

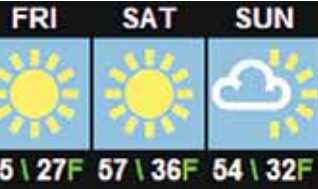
# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 10

PDF Version - [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

Thursday, March 10, 2011



Thursday, March 10

• Highlands School PTO Dinner and meeting. Dinner is 4:30 - 6 in the cafeteria; the PTO Meeting is at 6 p.m. and includes book fair, science fair and cash raffle.

Saturday, March 12

• Highlands Annual Chili Cookoff 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Tickets are \$20. Children under 12 are free.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike to Round Mountain. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike to Siler Bald on the old Appalachian Trail. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

Sun.-Sat., March 13-14

• Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players next play, "Leading Ladies" by Ken Ludwig, will be held, 3 p.m. on Sunday and 6 p.m. on Monday at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are parts for 3 women -- one elderly and 2 in their 20s or 30s and parts for 5 men, ranging in age from 30 to 70. Call Tanji Armor 526-9227.

Sunday, March 13

• Spring Ahead! Set clocks ahead one hour.

• Highlands UMC welcomes Bishop Woodie W. White, Bishop in Residence, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, to its 10:50 a.m. Worship Service.

Tuesday, March 15

• At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Martha Porter: "Batter My Heart", 10 a.m. at the Civic Center. For more e-mail John Gaston [johnhgaston@aol.com](mailto:johnhgaston@aol.com).

## Man risks all to protect maple tree

This wasn't a planned publicity stunt but owner of Bob Weber Tree Company suspects it won't hurt his business any, either.

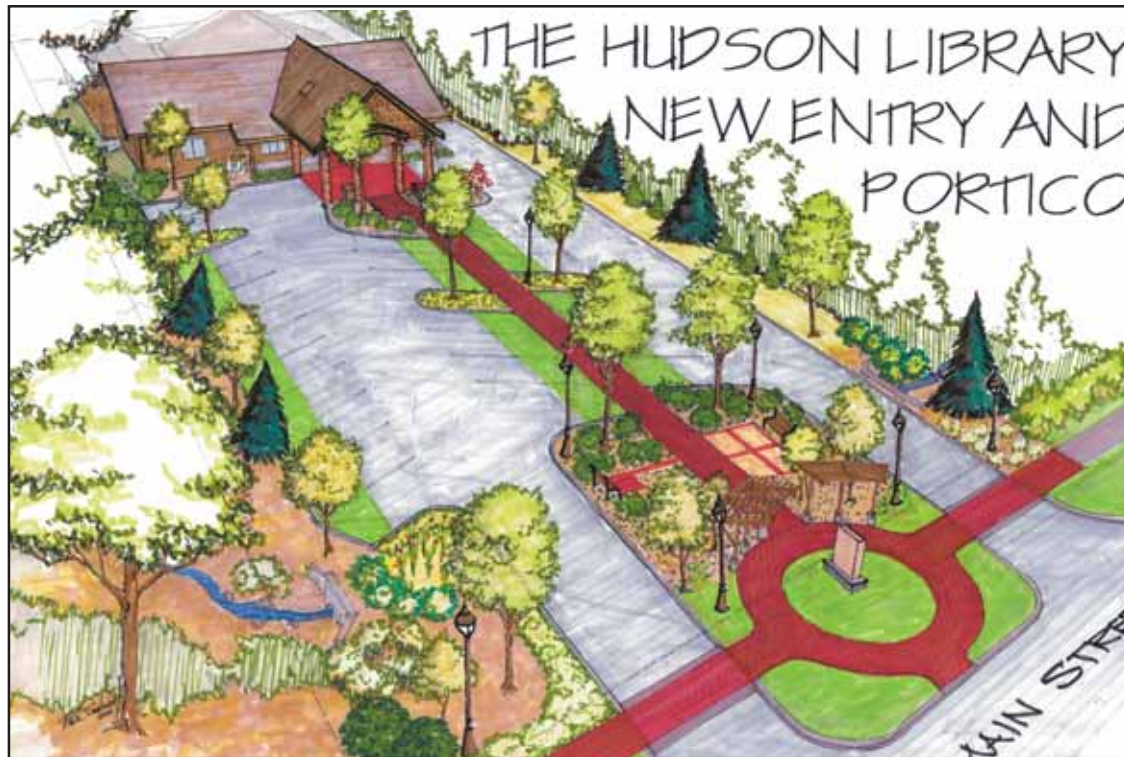
Weber is all about trees, literally, and thinks it's important for developers, homeowners and the

town to take the preservation of old, stately trees seriously. So when the survival of a 100-year-old red maple was in jeopardy, he jumped to action.

The story started innocently enough. Weber was at the Farm-

ers Market Exxon station Wednesday, March 2, gassing up his vehicle when he noticed, almost for the first time, the red maple now standing stark against the backdrop of the cleared Furniture

• See MAPLE page 3



Above is a rendition of the new and approved Hudson Library entry and grounds. Robert Tucker did the landscape design and Paul Schmitt did the hardscape, and portico design.

## Plans to rejuvenate 'look' of library

It's been scrutinized by two boards and it's headed to a third board next Wednesday, but all in-

dications are that the improvements planned for The Hudson Library will get the go ahead with

no snags.

At the March 2 Town Board

• See LIBRARY page 4

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## Surveys paint telling picture of Highlands businesses

Sherry Adams and Lew Holloway presented some interesting statistics on the state of "business" in Highlands at last Thursday's Main Street Program meeting at the Rec Park.

The two-hour presentation centered on the results of two surveys given to business owners and consumers in January.

More than 700 consumers responded to the survey, a record number for a small town participating in the Main Street Program, according to Adams. Only about 78 of the 189 business owners responded to their survey -- about 1/3 of the businesses in Highlands -- but Adams said that's still considered a good re-

• See SURVEYS page 18

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • FORUM •

### It's not over until it's over

**Kim Lewicki**  
Publisher



Once again the Town Board will banter over the Council-Manager Charter/Ordinance issue on Wednesday, March 16.

Once again, the issue will be discussed first at a meeting before the meeting – at 4 p.m. at the Rec Park/Civic Center – only this time the 4 p.m. meeting has been publicized so the citizens know about it in advance. (See agenda on page 17.) It will be discussed again – and presumably voted on – at the regular 7 p.m. meeting at the Community Building next to the ball park.

At the March 2 Town Board meeting, two motions were passed – each 3-2.

The first motion was to instruct Town Attorney Bill Coward to clean up the verbiage of the Charter/Ordinance by amending the new section about the Town Manager consulting with the Town Board in Closed Session prior to terminating any employee to include the “hiring or firing” of any employee; delete unneeded sections referring to a volunteer police department; since they are one in the same, to include the title Planning Director with any reference made to the Zoning Administrator; to adjust verbiage so it's understood that the Town Manager can't create new positions without the Town Board's approval; and to leave intact the sections making the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator/Planning Director a function of the Town Board.

The second motion mirrored the motion above EXCEPT it proposed deleting all sections referring to the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator/Planning Director as a function of the Town Board so that the hiring and firing of those positions would come under the Town Manager's authority.

At the March 2 meeting, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf changed his vote to side

with Commissioners Amy Patterson and John Dotson which changed the game plan after two months of deliberation.

The point is, it's not over until it's over. Citizens should turn out to the meetings next Wednesday – at least one of them – to let commissioners know how they feel about the issue.

This is democracy at work but it takes citizens to make it work.

## • LETTERS •

### Salzarulo is right

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed Dr. Henry Salzarulo's two most recent articles. He has a talent for writing. Very impressive.

His article on “Social Security” was maybe the best article I've read on the subject. Everyone knows what he is saying is true. However, it is conveniently ignored.

Also, his is right on about our politicians. They are self-serving and they feel they are entitled.

Kenny Youmans  
Highlands

## Truth revealed

Dear Editor,

Comments made by town board member Drake at the March 2nd town board meeting were revealing as to the true motivation behind the effort to consolidate all power with the town manager. As reported by the Highlands Newspaper in its' March 3rd editions' front page story, Mr. Drake stated that he had talked to mayors of other towns and that they had told him that consolidating the power of hiring and firing the police chief solely with the town manager “solved all the problems with the respective police departments in those towns”. It would be of great interest if Mr. Drake would tell us exactly which towns and mayors he has spoken to regarding this information for follow up. This has never been stated by those promoting this effort before as being a reason; however most citizens of Highlands have suspected as much all along.

I would respectfully submit that there are no problems with the Highlands Police Department, except those maliciously manufactured by some of our elected officials at Town Hall and their subordinates and political cronies. It appears that some in this current administration will not quit until they can scapegoat our police chief to cover for their own possible malfeasants and despicable shenanigans. The

citizens of Highlands are not going to stand for the continued effort to marginalize the Highlands Police Department because they refuse to be manipulated by sleazy and petty politics, and instead continue to carry out their sworn duty to the citizens of Highlands to administer the statutes of the State of North Carolina fairly and without bias and prejudice.

