

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 9, Number 13

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Thursday, March 31, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
52 36F	55 35F	61 48F

Thursday, March 31

• Bonsai workshop at the Highlands Biological Station. 1-3 pm. A hands-on workshop for beginners, presented by Dr. Bob Gilbert. \$20 per person. Call Cyndi Banks at 828-526-0118 to register.

Through -April 2

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

Friday, April 1

• Calling all Independents and Democrats! April Fool's Political Vent at the Hudson Library Meeting Room from 6-9:30 p.m. Featuring the Wild Hog Band. Appetizers will be served. \$7.50 per person, \$20 per couple.

Tuesday, April 5

• The Wilderness Society will lead an Overflow Wilderness Study Area Hike. Meet in front of Bryson's at 10 a.m. Email Jill Gottesman at jill_gottesman@tws.org.

• At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Don McCormick: Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress by Michael Specter. Two specific chapters: "Organic Fetish" and "Era of Echinacea." Also "The Dubious Use of Vitamins and Supplements." E-mail John Gaston johnngaston@aol.com.

Thursday, April 7

• Kindergarten Registration at Highlands School for both parents and students 10 a.m. in the school's media center.

• Main Street Program monthly meeting 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic/Recreation Center.

• Rotary Bingo at the Community Building next to the ballfield on US 64 east from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Highlands Literacy Council.

'Gaming' the big issue at Planning Board

A productive Planning Board meeting Monday night saw three agenda items dealt with in a constructive, thoughtful manner – conditional use zoning expansion at the Methodist Church and amendments to the town's ordi-

nance concerning the Appearance Commission and Electronic Gaming – with the Electronic Gaming issue taking the most time.

Already OK'd by the Town Board in concept at the March 16

meeting, the Planning Board amended the Special Use Permit (SUP) obtained by the Highlands United Methodist Church for its Wellspring property in 2009 to include its recent purchase of the

• See ELECTRONIC GAMING pg 3

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Educators agree: 'It's all about reading'

To meet the goals in Macon County School System's strategic plan – that all students are reading on grade level by third grade, that all schools meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and understanding that reading is the cornerstone of all academic areas – the system is incorporating a new methodology to help struggling readers.

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes (LBLP) is a research-based methodology that re-trains the brains of struggling readers by addressing the underlying language processing skills required for competency in reading and comprehension, and includes the five components for scientifically based reading instruction. It is recognized by the federal government as a process for "school turnaround."

"We began investigating the

• See READING page 9

Spring means softball



Emily Murphy about to catch the ball last week against Hiwassee Dam.

Photo by Noel Atherton

NC's budget woes mean hard days ahead for WNC's public, private workers

By Lydia Wilson

Carolina Public Press

www.carolinapublicpress.org

Graham County leaders and residents awaited the release of North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue's proposal to balance the state's \$2.4 billion shortfall as eagerly as those from any other county in the state.

The county is already home to both the state's smallest labor

force and its highest unemployment rate; 15.8 percent of the 3,990 employable residents have no jobs, according to numbers released recently by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. Their unemployment rate is the highest among the state's 100 counties.

"The proposed state budget

• NC BUDGET page 13

A 'new dawn' for open government? Sunshine Week spotlighted rising push for transparency in N.C.

By Jon Elliston

Carolina Public Press

www.carolinapublicpress.org

Time to bask in the glow of being in the know: Last week it was Sunshine Week, a celebration of freedom of information held nationally since 2005. In North Carolina, veterans of the push for

more public access to official records and meetings are using the occasion to advance an offensive that seems to be gaining ground.

Consider the perspective of John Bussian, a lawyer for the North Carolina Press Association,

• See SUNSHINE page 13

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

Local garden club beautifies gardens at FELC

Back Row from left: Mountain Garden Club Members Ann Maxwell and Molly Leonard. Center Row from left: HCHs Robin Houston, Kathy Owens, Garden Club Member Diana Rethorst, HCHs Paul Cipriano, CEO Craig James, Garden Club Member Caroline Cook, Ginny Dunwody, Candy Field & Barbara Domingos. Front row from left: Garden Club Members Pegi Williard and Midge Rothermel.



Residents at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Fidelia Eckerd Living (FELC) center have much to look forward this season thanks to the dedicated members of the Mountain Garden Club and the use of a little flower power.

The Mountain Garden Club of Highlands began giving the interior grounds at FELC a new look, weeding, deadheading, pruning, planting/moving plant material, mulching, fertilizing and clearing flower beds for seasonal blooms. Last summer the club voted to adopt the gardens as an ongoing project and continued this effort into

2011. As the weather warms, a 15 member committee will work with the staff and volunteers of the FELC, the hospital and other community volunteers ensuring that the center's courtyard and greens are visually attractive throughout the each year.

"Our goal is to increase the resident's activity by providing outside areas they truly can enjoy," said project organizer Midge Rothermel. "We have big plans for this year's landscape and it felt great to get back into the swing of things. The residents are beginning to get to know us and the excitement on their face keeps us motivated."

• TB AGENDA •

- April 6 • 7 p.m. • Community Building
- Public Hearing: Gaming Machines
 - Consider Approval of Amendment
 - Bear Smart Initiative
 - Resolution to Surplus Fire Department

Equipment

- Authorize Advertising for Bids for Mini Pumper for Fire Department
- Proposed FY12 Special Revenue Fund

Budgets

- Report from Finance Committee
- Fire Department Special Revenue Fund

Budget

- Recreation Department Special Revenue

Fund Budget

- Proposed Tower Lease
- Main Street Sidewalk at Hudson Library
- Resolution Proclaiming April as Earth

Stewardship Month

- Board Appointment(s)
- Set Public Hearing for HUMC Conditional

Zoning

- Staff Report on Form of Government
- Set Date for Employee Meeting

• LETTERS •

The hidden treasure in our town

Dear Editor,

Outside Highlands going toward Cashiers is a treasure few notice. The place is The Eckerd Living Center—a nursing home connected to the Highlands Cashiers Hospital by a set of swinging doors.

There it is, serving our incapacitated, sick and elderly citizens with nary a word of praise ever heard. Over the past year or so I have learned a great deal about love and kindness and how each is expressed by those who work at the living center. The jobs these employees have are often to be the arms, legs, and even voices of those who live under their care. The jobs they do take them up and down hallways many times a day and for long hours, but at the end of a long day they still have a smile for the residents; and still do their work with great commitment and dedication.

My mother is a resident at Eckerd.

We have experienced other assisted living environments over the years of her illness; and never have had the level of care offered by Eckerd. The residents, the family and the caregivers are all part of a community of caring out there. The staff understands that sometimes the spouses and children and other family members of the residents need TLC also... and we get it. Every time I am out there I feel the love as it surrounds everyone.

As the weather warms, the residents and family will be able to enjoy the lovely gardens (enclosed for safety) that are easily accessible to everyone. The gardens will be planted with vegetables and flowers and some of the residents will have their own garden to tend. The dining room looks out onto the garden areas and the residents can watch the birds as they both dine. There are art activities, music, bingo and other enjoyable diversions offered to the residents on a regular basis. The atmosphere is always welcoming.

When my time comes, I want to be at the Eckerd Living Center.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Highlands' Newspaper offers sound, community-based journalism

Dear Editor,

The March 24 edition of Highlands' Newspaper was a particularly good. Good reporting! Headline and front page stories; "Town board cleans up", "Sunshine laws help citizens", the letters, the cartoon, "Operation medicine drop", "Theft of sign" all good insightful information for Highlands.

Thank you for your contributions and sound community-based journalism.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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... ELECTRONIC GAMING from page 1

Lupoli property bordering Spring, Third and Church streets.

The new .59-acre will eventually be combined with the current 1.40-acre Well-spring property which was rezoned Conditional Use B1 from B3. Consequently, the same terms will apply to the property as a whole but be expanded a bit.

As per the terms of the SUP, the use must be church related and if the use changes the zoning will revert to the old B3 designation; the development must leave 30% greenspace; now two curb cuts are allowed on Spring Street, one on Third and one on

Church Street Alley; the 10-ft. side setbacks go away because the property will be re-combined into one parcel, but the B-1 zero setbacks on the front and back bordering streets will stand; in addition, 20 parking spaces will be required instead of the previous 10 so church events requiring parking will be handled on church property and not on Main Street.

The Appearance Commission

In June 1998, the Town Board adopted a policy separating the Planning Board and Appearance Commission but since

• See ELECTRONIC GAMING page 5



Tommy James and Michael Chastain with Chloe Billingsley and Lollie Belle.

Firefighters rescue cat from tree

By Lisa Billingsley

Sunday was my little girl, Chloe's, third birthday. She loves all animals, so we got her a nine-month-old kitten from the animal shelter in Franklin. On Tuesday evening, we put a leash on Lollie Belle (the cat) and put her in a stroller for a walk around our neighborhood in Scaly Mountain. When we were about a mile from our house, a neighbor's dog started barking at her, so she escaped from the stroller and up a tree.

Since she still had her leash on, we were afraid she would try to come down and get it caught on a limb and hang herself, so my husband's mom (Mary Lee Billingsley) went to the Sky Valley and Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department to get her husband (Lamar) who was in a fire department meeting. Of course, two local members jumped at the chance to help out. Michael Chastain and Tommy James came to the rescue. Michael climbed the tree and saved the cat from certain death. I asked Michael how many times the fire department has ever rescued a cat from a tree and he said this was the very first time.

A big thank you to Michael and Tommy.

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• LOOKING AT LIFE •

I'm certainly not crazy, so I guess it's you

Did you drink from the forbidden well or did I? I'm thinkin' it was you and the rest of the world because it's happening everywhere. As I predicted, the world is getting weirder while I remain totally sane.

I'm convinced it was the rest of the world that drank from the well 'cause there's so much disagreement among the deep thinkers. I'm sure they took a sip or two. They can't even agree on whether the world is heating up or cooling off. Bulletin: Since I'm not a deep thinker, I personally don't give a hoot.

