

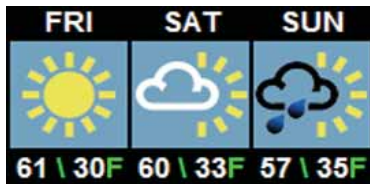
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE

Volume 8, Number 45

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010



Thursday, Nov. 11

- Veteran's Day service at the monument at Horse Cove Road and Sixth Street at 1 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 11-14

- Annual Culinary Festival. Call the Chamber of Commerce for tickets and details. 526-2114.

Sat., Nov. 13 - Sat., Dec. 18

- At The Bascom, A Stitch in Time: Quilts. Admission is free. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

Saturday, Nov. 13

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person.

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

- A benefit for Donna Tew at the Rec Park in the gym 4-9 p.m. There will be live entertainment from Frazzeled Edge Band, a hot dog supper, silent auction, yard sale corner and a cake walk. Donna suffered a stroke and had to have a craniotomy at Duke Hospital. The benefit is to help with medical expenses due to no disability or medical insurance. If you would like to help call Karen or Kelley at 526-1424 or 331-0047.

- At The Bascom, Nog Off and Table-Scape Competition, 5-7 pm. An artistic, culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink featuring some delicious and unique family eggnog recipes. Admission is free.

- At The Bascom, Demonstration: Holiday Floral Arranging, 10:30-11 am. Admission is free.

Mon.-Sun., Nov. 15-21

- Operation Christmas Child at Community Bible Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 828-526-4949 ext. 100 for more information.

Thurs., Nov. 18

- Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

- PUBLIC HEARING at 9 a.m. at the MC Library on Siler Road to hear if public wants a Hospice House in Franklin to serve all of Western NC.

Police Dept. bid in; Interim Planner hired

At a special called meeting the evening of Monday, Nov. 8, commissioners OK'd the construction bid for the new Police Department and hired Mark Maxwell as the Interim Town Planner.

Three contractors bid on renovating the old ABC Store into the

new Police Department building — all came in over what the town had budgeted. The figure the town has set for renovation is \$599,000 with another estimated \$143,500 for hardscape/landscaping.

Potts Construction bid \$828,067; Warth Construction bid

\$771,941.59 and JT Turner bid \$719,900.

The board chose the lowest bidder — JT Turner — but expects the bid to come in closer to \$600,000 once “value engineering” techniques are applied to the project.

• See POLICE page 21

Town Board round-up

During the Committee Reports segment of the Nov. 3 Town Board meeting Town Manager Jim Fatland explained in detail steps administration will take to remediate the numerous material weaknesses in Highlands' accounting procedures as outlined by auditors Martin-Starne at the last Town Board meeting in October.

Fixes include involving more people in the accounting process so that the same couple of people are no longer the only people “touching” accounts receivables and payables.

Adjustments include: changing the person who signs checks when the Town Manager is absent from the cash collections employee to the Public Works Director with the mayor or mayor pro tempore being the second signer;

Instead of having the account payable employee reconcile the bank statements, the Accounting Supervisor will do this followed by the review and approval of the Town Manager;

Instead of having the cash collections employee or utility billing clerk make cash and check deposits, a remote check deposit system will be set up with RBC Bank and

• See TOWN BOARD page 7

Setting up for the holidays



Town crews began decorating early this year. On Monday they finished up with decorations on the Town Tree on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Photo by Jim Lewicki

Hospital offers free flu shots

Area residents have the opportunity to take advantage of receiving complimentary flu vaccines being offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The hospital will conduct its annual community influenza clinic providing flu vaccines, more commonly known as the flu shot,

• See FLU page 3

Main Street group still working

Thursday evening marked the third Main Street Program meeting with a few new faces this time.

Represented were Kilwin's, OEI, the Hen House, Pat Allen Realty, PAC, the Highlands Historical Society, Macon Bank, Nancy's Fancys, Anderson Jewelry, Mill Creek Gallery, Mountain Fresh Foods, Lupoli Construction, Dutchmans Design and Highlands Fine Art and Estate Jewelry. Also present were Ginger Slaughter, Town Manager Jim Fatland and Mayor David Wilkes.

Sheri Adams and Lou Holloway, facilitators of the program, were there to set the group on course concerning the town's vision and planning for the downtown area, including economic restructuring, and promotion.

About half the meeting involved formulating a vision for the downtown area. Participants were asked to say what Highlands meant to them.

“What is a compelling vision for the future of downtown?” asked Adams. “Consider a perfectly functional Highlands you want to see and want to maintain. Once we have that vision, we can devise a

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

If he's not with them, he's against them

Dear Editor,

Apparently Heath Shuler's win has gone to his head! After only two terms in the House now he's giving orders to senior House members, demanding that THEY step down from their places of leadership because HE doesn't like it.

I've always thought "Blue Dog Democrats" was just a term for Democrats who were ashamed to call themselves Republicans.

Maybe Mr. Shuler should do a poll of his voters and find out how many eagerly voted for him and how many, like me, had to hold their noses while they voted for him. How many voted for Shuler as a vote against Miller? I think he would find he is not as widely supported as the final tally of the election and his ego would make out. I only voted for him because there wasn't a real Democrat on the ticket running for the job.

The first thing he has done since he got back to Washington was to insist that Nancy Pelosi not run for the post of minority leader. What's the problem? Does Pelosi offend his Republican friends on C Street? Was she too effective as Speaker of the House? (Hint: She got more bills passed than most Speakers do in twice the time. Unfortunately most of them were bottled up in an ineffective Senate.)

Just a suggestion to Shuler: Grow a pair and start acting like the Democrat we wished we could have elected. If we wanted another Charles Taylor, we would have voted for Charles Taylor before (or Miller). Take a hot shower and wash off the yellow stripe down your back and stand up straight and act like Pelosi instead of John Boehner.

We hired you to stand with the Democrats instead of with the Republicans for the next two years. In 2012 if you want to run as a Republican, then have the guts to change your party affiliation.

Ben McInnes
Franklin, NC

Regarding our WNC wildlife

Dear Editor,

Many residents and visitors to WNC enjoy wildlife viewing while some share their passion of wildlife through photographic opportunities. For others, wildlife is a recognized symbol

and our unique privilege of living in the mountains. Also, wildlife provides responsible hunters an opportunity to experience the thrill of a hunt and kill.

In my meetings and discussions with responsible hunters, wildlife advocates, organizations with wildlife interests and those involved in wildlife management; it is felt there is a major need to bring together diverse viewpoints to help resolve wildlife issues. A dedicated effort to build bridges of understanding and recognize "wildlife belong to all of us" would be of benefit to all in WNC.

Some specifics where cooperative efforts are needed and solutions sought include: shrinking wildlife habitat, a rapidly growing population, poaching and insensitive hunting practices. These represent significant challenges to all of us in WNC and would be enhanced through a unified effort. In addition, hunters and dogs trespassing on private property is a sensitive matter while baiting is a practice, some feel, has a negative impact on the sporting aspect of hunting. On a positive note, hunters organizations and the general public share a common goal of finding creative financial options dedicated to additional NCWRC's law enforcement.

In the fall edition of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation Journal, an article titled "Resolving to Fight for Wildlife" gives both hunters and the general public an excellent overview regarding issues. One resolution passed by the NCWF Board of Directors is called the "Sportsman Responsibility Doctrine." It states, "NCWF pledges to work in

cooperation with hunting and fishing groups, the general public, the NCWRC, and NC General Assembly to develop a slate of amendments to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Law and implement rules to be known as the "Sportsman Responsibility Doctrine." In this, strong emphasis is placed on finding ways to help end conflict among hunters and anglers, landowners and the general public.

On the local scene, Wild South recently sponsored a productive meeting of Western North Carolina wildlife advocates. This initial gathering was designed to build cooperative support while sharing diverse concerns regarding wildlife. Involved were hunters, wildlife advocates, a NC state representative, a NCWRC biologist and a law enforcement supervisor. Also taking part were several organizations that endorse wholesome outdoor living and provide wildlife programming. Plans are to hold another meeting in the near future with expanded participation.

There is a distinct need for organizations, hunters and the general public to find common ground in addressing specifics regarding wildlife issues and forward these joint concerns to the leadership of the NCWRC and members of our NC General Assembly.

John Edwards

Wild South Wildlife Outreach Coordinator

Director of Mountain Wildlife Days
Committee to Promote the Bear Smart Initiative
Cashiers

Proposed "Bob Zahner Wilderness" area

Dear Editor,

The proposal to make the Overlook Area in Blue Valley a wilderness area in honor of Bob Zahner does not meet the criteria for a wilderness area. The criteria for a wilderness area are:

- No vehicular roads,
- No mechanical tools such as chain saws for maintenance,
- Absence of sights and sounds of human activities such as traffic noise, view of houses.

The overlook area does have Forest Service roads, and urban activities can be seen and heard.

The overlook area does have features which attract many recreational pursuits such as hiking, photography, viewing or cooling off in the creeks and water falls, roadside dispersed camping, fishing, turkey hunting.

Roadside dispersed camping would be eliminated with this proposed wilderness designation. Other recreational activities could continue but to a lesser degree because of access.

The designation of the Overlook Area as a recreational area is more appropriate than wilderness. Recreation not as a developed area such as Cliffside or Dry Falls, but as a dispersed recreation area where the user observes leave-no-trace principles for there is no caretaker to pick up paper, beverage containers, and other debris.

Honor Bob Zahner with a low impact recreation area, or a trail or vista on Whiteside Mountain. Do not dilute the definition "Wilderness" area.

Nathalie Sato
Highlands

What will it take for them to listen?

Dear Editor,

Do our town officials give a d__?

The recent road construction project on Third Street lacks silt fences to control erosion into Satulah Creek. Three telephone calls were made to the Town Manager to suggest corrections, but nothing was done. Now, after the recent rain, about a truckload of gravel and sediment is in the creek.

After another rain, another truckload will be in the creek.

Do our town officials give a d__?

Richard Melvin
Highlands

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

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• THANK YOU'S •

The Highlands community cares

While the reasons most people come to Highlands are both numerous and obvious; what motivates many of us to stay is often not.

If asked to come up with the single most important of Highland's many assets, I believe it would have to be its ever-strong sense of community - of giving and sharing in another's time of need.

The Benefit Yard Sale for Colleen Fogel held recently was just such an example and while it exceeded, financially, far beyond my expectations, its true success is measured by the overwhelming outpouring of our very special community.

