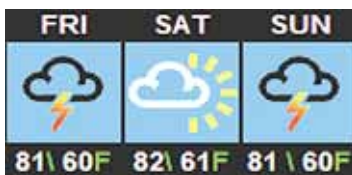


Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 35 6,000 Internet Reads at www.HighlandsInfo.com • Click Local News Wednesday, Aug 31, 2011



Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 1-4
• The Highlands Playhouse 2011 Cabaret Series with Libby Whittemore. Showtimes are Sept 1-3 at 8 pm and Sunday Sept 4 at 2 pm. For tickets call (828) 526-2695.

Thurs., Sept. 1
• At the Nature Center, Dr. Hal Herzog discussing Animals – Some we love and some we hate.”

• At Highlands Smokehouse, Karaoke at 9 p.m.

• Bingo at the Community Building to benefit the Highlands Historical Society, 6:30 – 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 2 & 3
• At ...on the Verandah, a sing-a-long with the piano man 9-11p in the Dug Out Lounge.

Sat., & Sun., Sept. 3-4
• The Village Square Art & Craft Show from 10 to 5.

• Robert Ray returns to PAC. 7:30 pm on Sat. 3 and 2:30 pm on Sun. All seats are \$25. The show will run 80 minutes without an intermission. To reserve tickets call: 828-526-9047.

Saturday, Sept. 3
• At the Bird Barn, at Falls on Main, Freedom the Bald Eagle from 1-3 p.m.

• National speaker John Adams, a full-time prayer-based healer at 11 a.m., at the Christian Science Church, 283 Spring Street, in Highlands.

• At Ruka's Table, a Wine Tasting 4:30-6:30p and Jazz Music starting at 6:30p

Sun., Sept. 4

• At Highlands Smokehouse, Fiddlin' Mitch at 6 p.m.

Playhouse cited by ABC Commission

Offers other nonprofits words of advice

There are a few messages in this story.

First, don't believe everything you hear. Second, buyer beware. Third, keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

Because oftentimes a crumb of truth can go viral and become something quite different in Highlands, the president of the Highlands Playhouse Board, Scott All-

bee decided to be proactive and get the real story out about a recent incident at The Playhouse.

On August 5, the second

• See PLAYHOUSE page 31

Highlands N. Historic District on the National Register

By **Ran Shaffner**

In the year 2000 several residents of the northern section of Highlands applied to have their homes placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The process has taken eleven years to complete, but on July 28th sixteen sites in the Highlands North Historic District were entered on the National Register's official list. A certificate has been mailed to Mayor David Wilkes.

These sixteen sites increase the total number of historic places in Highlands to sixty-three, including the Satulah Mountain and Playmore and Bowery Road historic districts and eight individual structures, which is an impressive number for a town as small as Highlands.

The North District, which is

• See HISTORIC page 13

Just in time for breakfast



This little guy has figured out that bird feeders taken in at night, reappear in the morning so he joined us for breakfast!

Photo by Kim Lewicki

B.E.A.R. Smart goes regional

The local Bear Smart Initiative, which was previously affiliated with the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, recently voted to sever ties with J-MCA and re-organize with a new

name and fiscal sponsor. The group has renamed itself Bear Education and Resources (B.E.A.R.) and is in the process of developing a formal relationship

• See BEAR SMART page 28

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Doctor Matthews is relocating

Richard S. Matthews, Jr., MD, Family Medicine Physician, announced recently that he plans to return to his previous hometown in February 2012, moving back to Florida to be near family.

Dr. Matthews, a primary care physician who joined Highlands-Cashiers Hospital medical staff two and a half years ago will be joining a Family Practice Group in his former location of Gulf Breeze, Florida where he spent 24 years prior to moving to Highlands.

“We understand Dr. Matthews' decision to leave us, but we are nevertheless very sorry to see him go. He has been a key member of our primary care medical community, but more than that he has played an important leadership role for the hospital,” said Highlands-Cashiers Hospital President and CEO Craig James. “As an active mem-

• See MATTHEWS page 23

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

More on 'God or Government'

Dear Editor,

Don Swanson ("God or Government?" Aug 17 edition) makes some accurate observations by noting a common thread existing in the global unrest that is unfolding. In particular, he is correct in that these examples of human disaffection are all man-made. However, he could not be more wrong about the underlying cause.

Regarding domestic issues, true to his conservative point of view, he argues that President Obama's "denying that we are a Christian Nation" (his caps) is a major factor causing the problems that our country faces today. He is either not familiar with the establishment clause of our Constitution ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion"), or prefers to ignore it (not an unusual practice among today's ultra-conservatives). He states we need a leader who can "restore the nation's Christian spirit," without defining exactly what he means by that. He fails to acknowledge that from 2001-2009 we had a president who strongly believed in the Christian spirit, yet he largely got us into the economic and political mess we are in now.

To illustrate why Christian spirit (or any other specific religious ideology) might not be the answer, I would reference him not only back to the Crusades, but to our own history. The Christian spirit was alive and well in 1692 when we killed those we thought were witches. It was alive and well in 1861 when we started the bloodiest conflict in our history. And most recently, though not in our country, it was alive and well in the mind of Anders Breivik when he slaughtered dozens of Norwegians just a few weeks ago, in the name of Christian unity. This is not to say, of course, that religious faith does not have an important role to play in general.

Rather, the road to solving some of our nation's problems lies more in restoring our system of government to "of the people, by the people, and for the

people." We don't live up to any of these three principles today. In the same issue, letter writer Dan Kowal is much more on target when he recommends the chartering of an Integrity Party. When one thinks about how we gerrymander house districts, allow career politicians by not implementing term limits, fail repeatedly to enact campaign finance reforms, and have justices that consider corporations to be people, we don't have a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Once we begin to make changes that get us back to our core principles of government, we will have a better chance of electing people who understand that compromise is necessary, and who will act in our collective best interest, and not in their own self interest, or the interests of their largest campaign donors.

The problems Don Swanson specifically mentions have nothing to do with one's religious beliefs, whether or not that involves a "Christian Spirit." To say otherwise is an insult to anyone, whether or not they espouse ANY religious faith.

Richard Ellin MD
Highlands

Preserve the Galax

Please don't pick the galax
Unless it is your own
Much too much has been pulled up
Please leave this plant alone

The forests used to have a lot
It grew in special places
Because of over harvesting
There are many empty spaces

Galax must have acid soil, leaf mold
and heavy shade to thrive
So leave it where it loves to be
And keep it all alive

- Glenda Bell, Highlands

The last birthday poem

(In memory of Sue L. Reese)

This time last year, you were till here; but
God decided he too wanted you, for you
were such a dear.
Many days have passed, our eyes filled
with tear after tear.
We've always celebrated the day God
granted your life, so why should this one
be different, for in our hearts Mama,
you're still so very near.
Each day I carry on with God's promise to
someday see you again; so in that path, I
continue and fell not Satan's fear.

Missing my Mama
Karen

Be bear smart

Dear Editor,

We are responding to an item in the police report that stated that a young man was injured by a black bear in Highlands recently. As bear educators for the B.E.A.R. (Bear Education And Resources) task force we would like to offer a few suggestions to anyone who might encounter a bear on their property, as this young man did.

Bears are attracted to garbage cans, birdfeeders, barbecue grills, pet food, yellow jacket nests, termites, and ants. If any of these are present at your home, they will attract a bear. Remove these attractants.

If you surprise or encounter a bear, do NOT run! Running can initiate a chase response in the animal. Back away slowly, giving the bear plenty of space and a clear escape route. If the young man who was injured had done this, the bear probably would not have injured him.

As the name implies, B.E.A.R. is a resource for information and education for people who live in bear country - all of us in Western North Carolina. We invite you to contact us if you have a bear problem or question.

Kathy Sherrard and Anne Allison
B.E.A.R. volunteers
BEARWNC@gmail.com

•See LETTERS page 10

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.
NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.
Please EMAIL letters by
Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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• OBITUARIES •

Frances C. Wright

Frances Crunkleton Wright, 83, of Central, SC, and widow of Thomas B. Wright, Sr., died Monday, August 22, 2011 at her home.

Born in Highlands, NC, she was a daughter of the late Earl and Annie Nicholson Crunkleton. Frances was a graduate of Banner Elk College. She was a member of the Fort Hill Garden Club, and the Clemson, SC and Highlands, NC chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was a very active member of Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church where she was the chairman of the Native American Committee.

Surviving are her son Thomas Barak "Tommy" Wright; daughters, Helen W. Hedden and Betty W. Long all of Central; grandchildren, Amy Sefick Allaire and husband, J.T., Heather Hedden Beam and husband, Todd, Hank Hedden and wife, Laura and Linsay Long; and great-grandchildren Drew and Owen Allaire, Erin Beam, Maddie and Hannah Hedden.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brother, John Crunkleton.

Funeral services will be 11 AM, Thursday at Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church with Rev. Peggy Garland officiating. A graveside committal service will take place at 3 PM, Thursday in Highlands Memorial Park in Highlands, NC.

Memorials may be made to either Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church, 2101 Six Mile Highway, Central, SC 29630; Native American Committee, Attn: Robin Landers, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203, or to Hospice of the Upstate, 1835 Rogers Road, Anderson, SC 29621.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.robinsonfuneralhomes.com or at the funeral home. Courtesy of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home

• See OBITUARIES page 6

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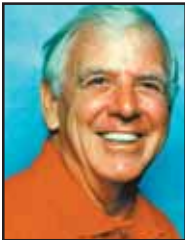
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

‘Red Ass’ Fred



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

be stubborn as a mule. There are many other uses for the term “Red Ass” I can’t go into. Call the house.

According to my Pa, my ancestors came to America back in 1623 after the King of England ordered all rogues, vaga-

bonds and persons sleeping under sidewalks be rounded up and sent to God-awful America, a barren wasteland full of hostile, naked red savages shooting arrows in every person who was white. Talk about racism. Did the ACLU know about this? Then, to add further insult to the dead bodies full of arrows, they cut off their hair and the scalps were hung them from their belts. I hate when that happens. Maybe now you can see why sleeping under sidewalks was not so bad.

Once we landed at Salem, the Wooldridges learned it was not only the savages they had to worry about. If you somehow got declared a witch, you were burned at the stake. (This is where the term “well done steak” got started.)

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 6


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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Being able and being disabled ... there is a difference

Men are becoming expendable, at least in the work place. We are in no danger of assuming the role of drone bees in the hive, but if the time comes, our seed can be purchased, processed, frozen, and stored for future use.

When I was in medical school, women students were a novelty. There were four in my class of 185. Today women make up nearly half of the medical school classes. 57% of college students are women. Women earn 60% of masters degrees and 49% of doctorates. Boys are falling farther and farther behind. Some educators have even raised the heretical position that we should consider returning to single gender education to give the guys a chance to catch up.

Women, as well as men, suffered unemployment in the most recent recession, but losses have been greater in traditionally male dominated jobs like manufacturing and construction. Despite the declaration of the end of the recession, unemployment remains stubbornly high, especially among men. Only 63.5% of all men have a job, any job, full or part time, nuclear physicist or Walmart greeter. 81% of men in their peak employment years, 25 to 54, are employed, compared to 95% in 1969. Many jobs lost in recessions never return. Following each downturn, recovery has produced fewer new jobs.

