

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 43

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Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011

Through Wed., Nov. 23  
• Signups are now being accepted for the upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information see page 12 or call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551 or 828-342-3850.

Thurs-Sun., Nov. 3-6  
• HCP presents Kitchen Witches at PAC 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2:30. For tickets call 526-8084.

Thursday, Nov. 3  
• Taize at Holy Family at 5:30 p.m.

• The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Girl Scout Troop 30219 Bingo from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building – next to the ball park.

Fri.-Wed., Nov. 4-17  
• The International Friendship Center will be taking orders for tamales starting on Friday. \$8 for 6 or \$15 for 12. To order, please call the IFC at 526.0890 x 252 or e-mail us at [centroeamigos@nctv.com](mailto:centroeamigos@nctv.com). The tamales will be made on Friday, Nov. 19 and will be available for pick-up at the IFC office on Saturday the 20th from 9AM-12PM.

Saturday, Nov. 5  
• Formal Dress Resale of prom, party and formal dresses for middle and high school girls. To donate, call Mrs. Billingsley at 828-342-5373 or drop off at Highlands School.

• Fall Festival at Clear Creek Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. Hot dogs, prizes, games, bingo, popcorn and more. Pumpkin carving story at 7:30 p.m. "Shine with His light" No costumes, please.

Tuesday, Nov. 8  
• Election Day. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

• Story Swap 7:30 p.m. at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. The theme for November is "Friends and Family." If you have a 5-7 minute story to tell or read, sign up at the pub or call 369-1927.  
• Fish Happening on Lake Sequoyah from the boat ramp near the dam at 1 a.m., 1,300 six-inch catfish will be released.

## Changes at Rec Park; Playhouse lease tweaked

With the pending retirement of Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker, the Town Board has decided to split Chalker's job into two functions – Rec Park Director and Physical Plant Manager – and to begin advertising for both

positions as soon as possible.

Commissioner Gary Drake initiated the discussion saying that with Chalker leaving March 1, 2012, this may be the time to listen to citizens who have requested more recreational activities and

programs at the Rec Park and to split the duties Chalker now performs into two full time positions.

Currently, Chalker also takes care of all aspects of the physical plant of the Rec Park. The Physical

• See REC PARK page 7

## Commissioner reluctant to adopt slope standards

Experts stressed the need for Macon County to adopt construction standards for slope development at a special continuation meeting Oct. 25, but still the commission is reluctant to take a stand on the issue.

County Planning Board chairman Lewis Penland opened the meeting reminding the board that two years had been spent on the Steep Slope issue only to have the subject tabled by the commission, recently.

Instead the Planning Board was tasked to come up with construction standards for development on slopes to address slope cuts, fill slopes, fill material, and more.

Dr. Dan Marks, a licensed engineer in NC, SC, GA, TN, and OK who has a Ph.D in civil engineering and who has been practicing Geotechnical Engineering for more than 40 years while

• See SLOPE page 11

## Red Ribbon Week King & Queen



The King and Queen of Red Ribbon Week were chosen at random from a drawing of all students in the school. Pictured with Highlands School Resource Officer Mike Jolly is first-grader, King J.J. Postell and fourth-grader, Queen Sayla Roman. Red Ribbon Week takes place across the country in remembrance of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who was murdered by members of a Mexican drug cartel. Red Ribbon Week promotes alcohol, tobacco, drug and violence prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States.

Photo by Carol Bowen

## • Inside •

Letters .....	2
Obituary .....	3
Wooldridge .....	4
Salzarulo .....	5
Back Days in Highlands .	6
Candidate Q & A .....	8
Events .....	12
Police & Fire .....	17
Classifieds .....	20

## SOS-NC still watching for calendar waivers

By Louise Lee  
Save Our Summers-NC

Recently, the non-profit organization, Save Our Summers-North Carolina (SOS-NC) and Macon County parent, Sabrina Hawkins, took legal action against the NC State Board of Education for granting waivers (from the mandated August 25<sup>th</sup> school start date) to every single school in the Macon County school district. This system-wide attempt to evade the school calendar law violates the intent of N.C. General Statute 115C-84.2(d), which states that, "waiver requests for educational purposes shall not be used to accommodate system-wide classroom preferences."

Even though SOS-NC did not learn of the waivers until they had already been granted, they went ahead and sought a preliminary injunction to temporarily rescind

• See SOS page 17

FRI	SAT	SUN
55 \ 38F	53 \ 37F	50 \ 40F

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Get 'tickled' at 'Kitchen Witches'

To the good people of Highlands,  
Please give yourselves a fabulous treat - go see Highlands Cashiers Players' production of "The Kitchen Witches."  
HCP is no ordinary community players group. The cast and stage hands beautifully managed a complex play, and are as good as any you'll see anywhere, including Broadway.  
Kitchen Witches is an extremely humorous, poignant play. Call now for tickets. And be sure to take your funny bone - it's sure to be tickled.

Susan Smith  
Highlands

Pro choice = Pro death

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in response to a letter published in the Oct. 19th edition of your paper written by Mark Herstik entitled "Don't say it's just me in box X." I wanted to point out one of the inconsistencies of his logic and the logic of those who subscribe to his point of view.

In his letter, Mr. Herstik in point number 5 championed a woman's right to "choose" which is in essence pronouncing the death penalty on an unborn child. An extreme "choice" which is an attempt to cover up an immoral and sinful choice to have sex outside of marriage.

In point 12 of Mr. Herstik's tirade, he makes disparaging remarks about the State of Texas sentencing convicted criminals to the death penalty. I am puzzled by the logic of those who want to kill innocent unborn children and yet spare the lives of the worst criminal offenders of our society.

The root of our problems in America isn't merely financial, it is moral in nature. We are now reaping the "benefits" of a generation who were taught in school that there are no moral absolutes. A generation which was told to make its own deci-

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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

Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Highlands' Newspaper

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sions concerning right and wrong without any foundation of morality. A generation that can justify these inconsistent positions brought out by Mr. Herstik.

Many in America have been building on the proverbial shifting sands of moral relativism, and our house is rapidly falling. If anyone wants to truly know why America is failing, read Deuteronomy chapter 28 in the Old Testament. This chapter details the benefits of following God and the curse of denying Him. You will realize that we are now reaping the curse of America's decision to turn its back on God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is God calling out to His people; "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Would anyone deny that our land needs healing today?

Robert L. Lambert  
Franklin NC

• THANKS •

Fall Festival a winner

Dear Editor,  
On behalf of the Highlands School PTO, I would like to express my gratitude to the many individuals and businesses that helped make our Fall Festival successful. Your support makes a difference in every classroom at Highlands School.

Thank you to the senior class, senior parents and senior sponsors for all their hard work in putting the festival together, to all the teachers and staff members that volunteered, to all the parents and PTO board members that donated time and energy; with special thanks to Nikki Smolarsky and Allison Tate for their help in set up, Gina Billingsley for her assistance in clean up, Officer Jolly and Hilary Stiehler for carefully monitoring the finances, Pastor Paul Christy, Jennifer Forrester, Ron Hensley, Tracy Roman, Tracy Smith and Mike Murphy for their help with the cake walk, Mr. Creighton and Ms. Thatcher for their help with the

•See THANKS page 3



# ... THANKS continued from page 2

haunted house, Rhonda Ramey, Christy Weller and the Highland Rotary Club for hosting our Bingo, Michelle Munger, Debbie Moss and Highlands Mountain Top Rotary Club for lending lots of extra hands in the kitchen and preparing a great meal, Dori Moschouris and Nick's restaurant for donating our fabulous spaghetti sauce, David Sims and the staff of Highlands Lawn & Garden for the donation of the pumpkins, Marjorie Crowe and the volunteers from Highlands United Methodist Church for their help with the balloon booth, Highlands Recreation Park for the use of sound and Bingo equipment and Nancy Johnson and Debbie Holt for help with the Spiritwear booth. Thank you to Tony Potts and Macon Bank for the use of their popcorn machine. Thank you also to the businesses that donated raffle prizes; Bryson's Food Store, Reeve's Hardware, RBC, and Farmer's Market.

