


Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 1

PDF Version – www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
		
20 / 8F	22 / 9F	25 / 10F

This Week in Highlands

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.

Ongoing

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

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.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

• A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, supplied a snack, helped with homework, supervised 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.

Fridays & Saturdays

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

Every Third Saturday

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

Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days. Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, call Nina Elliott at 526-9938 (ext. 258).

Saturdays

• At Cyprus International Restaurant on NC 106, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

Saturday, Jan. 9

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate hike 3.8 mile on the Bartram Trail from Osage Mtn. trailhead to Hale Ridge Rd. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

Pine St. stormwater & temp signs top issues

At the first Town Board meeting of 2010, Mayor David Wilkes said "the past month has been a month of learning where a long learning curve has been packed into a short period of time."

Point in case, his views on the necessity of stormwater improvements in the vicinity of Pine and Fifth streets did an about-face.

With money on its way, financ-

ing and bids dealing with the project were explained at length by J.P. Johns, with McGill and Associates, the town's design engineer for the project.

The town has received two grants for stormwater improvements for Pine and Fifth streets – one an ARRA Grant for \$546,517 and the other a Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMT) for

\$90,000. The ARRA grant comes in two parts -- \$273,259 in cash and a no-interest, 20-year loan for \$273,259. The CWMT money would be used to buy down the ARRA loan to \$183,259, so the town's loan payment would be \$9,163 per year.

Since the lowest bid submit-

• See STORMWATER page 2

Smoke-free air now required at NC bars and restaurants

Macon County way ahead of the 'pack'

Submitted by the MC Health Dept.

North Carolina's historic smoke-free restaurants and bars law went into effect at midnight on Jan. 2, rendering all restaurants and bars smoke-free indoors, with very few exceptions.

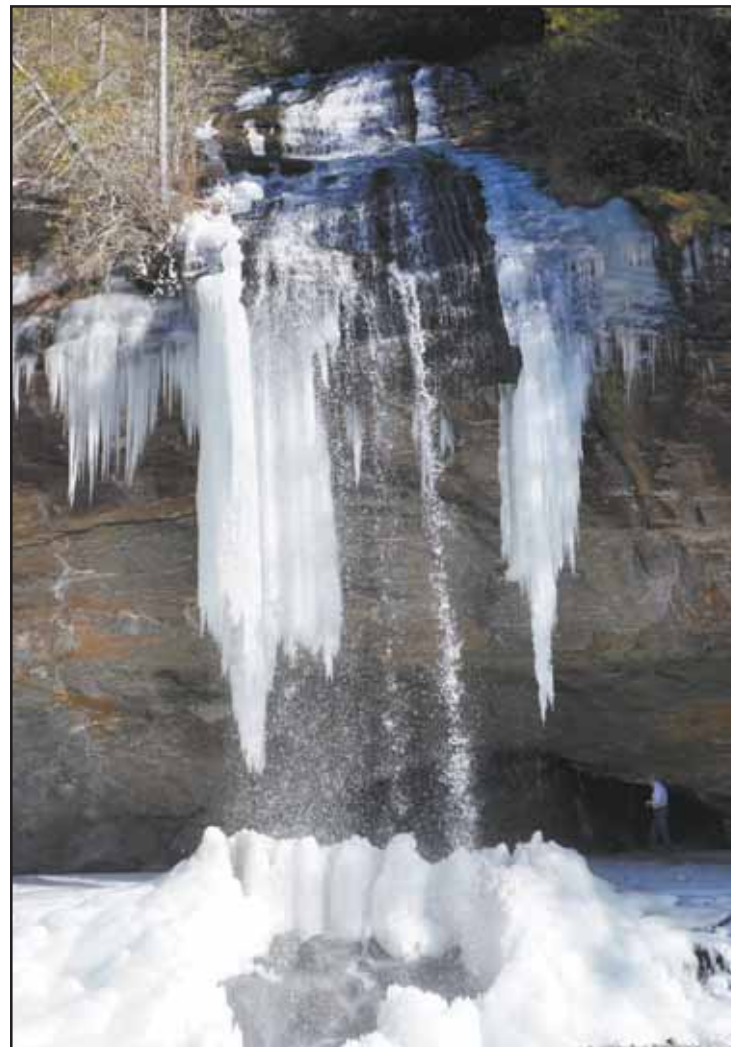
"This is a historic moment for the health of people in North Carolina," said North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue. "This single action will save lives and improve the health of North Carolina residents, visitors and food service workers, as they will avoid many of the health problems caused by second-hand smoke."

Macon County has had smokers in its sights for some time.

"Our most recent data which was collected in 2006/2007, indicates that of the 103 restaurants located in Macon County, 87.4% were already smoke-free. This was the second highest percentage in the state," said Becky Barr, CHES Health Education Supervisor for the

• See SMOKE-FREE page 3

Icicles lengthen as winter progresses...



This photographer was caught snapping a shot of the icicles at Bridal Veil Falls on Wednesday. Icicles can cause harm when they break off and fall, so beware. With subzero temperatures forecasted into next week, it's likely these will lengthen further to create a wall of ice.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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USFS says 'no' to boats on Upper Chattooga River

Voluntarily withdraws previous decisions on recreation uses

Submitted by the USFS

USDA Forest Service officials said the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala national forests have withdrawn their decisions on recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River.

"Effective immediately, the three national forests in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina have withdrawn their decisions to allow for additional analysis," said Liz Agpaoa, regional forester for the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. "Once the analysis is complete, the forests intend to issue three new decisions, probably in early spring."

The decisions, would have, allowed limited boating on the main stem upper Chattooga River.

Five appeals were filed as part of the Forest Service's planning process. The Southern Region granted a stay while the appeals were under review, preserving the status quo on

• See USFS page 3

... STORMWATER continued from page 1

ted by Madden Trucking and Grading of Cashiers came in higher than expected — \$657,238.97 to the \$546,517 budgeted — non-stormwater aspects of the job have been eliminated -- mainly aspects dealing with park features -- with the exception of stubbing for water, sewer and electric utilities. That brought the job within the original budget - down to \$476,317 with room for contingencies.

The job involves piping water from upstream and downtown under Fifth Street to an underground separator box-trap that will collect 85% of total suspended solids so the water which is then piped to the underground retention boxes under Pine Street Park will be cleaned before it is slowly released into the creek via 42-inch pipe under U.S. 64.

The overall structure can handle small flash flooding caused by sudden rain events all the way up to a 25-year storm events which dump 9.5 inches of rain within 24 hours. During higher rain events, once the box-trap separator and retention boxes fill up with water, the excess will be diverted to a by-pass piping system straight into the creek.

Town Manager Jim Fatland recommended the town approve the resolution awarding the contract and deduct the line items to decrease the bid to \$476,317.

The board voted unanimously to accept the resolution, which enables the town to accept the bid, so the Construction Grants and Loans division of ARRA and CWTfM can OK the project, which gets the ball rolling. Jones said Madden Trucking is ready to go and has 120 days to complete the project. He expects the work to begin before Feb. 17.

The "yes" vote came after some discussion, however.

Commissioner John Dotson said even though the town is getting grant money for the majority of the project, it is still entering into a 20-year, no-interest loan arrangement that will cost the taxpayers' money.

"We have learned that the system will not absolutely work all the time and I hate throwing money at something that won't work all the time. We could simply clean out the ditches and straight-pipe runoff into the creek. It won't be cleaned like it would with this project, but it hasn't been cleaned all these years anyway and it would save a lot of money," he said.

Mayor David Wilkes said that he initially felt as Dotson did and he appreciated his sentiments on the issue but after talking extensively with Town Engineer Lamar Nix has come to realize that the \$180,000 net outlay by the town for the system is far less than it would cost the town to engineer a system on its own; plus he said, "I appreciate that this is a 'green' project."

"You are right, there is no free money, but this gives the town the ability to resolve an issue plaguing the town engineer for some-

• See STORMWATER on page 5

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Rethinking the idea of 'meaningful' gifts

Dear Editor,

Your columnist Fred Wooldridge is very good at "hitting the nail on the head." In response to his column in the Dec. 23 edition of Highlands' Newspaper, "Let's dump Christmas."

Here is my favorite memory of gift giving.

Instead of buying new things, after I reached the age of 21 or so, my father would give me something that belonged in the family. One year a locket that belonged to my great-grandmother, another year a bracelet with gold coins on it (the coins were my great-grandfather's), and then an Eastlake side table, and among many more things, he set me on the right path with a written family history in which I greatly enjoy my membership to Ancestry.com.

Oh yes, and for my high school graduation he said "I'm not buying you a car," "I'm sending you to Europe with a group from Furman University." A wise, wise man. All of these things I will NEVER forget and always appreciate.

Suzanne Sloan
Highlands

Citizens have rights and obligations in a democratic Republic

Dear Editor,

To say that 2009 was a tough year is an understatement. It is important to remember that we have an important job to do in this upcoming year as participants in a democratic Republic and that is to realize our actions can and still do matter.

