

Highlands' Newspaper

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Volume 9, Number 19

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Thursday, May 12, 2011

FRI	SAT	SUN
75 \ 53F	68 \ 51F	67 \ 49F

Thurs., May 12 – Sun., May 15
 • The Highlands-Cashiers Players present Ken Ludwig's comedy, "Leading Ladies," 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 for Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more. Call the box office at 526-8084.

Saturday, May 14
 • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate six-mile hike, from Yellow Patch to Bear Pen on the Appalachian Trail, eating lunch on Albert Mt., then dropping down to Betty Creek. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. Groups leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 7:30a, 8am and 8:30am. Shuttles to Whiteside Mountain to start the hike. The hike will take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Space is limited, and the choice of starting time will go to the first people to register. Visit the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com.

Sun., May 15
 • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike on the Wasilik Poplar Trail at Rock Gap. Though the famous old tree is dying, the trail is pretty with wildflowers along the way. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

OEI gets 'pre-blessing'; Taxi business OK'd

Old Edwards Hospitality Group got a "pre-blessing" from the Town Board at the May 4 meeting to proceed with its latest project whose plans are tied to OEI's valet parking arrangement with the town.

For years, OEI has had two valet parking spaces on Main Street and has set aside 40 parking spaces in its valet parking lot – the lower lot on the corner of Spring and S. 4th Street.

The idea behind the arrange-

ment is that by assigning OEI the two spots on Main Street its patrons' vehicles will be parked in its Spring Street lot, thereby freeing up spaces for patrons of other businesses in town.

• See REQUEST page 16

Main Street Program could be defunded

Town Square grant funding is safe

By Luke Osteen

Just as the Highlands Main Street Project is beginning to bear fruit – with funding for a dramatic renovation of Town Square and discussion of a comprehensive sign plan for the town – the program is threatened by budget cuts in Raleigh.

The House Proposed Budget for 2011-12 cuts funding for the Western North Carolina component of the Main Street Program. That means that three positions – the Main Street designer, the Small Town Main Street coordinator and designer (Sherry Adams and Lou Holloway – the Highlands "faces" of the program) would be excised.

The "defunding" refers to

• See MAIN STREET page 16

King & Queen for the night



Seniors Katie Nix and Spencer Houston were crowned at the Highlands School prom held at HCC's Hudson House, Saturday, May 7. See more photos on page 17. Katie was crowned by last year's queen, her sister, Beverly. Photo by Austin Vinson

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Q & A with Highlands Police Chief

Offers insight to 'staying off the radar'

Q: Given the uproar over the issuance of DWIs over the last few years, do you think your department will get flack for policing drivers this upcoming season?

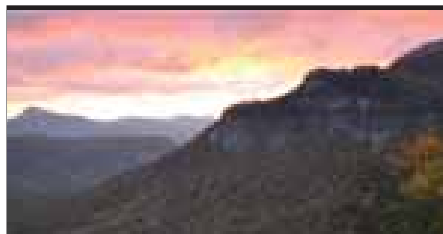
A: As the new season gets underway in Highlands, the issue of DWI enforcement will be a topic of discussion at many social and private gatherings. With the increased number of establishments serving alcohol, awareness and education concerning consumption and driving is an important issue.

Q: How has Highlands been affected by the ongoing Mothers Against Drunk Driving campaign and the awareness that traffic deaths often involve drinking?

A: Two national events occurred in the early 1980s that impacted the enforcement of drunk

• See Q&A page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Think About it!

Dear Editor,

For every gallon of gas Exxon makes 2 cents the State and Federal Governments make 44.8 cents. Oil company profits are around 8% lower compared to most industries.

Exxon profit per gallon is 2 cents per gallon! The federal gas tax is 18.4% and NC tax is 26.4% per gallon for a total 44.8%. The higher the price, the more taxes collected. Exxon also paid almost \$10 billion dollars in U.S. taxes last year alone, and just under \$59 billion in the past five years. General Electric paid no tax last year and also was bailed out with \$80 Billion Tarp funds in 2009.

Exxon then returns dividends to investors which is taxed as capital gains.

The real Increase in gas prices is due the devaluation of the US Dollar since oil is traded in dollars.

Allan Schultz
Highlands

• CORRECTION •

In the story in the May 5 edition entitled "Two new buildings to change the face of Highlands" we referred to Jeff Weller as the architect for the Affordable Green Builders project. He is the Project Manager. We regret our error and are happy to set the record straight.

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

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

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... Q&A continued from page 1

driving laws and enforcement as seen in Highlands and Macon County. Mother's Against Drunk Driving was founded in 1980 and quickly made the public aware of the national problem of drunk driving related to traffic deaths.

In 1982 statistics revealed that 60% of traffic deaths involved someone operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. This new awareness of drunk driving deaths prompted the U.S. Congress to pass laws in the 1980s that encouraged states to set a standard blood alcohol concentrations for prosecuting drunk drivers. Currently, 47 states have set .08 as the blood alcohol level for determining that a driver is impaired and can be charged with Driving While Impaired (DWI), also called in some states Driving Under The Influence (DUI).

Q: Has drunk driving awareness changed anything?

A: Thankfully, since the 1980s the percentage of automobile fatalities caused by drunk drivers has steadily declined to a current level of around 10%. Experts attribute this decline to public education about DWI and strict, consistent enforcement of DWI laws. Nevertheless, if someone in your family has been injured or killed by a drunk driver, these statistics offer little solace. DWI traffic accident is a car wreck that can be avoided by individuals taking responsibility for their personal behavior

Q: What is a safe level of alcohol consumption as it applies to driving?

A: How much can I drink and drive is a question asked by many. Some people worry that if they have one drink at a social event, they will be charged with DWI. Basic information is available that helps educate drivers on this issue. Most people are unaware of how the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is increased with the consumption of alcohol. A 5 oz glass of wine, a 12 oz can of beer, and a mixed drink containing a shot of liquor has roughly the same amount of alcohol and will raise the average person's BAC by about .015%. Normally, it takes one hour for the body to process or eliminate a BAC at .015.

There are other factors to be considered also, such as the body weight of the person, the amount of food that the person has consumed and the gender of the person. Females tend to process the alcohol at a slower rate than males. In very general terms, a person who has eaten food while consuming alcohol will slow the ingestion of alcohol into their body. If a person has had one glass of wine with food in a one hour period, their BAC would be some-



Police Chief Bill Harrell

where around .015 or less. On the other hand, if that same person had eaten very little food and consumed 5 or 6 glasses of wine in that same one hour or 2 hour period, their BAC could very well be at .08 or even higher. The problem is everyone's metabolism is different so exact predictions are hard to ascertain. Nevertheless, everyone has probably heard someone say, "I only had two glasses of wine, or two beers and was convicted for DWI." That statement is highly improbable. The reality was probably more than that.

For more information on BAC levels and alcoholic beverages go to the Drink Wheel Website. The site allows a person to enter their personal physiological data and the number and kinds of alcoholic beverages the person intends to, or has consumed over a given period of time. It will then provide an approximate BAC level that the person will have achieved. Drink Wheel and other similar sites can be accessed anywhere, including bars, with a smart phone, computer or other portable device.

Q: With the start of the Highlands "season" so starts the consumption of alcohol at events and public places. What are some ways to safeguard against getting caught driving under the influence?

A: When it comes to alcohol and social events some guidelines should be followed. The use of a designated driver for a group attending a social function is always advisable. Also, Highlands has a taxi and chauffeur service that is available for people who know they are over the limit. Furthermore, time limit for alcohol consumption is a very important factor. For example, if a party of four goes to a restaurant and has a full meal, consumes one or even two bottles of wine in a period of

• See Q&A page 19

• OBITUARIES •

Ellie Louise Wilson Nix



Ellie Louise Wilson Nix, age 85, passed away Thursday, May 5, 2011 at her residence. Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Mack and Lona Chastain Wilson. She was married to L.C. Nix for 65 years. She was a secretary and a member of Highlands United Methodist Church. She was a fabulous cook, a loving wife, sister, and aunt.

In addition to her husband she is survived by one sister, Dolly McCall and her husband, Frank of Highlands, NC and three brothers, Albert Wilson of Espanola, NM and Thomas and Walter Wilson and his wife, Lucille of Highlands, NC.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Joe Wilson, Curt Wilson, Eugene Wilson and Lyman Wilson and a sister, Velma Mason.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 8 at 2 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park. Boyd McCall, Morris Nix, Roger Wilson, Dennis Ivester, Craig McCall and Ralph Reed served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC or to Four Seasons Hospice Care, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, and NC 28731.

