

Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Wednesday

Volume 10, Number 9

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Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012

Through March 10

• Highlands Little League will be having registration for the 2012 baseball season at the Highlands Recreation Center. Practices will begin approximately March 19th. The cost for the first child is \$50 and \$45 for each additional child. The fee includes hat, shirt and socks. Players are responsible for shoes and baseball pants. Registration is for ages 5 to 12 and the birthday cutoff date is April 30th. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Moore @ ejmoorej@yahoo.com or 828-482-2032.

Thurs., March 1

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

• Rotary Bingo at the Community Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fri.-Sun., March 2-4

• Highlands-Cashiers Players "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Sat., March 3

• At The Bascom. Art Cinema. Sit back and enjoy our weekly feature presentation "The Greeks, Part 2" 2 pm.

Sunday, Mar 4

• Shortoff Baptist church will have the Cogdill Family Singers on Sunday at 6 pm. Come and join us for a evening of Gospel Music and great fellowship. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, March 6

• Highlands Democratic Party Precinct Meeting. At the home of Jan & Farrel Zehr at 892N 4th Street, located on the corner of the Cashiers Road/Hwy 64 and Pinecrest Road. Refreshments at 5:30 pm; meeting at 6pm For more information call 828-200-9717.

• Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m. "Coming Apart: the New American Divide." Coordinator: Lewis Doggett.

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Decision on school calendar pending

Macon County Schools' calendar continues to be a point of contention between some parents and school board members.

At the Monday, Feb. 27 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Dan Brigman presented the proposed calendar which he said was picked by staff and stake-

holders and includes the new mandated 185 school days – up from 180 school days.

The first day of school for the 2012-13 school year would be Monday, Aug. 6 and the last day would be Friday, May 24.

Along with the proposed calendar, Brigman requested the

board to OK the Local Education Authority (LEA) Based Calendar Waiver Request for Weather Related Causes (G.S., 115C-84.2) which is based on a 10-year history of closures, late starts and early dismissals due to inclement weather.

• See CALENDAR page 17

Highlands School writing champs recognized



At Monday night's Board of Education meeting, the state and local winners of the Young Authors Writing Project were honored. The theme of this year's writing contest was "From the Mountains to the Sea: Exploring North Carolina through Literacy." They will be honored at the March meeting of the Western Mountains Reading Council on March 15 and also at the state celebration in Raleigh on March 17. The writers from Highlands School who made it to the state level are from left: Tracy Hedden, Paige Moss and Chance Gilbert. The local winners from Highlands, from left are: Hannah Holt, Collin Weller and not pictured, Ellen Cate Beavers, Isabella Lupoli. Their writing will also be published in a book that they will receive.

Photo by Carol Bowen

Candidates line up for 2012 race

– Primary is May 8 –

As of Tuesday, Feb. 28, the following candidates have lined up for the 2012 Election. The filing period officially ends at noon, Wednesday, Feb. 29. So far the line-up looks like this:

County Commissioner District 1 (Unexpired Term)

Jim Tate, Republican

County Commissioner District 2

Kevin Corbin, Republican

County Commissioner District 3

Bobby Kuppers, Democrat
Ricky Snyder, Democrat

• See CANDIDATES page 17

• Inside •

Letters	2
Wooldridge	4
Salzarulo	5
Back Days	6
Swanson	8
Investing at 4,118 ft.	9
Events	10
Health Matters	12
Just Hers	13

Couple's life goes up in flames

James and Caprita (Barnes) Plemmons have to start over.

On Monday, Feb. 20 at 2:27 p.m., Satolah Fire & Rescue responded to a structure fire on Luther Owens Road, but on arrival the house was totally engulfed.

When Caprita drove up to the house that afternoon, she saw smoke and once inside found the home filled and with zero visibility. Her only concern was rescuing two of her three dogs – one had gotten out on his own. The two black labs – Dozer and Shadow – were in the house and unable to escape. She found Shadow and dragged him out and resuscitated him but she couldn't get to Dozer who was whimpering and crying. She drove up the road to her parents' home to call 9-1-1 and returned with her father. Together they tried to find and rescue Dozer.

When Caprita ripped the screen off the front room window, the flames were fueled and almost immediately the back

• See FLAMES page 18

FRI	SAT	SUN
58 \ 48F	56 \ 34F	51 \ 30F

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Justice delayed is justice denied

Dear Editor,
For centuries, the citizens of our state have extolled the virtues of a fair and judicious court system. But state budget cuts, promoted by Sen. Jim Davis and the Republican-led General Assembly, are seriously challenging the court system's proud reputation.

In the past year, more than 38 million dollars have been cut from the overall state judicial system. As a result, the system has lost 55 assistant district attorney and support staff positions. Some 1,250 full-time staff jobs in the offices of local prosecutors, clerks of courts, and prisons have also been eliminated.

Budgets for drug treatment courts, as well as the program to help offenders get substance abuse treatment instead of prison time, have also been cut. Sentencing service programs, staff psychologists, housing unit supervisors and youth counselor technicians in our juvenile justice system have been dropped as well.

The impact of these cuts is also being felt locally. Macon and Jackson counties have lost magistrates. This affects the citizens of Highlands in particular, who now must go before a magistrate in Franklin.

The District Attorney's office in Waynesville, which serves our seven most western counties, has lost two assistant District Attorneys and two critical staff positions. With crime having more than doubled in this region in recent years, there are now fewer staff for investigations, contacting and interviewing witnesses, and keeping vast amounts of files organized and processed.

Time is always a crucial factor in dealing with criminal investigations and trials. Without sufficient staff to provide timely acquisition of evidence and witnesses, and without adequate time to prepare for trials, court performance by our District Attorneys can suffer and criminal cases can be compromised.

While most North Carolinians are for fiscal responsibility, they will sacrifice when the loss of funding affects the safety of their communities and the fair and

judicial way in which a personal court case might be handled.

The result of Sen. Davis and the Republican-led Assembly's budget cuts, therefore, might best be summed up with the old adage, "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied."

Ben Utley, Chairman
Macon County Democratic Party

An open letter to Dr. Dan Brigman, Superintendent of MC Schools, and the members of the MC School Board.

Dear Dr. Brigman,
I have several questions that I have not been able to get from your office for some time. I hope that you can help me.
I have questions about our 2012-2013 calendar. I have tried for a month to obtain information vital to thoroughly consider this calendar. In an effort to prevent another

contested school calendar, I am hoping that you or the board may be able to answer these questions.

(1) I began trying to obtain information on Jan. 30 regarding the exact data and dates upon which Macon County Schools is basing its request for a weather waiver for the 2012-2013 school year. I understand that this is public record, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction directed me to your office because they are not provided with the information that I am seeking. I asked for the dates of school closures, both full and partial days. I haven't asked for anything that I can't imagine isn't sitting in a filing cabinet or on some one's hard drive. So, here, publicly, can you provide us with dates and number of days that each of the 11 schools in the county have missed for the past 10 years? I am only asking for the data upon which the waiver request is based.

