

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 17

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Thursday, April 26, 2012

NOTICE

• Business Owner/Employee Restricted Parking now in effect. Don't park in restricted areas in the business district on Main, Fourth and Church Streets 10a to 4p through Nov. 30. Questions? Call 526-9431.

Thursday, April 26

• The Highlands School Sophomore Class is sponsoring a steak dinner in the cafeteria from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$10/dinner. Carry-out available. Tickets for dinner sold in advance in the school office or by Sophomores through

Saturday, April 28

• The Highlands Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) drug drop off. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., take your medications for disposal to Highlands Pharmacy and Main Street Pharmacy at 460 Main Street and 225 Main Street in Highlands, N.C. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Sun. April 29

• The Southwest Community College Chorus is singing at the Highlands United Methodist Church Sunday at 5 p.m.

Monday, April 30

• The Art League of Highlands will begin their new season with their first meeting Monday at Tartistry Gallery on the Highlands Road in Franklin. The meeting will start at 4:30 with a social and refreshments. Call CynDe Copple at 828 524-5359 for more information.

Beginning May 1

• Volunteers needed to proctor tests at Highlands School. Testing begins at 8 am. Most exams finish within 150 minutes to finish. Call the school at 526.2147 to sign up.

Wednesday, May 2

• Children/Family Movie at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. The Last Unicorn.

Town could lease fiber for revenue

New revenue sources, not just cutting expenses, was the theme of the Town Board's March retreat this year and with the 2012-'13 budget now in the works, some ideas may become reality.

At a similar retreat three years ago, a proposal about the town

getting into the Internet provider business was presented. Commissioners were reluctant to pursue the endeavor and now that window has closed.

Successful lobbying from cable and internet companies prompted the passage of House

Bill 129 and G.S. 160A-340.1 which prohibits municipalities to become communication service providers.

However, municipalities can lease space on their fiber lines, just as they can and must by law, lease

• See FIBER page 5

Primary candidate forum

— Part 2 —

The League of Women Voters presided over a Macon County Commission Candidate forum so citizens could become acquainted with the six candidates who will be on the Primary ballot May 8.

Primary Candidates for MC Commission are incumbents Bobby Kuppers, District 3 (D), Kevin Corbin, District 2 (R), and Jim Tate, District 1 (R) and Vic Drummond, District 2 (R) Rick Snyder, District 3 (D) and Steve Higdon, District 1 (R) who didn't attend the forum.

The candidates were asked three questions. To keep the discussion going, we will feature one question each week leading up to the primary. Question one was in the April 19 issue.

Question 2:

Some see land use planning as good; some see it as hampering mechanism which begs the question, "Short-term profits or long-

• See FORUM page 15

HS 2012 King & Queen



Seniors Issac Beavers and Stephanie Smart were crowned King and Queen at the prom Saturday, April 21 in Coleman Hall at the Presbyterian Church. For more photos, see page 14.

Photo by Christine Murphy

• Inside •

Letters	2
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
Back Days	6
Swanson	8
Investing at 4,118 ft	9
Health Matters	10
Events	12
Classifieds	20

FY 2012-'13 funding challenges school district

Thanks to the state, the Macon County School system continues to juggle its finances — both for the remainder of this school year and upcoming FY 2012-'13.

At Monday's Board of Education meeting, Director of Finance Angie Cook presented an amended capital outlay budget for the remainder of the year as well as budget figures for current expenses and capital outlay projects for next year's budget.

On Tuesday, April 10, administration learned that the district's request for a little over \$2 million in QSCB funds targeted for repairs and renovations at Union Academy, Macon Middle School, Franklin High School and Nantahala School was denied.

That means the county and the school system have to figure out how to fund the necessary projects without the benefit of the no-interest loan.

Word on the \$1.5 million of QZAB funds targeted for Highlands School for repairs and ren-

• See FUNDING page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Let's not jump to conclusions

Dear Editor,
I read Mr. Wooldridge's articles every week and enjoy them, as I share some of the same views. There were many letters in the April 19 edition concerning his article on the Martin/Zimmerman "fairytale" which ran in the April 12 edition.

He is a humorist and has his own opinion, of which we are all entitled to in this country. There is so much false news concerning this Martin/Zimmerman shooting that finding the truth, I am afraid, will never occur. But some facts are being stated and some photos are out there that some writers did not research very well.

There are photos of Mr. Zimmerman's head from behind, showing two lacerations and a contusion forming so his statement of having his head pounded against the concrete may be true. The photos are time marked and are marked roughly around three minutes after the shooting. He was not taken to the hospital but was taken to the police station and it could have been his choice not to seek treatment at that time -- another right we have.

As far as judging his mental condition or even physical condition from the blurry shots that first came out, that is impossible. If he felt his life was threatened -- and he has made the statement that he did -- he had the right to use force. I also agree with another writer on the types of deterrents available and the fact that our country may not be going through all this turmoil over this case if he had chosen other deterrents.

One thing that does bother me a great deal and was never mentioned in any letter condemning Mr. Wooldridge was how civil rights leaders have made this into a racist case. Why is this? There are several crimes each day that involve people of different cultures in this country but when these "leaders" get a chance like this they turn it into civil uproar.

There was a time in this country that racism against blacks from whites was rampant and considered the norm. I personally was not in that era and also feel

that is the past. But what do these civil rights leaders promote on the few cases like this? A statement made at Mr. Zimmerman's bond hearing was "If this had been a white kid, it wouldn't have taken 44 days for an arrest." That sounds like a racist statement to me. How can you be a civil rights leader of any kind and separate like that. Isn't that exactly what we have as a nation tried to overcome? How is that a militant group, that is obviously also a racist group, make threats on a citizen of this country and promises money for the killing of a citizen of this country and not be arrested? And why doesn't this outrage all in this country?

We have seen several videos of Bin Laden and other extremists threaten and promise bounties on this country and it brings outrage, but the Martin/Zimmerman case hasn't. Furthermore our President ignored this in any statements about this case.

I was raised to make my own judgments about people I meet. I do this without concern for their culture. To put it simply, if I don't like you, then you have given me reason.

Actually I love learning about different cultures and find it of great interest to see how others live, worship, and see the

world. I am outraged by many things in this case but until the facts come out, the act of what happened will not make me rush to judgment on Mr. Zimmerman.

And these are all opinions of mine and only mine. But it also makes me wonder with all the private communities in this area, if a lone, black, white or red youth were wandering around, if some of the writers of these letters would just let that go without pursuing or calling the police even though no crime was being committed.

Tim Hunter
Franklin

Such passion!

Dear Editor,
Heavens! I'm breathless after reading Mr. Charlie Dasher's letter of April 19th. I had to rest after each paragraph, just to catch my breath again. I don't think I've ever read a letter which so well exhibited "fear, insecurity and ignorance," which was, I believe, his objective. And I always admire passion, even if misplaced and even if exhausting. He has my condolences and I hope most sincerely that he has a home blood pressure monitor and that it

doesn't "go over the top."
Isn't it curious how people use vitriolic language to chastise and condemn others for doing the very same thing? Mr. Dasher does it very well. Heavens, such passion. How exhausting.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

Dancing with our DNA

Dear Editor,
If morality is not based upon God, then it is based upon a world level of animal instincts, where like the ant we can work together and be very social, or we can exist with the survival of the fittest. If there is no God then morality is a matter of opinion and truth gets in the way. Then all that is evil or good is just a dance to our DNA.

Proving God exists is not like a mathematical equation as in $x + y = \text{God}$, which fits nicely into a neat little box for us to believe in, even though the universe and nature is so finely tuned as on a razor's edge, it seems most impossible of any other cause.

For both the believer and non-believer the difficulty in believing in God, revolves more around "If there is a God, why is there so much pain and suffering? This question hits home at some time in life for all of us. Is pain and suffering just a part of our dance with our DNA, and there is no hope; only death?"

Life can be very hard and made difficult with jagged edges and disappointments. I believe within dealing with this question of "How can a distant God relate to human pain and suffering?" that there are two ways to view and approach this. If there is no God, we are left with making no sense of pain and suffering, and we need to understand then that life will leave us with broken hearts and broken minds with nothing ultimately to look forward to. But if it is remotely possible that God exists and personally came and went through pain and suffering upon a cross and personally relates with us within life's pain, then beats death by his triumphant resurrection; this just possibly may be the hope against the backdrop of nothingness.

If not, once the dance ends our DNA invites us to an abrupt end, and there is

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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• OBITUARIES •

John E. Wavra

John E. Wavra, owner of Ty-Lyn Plantation, a local Christmas tree farm catering to the local community, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, April 17th in the fields of his tree farm. He was 61.