Bobbie 'Junie' McCall

Bobbie "Junie" McCall, age 74, of Cashiers, NC died Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at a Highland-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Jackson County, the daughter of the late Luther Ed Rice and Gracie Burrell Rice. She was married to Thomas Vane McCall who died November 8, 1997. She was a homemaker and a member of the Cashiers Baptist Church. She was a loving mother and grandmother and she loved flowers and gardening.

She is survived by her daughter, Vickie Waller and her husband, Ronnie of High-



lands, NC and her son, Charles Thomas McCall of Cashiers, NC; one sister, Betty Henson of Cashiers, NC; one brother, Lloyd Rice of Cashiers, NC; five grandchildren, Kenny Waller of Wilmington, NC, Allison Waller of Highlands, NC, Jenna McCall of Cashiers, NC, Ethan and Zoe McCall of Franklin, NC; one great-grandson, Jaden Bryant of Highlands, NC.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 7 at 1 PM at the Cashiers Baptist Church with Rev. Scotty Patrick and Rev. Johnny Norris officiating. Burial was held at the Lower Zachary Cemetery. Charlie Henson, Brandon Henson, Stuart Coggins, Shane Owen, Adam Bryant, Jeremy Stewart and Luke Underwood served as pallbearers.



Changes at Rec Park pool

Rumors around town and on Facebook claim the town is filling in the pool to make it four feet deep and that the kiddie pool will have a fountain.

Both claims are not true, said Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker.

Due to "over the top" insurance premiums, the Town's Rec Committee, comprised of Chalker, Commissioners Dennis DeWolf and Larry Rogers, and Town Manager Jim Fatland, decided to take out the diving board and replace it with a slide like the one pictured above.

"That's the only change," said Chalker. "Highlands was one of the few places in North Carolina that still had a diving board and our insurance costs were just too high."

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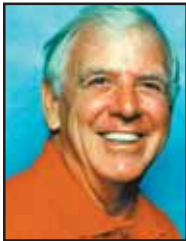
• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

‘DUH!’

Here's another of my famous children's stories you can read to your brats at bedtime. First, teach your child to say "DUH" with gusto because...well, you'll see. Is this fun, or what? Ready...here we go.

Once upon a time there was this seven-foot tall skinny Arab named Kaboom who had 80 million dollars burning a hole in his pocket, an inheritance he received from his Saudi Arabian daddy. The kid was so skinny and so tall, you could spot him from miles away. His formal name was Graabir Boubi Al Bama Kahlif Kaboom. That's a mouthful so I won't ask you to say it three times real fast. Oh, go ahead

if you want. Anyway, let's just call him Kaboom. Kaboom's daddy got filthy rich from selling oil to the United States but the kid wasn't impressed, mostly because he had eight siblings and never got close to his Pa. Yes, I said eight brothers and sisters and they weren't even Catholic. And since Kaboom and his daddy didn't see eye-to-eye on anything, Kaboom packed his millions and headed for Afghanistan to hang out with his best friend, Isheet



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
email:
askfredanything@aol.com

M'drawerz. Afghanistan is a wonderful country since most of the world's heroin is grown there. Because of Afghanistan, your uncle Harry gets to shoot up every night. Can you say "Hurray for Afghanistan?" One day Kaboom, Isheet and other friends were sitting around smoking the Shisha when someone suggested they blow up America. Kaboom grinned and thought, *if I do this, my ole man will turn over in his grave because he loved American money.*

Soooo about 20 of Kaboom's Saudi Arabian buddies set out to blow up large chunks of America. Not being stupid, Kaboom sent Isheet to head up the operation but didn't participate himself. America's president retaliated by blowing up whatever he could. He picked on Afghanistan and Iraq first 'cause he thought they were easy targets....ha! Since Kaboom's daddy didn't raise any fools, Kaboom took off for Pakistan where he had lots of buddies and would be safe. (Are you keeping up?) Since America's intelligence was operating at a third-grade level, Kaboom

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 15

• Highlands Fine Dining •


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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

It's not about obesity being a stigma ... it's life threatening



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

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hsalzarulo@aol.com

who are more concerned with a child's bruised feelings than with a life-time of obesity related illnesses object to the use of BMI. It is, they claim a stigmatizing tool.

I don't need to know your BMI to know you're fat. I only have to look at you. The BMI is actually quite useful as a measure of success in a weight-loss program. "Timmy," the school nurse might say, "Your BMI

has gone from 35 to 30. Congratulations. Keep up the good work." What's the difference between that and Weight Watchers, a highly successful program, asking participants to weigh themselves regularly? Many recovering alcoholics would still be drinking if they had not joined alcoholics Anonymous and said, "I'm Joe, and I'm an alcoholic."

No problem can be solved by pretending it is not a problem. Claims that it is possible to be fat, and healthy, miss the point. I guess it's possible for a massively obese person to live to a ripe old age, and be free from obesity related health conditions, but it's pretty unlikely. The link between heart disease, stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure, and premature death are well documented and conclusive.

There is a belief that ridicule, which I don't defend or condone, only exacerbates the condition. The unhappy fat kid is allegedly driven to the couch and the fast-food joint.

A patient once came to me begging for diet pills. In those days amphetamines were the only drug for diet control, and abuse was rampant. She had seen a therapist who told her it was unhealthy to focus on her physical appearance. She was instructed to desensitize herself, to eat whatever she wanted, break the hold that food had over her. When she came to me, she had gained 30 pounds and was more miserable than ever.

Need I say more?

I didn't know there was a National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance. It must be an offshoot of the National Association to Embrace Hypertension, Diabetes, Coronary artery Disease, Sleep Apnea, and Premature Death.

Obesity is a major health care problem in America. We are a country who spends more on health care than any other in the world, by a gaping margin. To object to efforts to reduce obesity is like discouraging the myopic from wearing glasses because someone might call him "four eyes."

It's not easy being fat. Kids make fun of fat kids. Employers are reluctant to hire fat workers. Airline seats are uncomfortable for the 300-pounder, but no more so than the normal sized person who must share a row of seats.

I didn't know there were fat activists, but I'm not surprised. They miss the point which is combating obesity. Instead they accept, in some cases celebrate it, and encourage the use of euphuisms such as large, chunky, and portly. It doesn't matter if a classmate taunts, "Fatty, fatty two-by-four, couldn't get through the bathroom door," or uses a more acceptable description, such as, "Portly, portly two-by-four; couldn't get through the bathroom door." The result is the same. The fat kid's feelings are hurt. Excuse me; the large kid's feelings are hurt.

I'm not ridiculing the obese. I was one of them for much of my life. I never feel more than five pounds or an extra thick chocolate shake removed from obesity. Fat activists fear stigmatizing obese children and adults by pointing out the problem and devising strategies to combat the growing epidemic. It's not attempts to help them that stigmatize them. It's their fat! Fat is a major health problem in America. Some believe it has, or will soon surpass tobacco use as the number one killer in the country.

BMI, or body mass index, is a commonly used indicator of obesity. Those

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Up, Up and Away - or Not?


This column was written by James F. Davis (affectionately known as Clay County Jim). Jim had a career in international banking, knows what he is talking about and writes quite well. I thought you deserved some good analysis.

Should the US Congress increase the Federal government's debt ceiling? Our media is not doing a very good job of explaining the probable options and results.

Some say our government will shut down and default on our national debt if we do not raise the debt ceiling. Others say refusing to increase the debt ceiling is the only way to stop the out of control government spending of money we do not have.

The situation can be best explained simply as follows: John Q. Public is making \$50,000 a year but is spending twice as much, \$100,000, because he wants things he cannot afford. He keeps borrowing the extra \$50,000 a year by increasing the mortgage on his house to maintain his life style.

He will soon lose his house because the interest on the debt will continue to take a bigger portion of his income until he cannot afford to pay the interest on his debt and still have enough left over for basic necessities.



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

That is the present situation of our Federal government. It is spending \$3.5 trillion a year and has about half the revenues (\$1.7 trillion). It is borrowing or printing the rest.

For the past six months our government has been mostly printing money (QE2) because our lenders are cashing in their dollars to invest in something else. They see the dollar's purchasing power decreasing.

Last year, the Federal government's debt as a percent of our Gross National Product (GNP) increased from less than 50% to over 62%, the highest it has been since World War II. It is now at 66%. That means we would have to give almost two thirds of everything produced in the USA this year just to pay off our Federal government's debt.

When state and local municipal debt is included, our national debt is over 100% of our nation's annual production. That means we are bankrupt!

If it were our home, it means that our mortgage is higher than the home's sale value. We have no equity to borrow against.

To compound this, only 51% of GNP (our nation's total income) comes from wage earners who actually produce something of value to others. The other 49% comes from government borrowed or printed money which is paid out largely to buy votes and keep people dependent on the government, principally through social services, which comprises more than 70% of Federal expenditures.

