

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 7

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
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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.

Saturday, Feb. 20

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

- Cajun Cookoff at the Community Building 6:30-8:30. \$20/person. Tickets at the door. Includes sampling for Louisiana jambalaya and gumbo and beverages. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112 for information.

- The Macon County Soccer Club registration for the Spring soccer season is Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at the Highlands Recreation Park. Print out the registration form online and bring it: www.maconsoccer.net. 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 deadline is February 27. Registrations received after February 27 will incur a \$10 late fee and players will be placed on a wait list. call Marlene Lane at 828-421-2175.

Saturday, Feb. 20

- The Greenway volunteers will be clearing winter storm damage in the Rec Park and on Big Pear Pen Mountain. Meet in the lower Rec Park parking lot on Foreman Road at 9 a.m. The more people the better. If interested in participating call Hillrie Quin at 526-2385.

Thursday, Feb. 25

- Highlands-Cashiers Players to perform The Dixie Swim Club at PAC, 8 p.m. Call: 526-8084 for tickets. Opening night reception is by Oak Street Cafe.

...

- Mayor Wilkes asks citizens to go to the town's website highlandscnc.org, to click on Code Red and enter contact numbers so the town can contact citizens in case of an emergency.

Mayor Pro Tempore policy hits snag

At Wednesday night's Town Board meeting, members learned that cementing the procedure to select the Mayor Pro Tempore and to change the Town Scholarship by-laws may take legislative action.

Though not on the agenda, the issue came up doing the "reports" part of the meeting.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said after consulting the Institute of Gov-

ernment he learned amending the town's charter – whether for the Mayor Pro Tempore or the scholarship procedure – requires a local bill.

"A bare bones bill can do it but it has to be presented by our legislator," said Coward. The local bill deadline for this session is around May 16.

However, Mayor David Wilkes said more information is needed and he will be in contact with both the

League of Municipalities and the Institute of Government next week to discuss it further.

The scholarship part of the town charter doesn't involve the way the money is distributed – whether by merit and need or equal distribution – but that's still an issue the board needs to address, said Coward.

Mayor Wilkes asked the Schol-

• See MAYOR page 7

Work starts on 2011 budget

The first of many 2010-11 budget worksessions took place Thursday, Feb. 11 at the community building.

Commissioners and department heads met with Town Manager Jim Fatland to discuss upcoming capital projects, the state of projects in the works and the possibility of new projects taking form – but no decisions were made or votes taken.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolfe, who is on the Town Scholarship committee, said this year's golf tournament will be at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club and that if what happened last year happens this year only about \$20,000 is expected.

Combining the interest earned, some of which was dispersed last year, and funds raised, only \$36,500 was dispersed to Highlands School seniors and returning recipients.

Manager Fatland suggested the town consider a target amount, say, \$46,000, and use all interest earned and funds raised to meet the target instead of depositing some interest earned and some funds raised into the principal account.

He also said the budget should be ready by June 7; that no new full-time positions would be added in 2010-11 and the town will continue to investigate grant opportuni-

• See BUDGET page 2

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Bryson to oppose McClellan at the polls

Time is running out for those interested in throwing their hat in the ring for the upcoming election.

As of Feb. 17, candidates in the District 1 and 2 County Commission races, and the Sheriff race will have some competition.

Incumbent Brian McClellan and previous County Commissioner Allan "Ricky" Bryson are vying for the Highlands area District 1 seat.

The current term is McClellan's first term in office; he unseated Bryson in the last election. Bryson had held the post for two terms.

The County Commission District 2 race has three contenders now, all Democrats; incumbents Ronnie Beale and Bob Simpson, and newcomer Carroll Poindexter.

Republican Sheriff Robert Holland is up against two Democrats – Richard Davis, who was most recently a Highlands Police officer and George Lynch.

Democrat incumbent Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry is so far running unopposed as is Democrat incumbent Todd Raby for Register of Deeds.

The last day to file for the Nov. 2, 2010 election is noon, Friday, Feb. 26.

The two-party primary is May 4.

Democrat candidates for Sheriff and Democrat candidates for County Commissioner District 2 will run-off at that time.

– Kim Lewicki

Going for the shot

Last week the girls lost a hard fought match to Hiawassee Dam by three points. Pictured is Jessica Gagne going for the basket. For more on Highlands School basketball see page 18.



Photo by Noel Atherton

... BUDGET continued from page 1

ties for infrastructure needs.

GIS Technician Matt Shuler, who is the town's point man on the Town Hall renovation, said the move-in date is May 1. So far, the job has come in below budget — \$450,000 to the \$500,000 budgeted — with \$186,000 dispersed.

He said part of the renovation includes mirroring software between the Town Hall and the Police Department so there will never be any downtime should one system fail.

In addition, a new town website is being designed by an intern at Southwestern Community College at no cost to the town. At Shuler's suggestion, the commission discussed using a single logo to represent the town and the chamber of commerce which, for consistency sake, could be used on everything, including wayfinding signs around town. A competition is being considered with a cash prize to the winning logo.

Shuler also reported on the proposed Highlands Area Internet Service Provider project, whose original purpose was to supply free wi-fi to visitors to Highlands.

However, though no decision was made, after much discussion the general consensus was the project would cost a lot of money for little gain.

With \$1.6 million needed to construct the system, a minimum of 2,400 subscribers paying a monthly fee of \$18.94 per month would be needed for the town to break even — and there was talk of a mandate.

However, commissioners Amy Patterson, Gary Drake and Buz Dotson said the town could not mandate such a thing.

"The purpose was never to make money, but rather to offer wi-fi to visitors in the downtown district," said Commission Amy Patterson. "But it's just too expensive and we couldn't mandate anything."

Mayor David Wilkes suggested asking the chamber of commerce if it was interested in backing the project and perhaps asking the downtown businesses to foot the bill.

"Only a small percentage of people would need or use this — primarily visitors to the downtown area who want to use their laptops — so let's kick it to the downtown business community and see if they want to pay for it," he said.

Town Planner Joe Cooley said the Unified Development Code — which is a consolidation of all the ordinances in the town — will be ready by mid-June and will be put on the town's website when completed. "This is a reconciliation and not a document that suggests changes," he said.

He said the parking study was basically approved by the Planning Board and is going to the Town Board which will work with the newly formed Business Group Committee on the plan. It also includes a system of wayfinding signage throughout town.

At the request of Commissioner Gary Drake, Police Chief Bill Harrell reported on what it cost the Police Department to supply cars to officers and to allow them to drive them to and from work.

Since at least 49% of the time the vehicles are used in town on the job, at Manager Fatland's suggestion, Harrell used 51% as the denominator in determining officer usage.

Combining annual maintenance costs at 51% — a total of \$8,109 — to annual fuel costs at 51% — a total of \$10,373 — the total outlay is \$18,482; or \$1,541 per month divided by 12 officers for a total monthly cost of \$128 per officer.

Commissioner Drake said he wanted it understood that he is neither for or against the Police Department having take-home vehicles. "But when citizens ask, I have to have the information to answer," he said. "Furthermore, recent rumors circulating about certain commissioners and how they feel about the police department and are just that, rumors. People should pay attention to the facts," he said.

Chief Harrell said take-home police cars have served as a huge recruitment tool.

"Prior to take-home cars, 16 of Highlands Police officers left and went to Jackson County, Macon County and the Franklin Police Department," he said. "Each time we have to replace an officer it costs us the \$4,000 we spent to outfit them — uniforms, etc."

He said once take-home cars were offered, turnover stopped immediately.

"We had an 11-man force then which was consistently down to eight because we couldn't keep the seats filled. Now we are up one man, but we are able to maintain a full force."

The board also learned that take-home cars come in handy when officers are called to assist other agencies once they are home. "We have an inter-local agreement with other agencies, and as soon as our officers respond to a mutual assist call, they are on duty."

The board also discussed increasing the false alarm fine which will be discussed more at a future date.

HVAC repairs and upgrades are needed at the Rec Park for which a \$195,000 grant is being sought.

Revenue from the town's Enterprise Funds are likely to occur thanks to radio-read meters in the water and electric departments. More usage will be measured with the meters, which means more money for the town.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix discussed the importance of moving the water intake to the Sequoyah Dam and rethinking the town's policy on sewer extensions, particularly in light of the state's mandate on installing grinder pumps and the town being responsible for their upkeep.

He also reiterated the importance of replacing the town's copper wires with aluminum steel core wires to provide stronger tinsel strength, which translates to fewer outages.

Finally, Fatland reported that contracts for the Pine Street Improvements were in the works and that grant money was likely on its way for stormwater remediation on Laurel, Spruce and Fifth streets.

— Kim Lewicki

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Note to Jim

Dear Editor,

Please run this "Note to Jim" who wrote a letter to me in the Feb. 4 edition of Highlands' Newspaper entitled "It's obvious what Swanson wants."

