

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 9, Number 44

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011

Thurs. Nov. 10

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

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.

Sat., Nov. 12

• At The Hen House, from 10a-4p, sample Sallie Dent Porth's famous fixins' and register to win a piece of Good Earth Pottery!

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, Guest Chef Louis Osteen for breakfast and lunch and cookbook signing with Sheri Castle featuring "The New Southern Garden Cookbook from 2-4 p.m.

• 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 Amaerican 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 The Dry Sink on Main Street, author Ginny McCormack is back signing her new cookbook "Sunday in the South," from 1-5 p. Register for give-aways, too.

• Benefit for Steve and Cindy Nylund at the Highlands Civic Center 4:30-8 p.m. Steve suffered a severe stroke which has left him disabled and unable to work and then he had to have heart surgery. Food, Live Auction, Silent Auction and music by the Johnny Webb Band.

• 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.

Sun., Nov. 13

• Free Pizza at Brick Oven Pizza from 5-7 p.m., sponsored by Highlands Central Baptist Church. Coupons good for 1 slice of pizza and 1 soft drink.

Highlands F&R rescues 'pinned' man

If not for a series of fortunate circumstances, Paul Dalton, head mechanic at Highlands Country Club, would likely be paralyzed, if not dead.

At 11:55 a.m., Monday, Nov. 7, Highlands Fire & Rescue re-

sponded to a 9-1-1 call about a man pinned between the hydraulic lift and cab of a front-end loader at Highlands Country Club.

Dalton was in the midst of repairing the club's loader when he mistakenly released the pressure

boom which, unbeknownst to him, was slowly easing down toward him while he worked, until it landed on him, pinning him on his knees to the spot.

• See PINNED page 22



John Dotson



Eric Pierson



Brian Stiehler

Two new faces join the Town Board

Of the 861 registered voters in the corporate limits of Highlands, 258 cast ballots Tuesday – a normal turnout for an off-year municipal election – 31.36%.

Highlands now has two new commissioners. Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson will join John Dotson, who was re-elected, Amy Patterson and Gary Drake at the table.

The commissioners will be sworn in at the first Town Board meeting in December.

Stiehler gleaned the most

votes with 211, followed by Pierson with 187, Dotson with 169, Michael Rogers with 79, Larry Rogers with 34, and there were 6 write-ins.

After Extra Territorial Jurisdiction was abolished, Commissioner Larry Rogers pulled out of the race but it was after the ballots were printed, so he was still listed as a candidate on the ballot.

"I'm excited about the next four years and excited to work with the Town Board and hope to make some positive decisions for the

town," said Stiehler. "I am very thankful for those who supported me."

"The third time's the charm," said Pierson. "Now, we will see if we can do good for the town. Thanks to all who supported me."

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the last four years and I look forward to working with the new Town Board members to continue doing good works for the town," said Dotson. "I appreciate all who voted for me."

— Kim Lewicki

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Zoning Board hears 3 'sign' cases

This week the proprietors of the Silver Eagle on Main Street cut off the part of their sign that put it out of compliance – two days before the same issue is to be heard again by the Zoning Board of Adjustment but this time for the Stone Lantern.

At the Wednesday, Oct. 26, Zoning Board meeting, Deborah Nelson appeared before the board for the second time – this time to request a variance.

At the September Zoning Board meeting, her appeal was denied because the sign is too big for the Silver Eagle 19 ft. store frontage – only a 9.5 sq. ft. sign is allowed.

If the eagle and mountain were cut off, the sign would be in compliance but Nelson returned to the October meeting to request a variance on the grounds that compliance would mean mutilating the sign which would then lose its distinctive character. "If the American Ea-

• See SIGNS page 19

FRI	SAT	SUN
48 \ 25F	52 \ 32F	53 \ 34F

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• FORUM •

What's best for our citizens?

Kim Lewicki
Publisher



In this little town full of churches and even two Rotary Clubs, it's surprising how quickly people forget the creeds and mottos echoed within those chambers – especially if an agenda is at risk.

Case in point.

Much needed renovations at the Highlands Playhouse have been in the news lately, and at a recent Town Board meeting commissioners agreed to spend \$60,000 to make the building owned by the town a safe place to entertain its guests.

A new roof will be installed, including new shingles, ice and water shield membranes and flashing for \$31,250; electrical repairs, upgrades and a general overhaul for \$18,500; and exterior repairs and replacement of parts as needed for \$5,000. Including contingency, the price tag is \$60,000.

These repairs will make the building safe, sound and habitable but only during late spring, summer and fall. It would cost another \$90,000 to make the building habitable year-round per North Carolina building codes.

There are numerous citizens who believe winterizing the Playhouse would be a good thing for Highlands – good for its citizens and a good draw for tourists year round. But, there are others who do not want to see the Playhouse winterized at any cost.

Sources say members of the Performing Art Center board lobbied the upper echelon of Highlands' Town government to NOT winterize the Playhouse. They were told to voice their concerns during the public comment portion of the Nov. 2 Town Board meeting, but they were a “no show.”

After all, it's one thing to speak such sentiment behind closed doors into the ear of a presumed ally; it's quite another to say it during a Town Board meeting where it becomes part of the public record.

Now, why would some members of the PAC board be against the town winterizing the Playhouse? Especially since the current Playhouse board would like to have the building winterized.

Could it be a winterized Playhouse would mean two venues during the off season instead of one? And why is that a bad thing? Hmmmm.... could it be competition?

In the end, the Town Board agreed to foot the bill to bring the Playhouse up to par but not to winterize it – at least not now.

The amount of money is hefty — \$90,000 — and commissioners say that is the only reason winterization was tabled — but hopefully not forever.

But the question remains. How is it that representatives of a nonprofit feel so

emboldened that they can make such a request of Highlands and at its highest level?

The Playhouse is an historical Highlands-owned building that should be preserved and fully used. The town should consider taking back what is theirs by renovating, insuring, and maintaining its buildings. They should also renegotiate leases with nonprofits that occupy town property so each entity is treated the same way.

As soon as money is available, it would be wise for the town to winterize the Playhouse because it truly is “best for all concerned.”

Furthermore, heeding the call of special interest groups is not “something Jesus would do” if it's not for the greater good and neither should town officials.

peratures came to Highlands, to prevent the hazards and inconveniences which it causes. My intention had been to complete construction in a timely manner.

We were unable to begin last spring as planned, and delays have continued. I am sorry and appreciate your patience throughout the months. Winter weather is upon us. Without knowing of unexpected delays, I hope we will enjoy progress with no additional loss of time.

Jane Woodruff
Highlands

A look back in time is fascinating

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all your readers, I want to thank Neville Wilson for sharing the writings of his father, Herm Wilson, through the pages of “Highlands' Newspaper.” They are delightful! I was particularly interested in the piece published November 2, 2011 which told how Queen Mountain got its name. The fact that there is a King Mountain nearby made me wonder about Queen Mountain.

I also took note of the fact that during the Civil War Herm's uncle Jerry Wilson was captured and taken to a Federal prison “somewhere in Illinois.” Herm wrote that “they almost starved him to death.” I would not be surprised to learn that the Federal prison in question was at Rock Island, Illinois where one of my ancestors was also “almost starved to death.” The South had its Andersonville Prison, the North had Rock Island.

Elaine Whitehurst
Highlands

Nylund Benefit

On Saturday, Nov. 12 there is a benefit for Steve and Cindy Nylund at the Highlands Civic Center 4:30-8 p.m.

Steve suffered a severe stroke which has left him disabled and unable to work and then he had to have heart surgery. Food, Live Auction, Silent Auction and music by the Johnny Webb Band.

For more information, call John or Freida Munger at 828-371-0722, John or Lila Shearl at 828-342-6289, Caroline Winn at 828-342-0625.

• LETTERS •

Post Office Update

Dear Editor,
I had hoped our new Post Office could be further along by now, but due to

several unfortunate setbacks, the progress has been delayed. My intent was to complete the construction before winter tem-

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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• OBITUARY •

Oliver 'Earl' Young, Jr.



Cashiers. In 1960, he opened Wits End on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, which was a vibrant presence on the Avenue for more than 20 years. Wits End of Highlands continues to be owned and operated by his family today.