Bible thumpers, who usually can't agree on much, are agreeing this might be the end game. I'm thinkin' they're right. All these world rebellions and riots, coupled with massive earthquakes and deadly tsunamis, fit right into their predictions. Check out Revelations. Soon, we'll all be toast. I'm ready to go when the boss calls me.



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

Here's some world changes I've noticed recently that you don't have to write down. While I could never take a full hour of Glenn Beck, now I can barely take 10 minutes of the guy. He has that look in his eyes I used to see in people when I was about to throw a net over them and drag them off to the basket factory. He must have gulped a whole gallon of that forbidden water. Too bad 'cause a lot of what Beck says is thought provoking. Remember, you can be crazy and also correct.

Beck thinks Islam is forming a caliphate. Hmmm, is that like a boilerplate? If so, we have one right here in li'l ole Highlands. Maybe Beck should come to Highlands and drive the Democrats crazier than they are. Should he come with his blackboards? I'm sure he'd recommend a parking study and low-cost housing on unused land at the Highlands Country Club....Oh, and a dog park. Wait, we already have one of them? Maybe we could have two?

Also, here's something else I predicted when I saw everyone was....well, acting weird. Muslims, who are reproducing faster than rabbits, are sick and tired of sleeping on sand and earning a dollar a day while they watch nicely dressed American union members picket because they're being asked to contribute to their pension and healthcare. Is the world out of balance, or what? Most third world Muslims don't even know the terms pension and healthcare. As a result, there's hatred and rebellion against Americans. I'm blaming the unions and, of course....George Bush. (I blame George for everything to remain politically correct.)

And can you believe we've attacked yet another Islamic country? Our president says

there will be no American boots on the ground in Libya.... which means we will have boots on the ground in Libya. Obama is now tied with Bush for invading countries that didn't attack us.

Since a small percentage of the world holds most of the wealth and the rest of us are eating cake, maybe we should send ole Barack over there to work his reapportionment magic on them. There are a skillion Republicans, millions of independent Tea Party members and a rapidly growing number of Democrats who would like to send him anywhere but where he is.

I'm also thinkin' God must be looking down on this mess and saying, "What have I done? I should start over with a new Adam and Eve only this time without the forbidden tree."

OK, OK, I just read everything I wrote and I'm willing to admit I might have sipped a teeny tiny drop from that forbidden well....maybe. I say this because, out of desperation, I've been doing a couple of nutsy things myself lately, like gulping down a shot glass of apple cider vinegar twice a day to control my cholesterol. That stuff is gross.

Wait, there's more. I'm also trying to become a better bridge player. It's hard because I have the attention span of a five-year-old. The li'l missus, who has the patience of a stalking lion, uses flash cards, like in the second grade. She flips them up and I give her the answer....or not. The real test will come this summer when I face the best of the best. No more thinking about candy just a feet away or the joke I'm dying to tell. Nope, just focus, focus, focus on the flash cards....well, maybe a little candy.

PS - If you try the jigger of vinegar, be prepared to wheeze for 10 minutes.

• If you plan on reading Fred's new mystery/thriller titled *Deceived*, fasten your seatbelt.

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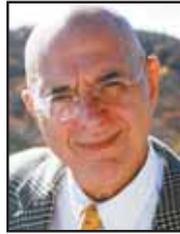


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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Hail custodial Dads!



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email: hsalzarulo@aol.com

Once wrote that single working Moms and immigrants were my heroes. After Saturday I have to add custodial Dads. Bull is in eighth grade at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. I didn't know the school occasionally holds special events on Saturday mornings during the school year until Lizzie told me. At the same time she told me that she was going to Atlanta for the day. I was to be custodial Dad for a day. I've always been a little bit afraid of Bull. I know Dads who've taken naturally to child rearing. Not me. When I fed him as a baby, I was afraid I'd choke him. If I bathed him, I feared he'd drown. When I changed his diaper, I experienced a vague dread of something far worse than catching a face-full of pee.

When Bull grew older I offered to take him to Fernbank Museum for a day with the dinosaurs. It was the longest day of my life. There have been times when I wanted to go to Banner Elk for a weekend of skiing. "You guys go without me. I've got stuff to do here," Lizzie has said. We've stayed home rather than risk ill described calamity.

Saturday shouldn't have been a big problem. Lizzie had laid out Bull's clothes; khaki pants, dress shirt, tie, and school blazer. She'd left detailed instructions on the refrigerator. The main hurdle seemed to be getting Bull out of bed, a difficult task on a week day, a monumental one on Sat-

... ELECTRONIC GAMING from page 3

the policy isn't reflected in the current town ordinance it has to be amended.

By state statute, members of the Appearance Commission must live in the corporate limits of the municipality including jurisdictional areas in the county – Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). It also mandates there be seven members. Monday night the Planning Board suggested one of those members be from the Planning Board so subject matter can be shared – in previous years any number of Planning Board members could sit on the Appearance Commission but the Town Commissioners wants to get away from too many people

urday. Alternating pleas and threats proved ineffective. It was until I threatened him with a dousing that Bull reluctantly surrendered his bed. He showered, dressed, and combed his hair without further prodding, all in accordance with Lizzie's directive. I offered to cook a cheese quesadilla for breakfast and Bull took a bottle of V8 strawberry banana fusion from the refrigerator. Things were going well, and if I'd thought about it, I would have thought my fears had been unfounded. The truth is I didn't give it a thought. I was mentally calculating the transit time from home to school.

That's about the time Bull said, "Oh! Crap on a stick," which is as vulgar as he gets in front of us. I don't know what he says when he is with his friends, but I'd guess it is considerably more colorful. I knew "Crap on a stick" meant trouble. Bull's dress shirt, his only dress shirt, was spotted with strawberry banana fusion. He explained that it tastes better if shaken, that he had shaken the bottle, and that the lid had been loose. We had only a few minutes before our departure, no time to launder the shirt, and if even there had been time, ironing it would have been beyond either of us. I spot washed the shirt, changing the discreet spots to pale blobs of color. All I could do was advise him to keep his jacket buttoned.

serving on two boards.

Electronic Gaming

Since the gaming industry found a way around the state's December 2010 law banning electronic gaming by redesigning and re-naming the machines, municipalities must now decide how to deal with the businesses which are popping up as free-standing operations and as "additional" businesses in gas stations – as is the case in Highlands.

Subsequently, the Town Board asked the Planning Board to come up with an ordinance regulating those businesses.

• See ELECTRONIC GAMING page 9

I picked him up at 1:00 and asked if he wanted lunch at Chick-fil-A. Our troubles and anxiety were behind us. We met a Mom and her son, a Rabun Gap student, at the cash register. The boy had stripped off his tie and jacket. Bull, according to instructions, was still buttoned tight. The Mom seemed annoyed and in

search of validation. Why, she wondered aloud, would the school require Saturday attendance, and in dress uniform. I wanted to say, "You have no idea what a hardship it is," but answered instead, "I think it's good for them to dress up once in a while, especially on Saturday. Waffle fries, Bull? And unbutton your jacket."



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

What was I thinking?

The strangest thing happened on my way to writing this column. With Japan dealing with continuous disasters, North Africa exploding on numerous fronts and Charlie Sheen insisting on being himself, I had the strangest urge to write on

NATO. Usually when I write with educational motives, it's usually me who needs to be educated. I'm not even sure that NATO is involved in the Libyan arms

embargo (is there one?) and/or the fly-over thing (probably too little, too late) so I don't know where this urge came from.

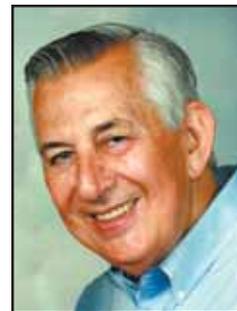
All I know is, NATO has been around nearly as long as I have, and since the demise of the Cold War, I have no idea what they've been up to. Brainpicking Wikipedia, I learned that, even though the US contributes far more than anyone else in the support of NATO, no American has ever

served as Secretary General, (the current SG is Anders Fogh Rasmussen, from that great military power, Denmark), and to add insult to injury, no American has ever served as Deputy SG. Curiously, since 1971, only Italians (eight of them) have served as DSG. What's up with that?

In searching for knowledge re: NATO, (incidentally, if you are already bored senseless on the subject, bear with me, I'm going to exit it in a minute) I came across an item from Forbes.com from November 2000 titled "Why NATO Should Disband." After hashing through NATO's aimless history, the article concludes, "Institutions have a way of trying to perpetuate themselves by finding new reasons to exist. Maybe, rather than pine to preserve the outdated alliance that serves no clear purpose, the U. S. should take the lead in weaning Europe off American military might and help smooth the transition to a new Eurocentric military organization that frees up American forces and American money." It seems no one was listening.

This would have been a perfect opportunity to go on to something more interesting; however, as I'm watching Fox News over dinner last night, the anchor, Jim Angle, announced at the opening of the 6 p.m. show that at 6:15 p.m., the show will pick up Hillary Clinton's announcement that a deal has been struck with NATO over the Libyan situation. Six-fifteen comes and the screen shows a podium devoid of an occupant. Angle, moderately flustered, says that there must have been a delay but he assures us that they will go back to the announcement venue when madam Sec. of State appears to speak.

The camera pans back to the podium several times during the remainder of the hour, only to find nobody home. Angle continues to assure us that when she is there, they'll be there. Actually, I was interested in what she had to say. Unfortunately, by the end of the hour, still no Hillary, and ostensibly, no agreement. Priorities being what priorities are, I had to leave the "waiting



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

game" to watch the first of four of the March Madness entries for the evening.

