

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 3

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
44 / 30F	42 / 35F	48 / 35F

This Week in Highlands

Sign-ups through Feb. 2.

• Western style mainstream square dance classes in First Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall. Professional caller Jim Duncan from Otto will teach as many couples as will commit to the approximately 20-week series of lessons. Tentative class time is 6-8 p.m. Call FPC at 526-3175 to reserve your place in a square.

Through January

• Buy your 2010 full color Highlands School yearbook. Call 1-866-282-1516 or go to www.jostensyearbooks.com Questions? Call Highlands School at 526-2147.

Thursday, Jan. 21

• Tickets go on sale for HCP's Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at PAC Friday and Saturday, Jan. 28-30. \$55 per person for 3-course dinner with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert or \$425 for table of 8. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet to Lower White-water Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank in back at 10 a.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Mike Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sunday, Jan. 24

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 8 mile hike with an elevation change of 2000 feet to Big Scaly Mountain in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 8:00 a.m. Drive 70 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.

Monday, Jan. 25

• The next Regular MC Board of Education meeting is at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Macon County Schools Administration Office in Franklin.

Tuesday, Jan 26

• At Hiapt, "Against Grand Narratives, Part 1 & 2, by Shadia B. Drury. Will be distributed by email. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Scholarship criteria & more discussed

The possibility of changing the Highlands Scholarship Policy and Procedures and the process of Electing the Mayor Pro Tempore was discussed at Wednesday's Town Board meeting.

The Highlands Town Scholarship was established in 1975 to assist graduates of Highlands School in their post-high school education

and was required to operate under the auspices of Senate Bill 626.

Though no longer in play, the bill set the stage for the current policy and basically dealt with the administration, investment, the establishment and duties of the Scholarship Committee whose job it is to accept applications from Highlands School graduates, to interview them

and to make recommendations to the Town Board.

Criteria to be a recipient of a scholarship has been pretty lax over the years. Though merit, need, character and citizenship were considered important, basically, if a graduate applied, a scholarship in some

• See SCHOLARSHIP page 13

Two enter guilty pleas for robbery

Submitted by the Dept. of Justice

United States Attorney Edward R. Ryan for the Western District of North Carolina today announced that Billy Edward Vitatoe, 41, of Franklin and Kari Husky Conard, 32, of Franklin, entered pleas of guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis L. Howell in Asheville on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 in connection with charges against them in a federal bill of indictment for bank robbery and federal firearms violations.

Vitatoe entered a plea of guilty to one count of armed robbery of the RBC Bank of Highlands on August 13, 2009 and to one count of use and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

Conard entered a plea of guilty to one count of armed robbery of the RBC Bank of Highlands on August 13, 2009.

Joining U.S. Attorney Ryan in making today's announcement are Owen D. Harris,

Special Agent in Charge of FBI operations in North Carolina, Zebedee Graham, Special Agent in Charge of ATF for North and South Carolina, Chief Bill Harrell, Highlands Police Department, and Macon County Sheriff Robert L. Holland.

According to official documents filed with the court, on Au-

• See ROBBERY page 13



At Saturday night's annual Fire & Rescue Department award ceremony, Bobby Lewis was named "Fireman of the Year." He is pictured above with Fire Chief James Manley.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Firemen, community, honor job of department

At the annual Fire & Rescue award ceremony, held Saturday, June 16 at the Community Center, the department recognized its members for years of service and for service this past year.

The most coveted award "Fireman of the Year" went to Bobby Lewis.

"As far as I'm concerned everyone deserves to be named "Fireman of the Year," said Chief James Man-

ley. "We all spend a lot of time at this job because we like what we do, so we all deserve this, but members of the department picked Bobby because he's done more than his share this year."

Also recognized was Chief Manley who has been on the force for 30 years and has served as chief for eight years. Bob Houston intro-

• See FIRE & RESCUE page 14

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Fees set in Animal Control ordinance

The costs associated with violating the county's new Animal Control Ordinance could add up fast.

At the Jan. 11 county commission meeting, the board adopted an amendment to the ordinance to include the costs associated with civil penalties.

In the previous version of the ordinance, which was put into effect April 2009, only the criminal penalties were included.

However, not included in either version are fees or other costs associated with the county "caring" for a pet that is picked up as a stray or held due to "behavior" at the animal shelter.

Criminal costs refer to misdemeanor infractions for which any person convicted can be fined up to \$50 or imprisonment up to 30 days.

In addition, Animal Control can assess civil penalties of \$25 for the first violation and \$50 for the second and each subsequent violation.

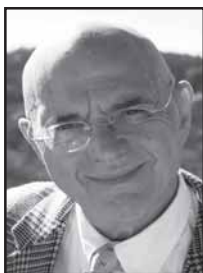
The Animal Control Director issues a ticket or citation giving notice of the alleged violation in person or by mail. Recipients of citations have 14 days to pay and if not paid, the county may enter into a civil action to recover the penalty and costs associated with its collec-

• See ANIMAL CONTROL page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• HAITI – A HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY EFFORT •

The road to Haiti and beyond



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Last Saturday, Anesthesiologist Dr. Henry Salzarulo and his partner in practice, boarded a plane to Haiti with several Partner in Health doctors. He got permission to take narcotics and other drugs with him to use during surgeries. He expects to be there for two weeks, maybe longer, as long as the medicine holds out. What follows is an almost daily account.

Daniel Ramirez wanted to do something. Daniel makes movies for a living. He flew to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and called his friend, Dr. Evan Lyon. "I'm going to load a truck with food and water," he said. "No," Evan answered. Bring diesel for our generators. Otherwise our hospital will be without electricity. Last night, Dan called from the Haitian Dominican border. He was driving a truck loaded with 50-gallon drums of diesel fuel. He's doing his bit.

Bull Salzarulo's Dad is in Fort Lauderdale, waiting for clearance to fly to Haiti. Bull stayed up way too late Thursday night. He was packing his Hot Wheels collection for kids in Haiti. Forty or 50 miniature vehicles are in my bags, along with anesthetics, narcotics, and endotracheal tubes. He added two special toys for kids who are in really bad shape. Bull didn't really want his Dad to go, but he understands the needs, the need of the Haitian people, and his Dad's need to do his bit in this catastrophe. Bull his doing his bit, both by giving his toys to the kids we'll be caring for and by giving me his blessing.

... So we sit in the departure lounge, the first of what I expect will be many delays and complications in the coming days. Part of our group, team 2, was to travel from Fort Lauderdale International Airport, and follow us to Port Au Prince. They are in the air. Our chartered jet has been delayed for three hours. Delays are not all bad. It gives me a little time to record my thoughts before they become a jumble. Soon enough we'll be operating, amputating limbs that could be salvaged in saner circumstances, cleaning wounds that are infected because of days of neglect, stemming bleeding, saving as many lives as we



Doctors from around the world have converged on Haiti offering what ever relief they can.

can.

It's a reflective period for me. I wonder if years of administering elective anesthetics to healthy patients has slowed my reflexes, robbed me of the ability to make the correct

decision in an emergency. Will I panic, make a flawed judgment, give the wrong drug or too much or too little fluid? I hope not, but I might. That's the risk I take in doing my bit. So we'll wait patiently, eager to get on with

our mission, but grateful quiet time.

You can do your bit too, if you're moved by the horror that has visited the people of Haiti. If you make contributions either through the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, North Carolina, or to Partners in Health (www.pih.org), I can guarantee that your money will be used to help those with the greatest need. Please, do your bit.

• • •

Submission one from Henry ...

Remarkable damage near the airport. Lots of cinder block walls down, a few houses collapsed or sitting at crazy angles, cracks here and there, but mostly, it just looked like Haiti.

I'm with a group of mostly Boston people in a coastal town Saint Mark where there is a hospital sponsored by Partners in Health. I share a 10x10 room with three other people and we share a bathroom with 14 others.

People are streaming in from the countryside outside of Port au Prince.

Lots of trauma. We will do more amputations every day as people get sicker and their limbs more infected. We amputated a lady's leg who lost two children in the quake, another whose was trapped in rubble for four days. They keep pouring in and we keep getting farther behind and operating on sicker and sicker people. I had back-to-back patients today who had major crashes in the operating. I thought we might lose one or both of them. They had stabilized somewhat by the time I left the hospital, but we'll see how they do overnight. I hope they will both be alive in the morning.

The hospital is atrocious, filthy, patients literally covering the floors. They said that in Cange the church and school were overflowing with patients. People seem to hear that we have arrived and bring their loved ones to the hospital. Some have been trapped for several days. I don't have any idea where the others have been staying.

There is an intensive care unit, but they don't monitor patients there. Mechanical ventilation, invasive monitoring, drug infusions -- the common things in a US hospital -- are not even considered. I don't mind. I understand Haiti pretty well. I just don't understand why they call it an ICU. So I asked, and I was told that it is an ICU because a nurse stays all night.

Submission two from Henry ...

Another long day, but it was really neat. We were dog tired and had one emergency abdominal surgery left to do, when we got the word that the Haitians were bumping us for a Stat C-section. There has been a good bit of friction between us and the Haitians, but the Haitian anesthetist asked me to do the

• See HAITI page 5

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

The welfare of the the Smokies, is about children

Dear Editor

I am writing today against any efforts to decrease quality controls over clean air and clean water. The Great Smoky Mountains have suffered damage to entire tree populations due to acid rain. This polluted rain carries the pollutants of smoke stack to the west of Western North Carolina.