Born in the Town of Mayville, Wisconsin, John was a graduate of Mayville High School where he led their football team to a state championship in his senior year. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served in the Army during the Viet Nam War. John's creative works can be seen at Sea World in Florida where many of his animal sculptures are on display.

He and his wife of 25 years, Joni Boshard Wavra, founded Ty-Lyn Plantation in 1993. Their clients include residents of the local area as well as many from the southeast that would travel to the mountains to choose and cut the perfect holiday tree and ride to and from the fields on one of John's old fire trucks. Over the years, the couple built a prominent tree farm that continues to service

more than 1,900 families each year. John and Joni had the honor of hanging one of their famous Christmas wreaths on the door of the North Carolina Governor's Mansion in 2006. John also served as the Chairman of the North Carolina Christmas Tree Growers Association Choose and Cut Committee. Joni and family will continue to operate the business, which employs 15.

Mr. Wavra was a community leader who was dedicated to education and the youth of the Cashiers/Glenville area. He was a generous benefactor to several area non-profit institutions, including The Summit Charter School, The Blue Ridge School, The Village Green and various other organizations. John was instrumental in the construction of the Summit School and the playground at the Village Green. John coached little league, middle school, and high school baseball for many years and



was known by many of the area boys to be a firm, but fair coach with hands the size of catcher's mitts and a heart just as big.

He is survived by his wife Joni, his son Tyler, his daughter Lynsi, his mother, Pearl Wavra (widow of Wayne Wavra), his mother-in-law Dianne Elges, his brother, Michael Wavra, his brothers-in-law Dale Maree and Robert Johnson, his sisters-in-law Betsy Boshard Johnson and Kristina Boshard Maree and many nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. In lieu of flowers, John would want donations to either the NRA/ILA, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 or the Jackson County Christmas Tree Association, c/o Jackson Extension Service, 538 Scotts Creek Road, Suite 205, Sylva, NC 28779, Attn: Christy Breedenkamp.

Helen May Tunnell

Helen May Tunnell, our beloved mother, 94 years old, died on April 18, 2012. Formerly of Kansas City, Missouri, she moved to Franklin, NC in 1992. For

•See OBITUARIES page 19

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
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When perception replaces reality

No, no, no, this is not another column about the scary looking Hispanic guy wearing the orange prison outfit. Relax and unwad your shorts! That was mockery in the form of a ridiculous bedtime story. Instead, this is a true story about perception vs. reality.

"Captain, I'm temporarily pulling you from your current assignment to help me with a burglary problem," the chief said, wagging his finger at me. "You'll have five detectives under your command. We're getting bombarded with daytime burglaries north of the high school and it's got to stop. My phone is ringing off the

hook! The people are influential me fired. I need stop....now!"

I went chiefs during my didn't much care he knew it. It was dislike....but not a problem with too political. His problem with me was I'm difficult to control. But successful police work is not about picking your friends for assignments; it's about picking the right guy to get the job done.

Anyway, back to the burglary problem. I was almost certain the burglaries were being committed by garden-



who live there enough to have this to

through a lot of career but I for this one and a mutual hatred. My him was he was

ers who, by the way, were mostly white people during that era. Mind you, my job was not to catch burglars but to stop the break-ins.

Here was my plan. My detectives would ride the neighborhood and when they spotted a gardener, would stop, pull a 12-gauge shotgun from the car rack and approach the worker. Wearing police badges on their belts, they would say, "I'm looking for burglars. Have you seen any suspicious activity lately? We're asking all the gardeners who work this area." Regardless of their responses, most of them couldn't take their eyes off the police shotgun pointing at the ground. They were getting the message and the perception was that if they were a burglar they could be shot. In reality, a policeman could not and would not shoot a burglar unless a life was at risk.

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 18

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

What it took to become 'unhacked'

My e-mail was hacked. Each of my numerous contacts received an e-mail with an attachment. The typical response was, "It was great to hear from you, but I couldn't open the attachment". I hope their computers and various mobile devices aren't infected with some lethal virus. If I just had stronger password, this might not have happened. I feel guilty and responsible, but not enough to started replacing or repairing damaged computers. I can tell you now. The password was, "bushbasher." No caps, no numbers, no squiggly little symbols. I was as much as asking for it.

The next day I received a pointed e-mail from AOL, informing me my account had been used in violation of the "Terms of Service." They acknowledged I might not have been responsible for the breach and instructed me in the proper protocol for changing my password to something more robust. I didn't know anything about the details of the account, so I chose to establish my identity by answering a simple security question. The question, whose answer I was certain I would remember was, "Where we're you born?" I triumphantly entered "Richmond, Indiana" and waited for the next screen. Instead, I was told my answer was incorrect. I know where I was born. I've got a birth certificate to prove it. I repeated the answer in lower case, then without a comma, then with Indiana abbreviated "In," and then "in." The computer finally told me I had

... FIBER continued from page 1

space on their utility poles to communication service providers like Northland Cable, Frontier, Balsam West and Highlands Cable Group.

Currently, Frontier is attached to 2,096 utility poles, Northland Cable is attached to 1995, Balsam West is attached to 76 and Highlands Cable Group is attached to 6 poles.

Thanks to Gilliam's Promise, a drug and alcohol deterrent organization in the area which paid \$400,000 to hook up surveillance cameras and the fiber to monitor them at Highlands School, Town Hall, Highlands Civic Center (Rec Park), the Community Building and the Town Shed, the town could become a "fiber" provider.

The cable bought by Gilliam's Promise contains 48 strands of high-speed fi-



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

**Feedback is encouraged.
email:**

hsalzarulo@aol.com

exhausted my chances, but could try again in 24 hours. I may be the last guy in America who still pays AOL for e-mail, so I was upset. Besides The idea of some pimple-faced, teenaged hacker controlling my contact list was very disturbing.

I called the AOL Help Line and was greeted by a very pleasant computer voice, without a hint of an Indian accent. Years ago I got on of those guys whose accent was so thick I struggled to understand him. I asked his name, expecting him to answer Anil or Sonjay. Instead, he said "Chuck." Maybe it was selected for him by a computer with a sense of humor. The computer I was chatting with now had no sense of humor, but it's unaccented English more than compensated. His vocabulary was slightly limited, but I don't think even Chuck would have understood my answer to, "Are you

ber (dark fiber) and since the camera project has only used 12 strands, the town has access to the leftover 36.

This means the town can take care of its technology needs for communication and redundancy while making money leasing out the remaining strands to providers who can then pick up more customers.

The town would pull fiber from Town Hall to the water and sewer plants for its technology needs but also drop fiber throughout the business district and then lease the fiber to providers.

"People and businesses want this," said Town Manager Bob Frye, "and if Highlands doesn't have it they will go to another place that does."

He said by law Highlands can't be a provider but the next best thing is to "see how we can facilitate it."

ready to begin?" which was, "let's roll." He answered, sounding slightly mechanical, "Please answer yes or no." I expected a real Indian to replace him any moment, but he soldiered on. The moment of truth came when he told me I'd have to answer a security question to verify my identity. He asked me where I was born. By now, everyone knows the answer to that one. I gulped and answered, "Richmond, Indiana." I might have said, richmondindiana or Richmond, In. He had no way of knowing and answered, "That's very good." He assigned me a temporary password and gave instructions to select my own, something he said, would be easier to remember.

I was determined to select a strong password, yet one which I could remember with ease. I followed the instructions to a location where I could swap my newly assigned, temporary password for a robust, yet whimsical, creation of my own. It's hard to describe the sense of empowerment I, a technological moron, felt as I did as I had been told. I opened the new screen enthusiastically where I was asked to answer a simple security question: Where were you born? I'm still using the temporary password and growing rather fond of it. I established another account last week, one that offered a choice of security questions. I chose, "What was your first car?" "Who was your best friend growing up?" and "Where were you on Jan 1, 2000. My answers were ford, pete, and home; all lower case, each four letters, and all unforgettable.

Stringing the high-speed fiber to the water and sewer plants would cost the town about \$30,000 – a cost that could be offset by providers leasing space along the line.

Matt Shuler, GIS/IT director, who made the presentation in March, said second-home owners and visitors are accustomed to these services in their home towns and may stay longer if they can get the same thing here in Highlands.

"The longer they stay, the stronger our town economy becomes," he said.

There isn't hard industry in Highlands, but "software companies and people who video-conference don't need shipping routes, they need bandwidth."

