

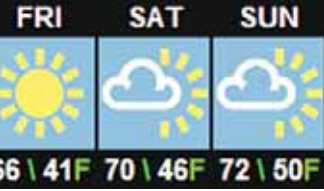
Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 17

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Thursday, April 28, 2011



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. with community social time at 6 p.m. Dinner and a program are at 7 p.m., featuring a presentation by Jill Gottesman, Outreach Coordinator for The Wilderness Society. \$15 per person. Call (828) 526-5838 ext 0 to reserve a spot!

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. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles at 743-1079 for reservations.

• 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. Everything is 100% free.

• The Friends of Panthertown seek volunteers to help finish building the new Blackrock trail connector at their Panthertown Valley Trail Work Day on Saturday. Tools and instructions are provided. Meet at the Salt Rock entrance to Panthertown Valley at 9:30 a.m.

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. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, May 3

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-6 mile hike with two 300-foot elevation gains in Panthertown. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

Lupoli 1 of 7 Main St. Grant recipients

Must spend \$400,000 to get \$200,000

By Mark Johnson

Deputy Communications Director
Office of the Governor

Gov. Bev Perdue announced today that seven communities will receive more than \$969,000

through the state's Main Street Solutions Fund. The small businesses that benefit from the Main Street Solutions grants will create or retain a minimum of 119 permanent and 57 part-time jobs in

addition to 84 construction jobs, according to the grant applications – 260 jobs in all.

For every \$1 invested by the state, an additional \$4.21 will be

• See LUPOLI page 15



PB puts finishing touches on Gaming Ordinance

In a brief Planning Board meeting Wednesday night, changes to the Electronic Gaming Ordinance recommended by the Town Board at its April 6 meeting were quickly accepted unanimously.

Verbiage changes regarding alcohol on the premises of an electronic gaming establishment were tweaked. Though the ABC board

prohibits the sale of alcohol at such establishments, the verbiage in the original ordinance said it couldn't be sold for consumption – which was considered a loophole by some commissioners.

As per the Town Board's request, the ordinance now says "No alcohol is to be sold or brought in for consumption in the establish-

• See GAMING page 17

New 'school' to be part of Macon County system

A school-within-a-school may be the way of the future in Macon County, as soon as this upcoming 2011-2012 school year – at least for some.

At Monday's Board of Education meeting, Highlands School Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) teacher Betty Baker requested permission to move forward with the idea of a school-within-a-school to be held at Mountain View Elementary (MVI) for rising 5th and 6th grade AIG students called The MVI Learning Connections.

Twenty to 25 AIG students per grade will be selected county-wide from the 35-40 AIG identified students in 4th and 5th grade who will transfer to MVI to participate in the revolutionary program.

"This is an alternative way to buy into the learning process," said Baker. "It's project-based learning with a heavy influence on technology."

Superintendent Dan Brig-

man said the learning approach evolved out of discussion among district AIG teachers who were looking for alternative teaching methods to both engage and enthruse students with the joy of learning while preparing them to succeed in high school.

Since the School Board OK'd the concept, it will be incorporated into the school system's overall AIG plan and sent to the state for approval. Meanwhile, the concept will be honed for implementation this coming year.

Since MVI has the room for the school-within-a-school, the program will begin there, but AIG teachers hope the alternative learning techniques can eventually be incorporated into every classroom in the county and made available to every student.

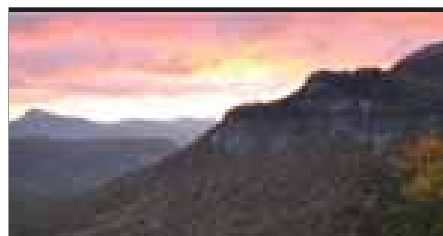
Students selected for the program will take all academic classes in the two-room interdisciplinary setting and will be with at-

• See SCHOOL page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

Ain't it the truth!

By Ben J. Utley, Chairman
Macon County Democratic Party

From now through the presidential election of 2012, America will be conducting a dynamic debate regarding its future. Of primary concern will be issues regarding the size and scope of our federal government and at what levels our government would be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of its people.

Deserving attention, and getting it, is whether again to increase the size of our national debt ceiling. In addition, debate is underway with regards to what principles and values we should incorporate in the consideration and approval of the 2012 budget.

Because of serious and immediate implications, raising the debt ceiling by no later than July is imperative. If it is not raised, as it has been over 70 times since the 1950s, the interest on funds America borrows to meet its responsibilities would rise from the current two percent level to as much as six percent, thereby forcing our Nation's debt to balloon even higher.

With two war fronts, assistance in the Libyan rebellion, and an economic

crisis on our home-front, America would be forced to default in meeting its obligations if it is prevented from the ability to borrow. Such a situation would further damage our ability to grow economically and to stimulate the creation of new jobs. It would severely impact international relations and our standing in the world.

Last week a number of Tea Party members of the House of Representatives stated that they will not vote for raising the debt ceiling "unless there is a real and meaningful reduction in spending."

While we, the Democrats of Macon County, can respect the Tea Party for standing for what it strongly believes, the time to fight for those values is during the forthcoming debate over the 2012 budget, not the debt ceiling!

The passage of this legislation is crucial for America and for our individual pocketbooks. Without it we could see higher interest rates, impacting our local folk's ability to acquire life's necessities, start a small business, or even purchase a home. Our Nation's dollar would be devalued; prices on imported goods, such as found at Wal-Mart and other large retailers, would be increased; and, we would see even higher prices at the pumps.

We cannot become bogged down in debate over additional or future cuts as riding amendments to this legislation. The impact of it's not being passed within the designated period would be catastrophic.

We encourage, therefore, our Tea Party neighbors in Macon County, to join us in pushing for immediate passage of this important legislation. This is one time we need to work together! Then, later, we can earnestly debate our differences over the composition of our Nation's 2012 Budget.

• TB AGENDA •

Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
Community Building

- Report from Highlands Playhouse
- Information Fair at Recreation Park May 23
- Contract Bid Award for Fire Dept Mini Pumper
- Discussion of Proposed Noise Ordinance & Setting of Public Hearing
- Consider Approval of Electronic Gaming Ordinance Amendment
- Fire Department Ordinance
- Old Edwards Inn Valet Parking
- Charles Dasher Request for Taxi Service

• LETTERS •

Don't be suckered

Dear Editor,

I am writing to one of your columnists, Don Swanson.

It is amazing that a person who seems to have more than a modicum of intelligence can be duped into supporting the Tea Party movement. It is a movement funded by wealthy libertarians. They have enlisted the aid of unquestioning persons who get drawn into the ideology of smaller government and lower taxes. The Koch brothers and others of their ilk are funding the movement and hiring organizers to campaign for the Tea Party movement.

The movement as such is totally in conflict with the best interest of the dupes who are drawn into supporting it.

Swanson, don't you get suckered into that scheme. So far I have given you credit for more intelligence.

Ralph Minton
Cashiers

In reply to Minton...

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Ralph Minton's letter to me. I received recently. The paper was copied and hopefully, it appears in the Letters to the Editor section. On one hand, the writer gives me credit for "a modicum of intelligence", and on the other hand, claims I have been "duped into supporting the Tea Party movement." Just a little history.

I have been involved with FreedomWorks since 2005, long before Rick Santelli pitched his fit and launched the Tea Party movement.

Not only have I been "suckered into that scheme," I have been honored to have been included in several high-level meetings in Washington, Beverly Hills, Raleigh and elsewhere concerning the state of the political landscape and FreedomWorks' plans to move the needle in the "right" direction. I tell you not to boast, but to dispel your notion that I am one of the great unwashed "unquestioning persons" being duped by the Tea Party's objectives. Hopefully, I can be accused of actually being instrumental in forwarding the "ideology of smaller government and lower taxes" which you disdain.

As far as my and our efforts being funded by the evil Koch Brothers is concerned,

with Steve Forbes, C. Boydon Gray, Thomas Knudsen, Frank Sands, Jr. and others like them on our Board, and several hundred thousand contributing members, we were doing fine before the Koch Brothers started spreading their money around.

Curiously, while you are ready to put me under the direct control of the Koch Bros., who seem to have orchestrated the whole thing, I heard nothing about your lord and master George Soros, who is their counterpart on the extreme left, pushing his philosophy of currency destruction, chaos creation and one world government, financing the wacko organizations that are out to mess up the country even worse than it is, then the world and beyond, I suppose.

The next time Dick Arme is in town, I'd be happy to arrange a few minutes so that he can set you straight,

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• MILESTONES •

Highlands students graduate from RGNS



Christopher Barrick



Brianna Hunter



Klay McKim

Rabin Gap-Nacoochee School graduates, Class of 2011.