Even more concerning is another population that suffers permanent damage to their lungs from waste products of production belching from antiquated smoke stack. Children living east of polluting industries have a higher rate of asthma.

The Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases states that children who are chronically exposed to air pollutants will not develop the protective cells of alveolar membranes and will continue to have respiratory problems even if taken out of polluted air.

I would hope that Senator Lisa Murkowski would care more about children's health than some company's bottom line. The technology exists to make smoke stack that do not pollute.

The cost to this country in the health and welfare of children far outweighs the savings to companies who delay the use of effective pollution controls in their industries.

Delia Frederick
Highlands

Bills infringe on our freedoms

Dear Editor,

As I write this letter Democrat members of Congress spent most of last week behind closed doors merging two seriously flawed healthcare bills into one, no doubt also a seriously flawed healthcare bill. The legislation dramatically expands the power and scope of the federal government – and fails to fix any of the real problems we face.

It is traditional that lawmakers from each chamber negotiate bill merging together and in the open. House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Leader Reid, and White House officials have instead forged ahead without including a majority of lawmakers — from both parties. Despite assurances by Congressional leadership and President Obama no transparency has been exercised during the months of wrangling over these bills. Town hall meetings were nonexistent or shut down all over the country saving lawmakers from answering constituents opposition. Congressional phones are unanswered, ring busy or callers are told the "Congressman/Senator has no statement

about the issue at this time", issue-based letters to Senators and Congressman are answered by form letters. President Obama has ignored his promises to hold debate in front of the American people on C-span. Is this anyway to run a free country? Or are we in a Congressional dictatorship?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appeared before media cameras last week and praised the "give and take" of the secret negotiations. She is correct about give and take...it is GIVE taxpayer monies to at least eight selected states (not North Carolina) to get their vote and tax breaks to chosen corporations and organizations who are friends of the Democrats while they TAKE from American taxpayers, employers and citizens.

Whether you are Democrat, Republican or Independent, I urge you to study the bills that have been passed. You can go to www.kff.org then click on Side by Side Comparison to examine the House and Senate bills as well as all other bills never even considered. There are several bills that have been proposed by other Democrats, Republican/Democrat partnerships or Republicans including one crafted by North Carolina Senator Richard Burr with Senator Tom Coburn, OK.

What you will read in the bills actually passed by the House and Senate are actions to impose tax, increase tax, increase tax rate, impose excise tax by creating, enforcing, administering, penalizing, restructuring, and establishing over 100 bureaucratic

agencies, boards, and panels to limit, restrict, reduce, surcharge and penalize the insured, insurers, uninsured, employers, Medicare/Medicaid recipients, and citizens (that is you and me).

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost to be close to \$900 billion over ten years. These costs are financed through a combination of savings, (read, cuts), from Medicare and Medicaid and new taxes and fees on certain citizens, manufacturers and insurers, an increase in hospital insurance contributions for high high-income taxpayers, and other provisions (read any further tax or penalty they can create)

Something is wrong with this picture. The bills, over 2,000 pages long, infringe on our freedoms, drain our pocketbooks and reduce the quality of our healthcare. In the beginning we asked Congress to lower healthcare costs and increase insurance accessibility while maintaining our quality of healthcare. As usual they have missed the mark and overreached, overspent and over-controlled at the expense of taxpayers and citizens. It is all for show and, of course, the dough!

Carol Adams
Glenville, NC

To Katie....

Dear Editor,

We are sharing a letter we wrote to Katie Brugger with Highlands' Newspaper.

Congratulations on the next exciting phase of your life! As we rejoice with your new adventure, your readers, viewers and friends are sad you will be leaving Highlands even though we knew your and Arthur's talents would eventually outgrow our small town. While you were perfecting your craft you took your readers and viewers on an incredible journey. We appreciated your factual, well-researched articles and enjoyed your style of writing (even those of us who didn't always agree with your conclusions). You continued to give us thought-provoking concepts.

In addition to your writing, we are going to miss your videos. We could turn on Channels 4 and 14 to be entertained with a wide array of interesting interviews and cultural events. Most of all you showed us Nature's spectacular colors, the forest's multiple shades of green, the changing seasons, and the wildlife. You and Arthur lugged your heavy video equipment into the woods, through streams and up hills to show us waterfalls, plants and birds. You did this in all kinds of weather, in the snow, ice and rain while we watched the results of your incredible work from the comfort of our sofas.

For all this and more, we thank you. For all this and more, we will miss you. We send you and Arthur our best wishes for a life of happiness and continued growth.

Julie and Allen Gary
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 7

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Highlands Map courtesy of The Laurel Magazine

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

I did not have sex with that man, Tiger Woods!

Dateline: Entering the Suez Canal on the QM 2 ocean liner.

There are many, many things that are great about sailing on the magnificent Queen Mary 2 but the best right now is being outside the range of America's broadcasting networks, especially MSNBC, that bleeding heart left wing media conglomerate that tells us "out of control" Republican spending was very bad but "necessary" Democratic spending is very good. Whatever happened to just reporting the news?

Our ship has transferred satellites and now we're picking up European television stations. The difference in news broadcasting is remarkable. They actually seem to want to broadcast the truth and they don't feature Chris Matthews or Bill O'Reilly with their worthless opinions.

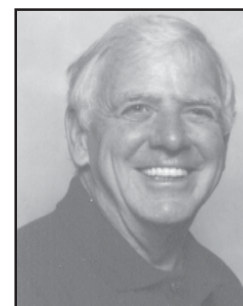
Best of all, they don't say the words "Barack Obama and "Tiger Woods" 25,000 times a day. We don't watch much TV, but, in the evening, just before retiring, we flick on the news in hopes of catching some sports scores. Last night we watched BBC for an hour and never heard the words "Tiger Woods" once.

Soon, our ship will pass through the Suez Canal and head south into the Red Sea, eventually entering the Gulf of Aden. Things might get a little tricky unless we have a naval escort. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

Once there, we might pick up Alajazerra News if the ship has the satellite connection. I always watch Alajazerra News while in Dubai. I'm always astounded at the news we Yanks never get to hear. Also, they don't sensationalize but they do have an anti-western slant in their reporting. They love that we elected a Kenyan for president.

Because I make fun of ole Barack, some folks are calling me a racist. I resent that! For the record, I'm not a racist. I don't like Barack's white half either. As we snooty QM 2 passengers like to say, "He's just not my cup of tea."

I would have voted for Colin Powell in a heartbeat, a military man who is 100% black. But Colin was too street savvy and honest to run for office. Colin began disgruntled with the Republican Party



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

about the time I did. I can relate. Whether he was a Republican or a Democrat mattered little to me.

While I vehemently deny being a racist, I will admit to being a male chauvinist pig. You remember what Eve did to Adam? If it wasn't for her, we would all be walking around this ship naked (fun, fun, fun) and I could save a fortune in cleaning bills on my tux. I spill food on it every time I wear it to dinner. But, no, Eve goaded

Adam into eating the apple and POW, we guys have been paying for it ever since. When I eventually get to meet my maker, I'm going to speak to Him about the unfairness of that decision.

Getting back to Tiger, how does the most popular and richest golfer in the world ruin everything, including his marriage, his career and his bank accounts? Repeat after me: "HOT BABES."

Adam was tempted by a naked hot babe and started it all. Tiger most definitely has a lust for hot babes, all of which appear to be white. Is Tiger Woods a racist? Anyway, the li'l missus and I are enjoying the lack of sensationalism in news piped into our cabin.

After 14 days at sea, we are now looking for a nitch on the ship we haven't discovered. Every time we passed this room called G32, it's closed. Last night we were out and about past 11 PM and found it open. I couldn't believe my eyes. It's an over the top wild nightclub with a glass countertop bar with strobe lights under it that pulsate with the beat of top-10 music, including hip hop. You don't know the meaning of loud until you enter this room. The whole joint throbs in a maze of strobe and laser lights of every color. Does the Queen know about this? I knew I should have brought my purple pants.

Of course, G32 was nearly empty because everyone on this ship has one foot in the grave. On karaoke night, you can experience some of the worse singing on the planet. I couldn't wait to get out of the place.

Soon we'll dock at Muscat where we'll be issued cards that read in Arabic, "I'm not American, but thanks anyway for making me comfortable in the trunk of your car! God is great."

... HAITI continued from page 2

case. The mom was pre-eclamptic. She delivered a small and very depressed infant. He was blue and limp and not breathing. I resuscitated him. After several minutes he started to breath and let out a robust cry. He is a beautiful little guy, and he is alive. In the face of so much death, it seemed a miracle.

We're seeing more people dying from their injuries. A 30-year-old died today from a massive crush injury to his thigh and kidney failure. His kidneys were choked with the debris of muscle breakdown. The women who looked so sick last night are much improved today. We have two, two-year-old kids early tomorrow morning. I should get some sleep.

Submission three from Henry ...