We were very fortunate to have so many wonderful sponsors of PTO this year! Thank you to our \$500 Sponsors: Highlands Pharmacy, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Yates, JW Underwood Construction, Highlands Rotary Club and Subway of Highlands. Donations are still being accepted to support the PTO and may be mailed to Post Office Box 940, Highlands

North Carolina 28741. All donations over \$25 receive tiered recognition on a banner that hangs in the school lobby year round.

Most of all, thank you to each of you who attended. The Fall Festival continues to be a cherished tradition that provides an affordable night of fun for a great cause...our children!

Andrea L Chalker  
• See THANKS page 18

## Roll Tide Roll!



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## VOTE: Brian J. Stiehler

Town Commissioner • November 8, 2011

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  - Supporter of all town employees
  - Environmentally conscience
- Supporter of Highlands School and its children, staff and administrators
- For transparency of the Town Board



Call Brian's cell @ 200-9007 if you have any questions; he wants to earn your vote!

Paid for by the committee to elect Brian Stiehler

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

There's "movement" in the air

No, no, no, not that movement. This is about people on the move. It's a semiannual event in Highlands. Now you see 'em, now you don't. Wait...now they're back. It's what I call the May/October syndrome, also known as MOS.

Floridiots, which make up a huge part of our summer population, are packin' up their fine china, their thousand dollar bills and heading south. Some Highlanders say, "Thank God!" Floridiots are like migratory birds; like hummers, they can't help it. It's in their genes, so be nice to Floridiots. They'll be back, hopefully with their money.

Lots of folks only head south to Atlanta where they will hunker down for the winter. What's that all about? Why bother? Only two hours away, they might as well stay in Highlands and enjoy the miserable



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!  
askfredanything@aol.com

weather as opposed to the miserable weather in Atlanta. Unless you want real change, snowbirds must get south of Lake Okeechobee in Florida to avoid a freeze and then it's not certain.

For "true" Highlanders, this is a time to rejoice, a time to relax, to build a fire, pick up a good book (like mine) and think about how they'll survive. It's a time to gather with friends and rejoice in the solitude of not seeing another Floridiot for weeks and weeks. Don't ya just love it when they're all gone and you can go to the grocery, sip some hot cider and then figure out how you'll get home 'cause a fog rolled in and you can't even find your car in the parking lot? Ah, the joys of winter. And then there's the ole "chestnuts roasting on an open fire." Oops, I forgot. No more chestnuts. Maybe acorns? Nah... acorns remind me of corrupt voter's registration cards.

The best part is when it snows. It's sooooo beautiful. Then it slowly melts and

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 6

• Highlands Fine Dining •

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## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### What's wrong with a fence?

"Good fences make good neighbors."

Robert Frost didn't actually display any great affection for fences in "Mending Walls." I intended to use the quote in support of a fence between Mexico and the United States, citing the wisdom of the great American poet. Fortunately, I read it first and saved myself some embarrassment in the process. It's useful to check a source.

Frost points out that no fence is needed to separate his apple trees from his neighbor's pines, for his apples are unlikely to eat the cones under his neighbor's pines. It's a different story when cows, or illegal immigrants, are involved.

Now that the poetry lesson is over, let me ask the question, "What's wrong with a fence?" Politicians have been wrangling over the question for several years. President Bush proposed a "virtual" fence. The concept was signed into law, a contract awarded to Boeing, and several miles of fence erected before cost overruns and technical difficulties led to cancellation of the project earlier this year. Proponents of a physical barrier have argued that the notion of an open border borders on lunacy in view of the fact that we currently entertain between 10 and 20 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Opponents abhor the human rights implications as well as the expense and technical challenges of a fence. One need not identify himself as liberal or conservative to recognize the absurdity of the comparison of a fence along the Mexican border with the Berlin wall. Folks, one was erected to keep people in. The other is proposed to keep people out.

The Communist East Germans and their Russians masters built a wall, studied with machine gun towers to prevent a disillusioned population from seeking freedom and opportunity in the West. Come to think of it, Mexican and Central Americans want much the same thing, but we're trying to keep them out. One might argue whether we are selfishly guarding our wealth or preserving our national sovereignty. The answer is unimportant. It is our right to protect our border and enforce our laws.

This raises the question, "What's



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

wrong with a fence?" If it is expensive, which it most assuredly is, then let's weigh the cost against the savings. If protecting the Southern border with a fence would cost 30 billion dollars, as Texas Governor Rick Perry recently claimed, then I think I might go into the fence business. A few years ago, when we faced the possibility of a worldwide depression, China used its stimulus money to build the fastest rail system in the world. If we'd built a fence, we might have

something to show for our money. It's inconceivable that we lack the technological capability to build a fence capable of keeping outsiders outside. China built a wall to protect its northern border centuries ago without the advantages of modern technology. We've been reasonably successful at keeping prisoners in our prisons with a combination of fences, walls, and guard towers. It's likely that the addition of unmanned surveillance aircraft, motion detectors, and whatever other toys we have at our disposal could keep the vast majority of unwelcome intruders on their side of the border.

The argument that a physical barrier jeopardizes the lives of those who would enter our country illegally just doesn't make sense. Hundreds die making the perilous journey each year. If they knew an impenetrable barrier stood between them and their goal, most would decide against making the

• See SALZARULO page 15

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## On November 8th VOTE

**John M. 'Buz' Dotson**

**Commissioner - Town of Highlands**



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• BACK DAYS IN HIGHLANDS – PART 4 • By Herm Wilson  
(8/23/1905-1/6/1993)

The History of Queen Mountain and its people

“The history of the true mountaineer will soon be lost forever. We don’t know why our ancestors settled in the rugged mountains of Western North Carolina, but I am sure they had a reason.

The young people of today who grew up in the mountains don’t have the slightest ideas as to what the true life of a mountaineer was because they were born into the jet age and our nation has changed so much in the last 50 years. I write the following parts of “Back Days in Highlands” so a record of that time can be kept.”

– Herm Wilson

(Published with permission from his son Neville Wilson)

Back the 1860s, a man settled on Queen Mountain by the name of Henson Queen. His estate contained 184 acres of land. My great grandfather owned a spread of land about two miles east of Queen Mountain containing 640 acres, along and through what is now Wil-

son Gap Road.

I don’t know how long Mr. Queen lived on Queen Mountain, but I do know that the mountain was named for him.

Mr. Queen decided he wanted to sell out and leave Queen Mountain for parts unknown to us. My grandfather Asbel Madison Wilson, better known as Mack Wilson, bought Mr. Queen’s land.

Granddad Wilson had two daughters and one son – Lathy Wilson Henson, Salina Wilson Picklesimer and John Wilber Wilson, who was my dad.

Back in the 1860s the Civil War was going on. Granddad and two brothers either joined the army or were drafted. Houston Wilson, Jerry Wilson and Granddad Mack Wilson were all three in the Southern Army fighting the Yankees.

Uncle Jerry was captured and taken to a Federal prison somewhere in Illinois, they almost starved him to death. Uncle Hous-



ton, better known as Luke, stayed and slugged it out with the Yankees until the end of the war. Granddad Mack decided that it was wrong to fight against the US government and he slipped away and came home. Luckily, after the war was over, they never brought him to trial. I guess that’s because the South lost the war.

Uncle Houston stayed to the end, but when he came home he found out that his wife had been unfaithful to him. Very much so . . . she was going to have a baby. Going through a bloody war and coming home to find out what had happened was too much for him. He left the county and was never heard of again by any of his relatives.