So today, still interested in what transpired last night, I brought up the "Drudge Report" to get updated. I looked and I looked. In addition to coverage on Japan's dilemma, "Einstein, the Worlds Smallest Horse" was front and center, and all sorts of miscellany. Way down below "CHICAGO-LAND: Rahm Suggests Cutting City Council In Half (sounds painful)," aha, "Lib-

ya mission 'clouded by confusion.'" No kidding. Unfortunately, the item was posted before the "deal" so still no light on the Clinton announcement (?).

Searching elsewhere, I found the following entry. According to ABCNews: "Earlier this evening, NATO Secretary-General Anders Pogh Rasmussen said that the alliance is still considering the broader mission, namely the civilian protection element, and made it sound like that was not a done deal yet. However, a senior administration official, who spoke to reporters only with the condition of anonymity, insisted tonight that NATO had made a 'political agreement' to take over all elements of implementing the UN resolution passed last week.

According to Clinton, "All 28 allies have also now authorized military authorities to develop an operations plan for NATO to take on the broader civilian protection mission under Resolution 1973." I can see why Clinton delayed her announcement. While Gaddafi slaughters hundreds of his own people, "Clinton announced that she will travel to London next week to attend a conference that aims to coordinate the international efforts to enforce the UN resolution."

So NATO now takes its marching orders from the UN? I vaguely recall such a run-up to the Bosnia debacle. It is clear this administration doesn't have a clear policy, and the alphabet soup group even less.

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Final Four thoughts and gulp....predictions

Sadly enough for most North Carolinians, neither Duke nor UNC will be represented in this year's Final Four (for the first time in 3 years and only the 3rd time in the last decade). However, there are plenty of reasons to tune in to the Final Four this weekend, if for no other reason than that the two most famous Coach Smart's in America (VCU's Shaka and our very own Butch Smart) will be in the same building. On one side of the semi-final bracket you have a battle between two powerhouse programs of college basketball in UConn and Kentucky. On the other side, you have a Cinderella dream matchup between Butler and VCU. Today, I am here to offer you a humble preview of each matchup, but I wouldn't put much stock in it because this is the worst bracket year I have had since I was 8.

In the UConn vs. Kentucky matchup you will see the youth of Kentucky facing Kemba Walker and company for UConn. Much of the focus of this matchup will be on Walker and Kentucky's Brandon Knight, and rightfully so. Walker is arguably the best player in the nation, and he will face up against Knight, who was terrific in games against Ohio State and North Carolina. However, I think that the real focus should be on how UConn's thin, young

frontline handles the combination of Terrence Jones and Josh Harrelson from Kentucky. Jones was all-world coming out of high school, but Harrelson has come on from obscurity to be one of the better players in the tournament. I think Jim Calhoun is a better coach than John Calipari, but I think that Kentucky's frontcourt is going to get the job done and UK wins 70-64.

The VCU-Butler matchup is a little tougher for me to predict, mainly because VCU has been as hot as a firecracker lately. The Rams didn't just beat Kansas on Sunday, they dominated the matchup, which has to be a scary prospect for Butler. VCU has gotten tremendous PG play from Joey Rodriguez and has an NBA prospect in Jamie Skeen. Butler counters with their own NBA prospect in Shelvin Mack, who has hit some huge shots in this tournament and will be the best player on the floor Saturday night. Last year, I wrote of Butler that they were like "a basketball zombie, they just keep advancing," and even then I admired their toughness and how they simply cannot be blown out. I think that VCU



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

will throw one hell of a punch Saturday night, but that Butler will do what they have done all tournament, they will take that shot, play tremendous defense, and advance.

The final will be a very interesting contest between the experience and savvy of Butler and the youthful athleticism of Kentucky. Butler's frontcourt is going to get the job done and UK wins 70-64. The issue for Butler will be how they try and defend Terrence Jones, who at 6'9 is going to pose a major matchup problem for any of the Butler frontcourt. Ultimately, if Jones can impose his will upon the game then the Wildcats are going to come out victorious. While my coach's brain warns me to take Kentucky for this very reason, there is something about Butler that is simply undeniable. Here is a team that lost an NBA lottery player from last year's team, struggled in the regular season, and yet has found their way back to the final four through amazing toughness and defensive play. If I learned anything from last year's NCAA title game, it is that it is really hard to pick against Butler.

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS • with Ryan Potts

Lady Highlanders take care of Tallulah Falls

The Lady Highlander soccer team traveled to Tallulah Falls, GA on Friday to face the Lady Indians in a rematch of a Highlands 7-1 victory a few weeks ago. In what was a beautiful, sunny day, the Highlanders again came out strong against the Lady Indians when forward Hayden Bates found the back of the net just 7 minutes in to give Highlands a 1-0 lead. Highlands continued to dominate possession of the ball, but could not capitalize until another goal from Bates gave the Lady Highlanders a 2-0 lead that they would take into the half.

Despite a 2-0 lead, the Lady Highlanders came out in the second half with a much greater intensity than in the first

and were able to put four goals in the back of the net in the first 15 minutes of the second half. Rebekah Parks and Jenny Coram both scored off of corner kicks, Coram added another goal and Kalyn Billingsley scored her first varsity goal for the Lady Highlanders in what was a 6-0 final.

The Lady Highlanders were scheduled to face Rabun Gap on Saturday but that game was cancelled due to weather and has yet to be rescheduled. The Lady Highlanders will host Brevard on Friday at 5pm.

Lady Highlander softball falls to Cherokee

The Lady Highlander softball team

hosted the Cherokee Lady Braves on Tuesday at the Highlands School softball field. While the game finished in a 12-0 Cherokee victory, there were several positive signs for the Lady Highlanders. Junior Emily Murphy pitched all seven innings for the Lady Highlanders, and this was the first game that Highlands has played all seven innings this season.

Murphy also got the job done at the plate for Highlands, going 2-3 and Senior Taylor Buras reached base in each of her at-bats for the Lady Highlanders. The Lady Highlanders will host the Robbinsville Lady Knights on Friday at the Highlands School softball field. Game time will be at 4 pm.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Seven sayings from the cross



Dr. Charles H. Harris
Interim Pastor
First Baptist Church,
Highlands

A dying person's last words are usually significant. I was with my father when he died in 1985 at the age of 74. A few hours before his death, he smiled at me while holding up two fingers. I moved over closer to his hospital bed. I leaned down close to his lips so I could hear what he was trying to say. He whispered "Victory" in my ear. I questioned him "Are you saying victory in Jesus?" He smiled and shook his head affirmatively. A few hours later, my dad died peacefully. At my family's request, I was honored to conduct my dad's funeral service. I shared his affirming testimony "Victory in Jesus" as his last words spoken on earth.

My father's "last words" have been a priceless memory for me for over 25 years. Yet, as priceless as these words are to me, the last words of Jesus on the cross are even more precious and comforting because they are eternally significant. As we approach the Easter Season, I invite you to reflect on the "Seven Sayings from the Cross."

Jesus' crucifixion, like all crucifixions, was a gut-wrenching and nightmarish ordeal. Roman crucifixions were a horrible way to die. Understandably, crucifixions were normally reserved for violent criminals. Those crucified often lived two-three days hanging helplessly exposed to the sun and weather. This public execution produced pain and agony in almost unimaginable and indescribable ways. The victims usually died from exhaustion and asphyxiation, not from hemorrhaging. Mercifully, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, stopped the Romans from using this method of execution.

The four gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) give us a composite picture of the details of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. None of the writers include all seven sayings of Jesus, nor do they share the full details of Jesus' crucifixion. Fortunately, each gospel writer makes unique contributions toward the composite picture.

Briefly, let me share all seven sayings that were ut-

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshipping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.
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: Childrens Program.
Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. High School
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.;
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Wed.: Mens 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. - Mens Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays - Choir - 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass - 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
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.
For more information call 526-3212.

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

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

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

... **READING** continued from page 1

possibility of a school partnership at the request of a group of teachers from East Franklin School," said Paula Ledford, exceptional children director. "Two teachers from East Franklin attended a regional training and came back excited about the possibilities this methodology could provide for struggling students. The teachers shared the information with other teachers and did some demonstration teaching. As a result they requested a LBLP school partnership be considered."

At Monday night's School Board meeting, members voted 4-1 to enter into a contract with LBLP which begins June 13 for teachers and June 20-July 20 for students. Using Exceptional Children Professional Development, Title 1, and At Risk funds, the system will pay \$50,500 to LBLP in three installments — which includes lodging costs for LBLP associates. The school system will pay for the instructional materials from text book funds and for testing materials from Exception Children funds.

The summer training/teaching program will take place at East Franklin School from where most of the 19 teachers and

50 students targeted for the program will come.

"East Franklin has a high percent of students who are economically disadvantaged and lots of transient students," said Director of Elementary Education Carol Waldrop. "The main reason East Franklin was selected is because the teachers approached us about learning this method and were willing to give up their summer to be trained. We added other teachers so each school would have someone on their staff trained in this method."

Nine teachers from East Franklin will participate this summer, two from Macon Middle School, as well as two who travel to different schools, and one each from Mountain View Intermediate, Iotla Valley, Highlands, Union, Nantahala, Car-toogechaye.

Ledford said the selection process for the students in underway and will involve test scores three months out from June 20. "We hope to have 10-12 from Mountain View Intermediate and Macon Middle School, 30 from East Franklin and the rest from other schools based on teacher rec-

ommendations and test data," she said.

Students are expected to demonstrate 1-3 years of reading growth as a result of 80 hours of instruction over the one-month period.

For the money, Macon County Schools is set to receive a comprehensive model of sustained professional development in research-based, instructional methodologies for language and literacy development; differential diagnosis and differentiated instruction to meet student needs in language and literacy processing; data management, analysis and reporting for accountability; and customized learning environments, including a professional learning community for leaders and teaching professionals and classroom and small group instruction opportunities for children, as well as a community outreach component.

Though teacher workshops are common in every school system in the nation and are oftentimes greeted with a yawn by teachers, Ledford said much is expected of the LBLP program and the teachers are excited.