We just heard there has been another quake in Port au Prince. A doctor's wife called from Boston with the news. We know only what we hear from our network. Yesterday there was a riot at the hospital. In Haiti the veneer of civilization is considerable more than three meals thick.

UN forces stopped by and there is talk that the US army sent a detachment to provide security for us. We were in the hospital operating when one of the surgeons told us to be sure our passports were on our persons and that we would suspend surgery while the situation was so tense. Turned out to be nothing more than angry, frustrated, weary, patients' families. Malcolm, an English doctor, addressed the mob, and people settled down.

It is impossible to describe what it feels like to be part of this effort. People are arriving from all over the world. We don't see many of them here, but a Japanese guy with his Dutch assistant stopped by. Yesterday two orthopedists and two nurses from Florida arrived unannounced. They are with a church group which hired a Gulfstream to get here. They had to spend two nights in the airport before they could get through customs/immigration. We, on the other hand were taken directly from the tarmac to St. Mark without ever entering the terminal or passing through immigration.

Our surgical list grows each day. It seems impossible to reduce the load of waiting patients.

Our trauma surgeon warns that we will soon see more deaths as the natural history of the massive injuries plays out. We're saving some lives, saving some limbs, amputating others. So it goes, day after day. We've become a real team. I've even thought If I didn't have such a good job, and weren't so old, it would be fun to move to Boston and work with these folks. Of course, it wouldn't be the same. I don't expect anything can ever duplicate the conditions that have bonded us here.

...

In an email sent to Henry and Elizabeth Salzarulo from Ophelia Dahl, executive director of Partners in Health (PIH) she documents her reaction to the catastrophe in Port-au-Prince.

... Over the past 24 hours, with commu-

nication partially restored in Port-au-Prince, we have been able to coordinate strategy, challenges, and needs efficiently and effectively with our medical and logistics teams on the ground in Haiti.

With supplies delivered and initial surgical teams deployed there have been numerous successes at PIH's sites of medical operations in Port-au-Prince and outside of the city. Today, we initiated a more decentralized approach, identifying four communities and a medical complex in Croix-des-Boquets into which we will expand our efforts tomorrow.

We also began a MedEvac program for the most critical patients - four patients arrived in Philadelphia this morning where they all had surgery today and five additional patients were flown to the Dominican Republic this afternoon.

In addition to these details, we have received painful emails, commentaries, and images about the state of Port-au-Prince. There is a profound need for a sustained, long-term international response to this crisis. Read more about his first twelve hours in the city: <http://act.pih.org/dr-lyons-story>.

...

Dr. David Walton documents the tragedy and PIH's response in images.

Arriving in Port-au-Prince within 48 hours of the tragedy, he met up with Partners In Health and Zanmi Lasante (PIH's Haitian sister organization) leadership to care for patients and pursue a coordinated strategy for medical relief. A gallery of his photos: <http://act.pih.org/dr-walton-gallery>. On behalf of all of our patients and the hundreds of thousands suffering, we thank you for your efforts to spread the word of our work. Please share these accounts with others.

...

The Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation is responding to Haiti in many ways. The number one way is (of course) prayer. We will have special prayers at our Sunday services.

Monetarily, one of our parishioners has challenged us to match a \$5,000 grant. We have currently exceeded that challenge and expect to send over \$10,000 to our mission in Cange, Haiti. Cange is a growing town Northeast of Port-au-Prince. We support three educational initiatives and have built a church in the area. Cange is also the location of the first of 11 hospitals begun by Dr. Paul Farmer and Partners in Health www.pih.org. We are hoping the money will be used to help the people who are lining up at that hospital by providing then with humanitarian needs, such as, food, clothing, and shelter.

Physically, one of our members, Dr. Henry Salzarulo, has gone to Haiti. He will be an anesthesiologist with a team of doctors on a plane chartered by Partners in Health. He helped raise the money to build one of the surgical rooms for Partners in Health in Cange. He will be delivering not only his expertise, but anesthesia medicines, and funds to our local outreach. Also, Jane Chalker, Bob Fisher and myself have a trip planned for

• See HAITI on page 18

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• HIS & HERS •

Earthquakes and other human disasters

By John Armor

I have been to Haiti, once. It was in 1972. I remember it vividly. The sad thing is that Haiti has not changed materially since then. As a result of that continuing history of human failure, people are dying in the tens of thousands from easily avoidable consequences of the earthquake that centered on Port au Prince last week.



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

Haiti's successful revolution to gain its freedom from being a colony of France, was only a few years after our own Revolution against England. But since then, Haiti has had a constant series of governments composed of thieves, torturers, murderers.

When I was in Port au Prince in 1972, I took a taxi to go to the Iron Market in the center of that city. As we drove into the market, I noticed that there was one, new brick building on the outskirts of the market. In my college French, I asked the driver what that building was. He replied that it was "an agricultural warehouse." But as we passed the building, the door opened and a man came out. On the wall behind him I saw a long rack filled with dozens of machine guns.

I knew right away that the brick building was the headquarters of the Ton-Ton Macoute. They were the murderous thugs who kept "Papa Doc" Duvalier in power, and later his son, "Baby Doc." Whether the current thugs are as well organized, or bear the same name, I do not know. I do know that Haiti still does not have a competent government, and thugs are still loose in the streets.

People are dying, as you read this. They are dying because there were no bulldozers to clear the streets and get the aid that was stacking up at the airport moved just a few miles to people who are dying in the streets. People are dying of broken legs and other dealable injuries – because there's no medicine for routine infections.

There is no Haitian government to authorize the bulldozers to clear the streets. The Obama Administration has kept the control in the hands of a UN authority, rather than the American military. Remember the tsunamis in Indonesia a few years ago? The American military had boots and equipment on the ground saving lives, while the UN authority was still conducting meetings.

Political correctness will be the cause of up to half of all the deaths in Haiti after

the earthquake of 2010.

Can ordinary people in a small town in the US provide effective help to the people of Haiti? Yes. My church, the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in our tiny town of Highlands, NC, adopted the church, and hospital, and school at Tierra Muscody, Haiti, years ago. That compound is about five hours from Port au Prince.

All the buildings at Tierra Muscody are still standing. The hospital is filled to overflowing with wounded people who have walked or been carried in. It is surrounded by hundreds of people seeking treatment. The church has become a hospital. The school has become a hospital. One of the surgeons in our congregation has managed to get there to help to the doctors already there. One member of our congregation offered \$5,000 to help and asked that it be matched. It was, in two days.

Our priest and several of our leading parishioners have been there repeatedly. And Haitians have repeatedly come to visit with us. We are certain that every penny of our assistance is going directly to men, women and children who most need it.

No one will die in Tierra Muscody, Haiti, because basic care and normal medicines are unavailable. Though in other parts of Haiti, tens of thousands will die, or have died, not because of the earthquake, but because of human failures after the earthquake.

Some of those failures are at the doorstep of the UN, the Obama Administration, and assorted diplomats from various nations who are more concerned with seeming to help, than simple actions that actually do help.

If those human failures cannot be prevented here and now, they will not be prevented next time. And in Haiti, or in other nations with failed governments and mired in poverty, there will be a next time, and a next time, and a time after that.

The US always leads the efforts at disaster relief, anywhere and due to any cause. How many thousands of preventable deaths must occur until we learn how best to lead and control such efforts?

• 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 •

I really, really hope this works

Charlie Brown always used to say "Did you ever have the feeling of impending doom" before taking the mound. Unfortunately, for the little bald boy, his luck never seemed to change -- it was like he was destined for hard luck. Chuck never won the big game, and never got the "little red haired girl" of his dreams, but he also never gave up trying despite the futility of it all.

This Sunday, the New Orleans Saints fans will play the familiar role of Charlie Brown once again. For only the second time in team history, the Saints will play in an NFC Championship game, and the Superdome will host its first ever NFC Championship. The atmosphere in the city will be electric, but with the atmosphere and the spectacle will come the "impending doom" feeling that Saints fans have experienced for over 40 years.

Perhaps it is fitting that the Minnesota Vikings are coming to town — after all, they are the team that eliminated the Saints after their first franchise playoff victory in 2000. That game was a blowout, with Daunte Culpepper and Randy Moss leading the charge for the Vikings, who were promptly destroyed by the Giants in the NFC Championship.

Perhaps it is fitting that it will be Brett Favre leading the charge for the Vikings against New Orleans.

Much will be made of the fact that Favre grew up in Saints country, as well as the fact that his much ballyhooed retirement and comeback has produced terrific results. Oh the irony, that a man who I have continually bashed in this column throughout recent years will be the one to drive the stake through my heart.

Quick aside here. Can we make "Favred" into a verb? As in, Jay Leno supposedly retired, but then he Favred Conan O'Brien right in the back? I hope Conan goes to Fox, because his edgier stuff would be gold on that network.

Perhaps it is the most fitting that the majority of America will be cheering for the Saints Sunday, partly because of Favre but mostly because of the tragedy of Katrina and the surprising resurgence of parts of the city. Note "parts" because some areas are still akin to a third world country.

While the casual fan will certainly not feel the same level of pain as I will after the Saints loss, they may get a slight taste of that good ol' Charlie Brown feeling, you know, the one where you feel so sorry for Charlie Brown because Lucy keeps pulling the football away from him. There's sympathy there, but there's also a bit of pity, pity as



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

in "why does that kid keep letting that chick do that to him? What a dummy!" Yup, that's us, the Saints and their fans in a nutshell. I'm hopeful that this is the year that it all turns around.