Thanks for being a faithful reader. I appreciate that.

Well, Jim, you don't have it quite right. Frankly, I don't give a rat's patootie if a politician calls himself a Republican, a Democrat, a Independent or a Tootsie Roll. Give me Harry Truman, JFK, Hubert Humphrey, Sam Nunn and others too numerous to mention and I'll give you Arlen Specter (oops, you already got him), Olympia Snow, Susan Collins, Joseph Cao (he voted for the Obamacare obamanation) and the whole slew of RINO's who turned away from the party platform and checked their love of country at the door.

I will take time to comment on only one group that you say I want. "Republican mayors in every city, too."

I'm sure you've seen the email that shows the 10 large cities with the highest

unemployment. All have Democrat mayors. None have had a Republican mayor for decades, several decades. Some have never had a Republican mayor. Ever. Jiggled stats? Nope. Repressive management. Bad management. L/s/m/c/p never works. You got the mayor part right, Jim.

Don Swanson
Franklin

Keeping in touch with Highlands

Dear Editor,

Thank for you for the wonderful job of photo journalism. Your photos have kept us up to date on what is happening in Highlands during this extraordinary winter. I check the website daily for current temps and updated photos. Please keep up the good work for all of us who are anxiously waiting for the thaw so that we can return to our mountain homes (but we secretly long to be there now to experience all this winter wonder).

Judy Clifton Steighner
Highlands and Melbourne, FL

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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Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor — Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor — Tom Merchant

Cartoonist — Karen Hawk; Digital Media — Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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• MILESTONES •

Area graduates named to college dean/chancellor lists

UNC-Greensboro

Claire E. Frederick, Highlands School Class of 2006, was on the Chancellor's List at UNC-Greensboro for the Fall Semester.

To make Chancellor's List, full-time undergraduates must have a cumulative grade point averages of at least 3.65 of a possible 4.0. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of course work.

They also must have completed 30 hours of coursework.

Western Carolina University

The following area students were named to the 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.

Rachel Earlene Alford
Robert Davidson Edwards
Ezra Patrick Herz
Darin James Keener
Aliaksandr Kikoin
Matthew Preston Neely
Teresa Rose Pearman
Katherine Virginia Pierce
Rebecca Ramey Shuler
Andrew Steven Willhide
Stacy Lynn Wright
Justin Richard Caudell

Gregory Matthew Ferrin
Cheryl Lynn Moss
Charles Eugene Moss
Grant Davis Newman
Katelyn Leigh Phillips
Ingrid Grace Weatherby

Columbia University

Lucy Herz, a 2007 graduate of Highlands School, was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester. to be named to the Dean's List a student must achieve a 3.6 GPA.

• OBITUARY •

Charlie Lamar Henry

Charlie Lamar Henry, age 78, of Highlands, NC, died Sunday, February 14, 2010 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Charlie M. and Brittie Webb Henry. He was a caretaker and had worked for Potts Block Company, the US Forest Service and Department of Transportation. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Highlands.

He is survived two sisters, Bessie I. Zachary of Franklin, NC and Annie Mae Hensley of Scaly Mountain, NC; a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 18 at 2:30 pm in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with



Rev. Gary McCall and Rev. Oliver Rice officiating. Burial will be in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Gene Green, Michael Green, Matthew Green, Everett Brewer, Chris Brewer, and Justin Brewer.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 2:30, two hours prior to the service Thursday, at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands.

At the family's request contributions may be made to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in memory of Charlie Henry.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... POLICE & FIRE continued from page 14

assist EMS with a medical call at a residence in Highlands Meadows. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 14

• At 10:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cherokee Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 7:09 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Main Street. It was cancelled.

Feb. 15

• At 2:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Hedden Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 16

• At 4:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Ridge Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 17

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Hickory Hill Road. It was cancelled.

• THANKS •

From Joy's family

The family of Joy Dooley would like to thank everyone for the expressions of love and kindness. Your thoughts and prayers have been greatly appreciated and a great comfort during this difficult time. May God bless you as you have blessed us.

— Jeremy & Jaime Dooley and

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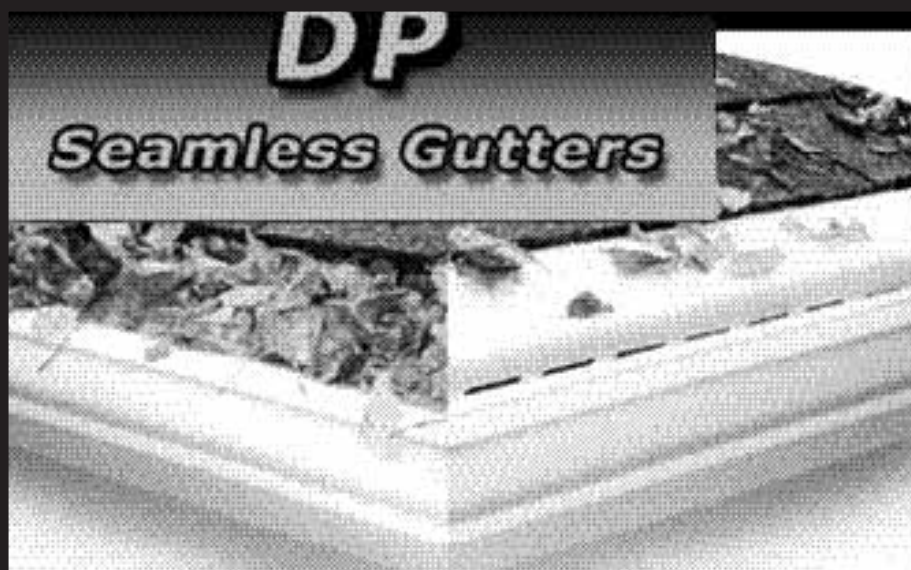
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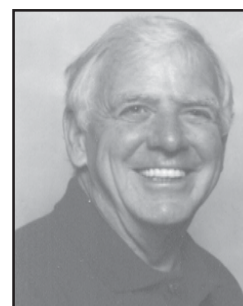
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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

Tommy and Madison -- Part 1

This gritty, gripping police drama will be presented in three parts. While the story is true, names and some locations are changed. Some readers may find this material offensive.



Fred Wooldridge

On April 12, 1958, Tommy Lee Williams and Madison Ann Knight were born minutes apart at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Jackson Memorial had an excellent reputation and was the hospital of choice for both the rich and poor. Of course, Tommy Lee was born several floors below Madison Ann because he was black. In 1957, black mothers were not permitted to give birth in the same maternity ward as white mothers.

Tommy Lee was born a drug addict; he was a mistake, born to a prostitute drug addict mother. Because of his mother's addiction, Tommy had to be given immediate detoxification treatments for his heroin addiction.

He and his mom lived in the roughest section of Miami's Liberty City. His father was an unknown customer. As an infant, Tommy was exposed to open sex between his mother and her johns. As a toddler, he watched his mother use heroin. He didn't understand the drug use or the sex but took it in stride as a part of a normal life.

At the age of four, Tommy witnessed his mother being beaten by an angry customer. The police found Tommy holding his mother's unconscious body as best he could, his small arms wrapped around her bloody head. Tommy wasn't crying because he never cried.

By the time he turned eight he was delivering heroin for his mother's pimp. He carried a knife and had been taught how to use it. He was experimenting with marijuana and cocaine.

Shortly after his ninth birthday, Tommy's mother overdosed from drugs and an angry, drunken customer, unable to have sex with her, committed an act of sodomy on Tommy out of revenge. The rape was never reported.

At age 14, Tommy was permanently expelled from school for stabbing another student and three months later his mother was murdered, found in an alley, stabbed to death by an unknown assailant. To this day, that case is an open homicide.

Tommy was to be placed in the care of a distant cousin in Tampa, Florida, but Tommy never went and the cousin never reported Tommy's absence to Child Welfare. Tommy was living with his mom's old pimp and

was openly dealing drugs. He carried a gun.

By the time he turned 17, Tommy had grown into a strapping, six foot, two inch masculine specimen known as "Street Man." His mamma's pimp gave Tommy two prostitutes as a birthday gift.

...

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Just over seven miles from Tommy's one room apartment, Madison Ann lived in one of the finest sections of

Miami known as Gables by the Sea. She had two good respectable parents who earned excellent salaries as an attorney and stock broker, respectively. Their choice to have only one child was a mutual one.

At age three, Madison was sent to a private Christian day care life enrichment school where she received religious instruction. She was taught to love God, socialize with the other children, share the things she had and to be polite and courteous to everyone.

On her eighth birthday Madison was given a pony and a membership to a nearby polo club. She was blossoming into a gregarious, generous and helpful loving person.

