

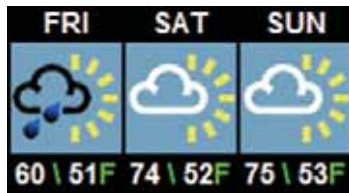
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 16

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, April 21, 2011



Friday, April 22

• Town Hall is closed. There won't be residential or commercial garbage pickup.

• Stations of the Cross at noon begins at the Catholic Church.

• The Highlands Biological Foundation Botanical Garden clean up day and spring wildflower walk from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a lunch provided. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center. Celebrate nature by getting your fingers in the dirt, spreading mulch to conserve water and sharing fellowship and knowledge. Call 526-2602.

Saturday, April 23

• Fun Run and 5K Run at the Rec Park. Registration begins at 8:30am. 5K begins at 9:30 am. \$25/pp. Fun Run (all ages) begins at 10:30am. \$10/pp.

• Highlands' annual Easter Egg hunt at the Rec Park at 11 a.m.

• At the Highlands Baseball Field on US 64 east, Community Bible Church's 2nd Annual Community Egg Fest at 11 a.m. 4,000 filled eggs, tons of games, food, bounce houses, Velcro wall, petting zoo, and a lot of prizes. Event is free!

Sunday, April 24

• Ecumenical Day Break Service at the Nature Center at 6:45 a.m.

• The recycling convenience centers (drop-off centers) will be closed on Sunday, and will reopen as usual on Monday.

Monday, April 25

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tuesday, April 26

• The Highlands Dialogue's discussion at the Rec Park from 10-11:30 a.m.

'Free' benefit package may end for new hires

In preparation for considering the 2011-2012 budget, commissioners met early Wednesday to consider changes to employee benefit packages for new hires – not current employees.

An extremely generous bene-

fit package has always been one of Highlands' strongest recruitment tools – free medical coverage for employees and their families. But with state crunches headed Highlands' way, commissioners want to consider cuts that will

keep the town fiscally sound regardless of what the state has in mind.

The average salary for Highlands' employees is \$3,111.33 monthly — \$37,336 annually.

• See BENEFIT page 19

Zoning Board OK's private club and deck

Last Wednesday evening, the Zoning Board of Adjustment granted two Special Use Permits (SUP) designed to increase business in town.

Fred and Carla Bowers are opening a private "place of entertainment" sports bar on Carolina Way in the old Macon Bank building.

Since it's considered a place of entertainment by the Highlands zoning ordinance – specifically, "a place of assembly or recreation without fixed seats" – only six parking spaces are required, one for each 200 sq. ft. of the building used by members.

Only 1,128 sq. ft. of the 2,130 sq. ft. will be open to patrons, the remaining 1,000 sq. ft. will be off limits and will house the employee restroom, office and kitchen/storage area.

No food will be served, just

• See ZONING BOARD page 19

Easter is alive in Highlands



Last year, Gay Kattel flowered the living cross at Highlands United Methodist Church which will happen again this weekend – a sure sign Easter is upon us. Stations of the Cross begins Friday at noon at the Catholic Church, the annual Easter egg hunt is Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Rec Park, the ecumenical Easter daybreak service is at the Nature Center on Sunday at 6:45 a.m., followed by services in area churches.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Grants help pay for students' AP/IB tests

With Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams coming up in May, many North Carolina parents are already looking for ways to pay for these test fees.

This year, thanks to a \$550,918 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, students enrolled in AP or IB courses who receive or qualify to receive free or reduced-price lunch may be able to take the tests and earn college credit for free.

"Testing fees should never stand in the way of students receiving the college credit they have earned by taking challenging AP and IB classes," said State Superintendent June Atkinson. "I am pleased that North Carolina has again received this grant to help more students take these important exams."

• See GRANTS page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTER •

Who cut down the Library Christmas Tree?

Dear Editor,

On April 9, 2011, I arrived at the Hudson Library to find that an approximately 30-year-old, beautiful, mature and healthy Norway Spruce had been cut down! This tree had been donated in December 1991 by Hemlock Farms Christmas tree farm to the Hudson Library to be used as its Christmas Tree.

After Christmas, my late husband, James Robert Padgett and our 11-year-old grandson, Ben, planted the Norway Spruce on the right side of the library.

Norway Spruce trees are very healthy trees and are not subject to infestation by the balsam woolly adelgid which attacks and kills balsam fir trees.

I thought the town of Highlands had plans to save healthy trees such as this one. As so many of our hemlocks and fir trees are dying, why was this beautiful tree not saved and who was responsible for its destruction?

Gloria B. Padgett
Highlands

Let's put a clean face on Macon County

Dear Editor,

This is to all Macon County residents.

Circumstances have prevented the organization of the annual County-wide Litter Pick-up - Recycling event to celebrate Earth Day here in Macon County this year.

Because there has been no one able to fill this breach for a spring-time effort, let me personally urge all Macon County residents to please go outside, pick up and appropriately recycle the glaringly evident roadside trash, the plastic bags blown into the fields, brush and trees, and the various junk decorating our

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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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streams & mountain vistas.

Our county should present a clean face to our potential visitors. This cleaning and recycling will create a dual benefit to our local economy. Income is derived when recyclables are sold and landfill space is utilized for true waste. Maintaining our beauty will encourage visitors to stay, spend time and dollars here while appreciating what we enjoy every day.

It is my hope we can organize a county-wide litter pick-up later in the year, on Sat., September 24th, 2011 to coincide with an international earth effort taking place at that time.

Thank you to all for your individual efforts to do our little bit in our own small area of this beautiful world.

Auntie Litter
(aka: Shirley Ches)
Franklin, NC

Pot is easily stirred by fomenterers

Dear Editor:

I applaud Dr. Salzarulo's column about Terry Jones, the pastor who burned the Quran, leading to riots and violence in assorted parts of the Muslim world. The point about the criminal irresponsibility of such self-promoters is a worthwhile one.

Additionally, as a believing as well as a cultural Christian, I abhor the practice of sheltering under the name of Jesus, while committing acts that prove that the actors have no relationship with Christ. The picketing of servicemen's funerals falls into this category, as well.

There is another very significant point illustrated by the circumstance Dr. Salzarulo writes about. . .

What do we conclude about a culture that is so volatile and violent that one act by a virtual nobody half a world away can result in such mayhem? Well, yes, the national/international media tend to hype any situation, both to sell news and to create more of it.

Still, riots and demonstrations seldom, if indeed ever, arise perfectly spontaneously. Even if the people are easily brought to unthinking heights of emotion, someone has to get them started, bring them to fever pitch, and point out

• See LETTERS page 21

• OBITUARIES •

Shirley Ann Longino Minton

Shirley Ann Longino Minton, 83, of Fort Pierce, FL died April 12, 2011 in Highlands, NC. Mrs. Minton was born in Daytona Beach, FL moving to Fort Pierce. She was a member of the Pelican Yacht Club, Chapter AR, P.E.O., Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Poinciana Garden Club, Highlands Country Club and was past president of the St. Lucie Cowbells. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Pierce.

Survivors include four sons, Oma Richard Minton, Jr. of Fort Pierce, John Lewis Minton of Vero Beach, FL, Berryman Thomas Minton of Fort Pierce and Michael David Minton of Fort Pierce; brother, B. T. "Buster" Longino of Sidell, FL; sister, Jessie Beth Curry of Gainesville, FL; 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Minton is preceded in death by her husband, Oma Richard Minton, Sr. and a sister, Mary Lucille Purvis.

A funeral service was held at 1 pm, April 16 at the First United Methodist Church, Fort Pierce, FL with Rev. Shirley Groom, Pastor, officiating. Interment followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. A guest book may be signed at www.yatesfuneralhome.com.

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Nona Mae Hornbeak

Nona Mae Hornbeak, 104, of Greenfield, TN, died Sunday, April 17, 2011 at the Eckerd Living Center in Highlands.

Born in Pillowville, TN, she was the daughter of the late Ed Womble and Florence Drewry Womble. She was married to the late William Elliott Hornbeak who died in 1984 and was preceded in death by a sister, Mildred Heath and a brother Roy Womble. Nona was a member of the women's auxiliary, and one of the oldest members of Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Greenfield, serving as the organist/pianist and was Sunday school teacher for many years. She was a member of the P.T.A. of Weakley County and was member of the Eastern Star. Nona along with her late husband William raised cattle and horses on their 200-acre farm in Greenfield. She voted in her 21st Presidential election at the age of 101. Nona loved to travel and was an avid gardener.

She is survived by a daughter, Joane H. Miller of St. Petersburg, FL and two grandchildren, Pamela Miller of Highlands, NC and Parker Miller, Jr. of St. Petersburg, FL.

Funeral Service will be held at Williams Funeral Home, Greenfield, TN. Burial will be in the Hornbeak Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com.