Prolonged unemployment takes a toll. Men, accustomed to the role of provider, and deprived of that role, often turn to alcohol or drugs to blunt the pain. Chronically unemployed men do even less housework than their employed counterparts, increasing both the load on their working wives and tension in the home. The emasculated unemployed male worker often resents his wife and holds on to a semblance of authority with displays of abusive behavior against his wife and kids.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

When we moved to South Carolina, I was astounded at the number of nurses, surgical and x-ray techs, and clerks whose husbands were unemployed, on disability, and able to hunt and fish on a daily basis. Since 1970, roughly the high water mark for male employment, until today, the number of working aged men on disability has more than doubled, from 2.4% to 5%! Chronic depression

may account for part of that number. Drug and alcohol addiction, known to be a major problem among the unemployed, probably contribute. Perhaps all that hunting and fishing lead to an increase in chronic pain, chronic fatigue, or fibromyalgia. Each of these conditions is real, but each shares a common characteristic; it is nearly impossible to disprove. I just can't believe that 5% of working aged American men are disabled. It is common knowledge that few of those who become disabled ever go back to work. In my practice, I encounter a good many patients who identify themselves as disabled. When asked, many of them are unable to specify their disability. Often, they claim multiple maladies, including some combination of low back pain, fibromyalgia, and chronic fatigue syndrome. Others vaguely claim it was their doctor's decision.

Society has a responsibility to provide for those who are truly unable to care for themselves. I believe there are very few who can't do any job.

An engineer with debilitating multiple sclerosis, an x-ray tech with crippling rheumatoid arthritis, and one legged soccer players have led me to that conclusion.

I've speculated before that in an effort to create a safety net, we've slung a hammock. As the Social Security Disability program nears insolvency, it's time to shake the hammock. When we do, we'll be surprised how many "disabled" people will manage to land on their feet.

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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

It was the number one fun sport of that era. While the Wooldridges may not have been the sharpest tack stuck in the bulletin board, they were smart enough to get the hell out. They moved to Virginia which was not as developed but roasting humans over an open flame was less fashionable.

Eventually America got too big for its britches and challenged Mother England to a fight to the death. Since we were sick of farming, we decided to fight with "The Patriots" and shoot Englishmen...fun, fun fun! Hey, don't forget they kicked us out for sleeping under sidewalks. According to documents my Pa found, I had a great, great, great, great uncle who was an Army Colonel and fought alongside General George Washington, a guy who could not tell a lie. (What??? A politician who wouldn't lie? Never!)

Anyway, read your history and you'll see that we Patriots won the revolution and kicked England out. I don't think the Muslims were involved like the president said but I'm sure they'll be included when history is re-written. Later, the Wooldridges moved to Kentucky 'cause the government was giving away large chunks of farming land. Here, we learned to be dumb-ass backwoods low-life redneck Kentucky hillbillies. We drank moonshine from a jug and

scalped Yankees trespassing on our land.

When the American civil war started, the Wooldridges, being the cowards we are, declared ourselves neutral to avoid being shot at. Little did we know that both sides would shoot at us. And because we multiplied faster than Catholics, we were able to survive and actually became rich. The Wooldridges once owned an entire place called Elizabethtown but later squandered it gambling on the river boats cruising the Ohio River. They found ole Henry Wooldridge face down in the river just west of Cincinnati, his loaded Derringer still in his pocket. (Could I make this up?)

Since I am a direct descendent of the American Revolution and can prove it with documents saved by my Pa, I decided to offer memberships to the "Daughters of the American Revolution" (DAR) to my daughter, her daughters and my son's daughters. Only shave-tails can belong. Turns out they're just like me and couldn't give a hoot. Hey, at least I still have my "Red Ass" shield hanging next to my toilet in the basement. Kinda makes me proud.

• If you've read Fred's new mystery/thriller titled *Deceived*, then try his book of nonsense, *I'm Moving Back to Mars*, both available at Shakespeare Book Store and The Toy Store in Highlands.

... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Mary Jane Anderson Sabbarth

Mary Jane Anderson Sabbarth, 64, affectionately known to all her friends and loved ones as "Midge" was carried by Angels to eternal peace early on the morning of August 27, 2011.

Wonderful daughter, beloved mother and granddaughter and cherished friend, "Midge" was preceded in death by her father, the late William Robert Anderson and survived by her mother, Mary Jane Anderson of the residence in Highlands, NC. She leaves behind her dearest friend Jan Smith of Highlands, NC and a brother Dr. William R. Anderson and wife Mary Anne and their three children all of Orlando, FL; also two daughters, Lisa Sabbarth Tucci-Caselli of the residence in Highlands, NC and Sandy Sabbarth Tennant and husband Brad of Thomasville, NC.

She is also survived by three grandchildren, W. Clay Tucci-Caselli of Highlands, NC and Sean and Ally Tennant of Thomasville, NC.

A compassionate, gentle soul "Midge" was born in Berea, OH and later moved to Sarasota, FL where she graduated from Sarasota High School and began a career in cosmetology. She later opened "The Very Thing" Beauty Salon in Highlands, NC and enjoyed being a freelance artist whose passion for beauty saturated her work with timeless expressions of life and love.

A private celebration of her life will be held on her birthday, September 3, 2011. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that all donations be made in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• COACH'S CORNER •

Top sports movie villains

One of the things about having kids in the house is that you end up watching a lot of children's shows. Normally, this makes me want to gouge out my eyes and ears (Brionna's *Wonder Pets* stage was particularly brutal) but lately the kids have gotten hooked on a Disney show named *Phineas and Ferb*. This particular show reminds me a lot of the old Bugs Bunny cartoons because it is very clever and can be enjoyed by both kids and adults. One particular character that cracks me up is Dr. Heinz Doofenshmirtz, who is an evil mad scientist that wants to take over the entire Tri-State area. (He dreamed of taking over the world but decided to start small) Dr. Doofenshmirtz is hilarious as a super-villain because he has way too many average Joe problems that hinder his ability to cause havoc. His ex-wife (who pays him alimony that funds his evil inventions) and daughter, his elderly neighbor and his penchant for putting a self-destruct button on all his inventions cause him to fail in his quest. Anyway, Dr. Doofenshmirtz got me to thinking about my favorite sports movie bad guys of all time-so here is my top 5.

5. Judge Smails-Caddyshack: The epitome of the snooty country club elite, Judge Smails brags about sending minors to the gas chamber and invites the lower class over to mow his lawn. Brilliantly played by Ted Knight, Smails is a great antagonist for Chevy Chase in this movie.

4. Bud Kilmer-Varsity Blues: Evil coaches are often villains in sports movies (see *The Mighty Ducks* for a perfect example) but none go the extra mile like Bud Kilmer in *Varsity Blues*. Kilmer is a football legend, and will do just about anything to keep things under his iron fist-whether it be shooting up an injured kid with steroids to keep him on the field or threatening to change a transcript to rob a kid from college, Kilmer is almost over the top he is so evil. Jon Voight does a great job at the end of this movie,



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

portraying an old man who is struggling to maintain power, almost like a despot trying to keep order as things crumble around him.

3. Jack Parkman-Major League 2: Parkman is not so much a villain as he is just a jerk, but he is a great ballplayer and that makes him a great character. Bob Uecker says it best in this move when he says that "I used to hate Parkman when he played for the A's" and then says off-mike "He's still a ****." This is great because it represents a lot of how we feel as fans, we may know a guy is a jerk, but goshdarnit, he is OUR jerk. Parkman is played by David Keith, and he is played with the perfect amount of sneering and smarm.

2. Shooter McGavin-Happy Gilmore: Imagine Judge Smails playing on the PGA tour, now imagine him with a habit of using clichés in the wrong places and being too cheap to take his biggest fan out for Red Lobster and you have Shooter McGavin. Chris Macdonald is awesome as McGavin, bringing the perfect amount of arrogance blended with the right amount of insecurity. The best part of that whole movie is when McGavin, clearly irritated by the pro-Happy Gilmore crowd and feeling immense pressure, sinks a huge putt and has to remind himself to do his trademark finger pistol shooter celebration-absolutely hilarious.

1. Clubber Lang-Rocky III: Mr. T is awesome in this role, for several reasons. First of all, a great villain actually has something that he BELIEVES is right and therefore can justify his actions. Lang looks at Rocky and sees a paper champion, someone who is living the high life and has forgotten where he came from. Lang therefore tries to provoke Rocky as best he can into finally fighting him because he believes he can win. (and then does!) Of course, it is the comments that Lang makes that make him the top movie villain of all time. So many quotable lines, such as "I pity the fool," "My prediction....pain," and "Hey woman," are burned into our memories of that character.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Living a Christian life
in a non-Christian
environment

By Pastor Dr. Charles Harris
First Baptist Church of Highlands

Most of us have been in places and situations that cause us to ask ourselves “Why am I here?” or “Should I be here?” If we decide we should not be there, we often feel trapped with no possibility of escape. This raises a question, especially for the Christian, “How does a Christian live effectively and productively in a non-Christian environment?” I am using the phrase “Non-Christian Environment” to refer to any place where people prefer living without God or Biblical teachings. A “Non-Christian Environment” can be a home, village, town, large city, even a nation.

Oftentimes, personal reflection will enable us to know “How we got there” but may not reveal “Why we are there.” Sometimes we are in a non-Christian environment because of poor choices or foolish decisions based on personal selfishness or passion. Others are in that environment because of circumstances which they feel they could not control. Some Christians may be there because God placed them there for kingdom service and as an example. Jesus taught that His followers “Are to be in the world, but not of the world!”

Like Jesus, Christians are to be involved in and in close contact with the world without being contaminated by the world. “Contact without contamination” should be one of our goals as Christians. We must be aware that it is not always God’s will for us to live in a “Non-Christian Environment.” However, sometimes God places a Christian there for a kingdom purpose.

What can a committed Christian do when they find themselves in a non-Christian environment? Near the end of this article I will offer some suggestions based on Scripture and personal experience. First, let me share a Biblical example that provides insights on this subject. Let me focus our attention on an Old Testament character that is not well known even by most Christians. We read about him in I Kings 18:1-19. His name is Obadiah (not the prophet Obadiah). This Obadiah was King Ahab’s highest palace official. Ahab was King of Israel at that time. His wife was Queen Jezebel, a Baal worshipper, openly opposed to God.

Obadiah was a secret worshipper of God. He had been risking his life and draining his bank ac

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 12

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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The tale of two hurricanes



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

You aren't aware of it, but you dodged a bullet. Sick of politics for the time being, I decided to write about my personal grief over the University of Miami (the Hurricanes) football program scandal. As luck would have it (yours), for what may be for the first time, the column, two thirds written, disappeared from my computer. If it didn't disappear, it sure is doing an effective job of hiding and since I can't find it, you will be spared my rendering of the glory days when "The U" dominated college football. Too bad, too, because I thought it was pretty clever. Oh well.

So, in a last minute panic to make my deadline, I am now groping for a subject and it's not coming. Just in case you missed it, let me bring you up to date on the Miami deal. A fellow by the name of Nevin Shapiro amassed nearly a \$ billion operating a Ponzi scheme and chose to spend a bunch of it on Hurricane football players. Among his gifts were prostitutes, parties at his opulent homes and yachts, abortions and much more. For his generosity, he had locker room and on field access. For his larceny, he has access to a cell in a Brooklyn prison. He is serving a 20 year sentence.