Earle was active as an usher at Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach, and served as President of the Worth Avenue Merchants Association.

An avid reader, he had broad interests ranging from the history of Western North Carolina and American history to building, architecture and horticulture. One of his proudest accomplishments was constructing with his four sons an authentic log house, reassembled from two historic cabins, which is situated on the lake that he also built. Full of vitality, he was a vigorous presence, an enterprising and engaging man who was devoted to his family, lived

•See OBITUARY page 8

Oliver Earle Young, Jr. died in peace on October 25, 2011 in Highlands, NC, in the company of family members. The son of Oliver Earle Young of Cuba, Alabama, and Margaret Southard Young of Erie, Pennsylvania, he was born in Asheville, NC on September 2, 1927. He grew up in West Palm Beach, FL and Highlands, NC, graduated from Riverside Military Academy, served in the Army of Occupation in Italy following World War II, and attended the University of Florida and Emory University.

In 1951, he met Mary Luther Lissenden in West Palm Beach when she returned home for spring break during her senior year at Smith College. They married in 1952 and settled in Highlands, where he took over the ownership of Wits End Shop, established by his mother in 1940, and began developing Whiteside Estates subdivision between Highlands and

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awards winner
- Sallie Dent Porth



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

A strange thing happened on the way to old age

I embraced the journey. I've always found it curious how parents describe their child's age. It begins with days, such as, "Tommy is three days old." As Tommy ages, his journey is noted in weeks, months, and finally years. Somewhere around 26 weeks, Tommy's age was measured in months. Somewhere around 24 months, parents report progress in years.

The kid starts reporting his own age when he can barely speak and lacks the digital dexterity to hold up three fingers without assistance from his other hand. As he ages, he becomes enamored with age. Shortly after his sixth birthday, he says he is six and a half. Before he reaches six and a half, he claims to be almost seven. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, we stop dealing in fractions. We minimize, rather than exaggerate our age. We may even lie, claiming ourselves to be a few years younger than our actual age. Some people refuse to answer the question, and most of us eventually learn that it is impolite to ask.

I thought that was the end of it. Sure, when a person reaches 100, the Channel 13 News crew shows up at the nursing home. Lilly is usually dressed in white and is wearing a broad, but wrinkled smile, and a large, but wilted, corsage. Mort, the male centurion, prefers a stained grey cardigan, even in August, and is no less eager than Lilly to share the secrets of longevity.

We all reach an age of smug satisfaction when we finally qualify for Social Security payments, especially in view of dire predictions that younger workers will find an empty vault when they reach retirement age. I make it a practice to frequently thank my younger coworkers for their generosity, and ask them to keep the contributions coming in, a gesture which makes them wish I'd buy a grey cardigan and ride off into the sunset. They're confident I could add the stains later.

I find myself tracking down deceased relatives. Dad and my maternal



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

grandfather both died in their early 50s. I passed them years ago. I'm picking off Dad's brothers and sisters, one by one. I've got my sites on Mom, Uncle Mark, and Aunt Anne, distant, but inviting targets. Getting old is a blast.

Not long ago, while working out at the gym, I commented to myself, "not bad for a 71-year-old." When I realized I'm months from my 75th birthday, I thought of myself as "almost 71," and then amended that to "seventy-and-a-half!"

Nature takes care of us, provides for us in the present and prepares us for an unknown future. I would never have guessed that the same guy who once fretted over a receding hairline would shave his few remaining hairs and approach the future with confidence and a sense of adventure.

I don't think I'll reach the point of reporting my age in weeks or days, but I can't promise, that if asked, I won't proudly respond that I'm seventy-and-five months. Maybe aging is all I have to look forward to. On the other hand, just maybe one end of life is as exciting and full of wonder as the other. I'd rather enjoy the journey than worried about the destination.

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• BACK DAYS IN HIGHLANDS – PART 5 • By Herm Wilson
(8/23/1905-1/6/1993)

The last call

“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)

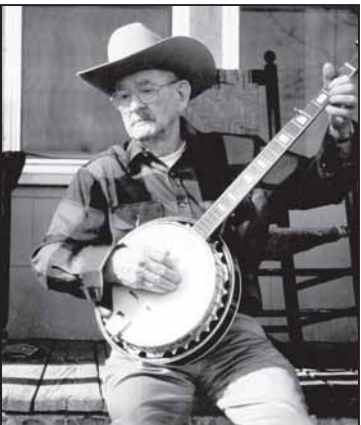
Horse Cove is about three miles southeast of Highlands. It’s a beautiful valley hemmed in by four large mountains – Fodderstack, Sagee, Rich and Black Rock. The little valley is about a mile wide and 1 ½ miles long.

Horse Cove is where I went to

school more than 60 years ago. The Alex Edwards family was a large family who lived in Horse Cove. They had five sons and three daughters. My family and the Edwards family were close friends and neighbors. They had a son by the name of Garcie who owned a beautiful saddle horse, with plenty of spirit. Garcie was about 21 years old; I was about 12 years old.

On Sunday evenings, he would ride over to our place. It was about a three-mile trail. He would let me ride behind him and we would ride up toward Highlands and then back down the road. His horse’s name was Dandy. Sometimes he would ask me if I would like to see how fast ol’ Dandy could run. I was always ready to try new experiences. Garcie would tighten the reins and say, “Hoot ‘em Dandy!” We would take off like the Pony Express for a mile-fast ride.

At the time, we were fighting World War 1 with Germany and our mountain boys were being called into the army and



soon shipped overseas.

Several Sundays passed and Garcie hadn’t come to go for a ride. Then someone told me he had been called into the US Army. He was given a brief training at Camp Jackson, SC, and then shipped overseas. He was in the Infantry Division as most mountain boys were good rifle men and sharpshooters.

I missed Garcie, Ol’ Dandy and the Sunday evening ride. Then the bad news reached us that Garcie had been killed by a German shell. Weeks later they shipped his remains back to Horse Cove. I learned when his funeral would be. I walked over the trail to a little community cemetery. Several of his friends attended his funeral. The first thing that I noticed was a steel coffin, draped with the Stars and Stripes. There were about 12 soldiers in full dress uniforms. Someone read a few verses from the Bible, then he was laid to rest in sight of his native home.

As I walked the trail back home, I thought, “What a way to go.” He had answered his country’s call and then the final call.

I never learned what happened to Garcie’s horse. I guess he was sold. I was told later that Garcie was the black sheep of the family but his youngest sister,

Margie stood with him until the end. All that original family has passed on. Only three grandsons are living today.

I am sure that Garcie did his part to win the war. I am sure that he was a good soldier. Through the years, I still remember our talks while riding, fishing, hunting, swimming and camping on the wild rivers, climbing the high mountains, or maybe a good coon hunting trip. When some event is stamped on a 12-year-old boy’s mind, he never forgets.

Now and then I attend a friend’s funeral at the community cemetery in Horse Cove and think back over the years, the things that have happened in my lifetime – dirt roads, log cabin homes, horse and buggies, wild rivers full of trout, wild turkey and grouse, cattle grazing the range, sheep on Satulah Mountain, wool socks that my mother and sisters would knit for me right from our sheeps’ backs.

Sometimes I can hear the old spinning wheel on a cold, snowy, winter night. Sometimes the snow would blow through the cracks in our log home. But we all seemed to be happy. It was the only life we knew. We had a big fireplace that would keep us warm at least on one side.

The mountaineer will never go back to those days. We are now living in the Jet Age, the Moon Age, the Crime Age and the Drug Age.

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• JUST HERS •

The help

There are things you can't miss unless you live under a rock. I never watched an episode of **Dallas**, but even I wondered who shot JR. Before I read Kathryn Stockett's **The Help**, I knew there were people who had very strong feelings about the book, especially those who hadn't read it, and swore they wouldn't. When it was made into a movie, the pro and con



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

categories expanded to those who'd seen the movie, and those who swore they wouldn't go see it under any circumstances. You have to have a certain grudging admiration for people who actually come out and say "I don't know anything about this, and I refuse to learn anything about it." That kind of determined narrow-mindedness denotes a certain kind of character. As a Southerner by birth, I grew up surrounded by strong-willed people, and folks who held convictions that sometimes defied reason, scientific proof, or common sense. After all, the parking lot of the local Kroger was full of cars sporting bumper stickers defiantly stating, "Save your Confederate money. The South will rise again!"