At age 15, Madison was informed by her private school that, because of her scholastic achievements, she would skip a grade the following year. She was encouraged to take college prep classes at the University of Miami. She accepted the offer and, as part of her life enrichment studies, she worked with underprivileged children.

Her mother was promoted to senior law partner and her father was on the board of directors for one of the most respected brokerage houses in Miami. Life was good for the Knight family.

And so the tragedy begins.

...

Melva shook her head and looked at Tommy. "Ah, I don't wanna be here, Tommy, I gotta go home. If my momma knew I was here, she'd beat me into...."

"Shut up, ho, and park yo black butt in that chair and don't move till I tell you to, ya hear me?" Tommy responded.

Suddenly realizing he had used the wrong approach, he tried to recover. "Come on, Melva, I need you, you're the only friend I got that I trust. Don't go home on me till I'm done. Ya hear me when I'm talkin' to ya?"

Melva folded her arms, pushed out her

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 14

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Where there's a will, there's a way

It's not easy to return to writing about mismatched socks and atomic clocks. It has been two weeks since my return from Haiti, and the memories haunt me. Of course, I'm happy to be home, to be reunited with Lizzie and Bull, to be back at my lucrative, elective practice in Seneca. But I miss Haiti, her people, their suffering.



•
Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

When we left, I was content to leave the care of victims of the earthquake to those who would follow. I now realize that we left a job unfinished. It was easy to be in the first wave, when the mission was glamorous. The real work remains to be done. Musicians have gathered and released "We are the World, 25." I cried when I heard it and realized both the enormity of the task and the world's commitment. Those of us who were privileged to be among the first to hit the beach have an obligation to help finish the job.

And what a job it will be! Haiti, before the earthquake, was the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The country lacks roads, electricity, education, political stability, even adequate nutrition and safe drinking water for much of the population. Kids in Haiti still die from typhoid and diarrheal diseases. Tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS are widespread, conditions made more devastating by widespread malnutrition.

It is difficult to be optimistic about the future of Haiti. Corruption has robbed the Haitian people of hundreds of millions of dollars intended to help them. Foreign investors are unwilling to bet on Haiti. Asian countries, with political stability and a better educated work force offer a better return on investment. There is too little topsoil to support an agrarian society. Haiti has little choice but to join the global economy, but has had little opportunity to do so. There is a sense of hopelessness in Haiti, a feeling of resignation. If one asks any Haitian his country's greatest needs, he will list reforestation at or near the top. Yet no one plants trees.

There is perhaps no greater indication of the hopelessness of the Haitian people than a frequently expressed desire to be taken over by the United States. Considering Haiti's history of brutal exploitation at the hands of foreign powers, it is an astonishing wish. Christopher Columbus made landfall on Hispaniola, the island Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic. Within a century, there were no survivors of the native people he met. Slaves were

brought from Africa to provide labor for French plantations. The descendants of those slaves are the citizens of Haiti today. Their treatment at the hands of their French masters led to revolution and brutal retribution that followed victory. AIDS was spread in Haiti by frolicking Americans, patrons of the sex industry, eager to exploit the children of an improv-

ished people.

Despite the hopelessness, the Haitian people possess a tough resilience. Despite history and gloomy prospects for success in the future, the world must try.

I have never felt comfortable asking for money. When Bull was a Cub Scout, we didn't permit him to solicit from our friends. We bought popcorn, ate until we couldn't stand the sight of another chocolate covered kernel and gave the rest to friends and family. We have enough Sally Foster gift wrap to paper our house and hundreds of tulip bulbs, I'll never plant. When Bull's school sponsors fund-raisers, we write a check instead of asking for donations from our friends.

Haiti is different. The job is too enormous to be done alone. We were able to rebuild Europe from the rubble of World War II. We can rebuild Haiti. The challenges are different, and in many ways greater. Europe had a history of education and industrialization. Much of the continent had fertile farm land and a long, if imperfect, history of political stability.

Haiti is small. With less than 11,000 square miles, it ranks 147 among the world's countries and is only slightly larger than Massachusetts. Its population before the earthquake was under nine million, less than a million more than New York City. The world can, if it has the will, improve roads, string electric wires, build schools, train teachers, drill deep wells, reforest, eliminate malaria, and provide food and the means to produce it.

The world cannot make wealthy Haitians care about their poor countrymen, can't eliminate the superiority light-skinned Haitians feel over their black brothers, and can't rid the government of the greed and corruption. Those things must be accomplished only by Haiti, if it has the will.

There many ways to help. Bull is nearing his goal of raising \$1,500 for Partners in Health. Anyone who is interested can find his page at: <http://act.pih.org/page/outreach/view/haitiearthquake/bull>.

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from the history guy ...

Feb. 18, 1930

Elm Farm Ollie becomes the first cow to fly in an airplane and also the first cow to be milked in an airplane.

I think we've all seen a horse fly,
so one must really wonder why
you'd be so hard pressed to buy
the idea of a cow up in the sky?

You may think it's udder folly,
but up in the air went Elm Farm Ollie.

Yes, they took this very grazer,
and very quickly loaded and raised her.

Not only was she elevated,
a rare event for the ungulated,
but while she was aloft, so high and airy,
went and milked her for things dairy.

So very rare that aviation
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• HIS & HERS •

My Funny Valentine

By John Armor

Remember those features in Readers Digest, "Laughter is the Best Medicine"? Do they still have that? Does Readers Digest still exist? It was in its day perfect for leaving on the back of the toilet in the bathroom — it had short articles when you were in a hurry; long ones when you were going to stay a while.

But that's not what I came to talk about. I came to talk about love. Cosmopolitan, and other magazines for unattached women, always feature an article per issue on "Things that drive men wild in bed," or some other title that means the same thing.

Yes, I know, love and sex are entirely too often confused with one another, to the general harm of mankind, one desperate couple at a time.

The point is that such magazines offer all sorts of poor advice on how to get together. And stay together.

Laughter is the real key. The family that laughs together, stays together. No rhyme; the meter's off. But the reality is dead on.

That does not mean that the man tells a real knee-slapper from Captain Billy's Whizbang. The woman laughs heartily, and then says, "Now I think we should make love like crazed weasels." Nothing is that simple. If it were, we'd all be slim, wealthy, and happy, with all our body parts functioning just fine, thank you very much.

Everyone for whom that statement is remotely true, raise your hands. Let's not always see the same hands.

I'm not talking about joke-telling. I'm talking about the kind of humor that grows spontaneously out of real situations, looked at with a slanted eye. All of us have a little bit of the Gary Larson in us. Set aside what is normal. Ignore what is expected. Look at any situation like you've never seen it before, and cows can stand on their hind legs, drink martinis, and speak plain English. A French poodle named Fifi can seize the controls of a burning airplane and "save the day."

I'll tell you a secret about the lady



Michelle Mead-Armor &
John Armor

michiamead@aol.com

John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

with whom I share this column. In addition to being attractive, and smart, and funny, she is terrific in bed. Yes, I know this is a family publication. No, I'm not going to write anything which will offend the sensibilities of the most gracious of our readers. Here's the plain, unvarnished truth....

Both of us get up once or so each night.

We are elderly. Let me correct that. I am elderly. Michelle is a lady of a certain age. In any event, waking moments should not be wasted. She will say something strange and funny. I will retaliate in kind. We will go into a riff of 15 minutes or so. Then, with our sides tired from laughing, we will go back to sleep for the nonce.

Those who know us personally know exactly what I'm talking about. Those who don't, feel free to go up to Michelle in the supermarket or wherever, and ask her about Mrs. Murphy's black eye.

You know those obnoxious commercials for pajamas and teddy bears that have infested your cable TV channels in the last week? She told me under no circumstances to even think about giving her anything like that. It HAD to be more thoughtful than that.

So, I put some thought into it. I got a high-tech toilet brush with the flushable, changeable head. And a toaster with nifty controls. Well, that and dinner at Cyprus with the French-style steak. And, a mushy card. I'm dead meat if I don't get a card that hits the spot.

How much do I love you? This big. [Holds hands wide apart.] Thanks for the smarmy poem in another newspaper that I won't name, but it's down in Franklin.

I hope everyone fortunate enough to have a Babboo had a happy Valentine's Day. And, if you don't have a Babboo, I hope you will have one by next year. It's good to have a Babboo.

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

• COACH'S CORNER •

5 ways to fix the NBA All-Star Weekend

Despite drawing over 100,000 people to the All-Star game on Sunday night, the NBA saw lackluster ratings and limited hoopla over its most recent all-star experience. With that being said, if you happened to catch any of the events (and judging by the ratings you didn't) then you would realize that it was yawn-inducing throughout. Therefore, here are five things that NBA commissioner David Stern could do to make things much more entertaining.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

1. Make the outcome of the All-Star Game for homecourt in the NBA finals. After all, Major League Baseball has done this with some mild success, and it would make the game much more meaningful in the long run. At the end of this year's game, the players were fouling on purpose to prevent overtime, win or lose. This puts off average fans and only furthers the image of NBA players as spoiled athletes. If the game truly counts for homecourt, then there would be an incentive to compete.