I would like to thank Debbie & Jack Hornsby, Harold Brammer, Lisa Osteen, Melani and Stuart Beavers, the entire office of Dr. Patty Wheeler, Highlands Boys soccer team, Stuart Armor, Anne Porter, Bessie Buras and her girls, Judy Smart, Jenny King, Diane Levine, Michael, Gray and Dan, Paula Nova, Fran Parmelee, Jimmy Strahan, Patce Thornton, the media and countless others who gave and gave...

Noel Atherton
Highlands

Family grateful for support in time of grief

Mere words cannot express the Leora C. Talley family's gratitude for all the caring acts of love and kindness received during her illness and recent passing into the presence of our Heavenly Father.

The spiritual and moral support of prayers, visits, phone calls and cards, along with the delicious meals, floral arrangements, helped to make this difficult time more bearable.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to our extended churches and community families for always being ready and willing to help regardless of the need.

We appreciated the comforting words spoken and musical messages at her funeral service.

In addition, we would like to commend Dr. David Wheeler and the dedicated nurses and staff at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and the committed personnel at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for their professionalism and compassion.

— The Talley Family

Help during loss appreciated

The family of Dugan Reese thanks you for the support and for helping us during the great loss of our loved one.

Hospice and Dr. Baumrucker were a blessing to us and my children are to be commended for helping me care for their Dad at home. Without them and strength and guidance from God, I couldn't have done it.

The bountiful supply of food, kind words of comfort, prayers, cards and any way you expressed your care, was greatly appreciated and we thank you all with much love.

Sisters and Brothers, Sue, Kevin, Daren, Donna and David and Tara, Devon Michael Austin, Alexa and Channing.

... FLU continued from page 1

combination of seasonal and H1N1, on Wednesday, Nov. 17th from 9-11 a.m. on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic located on the hospital campus. Vaccines are available on a first come, first serve basis. You must pre-register by calling (828) 526-1434. Pre-registration is required due to limited availability.

According to the CDC, the combination flu vaccine is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older. It is also extremely important for those caregivers of infants to receive the vaccination in efforts to prevent the transmission of influenza.

"The vaccination is safe and effective. It's not a live vaccine and this means you cannot get the flu from the shot" says Cindy Coley, RN, Infection Control Nurse at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.



• OBITUARY •

Phyllis (Grammy Phyl) Elliott

Phyllis (Grammy Phyl) Elliott, 82 of Highlands, NC formerly of Delray Beach, FL passed into the hands of her Savior Jesus Christ, Saturday, November 6 at home. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Donald H. Elliott, her children, Larry E. Elliott and wife Karen of Delray Beach, FL, Donald E. Elliott and wife Lisa of Cullowhee, NC, Philip N. Elliott of Cullowhee, NC. She was preceded in death by a son, Richard Elliott in 1985. Six grandchildren and three great grandchildren also survive.

The family will hold a celebration of her life on her birthday, March 16, 2011 at the Christ Church of the Valley in Cashiers, NC.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

"The best protection against the flu still remains the vaccine," Coley remarked. "We are encouraging everyone to get a flu shot this year. It's important to remember that flu vaccinations need to be given each year as the viruses can mutate or change. The sooner one is vaccinated the better. The CDC says that it can take up to 14 days for one to develop immunity to the flu shot.

In conjunction with the vaccine, there are proven ways to reduce and avoid infection. Frequent hand washing, avoiding anyone who is sick, staying at home if you are sick, if you have a fever, staying at home until no fever has reoccurred 24 hours after the last fever reducing medications has been taken, and practicing respiratory etiquette are helpful practices to keep you healthy."

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Never underestimate the power of a Floridiot

Dateline: November, 2008:

"Congratulations, America, you've just elected a man as your president who wouldn't even qualify to be a member of his own security detail. What were you thinking, America? DUH! Because of Obama's past associations and shady connections, he couldn't be a policeman, an FBI agent or work for the CIA. In fact, he couldn't hold any position of trust outside the slimy political arena where anything goes. He's too shady. Positions of trust and honor require a person to have a clean and unmarred background. Running the United States of America...well, that's a whole different pan of worms."

A little circus music, please, while I write this column. I thought it might be fun to start with the above paragraph, pulled from a Highlands' Newspaper column I wrote the morning I woke and found America had elected its first half-black president. Democratic Highlanders were furious with me...again.

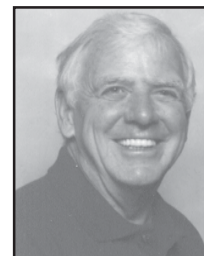
This was also the period in my life where I was rapidly changing from a political Mr. Floridiot nice guy to Mr. Floridiot not so nice guy. Before then, I was a typical "Rino" who voted for the person I thought America needed most. Party affiliation didn't matter.

And way, way back when I was much younger, I watched politicians fiercely debate the issues on the floor of Congress, then recess and eat lunch together, asking about how the wife and kids were. They were friends who just saw things differently. There was no hate. Oh, how I long for those days. They may be gone forever.

And why was I not surprised when I woke the morning after the 2010 mid-term elections and found that Palm Beach County Floridiots had embarrassed themselves again. The heavily populated Democratic county screwed up the vote...one more time. A worker admitted to miscounting the ballots for Governor and they had to be re-counted. They wore themselves out around 4 AM and called it off until morning. Only a Floridiot could pull this off for the umpteenth time.

Surely you remember the 2000 election with the famous Floridiot "hanging chad" that caused the U.S Supreme Court to step in and pick our president. DUH! Al Gore is still having nightmares. Please, turn up the circus music.

Now I have left the ranks of the majority of Americans who are center right and



Fred Wooldridge

**Feedback is encouraged!
email:**

askfredanything@aol.com

have joined the very radical right who are just as bad as the radical left. I had no choice. America is drowning in debt. Only a serious financial collapse will cure this mess. It's time to pay the piper.

And shortly after I wrote that serious piece condemning America for being conned into electing President Obama, I warned both Republications and Democrats to be very afraid

of a nobody person named Sarah Palin. Everyone was dismissing her as an inexperienced political whacko. I wasn't!

I'm certainly not smarter than the majority of Americans who voted for President Obama. I'm just an old retired cop with a respectable IQ and a whole lot of common sense. But what I have over the majority of Americans is savvy. My years and years of being lied to by some of the best criminals and politicians this country has to offer have given me the ability to smell a con job from a mile away. America got conned. I remember sitting on my couch and listening to Obama's bla, bla, bla campaign speeches and thinking, *This guy is soooo good...but full of s—!*

Back in 2007, I was still a center right American, a moderate who longed for a guy like Colin Powell to become president. Now there was a man I could support, another center right moderate American and war hero. Unfortunately, he was too smart and too honest to run for office. Today, the far left and far right animals in Congress would eat him alive.

So here we go again with another Republican Congress that started all this over-spending mess that President Obama perpetuated once he got into office. Now what? Will there be gridlock? Will there be more hate? Will no one compromise? Is this good for America?

The only hope for America's future is not from a bunch of corrupt Democrat and Republican politicians, but from a small band of non-political type of American patriots wearing funky revolutionary costumes and currently being called racist and extreme. They carry flags that say, "Don't tread on me." England called George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson extreme also. Hey, it's about to get very interesting.

• Read Fred's column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Luck is relative

Haiti got lucky. Hurricane Tomas struck a glancing blow at the west end of the island, largely sparing the million or so earthquake survivors who remain in tent cities, or tent slums in the capital, Port au Prince. It's about time Haiti caught a break, even if the break meant widespread flooding and a few deaths. It could have been much worse.

I've been going to Haiti off and on for more than a decade. I've yet to see anything resembling good fortune there. The Spanish, the French, the United States, a series of corrupt leaders, atrocious stewardship, and nature have conspired to reduce the island nation to its present state of misery.

Following the earthquake last January, optimists spoke of the near total devastation as an opportunity to rebuild the country. The idea was to bulldoze the debris left by the quake and rebuild the capital with buildings that would stand up to future quakes. Optimists understood that it would billions of dollars would to build roads, schools, hospitals, water and sewage treatment facilities.

They failed to understand the level of poverty is such that few of the island's citizens were literate before the quake. Most had never had a job or been to school. Political



Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

instability has limited foreign investment. Roads range from goat paths to single lane asphalt. Much of the country is without electricity. Only those wealthy enough to afford generators have lights and refrigeration. Disease is pervasive. Poverty and malnutrition rob the population of natural resistance to infectious diseases. Deforestation led to instability of the mountainsides. Precious topsoil washed down the slopes, not only crippling the nation's ability to produce enough food for the population, but choking off shore reefs with accumulated silt.

It is hard to describe the country's misery. I find myself wondering what I've omitted. Imagine a country whose unemployment rate approaches 70%, in which 80% of the population lives in poverty, and more than half exist in abject poverty. Imagine a country in which polluted streams are often the only source of water, water which carries debilitating and lethal diseases. Haiti is a country without natural resources and is among the worst environmental disasters in the world. In areas without electricity, trees are cut as soon as they are planted to produce charcoal, the only energy for cooking and heat. The young trees never get a chance to put down

roots to hold the remaining topsoil from being eroded by periodic tropical storms.

Despite conditions that would crush us, Haitians remain resilient and cheerful, not hopeful, but cheerful. There is no escape from poverty or the misery that accompanies it for Haiti's poor. A lucky few get jobs in sewing shops. The rural poor subsist on tiny plots of weathered land. Education is a dream, but the one wonders what benefit literacy might bring.

In the 10 months since the earthquake, none of the 1.5 billion dollars the United States promised for reconstruction has been

delivered. Ninety eight percent of the debris remains where it fell. Hundreds of thousands whose homes were destroyed, the lucky ones who survived, live in dangerous and unsanitary camps. Had the hurricane made land fall closer to Port au Prince, many would have died in the wind, storm surge, and rain. It didn't happen. For once, Haiti caught a break.

A friend from San Francisco called after the outbreak of the cholera outbreak and asked me if I could go down and help out. My schedule didn't permit it, but I answered that it wouldn't be long before another tragedy befell Haiti. It's tragic, but true.

... MAIN STREET continued from page 1

work-plan and figure out how to get there."

Participants called out adjectives describing Highlands, so it's not clear what the vision is since people cited what is already exists, but Adams said she and Holloway will return next month with a vision statement based on the input.

