

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 37

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Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

FRI	SAT	SUN
78 \ 56F	77 \ 54F	78 \ 55F

Fri., Sept. 17

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" playing acoustic at 9:45 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 18 - Sat., Nov. 27

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

Saturday, Sept. 18

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to the Highlands Biological Station and Sunset Rocks to look for migrating birds. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

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

• A benefit for Colleen Fogel at Rec Park starting at 5 p.m. with dinner, silent auction, cake auction, senior class face painting and the selling silly bands and necklaces to help raise money for her medical expenses. Colleen is fighting breast cancer.

• The Highlands Democrats will host a meet and great Saturday at 5 PM under the covered picnic shelter at the Highlands Recreation Center. Light refreshments will be provided.

Sunday, Sept. 19

• Homecoming at Highlands First Baptist Church at 10:45 a.m. with a covered dish luncheon and music. Members, friends and local churches are invited.

Monday, Sept. 20

• CLE Annual Party at PAC from 4-6 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, socializing followed by a brief meeting. RSVP to [clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com).

## Fatland shifts employees for new position

Town Manager Jim Fatland has decided to shift Town Hall and Police Department personnel around to improve customer service for the citizens and to make way for the new position of Accounting Supervisor.

Gail Reese, administrative assistant, who has been employed with the town for 10 years, has been reassigned to the Police Department and will take over part of Dave Jelli-

son's job.

For the last several months, Jellison has filled the need of having the Police Department staffed during business hours and answering the phone while officers are out of the office on patrol. "Jellison has worked part-time answering the phone but hasn't provided secretarial support, said Fatland. "He will be called in to answer the phone when Gail Reese is on vaca-

tion or out sick. In addition, Chief Harrell would like him to work weekends to answer the phone and keep the office open for the general public."

Reese's duties will include office administration, records clerk, answering the phone and dispatching radio communications to public works crews. After hours, citizens can reach a police officer by

• See POSITION page 16

## Highlands 2010 SAT scores rank with the best

The Department of Public Instruction released the SAT scores for 2010 and Highlands ranks right up there with the "brainy" school in the state.

"This is a school-wide, K-12, accomplishment," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. "Congratulations to all. The total score for us in 2010 is 1701."

Superintendent Dan Brigman said the 2010 data for Macon County is clearly something to be proud of, "particularly the accomplishment at Highlands School."

Highlands School Guidance Counselor Thomas Jessup said the statistic for the class of 2010 represents 13 years of growth for some of the students.

"We can't say that just Math and English are important, even though that is what was measured," he said. "Having the opportunity to grow up in a small town with a small school where everyone cares about your success was just as much a factor in those scores as anything

• See SAT page 8

## Helen King is 105 years old!



A six-year resident at Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center, Helen celebrated her birthday with a party attended by long time friends and neighbors Page and Sally Bernstein and Peggy and Haynes Southall, friends and staff. Pictured with 105 red, pink and yellow roses, Helen enjoyed cake and good company at last week's gathering. "It's always exciting to celebrate the birthday of one of our residents," said Shawna Mellott, FELC Administrator, "but more so when they achieve such a remarkable age and we, the staff at FELC, are privileged to be a part of that celebration." Helen spent much of her life with her husband in the community of Norton. Before moving to FELC at the age of 99, she was active member and Sunday School Teacher at the First Baptist Church in Highlands and a volunteer in FELC's Beauty Shop. Both Helen and her husband George were well traveled, living all over the world including Pakistan. She looks forward to the regular visits from her neighbors and spending time with her friends.

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## TB delays grievance policy ruling

The grievance procedure to be included in the Employee Personnel Manual was finally submitted Wednesday night, but since two commissioners were absent Mayor David Wilkes suggested tabling the issue until a later meeting.

Commissioner Amy Patterson also suggested resurrecting the Employee Advisory Committee so it can look at the proposal before it goes back to the board. "They might have recommendations," she said.

One recommendation might

• See GRIEVANCE page 14

## Steep slope ordinance opposed

By Ryan Potts

A proposed steep slope ordinance was the focus of a meeting between the local chapter of Freedomworks and the Property Owners of America last Saturday morning in Franklin.

At the meeting, POA representatives Paul Higdon and Bill Ver-

• See STEEP SLOPE page 7



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Hospital not in trouble

Dear Editor,

Ann Maxwell's letter published in the Sept. 9 issue of Highlands' Newspaper, suggests the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is in a precarious financial state, and is no longer supported by Jane Woodruff. I would make several points:

1. Charitable contributions to the Hospital Foundation, despite the poor economy of the past two years, have not declined but in fact have grown.
2. Like many hospitals, HCH is running at an operating loss before depreciation but this loss is not principally at the hospital level. It is associated with our clinics and the cadre of outstanding physicians which the hospital employs at these clinics to provide highly valued services to the Community.
3. We have recently hired an outstanding new CEO, Craig James, who is making enormous progress in improving operations, reducing losses, and placing the hospital on a path to sustained financial viability.
4. We are blessed with a superb Board of Directors, the latest addition to which is Ted Copeland, recently retired as President of The American College of Surgeons.
5. Our Hospital would not be anything like the wonderful facility it is today were it not for the extraordinary generosity of Jane Woodruff. The Hospital leadership is very appreciative of her investment and is working hard to fulfill the mission she has set forth.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital faces many challenges in the years ahead and will require the continued philanthropic support of the Community to persevere. But I know I speak for our management team, our physicians, and our Board when I say that we are on the right path and that we have never been as optimistic about our future as we are today.

Charles V. Sheehan  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

### Swanson should be stopped

Dear Editor,

This letter concerns a great misrepresentation by your paper in conjunction with Mr. Don Swanson's column entitled "Conservative POV."

For years we have read Mr. Swanson's

column with some dismay and a great deal of concern. Concern because the weekly ongoing fault finding with anything the President of the United States does, states or proposes. This includes much of Congress.

The President was duly elected. The Congress was elected. If Mr. Swanson does not like the individuals, well these were in most cases elected by other citizens. My family and friends do not like the unnecessary maiming of two of our sons and deaths of a few friends in the Iraq War forced falsely on this country by President George W. Bush. A complete useless and wasted effort leaving many ruined lives because of selfish and abusive ideas and aggression, (not to mention the cost, torture and crooked U.S. contractors!)

These weekly rants are full of abusive adjectives, titles and what can only be described as typical "Fox News" commentary. Swanson has misled readers with his true intentions and his true activities. Mr. Swanson is not a concerned citizen who just happens to buy much of what the extreme Republican view fosters and puts on the air waves.

No. No. Don Swanson is an active fullpledged Freedom Works chairman for the community in which we live. This is flagrant abuse of this position as a full-time commentator and columnist in Highlands' Newspaper. His actions are subversive and un-American.

He is using his position in Highlands' Newspaper to push and publish adverse sentiments concerning anything Democrat.

This is wrong, wrong, wrong. Highlands' Newspaper is complicit in all his efforts and statements. My family and I and a few friends were appalled when we read in the Macon News and Shopper of Swanson's position and speech at a recent Freedom Works town hall meeting where Mr. Dick Armey spoke.

We urge you to drop Mr. Don Swanson from your paper. Additionally, a written apology from him should be published. This goes against every sense of just journalism.

We assume you are not fully aware of the degree to which he has gone in his efforts. There is a time and place and a way to do things. This hidden unjustified and hostile column of his needs to be stopped. The greater good of our country will not be achieved with hate and hostility.

Mr. and Mrs. Norest and Gladys  
Williamson  
Bonnie Doone, NC

### Bad Gun Laws in North Carolina

Dear Editor,

If you went out of your home this last weekend during Hurricane Earl carrying any kind of firearm, you could have been arrested! This applied to going hunting with a shotgun or rifle, carrying a pistol concealed with a legal concealed carry permit, or legally carrying a pistol in the open. Because the winds of Hurricane Earl were brushing the east coast of North Carolina,

Governor Beverly Purdue declared a State of Emergency for the entire State and invoked a ridiculous law that states that "It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to transport a or possess off his own premise any dangerous weapon or substance"... during a State Emergency.

So, if you went a field with a shotgun last weekend or went up to the firing range to shoot any firearm, you could have been arrested!

This law needs to be taken off the books! The NRA and the GRNC (Grass Roots North Carolina) have introduced legislation but your state legislators are dragging their butts on this issue. Gov. Purdue had no right to issue this order for Western North Carolina and put honest citizens in peril because winds are brushing the east coast! Does Gov. Purdue really believe that the honest and responsible citizens will go out to loot stores? In any State emergency, police services are stretched thin or are non-existent, and that is exactly the time you may need to protect yourself!

North Carolina has several ridiculous restrictions on the use of the Concealed Carry Permit.

For example, let's say that one day you made a list of the things you have to do and this is your list:

Get some stamps at the Post Office; Go to the VA for your B12 injection; Make a withdrawal at your ATM to get some cash; Attend a baseball game up in Asheville; Go to the county court to get some records; Attend the rally and parade downtown; Visit your son in prison; Go to dinner and have a drink; Pick up the kid at the school; Go to DMV and renew your plates; Attend your best friend's funeral; See the new movie that just came out; Stop in at the police station to get an accident report; Attend your daughter's wedding where drinks are served; Go to a show at the County Community Center; Visit a friend who is at a "teaching hospital."

If you have a NC Concealed Weapons Carry Permit and you carried a pistol to any of these places you could be arrested!