This stuff went on from 2002 to 2010 when Nevin got busted. All through the decade I'm following fortunes of the football Hurricanes, wondering what was wrong. They just weren't playing up to par. It was apparent that their minds were elsewhere when they were on the field. Now, could something this pervasive escape the notice of the coaching staff, the Athletic Director and even the Administration? The deleterious effects didn't escape the notice of thousands of fans, including myself.

Coach Butch Davis restored the Miami program in the late 90's from serious sanctions to national prominence. He left the program to coach the Cleveland Browns, turning over a talent-laden team to Larry Coker, an appointment I never understood.

While his solid-gold team won a national championship, Coker was on the sidelines, incessantly fiddling with his head-phones. It drove me crazy.

I'm not sure if it was Coker or Shapiro coming on the scene (maybe both), but Miami's football fortunes started slipping year-by-year and in five years, a championship team became an obscurity. Coker was replaced by Randy Shannon, a product

of the Miami program. I never understood that appointment since Shannon lacked experience on the offensive side of the ball, and he had no previous service as a head coach.

Five years of mediocrity sent Shannon on his way last year, and someone named Al Golden was named to replace him. Now, I'm a fairly serious college football fan, but I had to look up Golden's resume. Never heard of him, which displeased me and many others when a program of Miami's stature could have had the cream of the crop. Maybe, the administration know what was coming and hired a guy on the cheap so they would have less to pay him when the program folds.

I have no idea what is really going on, but I do find it interesting that the U hired Donna Shalala as president in 2001. You remember Donna - she was Secretary of Health and Human Services during the Clinton Administration. I don't know what she knew about Shapiro's bad behavior, but when the NCAA shuts down the program, I think they should clean house all the way to the top. Forgive me for boring you with this story, but I looked forward to the Canes season every year and that has come to an end.

On the subject of hurricanes, New York is getting doused as we speak. I know I sound somewhat juvenile in saying so, but it doesn't bother me a bit that the Obama's Martha's Vineyard vacation was cut short by Irene. Frankly, I think they've had enough vacationing

• See SWANSON page 11

Mountain Findings

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

Please explain this to me like I am a 4-year-old

Dear Editor,

When did this country become so divided?

Why has religion created such hate?

When did the word compromise become dirty?

I recently heard Orrin Hatch R-Utah say "The top one percent of the so-called wealthy pay 38 percent of all income tax. The top 10 percent are paying 70 percent of all income tax." Hatch also said. "The top 50 percent pay somewhere near 98 percent of all income taxes. 51 percent don't pay anything, most of these people have refrigerators and stoves....some even have micro-waves."

WOW... I guess he believes that the leaches should pay more, but the facts are that the upper 1 percent of Americans are now taking in nearly a quarter of the nation's income every year. In terms of wealth rather than income, the top 1 percent control 40 percent. Why do we have such inequality and why is it growing? Corporations are now people, according to the Supreme Court and Willard [Mitt] Romney. I seem to remember that a Corporation was a "living Entity," set up to protect the Principles of the Corporation, for tax purposes.

It seems to me that our inequality grows as monopolies get bigger and receive Corporate Welfare while also receiving beneficial tax policies. Why are banks paying 0-1/2 of a percent to borrow, but are not loaning any money? When did we lose the Usury law that prevented charging over 10%? Look at the back of your credit card statements and see what people, with good credit, can be charged. Why do companies with huge profits, that ship jobs overseas, get subsidies? I opened six businesses and never received a subsidy, thanks to Ronald Reagan who closed the investment tax credit.

Did I just say Ronald Reagan? How did he become the icon of the conservative movement? He is one of only two presidents who more than doubled our national debt, in fact he almost tripled our debt. The other president is not Obama, but George W. Bush. Ronald Regan raised taxes seven of his eight

years in office. He initiated largest tax increase that California ever had. And while I'm at it, his tax policies started the beginnings of our inequalities. He removed oversight of the financial industry, removed all clean energy laws, including gas mileage standards, solar and wind acts that were in place. [Speaking of having your own oversight, did you read the Vatican's report on child abuse?]

Reagan gave amnesty to millions of illegal aliens, he sold arms to Iran [Iran Contra] and even funneled billions of dollars to the Islamist Mujahidin through the secret service of Pakistan, supporting Osama bin Laden and the Taliban.

When did values become a political football? It seems to me, that the more religious a politician professes to be, the more immoral they act. How can you be pro-life but cut funding for child care? How does Michelle Bachman rant against homosexuality and Medicare, while her husband takes Medicare funding for his "pray the gay away" clinic, which is Medicare fraud? How does Rick Perry claim any moral values, when he has the highest rate, of any state, with children uninsured. Texas is at the bottom in education and took federal funds to help the community and used it to pay his huge debt. Twenty-five teachers from each school have been cut? All for lowering the corporate tax rate? All for creating minimum wage jobs? Can Mitt Romney swear allegiance to the USA, above his living prophet Thomas Monson?

How can any congressperson sign a pledge, that supersedes the Oath of Office. Issues are not black and white? Rep. Ryan came out with a plan to re-vamp Social Security and Medicare because he thought he had a mandate to cut government spending and lower taxes. But to his surprise, his own constituents want Social Security and Medicare tweaked, but not changed. Just raising the salary cap on both programs could make them viable for another generation. Recently Rep. Eric Cantor, the man that wants the Cryer's

... LETTERS continued from page 10

job, has already vowed to deny any disaster relief, arising from any earthquake or hurricanes, unless equal spending cuts are made elsewhere. If that isn't morally corrupt, than what is?

Why haven't the Tea Bagger Representatives cut their own pay, pay more for their own cushy retirement and medical plan, ALL PAID BY THE TAXPAYERS? Why do we have more natural gas than two Saudi Arabias, but only 3% of the world's oil, and Mitch McConnell and the Senate Republicans killed the last 'Boone Pickens' National Gas Act, which would put millions of people to work and eliminate foreign oil dependence?

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Take that Swanson and Wooldrige. Don't you love people who have pensions, Social Security and Medicare screaming about Socialism? They blame Obama for the deficits but it's the Cryer of the House and his majority that can approve ANY BUDGET THEY WANT...NOT THE PRESIDENT. If there is any rule or law that is unfair, it's because our elected officials want it to be unfair.

Someone please explain all this to me like I am a 4-year-old.

Mark Herstik
Highlands

...SWANSON continued from page 9

for several decades and he really should have better things to do as his country is unraveling. What DOES he DO besides playing golf, vacationing and appearing on TV daily?

The longer our painful experience goes on, the more I am convinced that he is taking us for the biggest ride in history. He is accountable to no one and either he doesn't care if he gets reelected or not or he thinks he has the election in the bag.

With the disgraceful demonstrations orchestrated by the public employee unions in Wisconsin, he may think he can inspire such loyalty nationwide and intimidate enough voters to make the difference. The good news is the unions ultimately failed and conservative common sense prevailed.

Hurricanes have provided fodder for plenty of news stories lately, and none of it is good.

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 8

count by secretly hiding and feeding 100 of God's prophets from Jezebel. Jezebel, a Baal worshiper, would have had these prophets killed had she known about them. Can you imagine how much it cost Obadiah financially and the energy it took to feed 100 grown men daily?

In addition, Obadiah personally risked his life in this endeavor. Obadiah made the right decision, but he had other options. He could have "justified" himself by doing nothing...by concluding "I will make things worse if I get caught." Thus he could have let the 100 prophets die of starvation or be slaughtered by Jezebel. Another option was to let someone else be responsible for their care. He could have reasoned "Surely there is someone else who would have greater financial resources and would be taking less risk if they took care of the 100 prophets."

To his credit, Obadiah chose to do the right thing even in negative circum-

stances. This raises the question: What are our options as Christians when we are seeking to live a Christian life in a non-Christian environment?"

Our first choice is easy... we can leave the situation. Sometimes this is the best choice such as when Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife who was seducing him (Genesis 39). Even though Joseph was later placed in prison because of her false accusation of attempted rape, God was able to rescue and promote Joseph to be Prime Minister of Egypt (a foreign country) because of his personal integrity and Godly obedience.

Our second choice may be the easiest to accomplish... we can remain neutral and do nothing. That is what a young Christian football player who spent his summer with rough and tough timber loggers trying to increase his physical strength and stamina did. When asked if these loggers ridiculed him for being a Christian he answered "No, because I never told them I was a Christian." We can blend in and become a part of the crowd. However, if we do we lose our influence.

Our third choice is we can give up...throw in the towel and quit. Because Christian living is demanding, unfortunately some Christians simply give up and no longer seek to serve Christ. This is detrimental to that Christian and damaging to the Christian community. Even worse, It sends a mixed message to non-Christians.

Our fourth choice requires discipline and determination... we can do what we can in a difficult situation as an act of obedience to God. We may be limited, but there are some positive things we can do in spite of our circumstances. We can serve as faithfully as possible to make a "Non-Christian environment become more Christian." The next time you find your faith and obedience being tested and you believe God has put you there, why not do what you can for the Kingdom. Obadiah did, so can we!

...HISTORIC continued from page 1

the oldest historic district in Highlands, is bounded by 5th, 4th, Hickory, and Chestnut streets and includes the following sites by location: (1) Hickory Street: Down-

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The project was sponsored and funded by the Highlands Historical Society, Friends of Mountain History, and individual home owners who wished to be listed and contributed in 2000.

A listing on the National Register does not restrict what a homeowner may want to do with his home, although it does provide State and Federal tax credits for any improvements made within a very broad range of guidelines, if the homeowner wish-

es to avail himself of those credits. A certificate is for framing if the homeowner wishes one. National Register designation is only an honor, since there are no restrictions in the Town Ordinance relating to National Register status. Indeed, the chances of the Town's seeking restrictions on private homes, as opposed to public buildings, because of their Register status are politically zero.

A complete list of the sites now on the Register can be found at the Highlands Historical Society website: www.highlandshistory.com under the About Us tab. It includes 191 sites arranged from being on the National Register to top priority of preservation, worthy of preservation, and of historical interest to Highlands. Highlands has a unique history, which has long been recognized locally and more recently by North Carolina and the Nation.

Robert Ray is Feeling Good

2 shows only



Sept. 3 - 7:30pm
Sept. 4 - 2:30pm
All Seats \$25

526-9047





Highlands Area Upcoming Events

Playhouse debuts 2011 Cabaret Series Libby Whittemore!

By Joseph Litsch

Sound familiar? If you've been in Atlanta during the past three decades, chances are good you've heard it. She's been in plays and movies and TV shows. The name is easy to remember. Now, if you've heard her sing — and that's a strong possibility — you know the voice is unforgettable. Several years ago she described herself as "just a plain old down home belter." Well, she can belt with the best of them — wait till you hear her version of "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody." But there's so much more those chords can do.

Libby has been wowing Atlanta audiences since she was a teenager back at Northside School of the Performing Arts, and now Highlands residents have the pleasure of hearing her for the first time. "Yep," laughed Libby. "This is my Highlands debut. But I've been going to Highlands all my life. My mother loves going up and staying at the Highlands Inn. And my great Aunt Lib used to go there all the time." Great Aunt Lib was Elizabeth Hunt, a prominent member of the Atlanta press corps and one of the few local ladies photographed with Clark Gable when he was in town for the premiere of "Gone with the Wind." Libby's pedigree is impressive, but her voice is what sets apart.

Libby will be accompanied with her longtime pianist-arranger-conductor Robert Strickland, drummer Dennis Durrett-Smith and bassist Lyn DeRamus.