After Sunday, it will all be over. I'll no longer be a basketcase, and will watch the Super Bowl with my usual intentions of laughing at funny commercials. We

will all hear endless stories about Peyton Manning and Brett Favre and the world will return to its usual order. Yup, that's exactly what is going to happen — and it is more than just mildly depressing.

... LETTERS from page 3

Are Fred and John one in the same?

Dear Editor,

Fred said to ask him anything, so here it is.

Fred, are you an Avatar of John Cleaveland?

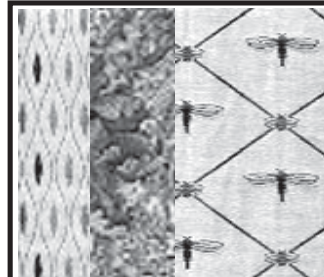
I have been on the Planning Board for six years. I have always admired how you could make critical yet humorous comments about our meetings without being there. And I was surprised to learn from one of your recent columns that you never met our former mayor. Come to think about it, I have never seen you at a Town Board meeting, either. How then could you have such insightful observations about Highlands' politics, government practices and its leaders? I have always had my doubts about your ability to know so much; especially when for months you write from a distant shore. I speculated that you might have psychic powers.

So when I read you were on a sea cruise with John Cleaveland, it hit me. I just saw that movie with those big blue cat people. Hey, are you an Avatar of John? Is that how you know so much about Highlands politics?

One more observation. I met you for the first time at a social function this past summer. I didn't recognize you as the legendary Fred Wooldridge of the Highlands' Newspaper. I hate to tell you this, but your photo in the paper doesn't really look like you in real life. It looks more like a young John Cleaveland. I bet if 50 random people were to compare current photographs of you and John to the one appearing in your column, 90% would say it is John Cleaveland. So, are you an Avatar or what? An inquiring mind wants to know.

Patrick Taylor
Highlands

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A tale of two countries



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

Most of us don't know much about the island of Hispaniola. At least we didn't until Haiti blew up last week. For those of you who were as ignorant as I was on the subject, I'll get basic. Hispaniola is an island between Cuba and Puerto Rico in, for you geographers, the Greater Antilles, an archipelago in the Caribbean.

The island is divided between the countries of Haiti on the west side and the Dominican Republic on the east. They have similar populations of 10 million, more or less, a hot, humid, tropical climate, and that is where the similarity ends.

I was prompted to research the island for several reasons; obviously the Haitian earthquake, wifey's questioning why the quake and all the aftershocks occurred precisely in Haiti without seemingly damaging the DR at all, and Pat Robertson's statement on his TV show "The 700 Club."

In researching the island, I learned that Christopher Columbus landed on Hispaniola on his first exploratory voyage in 1492 and claimed it for Spain. After centuries of battling the French and ultimately a successful slave uprising, the island was split resulting in the two countries. I won't drag you through the political struggles undergone by both countries, but ruthless dictatorships were involved in the last two-plus centuries.

So Haiti evolved with strong French influence and the Dominicans by Spain. While Haiti's rulers and outside influences raped the land and repressed the people, even though the DR was frequently ruled by some nasty dudes, their natural resources, primarily sugar, were exported creating funds for establishing a fairly good level of infrastructure.

The DR now enjoys a developed society with a middle-class, the highest Gross Domestic Product per capita in Central America and an expanding economy. It is the busiest tourist destination in the Caribbean (who knew). It has a strong musical content to its culture and has produced more major league baseball players than any country other than the US.

Next door to the west lies Haiti. It essentially has no economy. It is the poorest

country in the Western Hemisphere. It has minimal infrastructure, poor schools, a low literacy rate, and its government is practically non-existent. What's there is not noted for being particularly helpful to the people. Haitians exist largely to the generosity of the countries that send food, water and medical help on an ongoing basis through charitable organizations. And this was before the quake.

You've heard non-stop news reports of the devastation that exists and the rescue efforts going on. You may have seen maps of where the epicenter of the quake hit and where the series of serious after-shocks struck. It all occurred within Haiti, right up to the DR border, but not over it. That's strange, I thought. It would be like a serious quake hitting Asheville and after-shocks peppering Western North Carolina but South Carolina not being touched. That would be an amazing coincidence, would it not? But that's what happened on the island of Hispaniola.

For those of you who missed it, Pat Robertson made a statement on his TV network claiming that the quake was God's retribution for making a pact with the devil two centuries ago. It was at a time when the French were giving the slaves, that made up most of the population, a particularly hard time and the slaves revolted. It has been said that the slave leaders prayed to the devil that if they were liberated from the French oppression, they would forsake the white-man's god and worship him. The slaves were successful and it is said they made good by

adopting voodoo as their religion. If true, I'm sure it was not pleasing to God.

Was it a coincidence that Haiti was struck and the Dominican Republic was not?

Is it a coincidence that Haitians have lived in squalor for centuries and the Dominicans have enjoyed relative prosperity? Maybe. Was it a coincidence that the 2004 Indonesian Earthquake tsunami devastated the most heavily Muslim populated area on Earth? Maybe. Was it a coincidence that Hurricane Katrina nearly wiped out New Orleans, a city that was and is known for its sin-based tourism industry, it's high crime-rate and it's historical voodoo influence? Maybe. Are all natural disasters the result of God's wrath? I doubt it.

I have researched, as much as possible, the reaction to Robertson's claim. The consensus seems to think that he's gone off the rails again (he has a history of making controversial remarks), that God loves all his children and that He wouldn't inflict such devastation.

For those of you who don't believe the Scriptures, cover your eyes. I don't need to recount the catastrophe that Sodom and Gomorra incurred because of their sinful ways. Fire and Brimstone, sent by God, wiped them out. The plagues that God visited on Egypt, because Pharaoh refused to let His people go, spread misery and death to Egyptians. Pharaoh's stiff-necked resistance ended with the Angel of Death killing all the first born of Egypt, sparing Jewish families in the Passover.

The most significant evidence of God's ability and readiness to deal with man's sin is the flood, that eliminated humanity save for Noah and his family. I won't defend or deny Robertson's assertion, but I will enthusiastically challenge alleged actor Danny Glover's observation that the Haiti quake was due to lack of significant progress to end climate change at the Copenhagen freak show. Well, Danny, you can believe that climate change can be ended (would that mean there would no longer be changes in the weather? – how boring); I believe you're crazy as a bedbug.

which without provocation habitually or repeatedly chases, snaps at, attacks or otherwise behaves in an aggressive manner to pedestrians, bicyclists or vehicles or turns over garbage cans, damages gardens, damages public or private property or damages livestock.

In addition, animals at large without identification, without a valid Rabies ID tag or considered "dangerous," meaning any dog that without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person or another domestic animal, any dog that is owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting, any dog that is trained for dog fighting, or any dog that has been determined

to be potentially dangerous pursuant, can be picked up by Animal Control officers.

Fees incurred while at the shelter must be paid by the owner when his or her animal is picked up. The redemption fee is \$25 for second or subsequent times; the quarantine fee due to bites is \$10 per day and the fee to adopt an animal which includes rabies vaccine and spay/neuter costs is \$65.

Animals must be held a minimum of 72 hours before being euthanized and will be kept longer if space is available.

The Animal Control Ordinance is at maconnc.org

– Kim Lewicki

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... ANIMAL CONTROL continued from page 1

tion.

The purpose of the Animal Control Ordinance is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Macon County and to abate conditions detrimental to the peace and dignity of the county.

Violations include the following:

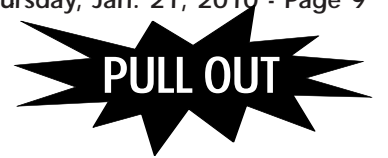
Animals — live, vertebrate creatures not limited to dogs, cats, farm animals, birds, fish and reptiles — may not be knowingly or recklessly abandoned; they must be adequately

fed and watered each 24 hours, they must be given adequate shelter which is wind- and moistureproof and big enough for them to freely walk around and lie down without coming in contact with waste or debris.

Animals may not roam "At large" meaning off the property of its owner and not under the restraint of a competent person.

No animal is allowed to be a "Public nuisance" meaning off the owner's property

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



NEW POLICY

For-Profit Businesses and NonProfit Organizations requesting Promotional or Press Release space, must agree to an advertising arrangement.

Without an arrangement, only a listing in the upcoming events calendar will appear for NonProfits but no listing will be accepted for For-Profit Business events.

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Mondays at 5 p.m.

Sign-ups through Feb. 2.

• "Dancing is good for your heart. So is fish oil," so the commercial goes. Forget it, start it, or continue the fish oil, but **DO START THE DANCING!** Western style mainstream square dance classes will begin in First Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall. Professional caller Jim Duncan from Otto will teach as many couples as will commit to the approximately 20-week series of lessons. Tentative class time is 6-8 p.m. The spacious room in the new FPC building will allow for several squares of four couples. Men and women of all ages from Highlands and surrounding areas are invited to participate in this fun-filled winter and early-spring dance. This non-profit activity will be provided at a minimal cost to each couple. The actual cost will be determined by the number who enroll in the class, not to exceed \$5 per couple weekly. Dress is casual; square wear is optional. Call FPC at 526-3175 to reserve your place in a square.