In North Carolina law there are severe restrictions on where you can carry, and as a result Hardly anybody actually carries a pistol!

Now, some of these restrictions make sense, others are ridiculous! *Question:* If you were a transient criminal and drug addict stuck in this area and desperately needed some cash, where would you hang out to make a score? *Answer:* You would nail an older woman at the ATM at night!

If you own a business, you can't take your cash receipts to deposit at the bank while you are legally carrying a concealed pistol, nor can you get cash at the ATM. In New York, where it is extremely difficult to

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARY •

### Clem Henry

Clem Henry of Highlands died Sunday, September 12, 2010. He was married to Linda Smith Henry. He had one step-daughter Shannon (Eugene) Shuler. He was Pops to two precious grandchildren Brittany and Seth Shuler - they were the delight of his life.

He leaves two brothers Eddie (Doris) Henry and Micki (Betty) Henry both of Highlands; two sisters Betty Butts of Highlands and Helen (Zane) Talley of

Anderson, SC. He was predeceased by his father and mother, Ed and Alma Henry of Highlands; and a sister, Jane Henry Edems of Pickens, SC. He was a proud uncle to many nieces and great nieces, nephews and great nephews.

He was a graduate of Highlands High School and Lakeland Florida Forestry School. He worked for US Forest Service and Macon County Sheriff's Dept. for many years and

was a retired caretaker for Westbrook Farms. He was a member of Blue Ridge Lodge 435 AF & AM; loved old cars and trucks and singing.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 1 p.m. at Highlands First Baptist Church with Rev. Andy Cloer and Rev. Hugh Westbrook officiating. Burial will be in Clear Creek Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Tim Hunter, Josh Talley, Bill

(NC Dept. of Justice).

Jim Sottile  
Franklin

### How bittersweet it is

Dear Editor,

Every year when I see oriental bitter-sweet being sold at local businesses, I cringe. The NC department of Agriculture lists this as a "Class C" noxious weed. Normally it is illegal to sell Class C noxious weeds but an exception was made for this plant because of the "craft" industry. While the seeds of this plant are very pretty, they are also extremely viable, and in the long

•See LETTERS page 16

### ... LETTERS continued from page 2

get a pistol carry permit, the one condition that they do honor is when you are a businessman who takes business receipts to the bank, exactly the opposite of NC's restrictive law.

I am a former Detective NYPD, and I teach the pistol carry permit classes in Macon and Jackson counties. I always tell my students to purchase and carry a pepper spray in the door or console of their car. If you are alone or out walking the dog or hiking, or have to carry cash to the bank, you should carry one. In the last five years I have been saved twice by having one in my car when I didn't have a pistol with me, once when I went up to NYC and once in Asheville. I recommend the pepper spray that has CS (tear) gas in it. For just a few bucks, in Franklin you can buy it at Bennett's Gun Shop near Hot Spot, or out at Buck Ledbetter's Gun Repair shop on Wallace Branch Road, off Old Murphy Road.

The carry permit restriction on going anywhere where liquor is served while carrying a pistol is unreasonable. Tennessee has the same law and they are now changing it to allow pistol carry permit holders to go to a restaurant or wedding as long as they are not drinking. NC should do the same. After all, you paid for your daughters wedding and you want to see all that lovely cash get safely to her bank! As long as you are not personally drinking, you would be a responsible citizen.

Recently, the Franklin Press newspaper published an editorial calling for more restrictive county gun laws because a psycho was arrested in the county park with an unloaded rifle. I think this is explained by the fact that the publisher is from California where second amendment rights are trounced. And, one of the Macon County Commissioners is all for it. If people knew, they would never vote for him. It needs to be understood that psychos and criminals don't care about the gun laws. It makes no sense to restrict the rights of the legitimate and responsible people in the county park to protect themselves. All the more reason to have a pistol in your pocket, while you watch your children play, if there is a psycho in the park with a rifle. Disarming the legitimate and responsible citizens is not

the answer.

One of the convenient things about the NC Pistol Carry Permit is that it is now recognized in 33 states. You can travel from here to Phoenix AZ and be legal in every state. The permit is good throughout the Southeast states. If you travel with your pistol carry permit you should obtain a book on the laws of each state as you are responsible for knowing them. Go to the website for the NRA on the internet and invest \$14 in the book "Travelers Guide to Firearms Laws". For the latest list of states, go to the NCDOJ website and type in "reciprocity".

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Smith, Kevin Henry, Eugene Shuler and Steven Foster. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Rd., Asheville, NC 28803.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com). Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

**Inside S.W.A.T.**

Munich, West Germany: On September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972, eight members of the “Black September” terrorist group stunned the world by infiltrating the Munich Summer Olympic Games and capturing members of the Israeli Olympic Team. When the carnage was complete, eleven Israeli team members, one coach, five terrorists and a West German police officer were dead.

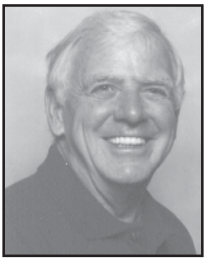
This major world event proved to be a wakeup call for police departments the world over. It revealed just how unprepared the police were in handling terrorist assaults. German authorities were not even capable of putting an assault team on the roof of the building where the Israeli athletes were being held, much less handle trained terrorists. Multiple roof antennas prevented an air assault and no one could descend onto the roof. The police had never trained for an aerial assault.

Miami Beach, FL. USA

I had no idea how the events at Munich would eventually affect my life and my career. Several months after the final Munich report was released, criticizing law enforcement’s handling of the crisis, Miami Beach announced a wakeup call to our community. We had a wealthy, growing Jewish population and our department was no better off at protecting our citizens from terrorists than were the German police. We were ripe for a terrorist attack.

Two years later, I sat in the belly of a Huey chopper parked at the Miami Beach blimp base. Attaching ropes to anchor points inside the chopper, I inspected weapons with my team for the last time before giving the pilots a thumb’s up. This training exercise would be our first of this kind. The chopper blades slowly spooled up, creating gale force winds inside the bay area and the deafening roar of the engine made it impossible to be heard.

I sat in the belly with my legs dangling from the chopper as the skids lifted from the ground and the aircraft shuttered as it ascended. Next to me, an officer stood out on the skid, leaning forward, strapped into his harness, his M16 automatic rifle at the ready. His assignment was to kill anyone moving on the roof of our target when we began our descent. This was our first aerial assault with police officers acting as terrorists planted in the building. Their mission



**Fred Wooldridge**

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was to kill us. Looking over at my team and masking the fear that was within me, I saw a lot of nervous faces. I could relate. A training mission like this can be deadly.

The aircraft gained an altitude of 1,000 feet and headed for an abandoned seventeen story hotel at the corner of Biscayne Bay. In order to make our assault difficult, radio antennas had been placed on the roof in similar configuration as the building in Munich. The ride to our target took ten minutes.

When the co-pilot signaled they were descending, I pulled the heavy rope bag onto my lap and attached my harness to the down line protruding from the bag. The same was occurring on the other side of the chopper. The aircraft continued to slowly descend to a hover position one hundred feet above the roof. Once the aircraft was stable, the pilot signaled again and smoke grenades were thrown onto the roof. I tossed my rope bag from my lap and watched it disperse rope as it disappeared into the swirling smoke cloud.

Standing out on the skid, I leaned back into a rappel position. Looking across the open bay, I checked to see if the officer was ready for his descent. On my signal, we dropped from the chopper and rapidly rappelled to the roof. I quickly removed a rope pack from my back and began to pull rope, anchoring it to an air conditioning stanchion. As the other officers dropped to the roof, I threw the rope over the edge to prepare for a window assault on the fifteenth floor. Entering the building through a predetermined window, we moved toward our target. Flash bangs (grenades without shrapnel.) were thrown to stun our enemy.

Our tactics were slow and clumsy. Once inside the building, two of our officers were deemed killed by referees monitoring the exercise. Getting an officer killed is unacceptable and I had failed my mission. During the coming year, our team’s efficiency would increase immensely. In another year, we would be capable of handling any terrorist situation.

Note: *I commanded SWAT teams for eight years. Is there any wonder why I’m hard of hearing?*

*Read Fred’s column all winter on line.*

## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### It's time for the hate rhetoric to stop

**I**t's time to let it go, America. It is time to put the attacks of September 11, 2001 into perspective, to acknowledge the fact that the deaths of fewer than 3,000 Americans have directly led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans, in addition to nearly 7,000 deaths among U.S. and Coalition military forces.

It is time to ask what was so special about this attack, these victims and their survivors. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor left 2,400 Americans dead. Their survivors responded by lining up to serve in the ensuing war.

Sept. 11 survivors lined up to claim compensation averaging 3.1 million per victim in exchange for a promise not to sue the airline. But it is a different generation.

Except for the heroism of police and firemen, 460 of whom died that day, the victims were just a lot of people in the wrong place on the wrong day, not at all unlike victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. Who remembers that date? An American soldier killed in combat is worth \$100,000.

Iraqi families receive a maximum of \$2,500 for a loved one, unless the claim is denied, which is common. Innocent Iraqis who get caught in the crossfire of military operations are not eligible for compensation. Can their innocent victims be worth so much less than our innocents? Do their survivors mourn or suffer less? Or is it simply a case of who has better lawyers and a superior public relations machine.