Adjectives like inviting, safe, warm, charming, village-like, wholesome, historical, vibrant, interactive, walkable, small-town living with a sophisticated lifestyle, well-educated and a cosmopolitan group of people, relaxing, special, family friendly, natural and cultural amenities, a sanctuary, a Mayberry with a Northern Exposure, a place with a southern attitude but a northern altitude, were used to describe Highlands.

Later, the group divided into two parts – one concentrated on economic development and promotion, the other design.

The general idea of the first group is to develop a vibrant year-round town through events reasoning that businesses would be less likely to go under if business could be guaranteed all year long.

Adams said there are other components responsible for businesses going under – rents that are too high, sales that are not high enough, and the lack of business acumen.

She suggested training and business plans and suggested a one-on-one survey with business owners to learn real facts about their

operations including profit data which would help her and Holloway understand profit patterns. She said the data gathered would be for their eyes only.

Though the "season" in Highlands has been extended greatly over the last decade – from barely six months to a solid nine months – everyone agreed it would be great if the cold, bare, hard winter months of January, February and March didn't exist.

However, it was pointed out by another that no matter what happens in Highlands January through March event-wise, "the climate is what it is."

"There are people who just don't like the cold weather. Highlands in winter is like Palm Beach in August. People leave Florida because it's too hot and people don't come to Highlands in the winter because it's too cold."

On the design side, participants discussed safety nodes at intersections and mid-block so pedestrians have a safe spot to stop and wait for traffic before crossing Main Street; sign regulations and ordinances. They also discussed carrying the feel of Main Street beyond Fifth and Third streets where the town seems to "drop off."

The next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Rec Park.

— Kim Lewicki

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• CONSERVATIVE POV •

Earth to Nancy, "Hello, anybody home?"

All of you know the Presidential succession. If the President is unable to perform his duties, the Veep takes over. If, God forbid, the VP is unable to perform, the Speaker of the House becomes the most powerful person on Earth (that used to be the case – not sure at this point). That, of course, is Nancy Pelosi, at least for the time being.

I quote from a Wall Street Journal item posted at 5:20 PM on Election Day. "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said late this afternoon that she is confident the House Democrats' message to preserve Social Security and fight for the middle class will resonate with voters. 'We're on pace to maintain the majority in the House of Representatives,' Ms. Pelosi told reporters gathered in a second-floor conference room at the Democrats' headquarters in Washington." WHAT?

"Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the Maryland Democrat who serves as Ms. Pelosi's assistant and is the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said he is seeing strong voter turnout among Democrats, who 'are proving the Washington pundits absolutely wrong.' He added: 'This thing is not over.'"

Their transmissions from the Mother-ship must have been garbled by sunspots or other solar activity, because everyone whose IQ is larger than their shoe size knew that the Dems were getting creamed and the only question was how badly. What ever would possess an adult human to make such an ignorant statement is a mystery to me, especially in front of reporters. Thank heavens she is nearly out of the line of Presidential succession.

She has just announced that she will seek the role of House Minority Leader. She is seen as so toxic that the Republicans are shouting "hire Nancy" and the Dems are crying "fire Nancy." So what looms ahead in light of the Republicans' success in winning a majority in the House? John Boehner, presumptive Speaker in the next session, says he will be tireless in dismantling Obamacare.

With the Senate still in Democrat hands and with Obama's hand on the tiller, neutering the monstrosity cannot be done legislatively. The plans are to bring it up piecemeal, forcing the Dems to vote over and over for pieces of a plan that is grossly unpopular with the voting public. In doing so, the election of 2012 should bode well for those opposed to the massive



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

new entitlement.

On a more positive note, since the House has control of the purse strings, the idea has been floated that funding for the IRS be reduced. Since that agency has been chosen to enforce Obamacare's punitive provisions, starving them of funds would eliminate their role in coming after you if you chose not to buy their mandated insurance policy. Sounds like a plan to me. So far as I'm concerned, it would

be a prime time to enact the FairTax and eliminate the agency altogether.

Closer to home, "An unusually large turnout at the polls Tuesday gave the Republicans a majority of 68-70 seats in the 120 seat NC House of Representatives," according to the Lincoln Tribune. "This historic election assured Republican control of the (State) House for the First time since 1998.

Republicans also wrested control of the NC Senate, holding a majority of that 50 seat body for the first time since '98 (that's 1898).

It's amazing what a number of criminal prosecutions will do to a good-old-boy network. The Republican House Leader and Whip issued the following list of Republican priorities for the legislative session to begin in January: "Years of overspending by Democrats have given North Carolina the highest tax rates in the Southeast and a budget deficit of at least \$3 billion; we will balance the State budget without raising taxes."

"High taxes are killing jobs. We will make our tax rates competitive with other states. Within the first 100 days you will see us: Passing The Healthcare Freedom Protection Act, exempting North Carolinians from the job-killing, liberty-restricting mandates of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obama Care); fighting to protect jobs by keeping our Right to Work laws; Reducing the regulatory burden on small business; Funding education in the classroom, not the bureaucracy; Eliminating the cap on charter schools; Passing the Honest Election Act, requiring a valid ID to vote; Passing the Eminent Domain amendment to protect private property rights; Ending pay-to-play politics and restore honesty and integrity to state government."

Now that's an agenda I can be happy with; how about you? And it only took 112 years of corruption to allow it to happen. Maybe we can take out both Obama and Purdue in 2012.

... TOWN BOARD from 1

only cash deposits will be taken to the bank by the Town Manager's secretary, the Town Manager or the HR Administrative Assistant;

Instead of having cash investments performed by the Accounts Payable position, the Accounting Supervisor will do this with the Town Manager's approval;

Instead of having purchase requisitions entered by the cash collections employee, the Police Department Administrative Assistant will enter purchase orders approved by the Town Manager so accounting personnel will no longer be part of the purchase functions;

Instead of having mail delivered to employee's unopened, the Town Manager's secretary will open the mail, date-stamp it and deliver it to employees. All checks will be forwarded to the Accounting Supervisor and prepared for deposit. Once run through the remote deposit system, cancelled checks will be given to the Utility Billing clerk for posting. Mail marked "personal" will be delivered to employees unopened.

Since auditors also reported the lack of technical expertise to comply with financial reporting requirements, the Town Manager and the Accounting Supervisor will review audit drafts and submit corrections to the auditor before the report is finalized and submitted to the Local Government Commission.

Auditors noted numerous and significant audit adjustments throughout the year but with the hiring of the Accounting Supervisor and with the improvement of internal controls, Town Manager Jim Fatland expects audit adjustments to be reduced.

In addition in stead of having several bank accounts for separate funds set up at Wachovia Bank, the town's accounting software will be used to track and segregate funds. All but the Town Scholarship fund account will be closed.

At the Nov. 3 meeting, the board also discussed the Animal Control Ordinance with Town Attorney Bill Coward. Coward suggested comparing the county's Animal Control Ordinance with the town's ordinance.

"The town's ordinance is more stringent," said Coward. He said said the town adopted the county's ordinance so county personnel can take Highlands-area animals to the shelter, but suggested an ordinance be created with interlocking statutes for concurrent jurisdictions so Highlands can tailor its ordinance to its needs.

The board also adopted the Recreation Agreement between the county and the town for FY2010-11 at \$495,000. It has been receiving payments since July 1, but never formally adopted the agreement.

The amount is \$5,000 less than previous years. The cut was part of the county's "across the board" reductions to reduce its budget for FY 2011.

At the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting, there will be a Public Hearings to consider the Conditional Zoning District request for Riverwalk.

— Kim Lewicki

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Sports Page



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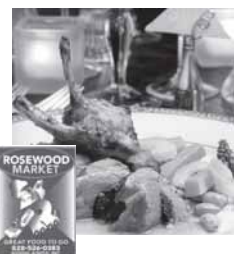
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• JUST HERS •

Hanging with the Big Dogs

By Michelle A. Mead-Armor

When I came down to Highlands to live with John, I never thought I'd be going to the dogs. I met the first one a few years ago at John's Yale reunion. Yale was the first university in the United States to adopt a mascot in 1889, and the current mascot, Handsome Dan, is the 17th of the line. Just recently, however, I got to meet another dog – a sleeker, more graceful one – the Gilman greyhound.

I don't want anyone thinking I have mascot envy. After all, Mary Washington has its eagle, a recent addition to the college. In the '60s, the school was divided into goats and devils, depending on whether your class was an odd or an even year. I blush to confess I was a goat. It didn't get better at Goucher, where our mascot is Mortimer, the gopher. He is portrayed as a fierce rodent, showing his arm muscle, with the slogan "Fear the Gopher" written underneath. While my final school, NYU, may have a team nickname that sounds wimpy - "the Violets" (school color oblige) - we do have a fairly butch mascot, a bobcat. What a relief! I was afraid our mascot was



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

an accountant named Murray.

Shortly before John died, his eighth and final book, "These are the Times that Try Men's Souls" came out. I'm so glad he lived to see this book finally in print, since it was 10 years in the making. I was with John for the last several of those years, and it wasn't al-

ways easy being married to three different men – John Armor, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Paine. There were times when the book should have been renamed "These are the Times that Try Women's Patience."

John had many things he wanted to do after his surgery, but one trip he was looking forward to was a trek up to Washington, DC, to march with re-enactors portraying all the signers of the Constitution. Naturally, he was going to be Franklin. While in DC, he was going to attend a book launching for the Paine book. It was going to be a busy trip, and I worried about the toll it would take on someone who would have just undergone major surgery. With John's death, the question was "What do we do about the book launch?" Upon consultation, it was decided to postpone it for a month. The march on Washington went on without John, of course, but the organizers kindly remembered him with prayers and a brief service.

Would I be prepared to come up to Washington to do the book launch in John's place? Of course – it's what John would have wanted. I don't have a problem with speeches. My problem is keeping my mouth shut. On October 12th, I got a ride to Asheville with two friends who just happened to be passing by the airport when I needed to be there. Being at Asheville Airport was unexpectedly painful. It brought back all the bittersweet memories of the days when I was flying back and forth between New York City and Asheville, before moving permanently to Highlands.

My mind was filled with images of John behind the security barrier, waiting to scoop me up in his arms and hug me in one of his famous bear hugs upon arrival. I remembered sadder images, too, of leaving with a heavy heart to go back to my apartment and my job in New York, fighting back tears as I rolled my suitcase toward the awaiting gate.

