of the total, driven by improved healthcare infrastructure." Really?

Evidently, healthcare had to do with accelerating Muslim birthrate, because, with a considerably lower base, worldwide, Muslims are producing almost the same absolute numbers as are Christians.

Islam conversions, although widely discussed, are only about a third of Christians. It also seems to have a direct effect on death rate. When I looked this up, I was astonished. From the lowest on the list of the United Nations Population Division, from bottom up; United Arab Emirates 1.4, Kuwait 1.9, Qatar 2.4, Oman 2.7, Brunei 2.8, Bahrain 3.2, Syria 3.4, Saudi Arabia 3.7, etc. All of these are Muslim countries. By Comparison, ours is 8.25.

Everything else being equal, I imagine that increasing birth rates have an opposite effect on death rates. More on the Muslim incursion into prominence will follow.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



NEW POLICY

For-Profit Businesses and NonProfit Organizations requesting Promotional or Press Release space, must agree to an advertising arrangement. Without an arrangement, only a listing in the upcoming events calendar will appear for NonProfits but no listing will be accepted for For-Profit Business events.

To request ad rates and a publication calendar, email highlandseditor@aol.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Mondays at 5 p.m.

Ongoing

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

Sundays

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

- Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Winter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.
- Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

- Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m. Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

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

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

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

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you are new to the Highlands area we invite you to join us for breakfast and our meeting.

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

- The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal

Church on Main and Fifth streets.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

- NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have a support group meeting the first and third Thursday of each month. It is for people coping with serious mental illnesses (bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7- 8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 11

- Town Board Budget Worksession at 4 p.m. at the Community Building.

- The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a program on the 2010 U.S. census. At the census information meeting, County Manager Jack Horton and County Planner Derek Roland will explain the importance of the census to Macon County, how it will be carried out, and will explain the role of the CCC (the Complete Count Committee), a committee comprised of community and government leaders dedicated to building awareness of the 2010 census. Pat Bonard will discuss census jobs. There will be a question and answer period. The meeting will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon by reservation. Call 524-5192.

- The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday. Listen to WHLC (104.5 FM) at 5 p.m. for cancellation due to weather.

- The Needlers' Needlework Club will meet on, at 3:30-5 pm at the Ag Center. Our members are currently making some challenging projects. Anyone (ages 5-18) interested in crochet, knitting, or embroidery is welcome to attend.

Friday, Feb. 12

- Begin your day with homemade buttermilk pancakes topped with fresh fruit and covered with hot butter nut maple syrup. Whiteside Mountain Café and Grill at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be offering a "Sweetheart" Pancake Breakfast, open to the community, on Friday. The Pancake Breakfast will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will continue through 10 a.m. Fare is only \$3 per person for pancakes, sausage or bacon. Tea and coffee will be included. The Whiteside Mountain Café and Grill is located in the hospital's cafeteria. Please call ahead for large parties or orders 828-526-1419.

Saturday, Feb. 13

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike from Rock Gap to Winding Stair

• See EVENTS page 10

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Feb. 12-18

VALENTINE'S DAY

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:20, 7, 9:20

Saturday: 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20

Sunday: 2, 4:20, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:20, 7

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS:

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

rated PG

Friday: 4:20, 7:05, 9:20

Saturday: 2:05, 4:20, 7:05, 9:20

Sunday: 2:05, 4:20, 7:05

Mon + Wed: 4:20, 7:05

Tues + Thurs: 2:05, 4:20, 7:05

THE WOLFMAN

rated R

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

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

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

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:10

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

DEAR JOHN

rated PG-13

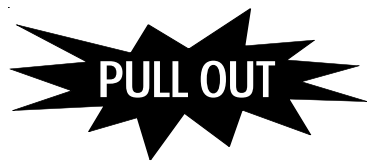
Friday: 4:25, 7:15, 9:25

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

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

Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7:15

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



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Highlands-Cashiers Players preparing for 'The Dixie Swim Club'



Mary Adair Leslie and Lee Lyons rehearsing for "The Dixie Swim Club" on stage Feb. 25-28 and March 4-7.

In addition to the natural beauty of the area, one of the things making Highlands an attractive place to live is the emphasis in town on fine arts. In the summer especially, almost daily, there is an opportunity to hear music. There is something for everyone: chamber music, blue grass, the men's chorus, hymn sing-a-longs and opera. Outstanding art galleries as well as antique shops line the downtown area.

Lectures on current events and philosophy are offered, as well as courses on learning to paint, becoming a better photographer or studying the history of the area. The Highlands Playhouse and the Highlands Cashiers Community Players are important to the community and perform everything from cabaret music to light comedy to cutting edge drama. With so much offered, it is no surprise that another treasure of Highlands is the vibrant, involved citizens who make it all happen.

One such resident is Mary Adair Leslie, owner of Summit One Gallery.

In addition to knowledge of art, she is also a performer with dance and stage background. Currently she is playing the role of Jeri Neal in the Highlands Cashiers Players production of *The Dixie Swim Club*, a play about the relationships of five women. They met as members of their college swim team. It's an unlikely grouping of women: Sheree is the efficient, health conscious former team captain; Lexie, the complex vain, self-centered vamp; Dinah, the successful attorney with a dry wit and a

martini glass; Vernadette, who counts every penny and deals with a deadbeat husband and disappointing children, and Jeri Neal, a sweet, unworldly nun with a secret, who loves to quote her Granny McFeely.

When the play opens, the women are in their early forties; when it closes, they're in their late 70s.

When asked about the play and her character in particular, Mary Adair replied... "Jeri Nell is a sweet, charming and innocent woman; fun to play. Being in the Dixie Swim Club has given me the opportunity to be on stage with Jenny King and Carla Gates, whom I have directed before but have never had the chance to act with. Also, a time to be on stage again with Lee Lyons, we were in *Crimes of the Heart* together; and a chance to meet a new friend, Betsy Miller. It has been a special time. Working with new director, Rick Siegel has been great fun also. As a community theater group it is important to bring new people into the group and to foster new talents in all who want to participate. Rick is doing a great job; he has a vision and is open to suggestions. I'm trying to concentrate on acting and not directing. That's his job!"

The play runs February 25-28 and March 4-7 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The Box Office opens, Thursday, February 18th for Season Subscribers and on Saturday, February 20th for the public. For tickets or more information call: 828.526.8084.

Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King at 9:30 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip with shuttle. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- The Macon County Soccer Club will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin and at the Highlands Recreation Parks. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$50 for players returning from the fall season and \$60 for new registrations. The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. A \$5 discount is available for siblings. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. The deadline for registering for the Spring season is February 27. Registrations received after February 27 will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. Every effort will be made to place late registrants on a team before the first game. For more information visit <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or contact Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

Sunday, Feb. 14

- Highlands Hop for Haiti rescheduled due to snow. 5-9 p.m. at the Highlands School Old Gym. Anyone you cannot make the new event, but would like to donate, can drop off their toiletry or monetary donations at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on the corner of Main and 5th streets in Highlands. The mission team is now looking to fly to Haiti the week of Feb. 15, so postponement of the Hop will not delay the delivery of the donated items.

Monday, Feb. 15

- The Jackson County GOP will meet on Monday at 7 p.m. for a General Meeting at Ryan's in Sylva. Among the items of business to be discussed are final plans for the group's Red, White and Blue Gala to be held on February 26th at the Balsam Mountain Inn and the GOP County Convention scheduled for sometime in March. For additional information call Dodie Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828 586-9895 or Ralph Slaughter Vice Chair at 828 743-6491.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

- Macon County Democratic Women will meet at 1 p.m. at the Sunset Restaurant. Alisha Ashe, Director of Kids' Place, will be guest speaker. Please bring individually wrapped snack items and small boxed juice drinks for children at Kids' Place. For more information call Sarah Wilks at 349-1792.

- The Macon County Soccer Club will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online

and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$50 for players returning from the fall season and \$60 for new registrations. The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. A \$5 discount is available for siblings. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. The deadline for registering for the Spring season is February 27. Registrations received after February 27 will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. Every effort will be made to place late registrants on a team before the first game. For more information visit <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or contact Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

- At Hiarpt, Ishmael by Daniel Quinn. Coordinator: Karen Hawk. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 18

- Free movie at the Cashiers Library at 3 p.m., "My Sister's Keeper," with Cameron Diaz. The movies and popcorn are free, but donations are appreciated. Movies are among the many services provided to the community by the Friends of the Library.

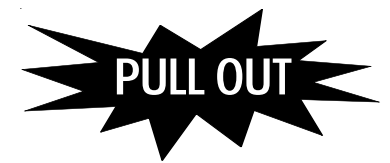
- The Jackson County GOP Glenville/Cashiers Precinct Meeting will be held on Thursday, at 7 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. Delegates to the District GOP Convention and State GOP convention will be nominated at this meeting. Also, general precinct business will be on the agenda. The Cashiers precinct includes Sapphire. Call Cashiers Precinct Chair, Jim Nichols at 828 508-8048 or Glenville Precinct Chair Jim Mueller at 828 743-3057.

- The Macon County Soccer Club will begin accepting registrations for the Spring soccer season on Thursday from 6-8 pm at the Macon County Community Building in Franklin and at the Highlands Recreation Park. Parents are encouraged to print out the registration form online and bring it with them to the registration. Children age 4 and up are welcome and will be placed on teams according to age. The registration fee is \$50 for players returning from the fall season and \$60 for new registrations. The registration fee covers uniform (jersey, shorts and socks), state registration and referee fees. A \$5 discount is available for siblings. All new players must provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. The deadline for registering for the Spring season is February 27. Registrations received after February 27 will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. Every effort will be made to place late registrants on a team before the first game. For more information visit <http://www.maconsoccer.net> or contact Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

Saturday, Feb. 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a mod-

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



erate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike with an elevation change of 700 feet to Windy Falls, a seldom visited awesome falls on the Horsepasture River. Call leader Mike Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sunday, Feb. 21

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1-mile hike on the Taylor Lake Loop Trail in Black Rock Mtn. State Park in GA near Clayton. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

- At Hiarpt, "The Things People Say" by Elizabeth Kolbert and "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" by Richard Hofstadter. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

- The Sharp Shooters will be meeting 7p.m. at the Community Facilities Building. If you are between the ages of 9 and 18, with interests in shooting sports, you are welcome to attend.

Thursday, Feb. 25

- An American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED and First Aid Basics course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay at the Macon County Public Health Center before Monday, Feb. 22. Call Jennifer at 349-2439.

Thurs-Sun, Feb. 25-28 & March 5-7

- Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform The Dixie Swim Club at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 27-28 or Mon.-Tues., March 1-2

- Australian photographer Greg Newington will teach a one-and-a-half day field/studio workshop, "Winter Light - Using Light, Composition and Texture in Photography," at The Bascom. Cost is \$150 for Bascom members and \$175 for non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Sunday, Feb. 28

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 7.5-mile hike to London Bald from Appletree campground with an elevation change of 2000 feet. Meet at the Nantahala Club House on Carl Slagle road in Franklin at 8:30 a.m. Drive 45 miles round trip. Call Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.

Saturday, March 6

- A benefit for Rita Houston Staffeldach, daughter of Michael and Kay Houston, at the Civic Center from 3:30-10 p.m. There will be singing, dancing an auction and a hot dog supper with all the fixings to eat there or take out. Rita has diabetes and after four surgeries now needs another.

Beginning Mid-March

- NAMI Family-to-Family education program, a 12-week class for relatives and friends of people suffering from mental illness, is being offered by NAMI Appalachian South in Franklin. This weekly class will start mid-March. Class size is limited. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Contact: Ann 369-7385, Debbie (912) 481-2339, or Carl (706) 746-5139.**

Sunday, March 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.2-mile hike from Rock Gap to Wallace Gap in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, 2:00 p.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820.

Monday, March 8

- An acclaimed author, storyteller, humorist and musician, Keillor will take center stage in WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Reserved seat tickets for "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" are \$25. For information or tickets, contact the FAPAC box office at (828) 227-2479 or online www.wcu.edu/fapac.

Tuesday, March 9

- At Hiarpt, The Evil Gene by Dr. Barbara Oakley. Coordinator: Virginia Wilson. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursdays-Sundays, May 13-23

- Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform Rebecca at PAC, 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Season subscriptions are on sale now at the price of \$50 for the three plays, a savings of \$10 over the price of individual tickets. Among other perks, subscribers get to make early reservations for preferred seating. Those wishing to subscribe may pick up a subscription brochure at the counter in the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and fill out the enclosed form to mail or send a check directly to the Players' Post Office Box, 1416, Highlands NC, 28741.