"Most teacher trainings are one-time workshops with limited follow up. In many cases, teachers become frustrated with implementation and when they return to the classroom, abandon using the new information and processes," she said. "With this training, there is an on-site coach providing mentoring everyday both during instructional time and 1-2 hours each day after students leave. Each teacher will be considered an expert and have a demonstration classroom. Furthermore, Pre- and post-test data is collected on every student to demonstrate the improvements the children make."

Ledford said LBLP offers high-quality, staff development from leading experts in the field of education who have partnered with school districts across the nation to establish professional learning communities using a model of high-quality instruction, rigorous professional development, comprehensive program monitoring and evaluation to ensure that students' academic performance is improved and sustained

• See **READING** page 16

... **ELECTRONIC GAMING** from page 5

"The board wants a way to minimize the impact," said Chairman Thomas Craig. "The town can't ban them, they will occur, but commissioners want them regulated."

Understanding that like any business, an electronic gaming or sweepstake business must abide by Highlands ordinances regulating signage, parking, food and beverage licenses, etc., the board used template ordinances from Southport and Kannapolis, NC, as a guide for issues specific to electronic gaming.

If the Town Board accepts the Planning Board's recommendations, the businesses will only be allowed in commercial zoning districts; they can be open 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week with a maximum of 10 machines per business; they must be a minimum of 200 feet from any residential zoning district, religious institution, daycare center, library, public park, recreation area or place where movies rated "G" or "PG" are shown on a regular basis with the measurement of separation being a straight line from the closest point of the buildings at which the business will be located.

The businesses already operating in Highlands are grandfathered and don't have to comply with the recommenda-

tions, but anyone setting up an electronic gaming businesses whether a free-standing business or inside an existing business must apply for all permits as if it is a new business.

The Town Board will rule on all the Planning Board's recommendations at the April 6 meeting and set a Public Hearing date for the gaming ordinance..

— **Kim Lewicki**

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PULL OUT

On going and Upcoming Events

Ongoing

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

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

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

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

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

Tues. & Thurs.

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Church.

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

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

Earth Stewardship Month: A celebration of acting locally!

In celebration of earth day 2011 several organizations have come together to highlight local volunteer opportunities. This April, during Earth Stewardship Month, get involved with these locals who are working hard every day to ensure that The Plateau remains the treasure that it is today. Simply choose the activities you would like to take part in and contact the host organizations. To learn more about this collaborative initiative email earthstewardship@hotmail.com or visit the group Facebook page, "Earth Stewardship Month: A Celebration of Acting Locally" where individuals and organizations are encouraged to network about what they are doing to act for local conservation. The month-long celebration will culminate with an evening celebration at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center on April 29th.

The Wilderness Society will lead an Overflow Wilderness Study Area Hike on April 5th. This is a voluntary educational opportunity to learn more about an important issue that effects our local environment and how volunteers can advocate for change that can protect the fragile Overflow ecosystem. Meet in front of Brysons at 10:00 a.m. For details email Jill Gottesman at jill_gottesman@tws.org.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, AmeriCorps Project Conserve and Friends of Panthertown will sponsor a Trail Clean-Up at Panthertown Valley on Friday, April 15, beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy a day on the trail led by local naturalists, and help keep this pristine valley in top shape. Call HCLT's stewardship coordinator, Kyle Pursel, at (828) 526-1111 or email stew.hitrust@earthlink.net for details.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have a work weekend on Saturday, April 16 to continue building the new section of trail that connects the Rec Park Loop Trail to the Highlands Historical Society. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool. If interested, email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com and they will get back in touch for further details.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will host a Highlands roadside clean-up on Saturday, April 16 from 10-noon. Meet at Peggy Crosby Center, bring gloves, volunteer cook-out following. Contact Debbie Lassiter at



Pictured are Jill Gottesman, Kyle Pursel, Debbie Lassiter, Julie Schott, Christy Kelly and Michell Price.

(828) 525-0890 x 320 or adminjmca@dnet.net.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance will host a Cashiers community spring clean-up on Saturday, April 16 from 10-noon. Meet at Cashiers Community Ctr/ Rec Park, bring gloves, volunteer cook-out following. Contact Michelle Price at (828) 525-0890 x 256 or mprice@j-mca.org.

The Highlands Biological Foundation will sponsor a Botanical Garden clean up day and spring wildflower walk on Friday April 22, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. with a lunch provided. Meet at the Highlands Nature Center. Celebrate nature by getting your fingers in the dirt, spreading mulch to conserve water and sharing fellowship and knowledge with your fellow Highlanders. For more information call (828) 526-2602.

On Friday, April 29, all participants in the Highlands/Cashiers Earth Stewardship Month initiative are invited to celebrate and share their stories at The Mountain. Enjoy on site hiking beginning at 3 p.m. followed by community social time at 6 p.m.. Dinner and a program will follow at 7 p.m., featuring a presentation by Jill Gottesman, Outreach Coordinator for The Wilderness Society. Weather permitting; the evening will end with a traditional Mountain campfire. Wrap-up Earth Stewardship Month and enjoy an evening at The Mountain for only \$15 per person. Call (828) 526-5838 ext 0 to reserve a spot!

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On going and Upcoming Events



Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

Thursdays, April 28-June 2

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

Fridays through May 27

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

Free. To register contact Highlands School, 828.526.2147.

Every Third Saturday

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

Last Sat. of the month through May 28

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

Thursday, March 31

• Bonsai workshop at the Highlands Biological

Station. 1-3 pm. A hands-on workshop for beginners, presented by Dr. Bob Gilbert. \$20 per person. Advanced registration is required due to limited space; please call horticulturalist Cyndi Banks at 828-526-018.

Through -April 2

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

Friday, April 1

• Calling all Independents and Democrats! April Fool's Political Vent at the Hudson Library Meeting Room from 6-9:30 p.m. Featuring the Wild Hog Band. Appetizers will be served. \$7.50 per person, \$20 per couple.

• Junaluske Lodge #145 Blood Drive Church Street, Franklin, 11:30 am to 4 pm. Please call 524-0145 for appointment. If no answer, leave message and your call will be returned. Walk-Ins Welcome, Appointments preferred!

Saturday, April 2

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-4 mile hike to the Wesser Fire Tower with beautiful views from the Tower. Meet at the Bi-Lo parking lot at 9 am. Drive 25 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Nancy Falkenstein, 369-9052, for reservations.

Sunday, April 3

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike to Lake Chatuge on the new bike trail at the Jack

Rabbit Recreation Center in North Georgia. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 2 pm. Drive 55 miles round trip. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Tuesday, April 5

• The Wilderness Society will lead an Overflow Wilderness Study Area Hike. Learn more about an important issue that effects our local environment so volunteers can advocate for change that can protect the fragile Overflow ecosystem. Meet in front of Bryson's at 10 a.m. For details email Jill Gottesman at jill_gottesman@tws.org.

• At The Highlands Dialogue's Tuesday discussion, Don McCormick: Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress by Michael Specter. Two specific chapters: "Organic Fetish" and "Era of Echinacea" although reading the entire book is recommended. Also "The Dubious Use of Vitamins and Supplements" by Don McCormick from the Journal of Nutrition. E-mail John Gaston johnngaston@aol.com.

• Macon County Cooperative Extension will hold a "Home Vegetable Gardening" class on Tuesday at 2 pm at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Cen-

• See **EVENTS** page 12

Macon County Special Olympics around the corner



A Macon County athlete is encouraged at last year's event by Special Olympics coach, Anne Wiggin. If interested in volunteering or participating in the April 8th local games, please contact Jennifer Garrett at 371-1404 or 349-2081.

It is Spring in Macon County and that means it is time for the Macon County Special Olympics Local Games! The games Friday, April 8 at the Macon Middle School track. Opening ceremonies will start at 10 am, with encouraging words from state and local dignitaries.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office, along with officers from Highlands Police Department, Franklin Police Department, and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, will carry the torch for the event in the Second Annual Torch Run. The rain date for this event will be the

following Monday, April 11.

For an athlete to be eligible to compete, they must be at least 8 years old and meet the intellectual disabilities requirements set by Special Olympics, North Carolina.

If you or someone you know is interested in competing and meets the qualifications or if you would like to volunteer with Special Olympics – Macon County, please call Jennifer Garrett at 371-1404 or 349-2081. Come on out and BE A FAN and support our athletes!


b

Spring 2011



Create Spring Memories!

<p>Hours: April 2-May 28 Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-5pm</p>	<p>Exhibits</p> <p><i>Regional Art Organizations, Selected Works</i></p> <p><i>The American Still Life: Yesterday and Today</i> Opens April 16</p> <p>and coming July 8th <i>Frank Stella: American Master</i></p>	<p>Ceramic Workshops</p> <p>"Beginning" Tuesdays, April 5-26, 5:30-7:30 pm Britt Ammann</p> <p>"Beginning and Beyond" Saturdays, April 9-30, 10 am-12 noon Frank Vickery</p>
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ter. This class is for individuals who would like to learn more about how to establish and maintain a vegetable garden. We will talk about garden sites, soil tests and fertilizer, spacing between plants and rows, varieties, disease and insects, weed control, and when to harvest. To register for this class or for more information contact Macon County Cooperative Extension at 349-2046.

- Macon County Public Library Blood Drive at 149 Sil-er Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 7 pm. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins Welcome, Appointments preferred!

Thursday, April 7

- Kindergarten Registration at Highlands School for both parents and students 10 a.m. in the school's media center.

- Main Street Program monthly meeting 6 p.m. at the Highlands Civic/Recreation Center.

- Rotary Bingo at the Community Building next to the ballfield on US 64 east from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Highlands Literacy Council.

- An American Red Cross **Adult CPR/AED and First Aid Basics** course will be conducted by the Macon County Public Health Center. The course will be held on Thursday, April 7 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm at the Macon County Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Drive. **Participants must preregister and prepay at the Macon County Public Health Center before**

Monday, April 4, 2011. For more information on class fees, please call Jennifer at 349-2439.