We had our share of banned books, too. The city council met to determine which books could and could not adorn the shelves of the local libraries. A neighbor confided, "I've never read that book, **Catch Her in the Rye**, but I'll bet it's a humdinger!" You almost have to have a certain admiration for stupidity as proud and simple as that. But, back to **The Help**. I'm not going to say too much about the plot – spoiler alert – but here it is in a nutshell.

The story takes place in Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 1960s. It is told from the standpoint of a young white woman, Skeeter, and several black maids who work for families in the area. As you can imagine, many of the maids have nightmarish stories to tell about their treatment at the hands of their employers, but there are also sensitive, positive stories about the interaction between the maids and the people for

whom they work.

While I was born in Florida and raised in Virginia, I have a different take on things, with a Yankee father, and a French mother whose two brothers lived in Africa for a number of years. It amazes me to hear people mutter and shake their heads about the former apartheid regime in South Africa, when I was raised in not-that-different circum-

stances in the 1950s and early 1960s. My high school class of 1968 was the first racially integrated class in my school's history; my brother's class of 1965 was the last all-white one.

Even those who have not read **The Help** have been commenting on the role of African American housekeepers, maids, and cleaning ladies in their families. Many of these people were trusted and beloved members of their family's inner circle, but were they really "family?" Many folks feel they were. It remains to see how the employees felt.

When I was eight, my mother sat us all down, and told us she was going back to work. Maman was bored to death staying home, minding the house, and felt that her children were old enough to manage without her greeting us upon our return from school with milk and a warm cookie. With the increase in family income, we could now afford to have a cleaning lady, and so the search began.

Upon the recommendation of a neighbor, Cora entered our lives. She became a subject of fascination to us. My mother would go to the part of town where the African American community lived, and bring Cora home in Maman's **Renault Dauphine**. Cora would squeeze into the front passenger seat (she couldn't fit in the back), and the right side of the car would immediately sag. My Irish grandmother was a very large lady, but Cora had her beat in the pounds department. Maman did not have that ingrained code of conduct of how to treat "the help," and I often felt her frustration of not knowing how to deal with certain situations. She treated the cleaning ladies

• See JUST HERS page 17



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... OBITUARY continued from page 3

by his principles, and took great interest in others. He delighted in extending kindnesses to friends and strangers alike, quietly making a difference to many he met in life. He was predeceased by his wife in 2006, and by his sister, Mary Elizabeth, in 1984. He is survived by his daughter, Margaret Young Devlin (Thomas) of Old Greenwich, CT; his sons, Carlton Earle (Christine) of Monteagle, TN, John David (Susan) of Highlands, NC, Oliver Earle III (Lynn) of Pass Christian, MS, Daniel Dana (Suzanne)

of Rock Hill, SC; and nine grandchildren, Rebecca, Tyler, Kevin and Caroline Young; Anna Gray, Elisa and Mary Young; and Elizabeth and Katherine Devlin.
A service in his memory will take place at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers, NC on Sunday, November 27th at 2PM, followed by a reception in Hines Hall. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice that will benefit the education or well being of those in need.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

enough to make a difference. It's like living in pre-historic times. It's getting scary because all these like to quietly lay and wait for a meal to stroll by, then POW, you're either swallowed whole or chomped into pieces. I hate when that happens. Actually, I think being squeezed to death and swallowed whole is better. Please, write in with your preference.

Did I mention we also have anacondas, the largest snake on the planet? One reason I love to call people living in Florida a bunch of non thinking Floridiots is that these boneheaded bozos turned these dangerous critters loose in the Everglades after they tired of them as pets. While I'm not an expert on the sex life of snakes, I'm told the python is more sexually active than the anaconda. Hummm, surly there's a political joke there somewhere.

The reason all this is important to me is that our home is right next to a natural saltwater preserve....and would you believe we're right in the heart of the city? Wouldn't you think a person would be safe from snakes and gators living a few blocks from one of the busiest intersections in North Palm Beach? Wrong, crock-breath. There are some scary sounds coming from that preserve at night. Do raccoons growl?

Ok, let's change subjects.
When I'm living in Highlands I like to send my Floridiot friends the police and news reports from this paper. Just for fun, here are a few headlines from the land of the big winds and deadly snakes.
Headline: "Red Cross helping fire victims in Lantana." Wow, I wonder what they did to get fired. More unemployment.
Headline: "Dolphins lose seven in a roll. Coach puts home up for sale but claims he's not going anywhere." (Ha, that's what he thinks.) Police decline to act as body guards for the coach, saying he deserves whatever he gets. Highlands' High football team could beat the Dolphins.
Headline: "Police and Fire Rescue rushed to Hobe Sound after tornado strikes trailer park." OK, I give up. Why do torna-

dos form and then head straight toward trailer parks?
Headline: "Nine year old girl wigs out, goes into a rage, and terrorizes her school bus, emptying it....throws chair at cops."
And finally, "Firefighter Lieutenant resigns after exposing himself to a minor he met at a Christian Day Camp." (Try to top that one)
Remember, to keep your shorts in a wad all winter, read Fred's column on-line at www.highlandsnewspaperPDF.com

• THANKS •

Downtown Highlands was once again transformed into a land of dark shadows, thrills, chills and trick or treaters of every imaginable costume this Halloween as clear, crisp fall temperatures brought large crowds seeking candy, music provided by DJ Mike "Howlin' Wolf" Murphy and the festive small town fun this annual Chamber of Commerce event has become known for. The Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is very grateful to all the businesses, residents, volunteers and town employees who make this unique Highlands event safe for all to enjoy. We especially wish to acknowledge Mayor Wilkes and the Town Commissioners for allowing the streets to be closed, Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker and Town Engineer Lamar Nix for their logistical support, the members of the Rotary Club of Highlands for assisting Chief Bill Harrell and Highlands Police with crowd and traffic, and the Mountain Top Rotary Club once again for serving hotdogs and soft drinks prepared in the kitchen of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to the roving crowds of celebrants. Wonderful events such as Halloween only happen because of the dedication and effort of so many who proudly call Highlands home. Thank you everyone for your support.
Bob KIELTYKA
Executive Director
Chamber of Commerce

• CONSERVATIVE POV

Justice delayed

The last time we heard from our hopeless honey, L. Lohan was sentenced to scrubbing toilets in the LA County Morgue. Seems that the poor thing just couldn't manage to make her court-ordered psychotherapy sessions and the judge says enough is enough. Talking tough, her Honor sentenced LL to 300 days in the hoosegow (yikes) and that's that.

Well, almost. She stayed 270 days leaving 30 to serve, except the jails are so crowded with miscreants, she only has to serve 20% of her time; we're down to six days. The over-under is 24 hours when all is said and done.

Judge Stephanie laid out a rigorous probation schedule including an eternity of service in the morgue, and an endless series of trips to the shrink. In a show of charity, the judge gave her a week to show up for her overnight in the clink so she can finish a photo shoot for Playboy, in which she will apparently appear in the full monty. It's a reshoot – when they did the original last week, evidently her teeth didn't show up white enough, so she got a zoom job (teeth whitening, I guess) and now she is sparkling.

On the subject of weirdness, a fellow Minnesotan, a former Navy Seal and a one-term governor of MN, Jesse Ventura is so upset by the dismissal of this airport security lawsuit that he threatened to apply for dual citizenship so he can spend more time in his beloved Mexico – or run for president of what he labeled “the Fascist States of America,” so says Yahoo! News.

Ventura, also a former wrestling star, sued the U. S. government in January, alleging that airport scans and pat-downs amounted to unreasonable search and seizure. Ventura has said his titanium hip, implanted in 2008, sets off metal detectors and that agents previously used hand-held wands to scan his body. He said he was subjected to a body pat-down after an airport metal detector



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

went off last November. Butch up you wuss – I've had a fake hip for years and have been all but strip-searched in the middle of the Atlanta airport more than once. Get over it.