Such budgetary issues will be discussed at the Special Budget meeting Thursday, April 26 from 3-5 p.m. in the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

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• BACK DAYS • PART 12

The story of the Frank and Belle McKinney Potts family

By Nancy Potts Coward

Just before Jessie was born, Frank and Belle moved their family to a new home which lay in a triangle of land between the Walhalla Road (NC 28) and the Dillard Road (NC

106. There were 75 acres of virgin land to be cleared and tended. There were three garden plots on which crops were grown for immediate consumption, for canning and for sale in the store.

There were grazing lands for horses and cattle and barns with stalls for them as well as for Guinness and Billy Goat, two goats Frank had taken on a debt; a chicken house and lot and a pig pen. Later there was a slaughter house for butchering animals for the store. There was a raspberry patch where his children made spending money: 10 cents a quart wholesale to Frank, who sold them for 25 cents at the store.

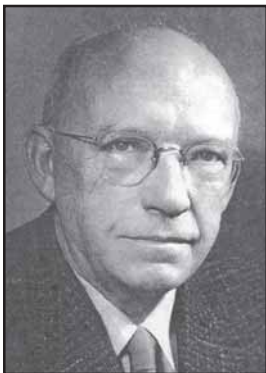
There were also rhododendron thickets, fields for buckberry bushes, blackberry vines, and wild strawberries for cobblers, jellies and jams.

There was a path from the house to two springs. The first one emptied into a wooden box where tin lard buckets held rich milk from the cows. The cream rose to the top, thick and crinkly like leather. Some was skimmed off for churning with the skim milk fed to the hogs.

Churning was a job assigned to the girls, but begin readers, they would moved the dasher with one hand and turn pages with the other.

The second spring was the enchanted one. It was chiseled out of granite in the shape of a bowl with a tinty slit at the bottom through which the water came. A semi-circular rock wall protected it from dirt sliding in. Rhododendrons leaned over it. Certain times of the year the children would clean out the spring, taking a broom to skim away the green scum and old leaves clogging the basin. Next they would sweep over and over again to loosen the moss that covered it during the winter months. Once the basin refilled with clean fresh water, they used a rhododendron leaf as a vessel for water. The only practical purpose for the spring was to chill watermelons in the summer.

There were also houses on the place where the families of men who worked for Frank



Frank and Belle Potts
– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

lived. They did the gardening, worked at the store, and after a pick-up truck was purchased for the store, drove Frank who never learned to drive. Usually, the children walked the mile to town along the Dillard Road.

Ethel (Frank's only sister) and her husband Guy Paul owned the land adjoining Frank's and Belle's and so the families were very close.

Guy Paul was a Maine Republican and the Potts were dyed-in-the-wool Democrats. One local pundit was heard saying that Roosevelt would never have gotten elected if it had not been for the Potts buying his family's votes. Oftentimes the political debates between the families were hot and completely irrational.

Santa Claus always put things in our stockings that Daddy (Frank) had in the store. One Christmas Eve, the year Grandma McKinney died and was buried made Jessie, a little worry wart, afraid there wouldn't be any Christmas the next day. But when we got home, Mama took off her coat and put on her apron and started preparations. She made wonderful Christmas candy -- fudge, divinity and something called cream candy. We would always fix a box of homemade candies for our teachers.

Mama was a tea-totaler of

the old school, but she did like a little wine for her fruit cakes and Uncle Roy, who manufactured his own, always provided it for her. She'd only moisten a cloth with it to put over the cakes, so she used just a few drops of it. On this particular occasion the pine jar, almost full, was sitting on the pantry shelf when Jack discovered it. He would go in now and then and get a swig. When he realized the level was noticeably lower, he brought home a bottle of grape juice from the store, intending to add some to the contents. It seemed a shame, however, to spoil the wine, so he poured it out for personal consumption and replaced it with the juice. Too late it occurred to him that if Mama, for some reason, should investigate, she would recognize the switch. To try to make the juice ferment, he took a yeast cake, added it to the jar, and screwed the lid on tight. One Sunday morning he was awakened by a big explosion beneath him. He got up, put on his clothes and without waiting for breakfast, went to Sunday School. Mama never knew the truth of the matter. She was really surprised that the wine had blown up because she had never trusted the darn stuff anyway.

• To be continued ...



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Making a mockery of the mock draft

With the NFL Draft occurring tonight, I thought it might be a good time to pull out my mock draft for 2012. As always, feel free to laugh about my incompetence in the art of prognostication.

• No. 1 Colts – QB Andrew Luck, Stanford- The next Peyton Manning? I'm thinking more the next Matt Ryan.

• No. 2 Redskins – QB Robert Griffin III, Baylor-The next Vince Young, I'm afraid.

• No. 3 Vikings – OT Matt Khalil, USC Most pro-ready guy out there.

• No. 4 Browns – RB Trent Richardson, Alabama Great player, can be the face of the franchise

• No. 5 Buccaneers – CB Morris Claiborne, LSU What they thought they were getting in Aqib Talib

• No. 6 Rams – WR Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma State Sam Bradford gets a new toy

• No. 7 Jaguars – DT Fletcher Cox, Mississippi State Should solidify what was a good D last year

• No. 8 Dolphins – QB Ryan Tannehill, Texas A&M Bust alert

• No. 9 Panthers – G David DeCastro, Stanford Need to protect Cam

• No. 10 Bills – WR Michael Floyd, Notre Dame Should pair nicely with Stevie Johnson

• No. 11 Chiefs – DT Dontari Poe, Memphis

• No. 12 Seahawks – DE/OLB Melvin Ingram, South Carolina

• No. 13 Cardinals – OT Riley Reiff, Iowa

• No. 14 Cowboys – SS Mark Barron, Alabama

• No. 15 Eagles – DE Quinton Coples, North Carolina

• No. 16 Jets – TE Coby Fleener, Stanford

• No. 17 Bengals – CB Stephon Gilmore, South Carolina

• No. 18 Chargers – OLB Shea Mc-



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Clellin, Boise State

• No. 19 Bears – OT Jonathan Martin, Stanford

• No. 20 Titans – DE/OLB Whitney Mercilus, Illinois

• No. 21 Bengals – C Peter Konz, Wisconsin

• No. 22 Browns – OT Cordy Glenn, Georgia

• No. 23 Lions – CB

Dre Kirkpatrick, Alabama

• No. 24 Steelers – LB Dont'a Hightower, Alabama

• No. 25 Broncos – DT Michael Brockers, LSU

• No. 26 Texans – WR Kendall

Wright, Baylor

• No. 27 Patriots – DT Kendall Reyes, UConn

• No. 28 Packers – OLB Courtney Upshaw, Alabama

• No. 29 Ravens – WR Stephen Hill, Georgia Tech

• No. 30 49ers – OG Kevin Zeitler, Wisconsin

• No. 31 Patriots – DB Janoris Jenkins, Florida

• No. 32 Giants – DE Nick Perry, USC

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

If It Isn't One Thing, It's Another

It seems like just a few days ago when I chronicled some of the events that made for a very rough week for the President. Come to think of it, it was. Well, it would appear that the boogie-men are still busy at work, throwing one grenade after another down the sacred halls of the White House. A bumper crop of new, unpleasant matters is blowing up in his face.

First, the Senate actually held a vote on something, and it was the on the "Buffett Rule." Obama's tax increase on job producers. It failed to pass. Bad news for the President.

Next, Wikipedia on the GSA (General Services Administration): "It is an independent agency of the United States Government, established in 1949 to help manage and support the basic functioning of federal agencies. The GSA supplies products and communications for U.S. government offices, provides transportation and office space to federal employees, and DEVELOPS GOVERNMENT-WIDE COST-MINIMIZING POLICIES, and other management tasks." The emphasis is mine.

Unless you live in a cave, or you just don't care, surely you are aware of the outrageous extravagance in the party the GSA threw in Las Vegas in 2010 for 300 of its employees, which cost \$823,000 of your money. It took a whistle-blower several months to get anybody's attention on the subject, but finally it found a home in a House committee, which is currently holding hearings and ripping the GSA real good.

Meanwhile, Roll Call reports: "Well after an inspector general began auditing the lavish Las Vegas conference, Jeff Neely, who headed the General Services Administration's San Francisco office and was the creator of the Las Vegas trip, took his wife on a taxpayer-funded trip to Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

When questioned by the House subcommittee on what appears to be a party-



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

party culture in the GSA, Neely and others pled the fifth, incurring the wrath of Chairman Jeff Dunham. "Let me issue a warning. If this (spending and lack of information) continues to go on... I am prepared to systematically pull apart GSA to the point where we will make it a question to the American public on whether GSA is needed at all. But the wasteful spending is going to stop and the transparency is going to begin." And these people are in charge of cost-minimizing policies. Not good for

Mr. Obama.