- As part of the Ninth Annual Spring Literary Festival, the Macon County Public Library will host Author Alan Weisman at Western Carolina University's Coulter recital hall on at 7:30 PM. For more information on the Festival, call (828) 227-7264 or visit www.litfestival.org.

Friday, April 8

- Macon County Special Olympics at the Macon Middle School track. Opening ceremonies will start at 10 am. The rain date for this event will be the following Monday, April 11. For an athlete to be eligible to compete, they must be at least 8 years old and meet the intellectual disabilities requirements set by Special Olympics, North Carolina. If you or someone you know is interested in competing and meets the qualifications or if you would like to volunteer with Special Olympics - Macon County, please call Jennifer Garrett at 371-1404 or 349-2081. Come on out and BE A FAN and support our athletes!

Saturday, April 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3.5 mile hike to Rahnsoodie and Aunt Sally Falls in northeast Panthertown. The hike has several creek crossings and rated easy, then strenuous in the last ¼ mile. Meet at the Cashiers Wachovia Bank at 10 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader, Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. The hike is limited to 12 people.

Monday, April 11

- The Macon County Childcare Committee presents a seminar for individuals and organizations who are thinking of becoming childcare providers. The seminar will be held at the Macon Bank Corporate Center from 7-8:30 pm. Information sharing and a question/answer session will be held with support agencies in the childcare field including Region A Partnership for Children, Southwestern Child Development Commission, NC Division of Child Development and Macon County Social

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 8

tered from the lips of Jesus over a six-hour period. After being nailed to the cross, Jesus shared his first saying in the form of a prayer "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Jesus was praying for God to postpone His judgment on those responsible for the crucifixion until they had ample opportunity to repent. I believe Jesus was even praying for us and our generation as well as any future generations that may come after us.

Jesus' second saying is a response to the repentant criminal who was being crucified beside him. He asked, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responded "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). "Today" meant following death, there is no "soul sleep" or "waiting period" to enter heaven for repentant believers. Remember, the other criminal had the same opportunity to be "saved," but did not repent so he was not converted.

Jesus makes provisions for his mother in the third saying. He requested that his beloved disciple, John, be responsible for his mother, Mary (John 19:26-27). Darkness settles around the cross before the fourth saying which reveals the awful moment when Jesus experiences what the "guilt from sin" feels like. Although innocent, the sins of the world are placed upon him and he feels separated from his Heavenly Father for the first time and he cries out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) God had not

forsaken him, but it felt like it. In the fifth saying, Jesus reveals his humanity. He is thirsty and he says simply, "I thirst!" (John 19:28). The sixth saying, "It is finished," is statement of victory over death (John 19:30) In the Greek language it is one word *Tetelestai* meaning, "It is finished, accomplished, or completed." The price for our sins had been "paid in full" by Jesus. Jesus was not a victim, but the victor! The seventh saying was, "Father into thy hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Jesus died anticipating his resurrection three days later. Without the resurrection, the crucifixion would have been for naught for Jesus and us. The apostle Paul states clearly that if the resurrection did not occur, "Our faith and our preaching would be useless. Even worse we would be false witnesses and still living with our sins" (I Corinthians 15:13-20).

Like all Christian churches in our area, First Baptist Church (FBC) is preparing for and anticipating the Easter season: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. *Sermon Series* on "The Seven Sayings from the Cross;" Wednesday night, April 20, at 7 p.m. FBC will have a *joint worship service* at Shortoff Baptist Church. On Easter Sunday, April 24, FBC will have a *Sunrise Service* at 7:30 a.m.; *Breakfast for attendees* at 8:30 a.m.; *Sunday School* at 9:45 a.m. and a *Resurrection Celebration Worship Service* at 10:45 a.m. If you do not attend church anywhere, come worship with us at First Baptist.

Macon county biddy league champs!



Highlands Terrapins sponsored by J&J Landscaping. From left: Destin Gearhart, Asst. Coach Ryan Bryson, Jordan Powell, Samuel Cole Schmitt, Jared Shearl, Zack De La Cruz, Colby Harris, Josh Kennedy, Head coach Ryan Gearhart, and Jonathan Miller. Congratulations on a great season and tournament championship!

...SUNSHINE continued from page 1

who's usually skeptical of making major leaps forward. In his years of arguing for more public access, he's witnessed a series of small gains and setbacks.

Things suddenly seem different now, Bussian suggests in his monthly column in the latest edition of the NCPA's monthly newsletter (PDF). The state "is poised to move itself into the vanguard of open government states," Bussian predicts. "I'm betting a new dawn is at hand."

Of course, it's too soon to know if new open-government initiatives in the N.C. General Assembly will succeed. But they're catching much buzz during Sunshine Week and sparking a new level of debate. Here's a roundup of some of the latest developments:

• **The governor's endorsement:** Gov. Bev Perdue declared last week the state's official Sunshine Week, asserting in her statement that North Carolina is committed "to safeguarding democracy through government transparency and accountability" and "ensuring citizens know and understand their right to access government documents, information and meetings."

• **New Sunshine laws:** The top objective in the openness agenda is a proposed "Sunshine Amendment" to the state constitution that would enshrine access to government information as a right for the state's citizens. The proposed legislation would put the matter to a state-wide referendum in 2012.

Another high priority for the sunshine set is a proposed Government Transparency Act. The legislation would expand access to some public personnel records. It would also mandate the recovery of attorney's fees for news outlets that successfully sue local governments to make them comply with state public meetings law.

• **Public opinion backs public access:** A new poll of North Carolina residents by Elon University suggests strong public support for greater openness. In the poll conducted late last month, 83 percent of respondents favored passing an open-government amendment to the state constitution. More than half said they'd attempted to obtain public records at some point, and 73 percent said they believe that citizen access to government documents and meetings has an impact on government operations.

• **Sunshine gaining steam:** If openness backers like Bussian are correct and the state really is on the verge of a new era

of sunshine, who can take the credit for this turn toward transparency? The North Carolina Press Association has been a tireless agitator for expanding the reach of openness laws for many years. More recently, the Elon University-based North Carolina Open Government Coalition, which was founded in 2004, has brought academics and citizen activists into the campaign.

The recent sea change in the General Assembly also appears to have breathed new life into the state's sunshine movement. The new Republican majority leaders, as noted in a recent Associated Press article, have committed to advancing legislation like the Sunshine Act.

"Is this the beginning of the golden age of government transparency in North Carolina?" Bussian asked in his recent column. His answer: "It is if the General Assembly understands the importance of restoring the public's confidence in state and local government."

... NC BUDGET continued from page 1

is going to be devastating for us," said Mike Edwards, chairman of the Graham County Board of Commissioners. "Our budget is down to the marrow already."

With the U.S. Forest Service owning 113,00 acres and the Tennessee Valley Authority controlling large swaths such as the Fontana Dam area, only 25% of county land generates tax revenue. It's that small amount that county leaders must now rely on to fund the new costs that Perdue's proposed budget asks localities to absorb.

Graham is just one of many counties in Western North Carolina fighting to keep existing jobs and hopefully attract more despite three bienniums in a row of significant budget cuts from the state.

The Governor's proposed budget, released in mid-February, is just the first stage of months-long debates between legislators about where budget cutbacks will fall for the next two fiscal years. The Republican leadership has said they hope to have the final budget settled by June 1.

Lines have already been drawn between cutting back tax incentives for businesses and cutting back the existing public-sector workforce. Public sector jobs stand to be cut at both the state level and county level, though how many won't be fully understood until that final budget is released. Incentive funds intending to attract private sector jobs were targeted early

• See NC BUDGET page 15

... on this day

March 31, 1996

European Union bans the importation of British beef due to Mad Cow Disease, spread by the practice of feeding meat products to cattle.

It seems that as of now there's no shipping of an angry cow, so you can't buy, beg, or purloin any of the British sirloin, and the EU will recoil from involvement in a London Embroid.

Yes, they will steer clear of any meat they ought to fear. It's not just a matter of apathy, they wish to avoid encephalopathy, cause no matter what temp you fry on, you can't cook away this prion.

So they have an illegitimate beef and the only way to seek relief is to ask the Brits to be more chivalrous and stop exporting cattle that is carnivorous.

Sports Page



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• JUST HERS •

Us and Them, Part V: Getting to the Big Apple

Our Parisian friends had mixed feelings about our move to New York.

"You'll hate it," claimed many. "You'll be mugged, raped, murdered or worse!" exclaimed others, whose vivid imaginations had been fueled by horror stories in the Press and popular American TV shows. Only one friend showed any enthusiasm regarding our departure for *La Grosse Pomme*, my buddy Solange. "Oh, toi qui adores le cheesecake, quel bonheur!" ("You who love cheesecake, what bliss!") As George Bernard Shaw said, "There is no more sincere love than the love of food."

Colin had landed a job in the English Translation Service of the United Nations in New York. Around 6,000 people world-wide had taken the entrance exam; 300 had passed it. Colin had come in second. Between the time he'd accepted the job offer, and the time we left for Manhattan, Colin had to have emergency hernia surgery. There had been complications. My days were spent at the hospital, running the kind of errands that need to be done for any hospitalized patient, and that overworked medical staff seldom have the time to do. When Colin needed a shave or a wash, I was the one who did it. If Colin needed more pain medication, I was the one who tracked down the duty nurse to beg for it. One day, when Colin's roommate broke a glass, I went to find someone to clean up the medicine and broken glass. "Oh, no, I don't do that!" ex-

claimed the duty nurse. "That's a housekeeping issue!" "So when does housekeeping come on duty?" I asked. "Oh, not until tomorrow morning." I put a towel on the floor, and kneeling, picked up the glass and sopped up the liquid medicine.