(2) One of the arguments you and the board made last year was that we needed to implement the "year-round/intersession" calendar in 2011-2012 without further discussion because of the opening of Iotla Valley School in 2012. You and the board repeatedly said that a short summer in 2012 would be detrimental because at least eight weeks is needed to move all the furniture

and books from the existing Iotla Valley school to the new one.

However, the contractor recently informed you that the school won't be ready for teachers to move into until July 9 at the earliest. If we go with the calendar you're recommending to the board, kids will be back in school Aug. 6. How does that work? Were you mistaken last spring when you said we needed the extra time? Have we come up with a way to move everything more than twice as fast as last year? Should we be looking at a later start given the amount of moving that must take place? What will we do if the contractor is wrong about his finish date and we have no cushion left?

(3) Classes don't begin at Southwestern for the fall term until Aug. 15. I'm told that North Carolina Virtual Public School won't start until Aug. 27. Why must students enrolled in one or both sit around and do nothing for up to two weeks? I thought the goal of Macon County Schools was to sync with the Southwestern calendar. What about students at Macon Early College — aren't many of their classes at Southwestern? What do they do for those 10 days? The records repeatedly show that statements were made that a school start date of Aug. 25 or later interfered with these programs. Yet, pushing the school start date to early August start did not correct that problem. Nothing changed. As a parent of a high school child enrolled in these programs, I would like to know how you will remedy this situation for the "best interest of the children." Sitting in a classroom and goofing off for two weeks, as they did this past school start year, is not what I consider productive.

(4) There a partial week in October? Are we doing intersession again, even though funding has been reduced and some of the board members have said they don't think was worth it? If we're not going to do intersession, then why have two short weeks — one in October and another Thanksgiving week? Many parents may take their kids out the whole week both of those weeks since it looks like they are set up for vacations. It appears the school system calendar is now about scheduling vacations rather than education.

The North Carolina General Assembly wants children in school for 185 days next year so they learn more. I understand that. But I don't understand adding days

•See LETTERS page 18

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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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-3228

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki; Copy Editor– Tom Merchant

Cartoonist – Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C. , 28741

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• ENGAGEMENT •

Carroll, Jenkins engaged



Laura Carroll and Chase Jenkins

Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is in graduate studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, and an employee at the North Carolina State Employees Credit Union. A wedding is planned for July 21, 2012 in Durham, NC with a reception following the ceremony. Invitations will be sent.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Flying by the seat of our pants

The cliché in the title was invented by old-time pilots before navigational, sophisticated weather reporting, computer and tracking systems were invented. Pilots would react to weather conditions and actually fly the plane from point A to B without the aid of computers or auto navigation. At best, they used omni points that were inaccurate and frequently went "off line." Pilots would say frightening stuff like, "I know New York must be down there somewhere. Let me punch through this cloud cover and see if I see any tall buildings in the area."

Today, once the aircraft is off the ground, modern pilots of a large aircraft become monitors of systems. The plane flies itself until landing. That sounds easy, right? Ha, have you seen the cockpit of a Boeing 777? I have and it is scary. The reason I might know a smidgen more than the average traveler is our captain son flies that wide body on international flights across the globe. Pilots are also very calm. For example, when the aircraft is being slammed around by turbulence, passengers are screaming in fear and flight attendants are peeling themselves off the ceiling, the captain will calmly say, "We seem to be experiencing a few bumps and I've asked for an altitude change."

Anyway, the li'l missus and I are packing our duds for our annual trip to Dubai to visit our youngest son. When we unpack we'll be just 70 miles from the Strait of Hormuz. (Yikes!) Also, a whole different kind of "flying by the seat of our pants" begins to unfold for us as we prepare for our trip. We also say, "We'll do a Ted on that one," which, of course, means we'll cross that bridge when we get there. You figure it out.

This is how it usually unfolds. We arrive in New York many hours before our Dubai flight. We do this just in case we're diverted to Newark because NY is snowed in or they closed the airport because some idiot left his baggage right in the middle of the terminal. Hopefully, by the time we get our luggage, hop on a ground shuttle to Kennedy airport and plow through the snow, they'll have the runways cleared or



Fred Wooldridge

Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

the bag removed. They are the best in the nation at doing that.

Next, we report to the airline's first class counter and present our standby tickets. The awesomely beautiful ticket attendant smiles at us and says, "Take your luggage and sit over there. We'll call you." What she really means is we're lower

than camel feed. Once all passengers are on board, "the load" is measured and if the aircraft is light enough, we will board. If there's a priority shipment of camel feed to be loaded, we don't fly and spend the night in New York. Since the flight is leaving in 30 minutes, we always have to quickly check luggage and dash for the gate. Am I getting too old for this foolishness? Then I remember the price of the flight not on standby and the answer is no.

As I settle into my seat and sip my first glass of complimentary wine before takeoff, I vow to stop torturing myself like this when I turn 90.

• *Taking a flight soon? Download Fred's mystery/thriller titled **Deceived** onto your Kindle or Nook and the time will "fly" much faster.*

... **SALZARULO**
continued from page 5

knowledge, or recall events of past lives under regressive hypnosis? Although I claim to be a skeptic, I cannot believe the Shroud of Turin was a clever creation of a skillful craftsman of the middle ages.

And what event can explain the transformation of timid Galilean fisherman into messengers who carried the word of their crucified master throughout the known world? How did these illiterate bumpkins find their way to Rome, Athens, and Damascus in a time when people rarely ventured more than 20 miles from their birth place? What did they experience? What could they have witnessed that produced such a profound change? I don't have a clever answer.

• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

On life after death ...

Several years ago I met a fascinating woman at the funeral of a friend's Mom. Not surprisingly, death was on everybody's mind. Jim's uncle was a classically trained Freudian psychoanalyst and as he explained later thought I might find the woman interesting.

She was a mountain of a woman, probably close to 300 pounds. She was a practicing Catholic, a successful realtor, and was studying to enter the Buddhist priesthood. She was eager to know if I'd had experience with patients who'd reported near death experiences. I shared my knowledge on the subject which was limited to a cursory reading of a book on the subject by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. I concluded by saying that it was interesting that with the exception of those who had attempted suicide, all returnees from death, or near death, related similar, and comforting experience.

Those who had attempted to take their own lives reported a very difference experience, entry into a cold grey, foreboding place. I concluded by adding that perhaps suicide was the one unforgivable sin. That's when she told me her 14-year-old daughter had killed herself. She didn't seem angry or sad. Large Catholic, Buddhist realtors have to be resilient. She told me that she had seen her daughter sitting on her casket at her funeral. Her account was strangely believable. She was happy that her daughter was smiling, an expression she had rarely displayed in life.

So what comes next? Ideas range from nothing, to eternal life and include second and third chances, commonly known as reincarnation. I'd rather not come back as a field mouse, but a dolphin seems OK. I tend to think we just get one shot, but I'm not sure.