The flight to Washington was uneventful. I stayed overnight with Susan Carleson, John's boss at the ACRU (American Civil

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- Part 1 -

Ex-police chief recounts exploits and days of old Highlands

By P. Russell Paxton

My father and mother, Walter and Isabel Paxton, were the first Paxtons to become homeowners by purchasing the Boat House on the shoreline of Lake Sequoyah as their summer home. I was finishing my last two years of Lenox Preparatory in Lenox, MA. Honestly, I was not enthusiastic about this new venture. I had many friends in Palm Beach FL, our then winter home. On my first visit to Highlands, I was introduced to Margaret and Tudor Hall and their daughter Sarah at the Boat House. These few brief hours changed my life. I was overwhelmed by Sarah's beauty and poise. The Hall family on many occasions invited me to their outings and parties, which made me appreciative of the "Highest Town in the Eastern United States."

The next few years flew by, and the Korean War entered my life. I enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1950. After 13 weeks at Parris Island, I took my first leave to Palm Beach to visit my sister Patty. To my joy and surprise, Sarah Hall was visiting Patty. I managed to stay for that short seven-day leave, becoming further and more deeply in love with Sarah. We wrote weekly during my basic and advanced training. On December 29, 1951, we were married in Highlands at the Halls' residence. I will not bore you with the adventures of being a Marine or of our bleak life until my honorable discharge in October 1953. However, there was a ray of sunshine when Sarah gave birth to our first anniversary to our son: Scott Russell Paxton. He was born in the Camp Lejeune Hospital at a cost to us of \$6.53.

Mom and Dad had sold the Boat House and purchased the Potts House, the small hotel, and the restaurant. They hoped to have this business to be a family endeavor. After a few years of remodeling, though, they were getting discouraged.

Mom related a true story about some guests that came in late November a year before I came home. They were a man, wife, and four children desperate for a couple of rooms for the night. She told them that the hotel was closed for the winter but she had one room with heat they could have for a minimum charge. The children would have to sleep on the floor and she would furnish them blankets and pillows. They left the next morning before anyone was awake, not paying and taking all the blankets and pillows. This was a true disappointment.

When Sarah and I came home to Highlands, we were apprized of the family's discouraged feelings. In a desperate last stand, I assumed management of the newly named Paxton House. Sarah and I made a valiant effort to save the much-improved structure, but the severe winter months with minimum revenue forced the family



Police Chief Russell Paxton



The Chief's 1948 two-door Commander Studebaker.

to sell. We did have a very bright spot in our life when Sarah gave birth to our first daughter, Sarah (Sally) Margaret Paxton, in September of 1954. She is the only Paxton that was born in Highlands.

About this time, the Chief of Police died suddenly of a heart attack. He was well liked in the town and would be missed. I got an urgent call from Mayor Cobb asking if I would accept the Chief's position. Please understand that a person was called "Chief" only because the department consisted of one person. You drove your own car, mine being a 1948 two-door Commander Studebaker. Also you were on call 24/7. Sarah and I discussed the position, but with no job and no income, the answer was "YES."

There was no police station, only a two-cell concrete building, as I recall 20' X 18' on a dirt road (Maple Street) very close to town. The two relic pistols provided to me were dangerous, should I ever draw a weapon. Luckily, I had an S & W .38 pistol with a holster. I ordered a small badge and two gray uniforms. The Town Board was finalizing plans for a new town hall, which would include a police station, an office, and two modern cells...

• See Part 2 in next week's issue.

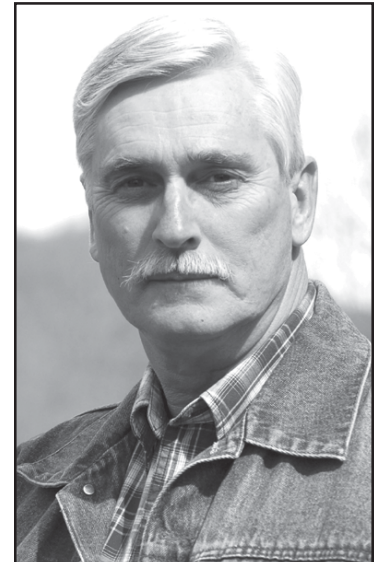
Thank You!

My personal congratulations to Sheriff Holland for his successful re-election.

Join with me in support of all in our Law Enforcement Community as they serve and protect us.

"Participating in this election process has been a truly wonderful and exciting experience for me. To all who encouraged, helped and supported me in my campaign, I offer a sincere and heartfelt Thank You."

Best Regards,
George Lynch



A Veteran's Day Tribute to my friend, Bill Horwitz

Bill was born in Philadelphia December 28, 1935. At the age of 18, bill enlisted in the U.S. Army, served two tours in Korea, a stint in Germany and after nine years of service was Honorably Discharged.

Bill and his wife Nancy moved to Highlands in 1997. Bill and Nancy's three sons also served in the military — David in Air Force Special Ops, Danny in the Air Force and Tony in the Israeli Special Ops.

In 2002, David Horwitz came to Highlands to ask Mayor Buck Trott about organizing a group to raise money for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation which pays the total college education expenses for children of Special Operations Warriors killed while defending our country.

Over the past eight years, Bill and Nancy and hundreds of other volunteers have raised over \$480,000 in support of the Foundation.

In August of 2008, Bill was diagnosed with cancer and on August 3 of this year Bill left us.

In that two-year period, Bill worked just as hard for the Foundation as he had in the previous six years. Bill lived his life as if he was going to live forever, never once complaining about the cancer that would eventually shorten his life.

The memory of his life and his service to his country and his fellow man will never fade from my mind. I love you Bill and I miss you.

- Ralph Stevens

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Apple, sausage and pecan dressing

Turkey gravy with fresh sage and vermouth

Sweet potatoes with orange and crystallized

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A 10-12 pound turkey, all the above

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accompaniments

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• COACH'S CORNER •

College Hoops Preview — ACC

While the majority of college hoops previews will tell you that the ACC in 2010-11 will be about Duke and then everyone else. Recent years have shown that there is no such thing as a sure thing when it comes to the ACC.

While Duke is likely to be the most talented team in the league, they will be challenged by contenders at Virginia Tech, North Carolina and North Carolina State.

Looking at Duke, one would think that they would struggle to replace the loss of three starters, one of which included all — ACC guard Jon Scheyer. However, the Blue Devils add a deep and talented group of newcomers to play alongside returning stars Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith. The best of these newcomers is freshman PG Kyrie Irving, who has already been compared to Jason Williams and could be the nation's best PG by the end of the season. Transfer Seth Curry (brother of Steph Curry) looks to light it up from behind the arc, and freshman bulldozer Josh Hairston will provide some bulk in the post.

Lurking behind Duke will be Virginia Tech, who despite missing the NCAA tournament for the last few years, returns a deep group of players including the best scorer in the ACC, Malcolm Delaney. While the Hokies boast a star player, they also have a talented supporting class with Jeff Allen, Dorenzo Hudson and J.T. Thompson.

Third in the ACC will be the resurgent North Carolina Tar Heels. Despite a stunning collapse last season, UNC will return plenty of talent including super sophomore John Henson. However, UNC will depend primarily on a duo of dynamic freshman, with #1 overall recruit Harrison Barnes primed to lead the Tar Heels. While Barnes will be fantastic, the real player to watch for UNC will be freshman wing Reggie Bullock. Bullock is a long, athletic wing in the mold of Danny Green, and he can fill it up from the outside.

Fourth in the league should be the Wolfpack from NC State. This is Sidney Lowe's most talented team since he has been in Raleigh, and the 'Pack will depend heavily on all-ACC forward Tracy Smith and a highly rated group of newcomers that include waterbug PG Ryan Harrow and talented forward C.J. Leslie. The question this year for the Wolfpack will not be the talent, but whether or not that talent can be coached successfully in



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

the ACC.

Other things to watch for in the ACC this year include talented players Demontez Stitt from Clemson and Durand Scott from Miami. Both players should have breakout years for their respective teams. Another player worth changing the dial for is sophomore big man Jordan Will-

iams from Maryland — Gary Williams has a gem in College Park. Also, there are several coaching newcomers including Brad Brownell at Clemson, Steve Donahue at Boston College and Jeff Bzdelik at Wake Forest. Donahue in particular should be one to watch since he was able to transform Cornell into a national player in recent years.

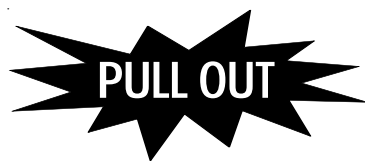
... JUST HERS continued
from page 8

Rights Union). Susan lives in a DC suburb, in the kind of fabulously decorated house that you normally only see in architecture and design magazines. What a delight to stay in such a lovely home, surrounded by so much beauty — and three delightful cats.

The next day was the book launch. I'd gone over and over in my mind what I wanted to say. I hate speeches that are entirely written out, since it's hard to read and make real contact with the audience. Susan spoke first, and then turned to introduce me. I stepped up to the podium. Looking out at the crowd assembled at the Army and Navy Club, I saw nothing but people of good will, people who were on my side. It was a marvelous, comforting feeling. Taking a big breath, I began. "Many women are married to men who think they are geniuses...." People smiled and chuckled. I relaxed. Everything was going to be fine.

The next day dawned cold and rainy. The drive up to Baltimore for John's second memorial service was a real white knuckle adventure. Dori Watson, John's eldest daughter, had organized the event, in a tremendous place called "The Cloisters" in Lutherville. The service was conducted by the Rev. Ernest Smart, the former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. This delightful gentleman, originally from Scotland, has known John's family for over 30 years. He not only knows where all the bodies are buried, he has probably officiated over their burials. John got another good send-off, with testimonials from family and friends, daughter Karen Boodée's mov-

• See JUST HERS page 17



On going and Upcoming Events

Through Jan. 2011

• The Green family is collecting coke can tabs to give to the Shriner's Hospital which turns them in for funds which helps the organization buy supplies. Please drop off coke can tabs at the Citgo Station across from the Rec Park (the old Stop n' Shop). Leave them with Ann or Trysta Green.

Through 2010

• At The Bascom, Do Tell environmental sculpture: Patrick Dougherty. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

Through Dec. 18

• At The Bascom, American Craft Today, Juried Exhibition, Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

Through Sat., Nov. 27

• At The Bascom, Recent Works: Aaron Yakim and Cynthia Taylor. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

Ongoing

• Hospital Tours: "Grand Rounds" at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours

to interested area residents. Tours will be held periodically each month, through October. Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include breakfast with HCH's doctors and a meet and greet with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RVSP by email at info@hchospital.org.