What does it all mean? If the Congress does not refuse to increase the debt limit, it will lose its ability to provide any social services in the near future as inflation will make such payments worth less and less. We will lose our national 'home' and safety net.

Our Federal government has billions of tax revenues coming in every day to fund critical national security and



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Grizzlies — Thunder proves the NBA isn't just big markets

I did something really dumb the other night. It was so dumb that my wife made fun of me the next morning, and my students looked at me like I was silly. What did I do, you might ask? Did I put my sweater on inside out? (No, but I have done that before.) Did I forget to eat dinner and have to eat cereal at midnight? (Sadly, this has happened before, as well.)



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

tions from OJ Mayo, Greivis Vasquez and their incredible crowd. After Vasquez tied the game with a long 3, the Thunder could not score and so a second OT began.

In the second OT it was Memphis who rushed out early, but the second five minute OT period settled into a back and forth

affair that saw Memphis with a couple of opportunities to capitalize but those opportunities were wasted without Conley and Mayo. (Both had fouled out.) Memphis was doing a terrific job of guarding Kevin Durant, but they had no answer for Westbrook, who continually found the lane off of the dribble and carried the Thunder with 40 points. After Memphis center Marc Gasol tied the game with a tip-in, OKC could not score in the final 9 seconds and we went to a third OT.

At this point, it was well after 1AM, but I couldn't bring myself to turn the game off until the bitter end. In the third OT period, Memphis was gassed, and their fatigue allowed Durant to finally shake loose. Gasol and Randolph, the power duo from Memphis, had no legs left and were unable to carry the load after 55 minutes of game time. Memphis finally succumbed, but it was an incredible display of passion from both the Grizzlies and their crowd. I came into the series a big fan of Kevin Durant and Oklahoma City, but I have shifted my loyalties to Memphis due to the incredible amount of heart that they have shown. After all, if Memphis can show this kind of grit night in and night out, I can show a little grit by working on four hours sleep, right?

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

with Ryan Potts

Girls soccer ends strong

The Lady Highlander soccer team finished up the regular season on a strong note, defeating Swain County 10-1 last Tuesday and then tying archrival Frank-

lin 2-2 on a night where the seniors were honored.

Tuesday, Highlands defeated the Swain County Lady Maroon Devils in a game that



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Your favorite lunch place also has homemade dinner to go. All served hot and ready to take home. Mon - Sat pick up from 4:30 pm until 7 pm.

serves two

Mon & Wed	James Beard award-winning chef, Louis Osteen's low country lobster/shrimp boil - lobster tails, wild caught large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer corn, house made sausage, all steeped in Louis's Proprietary Seasoning. Served with drawn butter and cocktail sauce.	29.95
Tue	Oven off Night - 2 fresh chicken breasts, grilled with rosemary infused olive oil, served on a bed of mixed greens with spicy-sweet pecans, Ariston Balsamic Oil and Vinegar on the side, and two cups of house made gazpacho, stuffed brie and a french baguette.	20.95
Thu	Baby Back Ribs - cooked fall-off-the-bone-tender. Served with house made bacon/apple baked beans, and potato salad.	22.95
Fri	Properly Fried Shrimp - Wild caught large shrimp, lightly breaded in our seasoned corn flour mixture, and then properly fried in peanut oil. Served with hush puppies, cole slaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red potatoes, tarter and cocktail sauce.	24.95
Sat	In-house smoked BBQ , served with coleslaw, bacon/apple baked beans and yeast rolls.	19.95

Mon - Sat open at 7 am and Sundays at 8 am.
Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 828-526-2400



was much different than their 2-0 contest from early in the season.

Highlands came out strong early, getting an early goal from Kalyn Billingsley and then followed with another goal from Jenny Coram to push the lead out to 2-0 just 10 minutes into the contest. Swain was able to cut the lead in half, but then sophomore striker Hayden Bates ensured that the game would get no closer. Bates scored three goals in the last 20 minutes of the first half to give Highlands a comfortable 5-1 lead. In the second half, senior defend-

er Amy Fogle was able to score her first career goal, and Billingsley, Ana Martinez, Karaline Shomaker and Taylor Hunter all added goals to set the final margin of 10-1.

On Friday, the Lady Highlanders honored seniors Amy Fogle and Ana Damien in what would be a heated contest against the Franklin Lady Panthers. The Lady Highlanders had been defeated 7-0 at Franklin in the first match of the season, but the improvement from that point to

... SPORTS from page 7

the present was obvious almost immediately as Hayden Bates put Highlands up 1-0.

After the Lady Panthers equalized, Bates struck again off of a free kick to again electrify the home crowd. Immediately after putting Franklin on the defensive, Highlands missed two chances to put the visitors away as Bates barely pushed high another scoring opportunity and Kalyn Billingsley followed with a breakaway in which she was taken down from behind for no penalty. Unfortunately for Highlands, their dominance of the first half was not rewarded, as Franklin managed to equalize with a mere 38 seconds left in the first half to go into halftime with a 2-2 tie.

Early in the second half, Franklin came out with a vengeance, dominating the possession for the first 30 minutes and send numerous scoring chances into the Highlands area. However, freshman keeper Ann-Marie Os-teen was equal to the task, making a couple of spectacular plays to preserve the Highlands tie. The final ten minutes saw the Lady Highlanders counterattack and put immense pressure on the Franklin defense. While the game ended in a 2-2 tie, it was certainly a victory for Highlands in what was a public display of the improvement from March to May.

The Lady Highlanders hosted Thomas Jefferson in the first round of the NCHSAA playoffs on Wednesday, results from the match will be available in next week's Highlands Newspaper

... on this day

May 12, 2010

The global economic recession pushes down purchases of weapons last year to the lowest level since 2005. In a report to Congress, the value of worldwide arms deals in 2009 was \$57.5 billion, a drop of 8.5 percent from 2008.

One of the effects of the global recession is a drop in sales of tools of aggression. I guess when you have to choose between guns and butter, well, whatever you pick, you don't have the other. See, when your revenue is somewhat partial you need to skip on some things martial. Now a drop in purchases is not just trifles, a lot of folks work in assembling rifles, and if you want this inventory to go far, you may just have to lower the B.A.R. The market is tough, look hard and stalk, if you seek a well heeled hawk. It seems there just isn't the tax to buy the stuff you need for good attacks. With the problems of finance and banking, here's yet another market that is tanking. Yep, I'm afraid, at these prices, we have a new kind of missile crises.

... from the History Guy

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

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

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

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshipping at the facilities of
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45, Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Everett Brewer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Prayer – 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Childrens Program,. Worship Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. High School
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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

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

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

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – 11 a.m.: Sun., Thurs. & Fri
Saturday Mass – Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Clifford Willis
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

2011 Collective Spirits benefits The Bascom, a center for the visual arts

Springtime in Highlands with world class art, amazing chefs and distinguished winemakers can only mean one thing - Collective Spirits 2011!

Each spring, The Bascom presents Collective Spirits, a three-day celebration of wine, food and the arts marking the opening of the Summer Season on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau. From May 19-21, wine and dine throughout the weekend with some of the worlds most revered winemakers and the Southeast's most renowned chefs. All will converge on Highlands and Cashiers among art lovers, community leaders and special guests for Private Home Wine Dinners, the Grand Tasting 'Meet & Greet' Wine Market, benefit wine dinners at local restaurants, the 'Catch the Spirit' Village Sip & Stroll, an exclusive 'Reserve Wine' Tasting and the finale - the Grand Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction at The Bascom.

This year, Collective Spirits welcomes renowned Chef John Besh from Restaurant August in New Orleans, Chef John Fleer (formerly Chef at Blackberry Farm) now at Canyon Kitchen in Cashiers, Chef Carvel Gould from Canoe in Atlanta, Chef Frank Lee from S.N.O.B. (Slightly North of Broad) in Charleston and Chef Todd Ginsberg from Bocado in Atlanta. All will lend their prowess creating unforgettable menus for the Opening Night Private Home Wine Dinners. To pair with this extraordinary culinary creativity, wineries like Brochelle Vineyards, Tuck Beckstoffer Wines, DuMol, Paul Hobbs Wines, Reynolds Family, Silver Oak, Twomey, Schug Carneros Estate, Lambert Bridge Winery, Miner Family Wines and Ehlers Estate will have principals and winemakers in attendance to share their wines and speak about their craft.

On Friday, the Grand Tasting "Meet & Greet" Wine Market is a 'stock your cellar' celebration featuring an assortment of the finest wines from producers like Authentique Vin - Thomas Meunier Selections; B.R. Cohn, Brochelle Vineyards, David Arthur Vineyards, DuMol, Ehlers Estate, Fisher Vineyards, Lambert Bridge Winery, Miner Family, Paul Hobbs Wines, Nickel & Nickel, Reynolds Family Wines, Rubicon, Schug Carneros Estate, Silver Oak Cellars, Solena Estate, Twomey Cellars and Zacherle Wines. All wines will be available for purchase through Mountain Fresh Grocery in Highlands.