Even in a tyrannical society people banded together make purpose. That said, I hope Americans remember these five imperatives written by 500 peacemakers in New Mexico in 2007.

1. We must understand peace, as more than the absence of war, it is a socio-economic equality and will come about through concerted action. (Lack of poverty.)

2. We must understand the pervasiveness of violence and its root in anger, and commit ourselves to living the way of non-violence and being the change we seek in the world. (Walk your talk and turn off the pundits)

3. We must reconnect with the earth and the natural world by rebalancing the material and the spiritual, the masculine

and the feminine. (Think Copenhagen & its effects or lack of therein.)

4. We must realize that we are ONE family of life, interdependent and interconnected; we are all in this together. (This should be a no-brainer.)

5. It will take a long time, but we must practice perseverance, vision, and hope. (All of these must work together.)

This is the recipe for a happier new year. May we all embrace and encourage these ideas among others and ourselves. Happy 2010!

Lee Hodges
Highlands

Remembering the past, appreciating the present

Dear Editor,

I lived in Scaly Mountain in the early to late '70s; it is truly God's country. I moved there to live with my granny, as she moved there from Florida for health reasons. When I got there I thought, "Cool!" I went to school at Rabun Gap. What a culture shock! True, there wasn't a lot to do, but we found plenty to get into! Parties in Horse Cove, Dry Falls, Played a lot of CB radio tag, went to square dances at Helen's Barn.

My good friend Anna's parents owned the theater so we snuck in for free a lot. We hung out at my friend Lisa's parents' drug store off of Main Street then. We thought it kind of boring in the winter, but in the summer it came alive!

My granny's house, to my knowledge, is still there in Scaly I haven't been back there since, but I miss it terribly! As I grow older I have nothing but the best memories of a town with one flashing amber light in the middle of it! I wouldn't trade any of my time there for anything. God bless everyone that has made it what it is now. Thanks for the ear! And thanks for keeping us up to date on Highlands happenings with the online Highlands' Newspaper!

Tammie Blue Wingo
RGNS class of 1976

An ode to Katie Brugger

Dear Editor,

"Oh, Katie, I will miss your work.

We see eye to eye on practically nothing but, still, I love to read your column and see your perspective on life.

Please, return soon."

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands and Florida

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

Highlands' Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

Bessie Wickline Minton



Bessie Wickline Minton, 107, died Dec. 26, 2009, in Fort Pierce, FL. She was born in Chicago and lived in Fort Pierce since 1940, coming from Vero Beach. She was a member of the PEO, Order of the Eastern Star and Flagler Beach Historical Society. She was a founding member of First Baptist Church of Fort Pierce.

Survivors include seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, O.C. Minton; and sons, O.R. Minton and Edwin James Minton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Indian River State College Foundation for a scholarship. Services were held at Hillcrest Memorial Garden and Haisley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Her family purchased Chiquapin Farms in 1957 and have enjoyed it as their "sacred ground" ever since.

Ellie Alifair Jenkins



Ellie Alifair Jenkins, age 101, of Franklin, NC, died Monday, December 28, 2009 in a local nursing home. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late Henry Talley and Lillie Pickleseimer Talley.

She was married to the late Adam Butler Jenkins. She was a homemaker and a member of The First Baptist Church of Highlands. She enjoyed gardening and mowing her lawn. In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by her sons, Harold Jenkins and Ronald Jenkins; a sister, Gracie Keener and brother Ed Talley.

She is survived by two daughters-in-law, Estella Jenkins and Viola Jenkins both of Franklin, NC; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, 17 great-great-grandchildren, two nieces and one nephew also survive.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, December 30 at 3 pm at Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. Pallbearers were Terry Jenkins, Alvin Mashburn, Shanon Jenkins, Charles Mashburn, James Jenkins and Bradley Collins.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Lamy Mather

Elizabeth (Betsy) Lamy Mather, 87 died in Highlands, NC, on January 1, 2010. The daughter of Verena Hogan and George Prosper Lamy, she was born and educated in St. Louis, MO.

Betsy married Nelson Gatch in St. Louis after WWII and had two daughters (Ann & Jane). Nelson died shortly after Jane was born. Betsy then married William Pierson Brodhead of St. Louis with whom she had six children (William Jr., Robert, Peter, Dorothy, Lamy, Lisa).

In 1959 the family moved to Sarasota, FL. In 1966, she married Tim (Thomas W.) Mather of Sarasota, FL. Tim, the father of three sons (Timmy, David, and Jeff Mather) took the entire family to live in Barcelona, Spain 1967-1968. Betsy and Tim spent their summers in Highlands, NC beginning 1970. In 1997 Tim died.

Betsy was active in the Catholic Church. She and Tim were founding members of The Field Club of Sarasota.

Betsy's three husbands, her children Ann Tripp Gatch and Timmy Mather, and sister Jane Gunter predecease her.

Betsy leaves Jane Gatch Hayo of St. Louis, MO; William Brodhead of Riegelsville, PA; Robert Brodhead of Palm Harbor, FL; Peter Brodhead of Savannah, GA; Dorothy Brodhead Bailey of Franklin, TN; Lamy Brodhead Buck of Guyton, GA and Lisa Brodhead Howell of Ocala, FL as well as 14 Grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Funeral Mass will be held at the Chapel at Incarnation Catholic Church at 2901 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL on Saturday, January 16 at 10 AM. A reception will be held at The Field Club after the service.

A Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, NC at 9 am on Friday, Jan 8. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Highlands-Cashiers Hospice 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 (828) 526-1402.

Send notes of condolences: c/o Jane Hayo, 365 Gascony Way, St. Louis, MO 63122. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... SMOKE-FREE continued from page 1

Macon County Public Health Center

The new law, passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Perdue in May, includes not only restaurants and bars, but other venues that serve food and are inspected by local health departments, including many recreational facilities, convenience stores, hotel common areas, and private/for-profit clubs.

Hotels and other lodging facilities may designate no more than 20 percent of their guest rooms for smoking.

Exceptions from the smoke-free law include cigar bars that meet a list of criteria and non-profit private clubs, such as patriotic clubs and some country clubs.

A number of local communities are holding celebrations marking the start of the new law. Local health departments, which are responsible for the implementation of the law, should have details on local plans.

The new smoke-free law requires affected businesses to post no-smoking signs, remove ashtrays, and ask smokers to step outside to smoke. Businesses that repeatedly break the law can be fined up to \$200 per day. Smokers who refuse to smoke outside can be fined up to \$50 by local law enforcement for defying the law.

Enforcement is complaint-driven. Local health departments will investigate businesses based on filed complaints.

There are three ways to report a possible business violation of the law:

- Call the local health department;

- Visit www.smokefree.nc.gov and complete an on-line form; or

- Call the N.C. CARE-LINE at 1-800-662-7030 (TTY 1-877-452-2514) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m., seven days a week. CARE-LINE services are available in over 150 languages. After hours, you may leave a message and your call will be returned.

... USFS continued from page 1

the river (meaning no boating is allowed above the Highway 28 bridge). That condition remains unchanged.

During the appeal process, the Forest Service discovered some inconsistencies between various components of the decision documents, according to Paul Bradley, forest supervisor of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. While none of the appellants raised these inconsistencies in their appeals, the Forest Service decided to voluntarily withdraw the decisions.

"Inconsistencies sometimes occur in large documents with multiple authors," Bradley said. "We are taking this step to ensure that the final documents are complete and accurate."

For more information on the decisions on recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/Chattooga.php>.

• THANK YOU •

The Lady Highlanders would very much like to thank the community of Highlands and all others who were involved, in supporting the trip to Orlando, Florida for a Holiday Basketball tournament on December 16-20th. It was a great experience for everyone!

The Lady Highlanders

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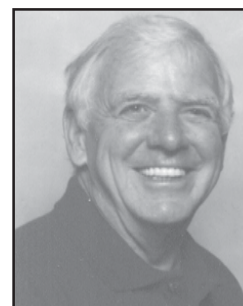
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Only drive when you're too drunk to walk

Dateline: Somewhere
in the snowy Atlantic
Ocean on the QM 2.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Hold it. Don't sic MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.) on me. I was only joking about the column's title. I wanna go on record here; I'm 100% against walking drunk, especially on a rolling cruise ship. The smart-aleck saying was commonly used years ago by cops when referring to drunk drivers.

Another common wisecrack was, "There were so many drunks on the road, I stopped after work to get drunk so I could make it home."

Actually, Miami Beach, where I policed for 28 years, has one huge thing in common with Highlands. They're both resort towns full of people who go there to have fun, kickback and relax. Unfortunately, some folks think having fun means drinking too much booze.

Having a balanced, sane policy on drunk driving can be a tightrope walk for a police department in a resort town, especially when it's small and wealthy, like Highlands. If a town has a tough, rigid policy on drunk drivers, it can run off a lot of visitors and a lot of money. Not good. Arresting landscapers has a much less affect on the town. Wise up, landscapers!