Next, speaking of parties, according to the New York Post: "The Secret Service sure knows how to party. Cocaine and several bottles of whiskey apparently fueled the elite agents' bonehead fling with about 20 hookers at a posh hotel in Cartagena, Columbia, a hotel staffer told the Post. The employee responded to the trashed room with police and other Hotel El Caribe workers when one prostitute raised hell after a Secret Service member initially refused to pay her.

At least 11 Secret Service members and 10 military personnel partied with as many as 21 hookers at the hotel, according to Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), chair of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. "Who were these women? Could they have been members of groups hostile to the United States? Could they have planted bugs, disabled weapons, or in any other ways jeopardized security of the president of our country?" she fumed." Bad for Barry.

And then, from The Christian Post: "Photos published by the Los Angeles Times of U. S. soldiers alongside the corpses of Afghan terrorists have sparked outrage around the world. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has responded to the photographs, calling the images 'disgusting.' It is such a disgusting act to take photos with body parts and then share it with others," Karzai said.

The White House has also responded to the images, labeling the photos 'reprehensible.' That behavior that was depicted

in the photos absolutely violates both our regulations and more important, our core values,' Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said in a news conference in Brussels." Some U. S. officials have also expressed fear that the published photographs could lead to reprisal attacks."

Now we all understand that Obama doesn't have direct control over the day-to-day operation of these agencies, but when mud gets spattered on the U.S., some of it lands on him. Call it what you may, he is currently losing the spiritual warfare going on. From The Examiner: "David Axelrod, President Obama's top campaign strategist, responded to Gallup polls showing Mitt Romney leading the president by criticizing the pollster.

'Gallup is saddled with some methodological problems,' Axelrod tweeted. Gallup released a poll showing Romney leading Obama 48 percent to 43 percent. Gallup showed Obama leading Romney throughout most of March." Sounds like Axelrod has some methodological problems if you ask me.

Mountain Findings

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• JUST HERS •

Jest in Case

I come by my laugh lines honestly. Think about it. Would you rather be known for your laugh or your frown lines? Given the choice, I'd rather laugh. Thus far, my life has had its share of sadness and tragedy, but through it all, there have also been some great chuckles, guffaws, and outright belly laughs. I'm grateful for them.



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

During a Sunday service in 1989, the dean of the American Cathedral in Paris had announced that the serving president at the time, George H.W. Bush, was going to be attending the G7 Summit in Paris in mid-July. While Bush wanted to attend our church, his schedule would not permit him to attend the 11 o'clock service. Dean Leo and the vestry had consulted, and decided that the main service should be moved to 8:30am, to accommodate the President.

In order to make it to the American Cathedral with time to clear security and get in a short rehearsal, we would have to take the 5:30am first metro in the morning. Why the metro? Because security would be so tight that parking in the area would be virtually impossible. Grumbling and bleary-eyed, the choir arrived at the Cathedral. Already, the place was swarming with security. A make-shift metal detector had been assembled, and we lined up to pass through it. All of our sheet music had to be scanned, too. Handlers with sniffer dogs went up and down the aisles of the Cathedral, looking for bombs and hidden weapons. Frightened and intimidated by the massive security, we tried making small talk with the Secret Service advance party. They looked right through us, and didn't even acknowledge our attempts at conversation. Now I realize the reason for their coldness may have been that we were wearing cassocks and surplices, not bustiers and black fish net stockings. After all, there's a world of difference between being a girl singing in the chorus and a chorus girl. We milled around as these strangers in suits and shades talked into their sleeve cuffs, poking into every corner of our sanctuary, looking for potential assassins.

The church was eventually opened up to Cathedral parishioners only, and Canon Buchanan assembled the choir, preparing to send us processing up the aisle. "Head 'em up, and move 'em out!" he said, grinning. You can take the clergyman out of Texas, but you can't take the Texas out of the clergyman. We processed up the aisle, and into our usual places, but a bit more self conscientiously than usual. The wait seemed endless. Then, with a flourish, the sea of Secret Servicemen parted. President and Mrs. Bush entered the church, and were escorted down the aisle by the Dean to their seats in the front pew. The service proceeded according to plan, and we all held our breaths as President Bush got up to read one of the lessons in a clear, patrician voice.

Then, during the Prayers of the People,

• See JUST HERS page 17

HELP OVER-TAXED TAXPAYERS

Many Macon County taxpayers are suffering from the recession. The latest county unemployment rate was almost 13%. Gas prices are almost \$4/gallon. Food and electricity prices are rising rapidly. Many residents make tough financial choices daily.

I agree with my opponent who said "Macon County is in VERY GOOD SHAPE financially."

But what about the county's over-taxed taxpayers?

The county has millions of dollars in **EXCESS** funds in its General Fund balance! Will commissioners spend it or reduce taxes?

I have urged them to reduce the property tax rate by 9% July 1, 2012, and help taxpayers! If elected I will continue the fight to reduce taxes without affecting county employees or programs!

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The land is gentle...making for easy building sites, lower building cost, more parking, easier ingress and egress, fewer erosion problems, child friendly and a great place to take a walk.

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Signs of improvement in Spring Housing

According to statistics, the housing market in North Carolina is improving as the spring buying season is now currently upon us.

At this point, there is enough data for people to become cautiously optimistic about the future in terms of the housing market.

According to REALTOR.org, pending home sales are up from previous years, an indicator that a slow recovery is underway. Additionally, short sales outnumbered foreclosures in 12 states last month (although North Carolina was not one of those) which demonstrates more and more movement in the market in recent times.

While this isn't a exactly a sign of smooth sailing in the distance, it does provide rays of light in what has been a somewhat stormy time in the real estate industry.

Macon County, and Highlands in particular has seen a large number of foreclosure and short sales in recent years,



Terry Potts
Country Club Properties
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primarily due to the prevalence of second homes located here in Highlands. With lenders being more willing to work with distressed homeowners, there are two positive effects to the market.

The first is that short sales do not hurt property values as much as foreclosure,

so neighborhoods can retain property value despite having distressed homes.

Secondly, more short sales contribute to the Pending Home Sales Index, which is one of the major indicators that we have of future market activity.

Currently the Pending Home Sales Index here in the south sits about 8 percent higher than in did just a year ago, which indicates that the market is improving. As I am sure that most of you know, good news is contagious, and a positive housing outlook can mean good things for folks who are looking to both buy or sell.

We also have Mother Nature to thank for a positive outlook here on the plateau. The unseasonably warm temperatures have brought more people to Highlands than usual in the last few months, which has provided a nice transition into the Spring Season.

It is my hope that these positive signs will continue to develop throughout the year, and that buyers and sellers alike can benefit from an improving economic climate.

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2012 Town of Highlands Boards and Committee Vacancies

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

1. Zoning Board ~ 1 Alternate position
 2. Planning Board ~ 3 openings
 3. Appearance Commission ~ 2 openings
 4. Scholarship Committee ~ 2 openings
- Board and Committee applications can be accessed at www.highlandscnc.org or at Town Hall. For more information, feel free to contact the Town of Highlands at 828.526.2118. (4/26)

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Glaucoma

An approach to Glaucoma treatment without the side effects or the cost of glaucoma drops

Glaucoma refers to a group of eye diseases, which left undetected, can lead to a significant decrease in sight or even blindness. This is due to the improper drainage of continuously produced fluid in the eye (aqueous humor) which leads to increased pressure within the eye, resulting in optic nerve damage. The underlying cause of glaucoma is unknown, and anyone can be at risk regardless of age. Regular eye exams can lead to early detection and treatment which often prevents loss of sight. Glaucoma symptoms vary depending on the type of glaucoma a patient is experiencing and it is possible to have no symptoms at all. According to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, it is estimated that over 4 million Americans have Glaucoma but only half of them know it.

Glaucoma remains the leading cause of blindness in adults in spite of readily available painless treatment. High on the list of causes is a remarkably high level of inadequate medication usage. The problem is easily understood by anyone who is required to use medications on a daily basis. This problem becomes even more difficult due to the high cost of medications,

especially if they are not covered by insurance or Medicare and the patient is on a relatively fixed income.

A laser developed especially for glaucoma, the SLT, received FDA approval following years of clinical testing. The significant advantage of the SLT over previous lasers is its method of action. The efficacy and safety levels are so high that the treatment may now be recommended as the 1st line of treatment in glaucoma patients before considering glaucoma eye drops. In our practice the treatment is so effective, that for the great majority of our glaucoma patients the SLT may be the only treatment needed. The treatment is covered by insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid. The procedure is performed in the examination room and takes less than a minute. Patients can return to normal activity immediately following treatment.

Dr. Blue introduced the SLT laser treatment for glaucoma to Northeast Georgia and now provides this remarkable laser treatment in Macon County as well.