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and



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

We only get to be dead once so get it right

The only thing worse than waking up with a splitting headache after drinking too much tequila is waking up and realizing you're dead. Hummm...maybe not. Is being dead like holding your breath forever? Maybe I've seen too much of

life....or personally known too many really bad people that tainted my beliefs. Maybe I can't explain why I've had the life I've had and remain alive. One thing for certain, I do not....I repeat, do not have death figured out. For sure, none of us are getting out of this alive.

When I commenced writing this week's column, there were approximately seven billion humans roaming the planet. By the time I finished, unless North Korea started WWII, the world's population had increased by more than 20,000 humans. Actually the world's population has experienced continuous growth until the beginning of the Bubonic Plague around the years 1348 thru 1350 where it took a short dip.

The highest rate of world growth, usually about 1.8% per year, was seen briefly during the 1950s. Was that a great time to be alive, or what? The one thing we all have in common is the big D. Your death is on the way and the grim reaper will have his way. (Are you falling asleep or did you just croak?)

I've seen more than my share of death. Maybe that's why I don't get very excited about it. I've watched people die and I've watched people being born. With the help of their mommies, I delivered two babies into the world, one on a white rug of a ritzy fourteenth floor condominium and the other on a filthy bed in a sweltering one room flat.

I once held a woman tightly in my arms as she took her last breath. Later in life, I held my Pa's hand as he passed away. I kissed his forehead and wished him good luck at his new location. I don't have a clue where my Pa went. These life and death experiences were dramatic for me.

Getting dead is easy. Just hang out for an unknown period of time and it will happen. Trust me on this!

Obviously, religion plays a huge role in what goes on in most people's lives between birth and death. A whopping 84% of the people in the world believe in a religion of some sort. 33% of the world are Christian, 21% are Islamic, currently the fastest growing religion. 16% are nonreligious and Hindus are at 14%. The remainder makes up the rest, including a scant of Sikhism believers. I'm Christian.

Holy Easter is here and it's the perfect



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

time to dwell on death. I consider myself fortunate to be a Christian because we believe that Jesus was the Christ who came to earth in human form to save us. He purposely died a bloody, brutal, agonizing death so that we may live in the next life. Three days after His death, he rose from the dead and was seen by many. The evidence is so overwhelming, even

Muslims believe Jesus was a great prophet sent by Allah.

Jesus also asked us to remember Him and celebrate His last meal by consuming his body and blood in the form of bread and wine. Some take great pleasure in calling us cannibals, proving their ignorance. Sadly, at last count, only 30% of Catholics believe the bread and wine consumed at communion is actually the body and blood of Jesus Christ. What happened to their faith?

Apparently, from all I've seen on dying, it's a wonderful experience. I have spoken with people brought back from the brink of death and they didn't want to come back. They report a powerful peace they found hard to explain. From that moment, they looked forward to their death.

For me, being a Christian makes it easy to accept death. I look forward to knowing I'm heading to a better place. I ask myself where and what I am now compared to where and what I was in the past. If there's personal improvement and spiritual growth, then there's hope for me.

As Christians, we believe there's a consciousness in the afterlife. We believe it because Jesus Christ said it was so. While I don't have a handle on death, I'm pretty sure it's not like holding your breath forever.

I want to wish all my readers a Happy Easter.

If you plan on reading Fred's new mystery/thriller titled *Deceived*, be aware it's gritty.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

America must seek middle ground

Democrats and Republicans have agreed on the need for deficit reduction. They disagree on the path to savings. President Obama favors a plan that includes increasing taxes on successful Americans. He calls them the "wealthiest Americans," but in truth, Americans making \$250,000 per year, the threshold level, are far from wealthy.

One might think the term was a call to class warfare, but the President added that he believes most of these "fortunate" Americans would welcome the opportunity to give something back to the country. There are many ways to repay. Community and military service are among them. Starting a business and creating jobs is another. Voluntary contributions, with or without tax benefits, is yet another. One could argue that careers in teaching, law enforcement, and health care should be included.

President Obama has something else in mind when he talks about giving back. He's talking about paying higher taxes, and I don't know many fortunate Americans who want to pay higher taxes. There may be some, but if asked, I suspect most of even that small number would not want their tax dollars filling a bottomless pit of entitlements. They might be willing to fork over a few more dollars to bolster defense, to improve education, or to repair the infrastructure, but they are probably disinclined to see their hard earned dollars support those who are unable, or unwilling, to work. Don't get me wrong. Americans are a generous people. Consider the staggering amounts we willingly donated after Katrina and the Haitian earthquake. We will open our wallets and our hearts to those in genuine need.

There is a problem determining genuine need. There is a danger that the social safety net, or hammock, we have created has a tendency to ensnare people and convert temporary hardship into permanent dependence.

If jobs are hard to find, if getting up in the morning is distasteful, if acquiring an education is burdensome, and if there is an alternative, it might seem a better choice to live on the dole at a lower level, than to exert effort to elevate one's status. The more comfy



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

the hammock, the more appealing is the option. Have we made failure too painless? Have we made dependence a viable alternative? And if so, is the President correct when he assumes that those of us who have worked hard all our lives are eager to honor a compact to insure a basic level of security and dignity?

I can't find dignity in permanent welfare, or in bogus disability. Should all Americans have access to a certain level of health care? I

believe we should, but I don't think those who depend on public support deserve the most expensive care anymore than every citizen is entitled to drive a Mercedes. I also believe that we must demonstrate responsibility.

While the American who acquired asbestosis working in a ship yard might be eligible for a lung transplant at public expense, I don't believe a smoker should. I don't think it's the duty of the American people to provide expensive heart surgery for those citizens who have done nothing to protect their hearts. Alcoholics are not entitled to liver transplants, and should receive them only if they can pay the bill. Destructive life styles are a huge factor in longevity differences between us and our world neighbors, nations who spend far less per capita than we do.

It is reasonable to expect return on investment. Americans who are reluctant to drive the endless merry go round of dependence are not necessarily mean spirited tight wads, and may actually have greater faith in the ability of disadvantaged Americans than those who believe their dependence is inevitable. Liberals who favor more government involvement may be soft hearted without being soft headed.

There are two very different views of America; one, a vision of the past, of fiercely independent frontiersmen is unachievable, while the other a reproduction of the social democracies of Western Europe is undesirable and unsustainable. We must find the will to find middle ground, to provide security without a security blanket, dignity without demeaning dependence, and health care with a societal expectation of self-care.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

dem.a.gogu.er.y (or dem.a.gog.y if you prefer)

Since the news is full of it (pun intended), I thought it might be helpful to know precisely what it means. We all have a general idea, but let's go to the dictionary. For those of you under 30, it's a big book that has the definitions of words. Demagoguery means "the practice of a demagogue." You don't say. Not very helpful. OK, demagogue, the noun, is defined as "a person, especially an orator or a political

leader, who gains power and popularity by arousing the emotions, passions and prejudices of the people." Now we're talking.

It's not a coincidence that I am starting to write this four hours before the President gives a major speech on his budget plans for the country. I have a hunch that Paul Ryan's budget bill will be called "extreme," containing "draconian" measures that will starve babies and kill

old people.

A sickening example of demagoguery (it's shorter) was the disgusting fears Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) voiced in a speech to the Senate leading up to the potential shutdown of the government, when he said the health of a multitude of his female relatives would be put in jeopardy as a result, if it closed. He knew if that happened, it would be for a few days at worst, and if the need arose, they could get their screenings privately. It was totally hollow and was a sorry testament to the quality of elected officials.

But I digress. The Dem's total irresponsibility toward budget issues is appalling. It appears that they have been setting up the current scenario for some time, starting by failing to pass a budget for the current year. Force the Rs to put something out and we'll assail it – that's the plan. That's the plan of cowards and political crazies that can't see past the end of their term. For their sakes I hope they are not in office when the music stops, because there will be hell to pay.

If you thought that the rhetoric of the government shutdown drama was approaching unbearable levels, with the debt ceiling needing to be raised, and the 2012 budget needing to be debated, the fun has just begun. There will be such a torrent of demagoguery, one won't know what to believe. Unless, of course, you heed the words of a very intelligent man, which I will now share with you.

"When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things." That man is Solomon, again, reputed to be a very wise man, perhaps the wisest.

There is another word we hear from time to time, but perhaps we aren't sure the exact meaning. Hy.per.bo.le - the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or create a strong impres-



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

sion. Sort of goes hand in hand with demagoguery, doesn't it? Why are both in such frequent use these days?