Life is eternal in the sense that matter can neither be destroyed nor created. Of course, God might argue the point, and isn't that theory incompatible with the idea of the constantly expanding universe? And if the universe is constantly expanding as astronomers believe, does that mean that God will eventually share the fate of his earthly



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.
email:

hsalzarulo@aol.com

creatures who lose habitat to human expansion until there is finally no rain forest, no prairie land, no unpolluted ocean? Might God, too, become extinct because of loss of habitat? Or will he just keep moving farther out into the suburbs of an explosively expanding universe?

I don't think the idea of reincarnation, either returning as humans or animals, enjoys much traction around here. Most people believe the good will be rewarded with

eternal habitation in God's neighborhood. A smaller number believe that this is all there is. We realize that our nitrogen will be incorporated into a worm, which might give rise a whole generation of worms, or might be eaten by a bird and become part of his line. It's similar to an automobile junk yard. If the engine from a '94 Corvette is salvaged and put in the body of a 2012 Prius, the performance of the Prius will be improved, and the Corvette lives on.

There are several things which lead me to believe we might live beyond death. None is based in deep faith or extensive study. Some things just bother me and make me wonder. Take people who have died and been successfully resuscitated. They have been known to report the details of the resuscitation in remarkable detail, including the music playing on the iPod, and claim to have had a ring side seat of the events while resting outside their bodies. Many have recalled entering a bright light, being engulfed in love, reuniting with deceased loved one, and having no desire to return. If, the common medical explanation is correct, that the recollections are the product of an oxygen starved brain; that the patient's soul was not watching from above, how did she know the doctor was bald on top, that the clock read 12:17, or that the Rolling Stones were singing?

Ghosts bother me. If life ends with death, how does one explain so many encounters over so many generations in so many cultures with these wandering spirits? What about my friend's daughter, sitting saucily on the end of her coffin? What of people who suddenly speak ancient tongues of which they have no

• See SALZARULO page 4

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• BACK DAYS • John Palmer and Margaret 'Jane' Gribble McKinney

This continues our Back Days series in Highlands' Newspaper. This time it features the family of John Palmer and Margaret Jane Gribble McKinney families whose descendants tell the tales that will follow in this and subsequent issues.

Those who came before and after them – Part 5

Uncle Wen liked to reminisce about his childhood. He liked Halloween, Christmas and Fourth of July best because they were associated with setting off fireworks

made of black powder. At Thanksgiving, he said they usually butchered their hogs and so had pork tenderloin for dinner. He remembered how one of his aunts at Turtle Pond raised ducks and would often roast a duck at Thanksgiving. Like Grandma Sally McKinney (John Palmer's mother) they believed in eating.

But sometimes life was harder than usual.

At times things did get hard for folks when a big snow would set in and the roads would be impassable. One time everyone was out of staples so Charlie Wright and Carl Dillard took a week to get to Dillard and back with supplies. In those days it took a man with a good team of mules or yoke of oxen two days to get there and back with 1,000 pounds of freight; it took three days to get to Walhalla and back for supplies.

For many years John Palmer McKinney supported his family by running a mill for John J. Smith. Smith came to Highlands in 1878 and built a sawmill and woodwork shop providing lumber used in Highlands for 30 years.

In addition, he owned and operated the Smith House (now Highlands Inn), did surveying for roads and at various times served as both postmaster and mayor.

With that many enterprises to keep going, he turned the operation over to John Palmer. John Palmer scaled logs, sawed lumber and ground corn with the help of John Henry, sometimes in zero-degree weather.

Grandma McKinney died Dec. 23, 1935 in the house where she had raised her children. Had she lived five more days, she and John Palmer would have been married exactly 60 years.

She was buried on Christmas Eve. The Reverend C.R. McCarty, pastor of the Presbyterian Church conducted the service in the Methodist Church, assisted by her nephew Rev. A.A. Angel of Franklin. Pallbearers were grandsons Henry Cleaveland, Weldon Paul, Jack Potts, Kenneth McKinney, John McKinney and Hiram McKinney. Burial was in the Highlands cemetery. The day was bitterly cold.

When she left her home near Franklin and came to Highlands as a young married woman, she didn't return for 40 years.



John Palmer and Margaret Jane Gribble McKinney

She went to Asheville twice in her life, the farthest she ever ventured from home.

Two years later, on May 17, 1938, John Palmer joined her in death. He had had a stroke about 10 days previous and his condition had steadily deteriorated. The funeral service was held the next day in the Methodist Church with Rev. W.F. Beadle officiating. The Rev. R.B. Dupree of the Presbyterian Church was responsible for the music. The oldest grandson from each family served as pallbearers.

Like their mother, the McKinney children, for the most part, did not stray from Highlands.

Belle came very close to settling elsewhere. She and her twin Helen worked for the A.O. Andersons who were summer residents of Highlands.

He was a professor at the University of Chicago, probably Northwestern and also the inventor of puffed rice and wheat.

At some point, the twins began traveling to Chicago with the Andersons in the fall and continuing their employment there during the winter months.

In February 1910, in a letter to her mother, Belle wrote:

"You know I've been telling you of going out with Mr. Gilliams, the young man I met over at the St. Clairs last summer. Well, he is very much in love with me and asked me to marry him. Mama, he is the most perfect gentleman I have ever met and has every good quality of a good man. He can give me a good home...he wants me to marry him in October...he is anxious to know what you and papa think about it...He is simply wild over me and doesn't want to be to go home this summer. But of course I will..."

Before mailing it she announced a change in plans.

• To Be Continued



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• COACH'S CORNER •

One man's All-ACC ballot

Pretend for one minute that I am a successful ACC journalist (seriously, it is just pretending...you can quit laughing now). The ACC media gets to submit their ballot for All-ACC this season, and because you are now pretending I am a real live ACC journalist (or, you are an incredibly slow reader) then you now get to see the ballot that I am submitting for All-ACC for the 2011-12 season.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

the field and 80% from the stripe. I think Zeller pretty much has Player of the Year locked up, unless...

Austin Rivers (Duke) (could get my POY vote if he scores 20+ in a Duke win on Saturday)

Rivers has been dynamite as of late, and if Duke manages to sweep Carolina (doubtful) and win the ACC

outright, then one has to think that Rivers is deserving of Player of the Year.

Terrell Stoglin (Maryland)

Stoglin is the ACC's leading scorer on a mediocre team, but he has proved his mettle with big games against FSU and UNC this season. It is unheard of for the ACC's leading scorer not to make first team, and this year will be no exception.

Mike Scott (UVA)

Two weeks ago, Scott was the leader in the clubhouse for Player of the Year, and he still has a good argument because he averages 17 and 10 for a team on which he is the only weapon. However, his POY candidacy took a huge hit last weekend when he shot 3-13 in a failed upset bid against UNC and Tyler Zeller made the play of the game at the end at Scott's expense.