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LASIK MYTH # 26

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PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

• Registration is now open for the 2012 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-

526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

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., 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.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per calcs. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

• All meetings of the Mountain View Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. and proceed a few steps down to the library.

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 Hospi-

tal. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

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. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• Free Dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations

Local Audubon Society announces ambitious summer schedule

Starting in May, weekly Saturday bird walks will be offered to the public by the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. According to Romney Bathurst, Audubon board member and co-chair of the field trip committee, "the group has been busy planning a full schedule of diverse and fun opportunities for birders of all levels to participate this year".



May 12: HPAS Bird Walk at Lonesome Valley, Cashiers, with special guest leader Curtis Smalling from Audubon NC. Meet at 8 am near the gate in Lonesome Valley, or, to carpool, meet at 7:30 am in Highlands in The Bascom parking lot. At 4 pm on the same day Mr. Smalling will present a program entitled "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau:

Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place" at The Bascom in Highlands.

May 19: Nature Walk to Jones Gap with The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. Sign up by calling 526-9938. Participants must be HCLT members (\$35) and should bring \$5 for lunch. This will be the society's only paid walk, but this gives partakers a chance to support the HCLT, which is working to preserve habitat throughout the Highlands-Cashiers area. Meet in The Bascom parking lot at 7:30 am to carpool.

May 26: Bird Walk along Turtle Pond Road, Highlands. Meet in The Bascom parking lot at 7:30 am to carpool.

May 27: The Bird Barn In Highlands (Corporate Sponsors of Audubon) will have guest, Michael Skinner, present a program to the public about Eagles. Program will begin at 1 pm.

Anyone interested in any of these events should consult the Audubon website for the most up to date information on all walks and programs. www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org, or with questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

The first Saturday of every month will be especially geared to "beginners", with guidance offered in the use of binoculars and field guides and an introduction to some of our more common species in relatively easily accessible places around the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. HPAS will loan binoculars to those who don't presently have their own. It is hoped that for new participants, this will be the start of a wonderful new hobby and a way to experience nature here in the mountains.

Following is a list of walks and programs being offered for May.

May 5: HPAS Kick-off Walk at The Bascom in Highlands, led by HPAS President, Russ Regnery. Meet in The Bascom parking lot at 7:30 am.

May 8: Birding Outing at Southern Highlands Reserve Gardens (participants will need to register in advance to attend this special event by calling 828-743-9670). Meet to carpool at 8 am in Cashiers behind Wendy's/community center or in Highlands at 7:30 am in The Bascom parking lot.

Brevard College Chamber Chorale to Perform in May 6 Concert



The Brevard College Chamber Chorale will perform in a concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 6 at First Presbyterian Church. The group will also participate in the 11 a.m. worship service that morning. The Chorale is directed by Dr. David Gresham who serves as Professor of Music and Director of Choral Music at Brevard College.

Dr. Gresham, who also serves as Director of Worship/Music at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, earned a bachelor's degree from Wingate University, master's degrees in both Choral Conducting and Vocal Pedagogy and Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a doctorate in Vocal Performance with a minor in Conducting from the University of Georgia.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the morning worship service as well as the afternoon concert, which will take place in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church. The church is located at the corner of Main and 5th Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Saturdays

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! For More Information call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

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.

Thursday, April 26

• The Highlands School Sophomore Class is sponsoring a steak dinner in the cafeteria from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$10/dinner. Carry-out available. Tickets for dinner sold in advance in the school office or by Sophomores through

Saturday, April 28

• The Highlands Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., take your medications for disposal to Highlands Pharmacy and Main Street Pharmacy at 460 Main Street and 225 Main Street in Highlands, N.C. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike in Panthertown beginning at Salt Rock entrance, ascending Black Rock Mtn., then on to the Sassafras Gap loop trail where many pink shell rhododendrons are likely to be in bloom. Three gradual climbs of 300 ft. bring the total for elevation change to 1500-1800 ft. Bring water and lunch. Drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations.

Sun. April 29

• The Southwest Community College Chorale Group

is singing at the Highlands United Methodist Church Sunday at 5 p.m.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the nature trail at the Highlands Biological Center. Meet at Bi-Lo parking area in Franklin at 2 p.m. Hikers from Highlands or Cashiers areas meet at the Biological Center at 2:40 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Monday, April 30

• The Art League of Highlands will begin their new season with their first meeting Monday at Tartistry Gallery

on the Highlands Road in Franklin. The meeting will start at 4:30 with a social and refreshments. Call CynDe Copple at 828 524-5359 for more information.

Beginning May 1

• Volunteers needed to proctor tests at Highlands School. Testing begins at 8 am. Most exams finish within 150 minutes to finish. Call the school at 526.2147 to sign up.

Wednesday, May 2

• Children/Family Movie at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. The Last Unicorn.

Don't miss Chicks! It's All Gone to the Birds activities and The Bascom 'Backpack Program'

In conjunction with the Chicks! It's All Gone to the Birds exhibit, The Bascom is hosting a number of "avian" related programs.

• The exhibition's opening reception on Saturday, March 31 from 6-8 pm featuring a presentation from artist Susan Taylor Glasgow.

• The Birds of the Highlands Plateau, Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place on Saturday, May 12 at 4 pm with Curtis Smalling, Mountain Region Biologist and NC IBA Coordinator.

• Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Project on Friday, June 1 at 7:30 pm with Dr. Mark Hopey.

• The Early Birders - Antique Nature Prints and Decoys on Saturday, June 9 at 4 pm with Dr. Lloyd Newberry, author of European Hunter: Hunting in 33 Countries.

• The Armchair Birder on Saturday, June 16 at 4 pm featuring Dr. John Yow, author of The Armchair Birder.

There are also a series of bird and nature walks scheduled throughout May and June. For more information on these Highlands Plateau Audubon Society activities, call 828.526.1939 or visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

Chicks! It's All Gone to the Birds is at The Bascom through June 17 and is presented in partnership with the Highlands Biological Station and the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Support for this exhibition is provided by Nancy and Larry Fuller; Audubon North Carolina; and Delta Air Lines.

The Bascom Backpack Program is a creative concept that offers self-guided tours on The Bascom Nature Trail. Stop by the information desk at The Bascom and check out one of our Bird Watching Tour Backpacks that include a pair of binoculars and handouts on identifying birds, bird call and other birding activities. See how many birds you can spot and identify! A great adventure for the whole family.

Now through June 30th, become a Bascom Member (or renew or upgrade your current membership) at \$250 and above and be entered in a drawing to win this gift basket of handcrafted, locally made, premium quality soaps and scrubs by Nature's Scrubs!

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 or call 828.526.4949.

The Dixie Swim Club is Coming back!



One of The Highlands Cashiers Players most popular production, "The Dixie Swim Club" is coming back to The Performing Arts Center opening May 10. The play, written by current and noted playwrights, Jones, Hope, and Wooten, and directed by Ricky Siegel, was first performed by The Highlands Cashiers Players in Highlands in the winter of 2010. Response to the play was so enthusiastic that it became the most attended winter production in the 15 year history of HCP!

The play is the story of the lifelong friendships of 5 women who met as teammates on their college swim team. Through ups and downs, laughter and tears, the bonds that they created, the affections they had for one another could not be shaken by circumstances or time. Through the years, the one thing the women could count on was their teammates. The play reminds us of the importance of the friendships we all have shared

in our lives. This is the message of the play, at it comes to us in sidesplitting laughter and touching moments of crisis.

This new production features 4 of the same five actresses who brought the script to life back in 2010. Jenny King, Carla Gates, Lee Lyons, and Mary Adair Leslie, will again appear as Sheree, Dinah, Vernadette, and Jeri Neal. New to the cast as Lexie, is another veteran actress of Highlands' stages, Bonnie Earman.

Don't miss the opportunity to see the return engagement of "The Dixie Swim Club", back by popular demand. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 on the respective Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19, with matinees at 2:30 on the Sundays of May 13 and 20. For ticket information and purchasing, call 828-526-8084.

Highlands School Junior/Senior Prom – Saturday, April 21, 2012 – Coleman Hall – Depths of Forever –



Photos by Christine Murphy and Ryan Potts

Right:
Incumbents Bobby Kuppers, District 3 (D), Kevin Corbin, District 2 (R), and Jim Tate, District 1 (R);

Far Right:
Vic Drummond, District 2 (R) and Rick Snyder, District 3 (D).

Photos by Kim Lewicki



term benefits?" Specifically, what needs to be done in reference to planning and development in the near future?