Ongoing

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

Sundays

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

• Christ Anglican Church, Highlands-Cashiers will be sharing facilities with Whiteside Presbyterian Church (PCA) of Cashiers, beginning with the first Sunday of the New Year, Jan. 3, 2010. Whiteside PCA is located at 621 US Highway 64(W), Cashiers, NC 28717. The service time for Christ Anglican will be 9 a.m. each Sunday morning, starting on

January 3. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this historic symbiosis of two orthodox Christian churches. Watch these pages for new worship and teaching opportunities.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

• Clogging Lessons at the Rec Park. 5 p.m.

Leather shoes recommended and tap shoes can be ordered. For more information, call Joyce Doerter at 877-6618. \$30/mth.

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

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

• Zumba Classes at the Rec Park. Aerobic/dance/toning. No dance experience necessary. One-

hour. \$5/class. Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, Wednesdays Zumba Gold/Beginner, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Call Mary K. Barbour at 828-342-2498.

Wednesdays

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

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

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at Ruka's Table at 163 Main Street in Wright Square in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. If you

• See EVENTS page 10

Ruby Cinema

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January 22-28

TOOTH FAIRY

rated PG

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

UP IN THE AIR

rated R

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

BOOK OF ELI

rated R

Friday: 7:10, 9:30
Saturday: 7:10, 9:30
Sunday: 7:10
Mon + Wed: 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 7:10

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

rated G

Friday: 4:30
Saturday: 2:10, 4:30
Sunday: 2:10, 4:30
Mon + Wed: 4:30
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30

AVATAR

rated PG-13

Friday: 4:30, 7:30
Saturday: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Sunday: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:30
Tues + Thurs: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30

TYPE O NEG AND B NEG BLOOD LEVELS DROP TO EMERGENCY LEVELS

Red Cross urging donors to give blood during critical time

Macon County - As a result of the recent bad weather across the country, on the heels of the holiday season, the blood supply has drastically decreased in the Carolinas Region. Type O negative and type B negative blood supplies have dropped to emergency levels and help is needed now! Since type O negative blood can be used for any patient when there is not time to determine the patient's blood type, it is crucial that there is a sufficient supply.

Tuesday, January 26

Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin)

10 am to 6:30 pm

Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred.

All presenting donors have a chance to win a \$1000 gift card!

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. The American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region provides lifesaving blood to 103 hospitals and must have 1,600 people give blood and platelets each weekday to meet hospital demand. Accident victims as well as patients with cancer, sickle cell disease, blood disorders and other illnesses receive lifesaving transfusions every day. There is no substitute for blood and volunteer donors are the only source.

The Red Cross encourages people who are in good health to donate so that hospital patients have the blood or platelets they need to make a full recovery. Blood is needed to help treat a variety of patients including accident victims and individuals undergoing surgery and cancer treatment.

Blood can be safely donated every 56 days. Most healthy people age 17 and older, or 16 with parental consent, who weigh at least 110 pounds, are eligible to donate blood and platelets. Donors who are 18 and younger must also meet specific height and weight requirements.

For more information or to locate a nearby blood drive, please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (448-3543) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

PULL OUT

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Australian photographer Greg Newington to teach workshop at The Bascom



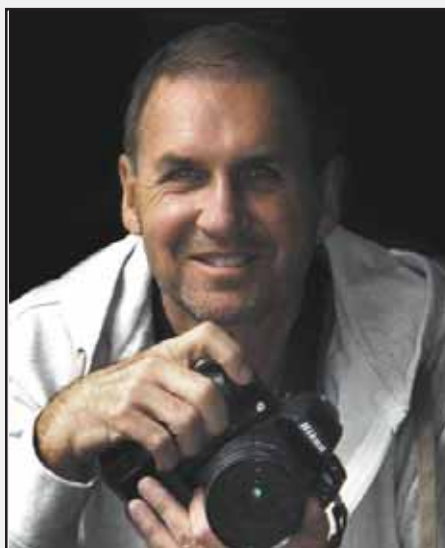
Award-winning Australian photographer Greg Newington will teach a one-and-a-half day field/studio workshop at The Bascom next month. Registration is going on now. To register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

Award-winning Australian photographer Greg Newington will be in Highlands next month to teach a one-and-a-half day field/studio workshop at The Bascom.

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 3, 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. Emphasis will be placed on practical work in the field, using existing structures in and around The Bascom campus and fellow students as subjects for landscapes, architectural and portrait assignments. Time will be divided between in-the-field assignments and the classroom, including critiques, discussion, visual presentation and one-on-one feedback. "This is a magnificent opportunity to study under one of the finest international photographers and photography instructors during a quiet time in these beautiful mountains," said Norma Smith Hendrix, Bascom education director. Newington (<http://www.newingtonphotography.com>) has worked as a photographer/editor in Aus-



tralia 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 in The Serenbe community in Georgia and in Adelaide and Sydney in Australia. An exhibition of Newington's photography will be on display at The Bascom from Feb. 19 to March 4, with an opening reception Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Registration for the Newington workshop is going on now. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$150 for Bascom members and

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.

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 (bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc) and/or their family members. We also do advocacy and educational programs. 486 W. Palmer St., Franklin, NC, 7-8 p.m., with snacks afterwards. For information contact Carole Light, Ph.D. at 828-526-9769 or Ann Nandea at 828-369-7385

Fridays & Saturdays

- At Fressers Eatery, Cy Timmons live from 6 p.m.

- At Highlands Wine & Cheese, at Falls on Main, complimentary wine samplings during business hours.

Every Third Saturday

- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Highlands-Cashiers Players stage murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser for Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30



Hilton Fuller, Diana Rosazza, Debbie Grossman, Steve Hott and Peggy Fuller. Photo by Mary Adair Leslie

Maybe it's a "no-brainer" but dinner theater consists of dinner AND theater. Highlands-Cashiers Players has cooked up a delightful murder mystery for patrons to solve when they attend "Destination Highlands/Destination Murder" on Jan. 29 and 30. The dinner they will enjoy is also outstanding, consisting of wine, appetizers, salad, main course and a scrumptious dessert. The Italian theme dinner will be a real culinary treat.

Though only seven tables of eight are available per night, each will host a different "table-scape," provided by Highlands' area ladies, and the wait staff will consist

of gentlemen volunteers.

The caterer for these dinners is Debbie Grossman, chef/owner of Fressers Eatery. Debbie volunteers her time and talent all around Highlands and has generously agreed to provide the wine and exquisitely prepared dinner for this Highlands Cashiers Players fundraiser.

The fun starts at 6:30 on Friday, Jan 29 and Saturday Jan. 30. Tickets are \$55 each or \$425 for a table of eight.

Reservations may be secured by calling the HCP box-office at 828-526-8084. Wine, Dine and Solve the Crime.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

• Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or

for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 21

• Tickets go on sale for HCP's Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at PAC Friday and Saturday, Jan. 28-30. \$55 per son for 3-course dinner with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert or \$425 for table of 8. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

• Thursday matinee movie series in the Library Meeting Room, hosted by the Friends of the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library at 3 p.m. Free but donations accepted. Meryl Streep and Amy Adams star in "Julia and Julie."

Saturday, Jan. 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4 mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet to Lower Whitewater Falls. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank in back at 10:00 a.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Mike Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Sunday, Jan. 24

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 8 mile hike with an elevation change of 2000 feet to Big Scaly Mountain in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 8:00 a.m. Drive 70 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Monday, Jan. 25

• The next Regular MC Board of Education meeting is at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Macon County Schools Administration Office in Franklin.

Tuesday, Jan 26

• At Hiapt, "Against Grand Narratives, Part 1 & 2, by Shadia B. Drury. Will be distributed by email. Coordinator: Peter Ray. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

• Blood Drive for Type O neg and B neg types. Macon County Library Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin) 10 am to 6:30 pm. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred. *All presenting donors have a chance to win a \$1,000 gift card!*

Wednesday, Jan. 27

• Warmth in Winter. Need a hot meal? Come to CareNet at 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. Transportation provided by Macon County Transit. Pick ups every hour. Old Ingles: 3, 4, 5, 6; Hot Spot 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15. Wal-Mart: 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30. Big Bear Park: 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45. Also available, blankets, coats, socks, gloves, hats and more FREE as supplies last.

Friday & Saturday, Jan. 29-30

• Murder Mystery Dinner Theater with the Highlands-Cashiers Players at 6:30 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street, "Destination Highlands/Destination Murder." Three-course dinner with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. \$55 per person or \$425 for table of 8. Tickets go on sale Thursday, Jan. 21. Call 526-8084 for reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 30

• 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.