John Henson (UNC)

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 14

• At 8 p.m., a resident on Upper Buttermilk Road reported 280 gallons of fuel oil valued at \$1,100 siphoned from his tank.

Feb. 16

• At 10 a.m., Beau Allen Maxcy, 32, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI on US 64 when officers witnessed him driving left of center. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond.

Feb. 17

• At 10:55 a.m., employees of Macon Bank call the police about a man lying down in the gazebo at Pine Street. He was taking a nap while waiting for a ride to work.

Feb. 20

• At 10:33 a.m., officers received a call about a possible drunk driver at 5th and Main streets.

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Main and 3rd streets.

• At 8:25 p.m., officers were called to Highlands School to monitor parents at a basketball game.

• At 10:05 p.m., officers assisted the Sheriff's Dept. with a vehicle pursuit on Buck Creek Road.

Feb. 21

• At 9:45 a.m., officers turned a tractor-trailer truck around at Bridal Veil Falls.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 15

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

Obama vs. Iran

Which poses the greatest danger to the U.S.? Some time ago, I did business in Atlanta and frequently listened to talk show host Neal Boortz. One of his favorite mantras was, the NEA (teachers' union) poised a bigger threat to us than Islamic terrorism. I haven't heard much of him lately, but I wonder if he has changed his opinion on threat levels.

I have watched for years the civilized world ignoring Iran's nuclear capability development and wondered what was the political objective in letting this continue. Because my mother and father met in Tehran, I probably have a greater interest in what is going on than most. This is going to be a history lesson with lots of dates and if you have no interest in how the situation reached its current intensity, I'd encourage you to turn the page.

The U. S. had good relations with Iran, ruled by the Shah, and in 1957, the U.S. and Iran signed a civil nuclear co-operation agreement as part of the U. S. Atoms for Peace program. In

1963, Iran signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty after which we supplied Iran with sizable amounts of enriched uranium and plutonium for use as start-up sources for a research reactor.

In the '70s, Iran entered into the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Under the Shah, plans were made to construct up to 20 nuclear power stations across the country with U. S. support and backing. Numerous contracts were signed with various Western firms. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran was established to govern the use of atomic energy and radiation in industry, agriculture, setting up atomic power stations and other peaceful purposes. MIT signed a contract with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to provide training for Iranian nuclear engineers.

So far, so good; but that was about to change. In 1979, after years of agita-



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

tion rebelling against the apparent "Westernization" of Iran by the Shah, the Islamic hierarchy orchestrated a successful revolution. Exit the Shah, enter Ayatollah Khomeini – out goes the monarchy, in comes Islamism. Iran becomes the Islamic Republic of Iran. And a lot more changed than the name.

Contracts with Western firms were terminated. In 1982, Iranian officials announced that they planned to build a reactor powered by their own uranium. Thirty years ago, the dance began, and it continues to this day. Participants in the foolishness include Iran, U.S., Israel, Russia, China, the UN and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. It acts as an arm of the UN.

In 1983, IAEA inspects Iranian nuclear facilities, and report on a proposed co-operation agreement to help Iran manufacture enriched uranium fuel as part of Iran's ambitious program in the field of nuclear power reactor technology.

In 1990, Iran begins negotiations with the Soviet Union regarding the resumption of construction of the power plant suspended in 1982, originally started by the German firm Siemens. Contracts are let with China to build two reactors. During the '90s, Russia and China become more and more involved with Iran's effort to achieve nuclear capability.

Some attempts were made during the Clinton administration to pressure China to disengage with Iran with some moderate success. Iran proceeded anyway. I don't know when it struck you that Iran was lying about the intent to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes, but it became apparent to some of us that they were up to no good decades ago.

In 2002, President George Bush spoke of Iran as a part of an "Axis of Evil." Later that year, the government accused Iran of attempting to make nuclear weapons. Iran stalls the opposi-

tion by agreeing to "talks." Bush calls the IAEA reports of no evidence that Iran is attempting to build an atomic bomb "impossible to believe." Sanctions are imposed, seemingly ignored by Iran.

Israel, who had enjoyed peaceful relations under the Shah, was openly a target after the election of hardline Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005. Long story short, the West continued to dither while Iran continued to promise the annihilation of Israel, the "Little Satan." Israel indicates that they want to act to eliminate the threat before it is too late. The U.S. discourages the idea. The time estimated for Iran having "the bomb" and the ability to deliver it shrinks with each passing day.

Iran now feels development is far enough along so that they can threaten to close the Strait of Hormuz if anybody tries to stop them. The threat is estimated to currently add about 30 cents a gallon to the cost of gasoline. The race seems to be that we are dusting off our "bunker buster bombs" while Iran is burying its production facilities so deep the bbs can't faze them.

Two news items released the other day demonstrate a perfect microcosm of the futility of dealing with Iran. The first reads, "Iran Says UN Nuclear Talks Will Continue." From the same news source, three hours later, "UN Nuclear Agency Laments Failed Iran Talks." This has been going on for years.

What is happening in real life is described by the Washington Post on February 24th: "Iran dramatically boosted its production of a purer form of nuclear fuel in recent months, with much of the increased output coming from a recently opened plant built inside a mountain bunker, U. N. officials said Friday, further exacerbating worries about Iran's march toward nuclear-weapons capability."

Iran already has enough enriched uranium to build four nuclear weapons if it decides to do so. The shift to underground bunkers and a larger stockpile of the highly enriched uranium could shorten the time needed for Iran to develop a weapon, U.S. officials and nuclear experts say." And Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, remains in the crosshairs.

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Is this REALLY the time to buy?

This is the big question on the minds of buyers these days. Based on the degree of buyer activity in Highlands this winter, it appears that prospective buyers for mountain real estate believe that the answer to that question is a resounding "Yes" - NOW is the time. Showing activity has increased this winter to levels we normally only see in the summer season.

We have seen more daily showings of our listings than any other winter I can remember. Consumer confidence has sky-rocketed. According to the Wall Street Journal, Morgan Stanley and many others, the fear of losing money

over buying a home is over. The Mortgage Brokers Association shows an average of 80% of all likely buyers believe this is a good time to buy.

A home in Highlands is more affordable today than at any time in recent history, thanks to the combination of lower home prices, historically low mortgage rates and rising real income. Those baby boomers who have always wanted a home in Highlands are coming back now to take advantage of this opportunity.

For those who want a larger home or who want to downsize, this is a space in time you won't want to miss. You will sell lower than in 2006, but you will also buy lower and there are lots of available properties for your choice. You will have a substantial benefit in the end.

Highlands was delayed in the mar-



Lynn Kimball
Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com

ket crash that affected much of the country. Our real estate disaster was in 2010. Since then we have seen a steady increase in sales. Because of the unique demographics of our buyers, it looks like Highlands will recover quicker than many other areas of the country.