The death of a resort town is when it has a reputation of being tough on drunk drivers, the key word being "reputation."

Read that sentence again.

On the other hand, the police can't permit a town full of drunk drivers.

Politically, it's insane to condemn a police department for being tough on drunk drivers. There has to be a balance... and, oh, how I hate to bring this up....a strong dose of common sense.

Read that sentence again.

For example, if a handful of out-of-town Rotarians met with some of our local Rotarians and had dinner and drinks at ...on the Verandah, it could end as a miserable evening if they drank too much and got stopped.

In some areas, a conviction for DWI (or DUI) means jail time. During my era, we would take the keys from the driver and have him call a friend or taxi. The humble driver would gratefully pick up his keys the next day at the police station. Of course, if we caught him again,

he's toast.

My son is a tea-totaler just because he chooses not to drink. He also flies the giant Boeing triple-seven for a major airline. One evening, during a two-day layover, he and three pilots were hooping it up with drinks and dinner at an upscale restaurant. Later in the evening, when the four pilots headed for their rental car, everyone was tipsy except my son and, of course, he drove. Also, I should tell you he was a cop for seven years in North Miami.

As fate would have it, the police were targeting the restaurant that evening and just knew they had a drunk behind the wheel as my son drove from the parking lot. After seeing no erratic driving behavior, the young officer pulled him over on a "suspicious activity" allegation. The officer was salivating to arrest him.

After passing all the roadside tests, including a balancing test that most sober people couldn't perform, the officer became frustrated and made my son take a roadside breathalyzer test. "What have you been drinking?" the officer asked as he looked at the zero in disbelief. My son smiled and said, "Sweet tea, sir." Dumbfounded, the officer handed him his license and harshly lectured him on the disadvantages of driving drunk. The officer headed back to the restaurant to snag another unsuspecting driver, never knowing my son probably had more time backing up a squad car than this rookie had driving it forward. That kind of enforcement does a disservice to a community.

There are some nifty gadgets on the market that are pretty reliable to help one determine if they're going to flunk a test for drunk driving. If you're a social drinker, check them out on the web.

My final story: One evening I stopped a car driving 50 mph over the posted speed limit. I suspected he was intoxicated. I tossed a handful of coins to the sidewalk and asked him to pick them up. He did remarkably well, but then spent an entire two minutes trying to pick up a piece of flatted chewing gum. Finally, he fell over on his face and said, "I may have had a little too much to drink." No DUH! I didn't call him a cab.

PS - It's 24 bloody degrees on our cabin's balcony but I'm havin' fun.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Technology rules, and we like it

If you can overlook religious fanatics, reality TV, and the damage we've done to our planet, you might conclude that we live in a marvelous age.

It's true that once enormous herds of bison no longer roam the plains, that Africa's majestic wildlife that once roamed much of the continent is now largely confined to game preserves and under the protection of vigilant rangers who protect endangered survivors from extinction. We've fouled the oceans and brought many species to the edge of extinction, or beyond.

But we can change channels from the couch. What a wonderful invention, remote control! We can immediately dispatch any program that might be educational or discomforting with the push of a button. The remote control may have done more to promote cardiovascular disease than deep fried Twinkies, but is nonetheless a marvel to me. It has allowed couch potatoes to root, and enriched battery manufactures.

Batteries are another wonder of the modern world. They come in a host of sizes and shapes include cylindrical and wafer. When I was a kid, they were wrapped in paper and had a tendency to leak. The liberated acid, or whatever that stuff was, destroyed the device which it was intended to power. Since flashlights and AM radios the only battery powered devices I remember, the damage was insignificant. Their modern descendants are sheathed in metal and rarely fail. They allowed a pink bunny to circumnavigate our hearts and power nearly undetectable hearing aids. The government is developing ultra small, insect-sized, drones, which can be flown to a location of interest, and used to provide both audio and video information in real time. The ultimate "bug" is on the way. A recently developed model weighs just three grams and is powered with a battery that weighs about 1/30 of an ounce. In a few years these little guys will be recharging their batteries from camel dung and self reproducing by laying eggs in goat meat in markets from Cairo to Kabul.

Computers are amazing and growing more so every year. UNIVAC, the nation's first commercial computer weighed in at 29,000 pounds, was priced at up to \$1.5 million and worked at a fraction of the speed of today's \$500 notebook. Lizzie's new cell phone is much more than a cell phone. It not only permits internet



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

access, but contains voice recognition software. I was skeptical until she spoke into the phone and said, "Okavango Delta, Botswana" We were rewarded with information on flora, fauna, annual flood pattern, and off-season rates. I'm less amazed by the ability to access information than by the task of storing it. Does anyone know where they keep all that knowledge? You and I have instant access to more information, with the

click of a mouse, than was housed in all the great libraries of antiquity, and without a side trip to Alexandria.

How about the little Ipods kids carry around? For less than \$250, with free shipping, you can carry around 40,000 songs and 200 hours of video, and it all fits in your shirt pocket. I have no idea who would want 40,000 songs, but the capacity is there for anyone who needs it.

A few years ago, Lizzie bought an alarm clock at Costco for six or eight bucks. It was called an atomic clock, but as far as I know, the AA battery that drives it is not radioactive. I have no idea why it's called atomic. It's amazing enough without fancy tags. It seems to be in touch with a satellite in geosynchronous orbit. The satellite monitors the clock tells the clock if it wanders off by a few seconds. When I dropped it on the uncarpeted floor, the digital display appeared jumbled. I replaced the battery and was relieved to see the display had returned. The trouble was that the date read Jan. 2, 2002, which for all I know may have been the date of manufacture, or maybe an inside space joke. I couldn't change the date, but when I looked a few minutes later, it read, Jan. 2, 2010.

That may seem like chump change in view of the multiple marvels of the technological age, but to me it's amazing stuff. Some satellite, hanging apparently motionless 22,000 miles above us in space, can do telepathically what I can't do by pushing a few buttons.

... STORMWATER continued from page 2

time -- dealing with the stormwater surges in the area that occur during quick flash floods -- for less than half it would cost if he could engineer something himself. He told me that any way he crunches the figures, he would need to lay 72-inch drain pipes in the area and under U.S. 64 and it would cost more than double this."

• • •

During the public hearing for the Tem-

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the Planning Board with stipulations to incorporate verbiage to deal with the length of time a development sign can be up -- based on the issuance of a building permit; an option for renewal; and the percentage of verbiage each 24 sq. ft. sign can dedicate to the development name and the Realtor name.

The Planning Board meets Jan. 25 so the public hearing for the ordinance was continued to the Feb. 3 Town Board meeting.

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• HIS & HERS •

The eventual, perfect gift

By John Armor

It was a simple question, posed to us in the Highlands Writers Group. "What was the best Christmas gift you ever received?" That question made me think deeply.

I discovered that gifts change as years pass. I don't mean the obvious, that you get different gifts in different years. I mean that the gifts you did get, even long, long ago, change with time.

I was six in 1949, when the first Christmas I clearly remember, came around. We lived at 205 W. College Avenue, in Salisbury, Maryland. On the Eastern Shore, Salisbury was, and mostly still is, a sleepy little agricultural town. We had a chicken wire enclosure in the back yard that held laying chickens, one rooster to keep them on their toes, and a couple ducks. We also had a one-car garage no longer used for a car.

To my six-year-old mind, that was adequate space for a pony. I began giving hints in August for a pony and a bale of hay, come Christmas. To make a long story short, a pony was not in any way a practical gift. As I recall, my main gift was a bicycle with training wheels. But that's not what I came to talk about.

That first house I lived in was perfect for Christmas morning. The staircase from the bedrooms was closed by walls, as it came halfway down the back wall of the house. Then, there was a large, square, open landing as the stairs turned to come down into the living room. When we went to bed the night before, there was nothing of Christmas in that room. But the next morning, ah, the next morning....

There were five of us, then. Three boys of which I was the youngest, plus my folks. I still believed in Santa Claus. I now know that my older brothers were under threat of death if they wised me up about Santa before I figured it out for myself. When we reached that landing the next morning, I would see a fully decorated tree and gifts all over the floor. But there was one important step before that.

There was a family tradition which



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

involved us leaving the largest stocking we could find outside our doors on Christmas Eve. I had an over-the-calf, stretchy, grey wool athletic sock. The next morning it contained an orange, several tangerines, a small box of Sun Maid raisons, a bunch of walnuts, Brazil nuts, almonds, and a small box of Jordan almonds. There

were a couple handfuls of assorted hard candies. There was also a hinged metal nut-cracker and a bowl for the nut shells. Connected to the goodies was a requirement that we boys had to stay in our rooms with our candies and nuts, until our parents came to get us.