One day, when the pain was particularly intense, the nurse refused medication. It wasn't on her schedule until several hours away. Another staff member snuck into the room. "Do you know what the pill is?" she whispered. "Oui," I whispered back. "Go downstairs to the pharmacy across the street," she confided. "It's an over the counter pill, and you'll get it a heck of a lot cheaper." That's just what I did.

Colin was in a semi-private room, sharing his living space with Samir, a jovial Algerian whose good nature always lifted our spirits. His wife, a chubby lady who spoke neither French nor English, showed up every day with a small pressure cooker full of fragrant couscous. We washed it down with sweetened mint tea which she produced from an odd-looking tea pot pulled out of her Aladdin's cave carrier bag. Samir was an irrepressible spirit, talking constantly and always on



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

the move. One day he jumped out of bed so vigorously that his robe couldn't keep up with him, and before we knew it, I could see all the way to Algiers. When Colin's stay came to an end, Samir embraced us both warmly. "Your husband, nice man. Not racist," he stated, in a rare moment de-

void of mirth.

Instead of being in the hospital for a week, it had dragged on for two weeks. During that time, I shuttled between the hospital, and the apartment - where I packed, and answered ads we'd placed to sell our French appliances. It was exhausting. My only consolations were my lonely late night dinners of horse meat steaks and pistachio ice cream (both which Colin loathed). When we finally left for Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport by taxi, Colin was barely coping after his tentative release from the hospital. I'd ordered a wheelchair for both the Paris and New York airports. Colin in his wheelchair sailed through American customs, while I ran behind, weighed down by our carry-ons.

Our taxi driver was a pleasant surprise - a courteous Haitian who delighted us, providing a French speaker to welcome us to our new home.

I'd been away from the States for 19 years - and had never lived in New York City - so it wasn't really a homecoming. We'd had a hard time getting hotel reservations. It being June 2004, we'd had the bad luck to arrive amidst the FIFA World Cup and the Gay Games. The first four days we were very spoiled, since the only hotel we'd been able to find was a fairly upscale one. We'd taken the elevator to our room, opened the door, and our jaws had dropped. Our hotel room was the size of our Paris apartment. The next day, we went downstairs to the hotel lobby to pick up a city map. Waiting behind us was a vision in black leather hot pants, go-go

boots, and a black leather vest opened over a hairless expanse of chest. My British husband looked at me and quipped, "I don't think we're in Kansas anymore."

Our hopes and our spirits sank when four days later, we checked into the Pickwick Arms Hotel. Now the chic, trendy (and completely remodeled!) POD Hotel (www.podhotel.com) the Pickwick Arms was across the street from the Jewish Center for the United Nations and Greenacre Park, and on the same block as the Consulate of Great Britain. It had the look of a hotel that had seen better days, its lobby populated by a staff of eccentric characters, and bewildered guests. As the hotel was fully booked, we had been relegated to the wing of the hotel which had not been updated. Our sad, tiny room had a sagging bed and an air conditioner with a permanent post nasal drip. To say the room was small was an understatement. You had to go out into the hall to change your mind. The cockroaches were hunchbacks. Every flying insect had to file a flight plan. You get the idea.

Our one source of comfort was the hotel's coffee shop, manned by a charming gentleman named Ali. No matter how low our spirits, Ali managed to lift them. And we had reason to be depressed. Not only did our hotel room make the Black Hole of Calcutta look like Club Med, the per diem promised by the UN for our living expenses did not arrive. At the end of six weeks in the hotel, we were desperate. The only food we could afford was from the Chinese buffet next door. With no American credit score, we couldn't get credit cards, and we'd had to close our French account when we'd left Paris.

Apartment hunting wasn't much better. We saw nice apartments in crummy neighborhoods, and crummy apartments in nice neighborhoods. One particularly spectacular place had wonderful city views and a gym complete with swimming pool on the premises. It was only a few blocks from the nearest subway. We knew that because we'd taken the subway to our apartment viewing, inching nervously past the thugs cheerfully sitting on the stoops selling drugs.

• See JUST HERS page 16

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... NC BUDGET continued from page 13

for cuts by the Republican majority, but the governor vetoed the bill. It was her first veto of the current session and only her second of her administration.

For Edwards, creating and keeping jobs is essential to making Graham County a place where locals will want to stay and live. "I worked in the school system for years," he said. "I've seen that our kids have to leave to make a life for themselves."

To run government like a private business

Perdue, a Democrat, has said repeatedly that her highest priorities while formulating the proposed budget were to cultivate private-sector jobs and advance public education.

Her proposed budget aims to accomplish those goals by lowering the corporate tax rate, extending the temporary sales tax increase, saving all teacher and teacher assistant positions, suggesting reorganization of some state departments and requiring counties to share some costs previously funded by the state. It also calls for cutting 10,000 state jobs.

"The budget reinforces my administration's commitment to make state government operate more like a private business," Perdue said in a letter introducing her proposal.

This is the third budget in a row that has required steep cuts to balance.

"In a 24-month period, we have faced down a collective \$5.5 billion deficit in the state's budget," Perdue said during her State of the State address on Feb. 14. "And we have made tough decisions as we cut services, saving more than half-a-billion dollars, furloughed workers, cutting another \$60 million, and froze salaries and closed programs, saving a combined \$350 million."

State jobs at risk

But the governor's emphasis on the importance of job creation in North Carolina does not apply to state government.

With the exception of her commitment to preserve all teacher and teacher assistant positions, 10,000 state employees' positions are on the chopping block. Perdue recommended not filling 7,000 vacant state positions, reorganizing some departments and offering incentives to encourage as many as 1,000 eligible state employees to retire early.

Local school boards may still have to make cuts to non-educational personnel such as cafeteria workers and bus drivers. "I was cheered that she stopped the cuts at

the classroom door so that we can preserve teacher positions," Republican Rep. David Guice, of Transylvania County, said. "That is terribly critical."

Legislators all across Western North Carolina say it is too soon to know exactly how budget cuts will affect their district. And while teachers and parents who've been organizing rallies to preserve jobs in public schools were relieved by her proposal, some legislators questioned the governor's premise.

"We've heard and talked about the governor's restructuring plan," said Republican Sen. Tom Apodaca, from Henderson County. "We are not sure where she's getting her numbers from. We've been working on it every morning at 8:30. All of our subcommittees are working on it."

The governor's figure of 10,000 jobs reduced is striking at first glance. But the Office of State Budget and Management acknowledges that the number equals the usual rate of annual attrition for the state government's workforce. Employees retire, move out of state or move on to positions in the private sector.

Despite this argument, Cary Edgar, spokesperson with the State Employees Association of North Carolina, said the governor's proposal will have a huge impact.

"While some of those positions are vacant right now," Edgar said, "it's still a service that's not going to be provided to taxpayers when it's not filled. There will be fewer nurses aides working in the public health system and fewer people operating snowplows. If the Legislature goes through with some of these job cuts, they're going to face scorn from their constituents who need these services."

Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center and the Woodson Wilderness Camp, part of the state's juvenile justice system and located in Swannanoa, closed Feb. 28. Fifty-eight of the 103 employees were offered transfers to three other facilities in the system: Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center in Cabarrus County, Samarkand Youth Development Center in Moore County and Edgemcombe Youth Development Center in Edgemcombe County.

The closest of those locations is 170 miles from Swannanoa. Ten employees accepted the transfer.

"The reason those facilities were chosen, was that we needed to fully staff beds there," said William Lassiter, director of communications at the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-

tion.

Haywood County Community College's Regional High Technology Center in Waynesville is recommended for closure after 25 years of operation. Its mission, according to its website, is to give students "hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment and emerging technologies in many areas such as computer numerically controlled machining, 3D modeling for rapid prototyping, solar energy technologies and robotics."

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources faces a potential loss of 84 positions statewide and 10 percent of its operational budget. Among the cuts is an archivist position in the department's Asheville office.

Counties' costs going up, leaving jobs at risk, leaders frustrated

Under Perdue's proposal, counties' share of lottery proceeds would be reduced from 40 percent to 10 percent. There is also a proposed reduction in the set aside provided to counties by the state from the corporate income tax.

"If you take that set-aside and the reduction of lottery funds," said Randy Wiggins, Cherokee County Manager, "preliminary calculations look as though just those two items alone would equate to \$344,000 of lost revenue to Cherokee County."

"We're planning with departments at 5 percent cut below our current level," added Chuck Wooten, Jackson County Manag-

er. "That reduction has to impact your personnel somewhere."

Republican Sen. Jim Davis, of Transylvania County, said the cost Perdue is asking counties statewide to carry is \$250 million. "As a former county commissioner," Davis said, "one of the banes of my existence was all these unfunded mandates we would get from the state and federal government."

Perdue's office acknowledges the counties' frustration. "This is a tough year for everybody," spokesman Chris Mackey said. "There is something for everyone to dislike in this budget. She's sensitive to counties' concerns and she knows about it, but we face a \$2.4 billion shortfall."

"For those of us in Western North Carolina," Guice said, "we are always fighting to get our fair share to begin with. All they're doing is making a difficult task nearly impossible."

Jobs dependent on education, incentives and infrastructure: which will get cut?

Republicans welcomed Perdue's plan to cut the corporate tax rate to 4.9 percent. North Carolina's rate is now the highest in the Southeast, at 6.9 percent. "Our agenda has been to lower and phase out the corporate tax rate," said Republican Sen. Debbie Clary, from Cleveland County, "so I am glad to hear that she's on board."

•See NC BUDGET page 18

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... **READING** from page 9

on a large scale.

Board member Jim Breedlove voted against the program on the grounds that it is expensive and won't benefit the students in the system as a whole.

"This may be a wonderful program and an answer to some of our problems, but it's mostly benefiting East Franklin Elementary and it's a lot of money," he said.

Board member Tommy Baldwin said the cost associated with the program was a "small price to pay, if it means seeing just one child blossom."

