

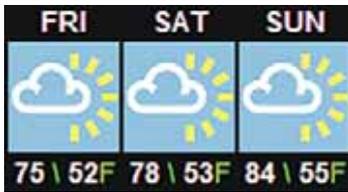
Highlands' Newspaper

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Volume 9, Number 20

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Thursday, May 19, 2011



Thurs.-Sat., May 19-21

• At the Bascom, Collective Spirits Food and Wine Festival. For tickets call 526-4949.

Thursday, May 19

• Taize in Highlands at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

Fri., May 20-Sun., May 22

• HCP presents "Leading Ladies," 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 for Sunday matinees at PAC. Call 526-8084.

Friday, May 20

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion breakfast meeting at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am; meeting at 10 am.

• At Paoletti's, a 5-course wine dinner 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.

• Greenway Trail work on the new trail in the Rec Park. Register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@frontier.com

• Rabies Vaccination Clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months. \$5 cash per pet; 1-2:30 p.m. at the Community Bldg and 3-4 p.m. at the Scaly Mtn PO.

Sunday, May 22

• The Atlanta Boy Choir will give a concert at the Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Monday, May 23

• Highlands Happenings Forum at the Civic Center at 10 a.m. and noon.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association meets at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

May 23-May 27

• Town of Highlands White Goods Pickup. Leave throw aways at the curb and the Town will pick them up.

Town considers raising electric rates

At a special 4 p.m. Town Board meeting Wednesday May 18, commissioners learned Duke Power is raising its wholesale electric and transmission rates. To offset the financial hit, Highlands will like-

ly be raising its electric rates, too.

The rate increase will keep the town's electric fund healthy – an enterprise fund the town has long depended upon to fund capital projects.

For years Highlands' wholesale electric rates were off Duke's radar, which means its electric rates were low compared to other wholesale customers. This was

• See ELECTRIC RATES page 17

Post office a go; sales office, too

Armed with the Appearance Commission's opinions, spokesmen for two commercial projects went to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on Wednesday, May 4, to get the necessary Special Use Permits (SUP).

Johnny Deal is in the midst of purchasing the former Prudential Real Estate property on the corner of Maple Street and US 64 east, for his business, Affordable Green Builders.

Prior to hearing his case, Zoning Chairman Tony Potts, manager of Macon Bank on Carolina Way, recused himself from the proceedings because Macon Bank is financing the project. After new member Jack Peay was sworn in as an alternate member and Jim Tate was elected Vice Chairman, Potts left the table. Peay took his place and Tate conducted the hearing.

Deal plans to demolish the

• See POST OFFICE page 9

Books comes alive on 'Story Book Character Day' at Highlands School



Highlands School Media Specialist Carol Bowen as The Cat in the Hat with students from Ms. Chalker's Great Beginnings class. For more on 'Story Book Character Day,' see page 16.

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County's 'plan' draws support; criticism

Tuesday night's public hearing on the county's proposed Comprehensive Plan drew the regular cast of citizens – those for planning and those against planning.

Those against the plan – which is not regulatory but instead a map for planning the future of Macon County – claim it infringes on property rights.

Those for the plan claim some sacrifices must be made for the public good.

"This is a road map for the future – one from which we can take detours – but having the map shows us where we are and where we will end up if we take those detours," said Margaret Ramsey. "I have seen unbelievable change in Macon County, most exciting and beneficial – good in the end but hard. I use US 64 as an exam-

• See PLAN page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• THANK YOU •

'Historical' hike a success

The Highlands Plateau Greenway thanks all of the volunteers (11) and participants (40) for a very successful bi-annual hike along the original route of the Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands.

We thank the Wildcat Cliffs, Cullasaja, Highlands Falls Country Clubs and other private land owners along the way for their cooperation and support. Thanks to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for the use of their van and driver, The Sports Page for our lunch.

We also thank our partners the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Highlands Historical Society for their support, as well as the area newspapers for getting the word out!

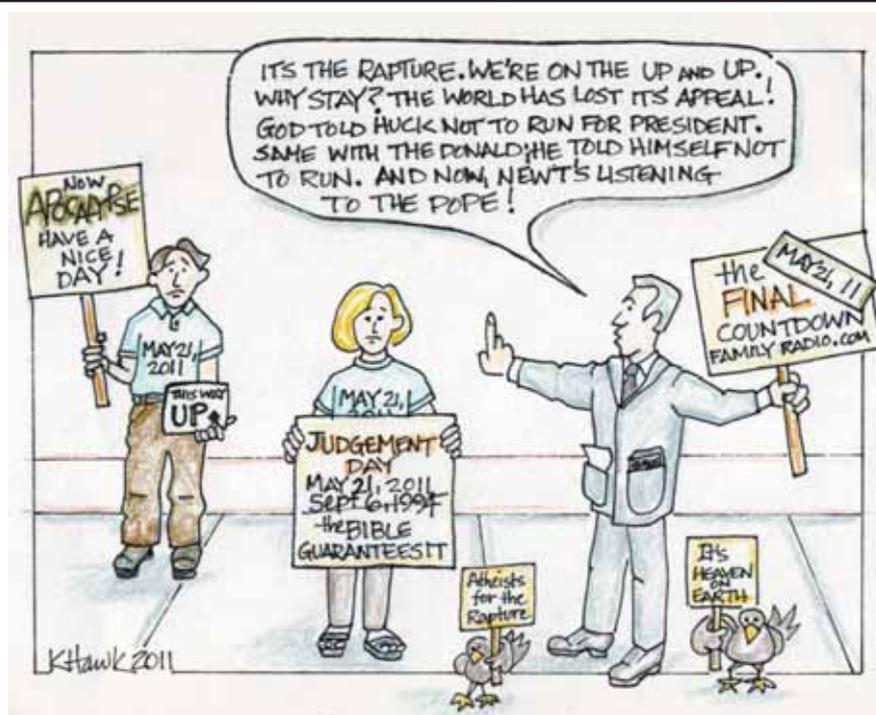
'Kiki to Kenya' event raises money for mission

More than 60 runners of all ages came out for the "Kiki to Kenya 5K and Fun Run" held on Saturday, April 23. The event was a huge success with over \$2000 raised.

The race results were overall male: Joe Bowman with a time of 20:17 and overall female: Hayden Bates with a time of 21:33. Female age group winners were Glenda Bell, Vikki Heller, Mitzi Raders, Aiden Rice, Stacy Wright, Sayne Fera and Nicole Townley. Male age group winners were Fred Motz, Morris Williams, Anthony Lampros, Brad Knops, David Moore, Jonathan Phillips, and Chase Harris. The Fun Run winners were Taylor Schmitt, Felix Walberg, Gracie Forrester and Kaylee Oakley.

Many thanks go to Allison, Jimmy, Ethan and Eliza Tate, Anne Morton, Jennifer, Robbie, Austin, Gracie and Carson Forrester, Jamye, Paul, Zach and Caroline Christy, Sam, Linda and Andy Potter, Wiley and Sarah Sloan, Crystal Troughton, Micheal Mcrae, Andrea Schmitt, Brit

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



and John Iannacone, Amber Talley, Elizabeth Gordan, Kenan and Kaitlyn Lewis, Andy Marquez, Anastasia & Johas Kolousek for all of their help. Thank you also to the Highlands Rec Park, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Highland Hiker and Kilwins for their support.

All proceeds benefit Carrilea "kiki" Potter's trip to Kenya in August, where she will spend nine months volunteer-

ing in an orphanage for children who have AIDS. Donations are still accepted at Highlands United Methodist Church.

Thank you again to all who participated in the race, enjoyed a delicious lunch and gave of their time and energy to support such a worthwhile cause.

— Andrea Chalker

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... PLAN from page 1

ple. We all remember when it was surveyed to be widened. The center median of the road went through the corner of the home I grew up in and my mother still lived in. That was hard, but we all must make private sacrifices for the public good."

She stressed there are things that have happened in the county that have made her cry.

"That's the willful destruction of our mountainsides. We just can't let that happen anymore," she said.

Thirteen people spoke during the hearing - seven against the plan, six for the plan but the courtroom was full and lines were drawn down the middle.

Loretta Newton said the trend today toward a more modern government is just a way to take rights from property owners and represents nothing more than back-room regulatory practices.

"I am against all zoning and all steep slope regulations," she said. "There are two ways to take a person's land - by condemning it and compensating with money or taking it by regulations and that's equally devastating to a person who owns land."

Bill Crawford said the plan was simply a look at the future; was moderate, thoughtful and represented good government.

The Comprehensive Plan is just that - comprehensive - and considers every aspect of life in the county - economic development, public services, land use and environment, education and recreation, transportation and housing, healthcare, childcare and senior citizens.