The citizens of Highlands owe a debt of gratitude to the Highlands Police Department for their determination in serving, while under duress, the public's interest instead of serving the unsavory special interest in our community. The very safety and security of individuals and our community as a whole depend on our sworn officers of the law and the overall integrity of the department. It would be very nice if our elected officials could find it within to hold themselves to the same standard.

I couldn't help but note the irony while the Honorable Magistrate Patrick Taylor read the oath of office to the new police officers being sworn in at the very same meeting, and afterwards reading into the public record an eloquent plea for checks and balances in our local government charter, and not for consolidated power as has been promoted by a few. The contrast in the administration of his duties as Magistrate at the meeting with those few promoting consolidated or dictatorial power was both stark and profound. Although board member Drake should be afforded the benefit of any doubt regarding his remarks, it is poetically just and refreshing to know that the truth always outs itself even if unintentionally, and even when shrouded with orchestrated multiple layers of deception.

Town Board members Patterson and Dotson, are to be commended for their steadfast service to our community and its' citizens, and town board member DeWolf should be commended for, upon further review, his willingness to objectively discern his responsibility to the community and the citizens of Highlands. For many in Highlands, the next election couldn't come soon enough, and perhaps it's even time to consider a recall petition for some. It appears that some in this administration just simply

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Arborist Weber wants to protect the 100-year old red maple tree on the site, whose root system, he says, is in peril due to the weight of construction vehicles.

Photo by Arborist Canty Worley

South lot across NC 106.

Prior to the demolition of the massive brick structure that has made way for the new post office, the maple tree played second fiddle to all else on the lot. Now it dominates the lot, standing alone — presumably healthy — and that's how Weber wants it to stay.

He says he approached the contractor on site Wednesday to applaud him for the care he and his crew obviously took when taking down the building because the tree could have easily been damaged during the process — particularly the root system.

He says he volunteered to put up a 15-foot barrier around the tree to guarantee protection of the root system against heavy construction vehicles moving about the site throughout the process.

"I saw no damage had been done to the tree so far, so there was a chance something could be done to ensure it stayed that way," said Weber.

When he left the site, he was satisfied the tree was in good stance. Unsure of who to call about the future of the tree and thinking the post office was a community project, he called Mayor David Wilkes to offer his services. That's when the lines of communication began to unravel. Wilkes left a brief message on his cell phone, but when Weber tried to connect with him later, Wilkes never called him back.

The next day, Thursday, Weber was again at the Exxon station when he saw a track hoe five feet away from the trunk of the tree — obviously on top of the root system. In fact, he said he saw some root saplings sticking out of the ground.

He ran over to the contractor to voice his concern saying "I was just here yesterday complimenting you on the care you took with the tree and now there's a track hoe on the root system."

Weber said the contractor was somewhat distraught — experiencing mechani-

• See MAPLE page 15

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... LIBRARY continued from page 1

meeting and the March 7 Appearance Commission meeting, architect Paul Schmitt and members of The Hudson Library Board of Directors explained plans to improve the exterior, landscape and hardscape of the library property on East Main Street.

Everyone agrees the improvements are needed and will not only make the property more appealing but will make it more handicap- and pedestrian-friendly – specifically ADA compliant.

A much needed porte cochere is planned for the front entrance through

which vehicles can enter to drop off patrons and the handicap parking areas near the building will be brought up to grade so access to those spaces and walking from them to the building will be level.

Parking spaces will be partial grass – seeded instead of sod so the root system will extend into the ground and not around a grate as in most grass parking spaces in town.

Landscape Architect Robert Tucker says the grass will be stronger and live long-

• See LIBRARY page 18

• Highlands Fine Dining •

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

The Scam – Part 3

Parts one and two may be read on-line at [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on LOCAL NEWS or at the Highlands Newspaper office at 265 Oak St. in Highlands.

I worked four years as an undercover narcotics officer. This true story occurred in the early 70's. Drug lords from Mariel, Cuba, would not take over Miami's drug traffic for another eight years. Most of the bulk drug business coming into Miami was run by Colombians. The names in this story have been changed but little else. I'm able to write of these events because I was an active participant. These were some of the most frightening times of my career. As always, the language was atrocious but has been cleaned up for print. Note: Not suitable for children.

Shortly after Martinez's Caddy came to a stop on the upper deck parking lot of the Miami Beach Dog Track, Peter said, "Let's get this over with. Everyone out of the truck and let's keep cool heads."

Gus and I got out of the van and walked to the side doors, opening them. We waited while Snake and Jim exited and stood next to us. Pete remained in the van.

Martinez and his three bodyguards got out of the Caddy and walked to the front of their car. The DEA agent in the men's room at the pier trained his sniper rifle on Martinez's head while the other agent looked for drawn weapons through his binoculars.

As planned, Snake removed a small black box from our van and walked toward Martinez. Laying the box on the Cadillac's hood, he opened it and nodded at Martinez.

"I hope your Mr. Gallo is in good spirits this morning and that we have a successful business arrangement," Martinez said as he pulled a one-ounce packet of white substance from his jacket pocket and



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
email:  
[askfredanything@aol.com](mailto:askfredanything@aol.com)

handed it to Snake.

"Mr. Gallo wishes you a good morning, sir, and also wants a successful business arrangement to transpire," Snake said as he pulled a pocket knife from his pant's pocket and cut a tiny slit in the plastic bag. He removed a chemist's ampoule from his box and snapped off the glass top. Sticking his pocket knife into the slit in the bag, he pulled out a small amount of the white substance and poured it in the ampoule. The substance slowly turned color.

As orchestrated, Snake shook his head and spoke. "We were hoping for more dramatic results," handing the bag back to Martinez. "I will report this to Mr. Gallo."

Martinez became disturbed. "No, no...as I agreed with your Mr. Gallo, this sh—has only been whacked once." Without hesitation, Martinez turned and signaled the car behind his Caddy and the two gunmen got out and stood at the front of their car. Tension filled the air.

Leaving the test kit on the Caddy, Snake returned to the van. Leaning in, he whispered to Peter, "This is good sh - -. If the whole load is of this quality, he's on the up and up."

"Oh yeah, well this is bull. The guys in the back car were not supposed to get out unless there was trouble. Why are they out of their car?" Pete asked.

"As we had agreed, Pete, I questioned the strength of the coke and Martinez got all pissed and signaled the other car. That's all I did," Snake said. "The guy's wacko and one dangerous SOB?"

"OK, get me out of this truck" Pete said. "I want Jim and Fred to escort me and the money to the front of the van. If it's a rip off, it'll happen now so be ready."

Peter was lifted from the

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 14



Fred undercover

# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## The truth behind the Lybian revolts

**T**he revolt in Libya may not be what it appears, or what we have been led to believe it represents. Indeed, it may not be a popular uprising with a goal of democratization at all.

There is no doubt the area is poor and its people are oppressed, with no hope, at least until recent days, of any change in their lives. Events in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere in North Africa and the Middle East seem to have inspired and given voice to Libya's silent downtrodden. Decades of poverty and oppression under Gadhafi provided tinder for the spark from surrounding areas. Or so it seems.

We are eager to believe that story with its reaffirmation of our belief that freedom is a natural yearning in all men. The West has made gestures to support the nascent civil war, condemning Gadhafi's brutality and freezing assets. There have been threats of military action, discussions of the feasibility of establishing a no-fly zone over Libya, arming the rebels, and even of military action if Gadhafi refuses to step down.

There may be more to the story. Wikileaks has released cables dated as early as February 2008, reporting an influx of jihadists into eastern Libya. Libyans who had experienced religious and ideological training, and one must suspect bomb making instruction, in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and the West Bank had returned to eastern Libya.

Clubs, theaters, and sports leagues, presumably all anti-Islamic institutions, were shut down. Talk of jihad and martyrdom increased in local mosques. The zealots were apparently willing to disappear in a cloud of ball bearings and high explosives when unrest swept the area.

To paraphrase General George Patton, the jihadists were presented the opportunity, not to die for their cause,



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

but to make some other poor SOB die for their cause. It is simply a matter of capturing and directing the energy. It is not a new idea.

Cynical leaders have exploited religious fervor of their followers for centuries to further their own political ends. This is a new twist on an old theme. Leaders with a religious agenda have co-opted a political idea, freedom, to advance their goal of an Islamic state.

In the Muslim world, it is impossible to separate the religious from the political, for church and state are inseparable, and the ultimate goal is domination, the establishment of a world caliphate under sharia law. In this configuration, jihadists are not preaching the Quran and teachings of the Prophet Mohammed to mobilize followers, but a political ideal which is antithetical to Islam. It doesn't take much effort to connect the dots and envision the Islamists sorting through the chaos of a post Gadhafi Libya and establishing an Islamic state.