I first met Libby Whittemore when she was 19 and rushed into a production of "Cabaret" to replace an ailing Frau Schmidt. This was more than an understudy-to-the-rescue bit. Much more. In an afternoon, she learned the part and the songs and went on that night. And the songs were in the key Lotte Lenya (the original Broadway Frau Schmidt) sang in. Waaaay down there. The shoes were too big and she could have been swimming in the dresses, but the voice more than made up for anything that was missing. She was a hit!

Years later, Libby's rescue-act paid off and she was cast as Sally Bowles (the lead) in Alliance Theatre's production of "Cabaret" and she received rave reviews from



the Atlanta newspapers.

Libby's fascination with singing began even before she knew she was blessed with an exceptional set of pipes. Her mother, Margaret, was a music fan and had quite a record collection. Young Libby was allowed to rummage through and play whatever she pleased. There were many good voices, but one jumped out at her. "Judy Garland," she says flatly. Through the years that admiration as been unwavering though she has never tried to imitate Garland. Listeners will hear the influence when Libby sings "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart" and "The Man That Got Away," but they're sung Libby's way.

Through the years, Libby has performed at numerous Atlanta cabarets but she was a mainstay at Upstairs at Gene & Gabe's (Atlanta foremost Italian restaurant for more than 20 years) She first performed there as part of the cast of "Dell's Diner," a country-western soap opera created by Libby's longtime friend Tom Edwards. Then, she returned in a series of one-woman shows that turned her into a first-rate Atlanta entertainment mainstay.

Mixed in with these live performances were many supporting movie roles, both theatrical and television. In fact, the promotion for the Julia Roberts movie, "Something To Talk About," Libby was the featured actress, first gasping, then emphatically declaring, "That was the best meeting we've ever had!" Now, you remember her!

Libby laughs at the memory. "And you know, when Julia went on David Letterman to promote the movie, that was the clip they showed. So, I guess that was my Letterman

debut." She has an admirable sense of self and her talent.

A few years later, Libby did make her New York debut at Danny's and once again, her reviews were raves. The New York booking came as the result of an Atlanta club, Libby's: A Cabaret. In an Atlanta Constitution article, it was brought to light that there was no place around for singers like Libby to perform, so a longtime fan came forth with plans — and money — to open a cabaret featuring Libby Whittemore. In addition to Libby, other singers were also featured, among them legends such as the late Margaret Whiting, Kay Starr, Linda Lavin, and Julie Wilson. It lasted six years until it became obvious that the time for a cabaret had passed.

But Libby learned that having her name in lights did not mean she lounged around until the pianist played her intro. She made drinks, she served drinks, she helped out in the kitchen, she mopped, she made sure restrooms were perfect and she baked Aunt Lib's cheese thangs. "Well, that's what we always called them," said Libby. "Really cheese straws, only shorter."

In the midst of all that Libby managed to answer Actors' Express request of playing perhaps the best musical comedy role ever written for a woman, Mama Rose in "Gypsy."

"That was like a dream come true (playing Mama Rose)," said Libby. "There are some roles actors always dream of playing and that was one of mine." Highlands audiences will get a taste of her Rose when she closes the first act with "Some People."

Last year brought Libby a personal milestone when she was invited to perform with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra. "It was a real thrill to sing with a full orchestra like that," she said. "It went so well, they made a CD and a DVD and I have been asked to sing with them again in 2012."

And the Atlanta PBS station recently broadcast the entire concert.

"The show we're doing in Highlands is two acts" she said. "The first half is all Broadway stuff and the second half is standards." All are favorites of Libby. One first-half selection is a heart-breaking selection fraught with possibility — "If He Walked into My Life" from "Mame." Now, that's a show I would love to do.

Daily

- CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Carolina Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)

Mon-Fri

- The Nantahala Tennis Club meets at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Sundays

- Hymn-sing service from 7-8 p.m. at the Little Church in the Wildwood in Horse Cove.

Mon., Wed. & 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.; 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (9/29)

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 \$40 a month

Mondays & Wednesdays

- Pilates Mat Classes — Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm, The Jane Woodruff Clinic, Main Floor, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Call 526-5852 for info. (6/23)

Mondays

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

- Monday Madness at Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. \$5 burgers, \$1 off beers all day. Rebecca White performs 7-9 p.m.

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.

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-

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

746-9964.

Thursdays

- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.
- At the Highlands Nature Center, 6-7 p.m. through Labor Day, an exciting new program each week and they are free.

Every Third Saturday

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

Throughout September

- The Sapphire Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild (ANG) is having an exhibition of needlework at the Hudson Library. Sept. 1-15
- At the Book Worm at the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street, a ½ price book sale. Open Tues.-Sat., 10a-4p.

Thurs., Sun., Sept. 1-4

- The Highlands Playhouse 2011 Cabaret Series is excited to announce a limited engagement performance by Libby Whittemore. Known around Atlanta for her fantastic cabaret's featuring Broadway classics as well as songs from the American songbook. Audiences will be dazzled by Libby's powerful vocals and quick wit. Libby will be joined by her brilliant musical director and accompanist Robert Strickland along with Lyn DeRamus on bass and Dennis Durrett-Smith on drums. Showtimes are Sept 1-3 at 8 pm and Sunday Sept 4 at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at (828) 526-2695

Thursday Sept. 1

- Taize in Highlands at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday at the Nature Center presents Dr. Hal Herzog, who will discuss our relationship with animals at 6 p.m. It's free.

• The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Historical Society will be partners this year for an evening of Bingo to directly benefit the Historical Society Thursday, 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 and don't be afraid to laugh and have a great time. Can't make it? Drop a check or cash by the Community Building Thursday night or any time at the Civic Center or Historical Society. Just say it's for Rotary Historical Society Bingo and every penny will go to the Historical Society. The Rotary Club of Highlands' is licensed to operate Bingo by the State of NC.

• DANCE at the Franklin (NC) Community Building, Hwy 441 South across from "Whistle Stop Mall" Thursday from 6:30 to 9 PM. Music by "SWINGTIME BAND." For more information Call 828-369-9155.

• Are-make of the classic movie which starred John Wayne is being shown Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library. It stars Jeff Bridges and Matt Damon. Admission is free and includes popcorn. Donations go toward Friends of the Library programs. For further details and title (production guidelines prohibit publishing of titles), stop by or call the library at 743-0215.

Sat., & Sun., Sept. 3-4

• The Village Square Art & Craft Show from 10 to 5. This annual event features some of the best talent in the region, with fine art, folk art, pottery, rustic furniture, baskets, children's clothing, turned wood, etc. Food, demonstrations, bathrooms, parking. Fun for the whole family. Music on Saturday by Highlands' own folk singer/songwriter Sylvia Sammons. The FREE event takes place in the Highlands Village Square and Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine and 5th Streets. For more info contact Cynthia Strain at Mill Creek Gallery & Framing (828) 787-2021.

• The Cashiers Arts and Crafts show on Labor Day Weekend, at the Village Green in Cashiers. Gates will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm both days. There will be 57 vendors

of fine arts and crafts along with food and fun for people of all ages. Admission is \$3 dollars. Proceeds from entrance fees will go to the charitable work of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club. In addition, the Rotary Club will be picking the winner for their annual raffle. The winner of the drawing will receive their choice of a large flat screen TV, a beautiful stainless barbecue grill or \$2,000 dollars cash. Tickets are \$10 dollars available at the show or from Rotary Club members until the drawing on September 4.

Saturday, Sept. 3

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a

• See EVENTS page 16

Robert Ray returns to PAC Sept. 3 & 4

Robert Ray returns to Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center for his 5th consecutive season, September 3-4 in a brand new show called **"Feeling Good."**

Ray has decided to keep the new production in the same "swinging musical style" as last year's sold out Big Band Show - performing such great American Standards as "Just in Time," "Without a Song," "Birth of the Blues," "Moon-dance," "After You've Gone," "Please Send Me Someone to Love" and of course his title song, "Feeling Good"...all to the accompaniment of a 5-piece Swing Band.

Ray will include several well known songs by Richard Rogers including two classics from *South Pacific* - "Cock Eyed Optimist" and "Some Enchanted Evening" which Rogers co-wrote with Oscar Hammerstein as well as two songs that Rogers composed with lyricist, Lorenze Hart - "You Took Advantage of Me" and "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered."

"Feeling Good" will pay tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr. - a singer that Ray claims inspired him to actually become a singer. The show will also feature songs by composer - showman, Peter Allen who had a string of hit songs in the late 70's and early '80s beginning with Olivia Newton-John's, *I Honestly Love You* - Arthur's

Theme - Don't Cry Out Loud, recorded by Melissa Manchester and Rita Coolidge's, *I'd Rather Leave While I'm in Love*.

Robert has long been considered "Atlanta's Cabaret King" having performed soldout, critically acclaimed shows in the city's top clubs for the past 30 years. He has appeared on Broadway, done 5 National Tours, played Atlantic City and toured International-ly from Bogota, Columbia to Bergen, Norway. Ray is the recipient of 4 New York Cabaret Nominations and the winner of 2.

Ray directed 6 hit shows at The Highland's Playhouse in 2005 and was also part of the creative team that brought "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" to the Highlands- Cashiers Players.

In Atlanta Ray directed and produced "The 75th Anniversary of the Fox Theatre" and has headlined Underground Atlanta's Peach Drop, Lenox Square's 4th of July's Celebration and WSB's annual Christmas Parade.

Don't miss this seasoned pro doing what he does best...SING! Showtimes are 7:30 pm on September 3 and 2:30 pm on the 4th. All seats are \$25. The show will run 80 minutes without an intermission. To reserve tickets call: 828-526-9047.



Pianist to perform to benefit HCCDC

Pianist Randall Atcheson will perform at 5 p.m. Sept. 3 to benefit the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

The free concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. Patron and sponsor reserved seating is available by calling 526-0355. Donations to the HCCDC will be greatly appreciated.

Randall is known as a musical Renaissance man who has recently performed his 10th solo concert at Carnegie Hall. This is an opportunity that will be unforgettable.



Pianist Randall Atcheson

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

strenuous 7-mile hike up SHUCKSTACK MTN. in the Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park, with an elevation change of 2200 ft. Spectacular views, a visit to Fontana Dam on return. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 9:00 a.m.

Drive 100 miles round trip. Bring water & lunch. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please. • Pianist Randall Atcheson is performing Saturday at 5 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church to benefit the Highlands Community Child Development

Center. The free concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. Patron and Sponsor reserved seating is available, call 828.526.0355.

Saturday, Sept. 3

• National speaker John Adams, a full-time prayer-based healer using the Christian Science

system of healing, will present a talk titled, "Does Christian Science really heal sickness and sin?" on Saturday at 11 a.m., at the Christian Science Church, 283 Spring Street, in Highlands.

Sun., Sept. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 1.5 mile easy hike, slightly up hill, on the AL

Fill your September calendar with great activities at The Bascom



On Saturday, September 10, George Beasley's, whose work is pictured, will create *Iron Pour*, a site-specific installation and performance as part of The Bascom's Member/Guest Reception beginning at 5 pm. For information about The Bascom, call 828.526.4949 or visit www.TheBascom.org.

The Bascom is the place to be this September.

On Thursday, September 8 from 5-7 pm, enjoy "Stella by Starlight - Stella's Working Space: from protractors and polygons to printmaking and sculpture", a reception and talk by Susan Robert (B.A. Emory University; J.D. Woodrow Wilson School of Law and B.F.A. Atlanta College of Art). A longtime enthusiast and student of Stella's work, Robert is a painter and printmaker who will share her enthusiasm in the context of The Bascom's current exhibit Frank Stella: American Master. Admission is free, but seating is limited so please contact egardiner@thebascom.org or call 828.787.2862 to reserve a space.

