Volume 9, Number 9

PDF Version - www.HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, March 3, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
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43 \ 39F	56 \ 45F	50 \ 30F

Thursday, March 3

- Rotary Bingo from 6:30-8:30 at the Civic Center. The cost is \$1 per card per game. There are 15 games, so 15 chances
- A Highlands Democrats Precinct meeting for the Election of Officers at 6 pm at the Highlands Civic Center.

Fri.-Sun., March 4-6

 The Highlands-Cashiers Players present "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," at PAC at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 on Sunday.

Saturday, March 5

 The Nantahala Hiking Club12-mile hike to Mt. Cammerer from Deep Creek Ranger Station at 8 am. Call leader Don O'Neal at 586-5723 for reservations.

Monday, March 7

· Harlem Ambassadors at the Rec Park at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors; \$7 for adults in advance or \$10 at the door. Also a \$5 per ticket raffle to shoot for a \$10,000 prize compliments of Harry Norman Realtors.

Tuesday, March 8

· At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Lewis Doggett: The Red Book; Carl Jung's Diary of the Unconscious at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

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

Charter/ordinance coming to a head

Step one in the second round to amend the town's ordinance to align with the boiler-plate version of the Charter regarding the Council-Manager form of government began with an unpublicized 4 p.m. worksession Wednesday, March 2.

In a surprise move, at the con-

clusion of the 4 p.m. meeting, the item was stricken from the March 2 Town Board agenda at the request of Mayor David Wilkes, on the grounds that the verbiage changes from the worksession should be considered as a clean document at the March 16 Town

Board meeting.

However, the issue was discussed again at the 7 p.m. as publicized, but only at the urging of Commissioner Amy Patterson, despite a vote by Commissioner Gary Drake to disallow her to put

•See ORDINANCE page 14

Inside Letters Wooldridge Salzarulo Conservative POV Just Hers Coach's Corner Events 10 Classifieds 17 Police

Calendar hot topic with BOE

At Monday night's Macon **County School Board meeting** something rare happened. Twice the chairman had to break a tie to pass a motion – something rarely experienced at school board meetings since members usually agree on everything.

The two hot issues were the proposed calendar for the 2011-2012 school year; and a new student-based organization in Highlands called Gilliam's Promise. (See "Gilliam's Promise" on this

Ever since the Dept. of Commerce was able to sway the State Board of Education to change school calendars and to take away local districts' ability to make their calendars to suit the needs of their students and families, Macon County has been trying to reverse the clock.

> Over the last several years, See CALENDAR page 18

Kindergarteners feed their feathered friends



Julie McClellan's Kindergarten class recently made pine cone bird feeders for the birds of Highlands. The pine cones were donated by the Mountain Garden Club. The students rolled the pine cones in peanut butter, and bird seed. They had a GREAT time hanging them on their class tree.

Photo by Julie McClellan

Money awarded to clean **Upper Cullasaja**

By Jason Meador

Watershed Program Coordinator This past January, the Little **Tennessee Watershed Association** (LTWA) was awarded a 2-year grant

• See CULLASAJA page 2

Drug-free promise could net big bucks

New club 'Gilliam's Promise' to start up

By dangling at \$1,000 a year scholarship "carrot" in front of 6th-12th graders at Highlands School, the board of a new student/community based coalition hopes to end illegal drug and alcohol use in Highlands from the ground up.

At Monday night's Macon County School Board meeting, Melisa McKim, executive director of Gilliam's Promise, asked for permission to distribute a factfinding survey to faculty, students and parents of Highlands School to determine the extent of drug, alcohol and violence in the Highlands community.

The vote was 2-2 with board • See PROMISE page 15

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THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

• HAVVK'S EYE VIEWV •

To Hank from Dubai

Dear Editor.

Kudos to Hank Ross for his selection of the Zelkova serrata tree to decorate and green up Main Street. It appears to be a beautiful full shade tree that blooms in the Spring.

Since nothing is from America anymore, it's appropriate that we have Japanese trees along Main Street. But I did view a 1,000-year-old tree that was as large as a Banyan with a giant trunk, but let Highlanders a 1,000 years from now worry about that.

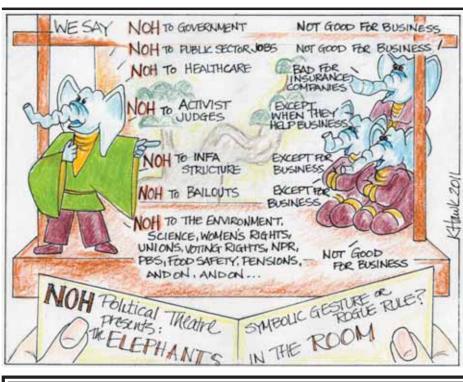
> Fred Wooldridge Highlands

THANKS

Hospital care is more than 'good'

I want to publicly thank the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital team that took such great care of me during a Monday evening trip to the ER and an unexpected 2-day and night stay at the hospital. I expected the professional competence and care. My birthday present was the feeling that I was being cared for by my extended family.

Personal and special thanks to Drs. Craig Moore in the ER and Richard Carter and Richard Matthews that treated me and prevented a potentially dangerous infection from ever becoming a reality, to nurse Mary Ann and the OR team that rushed back to the hospital after just getting home from a long day shift, to Megan and Alex in Radiology who took enough pictures of me to start a family album, to my charge nurses Dixie and Mary Ann who made me feel like there wasn't another patient in the hospital, to Shelly their nursing assistant, to Helen the gentle and caring, night shift Florence Nightingale from the lab, to the



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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...CULLASAJA from page 1

from the North Carolina Department of **Environmental and Natural Resources** (NCDENR) to use for the Upper Cullasaja River.

The monies received were part of a federal grant to the state of North Carolina for pollution control stemming from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The grant was specifically designated for use on impaired waters in need of improvement. LTWA intends to use this money over the course of two years to complete an approved nine-element watershed restoration plan within the Upper Cullasaja River along the Highlands plateau.

The Highlands region is a "hotspot" for many unique and diverse organisms both on land and in the water. Historically, sedimentation from roads, construction sites, and stormwater runoff has been the major threat to these organisms.

Since 1998, the state has identified the Upper Cullasaja River and Mill Creek as impaired.

The Little Tennessee Watershed Association will work closely with the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association (UCWA), a principal partner in the project, to provide an updated watershed plan. This new plan will update portions of the 2004 Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association plan and make recommendations for restoration while addressing new planning elements recently mandated by the Environmental Protection Agen-

LTWA will also work with students studying at the Highlands Biological Station through the University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment Program to collect data that will assist in the development of a more comprehensive watershed restoration plan for the Upper Cullasaia River watershed.

LTWA will utilize the expertise from the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association and local consultants to assist the student monitoring process, help review existing plans for the Upper Cullasaja, and to develop the updated restoration plan.

Public participation will be essential in the development of this plan. Plans are to solicit and include information and feedback from all stakeholders in the target watershed.

For more information about this project or would like to learn how to get involved, contact the Little Tennessee Watershed Association at 828-369-6402 or email info@ltwa.org.

•See THANKS page 3

• MILESTONES •

Girls set record for Highlands School



On Friday, Feb. 25, the Highlands School Girls Varsity Basketball Team played in the third round of the State Playoffs - the Regional State Championship Game -- against Cherokee here in Highlands. Though they lost to Cherokee, this was the first time in 28 years the Girls Varsity Basketball Team advanced this far in the playoffs. Principal Brian Jetter organized a Pep Rally for the team, and almost 500 people turned out to support the team Friday night. The girls said the support of the Highlands community, their friends and families was heartfelt, overwhelming and greatly appreciated. On the team was Kalyn Billingsley, Emily Gabbard, Taylor Buras, Courtney Rogers, Cara Hedden, Karaline Shomaker, Rebecca Johnson, Sarah Power, Caroline Christy, Juliane Buras, Emily Munger, Stephanie Smart, Emily Murphy, Mary Warner, Marlee McCall, Abigail Hewins, Rebekah Parks, Emily Shuler and Manager Elizabeth Gordon. Coaches were Brett Lamb, Bryan Dearth and Tina Rogers. (See story on Page 8)

Photo by Stephanie McCall

Academic honors at WCU

A total of 1,856 students have been named to the Western Carolina University dean's list for fall semester 2010. To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 on a regular semester's work of not less than 12 hours. From Highlands noted are: Rachel Earlene Alford, Ganna Volodymyrivna Beshlyeva, Aliaksandr Kikoin, David Michael Paradise, Teresa Rose Pearman and Katherine Virginia Pierce.