President Obama has called for the removal of Gadhafi. Some congressmen urge a strong military response. They forget that the weapons we gave the mujahedeen to fight Russians in the '80s are killing Americans today, that our military is already stretched to the breaking point, and that any action in any Muslim nation will be seen, not as support of democracy, but as an attack on Islam.

Military leaders have been reluctant to commit American power to this conflict. Perhaps their reticence is based not on the inability of our air forces to enforce a no-fly zone, but on the belief that the defeat of Gadhafi is not in our interests and the ultimate outcome of his defeat might be anarchy or an Iranian like Islamic state. We are in a no win situation. When victory is impossible, it's not a bad idea to sit in the stands and watch the game.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Stupid is as stupid does

Just when you thought that there was nothing humorous left in the world, along comes the following quote from the San Francisco Chronicle. "San Francisco's big push for low-flow toilets has turned into a multimillion-dollar plumbing stink. Skimping on toilet water has resulted in more sludge backing up inside the sewer pipes, said Tyrone Jue, spokesman for the city Public Utilities Commission. That has created a

rotten-egg stench near AT&T Park and elsewhere, especially during the dry summer months. The city has already spent \$100 million over the past five years to upgrade its sewer system and sewage plants, in part to combat the odor problem. Now officials are stocking up on a \$14 million, three-year supply of highly concentrated sodium hypochlorite - better known as bleach - to act as an odor eater and to

disinfect the city's treated water before it's dumped into the bay. It will also be used to sanitize drinking water.

That translates into 8.5 million pounds of bleach either being poured down city drains or onto the drinking water supply every year. Not everybody thinks it's a good idea." This issue is stupid on so many levels, it's hard to know where to start. Suffice to say, they are throwing good money down the drain (or flushing it down the toilet, if you prefer.)

Some of the same geniuses that got their city into this stinking mess will levitate upward to serve in the California State Legislature, if that body survives its current fiscal catastrophe, then possibly upward and onward to the United States Congress, where they can further screw up the country in the manner of Pelosi, Boxer, Feinstein, et al.

On a lighter note, with the fires of discontent burning in North Africa, the weasels that call themselves Wisconsin Senators remain buried in their motel rooms. While millions of Africans are fighting and dying for freedom and a representative form of government, the miscreants of Wisconsin are trashing the law and tradition that keeps us free.

There certainly must be a remedy for the situation short of trying them under the Sedition Act, although that wouldn't particularly upset me.

For you folks who persist in reading this column, you know that, from time to time, I tend to be less than complementary about certain of our female personalities. In the interest of gender equality, I certainly think that Charlie Sheen has earned our derision. I confess, I have never seen a minute of his current claim to fame, namely Two and a Half Men, and never will. What I have seen is Cholly rambling on about who knows what and grabbed more airtime than he deserves.

While I did enjoy his role in Major



Don Swanson  
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League, that appeared to be the zenith of his career and, in my opinion, he should take Freeko Lindsay in hand and walk off into the nearest asylum and stay there.

Just a few days after Obama called out his storm troopers (SEIU) to kick off his 2012 campaign, another country was heard from. From the Politico: "Mitt Romney, speaking in New Hampshire for the first time since the midterms, plans a direct attack on President Barack Obama

and what Romney has been calling 'the Obama Misery Index.'

"Senator Obama campaigned hard in New Hampshire but he apparently didn't like what he saw. He certainly didn't learn from it. Instead of lowering taxes, he raised them. He wrapped businesses in red tape, he grew government, he borrowed trillions of dollars, and made it clear that he doesn't like business people much.

He created a deeper recession, and delayed the recovery. The consequence is soaring numbers of Americans enduring unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies. This is the Obama Misery Index and it is at a record high. It's going to take more than new rhetoric to put Americans back to work - it's going to take a new president."

Romney was my pick in 2008, but evidently the powers that be thought that his Mormon faith was too much to overcome. So, instead of having a guy at the helm that has all sorts of accomplishments in high-level management in business and government, and has proven his ability to solve big problems, we have a guy who really hadn't shown any ability in any sphere other than the mean streets of Chicago. And his faith is what?

In 2009, Obama chose to cancel the National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House so as not to offend anybody, but approved of a National Day of Prayer for the Muslim religion on Capitol Hill beside the White House in the same year.

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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Rotary recognizes 'Students of the Month' Rotary B-Ball event



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the Highlands School Students of the Month for February at its March 1 meeting. Shown with Rotary President, Jodie Cook and Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, are elementary school winner, Peyton Coppage, middle school winner, Eden Ingate, and high school winner, Tucker Bates.

## Rotary Club of Highlands donates to the Food Pantry



In February, members of The Rotary Club of Highlands donated food to the Food Pantry to help out those in need. Rotarians Jodie Cook and Bill Nellis are shown with some of the bags of food collected and later delivered to the Food Pantry.

## Rotary Bingo benefits Boy Scouts



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Boy Scouts to sponsor Bingo on March 3, 2011. All proceeds went to our local Boy Scout troop. Sarah Futral, a student at Highlands School, won the final Super Bingo game and took home \$100. She is shown with Rotarian Tay Bronaugh.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

can't seem to find the courage to unhitch their political fortunes from the wrong bullying wagons of the past in our community, and serve the interests of the citizens of Highlands.

Charlie Dasher  
Highlands

## Fred's 'The Scam' is a good read

Dear Editor,

I read Fred Wooldridge's columns – Part 1 and 2 of The Scam. Very interesting. He is a gifted writer. I'm sure he is a very entertaining speaker.

Kenny Youmans, Highlands



At the Monday night Harlem Ambassadors game at the Rec Park, Richard Guritz won the Harry Norman Realtors raffle to shoot for \$10,000. He made the first basket, but had to make three to win the dough. The event was sponsored by The Rotary Club of Highlands – Mountaintop.

Photo by Sarah Valentine

• THANKS •

## God is good

We are so grateful to all who prayed, sent cards, visited and called during Roy's stay in the hospital.

We feel truly blessed by so many friends that have loved us through this.

By the grace of God, Roy is doing well, has no pain and is improving each day.

God bless all.

Roy and Nora Potts & Family

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# ACC thoughts as we prepare to descend into Madness

Early in the season I wrote a column about how North Carolina fans shouldn't panic, because this team was different from the one last year. Unfortunately for the rest of the ACC, the Heels realized this about the point that Larry Drew II unceremoniously departed and left Kendall Marshall to hold the reigns. Marshall's presence has ignited North Carolina, which was like a Corvette with a 12 year old behind the wheel until Marshall took over.

The Tar Heel turnaround culminated Saturday night with a 81-67 whipping of Duke in the Dean Dome, in which the veteran Blue Devils looked tired and sloppy compared to the crisp execution of the young Heels.

With both North Carolina and Duke looking to try and lock up a #1 seed for the NCAA tournament this weekend in Greensboro, the state of North Carolina will be the center of the basketball universe yet again.

My pick for ACC coach of the year is an unusual one. One could probably make a case for Roy Williams due to the UNC turnaround from last year...but I

would like to point out that Roy didn't choose to play Marshall over Drew II, Drew II quit and forced Roy to shorten his rotation. You could also make a case for Coach K in the sense that Duke lost the best player in the country from their team 8 games into the season. (Kyrie Irving, remember him? He will be the #1 pick in the NBA draft this summer.) To finish 13-3 in the ACC after losing the consensus best player is no minor feat. However, Coach K has seniors Nolan Smith and Kyle Singler to carry the load.

My choice for ACC coach of the year is Tony Bennett from UVA. Despite only finishing 7-9 and tied for 7<sup>th</sup> place in the league, Bennett has done an incredible job considering that UVA was picked to finish 11<sup>th</sup> in the league and have battled horrible injury issues throughout the season. Bennett's best player, senior forward Mike Scott, went down in December with a season ending ankle injury.

Starters Sammy Zeglinski and Will Sherrill have both missed double digit games this season with injuries as well. Despite these injury issues, Bennett has led UVA to a winning record as well as two wins over rival Virginia Tech and they have finished strong winning 4 out of their last 5 games. If Bennett can recruit a couple of guys who can score, the Cavaliers will be a strong contender in the ACC in years to come, because the guy can coach defense.

First Team All-ACC  
G Nolan Smith-Duke  
G Malcolm Delaney-Virginia



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Tech  
G Reggie Jackson-Boston College  
F Chris Singleton-Florida State  
C Tyler Zeller- North Carolina  
Second Team All-ACC  
G Demontez Stitt-Clemson  
G Iman Shumpert-Georgia Tech  
F Kyle Singler-Duke  
F John Henson- North Carolina  
C Jordan Williams- Maryland  
ACC Defensive Team

Nolan Smith-Duke  
Chris Singleton-Florida State  
Jerai Grant-Clemson  
Kyle Singler-Duke  
John Henson-North Carolina  
ACC Freshman Team  
Kendall Marshall-North Carolina  
Joe Harris-Virginia  
Harrison Barnes-North Carolina  
CJ Leslie-NC State  
Terrell Stoglin-Maryland  
ACC Freshman of the Year  
Harrison Barnes — North Carolina  
Player of the Year  
Nolan Smith-Duke

## • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

### Lady Highlanders win first soccer match of 2011

The Lady Highlander soccer team traveled to Bryson City to face the Swain County Lady Devils on Tuesday and came away with a 2-0 victory. Despite a rough early start to the game and some cold temperatures, the Lady Highlanders looked to push the pace early with the speed of forwards Sayne Feria and Bella Lupoli, as well as midfielders Hayden Bates and Emily Munger.