Then on Saturday, September 10am from 5 pm until **extinguished**...join us for the George Beasley *Iron Pour* Member/Guest reception on The Bascom Campus. Enjoy Beasley's site-specific installation and performance created to convey the experience

of the "dance" of iron making. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and a picnic basket and enjoy the "fire" works. Please R.S.V.P. to 828.787.2898.

Don't forget to stop at the Shop at The Bascom! From hand created pottery, textiles, jewelry, wood, glass and basketry to Bascom wine and wine glasses to art books, we have something for everyone. All our art work is produced by regional artists and artists that have exhibited or instructed at The Bascom. Since everything is unique and one-of-a-kind, you will be a star during gift-giving season.

The Bascom is now open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949

Annual Bel Canto set for Sept. 11

Tickets are selling fast to the nineteenth annual Bel Canto Recital! Each year we try to bring some of the finest up-and-coming young singers in the opera world to Highlands. This year's performers are no exception.

Stephen Mark Brown, tenor, will perform along with Rachel Cobb, soprano, in a program of opera and musical theater favorites.

Tenor Stephen Mark Brown first attracted national attention in 1992 as a winner of the Opera Company of Philadelphia/Luciano Pavarotti Competition, following which he sang on "Live from Lincoln Center" in "Pavarotti Plus." He made an auspicious debut with New York City Opera as Pinkerton in "Madama Butterfly" for which he was named debut artist of the year. He sang the role of Fernand in the American premiere of Donizetti's "La favorite" with l'Opera Français de New York, and made his highly acclaimed debut with the Canadian Opera Company as Alfredo in "La Traviata." He opened New York City Opera's 1994/95 season in "Madama Butterfly," with subsequent performances in "La Bohème" and in an Emmy Award-winning production of "La Traviata," directed by Renata Scotto, and televised on "Live from Lincoln Center."

Stephen developed his vocal technique and zest for acting under the famous operatic duo Nicola Rossi-Lemeni and Virginia Zeani. Never content with the status quo in opera, he has constantly pushed the bounds of repertoire and dramatic effect with his roles. The expert technique gained from his illustrious teachers, combined with his natural physical ease, has given him the opportunity to undertake a wide reper-



toire and catch the eye of the most important conductors, directors, and famous opera singers of the world.

He has sung in many of the most important operatic venues across the United States, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina, as well as the major theaters throughout Italy, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Finland, Switzerland, Greece and Turkey. From the beginning of his career he has

been highly visible in his collaborations with the late Luciano Pavarotti, live broadcasts in Europe of Manon Lescaut with Karita Mattila, and the opening of the season at Milan's La Scala with Maestro Riccardo Muti.

Stephen Mark Brown has proven to be adept at both opera and concert work, and has enjoyed teaching master classes in universities and conservatories around the world including Florence Italy, Istanbul Turkey, Arkansas, Colorado and Missouri. Upcoming master classes, concerts and operas include those in Seoul, Korea; Florence, Italy; Athens, Greece; London, England and Rosario, Argentina as well as various venues in the United States.

Bel Canto performances provide funds for the Highlands School Music program, the Highlands Community Child Development Center as well as the permanent art collection of The Bascom Gallery.

So put Sunday, September 11 on your calendar for a wonderful afternoon and evening of "beautiful singing" and a sumptuous dinner at Highlands Country Club. Call 828.526.1947 for tickets.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

BERT MOUNTAIN TRAIL along the Appalachian Trail to the abandoned fire tower with nice views. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 p.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Thursday, Sept. 8

- The Macon County Democratic Womens Club is sponsoring a covered-dish supper on Thursday, Sept. 8th at the Otto Community Bldg. at 5:30. John Snow will be the guest speaker.

- The September meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always

- Join the Junior class at Highlands School on Thursday for a BBQ dinner to raise money for prom. Dinner starts at 4:30 and will be served until 6 pm. Take out service will be available. There will also be a bake sale and a PTO meeting will follow the dinner.

Saturday, Sept. 10

- Highlands Farmer's Market in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, 8-11 a.m. Home-grown and home-made.

- 2nd Annual Celebration of Books, Highlands Civic Center.

- Clear Creek Baptist Church fundraiser for its Building Fund feature a cake auction, item auction, music and food, 5:30 p.m. at the Satolah Fire Department. Music starts at 7 p.m.

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to birding hot spots around Highlands for fall migrants. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

Sunday, Sept. 11

- The 19th Bel Canto at the Performing. For tickets call 526-1947.

- The USDA Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina is holding an open house at the Highlands District Ranger's Office from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. to give the public a chance to review the building and two-acre property prior to auction on Sept. 28, 2011. The Forest Service will auction the Highlands District Ranger's Office by sealed bids at the Nantahala Ranger District Office, 90 Sloan Road, Franklin, NC, on Sept. 28, 2011 at 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc and click on "Highlands Office Auction" or call District Ranger Mike Wilkins at 828-524-6441.

Mon., Sept. 12

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a program featuring Simon Thompson, professional birding guide from Asheville. Simon will speak on the birds of Western North Carolina. Light refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. followed by

the program at 7:30. The location is the Highlands Civic Center.

- Physician Forum with Dr. Richard Matthews presents "Insulin Levels - What Everyone Should Know." 12 noon to 1 pm on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic, hospital campus. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn in-depth knowledge concerning insulin levels and how those levels can affect one's mood, energy and overall health. Please register in advance (828) 526-1313 or email info@hchospital.org.

Tues., Sept. 13

- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will have a field trip to birding hot spots around Highlands led by Simon Thompson, professional birding guide. Meet at the public parking area next to the town hall at 7:30 a.m. For additional information call Brock Hutchins at 828-787-1387.

- Celebrate 150 Years of Hospitality at 4 1/2

Street Inn (100 years old) and Colonial Pines Inn (50 years old) on Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Join the Innkeepers for a cookout with live music by "Tom Hill & the Midnight Suns." Tour the Inns, dance, and enjoy old-fashioned hospitality. Free. Parking available courtesy of the PAC Center on Chestnut Street. For more information contact Helene & Rick at (828) 526-4464 or Donna & Chris at (828) 526-2060.

- Come and listen to the stories at the Story Swap on Tuesday at 7:30 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. The theme for September is "Bar or Restaurant Tales." If you have a story to tell or read, sign up at the pub or call 526 - 1935.

Thurs., Sept. 15

- NAMI Appalachian South presents Dr. Mary Ellen Griffin as its guest speaker at the Community

Facilities Building in Franklin at 7 p.m. She will discuss how she works with people with mental illness and their family members. She will also teach some simple breathing and walking exercises participants can use to calm themselves and strengthen skills in returning their attention to the present moment, also known as mindfulness.

- Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains at 5:30 p.m.

Kitchen tour planned for Sept. 24



This Highlands cottage, tucked away in a family compound, has the quintessential mountain kitchen. Don't miss Highlands Laurel Garden Clubs tour of six kitchens, Sept. 24. Photo by Sarah Valentine.

Laurel Garden Club of Highlands, North Carolina, is planning a Tour of Kitchens September 24, 2011, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rainwater, one of Highlands's glamorous mountain top estates, is the site of the night-before patrons' party, September 23, 6-8 p.m.

The tour features six Highlands kitchens ranging from majestic to rustic, plus peeks into the homes and gardens. At the patrons' party and tour, Pat Conroy will autograph *Recipes from My Life*, and Sheri Castle will sign *The New Southern Garden Cookbook*. Demonstrations from professional chefs will take place in several of the kitchens.

The last home on the tour features a shop selling one-of-kind items, including art, kitchen pottery, and gourmet food. The tour serves as a fundraiser for the club, which has donated more than \$55,000 to local charities from the profits of their award-winning cookbook, *Celebrate Highlands*.

Tickets are \$50 per person for the tour, and \$125 each for the patrons' party. A limited number will be sold. Tickets can be purchased online from the club website www.HighlandsLaurelGardenClub.com, and by mail, at Laurel Garden Club, P.O. Box 142, Highlands, NC 28741. Call (828) 526-8334 for more information.

Cover them with a Quilt of Valor



The mission of the Quilts for Valor (QOV) Foundation is to cover all those service members and veterans touched by war with Wartime Quilts called Quilts of Valor that are made by Wartime Quilters.

Since 2003, 44,375 QOVs have been distributed to service people. Please make a quilt if you are able, or made a donation to Cashiers Quilters Guild so they can make more of them. Send a check to Guild treasurer, Chris Giffith, PO Box 309, Gloenville, NC 28736.

The Cashiers Quilters meet every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Cashiers United Methodist Church. Your quilt may be made in honor or memory of someone who served in the military and a patriotic label will be sewn on the back of each quilt.

The quilt pictured above is by Highlands quilter Liz View.

Numerous quilts are on display at the Hudson Library.

• JUST HERS •

Stupid should hurt

I'm a great fan of bumper stickers. You can often tell a lot about folks by being stuck behind them in traffic. Forget all the political signs – most of them are boring and predictable. My favorites are a bit more quirky. Up to now, my top three bumper stickers were:



Michelle Mead-Armor
Email:
michiemead@aol.com

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My son was prisoner of the month at the Macon County Correctional Institution. (Take that all of you folks with your honor students!). Honk if you've ever been married to my ex-husband.

Buckle up! It makes it harder for the aliens to suck you out of your vehicle. (Thanks, Cynthia!)

A few years back, John and I attended one of his college reunions in New Haven. Yale put on a wonderful weekend for the alumni, including several continuing education classes. One of them took as its premise that much of our political discourse has been reduced to a series of snappy sound bites, and bumper sticker slogans to the detriment of real political debate. That said, sometimes all you need is a few words to get your point across. This brings me to my latest favorite bumper sticker, which I read with great glee in Highlands a few weeks ago: Stupid Should Hurt.

Isn't that wonderful? Stupid Should Hurt. The older I get, the more I am amazed at how truly, mind-bogglingly dumb some people are. I've had conversations with folks that left me wondering if they'd opened the asylums and let everyone out to give the staff a day off. Let me give you a few examples, and I'm sure you'll think of your own.

This year, I have run into a number of visitors and summer residents (God bless 'em, I say – they make it possible for some stores to stay open year 'round) who have started calling our town "The Highlands." "Oh, we have been coming to The Highlands for years now." The Highlands? Do they say The New Orleans? The Atlanta? The Ft. Lauderdale? Of course not! When did we suddenly pick up "The" in front of the town name?

Another less-than-charming habit I've noticed this year is the "Designated Dummy" effect at local plays and concerts. In many public twosomes this summer, there has been a designated genius and a designated dummy. Here's how it works – designated genius and designated dummy go to some sort of public event where there is an audience, and the assumption of a quiet and respectful audience. Now, mind you, I'm not talking about a pair where one person has limited sight, hearing, or mobility. I'm talking about pairs of people where both are presumed to enjoy and appreciate the spectacle equally. Let me give you an example. A while back, I attended an exceptional performance of Educating Rita. The audience was, for the most part, fairly respectful of their fellow theatergoers (only two cell phones went off during the performance.)