Tuesday, March 16

- At Hiarpt, Poems of Emily Dickerson. Coordinator: Bill West. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Mon.-Fri., April 12-16

- Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," at The Bascom Cost is \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Fri. & Sat., May 14-15

- Barbara Zaretsky will teach a fiber art workshop, "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$175 Bascom members, \$195 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs.-Sun., May 20-22

- Elder G. Jones will teach a sculpture workshop, "Wet Carved Concrete - Planters for the

Garden," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$295 Bascom members, \$320 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs.-Sat., May 20-22

- Marc Chatov will teach an oil painting workshop, "Facial Features Workshop," at The Bascom for non-beginner to advanced students. Cost is \$450 Bascom members, \$475 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tues.-Fri., May 25-28

- Karen Weihs will teach an oil painting workshop, "Still Life: Out of the Garden," at The Bascom for all levels. Cost is \$400 Bascom members, \$425 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Tues.-Fri., May 25-28

- Joe Frank McKee will teach a ceramics workshop, "Advanced Throwing Techniques," at The Bascom for non-beginner to advanced students. Cost is \$375 Bascom members, \$400 non-members. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Thurs.-Sat., May 20-22

- Collective Spirits wine festival at The Bascom. Proceeds benefit art education and exhibition programs. Events include private wine dinners, grand wine tastings with both value wines and rare bottles, a gala dinner, live and silent auctions, a culinary sampling by local chefs, and symposiums conducted by leading wine specialists. Tickets are on sale now at www.collectivespirits.com or by calling (828) 526-4949.

Registration begins for several spring art workshops at The Bascom

The Bascom will offer several new early-season art workshops in sculpture, painting, fabric printing and more, and registration is now open.

In addition to a February/March photography workshop by Greg Newington, newly announced workshops include the following:

- Pat Dews watermedia workshop, "Great Starts, Great Finishes," April 12-16. All levels. \$525 Bascom members, \$550 non-members

- Barbara Zaretsky fiber art workshop, "Creating Pattern on Fabric: Block Printing," May 14-15. All levels. \$175 Bascom members, \$195 non-members

- Elder G. Jones sculpture workshop, "Wet Carved Concrete - Planters for the Garden," May 20-22. All levels. \$295 Bascom members, \$320 non-members

- Marc Chatov oil painting workshop, "Facial Features Workshop," May 20-22. Non-beginner to advanced. \$450 Bascom members, \$475 non-members

- Karen Weihs oil painting workshop, "Still Life: Out of the Garden," May 25-28. All levels. \$400 Bascom members, \$425 non-members

- Joe Frank McKee ceramics workshop, "Advanced Throwing Techniques," May 25-28. Non-beginner to advanced. \$375 Bascom members, \$400 non-members

"The Bascom will offer 250 educational opportunities this year in The Bascom's indoor and outdoor classrooms, including workshops, adult and children's classes, a lecture series, intergenerational classes, artist demonstrations, docent training and more," said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom



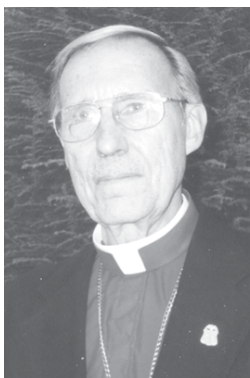
The Bascom will offer several new early-season art workshops in sculpture, painting, fabric printing and more, and registration is now open. Marc Chatov, who created this painting, "Brett," will teach one of them, "Facial Features Workshop," May 20-22. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

education director. "These are marvelous opportunities to study with first-rate instructors."

Pre-registration is required and is going on now. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The miracle of Cana-Grace



The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding
Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, GA

Weddings are accidents waiting to happen. I know. I perform a lot of them. Something always goes wrong at the service of Holy Matrimony. Something went wrong at that famous wedding in Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

In those days the bride and groom celebrated the marriage, not with a honeymoon, but with a seven day wedding feast at the groom's home. This celebration is in big trouble because the wine has given out before the party is over. The situation is a crisis for the family who has the responsibility for hospitality, probably the bride's side.

It is the mother of Jesus who notices. She provides the leadership for this miraculous sign by taking action to help. Jesus is hovering in the background as one who has been invited with his disciples and seems content to keep his distance.

When his mother tells the servants to "do whatever Jesus tells them," it appears he reluctantly performs one of his most understated mighty acts. The best wine is now served to keep the party going. Everyone seems to sense that the joyous feast has been saved.

Sometimes the church has forgotten that our Lord once attended a wedding feast and said Yes to gladness and joy. What a way for Jesus to begin his public ministry in the Gospel of St. John! It's called Cana-Grace, and it's worth the miracle because it shows the glory of God, the very God who wants — even now — for the community of faith to be a celebration of people, brothers and sisters in Christ, eating barbeque on the back porch and laughing until the sun goes down. Christian women turning the church fellowship hall into a festive tea party as they share gospel and good food together. A new members' dinner that ends with folks hugging one another and giving thanks to God for the welcome they have received at the church.

It's called Cana-Grace and we should celebrate it. Give thanks for everyone in every church in every denomination and in your life who has learned the knack for throwing a holy party!

Cana-Grace. Use it. No, better, live it.

What better way to start your life in 2010. Thank God for Cana-Grace.

• 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

Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am;

Children's/Family Program; 10:45 Worship; 5 p.m., Middle and HS student ministries;

Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Children/student/adult programs

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968

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

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

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

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

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

4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry

Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice

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

10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

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

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

(nursery provided)

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

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

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

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy

526-3376

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

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741

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

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir – 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

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Parish office, 526-2418

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Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. – 6 pm

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore

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

Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKET BALL •



Junior Courtney Rogers going for a layup against Swain.

Photo by Stephanie McCall

Highlanders prepare for 'Mini-Tournament' to close regular season

By Ryan Potts

After a couple of dominating victories at Tamassee-Salem last week, the Highlander basketball teams will prepare for what amounts to a tourney run through the conference in the last three days of the regular season.

Both teams traveled to South Carolina last Wednesday to face the Tamassee-Salem Eagles. The girls came out strong immediately, led by sophomore guard Emily Munger. After building an early lead, the Lady Highlanders finished strong in a game where every player earned valuable experience and the girls finished with a 56-30 victory. Munger was the story, finishing with a rare triple double of 17 points, 10 assists and 10 steals. Taylor and Julianne Buras also added 10 points

each in the victory.