Munger opened the scoring for the Lady Highlanders as she put home a penalty kick for the Lady Highlanders to lead 1-0. The lead looked to have doubled when Bates played a beautiful ball through to Feria and she beat the keeper, but there was a questionable offsides call made and the score remained 1-0 until the half.

The second half saw the Lady Highlanders continue to press the advantage on offense, with plenty of pressure on the Swain defense. The final goal of the match came when Munger put a corner kick into the box and Mary Gillan Renfro found the back of the net to finally give Highlands some breathing room. Strong goalkeeping from Ana Damien and sharp defense from Amy Fogle, Ellie Kate Beavers and Rebecca Parks helped hold Swain scoreless.

The Lady Highlanders will open their home schedule next Thursday when they host Tallulah Falls at 5pm.

### Highlander Track resumes in 2011

For the first time in many years, the Highlands School will be fielding a track team to compete with area middle schools and high schools.

New coach Steve Massey has been given the task of reviving a track program that has been dormant in recent years.

Highlands will compete primarily in events such as the hurdles, sprints and jumps against local area schools. "We are basically starting from scratch," said Massey, "coming out of the block, hurdling, and just generally learning the basics."

While his athletes are young, Massey is pleased with the enthusiasm that they have been showing throughout the first couple weeks of practice. "They have great attitudes and have been working very hard," said Massey of his young program.

Freshmen Ashley Nichols and Emily Gabbard both are running for the first time, and both demonstrate the enthusiasm that Coach Massey referred to. "I'm really looking forward to it," said Nichols, "it will be a lot of fun to get out there and compete." Gabbard echoed that sentiment, saying that "it's very exciting to be out there and give it your best."

The Highlander middle school will begin competition on Saturday at Rabun Gap, and the first high school meet will be Wednesday at Cherokee.

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For more information, visit [www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org).

Date: March 26th, 2011

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Location: Bryson's Food & Mtn. Fresh Market

Contact: Highlands Police Department/526-9431

## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Another gum disease and cancer link found

by Dr. Joseph Wilbanks, D.D.S.

A report released in February by The British Dental Health Foundation stated that women with gum disease and/or missing teeth may be up to 11 times more likely to develop breast cancer. This study appears to show that good oral health care for women may be even more important than originally thought.

Over three thousand patients were studied by Sweden's Karolinska Institute with 41 women developing cancer. The women with gum disease and tooth loss were found to be 11 times more likely to develop cancer. This study is the first to show this link. Previous studies had shown links between poor oral health in women to pre-term birth, increased rates of diabetes and heart disease. As always, additional studies will be needed in order to fully understand the link between gum disease, tooth loss, and cancer.

Gum disease is easily prevented. You may already be suffering from gum disease and not realize it. If your gums are red and puffy, if they bleed while brushing or flossing you are probably seeing the signs of gum disease.

Treatment of gum disease depends upon the severity of the case. Today there is a much wider range of treatment options available, for those patients who avoid the dentist because of anxiety or fear, sedation dentistry may be the answer to maintaining a healthy smile.

Please don't delay any longer. Contact Wilbanks Smile Center today at 706-886-2581 to schedule your appointment. Your smile, and the rest of your body, will be glad you did!

#### Smoking and Gum Disease

We all know smoking is bad for your heart and lungs. Did you also know it affects your teeth and gums?

Smokers may first think of the obvious – ugly yellow nicotine stains on their teeth. But more worrisome is the effect that smoking has on your gums and other oral tissues.

When your dentist performs a complete oral examination one of the things he/she is looking for is signs of oral

cancers. Smoking doesn't just cause lung cancer, it can also contribute to oral cancer formation. Many people switch to smokeless tobacco products to avoid damaging their lungs but chewing tobacco is even worse when it comes to oral cancer formation.

A big challenge for dentists is treating gum disease in patients who smoke. Smokers are six times more likely to have severe gum destruction when compared to non-smokers. Treating gum disease is more difficult when the patient smokes because smoking reduces our ability to heal.

Recent research has also shown that smokers have lower levels of the *good* kind of oral bacteria and much higher levels of the *bad* or disease related types of bacteria, especially the types that are linked to severe periodontal disease.

The best thing to do – quit using any type of tobacco product! Tobacco is highly addictive but there are numerous treatments that can help you stay on track. If you do use tobacco products it is important to let your dentist know. You may be scheduled for more frequent dental hygiene appointments to help keep your gums healthy. If you smoke and already have developed periodontal disease it is important to work with your dentist and hygienist to manage your disease.



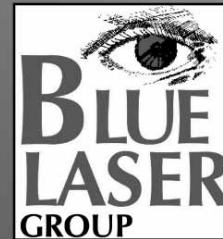
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**PULL OUT**

# On going and Upcoming Events

## Ongoing

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

• Registration is now open for the 2011 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs).

## Mon. & Thurs.

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

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

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

## Mondays

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

## Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Confer-

ence Center at noon.

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

## Tuesdays, through Feb. 22

• At The Bascom, "Tuesday After School Art," 3:15-4:30 pm. After school art for elementary aged students. Lessons include drawing, painting, modeling and collage. Kindergarten through sixth grade. \$30 for a six-week session. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

## Tues. & Thurs.

• Study Hall at the Literacy Council of Highlands in the Peggy Crosby Center from 3 to 5 p.m. Come do your homework, projects use the resources on site and get help from a tutor. For more information, contact Faviola Olvera at (828) 526-0925.

## Wednesdays

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

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

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

## Wednesdays & Fridays

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

## Every 3rd Wednesday

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

## Thursdays

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

## Fridays through May 27

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

## Every Third Saturday

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

## Last Sat. of the month through May 28

• At The Bascom, "Friends Around the Globe," 1-3 pm. Fun, creative, educational activities to build skills through the visual arts. Lessons will include a variety of media including drawing, painting, clay and other media. A collaboration with the International Friendship Center. Free. To register or for more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

## Saturdays

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Great inexpensive wines from around the world, available for retail sales daily. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person refundable with case purchase.

## Through -April 2

• At The Bascom, view Regional Art League's annual exhibition.

## Thursday, March 10

• Highlands School PTO Dinner and meeting. Dinner is 4:30 – 6 in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Freshman Class. Dinner Plate \$5 – includes Red Beans and Rice with Smoked Sausage, Chinese Salad, Cornbread, Drink and Dessert. Child's Plate \$4 – includes Hot Dog, Chips, Drink and Dessert. The PTO Meeting begins at 6 p.m. and includes book fair, science fair and cash raffle.

## Friday, March 11

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 Riverview Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information. Walk-ins Welcome! Appointments preferred.

## Saturday, March 12

• Highlands Annual Chili Cookoff 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building. Tickets are \$20 and includes food and drink. Children under 12 are free. To enter the cookoff call Jan Healey at 526-5841.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5 mile hike

## Enjoy The Bascom's Spring Calendar!

There is so much to see and do at The Bascom this spring!

Exhibitions include *Out Back and Down Under* that runs through March 25. Enjoy recent works by photographer Greg Newington that include images from his recent Aussie tour *Down Under*, and from *Out Back* on our mountain plateau.

Also, through April 9, *Regional Art Organizations, Selected Works* is an exhibition initiative that supports the work of individual artists and arts organizations in the region surrounding our mountain plateau. Celebrate this inspiring endeavor, and the art and artists who enrich our communities.

Sit back and enjoy our weekly presentation, spanning topics from *Cathedrals* to *Andy Warhol* at Art Cinema in The Bascom's Loft Gallery every Saturday afternoon at 2 pm. Call The Bascom or visit our website for weekly movie titles. Sponsored by Synergy Films.

The Bascom's Winter Barn Dance buzz continues to grow with the success, attendance surpassed 280, of February's event. The next dance, honoring veterans is on Saturday, March 26th from 7-10 pm. The evening's entertainment is sponsored by Ray McPhail. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the door. Admission for honorees is complimentary. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Don't miss it. Sponsors: The Bascom, The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, the Highlands Historical Society, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Ugly Dog Pub and Sam Call Productions.

The Bascom is open year round. Winter dates are from January 7th to April 2nd. The galleries and The Shop are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am-5 pm. For more details on all Bascom winter activities, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call 526.4949.