... THANKS continued from page 2

housekeeping lady from Lake Toxaway with the wonderful smile and upbeat greetings every day, and the others whose names I regretfully missed.

Everyone was so upbeat and positive for me while they went about their work. Amidst the "newsy" hospital gossip that seems to always be around, we often get distracted from the real blessing we Highlanders have in this hospital and its dedicated team of caregivers – some of whom travel a significant distance every day and night to be here for us. THANK YOU!

Bob Wright Highlands





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LOOKING AT LIFE •

Part one may be read on-line at www.highlandsinfo.com and click on LO-CAL 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 '70s. 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 Co-

The Scam – Part Two

lombians. 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.

Sunday, 5 AM, in the muster room at the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) building in Miami, FL, two weeks after the Piccolo's Restaurant incident.

pecial Agent Peter Spoto, also known as Peter Gallo, walked to the podium and tapped the microphone before speaking. "Is this thing on?" he asked, not directing his question to anyone. Blowing into the mic, group of plain clothes DEA

agents and police detectives from Miami Beach. Then, looking at me, he smiled and said, "Before we get started, I want to acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice made by the Miami Beach Police on this project, more particularly, Mister pain-inthe-ass Wooldridge. He actually conned Piccolo Restaurant owners into doing this." Boos rang out. (Field drug agents never applauded good work and showed their approval by booing. No one knows why.)

I stood and smiled, turning and bowing as everyone continued to boo even louder. Then I said, "DEA still owes Piccolo's for two cases of expensive wine. But that's pocket change for Spoto."

"Don't hold your breath!" someone called out from the audience.

"Alright, let's get to it. We are communicating on alpha four. Is there anyone that doesn't know his assignment?" Peter asked, changing his demeanor to serious. "Speak now 'cause I'm not asking again. Don't screw this up! Just like at Piccolo's, it should go down smooth and quick or turn to bloodshed. I'm using the same front guys as at Piccolo's, Gus will drive, Fred shotgun, Jim and Snake with me in the back." He paused, waiting for questions. The only sound came from the drone of the drink machine in the corner of the room.

Peter walked to a long table adjacent to the podium. "In this Army issue duffle bag is a half million dollars in tens and twenties of our taxpayer's hard earned money. The money has been photographed and the bag is hot. Our tech guys will be driving that old blue van we confiscated last week so don't shoot them," Pete joked halfheartedly.

"Today we buy a taste and the mother

lode in another two weeks." Peter continued. "Martinez is a typical crazy Colom-

bian drug lord and the

stakes are now higher than

before because he's con-

vinced we're not narcs. He

and his people will kill us

in an instant if they smell

anything wrong. That's why

this exchange must go down

fast. If they linger, it means

they smell something. I've



Fred Wooldridge

email:

rehearsed the procedure Feedback is encouraged! with Martinez and he's agreeable but if this is a rip he looked out over a large askfredanything@aol.com off, we won't know it till the very end. We'll depend on the pier guys to cover our backs." Again, Peter waited as silence fell over the room. "OK, let's roll and let's all go home to our families tonight." One hour later, two DEA agents, posing as fishermen carrying fishing poles and tackle boxes, walked onto the South Beach Pier and entered the men's room. Once inside, the door was jammed from the inside and the screws holding an air vent were removed. Pulling the vent from the wall, the two agents had a perfect view of the Miami Beach Dog Track's open-air upper deck parking lot adjacent to the pier. Opening both tackle boxes, the two agents assembled a 30.06 caliber sniper rifle and duct taped the barrel to the vent housing, utilizing the tape as a swivel. Standing on their tackle boxes, one agent adjusted and focused his ri-

> "Copy" was their only response. Four DEA agents and two Miami Beach detectives parked their unmarked vehicles along the MacArthur Causeway in an attempt to spot Martinez heading for Miami Beach, hoping he had not changed rental cars at the last minute. Another DEA agent would park his vehicle in the lower level of the dog track's parking lot and would block the down ramp if shooting started. Peter, Jim, Gus, myself and Snake walked to the roof of DEA's parking lot. Peter climbed into the back of the van and plopped in his wheelchair, locking its wheels. He reached under the chair's seat and removed a Brown-

> fle scope while the other used binoculars

to look over the parking lot. The overhead

light was turned off as one agent lifted his

radio and spoke. "Fisher one, we are go."

Seconds passed before they got a response.

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THE VIEW FROM HERE

It takes a middle class to resurrect a country

t's been over a year since a devastating earth quake shook Haiti. The precise death toll will never be known. Estimates range from 200,000 to more than

The staggering loss of life resulted not only from the severity of the quake, but also from the fact that it struck Port au Prince rather than San Francisco. Strictly enforced building codes would have made a huge difference.

There were no codes in Port au Prince. Nearly every building was poorly built. The American Embassy, built to modern standards, was the only building left standing and sustained only minor damage. A modern health care system and effective emergency medical response would have further reduced fatalities, but like building codes, are nonexistent in Haiti.

The inability to precisely count the number of fatalities says a great deal about Haiti. Imagine a catastrophic event in the United States in which the government, a full year later, reported between two- and three-hundred causalities. We count, and account for, our citizens, a luxury Haiti can't afford. The fact that Haiti has a population of some eight million compared to more than 300 million in the US further magnifies the disparity. Haiti is such a primitive country that it is incapable of counting either its living or its dead.

Little has changed in Haiti since the earthquake, unless one considers a cholera epidemic that has claimed more than 4,000 lives and a contested presidential election that precipitated days of violent protests. Haiti's election commission included President Preval's handpicked successor in a two-candidate runoff, despite compelling evidence that, despite fraud, intimidation, and stuffed ballot boxes he had finished third in the voting. A million people are still living in tents and under tarps. Births have sky rocketed, the product of rapes of unprotected women and girls in the camps. The promise to rebuild Haiti better than it was has stalled, and Haiti wasn't much before the quake.

Aid teams continue to help the Haitian



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged. email:

a paternalistic attitude on the part of my friends who travel to Haiti. "I love the Haitians." they might say. "Surely not all of them," I think. "Only the poor," they might respond if they could read my mind. I agree that the poor might be more lovable, if only because the wealthy are so despicable. hsalzarulo@aol.com A homeless puppy is infinitely more lovable than a snarling

people, but it's time to help

Haitians help themselves.

Through the years, I've noticed

German shepherd.

If life in Haiti is ever going to improve, jobs must be created. Many years ago during my first visit to Haiti, I met a sincere and dedicated young American. As we sat at the airport waiting for the trucks to take us inland, he gave me a primer on Haiti. He complained bitterly of the sweat shops. Eighty-five per cent of the population is unemployed, and wages are five cents an hour, he told me. I asked him if five dollars an hour and 100% unemployment would make him happier.

Later I proposed teaching metal working or pottery to unemployed villagers. The idea was that they could create and sell pots and metal art to create a cash economy. To jump start the project I suggested we bring the work to the US and sell it through 10,000 Villages and similar outlets. "Why," I was asked in a scolding tone, "is it more important to create jobs in metal craft than in health care?" The answer was obvious to me; because nobody had money to pay for health care. The health care workers would be permanently dependent on gifts from abroad for their income. Independence under those circumstances would be unachievable.

Last week I happened to meet an American of Haitian-Cuban origin. Marcus is starting a trading company to export lumber and rice to Haiti. In the future he hopes to import coffee and mangos. It's going to take people like Marcus if Haiti is going to succeed. Coca Cola is getting into the mango business in Haiti. Fifteen hundred Haitians will work for them and have an income. South Korean companies are taking a chance and opening sewing shops in Haiti. My friends would call them sweat shops. That may be true, but they'll be sweat shops in Haiti instead of Bangladesh or Pakistan. Wages and working conditions may offend our sensibilities, but it is a start.

My greatest fear is not that Haitian employees will be exploited, but that corrupt officials will demand such a tribute that the Koreans will give up and look elsewhere. A middle class is essential to a functioning nation, and a middle class starts with jobs.