The Highlander boys were not able to start with the same momentum that their female counterparts did, but after a close 1st half Highlands found their rhythm and ran the Eagles out of their own gym in the second half in a 77-42 victory.

Robbie Vanderbilt, Josh Delacruz, Samuel Wheeler and Logan Schmitt all scored in double figures for the Highlanders.

This weekend, Highlands will host conference games Thursday with Hiawasse Dam and Friday with Blue Ridge (senior night) before traveling to Nantahala on Saturday. With both teams still in the mix for a conference championship, the Highlanders will need as much local support as possible as we close out the regular season.

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... SCHOOL CALENDAR continued from page 1

cult and frequent no-win decisions such as utilizing a Saturday school option or possibly revoking Spring Break holidays to make

calendar accommodations for days missed due to inclement weather."

This is an issue dear to the heart of Ma-

con County School Board member Stephanie McCall who has two children in Highlands School.

"The state is dictating to us what we have to do from Raleigh and due to weather, our circumstances in the mountains are different than elsewhere in the state," she said. "Furthermore, we don't feel the decisions the state makes in regards to this issue are made in the best interest of the students; instead, the decisions are based on what's best for businesses catering to the tourist trade."

In the past, teacher workdays could be used as makeup days or "snow days" but now not only has the state mandated a teacher workday follow each nine-week grading period, it specifically says those days cannot be used as makeup days.

The result is student makeup days are taken wherever they can fit in, many times far from the semester in which they were missed.

"Again, that policy is not in the students' best interest because making up days in different semesters results in the loss of continuity of class content," said McCall.

Currently, Highlands School will have school on Memorial Day with days subtracted from Spring Break the next option.

"Because of the stipulations the state puts on makeup days, our students have to go to school on a federal holiday which has been set aside to commemorate U.S. men and women who died while in military service which, as is Spring Break, traditionally a time to spend with family," she said.

In its petition to the NC General Assembly, the MC Association of Educators has adopted the language in Madison County Representative Ray Rapp's bill introduced last year which calls for flexibility but within reasonable limits.

The bill calls for school for students to start no earlier than the second Monday in August and end no later than 42 weeks later. "We feel that those limits and the flexibility

are prudent and would best serve the interests of Macon County students and our communities as a whole," said deVile.

Macon County Superintendent Dan Brigman has tried to get the calendar decision reversed since he came on board.

"Local Boards of Education must have the authority to develop school calendars based on the needs of students within each district," said Macon County Superintendent Dan Brigman. "In addition, weather patterns vary greatly from Murphy to Manteo."

To help reach the calendar-change goal, the North Carolina Association of Educators, are undertaking a petition drive hoping to collect the signatures of every Macon County voter who supports this school calendar reform bill.

Petitions will be available at local businesses and gatherings over the next several weeks and will be delivered to Macon County representatives to the General Assembly.

Voters seeking to sign the petition may contact our local president Tracey Shumway at tracey.shumway@macon.k12.nc.us or John deVile at john.deville@macon.k12.nc.us.

The petition reads: "We, the undersigned citizens of Macon County, respectfully ask the members of the North Carolina General Assembly to re-write NC G.S. 115C-84.2 to allow North Carolina School Districts (Local Education Authorities or LEAs) the flexibility and local control to start school with the opening day for students as early as the second Monday of August and concluding no later than 42 weeks later. We make this request in order that school systems may adjust to the demands of dual-enrolled students, potential loss of days due to inclement weather, exam schedules for high schools on block schedules, and other local concerns which are focused on maximizing post-secondary educational opportunities, student achievement, and student safety."

— Kim Lewicki

... ATTORNEY continued from page 1

im County Attorney on an as needed, part-time, hourly basis.

"With the cooperation of Ms. Moxley, this will save substantial money in the legal department of the county," said Beale.

Moxley has been the county attorney for three years and had an open-ended contract with the county. She was hired in October 2006 and her annual salary at the time of separation from the county was \$134,316.

"We want to thank Ms. Moxley for the work she has done over the last three years," said Beale. "She always displayed a vast knowledge of North Carolina law as it applied to county government. We are grateful for the work she performed during this period of tremendous growth in Macon County."

Jones has worked as an attorney for Clay and Swain counties and has worked 20 years as a lawyer in Franklin.

County Manager Jack Horton said it's likely the county will use Chester's services

for about 40 hours a month rather than 40 hours a week.

"The primary purpose of this move is to save the county money," he said. "We decided to take a different direction concerning our attorney than in the recent past — a move that will be beneficial to both of us."

He said tough economic times have caused the county to look at personnel and ways to save money to offset the finances of the county.

He said he didn't know if in the future the permanent attorney slot would be on a part-time, as needed, hourly basis or full-time as with Moxley, but said the cost of maintaining a full time legal office is expensive.

Over the years, Macon County has used legal services on an hourly basis, but the last two attorneys were full-time positions.

A comment from Moxley didn't arrive by press-time.

— Kim Lewicki

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Acapulco Romance: \$55	Fajitas for Two: \$22	Sea Love: \$35

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

All unpaid ads will be deleted.

HELP WANTED

CERTIFIED SCRUB TECH at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Immediate need. Will except RN with scrub experience in orthopedic, general, and plastic surgery. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position working 12 hour shifts and every other weekend. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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

LOST

LOST IN TOWN on Dec. 30 - black leather glove with silver buckle. Return appreciated. MichieMead@aol.com

WANTED

WANTED TO RENT – Quality 3 or 4-bedroom home close to town. Upgraded kitchen, flexible on furnishings, easy access. Small, clean dog allowed. Long term lease. Possibly interested in option for the right home. Call 828-200-0815. (st. 12/10)

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REDUCED – 3.5 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA manufactured home, large shop building, storage building, covered parking. Clear Creek/Blue Valley Area. \$205,000. 828-526-8191 (3/11)

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

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

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, FURNISHED. 11/2 miles from downtown. \$600. per mo. incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer, dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (2/18)

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

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

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental \$2,500.00 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (3/25)

SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT. full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$700/mo. 526-3363. (St. 11/5)

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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

2 BED, 1 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Few minutes from downtown Highlands and the hospital. fully furnished included w/ d. Call 787-2423. (2/25)

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT - partly furnished 1BR/1ba - no dogs/smokers - Whiteside Cove - \$100/week - call (828) 787-1515 (4/15)

ROOM FOR RENT - furnished or not - no smokers - must love dogs - \$50/week - call (828) 787-1515 (4/15)

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

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

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

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

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

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

VACATION RENTAL

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

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

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

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

Mid-Winter Community “Garage” Sale at Highlands Rec Park

Saturday, March 6

Come sell your
household and yard
items from
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Call Cindy Batson at
526-9310 about booth
space.