In back of me, a few rows over, however, were the evening's designated genius and designated dummy. The house lights dimmed, and the commentary began, continuing through the entire performance. "It's a play," said the genius. "It's called Educating Rita." "There are two characters, a man and a woman. He's a professor. She's a hairdresser." And so it went. Every line of the play was repeated and explained by the designated genius to their designated dummy companion. It was as if the rest of the audience didn't exist. It never seemed to occur to the pair that their conversation might be competing in any way with

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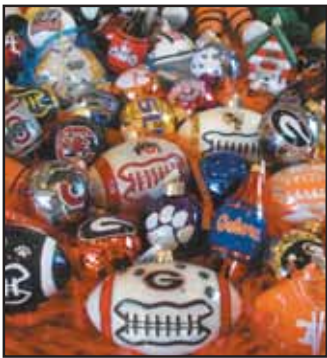


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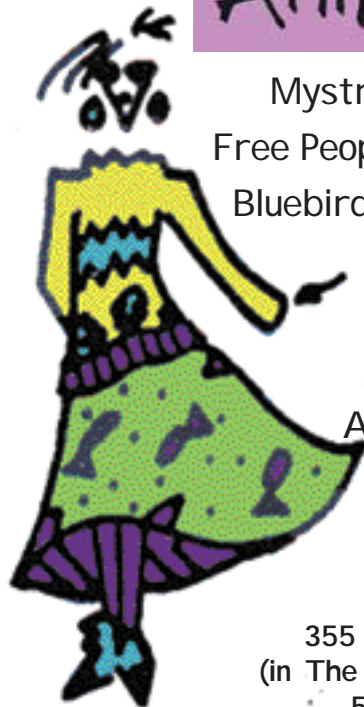
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....JUST HERS continued from page 18

what was actually going on the stage.

Only days later, I attended a marvelous piano

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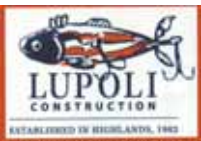
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concert by Robert Henry at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. This time, the designated genius and designated dummy were a mother and her teenage daughter. "It's a concert," hissed the mother. "He's playing the piano." The daughter nodded solemnly, as if she'd been expecting a concert of rap music and needed an explanation. The mother leaned over to her daughter, announcing each new piece of music in a loud voice that would have made Howard Kossel blush. "It's Bach!" she would yell in a stage whisper that could have been heard in, dare I say it, The Asheville. Call me a straight-laced fool. I always felt that comments and commentary should be reserved for after the performance, when such conversations do not detract from the enjoyment of others. In our no-holds-barred society, however, we not only expect to say what we want, we expect to say it the minute it comes into our heads.

If you are a keen observer of humankind, air travel is a veritable mind field. Stupid pulls up to the door with noisy headphones, a plethora of electronic gear, and more luggage than the Hebrews took out of Egypt. I recently flew to Denver, and certainly got my share. The flights out were on Delta Airlines, or as they had renamed it on August 19th, Screaming Baby Airlines.

Asheville to Atlanta, and Atlanta to Denver were filled with yellers, chair kickers, and aisle runners, as well as "touch every known surface of the airplane" experts, all under the age of seven. And yes, I know that their poor little ears hurt, etc. etc., but please, after several hours of this, so did mine. The time to teach children to behave in public is not the day they take a crowded airplane, or the first time they are taken to an expensive restaurant.

One week later, the Denver to Atlanta leg of the trip wasn't much better. In spite of requesting an aisle seat, I got the one by the window. The plane was full. My row companions were two of the Village People (no, not literally). Middle Seat had long, gorgeous eye lashes and a mini-Mohawk. The minute he sat down, he whipped out a Nelson DeMille novel that shouted "I have a good book to read, so don't you dare talk to me on this flight. Ever." Aisle Seat was a short muscular man with a crew cut and a skin tight t-shirt. On his left arm was a large, angry tattoo, and he sported a Hello Kitty wristwatch. Every time we hit turbulence, Middle Seat shrieked and grabbed the arm rests, and Aisle Seat shouted at him. In mid-flight, I needed to go to the rest room. Rather than disturb my row mates, I would have gone on the

• See JUST HERS page 23



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...JUST HERS from page 22

wing if only I could have opened the window. My travel companion to Asheville made the whole trip worthwhile. A delightful young lady, she was the kind of charming person that reconciles you to all the rest. And when we landed, we had another treat. A family on our flight had leis around their necks – souvenirs from their trip to Hawaii. The husband /father of the group was at the airport to greet them. A thin, deeply tanned man, he sported a grass skirt, coconut brassiere, and wild wig, all donned for their behalf. Even the most tired traveler took one look at him, and laughed out loud. He may have mortified his family, but he lightened the hearts of all the travel-weary souls on Delta 1513. Stupid should hurt. But wild and crazy? Well, that should make us glad to be alive! Aloha!

• Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. Michelle recently visited her family in Denver, thanks to the kindness and generosity of her two cat sitters, Polly and Pat, who helped make the trip possible. Unfortunately, now the cats expect room service.

...MATTHEWS from page 1

ber of our medical and emergency room staff and community-loved physician, Dr. Matthews' wisdom, skills, and loyalty to the hospital have been invaluable."

Dr. Matthews said the decision to move back to Gulf Breeze was a difficult one that involved personal factors. "I have come to this decision with a heavy heart and after much thought," said Dr. Matthews to the hospital Board of Directors. "My family is drawing me home. They need me at this time. I would like to thank you for the privilege of being a part of this excellent hospital. The Highlands community and the hospital have been nothing but generous, kind, and supportive. Unfortunately, my family and my children reside in Florida and I long to be closer to them."

Dr. Matthews will assist the hospital in finding his replacement. "I will work with you and the medical staff in every possible way to help in bringing someone else in," he said. Recruitment efforts are already underway.

A smooth transition is promised. "Providing our surrounding area with core services like family medicine care is our number one priority," said James. "Our goal is to have another family physician here by next season." Dr. Matthews will continue to see patients through Feb. 2012. Call (828) 526-1362 with questions.

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At the risk of sounding like a cliché

By Terry Potts

Country Club Properties

One of the challenging things about giving real-estate advice to folks is that with the majority of things going on in the market these days it is hard to give advice about something without sounding completely cliché.

With that being said, let's look at a couple of the cliché statements that most people give as advice these days and put them into context.

"There's never been a better time to buy"

I tend to dislike words like "always" and "never" because they are simply too easy to debunk. It would be hard for me to say that there has "never" been a better time to be a buyer because I am sure that the 1930's was a great time for investing if you had the capital. However, right now is a great time to be a buyer, provided that you have the liquid assets and the ability to make wise decisions. Highlands has typically been somewhat immune to economic swoons, but right now there are some great values to be had if you have the money and the patience to make it work. I say this because an investor needs cash to get

the best deals on property and because it is more difficult to get a loan these days (more on that in a minute) and an investor needs patience in order to improve or maintain the house and wait for the value of that property to return.

"Interest rates are at historic lows"

This particular cliché is used to encourage potential homebuyers, or even homeowners looking to refinance. However, while rates remain low as the Federal Reserve tries to prop up a sagging economy, it has become more and more difficult to obtain a mortgage in the current market. The housing market has remained in flux, in part because it has become so difficult for potential buyers to qualify for loans. Additionally, there is a great deal more paperwork required by the Federal Government in order for them to back home loans, which can be daunting, particularly for first time homebuyers or people looking at a primary residence.

"Highlands is a premier destination"

This is one that will never be "cliché" because it is certainly true. Despite recent growth, Highlands remains one of the

premier areas to live in the entire United States. For summer residents, Highlands offers a mild climate and numerous cultural opportunities. Whether it is the Bascom, the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, the golf opportunities or the Highlands Playhouse, there are plenty of activities—all while maintaining the small town atmosphere that people love. For people looking to relocate to Highlands year-round, there are many advantages for potential full time residents. Highlands boasts a low crime rate, an incredible school system and top notch medical facilities for people who are interested in becoming Highlanders. While many places may offer land or a house, Highlands can truly offer an opportunity for a place to call home.

For help in navigating your way through the Highlands Plateau Real Estate market, visit any one of Country Club Properties' three offices on Main Street, in Wright Square and in the Mountain Fresh complex, or go to our website at www.ccphighlandsnc.com. For a snapshot of our listings see page 27 of this issue.

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GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD INSIDE HIGHLANDS CITY! Must see to appreciate this well built 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 1.8 acres with Satulah Mountain views, 2 car garage and partially finished basement. Contact Melanie Nix at Signature Properties at 828-200-0146.



EXCELLENT VALUE FOR HIGHLANDS TOWNSHIP! 3.55 acres with well-maintained manufactured home, mountain view, mature landscape, end of road privacy and borders USFS. Must see to appreciate! \$167,000 Contact Melanie Nix at Signature Properties: 828-200-0146.



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WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Ideal Mirror Lake Area Cottage. This 3 bedroom/2 bath sweet cottage features hardwood floors, an open kitchen/dining area w/fireplace, and covered porch. Situated on a gorgeous lot. \$349,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffli at (828) 371-2079.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
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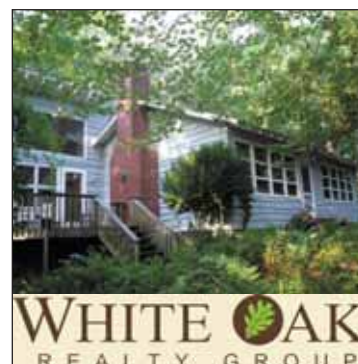
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3 br, 3 baths with 2 half baths and an apartment above the 2-car garage. Mountain views. Furnishings separate. Offered at \$1,050,000. MLS #73147



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Great view. Gourmet kitchen, two car garage plus a lower level entertainment room. Offered at \$995,000. MLS# 73201.



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Owner wants to sell. Attractively priced, duplex property on one level separated by garage; close to all Wildcat Club amenities; furnished (only desk excluded); MC tax assessment is \$876,300. Price includes Lot 2 and electric golf cart. Offered at \$399,000. MLS# 73461



Highlands Country Club. Lovely 3 bed, 3 1/2 bath home overlooking 17th fairway. Two native stone fireplaces, large deck, two-car garage. Club membership subject to approval and fees. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$1,250,000. MLS# 73133



3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, and 2 Car Garage, fireplace, large decks, High ceilings, light and open, great privacy! Offered at \$510,000. MLS#73609



Great getaway cabin features 2 bedrooms, 1 bath on a nice wooded lot with small stream. Full basement with room for expansions. A great entry level buy! Offered at \$124,900. MLS# 73343



Great mountain cabin on private end of road lot. Two adjoining lake view lots in Wildwood are also listed for sale. See MLS#'s 73114 & 73115. Offered at \$422,000. MLS# 73113



Walk to town. Nice fireplace, covered deck, tennis courts. Offered at \$425,000. MLS# 73486



Great location, quiet, peaceful, minutes from Main Str. near Harris Lake. Winter view of Satulah Mtn. Excellent condition, great outdoor spaces. Efficiency apartment with full kitchen, bed, bath with separate entrance. 1-car garage. In rental program. Offered at \$698,000. MLS# 73391



In excellent condition with large lot. Mature landscaping. Hardwood floors, updated appliances, workshop. 2 large bed, 2 bath. Outdoor Carolina room with fireplace. \$495,000. MLS# 73304



Horse Cove. 3 bed., 2 baths. Hardwood floors. Open plan. Full basement with workshop and room for expansion. Large yard. \$199,500. Currently rented and shown by appointment. MLS# 73120



Satulah Ridge. 3 bed, 3 baths plus 2, one-car garages and an extra lot. Excellent condition and owned by the same family for over 25 years. Lower level has additional family room and kitchenette. Offered at \$595,000. MLS# 73763



Commercial or residential. 1.42 +/- acres on NC 106, 3 bed, 2 1/2 baths, full basement, 2 car garage, RV hookup with pad and covered parking. Offered at \$399,000. MLS# 72932



Secluded 3 bed, 2 bath sits on over 3.5 acres in the gated community of Rocky Knob in Scaly. Backs up to Forest Service property and includes lake access. 3 levels of living area, screened porch and 2-car garage. Offered at \$549,000.