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Conservative POV

Let's take off the gloves...

i. My name is Dr. Snarky, what's yours?" "I'm Thor, ma'm." "Thor, you must be frozen out here. How long have you been demonstrating in front of the Capitol?" "It's my second day, but the cold doesn't bother me. I'm used to it." "Thor, are you a teacher?" "Why, yes I am." "With all the yelling you are doing, don't you have a sore throat?" "Nope, I'm good." "Standing around

for two days, aren't your feet sore?"
"Nope, I've got good boots, no problem with the feet. Dr. Snarky, why are you so interested in my health?"

"Well, do you know that by missing two days of work, you could lose your pay unless you have a doctor's excuse?" "I know, but I'm here to support our cause, and I'm willing to lose pay for the time I didn't work." "You are?" "Yes, I am."

"But Thor, you may be here for several more days, and I can write you an excuse for as long as you want." "I feel fine, there isn't anything wrong with me and I'm not going to beat the system by presenting a phony medical excuse."\

"That's a lousy attitude. Do you realize the teachers union pays me \$100 for each one of these bogus medical excuses I write, and I've wasted time on you I

could have been spending on someone who isn't so hung up on principles and appreciates a good scam?" "Wait just a minute, Doctor, don't call me principled. I bailed out on my class to be here, and so many of us did they had to close the school. It's the kids who are getting screwed." "Listen Thor, this isn't about the brats. You can make a buck, I can make a buck, the kids can fend for themselves."

"OK, Snarky, now that you put it that way, write me one for two days, and one per day for next week. How's that for a deal?" "Sounds good to me, Thor. I'll tell you what – I've made my quota for the day. Let's go back to my hotel." "Yeah, the union is paying me to holler all day, but with this crowd, they'll never miss me. Let's boogey." "By the way, Thor baby, what do you teach?" "Ethics, Snarky, ain't that a hoot!"

Now where did they get the idea to abandon their responsibilities and bolt the scene? Why, from the Wisconsin Senate Democrats, of course. When it came time to do their job, and vote on Governor Walker's budget bill, rather than do what they were elected to do and operate within the system, they fled to a resort in Illinois where, at the time of this writing, they stay bunkered in. The State Assembly (House) just passed it, where there were sufficient votes to legislate,



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

and now it remains to be seen where the bill will go from here.

The Indiana State Legislature is stuck in neutral with 44 of its elected Democrat officials choosing to leave the scene rather than do their job and vote on proposed union legislation. A few months ago, a writer from Russia's Pravda referred to Americans as "sheeple," comparing us to animals that have no direction of our own, but must be led around

in a herd. I was jealous of the writer and wish I had come up with the term, but since that was not to be, my entry is "fleeple," referring to the cowardly legislators that left their post and chose to hide out rather than doing their jobs.

And if you think that cowardice and desertion is reserved for activities at the State level, RedState.com would have you know otherwise. "Only in Washington can politicians get away with complaining about a government shutdown, while going on vacation for a whole week."

"Senate Democrats took to the air on Sunday to warn the American people about a shutdown on March 4th. They argued that the Senate may not agree to the House passed Continuing Resolution, because the bill's \$61 billion in cuts to spending for the remainder of the year are too much. Yet the problem is not serious enough for these same Senators to come back to the Capitol to debate and negotiate the House passed spending measure this week to avoid a shutdown.

You see – the Senate has a vacation scheduled for this week – can't miss that."

The SEIU (Service Employees International Union) turned out in force to intimidate legislators in all 50 states, kicking off Obama's 2012 campaign and giving you a preview of the fist-pumping slogan chanting we can expect.

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• JUST HERS •

Us and them, Part III: Waltzing with Matilda

oving to
Australia
was an act
of defiance and desperation. I had broken off my engagement to John, and he
countered by marrying someone else
three months later.
Moving half way
around the world is a
very liberating experience. You can rein-

vent yourself; you can be whoever you want to be. On the other hand, it is a situation of total solitude. You have no back-up.

My first job in Sydney was working for the Alliance Française. I was to run the bookstore, and the entire department supplying educational materials to Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

The big boss was, in fact, a rather short Frenchman, who was a walking caricature. He wore open-necked shirts, unbuttoned to the waist, and several gold chains which got tangled in his three chest hairs which we swore he teased for volume. Sent to Australia for having seduced the daughter of a major communist party official in the former Soviet Bloc, he countered by seducing the daughter of the advocate general of Australia.

This otherwise delightful young woman was named Barbara, and she was typical of the fauna which populated the office. The average office worker was a tiny, gorgeous blonde with large, soulful eyes. Office dress was usually a clingy t-shirt with a plunging neckline, and a short skirt or tight-fitting slacks. Every morning and every evening, we had to line up, and kiss the boss. It was like working on the set of a James Bond movie. At 5'8", I towered over Jean-Michel, who acted as if he'd come to the office, and found a giraffe sitting at one of the desks. The uneasy peace between us was shattered the day I came to him with what I thought were reasonable demands.

I was working six to seven days a



Michelle Mead-Armor michiemead@aol.com

week, and being paid for five. I was working from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and being paid for working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I was doing heavy physical labor with no assistance. Having listed my grievances clearly on paper, I went to Jean-Michel's office, and handed him the note. He laughed, and pat-

ted me on the head, patronizingly. And then I did something I still can't explain, almost 40 years later. Speechless with rage, I quit my job, and walked out the door. Oh, and when I got to the door, I mooned.

My next job was working for the Australian office of Club Med. It was my first real experience working mostly with Australians, and it did not begin well. At 5 p.m., the office would grind to a halt, with people turning off their typewriters and pulling plastic covers over them. Alone, I would sit at my desk until whatever I was working on was finished. After a week, the head of accounting came over to chide me. "You're making the others look bad, mate," he growled in my face. Thus warned, I made a point of turning off my machine at 5 p.m., no matter what I was doing. This must have softened the blow of having an American working in their midst, because the crew grudgingly asked me to go to the pub after work, a commonplace occurrence. It was at the pub that I realized how offensive they found Americans.

The Australian participation in the Vietnam War had ended only two years earlier – in 1973 – and anti-American feeling was still very strong. In the opinion of many Australians, Americans were war-mongers who took advantage of their friends, dragging the poor peace-loving Aussies into a war that wasn't really their business. (Many Australians refer to their country as "Oz," and Aussie is pronounced "Ozzie" and not Aussy.)

Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war, with 521 killed and over 3,000 wounded. While Australia was

initially enthusiastic about the war, fearing a domino effect would bring Communism to their island nation, anti-war feeling increased as the war went on. The Vietnam War was the longest and most controversial war Australia ever fought. To make matters worse, there was terrible discrimination of Vietnam War veterans. As the length of service for each soldier was for one year only, many World War II veterans accused them of not being "real soldiers," and barred them admission to the RSL clubs (Returned Servicemen's League, the equivalent of our Veterans of Foreign Wars) and from marching in the ANZAC Day parades.

But it got worse. Americans were fat and spoiled, insisting on ice cubes in their drinks, air conditioning, and central heating. They didn't speak proper English. Having removed every trace of a regional accent in elementary school, it was hard to determine my origins. I was repeatedly asked what part of Canada I came from. When I replied that I was, in fact, American, they retorted with, "Oh, you can't be American. Your English is too good." In the end, tired and frustrated at having to constantly be the lone defender of my country, I claimed to be from Toronto. According to my colleagues, every American working in Australia was taking a job from an honest, hard-working Aussie. I was tolerated, only so they could have someone to insult after they'd had a few cold "tinnies."

The big boss in Sydney was John Y., a rude, terrifying man who had Anglicized his name to cover his Czechoslovakian roots. We referred to our run-ins with him as "passing a bad Czech." My two-year stint came to a crashing halt when I refused to take the rap for a mistake made by a superior. I was expendable. He was not. I was touched to see that most of my Australian colleagues were mortified at my plight, and actually sorry to see me go.

I then worked briefly for a small outfit that made custom kitchens. The only woman in a company which employed around 20 men, I walked a fine line. Trips to the workshop were made even more embarrassing due to the plethora of

•See JUST HERS page 13

DUTCHMANS

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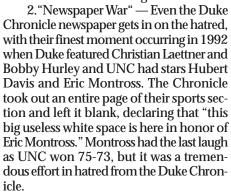
Hate week concludes with Duke-UNC

atred is an integral part of sports in the US today, and by hatred I am referring to the good, clean sports hate that is a part of our everyday lives. My loyal readers (all four of you...love ya, mom and dad) know of my particular targets for sports hatred...yes I am looking at you Mr. Favre. However, with Saturday marking the end of the regular season in the ACC and another titanic UNC-Duke collision, I thought it apropos to bring you a list of my 5 favorite moments of hatred from the Duke side of the Duke-UNC rivalry. I have listed them here in no particular order.