Now that we have done our gender equal waste of newsprint on the irrelevancies of the world, let's get serious. Slick Willie, the man who would be King (of the World) has come out with a book at a most interesting

time. With the election a year away, and with the Obama presidency in dire straits, Bill has provided “Back to Work: Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy.”

Without even getting to the content of the book, the title cleverly tells volumes.

“Back to Work” reminds the reader that the unemployment rate is atrocious, and that Obama has done nothing what-

soever about it; at least nothing that has been effective. “Why We need a Smart Government...” implying that we don't have a smart government. If we had one, we wouldn't need one. “...For a Strong Economy.” Reminding us, once again, that the economy is in the crapper.

Very clever.

Getting into the meat of the matter, Clinton wasted no time in pointing out political missteps in recent years. According to The Washington Post: “First was not raising the federal debt ceiling in the first two years of the president's term, when Democrats still had a majority in Congress, and the failing to devise an effective national campaign message during the midterm elections of 2010. Clinton also suggests, obliquely, that Obama's criticism of Wall Street has been too harsh and counterproductive.”

“Clinton, at times, paints a gloomy portrait of the U. S. economy. It is heartening that people all over the world want to pursue their version of the American Dream but troubling that others are doing

a better job than we are of providing it to their people,” he writes in a passage about America's standing in the world. “I can understand the pessimism of the young; we're in a mess now.”

•See SWANSON page 17

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On the Market, Off-Season

What to know when the sales season slows

An estate set amid a fresh snowfall may conjure up images of Currier & Ives, but a "For Sale" sign on the property paints a different scene.

Selling a home in the off-season is a challenge.

In the U.S., sales typically ramp up in early spring and peak in June and July, according to data from the National Association of Realtors. Of the 4,907,000 homes sold last year, June saw the most closings at 555,000. As a rule, families prefer to be settled in a new home for the start of the fall school term. Here on the Highlands' Plateau, most serious buyers may look all season but tend to make offers and close toward the end of the season so that they can prepare a home for their personal enjoyment next spring.

In the winter, when buyers start to thin, sellers need to tweak their game plans.

The definition of off-season, however, is a fluid one based on location and whether the residence is in a primary or second-home market. Pick a spot on the globe and off-season can mean rainy, hurricane or triple-digit-degree season. Winter is the obvious off-season here in Highlands.

Property marketed and priced appropriately to the correct audience could easily sell at any time of the year. However, a seller must get even more competitive and be committed to selling to draw buyers out in the winter.

There are some advantages to listing a home in the off-season. Window shoppers largely disappear, for one thing. Buyers who are willing to trudge through rain, sleet and snow tend to be more serious. What's more, there are fewer homes for them to look at since inventory goes down.

If you're selling off-season, consider these seven strategies:



Jody Lovell

jody.lovell@exurbiasothebysrealty.com

Look Sharp: Even the toniest estates can look a bit forlorn under rainy or wintry skies. Make sure driveways and walkways are cleared of leaves or snow. Consider bringing in a lighting designer to brighten up exteriors and enhance curb appeal during shorter days of the year. Add a punch of seasonal color and administer to land-

scaping issues quickly.

Create Buzz: Grab buyers' attention in inventive ways. You may draw off-season foot traffic by opening up your residence to the public as part of a historic home or Spring garden tour.

Up the Ante: Sweeten the deal by offering buyers incentives for a quick sale. Sellers might throw in furniture, art, golf carts, or factor in a club membership for a swift closure.

Let Them Linger: Give buyers a reason to stick around. If you are serious about selling your home in the winter, keep the heat at a comfortable temperature. Most homes are shut down and are sometimes colder inside than the weather outside. If your home is freezing, buyers just want to leave. The longer the interested buyer stays in the home, the better chance you have of creating interest in a sale.

Spark Their Imagination: Have photographs on hand of your home in its best light and in its best season — the landscaping in full bloom, the pool on a sunny day. At the same time, don't hesitate to highlight your home's here-and-now splendors. Every season has its beauty. Get buyers to picture themselves enjoying your home any time of the year.

Double Your Efforts: Buyers will come off the fence for a property that catches their eye no matter the season, but you have to make sure to grab their attention. Develop a marketing plan that includes incentive tactics — and then

• REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS • Properties for Sale



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Spectacular Mountain Views! Neat-as-a-pin and light & bright, this lovely home features granite countertops; stone, wood-burning fireplace; vaulted ceilings; & covered decking. \$270,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffl at (828) 371-2079.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Mirror Lake Charmer. 3 BR/2BA, just a quick walk to Main Street or to the lake. \$349,000. 101 Bruner Lane, Highlands. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Exquisite Estate w/180 Degree Views. Pristine (3BR/4.5BA) main house w/bar area, screened porch, multi-level decking, fire pit, 30K gallon Koi pond. Adorable 2BR/1BA guest house. \$1,295,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffl at (828) 371-2079.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
The Birches of Wildcat Cliffs. 3 BR, 3 BA luxury condo w/superb finishes. Just a golf cart drive away from the golf course, offered at \$605,000, call for membership requirements. Contact Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Quintessential Mountain Get-Away. 3BR/3BA w/cathedral ceilings, wood floors & custom treatments throughout, 2 stone fireplaces & screened porch. \$775,000. 20 Village Walk, Highlands. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
In-Town Commercial/Residential. Zoned B-3, this duplex features hardwood floors throughout, 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, kitchenette, open dining/living space, good storage & lovely grounds. \$325,000. Contact Susie deVille Schiffl at (828) 371-2079.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Highlands In-Town: REDUCED! This updated Mirror Lake area cottage has great mtn views, 3 BR, 3 BA, wood burning fireplaces, loft, open/covered decking, & spacious master suite, offered at \$475,000. Contact Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Get It While It's Hot! Highlands Falls Country Club w/views of #1 fairway, two ponds & mountain range. Cathedral ceilings; remodeled & upgraded. \$698,000. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



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60 OWL PINE, HIGHLANDS. Was \$249,900. Adorable furnished chalet only 2 miles to Main Street. 3/2 w extra parking. Call Tammy Mobley, Broker, Highlands NC Realty. 770-337-1000. www.HighlandsNC.info



WHITE OAK REALTY GROUP
Hardscrabble Ridge, Highlands. Large, in-town lots with gorgeous Whiteside Mtn views. Underground town water & power, \$550,000. Contact Ali McClure Moody (828) 508-3576.

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\$499,000!**

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• RE SNAP-SHOTS • VACATION RENTALS



FOXDALE COTTAGE — 2 Bedrooms + Convertible bed, 2 Baths (Sleeps 4-6). Rustic Chic just one mile to town! Two levels each with its own great room, kitchen, bedroom, bath and screened porch. Wi-Fi. Call 678-670-8782.



THE ROOST — 2 Bedrooms + Convertible bed, 2 Baths (Sleeps 4-6). Rustic Charmer with luxury furnishings! A stone's throw from Mirror Lake Screened porch, rear deck, stacked stone fireplace. Wi-Fi. Call 678-670-8782.



CABIN BASCOM — 2 bedrooms, 2 bath (Sleeps 4) Walk through the "Mahogany Doors" into your own world of natural beauty. Located at the head of the Greenway Trail near The Bascom Art Center. W-Fi. Open floor plan. Call 678-670-8782.



THE NEST — 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Secluded perch, 1 1/2 miles to Main Street! Two levels, each with living areas, two bedrooms and outdoor screened porch/deck. Wi-fi. Call Colleen Fogel, broker-in-charge at 828-200-0397.



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Top wrestling catchphrases? Ooooooh Yeeeahh

As all five of you who regularly read this column know (thanks Mom), I sometimes embrace my inner dork and write about professional wrestling. Since my childhood, I have enjoyed the fake sport and followed it with varying interest (insert joke about men in tights...or as my wife calls them...man panties). One of the most important parts of being a professional wrestler is the ability to cut a promo that incites the crowd and makes them react, and one of the best ways to do that is to come up with a signature phrase that the crowd can repeat. Here are my top ten catchphrases in professional wrestling history.

(Honorable Mentions)

It's true...oh it's true-Kurt Angle
You can't see me-John Cena

While it pains me to have this on here-Cena's catchphrase and signature hand motion is probably the most recognizable thing in wrestling today.