Highlands School graduate part of winning rowing team



Highlands School 2010 graduate, Brice Jenkins, with UNC teammates row for bronze in the 4+ (4-men and a coxswain) lightweight division of the 2011 Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association (SIRA) Championship Regatta in Oak Ridge, TN April 17. On April 10, Brice's 8+ boat took silver in the Knecht Cup on the Cooper River in Camden, New Jersey. Brice is 2nd from the right in medal picture, and first on right in rowing picture.

• OBITUARIES •

Mary Ann Sanderson



Mary Ann Sanderson, 80, of Port Charlotte passed away April 17, 2011. She was born July 10, 1930 in Tampa, FL to Leonard and Jennie (Guerard) Davis. Mary Ann was a native Floridian who grew up and went to school in Boca Grande, FL. She worked for Eastern Airlines before spending 30 years as a broker salesman with O'Connor Realty in Port Charlotte. She then owned and operated The Hoorah's Nest Gift Shop in Port Charlotte with her daughter for 10 years. In the mid 1980s, she served for six years on the Charlotte County Planning and Zoning Board.

Mary Ann was a former member of Charlotte County Board of Realtors, DAR, and Huguenot Society of South Carolina. She enjoyed spending time with her family at their vacation home in the

mountains of Highlands, NC, and learned to make stained glass windows as a hobby after retiring in 2001.

She will be greatly missed by her husband of 55 years, Robert; daughter, Pamela (Chet) Kolber of Punta Gorda; sister, Ethel J. Lane of Englewood; nieces, Tracy Wallace of Orlando, Tammy Lane of Port Charlotte and Natalie Lane of Englewood.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Boca Grande. Memorial donations may be made to Tidewell Hospice, Inc. 1144 Veronica Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952. To express condolences to the family please visit www.Ltaylorfuneral.com and sign the online guest book. Arrangements are by Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

'I get along great with black people'
Especially those living in Highlands?

What was he thinking? Even though I get along great with "black people," I would never make such a bigoted statement, especially on national television. Billionaire

Donald Trump, aka "The Donald," made the racist comment during an interview and is still getting flogged by both the press and politicians. Apparently, if you say "the black people," it's like saying "those people."

Maybe Donald should have said "people of color?" White America, what's left of us, must be very careful how we structure our sentences. Or maybe we should all lighten up.

I'm not a big Trump fan and, believe it or not, have never watched his program...not once. I don't do reality. Hey, I'm into fantasy. The closest I get to reality is when I "trump" the li'l missus' good trick and hear about it. I've watched sound bites of Trump saying "You're fired." He does that well and it might make him a good candidate for president. Or is "You're fired" also a racist statement? Ya gotta be careful.

And I'm pretty sure Trump is colorblind and only sees green. What if he had said "I get along great with green people." Is he still a racist? Actually I think any white person who chooses to run against Obama is a racist, wadayathink?

I've said this before but this is the perfect opportunity to say it again. During my long and active life on this planet, I have come to observe that the white people who are the most sensitive on black issues, live the farthest away from them. Why is that? And is that a racist question. Probably, but it's true. If I say "you white people," am I a bigot?

Highlands has a reputation of being more liberal than conservative and a large percentage of its citizens are supportive of black's struggle for fairness; at least it seems that way.

But how many "black people" live in Highlands? Ha, how about ZERO! What's going on with that? Surely, somewhere in this vast country there's a black banker, a chef, a financial adviser, etc., who longs for the wonderful life Highlands has to offer. When blacks move to Highlands, they don't stay long. Hmmm, what's that about? Could it be the water? Or, God forbid, could it be that Highlanders are closet bigots?

At this part of my column I should go into a rant about how many blacks I've befriended and lives I've saved as a cop. Or how many black officers I would have laid



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

down my life for if needed. But I can't because somehow that's racist. Surely there's another planet I can move to.

In 2007 I wrote a fantasy column about a planet dominated by green people. White people were the minority and got mistreated by the green people. Soon, the white people grew to hate the green people. No one had a problem with the col-

umn until I inserted the "B" word, then some white Highlanders got their shorts wadded.

Here's a fun story I think I can write without being called a bigot...maybe. Jimmy Smith's skin was as black as black could get. He was a part time preacher and my second in command of the Criminal Investigations Division. We got along great. He was competent, always polite and never lost his cool. When I was away, it was a comfort to know he was in charge.

One morning I arrived at work and found there had been a car chase during the night resulting in four severely damaged police cars and our paddy wagon. Two cars were beyond repair and Jimmy had been part of the chase. I went through the roof.

Jimmy's adrenalin was still flowing from the chase when I met with him. When I questioned his wisdom as to why the chase continued with another officer (I'm afraid he was also black.) ramming the getaway car, Jimmy lost it and the screaming started. You could hear us through the closed office doors. In anger, Jimmy blurted, "I guess I should have expected this from a honky commander like you." Shocked, he put his hand over his mouth, not believing the words came from his mouth. We stared at each other in silence. I started to laugh and so did he. Finally, Jimmy said, "I'm sorry about the comment, Major, but sometimes you gotta call a spade a spade."

• Of course you haven't read Fred's new mystery/thriller titled **Deceived**. Publishers are slower than a Town Board decision.

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

If you have to ask 'How much?'

Expensive hotels defy logic. The cost of parking at a Four Seasons approaches the cost of a room at Motel 6. That's without the expected tip for the valet. I'd gladly park my own car if they allowed it. When asked if I'd like to purchase a gym membership for the duration of my visit, I answer that I'd just as soon save the money and walk form the parking garage. There seems to be some

liability if I drive my own car to the parking lot. The fact that I had to drive to get to their front door is immaterial. The lobbies of these places are more imposing that those at the Comfort Inn. The carpet is sometimes thicker than the mattress. We once stayed at the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The lobby was breathtaking. Our room was a quaint cell squeezed into a corner of the building with a magnificent view of the roof of an adjacent section.

I've paid plenty for Internet access and local phone calls at luxury hotels. I'm afraid to eat the little chocolates the maid leaves without first asking if it will appear on my bill. I'm sure I'm not the first, or last, patron who thought the in-room mini-bar was a thoughtful convenience. At Quality Inn, you can get all the diet Coke you want for a dollar a can. Ice is free from a noisy machine and the plastic bucket is included. Bull loves the luxury of room service and I know I sound like an old tight wad when I plead with him to have a biscuit at McDonalds.

As a general rule, everything is extra at a luxury hotel and everything is included in the cost of a room in an economy hotel. Not only is parking free; it's right outside my window. At the fancy places some guy carries your bags to the room. I guess he thinks he's earned his tip by explaining the location of light switches and operation of the air conditioner. I don't walk around in the dark or in sweltering heat in the Hampton Inn. I figure it out. Once you've found the light switch just inside the door, the rest is a breeze.

The most outlandish extra charge I



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

ever encountered was at the Monasterio Hotel in Cuzco, Peru. They charged for oxygen. Honestly; they even bragged about it. They bill themselves as the only hotel in the world that charges for oxygen. It's actually a little more complicated than that. At an elevation of nearly 11,000 feet, the air is pretty thin and altitude sickness, or at least extreme fatigue is a common occurrence.

Each room has an oxygen tube entering through the ceiling. For an extra fee, supplemental oxygen can be delivered. A green light on the ceiling indicates oxygen is flowing.

When I checked out I found a charge of \$30 per night. I asked the desk clerk to explain the charge. "Oxygen, sir," he answered. "Oxygen," I repeated in the form of a question. I told him I was aware that extra oxygen was available, although the price seemed a bit high. I added quickly that I had not requested the service. "There was a green light in the ceiling," he explained. "Perhaps," I answered and added, "I didn't notice." He was insistent that someone had ordered oxygen. I answered that I hadn't ordered it, my wife hadn't ordered, and my 11-year-old son certainly hadn't ordered it. He argued that if it had not been ordered, it would not have been delivered, but to avoid a confrontation, he removed the charge from the bill.

We were on a train between Cuzco and Machu Picchu when I told Lizzie and Bull the story. Lizzie seemed pleased that I had raised the question. Bull, on the other hand looked a little sheepish. "Funniest thing," he said. "Do you remember when you and Mom went out to dinner? Well I ordered pizza from room service. The guy asked if I'd like oxygen with my pizza. At least I thought that's what he said. I said, Sure." It couldn't have happened at Day's Inn.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Who let the dogs out?

Don't spend a whole lot of time trying to figure out the connection between the title and the story – I'm not sure there is one, but it just sounded good to me.

Imagine my panic when I searched my Word file and didn't find my start on this week's column. It's a pity since I thought it was quite brilliant. Oh well.

Let's get some housekeeping out of the way before we plunge into today's subject.

First, about the girl we used to ridicule and then sympathized with. Lindsay Lohan, poster-child of overindulgence gone awry, has been busted – again. Seems she felt the need to walk out of a Venice, CA boutique with a \$2,500 bracelet and neglected to pay for it. She was clinked for about 15 minutes before she posted a large bail. Several hundred hours of community service are in her future.