When elected officials are in constant campaign mode, it seems like many of them prefer to justify their votes using d/h rather than rational explanations. When they are not campaigning, they are lobbying for a cause, again usually employing d/h. The media cooperates by sticking them in front of a camera

and asking provoking questions. Now before you detractors pitch a hizzy, I am the first to admit that I exercise both demagoguery and hyperbole to a faretheewell. It's my job. If I don't provoke at least some emotion and/or serious thought on a subject, what good am I? I write an opinion piece, the meaning of which seems to escape some readers. The difference is you are perfectly free to skip reading the column and go directly to the birdcage with it. You can't avoid, however, the effect the legislative actions of our officials have on our lives.

Well, I was mercifully spared of hearing Obama's budget non-speech, and it was a good thing. From reports from all sides, he spent the first 18 minutes trashing Paul Ryan's effort to be serious about our problems, and rather than propose any pathway to meaningful spending cuts, predictably, his answer is to raise taxes on the millionaires and billionaires (and middle-class wage earners). Having heard endless replays of segments of his speech, it contained so many errors, so much d/h, and, dare I say it, downright lies that it was pitiful. I thought that he was using some sort of strategy in his ignoring our \$14.3 trillion debt. It turns out that he really doesn't get any part of it, if his speech was any indication.

In addition to the issue of raising the debt limit and passing a 2012 budget, soon there will be many voices trying to win your vote and the demagoguery

• See SWANSON page 9

• Salons & Spas •

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Five things to watch in the NBA Playoffs

The NBA playoff have kicked off, and we the viewers have the pleasure of enjoying 2 months of excellent basketball, excellent commentary, and terrible officiating. (Just an aside, this column would have been about my beloved Pittsburgh Pirates, who would have been above .500 if not for the dominance of Josh Johnson last night. As a Pirates fan, I think our motto should be "The Pittsburgh Pirates-we'll settle for mediocrity") 5 things to look for in the upcoming weeks as we watch the NBA playoffs.

1. The Officiating – Always the elephant in the room when you talk about the NBA, and we have already seen it with the horrible ending to the Oklahoma City-Denver game and the garbage in the Knicks-Celtics series. At some point, they are going to have to either admit that the athletes have gotten too big and strong for 3 officials to see everything or institute some type of challenge system much in the same way that the NFL has. I would like to see the challenge system utilized for goal tends and such, but I also think that appealing a foul call would be a way to help the state



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

of the game. Too many times a foul call dictates what happens at the end of the game and a replay system could alleviate some of that.

2. Early Upsets – while early upsets in the NBA are common, they don't have the same effect that they do in the college game because in a 7 game series the superior team almost always wins. However, a couple of teams look vulnerable early (I'm looking at you San Antonio and Boston) and there is no way to tell if they have what it takes to make it through a grueling postseason.

3. Derrick Rose – People need to watch this guy...every night. Anyone who

says that the NBA is a bunch of overpaid guys who don't care needs to watch the passion with which Rose plays for the Bulls each and every night. He has carried the Bulls throughout the season and is the favorite to win the MVP award after what has been a terrific season.

4. The Wild West – There have been numerous close contests and upsets in the early games out west, with both the Lakers and the Spurs being upset in their respective game 1s and Oklahoma City needing a questionable call to defeat Denver. Mark it down, the Lakers are not coming out of the west this year.

5. Role Players – While you have to have star players like LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and the like to be successful in the NBA, it is often times the unheralded guys that mean the difference between a good regular season and a championship. Role players come in all shapes and sizes, as they can be a veteran past his prime who steps up in big situations (Jason Kidd, Robert Horry) or a young guy who comes in and plays with incredible aplomb (Goran Dragic for Phoenix last year is a good example).

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Litter pick-up part of Earth Stewardship Month

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance had a successful street clean-up

on Saturday, April 16 in Highlands and Cashiers. This was one of many Earth Stewardship Month activities. Fortunately, the weather cleared in time for the litter sweep.

The streets included those specifically requested by the Town: Horse Cove Rd., 5th to Bowery; Oak St and Oak Lane; and 5th St. from Hickory St to South St. The block of Spring St., 4th St., South St., and 2nd St., Hickory from 5th St. to 6th St. and 6th St. to Horse Cove Rd. were also covered. In all 14 bags of litter were collected and then picked up by town personnel Saturday afternoon.

Many thanks to volunteers, pictured above: Kay Poole, Gaye Kattel, Fred Moss, Robert E. Smith, Charly and Dawn Sanborn and Mary Osmar. Not pictured: Cynthia Strain.

From the Mayor

On Wednesday, business owners received a recorded phone message outlining the Highlands Parking Ordinance as it applies to restrictive parking on Main Street between 2nd and 5th streets and on portions of 4th and Church streets.

Restrictive parking applies to all on-duty business owners and their employees (except for Real Estate) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The fine for parking in these areas is \$50.

"Please help us provide these parking spaces for our visitors and citizens."

– Mayor David Wilkes



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Wine Spectator Award

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Grasping the meaning of Easter

Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church



I know that all of you have heard of the Super Bowl, and most of us rabid college basketball fans know about March Madness, but for those of us who count ourselves to be with the two billion or so people called Christians, this week is our Super Bowl, this week is our March Madness.

This is the week for Christians that we call, "Holy Week." This is the time where we remember the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Christ over 2,000 years ago. So for us preacher types in the community, this is the week we need to be on our "A" game because we have a news flash for the world, death could not contain Christ, and in fact Christ has conquered death so that we might have life.

The Gospel writer called John said it like this; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. " For over 200 years, Christians and preachers have been proclaiming this Easter message, and this year I'm sure will be no different. You can walk through the doors of any church this Sunday and I am sure you will hear the message of hope, the message of love, and the message of grace because you will hear the greatest story ever told; the story that changed the world, the story of the Resurrection.

That is the message of Easter and that is the hope of Easter that we too, can be resurrected from despair, from addiction, and from hurt, we too, can be resurrected. So this week, the Holy Week, I encourage you to think of the resurrection because we have a God who says he loves you so much that whatever you are going through, "I share resurrection with you."

There is always hope because of the resurrection and there is always a chance for a fresh start. I don't want to get too preachy as I write the column this week because I also want you to know that all us preacher types still struggle to understand all that the resurrection encompasses. I want to share a story with you about a recent talk I had with some pre-schooler's.

Each week I have the privilege of doing chapel time with Ms. Allison's pre-school. Every Tuesday the children come up to the sanctuary and we sing a song and then I tell them a Bible story. It was the Tuesday before Palm Sunday and after we sang our song, Little Cabin in the

• 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
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45, Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Childrens Program,. Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. High School
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
526-2968
Reverend Denson Franklin
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.;
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.,
Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 7:15-8:15 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sixth Street
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
221 N. 4th Street
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Youth
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – 11 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m

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

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Eyes and allergy season

By Dr. Blue

Blue Laser Group

It's allergy season, again. Do you have dry, red, itchy, gritty feeling eyes or blurred vision? Constant moisture is necessary for clear vision and comfortable eyes. However, as we age or have other contributing factors, our tear production often becomes inadequate. The result is the second most common problem an eye doctor treats; Dry Eye Syndrome.

When we blink a film of tears, made up of water, fatty oils, proteins, and electrolytes, is spread over the eye which makes the surface smooth and clear. The eye produces tears by two different methods. One method produces tears at a slow, steady rate and is responsible for normal eye lubrication. Tears that lubricate are constantly produced by the healthy eye. The second produces large quantities of tears in response to eye irritation, foreign body or emotions.

When dry eye occurs, patients experience symptoms such as redness, sandy or gritty sensation, burning, pain, sore-


ness, itching, stickiness, blurry vision, and tearing. Excess tearing from dry eye seems illogical but if tears responsible for maintenance are not produced the eye becomes irritated and excess tears then overflow from the eyes.

There are a long list of factors that may cause or contribute to dry eye including age, menopause (although dry eye can be common in men), prescription and over-the-counter medications, some medical conditions, eyelid problems, poor diet and environmental factors such as heat or dry air.

Diagnosing dry eye can be done during a regular eye exam. When visiting your eye doctor a quick painless test to measure tear volume and tear quality can be performed.

If dry eye is left untreated, the eye becomes susceptible to complications such as eye infections or scarring of the cornea. A visit to your eye doctor is the only way to find out if you suffer from Dry Eye Syndrome.

Treatments can vary. Artificial tears can provide temporary relief, but frequent artificial tear use can be impractical especially with a busy lifestyle. At Blue Laser Group, Dr. Blue uses advanced techniques for the treatment of dry eyes. A high percentage of patients report experiencing a significant improvement in their dry eye symptoms from this quick in-office treatment. This procedure is typically covered by medical insurance and Medicare.



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... SWANSON from
page 6

and hyperbole will be flying fast and furious, not to mention disingenuous statements (lies). How are you supposed to cut through the noise and judge who will do the right job, or job right, if you prefer? Going back to our friend, Solomon, who says we need wisdom and knowledge to sort out the stuff. And how do we acquire the needed wisdom and knowledge?