AGENDA

Joint Town Board and Planning Board meeting
Jan. 25 at 5:30 pm
Community Building

- Proposed Stormwater Ordinance
- Temporary Real Estate Development Sign Ordinance

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Now Worshipping at the Facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

621 US 64 Hwy (West)
Cashiers

Sundays at 9 a.m.
Communion Service



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

Come and join us!
The Reverend Jim Muphy,
Rector

(252) 671-4011

www.christanglicanchurch.com



Tickets are on sale now for the 2010 Collective Spirits wine festival, set for May 20-22 in Highlands. Proceeds benefit art exhibition and education programs at The Bascom. For tickets or more information, www.collectivespirits.com or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 120

Tickets on sale for Collective Spirits wine festival

Event raises funds for Bascom art education and exhibition programs

Wine lovers from all over the U.S. will come together May 20-22 to celebrate the fourth annual Collective Spirits wine festival in Highlands.

Collective Spirits features 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.

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

"Collective Spirits is truly Highlands' season-opener and a delight for the true wine aficionado," said Dick Boger, Collective Spirits chair. "We invite you to come sip, sup, socialize and stock your cellar."

Collective Spirits events are as follows:

• Thursday, May 20, 6 p.m. Sponsor/Benefactor Invitation-Only Wine Dinners

• Friday, May 21, 6 p.m. "Stock Your Cellars" Wine Tasting Party

• Saturday, May 22, Daytime Wine and Wine-Related Symposiums by Carsom Demmond, Yves Durand, Mary Ann Hardman, Delia Viader, more

• Saturday, May 22, Daytime Michael Bryan Symposium

• Saturday, May 22, 6 p.m. "Chateau Bascom" Gala Wine Dinner and Auction

• Wilmington Trust is the presenting sponsor. Bronze sponsors include Franklin Ford, Harry Norman Realtors-Pat Allen and Bert Mobley, The Laurel magazine, and Moss Robertson Cadillac.

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What a difference a day can make



Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

What a difference a day makes? How many of us have ever said that? In saying those words we are really implying that time passing makes a difference, right? I mean we can be dreading a test on Monday and then Tuesday comes and we forget about the stress of the test on Tuesday. We can have a medical test one day and dread up until the day, have the test and then we lose the stress after — what a difference a day makes.

We could feel one day that nothing is going right and then wake up the next day and we are on top of the world — what a difference a day makes. The point is, time makes a difference in all our lives.

I know that all of you have been watching with disbelief as the news that continues to come in about the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

I am not sure that we can understand the magnitude of the devastation there, but what we can understand are the faces of pain, hurt and shock of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

I have been encouraged to see how the world has answered the call of compassion towards Haiti and I know that it will continue to pour in as we pull together in care for people who are hurting. You see what a difference a day makes? One day Haiti was just a poor country that hardly anyone noticed and today it is the focus of the whole world community. What a difference a day makes!

I had the privilege to go to Haiti last summer with about 17 others from Highlands. We went with Jane Chalker and the Methodists and Episcopal youth ventured on a special journey to this country.

I was amazed at how resourceful the people of Haiti were, I was amazed at how loving the people of Haiti were, and I was amazed at how accepting the people were to a bunch of Americans coming to live with them for a week.

So as we as the world and we as the community of Highlands pray and support the efforts to feed and house the people in Haiti, I simply want to remind you that what we do as churches, as organizations, and as individuals, will make a difference in someone's life in Haiti. No matter how big or how small the gift is, it will make a difference.

When we come together with a common purpose we can accomplish a great deal and change people's lives. Some people have suggested that the earthquake in Haiti was "God's judgment on Haiti because of some past deals made with the devil." Wow, that's not how I have read the Scriptures. As far as I have understood, God so loved the world ... I am not an expert on the Scriptures but I have read them a time or two.

You see, I think now we all have the opportunity to show Haiti the love of God by coming together for a common purpose to help our brothers and sisters in need. Very often the way we respond to a situation is how others experience the face and heart of God.

So Highlands, I am ready to see what a difference a day makes, how about you? I encourage you to make a difference through helping an organization for Haiti and if you need an idea of where or how to help, come see me! Grace and Peace.

• 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

... SCHOLARSHIP cfrom page 1

amount was given for pursuing post high school education at a trade school, community college or a four-year institution. For many students, this was the only scholarship they received.

There are three top scholarships within the Highlands Scholarship Fund – the Edith Joel Memorial Scholarship, which is supposed to go to a student interested in music, the Jack Taylor Scholarship, which is usually given to the Valedictorian and the Jack Brockway Scholarship, which traditionally goes to the Salutatorian.

But Wednesday night, the scholarship committee asked to change the criteria – or rather make it more official.

As per the new policy, awards will be based first on class rank as determined by grades, SAT and ACT scores, college major, rigor of curriculum both in high school and college (if re-applying as a college student), financial need, character and citizenship – in that order.

As in the past, the three top awards would be given to the Val, Sal and musically inclined, or the top-all-around student of either sex.

When asked, Town Attorney Bill Coward, by law a standing member on the committee, said it's true, students pursuing certain majors might be given more money than others – say pre-med versus sociology – and that class rank and grades were most important. But he said "this is not set in stone and the committee is certainly open to discussion."

Pat Taylor, a retired college professor whose daughter was a recipient of the town scholarship said the scholarship program is wonderful and a way to support Highlands School graduates in their pursuits but basing awards on grades, standardized test scores and choice of major and rigor of curriculum is a shift away from the goal which is to get them on their way.

Commissioners Buz Dotson and Larry Rogers were in favor of distributing scholarship funds equally to college-bound graduates after the top three scholarships were awarded as prescribed.

"I am a proponent of giving a flat amount across the board to each student who qualifies because otherwise the committee is making arbitrary judgments based on criteria like rigor of curriculum or what college the student is heading to and it's just hard to say whose education will be valuable to society. I would hate to say a doctor is more valuable than a police officer, for

instance."

He said after the awards are given to the Val, Sal and the musically inclined, the distribution becomes very subjective. He said there is room for arbitrary decisions for college students reapplying, but not for initial Highlands School graduates.

Commissioner Rogers said some students don't test well nor do they have a high class rank and it's those students who need a push up the ladder to get them started.

However, Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said that setting standards prepares students for the realities of life – realities which are often unfair. "We traditionally reward kids who work harder," said Wilkes.

Commissioner DeWolf agreed. "I think we should pursue this as in the past. We all live under a system of false promises and have to break into life," he said.

Wilkes said basically the board has to decide if it wants a system based on equality or a system that is subjective.

Coward said distributing the money equally would certainly make the committee's job easier.

Not ready to decide, the board agreed to continue the discussion about award criteria.

However, since the Senate Bill no longer applies, the board asked Attorney Coward to request the legislation regulating the committee be repealed and to amend the Town Charter to reflect that.

The second policy discussed was the Election of the Mayor Pro Tempore (MPT).

Since November's election, the issue has been a hot topic. Some people thought the MPT should be the commissioner with the highest votes as prior to 1997 when terms were not staggered and some thought it should continue as it has since staggered terms were initiated, whereby nominations were taken from the board.

Mayor David Wilkes suggested setting a policy that would be incorporated into the Town Charter to mimic the General Statute that simply says the MPT serves at the pleasure of the board. He suggested the MPT be elected by the commissioners at-large on an annual basis.

"I want to put this issue to bed so it's not an issue for the next mayor and adopt this as a new policy," he said. The board agreed unanimously.

• Next week: Chamber of Commerce fireworks, Business Committee news and more.

– **Kim Lewicki**

... ROBBERY continued from page 1

gust 13, 2009 Billy Edward Vitatoe walked into the RBC Bank located at 225 Franklin Road, in Highlands armed with a sawed-off shotgun, while Kari Husky Conard waited outside in the getaway vehicle.

Wearing a mask to cover his face, Vitatoe fired one round into the ceiling of the bank and reload-

ed the firearm. He then robbed the bank of approximately \$4,500 and fled in the vehicle driven by Conard.

The maximum penalties for such violations are: Count One: a \$250,000 fine, no more than 20 years imprisonment, or both. Count Two: not less than 10 years

imprisonment to be served consecutive to term of imprisonment given regarding Count One.

Both Vitatoe and Conard are presently in federal custody, awaiting sentencing. A date for their sentencing hearings in U.S. District Court has not yet been set.

The faces behind the SOAR mission

David Horwitz, Lt. Col. (ret.) served his country for 22 years in the US Air Force as a Special Operations Officer. Last year he became a government employee working for Special Operations.

Although he is not a member of the military anymore, his expertise as a Special Ops analyst was needed in remote bases in Afghanistan.

Now David's mission is to help to advise Special Ops personnel in tactics and strategies to defeat the Taliban.

David is pictured with a member of Afghan National Police. This man was a fighter for the Mujahadeen which defeated the Soviet Union which had invaded Afghanistan. The group picture, taken in a remote area of Afghanistan, shows David with US military personnel and our partner forces of the Afghan National Police.

David's parents are Nancy and Bill Horwitz of Highlands. David was prominent in the start of SOAR of Western North Carolina, a charity event for the last eight years in Highlands. SOAR raises money for Special Operations Warrior Foundation. This foundation pays for the total college education cost for the children of Special Operations Warriors who died in service to their country.

Special Operations Forces continue to be at the tip of the spear fighting our nation's war against terrorism and will continue doing in the future.

Since operations launched in Afghanistan and Iraq, 321 special operations personnel have lost their lives leaving behind 367 children ranging from infants and toddlers to teenagers.