2. Make the celebrity game a true celebrity game. This year the "celebrities" consisted of former NBA players and some people we had never heard of. If the game was made up of celebrities only, and some big names were convinced to play for charity it would certainly encourage more people to tune in. If Stern really had some stroke, he could try and talk President Obama into playing and increase his ratings by 1,000 percent. (I just chuckled out loud at the thought of Obama playing on TV. We could get Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Keith Olbermann to provide commentary and

it would be hilarious. Hannity would report that there was a referee conspiracy to benefit the President and claiming that Obama only going left is destroying America, Olbermann would be bringing back his old Sportscenter catchphrases and praising Obama for "managing the game" and Beck...well Beck would be weeping uncontrollably throughout the broadcast. If you are wondering about Chris Matthews, he would be unavailable for commentary because of a prior commitment to be Obama's towel boy)

3. Get rid of the Skills Challenge...ugh
4. Have two brackets in the three-point contest. Have a fan bracket where fans shoot as well as the NBA bracket. Then have the NBA winner face off against the fan winner for a fat check. I believe that a lot of people would tune in to see Joe from Dallas face off against Paul Pierce in a three-point shootout.

5. Fix the Dunk Contest. This is the number one issue with the NBA weekend. I WILL TYPE THIS IN ALL CAPS FOR EMPHASIS!!! FIX THE DUNK CONTEST. (Hah, it's like I am shouting...but on paper) People don't want to see Nate Robinson and Demar Derozan in a dunk contest -- they want to see LeBron, Carmelo and D-Wade in a dunk contest. David Stern, pay these men...offer them a million dollars to compete. If that doesn't work, then fine or suspend them if they don't compete (as the NFL does with the Pro Bowl). LeBron James is the greatest athlete in the world today -- he does dunks in games that people can't do in contests. There is no reason for this man not to be out there. So come on Stern, make it happen.

... MAYOR continued from page 1

arship Committee be at the March 3 Town Board meeting to further discuss distribution guidelines.

Still under the "report" umbrella, Commissioner Amy Patterson asked the town to consider prohibiting vehicular traffic on the Sunset Rock road during icy and snowy weather for safety reasons and due to damage four-wheelers do to the road bed, embankments and rhododendrons that line the banks.

"Also, once four-wheelers use the road, it becomes impossible to hike due to the ruts which fill with ice and snow," she said. "If hikers can't use it, we are precluding all but four-wheelers to use the road."

The board agreed to allow Town Engineer Lamar Nix to make a judgment call during winter weather and to either use signage or a more permanent means to keep vehicles off the road.

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported that since part of Highlands is in Jackson County, and since Jackson County was in a declared state of national emergency back in January, Highlands is eligible for federal mitigation funds. That money will be used to mitigate stormwater problems on Horse Cove Road and Sixth

Street -- longtime problem areas in town.

In addition, the town will be reimbursed expenses for tree and snow removal, contractor and equipment expenses, as well as employee overtime during the same storm due to the "state" emergency declaration.

The board unanimously agreed to the Duke Transmission Agreement -- the second cog in the wheel to supply power to Highlands.

Kevin O'Donnell, with NOVA, the town's energy consultant, said though buying power is unregulated, transmitting that power is fully regulated. An agreement must be in place before Duke can supply Highlands its power.

The new 20-year agreement is concurrent with the town's power supply agreement with Duke which begins in March and will add an extra \$1 per month to the typical resident's utility bill.

The board OK'd the agreement contingent upon the Town Engineer, Town Attorney, Town Manager, and the town's energy consultant agreeing to details.

Also OK'd were a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and a Commodity Distribution Plan which was presented by War-

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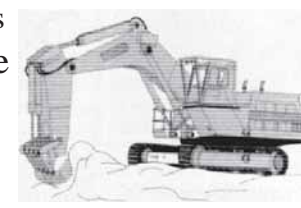
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ren Cabe, director of Emergency Services for Macon County.

He said the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been in place since 2004 but has to be updated every five years to ensure counties and their municipalities look at all possible hazard situations and make sure training, equipment and other things needed to address those hazards are in place ahead of time.

Though the plan is basically the same as it was five years ago, due to the Peek's Creek disaster it does address steep slope concerns and new stormwater projects, as well.

The Commodity Distribution Plan is a new plan NC Emergency Management wants in place so the distribution of commodities -- like

food, water and tarps -- is streamlined in the event of a natural disaster.

The Highlands Rec Park has been identified as the best place for an emergency shelter due to its size, the parking lots and egress and ingress for traffic flow.

Mayor Wilkes announced that Mary Bynum of McCulley's, Bonnie Earman of Bags on Main and Nancy Aaron of Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music have been appointed to the Business Group Committee.

The board also appointed Michael Rogers and Sallie Taylor to the Appearance Committee which has had three vacancies for some time. One vacancy remains.

— Kim Lewicki

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

The end of the great snow job

While sifting through the news the other day, I spotted something about RFK Jr.'s comments on Washington DC's weather. Jr. has always fascinated me so I pursued it. What caused my fascination was, although a spokesman for some radical environmental organizations, he seemed to have a difficult time speaking.



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

So I found that the Washington Examiner had exhumed an interview with Kennedy from 15 months ago wherein he commented on the fact that, when he was a kid, he had the neighbor buddies over to the Washington area estate to enjoy sliding down their hill. Oh, the good old days. But, he sadly continued, times have changed, winter has gone south and snow in DC is but a distant memory.

Curiously, we haven't heard Jr's explanation of the record breaking snowfalls that would have restored Flexible Flying down local hills, a tempting pastime except the little buggers can't trudge up the slopes due to excessive snow accumulation. Digging a little deeper (pun intended) I found some interesting facts about Teddy's nephew.

To my surprise, Jr. had a radio show on Air America, the used-to-be voice of US liberalism. The surprise wasn't that he was preaching his wacko message, but radio just didn't seem to be the most effective media for doing so. I found that he had a condition known as spasmodic dysphonia which causes his voice to sound weak and sounding like he's choking up. Strange, I thought, for an on-air person.

I always felt that his voice problems resulted from his heroin use. You probably missed the news story that he was arrested in the Rapid City Airport toting 183 milligrams of heroin in his carry-on bag. I'm no expert on these things, but that sounds like a lot to me. Evidently, the lessons learned in bailing Teddy out of his Chappaquiddick problems worked for Robert as well. Two years probation was his sentence.

Back to Air America. Evidently the progressive liberals felt the major television networks and major big-city news-

papers touting their line wasn't enough. They saw the success Limbaugh, Hannity and others were having and decided they wanted some of that. Unfortunately for them, listeners weren't listening. After two years of finagling, they started programming March 31, 2004, just in time for April Fool's Day. With now-Senator (I'm still in denial) Al Franken as one of

their mainstays, they thrashed around for a while and got nowhere.

To make a long story short, Air America filed Chapter 7 and, in case you didn't notice, ceased broadcasting in January. I assume that ends Kennedy's curious radio career. Just as I was hoping the snowpocalypse of 2010 ended the global warming crock, some weird scientist type says, "There, that proves it." That proves what? "These huge blizzard-type snowfalls prove the planet is warming."

Really? "Yup. Just look at Vancouver. No snow there and it's warm, to boot."

OK, so the ocean currents keep it warm, just like they keep San Francisco cool.

Does Vancouver offset snow falling in all the contiguous 48? I don't think so.

Look, the l/s/m/c/p (liberal/socialist/Marxist/communist/progressive - and that's the last time I'm going to spell it out) has not given up on cap-and-trade, which is the only reason I brought up the subject in the first place.

The bull-headed leadership in this country has been paid so much by those who will benefit greatly by such a scheme that they are willing to throw their own under the bus. I would be willing to bet that anyone voting for cap-and-trade will either retire (wealthy) or get pounded out of office.

Do you ever wonder why some politicians do strange things?

Harry Reid is a perfect example of committing political suicide, knowing the pot at the end of his rainbow awaits.

Area politicians should take note. I hope you get your share because if you vote for cap-and-trade legislation (again), it's over.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

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 Cul-lasaja 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 fellow-

ship 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 home-

• See EVENTS page 10

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Feb. 19-25

SHUTTER ISLAND

rated R

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

Sunday: 2, 4:30, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:30, 7

VALENTINE'S DAY

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:25, 7, 9:25

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

Sunday: 2, 4:25, 7

Mon + Wed: 4:25, 7

Tues + Thurs: 2, 4:25, 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: 7:10, 9:30

Saturday: 7:10, 9:30

Sunday: 7:10

Mon + Wed: 7:10

Tues + Thurs: 7:10

DEAR JOHN

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30

Saturday: 2:10, 4:30

Sunday: 2:10, 4:30

Mon + Wed: 4:30

Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30

'Photographic Works by Greg Newington' opens Friday at The Bascom

The first exhibition in the U.S. of works by award-winning Australian photographer Greg Newington will open at The Bascom this Friday, Feb. 19.