Opponents questioned why all those aspects are included in the plan - why the government needs to get into everyone's business; in every aspect of life - but proponents said all aspects of the comprehensive plan make up life in Macon County and as such need to be in the equation.

"This is a vision for the county based on the value of living and working in a magnificent valley surrounded by wonderful mountains and it represents a good, safe plan that considers water resources as well as mountain heritage," said Paul Carlson. "We must plan ahead to build a stable new economy as well as work to heal the mountains. There are abandoned roads and roads that are falling apart."

But Dwight Vinson said the word heritage is used incorrectly throughout the

• See PLAN page 3

... PLAN from page 2

plan.

"It's used as a catch phrase, but according to the definition 'heritage is passed down from preceding generations and becomes a tradition.' Our mountain heritage is our culture and our tradition of honor and pride, fierce independence and God-given freedom," he said.

He said the plan is based on the premise that there is a lack of regulation in the county which is in direct conflict to what mountain heritage is and it represents a loss of freedom.

Bill Vernon said he would have supported the plan if it stopped at planning for sewer and water growth, but drew the line at steep slope and stormwater runoff regulations.

He also questioned why childcare, housing, education and everything else is addressed in the plan.

"This is chuck full of hidden agendas," he said. "Do a bare bones plan like Jackson County one that has to do with transportation and take out the junk not needed."

Jackson County's Comprehensive Plan is 44 pages and Macon County's is 164.

"The last thing we need is more regulations," he said. "Get government and regulations off our backs."

Alan Allman pointed out that according to General Statute 136-66.2, municipalities "shall" develop a plan to ensure continued funding from NC DOT for roads but counties "may" develop a plan.

Opponents say the initial reason for the Comprehensive Plan was to ensure continued DOT funding - a plan they say wasn't needed in the first place and a plan that now steps over the line.

Don Swanson reminded the commission that when zoning was considered back in January 2001, hundreds of people turned out in opposition.

"They turned out to tell you that interference with property rights wouldn't be tolerated. It was about protection of property rights then and it is now. Some of this may be needed, but 164 pages is overdoing it," he said. "Plans' mystically turn into ordinances and I hope that doesn't happen."

Kathy Tinsley urged the commission to adopt the plan saying "It was a strong, brave step in the right direction."

The commission will meet Tuesday, May 31 at 6 p.m. to discuss the plan.

To read the plan or a synopsis go to www.maconnc.org. - **Kim Lewicki**

• OBITUARIES •

Eva Estelle Crane

Eva Estelle Crane, age 88, of Highlands, NC, died Monday, May 10, 2011 at the Eckerd Living Center. She was a native of Rabun County, GA, the daughter of the late John and Effie Talley. She was married to James Crane, who died in 1995. She was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith. She liked crafts, dancing, bingo, and she was a barrel of fun.

She is survived by two daughters, Marie Bowie and husband



Eva Estelle Crane

Henry of Liberty, SC and Sandra Baty and husband Roger of Highlands, NC; three sons, John Crane and wife Carolyn of Dawsonville, GA, Tom Crane and wife Teresa of Pickens, SC and Michael Crane of Highlands, NC; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren also survive.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sons, James Crane, Jr., and Bill Crane, one sister and three brothers.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 13 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. John Parker officiating. Burial was in Scaly Mountain Methodist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Bud Lamb, Jimmy Lowe, Maurice Reed, Brian Dearth, Tubby Zachary and Matt Hollingsworth.

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

Cyrus K. Light

Cyrus K. Light, died in a fire in the condo he was living in Gainesville, FL, for the past three years on May 12, 2011.

He was a former resident of Highlands, where he in the Pinebrook Condos. He was born October 6, 1950.

He is survived by his sister Dr. Carole Light of Highlands and by a nephew, Erik M. Selvey.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

**This should get your shorts in a wad
(If not, check your pulse.)**

Are you aware May 20th is national endangered species day? I'm bettin' you didn't know that unless you have a calendar that tipped you off. Anyway, on behalf of national endangered species day, I will not...yes, I said not, honor the poor Javan rhino or the Pacific walrus. And if you're thinkin' I'm thinkin' the Arctic polar bear you would be wrong again. I have bigger fish to fry. If you guessed the monarch butterfly, you are way, way off, penguin breath.

No, the most endangered species about to vanish from our planet is the white male, a rapidly diminishing crit-

ter who gets no respect from all the other non-white creatures. Just being a white male is politically incorrect.

White males used to be in held in high esteem and were considered the most intelligent and strongest of all the critters who roamed planet Earth. The beginning of our decline was teaching women to play golf.

It was the white male of predominantly European descent that



Fred Wooldridge

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askfredanything@aol.com

formed this great nation we call the United States of America. Sorry, folks, but Islam had no part in that as President Obama recently proclaimed when he said, "I also know that Islam has always been a part of America's story." Huh? Talk about rewriting history.

I guess because Thomas Jefferson had a copy of the Quran in his vast library, that's enough to re-

write history. I still haven't gotten over

that stupid comment. By the way, our president made that comment standing alongside Egypt's bipolar dictator, Muhammad Hosni Sayyid Mubarak. Need I say more? Can you say Muhammad Hosni Sayyid Mubarak three times real fast? Is that fun, or what?

Oh, wait, I forgot about the twin towers. Obama was right. Islam is part of the American story because that event changed us forever. Silly me!

My father-in-law was a white male. He came from Italy to America via Ellis Island back during the days of the great immigration movement. Are you sitting

• SeeWOOLDRIDGE page 15

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Our fascination with the macabre

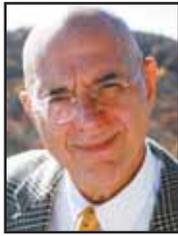
I'm amazed when I hear that some 350-lb offensive lineman can dunk a basketball. Even more amazing is the speed attributed to some very slow looking animals. They must be a lot faster than they look.

You've heard that an alligator can outrun an Olympic sprinter over a short distance. Then you see footage of a gator capture some animal considerably slower than Carl Lewis. The other thing is that the reptile seems to do it more with stealth than with speed; the old floating log trick. My guess is that if you were to line up an alligator and Carl Lewis and have a fair start, Carl would dust him. There is no way a gator, with his stubby little legs, could keep up. Of course, if he's able to catch Carl in the water, that's a different story.

Another animal that looks anything but fast is a hippo. They say a hippo is the deadliest animal in Africa; that it can chase down the swiftest villager. I don't doubt a hippo kills a lot of Africans. I just think it gets most of them in the water. As for those it runs down on land; they'd have a better chance if they didn't try to balance the laundry on their heads while they were running away.

Grizzly bears are said to be able to outrun a race horse. Why did thoroughbred breeders go to all the trouble? Let's put them on a track together. Or let's just have grizzly races. I don't know the best distance for a grizzly race. I'd guess it would have to be short. It could be a real problem if the bear decided to stop for a snack. There's no doubt that if the bear snacked on his jockey, interest would sky rocket. There's nothing we like better than violence. A 600-lb. pound bear chasing down a 110-lb. jockey in riding boots and silk pants would thrill millions. That's real drama. I'll take the bear in that one. For the most part, when I hear tales of lumbering animals with blazing speed, I'm skeptical.

A big part of the reason we are fascinated by the question of who is faster is



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

that if the faster guy happens to be the predator rather than the potential prey, we get to watch a gory spectacle. We don't want to see a wildebeest in his prime escape a cheetah. We don't really care about a great race. We're happy with a very old or very young victim, anything the cat can catch. We want to watch the cheetah sink his powerful claws into the wildebeest's flank and

bring it down. If it's in high def, so much the better. It's the kill that captivates us.

The thing about these snuff flicks is that everybody pretends to hate them. "That is so gross. The tenth time I watched the anaconda kill the calf, I almost puked." So, why did you watch it 10 times? There was something you liked, and it wasn't the speed of the

snake. Nobody has claimed an anaconda can outrun a gazelle.

I don't like to admit it, but I watched the video of Daniel Pearl's murder, or execution, as al Qaeda would say. I guess I expected something like in Brave Heart, quick and clean. Not many people watched the beheading. It was hard to find. Whoever controls the Internet kept shutting down sites showing it. It took some time, but I finally beat the censors to a web site. It was horrible. I only watched once. I was disgusted with the event and with myself. I asked myself what I had expected. This al Qaeda dude used a butcher knife, which wasn't very sharp, and used a sawing motion instead of a decisive single stroke. It wasn't pretty. It was way beyond ugly. It was savage and grotesque. Some people watched it again and again. I guess there was some nuance I missed. I've always regretted my decision to seek it out. It was a contest to see if I could beat the censors, and I wish I'd lost.