Great contemporary. Airy with mountain vista. Solar collectors, Hydronic heat through the acid washed concrete floors. Two sided fireplace in living room. Screened porch. Great decks and hot tub. Two car garage and generator. Offered at \$609,000. MLS# 73357



In Highlands Country Club. 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath ranch style house. On over an acre of land. Walking distance of club. 1 bed, 1 bath guesthouse. Paved driveway, wood burning fireplace, 4-car garage, large covered porch. Offered at \$1,200,000. MLS# 73123



Charming cabin in Highland Hills, with deeded lake access. Winter view of Apple Lake. Fireplace, loft and porch. Close to town. Offered at \$449,000. MLS# 73386



Secret garden cottage. Completely renovated. Outdoor garden areas for entertaining. Potting shed. Artists studio. Small branch and pond in garden yard. Offered at \$265,000. MLS# 73441.

...BEAR SMART continued from page 1

with the Western North Carolina Alliance (WNCA) based in Asheville, NC.

The change will allow the group more flexibility to work on a regional basis as problems associated with black

bears become more prevalent throughout the mountains of western N.C. Becoming a Task Force of WNCA will enable the group to connect with WNCA's seven regional chapters as well as have access to other resources of the

organization. However, the primary focus for B.E.A.R. will continue to be throughout the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Cynthia Strain, chair of B.E.A.R., has a long association with WNCA, having served on its steering com

•See BEAR SMART page 29

• Antiquing in Highlands and Cashiers •

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... BEAR SMART continued from page 28

mittee for 5 years and chairing the Highlands chapter for a period back in the '90s. Then, after serving as president of the Highlands Plateau Audubon chapter for several years, she helped to found the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance in 2000, and served on its board for 10 years.

"Bear Smart" is a comprehensive program offered by the Get Bear Smart Society in Whistler, Canada. A Bear Smart Committee was formed as part of J-MCA after Strain and then-office administrator Debbie Lassiter saw the need to address escalating reports of human/bear conflicts. The committee has followed the guidelines provided by the Get Bear Smart Society, and has grown to over 20 individuals.

After its first year, the committee realized the need to extend its reach to a larger area, precipitating the desire to work under a regional non-profit. "The committee appreciates the support that J-MCA provided in its formative period and is excited about this new direction. We also appreciate WCU intern Lucas Smithson's completing the bear hazard assessment

for the Town of Highlands," said Strain.

Several B.E.A.R. Talk educational programs are planned, the next one being in September for the Sky Valley (GA) Woman's Club. New educational literature is also available detailing specific steps people can take to bear-proof their property and ensure their safety both at home and on the trail.

In the past year committee members have given over a dozen presentations to community and country clubs and homeowners associations, a training for law enforcement officers on dealing with bear complaints, and organized the Mountain Black Bear Festival this past June in Highlands.

If you have any questions about B.E.A.R., are interested in future programs, or would like educational materials, contact Cynthia Strain at (828) 526-9227 or E-mail: BEARWNC@gmail.com. If you would like to help B.E.A.R. in their educational efforts to keep both bears and people safe, donations can be sent to B.E.A.R. at P.O. Box 1834, Highlands, NC, 28741.



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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Volleyball drops two to SMC powers

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Lady Highlander volleyball squad felt it would be a tough week facing Smoky Mountain Conference powers Rosman and Swain, and unfortunately for the Lady Highlanders, their feelings were correct.

On Tuesday, the Lady Highlanders hosted defending Western Region Champion Rosman, who finished up 2010 with a loss to Pender in the NCHSAA state championship. The Highlanders played well early in the first set, but could not sustain it, dropping the first set 25-10. Rosman continued to roll in sets 2 and 3, winning 25-9 and 25-8 respectively. "Rosman is a strong opponent," said Highlands coach Kyle McKim. "They showed us some weaknesses we have that need to be worked on. It was a difficult loss for us, but we are learning a lot right now and hope to show them a different level of play the next time we meet."

Thursday, Highlands traveled to Bryson City to face Swain, and while the result was the same as the Rosman match, the Lady Highlanders did show some improvement.

Highlands dropped the first set 25-14, the second set 25-12 and the final set 25-9.

The Lady Highlanders travel to Rabun Gap today to face the Lady Eagles and will face archrival Blue Ridge in Cashiers on Thursday

Highlanders tread water early in set

By Ryan Potts

The Highlanders opened their home schedule last Tuesday with a match against the Brevard Blue Devils in what was a rematch of a scrimmage game earlier this season. The Highlanders looked to build on the last second win from last week, and were able to get an early start when forward Dax Lloyd found the back of the net to give the Highlanders a 1-0 lead. Brevard was able to equalize late in the first half when the Highlander defense failed to clear a ball out of the box. Lloyd struck again to give the Highlanders a 2-1 lead. That lead looked like it might hold up until Brevard was able to get a goal off of a beautiful strike midway through the second half to tie the game at 2. Despite a late effort from Highlands in the final minutes, the game ended in a 2-2 tie.

The Highlanders then traveled to Franklin to face the Panthers and again got off to an early lead as Dax Lloyd was able to score in the first 10 minutes to give the Highlanders a 1-0 lead. Franklin equalized late in the first half and took the lead early in the second half after some very controversial officiating gave the Panthers a penalty kick. The controversial officiating continued after Highlands was awarded a penalty kick after a Highlander was taken down in the box, but the center official overruled the linesman and waved off the penalty, much to the chagrin of the Highlander crowd. Despite the effort, the Highlanders fell 2-1, but Highlander coach Chris Green was still able to find positives in the outcome. "I was kind of worried about us after the Brevard game because we lost focus when we had some adversity and I wasn't sure how that would affect us going down the road," said Green. "However, we showed a lot of mental toughness tonight against Franklin despite quite a bit more adversity."

The Highlanders will continue their tough early season schedule by traveling to East Henderson on Thursday.

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...PLAYHOUSE continued from page 31

week of Patsy Cline, the Highlands Playhouse was visited by an officer of the ABC Commission, Steve Myers, who on an anonymous tip, showed up at the Playhouse at 8:30 p.m., ordered a beer, drank the beer and ceremoniously presented the Playhouse staff with a citation for selling beer.

Turns out, The Playhouse doesn't have a permit to serve or sell beer – it only has a permit to sell or serve wine – but that's just part of the story. It wasn't the Playhouse serving or selling the beer.

This past season, The Playhouse hired Oak Street Café as its caterer and as such, Oak Street Café both supplied beer and wine, served beer and wine and kept all profits of those transactions. The Playhouse, though permitted to do so, didn't sell or serve wine this season.

As it turns out, though Oak Street Café has a current permit to sell beer, wine and alcoholic beverages on its premises on Main Street, it doesn't have a permit to serve or sell beer, wine or alcoholic beverages off premises – something the owners didn't realize.

According to the ABC Commission, The Playhouse was cited and is being held accountable because it allowed beer to be

sold on its premises illegally by Oak Street Café.

Now, neither Allbee nor anyone else on staff or on the board knew Oak Street Café didn't have an off-premises permit – as it turns out, neither did the owners of Oak Street Café – and no one thought to ask.

The consequences? A misdemeanor felony for which Allbee, as president of the board, must pay – both with a court appearance 9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Macon County Courthouse and fiscally.

Between court costs and citation fees the incident could cost him up to \$1,500 and could stay on his record.

Aliaksandr Kalinin, manager of Oak Street Café owned by High Altitude Dining, Inc., faces the same outcome, though likely more severe, as his company didn't have an off-premise liquor license.

The ABC permit associated with Oak Street Café was renewed in April 2011 and allows the sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine and mixed beverages only on premises of the Oak Street Café restaurant.

Allbee is understandably upset over the entire incident but became even more upset when he was approached by citizens concerning “his arrest by the ABC board

Highlands' Newspaper - Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011 - 828-526-3228 - Page 31 and subsequent stint in jail.”

That of course, didn't happen. He was neither arrested nor put in jail. That was a case of facts going viral.

The lesson?

Allbee and The Highlands Playhouse Board warns other nonprofits to do their research. Know what permits their caterer possesses and understand exactly what is needed prior to entering into a contract.

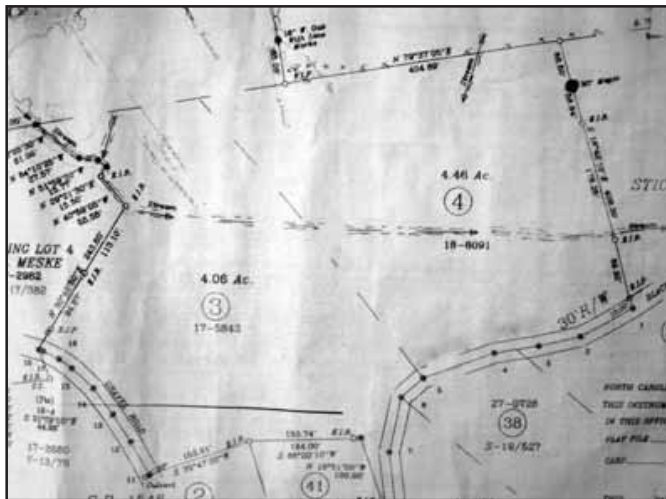
In addition, In North Carolina a nonprofit which is selling wine or beer on premises must have two permits – one for wine and one for beer.

A caterer – or restaurant – hired to serve food and beverages must have an off-premises permit to sell beer, wine or mixed alcoholic beverages.

Meanwhile, Attorney Bill Coward is working on the case and it's hoped that since this is the first infraction of its kind ever for The Playhouse, the ABC commission will dismiss the charges with a warning.

Owners of Oak Street Café will be fighting charges in court as well.

— **Kim Lewicki**



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• HEALTH MATTERS •

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle

By Dr. Robert Buchanan
Center for Plastic Surgery

There is no magic antiaging device or drug. Optimal health and longevity are the result of a healthy lifestyle. A study of identical twins showed the twin who maintained the healthier lifestyle had fewer medical problems, aged less and lived longer.

Medicine has reduced death from cancer and other chronic diseases by understanding them and identifying other things that shorten our lives. Additionally, we have discovered how to reduce the other lifestyle limiting effects from many common diseases. This has given us the information we need to maintain a healthy lifestyle and, thus, live longer healthier lives. The best examples of the latter are high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. Though all three are still quite prevalent, we have learned ways of modifying or controlling each by lifestyle modification.

The four components of a healthy lifestyle, in order of importance, are diet, exercise, avoidance of negative influences and stress control. Each alone is a powerful antiager, but, combined, they multiply each other.