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

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. \$2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.

• YOGA- Moonrise Yoga - The Highlands Dedicated Studio, 464 Carolina Way. Mon 5:15pm and Sat 9:30am. All Levels. Mats provided. Pre-register for Winter Series, 526-8880. More info at www.yogahighlands.com.

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.

• The High Mountain Squares will be having a

• See EVENTS page 12



Highlands 4th Annual Culinary Weekend

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

Thursday, November 11, 2010

At The Bascom • 7pm

Ignite Your Taste Buds!

Enjoy fine wines and the delectable cuisine of Highlands' local chefs. Take advantage of exclusive pricing on all wines being poured.

Tickets are on sale now!

Please call

Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce at

866-526-5841

Or purchase online at

www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com

168476

9th Annual Christmas Dinner at the Highlands Country Clubs Hudson House

The 9th annual Highlands Christmas Dinner has a new home! The Hudson House at Highlands Country Club will be the 2010 home of what has become a holiday tradition for Highlanders and visitors alike. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Day and will feature the same wonderful traditional fare Highlanders have come to look forward to throughout the year.

Chefs are Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant); Holly Roberts (The Kitchen); and Martha Porter (Morningside B&B).

The cost is \$35 per person and all proceeds will be distributed evenly between R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County; Carpe Diem Farm; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, all local non-profits.

For reservations call Rick Siegel at 828-526-5102. Last year more than 200 people were served, so book early to save a space.

Come enjoy this fabulous fare in the quiet, elegant ambiance of The Hudson House: More about the Hudson House, local charities, chefs, and menu in subsequent weekly articles until Christmas Day.

AngelFood

The December menu features the popular Holiday Box. This special holiday box includes a 7.5 lb. roasting hen, 3-lb ham roast, corn bread stuffing mix (2 pkgs) frozen cranberries, mini-corn cobbettes, green beans, diced sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, brown gravy mix (2 pkgs) and dessert for only \$36.

Come by the Church of the Incarnation at 5th and Main streets to pick up a complete menu and place your order.

Christmas Holiday Box orders for should be placed by Dec. 1. Distribution will be Dec. 18 from 8-9 a.m. This box includes the same items as are in the Thanksgiving Box.

For questions, call 526-2968 or 526-9889.

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

Christ
Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Communion Service

Come and See!

Worshipping at the facilities of

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers

Now offering a

HEALING Service - Thursdays at noon

The Reverend Jim Muphy, Rector
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701
www.christanglicanchurch.com

Bryson's Food Store

Is having a

SUPER SALE

This weekend!

Super Deals in every department

Please join us

November 11, 12 & 13

For

Great Savings!

Thank you for your business!

Winter Hours

Mon.-Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

103 Highlands Plaza

828-526-3775

PULL OUT

On going and Upcoming Events

dance workshop get-together on Sundays. This will include main/stream and plus levels. The caller will be Jim Roper from Cornelia, GA. The dances will be held at the Environmental Resource Center, Lakeside Drive, Franklin, from 3 to 5 p.m. Come in casual clothes and dance with us. Now is the time to come if you have not danced in a while and you would like to get started again. This is good exercise and a lot of fun. The cost is \$3 per person. For information, call 828 349-0905, 828 369-8334, 706 782-0943.

Mon. & Thurs.

- On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Upper Level Jones Hall. Mon., and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (12/31)

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

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

First Mondays

- Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital 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

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

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

- The Highlands Dialogue invites everyone to participate in our Tuesday discussions at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. While our name is new, the Highlands Dialogue intends to build on the Fall/Winter-Spring discussion series previously sponsored by

HIARPT. Discussions range from current events and great books to extreme whimsy. The only membership requirements are that you come with an exploring mind and that you read a session's material before attending the discussion (we distribute readings either by e-mail or at previous sessions). Even if you are not able to attend all of the discussions, you are encouraged to come when you are available. If you would like information about the Highlands Dialogue or any of our upcoming discussions, please e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net. If you would like us to add your name to the Highlands Dialogue's e-mail list, please contact David Scheyer at scheyer08@frontier.com.

Tues. & Thurs.

- Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact

Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925 or by email at missolvera@yahoo.com.

- Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Baldwin at 5:15 p.m. Fast moving free weight kinetic chain movement for 30-40 minutes. \$8 per class. Call 526-3556 or 526-4959 to reserve a spot.

Wednesdays

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

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.

Saturdays

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 p.m. Great values in wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person.

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

- Highlands Knitting & Needlepoint Guild meets to knit, crochet and needlepoint on the terrace at the Bascom. Questions? 526-1741.

- At The Bascom, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 11 and 18 (no class on Thanksgiving Saturday or Christmas Parade day). Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Wednesdays through Dec. 15

- Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. Beginning Wednesday, November 3rd, through December 15th the group will meet in the church parlor, from 6:15-7:30pm. If you want to come early and join us for supper, \$5 per person or \$12 per family, call the church office by Monday of each week. (526-3376) The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience. HUMC is excited to offer this support to the community. Come share your story, and make the journey to better emotional health.

Thursday, Nov. 11

- Veteran's Day service at the monument at Horse Cove Road and Sixth Street at 1 p.m.

November lineup at The Bascom

The Bascom offers something for everyone in November:

- **A Stitch in Time: Quilt** exhibition, Saturday, November 13. Enjoy this opportunity to examine quilts on loan from local collectors and appreciate functional objects as works of art. Quilts embody the love and care of family. Today, these once-practical objects are treasured and collected by family and fiber enthusiasts. The exhibition, on view through December 18, is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson and exhibition partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

- **Nog Off and Table-Scape competition**, Saturday, November 13, 5-7 pm. Bring your own unique, interpretive ideas or just your taste buds to The Bascom's Nog Off, a friendly contest and culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink. There are two ways to participate. Submit your favorite eggnog recipe or come sample the nogs and cast your vote to determine the 2010 victor. The event is free to the public and there is no entry fee for participants.

- **Margie Shambaugh**, Saturday, November 13, 10:30-11 am. Watch Margie Shambaugh and a team of talented floral volunteers take native seasonal greens and with the help of a few embellishments, create gorgeous holiday arrangements.

- **Christmas Crafts from Around the World**: a special four-week class on Saturday, November 13, 20, December 11 and 18, 10 am-noon. Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. Tuition: \$40 members/ \$45 non-members.



Don't miss the myriad of November events at The Bascom. The 2009 Gingerbread House Workshop was a grand family affair. For more information, call 828. 526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

- **Britt Ammann**, "Play in the Clay", Saturday, November 20. Have you ever looked at someone effortlessly pull up a lovely pot from a hunk of clay and thought, "I'd like to try that!" This is a day for you. Britt Ammann will teach participants the basics of clay handling and wheel throwing. Tuition: \$40 members/ \$45 non-members per class (all materials provided).

- On November 26-27 from 10 am-5 pm, **The Artists' Marketplace**, featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Dave Drake Studio Barn, is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists' works for Christmas, hostess and New Year's gifts.

- **Gingerbread House Workshop**, November 26, 10am-noon, 1-4 pm and Saturday, November 27, 10 am- 1pm. Gingerbread

designers will be given all the sweets and confections they need to create their own imaginative gingerbread house. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by a popular vote. Tuition: \$40 members/ \$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am on Saturday, December 11. The public is invited.

Exhibitions at The Bascom are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Workshop and Nog Off and Table-Scape registration is going on now. For more information on The Bascom visit www.thebascom.org or call 828. 526.4949.

On going and Upcoming Events



• The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 11-14

• Annual Culinary Festival. Call the Chamber of Commerce for details. 526-2114.

Sat., Nov. 13 - Sat., Dec. 18

• At The Bascom, A Stitch in Time: Quilts. Admission is free. For information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org. Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

Sat., Nov. 13

• A benefit for Donna Tew at the Rec Park in the gym 4-9 p.m. **There will be live entertainment from Frazzeled Edge Band, a hot dog supper, silent auction, yard sale corner and a cake walk.** Donna suffered a stroke and had to have a craniotomy at Duke Hospital. The benefit is to help with medical expenses due to no disability or medical insurance. If you would like to help call Karen or Kelley at 526-1424 or 331-0047.

• At The Bascom, Nog Off and Table-Scape Competition, 5-7 pm. An artistic, culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink featuring some delicious and unique family eggnog recipes. Admission is free. For

information, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• At The Bascom, Demonstration: Holiday Floral Arranging, 10:30-11 am. Admission is free. For information or to register, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

• The Christmas Tree "on the Hill," 212 S. Fourth Street, presents the Saucy Sisters dispensing wine and holiday entertaining tips from noon to 4 p.m. Event is FREE. Information call (828) 526-3687.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike in Panthertown Valley to Schoolhouse Falls, Wilderness Falls and Little Green Mtn. with an elevation change of 300 ft. into and out of the valley and a steep climb up Little Green. Meet at Cashiers Wachovia Bank (in back) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Mon.-Sun., Nov. 15-21

• Operation Christmas Child at Community Bible Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 828-526-4949 ext. 100 for more information.

Thurs., Nov. 18

• Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

Sat., Nov. 20

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Park Ridge and Park Creek trails in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round

trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• At The Bascom, Play in the Clay Day. \$40 for members, \$45 for non members. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 526-4949, ext. 100 for more information.

Sun., Nov 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Tennessee Rock Overlook Trail in Black Rock Mtn. State Park near Clayton GA. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 2:00 p.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Drive 28 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and a few extra dollars for the carpool drivers. There is a \$3 parking fee at the park. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Clayton. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, Nov. 23

• Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It's free.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 26-27

• At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. \$40 Bascom members/\$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 am-5pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am, Saturday, December 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828.526.4949.

• At The Bascom, Artist's Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn Featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists' works for Christmas, hostess and New Year's gifts. For information, call 828.526.4949.

• At Paoletti's, Grand Holiday Wine Tasting at 1 p.m. \$20 per person. Refundable with wine purchase.

Friday, Nov. 26

• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 27

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 2.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. to the top of Yellow Mtn., highest in the Highlands area at 5,127 feet, with a tower providing a 360 degree view. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 33 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.'

• Santa at the Visitor Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, Winter Wonderland from 1-3 p.m. It's free. • Town Tree Lighting on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 6-6:30 p.m. Santa at Visitor Center following tree lighting.

Thursday, Dec. 2

• Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The State of North Carolina is going to hold a **Public Hearing** to see if there is community support for a **Hospice House** to serve western North Carolina. Please come to this public hearing and express your support of this vital need in our area!