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# On going and Upcoming Events

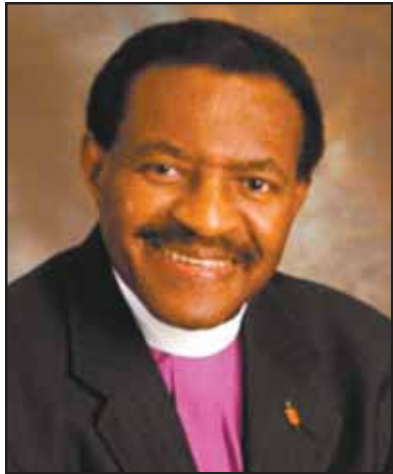
**PULL OUT**

to Round Mountain in south Jackson County, along an old Forest Service road with lots of ups and downs, to a view of the whole state of South Carolina. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m. Drive 12 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, binoculars. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike to Siler Bald on the old Appalachian Trail, returning along the new AT at Big Stamp. Meet at Westgate Plaza, across from Burger King, at 10 a.m. Drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Evening of fun with Northland

## Bishop White to preach at Methodist church March 13



On Sunday, March 13, Highlands United Methodist Church welcomes Bishop Woodie W. White, Bishop in Residence, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, to its 10:50 a.m. Worship Service. Bishop was elected a bishop in 1984 and served the Illinois Great Rivers Area and then the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church prior to his retirement. He was president of the General Board of Discipleship from 1988-1992 and president of the Council of Bishops in 1996-1997. From 1969-1984 he was General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race of The United Methodist Church.

Communications at the Tamassee DAR School Thrift Shop 5:30-8 p.m. A free concert featuring The Chase, a silent auction fundraiser for the DAR School and a Minute-to-Win-It challenge for a chance to win a free TiVo from Northland. Food vendors on sight.

- Western Carolina University's School of Nursing hosts an open house Saturday on the Enka campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Haynes Center. No registration is required to attend, and prospective students are welcome to drop-in at any time. More information about the open house, including driving directions, is available at nursing.wcu.edu on the Web and clicking on the open house link, or by contacting Jessica Shirley, via e-mail at jshirley@wcu.edu or at 828-670-8810, ext. 247.

### Sun.-Sat., March 13-14

- Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players next play, "Leading Ladies" by Ken Ludwig, will be held, 3 p.m. on Sunday and 6 p.m. on Monday at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands. There are parts for three women—one elderly and two in their 20s or 30s (or seeming to be so) and parts for five men, ranging in age from 30 to 70. Playbooks are available to read in the Hudson and Cashiers libraries. The play is scheduled to run May 12 through May 22. Director is Tani Armor, 828-526-9227.

### Sunday, March 13

- Highlands UMC welcomes Bishop Woodie W. White, Bishop in Residence, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, to its 10:50 a.m. Worship Service.

### Tuesday, March 15

- At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Martha Porter: "Batter My Heart", 10 a.m. at the Civic Center. Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion (if not sooner) and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com.

### Wednesday, March 16

- Healthy Carolinians of Macon County's Eldercare Committee presents: "Affordable Universal Design: how to incorporate Universal Design into housing production" at 6 p.m. at the Boiler Room (Dinner on your own at 5 pm). Please see the attached flyer for more information. We hope builders, contractors, realtors, and consumers will come. For more information, call Kathy McGaha at 349-2426.

### Tuesday, March 17

- The National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter is hosting a fundraising banquet for Wild Turkey Conservation at The Dillard House Conference Center at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 which includes a

membership, social hour and dinner. Since 1985, the NWTF and its cooperators have spend more than \$258 million upholding hunting traditions and conserving more than 13.1 million acres of wildlife habitat.

### Saturday, March 19

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet to Whiteside Mountain and the Devil's Courthouse for dramatic views from the top. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10:00 a.m. or the trail head parking lot at 10:15. Share a small parking fee. Bring water and lunch. Drive 8 miles round trip. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations.

### Sunday, March 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5-mile hike with an elevation change of 200 feet to Winding Stair Gap on a Forest Service road and the Appalachian Trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 pm. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

### Tuesday, March 22

- At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Virginia Wilson: Handouts article "Creativity Crisis" from Newsweek July 19, 2010. Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion (if not sooner) and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information email John Gaston johngaston@aol.com.

- At the upcoming Ladies Night Out program,

6:30 pm in the cafeteria at Angel Medical Center. The topic will be Overcoming Depression and Stress Reduction. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, major depression affects over 15 million American adults. Depression occurs twice as frequently in women as in men, for reasons that are not fully understood. Major depression can significantly interfere with an individual's thoughts, behavior, mood, activity, and physical health. Among all medical illnesses, major depression is the leading cause of disability in the United States. Ladies Night Out speakers will include Susan Marks, MSW, LCSW. Susan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with The Life Counseling Center in Clyde, NC. For more information about Ladies Night Out, call Jennifer Hollifield at 349-2439.

### Thurs.-Sat., March 24-26

- Operation Medicine Drop-off at Highlands Pharmacy and Main Street Pharmacy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands. For more information, call the Highlands Police Department at 526-9431.

### Saturday, March 26

- Operation Medicine Drop-off at Bryson's Foods and Mountain Fresh Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands. For more information, call the Highlands Police Department at 526-9431.

- At The Bascom, Winter Barn Dance honoring veterans from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-2112.

## Angelfood at the Episcopal Church

The AngelFood Distribution Day for March has been extended to Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The last day to order is Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the March menu are available in the reception area of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 5<sup>th</sup> & Main.

Featured this month is the Easter Holiday Box and can be ordered between now and April 14<sup>th</sup> for distribution on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This box includes a Perdue roasting hen, a pork roast, 8 premium twice baked potatoes, green beans, corn cobbettes, cornbread stuffing mix, brown gravy mix, dinner rolls, and a Mrs. Smith's apple-raisin spice pie, for only \$36.

In addition to the Easter box, the menu offers the regular "After School Boxes" for your children, the Bit O'

Blessing Box (\$21), the Signature Box (\$31) and the Bountiful Blessing Box (\$41), all full of wonderful food items. The Convenience meals (10 ready-to-eat meals) for \$28 and the Gluten Free-Allergen Free food box for \$25.00 continue to be popular. The steak special contains 4 New York Strip steaks and 4 Ribeye steaks for \$25 and the chicken special contains 10lbs. of breaded popcorn chicken for \$17. The ever popular premium Fresh Fruit & Veggie box is \$23.

Online ordering is also available at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com). This food program is open to everyone. There are no restrictions. EBT cards are accepted. For questions, call 526-2968, 526-9191 or 526-9889.

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Taking Highlands to higher ground

**Pastor Gary Hewins  
Community Bible Church**



The world needs more "Level 5" leaders. Level five leaders, as defined by Jim Collins in his newest book *Good to Great*, do a number of things well. Their actions can and do take a business, school or church from good to great. Level five leaders help those they are leading to reach their potential. Level five leaders create a fruitful atmosphere in which people experience drive, ownership and purpose.

You probably know a level five leader; they are not that prevalent but they do exist. They tend to come from within an organization. They have a heart to see their people move upward and onward. "Celebrity CEO types," hired from the outside, that seek to turn organizations around, rarely succeed. They can bleed the organization of resources and passion for their own personal gain.

Level five leaders look into mirrors as opposed to looking through windows. When something goes wrong, a great leader takes the responsibility for the error. The buck stops with them. Many leaders don't look into mirrors when something goes wrong. Poor leaders look through windows from their corner offices as they blame someone else for the mistake. With poor leaders, it always tends to be someone or something else out there that thwarted the efforts of their business, school, church or family. Level five leaders are mature. They exercise wisdom. They have humility and selflessness but they also have confidence and a clear sense of mission. Level five leaders do not just surround themselves with good people but more so with the right people. This is what can make the difference.

When I began reading *Good to Great*, I tried to get a picture in my mind of a real level five leader. The more I read the book the more I realized that I would not have a picture of Donald Trump or some past president because I don't know enough about their leadership style. I knew if there is any validity to being this type of leader then I would eventually see level five leadership qualities in Christ Himself.

If we want to lead others, and we all influence others (whether we like it or not), then we have to follow and be level five leaders in everyday business and family life.

Think about it. Christ was raised up from within a family business. He looked through a window and saw a great deal of error, evil and eventual death. Rather than

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 16

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service

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Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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526-2968  
Reverend Denson Franklin  
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10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

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

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

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

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

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

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

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Sundays: School -10 a.m.; Worship -11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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

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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Northland Communications thanks its communities

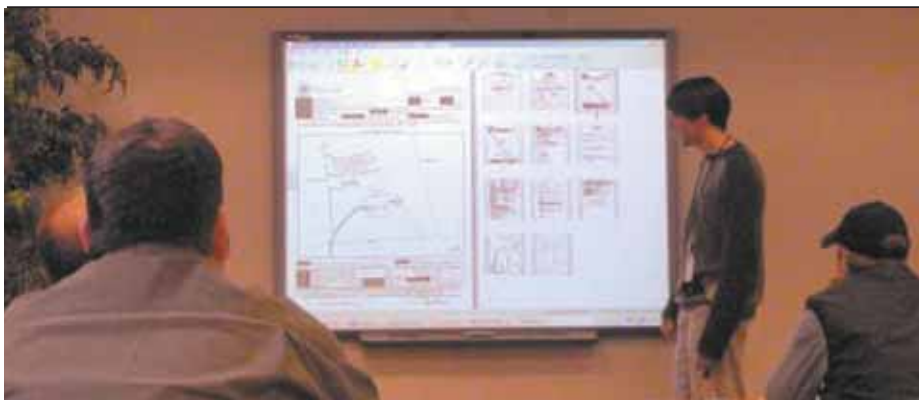
Northland Communications would like to acknowledge and say thank you to every customer for their loyalty and for the support of our local Clemson community.