The reception will begin at 6 p.m., with a gallery talk by Newington at 6:30.

The exhibition, "Photographic Works by Greg Newington," continues in the ground floor of The Bascom's main building Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through March 7. Admission is free. Enter the building from the rear.

Newington has worked as a photographer/editor in Australia and The Middle East for over 38 years. He worked extensively in the field as a news photographer and photojournalist. His news photography won an Australian Press Photographer of the Year award in 1988, and his photo illustrations won second and third prizes in the 2002 Nikon Australia National Press Awards. He currently works from his gallery and studio



Exhibition "Photographic Works by Greg Newington" will open at The Bascom this Friday, Feb. 19, with a free public reception at 6 p.m. and a gallery talk by Newington at 6:30. The exhibition continues in the ground floor of The Bascom's main building Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through March 7. Admission is free. Enter the building from the rear.

in The Serenbe community in Georgia and in Adelaide and Sydney in Australia.

Students also have the opportunity to learn under Newington this month when The Bascom offers a one-and-a-half day field/studio workshop.

The workshop, "Winter Light - Using Light, Composition and Texture

in Photography," is for all levels of students and will be offered in two different slots: Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Feb. 28, 1-4 p.m., or March 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and March 2, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will help students gain an understanding of the role of natural light when composing color or black and white photographs.

Workshop pre-registration is required. Cost is \$150 for Bascom members and \$175 for non-members.

For information call (828) 526-4949.

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

school 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 af-

terwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nan-dea 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 infor-

mation, 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. 18

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday, Feb. 19 at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South, at 7-9 p.m. Brenda Holt from Greenville, SC, will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or www.highmountainsquares.org

- 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

Mountains in Bloom garden festival to feature tours, flower show, lecture, parties

Event raises funds for Bascom art education and exhibition programs

Over 1,000 garden and nature lovers from across the region will gather July 8-11 for the 12th annual Mountains in Bloom garden festival.

Mountains in Bloom features tours of five majestic mountain gardens in the Bowery Road area of Highlands, a flower show and photography competition, a home and garden market, a flower-themed lecture and demonstration by Beverly Reese Church, and an exclusive Benefactors Party.

All proceeds benefit exhibition and education programs of The Bascom, a nonprofit center for the visual arts that recently occupied a stunning new \$13 million campus in Highlands.

The event starts Thursday, July 8, with a flower-themed lecture illustrated with five table settings showcasing the creative ideas of New Orleans author, designer, and magazine editor Beverly Reese Church. On Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 10, attendees have their pick of garden-inspired activities: tours of five outstanding gardens in the Bowery Road area of Highlands, a free flower show and photography competition and a free home and garden market featuring the best in live plant material and distinctive items for the garden, porch, patio and home. Attendees will be shuttled from con-



Photo by Mike Hunter. This year's Mountains in Bloom will feature a tour of five gardens in the Bowery Road area of Highlands, including the garden of Linda and Tom Gunnigle, above. Set for July 8-11, Mountains in Bloom also features a flower show and photography competition, a home and garden market, a flower-themed lecture and demonstration by Beverly Reese Church, and an exclusive Benefactors Party. Tickets are on sale now at www.mountainsinbloom.com or (828) 526-4949. Group rates are available.

venient parking sites to the event venues.

On Saturday night, July 10, all Mountains in Bloom attendees are invited to a party at The Bascom to view a related exhibition, "Heroes of Horticulture," and enjoy a demonstration by Bascom artist-in-residence Susan Knight Smith on the art of pastel painting. On Sunday, July 11, benefactors of the event will top off the weekend with a gala "England in Highlands" Benefactors Party at the estate of Cathy and Bob Fisher.

"During the Mountains in Bloom garden festival in July, Highlands, North Carolina, is a spectacular place for anyone who loves flowers, gardens and the outdoors," said Minnie Bob Campbell, co-chair with Louise Demetriou, of Mountains in Bloom. "From beautifully designed and cultivated gardens to the lush native flora and fauna, it's the place to be for people who love nature."

Platinum sponsor of the event is Northern Trust. Bronze sponsors include Franklin Ford, The Laurel, Lupoli Construction, Moss Robertson Cadillac and WNC magazine.

Tickets are on sale now at www.mountainsinbloom.com or by calling (828) 526-4949 ext. 120.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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. However, we cannot guarantee placement 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

- We will be clearing winter storm damage in the Rec Park and on Big Pear Pen Mountain. We will meet in the lower Rec Park parking lot on Foreman Road at 9 a.m.. We will need three people to chain saw and three to lop branches and drag branches off the trail. The more people we have the more we can get done. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@verizon.net. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised. Heather Mangum will provide lunch for the group at the Rec Park.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-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 Hiart, "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 in Franklin. 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. Feb. 27

- Friends of Panthertown Volunteer Work Day. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Salt Rock trailhead. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend - no previous experience is necessary. Tools will be provided. Participants should bring a day pack with lunch, water, warm clothes, rain gear and work gloves. For directions and details about upcoming work days go to www.j-mca.org. Contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258) or friends.of.panthertown@gmail.com

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 Hiart, 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 Hiart, 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. See EVENTS on page 12

Food Pantry available for 'emergency food' or weekly groceries

The food pantry located on Spring Street is open each Monday afternoon from 3:30-5:30 p.m. It is operated by volunteers who come from every church in the community and the community at large. It is sponsored by The International Friendship Center and Highlands United Methodist Church and is open to anyone in the area who needs food on a regular basis or in an emergency situation. The pantry is arranged like a grocery store and clients are allowed to choose from the shelves.

Many local churches accept food or donations from members and deliver to the pantry. The public is invited to donate food items, especially dry beans, rice, cooking oil and canned fruits and juices, which can be left at the entrance to the fellowship hall of the Methodist Church on Main Street.

With funding from individual donations, churches and grants, volunteers shop for food from Manna Food Bank and local businesses. They try always to have fresh produce, meat and/or eggs in addition to boxed and canned items.

There are many dedicated volunteers who give much time and effort, but more are always needed. There are many ways to help. Each week, food is unpacked and place on the shelves by a team of volunteers. Others unpack produce and prepare it for display, still others shop for the food, and others spend one Monday afternoon a month operating the open pantry.

Anyone who could volunteer to help in any way for this very important project might call Mary Heffington at 526-3671 or Jane McDade at 526-9588.



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

bers, \$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 Work-

shop," 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.

June 17-July 3

• At Highlands Playhouse, "Smokey Joe's Cafe," a musical, theater revue, featuring 40 of the greatest songs. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandspkayhouse.org.

July 8-11

• The 12th annual Mountains in Bloom garden festival is July 8-11 in Highlands, N.C. Events include tours of five majestic mountain gardens in the Bowery Road area of Highlands, a flower show and photography competition, a home and garden market, a flower-themed lecture and demonstration by Beverly Reese Church, and an exclusive Benefactors Party. Proceeds benefit exhibition and education programs of The Bascom, a nonprofit center for the visual arts. Tickets are on sale now at www.mountainsinbloom.com or (828) 526-4949.

July 8-18

• At Highlands Playhouse, "Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney. A comedy about a dog and the couple who adopts her. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandspkayhouse.org.

July 22-Aug. 8

• At Highlands Playhouse, "The Andrews Brothers," a USO show in the South Pacific full of mistaken identities and madcap adventures. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandspkayhouse.org.

Aug. 12-22

• At Highlands Playhouse, "Lettice & Loveage," a comedic play. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandspkayhouse.org.

Siegel takes center stage as new director

Rick Siegel has acted with the Highlands-Cashiers Players before, but he is wearing a new hat these days as director of the upcoming HCP production, "Dixie Swim Club." The following is an interview between Rick and an inquisitive friend.

Q. When did you first become interested in theater?

A. I never gave a thought until 2006. Ronnie Spilton was casting for "I

Remember Mama" and asked me to audition for a small part. I auditioned, got the part, and the rest, as they say, is history. I was hooked!

Q. I have seen you in several HCP productions, most recently "Rumors" by Neil Simon. What do you like about performing?

A. It's a challenge. Memorizing lines, learning blocking, i.e., moving to specific places on the stage for specific lines while blocking out distractions like the audience, lights, the movements of other actors on stage, it all makes you work.