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

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HELPING HANDS will clean for you, no job too big. Excellent references. Pet sitting services available. Macon County resident. Call 443-315-9547. (1/28)

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HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. For free estimate, call 828-342-7864. (1/14)

THE HIGHLANDS HANDYMAN – Anything and Everything. Local References. Call a neighbor. Call Mark at 526-0031.(1/28)

NEED FIREWOOD? Any size load. Seasoned hardwood. Call 828-332-7303 or 828-526-2536 (2/4)

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ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL. Call 526-2251 or 342-6289. (3/31)

24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. \$2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Clare Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1603. (2/1)

RELIABLE CHILD CARE IN MY HOME – Minutes from Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Daily/Weekly. 12 years experience, referemces and Early Childhood credentials. \$5 per hour for first child, \$10 a day for second sibling. Call 743-2672. (3/31)

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TREE SERVICE – Complete Tree Removal, Trimming, Stump Grinding, Lot Clearing, Under Brushing, and Hemlock treatment and fertilization for "Woolly Adelgid." 828-526-2251 (3/31)

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

Dept. retirees, chief commended



At the Feb. 3 Town Board meeting, Mayor David Wilkes commended outgoing fire and rescue members Ricky Bryson and John Shearl for their service to the Highlands community. Chief James Manley was also commended for his 30 years and counting. Photo by Kim Lewicki

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

Feb. 3

- At 9:20 a.m., offices responded to an accident at NC 28 and Munger Lane.

During the week, police officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 2 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Feb. 3:

Feb. 3

- At 6:07 p.m., the dept. was first responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on U.S. 64 east. The patient was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 4

- At 5:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Pine Point. There was no transport.
- During the evening, the dept. assisted with multiple minor accidents on area roads due to weather.

Feb. 7

- At 10:56 a.m., the dept. was called on a mutual aid call to Cashiers for a structure fire but it was canceled en route.
- At 4:58 p.m., the dept. was called on a mutual aid call to Cashiers for a structure fire but it was canceled en route.
- At 8:06 p.m., the dept. was called about a tractor-trailer truck that was stuck and blocking the road.

Feb. 8

- At 1:08 p.m., the dept. was responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence on Many Road. It was canceled.
- At 11:27 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Glen Falls Road where a resident was lacerated. The patient was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 9

- At 9:58 p.m., the dept. was called to Western Rhodes Drive where a power line and a tree were on fire.

Town Board Meeting Community Building Feb. 17, 2010 • 7 p.m.

1. Call to order : David Wilkes
2. Public Comments
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes of February 3, 2010
5. Reports
 - A. Mayor
 - B. Commissioners
 - C. Committees
 - D. Town Manager
6. Consent Agenda
 - A. Public Services Department
 - B. Police Department
 - C. Parks & Recreation Department
 - D. Planning & Zoning Department
 - E. Treasurer's Report for Month Ended January 31
 - F. Monthly Calendar
 - G. Grant Status Report
7. Duke Transmission Agreement
8. Fire Department By-Laws
9. Annual Audit Contract
10. Ordinance Amendment—Election of Mayor Pro Tempore
11. John Shearl Rezoning Request
12. Consider Appointments to Sustainability Committee
13. Consider Appointments to Business Group
14. Adjourn

... HIS & HERS from page 6

Let me rephrase that. He was a real Baltimore Colts junkie, complete with season tickets on the 50-yard line. Unfortunately for him, he could not have been saddled with a less enthusiastic partner. I had absolutely no interest in football. Still, I tried to be a good sport, patiently sitting in the stands, eating overpriced hot dogs while over-enthusiastic fans yelled in my ears and spilled their drinks on me.

Flash forward to life in Highlands, North Carolina. The first time I heard the question, I knew I was doomed. "What's your team?" the lady asked. "What team?" I replied. "You know, football. Which football team do you root for?" I looked at her blankly. It seemed un-American to admit to her that I wasn't the least bit interested in football, that, in fact, when it came on the TV, I usually left the room to do laundry, or read a book. It amazed me to go to parties here where most folks showed up wearing casually elegant clothing, and the rest – male and female – showed up dressed for a tail gate party, wearing stadium gear in unfortunate color combinations. It wasn't fun to realize you'd never quite fit in.

The Big Day arrived - Super Bowl Sunday. I hadn't fixed special food – we're both watching our weight. We sat down to view the game. I always cross my fingers for the National Anthem. Why do so many singers want to sing it as a torch song? Carrie Underwood did a pretty good job (both live and a *cappella*!) until the end.

John tried patiently to explain some of the finer details of the game to me, but I was soon lost in a swamp of first downs and defensive plays. I enjoyed the commercials, though. Finally, it was half time. Oh, my, the Who have aged so much! Were we ever that young? Then I remembered. They were rebroadcasting *The Tudors*.

For the second half, we parted ways. John watched the Saints, while I watched the sinners. Oh, well. There's always next year, I suppose. Now, if only I could get John to watch the Winter Olympics....

County past and future discussed at worksession

It's the 'worksession' time of year when county and municipal governments take a look at the past year in preparation of budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1.

At a six-hour worksession Saturday, Feb. 6, county commissioners went over the "done" list and discussed the ever present "to do" list for 2010-11.

County Manager Jack Horton opened the meeting with an update on the county's capital projects – many of which began prior to 2009-10 but were finished this year.

District-wide school construction projects topped the list including additions, renovations and infrastructure revamping for the Early College High School, Macon Middle School, East Franklin School, the new 5-6 School and Highlands School.

The new Animal Control Facility opened and the number of animals picked up, adopted out, euthanized and costs associated with those procedures was discussed in length by Director John Hook.

The old library was transformed into the new Senior Services Center and the Hudson Library's renovation began in Highlands.

Infrastructure improvements and expansions were also counted, namely easements for sewer connection lines from downtown Franklin to the Industrial Park, and water line extensions and the corresponding intergovernmental agreements between Franklin and the county.