1. "We Beg to Differ" — After a particu-

larly hairy incident in which the Cameron Crazies crossed the line of decency, the Crazies decided to be on their best behavior against UNC in 1984. Fans held signs offering "A hearty welcome to Dean Smith and the Tar Heels," and chanted "we beg to differ" after a bad call from the officials. Many Crazies even fashioned halos for themselves from tin foil and coat hangers.

2. "Newspaper War" — Even the Duke Chronicle newspaper gets in on the hatred, and the control of the control o



3. "There's no place like home" — A more recent induction, for Roy Williams first game as head coach of the Tar Heels in 2004 the Cameron Crazies greeted him with a yellow brick road, students dressed

Ryan Potts tryanpotts@hotmail.com

as Dorothy, Toto and the Tin Man, and a pair of red slippers left on the UNC bench to remind Ol' Roy that he wasn't in Kansas anymore.

4. "Would you like fries with that?" — During UNC's great run in 2005 with Sean May, Ray Felton and company May was met at Cam-

eron with a sight that he couldn't help but laugh at. During warmups, a Duke student dressed as May could be seen chasing after a fishing line "baited" with a Big Mac.

5. "Speedo Guy" — This classic moment was even featured on ESPN, as it was a part of a special on Rivalry Week. During the Duke-UNC game in 2005, UNC guard Jackie Manuel was shooting two free throws when the unthinkable occurred. Out of the sea of Crazies in the endzone unfurled a man in nothing but a blue speedo. With all of the other Crazies hushed in silence, the man in the Speedo began dancing and cost Manuel both free throws. Speedo Guy was then discouraged from appearing again by Coach K himself, but not before making a name for himself in the annals of the Duke-UNC rivalry.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BASKETBALL •

Lady Highlanders advance to Sectional Finals, fall to Cherokee

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders completed their season last Friday night in the 3rd round of the state playoffs with a 53-32 loss to the Cherokee Lady Braves. The game marked the Lady Highlanders' first appearance in the Sectional Finals in 28 years.

To advance to the 3rd round, Highlands defeated Hayesville 54-38 on Wednesday night, using a combination of pressure defense and good shooting to build a double-digit lead. Senior Courtney Rogers had a very strong performance for Highlands, scoring 19 points. Fellow senior Marlee McCall added 11 for the Lady Highlanders, who advanced to host #4 ranked Cherokee

in what would be their third matchup of the season.

The previous two matchups with Cherokee had seen the Lady Braves use their size and depth to wear down the smaller Lady Highlanders over the course of the game. Friday night followed the same pattern, as the Lady Highlanders played fantastic defense in the first quarter but were unable to capitalize, trailing 13-9 at the end of the first. "We were definitely a little nervous," said Highlands coach Brett Lamb, "we missed several makeable shots early in the game and it hurt us because we were holding Cherokee down and missed a chance to take advantage." Lamb also lamented foul

Sponsered in part by Highlands Medical Associates March loto-Rooter Plumbing of 4-6 Highlands 2011 4 one-act Evenings comedies 7:30 pm Sunday Matinee directed by 2:30 pm Kathryn Cochran, Mary Adair Leslie Playwright Donna Cochran. **Robert Anderson** and **Annette Coleman** For ticket information call 526-8084 Adult content

• See HS SPORTS page 16

• HEALTH MATTERS •

The Medi-Spa

he Medi-Spa at the Center for Plastic Sur gery offers a unique combination of traditional spa services and medical aesthetic treatments designed to actually reverse the skin damage to help you look and feel your very best.

Medical Spas like ours are a relatively recent addition to what is available to you to improve your skin. As Plastic Surgeons recognized that surgery alone could not rejuvenate the face, we

sought other methods. We soon recognized that advanced skin care was not available in normal spas, but the experience people had there was well worth imitating.

Day spas and resort spas can offer only services that are allowed by their licensing boards. Whatever treatments they do provide cannot actively change the skin cell and the products used cannot be prescriptive. While the treatments they do provide are all that many people with minimal skin damage need, those with more damage require advanced treatments and prescriptive products to make any real difference. Anything less merely camouflages the damage instead of rejuvenating the tissues. A Medi-Spa fills this gap by offering prescriptive products and advanced services under the guidance of a physician.

At the Medi-Spa, clients can relax and are pampered just as in a regular spa, but are assured that only the finest quality ingredients with proven efficacy are used during any of their treatments. All European Facials include a warming hand treatment, facial skin analysis, steam and a deep exfoliation process followed by extractions of small cysts or other imperfections if necessary. Facial massage, acupressure, and lymphatic drainage are used as needed followed by a custom blended mask suitable for each individual skin

Medical grade skin treatments offered in a Medi-Spa setting can also include DermaPlaning, a skin scraping treatment to eliminate dead cells on the



Dr. Robert Buchanan The Center for Plastic Surgery

surface of the skin, or aggressive Microdermabrasion treatments, a sanding exfoliating process to achieve similar results.

Glycolic and Lactic acid treatments can be used also as a chemical reaction for the elimination of dead cells, and they can stimulate collagen, the building block of healthy skin. To achieve the depth of penetration an acid peel, most have to do both, and an esthetician working under the supervision of a physician is required. They

are trained to know what to look for while performing these treatments. This markedly reduces the risk of serious injury or discomfort.

Many times the esthetician will recommend additional treatments that only the doctor can provide, or she may simply suggest a scheduled visit with the doctor to discuss further treatments. These additional treatments can include IPL (intense pulse light) treatments to correct red or brown areas, Laser and deeper chemical peels such as TCA (TriChloroAcetic acid) or Phenol/Croton Oil that can even rejuvenate leather-like skin, or injectables such as Botox, Juvéderm or Radiesse to erase deeper wrinkles and folds.

A new treatment in our Medi-Spa is

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 15



Area Health Specialists



Each new year, many of our patients elect to go ahead and use their Flex account to have the All Laser Lasik procedure. Many even file their tax returns early and use their refunds to help fund the procedure. Others decide to use one of our several convenient payment plans.

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Page 10 - Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, March 3, 2011

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.

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

Mondays

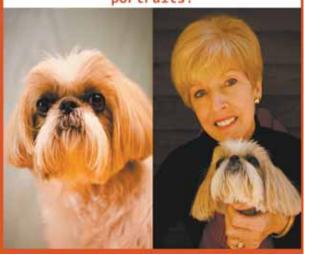
 Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Tuesdays

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

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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 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

Harlem Ambassadors coming to the Rec Park Monday, March 7!



The internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors will be visiting Highlands for a game at Highlands Civic Center March 7 at 7 p.m. – thanks to the Rotary Club of Highlands – MountainTop which is sponsoring the event.

The Ambassadors feature non-stop laughs and deliver a positive message for kids wherever the Ambassadors play. The Ambassadors set themselves apart from other "Harlem-style" basketball teams by working with local not-for-profit and service organizations and holding Harlem Ambassadors shows as community fundraising events. For the Highlands event the Ambassadors have partnered with The Rotary Club of Highlands – Mountaintop to help raise funds for local and international Rotary Projects.

"It feels good to be able to provide quality entertainment and create memories that the fans will take with them," Moss explained. "We're able to give even more when we can help provide funding for a Habitat for Humanity house or new computers for the school library, and that feels great."

Doors open at 6:30 pm; tickets are \$5 for students and seniors: \$7 in advance for adults or \$10 at the door.

Don't forget about the \$5 raffle to shoot baskets for a chance to win \$10,000 compliments of Harry Norman Realtors!

- 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.

Through Saturday, March 5

• Calling All Baseball Players! Highlands Little League Registration will be held at the Highlands Recreation Center. Fee is \$50 for the first child and \$45 for each additional child and includes a shirt and hat. Ages 5 through 14. Please call Jerry Moore at (828) 482-2032 with any questions

Thursdays through March 10

• At The Bascom, "Paint Like a Master," 3:15-5 pm. After school art classes for middle and high school students. Each class will introduce a different artist and painting technique. Students will complete paintings in various artist's styles. The students' own style will be explored for the final painting. Class size is limited, pre-registration is required. Sixth through twelfth grade. \$80 for an eight-week session. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call 828.526.4949, ext. 100.