A huge upside to performing is the people you work with, the other performers, all the production people. There is a lot of fun that goes into rehearsing and putting on a performance.

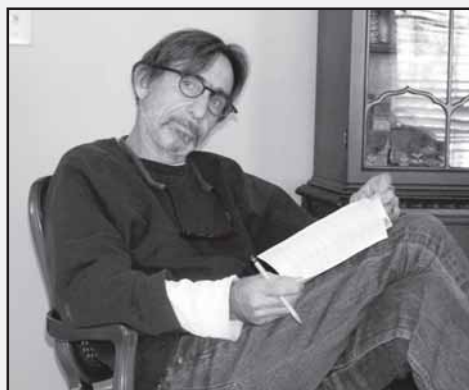
Q. How many productions have you appeared in? What were they?

A. I've been in 5 since "Mama," There was "California Suites," "How the Other Half Loves," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "A Thousand Clowns," and "Rumors."

Q. Do you have a favorite role? Why is it your favorite?

A. That would be a "toss up" I loved playing "Hysterium" in "Forum." I got to sing, poorly as it may have been, and dance. And to work with 23 other very special performers, what fun we had! The other would be doing "Lenny Ganz" in "Rumors" where I really got to "ham it up." But I never had any part in any play, big or small, that I did not have fun doing!

Q. Why did you become interested in directing?



A. While doing all these different and varied roles and working with different directors, seeing other plays, I saw things that actors and directors did that I thought were cool, and things I thought I might do differently. Directing gives one a chance to test those ideas.

Q. That seems to me to be a difficult job. How did you learn to direct?

A. Directing is a trial and error process. You plan it out, try it, look at, tweak it until you get effect you are looking for. You are always trying to refine it until it tells a coherent story that keeps the audience's attention.

HCP, The Highlands Cashiers Players, has had a program over the last few years, open to anyone interested. It is a primer course, the basics of directing. HCP also plans on having follow-up courses that gets into a wider range of the aspects of direction.

Q. Other than telling the actors what to do on stage, what are a director's responsibilities?

A. There is a lot longer list of things to do as a director than I thought going in. Basically, the director is responsible for making sure everything else happens. Not necessarily doing everything yourself, but making sure everything gets done. Putting together the production crew, a set designer, set decorator, getting a sound and light design and people to operate the "boards" a prop gather, a costumer, hair stylists, dressers, the list could take up the rest of this paper. Everything that makes up the production of a play is ultimately the responsibility of the director.

Q. "Dixie Swim Club" is an all female cast and deals with the relationships of these

women. I'm intrigued that a man would choose this particular play to direct. What was the appeal?

A. Friendship and loyalty are characteristics that are shared by the women of this play, and are characteristics that shared by both sexes.

Reading the play, the story spoke to me about those characteristics and I thought it would be fun to try to bring the play to life.

Q. I've got a loaded question for you now. Have you gained any new insight into female behavior and the working of the female mind from this play? If so, what?

A. Not really. There is a constant trait that is shared by everyone involved in a production, and that is to put on a good show. So all the men, what few there are, and women of "Dixie" are pretty much on the same page. We don't always agree with one another, but we all seem to be pulling in the same direction.

Q. It sounds as if women will really enjoy "Dixie Swim Club." What about the men in the audience?

A. I think men who see "Dixie" will come away entertained. The story is universal, the humor and sarcasm is timely, and poignant moments will pull at men just as hard as women.

Q. What are the dates for the performances?

A. We open with the reception performance on Thursday evening, February 25, and continue Friday the 26 and Saturday, the 27, Sunday matinee, February 28th. And again on Friday, March 5, Saturday, March 6, and another Sunday matinee on March 7. Evening performances begin at 7:30 pm; Sunday matinees begin at 2:30pm. The Box Office opens Thursday, February 18 for Season Subscribers and on Saturday, February 20 for the general public. Call: 828.526.8084

Opening Night Reception after the performance, Thursday, February 25. Catered by Oak Street Café. "The Dixie Swim Club" is sponsored in part by Dr. Robert Buchanan, The Center for Plastic Surgery and Scott Neumann, Law Office PLLC.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Voluntary sacrifice is good



OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor

Last weekend marked the third consecutive weekend I had to cancel Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Mountains. This winter has been so severe. We've had these extended periods of below freezing temperatures. We've also had more snow than we've seen in quite a while, I understand.

Some tell me that this hearkens back to winters many years ago when the schools were closed for the entire month of January. Others tell me that it is a sign of the reality of climate change. Whatever the cause, it does leave us lacking in what is necessary for our spiritual development. That is, gathering to worship, to give thanks, to receive the blessings of God through the community of faith.

The danger of losing these opportunities is an overly personal faith and the mistaken belief that all that is necessary for salvation is personal belief. Without community we lose the very instrument through which God makes his presence known and communicates his love to us. I hope all of you have survived this period of separation and that the weather will enable us to gather as a community of faith again.

Since I write this on the Monday prior to its publication I cannot predict whether we will have celebrated Ash Wednesday yesterday or not. This is the beginning of the season of Lent which is a time of voluntary sacrifice. We recall Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. We recall Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation. We remember our mortality. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of this. We hear the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." Or the words which are more to the point, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." It is an opportunity for personal examination and evaluation. How have we been living our faith?

The church offers three things in this season to help. It calls for more communal prayer opportunities and invites more time for personal prayer. It asks for fasting on two days (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) and abstinence from eating meat each Friday of Lent. It seeks to inspire generous giving (alms).

At Our Lady of the Mountains, to facilitate these we will offer The Way of the Cross, a communal prayer each Friday at 5:30 p.m. followed by a simple, meatless soup supper brought by the participants. We'll have daily devotional books for personal prayer. Catholic Relief Services conducts its Operation Rice Bowl program during Lent. We will have their small cardboard boxes available to take home for monetary contributions in support of CRS and their mission to help the poor.

The sufferings of winter lead to the joys of spring. The suffering and death of Jesus lead to his resurrection from the dead. So too may this time of voluntary sacrifice that Lent provides increase our joy in the resurrection we'll celebrate this Easter.

• 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; Childrens/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 childrens Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth Group

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

(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Choir - 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office, 526-2418
Sunday Mass - 9 a.m.

Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. - 6 pm

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• BUSINESS NEWS •



Above, Mountain Garden Club members meet at the Highlands Nature Center.

Mountain Garden Club
gives back to the community

Mountain Garden Club recently donated more than \$8,600 to local nonprofit organizations to further horticulture and conservation. The Highlands community makes donations like these possible by supporting the annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale held each year on Memorial Day weekend.

The recent donations went to the Highlands Biological Foundation to help pay for replacing the boardwalks at the Botanical Garden and for two scholarships for local children to attend the summer camp program at the Nature Center.

The Highlands Plateau Audobon Society received funds to help with the Annual

Meeting of the N.C. Audobon Society, which will be held on May 20-23 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway received funds to help revegetation at key points along the Greenway and for materials for building two wooden footbridges on Big Bear Pen.

Monies were donated to The Garden Club of North Carolina for scholarships it provided for the students who major in horticulture and related fields.

Save the date for the 2010 Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on Saturday, May 29, starting at 9 a.m.. The place is the ball field on Highway 64.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

bottom lip and gave Tommy the dirtiest look she could muster.

"Why don't you get one of your ho's to do this instead of me all the time?" Melva asked.

"I told you before, baby, I don't trust them ho's," Tommy responded. "If I black out, they'd have my kick and be gone. I'll give you a fin to stay. How's that, baby cakes?"

Melva stared into her lap, deep in thought. Then she extended her hand without looking up and Tommy pulled a five dollar bill from a large wad of money and handed it to her. She took the bill, crumpled it into her palm and shoved it in her pocket in one swift motion.

"All right, but this is the last time, Tommy. I mean it," Melva said. "I'm scared to be here. You gotta find someone else, ya hear?"

"OK, baby, this is the last time. Just be cool," Tommy shot back.

"Yeah, you said that last time and here I am again."

Ignoring her comment, Tommy reached into a small dresser drawer in the corner of his filthy bedroom. A trail of dried vomit ran across the linoleum floor to a nearby toilet. The room smelled of body odor and Tommy's bed lacked linens and his pillow was filthy.

Tommy pulled a small stainless steel syringe from the dresser. He smiled and held it up so Melva could get a good look.

"What's that, you ain't usin' a throwaway anymore?" Melva asked.

"Nah baby, ya can't boot good with a throwaway. Rico told me this is some boss skag so I'm gonna boot this till my momma screams from the gates of hell for me to come get her." Tommy laughed, exposing his large white teeth as he lit the small round candle on his nightstand.

Melva shook her head and looked back into her lap again. Working intently, Tommy cooked the small packet of heroin, using a slightly bent spoon. Dropping a tiny ball of cotton into the concoction, Tommy loaded his syringe.