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Fast trains, fast talk

While minding my own business, undoubtedly doing something of great importance, I glanced at the TV and what did I see? A slimy version of Rep. Pete King (R-NY) and this guy was sellin'. Pete's a good guy and it's a shame, but if he let his hair grow and put on weight in his face, voila, Ray LaHood. Who is Ray LaHood you ask? He is our Secretary of Transportation.

Wondering what this fellow could have to say to merit an interview, I stopped and watched. Ray



**Don Swanson
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was telling the world what a great boon to progress "fast rail" was going to be. Now I have seen some shlock artists in my day, but this guy takes the cake. I was so intrigued by his line of BS, I felt the need to find out from whence he came.

Well, I was shocked. LaHood is a Republican (?) Going farther, I found that he was a Republican (?) from Illinois. So, how long has this Republican

(?) served as Sec. of DOT? And why is a Republican serving in Obama's cabinet? From Wikipedia: "On December 19, 2008, President-elect Barack Obama announced that he would nominate Ray LaHood to be the next Transportation Secretary. LaHood's resume on transport matters was considered thin by some critics, including the *Wall Street Journal*, despite the fact that he served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

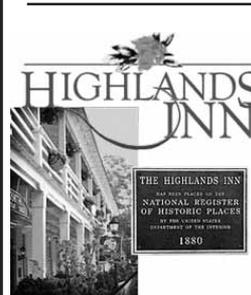
As a member of the House Appropriations Committee he won praise for his 'skills as an arbiter' in being able to bridge sometimes bitter partisan divides in the Congress, something the position would require. Some critics alleged a reputation for pork barrel spending, including in support of campaign contributors (shocking). *The Washington Post* reported that of the \$60 million in earmarks LaHood secured for his district in 2008, \$9 million went to campaign donors."

Well now, does that tell the story or not? He doesn't know what he's talking about but he knows how to "persuade" the opposition that they need to see things his way. Right up Obama's alley. Irrespective of this guy's political label, my first impression of his being a thug is looking better and better.

Among LaHood's more brilliant public comments was his suggestion that Toyota owners stop driving their cars because somebody somewhere got his floor mat stuck under his accelera-

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Top 5 Sports Video Game Characters of All Time

As some of you may know, us younger folks have grown up in an era of video games. Because of my ever advancing age, I am now able to play the latest video games successfully, but can still remember the Golden Era of video games from when I was younger. Nowadays, you can create dominant characters in sports video games that are far and above their opponents. However, when I was younger, creating a character was not an option in games. Despite that, there were some video game characters that were way superior, and this column is an ode to those unstoppable characters. Here are my top 5, listed in order of dominance.

5. The Fat Guy, NHL Hockey- The original Ice Hockey game for the old Nintendo gave you a few options for characters, but the fat guy was the best for several reasons. First of all, the other guys would just bounce off of him. Secondly, his slap shot was absolutely unstoppable by the poor goalie. When my brother and I used to play, the fat guy was outlawed, for the reasons listed.

4. The Great Puma, NES Pro Wrestling. Probably the most frustrating character ever in the history of video games, this guy was a boss in the game and was pretty much unstoppable. I spent hours trying to beat him, but he was just so cheap and unbeatable.

3. Tom Chambers, Jordan vs. Bird basketball. While Tom Chambers was a pretty good player for the Phoenix Suns, this game made him out to be a god on the basketball court, mainly because he had the most unstoppable move in the history of sports games. Chambers could actually take off from outside the three point line with a double pump layup that could not be stopped. Who says white men can't



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

jump?

2. Mike Tyson, Mike Tyson's Punch Out. When the creators of this game created Mike Tyson, they wanted to simulate what it would be like to actually be in the ring with him, and I think they did a good job. The first tough part about Tyson was that one punch from him would knock

you out in the first 90 seconds of the fight. Then, he would occasionally go on punching rampages that were extremely difficult to do anything with. Oh, sure-the guys who made the game would have Tyson go into an epileptic fit and blink his eyes really fast to give you a chance, but he was still a tough out.

1. Bo Jackson, Tecmo Bowl. Ask anyone who has ever played Tecmo Bowl, and they will tell you about the scourge that was Video Bo. Hell, just do a youtube search for "Video Bo" or "Bo Jackson Tecmo Bowl" and you will understand the dominance of this character. Bo could break any tackle, outrun any defender, and was guaranteed a TD every time he touched the ball. The use of Bo caused many a fight in the Potts' household when I was younger. (as if there weren't enough of those already)

• See Highlands School Sports on page 14

WE GET THE WORD OUT!

5,000 copies on the streets each Thursday in Highlands, Cashiers, Lake Glenville, Sapphire, Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley, Dillard, Otto and Franklin.

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What's for Dinner?

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



• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Following the good shepherd

Pastor Dean Cesa
Our Lady of the Mountains
Catholic Church



Each year four bishops of Western North Carolina gather with their clergy for something called LARCUM. It includes Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and United Methodists. What interests me about these gatherings is each bishop. Though different from each other they share a common commitment in their role as shepherds to follow *the good shepherd*.

We too can follow that good shepherd with confidence because of what we hear in Psalm 23. The Lord sees us through every situation. But it is not without pain. Pain and suffering are a part of every life. Jesus himself did not try to escape the frustrations of daily life nor the intense suffering and death he experienced. We too are to accept the pain because Jesus shows us how. When we think of Jesus' pain, we might to often limit that to his passion, but think of all the other sufferings he endured - people who refused to believe in him, the hostility of the Pharisees and scribes, the slowness of disciples who just could not understand him. We use the example of Jesus to work through the frustrations at work, to refuse to act out of anger in response to an unkind remark, to settle disputes calmly.

That example is shown to us in the gospel of Saint John. We learn how Jesus is the good shepherd. It is by the loving and caring relationship he has with us. He uses this illustration of the gatekeeper allowing the good shepherd access to the sheep. He does not take any short cuts. He doesn't jump the fence, sneak around the back. The only way he can enter is through the gate and that is only with the permission of the gatekeeper. So how does he gain access to the sheep? He must be known by the gatekeeper, he must be trusted by the gatekeeper. And the way he earns the trust of the gatekeeper is through the way he treats the sheep.

To treat the sheep well, the good shepherd takes the time to know each one. They come to trust the shepherd through what he has done with them and for them. They see the shepherd's love for them, his concern for their well-being, what he is willing to do for them, that he would stop at nothing for their sake, that he spends himself for them. And so they can trust him and follow his lead. Jesus is the shepherd that knows each of us intimately and calls us by name. We can be his sheep that recognize his voice and follow where he leads.

When we are troubled, we will find quiet and inner peace. In times of fear and anxiety, Jesus is ready to give us courage. Jesus promises that we will dwell with him for all eternity. What is required of us is that we put our faith in him. We can do that by being humble like sheep, trusting in the love he has demonstrated for us. Then, we will find rest in him.

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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

... POST OFFICE continued from page 1



Post Office Rendition

current building and erect an example of the log-type homes he will be building which will be used as the sales office.

The Appearance Commission OK'd the concept but requested a couple of alterations to his plans — that he change the stone he plans on using on the outside to a more local stone; that the landscaping around the building make it look more commercial instead of like a home; and that smaller logs used — those with a more mountainous rather than “western” feel.

The Zoning Board took all the recommendation into account but also voiced concerns about the size of the logs and the traffic flow and parking due to the proximity of the business to Maple Street and US 64 east.

Project Manager Jeff Weller with Summit Architecture said using smaller logs would tamper with the integrity of the building and said it will be further away from Maple Street, in fact, everything about the new building will be in compliance with current building and zoning codes.

“We had a nonconforming building but we are making it comply to all setback requirements,” he said. “The new building will be 25 feet from US 64, 25 feet from Maple Street, 10 feet from the adjacent property owner and 30 feet from Mill Creek.”

The property is zoned B3 commercial and professional offices are allowed, and Deal's plan for a 2,000 sq. ft. building on .33-acre meets all setbacks, parking and built-upon requirements.

With Deal's SUP granted, he will complete the purchasing process, and begin work demolishing the Prudential Real Estate building.

The second item on the agenda was the new post office destined for the corner of NC 106 and US 64 west.

Members of the Zoning Board — as well as citizen Alice Nelson — were most concerned with traffic flow in and out of the property. There were two driveways on the submitted plan — the current one on US 64 opposite Citgo and a new one on the NC 106 side.

The plans showed only one lane at both entrances, but after much discussion engi-

neers with Freeland & Associates agreed to incorporate a left lane at both exits so traffic won't become snarled on the property or on public roads as patrons attempt to enter traffic lanes as they leave the post office.

New member Peay suggested Log Cabin Road for ingress and egress, but representatives of the project said the owners of that property had been approached and weren't interested. He then suggested condemning it for the public good, but the board said that wasn't going to happen.