Sellers need to listen up if they are really ready to sell. The time to sell is

WHEN YOU HAVE A BUYER. Although the market in Highlands rebounded last year, there were 103 sales in Highlands, up 37% from 2010, there are still too few buyers to make a dent in our inflated inventory of homes for sale. Don't waste this surge of prospective buyers because you are priced higher than your competition and/or comparable sales. Have your Realtor take a new look at comparable sales and price your property accordingly.

Highlands/Cashiers real estate has

always been desirable and the reasons are endless. People are attracted to the exceptional beauty of these mountains and all the wonders that they hold. The summer temperatures are ideal for those wanting to escape the southern heat. Steeped in history, our quaint community offers a refined flair and something for everyone to enjoy. Perhaps the greatest natural asset found in Highlands is the warm and welcoming spirit of its people.

If you want a good overall introduction of our area and to search available properties, you are invited to visit my user-friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, one will be moving its downtown location in March to Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex and the other is on the Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-526-4101 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com

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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 calss. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.
Mondays
• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
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 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. Free writing exercises. Bring a seven-minute writing piece to read. Newcomers are welcome. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.
• Free Dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!
Thursdays - Sundays
• At Paoletti's, 15%-25% off promotions. Call 526-4906 for reservations.
Every Saturday through Feb.
• 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

Wonderful workshops highlight March at The Bascom: Journaling mornings, Discovering the image and Everything kitchen among the many offerings

On Saturday, March 3rd, join Betty Holt for Journaling Mornings from 10 am -12:30 pm. This workshop is an opportunity to take time for yourself and experiment with creative writing. Betty, a Highlands' native, takes you through a series

of short creative writing exercises to clarify your goals and get in touch with your authentic self. March's theme is "Looking Backward, Recording Your Memories!"

Whether you are a veteran painter or have always wanted to hold a brush in your hand and make a mark on the canvas, this class can benefit you. Join Diane McPhail on Saturday, March 10th from 10 am – 4 pm for Discovering the Image. Diane's approach to painting is one of pure visual discovery from the first mark to the last! Set out on a journey of discovering your own way with the image.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 17th and 18th from 10 am – 4 pm, Frank Vickery will teach you how to make those everyday happenings more fun by creating your own custom pieces to use in the kitchen during Everything Kitchen. Make



Frank Vickery, whose work is pictured, will teach Everything Kitchen on March 17th and 18th and Everything Bath on March 23rd and 24th.

anything and everything you can imagine. Bring memories and ideas and Frank, the Ceramics Program Manager at The Bascom will help turn them into a reality through demonstrations and one on one assistance. Everything Bath follows on March 24th and 25th.

The Early Bird Discount at The Bascom runs until March 31st. Sign up for any 2012 adult class or workshop priced over \$100 dollars by this date and receive a 10% discount when you pay in full. This offer is good for classes valued over one hundred dollars based on the membership price.

Visit The Bascom's website at TheBascom.org and discover your inner artist.

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.

Mushroom growing workshop coming

The Highlands and Cashiers area provides a great environment for growing woodland crops like mushrooms. Mushrooms are a valuable crop and growing them can help supplement your

income or simply provide you with a fresh affordable supply. Mushrooms are often referred to as the meat of the vegetable world because of their relatively high protein content. Not only are they increasing in culinary popularity they are also amazingly healthy food as well. Loaded with B vitamins, potassium, vitamin C and essential minerals, they're much in demand among local grocers and restaurants. In fact, the North Carolina Mountain Mushroom Cooperative is now looking to larger cities, like Charlotte, to expand the market for WNC's mushroom harvest.

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is hosting a shiitake and oyster mushroom cultivation workshop on March 24th at The Bascom Art Center in Highlands at 2pm. This event will take place in the adult studio room downstairs. Rodney Webb, member of the NC Mountain Mushroom Cooperative will present tools and tips for growing edible mushrooms. Following the presentation, Mr.



Webb will help attendees inoculate their own log. Logs, tools and supplies will be provided by J-MCA and available for sale during and after the event. Participants will also be able to purchase additional

logs that have been pre-inoculated. Each log, if properly cared for over time, will produce several pounds of mushrooms, more than paying for themselves.

The hands on portion of the workshop will entail drilling the mushroom logs, plugging the holes with mushroom spawn, and sealing them with hot wax. The process is a bit messy so dress appropriately, if you plan to participate in the hands-on opportunity.

If you would like to attend the mushroom cultivation workshop call the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance at 828-526-0890 x320 to register. The workshop will start at 2pm on Saturday, March 24th at the Bascom. The presentation will be about 30 minutes and the hands-on portion may last 2 hours depending on participation. The cost of attendance, including one log, is \$20. We anticipate the event to conclude by 5 pm.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

invited to attend.

Through March 10

• Highlands Little League will be having registration for the 2012 baseball season at the Highlands Recreation Center. If you would like to register, stop by the front desk at the Highlands Recreation Center and complete a registration form and medical release. Practices will begin approximately March 19th. The cost for the first child is \$50 and \$45 for each additional child. The fee includes hat, shirt and socks. Players are responsible for shoes and baseball pants. Registration is for ages 5 to 12 and the birthday cutoff date is April 30th. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Moore @ ejmoorej@yahoo.com or 828-482-2032.

Through March 1

• Bascom Instructors. Arium Gallery. A sampling of talent from dedicated artists who share their gift through teaching. At the heart of The Bascom's education programs are the instructors who work with us throughout the year. These instructors hold the distinction of being experienced professional artists and skilled educators.

Mon. - Thurs., March 5, 12, 19, 22

• At The Bascom. Drawing Basics and Beyond. 10am - 12noon or 5:15 - 7:15pm. For the absolute beginner or as a refresher for skilled artists, discover a new sense of self and spirit enhance your observational skills and develop confidence and awareness. Explore drawing without making a lengthy or expensive commitment. Instructor: Knight Martorell. Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$100 members/\$135 non-members per month

Thurs., March 1

• Taize at 5:30 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

• Rotary Bingo at the Community Building from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

• Franklin Community Blood Drive at the First Baptist Church, 69 Iotla Street, Franklin, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Call 369-9559 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome but appointments preferred! All presenting donors are automatically entered into a drawing for a pair of Delta Airline tickets!

Fri.-Sun., March 2-4

• Highlands-Cashiers Players "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Friday, March 2

• The High Mountain Squares will be dancing this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Stan Russell from Greenville, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 5234-2280, or www.highmountainsquares.org

Sat., March 3

• At The Bascom. Art Cinema. Sit back and enjoy our weekly feature presentation "The Greeks, Part 2" 2 pm.

• The 2012 Macon County Republican (District 11) Congressional Forum will be held on Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Community Building in Franklin, 1288 Georgia

Road. Finger foods and meet & greet time will be between 4-4:30 p.m.. At 4:30 p.m., after the Presenting of Colors, the Pledge and the Invocation, the candidates will all be allowed to speak for about five minutes each. For any questions call Chris Murray at 421-2191.