At least she coveted something of value.

In the interest of gender-equality stupidity, we offer as a male offset to dingbat LiLo, Mike Leake, Cincinnati Red pitcher was arrested on a shoplifting charge at a department store, accused of trying to steal six shirts worth a total of \$59.88. This genius is paid \$450,000 per annum and two years ago was given a \$2 million signing bonus. Evidently a mil doesn't go as far as it used to.

Next, I suggest that if Al Gore is overheated these days, he may want to relocate to Minot, ND, or Hibbing, MN or Traverse City, MI where snowfalls occur nearly daily. I haven't checked lately, but I'm sure that the 69 feet of snow in one winter, the old record for the Sierra Mountains, has been eclipsed by now. I consulted my sources in Miami and they say the sea level hasn't raised a smidgen in years.

So much for the inconvenient lie. So much for frivolity, let's get serious. How about that Royal Wedding? Wasn't that a stunner? I'm sure you all set your alarms to wake you up in time to catch every detail, so you are excused for nodding off while reading this thrilling column. For my part, I think it was incredibly inconsiderate of the Royals to wed at such an ungodly hour. Really.

So much for that. I have been desperately trying to avoid the subject of the day which is Obama bashing, a theme you must be getting sick of by now. If you see him as the worst President since Carter, you don't need any more input. It's the other lost souls I'm concerned about. For you fact-checkers, I'm confessing that I'm mostly speaking from memory since we're having a houseful of guests for Easter Dinner in a couple of hours and research will suffer.

A year ago, I believe that a gallon of gasoline cost you about \$2.85. Through the administration's brilliant energy policy of ultimately wanting to see the price at \$5 per, I'd say he's well on the way. Lending money to Chavez to enhance Venezuela's oil production seems to be somewhat counterproductive to breaking our dependence of foreign oil while stifling exploration and



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

production at home.

Now I'm not a particularly strong Sarah Palin fan, but she certainly understands the oil business, having dealt with the majors while running Alaska. While her detractors will scoff at Alaska as some rustic outpost of humanity, she ran circles around anything Obama has done in his mysterious life.

Then there is Hillary Clinton, scowling as she tells the world that (fill in the blanks) behavior is unacceptable. Well

Hillary, I can't even begin to understand what your behavior is all about. Are we involved in Lybia or not? Are we after Gaddafi or not. What is our entrance policy? Drones, boots, both, neither – what? What is our game plan? What is our exit strategy? Now, if you want foreign policy done right, John Bolton's your man. This guy was displaying his knowledge and intelligence when Hillary was trying to distance herself from you know who.

Holder has been a disaster. The Guantanamo issue was the first of his blunders. It's going to be closed in the first 100 days or by the end of the year or whatever. We'll bring them all downtown NY and try them as juveniles for misdemeanors

(a little writer's license). Several times has he let us know that the Department of Justice has no interest in prosecuting members of the black race. And they call us bigots. Surely, the R's must have a high level legal type who could restore sanity to the Attorney General's office. The right one just doesn't come to mind at the moment.

Then there is Timothy Geithner, who, in league with Helicopter Ben Bernanke, is trashing the dollar and weakening our position among the world's economies. Tax rates are on the way up and our standard of living is on the way down. Standard & Poors has sounded the alarm that our debt is soon to be downgraded. A good dose of Dick Arme (a brilliant economist) or Mitt Romney would at least give us hope to come out of the mess.

I don't mean to be an alarmist, but it is hard to ignore the signs of a society going downhill.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Random thoughts after Spring Break

First off, I would like to note that while I often have remarked that Bill Simmons (The Sports Guy from ESPN.com) is one of my favorite writers, he has really outdone himself this week with an excellent column about the issues facing small-market teams in today's sporting world.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

The article focuses on the Sacramento Kings, but it goes into great detail as to the issues that some of these small franchises have and how it can affect the rest of the league when these small-market teams go under financially. I have to say that I am almost always rooting for the small markets because their fans just seem to care a little bit more.

Monday night when I watched Memphis absolutely blow San Antonio out of the building, it was awesome to see the energy of the crowd in that arena. It is energy like the kind that they have in college arenas and it was great when compared to the crappy crowds in Los Angeles or Miami. It is a shame that Major League Baseball and to some extent, the NBA are being dominated year in and year out by the same franchises. We love dynasties, but we also love underdogs, and a league needs both in order to maintain interest.

I watched the McDonald's commercial with Dwight Howard, LeBron James and Larry Bird and it got me to thinking a little bit about Larry Legend. I ended up going on youtube (one of the best inventions ever for sports fans) and watched old Bird highlights for a solid three hours.

I used to idolize Bird as a little kid, even as he was being broken down with

injuries. One of the things that I always remembered about watching Bird was that, while he was not physically gifted, mentally, he was miles ahead of everyone on the court.

Now, as an older person, watching those old clips I gained an even greater appreciation for the competitive drive and

mental acumen of Bird. He couldn't jump, couldn't run, couldn't take anyone off the dribble, and yet he was able to dominate a game because he was mentally superior. Much in the same way that the older guys at the rec always seem to handle the young bucks because they outsmart them, Bird outsmarted the NBA for many years.

A couple of quick hitting NBA playoff observations to wrap up this week:

- Chris Paul is playing at an incredible level right now. He is doing the same thing for New Orleans that Derrick Rose is for Chicago, but against a much better team

- If Dwight Howard leaves Orlando, where will he go?

- The Knicks aren't going anywhere until they get a few guys who can play defense.

- I am really digging this young Memphis team-it is awesome to see the fearlessness of the Grizzlies.

- If you love basketball, watching the Atlanta Hawks play will suck the life out of you. They have a ton of talent, but they don't play well together and have no poise.

- Is this the year that Dirk Nowitzki carries Dallas back to the finals?

- I love Marv Albert on play-by-play...even if he is a bit senile.

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Race participants raise \$2,100 for mission trip to Africa

On Saturday, April 23, Highlands United Methodist Church conducted a Fun Run and 5K in conjunction with the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park.

The runs were the first in HUMC ef-

forts to raise funds to send Carrilea Potter, director of youth ministries, to Kenya for her mission. She will be gone for one year working in a hospital for children with AIDS.

More than 70 adults participated in the

5k run and 12 children joined in the Fun run.

This dedicated group raised more than \$2,100 for Carrilea's living and travel expenses. Prizes were awarded to age-category winners.

If people would like to support Carrilea's mission, they may send checks made payable to Highlands United Methodist Church for Carrilea's Kenya Mission trip. 315 Main Street, Highlands.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The 'Real'
reality story
worth telling
again and
again

Holy Family Lutheran Church – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell

Reality TV is apparently a big thing these days. I was watching the “Today” show yesterday and the hosts were talking with some experts on why they are so popular, particularly the shows like “Real Housewives” “The Apprentice” and “Mob Wives.”

What boosts these shows ratings were women in arguments, and catty-fights with each other. Their explanation was obvious: Conflict is interesting. Women tend to want to have relationships that are personal and involved, while men tend to do things together- like and keep their relationships on a companionable level.

I suspect that these shows are staged. The emotional maturity of the participants seems to never have matured past junior high, so with a little coaching they are only too willing to scratch each other's eyes out. I don't relish these kinds of show myself, because I grew up in a house with lots of conflict and I've had enough to last a lifetime, thank you very much.

I hope and pray that folks in other countries don't think we are like these people in reality. Then again, Jerry Springer and a number of other “talk show hosts” have made lucrative careers playing off people's bad behavior. I'd like to see a show where folks band together for a worthy cause. (No not “Survivor”) I think a program about the rescue and aid efforts in Japan or building schools in Afghanistan, or working in ghettos here in American to help people there have a better life — I think that reality would be far more exciting than watching a bunch of spoiled celebrities behaving badly.

Just think what a gripping show Holy Week and Easter morning would make! It has all the elements that reality show writers long for — jealousy, miscommunication, betrayal, violence, and death.

For once it is the men who behave badly and the women who remain faithful and true.

Imagine that Easter morning: Mary Magdalene and the “other Mary” probably the wife of Clopas, go to the tomb for the first time since Good Friday. The high holy days – Passover — prevented them from attending before now and it is with sorrow and uneasiness that they come.

As they approach the tomb, suddenly there was a great earthquake, and an angel descended from heaven, right in front of them, rolled the stone away from the tomb

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

• 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

... LETTERS continued from page 2

straight out of the horse's mouth. I assume you missed his last visit here and the gathering of a million plus "dupes," myself included, in Washington two years ago where the country and the world was given the wake up call that the TP was coming – and so it did. That event was sponsored by FreedomWorks and many like minded organizations.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to get out the FreedomWorks and Tea Party story. I wish you the very best.

Don Swanson
Franklin

Now the town wants an outside opinion?