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. Acollaboration with the International Friendship Center. Free. To register or for more information, visit 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 3

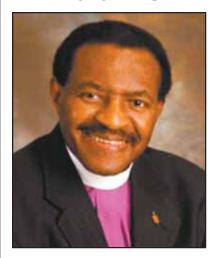
On going and Upcoming Events

- Rotary Bingo from 6:30-8:30 at the Civic Center. The cost is \$1 per card per game. There are 15 games, so 15 chances to win money. Half the proceeds go to Highlands Boy Scout Troup
- · A Highlands Democrats Precinct meeting for the Election of Officers, Thursday at 6 pm at the Highlands Civic Center.
- · Franklin Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church, 69 Lotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred.

Fri.-Sun., March 4-6

The Highlands-Cashiers Players present

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.

"You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 on Sunday.

Friday, March 4

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, March 4th, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Brenda Holt from Greenville, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. For more information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344.

Saturday, March 5

 The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12-mile hike to Mt. Cammerer from Deep Creek Ranger Station. Meet at the Huddle House at Sylva at 8 am; drive 120 miles round trip from Sylva. Bring water, lunch, wear hiking boots. Call leader Don O'Neal at 586-5723 for reservations.

Sunday, March 6

 The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.2 mile hike on the Standing Indian Campground loop trail. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 pm; drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish; wear sturdy shoes. Call leader Kay Coriell at 369-6820 for reservations.

Monday, March 7

 Harlem Ambassadors at the Rec Park at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniores and \$7 for adults in advance or \$10 at the door. There is also a \$5 per ticket raffle to shoot for a \$10,000 prize compliments of Harry Norman Realtors.

Tuesday, March 8

 At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Lewis Doggett: The Red Book; Carl Jung's Diary of the Unconscious (Note: 1 copy available through the Fontana Regional Library). Handouts will be available at the meeting previous to the discussion and at the Hudson Library in the Community Box available during library hours. Fiscussions are held at the Civic Center from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information please e-mail John Gaston at johngaston@aol.com.

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

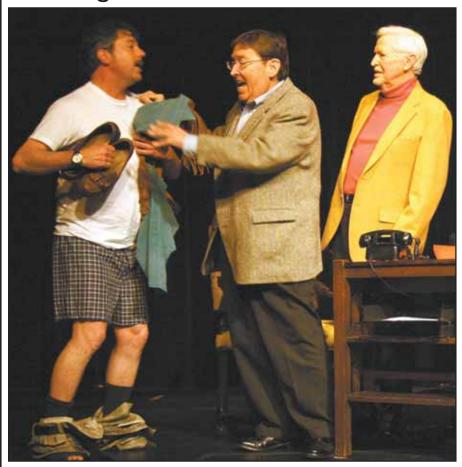
 Angel Medical Center Blood Drive, 120 Riverview Street, Franklin, 8 am to 5 pm. Please call 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome! Appointments preferred.

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.

HCPs "I Can't Hear You ..." on stage at PAC, Fri.-Sun. this week



The Highland Cashiers Players' production of "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running" is off to a great start. The show, a collection of four vignettes, combines comedy, drama, familiarity, and I suppose you could say a little history as well.

Nine talented actors (Playing over a dozen parts), four directors, and a team of tech and stage crew brought Robert Anderson's acclaimed play to live at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center this past weekend to enthusiastic audience response. Each one of the four acts have some funny and some deeper parts, as we watch these characters deal with the problems brought about by people who care

about each other, but sometimes fundamentally misunderstand each other. The stories all take place in the early 1960s, but the reactions could be from any time or any place, as the cast deals with the challenges that come with changing attitudes on topics that run from business, art, parenting, marriage, and memory.

The show will be back on stage this Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm, and a Sunday matinee at 2:30, don't miss this theatrical gem, and don't wait 'till the last minute, tickets are going fast. Call 828-526-8084. The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center is located on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

A late Easter

've been hearing many different reactions to the late date of Easter **L**this year. One said that they couldn't believe it was so late. It is about as late as it can be. Another said that they didn't like the fact that the date of Easter changed each year. It was too hard to keep up with. However, sacrificing the moveable date of Easter would disconnect us from its meaning. It is inextricably linked to the Jewish Passover. Without that Our Lady of the connection, we lose Christ's fulfillment of it. We lose sight of the re- Catholic Church demption one for all. Still another



Rev. Dean Cesa Mountains

person thought it was coming too fast. Well, a late Easter, which also means a late Lent, is giving us some extra time to prepare.

For Christians, Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday next week, is a time for reflection, deliberate sacrifice and assessment of our habits good and bad. We choose to eliminate those bad habits by abstaining from them and replacing them with good ones. This type of sacrifice has reflection as a prerequisite.

There was a stroke victim who recounted the experience as a remarkable time of joy. As the left side of their brain filled with blood and began to shut down, that internal voice which spoke continuously was silenced. At the loss of language, what remained was just the moment, just experience of the senses. They noted a feeling of oneness with everything that surrounded them. The idea of being separated from the rest of creation and being an individual vanished. All that was left was joy. I, for one, am thankful that they recovered their speech and could share that experience.

This is what real reflection strives for. In the quieting of the mind's seemingly endless monologue, we find joy. It leads us to the truth of the unity of our experience with the rest of creation. We lose the preoccupation with ourselves, which often leads to selfishness, and replaces it with an experience of connectedness which directs us away from our own selfish concerns toward the good of another. Ultimately, it brings us in union with the God who loves us.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the lament of Zion over the mistaken idea that God had left them. They are reminded that even if a mother could forget the child in her womb, God would never forget them. We abandon God, not the other way around.

But we can return. We can stop allowing the separation induced by uninterrupted activity to have its way with us. We can, in a way, have our own self-inflicted stroke. We do that by taking the time needed to be quiet with the Lord. It seems paradoxical, but separating ourselves from the noise even within ourselves leads us to a deeper connection with both the creator and the creation.

If you're having trouble finding a place for that quiet reflection, may I suggest 315 N 5th Street? It's always open and awaiting your visit. Have a joyful Lent.

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.

BÚCK CREEK BÁPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA Church: 706-746-2999 Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770 Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy

Communion each service CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER DAY SAINTS NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329

Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011 Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers Sun.: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum -

10:45, Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6

Wed.: Mens Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Everett Brewer

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685 3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School 10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program,. Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts

Group, 5 p.m. High School Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION 526-2968

Reverend Denson Franklin

Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group 4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel) 10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153 Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; 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.

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 - Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs:12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell 2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425 Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Choir - 6 p.m. Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197 **MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704 Independent Bible Church

Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Serenity Chapel at Trillium Village, Glenville.

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor Parish office: 526-2418

Mass: - 9 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri

Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m. SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Clifford Willis

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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H-C Hospital News

Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley donates money for Vital Signs machine at FELC



Pictured from left, Bob Starkey, Barbara Willett, Mary Beth Brody, Robin Taylor, Ava Emory, Craig James, Victor Galef

As a part of their ongoing effort to better the lives of community members, the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley provided a special donation to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Living Center.

Given in memory of the late Steve Willett, a devoted Rotarian, the club granted the hospital funding to purchase an automated vital signs monitor for the residents at FELC. The new equipment is a portable unit that captures blood pressure, temperature, pulse rate and oxygen blood levels, all within 45 seconds.

FELC's Chief Nursing Officer Ava Emory said "this instrument called 'Rosebud' replaces four pieces of equipment and will greatly decrease the time spent collecting vitals. Because we collect about 40 sets of vital signs per day, my nursing staff will be able to spend more time providing personalized care for our residents. The machine will store the patient's medical information electronically, helping to decrease human error."

Rotary President Bob Starkey said, "Our club proudly supports the Mission of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. This is a wonderful example of how our club can directly benefit our community and we are honored to be part of such a wonderful advancement for their living center. Our participation furthered our efforts to recognize our late member Steve, concurrently recognizing HCH."

A plaque with the RCCV Rotary Logo

inscribed "vital signs equipment in honor of Steve Willett a Great Rotarian" will be displayed at the hospital.

Eckerd Living Center gets outstanding assessment score

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Nursing Center received impressive scores on the annual Patient Satisfaction Assessment conducted last month by My InnerView, a National Research Company, commissioned by the North Carolina Healthcare Facility Association.