The attacks of September 11, 2001 were evil. Their perpetrators were murders, but whether we like it or not, they were more than that. They were soldiers in an underfunded war against the mightiest military the world has ever known. They were religious zealots, which might instruct us about the danger of zealotry. In a way, they too were nation builders. Their ultimate goal was to impose Islamic law on an unwilling West, to destroy decadent Western democracies and replace them with an Islamic Empire, all in accordance with their understanding of the Prophet's teaching.

It is time to understand that Islam is not our enemy, although few Islamic countries could be called close friends. The radical Islamic who attacked us, and those who attacked Madrid and London, are not representatives of Islam any more than a radical fundamentalist Christian who



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email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

bombs an abortion clinic speaks for Christianity. The desecration of the Quran not only incites certain retaliation, but more importantly further alienates Muslims everywhere. When I was a kid, one didn't talk about a classmate's mother or date his girl friend. Some things are sacred. We share a very large home room with the Muslim world.

It is true that the much of the Muslim world mistrusts us.

It is also true that everybody pulls for the little guy. I, like many other Americans, have always been troubled by the inability of Muslims to unconditionally condemn the attacks. Americans found something to admire in Bonnie and Clyde, although their rampage was illegal and despicable. Maybe it is as simple as that. Sure, the argument goes, what they did was wrong, but they stood up to the bully. We have become a bully in the eyes of the world, even among our friends.

Finally, America, it is time to recognize that the 9/11 attacks were launched by 19 men, supported by Islamists whose goals were more political than religious. Bin Laden and his kind manipulate their followers to do their will, exploiting their religious beliefs. It is not a new strategy. Cynical leaders learned centuries that martyrdom holds a certain attraction.

It is September 12, 2010. The names were read again yesterday. There were flags and demonstrations, a yearly renewable of grief and rage. It is time to move on.

After World War II, we rebuilt Germany and forgave Japan even before we all started driving Toyotas. We've normalized relations with Viet Nam and increased trade. The world is a better place for our efforts.

I'm not suggesting that we forgive Muhammad Atta any more than I would condone forgiving Adolph Hitler.

We have enemies in the Muslim world, but the Muslim world is not our enemy.

We must put 9/11 in its proper context, as we have the attack on Pearl Harbor and the fall of Saigon. When we have done that we will be better able to deal with the threat of terrorism without creating generations of new terrorists. We will be fair to Muslims in America and abroad. We will have said "No" to those who continue to spread hatred with the World Trade Center as the centerpiece of their manipulation. It's good sense and good politics.



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## ...on this day **Sept 16, 1981**

Vanuatu, once the Anglo-french colony of New Hebrides, becomes a member of the United Nations.

If you go to New Hebrides,  
you'll not get there with any ease.  
Look around out there in the Pacific,  
but better get real specific,  
indeed, start your search anew,  
begin to look for Vanuatu.  
For a vacation, where could a fellow go?  
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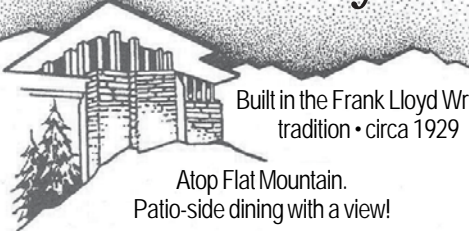
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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Week 1 NFL thoughts

After our first full week of NFL action, we learned very little about how the season will play out, but there were a few surprises in the first week.

Leading off, I know that I am no expert about much of anything, but if that wasn't a catch at the end of the Detroit-Chicago game, then I am not really sure what is.

I know, I know, we got the explanation from the former NFL head of officiating and Lions coach Jim Schwartz did not complain, but wow.

For those who missed it, with time running down in the fourth quarter Calvin Johnson caught what appeared to be the game winning TD with just seconds to play. Johnson caught the ball with two hands, got both feet down, got his butt down, got his hand down and had the presence of mind to palm the ball with one hand to show his control of the ball. However, Johnson let the ball slip out of his hand as he tried to get up off the ground, and therefore the catch was ruled incomplete and the Lions ended up losing in one of the worst ways possible.

Shame on you NFL, for not having any semblance of common sense to your already bloated rulebook.

A couple of upsets also set the tone in week 1, with Houston upsetting Indianapolis on the strength of former UT Volunteer Arian Foster's running. Anyone who had Foster in fantasy this week most certainly won their matchup, as I doubt anyone expected Foster to rack up over 200 yards against the Colts.

The Colts have certainly started slow and still have been successful in recent years, but it has to be disheartening seeing safety Bob Sanders get hurt again and then watch Foster run roughshod over their defense.

The defending Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints (that never gets old) had no such defensive issues in their season opener, holding [name omitted] to under 200 yards passing and the Minnesota Viking offense to a mere 9 points.

Also impressive was the way that New Orleans was able to finish off the game by running the ball with power in the fourth quarter. The offensive line for the Saints was not simply blocking in the fourth quarter, they were actively intending to bring pain, which is always a good thing in the game of football.

The local boys of Atlanta and Carolina both had rough weeks.

New Panther starting quarterback Matt Moore was ineffective against the Giants, and Matt Ryan and the Falcons struggled mightily against a Pittsburgh team playing their third string quarterback. While the Falcons



**Ryan Potts**  
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defense looked stout, they are going to have to address their running game (which used to be a strength) if they want to challenge for the NFC Championship.

While big-talking J-E-T-S coach Rex Ryan brought the heat on defense Monday night, his offense lacked sizzle and the JETS fell 10-9 in what was supposed to be the beginning of a march to the Super Bowl. Mark Sanchez is going to have to get better, and the JETS had the look of a SEC team with all of the penalties and mental mistakes.

And finally, while it's not football related, congratulations to USA Basketball on winning the FIBA World Championships last weekend in Istanbul. Not a bad two years for Coach K, with Olympic Gold, a National Championship and now a World Championship under his belt.

## • HS SOCCER •

### Highlanders climb to 10<sup>th</sup> in state rankings

The Highlands varsity soccer team took a big step forward this week with wins over both East Henderson and Andrews to rise to 10<sup>th</sup> in the state 1A soccer poll.

Last Wednesday, the Highlanders hosted 3A East Henderson at the Highlands School soccer field and came away with a 3-1 victory.

The Highlanders took an early lead off of a tremendous left footed strike from Michael Shearl. Then, shortly before the half, sophomore Taylor Osteen finished off a beautiful feed from Shearl to afford the Highlanders some breathing room before halftime. After an early goal from the Eagles cut the Highlander lead in half, senior Samuel Wheeler was able to finish off a quick counterattack and give Highlands the final margin of 3-1.

Monday, the Highlanders opened their conference play at the Andrews Wildcats. Highlands scored early and often, racking up plenty of goals on their way to an 8-0 slaughter.

Andrew Renfro had a hat trick for Highlands, scoring three goals. Wheeler added two goals, and Temba Lama, Collin Taylor and Isaac Beavers all came away with a goal apiece. Highlands opened up its home conference schedule Wednesday against Murphy, but results were not available at press time.

The next Highlander home game will be Wed., Sept. 22 against archrival Blue Ridge.

# ... STEEP SLOPE continued from page 1

non presented concerns about the proposed ordinance, and urged members of Freedomworks to oppose the ordinance. There were several local candidates for office in attendance, including state senatorial candidate Jim Davis and Macon County commissioner candidates Brian McClellan, Ronnie Haven and Vic Drummond.

POA representative Paul Higdon explained to the crowd of about 75 that the discussion of steep slope regulation stemmed primarily from the tragedy at Peaks Creek that occurred several years ago.

Higdon explained that while the proposed ordinance is designed to prevent tragedies like Peaks Creek from occurring, there is actually "very little science" behind the proposal and that it could have devastating effects on the local economy.

In his presentation, Higdon outlined the basis for his opposition, noting that the proposal would affect 35% of all private property in the county and could prevent landowners from proper land use – saying the proposal would require landowners to spend between \$24,000-\$28,000 to get the approval to build on their land before even breaking ground, which could stifle the already struggling development/construction industry in Macon County.

In his closing remarks, Higdon urged the citizens at the meeting to oppose the ordinance because it is a case of local government overregulation in a bad economy and would negatively affect landowners throughout the county.

POA representative and local developer Bill Vernon followed Higdon by giving a more in-depth overview of the proposed ordinance. Vernon explained that the ordinance would require landowners to obtain 11 different reports before building at a cost of around \$25,000.

Vernon also raised concerns that the ordinance would result in 85% of all usable land in the county being regulated. (Half of the county is national forest service land.)

Vernon also proposed the POA's solution to steep slope, which is to require any "grading or excavation done on slopes greater than 30% be done by a Licensed Grading Contractor."

According to the POA, its proposal would save the taxpayers money by not having to hire enforcement personnel and it would not impact construction because it would put the onus on the graders to do their work properly.

After the POA's presentation, the local candidates in attendance were given an opportunity to address the steep slope issue.

State senatorial candidate Jim Davis was opposed to the steep slope ordinance proposal, stating that "regulation has hurt property value" and that he was definitely against further regulation.