• Journaling Mornings, 10am - 12:30pm. Journaling is more than keeping a daily log; January's theme will be "Personal goal-setting for a fabulous 2012!" An interest in writing is helpful, but no experience is necessary. Instructor: Betty Holt. Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$35 member/\$70 non-member per class

Sunday, Mar 4

• Shortoff Baptist church will have the Cogdill Family Singers on Sunday at 6 pm. Come and join us for a evening of Gospel Music and great fellowship. Everyone welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike with a 600 ft. elevation change on the Camprock Branch Trail at Coweeta Labs, a steep climb for 1/2 a mile then easy contouring the rest of the way. Meet at Smoky Mt. Visitors' Center, Otto at 2 pm. Call leader: Kay Coriell, 369-6820 for reservations.

Tues. & Thurs., March 6, 8, 13, 15

• At The Bascom. Ceramics Beginning and Beyond, 1 - 3 pm or 5:15 - 7:15 pm. Begin your ceramics experience or take it to the next level by disappearing into a quiet, nurturing environment. Instructor: Frank Vickery. Levels: I & II Tuition: \$125 member/\$160 non-member per month.

Tuesday, March 6

• Lowe's of Franklin Blood Drive, Georgia Highway, Franklin. 11:30 am to 4 pm, Please call 349-4654 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome but appointments preferred!

• Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m. "Coming Apart: the New American Divide." Coordinator: Lewis Doggett.

Wed., March 7, 14, 21, 28

• At The Bascom. Painting Basics and Beyond. 10am - 12noon. Enjoy the painting experience from inspiration, to design, to finished painting. An opportunity to create captivating works of art while learning or expanding your knowledge of the building blocks for application, design and color. Instructor: Robin Swaby Levels: I & II. Tuition: \$100 member/\$135 non-member per month

Through Thursday, March 8

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

• Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Blood Drive, 3195 Old Murphy Road, Franklin, 12 pm to 4:30 pm. Call Dawn or Lisa at 524-7806 for more information or to schedule an appointment. All presenting donors are automatically entered into a drawing for a pair of Delta Airline Tickets!

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host Tommy Jenkins, director of the Macon County Economic Development Commission. Mr. Jenkins will speak on economic development plans and projects for our county. The meeting will be held in Tartan Hall in Franklin. Lunch is available at noon—call 371-0527 for reservations, or email lwvmacon@wild-dog-

mountain.info. The program will begin at 12:15. The public is invited.

• The March meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. 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.

• LOOKING FOR MUSICIANS for First Friday Fest Rock House in Downtown Clayton, May - October from 6-8 p.m. Will pay set night fee plus tips. Call 706-982-1284.

Last weekend of performances for 'Cat on a hot tin roof'



From left: Chris Hess as (Brick Pollitt) and Wayne Coleman (Big Daddy).

There are three more performances for the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" this week at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Wait! Make that four. The touch-up rehearsal on Thursday, March 1, at 7:30 is open to the public as a pay-what-you-can evening, with the official reserved seat performances of "Cat" running Friday and Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

In view of the standing ovations and comments after the performances, last week's audiences found HCP's production of this challenging drama a very satisfying theater experience. After all, "Cat" won the Pulitzer Prize for dramatic literature in 1955 and is considered one of Tennessee Williams' major works.

A few comments heard after the play: "I must admit I was bored watching the movie, but I was with this play all the way."

"Every cast member made a contribution to the overall quality."

"Sometimes the nicest people make great villains in plays, such as Wayne Cole-

man, who was terrific as mean old cantankerous Big Daddy."

"The kids and their mama with the beehive hairdo (Kelsey James) were really cute."

"How did Brick (Chris Hess) ever resist the charms of beautiful Maggie the Cat (Kathryn Cochran)?"

"Thank goodness for Big Mama. At least that family had one sweet person in it and Vangie (Rich) really suited the part."

"I'd heard of the play and was intrigued with the title. Finally found out what it means."

The Players urge everyone to see this powerful play of American theater, find out what the title means, and get acquainted with some of the most memorable characters in the genre of Southern theater.

Tickets for "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" may be reserved by phone, 526-8084, or at PAC, 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands, during box office hours, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. on weekdays. Tickets are also usually available at the door before the performance.

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• **HEALTH MATTERS** •

A pain in the neck!

It is pretty obvious what the phrase “pain in the neck” means, but why the word neck? There are other explicative that are used, but when using a clean mouth the word knee or back would suffice. However, most people use neck! Recently, while reading some research (Hanney, et al. 2011) on neck pain I was given some insight as to why neck is so commonly used. Neck pain is common, lingering, persistent, and causes subsequent problems in other areas. All traits of life’s “pain in the necks.”

There are causes for both life’s pain in the necks and physical neck pain. However, life’s pain in the necks may be more difficult to treat than physical pains in the neck. Physical neck pain is caused by a variety of different things and can be treated in numerous ways. Therefore, it should be noted that I am not a doctor or a physical therapist and if you are having neck pain you should speedily refer to a



R. Garrett Tandy, Jr.
hattersboy1@yahoo.com

doctor for medical advice. With that said there are some things everyone needs to know about neck pain. Neck pain often comes from things such as whiplash, concussions, osteoarthritis, headaches, strains, sprains, herniated disks and poor posture. Neck pain can cause headaches, poor posture, and numbness down the neck and/or arms in addition to localized pain.

There are some simple things that can be done to alleviate some neck pain. One trick is to roll a towel and place it in the lower, top part of your pillow case to give your neck support while you sleep. Also, have someone look at your posture while you are standing, sitting, and working. Proper spinal alignment should have your neck in a slight curve at a similar degree to the curve in your back. Also, your shoulders should be retracted back with your head centered

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 15

LASIK MYTH # 26

“I’ve been told I am not a candidate for LASIK because I have Astigmatism...”

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• JUST HERS •

Fun in the Dark



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

I had parents who thought that unless you were doing your household chores or your homework, you have no business being indoors. This meant that a great deal of my free time growing up was spent outside - swimming, sledding, playing badminton, croquet, baseball or basketball, hiking, riding my bike, and just playing with the neighborhood kids. Most of them were boys, so I tagged along with them, ignorant of dolls, make believe, and all that princess stuff. I was unconcerned about dressing up or wearing makeup, the unfortunate hold-over being that now when I get really dressed up, I tend to feel like I'm in drag. I was too busy keeping up with the guys, and avoiding getting the snot kicked out of me.

The great escape from this school of hard knocks was a marvelous program devised by one of the local cinemas every summer. They had a program of children's movies that featured many classics like *Old Yeller*, *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*, and *The Yearling*, as well as the animated features *Bambi* and *Fantasia*. I loved these films, which allowed me to escape the heat (the theater was air conditioned!) as well as providing a wonderful set of role models - children my own age who were brave and resourceful. It was the first time I had seen children as heroes, even though they were mostly boy heroes, with a clingy little sister looking on admiringly in the background.