10. Woo woo woo...you know it-Zack Ryder. Most people have never heard of Ryder, but he has made a name for himself by mastering the internet through his hilarious Youtube videos. The guy lives his gimmick and his catchphrase has become a crowd favorite.

9. Everybody's got a price-Ted DiBiase. This catchphrase is actually more memorable because of the manic laugh that DiBiase added after it-but it fit his gimmick of the "Million Dollar Man" perfectly.

8. The best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be-Bret Hart. Probably the only way that Hart could connect with the audience on the microphone, but still a great catchphrase.

7. Hey Yo. Scott Hall/Razor Ramon. The recent special on ESPN about Hall and his battles with alcohol was sad, but back in the day, Hall could get a crowd going with just these two simple words.

6. Ooooooh what a rush!- The Legion of Doom.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Now we are starting to get into the legendary area... there was nothing quite like the low growl of Road Warrior Hawk when he bellowed out this phrase. (when my wife reads that sentence she is so going to make fun of me)

5. Rest in Peace-The Undertaker. The greatest

gimmick in history-bar none. The funeral music, the grand entrance, the old time western Undertaker outfit-I was ten when the Undertaker debuted and he was extremely intimidating in the eyes of a ten year old.

4. If ya smell...what the Rock...is cooking-The Rock. Arguably the biggest star in wrestling history, the Rock is now a staple in action movies everywhere. However, when the Rock was in the WWE, he cornered the market on catchphrases. "Layin the smackdown," "It doesn't matter what you think," and the rest all still pale in comparison to the original Rocky catchphrase.

3. Whatcha gonna do, when the 24 inch pythons, and Hulkamania run wild over you?-Hulk Hogan. The guy who brought wrestling into Hollywood, for better or for worse-Hogan and Hulkamania ran wild on America during the 1980s.

2. And that's the bottom line, cuz Stone Cold said so-Steve Austin. Stone Cold Steve Austin was an amazing phenomenon of the 1990's. A mid-card wrestler stuck in a horrible "Ringmaster" gimmick-Austin reverted to his natural personality and exploded in popularity with his foul mouth and anti-establishment persona.

1. To be the man...you have to beat the man-Ric Flair. Simply the best catchphrase of all time-Flair was the epitome of the great interview. He could make the crowd love him or hate him regardless of where he was at or what he was doing at the time. Even today, the word Woooo! is synonymous with Flair and his free-wheelin, kiss stealin image.

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., 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 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veter-

ans are invited to attend.

Through Dec. 7

• Operation Patriotic Pen at Highlands School. Students/Staff/Parents are invited to write encouraging notes to soldiers on Christmas cards and turn them into the school and deposit them in the appropriate boxes in the main lobby – Afghanistan, Europe, USA and VA hospitals. Students need names and addresses of soldiers so please contact teacher Donna Sizemore at 828-332-0999 or email her at donna.sizemore@macon.k12.nc.us.

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. 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 League of Women Voters will host a program at Tartan Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin on Macon County's Coweeta Hydrologic Lab. The research center was established in 1934 to study how forests affect the streams that flow through them and has done some of the most influential research on forest watersheds in the world. Information will be presented on the history of Coweeta and its major scientific contributions, including current projects on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, land use and water quality, and the Southern Global Climate Change Program. Lunch is at noon, program at 12:15. Call 371-0527 for information.

• The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Greenville. 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 sign-

Culinary Festival Weekend Cook Book Signings and Demonstrations

Fri. Nov. 11

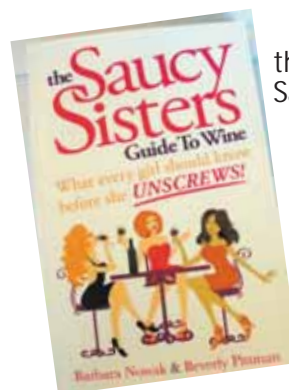
• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, cookbook signing with author Sheri Castle's "The New Southern Garden Cookbook." 2-4 p.m. Call, 828-526-2400 for details.

Sat. Nov. 12

• 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.

Sat., Nov. 12

• At The Christmas Tree on S. 4th Street, ...on the hill, book signing and champagne with The Saucy Sisters from Nashville from noon to 4 p.m.



Sat., Nov. 12

• At The Dry Sink on Main Street, author Ginny McCormack is back signing her new cookbook "Sunday in the South," from 1-5 p. Register for giveaways, too.

Sat., Nov. 12

• At The Hen House, from 10a-4p, sample Sallie Dent Porth's famous Pork Tenderloin with her Sweet Onion and Rosemary Sauce, her Goat Cheeses, and a Trifle with Strawberry/Basil Jam, While visiting, register to win a piece of Good Earth Pottery! Sallie is a Gun and Garden magazine "Made in the South" awards winner.



ing 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.

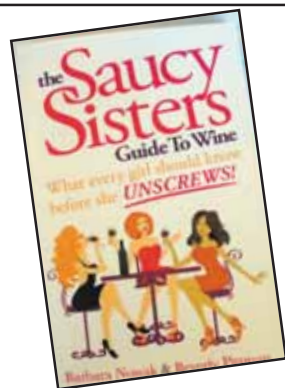
• At Ruka's Table Craft 2 Table featuring American Craft beers with food native to that regions. 6:30 p.m. Call 526-3636.

• 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 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-

Think Christmas Gifts from Highlands!



The Saucy Sisters are pouring champagne and signing their new book Saturday, Nov 12 from 12-4p at...



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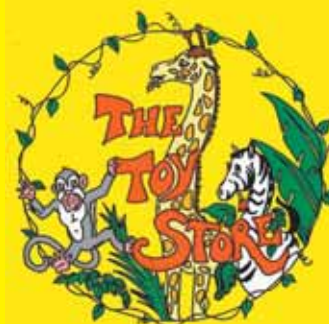
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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

349-0905.

Sat., Nov. 12

• At The Hen House, from 10a-4p, sample Sallie Dent Porth's famous Pork Tenderloin with her Sweet Onion and Rosemary Sauce, her Goat Cheeses, and a Trifle with Strawberry/Basil Jam, While visiting, register to win a piece of Good Earth Pottery! Sallie is a Gun and Garden magazine "Made in the South" awards winner.

• 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. Cal, 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 Amaerican 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 non-profit organizations.

• At The Dry Sink on Main Street, author Ginny McCormack is back signing her new cookbook "Sunday in the South," from 1-5 p. Register for give-aways, too.

• Benefit for Steve and Cindy Nylund at the Highlands Civic Center 4:30-8 p.m. Steve suffered a severe stroke which has left him disabled and unable to work and then he had to have heart surgery. Food, Live Auction, Silent Auction and music by the Johnny Webb Band. For more information, call John or Freida Munder at 828-371-0722, John or Lila Shearl at 828-342-6289, Caroline Winn at 828-342-0625 or Bobby Newton at 828-526-8602.

• 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

• Macon County Democratic Women will meet at 1 PM at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin. Plans will be made for the Christmas meeting. For more information, Elizabeth Cabe 524-6859.

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 or at Fromage Call 706-982-1284 for more info.

Fri. & Sat., November 25-26

• The Artists' Marketplace at The Bascom from 10 am-5 pm 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.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 25-26

• At the Bascom, Gingerbread House Workshop, Friday, 10am-noon and 1-3pm and Saturday, 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 judges by a popular vote. Tuition: \$40 per house.

Saturday, Nov. 26

• Town of Highlands annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 29

• Macon County Public Library Blood Drive. 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin. 10 am to 7 pm. Please call 524-3600 to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, Dec. 3

• Town of Highlands annual Olde Mountain Christmas Parade on Main Street from 11 a.m. to noon.

• New and Gently Used Coat and Clothing Drive at the Bank of America parking lot from 9a-noon. Drive sponsored by the ladies of BOA with donations going to R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. If you can't come Saturday, donations will be accepted at the bank until Saturday, Dec. 3.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 4.4 mile hike from Sloan Bridge to Upper Whitewater Falls with wintertime views along the ridge. Meet at 10 a.m. at the new parking lot by the ball field just past the Cashiers Post Office, near the site of the future new community center. Drive 14 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations.