Following the Grand Tasting, local restaurants will offer intimate winemaker

dinners, Gamekeeper's Tavern will feature wines of Schug Carneros Estate and B.R. Cohn. Madison's Restaurant will feature wines of Brochelle Vineyards and Solena Estate. Ristorante Paoletti will feature Paul Hobbs Wines. Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro will feature Lambert Bridge Winery and Reynolds Family Wines. Reservations should be made directly with the restaurant.

New this year to Collective Spirits is the "Catch the Spirit" Village Sip & Stroll sponsored by Bryson's Food Store. Guests will spend Saturday afternoon meandering through Bryson's Food Store located at Highlands Plaza and the shops at Town Square located on Main Street tasting wine and learning more about what goes into each bottle.

The weekend culminates in a Grand Gala Benefit Wine Dinner and Auction Saturday evening at The Bascom. The auction includes some rare and collectible French wines, a generous donation of Bascom patron Ruthie Watts; a VIP weekend for two couples with tours, tastings and dinners at Reynolds Family Winery and Lambert Bridge Winery; an exclusive trip to Charleston during the Spoleto Festival and, a 15L bottle of Veuve Clicquot Champagne will be up for bid.

Raising critical operating funds for The Bascom, Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival is made possible in part by sponsors Wilmington Trust, BNY Mellon and Sysco and partners Atlanta Social Season Magazine, Franklin Ford, The Highlander Newspaper, the Highlands Newspaper, The Laurel Magazine, Moss Robertson Cadillac, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, WHLC FM 104.5, Wines Down South, and WNC Magazine.

The Bascom is open year-round. For additional information about Collective Spirits, please visit TheBascom.org, CollectiveSpirits.com or call 828.526.4949.

Saturday Live Auction Items:

- Six signed, boxed magnums of Ramsey Cellars Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon
- Six 750ml bottles of 1989 Chateau Pichon-Longueville, Comtesse de la Lande
- Art immersion trip for two to New

• See COLLECTIVE page 18



**Artistic
'Bear Proof'
Garbage Containers**
"Help protect our bears from becoming a nuisance!"
Call Neil Chastain at 828-342-2030 or 828-526-8883



Turn Key Gardening ... just add sunshine!



**Grow & enjoy lush, healthy organic veggies...
We supply and set up everything you need to
have the greenest thumb in the
neighborhood!**

- The 4x8' green house has poly covers that can be closed to keep out cold, heavy wind or rain. When rolled up the mesh netting layer keeps out bugs & critters.
- We supply the perfect growing medium of top soil, peat moss, rich compost & organic fertilizer, just right for happy, healthy organic herbs, veggies & flowers.
- We can supply and plant your choice of lettuce, tomatoes, spinach, arugula, basil, rosemary or flowers...Whatever.
- Other options include automatic drip irrigation, fertilizer injector, temperature monitoring and even house calls!

We make it easy....

**For a work and worry-free organic garden,
call Turn Key at 828-526-9622 for more information and prices**

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 \$40 a month

Mondays & Wednesdays

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

Mondays

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

• Monday Madness at Fressers Eatery in Historic Helen's Barn. \$5 burgers, \$1 beers all day. OPEN MIC 7:30 until. Prize for customers' favorite. Must sign up. Call 828-526-8847.

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

HCP'S 'Leading Ladies' opens Thursday, May 12

"For a good time, call 526-8084. 'Leading Ladies' will entertain you," says HCP director Tanji Armor. "It's nothing but pure, unadulterated fun, and I guarantee you'll find yourself laughing throughout."

The Highlands Cashiers Players' production of this wild and funny comedy by Ken Ludwig opens Thursday, May 12, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands to run through Sunday, May 22.

The plot concerns two down-at-the-heels British actors, touring the

States, performing scenes from Shakespeare in second-rate venues. When they learn that a dying elderly widow has been searching unsuccessfully for her sister's children, Max and Steve, to whom she intends to leave her fortune, the actors decide to pose as the missing nephews, but discover, to their dismay, that the heirs are females, not males, their full names being Maxine and Stephanie. Undaunted, the actors search their costume trunk, come up with female costumes, and pursue their plan to hoodwink the old lady.

The cast includes several excellent veteran HCP actors, including David Spiv-



Doctor Myers (Dean Zuch) checks Florence Snider's heart (Jody Read). Florence has a habit of appearing dead but bouncing back in the Highlands Cashiers Players production of Ken Ludwig's "Leading Ladies" opening Thursday, May 12 and continuing May 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22 at the Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, in Highlands. Call 828-526-8084 for tickets.

ey and Rick Siegel as the two British actors; Kathryn Cochran as Meg, the niece of the outspoken old widow, played by Jody Read; and Dean Zuch as the crusty old doctor family. Other characters in the cast include the minister engaged to Meg, played by Ken Knight, and a bright newcomer to the stage, Melissa Church, who not only has natural acting ability but is also a roller skater as called for in the script. "A lucky find," says director Tanji Armor.

The Players box office will be open at PAC, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, May

15 and 22, the box office opens at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 matinees. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Individual Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more, except on opening night.

Call 526-8084 for reservations or stop by the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street during box office hours. Messages may be left on the Players answering machine during off hours or if the line is busy.

The production of "Leading Ladies" is sponsored in part by Cashiers Printing and Brick Oven Pizza/Movie Stop.



Spring 2011



Create Spring Memories!

Hours:
April 2-May 28
Tuesday-Saturday
10 am-5pm

Workshops
Kathleen Corey
Plates and Press Techniques
Wednesday-Friday, May 25-27
10 am-4 pm
Medium: printmaking
Level: beginner to intermediate

Joan Payton and Jeannie Mahood
Drawing - Zentangle
Thursday -Friday, May 26-27
10 am-4 pm
Medium: pen and ink
Level: beginner to intermediate

Call us at: 828.526.4949
or visit us on the web:
www.TheBascom.org

On going and Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

Thursdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group is now meeting at 1 p.m. at the Library on Thursdays. At one o'clock they will have their free writing exercises. You may bring a seven minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

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.

May 11-14

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

Thurs., May 12 – Sun., May 15

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

Thursday, May 12

• Third Annual RED DAY Blood Drive at Keller Williams Realty, 33 Pine Lane, Franklin, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Please call 524-0100 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins welcome, appointments preferred! Through June 30, two donors will be selected at random to receive a pair of round-trip tickets.

• League of Women Voters present "Public Healthcare Issues in Macon County at 12:10 p.m. at Tartan Hall in the First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

Fri. & Sat., May 13-14

• The Highlands High School Boys Varsity basketball team will host a 3 on 3 tournament fundraiser on May 13 and 14th to raise money for their summer basketball activities. The basketball team will travel to Charleston, SC to play in the College of Charleston basketball team camp and will also participate at a team camp at the University of South Carolina as well. The cost of the tournament is \$30 per team ages 12 and under and \$60 per team ages 13 and up. There will be several divisions based on age and ability, and all teams are guaranteed at least 3 games. Trophies will be awarded to division winners high school and younger, while the adult division champion will win a cash prize. Concessions will be available on both Friday evening and Saturday. For more information or to register, please call Highlands School at 828-526-2147 or email Coach Potts at ryan.potts@macon.k12.nc.us

• Fun Factory Blood Drive, Franklin, 2 pm to 6:30 pm. Please call 342-3525 or 421-1730 for more information or to schedule an

appointment. *Help Franklin High School students qualify for a college scholarship!* Walk-Ins welcome, appointments preferred! Through June 30, two donors will be selected at random to receive a pair of round-trip tickets.

Saturday, May 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate six-mile hike, from Yellow Patch to Bear Pen on the Appalachian Trail, eating lunch on Albert Mt., then dropping down to Betty Creek. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin, opposite Burger King, at 9 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

• Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. Groups leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 7:30a, 8a and 8:30A M. You will be shuttled to Whiteside Mountain to start the hike. The hike will take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Space is limited, and the choice of starting time will go to the first people to register. Visit the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com or, send a check to Highlands Plateau Greenway, P. O. Box 2608, Highlands, NC 28741.

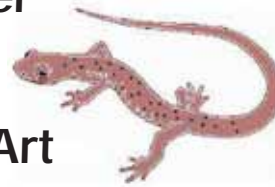
• Small Business seminar at the Whistle Stop Mall in Franklin from 11am to 4pm. Everything a new or existing small business owner could want to help with their business from advertising to accountants to real estate. This is a free event to the public. For more information please call Crystal at 828.369.8660.