After looking at the extensive contract, School Board Attorney John Henning offered a word of caution. "I'm not telling you not to do this, but I can't tell you this is a contract that is perfect for us."

Board member Stephanie McCall said it's a tried and true program that's been around for a long time and has proven itself to be successful.

"Wendy Dalton's compelling testimony about the program's success for her son coupled with her tremendous data showing improvement convinced me," she said. "My thought was 'What if it was my child who needed to learn a different way to read?'"

McCall also said the program will enhance teacher skills so they can better understand teaching children with learning disabilities while being coached by the program staff.

Ledford said based on the outcome, the district will give consideration to summer programs in the future.

"It is an awesome opportunity for both the teachers and students who choose to participate," said Waldroop.

— **Kim Lewicki**

... **JUST HERS** continued from page 14

We'd decided to pass on that place. Discouraged, we'd limped home to drown our sorrows Chez Ali, who offered to loan us money until the per diem came in.

Finally, we found the apartment of our dreams, due to an Apartment for Rent sign posted in the common room of the UN. Colins' per diem was finally paid. Our landlords, a Filipino couple named (wait for it) Hermie and Fairy, had decided to move to the suburbs when their two little girls were old enough to start school. It was a dream location, just blocks from the UN, and across the street from a fabulous supermarket. The neighborhood was teaming with restaurants of every ethnic group you could imagine, due to the proximity of the UN, whose staff swarmed the streets during the weekdays. Men in turbans and flowing robes, women in graceful saris – people of every color, from every country. It was easy to feel like we were in the center of the Universe. It was a good neighborhood for celebrity watching, too. We were on the same block as Kurt Vonnegut and Mark Mc Ewen, and a block away from Katherine Hepburn and Steven Sondheim. Walter Cronkite lived several streets away, as did Henry Kissinger and his wife, Nancy, Brian Dennehy and Fyvush Finkel. It was heady stuff.

Still, we were outsiders, part of the UN clan, not really New Yorkers. We hung around with UN people during the day; we socialized with UN people at night and over the weekends. We spoke UN-ese, a kind of English that often sounded more British than American. We talked about Security Councils and late night sessions, trade embargos and no fly zones, with colleagues and

friends about to go on mission to various far flung postings. It was all very exotic, and very unreal.

Colin had joined a choral group, the St. Cecilia Chorus. The evening of his first Carnegie Hall Concert, I was thrilled to be in the audience. A jeans and a t-shirt girl, I had made an effort to dress the part, in a long flowing dress, full make-up, heels and an exotic wrap. I sailed through the lobby of Turtle Bay House, our apartment building, ready to reap compliments from Charlie the Doorman, a tough but sweet guy from Brooklyn. Charlie looked me up and down, demanding that I do a twirl for better effect. The compliment was typical New York. "Geez, youse sure clean up good!" he whistled appreciatively.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor moved to Highlands several years ago to live with her late husband, John C. Armor, and two very spoiled cats. Michelle has lived in the Big Apple, and visited both the Big Peach and the Big Banana. She has yet to experience the joy of seeing the Big Pineapple or the Big Chicken.

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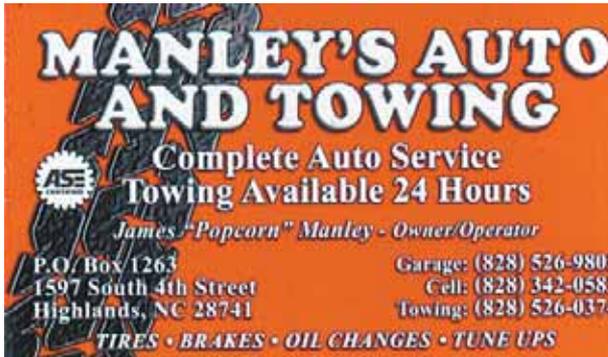
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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – Full-time position. The Bascom is seeking a highly organized self-starter to maintain membership program. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and able to use advanced Donor Perfect software applications, filters and protocol for multiple-step records management and report writing. Handles all in-coming and out-going membership mail. On a monthly basis processes membership renewals including solicitation/reminder mailings and records updates in data base. Prepares mailings to targeted membership, lapsed members and new member prospects. Generates monthly reports on membership growth and retention. Friendly personality essential for fielding membership calls. Requirements: Associates degree or high school diploma; BA and non-profit experience preferred. Reply by April 7. Send resume and cover letter to: Darlene Marett, dmarett@thebascom.org or PO Box 766, Highlands, NC 28741. (3/31)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR/ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Full-time position. The Bascom is seeking a friendly, organized and resourceful person to manage its volunteer program (60% of time) and assist the Executive Director (40% of time). Responsible for volunteer recruitment, placement, training, scheduling, evaluation, and on-going appreciation. Maintains

• CLASSIFIEDS • (Call 526-0782 about our 'highlighted' options!)

computer database of volunteers. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Assists the Executive Director by scheduling appointments and meetings, fielding phone calls, organizing Board meetings, maintaining and updating Board data base, providing administrative support to the Board as needed. Handles in-coming and out-going mail and orders office supplies. Requirements: BA degree; non-profit experience preferred. Reply by April 7. Send resume and cover letter to: Darlene Maret, dmaret@thebascom.org or PO Box 766, Highlands, NC 28741. (3/31)

SHOP AND INFORMATION DESK ASSOCIATE — Art center is seeking part-time experienced shop and information desk associate. Candidate must have customer service and retail marketing skills and be proficient in POS, MS Office and digital telephone systems. Must be able to solve problems, work independently and effectively communicate information. Knowledge of specialty art merchandise a plus. Submit cover letter and resume: Leila Griffith, Retail Operation Manager, The Bascom, lgriffith@thebascom.org or P.O. Box 766, Highlands, N.C. 28741. Please no phone calls. (3/31)

WELL ESTABLISHED REAL ESTATE COMPANY SEEKING QUALIFIED BROKERS. Call Gina McDonald at Mountain View Properties at 526-8128 or send resume to P.O. Box 2259, Highlands, NC 28741. (st. 1/27)

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

SKY VALLEY HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, fully furnished, deck, large lot, beautiful view, pets welcome. \$800 month. Call 706-746-5695 (4/7)

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

HIGHLANDS GARAGE APARTMENT- Within town limits. Quiet, cozy, wood panelled. Living room, bedroom, bath, kitchen, balcony, carpeted. One person. No pets. Six month minimum, partially furnished. \$425/mo, incl. utilities, except electric. Call 404-892-2090. (st. 3/31)

LOOKING FOR 3 MATURE INDIVIDUALS TO SHARE LARGE, NEW, IN TOWN HOME WITH 3 BEDROOM/BATH SUITES. Share common areas including home theater room, Living Room, kitchen, and office space. \$550/month per person. Call 828-200-0371 after 6 p.m. (St. 3/17)

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

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

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

CUTE HIGHLANDS COTTAGE. 2BR/1BA. Recently remodeled. Close to town, private, quiet. Deck, W/D, DW, wood stove. No smoking. \$795/month + utilities. 770-845-1577. (st. 11/4)

ARCHITECTS PRIVATE 3BED/3BATH HOME. Stunning open living area. Two stone fireplaces, den, two decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Non smokers only; deposit required. Call 770-639-2682. (3/31/11)

1 BEDROOM/1 BATH, in-town furnished apartment, totally renovated, 2 decks, hardwood floors, granite countertops, washer/dryer. Call: 526-9523 (st. 9/30)

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

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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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LEGALS

2011 Town of Highlands Boards and Committee Vacancies

The Town of Highlands has current and upcoming vacancies for the following Town Boards and Committees:

1. Zoning Board
2. Appearance Commission
3. ABC Board
4. Scholarship Committee
5. Cemetery Committee

Board and Committee applications can be accessed at www.highlandsn.org. Or, for more information, feel free to contact the Town of Highlands at 828.526.2118.

2011 Town of Highlands Scholarship Information

1. The Town of Highlands Scholarship Application Deadline is April 15th. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.
 2. Highlands First Annual Three River Fly Fishing Tournament May 11-14, 2011.
 3. Scholarship Fund Golf Classic Monday, June 20, 2011 at WildCat Cliffs Country Club.
- All funds raised benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. All applications can be accessed at www.highlandsn.org. For more information, feel free to contact the Town of Highlands at 828.526.2118.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

At its April 6, 2011 meeting, the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the Town of Highlands, North Carolina (the "Town"), will consider amending the zoning ordinance to regulate electronic gaming operations.

Notice is hereby given, that on April 6, 2011 at 7PM at the Highlands Community Building, a public hearing will be conducted by the Board concerning amending the zoning ordinance to regulate electronic gaming operations. All interested parties are invited to present comments at the public hearing.

Jim Fatland, Town Clerk

16527



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...NC BUDGET continued from page 15

But Hendersonville Sen. Tom Apodaca, said that, while he is thankful for the governor's proposed corporate tax cut, he's not sure it will have a major impact on attracting jobs to his district.

"When you are talking to major corporation coming into the area, they do look at the rate," Apodaca said. "But, here we need to incubate 10- to 100-employee companies."

The key to attracting companies and a workforce outside the public sector, said economic development staff all over Western North Carolina, is creating an environment that provides infrastructure, an educated workforce and business incentives.

At least some funding for all of three of the legs of that stool come from the state budget.

Inadequate infrastructure is and has always been a major barrier to entry for businesses to move into the more rural parts of Western North Carolina. Fulfilling a potential employer's need for adequate water, sewer, transportation and high-speed Internet comes at great cost in counties with very low tax bases from which to work.

Community colleges play an important role in creating and maintaining a workforce attractive to employers. Under the governor's proposal, public education high school students who maintain a B grade point average will receive funding for two years of career training or a two-year community college degree.

Community colleges' budgets would see strain under Perdue's proposal from a

\$5.50-per-credit-hour increase in tuition fees, elimination of the state's subsidy for workers' compensation for community college employees and a reduction in the system budget for office administration.