Where: Macon County Public Library

When: Thursday, November 18, 2010, 9 a.m.

As a part of the Certificate of Need process, the State of North Carolina now wants to hear directly from people in our community about their need and desire for a Hospice House. We need you to show your support of the Hospice House by attending this public hearing.

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to show their support. Your presence is vital and your words and thoughts are most welcome. If you choose to share your experience, you will be given an opportunity to speak at this hearing.

Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc.

PO Box 815

Franklin, NC 28744

www.hospicehousefoundationwnc.com

A November to Remember at The Bascom

■ *A Stitch in Time: Quilts Exhibition* November 13-December 18



■ *Nog-Off and Tablescape* November 13, 5-7 pm Enter Your Favorite Recipe Vote for your favorite!

■ *Artist Marketplace* November 26-27 Purchase one-of-a-kind, affordable, hand-crafted gifts



THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
323 Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741

www.TheBascom.org
828.526.4949

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



For all the saints

Chaplain Margaret Howell
HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

This past Sunday was designated by most churches as All Saints Day.

It is the day that we remember and celebrate the lives of all those who have passed on in the past year. For some of us, the sorrow is still fresh. For others, the passage of time has mellowed our grief and has layered it into the tapestry of our lives. My husband Jon and I recently traveled to Pennsylvania for a wedding and a baptism. My "daughter-in-love," Ginny, the grown daughter of my best friend, was getting married to her soul mate. Her brother and his wife, asked me to baptize their little daughter, only two months old, and, I'm not afraid to say, one of the most beautiful babies I have ever seen. These events would seem joyful, but ordinary to most, but in this case, they took on a poignancy quite deep and rich.

You see, my best friend, Carol, passed away in 2007 after a 10-year battle with breast cancer. To this day, her courage and humor leave me in awe. The whole family was in tumult around the time of her passing — divorce, illness, it all seemed to hit at once.

For three years, Carol's husband Lee and the family wrestled with what my favorite seminary professor calls, "the hole in the soul," that wound that we all carry that is opened anew every time we lose someone we love. Now, after three years of pain, and darkness, Carol's family was experiencing joy at last. Family and friends came from literally all corners of the earth to celebrate these two events. Lee's sister came from Australia, one of his cousins from Los Angeles and several friends drove down from Vermont. Amazingly, one couple from Vermont bumped into Lee in Amish country as he took his sister and cousin on a tour a few days prior to the festivities, each having not a clue that the other was there. Of course, they came to the celebrations as well.

Was it a coincidence that two of Carol's favorite people just happened to be in that place at that time? We'll not know this side of the veil, but I wouldn't be surprised if Carol the Angel didn't have a hand in it.

The wedding was wonderful, the day warm and pleasant. Ginny asked me to step in as mother-of-the-bride and of all the roles I have played in my life, this was the richest.

As I sat on the front row of the chapel, an empty chair beside me in remembrance of Carol, I felt her presence keenly. Such sweet joy and sorrow! At the baptism the next day, the day was again warm and pleasant — unusual for late October in Pennsylvania. Friends and family again gathered outdoors in the back yard of the home where Carol and Lee raised their family.

As I held Carol's granddaughter in my arms and baptized her, I saw in her sweet perfection the faces of all those whom I love, past and present. In that moment, with our friends and family present, the great joy of the melding together of our lives, of the decades spent sharing the path that is life, burst open as brilliant as the sudden shaft of sunlight that illuminated the baby's face the moment after her baptism was complete.

Oh, Carol, you did get to kiss you granddaughter after all....

• PLACES TO 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 - 10:45, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers

Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian - 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
Pastor Gary Hewins
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group.
10:30 am: Children's Program (Pre-K - 5th Grade), Merge for 6th Graders. 10:45 am: Worship Service. 5 pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High School Student Ministries.

Tues.: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.
Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner. 6pm: Children's Program
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
526-2968

Reverend Denson Franklin
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
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
FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.
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.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group & 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
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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: - 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

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

Remembering Halloween Highlands' style

The evening of Saturday, Oct. 30, brought crowds of prowling ghosts, goblins, witches, princesses, great pumpkins and even a Highlands cheerleader along with many pets to downtown Highlands as a record number of trick or treaters enjoyed perfect weather while in search of their favorite sweet treat.

Once again the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center extends a sincere thank you to all the residents, businesses and volunteers who helped make this unique Highlands event safe for all to enjoy.

Both of our fine Rotary Clubs again participated in key areas. Several from the Highlands Rotary Club assisted Chief Bill Harrell's Police Officers with the crowd and traffic, while the Rotary Club sponsored Interact Club distributed candy provided by the Chamber to participating businesses.

The Mountain Top Rotary Club gathered in the early afternoon at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and spent hours preparing then distributing the 1,200 hot dogs and soft drinks from their concession at Main and 5th Street. We are very grateful to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation for the use of their kitchen facilities.

Special thanks goes to Mayor David Wilkes, who was seen enjoying the evening celebration, and our Highlands' Commissioners and Town Manager, Jim Fatland, for allowing the use of our downtown area for this annual spooky event. Without their support and that of Selwyn Chalker's Recreation Department as well as Engineer Lamar Nix and Highlands Sanitation crew none of this would be possible.

Appearing for the second year DJ Mike "Howlin' Wolf" Murphy's music had many smiling and dancing in the streets while many others stopped to watch as they made their way through the community.

We are thankful for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's balloon station which also drew large numbers throughout the night.

The Chamber also wishes to thank the local media for it's support - The Highlander, Highlands' Newspaper, The Laurel Magazine and WHLC FM 104.5 in promoting the evening.

Halloween in Highlands is a great community event which derives its success from the many who give selflessly of their time each year to bring smiles to so many youngsters and adults.

Bob Kieltyka Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber



Mrs. Wong doles out treats in front of her shop.



Grandpa Tony Potts with Colton. Proud mama, Denise looks on.



Merry makers at the Highlands' Inn.



Kim Shook and staff at Jolies.

ROSEWOOD MARKET THANKSGIVING MENU 2010

Call by Friday, Nov. 19

ENTREES:

10-12# Roasted Turkey \$60

14-18# (Serves 10-12) \$75

20-22# (Serves 14-16) \$90

(All Turkeys come with Giblet Gravy)

15# Bourbon-Brown Sugar Baked Ham \$149

8# Pork Loin Stuffed with Figs & Pears \$139

4.5# Classic Beef Wellington (Serves 8-10) \$169

SALADS:

Cranberry Congealed Salad

Pickled Beets & Egg Salad

Spinach Salad with dried Cranberries & Goat Cheese

Arugula Salad with Figs & Parmesan

SOUPS:

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It's not over until

So you've found your house, you've made an offer – now what? That depends on you and how much legwork you're willing to do before you get the keys to your new home. Let's go over some of that

legwork process:

Hopefully, when you and your Realtorâ drew up the contract, you made sure to allow enough time for due diligence. The new NC Offer to Purchase, which will become

effective in January 2011 explains due diligence as: *'Buyer's opportunity during the due diligence period to investigate the property and the transaction contemplated by this contract, including but not necessarily limited to the matters described in paragraph 4 below, will decide whether Buyer, at Buyer's sole discretion will proceed or terminate the transaction.'*

Paragraph 4 describes the due diligence process here; since space is limited, the process is abbreviated: 1) Inspections 2) Review of documents 3) Insurance 4) Appraisals 5) Survey 6) Zoning and Governmental Regulation 7) Flood Hazard

All of these are important, but only two are discussed in this column today. Inspections and Surveys.

Inspections: The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) was founded in 1976, but didn't really start in NC until much later. In Highlands, plumbers did the plumbing inspections, electricians did the electrical inspections, etc. It was up to the buyer with his/her Realtorsâ help to decide what inspections to include if any. Not until October 1996 did NC law mandate that a licensed home inspector perform all home inspections. We always suggest that sellers have home inspections done as apart of the listing process. If needed repairs can be done prior the property being shown, it makes the diligence period for the new buyer go faster and smoother. Buyer's should always get a home inspection and not just rely on the seller's property disclosure form.

Surveys: We hear people ask all the time: Why should I get a survey? Whether a survey was done last year, or 50 years ago, the only way to ascertain property lines is to have a current survey. The seller of the property may not be aware of encroachments, zoning and other governmental regulatory changes. You shouldn't just take someone's word that "it is what it is."

Most, if not all lenders, will require a current survey to protect their investment. Even when no lender is involved, we suggest sellers get a survey, and buyers should make sure there is a current survey on record before purchasing or get one themselves.

Surveyors use the art of measuring and mathematics using precision equipment and a keen sense of awareness and knowledge of real property law. Some of the older deeds that surveyors had to go by used points of reference such as 'apple tree in field,' 'old fence line,' 'old government grant lines (from the 1800s or prior),' 'in a southerly direction' or even 'old mule standing in field.'



It's up to the surveyor to reestablish the correct legal descriptions that will be recorded on the new deed. Our licensed surveyors today are highly qualified and follow strict guidelines bound by the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.

Another change in the new contract is clarity of closing and settlement dates – contrary to most buyers' beliefs – they are not always one in the same.

Your new home isn't yours until closing – BUT the difference in the new contract has switched the terms to make that date more clear.

What we used to refer to as the 'closing date' will now be referred to as the 'settlement date.'

Your settlement date is the date the buyer and seller sign the documents in front of their attorneys. In Highlands, many times, these documents are done by next day mail. Attorneys in NC do all the title search work and make sure the funding is wired appropriately to coincide with the settlement date.