Vic Drummond, candidate for District 2 County Commissioner, also stated his op-

•See STEEP SLOPE page 17

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# SportsPage



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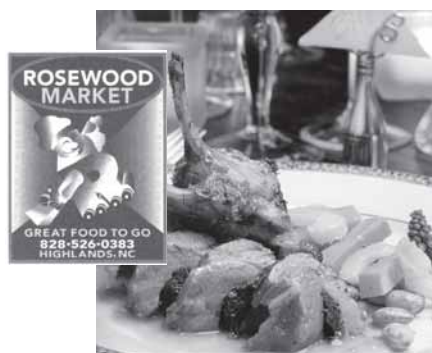
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## ... SAT continued from page 1

else."

As of March 2005, the components of the SAT test changed claiming it would test the 3 R's for the SAT: reading, writing, and arithmetic, not just reading and math as in the past.

Furthermore, the segments themselves were beefed up. In the math component a greater emphasis has been put on math skills, including algebra II. There is a 70-minute assessment of multiple choice questions with two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section. Quantitative comparisons have been eliminated. Scoring potential ranges from 200-800.

The former Verbal component is now called Critical Reading where a greater emphasis is placed on reading comprehension. It's comprised of a multiple choice 70-minute assessment with two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section. Analogies have been eliminated. Scoring potential ranges from 200-800.

There is also a Writing component that focuses on writing and knowledge of grammar, sentence structure and word usage. There is a multiple choice 60-minute assessment with one 35-minute section and one 25-minute section which is a student-written essay. Scoring potential ranges from 200-800 with a total possible SAT score of 2400.

Highlands School's 2010 scores represent an increase over 2008 and 2009 as with 13 other schools signaled out as high-achievers this year.

In 2008, 13 students took the SATs at Highlands School, 46.4% of the senior class. The overall Math score was 557; the overall Critical Reading score was 545; and the Writing score was 524 for a school-wide score of 1626.

In 2009, 11 students took the SATs, or 47.8% of the seniors. The overall Math score was 541; the overall Critical Reading score was 498; and the overall Writing score was 505 for a total school-wide score of 1544.

For the class of 2010, 9 students took the SATs, or 29% who earned an overall Math score of 562; an overall Critical Reading score of 583 and a overall Writing score of 556 for school-wide score of 1701.

Jessup says several things attributed to the higher scores.

"The first reason the class did so well is of course is the quality of student we have to work with at Highlands School. If you disaggregate the data you will find that we are one of the few schools in that list of over 1,700 combined that doesn't recruit students like the School of Science and Math - Durham or the School of the Arts - Winston Salem, for instance. Nor can we deny admission as can Raleigh Charter, Penn-Griffin, Surry and Guilford Early College - some of the schools with whom Highlands School joined ranks this year."

Jessup said a strong Math department has helped increase scores, as well.

"Teachers Jane DeWolf, who is now retired, Gina Billingsley, and Brian Aulisio, as

well as our SCC Learn and Earn instructors, do a great job preparing our students for the rigors of upper level math," he said.

Critical Reading and Writing make up the other two components of the SAT exam and a strong instructional staff is always an asset.

"Most of the other 13 schools on that high-achiever SAT list released by North Carolina's Department of Public instruction have PhDs teaching Math and English," said Jessup.

Another contributing factor to this year's high scores is proper advising and timing, he said.

"I do not recommend taking the SAT until students are nearly finished with Algebra 2, which is usually the junior year. The Guidance department also has access to the CollegeBoard's Accuplacer Exam which is given free of charge several times a year and this helps."

The Accuplacer identifies strengths and weaknesses in student performance over a variety of English and Math topics to help prepare them for the upcoming SAT test.

Jessup stresses that the SAT scores are just one part of the picture when it comes to evaluating students at Highlands School.

"It's hard to focus on one aspect of evaluative data and say 'this makes you a good school,'" he said. "But when you take in the whole picture, that is combine the SAT/ACT scores with college-bound rates of graduates, the EOC scores, the EOG scores and the VOCATS scores, as well as and drop out rates, you come up with a fairly accurate picture which is that we are doing something, if not many things, right at Highlands School."

How is Highlands ranking and students' scores beneficial when applying to college?

"An SAT score, combined with GPA, is the first thing colleges look at in the admission process," said Jessup. "Highly selective schools take it much further with essays and interviews, and our High School English Department made up of Catherine McIntyre-Ross and David Baker are always willing to proof read essays. We also set up Mock Interviews to help prepare students for scholarship competition."

Though the SAT statistics released Monday show only 29% of Highlands School seniors took the test last year, another 30% took the ACT.

"I use transcript data to advise on which exam to take," said Jessup. "I usually steer the students who do better in science toward the ACT test because the SAT test doesn't measure scientific reasoning."

Most colleges and universities accept both ACT scores and SAT scores during the admission process.

The 14 schools with the highest scores on the 2010 SATs are Raleigh Charter High with a 1905, Green Hope High with a 1715, William G. Enloe High with a 1753, Surry Early College HS Design with a 1773, Carbaro High School with a 1767, Chapel Hill High

• See SAT page 21



# • CONSERVATIVE POV •

## Trans.par.en.cy

The following appeared on the White House website under the heading "Transparency and Open Government." "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies." "My administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in government."

Oh, really? While it isn't dated, one assumes this was posted soon after Obama was inaugurated, before he learned it wasn't politically helpful to let the voters in on your seriously unpopular agenda.

It continues, "Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. Information maintained by the Federal Government is a national asset. My administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use."

Sounds good, doesn't it. Based on his administration's performance on the subject, one wonders if he planned on being dishonest from the outset, or did pragmatism change his course. Certainly, there are issues of national security that shouldn't be made public, and we understand that. What I don't understand are some of the matters that we should be privy to, and aren't.

Not tot be outdone, Madam Pelosi announced a similar theme. A press release stated: "House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter of New York, and Senator Barack Obama of Illinois unveiled Democrats' 'Honest Leadership, Open Government Act,' which will restore honesty, integrity and openness to government. Below are Pelosi's remarks as prepared."

"These halls contain great wisdom. In the hall behind me are three paintings about government. The central painting contains President Lincoln's famous words, 'A government of the people, by the people, and for the people. (Actually, Nancy, that is not a sentence, it's a noun. You've got to add the rest - 'shall not perish from the Earth.' That makes it a sentence and it makes it immortal.)"

"On the right side, a mural entitled 'Good Administration' shows a figure reading and voting, symbolizing the value of an informed and involved citizenry. On the other side is a painting entitled 'Corrupt Legislation,' which shows a figure



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

burning a scroll of learning and trampling a Bible. It's a harsh image, to see a Bible underfoot - but it makes a powerful point: corrupt government undermines our values. We come here today to support those values, and to lay out an agenda for a new era of honest, open and transparent government."

Whereupon, Nancy started crafting the greatest abomination ever passed by Congress. Not one to learn by history, Nancy followed Hillary's example by doing the deal in the dark. The process was so opaque (impenetrable to sight), that the 2,000 page plus Health Care Bill was passed without being read. Nancy said, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what's in it." Being a curious bunch, they did. How's that for transparency?

Have you wondered, to this day, why Eric Holder, Obama's hand-picked Attorney General, insisted to plan to hold the trials of the Guantanamo residents in Lower Manhattan. Patently stupid on its face, when the wave of public opinion washed over the decision-makers, I don't recall hearing the reasoning for wanting to do such a witless thing. All that I can remember is Obama's "open" administration attempting to "cram down" the idea on the rightfully fearful public.

Isn't it interesting that, to my knowledge, the term "cram down" was spawned during the new era of honest, open and transparent government.

And then there is the open opposition to Arizona's attempt to legislatively protect its borders, a job the Federal government has failed to do. Why? Do you understand why your government plays kissy-kissy with the treacherous UN while they chastise one of their own states? What's the motivation?

Remember, as Obama picked his cabinet and made other appointments, so many of them were found out to be law-breakers? With all the highly qualified candidates around, could it have been chance that would-be felons populated Obama's roster? Despite his alleged good intentions, if you really plan on having a closed, deviant administration, wouldn't you pick those who have demonstrated sympathy for your style?

Transparency, my foot. The fact that his policies have failed and are unpopular would dictate that the administration should work behind closed doors, away from the prying eyes of the voters. Sooner or later, the truth comes out, and those who threw in with Obama will pay the price for their blind loyalty.

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

### Highlands' real estate market isn't as 'off' as you think

For rentals, the best time to list your home is May or June — but not for the current year — for the following year.

Our little town is brimming with people in the summer, and most have made their vacation season plans months in advance. While they're here, a good many of them start looking for rentals for the next year.

The first two years a house is in a rental program are crucial to setting the pace for repeat renters. Pricing is a vital component for the outlook of future rentals, just as pricing homes for sale are to making it to closing day.

For sales, there are some that would suggest that 2010 is not the time to put your house on the market, but why not? Short sales and foreclosures notwithstanding, the Highlands real estate market isn't that different in 2010 than it has been in other downturn years (yet it still hurts like a fresh wound.)

Pricing is probably the most important thing in today's marketplace. We've had plenty of people calling and dropping in to see what the "deals" are, and only want to inquire about the short sales and foreclosures.

We are happy to help them see those homes, but we also tell them, there are plenty of real deals out there that haven't made it to foreclosure/short sale status because some sellers are now pricing their homes with their pencils instead of their hearts.

Let's say you bought your home in 1990-1995 for \$450,000 (no mortgage). Today, that



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same home could have a tax value of \$600,000 - \$950,000+ depending on updates, location, etc.