• The North Georgia Children's Chorus Spring Concert "On Wind, On Wing" Featuring the Youth Choir and Children's Choir Director Ruth Purcell at the Highlands United Methodist Church Main Street, Highlands, N.C. 3:30 p.m. Concert is free and open to the public.

Sun., May 15

• See EVENTS page 12

Nature Center to feature children's 'Salamander Art Contest'



The southern Appalachian Mountains boast the greatest diversity of salamanders in the world. As part of this summer's kickoff celebration at the Highlands Nature Center, local children are encouraged to enter their drawings of these amazing creatures in a children's salamander art contest!

Winners will be selected from two age groups: 3 – 6 years old and 7 – 10 years old. Entries must be received no later than May 25. To submit your entry, please mail your drawing to Salamander Art Contest, Highlands Nature Center, 265 North Sixth Street, Highlands NC 28741.

On the back of each drawing, please include the child's name, age, address, and phone number. Winners will be notified May 31, and award certificates will be presented at the Nature Center's "Salamander Soiree" on the evening of June 2. Good luck!

Hike the Kelsey Trail for a new look at ancient mtns.



On Saturday, May 14, hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. Groups leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 7:30am, 8am and 8:30am for shuttle to Whiteside Mountain. The hike will take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Space is limited. Visit www.highlandsgreenway.com to register



Valentine's Photo Studio
211 South Fourth Street
@Greenleaf Gallery
828.342.1995-ValentinesPhotoStudio.com



On going and Upcoming Events

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike on the Wasilik Poplar Trail at Rock Gap. Though the famous old tree is dying, the trail is pretty with wildflowers along the way. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 2 pm; drive 28 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome but no pets please.

Tuesday, May 17
• Macon County Democratic Women will meet on at 1 PM at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin. Men are invited to attend.

Thursday, May 19
• Taize in Highlands at The Episcopal Church

of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.
Thurs.-Sat., May 19-21
• At the Bascom, Collective Spirits Food and Wine Festival. For ticket information call 526-4949 or go to www.CollectiveSpirits.com

Fri., May 20-Sun., May 22
• The Highlands-Cashiers Players present Ken Ludwig's comedy, "Leading Ladies," 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 for Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more. Call the box office at 526-8084.

Friday, May 20
• At Paoletti's, a 5-course wine dinner featuring Paul Hobbs Winery to benefit The Bascom, at 8 p.m. \$150 per person. Call 526-4906 for reservations.
Saturday, May 21
• At Dusty's on the Dillard Road, a free wine and food tasting from 1-3 p.m.

• The Macon County Public Health Center will hold Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the Franklin and Highlands on Saturday Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$5 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2081 for a recorded schedule of specific locations and times.

Sunday, May 22
• The internationally acclaimed Atlanta Boy Choir will give a concert at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. General seating for this program is free and open to the public. Preferred Patron seating can be reserved by calling the choir at 404.378.0064 or Email info@atlantaboychoir.org

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an 8-mile strenuous hike on the London Bald Trail, climbing thru burned out areas with great views, doing a little maintenance along the way. Meet at in Franklin at Westgate Plaza, outside First Citizens Bank, at 9 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, binoculars. Call leader, Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets.

Atlanta Boy Choir performing May 22



The internationally acclaimed Atlanta Boy Choir will give a concert at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock on May 22.

This choir composed of 45 alumni men and 35 boys, has sung in most of the world's most prestigious concert halls and cathedrals. They won a coveted Grammy award for their recording with The Atlanta Symphony in Benjamin Britten's War Requiem.

This will mark the choir's second performance in Highlands. The choir this year has asked Highlands soprano soloist, Mol-

ly McKim, to join them in performing several selections from Handel's Messiah.

The choir, now in its 53rd season was founded by Maestro Fletcher Wolfe and will be joined by several outstanding instrumentalists including harp, oboe, violin, cello, flute and also accompanying the choir will be award-winning pianist Robert Henry.

General seating is free and open to the public. Preferred Patron seating can be reserved by calling 404.378.0064 or Email info@atlantaboychoir.org

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Memorial Day Weekend Craft Show at Pine Street Park

Cathy Christie will return for the Memorial Weekend Village Square Art & Craft Show. Known for her creative, funky pottery, Cathy is also a painter, sculptor and seamstress. Check out her flower pots, as well as lots more regional crafts, furniture and art. The show is in downtown Highlands' Pine Street Park from 10 to 5 on May 28 & 29.



Upcoming Events

ANGELFOOD

The Memorial Day Grill Box (\$2) is featured in the May menu. This box includes eight 6 oz. Hamburger Patties and eight 6 oz. seasoned Chicken Breasts (4 honey mustard, 4 Italian) – for only \$25.

Also featured this month is the Premium Box (B9) which includes four 8 oz. Angus Sirloin Steaks, 1.5 lbs. of large breaded Butterfly Shrimp, 2 lbs. of Angus Steak Burgers, onion rings, sliced carrots, corn, steak fries, cauliflower florets, and green peas, all for a great price of \$55.

The NY Strip Steak Special (\$1) includes eight 10 oz. bone-in NY strip steaks for \$26.

The popular Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box (\$3) contains romaine lettuce, Vidalia onions, grape tomatoes, carrots, green onions, cucumbers, radishes, baking potatoes, green cabbage,

cantaloupe, golden ripe pineapple, lemons, red apples and oranges—for only \$24.

Regular monthly boxes are the Bit O' Blessing Box (\$22), Bread of Life Signature Box (\$35), Bountiful Blessing Box (\$46), "Just 4 Me" After School boxes (\$25 each), "Just for Me After School Fruit & Veggie box (\$17), Allergen Free Food box (\$25), and the 10 Convenience Meal box (\$29).

Copies of the May menu are available in the reception area of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Fifth & Main. This food program is open to everyone. There are no forms to fill out. EBT cards are accepted. For questions, call 526-2968 or 526-9191. Orders must be placed by 4 pm on Friday, May 13. Distribution Day is Saturday, May 21 from 7:30 until 8:45 a.m.

Online ordering for this month will be available until Sunday, May 15 at: www.angelfoodministries.com

'Collective Spirits 2011' Pre-Buy Order Form

Collective Spirits special retail pricing offers a unique buying/collecting opportunity for one weekend only! These wines are highly allocated, highly rated and not usually available in a retail environment. If you purchase six bottles of any wine (mixed/or same), you will receive a 10% discount.

Special thanks to JT Fields at Mountain Fresh for his assistance and gracious support of The Bascom and Collective Spirits. *All wine should be picked up at Mountain Fresh in Highlands, after Saturday, May 28. Please pick up your wine within one month of ordering.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Best Contact #: _____

Credit Card Type: VISA MC AMEX (circle one)

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp date: _____

Please return this form via fax to 678-666-1065 (no cover necessary).

Or, you can email it to Elizabeth@McDonald-Media.com.

For questions, or additional information, please call Elizabeth McDonald (404)822-3788.



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Friday, May 20

Grand Tasting Wine Market
5:30-7:30 pm - The Bascom

Restaurant Benefit Wine Dinners
8 pm - Gamekeeper's Tavern, Ristorante Paoletti,
Wolfgang's Restaurant

8:30 pm - Madison's

Saturday, May 21

"Catch the Spirit" Village Sip & Stroll
1:30-3:30 pm - Bryson's Food Store and Town Square

Grand Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction
6:30 pm - The Bascom

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• JUST HERS •

Prince Charles and Me

I always thought I'd marry Prince Charles, so it came as a shock when his son got married the other day. The son we should have had together, of course, if he hadn't married That Woman.

The chances that Charles would marry a commoner from Waynesboro, VA, were slim, I know, but one can always dream.

My Prince Charles fantasy began at a tender age. His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was pregnant with his sister, Anne, at the same time my mother was expecting me. (Anne is two days older, born on August 15th.)

I grew up seeing pictures of Charles, looking all lost and awkward. If only he had married me! I would have been so kind and understanding. I'd even have overlooked the ears. "They're not big at all!" I would coo. "At least you didn't get the Hapsburg lip," I would suggest, conspiratorially. One does these sorts of things with husbands.

With time, I forgave Charles the whole Diana thing. It was clear the marriage was doomed from the start. But Camilla? Well, that's a whole different story. Have you seen her teeth? They have a Master of the Horse, but they don't have a Royal Orthodontist? No wonder they lost India....

Like much of the world, I took Wills and Harry to my heart after the tragic death of their mother. I had come home, and switched on the television that sad day – shocked to hear of the death of Princess Diana.

Mesmerized, I watched the television coverage hour after hour as the details of the drama unfolded. The accident site was one I knew very well. It wasn't far from the American Cathedral in Paris, where I was a member of the choir and the flower guild. What a shock when a French doctor came to the hastily arranged press conference at the hospital, announcing that in spite of their best efforts, Diana had died.