It was a generation later, when I was in the parent business, that I learned the importance of that sock full of goodies. By then, I had put together my share of children's gifts that come in a large box. They also come with instructions apparently written in English, but obviously filtered through two other languages beforehand. And I had altered the family tradition so the tree plus all the toys no longer had to be completed in one night.

In short, when my oldest child was the same age I was, the year that I wanted a pony, I realized the stresses and challenges my parents went through, turning that ordinary living room into a Christmas garden in a single night. They had frazzled patience and a serious lack of sleep. That's why it was essential that we kids be kept in our rooms until late on Christmas morning when we would come down to that landing and see the tree and gifts that Santa Claus had brought.

In short, that sock was chock full of love, not just candy and nuts. That fat grey sock with a red trim was the finest gift I ever received, or would receive, or could receive. It just took me a generation to discover that simple truth

• About the Author: John Armor's latest book is here, www.TheseAreTheTimes.us about Thomas Paine. See also, "Franklin Comes to Franklin" Contact the author at John_Armor@aya.yale

• COACH'S CORNER •

Leach case magnifies new era of athletics

I have always been fascinated by Mike Leach, and not just because of his love of pirates or anything like that. Several years ago Michael Lewis wrote a great article on Leach for the New York Times, outlining Leach's rise to prominence at Texas Tech. The article gave a lot of insight into Leach's mindset, how he was an optimistic football coach in a profession full of guys who gargle acid and chew iron for a living. Instead, Leach was an intellectual, and a quirky one at that — the type of guy who told long stories about pirates and called his plays "Ninja." Leach was the anti-stereotype of the typical West Texas football coach, which is what made the circumstances of his firing so unusual.

The short version is that Leach ordered a football player with a mild concussion to be separated from the team and placed in a dark room. Said football player was the son of ESPN analyst and former SMU hero Craig James. Leach was ordered by Texas Tech to publicly apologize for his behavior and refused, therefore opening himself up to dismissal for insubordination.

Additional information then becomes sketchy. Leach believed that Adam James was lazy and that his father attempted to use his position with ESPN to gain more playing time for his son. The James family believes that Adam was unfairly mistreated. Ultimately, the true facts will likely always be skewed by perspective, but this particular case is an encapsulation of the current era of athletics in America.

At one point and time, parents entrusted coaches with their children, and respected a coach's authority in their given field. Unfortunately, this bred a culture



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

where coaches could obtain absolute power and become deified by their population. Coaches gained absolute authority, and would not dare be questioned by the local media, parents or commentators. There was an occasional transfer or issue with parents, but coaches ruled with an iron fist.

As we moved into newer, more defiant generations

(Generation X), there was a backlash against this type of coach-player relationship, and with good reason. However, the defiance against fascist tactics soon became defiance against all authority in general. Players gained a sense of entitlement, and an overdeveloped sense of their own abilities. Coaches no longer had the sole authority to decide who plays, how long they play, whether a player is good enough, etc. Soon, AAU coaches became as much of an authority as professionals, and coaches were forced to recruit not only through parents, but coaches as well.

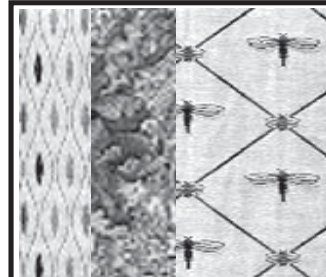
Now, college coaches have become glorified motivational speakers, forced to stroke the ego of teenagers so that they will perform at a high level. Coaches have gone as far as to hire parents or AAU coaches to gain a commitment from a kid. Transfers are more common than ever, mainly because players would rather try a different school than work harder. Coaches are more and more dependant upon talent as opposed to hard work and discipline because there are so few four-year players in college programs anymore.

In the case of Mike Leach versus Texas Tech, there are no winners. Leach will likely work again, but probably not next season. Adam James will either gain more

playing time from his new coach or transfer. The wheels of college sports will con-

tinue to turn, but it may not be long until the wheels come off.

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL GIRLS BB •

Girls hold their own in Orlando

After nearly a year of preparing and fundraising, the Lady Highlanders embarked on their long awaited journey to Orlando, FL. The 15 players, three coaches, one manager, and 20 fans, were about to receive payment for their many hours focused on enabling this group to experience one of the nation's premier high school sporting events; KSA's basketball tournament at the Magic Kingdom.

The Highlanders began their trip on Wednesday Dec. 16 leaving the wee hours of the morning. They rounded out the first evening and the 10-hour drive by attending the Orlando Magic vs. Toronto Raptors NBA

game, in which Magic prevailed 118-97. The Lady Highlanders soon settled in at the KSA/Disney World Wide of Sports Complex.

The Highlanders were defeated in their first round of play by Mercer County, KY on Thursday evening. The team that was scheduled to play the Highlanders on Friday morning was forced to forfeit. However, Lady Highlander head coach Brett Lamb did not want to miss a chance for experience on the court so the Highlanders scrimmaged Mercer County. On Saturday the Highlanders landed a victory against Dwight High School from

• See GIRLS BB page 14

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Just when you thought 2009 couldn't get any more disgustingly sickening, it did. We were all full of Christmas cheer and goodwill when some yo-yo tried to light his shorts ("big bang briefs" according to one report) on fire in hopes of bringing down an airliner. Evidently his panties were carrying large quantities of plastic explosive in addition to their normal cargo. By the grace of God, a faulty detonator and a very brave passenger, the catastrophe was averted.

But the bombing attempt isn't what set me off. We should expect that the radical Muslims will continue to carry out their misguided mission to kill Christians and Jews. It was the response from Janet Napolitano, head of Homeland Security that spoiled my holiday spirit. How this completely incompetent person could have been reelected Governor of Arizona is beyond me. She can't even lie well.

What kind of politician is that? Ms. Napolitano assured us that the "system worked" in stifling the bombing attempt. WHAT? Was the ineffective igni-

tion system part of her "system?"

Was the heroic act of the passenger part of her "system?"

Well, I feel much better now that I know that the system is functioning properly. The reaction to her inanity was so violent that she had to reverse her stand, first falling back on the "it was taken out of context" shtick and finally admitting the "system needs work." Madam Napolitano needs other work.

She is not a stranger to controversy. Shortly after she assumed office, she warned us that while hoards of people were streaming across the Mexican border on a daily basis, the real danger was from Canada. After all, she maintained, the 9/11 bombers entered the country across the northern border, didn't they? No, Janet, they didn't, but thanks for straining relations with our Canadian friends. Nothing like distracting attention from the real danger.

Then in June, she appointed Arif Alikhan as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Alikhan is a devout Muslim. I'm not sure I'm happy with a Muslim in a position of that magnitude in such a sensitive area.

In keeping with the administration's politically correct attitude towards terrorism, she calls their actions as "man-caused disasters." God forbid that we face the threat for what it is and deal with it.

Perhaps the most outrageous blunder of her first year in office was the release of a DHS report titled "Right-wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and

Recruitment." With all the evil forces around the world looking for an opportunity to wreak havoc on us, she's concerned with our very own domestic threat, namely Right Wing Extremists.

You know, those radical TeaParty types who object to the killing of babies in the womb, the ignoring of any kind of immigration policy other than amnesty, the looming restriction of gun ownership, etc.

As if this wasn't stupid enough, the report warns that returning veterans are red meat for militia groups whose sole purpose in life is to dispatch the President (they're all racists, you know). The report reads, in part, "The return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks." That's appreciation for their commitment to maintaining our freedom.

There are many calling for her resignation (firing) because of her total and complete incompetence. At this point, those calls appear to be going unheeded. I don't know if it involves Obama's inability to admit making a mistake in picking her in the first place, or perhaps he is pushing her buttons and she is just a good soldier. In any event, I don't think we are getting our money's worth from the Department of Homeland Security.

On another note, for those of you in the area who are still global warming adherents, let me quote from the AP out of Raleigh. "Forecasters say the coldest stretch of weather in years if not decades could be heading for North Carolina. While temperatures won't be falling to record lows, the National Weather Service says the duration of the cold weather is unusual. Highs could struggle to get above freezing for the next week in areas from Raleigh west. Forecasters say there are some indications the weather with highs in the 30s and lows in the teens could last up to two weeks. A cold snap like that was last seen in January 1977."

Hey Maude, throw another copy of An Inconvenient Truth on the fire – it's cold in here.

And a Happy 2010 to you and yours.

from the history guy ...

Jan. 7, 1980

US President Carter authorizes legislation giving a \$1.5 billion loan to bail out Chrysler Corporation

Is there any precedent for getting money from the President? Why yes, in fact, long before George Bush

there was indeed a major push to loan a lot of cash, in fact a bevy, to the makers of the Chevy. The company didn't run well, it shook and shimmied, it needed a quick repair repair, sort of Jimmied.

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Ongoing and Upcoming Events



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!** Beginning Tuesday, January 19, 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 Hos-

pital. 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

• 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

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

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

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

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 infor-

mation 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 Short-off Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday

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

Saturdays

• 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

• See EVENTS page 10

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.