Another bone of contention was the sidewalk requirement. Since the Town of Highlands Master sidewalk plan proposes sidewalks along NC 106 and US 64 west, it is the responsibility of the property owner — Jane Woodruff — to construct the segments of sidewalk that adjoins the property — preferably to make them brick like the other new sidewalks in the town's business district.

Representatives said she wasn't happy with the requirement because it would cost upwards of \$50,000 to construct sidewalks along US 64 and NC 106 due to the granite outcrops and ditches that will require substantial culverting and engineering.

Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward said the town had been approached about footing some of the infrastructure cost but a decision was not available at the Zoning Board meeting.

The other concern was upkeep of the extensive landscaping on the property. Post Office officials said they won't be maintaining the property; project architects and engineers are concerned that all the work will be for naught if not maintained; the Appearance Commission suggested enlisting area garden clubs to do the work; and Zoning Board members acknowledged that the post office was a gift to the town so something needed to be worked out but it's not a Zoning Board matter.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment granted the SUP on the condition that left exit lanes were incorporated in the project at both exits. The board said NC DOT may make additional requirements.

— **Kim Lewicki**



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PULL OUT

On going and Upcoming Events

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Communion Service

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Whiteside Presbyterian Church
621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers

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(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701
www.christanglicanchurch.com

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), "Nature-Works" (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 Favola Olvera at (828) 526-0925.

Wednesdays

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

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Atlanta Boy Choir will be joined by prize winning instrumentalists on Sunday

When the men and boys of the world famous Atlanta Boy Choir, directed by Fletcher Wolfe founder of this 53 years old organization, sing this Sunday afternoon at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, they will be joined by seven of the finest instrumentalists to be found today.

Each one is a distinguished and well known artist in their own right and have long been associated with Maestro Wolfe and the choir.

Internationally prize winning pianist and official choir accompanist Robert Henry will be joined by internationally known harpist Susan Brady- founder of The Rabun Gap Harp Seminar who trains 30 young harpists each summer at the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, Candace Keach, principal flutist with The Macon Symphony, Tom Underwood, oboist with The Macon Symphony, and a Boy Choir



Internationally known harpist Susan Brady will accompany Robert Henry and the Boys Choir on Sunday.

Alumni, Barbara Careaga-Mitchell, young violinist from South America who studied with Manuel Diaz, legendary violinist, and Chinese cellist, Guang Wang. Mr. Wang will be heard later this season on the Highlands Chamber Music Festival.

This group of outstanding players will also accompany the choir this June when they travel to Alaska to

perform in the Kenai Orchestra Festival Concerts.

Molly McKim, well known Highlands Soprano, will join the choir on Sunday on several numbers. The concert begins at 5 P.M. in the church sanctuary and is open to the public. General seating is free. Reserved patron seating is available by calling the choir at 404-378-0064.



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

Every 3rd Wednesday

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

Thursday, May 19

• Taize in Highlands at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

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.

• A Citizens' Constitutional Workshop will be presented by two professors from NCSU, Dr. Troy Kickler and Dr. Michael Sanera, at The Fun Factory on Friday at 1 p.m. This workshop is a must for Americans who are interested in preserving the United States and a federal form of government. It is a joint project of The John Locke Foundation and The North Carolina History Project. Admission is free and seating is limited. Reservations are suggested. Call Melissa at 919-828-3876.

Saturday, May 21

• At Dusty's on the Dillard Road, a free wine and food tasting from 1-3 p.m.

• Greenway Trail Day. Meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session. Work will be on the new trail in the Rec Park on the section connecting to the Highlands Historical Society. Participants will be furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Bring water, rain gear, and a day-pack to hold them. Wearing warm layers of clothes that can get dirty is advised. If you are interested in participating please register with Hillrie Quin at 526-2385 or hmquin@frontier.com.

• There will be a meeting of the Mountain Patriots at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the 441 Family Diner in Otto. Come early to make new friends & socialize. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

• 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

Final weekend for 'Leading Ladies' at PAC



Rick Siegel as Stephanie and David Spivey as Maxine.

The audience rose to their feet to applaud before the curtain call had even started on the opening night of the Highlands Cashiers Players production of "Leading Ladies." The enthusiasm for this funny play continued all through the first weekend as the comic antics of the cast, sight gags, jokes, the unlikely and hilarious situations provoked laugh after laugh in every performance. "This was pure fun," said one appreciative audience member, "a professional, well-directed production."

The colorful period costumes, provided by professional costumer Jeannie Crawford of Atlanta, add to the appeal of the production. Each character has a dresser backstage helping with the quick costume changes. These essential folks back there in the dim light include stage manager Ruby Sanders, Chris Hess, Sandie Trevathan, Betsy Johnson, Beth Flynn, Annette Church, Gale Knorr, Robin Phillips, Vanji and Curtis Rich.

The plot in a nutshell: Shakespearean actors down on their luck, fraudulent schemes to acquire a fortune, a play within a play, love and romance, men dressed as women. Absurd, yes, but from the pen of top comedic Broadway playwright, Ken Ludwig, absurdity is a delight.

The play runs Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. The box office is open at PAC, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, May 22, the box office opens at 1 p.m. before the 2:30 matinee. Individual Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$15 each person for groups of 15 or more. Call for tickets at 526-8084.

The play is sponsored in part by Cashiers Printing and The Brick Oven/Movie Stop.

• 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
• See EVENTS page 12

The Village Square ART & CRAFT SHOW SAT/SUN MAY 28 & 29

10 TO 5

Fine Art ~ Folk Art
Baskets ~ Woodwork
Jewelry ~ Pottery
Kids' Clothes

Rustic frames ~ Birdhouses

More!!

All regional artisans!



Parking ~ MUSIC ~ Food

Public Rest Rooms

DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS
Village Square & Pine St. Park

Sponsored by
Mill Creek Gallery & Framing
787-2021

PULL OUT

On going and Upcoming Events

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. please.

Monday, May 23

• Highlands Happenings Forum at the Civic Center at 10 a.m. and noon. Five-minute presentations by local nonprofits about upcoming events. Call 787-2609 for more

information.

• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tuesday, May 24

• "Scales and Slime: Reptiles & Amphibians of the Highlands Plateau" 7 pm, Cashiers. Meet living local reptiles and amphibians then enjoy an old fashioned ice cream social, presented by Patrick Brannon of Highlands Nature Center. Discover what makes this region so special at this free educational community event brought to you by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and Village Green as part of their summer Village Nature Series. Everyone is welcome to attend this special children's program, no reservations necessary. To learn more contact: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or (828) 526.1111.

May 23-May 27

• Town of Highlands White Goods Pickup. Leave your spring cleaning throw aways at the curb and the Highlands Town will pick them up.

Wed., May 25

• Deadline for entering the Nature Center's 'Salamander Art Contest.' To submit your entry, 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.

Thursday, May 26

• "Does your forest talk money?" 4:30-7 p.m. at the Cashiers library. Call or email Michelle Price if you will attend, so that handouts will be sufficient. Donations accepted. You will receive a forest products resources handbook. Light refreshments provided. Call 828-526-0890 x256 or email mprice@j-mca.org. Want to know what it takes to make money from forest land? Need to

Upcoming performance by The Concert Chorale



Front row from left: Susan Clearman (Accompanist), Marty MacMillan, Carol Criminger, Hays Howard, Ginger Slaughter, Carolyn Franklin, Vangie Rich, Jan Lemons, Molly McKim, Grat Rosazza (Director) Back row from left: Bob Lemons, Jim DeMange, Neil Howard, Dennis Ostema, Jeff Fletcher

On Sunday, June 5, the Concert Chorale, directed by Grat Rosazza, will be performing Sunday at 4 pm in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. The Chorale is comprised of singers from the Highlands, Cashiers and Sky Valley areas. The program will feature a variety of music including two English madrigals, several Broadway tunes such as a medly from *West Side Story* and a beautiful rendition of "If I loved You" from *Carousel*, as well as an encore performance of "Unchained Melody" by request. Fine wine and cheese reception in Jones Hall following the performance. Donations are very much appreciated.

Turk's Cap Lily

By Emily Compost

You can't miss the Turk's Cap lily when you see it blooming along roadsides or in woodlands. This plant is one of the largest members of the Lily Family, reaching 3 to 7 feet in height.

The flowers are approximately 2 ½ inches across. The petals curve backwards, and showy, long stamens hang down from the blossom.

This native wildflower has yellow to orange blossoms with reddish brown spots. There is a green star in the center of the bloom, which helps distinguish the Turk's Cap Lily, *Lilium superbum*, from the Tiger Lily, *Lilium tigrinum*.

The Turk's Cap lily blooms from July to September and bears numerous flowers along its stem. As many as 40 flowers may bloom on a single plant.

In North Carolina the Turk's Cap is found in the western, mountainous counties where it thrives in the moist atmosphere.