Sure you've put money into it, made updates, and of course paid taxes, utilities, association dues, etc. over the years. You've also had the pleasure of the use of your home during ownership. You may want to price your home 25% less (or more) than the current tax value if that's what the comps show

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If on the other hand, you bought your home at the top of the market, and now find you have to sell due to unforeseen circumstances, it's going to hurt because you still need to price lower than the tax value, and quite possibly less than the amount you paid. (If you have a mortgage, well, that's where the short sale comes in.)

In 2003, Highlands Township had 52 closings with an average Days on the Market (DOM) of 257 days and an average of 93% listing to sales price ratio.

In 2009, we had 85 closings with an average DOM of 246, with an average of 86% listing to sales price ratio. (2005 showed 188 closings, with an average of 178 DOM and 91% ratio; 2004 was very similar-ahhh, the good ole days!)

It's not unusual for homes in Highlands to be listed for one, two or even three years.

So far, 2010 has had 35 closings, average

• See INVESTING page 21

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# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

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## Ongoing

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• 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](http://www.thebascom.org). Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

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Call 526-3737.

• At Scaly Outdoor Center, Trout Fishing. Call 526-3737.

• 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 RSVP by email at [info@hchospital.org](mailto:info@hchospital.org).

• Join us for lunch at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, where from May through October, you can enjoy an hour long Lunch and Learn educational seminar, on a variety of health topics, followed by Q&A session. Lunch provided; seating limited. Call 526-1313 or (828) 526-1250 today to make your reservation.

• 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., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. All Levels. Mats provided. 526-8880. More info at [www.yogahighlands.com](http://www.yogahighlands.com) (10/28)

### 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.

• Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing at the Little Church of the Wildwood in Horse Cove. 7-9 p.m. Sundays through Labor Day. Kay Ward – 743-5009

### Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4 p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852. (7/29)

### Mon., Wed., & Thurs.

• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Mon. & Wed at 7:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour.

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

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

### First Mondays

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

## 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](mailto: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

• \$2 off bar drinks at El Azteca. 70 Highlands Plaza across from Bryson's Food Store.

• 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.

• Zahner Conservation Lecture Series every Thursday at 7 pm at the Highlands Nature Center May 13 through Aug. 5 It's free.

## Friday & Saturdays

• Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m.. BYOB.

## Every Third Saturday

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

## Every Fourth Saturday

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

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club monthly Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast is served in the remodeled historical school house from 7:30-10:30 pm. \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Call Susan Bankston 526-9952 or email [sfbankston@gmail.com](mailto:sfbankston@gmail.com)

## Saturdays

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. 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

• See EVENTS page 12

## Shandy Conley Memorial fundraiser Sept. 19



The public is invited to enjoy the rocking sounds of Hurricane Creek, followed by Benny Queen's Mountain Music Jam on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, at JJ's Eatery and Canteen in Glenville. The benefit concert will be held for the family of Shandy Conley, deceased on Aug. 21. Shandy's 21-year life served as an inspiration to all who knew her, and her lengthy struggle with blood disease lead to the creation of the Cashiers Make-A-Wish Festival, which has raised thousands and thousands of dollars for children faced with life-threatening medical challenges.

Hurricane Creek will entertain from 1-3 p.m.; Benny Queen's Mountain Music Jam will take place from 3-5 p.m. In addition to the music, there will be food and beverage, door prizes, and raffles.

Those who are unable to attend but wish to donate may send gifts to Shandy Conley Memorial Fund, RBC Centura Bank, PO Box 1610, Cashiers, NC 28717.

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PULL OUT

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Bascom. Questions? 526-1741.

## Thursday, Sept. 16

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

- The Macon Chapter of the Western North Carolina Alliance will host a presentation on the ecological implications of paving Needmore Road located on the Needmore Preserve along the Little Tennessee River in Macon County, NC. Doctor Bill McLarney, a consultant for LTWA will present scientific information on the effects alternative paving proposals would have on this pristine ecosystem.

## Fri., Sept. 17

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" playing acoustic at 9:45 p.m.

## Sat., Sept. 18 - 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](http://www.thebascom.org). Galleries are open to the public, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5

pm; Sun., noon-5 pm.

## Saturday, Sept. 18

- A benefit for Colleen Fogel at Rec Park starting at 5 p.m. with dinner silent auction, cake auction senior class face painting and selling silly bands and necklaces to help raise money for her medical expenses. Colleen is fighting breast cancer.

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to the Highlands Biological Station and Sunset Rocks to look for migrating birds. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387. There is no charge to participate.

- Pistol Carry Permit CCW class, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boiler Room at the Fun Factory in Franklin. To register call, Jim Sottile (former NYPD detective) at 828-349-0322.

- The Highlands Democrats will be hosting a meet and greet Saturday at 5 PM under the covered picnic shelter at the Highlands Recreation Center. Light

refreshments will be provided.

- The Franklin Panthers 11 & under Travel Baseball Team will be holding a Car Wash/Bake Sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the U-Save It Pharmacy on the Georgia Road. All proceeds collected will go directly to the team to help offset entry fees for upcoming tournaments. For more information, contact Coach Chris Schofield @ 828-371-2001 or Renee Burt @ 828-421-2424. Please come out and support the Franklin Panthers 11 & under Travel Baseball Team!

- There will be a meeting of the Mountain Patriots Tea Party at 2 PM on Saturday at the 441 Family Diner in Otto. If you wish to socialize & eat, please come at 1:30. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

## Sunday, Sept. 19

- Homecoming at Highlands First Baptist Church. Join us for the service at 10:45 a.m. and stay for a covered dish luncheon and music. Members, friends and local churches are invited. Plan to join us for this special day in the life of our church.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Jack Rabbit Mountain Trail around Lake Chatuge in Georgia, with an elevation change of 200 feet. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 55 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-8620, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

## Monday, Sept. 20

- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet on Monday at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Library at 7 PM and features Matt Kulp, fisheries biologist with the Smokey Mountain National Park who will discuss "What's Going on in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park - an aquatics and fisheries update including where to find the brook trout. Matt Kulp is a graduate of Penn State University with a MS in fisheries biology

from Tennessee Tech. He has been with the park since 1995 and was the Park employee of the year in 2010. His focus is on Brook Trout inventory, genetics, native fish restoration, water quality and fisheries ecology. Following the speaker, a raffle will be held featuring various fly fishing accessories including an Orvis 5 weight fly rod. Everyone is welcome. Call 828-885-7130.

## Tues., Sept. 21

- At Hudson Library, Health Lectures by Dr. Sue Aery of Mountain Air Wellness Center. "10 ways to feed your child HEALTHY!"

- A public hearing to be held by NCDOT in Bryson City, NC on the Needmore Preserve paving project.

## Wed., Sept. 22

- The Village Nature Series features "Hunters of the Sky" with Balsam Preserve's Michael Skinner. Children and kids at heart will be sure to learn something new while getting a chance to discover more about these creatures up close and personal with Highlands Nature Center Director, Patrick Brannon. The program will be followed by an ice cream social and is free to everyone in the community. No reservations are required. For more information contact HCLT at 828.526.1111.

## Thursday, Sept. 23

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway for fall migrants. We will return mid-afternoon so bring a light picnic lunch. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:00 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387. There is no charge to participate.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike with an elevation change of 625 feet, from Wallace Branch to Winding Stair Gap on a short stretch of the Appalachian Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish;

## Back by popular demand – HCLT's Elk Excursion



This autumn, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust will bring back by popular demand their Elk Excursion to Cataloochee Valley. On Tuesday, Sept. 28eco tour participants will enjoy a special presentation by GSMNP Ranger and Elk Specialist, Joe Yarkovich, the opportunity to view the elk in their habitat and a picnic dinner in the valley.

Not only does the early fall offer spectacular views in the valley but it is also a great time to visit and experience the rut. The "rut" is the season when the male elk, or bull, compete for dominance and the right to mate with the female elk, or cow. An important, and quite enchanting, part of the process is the bull warning call to other males, known as the "bugle." The call, which has been described by many as eerie or haunting, provides an audible cue that fall has arrived at Cataloochee Valley.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn more about the elk reintroduction program during this beautiful time of year. The cost for the Elk Photo Tour is only \$5 for HCLT members and \$35 for new friends which includes an HCLT membership. A picnic dinner will be provided. Space is limited. To learn more and to reserve your spot contact Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at (828) 526.1111 or [julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:julie.hitrust@earthlink.net). The mission of HCLT is to protect valuable land resources for all generations.

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## Child Passenger Safety Week

September 19-25, 2010

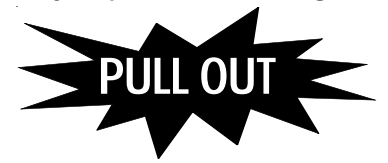
NHTSA

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KINDER FOR KIDS



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-8620, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

- The Macon County Democratic Party will host a Grand Opening for their headquarters on Thursday at 5 p.m.. There will be a free hot dog supper and more. The headquarters is located at 1021 East Main Street in the old Clyde Savings Bldg across from the entrance to Lake Emory Rd. Call 369-6568 or [www.macondems.org](http://www.macondems.org).