ANGELFOOD for January

The January menu is now available. In addition to the regular menu this month AngelFood is offering a **SEAFOOD PACK** for \$35 which includes jumbo shrimp, oven baked stuffed flounder with crab stuffing, tilapia fillets, and oven ready crab cakes.

Orders may be placed and paid for at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Main & 5th until **FRIDAY, JANUARY 15**. Cash or EBT cards only. Distribution day is **Saturday, January 23** from 9-10 am at the church.

Online ordering is available by going to www.angelfoodministries.com. Click on "order online" or "find a local site," type in your zip code, and select Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. You may pay by debit or credit card via this website.

ANGELFOOD Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization. This food relief program is open to everyone. Call 526-9191 or 526-9889 for more information.

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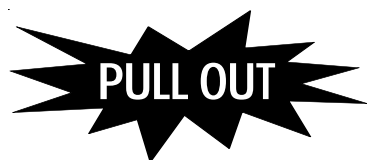
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Saturday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:15
Sunday: 2:15, 4:15, 7:15
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Saturday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Sunday: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10
Mon + Wed: 4:30, 7:10
Tues + Thurs: 2:10, 4:30, 7:10

SHERLOCK HOLMES

rated PG-13
Friday: 4:10, 7, 9:40
Saturday: 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:40
Sunday: 1:30, 4:10, 7
Mon + Wed: 4:10, 7
Tues + Thurs: 1:30, 4:10, 7



Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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. 7

- 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. “The Proposal,” starring Sandra Bullock as Margaret, a workaholic book editor who faces deportation to Canada. Her solution is to fake an engagement

to her unsuspecting assistant editor, Andrew (Ryan Reynolds). He, in turn, blackmails her for a promotion. However, when Margaret is forced to visit Andrew’s family in Alaska to make their plan believable to the authorities, their lives get really interesting.

Friday, Jan. 8

- At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Franklin, there will be a special Environmental Learning event. An informative inspiring film entitled “Food, Inc.” will be shown, followed by discussion. Snacks will be served at 5:30PM and the film at 6 PM. This is a free event. The Fellowship is located at 85 Sierra Drive. Turn onto Lake-

side at Hardee’s, about 1.2 miles and Sierra is on left. For info call: 828-342-0546. Come and bring your family and friends. Students welcome.”

Saturday, Jan. 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate hike 3.8 mile on the Bartram Trail from Osage Mtn. trailhead to Hale Ridge Rd. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or at the Osage Mtn. overlook on Hwy. 106 at 9:55 a.m. Bring water and a lunch. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Through Monday, Jan. 10

- The Local Farm Bureau office is collecting items for those in need. The following items are requested: Coats, Blankets, Gloves (New or slightly used) Canned Goods/Non perishable food items/Personal items. Firewood. These items may be dropped off at our office through Monday, Jan 10: 8:30 am – 5 pm. For more information call 524-6147 Items will be distributed to DSS, REACH & CARENET.

Monday, Jan. 11

- Mirror Lake Improvement Assoc. meeting at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center.

- The Jackson County GOP will meet on Monday at 6 p.m. for a General Meeting to be followed at 7 p.m. by the first 2010 Orville Coward Forum on Critical Issues. The featured Forum speaker, Professor Jason Sides, will talk about “Alternative Taxing Methods: Their Pros and Cons.” This January tax topic is designed to prepare attendees for the next scheduled Forum presentation on “The Fair Tax” in April. The January Meeting and Forum event will be held at the Jackson County Community Services Center, 538 Scotts Creek Road in Sylva. All voters and residents are invited to attend this and future Forums. For additional information call Dodie Allen, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828 586-9895 or visit the group’s website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

- HIARPT’s Winter Dialogue. All are welcome. Only requirement is to read the material in advance. “Theological Implications of Darwin,” by Jim Costa. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14

- Creating neighborhoods for seniors will be the subject of the League of Women Voters program at 12:15 p.m. at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch will be served at noon, by reservation — call 524-5192 or email lwv@wild-dog-mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Saturday, Jan. 16

- Mirror lake Improvement Assoc. litter

pick up from Thorn Park at 9 a.m. Weather permitting.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12.5 mile hike from Deep Creek to Sunkota Ridge in the Great Smokies Park. Meet at the Huddle House in Sylva at 8 a.m. Drive 100 miles round trip from Franklin. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Don O’Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 19

- The eight-week Winter Session for the Community Youth Art Program begins and includes three offerings at The Bascom: Tuesday After School Classes – Susan Nastasic teaches this ongoing study for elementary-age students, kindergarten through sixth grade, Tuesdays from 3:15–4:30 pm. Cost is \$40 for an eight-week session; Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child – (Ages 2 1/2–5) On Wednesdays from 11-11:45 am, instructor Katy Calloway introduces the very young to art activities designed to develop creativity. Cost is \$40 for an eight-week session; Saturday Art School – Kindergartners through eighth graders are welcome Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon for fun, hands-on, age-appropriate “art school.” Cost is \$64 for an eight-week session; To register, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

- The Highlands Towb Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Community Building on U.S. 64 east next to the ballfield.

Thursday, Jan. 21

- 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.” Julia Child’s story of her start in the cooking profession is intertwined with blogger Julie Powell’s 2002 challenge to cook all the receipts in Julia Child’s “Mastering the Art of French Cooking.” In 1949 Julia Child, bored, tries hat making, bridge, and then cooking classes at Cordon Bleu. In 2002 Julie Powell, an underemployed failed novelist, decides to cook her way through Child’s book.

Monday, Jan. 25

- The next Regular Macon County 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 Hiarpt, “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.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

- At Hiarpt, *The Geography of Bliss* by

New session of Bascom youth art classes begins Jan. 19



Children work on art projects in The Bascom’s fall 2009 session. The Bascom offers three programs for area youth: Tuesday After School Classes for kindergartners through sixth graders, Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for parent and child, and Saturday Art School for kindergartners through eighth graders. Registration is going on now for the next session, which starts the week of Jan. 19. To register, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

Young artists in Highlands, Cashiers, Franklin, Clayton and beyond are gearing up for a new year of creation at The Bascom.

The eight-week Winter Session for the Community Youth Art Program begins the week of Jan. 19 and includes three offerings:

- Tuesday After School Classes – Susan Nastasic teaches this ongoing study for elementary-age students, kindergarten through sixth grade, Tuesdays from 3:15–4:30 pm. Cost is \$40 for an eight-week session.

- Wednesday Preschool Creativity

Classes for Parent and Child – (Ages 2 1/2–5) On Wednesdays from 11-11:45 am, instructor Katy Calloway introduces the very young to art activities designed to develop creativity. Cost is \$40 for an eight-week session.

- Saturday Art School – Kindergartners through eighth graders are welcome Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon for fun, hands-on, age-appropriate “art school.” Cost is \$64 for an eight-week session.

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

Ongoing and Upcoming Events



Eric Weiner. Coordinator: John Carr. Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

• At Hiapt, "Batter My Heart" will be distributed at previous meeting. Coordinator: Martha Porter Civic Center: 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

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

Tuesday, Feb. 23

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

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 Murphy,
Rector

(252) 671-4011

www.christanglicanchurch.com

Crafting communities for seniors subject of League of Women Voters meeting

On Thursday, January 14, the League of Women Voters will sponsor a program on the co-housing movement, a type of community in which residents have both private space and easy access to community facilities and activities.

With the largest generation in history beginning to hit their 60s and the Western North Carolina counties long considered a destination for active retirees, regional policy-makers are going to find aging issues moving higher on community agendas. But governments can't be expected to redirect already strained resources to service all the needs of an aging population. If we want to "age successfully," preserving independent, fulfilling lives for ourselves for as long as possible, we are all going to have to take more responsibility about how — and where — we want to live out our lives.

From studies of successful aging around the world, we know that key components include not only healthy

choices about eating and exercise but also engagement with others in active community. The problem is, since the middle of the 20th century, we've created physical environments where that sort of community has become more difficult. Most Americans, including most people in Macon County, connect the different aspects of their lives almost exclusively by driving personal automobiles. As we age and become less willing and eventually less able to drive, we become more isolated. One antidote to that unintended consequence of suburban lifestyles is to create community by intention. Seniors are beginning to create their own neighborhoods tuned to their own needs for aging successfully "in place" among friends and with access to support systems that can delay — and perhaps avoid altogether — moving into institutional care.

The movement is called co-housing and is especially well-suited to another anti-sprawl movement — Traditional

Neighborhood Design (TND), which puts a high priority on creating walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods where most daily needs are available within a short stroll.

Ben Brown, a Macon County resident and a communications consultant for clients planning TND approaches, has been following the co-housing movement for almost a decade. He also worked with Franklin's Tim Ryan, developer of Sanctuary Village, the only in town TND in far western counties. He'll talk about how co-housing could work in a section of Sanctuary Village and answer questions about senior co-housing approaches elsewhere.