Sun. Dec. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on Pickens' Nose Trail to a rocky viewpoint. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 2 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome; no pets please.

Sat. Dec. 10

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 12-mile hike, with elevation change of 2,000 ft., to the summit of Standing Indian Mountain. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (across from Burger King) at 9 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip.

Culinary Festival Weekend Breakfast, Lunch and Wine/Beer Dinners

Fri., Nov. 11

• 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.

Sat., Nov. 12

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

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

• At Ruka's Table, "Fire" with Gues Chef John Fleer. 7-course meal withy 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.

"Breakfast (and Lunch) at... Mountain Fresh Grocery with Chef Louis Osteen

Mountain Fresh Grocery is excited to announce it's good friend Louis Osteen, James Beard Award winner, will be in the kitchen on Saturday, Nov. 12.

"Louis has been a good friend and a great help in defining the flavor at Mountain Fresh Grocery," said Don Reynolds. "We look forward to having him with us for breakfast and lunch."

Cooking with Louis can't be anything but fun! Louis has been the key-note speaker at the Culinary Institute of America, been named a Great American Chef by Gourmet Magazine and won the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast, but most of all, he loves to cook!



... JUST HERS continued from page 7

no differently from any other human beings.

Cora lasted a while, and was later replaced by Rose, who could have been her twin. Rose had four children by four different fathers, a topic we found more fascinating than shameful. Like Cora, her main duties were to clean the windows, wax the floor, and take care of the laundry. Since our only television was in my parents' room (along with the only air conditioner), cleaning ladies would set up the ironing board in the master bedroom, turn on the air conditioning, and iron for hours while watching soap operas, and drinking massive amounts of soda, which we were forbidden to touch.

Were these women fond of us? I hope so. A chatty child, I often tried to make conversation with Cora and Rose, and didn't have much success. The only memorable event occurred when I returned from school one day, battered and bruised from having been set upon by local rednecks who were slightly older than I was. "Now, don't you fret none, Miss Michie. Them's poor white trash. They's hardly folks," was the consolation I got.

But Cora and Rose disappeared from our lives in a cloud of mystery. The spare electric razor Daddy kept for business trips went missing. My French great grandmother's sewing shears also vanished. Little things disappeared. At first, we just thought they'd been misplaced. When they never turned up, we became sad, then suspicious, then angry. My mother wanted to bring the police in. The neighborhood women chided her, and told her to keep her mouth shut. "They're just like magpies," one woman drawled. "If something is bright and shiny, they just have to take it. They can't help themselves." We were outraged, furious that any group of people should be seen as less human, less moral, less honest, just because of their skin color.

Thus, we remained without a cleaning lady, or rather, I got drafted into the role. No little princess, me! No, I got an allowance, but it wasn't for being cute, it was for dusting, vacuuming, doing the laundry and ironing, washing my parents' cars, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, cleaning windows, washing and drying dishes. I envied my school friends who came home to beds they didn't make, and meals they didn't help cook.

Then came Mattie Troyer. She was

Amish, complete with plain-colored dresses, bonnets, and thick black stockings. I'll never forget the first day on the job, when she got down on her hands and knees, scraping years of old floor wax off the floor like making butter curls. When all the chores were done, Mattie of ten baked shoo fly pies and other Amish delicacies for us. My brother went off to college, and my cat Tiger died the same day; it was Mattie, not Maman, who held me in her arms, and comforted me. All of this was long ago. Mattie Troyer, in her 40s, married a widower. I hope he treated her with kindness and love. She outlived him, and entered a nursing home, dying there before I was able to track her down and contact her. I'll always remember the part she played in my childhood, and wish I'd had the chance to tell her how for us, she was more than "the help." She was family.

Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. A woman of infinite good sense, Mattie would agree with her that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. You also shouldn't judge it without reading it.

... SWANSON continued from page 9

I have been hinting, for weeks, that Hillary might make a run for the presidency, and hubby Bill's book certainly supports that theory. We'll see.

And lastly, again, The Washington Post tells us: "The bankrupt financial company MF Global, now under federal investigation for possibly misusing client's money, is one of the top sources of contributions for President Obama's reelection, complicating the campaign's effort to turn public anger at Wall Street into a political advantage.

Employees of the company have given \$108,650 to Obama's campaign and

the Democrat National Committee, according to federal records. MF Global's chairman and chief executive, former New Jersey governor Jon Corzine, has raised at least \$500,000 for the campaign and the DNC as a 'bundler.'" Corzine made a \$6.3 billion bet on European sovereign debt and lost, big time. Also, \$633 million of customers' money can't be accounted for. It seems that problems seem to have a connection with the administration when large sums of money are involved.

Over and out.

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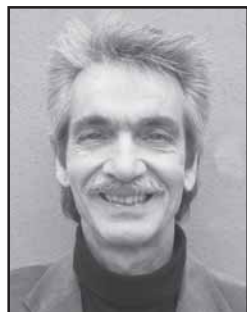


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Warnings



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central
Baptist Church

A mother says to her child: "Don't touch the stove. It's hot." A coach says to his players: "Do this or that. It will protect you in the game." An officer says to his troops: "The enemy is coming. Stay ready."

Warnings. All commendable and expected. It is axiomatic: You warn those you care about. You warn those for whom you're responsible. Interesting though isn't it what we do with warnings. We can simply write them off by saying "that doesn't apply to me" which is like ignoring the sign on the frozen pond which says "thin ice" or we can gamble with the warnings. When we gamble we say: "I see the sign warning of thin ice but I'm different. 'I'm skilled. I'm hearty. I'll take my chances' or 'I can simply read the sign and say 'OK I get it and I will obey.' Which one (by the way) would describe you?"

In Ezekiel 33 God warns some seven times in nine verses. The format is simple. There is one who warns. In this case it is God through Ezekiel. And there is the other who is responsible to do something with the warning. Ezekiel must warn. He must blow the trumpet. If he doesn't then he is held accountable by God. The application is for every Christian. The message of God's love is incomplete without the warning to those who reject it.

Then there is the one who hears the warning. God says that if the hearer ignores the warning then he is responsible for the consequence. But if he heeds the warning he will save himself. So let's fast forward to November 2011.

God loves you and me more than we can possibly imagine. He demonstrated this through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. The purpose of which was to pay the price for all the sins of all the people for all of history. Incredible but true. He then invited us to a personal relationship with Himself. This is a volitional decision of repentance, faith, confession and submission to His Lordship.

He welcomes those who will come and warns those who won't. Some will ignore it. (But they can't, ultimately.) Some will gamble with it. (But will lose, ultimately.) Some will say "OK I get it and I will obey."

Every child, athlete, and soldier will say a thousand times over "thank you for warning and protecting me." And that is also what everyone will say in heaven for thousands and thousands of eternities.

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 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

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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

gle is removed, the sign will no longer represent the American-made products we sell," read Nelson from a prepared statement. "Granting a variance for this sign is the minimum possible deviation from the ordinance. We aren't grossly oversized compared to the visual impact of other signs permitted within sight of our store."

She presented a petition of 460 signatures of citizens and visitors requesting the town allow the sign to stay intact on the front of the shop. Since only verbal testimony can be entered into the record at a Zoning Board variance hearing, the board wasn't allowed to accept the petition as evidence.

After much discussion – and despite mixed emotions on the subject — the variance was denied unanimously and so this past Monday night, the eagle and mountains that framed the sign were cut off.

"The board concludes that the applicant hasn't demonstrated practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the ordinance and that the applicant doesn't meet the hardship requirement," determined the board.

Basically, by complying with the ordinance, the Nelsons can still secure reasonable return from or make reasonable use of their property.

They swear they heard a screech when they cut off the eagle's legs, but said, "We still love Highlands and we love having a business here."

Though a rare thing, that same night, the Zoning Board unanimously granted a variance for a shopping center sign at Mountain Brook Center.

Owner Patricia Thornton needs to update the shopping center sign and wants to keep it where it is, but the current sign encroaches into the setback along Carolina Way – standing 11 feet from the street and encroaches four feet into the setback of the right-of-way of N. 4th Street, which is 66 feet.