Going back to the old homeplace where I grew up, Dad and Mother – John and Ellen Wilson – bought the 184 acres from Granddad Mack that he had bought from Mr. Queen. Dad and Mother must have had a hard time paying for the place raising sheep, hogs, cattle and horses on the open range on the nearby mountains.

I grew up in a log cabin, walked more than three miles to school one way, and enjoyed every day. I finished the seventh-grade in a little one-room school house in Horse

Cove.

Going back to my family, there were six of us – four boys and two girls – Mack, Lizzie, Shuler, Lora, John, Hubert, and me, the youngest in the family, Herman.

When I was a barefoot boy, there were only three log cabins on the place. Today there are 33 – it’s been handed down to the heirs and some of Queen Mountain has about 14 houses which is known as Queen Mountain Estates. Some remains in the Wilson family. Sometimes I wonder if the young people of Queen Mountain really know or understand why they have the place that they now have.

My Dad passed away when I was five years old; left Mother with six children. She was a woman who didn’t believe in giving up. We all worked. The going was tough, but we made it.

I trust that all will make Queen Mountain a nice place to live for all of us and the ones who remain after we are gone.

• Herman “Herm” Wilson was one of the six men whose contributions to the Town of Highlands were featured in the Highlands Historical Society’s production of “History Live!” in June 2011. Interest in him led his son Neville and daughter-in-law Kathleen to share some of Herm’s writings that reflect the man’s homespun humor, philosophy and patriotism.



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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

re-freezes to ice with a layer of snow on top. Fun, fun, fun! You just know what’s about to happen. Put the car in gear and hope the tree you slide into is a small one.

For some Highlanders, they wouldn’t have it any other way. Who wants to sweat in December? And with New York city slickers pouring into Florida, who needs all that traffic and people talkin’ funny? Highlanders like driving to WalMart, knowing they may never get home. It’s an adventure. Suck it up and go.

For me, I don’t really need all those warm sunny days at the beach. (Ha!) There are no seasons in Florida. You’ve got your basic hot and basic hotter. That’s it. And the only snow Floridiot get comes from

Colombia. Hmmmm.

The only good thing Floridians have going for them are the “hot babes.” Write this down. South Florida has hot babes. Walking into a Palm Beach WalMart on a warm, sunny January morning is altogether different then going to WalMart in Franklin on a Saturday morning. There are some real scary looking people going into that store on Saturdays. Yes, I have pictures to prove it.

South Florida hot babes are everywhere. So many hot babes to write about with so little lead in my pencil. What’s a mother to do?

In order to not be called a Floridiot, I would like to head straight from Highlands to Dubai and hang out with our son. If you’ve

been to Miami and think it’s hot there, go to Dubai and fry eggs on the hood of your car. But the winters are cool.

So for the Highlanders who remain and love it when the summer people leave, know that we love you anyway and will miss you. You’re part of the reason that Highlands is so great. For many of us, there is life after Highlands. There just happens to be no sleet, ice and snow involved.

• Note: The mystery thriller titled *Deceived* is also available on your Kindle or the Nook. Unbelievable as it may seem, chapter three is factual except for name changes. Reread the chapter.



... REC PARK continued from page 1

Plant Manager would take care of all town buildings and a job description and responsibilities for both positions are in the works.

Concerning the Rec Park, in the process of hooking up the generator a shortage of conduit has prolonged the process and as of about 8:30 a.m. Monday morning the Rec Park has been without power. It's expected to be back on and the generator hooked up possibly Thursday but definitely Friday.

Much of the Town Board meeting was taken up by proposed amendments to the Playhouse lease with the town.

Town Attorney Bill Coward was asked to tweak the lease and include an oversight clause so the town knows not only what is done to the building when the town is paying for repairs but also when the lessee is paying.

"We need town approval and oversight of all substantial repairs whether we are paying for them or not," said Commissioner John Dotson. "Stuff that affects the permanent aspect of the building."

Mayor David Wilkes said the town needs to track the history of what is done to all its buildings because boards come and go and as the owner of the buildings the town needs to know exactly what is needed, whether it be a new roof or a paint job, so it can budget for expenditures if requested to help fund them..

In the past, the town has spent money to repair the Playhouse and has recent-

ly learned that the work wasn't done properly or completely because in the case of roof repairs – the job ended up costing more than expected and so was only partially done.

With the recent inspection of the Playhouse, commissioners learned that electrical infrastructure wasn't in code and never should have been allowed, so they want to make sure things are done correctly from now on.

"We need to be more diligent so we know what's going on," said Patterson.

So whether proposed work requires a permit or not and regardless of who pays for repairs – the town or the Playhouse – either town staff or a member of the Town Board must be in the loop which may mean a sitting member on the Playhouse board.

Also, since both the Playhouse and the town are paying property damage insurance on the Playhouse, commissioners agreed to suggest the Playhouse drop its insurance because all town buildings are covered by the town's umbrella policy. The question is whether to require the Playhouse and perhaps PAC to reimburse the town for the coverage. That discussion was tabled pending more information.

The board also decided to bid out all town contracts for maintaining town property for 2012 – specifically the Rec Park, the cemetery, the ball field and Zachary Field.

The next Town Board meeting is Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

– Kim Lewicki



dinner to go

## What's for Dinner?

Highland's favorite lunch place also serves  
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# Q & A with Town Board candidates Question 5 (of 5)

### Question 5:

Over the past two years, the Town Board has suffered a breach of faith with the citizens. This began with an obsession with the police department by some town representatives and employees and culminated with the public humiliation of Police Chief Bill Harrell and Erika Olvera. The termination of Town Planner Joe Cooley and Town Manager Jim Fatland followed -- all of which cost the town money and will likely continue to do so whether it be due to excessive attorney fees or settlements. Furthermore, many citizens feel they are not in the Town Board's sights unless they are a merchant, a nonprofit, a retiree or second-home owner. What do you think can be done to restore trust and faith with the citizenry and what procedures would you put in place to ensure that unsavory events that happened over the last two years at the town level, don't happen again?

### John "Buz" Dotson

The past couple of years have been transitional not only for Highlands but its citizens. Much has happened with the form of government change three years ago. I think the growing pains have turned into learning opportunities, not only for the Town Board but also our town administration.

During this period of transition the

Town Board has been tasked with some tough decisions, and those decisions did not come lightly or in haste. We are very fortunate that personnel issues like those of the past two years don't come up often, but when they do, it is predictably difficult - no matter where you live.

Because of the litigious nature of society, municipalities rely on town attorneys to guide them in legal matters. The taxpayer-

ers of Highlands can rest assured that the Town Board has and is doing everything in its power to limit the legal exposure of the town - but we must be willing to take a stand on issues we feel are in the best interests of Highlands. As humans, we often want all the juicy details about a particular incident, but to paraphrase Shakespeare, sometimes "Discretion is the better part of valor."

The makeup of Highlands consists not only of every taxpayer in the city limits but every landowner in the township, not just specific groups. The town is not tasked with insuring the success of any individual group or interest. We all come together to make Highlands what it is - and that is a GREAT place to live, work, and play.

### Eric Pierson

I think a good portion of residents of the Highlands plateau do feel excluded from the sights of the town board. This is due to several reasons including those mentioned and also from the ETJ matter. Without being privy to the details of many of the aforementioned, it is difficult to determine what if anything could have been done differently. However, I feel the town board needs to be a little more open about the problems its facing when at all possible. Opening up communication, not only by talking but, listening to all residents is a great step towards restoring the trust and faith of the citizens. Also, even with the abolishment of ETJ, I would like for the town to continue allowing persons in the Highlands Township, not just the city limits, to serve on the various boards in town so that there is input from the whole community.

### Michael "Bud" Rogers

This is a difficult question to answer in a few paragraphs in the paper. This is a multifaceted issue that I hope will partially resolve itself with new Town Commissioners. I am that person who is very much in touch with the everyday common person who lives here, as that is who I am. I am not a second home owner, I am not a retiree, a

merchant or a non-profit. I feel I can be that voice for those of us who live here year in and year out.