This plant has no known medicinal properties, but the American Indians are said to have used its bulbs in soups.

If you dig a Turk's Cap to transplant it, make sure you dig deep enough to get to the bulb. It will be farther down than you might think. A long, narrow spade is best for the job.

Turk's Cap lilies thrive in wet meadows and woods. They'll do best if planted in an

area in your garden that is consistently moist.

For more information on Turk's Cap lilies and other wildflowers, and for a great selection of locally-grown native plants and perennials, come to the 29th annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale Saturday, May 28, 2011, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the ballfield on Highway 64E in Highlands.

Come early. The first half hour offers the best choices. I look forward to seeing you there!

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On going and Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

Learn the NEW wild crafting ginseng regulations? Want to know more about starting an Agro-Forestry business? Want to learn about green certification and branding? Want to grow and sell forest botanicals like shiitake mushrooms?

The next regular meeting of the Macon County Republican Party will be on Thursday, 6 p.m. at the Boiler Room at the Fun Factory on Georgia Road in Franklin. Local media outlets will be recognized for their contribution to the community. Parts of the First Amendment are embodied in our media and their importance in a free and open society are immeasurable. Barbara McRae, editor of The Franklin Press will be the guest speaker and Major John Van Hook, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan will lead the pledge. 2012 goals will be discussed, committee positions will be offered, and there will be a draw for door prizes at the end of the meeting. Our party member elected officials have all been personally contacted and most if not all will be there. Let's make this a great start for our 2012 win by attending the meeting and getting involved! Attendees may order off the menu if they wish to eat.

Sat., May 28

The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike to **Yellow Branch Falls**, an unusual-looking falls, cascading over dark rocky ledges. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 10 a.m. or behind the Wachovia Bank in Cashiers at 10:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 50 round trip into

'History Live' set for June 24 & 25



Local actor, Dean Zuch, takes a look at the map of Highlands streets that was hand-drawn by Highlands founder Samuel Kelsey and is now housed in the Highlands Historical Museum. Zuch will portray Kelsey in the upcoming performance of "History Live!" at the Highlands Historic Village. Kelsey was responsible for the design and construction of all downtown streets in Highlands in 1875 and shortly thereafter.

History Live's "Roads that Lead to Highlands" is sponsored by the Historical Society. Performances will take place behind the Prince House next-door to the Civic Center on N. Fourth Street at 6:00 p.m. on June 24 and 25, and at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on June 26 at 4 p.m. Seating is provided at all events. Admission is \$10 for adults with students admitted free. Park at the Civic Center for events at the Prince House.

SC. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.

Sat. & Sun., May 28-29

May Workshops at The Bascom

From printmaking to drawing to watercolor, explore the wonderful workshop offerings at The Bascom this May.

• Wed.-Fri., May 25-27

"Plates and Press - An Introduction to Printmaking Techniques", Kathleen Corey, 10 am - 4 pm
Medium: printmaking Level: I & II
Explore basic printmaking methods and discover the excitement of "pulling a print."

Tuition: \$75 members/\$100 non-members/\$20 lab fee

• Thursday-Friday, May 26-27

"Drawing - Zentangle", Joan Payton and Jeannie Mahood, 10 am-4 pm
Medium: pen and ink Level: I & II
Zentangle is beautiful drawings that anyone can create from repeating patterns.

Tuition: \$170 members/\$195 non-members/\$10 materials fee.

• Tuesday, May 31

"One Day: Watercolor for Beginners", Marilyn Brandenburger, 10 am-4 pm
Medium: watercolor Level: I

Get acquainted with watercolor and learn about brushes, paints and papers in this introductory class. Tuition: \$95 members/\$115 non-members.

• Wed.-Fri. June 1-3

"Watercolor Travel Journaling: Landscape", Marilyn Brandenburger, 10 am-4 pm
Medium: watercolor Level: II & III

This is a class for travelers and painters. Record what you see and experience in a personal watercolor journal. Work from real life and your photographs. Bring a sack lunch each day. Tuition: \$275 members/\$300 non-members.

Don't miss the opening of *Richard Ritter: Glass* in the Loft Gallery on Friday, May 20th. Each piece of glass in this exhibition captures a moment in Ritter's eventful career. This exhibition, traveling from The Ogden, will include current and retrospective works by Ritter. While at The Bascom, stop by and enjoy *American Still Life, Yesterday and Today* in the Main Gallery, and the Children's Gallery featuring works from student's in Bascom programs.

Admission for the exhibits is free.

Workshop and class registration is going on now. The Bascom is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 526.4949.

• Memorial Weekend Village Square Art & Craft Show in downtown Highlands' Pine Street Park from 10 to 5 Saturday and Sunday.

Sun., May 29

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike past an interesting old bridge to Mud Creek Falls near Sky Valley, GA. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2:00 pm. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors and children over ten are welcome, but no pets please.

Tuesday, May 31

• Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, 10 am to 7 pm. Please call 524-3600 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins welcome, appointments preferred! Through June 30, two donors will be selected at random to receive a pair of round-trip tickets.

Thursday, June 2

• Taize in Highlands at the Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

• Benefit Softball Tournament for Chelsea Moses Murray who has Wilsons Disease (Liver), at the Highlands Softball Field starting at 8 am. There will be food, raffles, a silent auction. To enger a team, call Michelle Johnson at 3721-2064.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5-mile hike, descending on a steep trail used by rappellers, to walk along underneath the vertical sheer granite south face of Whiteside Mtn. The hike is rated strenuous because of the 1,000 ft. change in elevation and the steep climb. Meet at the Whiteside parking lot at 10 a.m. Bring water, lunch, gloves; wear deep lugged boots. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.



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Directed by Tanji Armor

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with Ryan Potts

Soccer season ends with loss to Thomas Jefferson

The Lady Highlanders ended their soccer season last Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to Thomas Jefferson in the first round of the NCHSAA playoffs. The Lady Highlanders had faced the Lady Gryphons in Mooresboro a couple of weeks ago in what was a close contest, and the Lady Highlanders had hopes of advancing to the second round for the first time in school history.

The game opened with Thomas Jefferson establishing early control of the match as the Lady Highlanders showed some opening jitters. The youth of the home team was apparent, as the older, more experienced Lady Gryphons were able to dominate the possession and create some early chances. Fortunately for Highlands, their defense held and was able to keep the game scoreless until a missed marking assignment allowed Thomas Jefferson to draw first blood in the 26th minute of the

first half. As Highlands struggled to regroup, a lightning delay allowed the home team a chance to get adjusted to the play-off atmosphere and head into halftime down only 1-0.

The second half can be broken down into two particular plays, one of which saw the Lady Highlanders give away a penalty kick that resulted in a 2-0 Thomas Jefferson lead. The second was when Lady Highlander striker Hayden Bates was taken down in the box by Thomas Jefferson and no penalty was given. Despite fantastic effort, the Lady Highlanders could not generate any more significant opportunities and ended up falling 2-0.

The Lady Highlanders finished the season with an overall record of 6-8-2 and showed marked improvement throughout the season. Next year looks to be very promising for the Lady Highlanders!

Highlander Softball ends season versus Cherokee

The Lady Highlander softball team ended their season last Monday with a loss to Cherokee in the first round of the Smoky Mountain Conference Softball Tournament. T

he loss to the Lady Braves eliminated the Lady Highlanders from playoff contention. With the loss, the Lady Highlanders will also say goodbye to four seniors, two of which were captains.

Mary Warner and Valerie Shelton were both first year players as seniors and both contributed more and more as the season progressed. Also departing the Lady Highlanders will be senior stalwarts Taylor Buras and Katie Nix. Buras and Nix were both 3-year starters for the Lady Highlanders and have been a part of the rebuilding of the Lady Highlander softball program from the very beginning.

Lady Highlander coach Christine Murphy is certainly sad for the departure of these young ladies, but she will say her goodbyes mixed with plenty of pride for what these girls have accomplished.

"I'm so proud of our players," said Coach Murphy. "We are still building our program and trying to teach fundamentals,

and despite the struggles this year we have had some positive things to celebrate. We had everyone letter for us, and by the end of the season every player had gotten a hit in a game, which is a big step for our program."

The Lady Highlanders will look to add a youth infusion to next year's team, where they will add several eighth graders to a team that already has increased numbers in the last 3 seasons.

Saturday, June 4

Benefit Softball

Tournament for Chelsea Moses Murray who has Wilsons Disease (Liver), at the Highlands Softball Field starting at 8 am.