In an effort to show thanks, Northland is hosting a community-wide event on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8 PM at the Tamassee DAR School Thrift Shop. Northland welcomes all for an evening of fun to enjoy a free concert, featuring The Chase; a silent auction fundraiser for the DAR School; and a Minute-to-Win-It Challenge for an opportunity to win a free TiVo from Northland Communications. Food vendors will be on sight.

For more information about the event or to help Northland give back to the local community, please call (864) 882-0002 or (828) 526-5675.

#### About Northland:

Northland Communications is a leading provider of telecommunications services. Northland owns and manages smaller-market cable systems in Alabama, California, Georgia, Idaho, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Washington. Northland is headquartered in Seattle, Washington and has a divisional office in Statesboro, Georgia.



Wes Bintz, Environmental Health Specialist with Macon County as he speaks at the western regional meeting of health directors and environmental health staff

### MC Health Department streamlines septic & drinking water permitting

Wes Bintz, Environmental Health Specialist with Macon County Public Health, recently demonstrated a new database system which he and other Macon County Environmental Health and Information Technology staff developed for electronic storage and retrieval of information related to onsite waste water and drinking water well permitting.

The technology being utilized by Macon County Environmental Health staff include GPS/GIS mapping equipment and software to assist with septic, water well, and other Environmental Health permitting processes.

Utilization of these new tools, are making the permitting process more efficient and accurate; which in the long term will result in a cost saving for Macon County. This new system was shared with other WNC Counties by Bintz at the WNC Region I Health Directors who brought their environmental health supervisors and environmental health specialists to the meeting. Several WNC Counties are now taking advantage of this new database system to enhance their programs as well.

Over the past couple years, Bintz and the Macon County Public Health environmental health staff have reviewed and enhanced Macon County's digital permitting process, which includes Microsoft Word, Excel, Laserfiche, GIS, and GPS. An integrated system has been developed and implemented which links and coordinates all Environmental Health permitting in Macon County. Bintz was recognized by the North Carolina Public Health Association as the 2009 Rookie Environmental Health Specialist of the Year for his role in this process.

According to Environmental Health Supervisor Barry Patterson, this integrated system is a very strong planning tool for our county and will enhance our ability to monitor and protect the public health.

For example, septic and well placements are being mapped showing trends and problem areas to allow for better planning in the future. Patterson notes that it has taken 3-5 years of data entry to have meaningful information, which is a typical time frame for counties beginning this process. Some of the future goals with this integrated system include making this database available to the realtors, contractors, and general public and printing permits in the field.

### Join the 'Old Bones Softball Team'

If you are a softball player at least 58 years old in 2011 and able to play during the day, please consider joining the Franklin Old Bones softball team.

The Old Bones softball team is sponsored by Macon Bank and they play in the Franklin Church League and against nearby cities, playing around 60 day- and 14 night-games from April through November. Day games are doubleheaders on alternating Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings all season. Church league games are played irregularly on Monday and Friday nights May through mid-July.

If you are interested, please contact Jim Hunter at 524-8974 for additional information

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  - 36 ESPN 2
  - 37 USA
  - 38 Spike TV
  - 39 Golf Channel
  - 40 FX
  - 41 CNN
  - 42 Nickelodeon
  - 43 TV Land
  - 44 Animal Planet
  - 45 Food Network
  - 46 Fox Movie Channel
  - 47 SportsSouth
  - 48 Sci-Fi
  - 49 Outdoor Channel
  - 50 Comedy Central
  - 51 MSNBC
  - 52 Great American Country
  - 61 E!
  - 62 C-Span
  - 96 Channel Guide
  - 99 QVC

- ANALOG PREMIUMS**
- 18 HBO
  - 22 Encore
  - 24 Cinemax
- DIGITAL**
- 201 BBC America
  - 212 Discovery Kids
  - 217 Style
  - 241 Independent Film Channel
  - 242 Lifetime Movie Network
  - 243 WE: Women's Entertainment
  - 253 Discovery Health
  - 255 Science Channel
  - 284 ESPNNews
  - 285 Fox Soccer Channel

- 288 Versus
- 289 Speed Channel
- 701-704 Pay Per View
- 790 Playboy (Pay Per View)
- 900-929 DMX Music Channels

- FREE HD**
- 400 WSPA HD (CBS)
  - 401 WHNS HD (FOX)
  - 402 WYFF HD (NBC)
  - 411 ESPN HD
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  - 331 HBO West
  - 332 HBO Family East
  - 333 HBO Family West
  - 334 HBO Plus
  - 336 HBO Signature
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  - 339 HBO Zone

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  - 301 Cinemax West
  - 302 More Max East
  - 303 More Max West
  - 304 Action Max
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- DIGITAL STARZ/ENCORE**
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  - 311 Encore West
  - 312 Encore Action East
  - 313 Encore Action West
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  - 320 Encore Westerns
  - 322 Encore WAM
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  - 356 Showtime Extreme East
  - 357 Showtime Extreme West
  - 358 Showtime Next
  - 359 Showtime Family
  - 360 Showtime Women
  - 361 Flix
  - 380 The Movie Channel
  - 382 The Movie Channel Xtra East
  - 383 The Movie Channel Xtra West

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

van and the heavy duffle bag was laid across the arms of his wheelchair. I slowly pushed Pete's wheelchair to the front of the van with Jim and Gus following. We waited.

Snake walked back to the Cadillac to speak with Martinez. "Mr. Gallo is much more gracious than I and he is satisfied with the results of the test. You have him to thank for this generosity. He will be pleased to make the exchange with you when you are ready."

Martinez signaled the two gunmen from the rear car and they removed two suitcases from the trunk. Walking to the front of the Cadillac they laid the suitcases on the ground and opened them, exposing many packages of a white substance in one kilo bags.

"You may pick any bag you wish and test it," Martinez said to Snake. "We are not ripping you off. Tell your Mr. Gallo I'm an honest business man. As agreed, I will not count money here and you will not weigh our product. There is time for that later. It is how honest businessmen operate."

Snake stabbed his knife into one of the many bags and removed a small portion of white substance. Dumping it into another ampoule, it slowly turned color. "Everything's in order. I will escort you to Mr. Gallo and the money. Please follow me," Snake said as he closed his test kit and lifted it from the hood of the Caddy.

"There will be a minor change in our plans," Martinez said. "Tell Mr. Gallo that we have found that having our guns at the ready makes for a more honest and legitimate transaction. We don't want your Mr. Gallo stealing our coke and I'm sure Mr. Gallo doesn't want to lose his half-a-million dollars. Having firearms at the ready ensures neither will happen. I will

wait for Mr. Gallo's answer."

Snake walked the short distance to the wheelchair to speak with Peter. "You're not going to believe this, but he wants everyone to pull their firearms to help keep things honest. This is bull. We're about to get ripped."

"I told you this SOB was wacko," Peter said. "Whoever heard of such a thing out in the open like this?" Peter looked at Martinez and nodded. "OK, everyone slowly pull your firearm and leave them at your side."

When Martinez saw Gallo's gunmen draw their firearms, he instructed his men to do the same. With that, the two men from the rear car reached in and removed shotguns.

"What in the hell is going down?" the agent in the restroom said to his partner. "This is not good. Who the hell do I shoot first?"

The two suitcases were closed and picked up. Martinez and his bodyguards, carrying the two suitcases, walked toward Peter and his gunmen. Peter whispered. "This is looking like a rip. If it is, let them have the money. We are outgunned. I repeat, let them have the money. Does everyone understand?"

I stood behind Peter's wheelchair holding my firearm at my side, my heart racing. *What good is my nine millimeter against two shotguns*, I thought to myself. I'm sure everyone was thinking the same.

*The final chapter will be presented next Thursday.*

Note: Coming soon, look for Fred's new mystery thriller, *Deceived*, at your local bookstore or e-book.



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# Zahner Scholarship supports WCU student's research at Highlands Biological Station

Environmental science major Erik Ahl, recipient of a new scholarship supporting the scholarly activities of Western Carolina University students at the Highlands Biological Station, says there is nothing he would rather do than catch snakes in and around the Highlands area.

"I couldn't think of a better way to earn school credit than to be out in these beautiful areas catching and inventorying reptiles and amphibians for what will be the initial records for ongoing research," said Ahl, a senior from Franklin.