Like many Baby Boomers, I grew up on World War II movies. My father had been a soldier in the War, and as a family, we watched such favorites as *The Longest Day*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, and *A Bridge Too Far*. But these were movies with few female characters to identify with. The exception was *The Diary of Anne Frank*, with its heart-breaking conclusion. What little girl did not walk out of the cinema, identifying with brave, doomed Anne?

What did I love about the movies? From the very beginning, I reveled in their ability to so completely transport me to different countries and different times. With age, my parents drove us to Charlottesville, to see foreign films such as *Hadaka no shima (The Naked Island)*, *The Apu Trilogy* (three Bengali films based on two novels by Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay [try saying that while eating peanut butter], with film music composed by Ravi Shankar.), and *Elvira Madigan* (a Swedish film about star-

• See JUST HERS page 14

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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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

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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

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Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School - 10 am, Worship Service - 11 am
Bible Study - 6 pm

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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)

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Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion - 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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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.

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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.

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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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

... JUST HERS continued from page 13

crossed and doomed lovers).

The lessons I learned from foreign films are valuable ones. You can be poor, and yet have great dignity. If you are a woman, you don't have to be blonde, with blue eyes, to be beautiful. People who speak a different language have many of the same hopes, joys, and fears that you do. Life is often a struggle, but with the right attitude and hard work, it can be worthwhile.

This certainly wasn't the message I was getting from many American films of the same period. It was the era of the Rock Hudson-Doris Day romantic comedy. Doris Day was always the honest, hard-working office girl, striving to earn a living while keeping her virtue. Rock Hudson was the handsome, devil-may-care rogue, trying to sweep her off of her feet and into the

bedroom. Ah, but, no! Our Doris was a good girl, you see, and holding out for a ring! After a series of contrived misadventures, our happy couple winds up walking down the aisle, with Doris smiling into the camera, winking. I had a problem with Doris Day. Even when I was a little girl, I knew you couldn't afford the kind of apartments she lived in or the expensive clothing she wore in her movies on a secretary's salary. I also knew she was much older than the fresh young thing she was portraying in her films. Movies are supposed to make you suspend belief, if only for the duration of the film. I could never get on-board with Doris. No, I liked the Anna Magnani types, achingly honest earth mothers with dark hair and dark eyes, who looked like they'd been around the block in a bad neighbor-

hood, and lived to tell about it.

I watched the Oscars last night – not bad, but not one of the better years – and was pleased to see that many of my favorites wound up in the Winners' Circle. Two of the films in the running for Best Picture I had actually seen, one without even having to leave Highlands. *Midnight in Paris* was as close as the Hudson Library, an Aladdin's Cave that never disappoints.

This time, in the role of the bumbling, introspective writer, Woody Allen has placed Owen Wilson. I guess even Woody admits that he is no longer romantic comedy material, and can't play these roles himself anymore. I won't spoil the movie for those who haven't seen it, but it's clever, and who wouldn't love all those breathtaking shots of Paris? Never mind that the Owen Wilson character is engaged to a beautiful, but shallow woman, with one of the most irritating family's on film. You wonder how any man of wit and sensitivity could possibly assume he could be happy marrying into this tribe of pretentious snobs. Hang in there, though, and you'll get the conclusion you were hoping for, the swift tying up of loose ends, wrapping them into a big red bow before the end credits roll. This often improbable finale is so typically American that in France we even have a nickname for it – "le Happy End." (Not to be confused with "une poursuite américaine," a favorite of American movies – the high speed car chase scene.)

I had to wait until my recent trip to Denver to see this year's Oscar winning film, *The Artist*. Of course, who hadn't heard all the stories of stupid people going to see the film, and demanding their money back because the film was in black and white, and it wasn't a talkie? I had my doubts about such a film being able to keep my attention for the duration of a full length feature. Not to worry! I thought *The Artist* was absolutely delightful. It was a good story, the actors were engaging and endearing, while the music and costumes were great. It's the kind of entertainment you go to the movies for – but seldom get these days.

So, get out of the house, and go see a film or two on the Big Screen, the way movies are meant to be seen. Escape the cares and troubles of the world, even if it's to put on someone else's for two hours. Your real life will be back home waiting for you. Honest. And don't forget the popcorn!

• 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 Weasel shows little interest in the cinematic arts, Orion is a great movie buff, with a particular fondness for action sequences. Oh, and he loves popcorn.

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... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 12

over your spine. If your head protrudes forward than you may need to re align your spine. Habitual movements over time can cause this forward lean of the head, but one possible culprit for this is poor eyesight. Poor eyesight can cause people to stick their neck out and strain the muscles that control the neck. So it's possible that having your vision checked and your glasses tweaked could help.

There are also some exercises that can help alleviate neck pain for some individuals. Doing things such as large, slow, shoulder rolls forward and backwards can help alleviate neck pain. Also

exercises where the head is retracted can help put your head and neck in proper alignment. To do this put your neck in a neutral position (nose straight ahead), place a finger just below your nose and gently push straight back while also contracting the muscles used to perform this movement.

Nobody likes a pain in the neck, whether it's those pains in your daily life or the physical pain in your body. However, if you are having neck pain, there is something you can do. So make sure you take a proactive stance and do something about it.

• HS SPORTS • with Ryan Potts

Lady Highlanders end season with loss to Robbinsville

The Lady Highlanders fell in the second round of the NCHSAA playoffs last Wednesday by a final score of 68-32.

The Robbinsville Lady Knights had won 17 straight coming into the evening and it showed early, as they suffocated the Lady Highlanders with pressure defense and would not allow the scoring opportunities that Highlands had enjoyed in the first round against Cherryville.

Despite the tough ending to the season, it was a very successful one for the

Lady Highlanders. After losing 4 starters from last year's squad, the Lady Highlanders greatly exceeded expectations by going 12-15 on the year and winning their second straight Little Smoky Mountain Conference Championship and a second round appearance in the NCHSAA tournament.

The Lady Highlanders will bid farewell to their leading scorer, Emily Munger, as well as seniors Julianne Buras, Stephanie Smart and Emily Murphy.

Highlanders end surprising season with loss to Cherokee

The Highlands Highlanders hosted the Cherokee Braves for the second time this season on Wednesday night with the winner getting a trip to undefeated Hayesville in the third round.

Highlands came out of the gate ready to play, forcing turnovers on defense and scoring efficiently on offense to lead 10-8 at the end of the first quarter. Unfortunately, while Cherokee was able to adjust to the Highlander gameplan, Highlands did not adjust and found themselves outscored 38-19 in the second and third quarters.

The smaller Highlanders could not muster a run in the fourth quarter and found themselves on the wrong end of a 58-39 final score. Senior Isaac Beavers led Highlands with 12 points in his last game as a Highlander, and Highlands will also say goodbye to seniors Cody St. Germain, Andrew Renfro, Clayton Dunn and Cai

Roman.