There will be food, raffles, a silent auction. To enger a team, call Michelle Johnson at 3721-2064.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

down? Back then people came here legally and had to earn the privilege of being an American. My father-in-law was not showered with government welfare, healthcare or social security benefits. He was just a 10-year-old boy who could neither read nor write English. Years later, he was the father of two girls and a respected electrical engineer for the New Jersey power company. That's the kind of white male that made this country the strongest, most industrial, God fearing nation in the world and not some slick, fast-talking politician who twist words and have no respect for history.

As the white male diminishes from our planet, so have our nation's

... SWANSON continued from page 6

tor. It took about 90 minutes to retract that genius announcement. LaHood is a strong proponent of folks bicycling to work but after some thought added that it might be dangerous for putting bicycles in the middle of urban traffic. Really. This comes from our Sec. of Trans.

But perhaps the real story is told with his promotion of high-speed rail "This is what the American people want. If you build it, they will come." During the above-mentioned interview, he said something to the effect that, since gas prices are going higher, people will have to take the high-speed train (or their bikes, whichever works).

I'm sure that many people are perplexed about the cozy connection between Obama and Jeff Immelt, CEO of GE. I have previously mentioned this incestuous relationship in derogatory terms and this is why.

From zimbio.com (a caption of a photo of Obama and Immelt conversing): US President talks to GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt during a meeting with members of his Economic Recovery Advisory Board in the Roosevelt Room of the White House May 20, 2009 in Washington DC. The meeting was focused on energy and green jobs.

Next, from gigaom.com (A headline from a column on their website): "GE Fires Up Rail Deals in China, Eyes U.S. High Speed Rail Projects." From the story: "This morning (Nov. 17, 2009), the conglomerate (GE) has announced a set of agreements with various companies and the government of China on the road to a high-speed rail build out in the

strengths. We were once an industrial giant. We had values....along with our core belief in God. Prayer was part of our government's everyday activities. Read your history, if you can still find a correct version. It was the white male who created that environment. Now, our nation has put God on a back burner and it shows. The courts, through their twisted interpretations, have redefined our Constitution and used it against us. Before it's over, America's story will be rewritten and the white male, with all his inventions, creativity and initiatives, will be in the shadows, having played little or no part.

Once there was a great white male

United States."

And finally, from the futureofcapitalism.com on Feb. 9, 2011: "Michelle Malkin notices that General Electric will get its piece of the \$53 billion the Obama administration wants to spend on high-speed rail; 'In another such fortuitous coincidence, one of the top beneficiaries of the new White House rail bailout is GE Transportation – the leading manufacturer of diesel-electric locomotives. President Obama recently named GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt to head the new White House jobs council.'"

It then quotes John Stossel, who is also skeptical of high-speed rail. He writes: 'At last month's state of the Union, President Obama said America needs more passenger trains. How does he know? For years, politicians promised that more of us will want to commute by train, but it doesn't happen. People like their cars. Some subsidized trains cost so much per commuter that it would be cheaper to buy them taxi rides. The grand schemes of the politicians fail and fail again.'"

Do you ever wonder how office-holders become wealthy? In some cases (the Kennedys, for example), they are born into it. Others, say Obama, for example, didn't have ... or a window to throw it out of. He's well on the way to becoming a very, very wealthy man. Connect the dots, my friend.

And the worst part of the matter is that Obama does these deals in the public eye and no one seems to call him on it. I guess when you have the Attorney General in your pocket, no problem.

leader who said, "Walk softly and carry a big stick." America has thrown away the stick and we bow and apologize to everyone. Most of the world hates us, not because of the white male and his big stick, but because we consider the enemy of our enemies as our friend. If we would stop doing that, our relations with the world would improve. But there I go again, thinking like a white male. Hey, I'm on my way out. What do I know?

And finally, if you think all this is a bunch of poppycock and history is never

distorted, then you probably still think Thomas Edison invented the light bulb. Duh! Look it up if you can still find it.

P.S. – And for you boneheads out there who like to run everything by Snopes for truth and authenticity, be aware it's owned by Barbara and David Mikkelsen, two of the most bleeding heart liberals on the planet. WARNING: Use caution; they are white and may not have birth certificates.

Deceived is what will happen to you.

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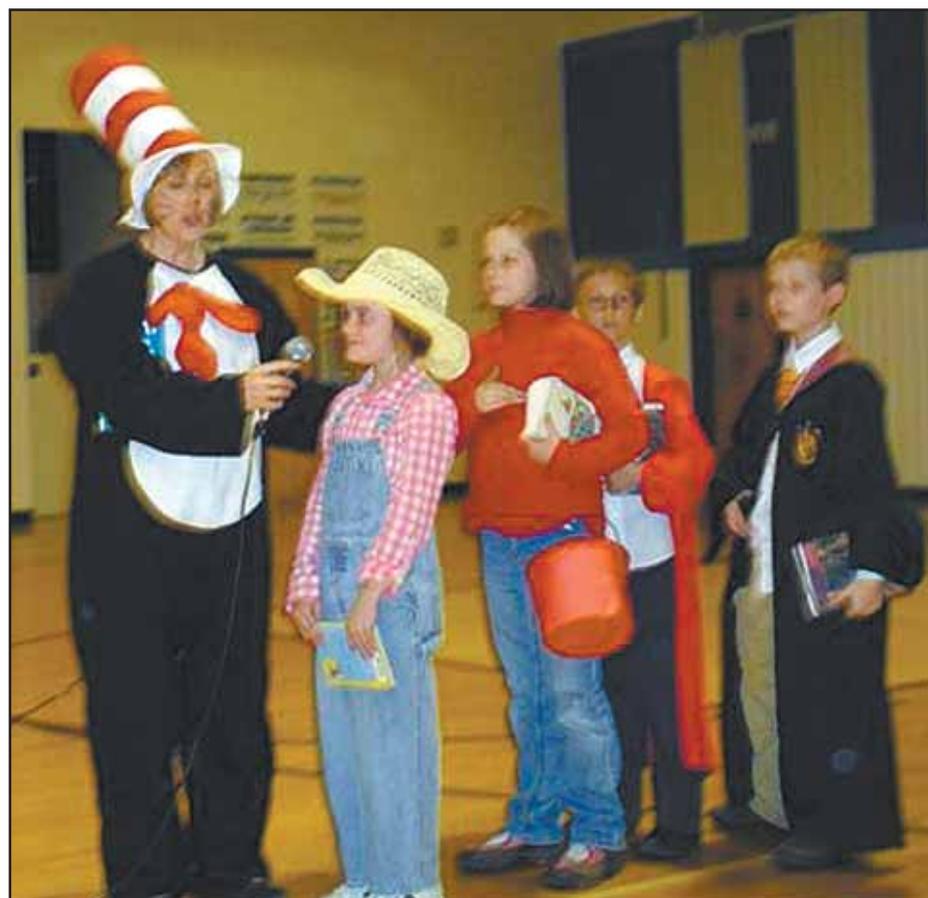
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'Story Book Character Day' at Highlands School



Above, Ms. Bowen with students from Ms. Chalkers class and right, with Tristan.



Right, Ms. Bowen with "characters" from Ms. Coppages class.



Aislin (left) and Cody (above).

Day all about the love of reading!

'Day' dedicated to teacher who loves to dress the part!

Recently there was Story Book Character Day at Highlands School when the elementary students (and teachers) dressed as their favorite story book character.

The day was dedicated to Jane Chalker, retiring Great Beginnings teacher, who enjoys dressing as book characters to promote reading. Mrs. Chalker was dressed as the cow from the book, *Click, Clack, Moo* by Doreen Cronin.

At the end of the day, there was a Story Book Character Parade in the gym and each class paraded before students, teachers, parents, and friends and told which book character they were.

The day was organized by Media Coordinator, Carol Bowen, who was dressed as the *Cat in the Hat* from Dr. Seuss' book.



Ms. Bowen and Great Beginnings Teacher Assistant Cindy Reed.



Ms. Bowen with Camren.

... ELECTRIC RATES continued from page 1

good for both Highlands and its citizens because electric rates remained steady while feeding a healthy electric fund.

But last year Duke wised up. New rates went into affect March 2010.

When Highlands learned this was on the horizon, the board hired Nova Energy Consultants' Kevin O'Donnell, to act as its go-between for Duke and a plan was set in motion to ease citizens into the rate increase slowly.

To offset a spike in electric rates, Highlands raised its rates in 2009 – the first time in years – in preparation for Duke's 2010 wholesale rate increase to the town.

For 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2012-14, the town is expecting to use about \$359,000 from the electric fund. To ensure that amount is available, and to offset Duke's wholesale increases, both the base rate and the kWh rate will increase. The question right now is by how much?

Town Manager Jim Fatland said a decision must be made prior to July 1 and adoption of the 2011-12 budget, so he wants to confer with the Finance Committee made up of Commissioners John Dotson and Gary Drake, to see what can be cut across the board.