"To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity; To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion – A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Thus endeth the sermon for the day.

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Springtime Math:

**Dry Eyes
+ Allergies
= Misery**



Many who suffer from Dry Eyes don't even know they have it. They just assume it's allergies. While allergies definitely exacerbate the problem, Dry Eyes is an easily diagnosed and treatable problem. To learn more, visit bluelasergroup.com or call to schedule an appointment here at our Highlands or Franklin offices.



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PULL OUT

On going and Upcoming Events

Ongoing

The Hudson Library parking lot will be closed to vehicular traffic for 6 weeks. Please park on Main Street and walk on the center sidewalk to the side door to enter the library.

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

1F1T.

• Registration is now open for the 2011 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "Nature-Works" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules,

costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

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.

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.

Wednesdays

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

• 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.

• The Highlands Writers Group is now meeting at 1 p.m. at the Library on Thursdays. At one o'clock they will have their free writing exercises. You may bring a seven minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

Thursdays, April 28-June 2

• FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE course at The Highlands United Methodist Church, 6:30-8 p.m., led by Tina Rogers who has taught marriage and family Bible studies for the last four years. This class is open to everyone in the community. Learn how to protect your marriage based on the teachings in the Bible. FREE CHILD CARE. Cost \$15 single/\$20 couple. Contact Andrea Gabbard 526-4858 for reservations by April 11.

Fridays through May 27

• At The Bascom, "Highlands High School Ceramics," 8-9:30 am. Ceramics for high school age students desiring to learn the art of ceramics. The curriculum follows NC state guidelines and develops valuable skills. Free. To register contact Highlands School, 828.526.2147.

Every Third Saturday

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

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**Sunday, April 24
EASTER SUNDAY
6:45 a.m.**

Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Join us and other churches at the
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sunrise service.

WORSHIP SERVICES THE LIVING CROSS

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Bring a flower to place on the
cross before each service.

COVERED DISH BREAKFAST

9:30 a.m.

Bring an egg casserole/quiche,
fruit salad, or
coffee cake/muffins to share as
we have breakfast together.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT 10 a.m.

The children will be off to
hunt eggs immediately after
breakfast.

For more information
please call 828-526-3376

New face among leading ladies in HCP's spring play

The Highlands Cashiers Players are always pleased when they can cast a new actor in their plays. For the upcoming May play, *Leading Ladies*, the Players have enthusiastically welcomed Melissa Church to the stage. This young lady walked into auditions unexpectedly, read exceptionally well, and even though she had never before been in a play, she was chosen to play the part of Audrey without reservation by the director and casting committee. As rehearsals progress, her natural acting ability is evident, her voice, loud and clear, and, as if that weren't enough, she can roller skate, a skill called for in the script.

It turns out that Melissa is a remarkable woman in many ways. She grew up in Florida, moving to Highlands eight months ago from Key West where she was a part of the yachting world, serving as a personal assistant to yacht owners and sometimes as chef. When the 160-foot sailing mega-yacht Legacy became stuck in the seagrass flats of Key West during Hurricane Wilma, Melissa organized for the owner a floating city of houseboats, dubbed Aqua Village, headquarters for the salvage effort. Here she managed all aspects of life for the crews, shopping cooking, cleaning, and handling all accounting, payroll, and scheduling of the crews. Somehow she found time to swim daily with the tarpons that abound in the waters of the Keys.



Melissa Church, new actor in HCP's upcoming play, "Leading Ladies," dons her roller skates for her role as Audrey in the riotous comedy that opens May 12 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

dies, opening May 12 to run through May 22 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands.

The Players box office will be open at PAC, **526-8084**, for **season subscribers** on Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6, and from Saturday, May 7 through Sunday, May 22, for general tickets. Hours are 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. except on Sundays, May 15 and 22, when the box office will open at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 matinees. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Individual Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more, **except on opening night.**

The play is sponsored in part by Cashiers Printers and Brick Oven Pizza/Movie Stop.

Melissa also has an extensive background in art, attending the Urban School of Glass in Brooklyn, NY, to become a glass blower and glass sculptor. She also paints, mainly in acrylics, and was a fine arts dealer in Key West before coming to live in Highlands with her dog, parrot, and two rare African tortoises. She enjoys yoga, outdoor activities — camping, hiking, bike riding, skateboarding, and as you will see in the play, roller skating.

Audiences will see newcomer Melissa very soon, along with many of the Players' popular and talented "old-timers," in Ken Ludwig's hilarious comedy, *Leading Ladies*.

On going and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

invited to attend.

Last Sat. of the month through May 28

• At The Bascom, "Friends Around the Globe," 1-3 pm. Fun, creative, educational activities to build skills through the visual arts. Lessons will include a variety of media including drawing, painting, clay and other media. A collaboration with the International Friendship Center. Free. To register, call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

Thursday, April 21

• At the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library, a documentary on the state of our schools at 3 p.m. Discussion following with Ned Fox, education reformer, promoter of charter schools and activist. Production studio guidelines prohibit publishing title of movies. Please call the library at 743-0215 for information. Free popcorn. Donations go toward Friends of the Library programs.

• Taize in Highlands at Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30.

Friday, April 22

• The Highlands Biological Foundation will sponsor a Botanical Garden clean up day and spring wildflower walk on Friday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. with a lunch provided. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center. Celebrate nature by getting your fingers in the dirt, spreading mulch to

conserve water and sharing fellowship and knowledge with your fellow Highlanders. Call (828) 526-2602.

Saturday, April 23

• Fun Run and 5K Run at the Rec Park. Registration begins @ 8:30am 5k begins at 9:30am. \$25/pp. Fun Run (all ages) begins at 10:30am \$10/pp.

• The town of Highlands' annual Easter Egg hunt at the Rec Park at 11 a.m.

• At the Highlands Baseball Field on US 64 east, Community Bible Church's 2nd Annual Community Egg Fest at 11 a.m. There will be more than 4,000 filled eggs, tons of games, food, bounce houses, Velcro wall, petting zoo, and a lot of prizes. Event is free!

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike descending 800 feet into the Whitewater River Gorge to see many wildflowers, trilliums predominating. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. or in the back of the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 9:50 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike to **Yellow Branch Falls**, an unusual-looking

• See **EVENTS** page 14

Hike historic trail



Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. You may see some very interesting characters from the past as you go. The first group will leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 7:30 AM. Other groups will leave at 8 AM and if demand dictates a third group at 8:30 AM. You will be shuttled to Whiteside Mountain to start the hike. The hike will take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Space is limited, and the choice of starting time will go to the first people to register. Visit the Greenway website at

www.highlandsgreenway.com, or, send a check to Highlands Plateau Greenway, P.O. Box 2608, Highlands, NC 28741 or email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com to register and mail a check. The registration deadline is May 6, 2011. Finally, one can phone Hillrie Quin at 828-526-2385 to make arrangements for both the hike and payment.

Bring good hiking shoes or boots, rain gear, water a day pack and your camera. Our thanks to the members of the Highlands Falls Country Club, Cullasaja Club, Wildcat Cliffs and other residents along the route for their help in planning this trip. We also thank our partners in this hike, the Highlands - Cashiers Land Trust and the Highlands Historical Society.

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Spring Home Improvement

Make your garden the envy of the neighbors

(StatePoint) Gardens are a source of beauty. They are also a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Something as simple as hearing songbirds in the morning can help you start your day on the right note.

While your neighbors spend the season trying to grow a uniform lawn, why not elicit their envy by creating your very own Garden of Eden? A little pruning and some wildlife-friendly additions will make your garden stand out for neighbors as well as native birds and butterflies.

Here's how you can get started:

First, tidy up the yard. This may require re-seeding parts of your lawn that are known problem spots. If you plan to aerate your grass, don't forget to aerate the soil around your flowers and shrubbery as well. Water and air circulation helps prevent the spread of fungus while promoting healthy microorganisms that keep plant life vibrant.

Prune dead branches and cut back perennials. Fruit trees,



Wildlife like birds and butterflies add natural beauty to any garden.

in particular, thrive with pruning and often produce more blossoms as a result. Blossoms attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and honey bees. If you find an old nest, it is best to leave it. Many bird species will reuse it.

Whenever possible, plant native greenery which is safer for wildlife than exotic imports and helps slow the spread of invasive plant species. Native choices can be vibrant choices. Choose colors that complement your home and are pleasing to the eye.

Windows represent a significant collision hazard for birds in flight. You can protect visiting songbirds with advanced window decals such as

those made by WindowAlert. These decals have the delicate appearance of frosted glass, but glow like a stoplight for birds with their unique ability to see ultraviolet light. You can order them online at www.windowalert.com.