More than 4,900 long-term care facilities across the nation participate in the survey which queries residents and family members of each facility.

My InnerView is charged with inspecting each survey and preparing the results and benchmarking for the survey. The findings are then released and reported to each center including their Boards of Directors, Medical Staff, and Department Managers.

"Overall, we are extremely pleased with the report of the latest survey," said Ava Emory, FELC Chief Nursing Officer. "Out of 4,974 facilities, we rank in the top 93% in overall satisfaction, components of which are recommendation to others, quality

• See HOSPITAL page 16

...JUST HERS continued from page 7

female nudes gracing the walls. And these weren't airbrushed elegant Playboy models, either; these were nasty girls. In retaliation, I purchased a copy of Playgirl, and hung (no pun intended!) the centerfold in all its glory behind my desk. It lasted a day.

My last job in Sydney was working for a travel agency dealing with mostly Francophone clients, many Lebanese. My boss was a kind, zany Frenchman who had moved to Australia to escape his family's dairy farm in Normandy. He had a degree in artificial insemination. I kid you not. His pride and joy was a splendid armored car – a glorious Citroen once owned by Charles de Gaulle. While I was relatively happy at Cleopatra Travel, I realized that five years in Australia was enough for me. I'd learned to sail, even being considered as crew for the Sydney to Hobart race. I could eat meat pies, and

speak Strine (Aussie slang) with the best of them. I'd survived nude beaches and fallen in love with rugby, walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge during a transportation strike, and taken courses in Australian wine tasting. I'd never learned to enjoy Vegemite. It had been an interesting five-year waltz with Matilda, but now it was time to change partners.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She moved to Highlands several years ago to live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands with her precious late husband, author and attorney, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. Michelle retains a great fondness for Australia – and Aussies – and hopes to return there on vacation one day.

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...ORDINANCE continued from page 1

it back on the agenda.

As during the Feb. 2 Public Hearing on the issue, at Wednesday night's meeting, the majority of people in attendance were against amending the town ordinance.

During the Public Comment period, Pat Taylor told the board the citizens of Highlands want an open government with checks and balances in the hands of the elected representatives who are accountable for the operation of the town. "Five heads are better than one," he said.

At the 4 p.m. meeting, Mayor Wilkes and Gary Drake reiterated the importance of the Town Manager having ultimate power because one man is less likely to be "influenced" than five, said Wilkes. Drake said he had spoken to several retired mayors who said problems in their towns disappeared once the Town Manager was put in charge of the Police Chief.

Surprisingly, at the 4 p.m. meeting, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf said he would like to maintain the sections of the ordinance referring to the Town Board's authority over the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator "in some fashion."

In his comments, Taylor also criticized the amendment being added to the ordinance saying the Town Manager must consult with the Town Board in a closed session prior to firing anyone. Though commissioners considered that a good thing, Taylor said unless the subject of the closed session can state his or her position to the Town Board prior to the point of termination, hidden agendas are suspected.

Jane Lewis said she completely agreed with Taylor, as did Bonnie Earman, and said she appreciated Commissioners Patterson and John Dotson for upholding what citizens wanted of them when they elected them.

Alan Marsh said that the board that voted for the Council-Manager form of government left the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and the Zoning Administrator to the Town Board for a reason. "We wanted it that way; it wasn't a mistake."

When item 15 on the agenda concerning the revision of the Town Ordinance finally came up, Commissioner Patterson made a motion to instruct Attorney Bill Coward to return on March 16 with ordinance changes as outlined at the 4 p.m. meeting, but with sections authorizing the board to oversee the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator retained and not deleted from the ordinance as requested by Mayor Wilkes.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf sec-

onded the motion but before it could go for the final vote, Attorney Coward questioned the clarity of the motion and Mayor Wilkes and Commissioner Drake requested the issue be discussed at the next meeting when a cleaned up version of the amendment could be considered.

To "clean up" the motion, Patterson specified exactly what she wanted.

In Section 2-47 (a) of the Highlands Code — Other officers and employees – the verbiage would be "New positions deemed necessary by the Town Manager shall not be made prior to board approval. All officers and employees shall serve at the pleasure of the manager and receive such compensation as from time to time may be prescribed by the pay plan approved by the board."

Concerning the newly added Section 2-48 of the Highlands Code, "The Town Manager shall consult with the Board of Commissioners in closed session, prior to the hiring of any employee or the termination of any employee, unless circumstances require immediate termination."

The "hiring" part is different from what was added in January, though "circumstances requiring immediate termination" is still left up to interpretation and whose definition was questioned by Commissioner Rogers at the 4 p.m. meeting.

Concerning other changes, all the commissioners agree that since an old statute still on the books referring to a volunteer police force doesn't apply to Highlands anymore — Sec. 10-56, 10-57 and 10-58 – should be stricken. "This is from the days when towns didn't have paid police officers," said Fatland.

Commissioners Patterson, Dotson and DeWolf voted to have the ordinance cleaned up by Coward and brought back to the board for a vote per Patterson's stipulations. The vote was 3-2 with Commissioners Rogers and Drake voting no.

Another motion to have the ordinance cleaned up by Coward including the deletion of the sections giving the Town Board's authority over the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator was made by Commissioner Drake. It passed 3-2 with Commissioners Dotson, Drake and Rogers voting yes.

So now, both versions will be voted on at the March 16 Town Board meeting. Whichever version gets the 3-2 vote will be the version discussed and voted on after a mandated Public Hearing.

- Kim Lewicki

• Business & Organization News •

Bascom hires new Executive Director

Jane Jerry has been appointed Executive Director of The Bascom Visual Arts Center. Willis Willey, Chair of the Board of Trustees, made the announcement following the conclusion of a national search.

"Jane has extensive experience in developing and directing audience-focused institutions and we are delighted that she will be at the helm as The Bascom advances to its next stage of development," Willey said.

Jerry, currently a resident of Nashville, TN, was most recently the Project Planning Director for Exploration Station, the Republic of Ireland's first interactive science center. Its exhibition and

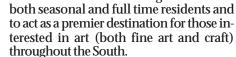
program plan will be grounded in the fusion of science and art.

Prior to her appointment in Ireland, Jerry was the President and CEO of Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art in Nashville Tennessee (1994-2004). During her tenure at Cheekwood, she led a capital campaign that resulted in an \$18.5 million investment in the gardens and facilities. During that time, the Cheekwood Museum of Art attained accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Additionally, Jerry was the founding executive director of the Children's Museum of Rhode Island from 1976-1984 and the Houston Children's Museum 19841994; the latter was rated the No. 1 children's museum in the nation by Parent's Magazine this month.

The Bascom is a vibrant visual art center that serves the communities of High-

lands/Cashiers, N.C., the surrounding region as well as the entire south. Founded 25 years ago, The Bascom was recently reborn on its new \$14 million campus that includes over 25,000 sq. ft. of new, yet historic timbered facilities located on a 6+ acre pastoral property. It offers world class exhibitions, learning opportunities and open studio time for visitors of all ages and abilities. Its goal is to serve



In addition to holding leadership positions at the American Association of Youth Museums, Jerry served as a Board Member of AAM from 1993-1996 and Chaired the Museum Assessment Program Advisory Committee 1993-1996.

Jerry follows Linda Steigleder who led The Bascom throughout its major growth phase when its facilities not only expanded, but also its visitation went from 9,000 people in 2008 to 25,000 in its first six months of open hours in 2009.



Jane Jerry

Bryant's work spotlighted at Atlanta show



Dwight Bryant of Bryant Art Glass in Highlands was awarded a "Best in Show" ribbon for vendors at the Southeast Flower Show in Atlanta recently. Dwight has been traveling the country showing and selling his work at shows.

...HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 9

the Zerona machine. This is the only FDA approved non-invasive body slimming Laser device that can painlessly and without surgery achieve clinically significant loss of fat in just two weeks.

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...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

ing .45 caliber automatic pistol. Looking it over, he pulled the slide back partially to see if a round was in the chamber.

I laughed. "I do the same thing. Why do we do that?" I asked.

"I don't know, maybe you got me in the habit," Pete responded.

"Sure, blame it on me," I shot back.

Gus cranked the van's engine and down the ramp we went, heading for Miami Beach. We would get there before Martinez this time, unless he pulled a fast one and changed the time.