Jim Tate:

I'm a sixth generation Maconian. I want my kids and grandkids to continue to live and work here. As a county commissioner and resident, I try to always be a good steward of the county – it's good for us and good for future generations. But, as a small business owner, I am bombarded with regulations and paperwork. It's always going to be a matter of balance between being a good steward and requiring commonsense regulations for our citizens. The truth is, it's always going to be hard to come up with ways to keep everyone happy while arriving at common

ground.

Kevin Corbin:

We need to move forward in a positive way. The planning board is an advisory board to the commission. It's not productive when people argue. We need to review the ordinances we already have including a review of the subdivision ordinance. Planning isn't a bad word, but planning doesn't mean passing ordinances, either. On the other hand, if you fail to plan then plan to fail.

Bobby Kuppers:

There is a misconception that planning and regulation are equal. They aren't the same things. Some people don't even want to have the conversation, and that means it dies in the drawer. Tough economic times

demand planning more than ever. When you have all the money you need, no one cares about planning. But in tough times, we need a plan or we won't make it. The Macon County Comprehensive Plan was developed by the people of Macon County. Whatever we do we should first ask "How does that fit into the comprehensive plan?" It's no good to adopt a Comprehensive Plan if we aren't going to use it.

Vic Drummond:

Development is the lifeblood of the county. Macon County should not and cannot stop development or the county will fade away. What is planning? It is different things to different people. Is it land use, zoning, infrastructure? According to Wikipedia, land use planning leads to land use reg-

ulations which is zoning. I am against planning by any government entity that wants to tell me where I can live, or infringe on my rights to use my property. I'm against regulations for regulations sake. Just because you can impose regulations, is not a reason to do it. If there is a specific problem, OK. Otherwise, no regulations.

Rick Snyder:

I think we should take another look at the steep slope and subdivision ordinances because they make it hard on builders in the county.

Next week in the May 3 edition, we will feature the answers to Question 3 "What issue is of particular concern/interest to you?"

– Kim Lewicki



– Paid for by Tate for Commissioner –

On May 8
Keep your Highlands' representation in place

**VOTE
Jim Tate**

for
District 1 Representative
of the Macon County Board of Commissioners

Believes in:

- Making responsible decisions for our county
 - Safeguarding our communities
 - Maintaining low taxes
- Providing exceptional education for our children
- Being a good steward of our natural heritage

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 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

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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

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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 Bruce Walker
Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal
beginning at 9:00am. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service held at 10:30am
in the Main Nave of the Church.
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

Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172 • 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 Group 5:30 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.; 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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Assurance

I John 5:13



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

I was talking with a young man not long ago who was struggling with his assurance of salvation. It seems he had fallen on some hard times and was under a good deal of pressure from the circumstances of life. Because of his struggles, he had also fallen into a few sins. He was very upset and felt as though there was no way he could be saved. No way he could have done what he did if he was saved or come under the struggles he was facing. I think this is very characteristic of so many people.

There is such a misunderstanding of God's grace in the world today. Assurance is the working out of grace in your life. I John 5:13 gives some good insight into this wonderful grace of assurance. "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

There are two types of assurance. The first is a subjective assurance and it is the one, too many people place their hope in. Subjective means it comes from inside of you. It is built on your feelings. You are living a good clean life and there are no major problems facing you, so you feel really blessed of God and have assurance that you are saved because of your good circumstances. The problem with this type of assurance is it can go away in a moment. You can fall into a sin or trouble can come into your life and overwhelm you taking away all good feelings, which is what happened to this young man. He lost the very thing he trusted in, his own ability.

The second type of assurance is objective. Objective means it comes from outside of yourself. This assurance is what John is referring to. He says he writes the truth of God that everyone who believes will have something they can hold on to even when things get hard. If they will believe God's Word and let it build their assurance they shall remain on the rock regardless of the circumstances of life or the sins they fall into. When things get really hard in life because of



From left: Alyssa, Michelle, Michelle's ex-husband Collin, the tenor in the story and President George H. Bush.

my fellow alto, Alyssa, turned to me, and whispered a joke. It wasn't a particularly good joke, or even a clever one. Given the circumstances, however, it just struck me as particularly funny. I was seized by what the French call "une crise de fou rire" – a fit of laughter. It was made all the worse because I had to remain silent and completely composed. I clutched my hymnal for dear life, as my entire body shook and tears of laughter poured down my cheeks. Eventually, the service was over. The secret service rushed the President and First Lady from the sanctuary. The President had left his church bulletin behind in the pew, and a fan scooped it up as a souvenir. It was that kind of event. A bit deflated after such a build-up, we singers headed toward the choir room to hang up our robes and file our service music. But, wait! Our guests of honor hadn't – like Elvis – left the building. No, they were meeting with the clergy, and a chosen few from the congregation at the far end of the parish hall. We stared at the group, sipping tea and coffee from the Cathedral's best china, while munching on mini-croissants and other delicacies. One bold tenor said, "Well, he's my president, and I'm going to talk to him." Upon hearing this, Alyssa rushed to join him. Not one to hesitate, when the possibility of getting into trouble loomed, I charged after them. The choir members hovered just outside the group of people surrounding the president. Bush lifted his head and smiled, acknowledging the choir. Then, he burst into a grin, motioning in my direction. "I know you," he said, smiling. "You're the one who was laughing during the

Prayers of the People!" I turned bright red. "Oh, don't worry about it!" he continued. "My father was always getting after me for goofing off in church." Then, President Bush asked me what I'd found so funny, and I confessed that a fellow choir member had told me a joke. I made a point of not "outing" Alyssa, who was standing right next to me.

"Actually, you might be able to help me out," said the President. "You see, I'm at the G7 Conference, and it's pretty boring at times. Mrs. Thatcher's interpreter has already fallen asleep twice. Could you possibly tell me that joke? It just might lighten things up a bit, and help keep everyone more on their toes." "Oh, Mr. President," I replied. "I'm so sorry. I just don't know you well enough to tell you a joke like that!" We grinned at each other, and the White House photographer jumped up, and snapped the above photo.

So, there you have it. Whether you're a poet, a pauper or the President, a little bit of laughter goes a long way. The Beatles may have sung, "Love is all you need," but I think you can throw humor in there, as well, "jest in case."

• 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. While Michelle may obsess over many things, her naso-labial folds aren't among them. She sees each wrinkle as a stripe, as she goes from private to corporal to sergeant, without benefit of Botox.

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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

On the third day of our plan, a gardener waved me down to tell me he knew it was high school kids breaking into homes during their lunch breaks. He had actually witnessed a break-in. My whole thinking changed.

Soooo, when we spotted high school kids walking the neighborhood during high school lunch break periods, we would stop them, drag the shotgun from our racks and question them about wit-

nessing any suspicious activity.

A day later I was called back into the chief's office. He was furious. "Why am I getting phone calls from some of the same homeowners that were complaining about burglaries? They claim you are threatening their children with shotguns," the chief asked.

"Chief, it's some of the kids from Beach High committing these burglaries. I'm not threatening them. Give me a cou-

ple more days and we may clear this up." "You've got until Friday and that's it. I have more grief than ever because of you. Get out of my office," the chief growled.

Unfortunately, the next morning, The Miami Herald editorial staff wrote a feature editorial titled, "Wooldridge threatens young children with shotguns." (I am not making this up.) In the body of the editorial, the Herald staff writer said the chief supported my "Hitler" tactics of sticking shotguns in children's stomachs and threatening them. All lies, of course, but the perception is always worse than the reality. People will believe what they want to believe. Yes, even back then, people thought everything they read in the newspaper and saw on TV was truthful and real.

On my way to work that morning, the chief radioed me on the command channel, ordered me to "call off the dogs," and report to him immediately. He had read the editorial in the Miami Herald and I thought he was going to have a

stroke he was so stressed. As usual, we argued....loudly....I lost....again. Well, my burglary program ended but because of us stopping a few high school kids coupled with the bad publicity in the Miami Herald, burglaries dropped to zero....none....nada.... in that neighborhood. I never got thanked but I did hear through the grapevine the chief was elated over the zero burglary stats. For him the political heat was off; for me, another day at the office.

As usual, I headed for Highlands once summer arrived. We were putting the finishing touches on our li'l cabin we were building in Clear Creek. During that vacation, I learned our chief had died of a massive heart attack in his swimming pool. He was only 37. The perception was he was healthy. In reality, he was not. Handling stress was not his strong suit....but it is mine...I thrive on it.

• I'm Moving Back to Mars and Deceived are Fred's books available on your Kindle or Nook.