Ahl worked during the fall semester as an intern with Jason Love, site manager at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, assisting in the surveying of reptile and amphibian populations at several sites in Macon County. He is continuing that data collection this semester, as he completes work toward his bachelor's degree.

Ahl is the first recipient of a scholarship from the Bob Zahner Endowed Fund in Environmental Sciences, created in 2008 by the Barstow Family Foundation. The fund helps WCU students participate in a semester-long field program held at the Highlands Biological Station and administered through the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Institute for the Environment.

"The scholarship made it possible to afford the tuition, since the cost was more than double what I usually pay at WCU," Ahl said.

David and Marcia Barstow of Black Mountain, longtime friends of the Zahner family, established the fund as a tribute to the late Bob Zahner of Highlands — an especially fitting memorial in view of

Zahner's deep dedication to environmental conservation in the region and his role as lecturer in the early years of the Institute for the Environment program in Highlands, said Anya Hinkle, associate director of the Highlands Biological Station.

The core element of the program is experiential learning, a principle that especially resonated with Zahner, Hinkle said. "During the program, we try to give students a real feel for the landscape, give them a sense of belonging to and knowing something about the southern mountains," she said. "We try to provide them with the sorts of experiences that will translate into inter-

est and attention to the natural world, and further, to stewardship."

After Ahl graduates from WCU, he plans to pursue a master's degree in ecology and conduct additional research to help in his ultimate goal of obtaining his doctorate.

"I am very honored to have been presented with a scholarship in the name of such a revered conservationist as the late Dr. Robert Zahner," he said. "Spending the semester at the Highlands Biological Station helped provide a strong base in ecology. The field work and excursions, along with my internship with Coweeta, provided me with valuable experience not just for my own education but to make me a more viable candidate for a graduate research assistantship."

Reports based on the research conducted by Ahl and other students have been printed and bound, and will be available on the station's website, <http://www.wcu.edu/hbs/CEP.htm>.



Environmental science major Erik Ahl, recipient of a new Zahner scholarship.

...MAPLE continued from page 3

cal problems which were understandably on his mind; his demeanor was completely different from the day before, he said.

Instead of discussing the tree, he told Weber the property was a privately insured worksite, said he was trespassing and told Weber to leave the site immediately.

Following the verbal altercation, Jack Calloway, who is Jane Woodruff's spokesman for the post office project pulled up followed soon after by two Highlands Police officers.

Weber said the police were professional and polite and explained that the contractor had the right to request him to leave the property.

Weber said all he wanted was to discuss the future of the tree; in fact, to volunteer his services to protect it.

"I was just asking for a couple of minutes to discuss this," he said. "I can't believe Mrs. Woodruff wouldn't want to preserve the tree for the community — but no one would discuss the tree, they just told me to leave the property."

At that point, the police asked him to move his vehicle — which was near the tree — so they could discuss the situation with him elsewhere. By now Weber admits he was pretty worked up, passionate about the issue, so he locked his vehicle, put his keys in his pocket and said "You'll have to arrest me."

He said the police officers explained that the contractor had the right to request him to leave and if he didn't he was trespassing.

Weber said he understood all that but told the police they would have to tow his vehicle, he wasn't leaving nor was he moving the vehicle.

That's when Weber was arrested for trespassing, handcuffed and given a ride off the premises in a police car.

"He was very cooperative but he

had a statement to make and he was very passionate about it," said Chief Bill Harrell. "The only way he was willing to leave the property was under arrest."

Calloway said as far as he knows the tree is in no danger and there is no activity planned concerning the tree.

He said he doesn't know anything about the proposed site plan or footprint of the post office building but right now, there is nothing affecting the tree.

However, as per the contractor's agreement, if there is potential danger to anyone on the site he has the right to have him removed, he said.

"Ms. Woodruff's intent is to protect everything she can," said Calloway. "She is very conscious of trees in fact, she has dug up the trees and shrubs that were close to the building to save them so they wouldn't be destroyed during the demolition."

Weber's court date is March 14. He was released on a \$1,000 unsecured bond. He plans on pleading guilty and due to his financial standing, requesting his sentence be community service at the Highlands Biological Station under the auspices of Director Jim Costas.

— Kim Lewicki

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**Date:** March 24th-26th 2011

**Time:** 10:00am-2:00pm

**Location:** Main Street Pharmacy & Highlands Pharmacy

**Contact:** Highlands Police Department/526-9431

... on this day

March 10, 1959

The Barbir Doll makes it's debut at the American International Toy Fair.

It's just for the girl, not the boy,  
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what's so novel, why does it enthrall?  
Why, it's a totally new shape for a doll.  
See, it's less like a baby, more like a babe,  
that's why it's different, this one that they made.  
What makes her stand out in front from the rest?  
She's been constructed with a huge pair of breasts.  
In the designing of this young girl's figure  
parts of her were just a little bit bigger,  
and perhaps they were in a great haste,  
cause it seems there was no time for waste.  
OK, it's true, it's not realistic, the scale,  
but the market share remains healthy and hale.

... from the History Guy



At the March 2 Town Board meeting, three Highlands auxiliary police officers were sworn into office by Highlands Magistrate Pat Taylor. Sworn in were Christopher P. Owen, Jenifer L. Leandro, and Matthew T. Canzone. Each are BLET Academy Class graduates.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from March 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 2

• At 2:30 p.m., a resident on 4 1/2 Street reported a visit from a suspicious person.

March 3

• At 9:48 a.m., Robert Alan Weber, 53, of Highlands was arrested for trespassing on property formerly occupied by Furniture South.

• At 2:45 p.m., officers provided mutual aid to Highway Patrol concerning a tractor-trailer that was driving recklessly up the Gorge Road toward Highlands. Highlands PD stopped the driver at Bridal Veil Falls and turned him over to Highway Patrol.

March 6

• At 4 p.m., a resident on Hickory Hill Road reported receiving harassing phone calls.

March 8

• At 7:40 p.m., officers assisted a motorist fix the tail lights of her vehicle.  
• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 6 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from March 2.

March 2

• At 1:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cave Road. It was false.

March 3

• At 10:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Country Club Drive. It was set off by workers and cancelled en route.

March 5

• At 11:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on S. 4th Street set off by workers. The call was cancelled.

...SPIRITUALLY from page 12

blame mankind, He became a man. Rather than point a finger, He hung by His hands. He took the blame for the actions and sin of others. To those who receive and believe, He became their mediator and representative. He became the means by which our lives, which are (for the most part) good, can now be great and on top of that, eternal.

Christ surrounded Himself with the right people despite their reputation. He knew what was inside each man. Tax collectors, prostitutes, and uneducated fishermen became the very people who would change the course of history even to the point of their forecasted death. Level five leaders see something in people when others won't or can't.

I wrote this article as a means to challenge myself to become more of a level five leader. I also desire to encourage every business owner, school principal, teacher, administrator, athletic team captain, pastor, parent, government official, middle or high school student to aspire to a greater intentionality in leadership. Our town can always use more effective leaders. We all can improve. We have each been called. Not all answer. Yet, for those who do answer God's invitation to live a "great" life for His glory, I encourage you to lead at the highest level of integrity, effectiveness and humility for His glory and not our own. We enjoy a good community. Will we become great? In the words of the apostle Paul, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14).

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

**FOR SALE OR FOR RENT - BEST 'COMMERCIAL' BUY IN HIGHLANDS** - 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. \$299,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

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## • TOWN BOARD AGENDA •

### Board of Commissioners Meeting Wednesday, MARCH 16

#### 4PM Recreation/Civic Center

1. Call to order
2. Discussion: Council Manager Form of Government
3. Adjourn

#### 7PM Community Building

1. Call to order
2. Public Comments
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve Minutes of March 2 (4PM) and March 2 (7PM), 2011

#### 5. Reports

- A. Mayor
- B. Commissioners
- C. Committees
- D. Town Manager
6. Consent Agenda
- A. Public Services Department
- B. Police Department
- C. Parks & Recreation Department
- D. Planning & Zoning Department
- E. Treasurer's Report for Month Ended February 28, 2011

#### F. Monthly Calendar

- G. Grant Status Report
7. Revision to Town Ordinances and Council Manager Form of Government
8. Scholarship Fund
9. Operation Medicine Drop
10. Board Appointments & Posting of Vacancies
11. Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk
12. Adjourn

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## Students learn 'golf' at Wildcat Cliffs CC



Keven Gabbard, Head Golf Professional at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club works on golf skills with some members of the Highlands highschool boys golf team. He also volunteers his time with the girls golf team in the fall. Wildcat Cliffs Country Club is currently the host of the Highlands Scholarship Fund Tournament held every year that distributes scholarships to graduating highschool students. Wildcat Cliffs Country Club will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year.

## ...LIBRARY continued from page 4

er if it is directly connected with the ground which means it will also hold up to the turning of vehicle wheels. Only the back part of the spaces – the part against the perimeter of the property will be grass – the rest of the spaces will be asphalt.

“This is just a way to green up the property,” said Architect Paul Schmitt.