The 'closing date' on the new form defines the closing date as *'The legal process which results in the transfer of title to the property from Seller to Buyer. Closing includes the following steps: 1) The settlement (described above), 2) The completion of a satisfactory title update to the property following the settlement, 3) The settlement agent's receipt of authorization to disperse all necessary funds, and 4) recordation in the appropriate county register of the deed(s) an deed(s) of trust if any, which should take place as soon as reasonably possible for the settlement agent after settlement. Upon recordation of the deed(s) and deed(s) of trust if any, Closing shall be deemed completed and the proceeds of sale shall be disbursed by the settlement agent in accordance with the settlement statement and the provisions of Chapter 45A of the North Carolina general statutes. If the title update should reveal unexpected liens, encumbrances, or other title defects, or if the settlement agent is not authorized to disburse all necessary funds, then the Closing shall be suspended and the Settlement deemed delayed under paragraph 13 (delay in Settlement/Closing).'*

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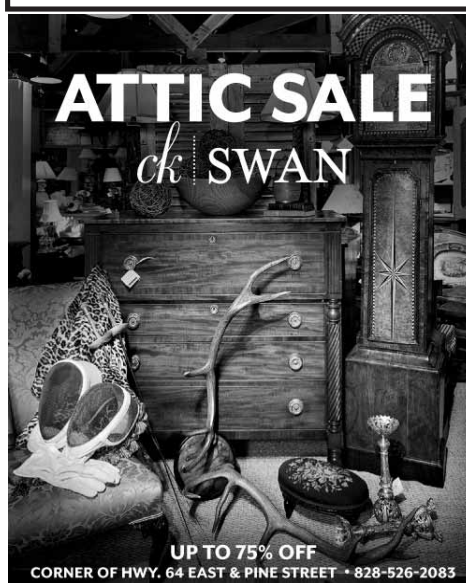
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• HEALTH MATTERS •



Dr. Richard Blue

Since LASIK became a household word in the late '90s, advances in technology have exceeded all expectations. At a nearly unprecedented level, LASIK has become the trusted way for people to improve their functional vision. And judging by the numbers, the Intralase Method (All laser LASIK), using AMO's Intralase™ FS Technology, has become the gold standard for lasik.

Intralase is one name you have probably heard of and for good reason; Intralase was the first laser approved by the FDA to replace the vibrating hand-held microkeratome blade for the flap-creation step of LASIK or step 1 of 2 in the LASIK process.

Increasingly, successful LASIK procedures start with Intralase™ Technology which clearly has clinical advantages by delivering biomechanical superiority, excellent visual acuity, and unmatched safety. At Blue Laser Group by replacing the blade commonly used for corneal flap creation with an Intralase laser, LASIK eye surgery is safer than ever before.

Another name you may know and will certainly hear more about is Allegretto Wave. Since Blue Laser Group introduced Northeast Georgia's first Allegretto Wave laser the Allegretto's superior results have been amazing. This laser is used in the second step of LASIK. Many patients who would have needed two treatments with other lasers have achieved 20/20 vision (or better) with just

The technology at the Blue Laser Group

one treatment with the Allegretto's advanced technology. Your eyes are as unique as your fingerprints and the most precise laser vision correction technology addresses these highly individual characteristics. Wave front technology captures each eye's unique imperfections with far greater accuracy than ever before, translates that information into digital treatment instructions and sends them directly to the Allegretto Wave Excimer Laser System.

What does all this mean to you? It means highly personalized treatment of the conditions that have been creating your vision problems, plus the confidence that Dr. Blue is using the most advanced state-of-the-art technologies to help you attain your vision goals.

Investment in state-of-the-art technologies such as these is a factual measure of com-

mitment to results. A full-time independent LASIK surgeon like Dr. Richard Blue, committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for his patients, will choose the technology that meets his exacting standards. Dr. Blue won't compromise those standards by less precise but less expensive equipment or by renting equipment that has been taken office to office and used by other surgeons. Dr. Blue has shown his commitment by owning state of the art technology to ensure the best possible outcomes for you.

LASIK outcomes also depend on the skill, commitment and experience of the doctor who performs your procedure. You are in the best possible hands at Blue Laser Group. Trust Dr. Blue to use the best possible tools to bring your vision into the 21st Century.

... JUST HERS
continued from page 10

ing photo presentation, and lots of great food.

My trip concluded with John's 50th high school reunion, a three-day affair at Gilman School in Baltimore. I already knew many of John's former classmates, but it was a real treat to meet many others for the first time. It was hardly surprising that John had been rather a folk hero during his years at Gilman. His exploits were legendary. John was instrumental in taking down a nondescript painting from one of the corridors of Gilman, and taping a Playboy playmate on the back, where I suppose it remained for years until the hall was repainted. He also put a roll of caps on the inside of the attendance bell in Study Hall, where it exploded the first time the Study Hall master used it.

• See JUST HERS page 19

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2 BEDROOM, 1.5 BATH, central heat/air, dishwasher, wood floors at Oak Square Apartments on Main Street, Highlands. Washer-dryer access. Competitive rental price Available NOW. Call 828-421-1157. (st. 9/23)

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SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. \$650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: chestnutcottages@yahoo.com or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

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... JUST HERS continued from page 17

The crowning achievement in his reign of chaos is still talked about today. John's voice had just changed, and when a rare and sudden snowstorm dumped a significant amount of snow on Baltimore, John phoned up WBAL, the local radio station. Claiming that he was Ludlow Baldwin, the headmaster of Gilman, he announced solemnly that the school would be closed, and then proceeded to go to school himself to see what havoc he had caused. It took three days for regular attendance to resume.

John's classmates were warm and supportive, and if you have to be a widow, you couldn't ask for better company. I have a band of brothers looking out for me, and that means a lot. I'm back in Highlands now, with a few additions from the Gilman bookstore – a jacket, water bottle, and long plaid and grey scarf. The scarf sports an elegant Gilman greyhound, and reminds me of my dear husband, who raced through my life in pursuit of his dreams. And while John is no longer here to keep me warm, in some small way, that scarf will. That helps.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precious husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. If you would like a copy of John's book, please e-mail your request to her.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Hospital thanks 'Joana' for years of service

For the past 17 years, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's gift shop has been managed and staffed fully by volunteers. It's been called the best keep secret in town and a pillar of boutiques for hospital gift shops. Always stocked with an attractive selection of merchandise from greeting cards to trendy fashion, the gift shop has brought its customers, as well as staff at HCH, great joy.

With the transitioning of leadership forthcoming in December, HCH would like to send their warmest praises and thanks to devoted Chairman and volunteer, Joanna Baumrucker.

"Joanna's flair for buying and merchandising has made the hospital's gift shop a shopping destination in its own right, not just an afterthought for family members and friends of patients," said HCH President and CEO, Craig James. "Her spirit of giving back is felt throughout and has truly made our gift shop unique."

The gift shop has generated tens of thousands of dollars for operations and much



needed equipment for the hospital. In addition to purchasing equipment, such as surgical instruments for the hospital's operating room or carts for the dietary department, proceeds from the gift shop support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation in other ways. Donations of furniture and unrestricted contributions have frequently been made in honor of an employee or group of employees, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents, and gift shop volunteers who have

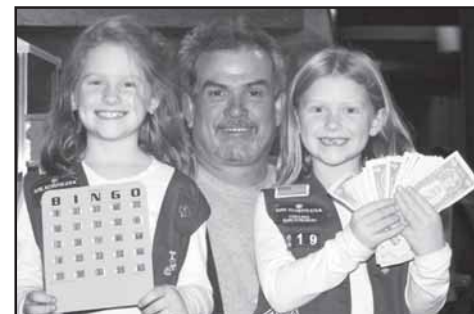
passed away during the year. Over \$60,000 in cash and in-kind gifts have been given to the HCH.

"The gift shop is a small but major part of our hospital and its history," said James. "We cannot thank Joanna and her many dedicated volunteers enough for all they have given."

In December, HCH's Auxiliary will take over operations continuing the tradition of volunteering in the shop. The Gift Shop is open to the public Monday through Friday and stocks a variety of gifts that appeals to patients, hospital staff and visitors for many occasions. Customers can find a diverse selection of stuffed animals, cards, fashion jewelry and eyeglasses, specialty bath and body items, seasonal gift decorations, candy and snacks.

With all the greatly appreciated volunteering, there is always need for more participation. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the gift shop please call the hospital at 828-526-1345.

Rotary Bingo benefits Highlands Girls Scouts



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Girl Scouts to sponsor Bingo on November 4. Shaun Mackey won the final Super Bingo game and took home more than \$200. He is shown with Girl Scouts Cydni and Peyton Coppage.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

Residents of Highland-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Living Center take fun trip

Recently, 14 Fidelia Eckerd Living Center residents traveled to Cades Cove enjoying an 11-mile loop through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Family members Michael and Estelle Crane of FELC funded the 2nd annual trip. Residents were treated with a picnic lunch, scenic views of historic buildings, rustic log homes, old wagon roads, wildlife and dinner at a local steak house. "Special trips such as these not only give our residents something to look forward to, but gets them moving, out of their day-to-day routine, and encourages learning, keeping their minds healthy," said Martha Wood,



FELC Activities Coordinator. "The entire experience boosts their quality of life."

... POLICE continued from page 1

Architect Jeff Weller said there is no guarantee but he has seen value engineering tactics result in a reduction of 3%, 8%, 10%, even 12%.

However, since the Local Government Commission (LGC) requires the financing contract in hand by the first week of December, the board agreed to submit the resolution requesting financing for \$719,900 now but expects a price closer to \$600,000 to be announced at the Nov. 17 Town Board meeting.

At that point Town Manager Fatland said he will submit an amendment to the LGC for the \$600,000 amount.

Meanwhile there are some commissioners who would prefer to pay cash for the project rather than finance it. Financing through the Build America Bond program is available at 3.52% for seven years with a rebate to the town at the end of the loan — making the rate 2.2880%.

It's possible the town could pay cash for the project, as about 64% of the town's combined unreserved fund balance of \$2,237,850 is available and unrestricted.

It's likely those options will be discussed later but in the interim all bases will be covered with the LGC.

At the Nov. 1 Appearance Commission meeting, Summit Architecture presented the exterior plans for the Police Department building which meld it visually with the renovated Town Hall.

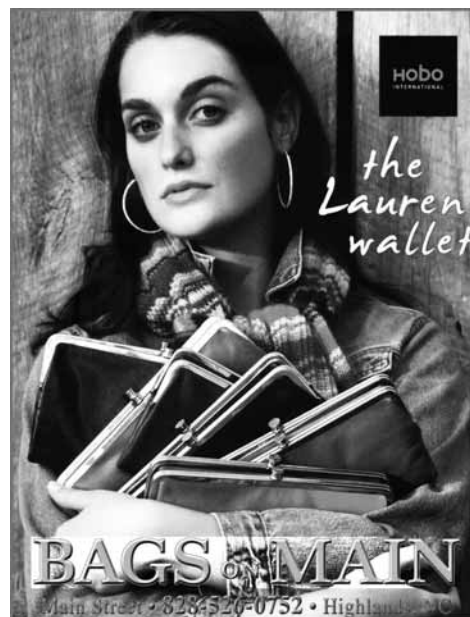
The Appearance Commission OK'd the plan unanimously with the stipulation that parking spaces be deleted from the plan to save and maintain a white oak tree at the back of the building — but the hardscape/

landscape portion is considered phase two of the project and not included in the \$719,900 or preferred \$600,000 budget.