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Main Street, Clayton
WWW.CELEBRATECLAYTON.ORG

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Celebrate Clayton 5K Run
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SAT. MAY 12 & SUN. MAY 13,
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Red Barn Cafe Opening
Tiger Mountain Vineyard
WWW.TIGERWINE.COM

SAT. MAY 19 – SUN, MAY 20
Warrior Dash
Blue Ridge Camp
Mountain City, GA
WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM

FRI. JUN 22 – SUN. JUN 24
Chattooga River Festival
WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM

SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM

4th Annual Clayton Crawl
Main Street, Clayton
WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG

SAT. OCT 6, 10AM -5PM
Foxfire Mountaineer Festival
WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG

SAT. OCT 27, 10AM – 1PM
Halloween Hay Day

SAT. OCT 27, 1PM
Halloween Trick or Treat
Main Street, Clayton

SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM
Festival of Trees Preview Party
Rabun County Civic Center
WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

THURS. NOV 22, 8AM
Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot

FRI. NOV 23, 5PM – 8PM
Christmas in Clayton

FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM &
SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM
Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and
Festival of Trees
Rabun County Civic Center
WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

SAT. DEC 1, 5PM
Christmas Parade
Main Street, Clayton
WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM

... FUNDING continued from page 1

ovations is pending. Because repairs and renovation have to be done, the Board of Education OK'd a 2011-'12 budget amendment to allow money from the sale of Cartoogechaye School in the amount of \$223,305 to fund projects before the end of this fiscal year. Projects will be the Franklin High School (FHS) Ag Building (\$25,000), the FHS Media Center (\$7,000), the FHS FAC Restrooms (\$80,000), the FHS-Vocational Art Room (\$8,400), Highlands Middle School Roof Replacement (\$27,905), Macon Middle School Main Roof Repair (\$25,000), Nantahala Covered Awning (\$20,000) and Service Truck Maintenance (\$30,000). Back on the Capital Outlay list in the 2012-'13 Draft Budget is about \$2.15 million which includes FHS building renovations, work to Iotla Valley, Macon Middle School, Nantahala, South Macon, Union Academy as well as two county cars, two activity buses, baseball field batting cages, baseball field dugouts/roof, R22 Coolant, and the \$1.5 million needed over the next two years to get Macon County Schools technology up to date in time for online End-of-Course and End-of-Grade tests, as mandated by the state. The school district will approach the county for funding for both the Capital Outlay items and for some Current Expenditure money. Monday night, the school system agreed to fund 50% of it's Current Expenditures for 2012-'13 from its fund balance and will ask the county to fund the other 50%. "In an effort to address the state's proposed discretionary reversion, we are being forced to exhaust nearly all of our available reserves in current expense fund balance. To help offset this impact, we are requesting the county commission provide additional financial support to cover 50% of our amount needed from fund balance to help cover the reversion," said Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman. To that note, Monday night, Macon County Schools joined 48 other school districts in North Carolina and signed a Discretionary Reversion Resolution which will be sent to the General Assembly requesting that the North Carolina legislature fully fund education and eliminate the discretionary reversion – this for the betterment of public education for all school systems in North Carolina. Basically, school systems are crying foul because the General Assembly is claiming it hasn't been cutting school budgets, when in fact, requesting them to "return" money is doing just that. "It's a façade that the General Assembly hasn't cut budgets," said Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman. "This is the third year we have had to send money back." In 2011-'12 the state required \$1.2 million be returned; this year it wants \$1.4 million. The first year 2010-'11 it was about \$250,000.

– Kim Lewicki

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

financial troubles, family problems, job headaches, or whatever, you can turn to God's Word and know everything will work out. I Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

The Word tells you that no matter what the problem, God is there for you and will in his time bring you through your trouble. Trust in him and be assured he will never leave you nor forsake you. If you fall into sin the same principle applies. I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." To sin does not mean the loss of salvation. It means you need to

mature and grow more in your walk. God has provided a way you can remove the sin and continue in your walk with him.

The Word is very clear about your relationship with God. He made the way into salvation. Jesus said he was the way. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

This is an objective truth and anyone who stands on this truth and follows its command, to believe on Jesus, is saved. John makes it clear, the rest of the Word is there to help you stand fast in that salvation. Here is true assurance that will never let you down, it is objective for it comes from God and his Word exclusively.

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 17

• At noon, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at NC 106 near Stoney Creek.

April 18

• At 8:58 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Chestnut Street.

• At 11:40 a.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported outside Highlands Pharmacy. The driver wanted several out-of-state prescriptions for narcotics filled. He was told they wouldn't be filled. He eventually drove off.

April 20

• At 6:15 p.m., officers responded to two noise complaints because of construction on Spring Street. The workers were told to stop working.

• At 7:05 p.m., Jose Augusto Munoz, 38, of Highlands was arrested for simple assault.

April 21

• At 8:48 a.m., vandalism to a bird feeder and plants by a bear was reported by residents on Gibson Street.

• At 10:35 p.m., vandalism to a vehicle parked on Main Street was reported. The case is under investigation.

April 22

• At 9:15 a.m., officers on patrol found the rear door to Ruka's restaurant open.

April 23

• At 6:05 p.m., a woman attending a Zumba class at the Rec Park reported her bike rack had been stolen off her vehicle while she was in class. The surveillance video revealed that the car entered the complex without the rack on it. She later found it in the bushes at her home.

• During the week, police officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 10 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from April 19.

April 19

• At 11:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of "the smell of gas" at a residence on Rolling Acres. It was due to the gas logs that needed to be relighted.

April 21

• At 6:49 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers about a fire near a house on Goblet Drive. It was cancelled en route.

• At 7:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont. The person was transported to the hospital.

April 22

• At 6:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 where a person was choking.

April 23

• At 9:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road. No problem was found.

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... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

the past two years, Helen resided at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, NC.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James David Tunnell, baby daughter Margaret, parents Alva Ross and Beulah May McKay, and brothers Harry McKay, Rev. Adrian McKay and Dr. Donald McKay.

Mrs. Tunnell was a nurse and worked at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit, Missouri for several years. She had a special love for the elderly and that was her favorite area of nursing. She was a member of Cowee Baptist Church in Franklin, NC. She was formerly a member of Southview Baptist Church for many years in Raytown, Missouri.

Helen enjoyed working with the "Better Hearing Group" to improve hearing for the hearing impaired. She loved Bible study with friends, reading, bowling, traveling, and watching baseball (especially the Braves). Helen had taught Sunday School

and Vacation Bible School in past years. She was Valedictorian of her High School Class and always had a love of learning.

Surviving are three children, Judith Williams and husband Dan of Tonganoxie, Kansas, Joel David and wife Phyllis of Arkadelphia, Arkansas and Sharon Robison and husband Robbie of Franklin, NC; 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, Monday, April 23 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Burial was at Floral Hills in Kansas City, Missouri. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Scarlet Cord Food Ministry, 1423 Huddleston or Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923 or Cowee Baptist Church, 6301 Bryson City Road, Franklin, NC 28734. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.



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BREAKFAST SERVERS NEEDED AT THE HISTORIC HIGHLANDS INN. Shift runs 7am-1130am. Part time available also on Saturdays/Sundays. Highlands Inn is open April thru November. Apply in person at 420 Main Street, Highlands, NC. (5/10)

HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED - Highlands Inn and Highlands Inn Lodge. Weekend work is necessary. Highlands Inn is open April-Nov and Highlands Inn Lodge is open year round. Apply in person at 96 Log Cabin Lane, call 526-5899 for an appointment or email SALES@HIGHLANDSINNLODGE.COM (5/10)



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RETAIL SHOP MANAGER - The Bascom is looking for an individual to manage the day to day operations of The Bascom's retail shop. This is a full time position and the candidate must present a pleasant professional image, have customer service and retail skills and the ability to manage a small staff. The shop is open seven days a week and some evenings during events. The right individual will have also had experience in building client relationships, engaging visitors and working with artists and art workers. Requirements: Associates degree or above, proficient in POS, MS Office and digital telephone systems. Must be able to solve problems, work independently and effectively communicate information. Knowledge of specialty art merchandise a plus. Submit cover letter and resume: Debbie Fields, The Bascom, dfields@thebascom.org or 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, N.C. 28741. Please no phone calls. (5/3)

WANTED

BIDS FOR LANDSCAPE SERVICE - Hudson Library is taking bids for next year. Bid information and specs are available at the Hudson Library or by contacting Dale Sticka at 526-1786. The Bidder must provide 3 references. Bids close on May 15, 2012. (May 10)

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SMALL SPACE for your office/personal care business/studio located near the Bascom. \$525 includes electric. 526-5558. (5/1)

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

Lady Highlanders soccer wins
5th straight game



Highlands girls playing Towns County at home.
Photo by Noel Atherton

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders continued their winning ways by winning their 5th straight game on Thursday against Tallulah Falls with a dominating 7-1 victory.