"Remember now, if something does happen, no pigs, you hear me....no pigs! You get Doc Robertson from downstairs. He's

there 'cause I just checked," Tommy ordered.

"You fool, Doc Robertson is always drunk and he's the last person I'd get to help me," Melva laughed.

"Ain't nothing gonna happen. Do what I tell you, sit there and be cool," Tommy said as he wrapped a rubber tourniquet around his left bicep. Pumping his arm several times, the veins in his forearm swelled, exposing blue and purple needle marks that ran the length of his arm. Tommy inserted the needle, grabbed the tourniquet with his teeth and pulled it loose. Slowing injecting the solution, Tommy groaned "Oh baby....oh baby! What a rush. Rico was right."

Using the large loop at the end of the syringe, Tommy withdrew a portion of the heroin, now mixed with blood. His breathing was rapid and the excitement of this moment was overwhelming him. Again he pushed the end of the syringe, forcing the bloody concoction back into his vein and called out, "Oh Jude, don't let me down."

Tommy repeated the process, each time feeling the rush of the fluid re-entering his arm. Suddenly, as if he had been shot in the head, Tommy rolled backward onto his bed unconscious. The sheer weight of the steel syringe pulled the needle from his arm, followed by a small trickle of blood which ran onto the bed.

"Tommy?" Melva called. "Tommy, don't you mess with my head! Answer me!" Melva got up from her chair and walked slowly to the bed to get a better look. A small amount of white foamy substance had formed on Tommy's lips and his eyes were partially shut.

"Now you done it, Tommy, I'm really gonna be in trouble. My momma is going to kill me when she finds out I watched you die."

Melva turned and burst from the room, bumping into a small table, knocking the telephone and a note pad to the floor.

Doc Robertson was so drunk he could barely climb the two flights of stairs to Tommy's apartment. As Melva re-entered the apartment she called to Tommy but got no answer. Except for the telephone producing a shrill beep, beep, beep, there was silence.

Out of breath, Doc Robertson entered the apartment, cursing under his breath as he walked to the bed. As drunk as the doctor was, he only had to look at Tommy to know he was dying. A large amount of white foam had formed around Tommy's mouth and nose and ran into his right ear. Doc Robertson ordered Melva to pick up the phone from the floor.

"No way, Doc, you give him a shot or something, but you can't call the man. Tommy will kill me," Melva said.

"If I don't call an ambulance right now, Tommy won't be able to kill you 'cause he'll be dead. Now bend down and hand me that phone."

Melva did as she was ordered, then ran from the apartment, taking three steps at a time until she burst from the apartment building.

Part two will be presented next Thursday

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Feb. 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 4

• At 1 p.m., the larceny of various tools was reported but the situation was resolved between the homeowner and the contractor.

• The dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on Azalea Circle and Hickory Hill Drive.

Feb. 6

• At 12:14 p.m., a deceased person was found in her bed at her residence on Wilson Road. She died of natural causes.

Feb. 8

• At 1:41 p.m., the dept. received a 9-1-1 hang-up call from a residence on Main Street.

Feb. 9

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call of a tractor-trailer blocking Pine Street.

Feb. 11

• At 11:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64 and S. 2nd streets.

Feb. 14

• At 5:40 p.m., the dept. received a call for service concerning an open door with a key in the lock at a residence on Wingina Place.

Feb. 15

• At 7:33 p.m., officers assisted a stranded motorist on Hicks Road.

During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 4 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire &

Rescue Dept. log entries from Feb. 11:

Feb. 11

• At 2:27 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Main Street. It was canceled.

• At 5:54 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Bowery Road. It was false.

Feb. 12

• At 3:06 p.m. the dept. responded to a call of a person lying in a ditch on Turtle Pond Road. The call was canceled.

• At 4:27 p.m., the dept. responded to several cars that slid off roads, a jackknifed tractor-trailer near the hospital and stranded motorists.

Feb. 13

• At 8:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to

• See POLICE & FIRE page 3

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

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

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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)

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

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

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

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• HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

Cold weather survival tips

With hazardous winter weather being nearly a weekly occurrence this season, the health professionals at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offer suggestions for precautions to take regarding health and safety issues.

"I have seen a recent increase in ER visits that can be attributed to trips and falls caused by the inclement weather. The worse time to go outside or travel is as the ice begins to melt. Broken bones are occurring during daily activities and are definitely weather related this time of the year," said Dr. John Baumrucker, MD at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The simple task of filling up your bird feeder on your deck can cause painful injuries. Decks are similar to bridges; with the cold underneath, they freeze and stay frozen much longer than other surfaces."

There are several ways to lessen the risk of falls when walking outside. Make sure your shoes have rough soles, and try to walk only on cleared paths. Whenever possible use hand rails and carry a shoulder bag or back pack enabling hands to remain free. "Keeping a wide stance and moving slowly can help prevent trips and falls, said Baumrucker.

Winter storms can bring significant and sometimes rapid changes in the weather which greatly affects our safety. Residents should take precautions as they venture outside

during bad weather conditions. Try to stay dry, dress warmly and with several layers of loose fitting clothing. Wearing inner layers of clothing made with materials such as wool, silk and polypropylene can hold more heat than other cotton garments.

With the bitterly cold season we have seen, residents should also take precautions to stay healthy. Weakened immune systems caused by typical colds and infections can leave our bodies susceptible to serious medical conditions. "Although flu season is not quite over, Highlands and the surrounding communities have seen little flu activity in the recent months," said Cindy B. Coley, RN and Infection Control Director at HCH. "As always, frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs and flu viruses. Avoiding anyone who is sick, staying at home if you are sick, and practicing respiratory etiquette (covering your mouth when you cough, disposing of used tissues in trash-cans and washing your hands with soap and water or using the alcohol based hand sanitizers) are helpful practices to keep you healthy."

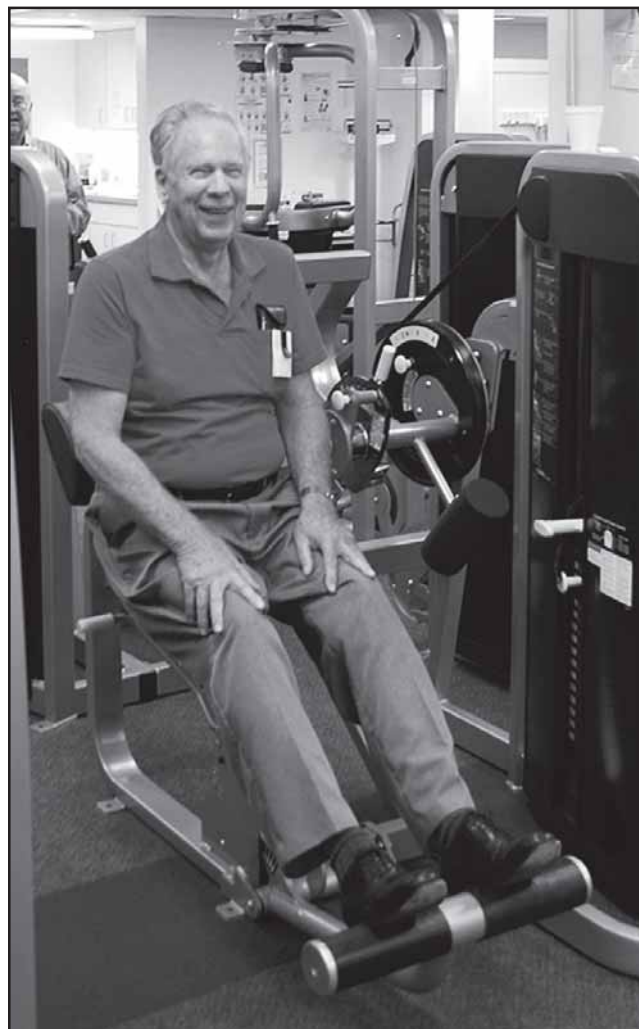
"We urge residents over the age of 65 to be especially cautious; the body's ability to feel changes in temperature lessens with age, and older adults are more inclined to ac-



quire health problems caused by the cold", said Coley.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital encourages residents, especially during times of wintry weather, to stay warm and inside. Remember to use proper safety measures if going outside in inclement conditions. "In all circumstances, our staff is here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to meet the needs of our community members. Our goal is being the health-care partner to whom our community citizens can entrust their lives," said Frank Leslie, interim CEO.

HealthTracks celebrates 'Cardiac Rehabilitation Week'



Ray McDonough, Cardiac Rehabilitation patient, pictured while exercising.

February is Heart Health Month, and the HeathTracks team at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's wellness and fitness department have much to celebrate during Cardiac Rehabilitation Week.