Dear Editor,

I have noticed in the newspapers that the Town Board is bringing in a Mr. Fleming Bell to educate them on forms of government. If the board (or the two members whose vote on the issue didn't go their way) wanted to have someone from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government come speak, it seems that should have had someone come before voting on the issue. At this point it seems pointless, since the vote has been taken and a decision has been made.

If Mr. Bell does favor a form of government that gives total control to the town manager, does this mean there will be another vote until some commissioners get their way and Mr. Fatland is in total control of all departments including police chief and zoning administrator?

I hope Mr. Bell is offering his service free-of-charge because this seems to be an unnecessary cost to the taxpayers. Again, if Mr. Fatland does get authority over the hirings, based on his track record to date, would positions continue to go to individuals from outside our area (Tryon perhaps)?

Skip Keener
Highlands

Past days in Highlands

Dear Editor,

This is a letter I sent your columnist Fred Wooldridge.

My family has been a member of the Highlands summer community for almost 80 years. I was even baptized in the Presbyterian Church 54 years ago

this month. I have enjoyed reading "Laughing at Life" since you started it many years ago. I find something to relate to every time. And for what ever it says about me, I agree with your observations.

The reason I am writing to you is because of a summer when my own children were early teenagers and bored to death. Gone were the things that children could and would do. No movies (when I was young we could see 2 movies a week), no dances at Helen's Barn, no bon fires and parties in Horse Cove. Basically my grandparents would find out who else had family coming in with grandchildren our age and we would end up at some ones house and told "This is so and so, have fun, we'll pick you up later." But it was fun. I hung out at the Highlands Country Club, having offered to go pick up the mail and either walking or if we had been really good my grandfather would let us take his golf cart. We would hang out with the caddies who usually end up showing us what was going on around town (all totally innocent) REALLY.

My parents actually met in Highlands. They were from 2 different cities in Florida and their parents started coming up in the summer. My dad and his father built their house and Cobb Road, and my mom's family bought a small house and fixed it up on Hudson. When they were young Highlands had a "social coordinator" to make sure all the kids met each other. That was why I was Christian in the Highlands Church instead of Florida. Both my parents were only children and

• See LETTERS page 19

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everyone ended up in Highlands for the summer. (I almost wrote a book called "If you were an only child, don't grow up

and marry another only child" They had 3 and lets just say it was comical.

• See LETTERS page 19

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Springtime Math:

Dry Eyes
+ Allergies
= Misery



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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 828-526-1FIT.

- 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 a.m.

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

- 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 Ameri-

can Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are 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 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 Stewardship Month and enjoy an evening at The Mountain for only \$15 per person. Call (828) 526-5838 ext 0 to reserve a spot!

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday Night, April 29th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 7 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the square dance caller. Mike McDonald will be calling Round Dancing. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, or 706-782-0943.

Friday, April 29

- Fundraising party to benefit the Little Tennessee

Cats & Dogs Rotary Bingo



The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society will join forces again for Cats & Dogs Rotary Bingo on Thursday, May 5.

Tell your pet that you're going to Cats & Dogs Bingo and be ready for a purr or serious tail wagging. Half of all money paid to play Bingo will be paid as prizes to game winners and the other half goes to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

Cats & Dogs Bingo will happen on Thursday, May 5, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building - next to the

ballpark at Hwy 64 and Poplar Street. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with Game 15 being an extra money game. Play as many cards as you like.

Cats and Dogs Bingo is a family-style event that offers fun, a lot of humor, free refreshments served by Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 and the chance to win Bingo money, please your pets or help out some yet-to-be pets.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed to operate Bingo games by the State of NC.

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Proceeds support non-profits in the Highlands-Cashiers-Franklin

On going and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

Watershed Association 5:30-8 pm at the Rathskeller Coffee Haus in Franklin, NC. \$5 cover charge. Live music will be performed by *The Lovelands*, a husband-wife duo performing an eclectic mix of jazz, folk, indie, and Appalachian music. For information call the Little Tennessee Watershed Association at 828-369-6402 or email info@ltwa.org.

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 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 9:30 a.m.

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.

Tuesday, May 3

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-6 mile hike with two 300-foot elevation gains in **Panthertown**: up Blackrock Mtn. to see pink shell azaleas, then down to the valley to see trillium and three waterfalls. One creek fording is necessary. Meet at Ingles parking lot in Cashiers on Hwy. 64 at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 15 miles round trip. The rain

date for this hike is Thursday, May 5, at 9:30 a.m. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Wednesday, May 4

- At the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin, new Oscar-Winning Movie at 4:30 and 7 pm. Tells the story of the man who became King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II. After his brother abdicates, George ('Bertie') reluctantly assumes the throne. Plagued by a dreaded stammer and considered unfit to be king, Bertie engages the help of an unorthodox speech therapist named Lionel Logue. Through a set of unexpected techniques, and as a result of an unlikely friendship, Bertie is able to find his voice and boldly lead the country through war. This movie is rated PG-13 and runs for 1 hour and 58 minutes.

Thursday, May 5

- At Highlands School, Art and Fashion show, spring concert, a freshman-sponsored steak dinner and a PTO meeting from 5-8pm.

- 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 homemade 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"

• See EVENTS page 14

Previous production, example of Ludwig's work featured again by HCP in 'Leading Ladies'



A photo from another Ken Ludwig play, "Moon Over Buffalo," produced by HCP. Dean Zuch, in the role of Cyrano, rehearses a scene with his actress wife, played by his real-life wife, Virginia Talbot. HCP's production of their third Ludwig play, "Leading Ladies," opens May 12 at PAC in Highlands.

In just two weeks, audiences will be attending the opening night of the Highlands Cashiers Players production of "Leading Ladies" by Ken Ludwig. The playwright's name may not mean much to the average play-goer, but in the theatrical world Ludwig's name on a play means non-stop humor, clever one-liners, double entendres, mistaken identities, and all the joyful foolishness of a first rate comedy farce. Dubbed the reigning king of Broadway comedy, Ludwig has had a number of hits on Broadway, in London, and around the world, with his plays translated into more than 20 languages.

His Broadway productions include *Crazy for You*, which won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical; *Lend Me a Tenor*, winner of two Tonys and a nomination for the Olivier Best Play Award; *Moon Over Buffalo* (which starred Carol Burnett), *Twentieth Century*, and the musical *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

HCP has produced two of Ludwig's

funniest: *Lend Me a Tenor* in 2008, starring Wayne Coleman and Stuart Armor, and *Moon Over Buffalo* in 2002, starring Virginia Talbot and Dean Zuch. The Players are pleased and excited to be producing their third Ludwig comedy, *Leading Ladies*, starring Rick Siegel, David Spivey, and Kathryn Cochran, which opens May 12 at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands to run through May 22.

The 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 a.m. till 4 p.m. except on Sundays, May 15 and 22, when the box office opens 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 directed by Tanji Armor and sponsored in part by Cashiers Printers and Brick Oven Pizza/Movie Stop.

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Spring Home Improvement

4 overlooked spots to spring clean

(StatePoint) Is your spring cleaning routine sufficient? Or do you suspect dirt may be lurking in places you've never even put on your to-do list?

If you're like most Americans, chances are you forgot some of these often overlooked spots while spring cleaning:

In the Kitchen

Most people hit the stove, fridge and the microwave. But there are more places in the kitchen needing your attention. All cupboards and pantries should be cleared and re-stocked at least once yearly to dispose of expired food and guard against insects and rodents.

Also make sure you clean your can opener! This often used, rarely cleaned tool can be a trap for bacteria and spores. Use Q-Tips and soapy water to wipe down every nook and cranny, including the gears.

In the Laundry Room

Have you noticed an unusual funk coming from your washing machine? This may be because the new, high-efficiency washers use less wa-



Dirt and odors can lurk in your washing machine.

ter than traditional ones, causing residue buildup from dirty clothes, detergent and hard water minerals. If so, it's time to clean your machine. Something as simple as Tide's Washing Machine Cleaner, which comes in a small packet you drop into a normal cycle without clothes, can keep your machine smelling fresh.

Once you've got your

washing machine clean, next focus on what you put in it. With spring and summer whites sure to be washed this time of year, consider switching to a detergent with both stain fighting and whitening power, such as Tide plus Bleach Powder. And look for a new concentrated version, which not only gives you the same cleaning with 1/3 less detergent, but helps save you

space and helps save the planet by reducing packaging.

In the Bedroom

Spring cleaning usually involves a change of bedding, but how about those decorative pillows or stuffed animals in children's rooms? Because of their soft, uneven surfaces, they're prime locations for dust and allergens. Sticking them in plastic bags and then in the freezer for four hours will kill dust mites. Then use a vacuum to suck up dead carcasses.

You should also pay attention to ceiling fans, crown moldings and even the walls. It's best to use a damp cloth to wipe down all surfaces. Dry feather dusters tend to kick up dust and allergens, which settle back down in the same place.