Policy wise the county made a \$1.4 million mid-year budget adjustment to offset revenue loss; it established a Help Line to direct citizens unaccustomed to needing help to the proper agencies; adopted the lowest budget in five years while maintaining 32% fund balance; began a mental health task force; began the state mandated drinking water permitting process; established a child care study committee that has gotten the attention of Raleigh; began an "abandoned mobile home" program to entice citizens get rid of dilapidated structures; revised the Tourism Development Commission guidelines, began a growth-transportation study which will put the county in the forefront for NCDOT grant money; and adopted Economic Development Commission grant guidelines.

Macon County Planning Director Derek Roland and Planning Board Director Lewis Penland explained the county's Comprehensive Plan was in the works and is derived solely from citizens via community meetings and the survey online at the county website. He encouraged everyone to fill it out.

He also said the 2010 Census will greatly affect how much money the county gets from state and federal factions over the next 10 years. The census will be mailed April 1, 2010 and citizens are encouraged to respond accurately and promptly.

Finance Director Evelyn Southard discussed the 2009-10 budget at length explaining how this year will affect the 2010-11 budget projections.

On Dec. 31, 2009, the budget was \$43,136,744 with an adjusted unreserved fund balance of \$13,946,315 – 32% — which gives the county a \$3,162,129 cushion because its policy is to keep a minimum 25% fund balance.

Southard reminded the board that it's OK to take out of the fund balance, but not consistently and not for long and definitely not for reoccurring expenses.

The good news is the outlook isn't as bad as last year. The county budgeted \$4 million in sales tax proceeds and as of Dec. 31, 2009 had received taxes through October 2009 totaling \$1,381,930 – but that's always four months behind. She said it looks like November's sales tax revenue is \$50,000, which is higher than October's amount, but 5% lower than November 2008 sales tax proceeds.

Southard is hoping tax proceeds meet projections – including sales, property, and motor vehicle – and if that's the case the county will be \$250,000 over budget in that area.

However, even though there has been an upturn in the real estate and construction arena, which translates to more fees to the county, weather is the culprit now.

"Many of us have work, but the ground is so saturated we can't do it," said Chairman Ronnie Beale.

Southard said if that trend continues, coupled with a low return on investments, the county could be short \$479,505 by the end of June.

– Kim Lewicki

\$17 weekly

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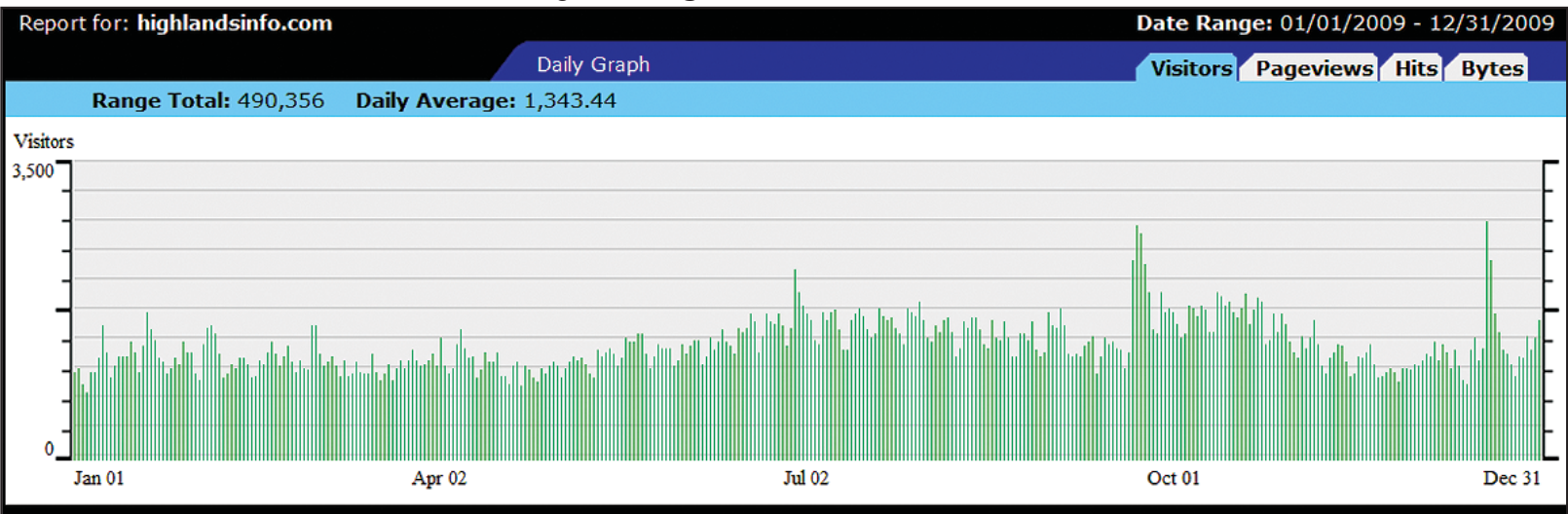
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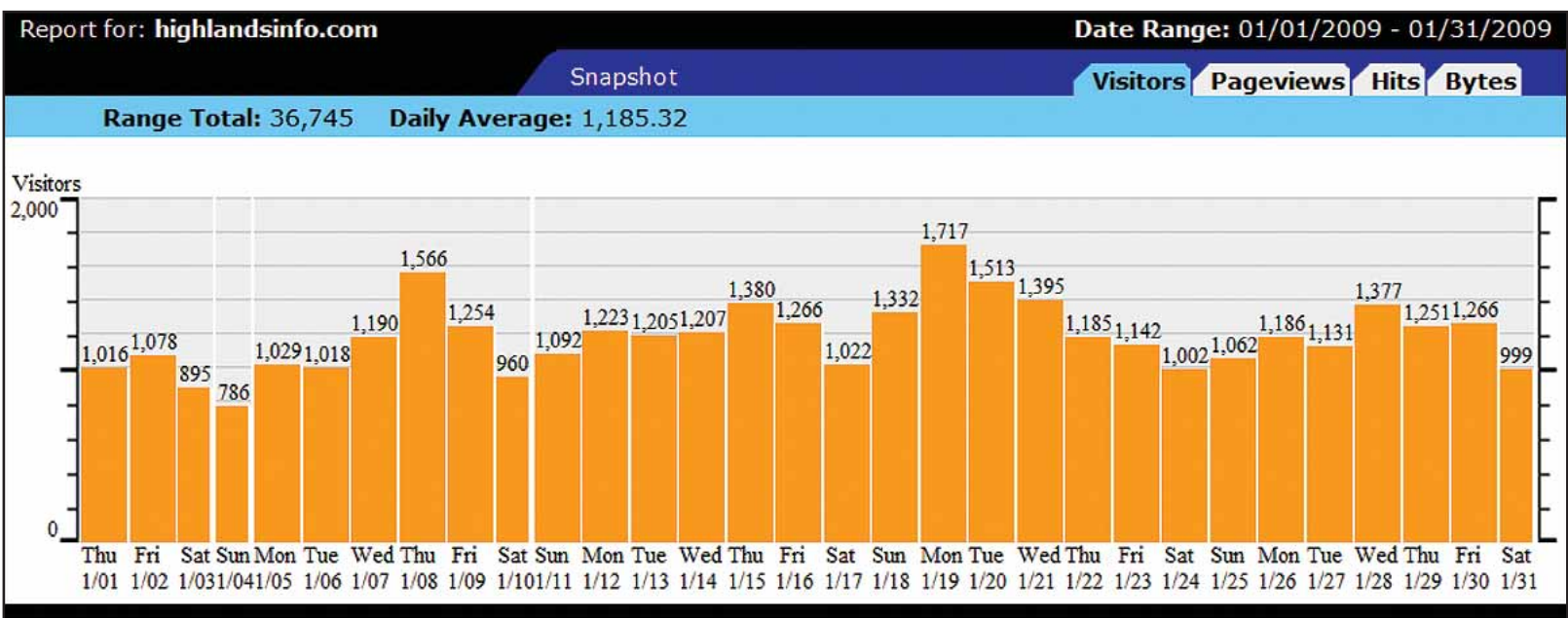
2009 Record-breaking year for Highlands' Newspaper's Internet Directory – HighlandsInfo.com –