Special Operations Warrior Foundation has provided \$700,000 in immediate financial assistance to the families of our wounded troops so they can be at the hospital and bedside with their loved ones.

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation is a top-rated charity who was recently awarded for

its fourth consecutive four-star rating for its financial efficiency. SOAR committee members are now at work starting their ninth year of work for these children.

In the last eight years, SOAR has raised over \$400,000 for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

SOAR events are Golf Tournament at Burlingame Country Club

on June 7th, a Silent/Live Auction on June 10th, and the Special Operations Adventure Race on June 12th.

We invite you to join us for any or all of these events to help this most worthy cause. Bill and Nancy Horwitz are in charge of fund raising and can be contacted at 526-0224. Volunteers are always needed for the events.



David Horwitz is pictured with a member of Afghan National Police. This man was a fighter for the Mujahadeen which defeated the Soviet Union which had invaded Afghanistan.



This picture was taken in a remote area of Afghanistan and shows David with US military personnel and US partner forces of the Afghan National Police.

... FIRE & RESCUE continued from page 1

duced Mayor David Wilkes who presented Manley with an award.

"This is an outstanding achievement to honor someone who has served his community for 30 years," said Wilkes. "This is the kind of thing people in the community tend to take for granted. We have a great police and fire de-

partment and we don't take into consideration all you do. You guys are one of the things that makes Highlands special and if something happens, you are right on it. I want to thank all the fire and rescue men, past, present and future for the great service you do for this community. We appreciate you all."

According to the annual report statistics, the total number of calls increased by 11 from 2008, to 395 in 2009.

Included in that figure are 211 fire and related calls – up five from 2008. 100 fire alarms – up 31 from 2008, 44 wrecks with hazardous

conditions, 17 mutual aid calls from other departments, 12 structure fires, 8 brush/wood fires, and 2 vehicle fires.

There were 91 calls inside the town limits or 43% of calls, and 120 calls outside the town limits or 57% of calls. Estimated fire loss in town was \$479,000. Nothing outside of town.

Also included in

the total figure are Rescue and First Responder calls – 184 up six from 2008.

First responders assisted Macon County EMS crews 155 times in 2009. The department dealt with wrecks other than fire calls, nine times, searched for missing people nine times, responded to five miscellaneous calls, four calls relating to falls and injuries and responded to two water rescue and body recovery incidents.

In that category, 76 calls or 41% were inside town and 108 calls or 59% were outside town.

The department made several major equipment purchases and improvements including a payment of \$200,000 for the 75-ft. ladder truck. The balance due with interest is \$254,858. The building for the ladder truck cost \$46,268 with electric/heating, foundation and steps, paving and land-

scaping, and foam insulation, totalling an additional \$79,364.

The department also purchased a heat-seeking camera for \$9,200, radio equipment for \$4,530, a vehicle light bar for \$1,530 and a beverage cooler for \$1,479.

Three men retired from the force this year and three resigned. Four new members were elected bringing membership to 26 with room for four more.

In July member Robbie Forrester was hired as the department's first full-time officer. His duties include responding to calls, fire safety classes, training, maintenance and more. Retired member Bob Houston is the part-time office assistant who does bookkeeping, reports, records, budgets and other duties.

Training continues year long and 17 fireman completed 11 area fire and rescue schools for a total of 387 hours.

The department continues to bill Jackson County property owners to our fire districts outside the town limits. This year Jackson County paid \$6,908 which was used to pay for Jackson County property owners inside the town limits. Highlands Falls Country Club paid \$5,317 for their Jackson County property owners. Cullasaja Club paid \$8,766 and the Wildcat Ridge area paid \$1,265. This pays for coverage through July 1, 2010.

Fire alarms were back up compared to last year which accounted for almost half of the fire-related calls -- about 90% of them were false.

In addition to responding to fire and rescue calls the almost-all volunteer department assisted with Halloween, the fireworks display, the Christmas Parade, SOAR, and the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

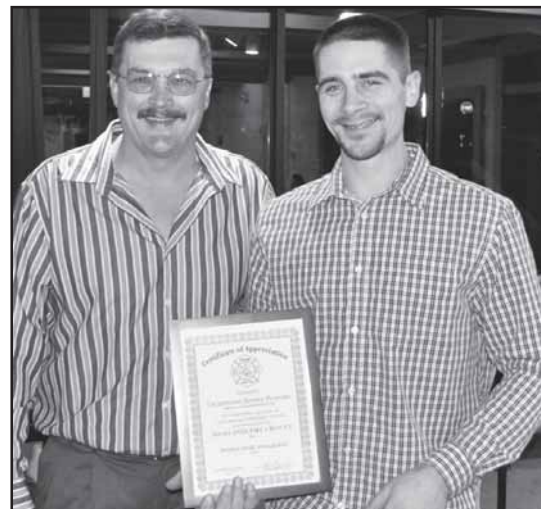
– Kim Lewicki



Above, Mayor David Wilkes presented Chief James Manley with a plaque for serving 30 years active service on the department. In June, he will have served as chief for eight years and if still chief next year, he will have held that position the longest.



Photos by Jim Lewicki

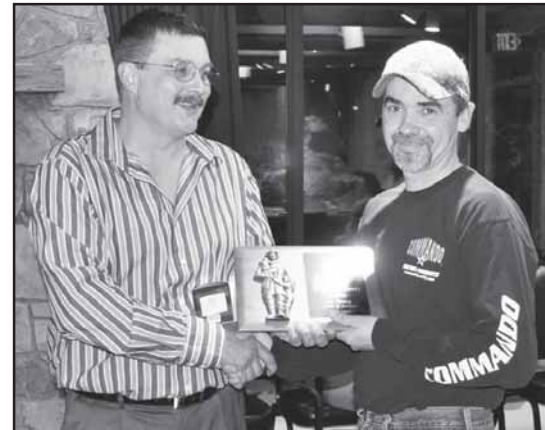


Above are the officers for 2010, Chief James Manley, Asst. Chief Ryan Gearhart, 1st Lt. Eric Pierson, 2nd Lt. Lenny Metrick, Rescue Capt. Robbie Forrester, Rescue Lt. Jimmy Petrone, Treasurer Terry Watson and Secretary Bobby Lewis. Not pictured is Fire Captain Jim Tate.

Far left, Robbie Forrester, the departments first full-time employee, received a service pin and certificate for serving 15 years on the department. For 21 years in a row, Roger Lee Wilson, left, received the perfect attendance award joined this year by Jimmy Petrone, above. Roger Lee also earned a certificate and pin for 20 years service on the department. Not pictured is Travis Ramey who has served for five years.



Two members retired this year, 21-year veteran Ricky Bryson who served as chief for one year and assistant chief for 12 years. Wayne Hentry, below, retired with 20 years service. Retirees were presented a plaque and watch. Henry also received a 20-year service pin and certificate.



NEW POLICY

Non-Commercial Classifieds:

\$5 for first 10 words;
20 cents per word
thereafter.

Commmercial Classifieds:

\$6 for first 10 words;
25 cents per word thereafter.

Email Copy To:

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or FAX to 1-866-212-8913

No phone submissions.

Send check to:

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Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-0782
VISA/MASTERCARD Accepted

DEADLINE:

Mondays at 5 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All unpaid ads will be deleted.

HELP WANTED

EARN \$250-\$300 WEEKLY WORKING AS A SECRETE/ MYSTERY SHOPPER – This is a flexible job offer, does not disturb your present Job if you have one, Here's your chance to get paid for shopping and dinning out. Your job will be to evaluate and comment on customer service in a wide Variety of shops, Stores, restaurant and services in your area. Mystery shoppers are Needed. You'll be paid to shop and dine out- plus, you can also get free meals, Free merchandise, Free services, free Entertainment, Free travel and more. Great Pay. Fun Work. Flexible Schedules. No experience required. If you can shop- you are qualified! **JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Good business Skills; The Applicant must be 18 Years and above; Honest, responsible, industrious; PC, e-mail and the Internet skills; Ability to check e-mail daily; No less than 2 working hours per day. Interested candidate contact email: brian.williams@gmail.com (2/4)

PRN-RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL — Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

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

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST NEEDED AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL — Full time, 90% out-patient care with potential planned upward mobility. Strong orthopedic skills desired. Professional independence encouraged. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

LOST

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

WANTED

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

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

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

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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)

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

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

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

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

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Jan. 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 12
• At 11:20 a.m., a motorist hit the stone guardrail at Harris Lake. There were no injuries.

Jan. 18
• At 7:45 a.m., a burglary at the Civic Center was reported. An exterior window was broken with a flower pot and the window of the office door was broken with a trophy. Stolen was \$325 in cash and damage was done to office equipment.

During the week, police officers responded to 1 citation.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 13:

Jan. 13
• At 1:54 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Department for a structure fire. Highlands manned their station.

Jan. 14
• At 12:55 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Billy Cabin Road. It was set off by a broken water pipe.

• At 4:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a generator fire at a residence on Clear Creek Road. It was out when they got there.

• At 2:06 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at OEI. It was cancelled.

Jan. 16
• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Buck Creek Road at the Recycle Center where a man fell 20-feet from a pole. He was transported to the hospital where it was learned he had broken his back.

• At 3:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Clear Creek Road for a diabetic emergency. The patient was not transported to the hospital.