Incentive programs also came under fire early in the budget process, when N.C. Senate Bill 13 – eventually vetoed by the governor – proposed to cut funds from both the One North Carolina Fund and Golden LEAF grants for the remainder of the current fiscal year in a move to reduce the state budget by \$400 million.

These funds have funneled significant amounts of money into Western North Carolina, Guice said. "Just in the last two years," he said, "we had \$11.5 billion given to projects in Western North Carolina alone."

Finding – and making work – in Graham County

Stanley Furniture is the largest employer in Graham County, with over 450 jobs. Their Robbinsville plant is the last domestic facility for the company, which closed plants in Virginia and Kentucky over the past two years.

Last fall, the company received a \$1 million Golden LEAF grant to modernize its production line to be able to begin producing a line of youth furniture. The company will pay back the grant with 3 to 4 percent annual interest into a fund that will further economic development in Graham County.

"There's no way that the county could have mobilized that amount of money in the time that Golden LEAF did," Graham County Planner Josh Carpenter said.

But Republican Jim Davis sits on the N.C. Senate Commerce Committee and sees these grants as a very political process.

"The payroll for staff for these funds is \$1.6 million a year," he said. "I am not convinced that we wouldn't look at combining the overhead for some of these funds and make them less of a parking place for cronies to get a payoff. We have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that money is spent wisely."

Guice contends that if there are ethical issues with the way that Golden LEAF funds are distributed, then they should be dealt with directly rather than dissolving or raiding the fund. "Do we fix the problem by saying if we don't have the money there, then no one will do the wrong thing?" he said.

Graham County Board of Commissioners Chairman Mike Edwards is thankful that Graham County slipped in and received its Golden LEAF funds to support Stanley's modernization before the budget fights ensued.

He said that his county needs all the help it can get to retain jobs, much less recruit new ones.

• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from March 19. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 19

• At 10 a.m., a flat bottom boat was reported stolen from it's spot on Mirror Lake.

March 22

• At 11:38 a.m., a workman was issued a parking violation on Hicks Road.

• At 7:45 p.m., an open door at the Bookworm was secured.

• At 9:05 p.m., Amos Harvey Jones, 58, of Highlands was arrested for driving without a license, insurance and a fictitious registration on Laurel Street. He was issued a \$500 secured bond.

March 23

• At 6:40 p.m., officers responded to a call of a male and female entering Highlands School after school hours.

March 24

• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Happoldt Drive.

• At 6:40 p.m., a gas drive-off of \$42.83 was reported at the Farmers Market Exxon.

March 25

• At noon the theft of silk flowers from a grave at Highlands Memorial Park was reported.

• At 5:30 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at Dusty's on NC 106 but the person wasn't found.

• At 9:10 p.m., officers were asked to bring the K-9 unit to help locate a missing person on Hedden Lane. He had returned when officers arrived.

March 26

• At 2:18 a.m., Richard Lewis Guritz, 50, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on U.S. 64 and N. 4th St. where he was stopped for speeding and driving left of center. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond.

• At 2:20 a.m., officers involuntarily committed a man to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital when he threatened suicide.

March 28

• At 2:06 a.m., officers responded to a 911 hangup from a residence on the Cashiers Road.

• During the week, police officers responded to 7 alarms and issued 9 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from March 24.

March 24

• At 8:06 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by a closed damper on Galax Court.

March 25

• At 9:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a missing person call when a woman hadn't returned from walking the dog. She arrived home safely.

March 26

• At 11 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree falling on a home on Pine Lane. There were no injuries.

• At 11 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD for a structure fire. The call was cancelled en route.

• At 11:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over near Dry Falls on U.S. 64 west. There was no transport.

March 28

• At 9:46 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Hickory Hill Lane which was set off from cooking smoke.

March 29

• At 8:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a Life Line alarm at a residence at Chestnut Hill where a woman had fallen and couldn't get up.

• NOTE: Residents are reminded to trim foliage from fire hydrants and 911 addresses or fire department personnel will do it. The town as a three-foot right-of-way for emergency services trimming.

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On March 19, Senator Jim Davis spoke to the Mountain Patriots Tea Party regarding recently passed bills and pending legislation. The extended Question and Answer period was very informative and greatly appreciated by members and guests. President Gail Chapman presented Senator Davis with Tea Party Patriots Coloring Books for his granddaughters.

Senator Davis speaks at Tea Party meeting





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Mountain High Lodge

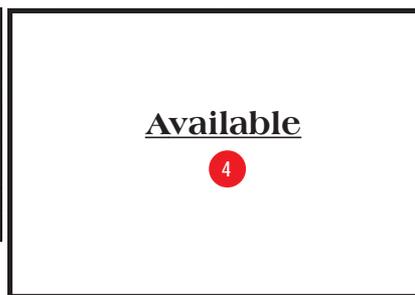
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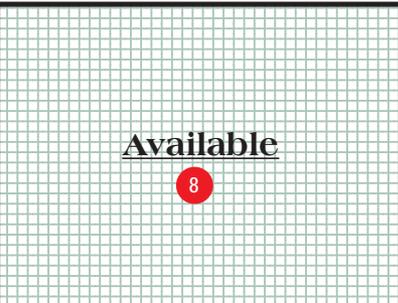
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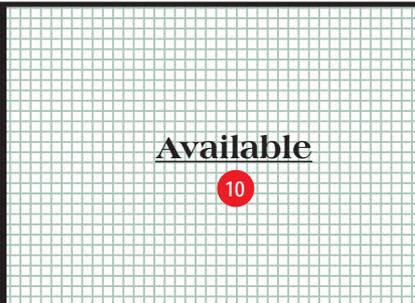


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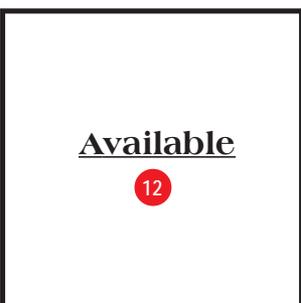


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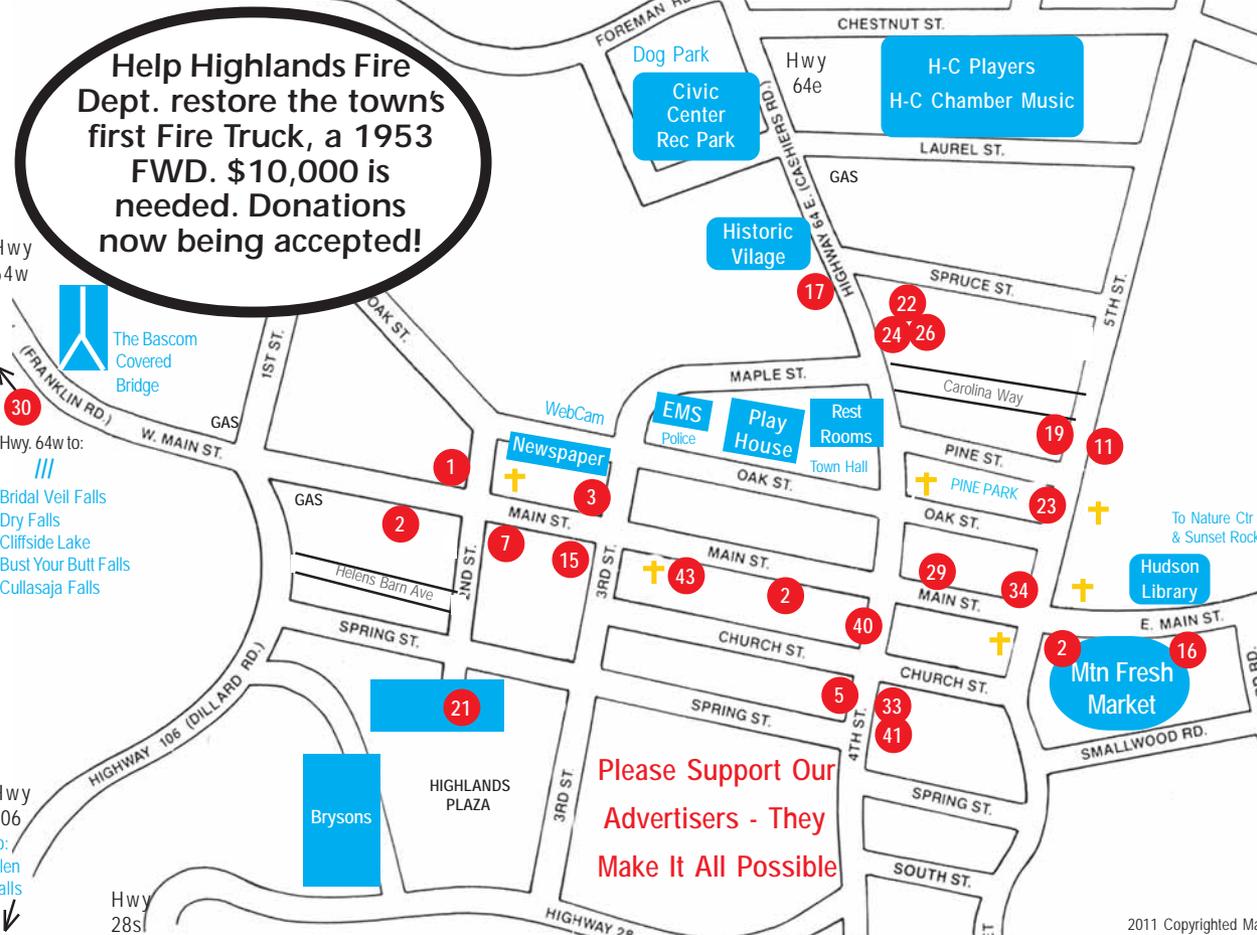


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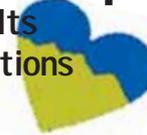
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