Most important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle is a proper diet. Besides being fuel for the body, food is a drug, and we need to think about it as such. Many of the problems I see with the skin and associated with surgery and healing are directly related to diet. Diet is said to be responsible for 1/3rd of all cancer deaths in this country. Almost all of the diabetes and most of the high blood pressure and heart disease is directly related to diet. When I was in medical school, we all got called to study anyone with Type II Diabetes because it was so rare. Now, it constitutes 95% of the cases among the 26 million Americans with diabetes. Part of this is a change in what we eat. Most diets now consist of 70-90% carbohydrate. It should be 40% carbs low on the glycemic index, 30% protein and 30% non-animal fat. It

should also be less processed and be more colorful than most diets today. Another part is that we are living longer from other improvements and an improper diet affects us more the older we get. Diet even overcomes genetics, as shown in a study of the Zuni Indian tribe and, later, other tribes. Over 95% of the Zuni tribe had diabetes and high blood pressure. Of those who modified their diet and began to exercise regularly, all got off medications and normalized their blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Exercise, the second part of the Zuni success, alone will not control your weight or markedly change your health. When added to a proper diet, the effects are multiplied. It can help improve your circulation, and lower your blood pressure and your risk of heart disease. It can also elevate our energy and mood. Amazingly enough, it also reduces the risk of multiple cancers, including breast. By increasing the brain's production of endorphins, it relaxes us, clears our minds and reduces tension.

It is also important to avoid those

• See Health Matters page 34



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~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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... HEALTH MATTERS continued from pg 33

things that have a negative influence on us. The major things in this list are tobacco products, alcohol, the sun, caffeine, sugar and drugs. Tobacco of any type (including nicotine products to help reduce tobacco use) reduce the blood supply to all organs of the body. Plastic Surgeons actually discovered this problem in a study of facelift complications done about thirty years ago. The only one of forty variables to increase the incidence of poor scar and skin loss was tobacco use. It has now been found responsible for reducing the immune system, speeding aging and increasing the incidence of cata-

racts and cancers. Its vascular reduction also contributes to the effect of the smoke on the lining of the lung and the incidence of respiratory disease. Alcohol has been found to have both good and bad effects. One glass of red wine contains antioxidants that protect us. However, two glasses begin to leach folic acid and other nutrients. In women this increases the risk of breast and ovarian cancers. Although we cannot avoid the sun, which causes skin aging and cancers, we can protect ourselves with clear Zinc Oxide sun block and sun protective clothing. Although most drugs are useful, if we can reduce the number

we take, we reduce the risk of a cross reaction.

Reduction of tension and stress is also important in improving our lifestyle. Stress has two parts, the event and our reaction. If we cannot avoid the event, then we need to learn to reframe it, much like changing our perception of a half empty glass to one half full. Of course, the best way to avoid stress is to avoid the precipitating event. We can do this by organizing our time, learning to say "no," grouping similar activities and avoiding distractions. Something we all need to do is to make time for ourselves. Fortunately, since we are in Highlands, we have already discovered how to do this. If we still are stressed, perhaps we just need to allow the area to work its magic.

Although there are many things that are available to purportedly help us age better, there are only four that actually work. These are diet, exercise, avoidance of negative influences, and stress management. Food is a drug that determines our wellness. It can keep us well or cause us to be ill. Exercise protects us. It builds lean body mass and reduces fat. By eliminating those things that are detrimental, we improve our health and longevity. Reducing stress is additive to the others

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Mountain Findings supports Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic with donation



Those good folks at Mountain Findings are at it again. Mountain Findings, an all volunteer thrift shop in Highlands, raises money through the resale of donated items. All proceeds are given to local charities. This year, they will donate a total of \$110,000 to local charities. This is the fourth year they have supported the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic with generous donations. In the attached photo, John Wells of Mountain Findings hands a check for \$8,000 to Lynne Keating, President-Elect of the BRFDC Board, and Dr. Tom Smith, Founding Dentist.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club raises money for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital



The handmade quilt which was auctioned, raised \$900.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club hosted a Rally for the Hospital fundraiser recently and raised over \$19,000 to help Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. A committee of Wildcat ladies including Midge Rothermel, Pegi Williard, Joan Betts, Pam Campbell, Cheryl Jennings, Rozzy McCoy and the Ladies Golf Association worked together to make the fundraiser a success.

The fundraising efforts were a culmination of a live auction on August 13, raffle ticket sales with the winner announced on and a Rally for the Hospital golf tournament all hosted at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on August 16.

The raffle items included massage packages, personal training fitness pack-

ages and golf lesson packages from the staff at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

There were seven items included in the live auction on Saturday night that included rounds of golf for four at local golf clubs, a handmade quilt that raised \$900, a handmade necklace that raised \$1,000, a five course French dinner for eight accompanied by French wines that raised \$4,000, an Amish-style quilt rack that raised \$350, diamond earrings that were donated by Estate Jewelers on Main Street that raised \$3,000 and a Taylor Made driver donated by Wildcat Cliffs raised \$300.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club once again had a fun and successful fundraiser as they rallied another year for the hospital.

Hospital volunteers honored at WCCC



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ANNUAL/YEAR ROUND RENTALS — Now taking applications for these homes: **2BR/2bath upper level condo** –walk to town, screened porch, in a quiet area. \$900 monthly, not including utilities, furnished, parking space. **3BR/2bath home** — all on one level,



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\$900 per month, not including utilities, In town limits, yard and good parking Rental applications subject to credit, and/or criminal check. Call The Chambers Agency, 526-3717 or email jsc@chambersagency.net or come by 401 N. Fifth Street. (8/31)

3 BR CABIN W/GREAT VIEW FOR RENT monthly Aug, Sept, and/or Oct. Off Dillard Road – Klein Road – 2 bath and huge screened in porch. View can't be topped! Pets OK. Call 828-526-5174 (8/25)

SUITE FOR RENT on a beautiful horse farm on Blue Valley Road 5 miles out of town. The very large in law-suite on the bottom level of a very large home. Private entrance, private bath, whole house privileges. Private refrigerator, microwave, hot plate and completely furnished with TV. \$500 a month + 1/4 of the utilities. Call (828) 787-1170. (st. 6/19)

DOWNTOWN ON MAIN ST APT – 1/1, covered balcony, small pets allowed, \$650/mo. Call 200-0036(day) or 526-4044(eve) (st. 4/7)

REMODELED EFFICIENCY APARTMENT RIVER RUN II Washer Dryer, Large Deck. Walking distance to Skiing, Swimming, Exercise, and Meeting rooms and Public Golf Course \$495 monthly annual rent plus utilities. Includes Master Association Amenities. 561-626-7467. (8/18)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/3BATH HOME. Stunning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; deposit required. \$2,500/month - negotiable for long term. Weekly rates available. Call 770-639-2682. (9/29)

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

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

HOUSE FOR RENT 3BR/2BTH. \$650 plus utilities. No cell phone service. 3459 Buck Creek Road 828-524-6038. (st. 3/3)

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

VACATION RENTALS

ON MIRROR LAKE – Lakeside, canoe & paddleboat, 3 private suites with bath, fireplace, kitchen, w/d. family and pet friendly. Call 828-342-2302. (9/1)

COZY VACATION RENTAL COTTAGE FOR TWO ON MIRROR LAKE – fireplace, w/d, kitchen, bath, canoe and paddleboat access. Pet Friendly. Call 828-342-2302. (9/1)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BEAUTIFUL HIGH RIDGE PROPERTY – facing Scaly Mountain. Located on right fork just past Church of God on Buck Knob Road. 14.91 acres. \$299,000. Call Dawn at 813-264-6358. mknowles38@msn.com (8/10)

MOUNTAINTOP GOLF LAKE CLUB CASHIERS – Lot for Sale. Paid \$475,000; Will sell for \$325,000 with membership included.

Call 864-855-2406, or 864-979-6953. (st. 7/27)

SEE THE ONLY GREEN ROOF, TORNADO PROOF, MODESTLY SIZED VILLA ON THE MARKET. Lakeside Lodge in Rocky Knob. Appt. Only. www.singleylaydesigns.com or call your broker. (st. 6/30)

LAST LOT AVAILABLE! – 1 acre +/-, water, prior septic permit western mountain and sunset views along Eastern Divide, backs up to HCC, great neighborhood, 2 miles from Main Street. \$86,000. Call 828-200-0244. (st. 6/30)

\$103,000! LOWER CLEAR CREEK. 5.5 miles from Main Street. 2 Lots. .55 & .95 acres. Septics installed. Borders National Forest. 2005 2/bed, 2/bath. Very cozy with fabulous view. Call 828-482-2050. (st. 11/11)

SERVICES

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HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry, painting, pressure washing and more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-421-4667. (st. 8/17)

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ITEMS FOR SALE

JET 2 ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR. – Holds up to 300 lbs. \$600. Call 787-1090. (st. 8/31)

ANTIQUE BOOKS – Dickens, Balzac (First Translation.) Others. Call for list. 526-3129. (st. 8/31)

LIKE NEW RED MICROFIBER SOFA AND RECLINER. new, never used full mattress and boxspring, bunkbed, mountain-style armoir, dining room set with 6 chairs. Call 828-787-1792.

A WWII WORK BENCH. Solid Steel 14 drawers with tools & air compressor. Serious inquires only. \$1,500. 828-371-1609. (st. 8/17)

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CABLE SPINET PIANO in great condition. \$600 Call 526-8829 or 342-2279. (st. 8/17)

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BOULDERS TO YOU – Modest to Massive. Free Highlands Delivery. Installation Available. 828-526-5981. (St. 6/30)

2 MARBLE END & COFFEE TABLES \$125. 2 contemporary lady statues \$100. Tammy 770-337-1000 (Highlands). (st. 6/16)

ALLEN THEATER ORGAN WITH 3 EXTERNAL SPEAKERS FREE to interested church or educational facility. 828-526-5402 or 954-444-2010 (cell) (st. 6/16)

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Macon County Republican Party hold quarterly meeting in Highlands

On Saturday, Aug. 27, at the first Macon County GOP meeting ever held in Highlands, Helen Carpenter accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of her husband, the late Senator Bob Carpenter.

NC Senator Jim Davis presented. The plaque presented described the late senator as "a True Patriot, a Dedicated Public

Servant, and an Exemplary Republican".

The award was presented at the Macon County Republican Party general meeting held at the Community Building in Highlands.

The guest speaker was Mike Hightower, a major Republican fundraiser and campaign strategist from Florida.

Also present among the approximate

60 attendees were NC Representative Roger West, Macon County Commissioners Brian McClellan, Kevin Corbin and Ron Haven, former Commissioner Harold Corbin, and Sheriff Robby Holland. Ethan Tate, son of party Vice-Chairman Jim Tate said the invocation and Boy Scout Austin Forrester led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Guest speaker Mike Hightower



Senator Jim Davis presents award, accepted by Helen Carpenter.



Ethan Tate and Austin Forrester



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Mon., Sept. 12

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Sat., Oct. 1 - 10am-5pm

Foxfire-Mountaineer Festival

Civic Center in downtown Clayton

Sat., Oct. 22 - 10am-1pm

Halloween Hay Day

Thurs., Nov. 24 - 8 a.m.

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 Fri. & Sat., Sept. 2 & 3
 • At ...on the Verandah, a sing-a-long with the piano man 9-11p in the Dug Out Lounge.
 Saturday, Sept. 3
 • At Ruka's Table, a Wine Tasting 4:30-6:30p and Jazz Music starting at 6:30p
 Sat. & Sun., Sept. 4 & 5
 • Arts & Crafts Fair a Pine Street Park || Village Square, 10-5.

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