I watched the universal outpourings of grief, culminating in Diana's funeral. Who can forget the sight of her two young sons, heads bowed, following her coffin? And that white wreath of flowers, with the poignant note, addressed to "Mummy?" In death, perhaps Diana helped change the face of the British Royal Family by humanizing them, by freeing them to show emotion, even in public.



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

Over the years, we've been rather like indulgent aunties, watching as William and Harry grew up in the public eye. Their education, vacations, partying and dating have all been tabloid fodder, but we wished them well. William went off to St. Andrews, a university in

the charming Scottish town of the same name. The name of Kate Middleton came up increasingly, but like many eligible young men, he seemed hard to pin down. A commoner, "Waity Katie," seemed lovely, but long-suffering. It was hard not to draw parallels with his father, Charles, who waited so long to choose a royal bride that we all heaved a collective sigh of relief when he wed the innocent, but utterly unsuitable, Diana.

Now, here was William, all grown up, and about to wed his long-term love.

It's odd how you can wake up by yourself in the middle of the night, but waking up to an alarm clock at 4 am is a completely different experience. "Oh, no!" you groan. "Not yet!" Orion blinked, too, and joined me as I put on my bathrobe, and trotted into the living room. I'd put a bottle of champagne in the fridge to celebrate, but never got further than an English muffin and a lovely strong cup of tea. I settled onto the sofa, soon joined by both cats. I explained that we were going to be watching the real royal wedding, and that it was A Big Deal.

"How do you get to be royalty?" asked Orion. I considered this to be a thoughtful and intelligent question, especially since it was being asked by a cat. "Well," I began, "A long, long time ago, someone got to be Top Cat by being the smartest or the meanest or the best mouser." "Or the prettiest!" Weasel interrupted, batting her long eyelashes. "The other cats admired or feared him so much, they let him be Top Cat, and

when his muzzle got white and his whiskers started thinning out, they started grooming his first born male kitten to take his place." "Always a male kitten?" said Weasel, who didn't like this at all. "But what if the first male kitten isn't smart or mean or a good mouser?" Orion asked. "And what if his sister is?" insisted Weasel, always the furry feminist. "Well, they're just stuck with him," I explained, "Unless they're Swedish cats."

We watched the horses, the military band, the crowds. We marveled at the festivities. As the guests arrived at Westminster Abbey, we checked out the outfits, ogled the hats. The hours slipped by. Finally, the wedding party began to arrive.

The groom and his best man were splendid in their uniforms. The bride was glorious. Her dress was perfection. Forget every family the US press tries to tell us is "American royalty." We don't have a royal family, in fact, we fought a revolution not to have one. The British do have a royal family, and on occasions like this, they prove to the world that no one beats them for pomp and pageantry.

At last, the ceremony was over; the bride and groom left the Abbey to the cheers of the adoring crowds. The happy couple appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for that famous first kiss. And then, a second one. The cats watched with great interest. "It was okay," Weasel admitted grudgingly, "But I think he should have licked her face." "Or nuzzled her ear," interjected Orion. "Maybe they're saving that for the honeymoon," said Weasel.

• Michelle is a writer and translator who lives in Highlands with two extremely spoiled, and increasingly opinionated cats, Orion and Weasel. She is a proud member of the Highlands Writers Group, the American Translators Association, and the World War II War Brides Association (she is a War Baby).

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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

was pretty safe hanging out with his two Pakistani friends, Hous Bin Pharten and M'balz es-Hari. Dumb ole America didn't realize that Pakistan didn't give two hoots if Kaboom was living in their back yard. They secretly hated America anyway.

As time passed, Kaboom became tired of living with friends and wanted something more permanent. He had been bouncing from friend to friend for more than four years and, because his kidneys were beginning to fail, needed his own place.

Realizing America's intelligence had only upgraded to a fifth-grade level in four years, he moved into a three-story million dollar compound near Pakistan's military academy where the elite of the elite trained.

The construction of the building was the talk of the neighborhood. Rumors were that the occupant was a seven-foot tall Saudi Arabian with kidney problems. Hmmm, now think hard, children, and tell me who do you think might be living there. (Have your child shout "DUH!") Could it be ole Graabir Boubi Al Bama Kahlif Kaboom? Of course it is! Even a small child would know that.

Anyway, for the next six years....yes, I said six years, Kaboom and his family lived the good life in his new compound. Practically everyone in Pakistan, except America's CIA agents assigned there, knew the identity of the seven-foot Arab. (Have your child say DUH again.)

Because Kaboom needed regular medical attention for his kidney issues,

medical folks came and went all the time but, of course, Kaboom never showed his face outside the compound. And are you lying down? Of course you are since this is a bedtime story.

America was too stupid to know what was going on. Pakistan was supposedly America's friend and, therefore, would never allow Kaboom to live just blocks from their military academy. Actually, even the street sweepers and kids on the block knew who lived there but America didn't. (Again, have your kid shout "DOUBLE DUH" only louder this time. Isn't this fun?)

Our story has an unhappy ending for Kaboom. Finally, a street sweeper named Awana Afuqya al Fink got tired of working for a dollar-a-day and blew the whistle on Kaboom for the 25 million-dollar reward. America sent in the troops and Kaboom got his 20 virgins, none of which, I guarantee you, came from Miami.

***Deceived** will also be available as an e-book. Watch for it.*

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... REQUEST continued from page 1

In previous years, OEI had to return to the board each year to maintain its valet spots, but last year commissioners agreed to allow OEI the two spaces in perpetuity unless the town wants to make changes.

The reason the valet parking arrangement came up Wednesday night is because the parking requirements for the new complex will affect the valet parking lot configuration.

OEI sent its builder John Lupoli to the meeting to see if the board would OK a change. Lupoli distributed plans to each commissioner, the mayor, and the Town Manager for a sneak peek at its new conference center complex on the Rib Shack property which is to include an outdoor swimming pool and 22 hotel rooms.

Lupoli explained that the conference center complex needs about 60 parking spaces so basically the spots reserved for valet parking would have to be reduced at least by half to 16-20 spots, but OEI still wants to keep its two valet parking spaces on Main Street.

Since OEI had not yet gone through the "planning process" a motion and vote wasn't needed on the issue – the Town Board is only involved with the project due to the valet parking arrangement.

... MAIN STREET continued from page 1

monies allocated for the fiscal year 2011-12 not 2010-11, so that's why June's Highlands Main Street meeting is still on and why the grant recently awarded to Lupoli Construction for the renovation of Town Square and the inclusion of public restrooms is secure.

"This (the House proposal to cut funding for 2011-12) is Step Two in a five-step budget process, so nothing is absolutely

Lupoli got an OK to reduce the number of parking spaces reserved for valet parking on its lot on Spring Street contingent upon the recommendation from the Planning Board.

Before it was over, though, Commissioner John Dotson suggested reducing the number of valet parking spaces on Main Street to one since the spots reserved for those vehicles in OEI's lot on Spring Street was going to be reduced by half.

"I've monitored the lot over the past year, taking pictures daily and it's not been used very much," he said.

But he got opposition from Commissioner Gary Drake. He told the board that while he was living at the inn during the winter of 2009-10, "the lot was used quite often." The Drakes lived at the inn while their home was being repaired due to flood damage.

In addition, Drake said OEI's valet parking is good for Highlands because it keeps vehicles off Main Street. "Even if it keeps just two cars off the street, it's a good thing," he said. The mayor agreed.

However, Dotson reminded the board that the valet parking arrangement is good for OEI because it ensures its four- and five-star rating. He also suggested the town tie

final," said Tim Crowley of the NC Department of Commerce. "The Senate has its version of the budget, too, and the Department of Commerce will certainly let the Senate know the importance of the Main Street Program in Western North Carolina."

A grant coordinator would remain on staff out of the Raleigh office and continue to work with Highlands concerning the grant funding and paperwork, but that co-

ordinator will meet with Highlands' representatives on a quarterly basis rather than the intense monthly involvement of Adams and Holloway.

the number of valet parking spaces on Main Street to the number of parking spaces in the valet parking lot – even consider tying valet parking to the number of rooms. Currently, the town has no formula for a valet parking arrangement. At this time OEI is the only business that has requested valet parking.

The board looked over the plans presented by Lupoli but when no action was initiated, Drake asked if a motion was needed.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said that the board would discuss the valet parking as it related to the plans after the other boards had seen them – namely, the Appearance Commissioner that meets the first Monday of each month, the Planning Board that meets the last Monday of each month and finally the Zoning Board which meets the second Wednesday of each month.

The last item on the Town Board agenda was "Charles Dasher Request for Taxi Service."