Jan. 17
• At 1:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call residence on Buck Creek Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Jan. 18
• The dept. responded to a dumpster fire at Village Walk Condominiums where someone had thrown hot ashes into the dumpster. It was extinguished.

Jan. 19
• At 5:55 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fire Dept. for a structure fire. Highlands manned their station.

• At 10:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Oak Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.



Civic Center employees who went to work Monday morning were greeted with a broken exterior window, a broken office door window, damage to office equipment and \$325 in cash missing.

The thief or thieves gained access to the interior by throwing a flower pot through the window. They were able to open the office door after breaking the glass window and reaching inside to open the door.

Authorities say they left the building through the back gymnasium doors. Police Chief Bill Harrell said they are following a couple of leads but can't report on their findings at this time.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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2/25

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The Girls Clubhouse works with HCCDC students



Members of The Girls' Clubhouse worked at the Highlands Community Child Development Center on Friday, Jan. 15. Pictured from left are Meredith Garren, Shannon Welch, Veronica Garcia and above are McKinley Mosely and Claudia Lewis.

... HAITI continued from page 5

February 11th. Jane and a team were supposed to be in Haiti today, but obviously that trip has been cancelled.

Besides our local outreach efforts I am encouraging people to give to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund www.er-d.org. Haiti is one of the largest Diocese in the Episcopal Church, so we have many organizations and churches on the ground around Haiti.

— **Rev. Brian Sullivan**

• • •

In November 2009 the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club partnered with Larry Stenger of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary to purchase a Shelterbox. A Shelterbox is a 49 gallon box which holds

supplies to house and care for up to ten people for a year. The Shelterboxes are deployed all over the world to help victims of disaster and were even used in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Now Shelterboxes have been deployed to Haiti. According to the website shelterbox.org "the situation in Port au Prince is extremely fluid and logistics are changing minute by minute. Shelterbox Response Team (SRT) members David Eby (US), Wayne Robinson (US) and Mark Pearson (UK) have been in Port au Prince since Thursday and have been working around the clock assessing the most effective

ways to distribute the much needed aid. The Response Team says the situation on the ground is frantic but there doing all they can to make sure they deliver aid into Port au Prince as quickly as they can.

Some things the Shelterbox contains include a ten person, three room winter suitable tent, sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito netting. Also included are water purification materials, 2-1 gallon collapsible water containers/carriers, a multi-fuel cook stove, cooking and eating utensils, ponchos, a tool box, and even a children's activity kit. The 49 gallon box can be used for storage, water tank, table, etc. The con-

tents are constantly under review and can change periodically depending on the area and different requirements.

More Shelterboxes are going to be needed as the crisis in Haiti continues to unfold. Larry Stenger, Western NC Shelter Box Coordinator for Rotary District 7670 and member of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club said "There is a shortage of Shelterboxes now due to so many disasters that have taken place in the past 12 months."

The front office at Mitchell's Lodge and Cottages will be a drop off point for anyone who wishes to drop off a check or cash to help fund more shelterboxes.

Shelterbox funds can then be collected by the Rotary Club and be forwarded to Shelterbox USA. Donations to Shelterbox can also be made by contacting Highlands Mountaintop Rotary President Al Bolt at 526-2267, through Shelterbox.org or by mailing donations to the office of Larry Stenger at 2540 Ellijay Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

— **Highlands Mountaintop Rotary**

• • •

Holy Family Lutheran is having a love offering this Sunday to send to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help the people of Haiti.

They will also be holding special prayer on behalf of the victims and those who

are attempting to help.

— **Chaplain Margaret Howell**

• • •

Highlands UMC will be supporting United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and putting together health kits to send to Haiti.

People can come by the church to see what we are packing in the health kits. We will also be supporting the Haiti through the Episcopal Haiti fund and Little Children of the World. Persons making a \$100 donation will get a hand made pen from Dr. John Bamrucker.

— **Pastor Paul Christy**

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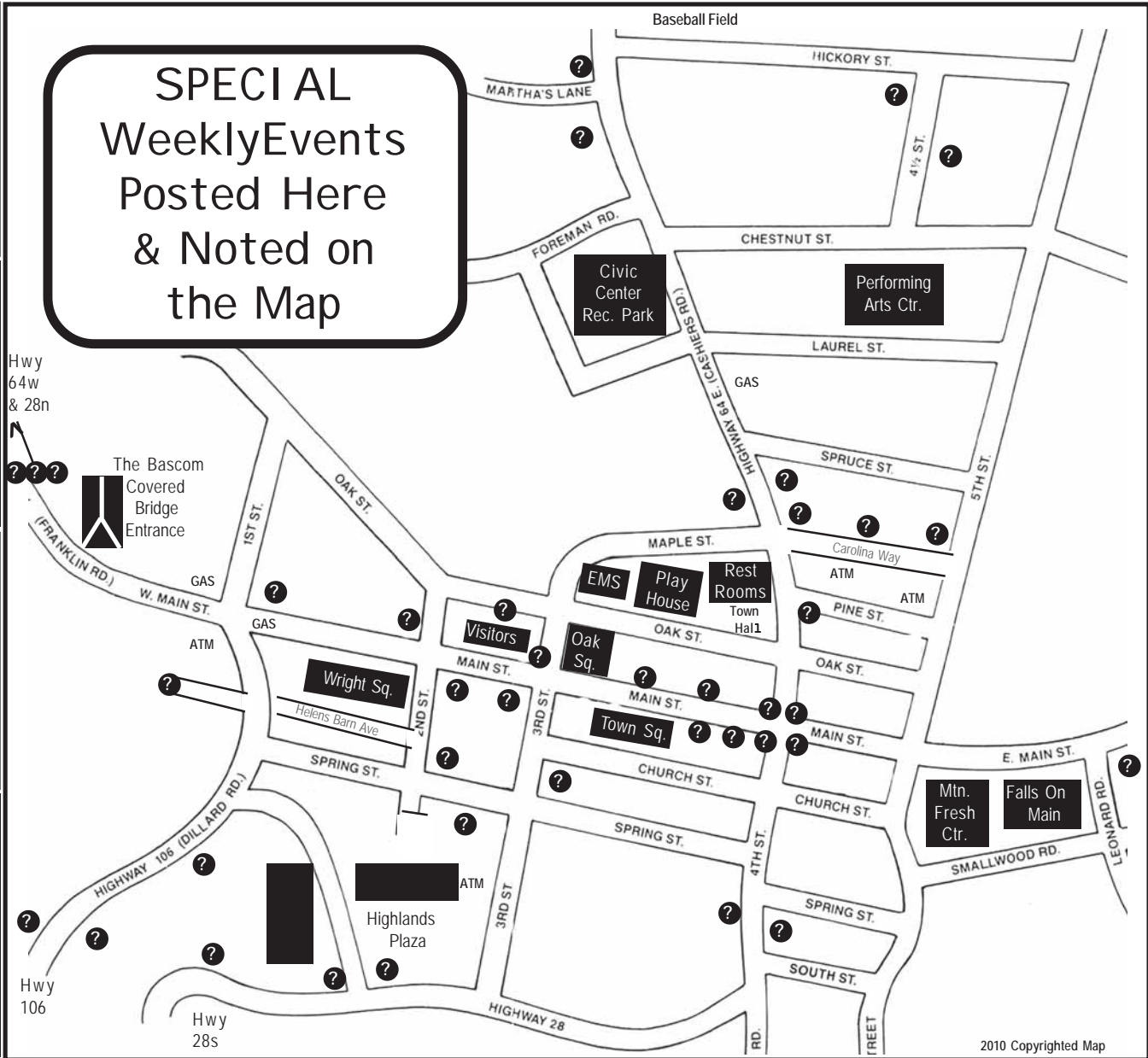
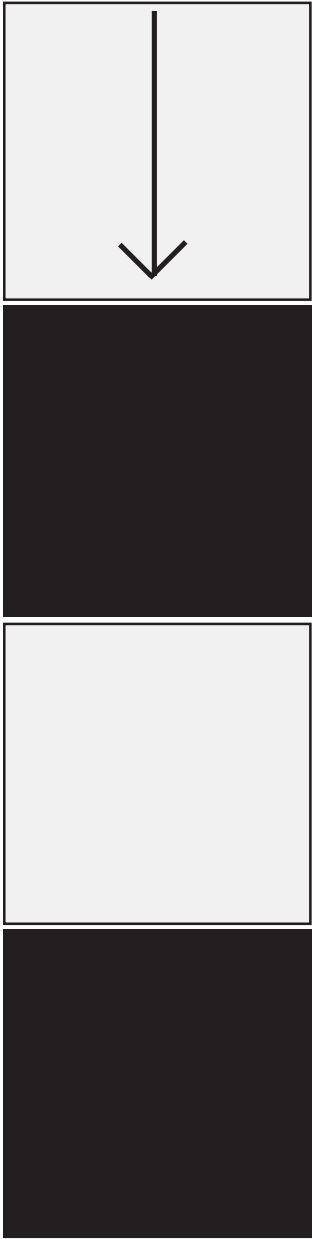
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HighlandsInfo.com

Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map

Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



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

PDF Inter-Active & Linked Map
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This map page also displays at
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