One of things that concerns me greatly is wasteful spending which we, the Town have done as illustrated in your question this week. I wish I had a five step plan in place to resolve this but I don't. I do know if I am placed in this position it will be by the people and I will listen to those people and represent them the best way I know how and will strive to be their voice in our Town and look out for the common folks who live here.

### Brian Stiehler

Today, there is some concern by the town employees and the people of Highlands regarding open communication and transparency. Of course for legal reasons,

• See Q&A page 15

## A note from Commissioner Larry Rogers

Now that the ETJ has been repealed, I have decided not to seek re-election to the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners. The ETJ abolishment has been a "project/goal" of mine for many months and after a majority vote from the town board, it will no longer be in effect. It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve on this board for the past four years. Being involved in the decisions, that affect my hometown, have been very important to me and I thank you for giving me that experience. However, I am not able to remove my name from the ballot at this time, as they have already been printed. If I receive any votes on the ballot, they will be counted. It is not my intent to take any votes away from the other candidates, and if I am re-elected for another term, I will have to decline the seat. Thank you for your support.

—Commissioner Larry Rogers



John Dotson



Eric Pierson



Michael Rogers



Brian Stiehler



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### Occupy this, you Hippies

**F**ranksly, I have no idea what the title means – but I had to have one and this is the best I could come up with. I have been watching the “Occupy” monster growing for more than a month now and I really have little idea what it is about. Obviously, a bunch of people who have nothing better to do have decided to exercise their first-amendment rights in a very visible way. What was the trigger?

It was supposedly spontaneous, but I don't understand the spontaneity theory.

When in doubt, go to Wikipedia. “Occupy Wall Street is an ongoing series of demonstrations in New York City based in Zuccotti Park in the Wall Street financial district. The protests were initiated by the Canadian group Adbusters. They are mainly protesting social and economic equality, corporate greed, corporate power and the influence over government (particularly from the financial services sector), and of lobbyists. The participants' slogan ‘We are the 99%’ refers to the difference in the U.S. between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of the population.

The original protest began on September 17 and by October 9, similar demonstrations were either ongoing or had been held in 70 major cities and over 600 communities in the U.S.

Internationally, other ‘Occupy’ protests have modeled themselves after Occupy Wall Street, in over 900 cities worldwide.

Now, I don't know about you, but “Adbusters” is not a household word in our house, so back to Wikipedia we go. “The Adbusters Media Foundation is a Canadian-based not-for-profit, anti-consumerist, pro-environment organization founded in 1989 by Kalle Lasn and Bill Schmalz in Vancouver, British Columbia. The foundation describes itself as ‘a global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age.’”

Wanting to fill in some blanks, I stumbled across ActivistCash.com that describes Adbusters this way. “Imagine a world without McDonald's, Nike or Kraft Foods. A world where the budget-conscious and time-strapped have no-

where to grab a quick bite, where almost no one drives a car, where television is extinct. Sound pretty bleak? This is the utopian vision of the Adbusters Media Foundation.

“We will wreck this world,” Kalle Lasn declares in his book *Culture Jam: How to Reverse America's Suicidal Consumer Binge – and Why We Must*. That, quite simply is the goal of the Vancouver-based organization he founded and runs. A self-described group of “anarchists” and “neo-Luddites,” (look it up) Adbusters are not merely environmentalists, animal-rights activists, anti-technology activists, or neo-Prohibitionists. They are all these things and more.”

And these nut jobs started a blooming worldwide revolution? Amazing. No wonder the poor boobs wander around wondering what they are doing there.



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

Adopting the credo of the current Mayor of Chicago and formerly of the White House Rahm Emanuel, “You never let a serious crisis go to waste,” all sorts of groups are jumping on the bandwagon and joining the fray.

Let's go back to the supposed source. From wordpress.com: “According to disclosure documents from 2007 – 2009, George Soros' Open Society gave grants of \$3.5 million to the Tides Center, a San Francisco-based group that acts almost like a clearing house for other donors, directing their contributions to liberal non-profit groups. The documents also show Tides, which declined comment, gave Adbusters grants of \$185,000 from 2001-2010, including nearly \$26,000 between 2007-2009.”

So Soros has skin in the game. From dailycaller.com: “The Occupy Wall Street protestors just became a little more main-

stream. MoveOn.org has announced its support for the anti-capitalist movement and is encouraging members to join in its ‘massive virtual march on Wall Street.’ Together, we'll add hundreds of thousands of voices of solidarity from the American Dream Movement for the protests across the country and show just how widespread outrage at the Wall Street banks really is, MoveOn wrote in an email blast to its members.”

From The Washington Post: “The Occupy Wall Street protests that began as a nebulous mix of social and economic grievances are becoming more politically organized – with the help from some of the country's largest labor unions. Labor groups are mobilizing to provide office space, meeting rooms, photocopying services, legal help, food and other necessities to the protestors. The support is lending some institutional heft to a movement that has prided itself on its freewheeling, non-institutional character.”

• See SWANSON page 15

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• COACH'S CORNER •

Had a bad day, again?

Sometimes, people have bad days...it is just a fact of life. Maybe one of those days where you spill coffee on your new outfit, or a day where you get three tickets and then have a parking lot confrontation with a redneck woman, all in one day. (That actually happened...and on my

birthday no less!) Yep, sometimes, you just have a bad day, which is why this week we are going to look at a few guys that had bad days this weekend. Also of note: there tends to be a cosmic shift when one person has an incredibly bad day, someone else has an incredibly good day to balance things out, so we also need

to analyze who had an incredibly good day as a result.

Had a bad day: Drew Brees — even Saints sometimes have a bad day, and Brees certainly qualifies after being sacked six times and not throwing a TD pass until the 59:54 mark of a 60-minute game.

Good day: Chris Long, as well as the Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Long had 3 sacks and was dominant in his best game in the pros. The Falcons and Bucs were both looking at a 2-game deficit to the Saints, but when the winless Rams scored the upset, now there is a 3 way tie in the loss column at the top of the NFC South.

Had a bad day: Tim Tebow — Yikes. After having a beautiful TD throw ruled incomplete, Tebow went in the tank, looking like a third-string quarterback against a dominant Detroit Lions defense. Good day: All of the Tebow critics. Merrill Hoge and Trent Dilfer must feel vindicated after that performance from Tebow...one that even his staunchest defenders could not spin into something positive.

Had a bad day: Will Muschamp — The Alabama and LSU games were talent issues for Florida, particularly on the lines. I don't think any reasonable UF fan expected them to win those



Ryan Potts  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

games. However, the Auburn and Georgia games were losses that certainly must be disappointing. Special teams melted down against Auburn, and the offense was miserable. Against Georgia, the Special teams were phenomenal, but the offense is still miserable.

Muschamp's team looks disorganized and undisciplined, with too many penalties and poor execution on the offensive side of the ball. Good day: My buddy Jackpot and all of the other UGA fans who got a much deserved win over the Gators. Georgia has now won six straight and looks to finally be finding a rhythm on defense despite continued struggles on offense.

Had the worst day of all: The Texas Rangers — they were twice just one strike away from being the World Series champions, but Neftali Feliz couldn't finish the game against the St. Louis Cardinals in game 6 and the Cards are now your world champions. Good Day: Obviously, the Cardinals themselves, but also special good day mention for Tony La Russa, who retired Monday after winning the World Series Championship. It is not very often that people get to retire on top, and it is even less often that a sure fire Hall of Famer gets to retire on top of the mountain.



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# ... SLOPE continued from page 1

building some of the highest earthen dams, runways, even writing Department of Transportation standards, said the county "was putting the cart before the horse" and really should adopt a steep slope ordinance before it adopts construction standards.