Highlands' Newspapers Internet Directory HighlandsInfo.com had a record-breaking year for visitors coming to our Internet Directory in 2009 and now there have been more visitors in Jan. 2010 than any other Jan. recorded since 2003. Good news for Highlands ... 2010 is looking like it's going to be great from early indications. Many restaurants will be open for Valentine's Day/President's Day weekend including ...on the Verandah and Paoletti's which are opening that weekend for the season. (See page 4 for all participating restaurants.) HighlandsInfo.com has also added videos to its Internet Directory Waterfalls & Area Events. Soon we will be adding a Highlands "Things To Do" video. Any business or organization wanting to participate should contact: the Publisher of Highlands' Newspaper 828-526-0782 / HighlandsEditor@aol.com Our Internet Directory also has links to many Highlands Lodging, Dining & Real Estate professionals. It's no wonder HighlandsInfo.com has been the most used Internet Directory about the Highlands area since 2003. There is no other place on the Internet that can offer more useful information about Highlands than HighlandsInfo.com. GOOGLE Highlands or Highlands NC or Highlands North Carolina and see where you would go if you were a visitor wanting to know more about beautiful Highlands.

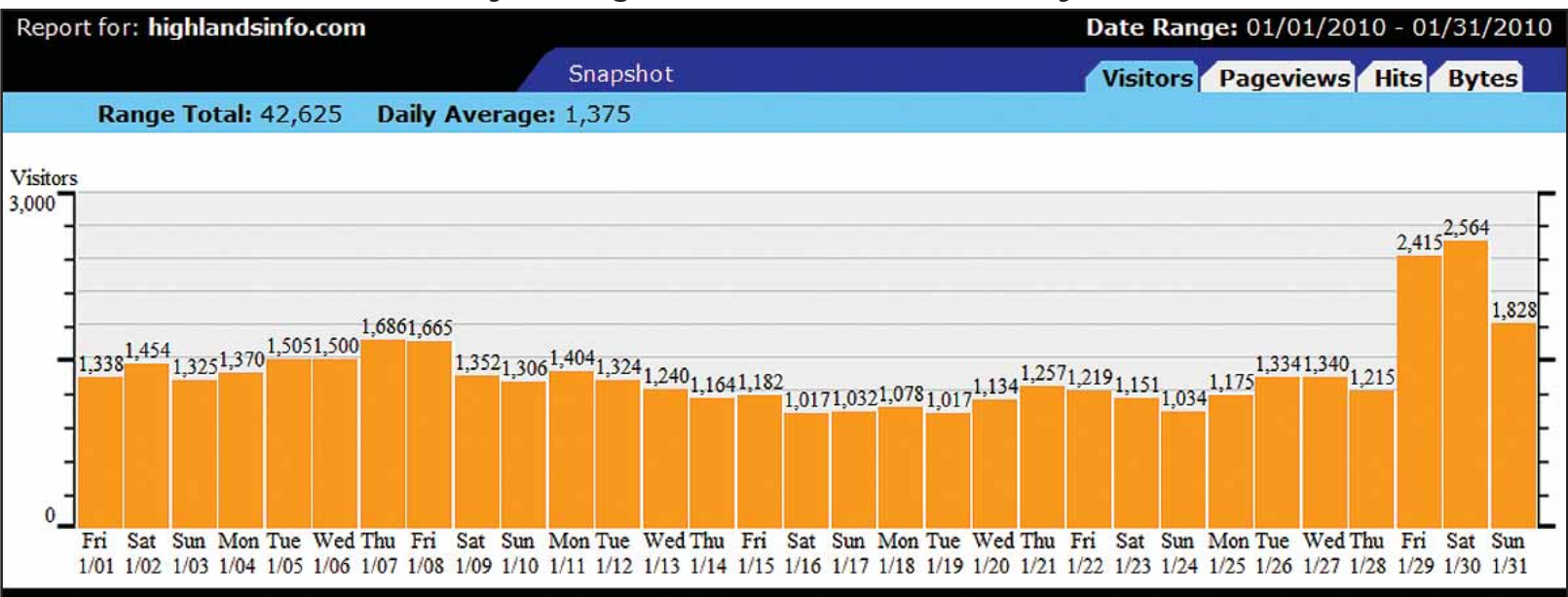
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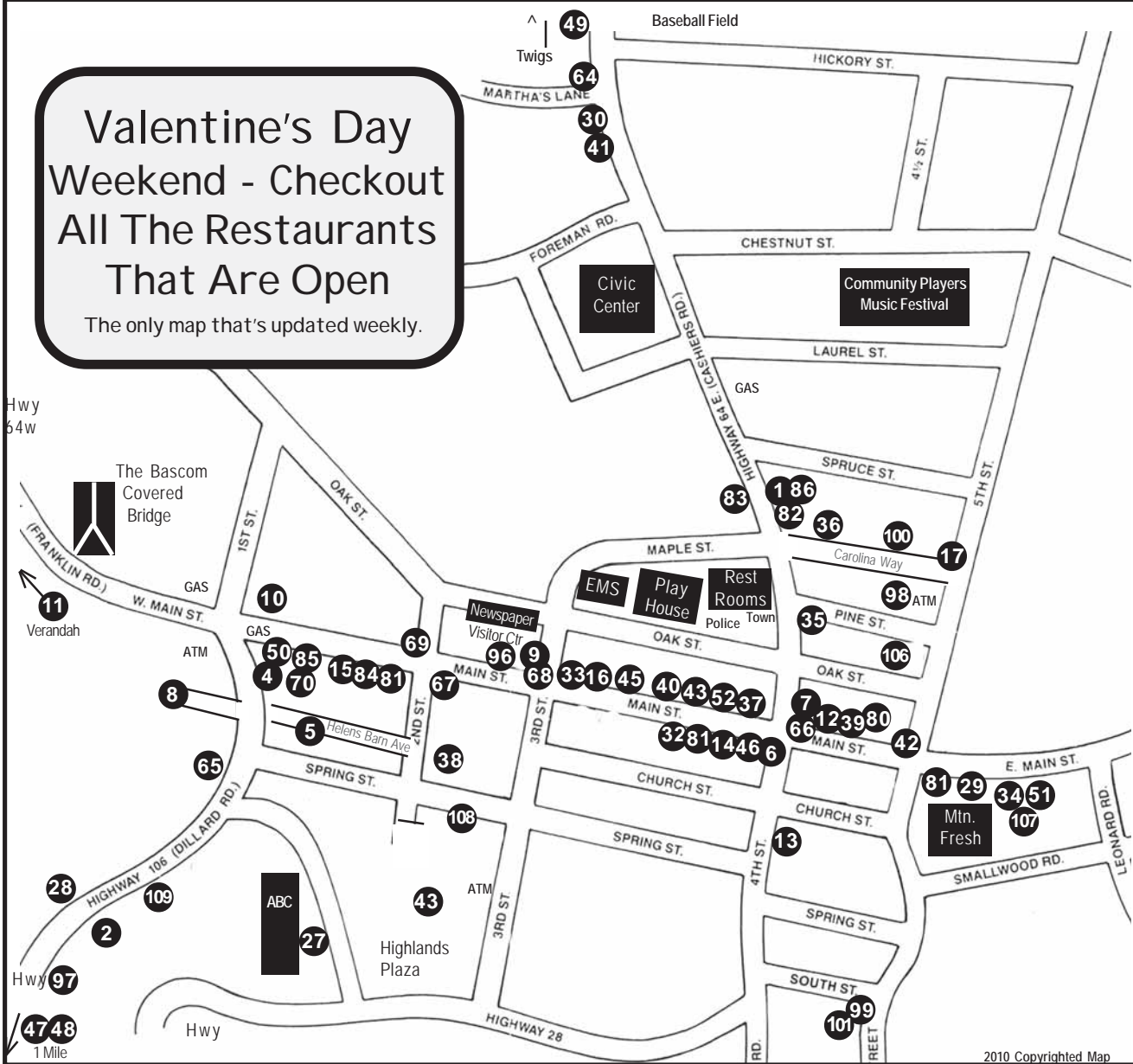
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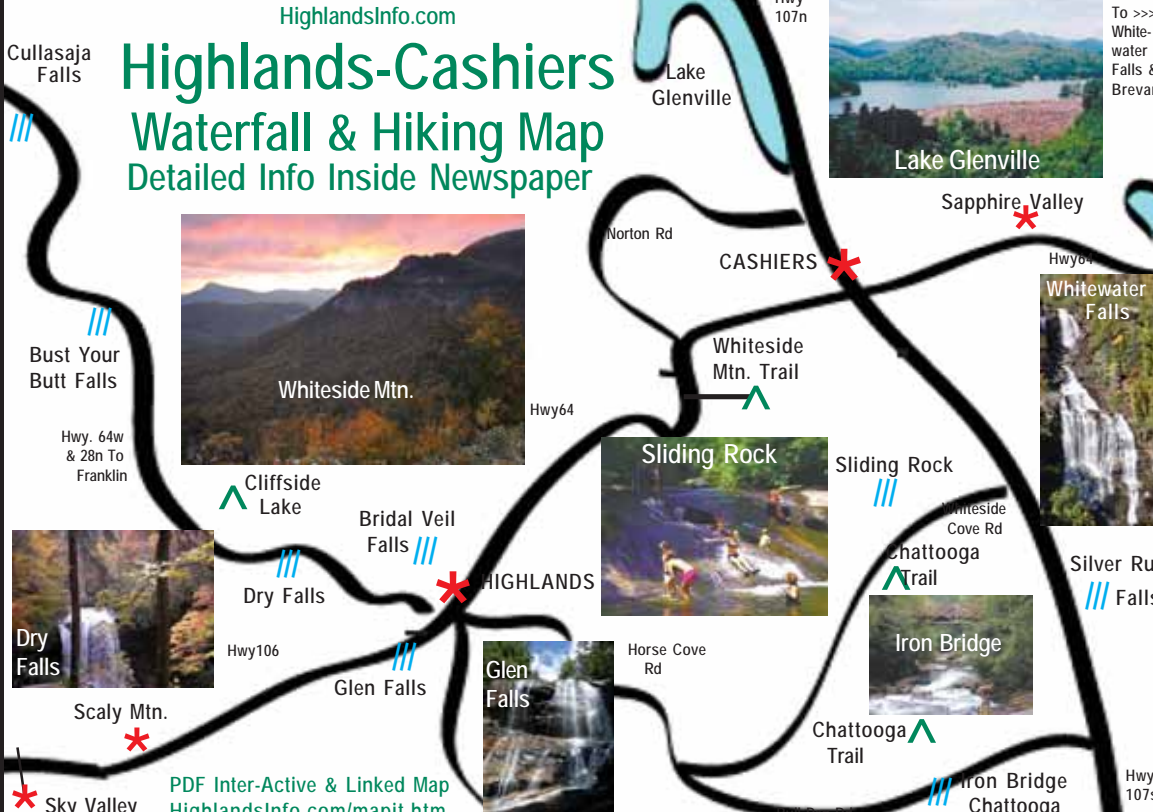


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PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
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