Remember to periodically clean feeders, birdbaths, and nesting boxes with organic soap and distilled water to prevent the spread of disease. Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned weekly and kept in the shade so the nectar does not ferment.

If you want to attract butterflies and bees, install some special nectar feeders and butterfly homes, which will bring their acrobatic dance to your

backyard. Mason bees, which are easily attracted with ready-made hive kits, are a gentle and docile addition as well.

"Wildlife can beautify your garden" says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert. "But birds and other wildlife don't appear by chance. They seek habitats that provide them with food, shelter, and safety."

Don't be afraid to add a personal touch. A gentle wind chime or brilliant sun catcher can add a special dimension to any garden without frightening wildlife.

By following these tips, your garden is likely to be envied by neighbors — and loved by wildlife.

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Spring Home Improvement



Cleaning your gutters regularly will prevent roof damage.

(StatePoint) When spring cleaning your home, it's easy to focus on interior closets and drawers and forget the first thing any visitor will see — your home's exterior. But outdoor surfaces and fixtures need your attention, too.

"Outdoor furniture can collect grime and rust during winter," says Alison Gutterman, President of Jelmar, manufacturer of CLR cleaning products. "It's important you clean them annually with an effective yet safe cleaner that won't harm your lawn or garden."

Make sure your spring cleaning includes these outdoor dirt-magnets:

Siding and Windows
Even if you're not put-

ting a fresh coat of paint on your house this year, it's important you clean any facade or siding that's prone to grime. Use a power washer and start at the highest point to avoid washing dirt down onto clean areas.

Pressure washers also make window cleaning easier. But be careful using them on wooden areas such as decks and window frames. The force of the spray often damages the surface of porous materials like wood.

Outdoor Furniture

Whether you conscientiously stored your patio furniture for the winter, or left it outside exposed to the elements, it's likely your outdoor table and chairs need a once-over before they're ready for

use. When choosing cleaning products, make sure they're biodegradable so they won't harm your plants or lawn. Then rinse the furniture and the grass with your hose after cleaning.

You should also choose a cleaning product that's safe for furniture, such as CLR Outdoor Furniture Cleaner, which can be used on plastic, wicker, wood, wrought iron, canvas and other outdoor materials. Also look for UV protectants to keep your furniture from fading in bright sun.

Gutters

Clean gutters prevent flooding and roof damage. The best way to check if your gutters need cleaning is to look up at the outside rim of the top of the gutter. If there is discoloration, there likely is

Spring clean your home's exterior

buildup in the gutter making it difficult for water to flow.

When cleaning gutters by hand, you can create a "gutter scoop" by cutting the bottom half off a plastic gallon jug with a box knife. Then, after removing any leaves, twigs or debris, flush the gutters with water to clean them properly.

Screens and Filters

The best way to clean window screens is to lay them flat on a cloth or soft surface outdoors to keep the frames from getting scratched. Then, hose them down and scrub gently with an all-purpose cleaner. Finally, rinse the screens again and tap off any excess water.

Air conditioning filters should also be changed as part of your spring cleaning, especially if anyone in your family has allergies. Always refer to the owner's manual to determine the location of the filter and the size needed to ensure the proper fit.

For more spring cleaning tips, visit www.jelmar.com.

Remember, keeping your home's exterior clean makes a big difference.

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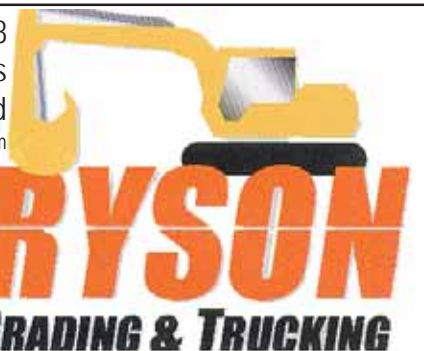
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On going and Upcoming Events

falls, cascading over dark rocky ledges. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10:00 a.m. or behind the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 10:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 50 miles round trip into SC. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations.

Sunday, April 24

- The recycling convenience centers (drop-off centers) will be closed on Sunday, April 24 and will reopen as usual on Monday.

Monday, April 25

- Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tuesday, April 26

- At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Creighton Peden at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com.

- Macon County Public Health staff will celebrate Public Health Month by sponsoring a Community Appreciation Event at the Health Center on Lakeside Drive on Tuesday from 3 - 6 p.m. Planned events include free fitness testing, free screenings for blood pressure, vision, and osteoporosis, and free carbon monoxide testing. A number of displays have been planned including the EMS Fire Safety House, the HAZMAT Team Trailer, Glo-Germ Detector, and the Fatal Vision Drunk Driving

simulator. Free mini-sub sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Activities for the kids will include face painting, KID CARE identification cards, ice cream, and balloons. For more information call 349-2081.

Thursday, April 28

- Cashiers own Bill Jacobs will present a program Thursday at 7 pm, at the Albert Carlton Library detailing his amazing cycling journey across the United States. Starting in Santa Barbara, CA last September, this intrepid lawyer spent 40 days traveling through 10 states averaging 80 miles a day through mountain and desert terrain finishing the trip in Wild Dunes, SC just in time to celebrate his 65th birthday. On display will be the bicycle itself, assorted items of clothing worn, and some of the equipment used. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free to the public, and Bill will be happy to answer questions about the trip, the Tour or bicycling generally. For information call the library at 743-0215.

Friday, April 29

- The Highlands/Cashiers Earth Stewardship Month initiative participants are invited to celebrate and share their stories at The Mountain. Enjoy on site hiking beginning at 3 p.m. followed by community social time at 6 p.m. Dinner and a program will follow at 7 p.m., featuring a presentation by Jill Gottesman, Outreach Coordinator for The Wilderness Society. Weather permitting; the evening will end with a traditional Mountain campfire. Wrap-up Earth Stew-

ardship Month and enjoy an evening at The Mountain for only \$15 per person. Call (828) 526-5838 ext 0 to reserve a spot!

- The freshman class is sponsoring a Steak Dinner at the Highlands School from 5-6:30 p.m. Tickets are being sold in advance for \$10 which includes a Sirloin Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Bread, Drink, and home-made Buttermilk Pie. Dinners are available for eat-in or carry-out. A "drive-up" service is available in the loop in the front of the school. Simply drive up and a student will take your tickets and bring your dinner to your car. For tickets, please see a member of the Freshman Class or come by the Highlands School office. This coincides with the first night of the student play, "Anne Frank and Me" which begins at 7 at the Performing Arts Center.

Saturday, April 30

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4.5-mile hike to **Rough Run** and **High Falls** north of Glenville. Meet behind the Wachovia Bank in

Cashiers at 10 a.m. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 743-1079 for reservations.

- All rides for the Tour de Cashiers start at the Village Green on Saturday morning April 30, at 9 a.m. The early-registration cost is \$40, or \$35 for riders who sign up for the Double. The entry fee includes a t-shirt, light breakfast and a hearty post-ride lunch, as well as on-road support and well-stocked rest stops. All rider registration is through our website, www.TourdeCashiers.com.

- The Really, Really Free Market at the Highlands Community Building from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a dish to share or items you no longer need or love, and go home with something that you DO need and love, as well as new friendships and a renewed sense of community. You can bring books, toys, shoes, tools, groceries, plants, furniture, etc. Everything is 100% free and there will be no concerns about who brought what.

- The Friends of Panthertown seek volunteers to help finish building the new Blackrock trail connector at

Easter activities in Highlands

On Good Friday citizens gather at the Catholic church at noon to begin the annual "Stations of the Cross" through town. Saturday it's the town's Easter egg hunt at the Rec Park at 11 a.m., preceded this year by a Fun Run and 5k run. Registration begins at 8:30 p.m. At 6:45 a.m., Sunday morning it's the traditional Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at the Highlands Biological Station Amphitheater followed by Easter Sunday services at area churches.



Spring 2011



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On going and Upcoming Events

their Panthertown Valley Trail Work Day on Saturday. All are welcome to participate, no experience is necessary, tools and instructions are provided, and volunteers should meet at the Salt Rock entrance to Panthertown Valley at 9:30am.

Sunday, May 1

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike on the Park Creek Trail along the Nantahala River at Standing Indian campground. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

The really, really free market is coming

Highlands' first ever Really, Really Free Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at the Highlands Community Building (next to the Town Ballfield).

There will be plenty of free food and items for everyone. Bring a dish to share or items you no longer need or love, and go home with something you do need and love, as well as new friendships and a renewed sense of community. You can bring books, toys, shoes, tools groceries, plants furniture, etc. Everything is free and there are no concerns about who brought what.

However, items are not all that you can bring. Bring your talents (for instance,

yoga lessons or haircutting). Bring your musical ability (live music is always a treat) or bring your art to share with your neighbors. Local businesses are invited to drop by with a few goodies to share.