Marks said there aren't enough specifics in the standards -- including suitable fill materials, compaction percentages or testing requirements.

"Western North Carolina is extremely sensitive to compaction and 92% compaction (which is in the standards) isn't enough," he said. "You need to think about compaction standards and the number of tests required. If you are going to pass this, please don't take it down a notch, I think you need to go up a notch," he said.

Number seven -- the last stipulation in the proposed construction standards -- says that if the standards outlined in 1-6 can't be met, then a "Design Professional in the related field must provide technical justification to the county's Planning Director. But Marks and Dr. Ed Haight, who has 45 years experience as a civil engineer, said credentials of a "Design Professional" must be stipulated.

Though commissioners know that poor past construction practices are causing havoc today in Macon County -- roads

built below grade, settlement due to sub-standard fill material (organic material that eventually decomposes causing roads and embankments to collapse) they don't want regulations to hamper development, i.e., jobs, which has become the war cry, particularly over the past year.

Marks said what's done today may be OK for several years, but eventually Mother Nature will win and everything will come crashing down. "I don't want to see you do the wrong thing because serious mistakes come to bear after people who allowed them are long gone."

He said there are places in these mountains God used to tie things together and they shouldn't be messed with. "There are soils on mountains that aren't meant to be disturbed above a certain height; they need to be left alone. Besides, the higher you go the more land you use up to get to where you want to go," he said. "You need go back and look at your slope ordinance and then you can develop strong construction standards."

Penland said the county has a responsibility to protect property owners from substantial development. "Already bad development is costing contractors, banks, Realtors and hampering jobs," he said.

The commission decided to seek more opinions.  
— **Kim Lewicki**

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PULL OUT

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

## Daily

- CORE classes at Mountain Fitness on Carolina Way. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 9:30; Mon., Wed., Thurs., 5:15. \$10 per class or ask about specials. Call 526-9083. (st. 6/9)

## Mon-Fri

- The Nantahala Tennis Club meets at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

## Mon., Wed. & 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.; 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (9/29)

## 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

- 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 off beers all day.

## 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.

## Wednesdays

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

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

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

## Wednesdays & Fridays

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

## Every 3rd Wednesday

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

746-9964.

## Thursdays

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

- The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

- At the Highlands Nature Center, 6-7 p.m. through Labor Day, an exciting new program each week and they are free.

## Every Saturday

- Ruka's Wine Tastings from 4:30- 6:30 p.m.

## 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.

## Through Wed., Nov. 23

- Signups are now being accepted for the

upcoming Macon County Boys Basketball season at the Highlands Civic Center. The age groups are 6 and 7 year olds in the development league, 8 and 9 year olds in the biddy league, 10 and 11 year olds in the junior league, 12, 13, and 14 year olds in the senior league, 15 through 19 year olds (must be in school) in the varsity league. The division your child will play in is determined by their age on August 31, 2011. The cost is \$35 for the first family member and \$20 for the second. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. Drafts will be held in each age division to be scheduled after signups are completed. Anyone interested in coaching or helping coach must fill out a coaching application and additional paperwork available at the Highlands Civic Center. For more information call Michelle Munger at 828-342-3551 or 828-342-3850.

## Thurs-Sun., Nov. 3-6

- HCP presents Kitchen Witches at PAC

## November activities at The Bascom

The Bascom offers something for everyone in November:

- **Bascom Knitter's** (Highlands Knitting and Needlepoint Guild). Join the community of knitters and needleworkers who meet every Saturday through November 26, 10 am-12 noon on The Terrace at The Bascom. Share advice, tips and knowledge. It's free.

- **Giving Trees exhibition and Nog Off reception**, Saturday, November 12, 5-7 pm. Be one of the first to see this amazing showcase of festive holiday trees created by local non-profit organizations.

You can also bring your own unique, interpretive ideas or just your taste buds to the *Nog Off*, a friendly contest and culinary celebration of a favorite holiday drink. Submit your favorite eggnog recipe or come sample the nogs and cast your vote to determine the 2011 victor. The event is free to the public and there is no entry fee for participants.

- **Giving Trees** exhibition, November 12-January 3. An amazing showcase of festive holiday trees created by local non-profit organizations. All Giving Trees donations will benefit the participating non-profit organizations.

- **Holiday Crafts from Around the World:** a special four-week class on Saturday, November 19, 26, December 10 and 17, 10 am-noon. Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts.

Each class will cover the art and culture of two different countries. Tuition: \$40 for a four-week session.

- On November 25-26 from 10 am-5 pm, **The Artists' Marketplace**, featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Dave Drake Studio Barn, is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists' works for Christmas, hostess and New Year's gifts.

- **Gingerbread House Workshop**, November 25, 10am-noon and 1-3pm and Saturday, November 26, 10 am- 12 noon. Gingerbread designers will be given all the sweets and confections they need to create their own imaginative gingerbread house. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by a popular vote. Tuition: \$40 per house. The public is invited to cast their votes November 8-December 9, 10 am-5 pm. The winners will be announced at 10 am on Saturday, December 10. The public is invited.

The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit [www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org) or call 828.526.4949.

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# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**PULL OUT**

7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2:30. For tickets call 526-8084.

## Thursday, Nov. 3

- Taize at Holy Family at 5:30 p.m.
- The Rotary Club of Highlands and Highlands Girl Scout Troop 30219 will offer Girl Scout Bingo from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building – next to the ball park. Earnings by Highlands Girl Scouts at this event will help support Scouting activities and programs as well as bring more girls into the world of the Girl Scouts.

- Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin. 8:30 pm to 5 pm. **Drive in honor of Bob McGovern!** Please call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

## Fri.-Wed., Nov 4-17

- The International Friendship Center will be taking orders for tamales starting on Friday. They will cost \$8 for 6 or \$15 for 12. To order, please call the IFC at 526.0890 x 252 or e-mail us at [centrodeamigos@nctv.com](mailto:centrodeamigos@nctv.com). The tamales will be made on Friday, Nov. 19 and will be available for pick-up at the IFC office on Saturday the 20th from 9AM-12PM.

## Saturday, Nov. 5

- Formal Dress Resale of prom, party and formal dresses for middle and high school girls. To donate, call Mrs. Billingsley at 828-342-5373 or drop off at Highlands School.

- Fall Festival at Clear Creek Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. Hot dogs, prizes, games, bingo, popcorn and more. Pumpkin carving story at 7:30 p.m. "Shine with His light" No costumes, please.

## Sun. Nov 6

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike on the Tennessee Rock loop trail at Black Rock Mt, GA. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 2 PM. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place. Remember to set your clocks back Sun morning! Visitors welcome but no pets please.

## Tuesday, Nov. 8

- Election Day. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

- Story Swap 7:30 p.m. at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. The theme for November is "Friends and Family." If you have a 5-7 minute story to tell or read, sign up at the pub or call 369-1927.

- Fish Happening on Lake Sequoyah from the boat ramp near the dam. At 1 a.m. 1,300 six-inch catfish will be released. This is a gift from the Lake Sequoyah Improvement Association. For

more information, or to give fish to Lake Sequoyah, call Bill Hogue at 526-3048.

## Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 10-13

- Highlands Culinary Weekend. Call 526-5841 for details.

## Thurs. Nov. 10

- Highlands Culinary Weekend Opening Gala at Highlands Country Club. \$75 per person. Call 526-5841 for details.

- The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 P.M., March through November.

## Fri., Nov. 11

- At Mountain Fresh Grocery, cookbook signing with author Sheri Castle's "The New Southern Garden Cookbook." 2-4 p.m.

- At ...on the Verandah, Creole/Cajun themed Dinner with live band. Call 828-526-2338 for details. \$65 per person.

- At Ruka's Table Craft 2 Table featuring American Craft beers with food native to that regions. 6:30 p.m. Call 526-3636.