In the Living Room

Window treatments and lampshades attract dust and germs as much as any other home surface, but are easily cleaned using removable vacuum attachments, such as a combo brush or crevice tool extension.

And don't skip floor vents, door jams, and window sills. These areas are often overlooked and can collect years of grime.

Of course, regular cleaning is the best way to minimize your spring cleaning. To find products that can help make cleaning less of a chore, visit www.tide.com.

Then get to it! After all, a clean home is a happy home.



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Spring Home Improvement



The right techniques will help you get more done in less time.

(StatePoint) Spring is in the air — a time for rejuvenation and renewal... and for getting your yard back in shape.

If you're like most Americans, you love your garden and the budding trees of the new season, but don't want to spend all your precious weekends toiling away at yard work and lawn care.

Here are some easy shortcuts for getting yard work done in less time and with less effort this season:

The Easy Way Out

When doing yard work, it's easiest to stand — constant kneeling and crouching will tire you out sooner and make you more likely to experience back and

knee pain later on. If you need to get low to the ground, bring a low stool with you to sit on.

And give your body a break by transporting all your tools in a kiddie wagon. Or you can use a collapsible wheelbarrow with a wire frame and nylon bag. Choose a lightweight one that also stores easily and compactly in a garage or tool shed. They are available at home improvement stores and online at sites like bedbathandbeyond.com.

Get the Right Tools

Choosing garden tools with longer handles will also reduce your bending and kneeling. You may want to use ones with padded grips, although gardening gloves

are always advisable since insects and spiders can lay dormant in dead foliage and debris.

Consider using add-ons to your current tools to increase your efficiency. For example, PowerSharp, a chain-saw sharpening system from Oregon-brand outdoor products, lets chainsaw users sharpen chain on the saw, on the job, in seconds. This helps get yard work done faster and with relative ease, especially when faced with tough chores requiring sharp chains, such as pruning and trimming. To learn more, visit www.powersharp.com.

Hone Your Focus

"Most people immediately think of their lawns when they think of seasonal

Shortcuts to make yard work easier

yard work" says Chris Seigneur, Senior Product Development Engineer for Blount, the makers of PowerSharp. "But trimming dead branches from your trees and shrubs will ensure their health and add to the beauty of your home."

You should also clear plant beds of dead foliage, which can smother budding greenery and foster disease. And when reseeding your lawn, it's best to stay off it for at least two weeks to allow the grass to grow.

Lastly, some more permanent fixtures can save you time and effort in the long run. Native plants and flowers will grow more easily since they do not need the care and attention of exotic transplants. And an automatic sprinkler system will keep your yard lush and green with little thought.

With these adjustments to your yard tools and routine, you should be able to spend more time outdoors enjoying your yard than trimming its trees and shrubs. And isn't that what the weekend's for?

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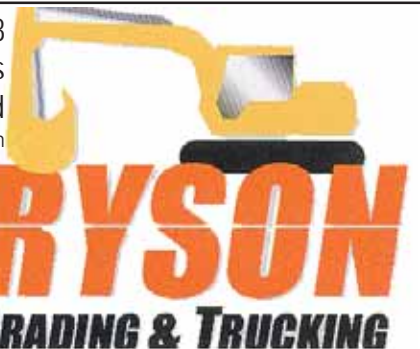
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which begins at 7 at the Performing Arts Center.

- Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iolla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome, Appointments preferred! Through June 30, two donors will be selected at random to receive a pair of round-trip tickets.
- Taize in Highlands at Our Lady of the Mountains at 5:30 p.m.

- At the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin, music in the Meeting Room at 11 am. It's the first Thursday of the month, so come to the library for a fun morning of music with Lady and the Old Timers!

- Cats & Dogs Bingo will happen on Thursday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building – next to the ballpark at Hwy 64 and Poplar Street. The cost to play is \$1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with Game 15 being an extra money game. Play as many cards as you like.

Friday, May 6

- Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 Riverview Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins

welcome, appointments preferred! Through June 30, two donors will be selected at random to receive a pair of round-trip tickets.

- At the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin, classic Movie at 2 pm. Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz live slap happily ever after as newlyweds honeymooning in their new 40-foot trailer. They quickly find that the interior of a moving trailer is ideal for tossing a Caesar salad – and everything else. That backing up their three-ton home is only a little more difficult than threading a needle while wearing boxing gloves. And that trailer-park folks are neighborly sorts who turn the lovebirds' rig into the wrong, wrong trailer by crashing the wedding night. If you like the Trailer, you're going to love the movie! This movie runs for 1 hour and 36 minutes.

Saturday, May 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-6 mile hike with two 300-foot elevation gains in **Panther town**: up Blackrock Mtn. to see pink shell azaleas, then down to the valley to see trillium and three waterfalls. One creek fording is necessary. Meet behind the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 9:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-

1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

- American Cancer Society "Carnival of Hope" Kickoff Celebration at 10a.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Carnival food, games and prizes and lots of Relay information. Call 828-421-2144 for more information or go to www.relayforlife.org/highlands

Monday, May 9

- The regular May meeting for the Hospital Auxiliary is at 10 AM.

May 11-14

- Three River fly Fishing Tournament offering fishing, fellowship and philanthropy. \$500 for two-person team. All funds raised benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund for Highlands School graduates. For more information call 526-2118.

Thurs., May 12 – Sunday, May 15

- The Highlands-Cashiers Players present Ken Ludwig's comedy, "Leading Ladies," 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 for Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more. Call the box office at 526-8084.

NC home to more than 173 species of butterflies

Learn more at Mountain Garden Club plant sale Sat., May 28

Warm spring days lure us to mountain meadows. As wildflowers begin to bloom butterflies dart from plant to plant gathering nectar to give them energy and looking for the perfect place to lay eggs.

God's artwork is evident in the many species of butterflies that we enjoy here in the mountains.

To attract a greater variety of butterflies to your garden, you must have a variety of plants. Adult butterflies look for nectar plants on which they can feed and they look for host plants which will support their young.

It is also important to have a nice sunny area (sunshine for about 5 to 6 hours daily) that is protected from wind. Too much wind makes it very hard for butterflies to stay on the plants.

Butterflies also need water so you will either want to include a water feature or have a low area where water will stand so that the butterflies have a place to drink.

Large, flat stones provide a great place for butterflies to rest and warm up.

Plants that attract butterflies also attract other pollinators such as hummingbirds and honey bees. Include plants such as Joe Pye weed, asters, phlox, foxglove, lupines and turtlehead so that you will

have plants that pollinators look for.

The Mountain Garden Club will be selling plants that attract pollinators at the annual 29th Mountain Garden Club plant sale on Saturday, May 28 at the Highlands Baseball field on Highway 64. The sale begins at 9 a.m. and runs through noon. Come early for best selection. The members of the Garden Club will be available to help you choose the plants that are best for your specific environment.

Proceeds from the sale underwrite the club's many philanthropic projects including the Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship program, projects at Highlands School including the Butterfly Garden and activities for Hummers (youth gardeners), Garden Therapy activities and courtyard gardens at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and various local environmental/green organizations such as the Highlands Nature Center and the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

As Emily Compost, the club mascot, says, "Come to this year's plant sale for some of the heartiest, healthiest plants available in the Highlands area. See you there!" Rain date is Sunday, May 29.

Margaret Ravenel and Samuel Kelsey greet visitors on Kelsey Trail hike May 14



On Saturday, May 14, hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands and step back in time.. Along the way, small groups will be led to Lella'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 8:30A M. 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. Register is to visit the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com. Or, send a check to Highlands Plateau Greenway, P. O. Box 2608, Highlands, NC 28741.

... LUPOLI continued from page 1

invested by the local communities, bringing the total public/private investments to just over \$4 million. These funds will be used to provide direct support to North Carolina small businesses with revitalization activities that include commercial building rehabilitation, façade improvements, LEED certification energy efficiency and code improvements.

"Small businesses create more jobs than any other part of the economy, and we are helping to bring those jobs to our communities," Gov. Perdue said. "These grants will support some of the most creative and innovative economic development work being done today. Main Streets can be at the heart of North Carolina's economic recovery with the right support and investment. The small businesses and other economic partners in our downtown areas will be stronger for this important investment."

Gov. Perdue knows that main street is the backbone of the small town local economy. Developing main street in small towns is key to spurring economic growth in communities that have been hit hard by the global economic recession. Gov. Perdue's Main Street Solutions program helps increase economic activity through public/private redevelopment, historic preservation and small business assistance. Today's announcement is the second round of funding through the Main Street Solutions program. To date, the program has handed out nearly \$3 million in grants with an expected \$13 million in additional public/private investments.

Grant awardees and amounts are: Benson, \$41,389; Kinston, \$200,000; Goldsboro, \$200,000; Burnsville, \$200,000; Highlands, \$200,000; Sylva, \$47,382; and Newton, \$80,830.