Aside from the porte cochere, the most dramatic feature will be a brick sidewalk that extends from the town’s sidewalk on Main and circles around a new sign designed by artist Rosemary Steifel to resemble a book on end, and continues up the center of the property to the front entrance. The brick will match that used by the town on its bricked sidewalks.

The Town Board got the first look at the plans last week and will likely give the final OK for a revocable permit because the new sign, which is the signature aspect of the circular sidewalk at Main Street, is in the town’s setback and right-of-way. The permit can’t be issued until the Zoning Board issues the Special Use Permit required for the project.

The Appearance Commission suggested not using grass on any portion of the parking spaces due to the failure of such

parking at The Bascom. But Tucker contends the spaces at the library will be constructed differently and will include an underground sprinkler system. The board also said that once the landscape and hardscape is complete, a contract will be sought to upkeep the property so it won’t have the overgrown, un-kept appearance as now.

The commission also suggested putting plantings inside the circle sidewalk around the sign to deter pedestrians from walking across the circle rather than around it on the sidewalk as planned.

Member Bill Nellis said due to human nature people will take the path of least resistance which will be to cut across the circle unless there is something in the way.

New light poles and fixtures which will compliment the poles recently installed by the town on Main Street will be used and will cast downward light to keep light pollution to a minimum.

According to Schmitt, the county has agreed to fund a new roof in the next budget cycle.

Assuming the Zoning Board issues the SUP at its March 16 meeting, Schmitt said work will begin right away and be completed by the end of 2011.

— Kim Lewicki

## ...SURVEYS continued from page 1

turn by program standards. Surveys were anonymous.

The 78 businesses that responded were retail and represent 42% of the businesses downtown which employ 40% of the workforce.

Survey results will serve as the impetus for moving forward over the next two years and will be the foundation of the document that will eventually become the work plan for the Main Street Program in Highlands whose goal is to build a sustainable, economically viable and aesthetically pleasing downtown.

Statistics from the consumer survey reveal there is very little leakage up to the five-mile radius of downtown – that is most residents, including full-time and second-home owners – shop in and around Highlands, which is a good thing.

In fact, Adams said there isn’t much wrong with the Highlands business community as it now stands – at least not compared to other towns participating in the program. “You are already capturing most of the potential customers in a five-mile radius,” said Adams, “and 97% of the business locations are occupied.”

In addition, every retail category is represented in 80 downtown businesses. “You are not missing categories, so there is a narrow leakage gap,” she said.

Results of the consumer survey indicate that 98% of respondents visit downtown three to six times a month to mostly shop and eat – attending cultural events was also noted though percentages weren’t as high as for shopping and eating.

Adams said coming downtown to “shop” isn’t a typical reason elsewhere and the “prevalence of retail shops in the downtown district is different than in a lot of communities.” She suggested the density of the downtown area played into the success of downtown Highlands.

Consumers said they would like to have a movie theater in Highlands and more family-friendly, affordable restaurants. There are 22 restaurants in Highlands.

Overwhelmingly, consumers said they learn about events from the local newspaper versus flyers, posters, magazines or the Internet.

The parking situation downtown was either good or excellent as it related to the downtown shopping experience according to 77% of consumers. The price of merchandise was good, said 60%, and the quality of merchandise was excellent or good, as was the variety of products available.

According to 92% of consumers, cleanliness and maintenance of the downtown

business district was of utmost importance as was maintaining the historic character.

Adams said there are factors that will affect the success of entrepreneurs in Highlands – mainly the sales-to-rent ratio which is out of whack in Highlands, she said.

One-third of the retailers indicated that their gross sales per year was between \$503,000 and \$746,000 with the average being \$624,000. Based on square-footage, that means \$24 per sq. ft. of sales is needed to pay the bills – about twice as much as in similar communities like Blowing Rock and Waynesville – though landlords in those two towns just recently agreed to lower their rents to help shops and restaurants stay in business.

The rent per year divided by gross sales equals the percentage of sales going to rent and according to Adams too much is being spent on rent in Highlands.

“Highlands building owners are making twice per square foot than elsewhere and due to that, folks may be struggling to stay in business,” she said. “Over the 12% sales-to-rent ratio, you may see businesses start to close.”

She said to sustain their business, business owners need to consider what they can do to increase sales; find out if landlords will consider decreasing rents, and take a hard look at their business plan.

She said “hobby stores” – businesses people open because they like the item they want to sell – don’t usually survive without a solid business plan and experience to back it up.

All along Adams has said the business community needs to be prepared to help itself. She suggested the business owners with “five plus years of experience” mentor fledgling business owners, enlisting the help of retired business people, and enrolling in business classes at the local community college.

She also suggested a business association and businesses levying a “self-imposed tax” to pay for things they want like marketing or extra services the town may not be willing or able to provide.

To ensure Highlands’ businesses are sustainable, she suggested engaging “Boomer Demographics.” “Explore and become aware of what the needs and wants are of the Boomer Generation – those 50-65 years old – who want to come to visit or live in Highlands,” she said.

She said Eco-Tourism is driving economies nationwide and Highlands is geographically situated to capitalize on that kind of tourism.

— Kim Lewicki

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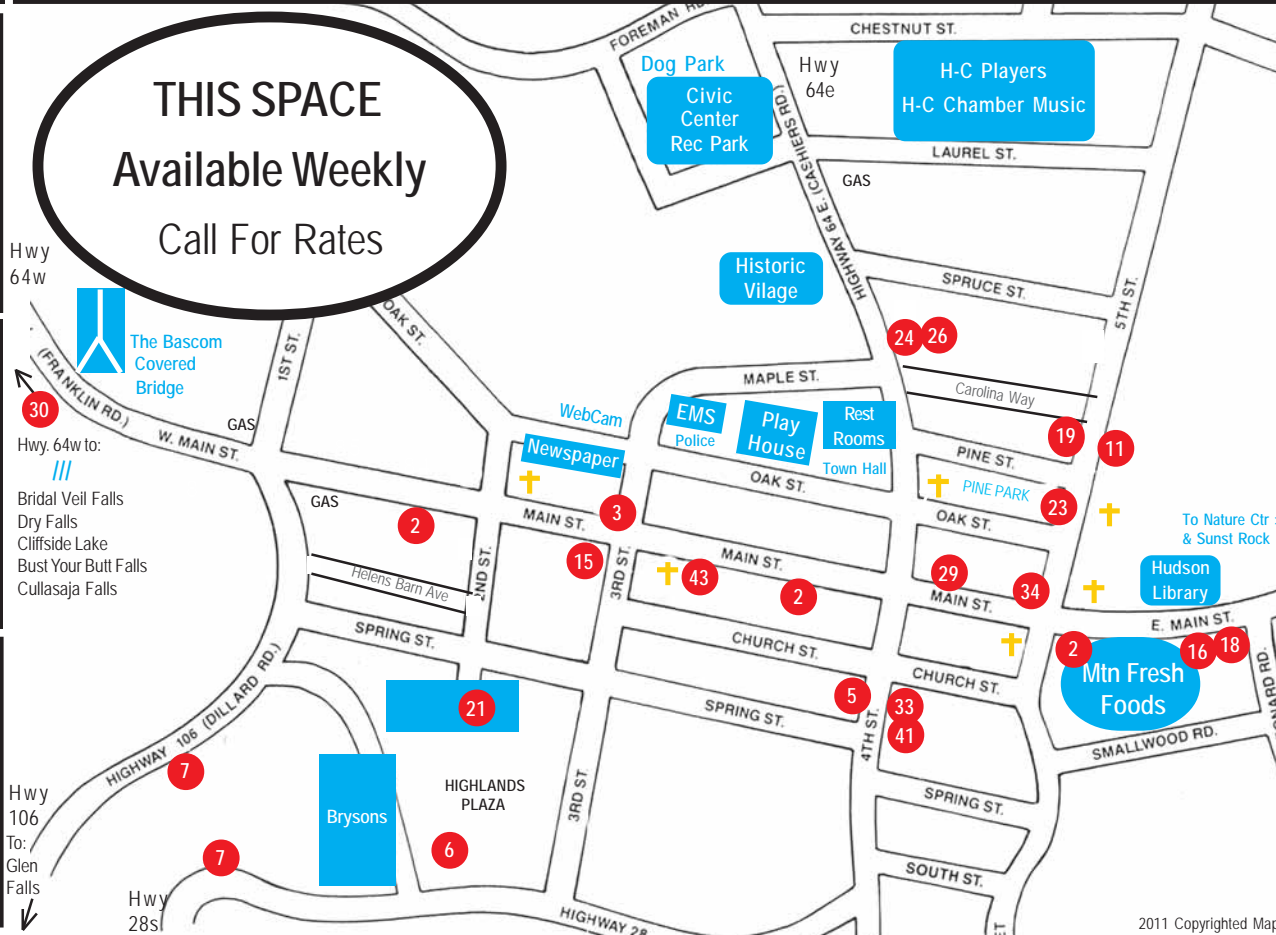
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