- The WCU College Republicans and the Jackson County GOP are sponsoring "Dish Out with the Candidates" an ice cream social to Meet Conservative Candidates. The event is on Thursday 6:30-9 PM at the Multipurpose Room at the University Center on the Western Carolina University campus. Conservative candidates expected are those running for the Jackson County Commission, State Legislative Offices and Judgeships. All affiliated and unaffiliated voters especially those in Cullowhee, Tuckasegee, Canada and the surrounding areas are invited to hear candidate's platforms. Additional conservative candidate events are scheduled for Qualla, on October 7th and Sylva on October 21st. Locations for the September and October events are to be announced. For additional information call Ralph Slaughter, Jackson County GOP Chair at Republican Headquarters, 828 586-9895 and 828 743-6491, Gregory Hirsh at 919 923-6224/gehirsh@gmail.com or [www.jacksoncountygop.com](http://www.jacksoncountygop.com)

## Fri.-Sun., Sept. 24-26

- Annual Highlands Playhouse Antique Show at the Civic Center from 10-5 Fri. and Sat., and noon-5 on Sunday. Tickets are \$12. More than 30 exhibitors from all over the world will be selling their wares.

## Fri., & Sat., Sept. 24-25

- At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" playing acoustic at 9:15 p.m.

- St Francis of Assisi Church Craft & Sewing Guild in Franklin is having a Craft & Bake Sale and Raffle with 7 chances to win some very nice items Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 299 Maple St. Family Life Center.

## Saturday, Sept. 25

- A Litter Sweep beginning at 8:30 a.m. Call the Highlands Visitor Center to RSVP. 526-2112.

- At Community Bible Church, "The Relationship between Nutrition and Disease." Learn a way to reduce: cancer, heart disease, diabetes, alzheimers and other degenerative diseases. Led by Carol Johnson, a nutrition counselor, and Rebecca Cothran, a whole grains supplier. From 10am-noon. FREE but call 526-4297 for reservations.

- A benefit for Vince and Jimmy Petrone at Tate's Landscaping new building on NC 106. Come join us and help raise money for Jimmy and Vince to pay bills since the passing for their father Kevin Petrone. Starting at 8:30 a.m. a motorcycle ride will begin at Wright Square in Highlands for those who would like to ride in honor of Kevin. Cars are welcome to participate. There will be a \$20 rider fee with lunch included. The riders will return around 12:30 p.m. to Tate Landscaping. While the ride takes place there will be BBQ plates available — \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. There will also be a car wash, raffle and live band. Lunch is 11:30-2.

## Sat., Oct. 2 - Sat., Dec. 18

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

## Fri. & Sat., Oct. 1-2

- *Celebration! Art, Design, Craft* a two-evening festival of the arts features a gala dinner and auction at OEI's The Farm on Friday and a family-friendly, down-home casual bluegrass and BBQ and microbrews at The Bascom. For more information on The Shop and *Celebration!*, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949.

## Thursday, Oct. 7

- Taize in Highlands, 5:30 at Highlands United Methodist Church.

## Fri.-Sun., Oct. 8-10

- The Greater Cashiers Merchant's Association Leaf Festival Chair Pat Grady has issued a call for artisans and artists who wish to have a booth at the 2010 Leaf Festival. Although Festival space is expanded to flow from the Cashiers Village Green to the Village Commons for the 2010 event, early booth reservations are encouraged. For information and reservations call Chair Grady at 828 743.5858, the GCA-MA office at 828 743.1630.

## Saturday, Oct. 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a five mile moderate hike from Park Gap down Park Ridge to the connector trail and back up Park Creek. Drive 40 miles round trip. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Beginning Monday, Oct. 11

- Rehearsals for the annual Community Christmas Chorale will begin at 7 p.m. Monday evening, at First Presbyterian Church with director Orville Wike and accompanist Angie Jenkins. Rehearsals will take place in the choir room which is located on the lower level of the new Faith and Fellowship Center. Since rehearsals are beginning later than usual this year, it is important to make plans to attend every rehearsal if at all possible. Two concerts are scheduled. The first will be Saturday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. and the second will be the following day, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. If you enjoy singing, please join us!

## Tuesday, October 14

- At Hudson Library, Financial Management Lecture — at 5:30-6:30 pm. Presented by Sue Gorski of RBC Bank — Understanding Your Credit Score.

## Sunday, Oct. 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike with an elevation change of 100 feet to Pickens Nose for an outstanding view from the top. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-8620, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Tuesday, October 19

- At Hudson Library, Health Lectures by Dr. Sue Aery of Mountain Air Wellness Center. "Wheat free diet- why does it work?"

## Saturday, Oct. 23

- At The Hen House on Main Street, Ray Pottery signing from 10-5.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail to see the new tower and shelter on Wayah Bald, returning via

the Bartram Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Larry Jelley, 524-4200, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

## Don't Miss Celebration! and Christmas in October at The Bascom



Looking for that perfect, one-of-a-kind, affordable gift for that special someone on your holiday gift list? Look no further then Christmas in October at The Shop at The Bascom. Among the many quality, unique, handmade gifts in ceramics, fiber art, jewelry, wood turned bowls, lamps and decorative items are works from artists including Pat Taylor, Lisa Joerling, Barbara Zaretsky, Philip and Matt Moulthrop, Barry Gregg and Fayne Ansley.

"Put your holiday gift shopping behind you," said Leila Griffith, retail director of The Shop at The Bascom. "People always want to get their Christmas shopping done early and The Bascom wants to make it easy and affordable with distinctive gifts."

Also in October, don't miss *Celebration! Art, Design, Craft* a two-evening festival of the arts that will be as vibrant as the fall colors beginning to change in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Friday, October 1, features a gala dinner and auction at the always-elegant The Farm at Old Edwards. Works from Richard Jolley, Philip Moulthrop, Matt Moulthrop, Brian Boggs, Frank Flemming, Michael Davis, Don Wilks Barry Gregg, Andrew Crawford and Allen Wynn, as well as a Baltic Sea cruise, and trips to New Orleans and Santa Fe will be featured during the live auction on Friday at The Farm at Old Edwards.

Also featured during this year's live auction, "Touching a Heart Through Art", a paddle raise in support of the Bascom's outreach mission. This program exposes

hundreds of children to art classes, intergenerational classes, internships, art appreciation experiences, exhibitions and other hands-on opportunities.

On Saturday, October 2, enjoy the family-friendly, down-home-casual, bluegrass, barbecue and microbrews party at The Bascom. *Celebration!* complements The Bascom's *American Craft Today*, on view October 2-December 18, an ambitious exhibition project juried by Carol Sauvion, the executive director of the Public Broadcasting Corporation (PBS) TV series *Craft in America*.

*Celebration!* proceeds go entirely to support outreach and educational programs of The Bascom. Proceeds from offered works are shared by the artist and The Bascom's outreach and educational programs.

*Celebration!* is made possible through our generous benefactors and corporate sponsors Old Edwards Inn & Spa, Bank of New York-Mellon, Franklin Ford/Moss Robertson Cadillac, The Highlander Newspaper, The Laurel magazine, Leland Little Auction and Estate Sales, Our State Magazine, WNC magazine, Cashiers Village Hillside Shops and Ray McPhail.

The Shop at The Bascom is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, through October 10, from noon to 5 p.m. For more information on The Shop and *Celebration!*, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949.



• 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

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
283 Spring Street  
Sunday: Service – 11 a.m.; School – 11 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month: Testimonial Service – 5 p.m.  
Reading Room: Wednesday - 3-5 p.m.

**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  
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 childrens  
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 – 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; Sun. School –  
9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: Bible Study – 5 p.m.  
Wednesdays – Dinner 6:30 p.m.; 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 8:30 & 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.

**LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD**  
Kay Ward – 743-5009  
Sundays: 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day  
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Pastor Matt Shuler, (828) 526-8425  
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Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
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Parish office: 526-2418  
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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**  
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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
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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

... GRIEVANCE from page 1

be to set up an avenue for employees to log grievances against the Town Manager – a process that's not in the policy – because in the Town Manger form of government, the Town Manager has ultimate control over employees.

Basically, employees are to present the grievance to their department head within 10 days of its occurrence and must include the relief expected through the procedure rather than channeling grievances through the Town Board or Mayor. The department head is then encouraged to consult with the employee and try to reach a correct, impartial and equitable determination within five working days.

If the issue isn't resolved, the employee can file a grievance with the Town Manager within 10 working days. At that point, the Town Manager will hold a hearing on the matter. The Town Manager must make a decision within 15 working days and there is no appeal from that decision.

The Employee Advisory Committee might also suggest setting up a Personnel Board, which is allowed under the NC General Statutes section Cities and Towns, 160A-165 – as a way to air grievances against the Town Manager.

“The Council may establish a personnel board with authority to administer tests designed to determine the merit and fitness of candidates for appointment or promotion, to conduct hearings upon the appeal of employees who have been suspended, demoted, or discharged, and hear employee grievances.”

This is important under the Town Manager form of government because the Town Manager is in control as evidenced in the following excerpt from NCGS 160A-148 Powers and Duties of Manager.

“...The manager shall appoint and suspend or remove all city officers and employees not elected by the people ... except the city attorney, in accordance with such general personnel rules, regulations, policies, or ordinances as the council may adopt; and he shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the city, subject to the general direction and control of the council ....”

Wednesday night, the board of three – Commissioners Amy Patterson, Larry Rogers and Gary Drake – also OK'd an amended fee scheduled for false burglar alarms. It ranges from \$25 after the first occurrence, which is free, to \$500 for each occurrence of 10 or more in one year. Between July 10, 2009 and July 9, 2010, the Police Department responded to 301 false burglar alarms. Commissioners hope a penalty fee will give homeowners an incentive to fix their alarm systems.