Project Descriptions

Benson Awardees: Town of Benson, Benson Small Town Main Street Committee and Nails and Co. Nail Salon. Name of Project: Finding Your Way to Downtown Benson.

Description of Project: The Town of Benson is proposing to complete the installation of a comprehensive wayfinding system for downtown and to support the renovation of the Market Street private improvement project and the expansion of Nails and Co. Nail Salon, an existing business that plans to add a second hair styling chair and pedicure services. These funds will support the retention and creation of three permanent full-time jobs associated with the business. A second

phase (non-MSSF funded) of this project will include two upper story apartments, making this building the first mixed-use building in Downtown Benson. In addition, the wayfinding system that will be implemented in association with this project will retain an additional three full-time Town of Benson positions.

Kinston Awardees: City of Kinston, PRIDE of Kinston, Hill Realty, LLC, Miami Bistro. Name of Project: The Miller Furniture Restoration Project.

Description of Project: The proposed project will renovate two downtown properties, 212 North Queen Street and 108 West North Street. Phase 1, which Main Street Solutions will partially fund, will develop space for Hill Realty, property developers, and a Miami style bistro. A second phase will renovate space for two retailers and two offices. The first phase of this project will create a minimum of eight permanent full-time jobs, plus construction jobs.

Goldsboro Awardees: City of Goldsboro, Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation, Arts Council of Wayne County, Lotus 1899, Grimes, Darwin Properties.

Name of Project: Arts Downtown!
Description of Project: The Main Street Solutions Fund application seeks funds to renovate 102 N. John Street in downtown Goldsboro. The proposed project is a complete façade renovation that will benefit three businesses and a partial interior renovation on the first and second floors of the building for the purpose of relocating the Arts Council of Wayne County to downtown. Four businesses, including Darwin Properties, private developer, will directly benefit from these funds and the project



will retain or create 10 permanent full time jobs and 29 part time positions, plus construction jobs.

Burnsville Awardees: Town of Burnsville, Burnsville Main Street Advisory Board, Nu Wray Inn. Name of Project: Nu Wray Inn Home Cooking School.

Description of Project: The Main Street Solutions Fund application seeks funding for the renovation of a portion of the Nu Wray Inn, located in downtown Burnsville, for a Home Cooking School. The school is an expansion of the traditional "Inn" concept and is designed to position Burnsville as a destination for 2-3 day workshops and retreats that will educate visitors about the Appalachian culture through food, crafts, music and culture. Eleven permanent full-time positions and six permanent part-time jobs will be created in association with this

project, plus construction jobs.

Highlands Awardees: Town of Highlands, Highlands Small Town Main Street Committee, Kilwin's, TJ Bailey for Men, Spoiled Rotten, 4118 Brew Pub, Lupoli Construction. Name of Project: Town Square Renovation (A private development project).

Description of Project: The Main Street Solutions Fund application seeks funding to renovate the common space, specifically public restrooms and the courtyard area, in "Town Square," a private development project in downtown Highlands. Town Manager Jim Fatland said the public bathrooms were the reason the town got behind the project. The town will disburse the funds as needed. The courtyard houses four existing businesses that

•See LUPOLI page 17

**May 12, 13, 14, 15
& May 19, 20, 21, 22**
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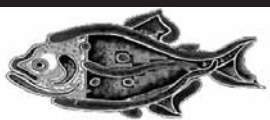
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It would take An Act of Congress...

How many times have you heard that expression? Well, On April 14, 2011, President Obama signed a repeal into law that officially was the undoing of a law passed in September 2010. The law, called the 1099 Landlord Reporting Law, was a part of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (H.R.-5297).



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
526-3717

burden would have been placed on any one that rents property. Some questioned where it would start and end. Do we send Office Depot a 1099 for supplies? Also, a 'sister' provision in the health care reform (also repealed) was going to require all businesses, (not just rental owners) to track all vendor work,

The law required ANY property owners, as landlords to track any work done for them that totaled \$600 or more in a year, and report that amount and the vendor's name to the IRS in form 1099. This reporting requirement previously only applied to those in the business of renting real estate, like real estate offices that handle rentals, vacation rentals or property management. The law would affect you if you rent out your home for any length of time. If you rent your home in hopes of making a profit, the IRS believes you are a small business, thus this law would have required you report your payments to vendors such as cleaners, plumbers, pest control, etc. *for goods and services.*

including those vendors that are not incorporated.

A press release, reported from Reuters, dated April 5 quoted President Obama saying "Small businesses are the engine of our economy and eliminating the 1099 reporting requirement is the right thing to do." The NAR (National Association of Realtors) rejoiced in that statement as they had been moving toward that result with their 'Call to action' initiative asking members to contact their representatives in Washington.

A February letter written by NAR President, Ron Phipps to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, spoke on behalf of the 1.1 million NAR members supporting the full appeal of the burdensome Form 1099 reporting provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) and the Small Business Jobs Act, stating that the provision burdens small business owners which includes Realtors.

So, for now the law that was....is no longer. Thank your fellow Realtors here and nationwide for speaking up. 1099 reporting will still be a part of our business as agents for landlords of vacation rental properties, and as small business owners, but the burden of each individual home owner having to do the same is moot, for now anyway.

• Tucker and Jeannie Chambers are Brokers/Owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, offering real estate, vacation rentals and property management. Jeannie, the writer of this piece in no way, shape or form purports to have studied law, or know anything about the law or legislature. Any information gathered is deemed to be correct, but none is guaranteed.

The repeal Act (H.R.4) states in Section 3- Repeal of expansion of Information reporting requirements for rental property expense payments, effective December 31, 2010. The law had intended for all landlords to start the task of accumulating expenses for reporting January 1, 2011 — but for now, anyway — you can shelve those records. Your accountant may still need them for dealing with your 2010 taxes, but you do NOT have to report by 1099 to the IRS for these expenses.

If you have your home rented by a rental company, they should already be reporting 1099's for vendors that have been paid \$600 or more in services, but those expenses are accumulative for all the homes rented by your agent, and not specific to each home.

Another very important reason this repeal was so important is that 1) the law would have required 1099s be reported for goods and services, where previously only services were calculated, and 2) the



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... SCHOOL continued from page 1

large students for PE, art and lunch. They will still be required to take state tests, like the End-of-Grade tests like everyone else.

Since the program involves independent, project-based learning, teachers admit it may not be for every student, not even every AIG student. "They may want more teacher involvement," they said. "This is geared more for those students who need and want an alternative way to learn."

The AIG students in 4th and 5th grade are being identified now and will be recommended by teachers if they are goal oriented, independent learners, achievers (based on EOG scores and grades and writing samples done at school), are recommended by parents, are creative and curious, have the ability to work in cooperative groups, and demonstrate a love of learning and a passion to study a topic in depth.

AIG students who don't want to be in this setting will be placed in advanced classes and students who are not identified AIG but fit the criteria will be included, if space is available.

In addition to hands-on learning, technology will be used as much as possible. Using iPads and computers, students will use technology to investigate and report their learning. On-line curriculum support such as web-based tutorials, Web quests, and podcasts will reinforce instruction.

Measures of achievement will be based on students products and class performance, EOG scores, and an end-of-year survey done by students and parents.

There are no extra costs involved – no

additional teachers or structures are needed.

"The MVI Learning Connections initiative will serve as a demonstration program in our school district with hopes of expansion to all schools during the coming years. Principal Sutton, Ms. Wolffer and Ms. Baker have stepped away from the traditional approach of serving gifted students through the pull-out model by revising the long-term and short-term schedules, grouping learners based on academic needs, assigning personnel according to those needs at specific blocks of time during the day/week, and maximizing the use of space at MVI," said Brigman. "The ongoing integration of technology and problem-based learning opportunities will also support this non-traditional approach. Hopefully, seeds of success will be planted and this approach will quickly become widespread throughout the Macon County School System."

Ms. Baker's replacement as Highlands School AIG teacher is in the works.

Other BOE news specific to Highlands:

This year part of the Bel Canto proceeds that are traditionally given to Highlands School music program will help start a Chorale group under the direction of music teacher John Goreki. All high school students interested in being a part of this new program are encouraged to contact Mr. Goreki.

Also, Kindergarteners in Highlands School will now be recipients of a free breakfast like other kindergarteners in the Macon County School District.

— **Kim Lewicki**

... LUPOLI continued from page 15

will directly benefit from these improvements. The businesses will create or retain 23 permanent full-time jobs, 10 permanent part-time jobs, plus 84 construction jobs.

Sylva Awardees: Town of Sylva, Downtown Sylva Association, Jean Ensley, David Schulman, Annie's Bakery Café, Veler Convenience Store, Speedy's Pizza, Tina Maries Barber Shop, Western Southern Life Insurance, Family Dollar, Sylva Insurance, Penumbra, Peebles. Name of Project: The Mill Street Renewal Project.