Trimming electric department operating expenses – administrative and operational – could mean less of a hike in rates to customers but so could a decrease in the amount bankrolled in the electric fund.

O'Donnell presented a scenario where customer rates would increase 12% for fiscal year 2011-12, 10% for 2010-13 and 6% for 2013-14.

“Even with the increases, by 2014 Highlands will still be paying \$5 a kWh less than what folks in Eastern NC pay,” he said. “But people whose eyes pop out when they open up their electric bill don't

care what people in Eastern NC pay.”

Back in 2009, O'Donnell thought he had a solid scenario worked out, but Duke's costs to Highlands ran higher than estimated because it raised its rental cost for transmission points as well as the transmission rate.

“We were off by \$120,000 because we didn't have the figures and they came in higher,” he said. “Basically Duke is losing industrial load while constructing new plants, so it is spreading the cost to everyone else.”

The biggest change will be raising the base rate for every citizen, full-time and seasonal, because just raising the kWh rate won't be enough to offset Duke's hike.

Highlands 27,804 residential customers and 5,124 commercial customers don't use enough power – kWh – year round to bring in the needed funds, said O'Donnell.

Highlands' total required Electric Department revenue is \$470,715. This takes into account operating income, operating expenses, operating margin before capital outlays, the transfer to capital projects and other funds, the transfer in from the rate stabilization fund, the net income to reserve and the rate stabilization fund.

To guarantee that amount for 2011-12, commissioners are leaning toward a \$10 base rate increase and a 4.3% kWh rate increase for both residential and commercial customers. The \$10 base rate increase would bring in \$339,280 and the 4.3% kWh increase would bring in \$141,435.

The current base rate is \$9.53, which is the minimum charge before kWh usage is factored in. With \$10 added to the base it jumps to \$19.53 before kWh usage.

O'Donnell said in a seasonal town that sells electricity, the base hike is important because even though customers are hooked

up to the electric grid they aren't using a lot of kWh so the town isn't getting money.

“We need to get a solid amount of revenue to pay Duke and still make a profit,” said O'Donnell. “We have fixed costs – poles, lines and charges from Duke — that we have to recover on an annual basis.”

He said by increasing the base rate per customer versus just increasing the kWh rate, the town will be recovering costs from everyone and not just full-time customers through kWh usage.

Other rate increase scenarios suggest a \$5 base rate increase for all customers – residential and commercial and a 9.4% kWh increase; \$10 for residential and \$5 for commercial with a 5.1% kWh increase; and \$5 for residential and \$10 for commer-

cial with a 8.6% kWh increase. Each scenario will net the town the needed \$470,715.

...

At a very short 7 p.m. meeting, the winner of the Town Flag contest, Jeffery Owens, was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a check for \$500.

Wanda Drake, who spearheaded the contest, said she hoped the flag would bring people together and said the response was overwhelming.

“Delta employees took hold of this and took ownership of it as did Southwestern Community College,” she said.

The flag committee narrowed down 42 entries to the final three, with Owens winning.



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clear there is a plague of crickets. Now it might be something of a distortion

to say it's biblical in proportion, but there is something that's viral or

microbial, near and far, it's spreading global,

making it hard to go shopping for these creatures that go hopping.

There is something to detect inside all these that is insecticidal,

do not ignore it with shoulders shrugged because we may soon be debugged,

and the farmer's dreams are in smoke and up the chimney,

bad news for them, I say by jiminy. When it starts inside your gene,

no recessed is too extreme.

... from the History Guy

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How is the market in Highlands and Cashiers?

Inquiring minds want to know! So here are the real facts concerning the North Carolina real estate market. As a full time broker, a.k.a 7 days a week worker, here goes. The most asked question is: "How is the market in Highlands and Cashiers?" So here goes...



Pat Allen
 Pat Allen Realty
 pat.f.allen@gmail.com

First, let's get the foreclosure facts out of the way. Economists predict 2011 will be the worst on record nationally for the number of foreclosures. But according to the North Carolina Association of Realtors foreclosures in OUR state remain below the national average.

For the first quarter, foreclosure actions fell 27% across the state from the last quarter of 2010, compared to a 15% decline nationally. So how do we compare on a local level for Highlands and Cashiers?

From May 2010 until today Highlands sold 19 foreclosed homes with only two being over a million dollars. Cashiers closed eight foreclosed homes with only two being above a million dollars. As you can see this is good news for our area.

I became certified as a foreclosure and short sale broker a.k.a. SFR, due to all the hysteria coming from the media. But as you can see it is all about location, location, location!

Another positive sign is that housing starts and permits for future home construction in the state rose 7.2%. Home building

accounts for about 2.4% of the gross domestic product. In March, existing home sales rose for the sixth consecutive month, prompting the National Association of Realtors Chief Economist, Lawrence Yun, to declare housing on a "recovery path."

Now for interesting statistics closer to home. From May 17, 2010 until May 17, 2011 home sales in Highlands totaled 78 with a total of 16 being over a million

dollars.

For the same period in Cashiers, 63 homes sold with 19 closing over a million dollars. The highest priced home that sold in Highlands was \$2,100,000 and for Cashiers it was \$4,500,000. These numbers show that savvy investors still want to be a part of Highlands and Cashiers. Our natural beauty, cool climate, restaurants, events, shopping, galleries and sophisticated lifestyle are a Mecca for all. We currently have new construction going on in Highlands Cove at the Old Edwards Club and Mountaintop which is another good sign that people want to be here.

Should you invest your dollars here? I did 17 years ago and haven't looked back.

For more info on current market conditions contact Pat Allen of Pat Allen Realty Group at 828-526-8784 or at pat.f.allen@gmail.com

• POLICE DEPT. LOG •

Highlands PD log entries from May 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 7

• At 9:53 a.m., officers assisted EMS at N. 4th Street where a woman had fallen in her residence.

May 11

• At 2:06 p.m., a bear was reported on Sixth Street.
 • At 10 a.m., vandalism was reported at a residence on Oak Street.

May 12

• At 6:30 p.m., a dispute over land use was reported at a residence on US 64 west.

May 13

• At 2:03 a.m., after being stopped for driving without

headlights at US 64 and Main Street, Paige Miles Strahan, 19, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and possession of marijuana following a canine search of the vehicle.

May 16

• At 8:30 p.m. a vehicle valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen from a residence on NC 106.

May 17

• 9:38 p.m., a vehicle accident resulting in property damage on NC 106 was reported.

May 18

• At 8:38 p.m., a bear was reported at the Motor Coach entrance on Chestnut Street.

• At 9:55 p.m., officers responded to a call of an unresponsive woman at a residence on Brookside Road.

• H-C HOSPITAL NEWS •

BBQ cookout in honor of employees during National Hospital Week

To show appreciation for the dedicated employees at HCH, the Board of Directors hosted and served an outside BBQ Cookout last Thursday. Staff, physicians and volunteers were invited to join the festivities in celebration of National Hospital Week. Members from HCH Board of Directors dished up burgers, hotdogs, all the fixings, and ice cream.



Earle Mauldin, Craig James, (HCH President and CEO) Frances Oakley, Jim Rothermel and George Maloney.

National Hospital Week serves as a special week for the public to thank and show gratitude for their community healthcare professionals. Throughout National Hospi-

tal Week, individuals and organizations come together to promote and increase awareness of the value hospitals bring to their communities.

Hospital welcomes Eileen Lipham as Chief Nursing Officer



and then went on to receive her master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Lipham is a welcome addition to the HCH leadership team," said Craig James, President and CEO. "Her talent, expertise and leadership will assure our high level of quality patient care as we fulfill our mission of providing outstanding, compassionate health care services to our communities."



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KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED — Summer Camp at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands. Cooks, Prep and Dish Room. Wage DOE. June 1 – July 30. Contact Julia at 828.526.5838 ext. 263. www.mountaincenters.org. (5/26)

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Mallory E. Phillips, III joins White Oak Realty Group

Susie deVille Schiffl, Owner/Broker-in-Charge, has announced that Mallory E. Phillips, III has joined White Oak Realty Group, a Highlands, NC real estate firm.



doing: providing service to my clients and helping them realize their dreams," said Mal Phillips. "I know that investing in Highlands, NC real estate changed my life, and I look forward to helping others do the same."

"I am beyond excited and honored that Mal has joined White Oak Realty Group," said

Mallory E. Phillips, III, Broker, was born and raised in the Buckhead area of Atlanta, GA and completed his pre-college education at The Lovett School. Mal resettled in Atlanta to attend Emory Law School after graduating from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA (BA in Psychology and Economics). He engaged in the practice of labor and employment law for 24 years, representing management as a partner in the Atlanta offices of Fisher and Phillips and then Ford and Harrison.