The board also agreed to accept ownership of the 2-inch PVC pressure sewer line that runs Third Street west along US 64 to the Highlands Smokehouse after the town determines the restaurant's grease trap is working properly. “It's not a good idea to have a private utility taking up space in a public right of way,” said Town Engineer Lamar Nix. Previous owners of the Smokehouse property didn't want to relinquish ownership of the line, but the current owners do. Property owners along the route will be allowed to hook into the line, too.

The board also OK'd the creation of a Recreation Citizen Advisory Board to help orchestrate the items outlined in the Recreation Master Plan – two Town Board members, one Greenway member, the MC Recreation Committee representative for Highlands, two citizens at large, and a Board of Education member or designee.

Commissioners also OK'd the Stormwater Maintenance and Performance grant and contract with McGill Associates. Over the next year, the company will clean out the sediment traps under Kelsey-Hutchinson Park four times in 12 months, and will test the sediment. Part of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant stipulizes that sampling and monitoring of the separators boxes be done over the next year. This is the only system of its kind in Western North Carolina and the agency wants to know how it's working before it commits to other mountain communities in the region.



## Highlands Middle School Soccer – 2010

Pictured are players Ryan Vinson, Courtney Henry, Dylan Vinson, Colin Weller, Remy Adrian, Chase Harris, Jake Watson, Kenan Lewis, Josh Wolfrey, Philip Murphy, Allie Wilkes, Preston Chastain, Jessica Tilson, Kirstyn Owen, Whitney Billingsley, Manager Ryan Houser and Coaches Jeff Weller and Kevin Vinson.

Not pictured are Managers Wesley Hedden, Benjamin Miller, and Amber Reese

Photo by High Country Photo



## Main Street Program kicks off Sept. 21

### Mayor encourages business community to attend

The Town of Highlands has been selected by the North Carolina Department of Commerce to participate in its Small Town Main Street Program. The program provides small towns, such as Highlands, with technical assistance to on each town's unique character to stimulate economic development and create a vibrant central business district that meets the needs of the community. Highlands was one of three towns in North Carolina selected.

The first meeting to kick off the program is at the Highlands Community Building on Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 6- 7:30 p.m. Letters have been sent to business and property owners within the downtown area regarding

the kickoff. Mayor David Wilkes encourages business and property owners to get involved and attend the kick off meeting."

The Mayor said he is confident of success citing participation from the Business Group as well as the Winter Advisory Group as examples of individuals working together for a better and vibrant downtown Highlands.

Town Manager Jim Fatland who has previously worked with the NC Small Town Main Street Program and said the goals of Main Street focus on design, economics, promotion and organization. The program offers an opportunity to move Highlands forward even during tough economic times, he said.

## PISTOL CARRY PERMIT

CCW Class Saturday, Sept. 18th 8am-4pm

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6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Highlands Playhouse

## ANTIQUUE SHOW

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Highlands, North Carolina

Friday, September 24th 10am - 5pm

Saturday, September 25th 10am - 5pm

Sunday, September 26th 12 Noon - 5pm

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## ... LETTERS continued from page 3

run can do a lot of damage.

Allow me to quote from a website. "Oriental bittersweet severely impacts plant community structure by displacing and outcompeting native vegetation. There is great potential for the additional invasion of oriental bittersweet within natural areas. The difficulty of managing oriental

bittersweet is moderate considering the availability of control methods, but management may be costly considering the time and labor required to effectively treat stands of oriental bittersweet. Dense uncontrolled infestations of oriental bittersweet could cause severe forest degradation. Vines may overtop native vegetation, girdle and damage trees and stems, suppress the regeneration of native vegetation, shade existing vegetation, and add additional weight to trees, making them more

susceptible to mechanical breakage and ice damage".

Bittersweet can grow tall enough to strangle trees and create kudzu like thickets. In managing our family property here in Highlands we spend a great deal of time, money and effort trying to eliminate noxious plants like bittersweet and privet. Management of these plants involves the application of expensive herbicides. The Forest Service also has a significant budget for targeting such invasives. It seems foolish to al-

low sales of this plant at the same we are spending money to eradicate it.

As a garden center owner and florist I have frequent requests for this plant, but I refuse to sell it. Here in the Southern Appalachians we are famous for our diversity of vegetation and this plant is a great threat to that. Please don't buy or sell bittersweet! Would you plant kudzu?

Jodie Zahner  
Chattooga Gardens  
Cashiers

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## ... POSITION continued from page 1

calling 526-9431 or 911 for emergency calls.

Charles Young has been hired as the new Accounting Supervisor for the Town of Highlands. Young has worked in the Macon County Finance Department for seven years, first under Finance Director Kim Woodley and currently under Evelyn Southard where he works as an Accounting Technician.

Town Manager Fatland and Young most recently worked together when they were at the Buncombe County Sewer Authority.

Fatland said Young brings more than 25 years of governmental accounting experience to the job, and with the addition of his position as Accounting Supervisor, internal controls will be improved with segregation of duties — a problem noted in the administration of Highlands by auditors Martin and Starns over the past several audits.

Young begins Monday, Sept. 27 and will supervise members of the accounting and payroll staff — Assistant Treasurer Hilda Brown, Administrative Assistant Sonjia Gibson, and Utility Billing Clerk Scott Houston.

Fatland said the personnel changes don't reflect an increase in full-time personnel because the police officer position previously held by Erika Olvera will not be filled in exchange for Reese's administrative assistant position.

Likewise, the transfer of Reese from Administration in the Town Hall made way for the hiring of Young, though the balance of his salary and that of Reese's will be funded from the town's General Fund, said Fatland.

Young was paid \$43,680 by the county; his starting salary with the town is \$48,000

• See POSITION page 19

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## ... STEEP SLOPE continued from page 7

position to the proposed ordinance mainly because of the impact that it would have on the local real estate economy. Drummond noted that property owners looking to sell would be required by law to disclose possible effects to the property by the proposed steep slope ordinance, which could decrease property value and desirability in an already sluggish market.

District 1 (Highlands) candidate Brian McClellan voiced his concerns about the lagging construction industry in the county, stating that he could not support anything "that hampers jobs in the county, especially now."

While there were no representatives

from the Macon County Planning Board present at the meeting, its website states that the proposed ordinance would only cost landowners about \$8,000 in additional costs for slopes above the cut line.

Additionally, its website states that neighboring counties such as Haywood and Jackson that have already adapted slope regulation have seen no adverse effect on their economies.

The next Macon County Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Nantahala Community Center at 5 p.m.

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## ... POSITION continued from page 16

with a possible increase after six-months.

It's likely the decision to hire Young was done in one of the numerous closed sessions held over the last few months about which no record is available.

According to North Carolina General Statute 160A-146, Council to Organize City Government – The Council – not the City Manager – may create, change, abolish, and consolidate offices, positions, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the city government and generally organize and reorganize the city government to promote orderly and efficient administration of city affairs, subject to anything required or forbidden by law.

This suggests such actions would be finalized in an open session by the Council responsible for changes, even if the initial decision is made in closed session. However, this has not been the case.

It's true that under NCGS 160A-148, Powers and Duties of Manager – The manager shall be the chief administrator of the city. He shall be responsible to the council for administering all municipal affairs placed in his charge by them, and shall have the following powers and duties: He shall appoint and suspend or remove all city officers and employees not elected by the people, and

whose appointment or removal is not otherwise provided for by law, except the city attorney, in accordance with such general personnel rules, regulations, policies, or ordinances as the council may adopt, but he shall make any other reports that the council may require concerning the operations of city departments, offices, and agencies subject to his direction and control.

This suggests a report from the Town Manager about his actions concerning personnel would be appropriately held in open session for the public's view. However, again, this has not been the case.

However, on Oct. 1, 2010, town, county and school governments are required to disclose actions taken in closed session concerning personnel. Highlands' Newspaper will be reporting on all personnel matters and will expect and demand the information be disclosed.

Meanwhile, to be more accessible to citizens, the Town Hall has been open during lunch periods for some time now, and with the renovation of Town Hall, both Fatland and Mayor David Wilkes have offices near the front door, and accounting and utility billing personnel are now on the ground floor.

– Kim Lewicki

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We also know that not everyone uses the services at the hospital on a regular basis to keep them in good health.

In our view, this is not ideal.

So, we ask everyone, be you in good health or not, to take great care when you're here with us to assure your well being. Make it your top priority to establish a relationship with one of the hospital's Board Certified Physicians who will see to it that you receive the quality care for which they are known. And try to learn as much as you can about the hospital.

Make an appointment to attend one of the Grand Rounds informational breakfasts or Physician Forum luncheons. These educational sessions will extend your knowledge of one of the community's greatest assets. The hospital web site will show you these dates and times, the topics for the Forums and who to call to assure your place at these complimentary sessions.

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## ... INVESTING continued from page 10

of 216 DOM and 87% list to sales ratio.

Many sellers think that buyers don't come in the winter months — WRONG! If your home is listed, keep it listed during the winter, I've always said the serious buyers come in the winter.

If you winterize your home, you need to let your Realtor know so he or she can put notes on the toilets advising people entering your home NOT to use the toilets. You can request that your plumber re-attach the front on the dishwasher, puts the fridge back in place, make sure the plumbing hardware is either re-attached or left in a neat way in

showers/tubs and the tops on the back of the toilets. You also need to leave the power on, and leave the heat on at least 55 – 60 degrees.