Description of Project: The Main Street Solutions Fund application seeks funding to assist with the complete renovation of the facades that line Mill Street and to complete parking lot improvements to a private lot that supports several of the small businesses that front Mill Street. The nine businesses that will directly benefit from the funds will retain a total of 57 perma-

nent full-time jobs and nine permanent part-time jobs.

Newton Awardees: City of Newton, Downtown Newton Development Association, Second Nature Technology, Inc., Heilsamr Bakery. Name of Project: 19 North Main Avenue Renovations.

Description of Project: Second Nature Technology, Inc. plans to purchase 19 North Main Avenue and renovate the first floor of the building for Heilsamr Bakery. In a second phase, Second Nature Technology, Inc. will renovate the second floor for a live/work space for the owners of the business and building. The Main Street Solutions Fund application seeks funding for renovations for the initial first floor development, which will result in 4 permanent full-time positions and 3 permanent part-time positions.

... GAMING continued from page 1

ment" which takes care of potential brown bagging, said Interim Zoning Administrator Mark Maxwell.

Another concern brought up by the Town Board was the proximity of electronic gaming businesses to each other. With empty storefronts in town, commissioners were worried they might pop up near each other creating an "electronic gaming" district.

To take care of that, in addition to requiring a minimum of 200 feet from any residential district or any religious institution/synagogue, school, daycare center/home, library, public park, recreation area or motion picture establishment where "G" or "PG" rated movies are shown, the establishments much also be a minimum of 500 feet from any other such establishment.

Though some commissioners voiced concern over the number of machines allowed per business – Commissioner Dennis DeWolf thought perhaps four or five machines were enough — as per Wednesday night, 10 machines are currently allowed.

Nor was the issue about laws applying to accessory-use or principal operations addressed, which was a question poised by Commissioner John Dotson earlier in the month. He wondered if the state regulated accessory-use establishments like gas stations differently than principal "stand-

alone" operations.

With revenue on every official's mind these days, the subject of taxing machines or levying a special business fee was discussed by the Town Board earlier in the month.

But no such discussion took place Wednesday night. The Town of Franklin charges electronic gaming establishments a \$2,600 annual fee per establishment. There has been talk about the county levying a fee of some kind, but so far the county hasn't made a move in that direction.

In Highlands, electronic gaming operations may be located in areas zoned B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, GI and B-5; may operate from 8 a.m. to midnight seven days a week; and where required by zoning district, must have one parking space for every two terminals or one space per every 200 sq. ft. of total floor area, whichever is greater, and one space per employee.

The Planning Board will send the amended version back to the Town Board for its final word at the May 4 Town Board meeting.

All electronic gaming establishments currently operating in Highlands are grandfathered and don't have to comply with stipulations in the new ordinance.

— **Kim Lewicki**

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• JUST HERS •

The fur people

When my mother was a little girl, her time was spent between the family apartment in Paris, and her grandparents' country house in Les Bordes. One Easter, a local family had a litter of kittens to give away. In the spirit of the holiday, they stuck fake bunny ears on the ears of those poor kittens.

Of course, my two cats, Orion and Weasel, wouldn't put up with that kind of nonsense. In fact, they don't put up with much at all, since they are the ones who seem to make the rules. Here is a typical day:

• 5:30-6:15am – Orion, who has just spent the night with Mama, wakes up and decides that it is time to be fed. He walks around the bed, meowing piteously. Mama tries to ignore him, and pulls the covers over her head. Orion proceeds to bat at Mama with his paw (no claws, thankfully). When none of this works, Orion starts walking on Mama, no mean feat since he is 18.7 pounds of cat. Finally, Mama accepts defeat, grudgingly sliding out of bed. Weasel has been waiting just outside the bedroom door, and joins the procession, adding her wails to those of her brother. The two cats flank the Mama, crying as they walk into the kitchen. They are unaware that sometimes they actually trip Mama, which rather defeats the purpose.

• 6:15-6:30am – Mama selects a can of cat food, and pops the top. Both cats shriek with delight, throwing themselves against their human. Mama dish-

es out ¼ of the can into each dish. A dish of food is put in front of each cat. The cats take two bites of their food, and then switch dishes, each cat attempting to convince the other that it is being cheated out of its breakfast. The cats never seem to tire of this ritual. Each bowl is cleaned with surgical precision.

• 6:30 – 8:30am Following breakfast, each cat proceeds to do at least 15 minutes of thorough grooming. Mama takes advantage of the grooming ritual to high tail it back to bed, sometimes listening to NPR, sometimes reading a murder mystery novel. Dozing off may ensue. The cats, now fed and groomed, follow Mama back to bed. Orion curls up on the right side; Weasel settles herself down at the foot of the bed, with her head resting on the Mama's foot.

• 8:30 – 9am Mama realizes that Dr. Oz is on in ½ hour. She jumps into the shower. If the bathroom door is closed, both cats settle down on the other side of the door, meowing loudly to get in. Mama emerges from the shower to find both cats frantic. Reassured that Mama has not gone down the drain, the cats trot off to the living room, where the TV set is turned on. The cats are great fans of Dr. Oz.

• 9 – 10am Dr. Oz is enjoyed by all.



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

• 10am – 5pm Nap time for cats. Orion sleeps in his cat bed, or on the sofa. Weasel sleeps on a chair tucked under the dining room table. During the winter, Weasel goes back to bed, and tunnels under the duvet, making a purring lump in the bed. Once the sun starts shining in the bay window, the cats fight over the cat beds on the ledge.

• 5 – 5:30pm Mama is starting to think about dinner. Any attempt to enter the kitchen is met with hysterical cats, who, annoyed at having slept through lunch, are determined to make up for it by demanding dinner. After several thwarted attempts to make her own dinner, Mama gives up and reaches into the refrigerator for the can of cat food opened that morning. The sight of the can reduces the cats to shrieking banshees.

• 5:30 – 6:30pm Mama tries to make dinner, in spite of cats whirling underfoot. When she finally sits down to eat, Orion sits at her feet, watching the plate of food. Weasel tries to perch on the sofa, ready to reach a paw out with lightening speed to snatch a tidbit off the plate. Mama eats furtively, elbows ready to ward off unwanted attention. "Mama doesn't need a cat right now!" she chides.

• 6:30 – 8pm Mama and the Fur People watch World News with Diane Sawyer, ET, and Jeopardy. Weasel has a crush on Alex Trebek, but is saddened by the lack of cat questions on quiz shows.

• 8 – 11pm With Orion curled up against her left hip and Weasel on her lap, Mama settles down to watch TV. Dancing with the Stars and Masterpiece Theater are favorites, as are all programs which feature small, squeaky animals and noisy birds. Mama and Weasel make occasional trips to the litter box together. Orion sleeps uninterrupted, dreaming of mice and tuna.

• 11pm Mama gets ready to turn in for the night. Orion stakes his claim on the bed. Weasel finds a comfortable place to nest. No one admits to snoring. Before you think that Weasel and

Orion are a couple of spoiled housecats, let me fill you in on a few details in explanation. Weasel came to live with John and P.M. (Previous Management) when a single mother and her teenage son moved from their apartment, and couldn't keep their cat, Dweezil. Named after Dweezil Zappa, the son of musician Frank Zappa. Dweezil was renamed Weasel, which was considered more appropriate for a pretty brindled calico lady cat. Given her shy, clingy nature, John always suspected that Weasel had been teased. Orion, a large orange and white tabby, showed up one day at Kettlerock, and wanted to come into the house. As he was clean and well-fed, it was assumed that he belonged to someone. Months later, paw tracks in the snow between the house and the barn were evidence that he had not returned home, and food was left out for the cat. Eventually, they were able to lure him into the house, where he regained his health and his strength. Orion was named for the cat in Men in Black. He has a healed broken rib, probably the result of being kicked. Any sudden moves while he is being fed send him racing to hide under furniture, and he is wary of men. Around Christmas 2008, Orion had cancer surgery for a tumor in his jaw. Removal of his chin gives him a slightly Don Knotts look. Orion is a happy, affectionate and good natured cat, glad to be alive.

While initially a dog person, John came to love his cats, and they returned his affections. When I came back from the hospital the day of John's death, Weasel looked at me, and let out a heart-wrenching yowl. The cats took turns sleeping on his old monogrammed bathrobe, which still smelled of him. I tell them often, "Papa loved you very much," and they seem to understand. I even catch them staring off into the distance, as if someone were there. Who knows? Maybe there is.

• For those of you who are fed up with cat stories, The Ugly Dog and the Highlands Writers Group invite you to an evening of storytelling and readings with a canine theme, as we all go to the dogs on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30pm. Flea collars are optional.

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...LETTERS continued from page 9

Anyway I did not mean to ramble about my life. I was trying to say, after the early '90s there was nothing for kids to do in Highlands except putter golf, and that got old quick. And from experience I knew how much things had changed.