Really, Really Free Markets have been staged in communities across America for years. They help to build a sense of community and keep perfectly good items out of the landfill

So make a quick dish, gather items from your garage, attic or cupboard and leave your wallet at home. The market is not sponsored by any organization, person, or club.

Spring blossoms in the mountains

Bright spring sunshine chases away the chill of the early morning. Daffodils and hyacinths liven the hillside gardens as Mother Nature begins to come alive after a winter of bone-chilling temperatures. The buttery yellow ropes of forsythia wave gently in the breeze, giving way to new green leaves, as we begin to see our song birds gradually return to the area.

We've all heard the adage- "Don't plant before Mother's Day" but it surely is hard not to start gardening in these early days of April. As the rakes and trowels call, the best thing we can do is pick up limbs, clear away winter debris and add the appropriate soil amendments in preparation for planting when the time is right. Too many times we have watched as the tender green shoots of early risers are nipped by the frost on these cool nights that are a mainstay of April in the mountains.

With proper preparation and planning your garden will truly blossom as the night time temperatures warm up and the threat of frost dissipates. It is so much fun to watch as the birds and the butterflies dart from flower to shrub spreading pollen throughout the garden. The brightly colored butterflies with their wings spread wide remind us of kites that

we cherished as children. Prepare your garden now and you'll reap the benefits later.

If you want the healthiest plants around, you should come to the 29th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale. The Highlands Ballpark located on the Cashiers Highway will be brimming with hundreds of hearty plants that have been harvested from area gardens. They are acclimated to our climate so you know they are ready to thrive in your yard.

Come early for best selection of customer favorites including bee balm, Christmas fern, cinnamon fern, coreopsis, native columbine, foxglove, specialty hostas, lady's mantle and more. Sale starts at 9 a.m. and runs through 12:00 noon. Garden Club members will be there to help you make the proper selections for your specific area.

Revenues from the sale underwrite the Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship program, the Butterfly Garden and Hummers (youth gardeners) activities at Highlands School, Garden Therapy activities at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center and various local environmental/green organizations such as the Highlands Nature Center and the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

-Emily Compost

Celebrate Easter Weekend at Community Bible Church!

eggfest

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First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2011

Thursday, April 21

5 p.m.

Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae

A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ's life.

The service will conclude in Holy Communion.

Friday, April 22

12noon

Stations of the Cross

Sponsored by the churches of Highlands. Meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church

Sunday, April 24

6:45 a.m.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Sponsored by the churches of Highlands.

Service held at the Highlands' Biological Center Amphitheater.
Rain- First Presbyterian Church

11 a.m.

Easter Sunday Communion Service

Sermon by
Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School - All Ages Welcome

Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit www.fpchighlands.org

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If you are thinking of putting your house on the market, start with getting a pre-sale inspection and make the needed repairs. If you need big ticket repairs, get quotes on the costs even if you aren't going to get them done. If the roof or any carpeting is due for replacement, let the prospective buyer know exactly what it will cost.

Curb appeal is crucial and the only thing less appealing than a yard full of weeds is a yard full of household belongings. Keep your yard pristine and if you can, spend some money to perfect the exterior of your home. It will be one of the smartest investments you make to expedite the sale of your home. If buyers are turned off by a house's exterior, they are unlikely to bother to look further. Even if they do go in, the unpleasant first impression is almost certain to linger. And they could use it as bargaining power if they do decide to put in an offer on the house.

You want potential buyers to start dreaming as soon as they see your home; visions of relaxing evenings, cheery fires, and the company of good friends. There is something terrifically appealing about order. It's a look you can capture with a little effort. A load of mulch does wonders. Painting and repairing a tired fence can make a huge difference for a house. Plant flowers and keep your lawn trimmed and the sidewalks smartly edged. The gutters must be in good repair and the paint must look fresh. A good pressure washing can



Elizabeth Salzarulo
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make the difference between a sale and a pass.

You've cleared the first hurdle if the home's exterior has intrigued a potential buyer. Much of what I've said about the outside is equally true inside. Eliminate clutter. Give your home a spacious appearance, even if it is small. Get rid of stuff. You are planning on moving anyway, so pack up before you attempt to market your home. If you are a full time resident, whittle your belongings down to the bare essentials and spread clothing out between extra closets. No closet should ever be

more than half full. If you are a weekender, get everything out and bring only what you

• See INVESTING page 18

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... INVESTING continued from page 16

need for your visit and take it home with you when you leave. Consider an empty closet as the only truly clean closet. Put it in storage, sell it on Ebay, or take it to Mountain findings, but don't let it keep your house from selling.

The importance of cleanliness cannot be overstated. A place for everything and everything in its place is a good rule to follow. The kitchen sink is not the place for dishes. Clean it all. Windows, carpets, floors, lighting fixtures, walls and baseboards should be eat off of clean. While cleaning the lighting fixtures, change to high wattage bulbs. Open all your curtains

and shades and buy lamps if more light is needed. Pack up all personal items including stacks of papers, photos, portraits, and toiletries. If you must have it, keep it discreetly stowed in a lidded basket.

If your home was professionally decorated, sell it furnished. Turn key can turn a potential buyer into a buyer in a snap. If a buyer is looking at a couple of houses and yours comes furnished it may be the tipping point to get the sale. If this makes you a little uncomfortable, consider having two prices for your home. The listing price, unfurnished and a furnished price that your Broker can quote when asked. Just

remember, used furniture is worth 10 to 20 cents on the dollar. Don't over value the sticks and cloth. If you can't bear to part with Grandma's dining room table, get it out and replace it, or add an allowance to cover the cost of a new one, suitably priced. Most importantly, stage or rearrange. Use one of the many talented designers in our area. They may move or remove furniture, or add a few inexpensive accessories. Your

money will be well spent.

OK, now that your house is clean and beautiful, make it available. Never ever say no to a showing. If someone surprises you, say you were just leaving. And do leave, always. Owners lurking around make buyers uncomfortable. Also, remember the sale of property is a business transaction. Don't take offense if a buyer passes on your home, it is not personal.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 8

Woods, I decided I would tell them the Palm Sunday story from the scripture. You need to understand I was taught by some of the best Biblical scholars at Duke and I have been a preacher for 22 years so I know the Palm Sunday story.

So I started telling the story and I thought I was doing a great job but the look on their faces told it all, they hadn't a clue what I was talking about. I said, "When Jesus came into Jerusalem, it was like a big parade. Have any of you ever been to a parade? Well this got their attention and they all said, "Yes we were at the Christmas parade last year." I had made the connection so then I thought, "Oh, Paul you are good, you are connecting with these children."

So I continued, "Well it was like a parade and the people were happy to see Jesus." Then one boy raised his hand and said; "I saw Santa at the Christmas Parade. "I said, "OK, but we are talking about when Jesus came into Jerusalem," and tried to get going again, and then another child,

said "Yeah, I saw Santa, too and if you don't go to bed Christmas Eve, Santa will not come to your house." Then another child said; "Santa came to my house this year!"

It was at this point that I knew I had lost all of them and I had lost the telling of the Palm Sunday story so I tried to get everyone to focus and I said, "Now children we are going to have a prayer, and one child raised her hand and said: "Preacher Paul, boys and girls can't go to the bathroom together." I said a prayer and got out of Chapel quickly.

Why do I tell you that story? Because the message of Easter is hard to explain so don't be confused over the message of Easter, God's Love wins, and that is news that has been changing the world for more than 200 years.

Who knows, maybe the message of Easter will change our community this year or should I say that it can't help but change this community. Where do you need resurrection in your life?

• H-C HOSPITAL NEWS •

Hospital promoting 'good food'

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) has taken important steps to improve nutritional health making it easier for patients, residents, visitors and staff to make better food choices.

As a part of North Carolina's Prevention Partner's (NCP), a statewide Healthy Food in Hospitals initiative, HCH has achieved "Red Apple" hospital status by the NCP, meeting five food guidelines designed to develop, promote and sustain a healthy food environment hospital-wide. A special "red apple" icon will designate healthy food choices enabling customers to know at a glance that their food selec-

tions are healthy.

Employees are encouraged to choose healthier items and by doing so will receive a discount card. After purchasing five healthy meals, the sixth one is free.

HCH has also included its vending machines as a part of the hospital wide initiative. Breakfast bars, crackers, and nuts have been positioned in all machines and are placed at eye level, encouraging those items to be chosen over traditional vending snacks as potato chips and candy bars.

For more information or to register for an event, please call (828) 526-1313.

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... BENEFIT continued from page 1

When the free benefit package is factored in, those figures jump to \$4,557.12 monthly and \$54,685.40 annually.