Kirstyn Lamb and Mary Gillan Renfro both notched hat tricks for the Lady Highlanders, and Emily Munger added a goal to complete the scoring. The Lady Highlanders have been on a roll as of late, and they look to continue that as they head into the NCHSAA playoffs.

Head Coach Jeff Weller has been very pleased with the development that his team has shown throughout the year. "One of our biggest challenges this year has been that injuries has caused some of our players to have to learn to play in new positions and play new roles and that caused us some problems at the beginning of the season," said Weller, "but as the ladies have had time to learn how to play with each other and that is beginning to show up now in their play on the field and in the win column."

The Lady Highlanders will host Thomas Jefferson on Friday at 6PM at the Highlands School Soccer field.

Lady Highlander softball beats
Hiwassee Dam in dramatic fashion

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders won a Smoky Mountain Conference game last Thursday with a dramatic come from behind victory against Hiwassee Dam, winning the game 6-5. Highlands came out strong behind quality pitching from Emily Murphy, but despite playing well still trailed 5-2 heading into the bottom of the 6th inning. After scratching together a couple of hits and a walk to load the bases, Murphy stepped to the plate and delivered one of the best moments in Highlands softball history. After working the count for a few pitches, Murphy delivered by smacking a grand slam to put Highlands in front, 6-5. Then, Murphy and the Lady Highlander defense shut down the Lady Eagles in the top of the 7th to give

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Chill
A Highlands Treatery

This Friday, April 27th, Chill will open at 116 North 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Main Street.

Chill brings a healthy alternative to the ice cream that we all enjoy so much selling 15 flavors of frozen yogurt. The store is designed to be "self serve." Customers will pick up a cup or cone and fill it themselves. The flavors include a natural tart yogurt, sugar-free yogurt, and low-fat yogurts that range from Dreamy Dark Chocolate to French Vanilla. The newest flavor is Sea Salt Caramel Pretzel. You will be able to get as much or as little as you want of any of the flavors.

After you have selected your yogurt, you will be able to add a variety of toppings from the self serve topping bar. Toppings include fresh fruit, granola, nuts, candy, brownies and lots more – over 40 toppings will be available. Once your se-



lections are complete, you just weigh it and pay for it. Everything is sold by the ounce.

In addition to the frozen yogurt and toppings we plan to offer "made from scratch" cupcakes, fresh baked bagels, cold drinks, coffees and hot chocolate.

Chill is a place for everyone to enjoy - families and friends, local residents and day visitors. Hours are 9 AM to 11 PM. Hope to see you there soon!
– Debi and David Bock

Second Annual R.E.A.C.H. Gala

Mark your calendar for July 29, 2012 and make reservations for cocktails, live auction (courtesy of Steve Day of WHLC), and silent auction to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. R.E.A.C.H. provides counseling, shelter, and life-skills training for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. They have presented programs in Macon County's schools, including Highland's, on anti-bullying and rape prevention. It is a little publicized fact that approximately 75% of men incarcerated in this country have been victims of abuse. Let's reduce domestic violence and abuse. In so doing, reduce crime.

This event will be held in a most unforgettable setting on July 29; the home of prominent Houston and Highlands interior designer, Tony Raffa and his partner Scott Allbee. Once you walk in the front door, you realize you are in a unique home that could only be conceived by a very tal-

ented designer. With its 45-foot high vaulted ceilings and 10,000 square feet, this home feels cozy whether entertaining 200 people or just two.

The festivities begin at 6 PM with an open bar and heavy hors d' oeuvres. The silent auction items will be displayed on a large dining porch overlooking a waterfall that cascades into a koi pond. The live auction will be downstairs in the multi-level theater. Please take advantage of this opportunity to tour an amazing home while supporting a much needed cause. If you cannot attend this event but would like to bid on an item, leave a sealed bid with Wanda Drake at Drake's Diamond Gallery.

Fabulous auction items will be available. For reservations, call 828 369-5544 or go to www.reachofmaconcounty.org. The cost is \$75 per person. Limited to 150 people. Last year this was a sell-out so make your reservations early!

... LETTERS continued from page 2

no hope to be found anywhere! False hope and truth will also lead and destroy us. But, who or what is the one we trust and rest our hearts and minds upon? If it is just DNA, why should we even hope for anything? Should we just not accept our lot in life, and explain to our families and love ones that human life is meaningless and the desire for "Hope" sounds so good but is in and of itself so empty? The next time we find ourselves dancing with DNA we may consider changing partners? Keep thinking.

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Thursday, April 26

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Saturday, April 28

• Perscription drug drop off at Highlands Pharmacy and Main Street Pharmacy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

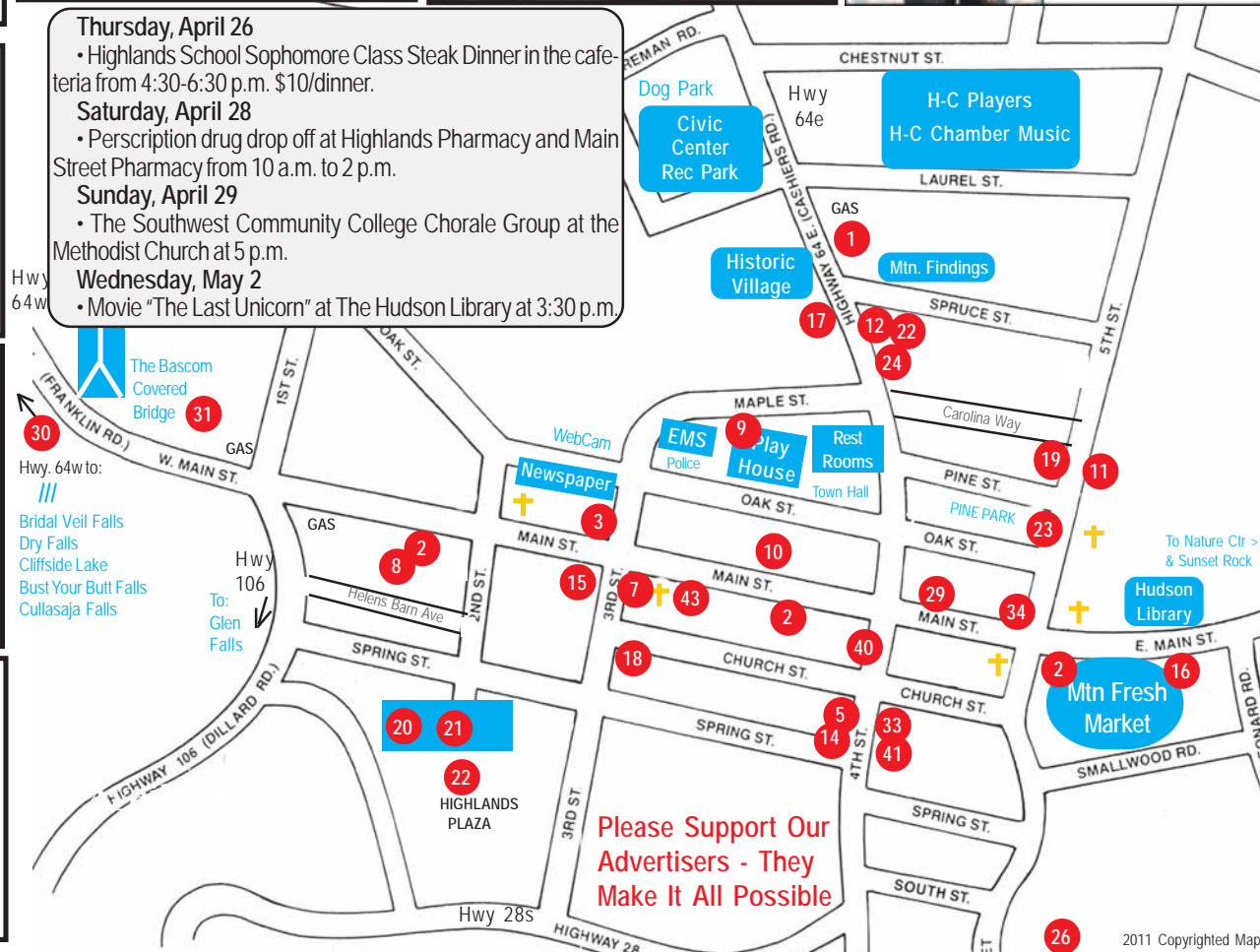
Sunday, April 29

• The Southwest Community College Chorale Group at the Methodist Church at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

• Movie "The Last Unicorn" at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m.

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