Since the hospital began its own cardiac rehabilitation program in 1994, it has helped hundreds of patients recover from heart attacks and cardiac surgery, and aided others in managing chronic cardiovascular disease. The goal of the program is to allow patients to recover as much quality of life as possible and to reduce the risk of reoccurrence of their coronary illness.

Ray McDonough paused from his exercise for a moment to share his experience. "After nine months of joining the cardiac program, I was able return to work on my 34 acre tree farm", said Ray. "In 2008, I suffered a severe heart attack, which doctors say I barely survived. My wife and I were celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary, when I began to feel to chest pain I became unconscious in minutes. My next memory was awaking in the ER at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The emergency staff stabilized me, administered TNK a "clot buster", and had me flown by helicopter to Mission.

"Since my heart attack, I have participated in the cardiac rehab program, exercising two hours a day, three days a week. The program helped me to recover and regain strength, health and a feeling of wellbeing", said McDonough.

"The combination of the immediate emergency I care I received at HCH, and the cardiac rehabilitation after hospitalization, not only saved my life, but helped restore my quality of life."

The cardiac rehab program first obtained national certification by the AACVPR (Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation) nine years ago. The AACVPR is a national, multi-disciplinary association dedicated to the improvement of clinical practice, promotion of scientific inquiry, and advancement of education for the benefit of cardiovascular and pulmonary rehabilitation professionals and the patients they serve. Certification recognizes those programs that are rigorously reviewed by a national board and found to meet the essential requirements for standards of

care.

Local family physician, Dr. Richard Matthews, MD, who recently open up his family practice says the hospital should be proud of the program.

"I'm impressed with the cardiac program that Director Yvonne Smith, and her team have here. It's one of the best I've seen, even when compared to many large hospitals," said Dr. Matthews.

In addition to cardiac rehabilitation, HealthTracks also offers a variety of fitness and exercise programs aimed at the general public. Among the offerings are monitored and independent exercise programs for otherwise healthy individuals, stretching and balance programs, personal training, weight loss classes, yoga, Pilates, and tobacco cessation programs. HealthTracks is located on the lower level of the Jane Woodruff Medical Building, on the hospital campus.

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

"HCH is a community hospital that provides diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care to the public through on-site professional services, or as a referral to regional support providers. Our emergency care facility is Physician staffed 24/7 and treats patients promptly, monitoring their visit with personal care and attention. We make the extra effort to assure that you get "best of class care", and feel "special" every time you pass through our doors. HCH also provides Physician Clinics, a skilled Nursing Facility, Hospice Care, Skilled Rehabilitation, and Medically-Based Wellness Programs allowing individuals and families nearby access to professional care in these critical areas. The hospital continues to expand its programs to provide the public the broadest possible range of quality healthcare. Our *Board-Certified Physician Staff* continues to grow to better serve you, as do our medical specialties now covering 18 areas of healthcare, specialties usually only found in much larger facilities. We continually update our range of diagnostic procedures by adding new state-of-the-art equipment."

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Highlanders teams split at home with Hiawasse Dam

By Ryan Potts

The last three times the Lady Highlanders have played the Lady Eagles of Hiawasse Dam, the game went down to the wire. Unfortunately, for the Lady Highlanders, the result has been three straight rounds of heartbreak, as they dropped another close one at home 51-48.

This time, the Lady Highlanders kept the game close throughout, with no team leading by more than 6 points. After two free throws gave the Highlanders a 2-point lead with 24 seconds to play, Hiawasse Dam senior Amber Boring (0-6 in the game at that point from behind the arc) hit a three-pointer to put the Lady Eagles up a point.

After a timeout, Highlands ran a perfect inbounds play for Emily Munger, but she was blocked by Karen Abling and Hiawasse Dam added two free-throws for the final margin. Taylor Buras scored 12, and Emily Munger added 17 for the Lady Highlanders.

The Highlander boys had dealt with heartbreak of their own earlier this year, blowing a 9-point fourth quarter lead at Hiawasse Dam in January.

Thursday, the Highlanders made sure that the game was never in doubt. Highlands used pressure defense and a relentless offense to take a 13-point halftime lead and led by as many as 28 points in the second half in a 80-60 victory.

Highlands had four players in double figures, with Michael Shearl leading the way by scoring 22 points. Josh Delacruz added another double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Robbie Vanderbilt scored 13 and Logan Schmitt chipped in 11 points for the Highlanders.

Highlands will play Thursday and Friday at Blue Ridge in the Smoky Mountain Conference tournament. Due to the weather, game times are subject to change.

Junior Josh Delacruz at the Hiawasse game.

Photo by Noel Atherton



Highlands School cheerleaders had a camp for the younger girls with a great turnout of 25 girls with 10 of them second graders! They cheered at the Hiawasse Dam game played at Highlands last week.

Photos by Stephanie McCall



Junior Marlee McCall takes a shot during the Hiawasse game played at Highlands last week.



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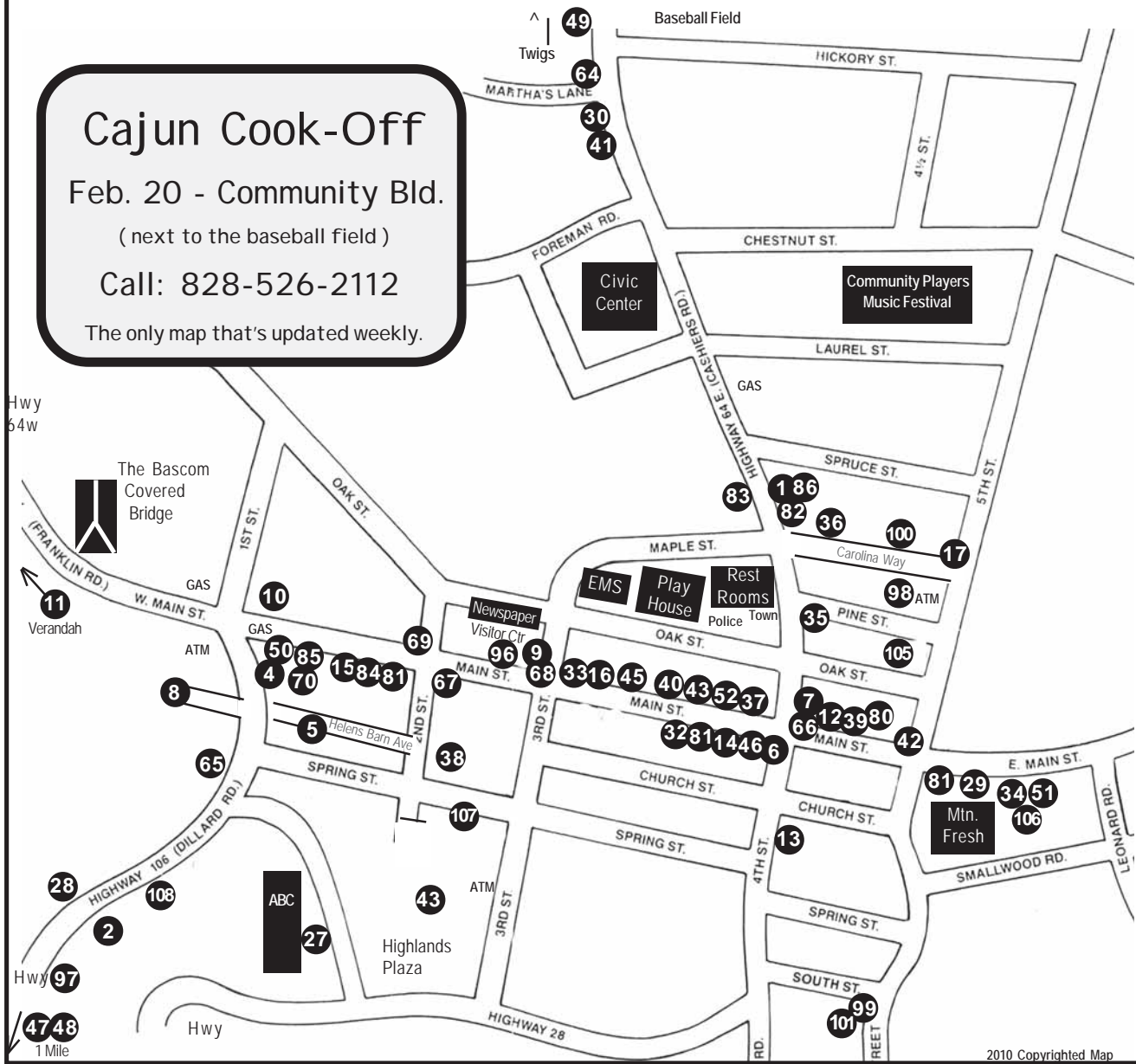
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2010 EVENTS
Center Section
Of Newspaper
Updated Weekly



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HighlandsInfo.com

Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



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

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



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