Charles Dasher wanted permission to have a taxi service in Highlands – one for which he presented written support from Paoletti's Restaurant, The Ugly Dog Public House and Old Edward Inn Hospitality

Group. One purpose of the taxi service is to offer rides to people all hours of day and night, which may decrease the incidents of DWI in Highlands.

Commissioners Patterson, Dotson, Larry Rogers and Dennis DeWolf, didn't understand why the issue was being addressed by the board thinking that only a business license was needed, but the town has a franchise provision in its code which relates to State Statutes GS 20-27 – for hire vehicles to be marked and GS 20-101 and 20-280 financial responsibility, and Town Board approval is needed.

Commissioner Drake pushed for a public hearing on the matter but the other commissioners said they didn't understand why that was necessary or why such an issue was being made over the start-up of a business.

Town Attorney Bill Coward said the board could choose to have a public hearing or not – it wasn't required by law.

In the end the board agreed unanimously to OK the business without a public hearing.

The next Town Board meeting is Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

designer Holloway made the case for a signage program that would serve the needs of drivers and pedestrians.

"Highlands is a unique community and our choice in signage should reflect that," he said. "Font choices and color are a powerful combination and they can provoke a strong reaction – evocative of the Highlands experience and sense of place."

Holloway's suggestions sparked a lively discussion among the 19 in attendance. Conversation focused upon the placement of signs, their information content, design elements and the twin concerns of durability and cost.

Town Manager Jim Fatland reported that the Town Square project, which will receive \$200,000 from the state, would remove the signature boardwalk and replace it with a bricked common area and install public restrooms. Some of the Town Square buildings would be two stories. Construction is expected to begin in December.

Everyone is invited to attend the next Main Street Project meeting, slated for 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at the Rec Park. Depending on the budget outcome in Raleigh, it could be the last local meeting.

At the May 5 meeting in Highlands,

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'Midnight Masquerade'

Junior-Senior 2011 Prom at Highlands Country Club's Hudson House May 7



Photos by Jim Lewicki

County budget flat; no tax increases

Just like last year, the county has taken a conservative approach to its budget for 2011-12, since not much change is expected concerning tax-base growth, which was minimal last year, as was sales tax revenues compared to the previous three to five years.

At the May 10 Macon County Commissioner meeting, County Manager Jack Horton presented a "first draft" of the 2011-12 budget saying Macon County is in an enviable position compared to most counties in North Carolina.

"The county is in sound financial condition and continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates in the state – second lowest, actually at 27.9 cents per \$100 valuation.

He said the fund balance is intact and stable and allows the county a reserve amount equal to three months of operating expenditures.

The proposed budget for 2011-12 is one percent more than the 2010-11 original budget and 1.37% less than the revised current year general fund budget. "We are basically looking at a flat, no growth budget for the next fiscal year," he said.

The original approved general fund budget for 2010-11 was \$42,021,521 but due to continuing contracts and additional revenue, the current revised budget for 2010-11 (this year) ended up at \$43,025,077.

The proposed budget for 2011-12 is \$42,435,322 – 1.37% less than the revised current budget.

He said there will be no property tax increase for 2011-12 and the county has reduced requests for capital outlay from its departments and trimmed other expenses. "Our goal over the past three years has been to maintain the current level of service without additional staff," he said.

No new positions will be added but Horton is recommending a 3% cost of living adjustment for the full-time county employees. "The consumer price index shows that cost of living has increased by 9% in the last three years and

its likely to continue due to the cost of food and fuel."

With the state facing a budget crisis, counties are expecting to be hard hit, even though legislators have said they won't balance the state budget on the backs of counties. "I am guardedly optimistic," said Horton.

Horton responded to items listed in the Republican NC House budget bill which is headed to the Senate. It suggests cutting \$600 million from Governor Bev Perdue's budget — with figures that could hit counties hard.

- About \$217 million less for the university system and \$25 million less for community colleges.

"The state by law has a responsibility to fund operating expenses for public schools. It guarantees a free public education for every child under the age of 16. The counties have the responsibility to provide adequate school facilities. Schools have basically two resources for funds the state and the county. Counties right now across North Carolina pay an average of 25% of the operating budgets for school and also provide 100% of the facilities. My philosophy has always been "if the state requires it then the state should be willing to pay for it and not pass an additional burden on to the local property tax payers". Macon County and our Board of Education have a great partnership and I expect we will work through this budget crisis together."

- \$250 million less for health and human services.

"We are not certain at this time what the net affect may be if the proposed recommendation survives."

- \$122 million more for courts, law enforcement and prisons, an increase largely due to an accounting change that moves the highway patrol out of the transportation budget. Significantly higher investments in various pension and retirement funds.

"The county was aware of the increased cost to fund the retirement system in last year's budget. The increase is not as much as had

been anticipated. County employees contribute to the system as well as the local governments."

- The budget includes several prison reforms being championed by state Rep. David Guice (R-Henderson, Polk, Transylvania). The biggest change would be keeping people who commit misdemeanors out of state prisons, unless their sentence runs more than six months. Those people would serve time in local jails, instead.

"If Macon County has to provide jail space for these criminals that could have a financial impact on the county jail budget of an additional cost of \$200,000. Public Safety comprises 22% of our budget now."

- About \$400 million less for K-12 education than Perdue proposed in February.

Horton said 19% of the county's budget is committed to Macon County Schools so more state cuts to education will likely affect the county's bottom line. Last year the county required the school system to tap its fund balance more than in the past.

School district Finance Officer Angie Cook said the school system's draft budget is based on a 10% reduction to all state categories.

"This was the typical reduction that most of my colleagues followed due to the fact that we just don't know the outcome of the state budget and the county needed our budget to prepare its budget.

"Macon County Schools has been preparing for this over the past couple of years and we are fortunate to have a fund balance in the event that additional reductions take place on the state level.

"With the continued support of our County Commissioners we do not foresee that any jobs will be lost. However, we will have to monitor the situation closely throughout the year in preparation for the 2012-2013 year," she said.

– Kim Lewicki

... SWANSON continued from page 6

social security payments. There need be no sovereign default. And if the Federal government really needs the cash, President Obama has the authority to borrow government pension funds.

Presently, Conservative Republicans do not have the ability to get any meaningful cuts since the Senate and White House are controlled by Liberal Democrats. Only by refusing to increase the debt limit will the Obama administration be forced to make substantial cuts in spending and government regulations.

Our elected officials must explain to the public that it cannot provide all the

benefits promised or they will lose virtually all benefits via inflation. Only by growing the economy can we increase tax revenues to pay for social benefits. That requires a drastic decrease in burdensome regulations and massive cuts in government agencies and subsidies.

The only way that can happen and the US economy can rebound from its present low of only 45% of its working age population having jobs is to NOT increase the debt limit and to cut job killing bureaucracy and regulations. Naturally the majority of the media will scream about denying essential services.

A responsible president will start by eliminating duplicate programs in different agencies. He will return all unused TARP and Stimulus funds to the Treasury. He will require repayment of government loans made to financial institutions, auto companies and other subsidized entities.

President Obama must lift the ban on all viable offshore and land based oil exploration and drilling which will bring in billions of additional royalty payments. He must reduce drastically or eliminate regulatory agencies like the Departments of Agriculture, EPA, Energy, Education, HUD, Interior, Transportation, Labor, Commerce, etc., which are destroying the ability to create viable businesses and jobs by protecting and subsidizing inefficient ones.

Cost-effective healthcare requires eliminating the governments and oligopolistic insurance firms determining prices rather than supply and demand between the doctor and his patient. Second, a few big hospitals and medical groups need competition to keep them from having the power of setting reimbursement pricing. Third, big pharmaceutical companies need to price based on supply and demand, not government edict. Fourth, the number of medical doctor students and foreign trained doctors must not be limited. Fifth, healthcare insurance and co-pays should be the individual's lifetime responsibility (unless the individual is temporarily or permanently a ward of the state) and certainly not an employment benefit which places the employer as one more expense layer between the doctor and his patient. Much of doctors operating expenses are administrative staff costs consumed by arguing over what the insurance company will or will not pay. And, human nature, being what it is, means employees are prone to treat the use or overuse of such benefits as "free-bees," not realizing they are raising everyone's costs, including their own.

Lastly, only by telling our Congressmen that, if they do not refuse to increase the debt ceiling, they will probably be blamed rightly for the continued economic collapse of our nation and thrown out of office or, at the least, they are inviting a primary opponent who is a fiscal Conservative.

— James F. Davis, 23 Sourwood Lane, Hayesville, NC 28904 (828) 389 8971, jfd11@cornell.edu.