One summer I brought my two children, who each brought a friend so that they had someone to play with. By this point their favorite thing to do was to bring plastic rafts and when it rained they would slide down the golf course, coming home muddy and laughing. The

guard caught them and since they were on the sides and not the fairway, he said it was OK, but we all knew it wasn't the best thing to be doing. So, my mom, bless her heart, saw that there was a repelling class. And so we signed them up. You and your wife and partners were wonderful. I am not sure which summer this was probably '96 or so, but it was the year of the Beenie Babies.

All of the kids were having a great time and I came down to take pictures of them. It just so happened that when I got

there you were trying to get them to come down upside down and doing the air-plane which three or four kids did. I still have some great pictures. But, my daughter would not do this for anything. You were so nice, you kept encouraging her and built up her confidence, but nothing could persuade her to try. So dumb me offered to pay her. After several offers and

her saying no, we even got up to \$50, you told her that was something she could not pass up. Well the negotiations ended up with me saying "I will buy you 10 Beenie Babies." And that was it. She did the airplane and she tried everything else you had in mind. You even pulled her off the cliff and she laughed because you guys

•See LETTERS page 21

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 8

entrance and sat on it. Well, that right there would have been enough to induce a heart attack!

The soldiers placed to guard the tomb against robbers, fell to the ground, immobilized by fear. The women cling to one another but stand their ground, and the angel tells them "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come quickly and see the place where he lay."

I imagine that they did just that, ignoring the soldiers lying on the ground near them as if dead. Then the angel tells them to "Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'"

This is my message for you." So far, this would be the reality show of the century — terrified women — earthquake, an angel rolling back a huge stone and then his astonishing message. You couldn't write this stuff!

If this was "Jersey Housewives" the Marys would at this point start to argue about what they had seen, and what was said, and what should they do now? Fortunately, these real and faithful women do what the angel tells them without question.

As they were careening through the garden in the early light of dawn, full of joy and fear, Jesus suddenly appears to them and calls "Greetings!" Now these women had just seen the tomb opened and with their own eyes had seen that Jesus was not in it. Now the words of the angel are confirmed — their beloved Jesus whom they had seen crucified, dead and buried, was alive! I like Matthew's version of the Easter story because the women in this version were able to touch their teacher, hug and kiss his feet — they *felt* that he was flesh and blood — not an apparition.

I imagine they cried tears of joy and wonder, hardly believing that it was true. I can see Jesus gently lifting them to their feet and with a gentle smile saying "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me," and they run off to find the scattered disciples, forever sealing their place in history as the first apostles.

This story has been called the "greatest story ever told." It has survived for over 2,000 years and has been told countless times, more than any other story in human history. Why has it endured so long? How has it changed the lives of billions of people? Unlike reality TV, everything in this story is true. It is the creation story all over again, with Jesus bringing true light to the darkness of human existence through the power of his resurrection. "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." (Matt 28: 5-6) This is one of the sweetest sentences ever uttered.

"Do not be afraid" of the gritty, painful little passion plays in our own lives. Everything we have ever thought or feared has been experienced by our Lord and Savior — he KNOWS us like no one else — and he loves us so much that he suffered and died for our sakes, so that solidarity between God and Humankind would last forever.

In the epistle for today, Paul writes: "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory" (Col. 3: 1-4)

"By the Lord this has been done; it is marvelous in our eyes." (Ps 118: 24)
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... LETTERS continued from page 19

made her realize that she was safe and would not fall.

To this day all four kids talk about repelling. In fact, my son and his friend came back and repelled four more times over the next three summers. My daughter had graduated and gone to college, but that summer you did get her on that trip and then again another down near "bust your butt."

I have often thought of writing you and asking you if you remembered the crazy women who offered to pay \$50 or 10 Beenie Babies just to get her child to try something new. But I never did. She is now 31-years-old and has two children of her own. Last week we were going through pictures to make a slide show and scrap book for my mom who is turning 80 in May and I found the pictures and thought I just had to write you and tell you how much your team did for my children and their friends. They both become more confident and are not afraid to do things.

I recently cleaned out a storage unit I had and gave back my daughters Beenie Babies. I don't even know how many there were, but she knew which ones she got that summer. (She also learned to not reward her own boys, 5 and 3, with mon-

ey.) She and her husband are teachers and I just learned that they are moving to South Carolina so her husband can get his PhD and teach college. Florida isn't helping teachers in any way. My son gave up trying to find a good job and started his own business. And I feel that the lessons they learned and the importance of not being afraid to do something new has helped them along the way.

So, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you and your team. Repelling was something that gave them a sense of pride, and Beenie Babies have fond memories attached to them. I will be bring my mom back up to Highlands in May after Mother's Day, and I am looking forward to reading your column and finding out what is going on in Highlands.

And if I had to ask you something it would be, do you remember the crazy people you taught to repel and what the heck are my grandchildren supposed to do in Highlands now that all the fun things for kids to do are gone? It is becoming "Why go to Highlands if you don't play golf, bridge, or shop?" Just something to think about. Thank you for the memories.

Cathy Clayton
Florida

• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from April 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 21

• At 3:06 a.m., officers responded to a 911 hang-up from a residence on Wyanoak Road. Everything was OK.

• At 6:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Laurel and US 64. There were no injuries.

• At 9:33 a.m., officers check a home at the Coach Club when an open door and windows were found. It was secure.

• At 6:44 p.m., officers issued a noise violation to residents in Sherwood Forest.

April 22

• At 3:06 p.m., the vandalism of dog wood trees was reported at a residence on Brooks Road.

April 23

• At 9:57 p.m., Beth Ann Kimsey, 18, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI, driving with an open container of alcohol and for the possession of marijuana when she was stopped for running a red light on Main Street.

April 24

• At 10:56 p.m., officers delivered a criminal summons to a subject on S. 4th Street.

April 25

• At little after midnight, officers were asked to look for a man who was due in Highlands but hadn't arrived. They searched Cliffside Lake and Upper and Lower Lake roads but the person wasn't found.

• During the week, police officers responded issued 7 citations and responded to 4 alarm activations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April 20.

April 20

• At 4:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street for a medical call.

• At 6:47 p.m., report of power pole on fire. It was cancelled.

April 21

• At 1:11 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by workers on the Cashiers Road.

• At 7:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on Laurel Street. There were no injuries.

April 23

• At 8:31 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Oak Street. It was set off by workers.

April 25

• 7:40 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept. with a structure fire on Glen Ridge Road.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Rotary bingo a win, win



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Literacy Council of Highlands to sponsor Bingo on April 7. All proceeds went to support local literacy programs. From left: Jodie Cook, president of the Rotary Club of Highlands, Susan Smith, president of the Literacy Council of Highlands, and Kelly Davenport, who won the final Super Bingo game and took home \$100.

Rotary clubs unite over teeth



The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club combined to organize a free dental exam day at Highlands School for all students in grades K-5. On April 8, dentists Dr. Christopher Dyer and Dr. William Stiefel volunteered and examined over 140 students at the school. A report was sent home to the parents with each child indicating any dental problems. A weekly fluoride rinse program for grades K-5 and a yearly dental education day are also part of the local Rotary program to help ensure good dental health for the youngsters at Highlands School.

... on this day

April 28, 2010

The Klu Klux Klan, through a spokesman, issues the following statement: NOTE: The Ku Klux Klan, LLC, has not or EVER will have ANY connection with The "Westboro Baptist Church." We absolutely repudiate their activities.

Oh my, what an embarrassment,
some other group, known for harassment,
has appropriated one of our favorite gags,
our signs reading "God Hates Fags."
Now, we're not averse to strange fruit,
but on this we must arrange dispute.
It's not that we're not also anti-Semitic,
we've a few things in common, get it?

But I don't think you should
confuse us with them, who wear no hood.
it's got us angry, upset, burning, cross,
our reputation has sustained a loss.

Just because, at it's basis,
both groups are a bunch of hateful racists,
please, don't confuse one with another,
they're just one more group we won't call "Brother."

I can give you my assureity,
we're a group that values purity,
don't defame us, lump or map us
with those whack jobs from Westboro Baptist.

... from the History Guy

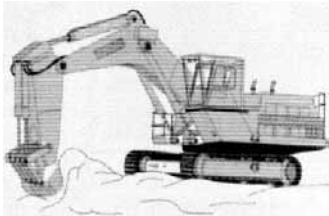
Wildcat Cliffs donates to Food Pantry



For the third year, the Wildcat Ladies hosted a "Party with a Purpose." This year's hostesses were Linda Arnold, Pegi Williard, Nancy Temple, Diana Rethorst. Twenty-two ladies from Wildcat Cliffs gathered for a luncheon at Pegi Williard's home on Wednesday, April 13 with each guest bringing a food or monetary donation for the Food Pantry. In addition to being with friends, the ladies supported an important cause in our Highlands community.

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