- At Gamekeepers Table, Pahlmeyer Dinner featuring a light reception and dinner. at 7 p.m. \$12 plus tax and tip per person. Call 743-4263.

- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday Night, November 11th, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Jim Roper from Cornella, GA and Jim Duncan from Otto will be the callers. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905.

## Sat., Nov. 12

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike to Panther Creek Falls, south of Tallulah Falls, GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 9 am, Drive 80 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations or alternate meeting place.

- At Mountain Fresh Grocery, Guest Chef Louis Osteen for breakfast and lunch. Call 828-526-2400 for details.

- At Mountain Fresh Grocery, cookbook signing with Sheri Castle featuring "The New Southern Garden Cookbook" from 2-4 p.m. Call 828-526-2400 for details.

- At The Christmas Tree on S. 4th Street, book signing and champagne with The Saucy Sisters from Nashville from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- At Highlands Smokehouse, An American Craft Beer, pig picking and music festival from noon to 5 p.m. Call 526-5000 for details.

- At The Bascom from 5-7 p.m. Giving Trees and Nog Off. Bid silently on a tree created by nonprofit organizations.

- At Ruka's Table, "Fire" with Guest Chef John Fleer. 7-course meal with red and white wines from around the world at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-526-3636 for details.

- At ...on the Verandah, Cellar Gems 4-course dinner with Chef Andrew Figel. \$95 per person. Call 828-526-2338 for details.

- Sip and Stroll 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Christmas Tree on S. 4th Street, The Hen House at 5th and Main, Mountain Fresh Grocery, and Xtreme Treads on Main Street. Tickets are \$35. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 526-5841.

- Waiter and Waitress Race in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 2 p.m.

## Thurs., Nov. 17

- Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains at 5:30 p.m.

## Fri., Nov. 18

- Angel Medical Center Blood Drive. 0 Riverview Street, Franklin. 8 a to 5p. Please call

Barbara Hall at 369-4166 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

## Sat. Nov. 19

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike to High Falls in a box canyon with 200' high walls. Meet at the new parking lot near the Cashiers Post Office near the site of the future community center at 10:00 a.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

## Sun. Nov. 20

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike, with an elevation change of 400 ft., on the Clifftop Vista Trail at Cliffside Lake Park. Meet at Bi-Lo parking area in Franklin at 2 p.m., to drive 30 miles round trip, or meet at the Cliffside Lake parking area at 2:35 p.m., \$3 parking fee per car. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

## Thurs., Nov. 24

- Thanksgiving Morning. 8AM Registration; 9AM RACE. 5K Fun Run - Clayton Cluckers Turkey Trot! You can pre-register at [www.claytoncrawl.org](http://www.claytoncrawl.org) or at Fromage Call 706-982-1284 for more info.

2011

Create Memories

## Giving Trees Exhibition

November 12-January 3

All Giving Tree donations benefit participating non-profit organizations.

## Giving Trees Exhibition & Nog Off Reception

Saturday, November 12, 5-7 pm

## The Shop at The Bascom

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Highlands, NC

[TheBascom.org](http://TheBascom.org)

828.526.4949

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Of  
Thanksgiving  
and length of  
days

Father Jim Murphy  
Christ Anglican Church



From the beginning of the Bible to its end the theme of thankfulness is so tightly woven into scripture's fabric that one (the Bible) without the other (thankfulness, expressed regularly through worship) would render both unintelligible. God is the Creator. He is the giver of all good things. In Hebraic terminology, he is Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides. We are therefore called to be thankful toward the One who is graceful, who provides for us, his creation. An attitude of thankfulness is implicit if not explicit throughout holy writ.

In this season of Thanksgiving, especially for those of us who count ourselves as Christians, we owe our Lord more than the occasional lip service of thanks, we owe Him our very lives. When we give our lives to Jesus, he returns life to us—in abundance. That is his promise. The giving of or the return of our lives unto him is the most sincere form of Thanksgiving.

It is a known fact that thankful people, the content and happy people among us, live much longer lives. This has been proven to be true in many ways and through countless observations and studies. People who are content, that is, thankful folks, live under considerably less stress than the malcontents, the fearful and the ungrateful. The chemicals that our bodies produce when we humans undergo stress are most often damaging to our physical nature. Contrarily, when we're thankful and happy, the release of those chemicals is inhibited.

If we desire "length of days," as the Bible puts it (Psalm 21:4), then we must of necessity give our lives to God. Indeed, eternal life is available only to those who have done so. But it is available to all who believe, to all who trust in Jesus as Savior. Contrarily, for the ungrateful, their life span on earth is shortened (Ecclesiastes 8:13) and eternal life promises to be one of enduring stress and misery.

It is a curious thing how we humans endeavor to stay young, investing heavily in health maintenance for the relatively short time that we're here on earth. It is curious because for the vast majority, little is invested in securing an abundant, eternal life. Were we to think of eternity, which promises to be infinite in duration, one would think that we would first and foremost attempt to secure that eternal life. As a friend has put it, "You're gonna be dead a whole lot longer than you're gonna be alive, what are you doing about that time?"

Since the giving of thanks is part of our national mindset during this season, won't you give that most sincere form of thanksgiving to God today? Will you give

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 15

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  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,  
Cashiers  
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at 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 Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
526-2968 • Reverend Denson Franklin  
Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite, 8 a.m., Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 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; Bible Study 10:30 a.m.  
Reverend Howard L'Enfant  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526--4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.; Evening Worship  
6:30  
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

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Rev. Carson Gibson  
Sunday School – 10 am  
Worship Service – 11 am  
Bible Study – 6 pm

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Pastor, Dr. Charles Kelly  
165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship – 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
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.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50 a.; Youth 5 p.  
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: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat: 4 p.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

**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 • 526-3212  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6  
p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

**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 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

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



## ... Q&A continued from page 8

a lot of details were kept from the Highlands people. Regardless, I think people want answers. First, Joe Cooley was dismissed which took some people back because he appeared very effective in his position. Then, Jim Fatland was dismissed "for cause." Four weeks later, a statement was released saying he didn't meet the expectations of the job. To me, that sounds more like "without cause." Once again, I appreciate the sensitive legal nature of these scenarios, but when these things happen it leads to speculation that can hurt the people involved. On top of that, we can not afford to turn over employees in that capacity. I believe it not only hurts our recruiting efforts but it creates an unstable work environment for our employees and costs the Town of Highlands a great deal of money. Citizens lose trust in their board because they feel information is being kept from them. Transparency is something our Town Board could improve upon. To answer your question, the Leadership of Highlands needs to listen to the people!

Secondly, The Board needs to hire a Manager that is trustworthy and fair and the Board needs to commit to that individ-

ual and support them. The Manager-Council form of government is most effective. This includes giving the town manager control over the Police Chief and Zoning Administrator. These two jobs can not be left out because they turn political. Both individuals need to report to a manager who can access their performance and help them with goal setting. The Town Board does not need to be involved with day to day decision making. While the Highlands people are not savvy to the specifics of any of the details of the mentioned cases (including me), I can't comment on what happened. I can say, transparency and open communication are two things I fully support.

Anyone who lives in Highlands, including those outside of town, are equal. I think when business does well, we all do well. I will fully support business and fight for business and the excessive regulations but this certainly doesn't mean everything else is less important. This is about doing what is right for Highlands.

• Note: Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. The polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Don't forget to VOTE!

## ... SWANSON continued from page 9

From foxnews.com: "The former New York office for ACORN, the disbanded community activist group, is playing a key role in the self-proclaimed 'leaderless' Occupy Wall Street movement, organizing 'guerrilla' protest events and hiring door-to-door canvassers to collect money under the banner of various causes while spending it on protest-related activities."

After scratching my head try to understand why the malcontents would launch their revolution-in-the-making in late fall, knowing the weather is going to be hard to live with, I think I've figured it out. Make no mistake about it. The Soros/

Obama team needed a distraction from the suffering popularity of the president. They need to start rallying the troops, the anti-capitalist, hate America bunch in an early build up to next year's election.