Susie deVille Schiffl. "His impeccable customer service, work ethic, and sales acumen are absolutely essential elements to an entrepreneur's success. Further, Mal will bring his expertise and deep background in design to our Buyer and Seller clients, helping them envision and bring to life new possibilities for their properties."

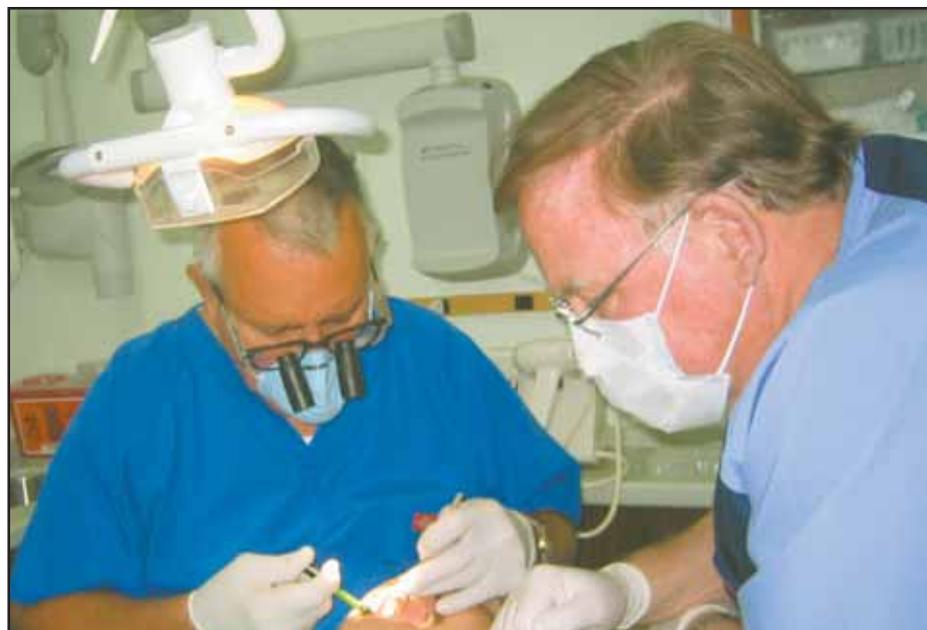
deVille Schiffl launched White Oak Realty Group in January. The firm's office will be located at 125 South Fourth Street, in the heart of the retail district in Highlands and across from the Old Edwards Inn & Spa. With the design by Jeffrey Owens of AV, Ltd and construction by Zack Hawkins of Headwaters Home Services, renovations began last month.

deVille Schiffl estimates that the project will be completed within a few weeks. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

Having grown up coming to the Highlands plateau, Mal bought a cabin in Highlands in 2001 and launched a retail furniture and accessories business, Twigs. Mal retired from the active practice of law in 2004 and moved to Highlands full time. Intrigued with the unique opportunities to bring his brand of extraordinary service to a new entrepreneurial venture, Mal launched his real estate career in early 2011.

"Joining White Oak Realty Group represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to do what I am passionate about

Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic releases 2010 report



The Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic completed its fifth full year of operations in December, 2010. The numbers tell a story of continued growth in all aspects of its operations. However, the real measure of success is its consistent ability to make a difference in the lives of its less fortunate Western North Carolina neighbors. Last year alone, the clinic scheduled over 1,160 patient appointments.

Since inception in mid-2005, the Clinic has served over 2,000 patients and completed over 21,500 procedures. The value of these procedures exceeds \$2,900,000. These extraordinary results are generated from an annual budget of slightly less than \$200,000.

Ron Keller, Board President, said, "We are deeply indebted to the local community that includes our churches, civic associations, and both full-time and seasonal residents. It takes all of us working together to get the job done."

Even with the impressive patient data, it is noteworthy that the year closed with a waiting list of 500 individuals. That number is not expected to decline in the near term, as the local economy remains dependent on tourism and the construction trades. Neither sector shows any measurable improvement in the three-county area

we serve: Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties.

The Clinic increased its professional staff with the addition of Dr. Allen VanOverbeke in 2010. With his presence, along with that of Drs. Craig Ashton, Tommy Day and David Jones, who joined the Clinic in 2009, it has expanded its professional staff to nine volunteer dentists and is now open three and a half days a week during the April to October period. This allows for increased patient load, and provides more restorative work, including TMJ splints and full and partial dentures.

"Looking at our record for the past five years, and the nearly \$3 million dollars in procedures done, it is hard to believe we are a 'free dental clinic.' We are making a significant impact in the lives of many people and living out our mission of 'restoring lives, one tooth at a time.'" said Keller.

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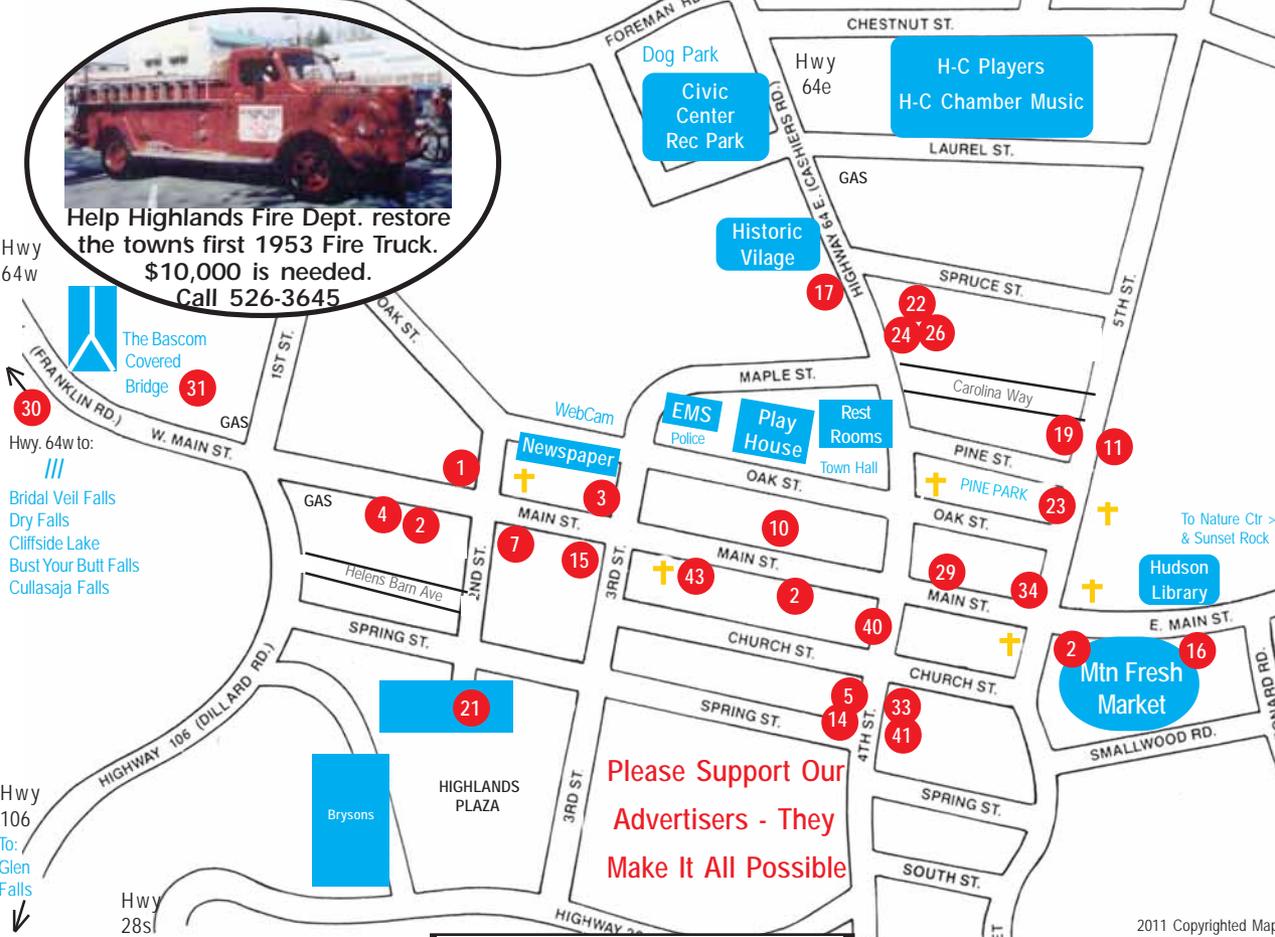
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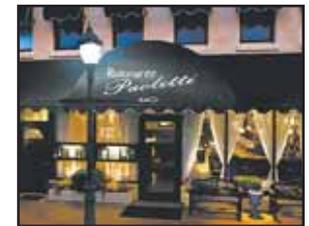
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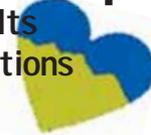
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