Five minutes into our drive, Snake lifted a radio to his mouth, "The eagle is in flight. All units respond."

Immediately, the airways filled with chatter. "Fisher one is go....lower level one is go.....causeway one and two are go.....tech is go and we just picked up your bag on the scope. It's five by five....causeway

three and four are go."

There was silence.

"Where the hell are the damn drawbridge guys? Try to raise them," Pete demanded irritably.

Again, Snake lifted the radio to his mouth. "DB one, this is eagle, do you copy?" There was silence. Snake repeated his call, "DB one, this is eagle, do you copy?" More silence.

"They left the building first. They should be active," Pete said, grabbing the radio from Snake. "Causeway one, this is eagle. Go over to the bridge and find those clowns...now."

"Copy....on the way."

Time passed and nothing happened.

"Damn it! Once, just once, can I have a deal go down as planned? I'm going to kill those idiots when I get my hands on

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 16

...PROMISE continued from page 1

members Jim Breedlove and Gary Shields voting no and Stephanie McCall and Tommy Baldwin voting yes. Chairman Tommy Cabe broke the tie giving McKim permission to distribute the survey as long as it was anonymous, voluntary and as long as parental permission was granted.

Breedlove and Shields wanted to know more about the questions on the survey, how the information gleaned from the answers would be used and by whom before OKing anything.

Like the At Risk survey circulated through the school system by Healthy Carolinians, the Pride Survey associated with what will become the Gilliam's Promise Club, is anonymous and voluntary. Statistics gleaned from the survey will be used to assess drugs and alcohol abuse in the Highlands community using the answers from faculty, students and parents as the community's benchmark.

"We are looking for reliable, tractable information to gauge drug and alcohol use in the community," said McKim.

Initiation of Gilliam's Promise is twofold. Results from the Pride Survey are required for the coalition to apply for grant money which will be awarded if a problem is documented and if a plan is devised to stop it.

Grant funding will help get Gilliam's Promise of scholarship money off the ground, but its likely Gilliam's Promise will kick off at the start of the 2011-2012 school year with or without grant money.

The second part is the student-based group that will meet monthly at the Rec Park to do good deeds throughout the community thereby building self-esteem and pride by belonging to a different kind of peer group. McKim said details are still being ironed out but it's likely club members will be required to participate in four or five events a year and do volunteer work in the community, as well as agree to random, periodic drug-testing.

With 14 drug and alcohol incidents documented by the Highlands Police Department since August 2010, it's presumed a problem does exist community-wide.

"As for the coalition, I am completely behind it and its mission to involve community leaders and residents from all walks of life in our war on drugs," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, a member of the Gilliam's Promise Steering Committee. "I

• See PROMISE page 18

... on this day

March 3, 1857

Second opium War.
France and Britain declare war on China to force their right to sell opium.

Now there are some who might gripe about this change that came down the pipe. See, France and Britain issued a statement tersely, "We'll correct this imbalance commercially."

In trade this move now dictated that the Chinese need be opiated.

See, they had to address a trade deficit, and decided the answer, well, this is it.

Though it left them with a sinking feeling, they would now take up dealing.

Now, the Golden Kingdom was not Utopian, but they hadn't had a problem with opium, but as a result of trade talks conflicted, they ended up with a lot that were addicted.

... from the History Guy

...HOSPITAL from page 13

of life, quality of care and quality of service." We made large strides this year, improving in all of these areas.

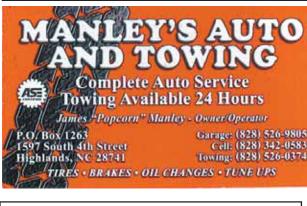
Emory said the survey targets a wide variety of indicators in trying to assess the quality of care provided to residents. The review helps to monitor the continuity of care given residents, as well as the overall safety of patients, cleanliness, courtesy of staff, the amount of activities offered to residents, and whether a resident's rights are being respected.

FELC also scored 93% in overall satisfaction when compared to 170 North Carolina Long Term Care Centers, average being 89%. FELC showed high percentages in care of nursing staff at all levels, Registered Nurses, License Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants. They reached 96% in the category of Respectfulness of Staff, and a near perfect 97% in Overall Care and Concern.

FELC is compared with like-facilities in peer group collected by a national database and includes centers categorized as rural, not-for-profit, stand alone, and having 80 to 150 beds.

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...HS SPORTS continued from page 8

trouble as an issue for Highlands in the second and third quarters, saying that Cherokee was focused on pounding the ball inside and getting to the free throw line. The second half saw the Lady Braves increase their lead by dominating the interior as well as methodically taking advantage of a Lady Highlander team that only shot 6-46 from the field. Cherokee did not shoot much better, shooting 7-44 but held a 20 point advantage from the free throw line. Emily Munger led Highlands with 16 points.

Despite the loss, this season will be remembered as a success for the Lady Highlanders. Early in the season, the Lady Highlanders listed as their goals to win the Little Smoky Mountain Conference regular season and tournament, and to go as far as they could in the state playoffs. In those respects, the mission was accomplished with a 17-12 overall record and a 5-1 conference record. One other major positive to come out of a season full of great milestones was that Highlands hosted a Sectional final in what was a tremendous atmosphere on Friday night. "We can't say enough about our fans," said Lamb, "we have had a ton of support from the community this year and we are so appreciative of everything that they did for us."

...WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 15

them," Pete complained.

"OK, Eagle, this is causeway two. We just spotted Martinez east-bound on the MacArthur Causeway. He's got three guys in the car with him and maybe another car behind him. Couldn't see how many were in that car. Do you copy?"

"Copy that, causeway two. We've just pulled into the upper parking lot. All units, we are show-time," Gus announced.

Houricec

"Fisher one, we have you in our scope."

"Eagle, this is causeway one. We found the drawbridge guys at the bridge tower. Their radio is out and the damn bridge operator won't let them up in the tower. The regular bridge guy is out sick and this guy doesn't know anything about letting DEA in the tower. Any ideas?"

Pete grabbed the radio from Gus, "Yeah, tell them to jump in the Intracostal Waterway!"

The sun had just come up when Gus drove his van in a wide circle around the vast empty parking lot and parked it with the rear of the van backed against the lot's back retaining wall. The front of the van faced the up ramp. Several minutes later, Martinez' driver drove their Cadillac up the ramp and slowly rolled toward the van.

Without raising his radio to his mouth, Gus keyed the mic lying in his lap and said, "Radio silence. We are go. Repeat, we are go."

The Cadillac, with another vehicle following, continued to creep toward the van. When they were 20 feet apart, the Cadillac stopped. No one spoke. No one moved.

Part three 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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Police & Fire Dept.

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 22

 At 8:15 a.m., officers were called to Highlands School to conduct a canine search of lockers and book bags in the high school and middle school wings as well as the gym. The dog showed no interest at the lockers but showed interest at a book bag in the gym, but didn't not alert.

Feb 24

• At 1:25 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang-up from Church Street.

Feb. 25

 At 10:15 p.m., officers responded to a noise complaint about Ruka's Table in Wright Square.

Feb. 27

 At 2:15 p.m., officers were called concerning a suspicious vehicle parked on S. 4th Street. It was moved.

• At 2:20 a.m., Cody Lyn Lindberg, 24, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for failing to stop at a stop sign on S. 4th Street.

 At 5:13 p.m., Gerald Hedden, 37, of Highlands, was arrested on 10 counts of simple physical assault – six counts against a female and four counts against a child under the age of 12 at their residence on Catabaw Trail in Highlands.

• During the week, police officers responded to 3 alarms and issued 4 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 16.

Feb. 16

 $\,^{\bullet}$ At 12:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cabe Place.

Feb. 1

 $\, \bullet \, At \, 11:17 \, a.m.,$ the dept. was called to assist Cashiers FD at a structure fire, but the call was cancelled.

Feb. 18

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. was called to put out an electric heater on fire at a residence on Shortoff Road, but it was out upon arrival. The heater and all wires were removed from the residence.

 $\, \, \bullet \, At \, 6:10 \, p.m.$, the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row. It was false.

Feb. 19

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Whiteside Mountain Road. It was out upon arrival.

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 \bullet At 7:29 p.m., the dept. was called to 62 Oak Lane concerning a CO^2 leak but the odor was due to a leaking gas can.