Obama's "civilian national security force," promised prior to the last presidential election, is being formed before our very eyes. If you agree that our collective freedom is in jeopardy, and that includes you, this may be the time to get serious about picking a candidate that has the fortitude to put down this uprising. Freedom – choose it or lose it.

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 14

him your life and add "length of days" both here and eternally? The Lord Jesus Christ alone holds out that prospect to you, today.

Let us have a real Thanksgiving this year. Let us return unto our heavenly Father our lives and leave the stress of ungratefulness behind. A most blessed Thanksgiving to all!

We get the word out! All over the county! Call 828-526-3228 or email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com) for advertising details

## ... SALZARULO continued from page 5

attempt. How could we possibly be held responsible for the health and lives of those who took the risk?

The question is not a moral one, but a practical one? Can we build a barrier that would effectively stem the flow of illegal immigrants and can we do so at a cost that makes economic sense? Surely the politicians who bicker about a fence, in consultation with accountants, engineers, and fence builders could determine the feasibility of a fence. Only then will we be able to answer the question, "What's wrong with a fence?"

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

with Ryan Potts

Highlanders complete regular season, set sights on playoffs

The Highlands Highlander varsity soccer team completed their regular season last week, and finished the year ranked #14 in the NCHSAA state rankings.

The Highlanders finished the regular season with a record of 15-3-3, and their loss to Polk County was their only loss to a 1A school.

They received a 1<sup>st</sup> round bye in the NCHSAA playoffs, and will host a 2<sup>nd</sup> round NCHSAA playoff game on Saturday at 3PM, with admission being \$6.

Seniors Isaac Beavers and Andrew Renfro have both played a large role in helping the Highlanders win their 11<sup>th</sup> straight Smoky Mountain Conference Championship, and both of them are looking forward to finishing their career with a deep run in the NCHSAA playoffs.

“We had a good season, but we certainly don’t want to be finished yet,” said Beavers, “we had some injuries this year and it cost us a bit, but some other guys really stepped forward and we have developed very well as a team.” Renfro

echoed that sentiment, saying that “we have come on as a team and we have a chance to go deep if we clean up some things and play together. We need to tweak some strategy things, like playing the ball to the outside more and getting the ball in the air on crosses, those types of things can help us put a few more goals on the board.”

The Highlanders will look to advance in their season Saturday by defeating the winner of Andrews and Murphy. Highlander coach Chris Green said that it will be a positive facing a

fellow SMC team in their first game. “In the past we have usually faced a wild card and it can be difficult to prepare for some of those teams since we haven’t seen them. There are disadvantages and advantages to playing an opponent that knows you and knows what you do, but we hope that our players will use their knowledge of either Andrews or Murphy to their advantage and we can advance.”

Seniors get hugs Friday night

Seniors get hugs from family during the “Senior Night” game at Highlands School Friday night. From left: Tyler Converse, Issac Beavers and Bryon Neumann. Top left: Mom Melanie Beavers delighted the crowd with a set of cartwheels promised Coach Green she would do a cartwheel for each goal scored -- one for goal one, two for goal two and so on. The score was 8-1, Higlands.

– Photos by Noel Atherton





# • POLICE & FIRE LOG •

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

Oct. 22

• At 11:50 a.m., a breaking and entering was reported at a home on Holt Road, because a gate to the property was open but the gate had malfunctioned.

Oct. 27

• A little past midnight, Taylor Thomas Earman, 36, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when failed to stop at a stop sign and failure to wear a helmet.

• At 1:47 p.m., an employee parking violation on Main Street was reported.

• At 7:15 p.m., officers assisted EMS at a residence on Brookside Lane.

Oct. 19

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64.

Oct. 30

• At 9:15 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at US 64 and Mirror Lake.

Oct. 31

• At 10 a.m., officers received a missing person report but she was found and OK.

• At 5 p.m., officers helped with Halloween

traffic.

• At 10:34 p.m., three bears were reported in garbage cans on N. 4th Street.

• During the week, police officers issued 11 citations and responded to 2 alarms.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Oct. 25

Oct. 25

• At 2:05 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cullasaja F&R when a man was hurt by a toppled tree.

Oct. 26

• At 6:27 p.m., the dept. responded to the call of a fire on Flat Mountain Road but it was a controlled burn. Call turned over to the NC Forest Service for investigation.

Oct. 27

• At 11:19 a.m., fire inspector extinguished an illegal burn of brush stumps on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 7:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on Brookside Lane.

Oct. 29

• At 7:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by smoke from the fireplace at a residence on Stonebridge Lane.

Oct. 30

• At 8:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to

a residence on Cole Mountain Road.

• At 6:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holt Road.

• At 9 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD on a chimney fire. It was canceled en route.

Oct. 31

• 7:09 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital set off by clothes dryer.

• At 11:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders

to 600 N. 4th Street.

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Highlands Point. It was false.

• At 4:16 p.m., and 5:02 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by mistake on Club House Trail.

• At 7:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

## ... SOS continued from page 1

the waivers allowing schools to start early in Macon County (for the 2011-2012 calendar year only). On July 26th, State Administrative Law Judge Joe L. Webster denied that request, and all schools in Macon County were allowed to open their doors to students on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Although Save Our Summers-NC and Mrs. Hawkins had a right to seek a full hearing on the 2011-2012 waivers for Macon County, they simply could not justify the large legal expenses of a single-district trial since August 25<sup>th</sup> had already passed. Therefore, with no decision having been made yet on the merits of the case, they have decided it would be a better use of resources to withdraw the Macon County-specific case and focus their efforts on

all potential threats to the School Calendar law next year.

In the meantime, SOS-NC continues to monitor Macon County's actions, and they are ready to intervene should the school board choose to re-apply next year for an improper waiver. The legal position of SOS-NC remains strong, and school districts should take note that any efforts to evade the school calendar law will be closely scrutinized in the waiver process.

It is our hope that, with the withdrawal of the case, the NC State Board of Education will be open to a mutual sharing of concerns and information that might lessen the chance of misconceptions and misinterpretations in the future.

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## menu

### Two eggs:

cooked to order with your choice of fresh made biscuit or toast;	
home fries or Nora Mills slow cooked grits	5.99
with bacon, ham, or house made sausage	6.99

### Belgian Style Waffle:

with Fuller's Sugar House's real maple syrup and butter	5.99
with bacon, ham, or house made sausage	7.99
Belgian Pecan Waffle with maple syrup and butter	7.99
with bacon, ham, or house made sausage	9.99

### Breakfast Sandwiches:

Egg and Cheese Biscuit	2.99
with bacon, ham, or house made sausage	3.99
Biscuit with bacon, ham, or house made sausage	3.29
Biscuit split and covered with authentic sausage sawmill gravy	3.99

### Sides:

Nora Mills stone ground grits	2.49
Home fries	2.49
One egg, any style	1.99
Toast	1.99
Biscuit	1.99
Bacon, ham, or house made sausage	2.79
Extra side of maple syrup	1.79

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



... THANKS continued from page 3

## 'Pour Le Pink' raises money for hospital

With the first Annual Pour le Pink 5k a success, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital wants to sincerely thank the numerous volunteers, sponsors and race participants for making it all possible! Both the Highlands and Cashiers communities truly came together to support a deserving event.

The generosity of donations, time and hard work not only benefited the hospital but fostered awareness of women's health and wellness. The 5k walk/run held on Saturday, October 15th, raised nearly \$9,000 in support of breast health and women's services. These funds, along with the

Cullasaja Cares Fund, will help seven local breast cancer survivors who are in financially stressed situations as well as allow the hospital to sustain its digital mammography services and other health services unique to women. Thirty five event sponsors, 78 runners/walkers and nearly 25 volunteers undoubtedly show the commitment to keep our community members healthy.