... COLLECTIVE continued from pg 9

York City with airfare, museum tours and two nights at the Sherry Netherland hotel

- On Golden Mountain - Dinner for 10 hosted by Jon and Bobbie Golden featuring Chef Sean Doty and Shafer Vineyards

- Napa/Sonoma long weekend for two couples including Wine Country accommodations with Lambert Bridge Winery, Reynolds Family, B.R. Cohn and Du-Mol

- One 6L bottle 1997 Fisher Cabernet Sauvignon Lamb Vineyard Imperial PLUS a six-magnum vertical of the same wine (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007) AND a VIP tour, tasting and lunch for four at the winery

- One boxed magnum set (two bottles) 1997 Harlan Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

- The Yachts of Seabourn - Seven-Day Mediterranean Cruise to Monte Carlo, October 14 - 21, 2011 for two people including stops in Antibes, Porquerolles, Port Vendres and St. Tropez

- One 750ml bottle each Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, 1982 and 1988

- Paddle Raise for Outreach at The Bascom

- One 15L bottle of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Brut Label Brut Champagne Non-Vintage

- 100-pt Wine Dinner for 12 couples
- Name The Bascom Wine

- Long Weekend for two couples in Oregon Wine Country including airfare, winery accommodations, tours/tastings and special VIP experiences

- Twelve 750ml bottles of 1989 Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateaufeuf-du-Pape

- Veuve Clicquot Champagne and Caviar Brunch for 10 at Canyon's End in Lonesome Valley featuring Chef John Fleer

- Spoleto Festival USA Experience for two in Charleston, South Carolina, June 1-3, 2012, including accommodations, performances and insider events

- Six 750ml bottles of 1982 Chateau Talbot

Friday Night Silent Auction

- Dinner Under the Stars at Shortoff for 12 at Alfred Kennedy & Bill Kenny's home, catered by New Mountain Events with pairings from Paul Hobbs Wines

- One magnum Tuck Beckstoffer's 2006 Mockingbird Cabernet Sauvignon

- One 3L bottle of 2006 Miner Family Winery 'Oakville' Cabernet Sauvignon

- Six 750ml bottles of 2003 Paul Hobbs Cuvee Augustina Chardonnay

- One boxed set of two 750ml bottles of 2002 Harlan Estate "The Maiden."

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... Q&A continued from page 2

about two hours, the likelihood of the person operating the vehicle on the return home trip being impaired is not very high.

On the other hand, if that same dinner party stays at the restaurant until it closes and consumes multiple bottles of wine, the likelihood of that same vehicle operator being impaired obviously increases significantly. A similar scenario can be applied to a bar. If a person enters a bar at 5 pm and has *hors d'oeuvres* and two to four drinks in a 2-hour period, the odds of that person being impaired is not very high. On the other hand, if that same person remains in the bar consuming two alcoholic beverages per hour until midnight or later, there will be very strong possibility that the person is impaired.

Q: How can citizens stay off the law enforcement radar?

A: Law enforcement agencies in the Highlands area are committed to keeping our streets and highways safe for everyone. The Highlands Police Department, the Macon County Sheriff's Department and the North Carolina State Patrol are all committed and responsible for DWI enforcement. They patrol and watch for motorists who fail to drive safely. They are especially observant of motorists who speed, fail to stop at stop signs and red lights.

Law enforcement officers also stop motors who ride with their headlights off, constantly cross the center line, or even drive in the left lane. These driving infractions indicate that the motorist cannot operate a vehicle safely and in many cases lead to the officer to suspect that the motorist is impaired.

Q: Given its geography, is it physically more dangerous to drive drunk in Highlands than elsewhere?

A: While the highways and roads of the Highlands Plateau are relatively safe, there have been auto accidents caused by drunk drivers in recent years. One accident resulted in a small child having to be air-lifted for emergency surgery at Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville. The drunk driver in that accident was convicted and received a prison sentence. Habitual offenders have been arrested for repeated DWI violations.

Q: How stringent are your officers when it comes to charging someone with drunk driving?

A: Contrary to popular opinion, very few of the motorists charged are just at the .08 level. Most fall in or near the .15 or higher levels. It is not unusual for violators

to be a .21 or even higher. There has been one case where the person was at .33. Two weeks later that person was again arrested at a .30 level. It is imperative the law enforcement remove these repeat, high level offenders off the roads of our community. Law enforcement officers are not driven by a quota system to apprehend drunk drivers. In fact, a DWI case requires many hours of processing, paperwork and court time, which translates into less patrol time for the officer.

Yet, officers are duty bound to enforce the law and any failure on their part could have tragic consequences. By law and by their oath, officers cannot and do not selectively enforce DWI laws. If a motorist suspected of DWI was given a free pass by a law enforcement officer, that same motorist may be DWI again the very next week and cause a fatality. The ramifications for the officer, the agency and for the community would be devastating. The DWI issue requires that everyone in the community show responsibility and support for this very important safety issue that impacts us all. Designate a driver or call a taxi.

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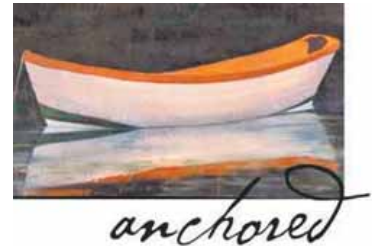
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• POLICE & FIRE DEPT. •

Highlands PD log entries from May 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 4

• At 10:23 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 east where a woman missed the curve and ran into the embankment. There were no injuries.

May 7

• At 1:50 a.m., Alia Denise Audin, 27, of Campobello, SC, was arrested for DWI when stopped for driving left of center at NC 28 and S. 4th Street. She was issued a citation for driving without a license and driving left of center.

• At 2:03 p.m., officers responded to a call of a bear at a residence on Poplar Street. He ran away when the officers activated the siren.

May 10

• At 6:57 p.m., officers responded to a call of an unattended death at a residence on Hudson Road. A woman's caregiver arrived to find her unresponsive on the floor.

• During the week, police officers issued 5 citations and responded to 5 alarm activations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from May 4.

May 4

• At 11:14 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an accident on N. 4th Street at Sherwood Forest, but it was cancelled en route.

May 5

• At 4:45 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at 16 Church Street. It was set off by hot chocolate overheating on the stove.

May 6

• At 11:10 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by workers at a residence on Bowery Road.

May 7

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a "smell of gas" at a residence on Oak Lane. It was due to an empty gas tank.

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Walkingstick Road. It was false.

• At 7:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a Life Line alarm at a residence on Falcon Ridge Road. It was false.

May 9

• At 1:37 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital. It was set off due to a problem with a dishwasher.

May 10

• At 1:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on Main Street where a 50-year-old woman got dizzy and fell.

Youngsters learn they can trust law enforcement officers when they meet them face-to-face. Master Officer Parker and K9 Ruby visit Ms. McClellan's kindergarten class.



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Mountain Garden Club donates \$8,000

Sonya Carpenter (left) accepted the check, on behalf of the Nature Center, from Mountain Garden Club President, Jackie Hills.

Mountain Garden Club recently donated \$8,000 to help sponsor two interns at the Nature Center in Highlands this summer.

"The Mountain Garden Club is committed to education," said Jackie Hills, President. "We want the Nature Center to be able to continue to offer high quality environmental programs for children and adults, and the interns we're helping support will be teaching Nature Day Camps and evening programs."

The funds for this donation came from the plant sale which the Mountain Garden Club holds each year. Plan to attend this year's 29th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale on Saturday, May 28 at the Highlands baseball field on Highway 64 from 9:00 a.m. through noon.

Rotary Club of Highlands News

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the April Highlands School Students of the Month at its April 26 meeting. Shown with Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup and Rotary President, Jodie Cook and, are middle school winner, John Iannacone, high school winner, Cody Houser, and elementary school winner, Charlie Underwood.



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society to sponsor CATS & DOGS BINGO on Thursday, May 5. Misty Holland won the final bingo game and took home \$100. She is shown with Bill Futral, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Highlands and current President Jodie Cook.



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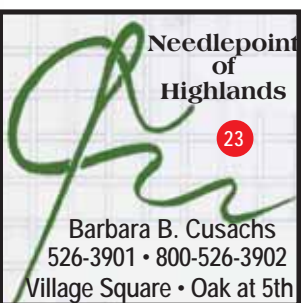
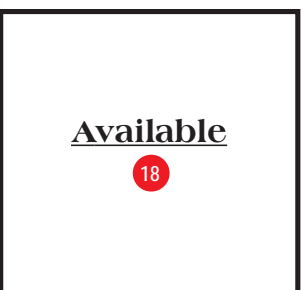


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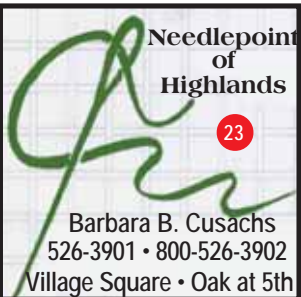
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