The program will be held at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Lunch will be served at noon, by reservation — call 524-5192 or email lvw@wild-dog-mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

Roadrunners young and old start the New Year right



There was a great turnout the morning of New Year's Day for the Highlands Roadrunners Club annual New Year's Resolution Run — close to 40 runners participated. Temperatures were below freezing and there was even a little snow blowing. To become a club regular or for more information on the Highlands Roadrunners Club, email Richard Betz at rpbetz@gmail.com.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Jesus agrees, 'Tear down the wall!'



**CHRIST ANGLICAN
CHURCH**
Father Jim Murphy

Many of us remember with fondness the words that President Ronald Reagan spoke to his counterpart in the old Soviet Union, "Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" He was referring to the "Berlin Wall" which had been erected decades earlier to divide and separate one city, one nation into two.

In a manner of speaking, the ministry of Jesus Christ was to do the very same thing, to tear down a wall. However, he came to tear down the spiritual wall that had separated us from God's abiding presence for better than two millennia.

Jesus, as the apostle Paul said about the Lord, "[H]e himself is our peace, ... [he] has broken down... the dividing wall of hostility." (Ephesians 2:14, ESV) Instead of simply calling for peace, ala Reagan, Jesus was (is) peace — the only portal through the dividing wall.

In the beginning of time, as the Book of Genesis describes it, the world was created in perfect peace. There was a one to one, personal relationship with God. There was no separation between God and mankind. Indeed, unbroken peace was the rule of the day, the rule of the world. Hostility was unthinkable. Imagine a world such as that. No death, no pain, no war, no lack — for anyone!

Hostility was unthinkable, that is, until sin entered the world. Invited and embraced by humanity, sin became the dividing wall between God and us. When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, the angelic guards who were posted to guard the entrance came to represent that wall of hostility that we had erected.

What were we to do? A barrier guarded by the power of God himself, how could that be breached? It seemed as though we blew our one and only opportunity for godly, abiding peace. From our perspective, the wall could not and cannot be overcome. A divine initiative was called for.

Thanks be to God! He had a backup plan for us — Love does things like that. His plan was to provide a perfect offering for sin, an entry way back into God's peace-filled presence. Our almighty Father gave us His Son, Jesus Christ. He became peace for everyone who would pass through the portal in that hostile wall. Moreover, he gives us the blessed pleasure of participating in his wall-destroying mission.

As our loving God resolved to bring us back to his peace, let us resolve in this New Year to accept that passport through the wall (Jesus) and to be about his mission of tearing down all of the walls in this world until there is perfect peace again.

• PLACES OF WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Chapel of Sky Valley
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy
Communion each service

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshipping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe,
Cashiers

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

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

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sundays: 9:30am Sunday School; 10:30 am;
Children's/Family Program; 10:45 Worship; 5 p.m.,
Middle and HS student ministries;

Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Children/
student/adult programs

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Brian Sullivan – Rector: 526-2968
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday Service on Channel 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

• Sunday Service on Channel 14 Sun. at 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
(nursery provided)

Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by children's
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Small groups available throughout the week.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

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

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board-Certified Physicians Add Distinguished Member

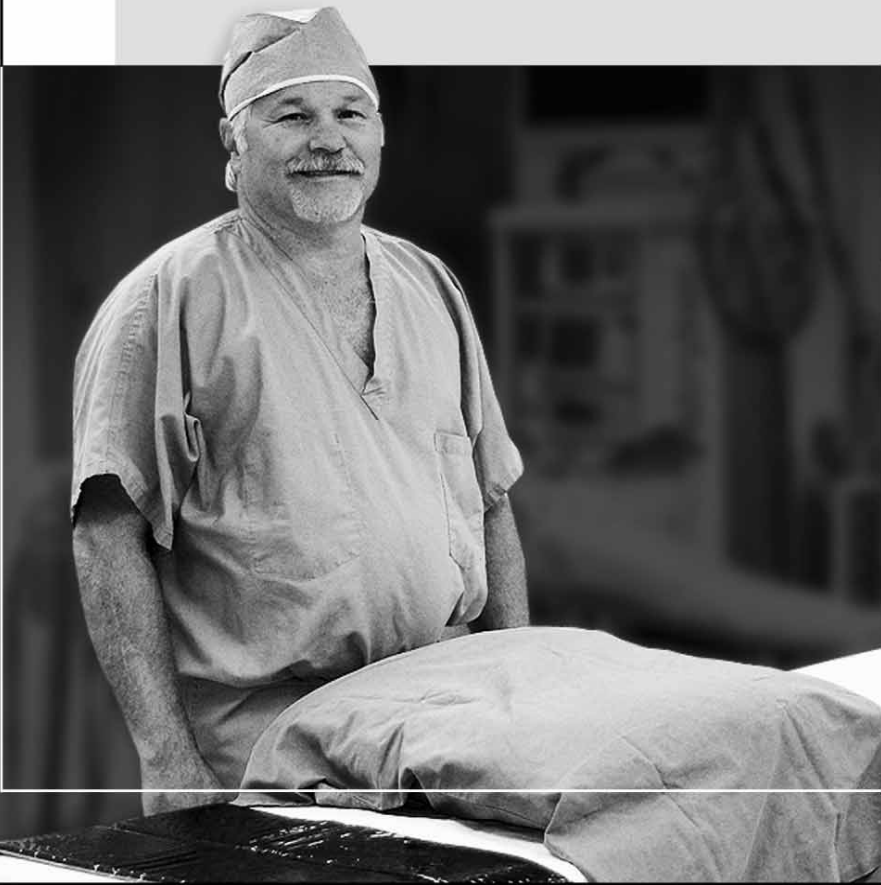
Dr. James Clay Smallwood,
renowned for excellence and Board-Certified in
gynecological care is now accepting appointments
in Suite 203 at The Jane Woodruff Clinic at
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (828) 526-5045.

James C. Smallwood, M.D.
Joins Highlands-Cashiers Medical Staff

Dr. Smallwood brings over 30 years experience
in gynecology to our growing list of medical
specialties. He will offer state-of-the-art
gynecological care in diagnostics, treatment,
counsel, and surgical services for women from
adolescence to the reproductive years and on
through menopause and post menopause.

At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, we are
proud to add yet another service in women's
healthcare which already includes mammography,
plastic surgery procedures and wellness programs.

Area women can be assured that they will continue
to receive the best in quality healthcare and that
this is another step forward in adding to these life
enhancing services.



The Healthcare Partner to Whom You Can Entrust Your Life.

To learn more about Dr. James C. Smallwood, visit:
www.highlandscashiershospital.org

... GIRLS BB continued from page 7



Highlands School JV and Varsity Girls Basketball team in Orlando for the KSA basketball tournament before Christmas at the Magic Kingdom.

NY.

The girls visited five parks in three days, including the four Disney parks: Animal Kingdom, Epcot, Magic Kingdom and Hollywood Studios, as well as Universal: Islands of Adventure. The group took advantage of all the positive opportunities offered during their stay.

On Thursday the girls went to Animal Kingdom and traveled the safari with countless animals on hundreds of acres, many of them also climbed Mount Everest, a thrilling rollercoaster.

That night at Epcot the girls stood in awe as the music sounded, the fireworks lit up the sky, and the lasers shown across the lake at the nightly Illuminations show.

Friday's agenda included the Magic Kingdom and all it entailed, including the rides Space Mountain and Thunder Mountain, and the famous Disney Castle.

On Saturday morning the girls were treated to a character breakfast at Jostens' arena with Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, and Pluto. After the game the girls arrived in Hollywood Studios, which included the Rock'n'Roller

Coaster and the freefall, Tower of Terror. That evening Universal Studios closed their park to the public at 7 o'clock and opened Islands of Adventure exclusively for the KSA participants. The streets were lined with buffets and tables and the exhilarating rides on the 'island' included The Hulk, Dr. Doom, and Spiderman. There was also a 'street party' where the girls could dance and enjoy the DJ. The next morning, Sunday, Dec. 20 would bring a close to their stay.

This trip offered the girls more than just basketball court skills and experience. Throughout all the time spent preparing, the girls learned life skills such as time-management, teamwork, cooperation, and how to cope with problems as they arise. These life skills can be put to use on the present 2009-2010 team, as well as in the future as the team graduates and goes on to lead the rest of their lives. The Lady Highlanders basketball team wishes to thank all of those who supported their efforts and ensured that they did not miss out on this magical experience.



• HC HOSPITAL NEWS •

Residents enjoy 'home-like' setting at center

Saint Nick paid his annual visit to visit the residents of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Friday evening, attracting quite a crowd. More than 200 residents, family members and staff gathered for the center's resident Christmas party to enjoy festive music by Donnie Clay and J.C. Norris, a delicious holiday feast prepared by the hospital's Nutrition Services Department, and to watch Saint Nick, with aid of a small team of "elves", hand out presents.