The current Mountain Brook Center sign has been in place since the early 1980s, likely prior to the adoption of the sign ordinance in 1984, said Ward.

The sign couldn't be moved backwards, as it would end up in a parking space in a parking lot which is grandfathered and wouldn't meet today's standards if it was reconfigured, which would be necessary if the sign was placed in a parking space.

Since altering the parking lot with the sign in a space could jeopardize reasonable use of the property, hardship was established. "It is the board's conclusion that there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships in the way of carrying out



The Nelson Family cut the eagle and mountain from their sign which brings them into compoliance.

the strict letter of the ordinance," reads the conclusion.

Wednesday night, Nov. 9, the Zoning Board will hear another variance request this time from Ralph deVille of the Stone Lantern who has been told his sign is out of compliance and must be altered.

The front of his building on Main Street is 25 linear feet which allows for a 12 ½ sq. ft. sign. The current sign, which has been on the building since 1960, exceeds the maximum allowance by 5 ½ sq. ft.

The town adopted its sign ordinance in 1984 and amended it in 1990. Merchants were given seven years to come into compliance – which deVille hasn't done.

deVille argues that his sign is in compliance pursuant to the 1990 amended sign ordinance and continues to be so. Like the Nelsons, he contends that the look of the sign on his store is vitally important to all who have come to Highlands and represents continuity over the years. "I submit it is of vital importance to a majority of those returning year after year," he said.

He will ask the Zoning Board to grandfather both the look and size of the Stone Lantern sign "so that the Stone Lantern sign can continue to remain the same as it has for the past 50 years and can be a reassuring and important landmark to returning visitors."

– Kim Lewicki

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November 12-January 3

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Giving Trees Exhibition & Nog Off Reception

Saturday, November 12, 5-7 pm

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

with Ryan Potts

Highlander competes in State Golf Championships



Senior Stephanie Smart

Two years ago, Highlands School embarked on building a women's golf program, and after two short years the Lady Highlanders are already experiencing great success under coach Barbara Reese. The Lady Highlander golf team placed two players in regionals, Sophomore Emily Gabbard and Senior Stephanie Smart and Smart advanced all the way to the state finals.

The NCHSAA 1A/2A West regionals were held in Shelby, NC. At regionals, the participants walk 18 holes and qualifying is based on the top 20 scores. This was somewhat of a challenge for the Lady Highlanders because at their meets they only walk nine holes. "We don't usually walk 18," said Stephanie Smart, "we are used to walking nine and so you have to really concentrate as you get more tired on the back nine."

Emily Gabbard shot a 117 over 18 holes, and Smart was able to qualify for the NCHSAA state finals by shooting a 104. This marked the second year in a row that Highlands has been represented at the state finals in an individual sport, as Hayden Bates was able to run in the NCHSAA finals last year for cross country.

The NCHSAA state golf championship is held in the Pinehurst area, and the 1A/2A finals were held at Longleaf Golf Course in Southern Pines. In the NCHSAA finals, participants played a total of 36 holes over

two days for a combined score. Smart teed off at 11AM on Monday October 31st and shot a 111 for the day. On Tuesday, she teed off at 9:20 AM and shot a 116. While Smart did not win, she said that playing at state was "a great experience" and that she wished that Highlands had started a golf program sooner so that she could have played as a freshman. Smart is the lone senior on the Lady Highlander golf team, as all of the remaining players are sophomores.

Highlanders march on to third round

The Highlands Highlander soccer team advanced to the third round of the NCHSAA playoffs on Saturday with a win over Smoky Mountain Conference rival Murphy.

Highlands earned a first round bye courtesy of their 11th straight SMC championship and hosted the Bulldogs, who defeated the Andrews Wildcats in their first round matchup.

The first half against Murphy saw the Highlanders dominate possession but have nothing to show for it. Finally, with about ten minutes to go in the first half, Isaac Beavers was able to head home a long throw from Andrew Renfro to put the Highlanders on top 1-0. Despite controlling possession, the Highlanders maintained the slim 1-0 margin until a rare defensive mistake from Highlands allowed a poorly struck ball from Murphy to trickle into the left corner and equalize the game for Murphy at 1. The sizable Murphy crowd erupted at this development, and the Bulldogs knocked the Highlanders back on their heels and the

momentum had clearly shifted in Murphy's favor at the half.

The second half started slowly for the Highlanders, as they looked to get themselves and the crowd back into the game. Finally, midway through the second half, Renfro found Bryon Neumann and Neumann was able to put home the go ahead goal for the Highlanders. Neumann's goal energized the crowd and seemed to deflate the Bulldogs, as just minutes later Renfro was able to score for the Highlanders and make the score 3-1. Murphy then fell apart and the Highlanders continued to push, getting another goal from Renfro and two more goals from Dax Lloyd to complete the final margin of 6-1.

The Highlanders will host Thomas Jefferson today at 6PM-admission is \$5 and passes are not accepted due to it being a state playoff game. With a victory over the Gryphons, the Highlanders would host a playoff game on Saturday with a time to be determined.

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... INVESTING continued from page 10

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tional Realty. They thank their wonderful team and client/friends for 12 successful years on the Highlands' Plateau as leaders in the local market. You may reach them at either of their two locations: 216 S. 4th Street in the Old Edwards Complex on The Hill or at the gate of Cullasaja Club of Highlands on Highway 64, half-way between Highlands and Cashiers. Call them at 828 526 4104.

• POLICE & FIRE LOG •

Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 1

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in front of Reeves Hardware on Main Street.

Nov. 3

• At 2:15 p.m., officers received a report of workers at the Highlands Emergency Council receiving harassing calls.

• Officers were called to Main Street where a store owner reported three employee/merchant parking violations.

• At 10:20 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Buttermilk Lane to help a resident turn off the lights.

• At 8 p.m., officers were called to help a resident get into his locked home.

Nov. 4

• At 1:30 p.m., officer responded to a call of people congregating on the Mirror Lake Bridge. The call was unfounded.

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a call about a suspicious person was reported walking on Bowery Road. No one was found.

Nov. 5

• At 3:56 p.m., officers assisted EMS on a call to Main Street where a woman had tripped on bricks and fallen face down.

Nov. 6

• At 7:27 p.m., two bears were reported on the property of the Episcopal Church.

• During the week, police officers issued 8 citations and responded to 7 alarms.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Nov. 2

Nov. 2

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire

alarm on Main Street. It was due to a faulty system.

Nov. 3

• At 6:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard Road. The person was transported to the hospital.

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a SUV over the bank on the Cashiers Road. Air bags were deployed. The vehicle was locked and no one was around.

Nov. 6

• At 6:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a vehicle accident in Jackson County which Jackson County responded to.

Nov. 7

• At 11:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Country Club where a worker was pinned under a front-end loader. He rescued and airlifted to Mission Hospital in Asheville.

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Nora Mills stone ground grits	2.49
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Biscuit	1.99
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

October Rotary scholars of the month



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the April Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its November 1 meeting. Shown with Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup are middle school winner, Abby Gilbert, high school winner, Emily Munger, and elementary school winner, Sydney Potter.

RBC Bank announces pumpkin winners

The winners of this year's RBC Bank sponsored pumpkin decorating contest, from the 2nd grade students at Highlands School were (left) Ella Crook from Ms. Christy's class and Ava Schmitt from Ms. Miller's class pictured with Sue Gorsky from RBC Bank.



Democrats pack dinner/meeting at Rec Park



The Highlands Democratic precinct held a dinner last Thursday evening at the Rec Park with a Q & A with some local democratic leaders. Below, Macon County Democratic Party Chairman, Ben Utley speaks to the crowd in attendance.

Mountain Garden Club hosts district meeting

The Mountain Garden Club of Highlands was the recent host for the annual meeting of District 1 of The Garden Club of North Carolina (GCNC). District 1 is made up of 15 garden clubs throughout the state. The meeting was held October 11 at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands.

Approximately 70 ladies were in attendance for the meeting and luncheon. Mountain Garden Club was the recipient of an award for its yearbook, having tied for first place for a club of its size, with a score of 99 points out of 100.

The luncheon was followed by a presentation on bees by Cyndi Banks of Planters Landscape Architecture and Garden Design: "What's All the Buzz About?"