In the closed session Monday night, the board agreed unanimously to hire Mark Maxwell as Interim Town Planner & Development Director. He will serve until a permanent position is filled. His start date is November 22, 2010. His salary is \$31.25 per hour and he will receive \$750 per month housing allowance. His work hours will be Monday through Friday.

Town Manager Jim Fatland said a travel allowance was not requested nor approved.

— Kim Lewicki



Highlands Police & Fire Reports

Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 3 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 3

• At 4:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at NC 106 and Happoldt Drive.

Nov. 4

• At 3:30 a.m., officers assisted another agency at a residence on NC 106 about a 9-1-1 call.

Nov. 5

• At 4:20, the unlawful removal of an electronic dog collar on Brushy Face Road was reported.

• At 8:30 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Raoul Road about two bears at the back door.

Nov. 6

• At 5:50 p.m., officers were called to a Blue Valley Falls Drive residence about an open door. They assisted another agency.

Nov. 7

• At 6:45 p.m., officers were called about a raccoon on the sidewalk of S. 5th Street.

Nov. 8

• At 7:30 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Wyanoak Drive about two bears on the porch. Residents were told to take the bird seed inside.

• During the week, police officers responded to 17 alarms and issued 1 citation.

Highlands F& R Dept. log entries from Nov. 3:

Nov. 3

• At 4:42 p.m., the dept. assisted with traffic at the site of a vehicle accident on NC 106. There were no injuries.

Nov. 7

• At 12:39 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by a bursted water line on Country Club Drive.

Nov. 8

• At 2:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Club House Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 12:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Chestnut Hill Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 3:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Nov. 9

• At 12:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident at US 64 west and Hickory Hill Road. There was one injury. The person was taken to the hospital.

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Lady Highlander finishes top 25 in state

By Ryan Potts

First year Lady Highlander cross country runner Hayden Bates finished 23rd in the NCHSAA cross country finals last Saturday at Beeson Park in Kernersville. Bates, a sophomore, joined the Highlander cross country team late in the season due to her commitment to volleyball, but that did not stop her from demonstrating her running prowess once she arrived. After qualifying for state by finishing 6th in the regional meet, Bates ran her second best time of the season, finishing 23rd in the state of North Carolina with a time of 20:55.

Although Bates had never run competitively before this year, she says that she has “always enjoyed the independence of running,” and that this season was “a great experience.” Bates noted that she received great support from cross country coach Steve Massey as well as the community and Highlands School. “It was great,” said Bates, “I was competing against schools who were running 71 miles per week and yet it was still an individual competition.”

Bates says that one of the advantages to running cross country is that “you aren’t limited by the size of your school,” and that her experiences at the state finals this year will be very helpful to her in the future. Only a sophomore, Bates will have two more years of eligibility to challenge for a state championship, a fact that is not lost on her. “It was a great experience to have as a sophomore,” said Bates, “and I think that next time I will be more prepared and have the advantage of having been there before.”

Highlanders survive Mt. Airy and advance

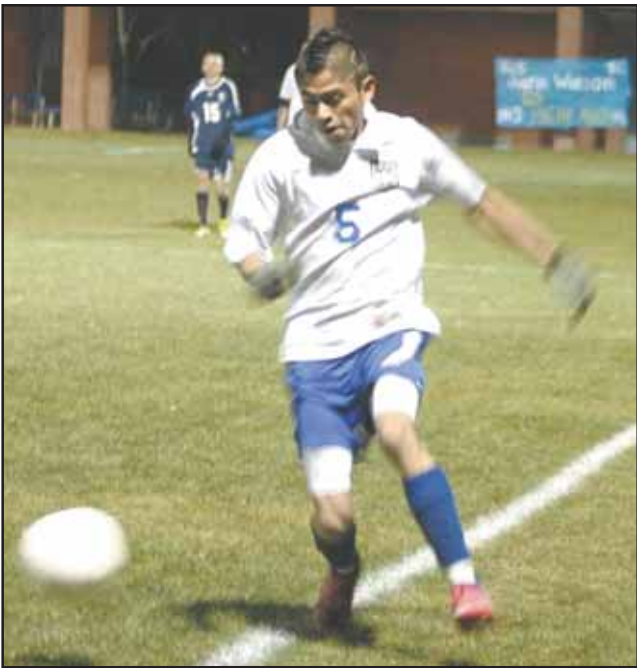
By Ryan Potts

It was a night where the weather was as much an opponent as anything else, yet the Highlander soccer team managed to find a way to advance towards a state championship by defeating the Mt. Airy Granite Bears 3-2 in a thriller of a high school soccer match.

The Bears struck first on a night that saw the temperatures stay below freezing after sundown. Despite trailing 1-0 the Highlanders were able to dominate possession, finally equalizing after a handball in the box allowed Michael Shearl to calmly put home a penalty kick. The score remained deadlocked at halftime and well into the second half before Ricky Reyes gave the Highlanders a 2-1 lead after a scrum in front of the Mt. Airy keeper. The goal came on the heels of a disastrous injury for the Highlanders as leading playmaker Michael Shearl was injured and had to leave the game.

After taking a 2-1 lead, the Highlanders were hoping to bleed out the clock and take home the victory, but Mt. Airy was able to tie the game with 9 minutes to play off of a set piece from the corner. A frantic final few minutes saw neither team able to score, and therefore the game went into two 10-minute sessions of extra time. Although both teams had several chances in extra time, neither could find the back of the net. NCHSAA rules then have the teams play two periods of sudden death, and the Highlanders were able to secure victory when Robbie Vanderbilt headed home the golden goal just minutes into sudden death.

The home crowd stormed the field, and it was a fantastic ending to a evening filled with excitement. “I’m extremely proud of our kids,” said Coach Chris Green. “We played over



Highlands senior Ricky Reyes preventing the ball from going out during the Mt. Airy game. Photo by Noel Atherton

100 minutes of soccer in brutal temperatures and it showed a lot of resiliency for us to come from behind and to also come back after an injury to one of our leaders.” Green also wanted to thank the fans for their support, pointing out that most of them braved the elements to support the school team.

The Highlanders hosted defending NCHSAA champion Hendersonville yesterday, and the results from that game will be in next week’s edition of the Highlands Newspaper.

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• **BUSINESS NEWS** •

Mountain Garden Club wins award

On October 26 the Mountain Garden Club received a first place award at the District 1 annual meeting of The Garden Club of North Carolina.

The award was for the Mountain Garden Club yearbook, which describes the club's projects and programs.

“The Mountain Garden Club won first place because we have people in our community who make it fun and easy to collaborate on meaningful projects,” said Dr. Becky Schilling, yearbook committee chairman. “This year we’re providing gardening activities for a wide range of ages in Highlands...from kindergarteners at Highlands School to residents at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.”

The Mountain Garden Club also received a certificate of appreciation from the National Garden Clubs, Inc., for participating in its awards program.

The District 1 meeting was held at the Hendersonville Country Club. Representing the Mountain Garden Club were Jackie Hills, President, and Ginny Harris, award committee chairman.

All Mountain Garden Club projects, including Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarships, are funded by the annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale held each Memorial Day weekend at the ball field on Highway 64 in Highlands.



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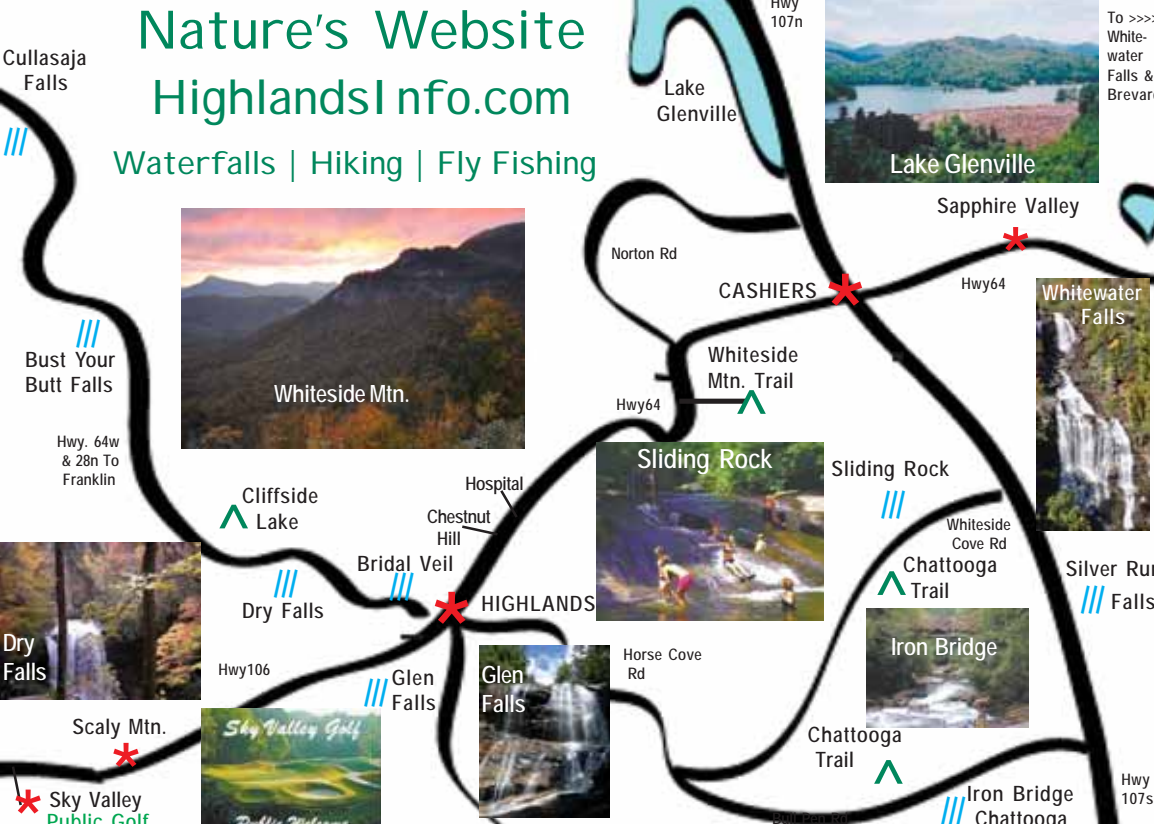



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