Compare that to Franklin and Macon County where a \$30,619 salaried employee pays \$4,739 and \$3,406 for benefit packages, respectively, which leaves \$25,880 for the Franklin employee and \$27,213 for the Macon County employee. A Highlands employee making \$30,619 gets that amount — actually more — because he doesn't pay into the benefit package.

In addition, new hires get dental and life insurance coverage from day one; health insurance after a 30-day waiting period which is generous, said Commissioner John Dotson.

"Everywhere I have called requires a 30-, 60-, even 90-day waiting period before any of this kicks in and we basically

... ZONING BOARD continued from page 1

pre-packaged snacks, and because it's a private club, the alcohol-to-food ratio restaurants and public pubs have to adhere to as per ABC laws doesn't apply.

The facility will have a full service bar and a seating area with big screen TV in front with two private theater rooms with a sofa, loveseat and a chair and a game room where Bowers said a pool table will be set up.

Charlie Dasher, the new Zoning Board member, asked why a private versus public venue.

Bowers said as a private club he doesn't have to sell food per the ABC Board and that was the motivation.

Ward said according to the county fire code the club can only accommodate 49 people.

... GRANTS continued from page 1

Forty-two state education agencies earned one of the federal 2011 AP Test Reduction Grants, with individual award amounts ranging from \$21,000 to \$2.6 million. North Carolina has received AP Test Reduction Grants since at least 2003. AP and IB tests, which are administered by the College Board and the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), can cost students \$87 or more per test and many students will take more than one exam. NCDPI officials estimate that this year's grant will help pay for exams for more than 9,400 students.

As a part of the grant, AP and IB exam coordinators will submit the necessary paperwork to the College Board for students

start them from day one. Maybe we should look at that," he said.

In previous years, the way the town kept health insurance costs down was to change carriers every few years. Now, commissioners are considering staying put and "buying down" insurance costs by growing a healthier workforce to entice carriers to offer lower premiums. Jumping carriers ultimately costs the town more when manhours are factored in.

While the property tax base was growing, Highlands didn't have to raise taxes or consider cuts, but with the upcoming reval likely to show a decrease in tax values that picture could change.

"We don't want to cut salaries or raise taxes," said Mayor David Wilkes, "so, the only place to cut would be the benefit package we offer new hires from here on out."

He said the town has a specific amount

The second SUP was for a deck at Fressers Eatery in Helen's Barn.

The Appearance Commission had previously examined the plans and gave its OK with the stipulation that any awning or umbrellas be in compliance with the approved color scheme and in harmony with the existing restaurant color; the underside of the deck be screened from view and new railings and the deck must match the existing structure. The Zoning Board concurred on all counts.

Ward said there will be no increase in seating — tables will be switched from inside to outside, weather permitting — the deck meets all setbacks within the B3 zoning district and it won't increase the impervious surface for the watershed district.

who qualify for the fee reduction. If parents or students have questions about test fees, they should contact the AP or IB exam coordinator at the student's school. School officials with questions about the grant should contact Vinetta Bell at 919.807.3848 or vbell@dpi.state.nc.us.

In 2010, 49,059 students took a total of 92,334 AP exams. The number of scores in the 3-5 range (considered high enough to qualify for college credit at most colleges and universities) was 54,807, which is a 4.2 percent increase from the 2009 results.

Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses offered in 37 subject areas. For more information, visit

— a sandwich of money — to offer new hires and has to decide how much of that is going to be salary and how much will be benefits.

"We have to look at overall expenses," he said. "We can't control health insurance costs, but we can control salaries and cost of living increases. The only way to control is through the benefit package. We need to be proactive and get ahead of the curve on this."

Department heads, Lamar Nix, Selwyn Chalker and Bill Harrell said the town's benefit package is a huge recruitment tool — it lures fine people and retains them, they said.

"If you reduce benefits, it's going to affect recruitment, but we won't know how much it will be affected until you try to recruit," said Chalker.

Commissioner Gary Drake said it's a new world out there and new hires aren't getting what previous employees got any-

Owner Debbie Grossman said she expects the addition of the deck will help increase business "and make Fressers Eatery more fun and funky."

"Having a business that is not on Main Street requires a lot more work to fill seats. Adding a deck will enhance our venue," she said.

Construction is expected to take about three weeks.

— Kim Lewicki

where.

Wilkes said Wednesday's meeting was a "conversation only." "Other towns are meeting right now looking at what positions and salaries they need to cut. We aren't doing that. We are not in trouble. We don't need to do anything drastic, that's not why we are here. We are only trying to be proactive and be ahead of the curve." — KL

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Deadline: Mondays at 5 p.m.

HELP WANTED

SERVERS, BUSSERS/FOOD RUNNERS, HOSTESS. Call Main Street Inn at 828-526-4231. (st. 4/21)

HIGHLANDS INN NOW HIRING LUNCH SERVERS. Stop by 420 Main Street for application or call 526 9380 to schedule an interview. (st. 4/14)

HISTORIC HIGHLANDS INN LOCATED ON MAIN STREET HIGHLANDS AND HIGHLANDS INN LODGE (former Hampton Inn, located at Hwy 106 & Spring Street) Seeking full and or part time front desk guest services staff to begin immediately. If you are a "people

person" and enjoy meeting visitors from everywhere you could be the person (s) we are looking for. Ideal candidate is mature, demonstrates good communication skills, responsible with positive work history, has a love and knowledge of our beautiful mountains, and is able to work either a 7 a.m.-3 p.m. or 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. work schedule. Customer service experience is a plus. Seniors welcome to apply. Please stop by either property to pick up an application and schedule a job interview. (st. 4/14)

EXPERIENCED LINE COOKS AND WAITSTAFF needed at Fressers Eatery. Call 526-4188. (st. 4/7)

GARAGE SALES

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 22 & 23. 745 Dillard Road. 9 a.m. Rain Date: April 29 & 30.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23. Scaly Mountain, 8106 Dillard Road. 9-3 rain or shine. Vintage and misc.

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COMMERCIAL SPACE ON CAROLINA WAY. 1200 SF +/- Currently occupied by Mountain Fitness. Available May 1. \$1200/mo. Call Tom Clark (404) 210-7979, (828) 526-4646. (St. 4/14)

2 BED, 1 BATH, \$450 per month plus utilities. (2 1/2 bed, 1 bath for \$550) Call 828-200-1064. (st. 4/7)

OLDER 3/3 HOME NEAR BASCOM for year-round or

seasonal. Furnished, oil heat. Walk to town. \$1,000/month plus utilities. 526-5558 (4/21).

WANTED: ROOMMATE TO SHARE LARGE FURNISHED HOME. 10 minutes from Highlands. \$450 per month plus 1/3 utilities. Call 828-713-6101. (st. 4/7)

3 BED, 2 BATH, large living room, wood burning fireplace, large deck, and covered porch. 7 miles from Highland post office, off Walhalla Road. \$700/month. Call 706-782-3679 or 828-421-3025. (st. 4/7)

DOWNTOWN ON MAIN ST APT FOR RENT. Unfurnished and spacious, small pets allowed, walk in closet, outside balcony. \$700 / mo. 526-3363. (st. 4/7)

SKY VALLEY HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, fully furnished, deck, large lot, beautiful view, pets welcome. \$800 month. Call 706-746-5695 (4/7)

TOXAWAY VIEWS 2/2 TOWNHOUSE \$650 per month. call 828-877-6672. (4/28)

HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT- Within town limits. Quiet, cozy, wood panelled. Living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, balcony, carpeted. One person. No pets. Six month minimum, partially furnished. \$425/mo, incl. utilities, except electric. Call 404-892-2090. (st. 4/14)

SPACE OF RENT NEXT TO DRAKE'S DIAMOND GALLERY. 2nd Street off Main Street. Call 404-797-2050 or 828-526-3782 (4/14)

HOUSE FOR RENT 3BR/2BTH. \$650.00 plus utilities. No cell phone service. 3459 Buck Creek Road 828-524-6038. (st. 3/3)

STORAGE/OFFICE LOCATION FOR RENT, +/- 1,600 sq. ft., heat & air, bathroom, close to town. \$700 per month. Call 828-526-8953.

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

IN TOWN HOME, HARRIS LAKE AREA. By Owner. # bed, 2 bath, \$350,000. Call 828-226-6123. (6/30)

3/2 COTTAGE ON 3.46 ACRES (3 LOTS TOTAL), recently restored and renovated; 3 miles from town with great mountain views. By owner for \$294,000. See photos and more information at this web page: <https://sites.google.com/site/highlandsnccottageforsale/> or contact Owner at 119DendyKnob@gmail.com. (st. 2/24)

\$103,000! LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. .55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2/ bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2052. (st. 11/11)

ON MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE IN FRANKLIN – 2/2 nicely furnished, screened porch, 2 large skylights, W/D, surrounded by Nantahala Forest. \$169,000 419-967-0796 (4/28)

LOT FOR SALE, MILLION DOLLAR NEIGHBORHOOD. 1.45 acres, heavily wooded with stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirrmont area, walk to town, \$198,000, 770-861-4249.