Nothing turns off prospective buyers like an ice cold home, and no matter how much we let them know the home is "closed for winter" they will most of the time assume something is wrong when left in disarray.

If you want to ride out this present downturn and list in a few years; that's fine too. Many of the people who have made the "ride out decision" may also decide to rent their homes out as vacation rentals or long-term lease homes.

One important factor is that if you decide to hold onto your home a few more years before selling, you need to keep it updated — whether you plan to rent or not — that will only help you in the future.

So when is the best time to list your home for sale or rent? NOW

Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are brokers and co-owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS in Highlands, specializing in second home investment homes and vacation rentals. 828-526-3717 [www.chambersagency.net](http://www.chambersagency.net) [getti@chambersagency.net](mailto:getti@chambersagency.net)

## ... SAT continued from page 8

with a 1735, East Chapel Hill High with a 1809, Providence High with a 1710, Myers Park High with a 1700, Highlands School with a 1701, Early College at Guilford with a 2030, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts with a 1767, NC School of Science & Math with a 2001, and NC School of the Arts with a 1731.

A total of 55,442 students took the SATs in NC in 2010 with an average score of 1485 and 1,518,859 students took the test in the United States with an average score of 1509.

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## Sheriff, Highlands PD deal with drugs and guns

On Sept. 8, a tip from a confidential informant led to the arrest of Robert Alton Green, 53, and Nancy Kelly Derry, 57, both of Franklin, on three charges — for trafficking in cocaine, felony possession of marijuana and selling of marijuana with one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

They are both being held in the Macon County Detention Center on \$30,000 secured bonds and their court date is Sept. 23 in district court.

Around 10 a.m., officers were tipped off concerning a narcotics investigation involving a silver, 4-door, 1995 Lincoln Town Car traveling from Atlanta, GA to Macon County. They were told when the car left Atlanta and so were at the Georgia/Macon County line when the car came into view around 4:30 p.m.

Deputies made a vehicle stop in the parking lot of Classic Antiques on US 441 South and after getting verbal and written consent

searched the car.

During the search, 29 grams of cocaine and 2,240 grams of marijuana were found.

• • •

On Sept. 11 at 2:10 a.m., Macon County deputies and Highlands Police Dept officers were called to 496 Holt Road in Highlands concerning shots fired into a vehicle.

Bradley Craig Little, 42, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of a handgun, discharging a weapon with the intent to kill into an occupied vehicle and damage to property.

He is being held at the Macon County Jail on a \$30,000 secured bond. His court date is Sept. 23 in district court.

Witnesses say it all started at Ruka's Table in Wright Square in Highlands and revolved around a boyfriend dancing with a woman other than his girlfriend. The girlfriend got angry and left the restaurant. Deputies believe Little walked

home to his residence on Holt Road where everyone had gathered.

Once back at the house on Holt Road, Little yelled at them and told them to leave the property.

Moments later he fired the first shot which caused everyone to get into a vehicle to leave.

More shots were fired with one shot hitting the back window of the departing vehicle. Authorities were called by the people driving from the scene. Sheriff deputies and Highlands officers responded.

Little disposed of the gun soon after officers arrived but agreed to show it to them. They found a .357 Magnum revolver on the couch inside the house with three fired bullet casings and three unfired rounds.

Little was charged with four counts of intent to kill, one count of discharging a weapon at occupied property and damage to personal property valued at \$500.

— Kim Lewicki

## Highlands Police & Fire Reports

**Highlands PD log entries from Sept. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.**

### Sept. 3

- Officers served a warrant regarding an assault on a female for the Macon County Sheriff Department.

### Sept. 5

- At 9 a.m., the larceny of artwork was reported from Summit One Gallery on 2nd Street when an exhibiting artists discovered a painting missing from her collection after she had picked them up from the gallery.

### Sept. 6

- At noon, vandalism at a Lake Sequoyah boat dock was reported involving a burned chair valued at \$200.

### Sept. 8

- At 10 a.m., the passing of a \$20 counterfeit bill was reported by the Farmer's Market after RBC Bank informed them of it in their deposit.

### Sept. 10

- At 5 p.m., a mama bear and two cubs was reported at the Rec Park in the vicinity of the playground where children were playing. Officers scared the bears away.

- At 9 p.m., a suspicious person was reported walking on Brushy Face. It was a man assigned to work at a home on the street.

### Sept. 11

- A little after midnight, Grissley Arnette, 62, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI after failing to stop at a stop sign at S. 3rd Street.

- At 2:12 a.m., officers assisted Macon County Sheriff deputies with a call on Holt Road where shots were fired.

- At 9:10 p.m., officers responded to a call about a strange noise coming from a home on Wilson Road. Officers weren't able to locate any problem.

### Sept. 12

- A little past midnight, officers were called to the Highlands Smokehouse regarding a noise complaint.

- At 2:05 a.m., officers were called to the Community Building regarding noise from a party. They shut the party down.

- At 9 p.m., officers assisted a motorist at Highlands Manor.

### Sept. 13

- At 1:09 a.m., Carl Edward Eldridge III, 42, of Brevard, was arrested for DWI after driving left of center on Chestnut Street.

- At 9 p.m., a suspicious person was reported walking on NC 28. Officers weren't able to locate the man.

### Sept. 14

- At 6:55 p.m., a person reported losing her pocketbook but it was later found and turned in at Highlands Hill Deli.

- At 7 p.m., a set of Mercedes keys was found at Buck's Coffee shop.

### Sept. 15

- A little past midnight, officers responded to a noise complaint in the parking lot in front of Ruka's.

- At 2:01 a.m., officers responded to a call of a verbal argument between a father and daughter in Wright Square.

- During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 26 citations.

**Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Sept 9:**

### Sept. 9

- At 6:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Henry Wright Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### Sept. 10

- At 12:13 p.m., the dept. responded to an electrical fire at a residence on the Franklin Road. It was out when they got there. The power was shut off and an electrician was called.

- At 4:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Picklesimer Road.

### Sept. 11

- At 8:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.


### Sept. 12

- At 1:13 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on High Point Road concerning the smell of propane gas. This was in the Scaly Fire Dept. district.

- At 9:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

### Sept. 14

- At 1:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street. It was cancelled by the alarm company.



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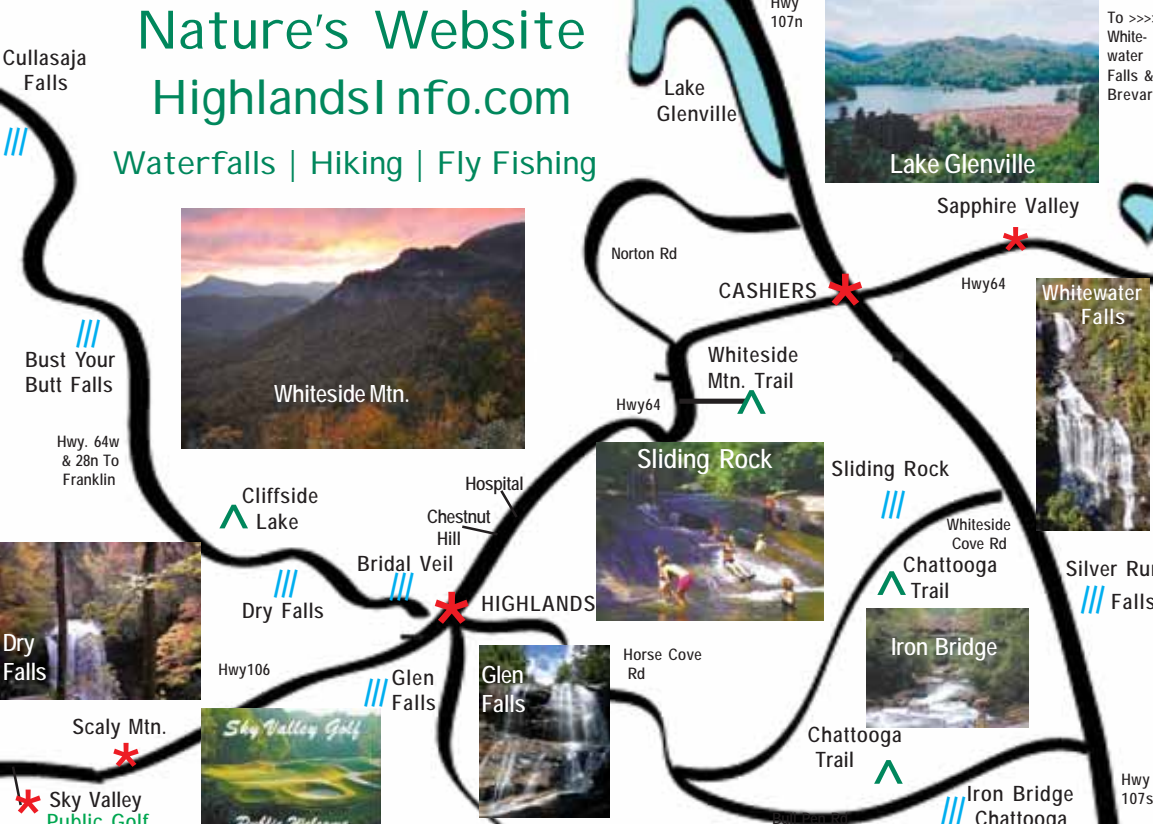



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