Each year, the employees of the HCH and Fidelia Eckerd Living Center joined by dozens of volunteers come together to bring the spirit of Christmas to the residents of the Living Center. For several weeks leading up to the event, hospital staff members voluntarily "adopt" one of the center's residents from a gift tree placed in the hospital cafeteria. Along with the name, each ornament on the tree has a brief "wish list," so staffers know the right sizes and desired colors of clothing items to buy. In addition to the 50 employees who came forward to adopt a resident for Christmas, a number of the Foundation's board members also contributed, personally making sure that not only every resident, but also every hospital swing bed patient had something under the tree to brighten the holidays.

"We have generous staff and foundation board members that are willing to spend their time and money on supplying gift for their adopted resident. Some residents have loved ones far away, that are unable to visit during the holidays, therefore our staff and community play a vital role in the season of giving", says Shawna Mellott, Administrator of Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

The FELC is dedicated to providing a

"home like" environment to every resident through activities, décor, onsite prepared meals, and friendly staff. The center proudly practices the "Eden Alternative" emphasizing close and continuing relationships with children, animals, and other adults. "Anyone who has had a connection with our Living Center can tell you that our residents are our family," Mellott remarked.



Santa visited with the Houston family at the Fidelia Eckerd Center

"Fidelia Eckerd Living Center provides our com-

munities with a living environment for seniors that can enhance their quality of life, health and independence." says Frank Leslie, Interim CEO.

The Fidelia Eckerd Living Center is an 84-bed skilled nursing facility located on the Campus of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Since 1993 when the center opened, its goal is to provide residents superior services delivered by a staff dedicated to the highest standards of care. It is among the 10% of North Carolina Nursing facilities which voluntarily seek and receive full accreditation from the Joint Commission.

A high staff-to-resident ratio exceeds the requirements of state and other governing agencies.

Residents reside in both private and semi-private rooms, and enjoy a wide variety of activities, including music, books, bingo, Bible study, exercising, trips to baseball games, fishing spots and cultural events. Mountain views, linen dining and the "Eden Alternative", which emphasizes close and continuing relationships with children animals and other adults, are some of the outstanding features of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. In addition, the medical resources of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital are just seconds away as the two facilities are physically connected.

... POLICE & FIRE continued from page 17

EMS with a medical call at a residence on Dendy Orchard Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• At 8:59 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the Episcopal Church. It was cancelled.

• At 9:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 30

• At 7:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a accident where the vehicle was on its side on the Cashiers Road. There were no injuries.

• At 10:45 p.m., the dept. was called to help a stranded motorist on NC 106.

• At 9:52 p.m., the dept. was called to help a stranded motorist on NC 28.

Jan. 1

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital. It was false.

• At 1:08 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at OEI. It was cancelled en route.

Jan. 2

• At 5:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a missing hiker on Shortoff Trail. He was found at the trail head.

Jan. 3

• At 12:55 p.m., the dept. was called to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 south. There were no injuries.

Jan. 4

• At 10:52 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call where a 93-year-old man had fallen at Chestnut Hill. He was taken to the hospital.

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.

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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 (2/4/10)

MARKETING COORDINATOR AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Full-time exempt status position. Experienced professional with Marketing background preferably in healthcare field. Responsible for coordinating the hospital's marketing and communications programs. Demonstrated proficiency in writing skills and website knowledge required. 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

RN'S AT HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses

needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Full benefits, or the option to opt out of benefits for an increase in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. We are now offering part-time employees, working at least 24 hours a week, medical insurance. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

CNA OR CNA II 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

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)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

10-WOODED ACRES, spring creeks on Bald Mountain Road across from Sky Valley Gulf Resort. Potential for Health/Spa retreat. Great location. Financing Available by owner. Call 706-782-7396.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

82 ACRES, LINCOLN COUNTY, GA, with five-acre lake. Excellent hunting. Financing available. View property at www.gillspointroad.com. 478-972-0613. 1/14

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

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

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

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

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE HOME WITH STUNNING FEATURES. Three bedrooms, plus den, three full baths, and an open living area. Two Stone fireplaces and three decks overlooking stream and

• CLASSIFIEDS •

private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; no pets. Deposit required. Monthly or yearly rental \$2,500.00 per month. Call 770-639-2682 or 678-358-9675 (3/25)

APT. FOR RENT: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, furnished. 1/2 miles from downtown. \$500 per mo. incl. utilities, satellite TV, access to washer, dryer. Call 526-4598 or 526-3612. (1/7)

TURN KEY FURNISHED ONE BED, ONE BATH, SINGLE COTTAGE APT. 2 color TVs and wireless internet. 2.5 miles east of Main Street. \$600/ mth. 536-1566 (st. Dec. 17)

HOUSE FOR RENT IN LAUREL FALLS. Fully Furnished with W/D, \$750 a month. 787-2423. (st. 11/ 12)

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

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

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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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GOODMAN PACKAGE HEAT PUMP w/air, 2 Ton 10-Sear, 1 Year left on warranty, \$480. Make an offer. Call 828-342-7486.

ANTIQUE BLACKSMITH EQUIPMENT. \$250. Please call for more information. 828-787-1035.

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GOLF CLUBS CLASSIC – Set of MacGregor Tourney 9 irons (2-9 P.W.) 1980. Persimmon Drivers, new. \$50. Used \$25. Also miscellaneous items cheap. Call 706-746-3046. (Sky Valley).

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from Dec. 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 18

• At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle accident on Log Cabin Road.

• At 23:05 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at a residence on Poplar Street.

Dec. 19

• At 1:40 a.m., Cecil Randolph Warner, 19, of Highlands, was arrested for underage drinking at a home on Moorewood Dr. He was jailed on a \$500 secured bond.

• At 6:23 p.m., officers were called to Horse Cove Road to assist a tractor trailer stuck on the road.

• At 11:54 a.m., officers received a call about bear hunters trespassing on property on Bowery Road.

Dec. 20

• At 1:58 p.m., officers were called to Big Bearpen Road to assist a motorist.

Dec. 24

• At 12:51 a.m., officers received a call about a reckless driver with GA tags on N.C. 28. They were unable to locate the driver.

Dec. 25

• At 7:40 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Worley Road concerning a trespasser.

• At 8:30 p.m., officers were called to Dillard Road concerning a dispute between motorists. A passenger had left the vehicle.

Dec. 29

• At 9 a.m., an abandoned vehicle was reported on Spring Street after it had been parked there 10 days. The owner was notified.

• At 2:10 p.m., officers were called to Bryson's Food Store where a person was disturbing the peace. He left.

• At 23:35 p.m., officers received a call from a resident who was worried about a friend who hadn't arrived from Greenville, SC. They were later informed he arrived safely.

Dec. 30

• Officers were called to the Rec Park concerning a disruptive juvenile who was instructed to leave the premises.

• At 6:55 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint from a resident on Wingina Place who was complaining about the neighbor's noise and outside lights.

Jan. 1

• At 11:35 a.m., a resident on Sherwood Forest reported illegal bear hunting in the vicinity.

• At 5 p.m., the larceny of \$1,800 of personal items including cash and clothes were reported stolen from a locked car on Church Street. The spare key and magnetic box were missing.

Jan. 2

• At 9 p.m., officers received a call about a woman who was late in arriving at a residence.

Jan. 3

• At 7:05 p.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from a residence on Wahoo Trail. The residents said everything was OK.

During the week, police officers responded to 23 alarms and issued 10 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 22:

Dec. 22

• At 7:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Chestnut Hill. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 23

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Whiteside Cove Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

• During the evening, the dept. was called to assist stranded motorists on High Gate Road.

Dec. 25

• At 8:53 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Dawn View Drive. It was false.

Dec. 27

• At 12:13 p.m. the dept. responded to an alarm at Chestnut Hill. It was cancelled en route.

• At 3:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west below Dry Falls where a vehicle had rolled over. There were no injuries.

Dec. 28

• A little past midnight, the dept. was asked to assist Jackson County with a possible chimney fire but the call was cancelled en route.

Dec. 29

• At 6:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist

Continued on page 14

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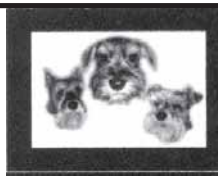
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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Harry Norman Realtors welcomes deVilleSchiffli

Susie deVille Schiffli, Broker Associate, has joined the Highlands office of Harry Norman, Realtors, Owner/Broker, Elizabeth Salzarulo, announced this week.

deVille Schiffli is a native of Highlands and returned to the area in 1992 after living in Chapel Hill, Boston, and London. As the founding executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands and the Peggy Crosby Center, she enjoyed 6 years of nonprofit leadership before beginning her career in real estate.

"I remain dedicated to community service, as I consider it a privilege to live and invest in the Highlands-Cashiers area," said deVille Schiffli. "This area is home for me, as well as for my children and parents."