Pictured are Mayor David Wilkes and Mountain Garden Club President, Jackie Hills as they welcome District 1 GCNC members.

... PINNED continued from page 1

"He was basically suffocating," said Brian Stiehler, golf course superintendent of Highlands Country Club. "Each time he exhaled, the boom eased down further pinching him. He just couldn't breathe."

Stiehler said when he arrived on scene, Dalton's entire head was blue and it was clear no blood or oxygen was getting to his upper body. He said he feared the worst.

Stiehler said he watched in awe and

admiration as the Highlands Fire & Rescue crew worked — they saw the problem, took control and without any hesitation fixed it, he said.

Quickly, they used another front-end loader on the property to pull the boom off Dalton. He immediately fell backwards looking basically lifeless, said Stiehler.

"That's when the EMS crew jumped in to revive and stabilize him," he said.

MAMA was called and once Dalton was

breathing on his own he was transported by ambulance to the club's driving range tee where the MAMA helicopter was waiting.

He was airlifted to Mission Hospital where a full body scan revealed no internal injuries. In fact, he was released from the hospital and sent home Wednesday.

Stiehler visited him in the hospital Monday night and said he was in good spirits and had no memory loss.

"This has impacted us all — all his co-workers," he said. "Something like this changes the way you look at life. Things can happen so quickly."

Stiehler said he can't say enough about Highlands Fire & Rescue and EMS crews. "I have absolute respect for everything they do. There was no hesitation and they were in complete control."

— Kim Lewicki

• HEALTH MATTERS •

The reality of diabetic retinopathy

**By Dr. Richard Blue
Blue Laser Group**

Diabetic retinopathy can develop in anyone who has type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes. The longer you have diabetes, and the less controlled your blood sugar is, the more likely you are to develop diabetic retinopathy.

Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes that results from damage to the blood vessels of the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye (retina) resulting in leakage of blood and fluid in the back of the eye.

It's possible to have diabetic retinopathy and not know it. In fact, it's uncommon to have symptoms in the early stages of diabetic retinopathy. Eventually, however, diabetic retinopathy can result in blindness. Careful management of your diabetes is the best way to prevent vision loss.

People with type 1 or type 2 diabetes should have a dilated eye exam performed by an eye doctor (ophthalmologist) every year. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that anyone who's over 10 years old with type 1 diabetes have his or her first eye exam within five years of being diagnosed with diabetes. For

people with type 2 diabetes, the ADA advises getting the initial eye exam soon after you've been diagnosed with diabetes, because you may have had diabetes for some time without knowing it.

At Blue Laser Group, part of your eye exam may include a retinal photography test called fluorescein angiography. Your eyes are dilated and then pictures taken of the inside of your eyes using special dye which show images that pinpoint blood vessels that are closed, broken down or leaking fluid. Laser treatment may be recommended which can stop or slow the leakage of blood and fluid in the eye. This quick in-office procedure is typically described as virtually painless and is covered by Medicare and most major insurance plans. Focal laser treatment is usually done in a single session.

To protect your vision, take prevention seriously. Start by carefully controlling your blood sugar level and scheduling yearly eye exams. If you have diabetes, see your eye doctor for a yearly dilated eye exam — even if your vision seems fine — because it's important to detect diabetic retinopathy in the early stages.

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*"How can I prevent
Diabetic Retinopathy?"*

- Charles from Highlands, NC

Charles, the key with treating Diabetic Retinopathy is early identification and early treatment. If we catch it early enough, we can arrest it before you even know you have a problem and far before any loss of vision. But again, the key is to catch it early. I encourage you to schedule regular vision checkups with your Ophthalmologist so that you may catch such problems early, arrest the progression of the condition and prevent permanent vision loss.

~ Richard Blue, M.D.



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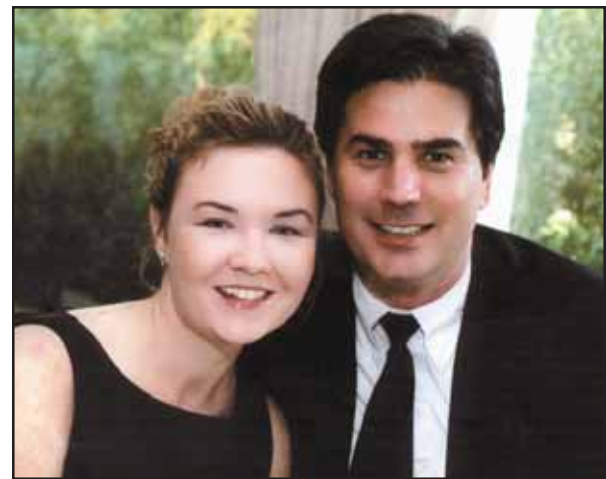
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

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In July, Bryan & Tricia participated in the cruise industry's most intensive training curriculum that included sales and marketing seminars, product briefings by major cruise lines, hands-on computer orientation and onboard ship inspections. The state-of-the-art CruiseOne training center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is considered among the best in the nation.

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Rotary Bingo benefits Girl Scouts



The Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with Highlands Girl Scouts to sponsor Girl Scout Bingo on November 3, 2011. All proceeds went to support the programs of our local Girl Scouts. Michelle Mead-Armor won the Super Bingo game and is shown collecting her winnings from Bill Futral, President of the Rotary Club of Highlands and some of our local Girl Scouts.



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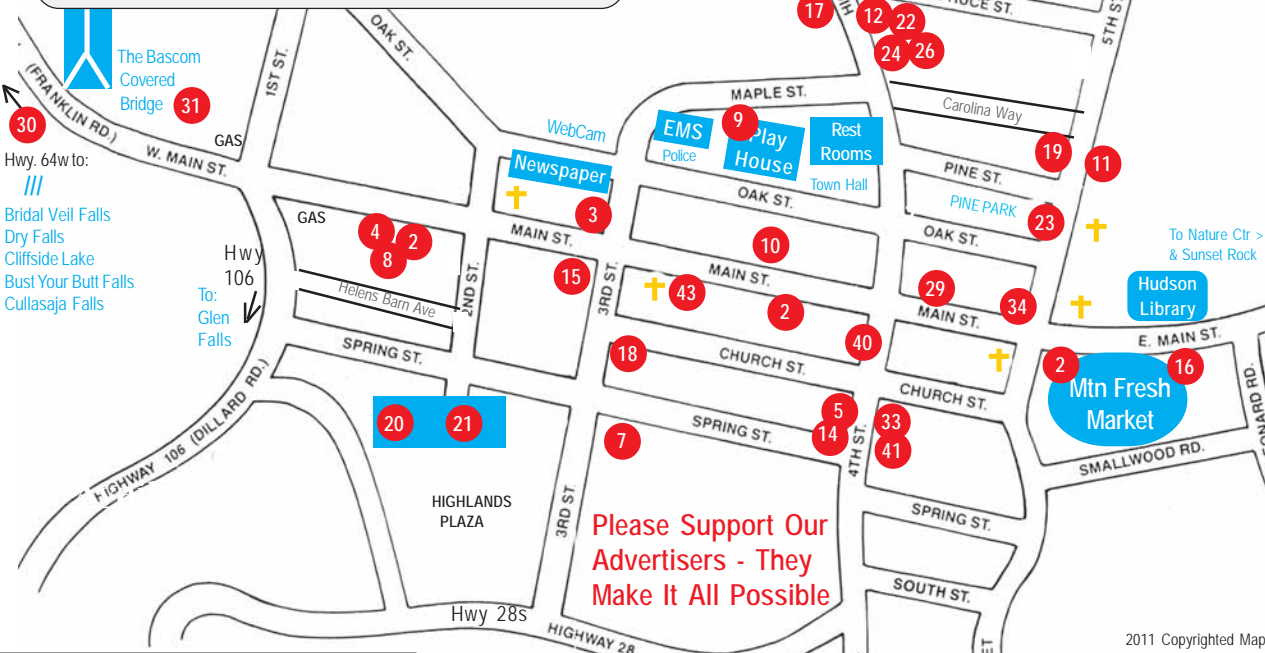
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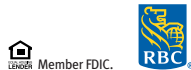
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