It is impossible to host an event such as this without the help of individuals and businesses. It is such a wonderful statement about the heart of our residents, that despite difficult economic times, these sponsors responded to help.

Many thanks to Highlands Road Runner's Club, Skip Taylor, Richard Betz, Morris Williams, Helen Tankersley, Martha Betz, Suzanne Donino, Beautiful Demise Screen Printing, Town of Highlands, Highlands Fire Department, Macon County Sheriff's Department, Macon County EMS, The Laurel Magazine, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary and Gift Shop, Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors, Old Edwards Club Ladies Book Club, The Highlander, Highlands' Newspaper, Scaly Mountain Women's Club, WHLC, Cashiers Printing, Center for Plastic Surgery - Highlands, NC, Coca-Cola, Highlands Grading, Highlands Playhouse, Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, Rotary Club of Highlands-Mountaintop, The Chattooga Club, Wachovia, August Produce, Aery Chiropractic and Acupuncture, The Animal Wellness Hospital of Highlands, Griffin and Glenda Bell, Jr., Double Springs Church of God, Deborah Berlin, Edwards Electrical Service, Finishing Touches Unlimited, Highlands Cable Group, Highlands Country Club, Highlands Dermatology, Highlands Inn and Lodge, Highlands Pharmacy, Ingles, Koenig Homebuilders, Lindsay Gearhart, May Schmitt, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Mountain Heritage, Northland Communications, and Woofgang's Bakery.

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

## Professional Care, Family Atmosphere.

*Thank you to HCH* who took such excellent care of our mother, Mrs. Lillian McCall, during her recent hospitalization. From the efficiency of the ER team to the care given by the physicians, nurses and staff during her stay, treatment was of the highest professional standard in a "caring, patient who is treated like family" atmosphere. We are grateful for this facility and the people who make it such an important part of our community.

Sincerely,  
Frieda Bennett  
Highlands, NC

For additional patient comments, please visit our website at [highlandscashiershospital.org](http://highlandscashiershospital.org)



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## Southard retires ... for real



The second retirement of Macon County Finance Director Evelyn Southard was recognized last Thursday by scores of co-workers and citizens. County Manager Jack Horton said this year he lost both Administrative Assistant Wilma Anderson and now Evelyn. Their jobs have been filled but he said they will never be replaced. Evelyn said she is leaving the county in sound financial shape, in fact, Standard & Poors just upped the county's rating from "A" to "A+." The new Finance Director is Lori Hall, who was the Finance Director for Kings Mountain, NC, for 15 years; in the department for 18 years.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

on this day ...

**Nov. 2, 2010**

California voters reject a ballot initiative that would legalize recreational use of marijuana. Proposition 19 may have failed, in part, due to proponents exaggerated claims about increased tax revenue and dramatic decrease in drug related violence. Some suggest the prohibition issue would be better addressed at the federal level, contesting the US Governments standing on the issue on Constitutional grounds.

### The Audacity of Nope.

Because some arguments were dubious, those in California will be doobieless.  
So, for now, for every girl or guy, crimes, if you engage in high times, and you don't have permission, as a result of the defeat of the proposition, no matter how much you wanna, legally use marijuana.  
nope, only those with a medical need are allowed by law, State or Federal, weed.  
the voters have restricted this drug, now matter how twisted.  
Though supporters are disappointed, this state will remain disjointed, and even if you're desperate, straight is how you must be, even at Ashbury and Haight.  
The Electorate has spoke, your dreams, today, will not go up in smoke.

- from The History Guy



## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Dry mouth symptoms and causes

By Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

**D**ry mouth or xerostomia is a condition in which your salivary glands aren't producing enough saliva. Saliva has many functions including moistening and cleaning our mouths, remineralizing our teeth and helping us begin the process of breaking down our food for digestion. We don't think much about it until there isn't enough.

The symptoms of xerostomia include:

- Dry feeling in the mouth and throat
- Frequent thirst
- Bad breath
- Burning or tingling sensation in the mouth or on the tongue
- Cracked lips or sores in the mouth and on the lips

Dry mouth is not only uncomfortable but increases your risk of gum disease, tooth decay and may increase the chances of getting other mouth infections. If you wear dentures having xerostomia can make wearing them difficult.

Xerostomia can be caused by many things. A dry mouth is a common side effect of many medications and certain medical treatments.

Certain diseases such as Sjogren's syndromes, diabetes, anemia, Parkinson's disease and others can cause dry mouth. Life-style choices including smoking or chewing tobacco can aggravate dry mouth as does breathing with your mouth open.

The treatment for dry mouth depends somewhat on what is causing the problem. If the dry mouth is

caused by a medication then you can speak to your physician about trying a different drug or adjusting the dose. If an obvious connection to a cause is not made you should schedule a visit with your physician to rule out hidden medical problems.

Steps you can take to improve saliva flow include:

- Drinking plenty of water to stay hydrated
- Chewing sugar free gum or sucking sugar free candies
- Breath through your nose, not your mouth
- Use a vaporizer in your bedroom to add moisture to the air
- Use an over-the-counter saliva substitute
- Use a fluoride toothpaste and visit your dentist regularly to protect your teeth from damage.
- Ask your doctor about prescription products for dry mouth

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~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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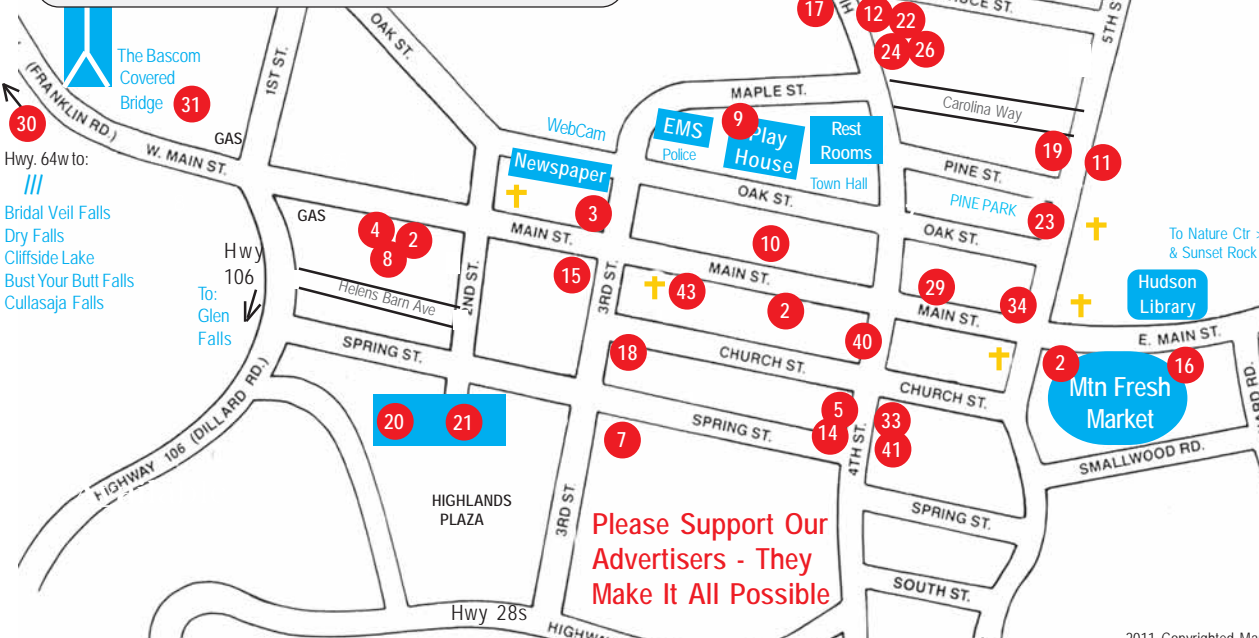
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