"During my five years in real estate, I actively listened to my clients' stated goals and desires, performed extensive market research, and identified and matched clients with many hidden property gems. By employing strong negotiating and client advocacy skills, I was consistently a top producer in real estate, with over \$13 million in closed sales during my last active year in the business. In 2003, I obtained the Accredited Buyer Representative designation."

Looking for a new way to blend sales, entrepreneurship, and education, deVille Schiffli launched InnovationCompass, a consulting firm. As a consultant, she has worked with executives and entrepreneurs from across the United States; co-developed and produced a multimedia entrepreneurial learning program for Fortune 500 company, Cisco Systems; co-created and taught Southwestern Community College's inaugural, online introductory entrepreneurship course; as well as consulted with nonprofit organizations, including the area's



Susie deVilleSchiffli

new, stellar visual art center, The Bascom. deVille Schiffli said, "Over the last few months, buyers and sellers have approached me, requesting that I work with them. I began taking on clients and realized just how much I missed the real estate industry. I am returning with great excitement and enthusiasm."

deVille Schiffli received a Master of Entrepreneurship degree from Western Carolina University as well as the Outstanding Master of Entrepreneurship Student award. She earned with Honors a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations, the Duke Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management, and the Western North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute.

"In a challenging environment, you need a proven professional to position your property and bring you buyers from a multitude of global sources, including social media efforts like traditional blogging, as well as micro blogging on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn," said Elizabeth Salzarulo, Owner of the Harry Norman, Realtors Highlands office. "Susie is an expert in niche marketing, strategic property positioning, social media, and negotiating on behalf of clients."

deVille Schiffli has launched a new blog which highlights investment opportunities in the Highlands-Cashiers area: www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com.

She may be reached at the Harry Norman, Realtors office located at #1 Mountain Brook Center in Highlands, or by calling (828) 371-2079.

Mathews and Paradise also recently joined Harry Norman



Carol Mathews



Nadine Paradise



Rotarians Ginger Slaughter and Gene Borino along with the Early Head Start teachers show the kids all of their presents.

MountainTop Rotarians spread Christmas cheer

Members of the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary helped Santa out this Christmas by donating new jackets, shoes, clothing and toys to the children at the Macon Program for Progress Early Head Start. The children were able to visit with Santa and had fun ringing the sleigh bells. Staple food items such as whole wheat pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, beans and cereal were also collected and put into food boxes that each family was able to take home. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary wishes everyone in the community a safe and happy new year. The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets every Wednesday at 7:30am at Ruka's Table Restaurant in Wright Square on Main Street. If you are interested in Rotary, a past member of Rotary, or a member visiting our area we encourage you to join us.

FHA reimbursing State for I-40 repair

The Federal Highway Administration approved a request for federal emergency relief funds to repair and reopen Interstate 40 following the massive rock slide that closed it in late October, Congressman Heath Shuler said Friday.

"I am happy to see the FHA move so quickly on our request that the state of North Carolina will be reimbursed for the cleanup of I-40," said Congressman Shuler, D-Waynesville. "This portion of I-40 is essential to the people and businesses of Western North Carolina."

On Oct. 30, Congressman Shuler and Congressman Phil Roe, R-Tenn., sent a letter asking the FHA to promptly approve emergency relief funds. The letter also was signed by the entire North Carolina and Tennessee Congressional delegations.

Today, the FHA approved emergency relief funding and agreed to reimburse the North Carolina Department of Transportation for its work to remove debris and repair I-40, according to a letter sent to Congressman Shuler today.

Interstate 40 serves as a vital transportation and commerce link for the U.S., particularly the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. About 25,000 vehicles a day, includ-

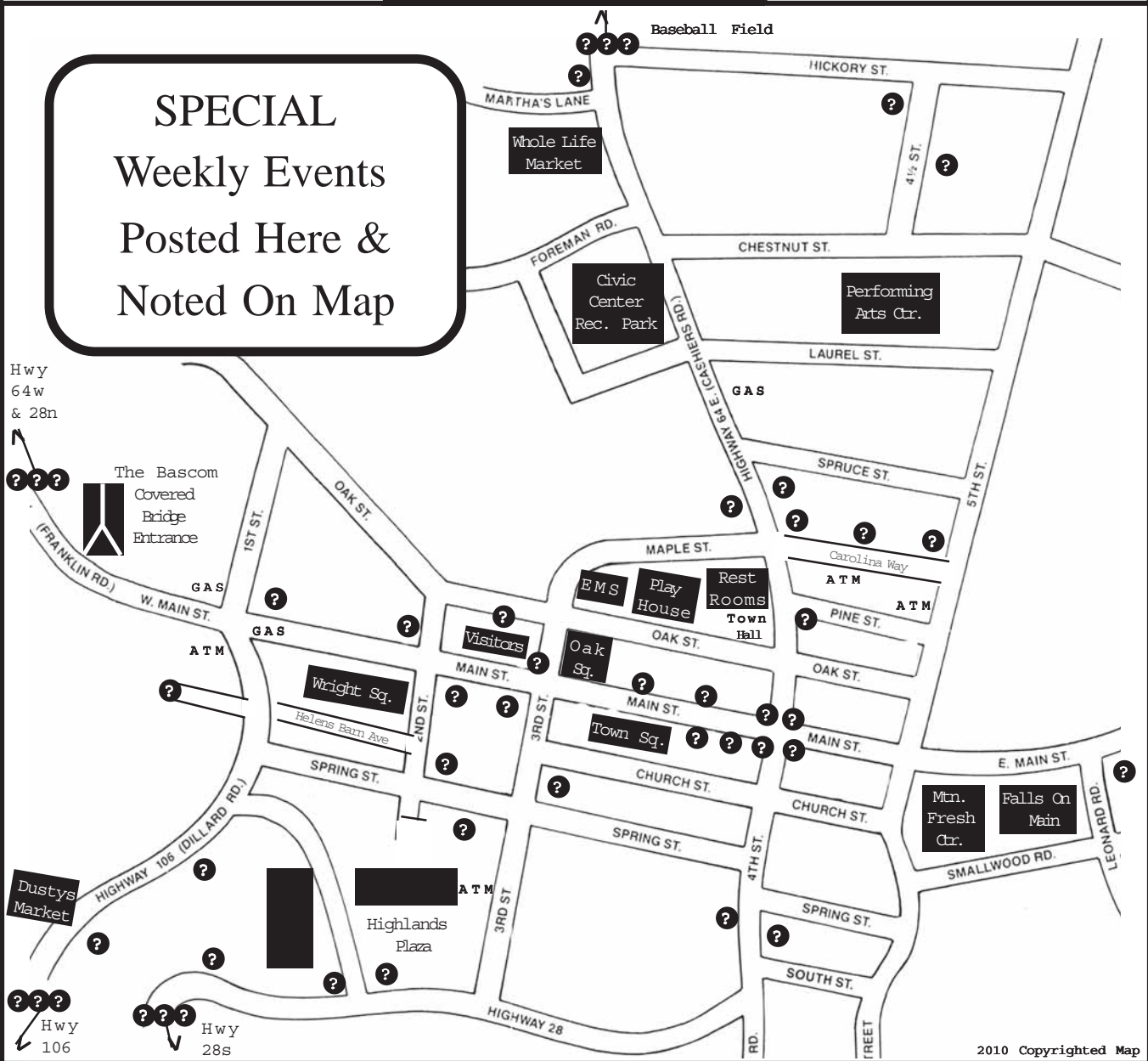
ing 10,000 tractor trailers, travel the section of I-40 that was closed due to the rockslide. Interstate 40 is not expected to reopen until January, according to NCDOT officials.

"I am pleased and grateful that this extremely critical regional issue garnered such strong support across state and party lines," Shuler said. "I also appreciate how quickly and effectively Governor Perdue responded to this disaster at the state level."

On Oct. 28, Perdue declared the I-40 rock slide a disaster, which was the first step in seeking federal emergency funds. The FHA's emergency relief program reimburses states and local governments for the cost of fixing damage caused by floods, tornados, landslides and other natural disasters.

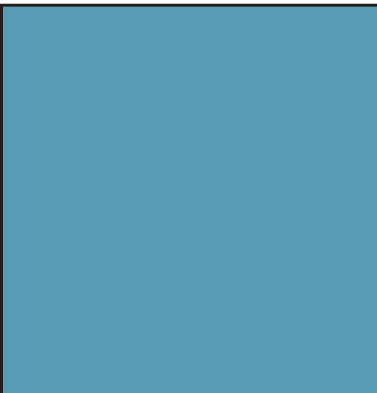
"I want to thank the Congressional Delegation for insuring the FHA was aware of the severity of the road damage resulting from the rockslide," Gov. Perdue said. "NCDOT is working as quickly as possible to open the road with public safety our first goal."

"We understand how disruptive the closure has been for the multi-state area," FHA Administrator Victor Mendez wrote in his letter to Congressman Shuler. "I can assure you that we will continue working with NCDOT to get traffic back to normal."

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Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map

Detailed Info Inside Newspaper



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

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