Feb. 21

• At 3:57 p.m., the dept. extinguished a brush fire on an acre of land off Sassafras Gap Road. The fire was caused by a downed power line on a tree.

 At 6:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 south. The vehicle was stabilized and the driver was extricated and taken to the hospital.

Feb. 22

 \bullet At 10:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street. It was set off by workers.

Feb. 26

• At 8:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over on NC 106. It was in the Scaly FD district and handled by them.

Feb. 28

• At 4:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Skyline Drive. It was cancelled en route.

• At 3:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responder to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road. It was cancelled en route.

March 1

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street. There was no problem and the system was reset.

CALENDAR continued from page 1

with local control removed from NC school districts, all public schools started at the end of August with the first semester ending after students returned to school late in January following Christmas break. The Dept. of Commerce lobbied for this set up so students could be used in the business community during the tourist season/summer months.

Not only did this upset the timeline for end-of-course testing – which was further postponed this year due to inclement weather, particularly in Macon County it made it impossible for students' schedules to align with those of Southwestern Community College as well as virtual classes taken through other learning institutions. Virtual learning and online classes through local colleges and universities is a way for students to get courses not available in small school districts and a way to get a foot up on college work. (See "Highlands a NC virtual public school" in the Feb. 10 issue of Highlands' Newspaper at highlandsinfo.com/PDFarchives.htm.)

After years of outcry, legislators are now considering HB 175 which would give local control back to school districts. But no one knows when or if the bill will

pass.

In the interim, the State BOE is giving school districts the option of applying for a calendar waiver if they can incorporate Remedial and Enrichment Intercession periods throughout the year to justify starting school earlier in August, ending in May, and ending the first semester prior to Christmas.



At Monday nights Macon County School Board meeting, the Young Author State Winners were presented a certificate by Superintendent Dan Brigman and Chairman Tommy Cabe. Recognized were: Purshotam Aruwani, Aiden Bryson Carpenter, Sarah Carpenter, Nicholas Doyle, Briana Jenkins, Serenity McDaniel, Emiley Peterson, Daniel Pickens, Breanna Teague, Sam Templeton, Tracy Hedden Photo by Kim Lewicki and Angela Pickens.

Those stipulations were incorporated into Calendar 4 — the object of discussion Monday night. It incorporates the required Intercession blocks and had to accompany the waiver request which was due Tuesday

morning, March 1, in Raleigh.

Opponents to Calendar 4, which included board members Jim Breedlove and Gary Shields and Franklin High School teachers Bobby Kuppers and Josh Johnson, dislike the weeks designated for Intercession, the fact that teachers and parents already have jobs or plans for the summer of 2011 which would be interrupted if Calendar 4 is initiated for the 2011-2012 school year, because snow days are associated with holidays, and because there is a good chance that House Bill 175 will pass making the need for a waiver/calendar moot.

Snow days for Calendar 4 would be built around holidays — Dec. 22, Jan. 4, Feb. 13, April 5, May 25 and 29 and Saturdays, if necessary.

Brigman agreed that if HB 175 passes, the district can do whatever it wants, but at this point, no one knows if or when the bill will pass, so the calendar/waiver is basically a stop-gap measure.

Regardless, Kuppers asked that the board not rush into making any calendar changes. "I wish you would wait until the 2012-2013 school year. We need to see how

tion after high school.

Also a Steering Committee member, Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter, said he sees the merits of the program, but since it is in its infant stages, say specifics have to be worked out.

"I think 'Gilliam's Promise' shows good promise," said Jetter. "While I'm not always in favor of monetary incentives for students, I think these incentives may add some motivation for students to stay off drugs, and be able to earn a small nest-egg to use for college or further education."

Jetter said he would like to see the money's use limited to post public school education, whether that is college, trade school or training of some sort.

"Concerning the Pride Survey, I have some concerns about the validity of any survey, and the specifics about its confidentiality," said Jetter. "I do think the ongoing

this all plays out."

At previous school board meetings, however, the board asked Superintendent Brigman to see what he could do concerning semester-end and -start dates and right now, since HB 175 isn't on the books, a waiver accompanied by the Intercession calendar is Macon County's only option.

With Chairman Tommy Cabe breaking the tie, the vote was 3-2 to send the waiver and Calendar 4 to the State BOE for its approval with the understanding that if the waiver is granted, the summer 2012 Intercession could be moved to the beginning of June rather than in July. Brigman said the BOE has some wiggle room but since that aspect wasn't discussed with the faculty - and due to the time crunch - it would be addressed later.

According to Pat Davis, director of testing, who also formulates the school calendar each year, 294 teachers voted for Calendar 4 and 150 voted for Calendar 3. "That's about 2 to 1." she said.

However, if the waiver and its accompanying calendar isn't accepted by the State BOE, then Calendar 3 will be used.

With Calendar 3, the first day of school is Aug. 25 and the last day of school is June 12, with the end of the first semester Jan. 20. There aren't any Intercession blocks in Calendar 3. Snow days would be Dec. 21 and 22, Jan. 24, Feb. 13, June 11 and 12 and Saturdays would also be used if needed.

If HB 175 passes, Macon County can construct a custom calendar to fit its needs without worrying about Intercession blocks now required with the waiver.

Kim Lewicki

meetings with school age children off campus is a good idea to give the children the support it takes for some to not bow to societal pressures."

He suggested Gilliam's Promise start with one grade level cohort to iron out the glitches that occur with any new program, and add cohorts from there. "However, I support any program that helps students stay off drugs and become active, participating members of our society," he said.

The Macon County School Board asked McKim to keep it advised of all things associated with the Pride Survey and Gilliam's Promise as the program works toward starting up.

The Pride Survey (Parents' Resource Institure for Drug Education) has been used since 1982 in 8,000 school systems in 49 states. More than eight million students have completed the survey.

- Kim Lewicki

... PROMISE continued from page 15

feel that we can compliment each other, but the community needs a voice and a vehicle they can use to drive these poisons away and educate the public on the real threat they present in Highlands."

The idea behind Gilliam's Promise is to stop the use of drug and alcohol abuse in middle school before it starts and to keep it at bay through high school.

According to its mission statement the purpose is to provide youth in a community a focused, long-term, comprehensive program of education, positive reinforcement, and self-esteem building throughout the community from middle school to high school years to drastically reduce the use and abuse of illegal substances.

McKim said that children first begin experimenting with drugs and alcohol in

middle school – ground zero in the fight against drugs, she said. She said middle school years see children self-segment themselves into groups where they try to fit in. "We need to reinforce every child at every touch-point possible. A child's future is influenced and shaped by the community around him. We must take responsibility to keep them safe and hopeful for the future."

McKim said students, their parents and the community are all equally important components of the program whose participation is critical to the program's success.

If a student in the Gilliam's Promise Club promises to remain drug-free 6th-12th grade, \$1,000 will be placed in an escrow account for that student each year to be used to finance college or trade school educaAvailable

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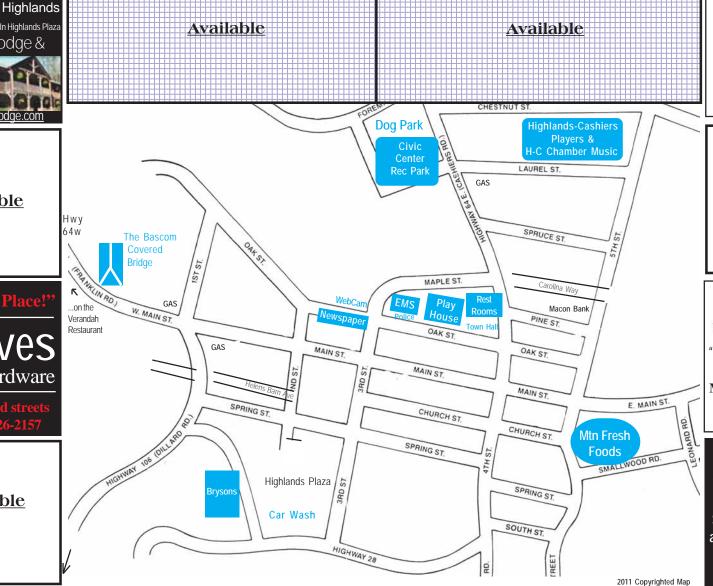
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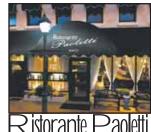
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