PINEBROOK CONDO FOR LEASE OR SALE – 2/2 downstairs. Call for details. 200-0018 or 421-2144.

SERVICES

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MILT'S LAWN SERVICE. Lawn mowing, and weed eating, yard cleaning and light hawling. Call Bill at 828-524-8659 or Milton at 828-421-7681. (st. 4/7)

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LEGALS

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the **Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners** at the Highlands Conference Center, 45 Poplar St., on the **4th day of May 2011**, beginning at 7 p.m., for the purpose of considering the following request for rezoning of properties within the jurisdiction of the Town of Highlands:

(1) Application #0111 by Highlands United Methodist Church to rezone approximately 2 acres from B-3 (business) and B-1 Conditional (business with conditions) to entirely B-1 Conditional (business with conditions). Said property is located at corner bordering Spring Street & South 3rd Street, Highlands, NC.

Any member of the public may attend the hearing and shall be allotted reasonable time in which to offer testimony and/or recommendations concerning this application to the Board.

A copy of the proposed amendments, maps,

ordinance, and requests are on the Town Website www.highlandsncc.org and on file at Town Hall for inspection by all interested citizens.

Jim Fatland, Town Clerk
4/14, 4/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department will accept bids for the purchase of the following property:

a. 1999 Ford F350 4WD Pick-up, Diesel, Dual Rear Wheels, 15,513 miles. Minimum bid of \$10,000.00.

b. 1999 Jeep Cherokee MP, 4WD, 115,241 miles. Minimum bid of \$500.00.

Sealed bids may be submitted to the Town of Highlands' Clerk's Office or the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department no later than 12 p.m. noon on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. Bids will be opened at the May 3, 2011 Highlands Fire & Rescue Department business meeting. The Highlands Town Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Inquiries regarding the sale may be directed to the Town of Highlands (828)526.2118 or to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department (828)526.3645.

This notice is published in accordance with G.S. 160A-268.

Jim Fatland, Town Clerk
4/14, 4/21

• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from April 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 9

• At 11:59 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at The Ugly Dog Public House and later issued a \$50 fine for noise violation.

April 15

• At 9:48 p.m., officers were called about a tree on a car on S. 4th St.

April 17

• At 10 p.m., officers were called to an apartment on Helen's Barn Ave. about a vicious dog. The case is under investigation.

April 19

• At 7:30 p.m., a resident on Lucerne Dr. returned home to find a vehicle had hit her house causing structure damage to multiple beams, gutters, inside sheetrock and paneling. Damages are estimated at \$300,000. The case is under investigation.

• At 8:31 p.m., a resident on Wahoo Trail reported lights on in a neighbor's home but upon investigation, officers found it was secure.

• During the week, police officers responded issued 12 citations and responded to 2 alarm activations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April

...LETTERS continued from page 2

the scapegoat enemy. There has to be a "fomenter." (Remember this word from the sixties?)

I put it to you that rioting, murderous Muslims are carefully worked and played by behind-the-scenes fomenters, most likely in the employ of an organization with a serious agenda. The Muslim Brotherhood comes to mind, but who knows what other, more shadowy, Islamist groups may exist?

What is our democratic republic up against?

Susan Coram
Scaly Mountain

• THANKS •

To family and friends who gave their support during our loss, we thank you for cards, flowers, food, donations and for all that was done.

Thanks you so much, truly.

The Baty
Family

13.

April 13

• At 6:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clubhouse Trail for a medical call.

• At 6:40 p.m., the dept., was first-responders to Highlands Plaza for a medical call. The victim was taken to the hospital.

April 17

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Cliffside Lake where a 79-year-old man had collapsed while hiking around the lake.

April 19

• At 7:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on White Clover Lane where a residence had cut his foot. He was taken to the hospital.

• At 1:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to N. 4th St. for a medical call. The person was taken to the hospital.

• 6:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Lost Trail Road. It was false.

• **NOTE:** Residents are reminded to trim foliage from fire hydrants and 911 addresses or fire department personnel will do it. The town as a three-foot right-of-way for emergency services trimming. Also, donations are being accepted for the restoration of the town's first fire truck. Call 526-3645.

... on this day

April 21, 2009

After a three-year, 300,000£ study, Oxford scientists determine ducks like water.

Here's a question quite quixotic, do these animals aquatic, I mean every duck's son or daughter, like or dislike being in the water? Brows furrowed, faces in scowl, we wonder, do they find it fair or fowl? Think they hate it, or find it winsome? Would they rather walk or go swim some?

If, outside, it was raining, would they exit, or be refraining from going where it was damp, or would they turn around and stamp out and take a flyer to some place that was dryer? Well, we've been told by academics imposing, those smart folks that are Oxonian, that these birds of that feather like it when it's stormy weather.

... on this day

Vote now for Town Flag

To cast your vote, go to the Town of Highlands website www.highlandscnc.org and follow directions. There are three designs to pick from. The winning entry will be announced after a two-week voting period.

Once the flag entry is chosen, it will be sent to a flag manufacturing company for production and will hopefully be ready for the unveiling during Fourth of July holiday festivities.

Once chosen, the new town flag as well as the emblem will be proudly displayed at Town Hall, the Civic Center, the Community Building, etc, and anyone that would like to purchase their own.

— Wanda Drake

Larry Rogers

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Annual Collective Spirits Blind Tasting Medal Awards ... And the winners are...

The first annual Collective Spirits Blind Tasting Medal Awards was held at the Bascom in Highlands, North Carolina, on Friday, April 15, 2011. Wine Distributors including Country Vintner, Dionysus, Empire, Grapevine, Mutual, Skyland and Try-on submitted wines that will be showcased at various locations during the Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival, May 19th – 21st, 2011.

Wines were submitted, divided into categories and judged on the merit of the individual wine without knowing what region or price the wine may carry. The categories were broken down into Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Interesting White Wines, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Interesting Red Wines.

This exciting format of tasting provided a great turn out of judges including representatives from Mountain Fresh Grocery, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, On the Verandah, Ristorante Paoletti, Rosewood Market, Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro, and Wild Thyme of Cashiers as well as local individuals that support the Bascom throughout the year.

This year's Double Gold Medal for highest rated red wine went to Brochelle Vineyards Sierra Foothills Cabernet Sauvi-

gnon. The Double Gold for highest rated white wine went to Miner Family Wines Chardonnay.

Other awards included: Sauvignon Blanc: Gold/ Lambert Bridge Winery, Silver/ Schug Carneros Estate, Bronze/ Groth Winery, Chardonnay: Gold/ Miner Family Wines, Silver/ DuMol, Bronze/ Paul Hobbs Wines, Interesting Whites and Roses: Gold/ Zacherle Wines Rose, Silver/ Schug Carneros Estate Rose, Bronze/ Miner Family Wines Viognier, Pinot Noir: Gold/ Paul Hobbs Wines Crossbarn, Silver/ Schug Carneros Estate, Bronze/ Zacherle Wines, Merlot: Gold/ Ehlers Estate, Silver/ Schug Carneros Estate Heritage Reserve, Bronze/ Schug Carneros Estate Sonoma, Cabernet Sauvignon: Gold/ Brochelle Vineyards Sierra Foothills, Silver/ Mount Veeder Winery, Bronze/ David Arthur. Interesting Reds: Gold/ Ehlers Estate 120 over 80, Silver/ David Arthur Vineyards Meritaggio, Bronze/ Mettler Wine Zinfandel and Lambert Bridge Winery Red Blend.

Raising critical operating funds for The Bascom, Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival is made possible in part by sponsors Wilmington Trust, BNY Mellon and Sysco Foods and partners Atlanta Social Season Magazine, Franklin Ford, The Highlander Newspaper, The Highlands Newspaper, The Laurel Magazine, Moss Robertson Cadillac, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, WHLC FM 104.5, Wines Down South, and WNC Magazine.

The Bascom is open year-round. For more call 526-4949.



Area restauranteurs were asked to participate in a blind wine tasting Friday in preparation for The Bascom's Collective Spirits event. Arthur Paoletti, Andrea Schmitt and JT Fields "sip to judge." This year's Collective Spirits Blind Tasting Medal Award Double Gold Medal winners were Brochelle Vineyards Sierra Foothills Cabernet Sauvignon and Miner Family Chardonnay. For more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.thebascom.org or call 526.4949.



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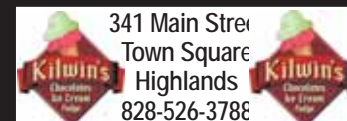
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