It was a bittersweet end to a surprising season in which the Highlanders were able to absorb the loss of 95% of their scoring from 2011-12 and match that teams win total. Additionally, these Highlanders won their first conference title in five years and just the fourth conference title in the last 25 years.

This group of seniors is one of the most successful groups in Highlands history, having won three JV championships (three regular season and two tournament) a LSMC Championship and an NCHSAA playoff game in their four years.

Wednesday was also bittersweet because it marked the final game of Butch Smart's illustrious career. Smart will retire with a total of 707 wins, 3 Louisiana State Championships and 4 conference titles at Highlands.

... POLICE & FIRE continued from page 7

• At 11 a.m., the larceny of a utility trailer from the Helen's Barn parking lot containing construction tools and equipment was reported.

Feb. 23

• At 9 a.m., officers received a report of The Highlander newspaper box at the post office being vandalized and money stolen.

Feb. 24

• At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Little Bearpen Road.

• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 7 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from Feb. 14

Feb. 14

• At 8:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a LifeLine alarm at a residence on N. 4th. St. that was set off by accident.

• At 7:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Club House Trail. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Feb. 16

• At 4:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Lower Carriage Hill Drive. It was completely destroyed. The Cashiers, Scaly and Cullasaja fire depts. assisted.

• At 8:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide where a 48-year-old man fell about 20 ft. He was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

Feb. 17

• At 12:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fully involved

Skid Steer fire at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. It was extinguished.

Feb. 20

• At 2:27 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Satolah Fire Dept. on a structure fire on Luther Owens Road. The house was completely destroyed.

Feb. 21

• At 7:59 a.m., the dept. responded to an at a residence on Sagee Drive that was set off by workers.

Feb. 22

• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD while it assisted another dept.

Feb. 23

• At 3:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Smallwood Ave. The victim was taken to the hospital.

• At 3:45 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on V-Z Top. It was set off by workers.

Feb. 24

• At 1:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about the smell of smoke near Valentine Lane. A lot was being cleared for a house.

• At 1:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Glen Falls Road. The victim was taken to the hospital

NOTE: Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. has requested homeowners to trim back foliage around their driveways and 9-1-1 addresses.

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HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED FOR CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. Please apply in person at 64

Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 2/8)

EXPERIENCED WAITSTAFF NEEDED AT CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. Please apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251.(st. 1/25)

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GO CART FOR SALE. Blue. \$160. Call Michael at 526-2508.

... CALENDAR from 1

If the waiver is granted, the State Board of Education can waive the mandatory school start and end dates, which otherwise must not be before Aug. 25 and not after June 10.

Waivers can be granted in accordance with 2004 HB 1464 and are determined by the LEA 10-year history of closures. 2010 HB 593 changed eligibility requirements to include delayed starts and early releases of two or more hours. To be eligible under this new provision, all schools within an LEA must be closed two or more hours at least eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years due to severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures or other emergency situations.

Over the years, Macon County Schools has tried to get a weather waiver for its school calendar but it has been denied. Now, it seems attendance statistics sent to Raleigh were never properly documented by NC DPI Division of School Business Information Analysis and Reporting in Raleigh over the years. Had they been, things may have been different.

Nevertheless, board member Jim Breedlove blocked the motion to accept the new calendar and the waiver request, instead requesting that the data submitted to Raleigh from Macon County Schools be verified as accurate.

"We were already in a lawsuit over the calendar last year and I don't want a repeat of that," he said.

In particular, he questioned the number of days logged in 2009-2010, where 36 closings, delayed starts and early releases of two or more hours were recorded.

"Even if the 2009-10 year is removed from the formula, we continue to meet the criteria needed to qualify for the weather waiver," said Brigman.

Administration, is now working with DPI to ensure Macon County's data is accurate on the reports and reflects the number of days Macon County had cancellations, early dismissals, or delayed starts.

Statistics for Macon County show that there were 10 years where there were more than eight days missed due to inclement weather -- four are required for a waiver.

In 2001-02, 20 days were affected; in 2002-03, 30 days; in 2003-04, 22; in 2004-05, 15; in 2005-06, 24; in 2006-07, 18; in 2007-08, 20; in 2008-09, 17, in 2009-10, 36 and in 2010-11, 13.

Of the state's 115 LEAs, 23 were granted weather calendar waivers for the 2011-12 school year and 31 have been granted them for the 2012-13 school year.

The calendar was tabled until the March 26 school board meeting at Highlands School.

—KL

... CANDIDATES continued from page 1

County Commissioner District 3
Paul Higdon, Republican
North Carolina State Sentate District 50

Jim Davis, Republican
North Carolina State Sentate District 50

John Joyner Snow, Democrat
Democrat Candidates for the US House of Representatives District 11

Thomas Waddell Hill
Cecil Bothwell
Hayden Rogers

Republican Candidates for the US House of Representatives District 11
Jeffrey Paul Hunt
Mark Meadows

Christopher Petrella
Kenneth Douglas West
Ethan Wingfield
Spence Campbell

Important Dates:
• Absentee by Mail Voting begins March 19

• Voter Registration Deadline: April 13
• One-Stop Early Voting begins April 19

• Deadline for Absentee by Mail requests: May 1

• One-Stop Early Voting Ends: May 5
• Primary Election Day: May 8
• Official Canvass Meeting: May 15
• Board of Education and Soil & Water Conservation Filing Period: June 11 - July 6

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... LETTERS continued from page 2

only when they are going to be wasted as it seems we're getting ready to do with the two fall breaks.

(5) Regarding the process to create the calendar, I'm told there were five calendar choices presented to the teachers and principals, but no group of teachers or parents was ever invited to help design of these five choices. I understand no teacher or parent knows everything about the calendar laws, but I think more teachers and parents could support the final calendar if they had a hand in actually designing the choices. Why can't any parent or teacher who wants to show up to the calendar meetings have a say? We simply want to have our concerns sincerely heard.

(6) I estimate the district has spent or will spend about \$300,000 since last summer on the Lindamood-Bell program. I arrive at that figure by taking the money spent last summer on the program and summer teacher pay, plus the \$225,000 the district allocated last September and the \$14,000 the board spent a month ago for more teacher training. That's a lot of money. As tight-fisted as I am, I can support that, if that really is the best way to teach the youngest students reading. But Lindamood-Bell is "for profit," so how much of that roughly \$300,000 is corporate profit compared to how much is spent on services our students actually get? Is that the best use of our increasingly scarce dollars?

It is said that a benefit of the Lindamood-Bell program is that the class sizes are small. Is that the main reason the kids in those classes seem to do well? How many teachers could have been hired with \$300,000, which would keep the money here locally? Why is the for-profit program better than our not-for-profit teachers, teacher assistants and tutors?

I have also asked about the Read 180 program that apparently was all the rage in Macon County Schools. We paid good money for it but then shoved it aside like last year's toy when Lindamood-Bell came along. I haven't been able to get an answer from your office as to how much we spent on that program and what, if anything, we are doing with it now.

Please understand that I am a parent who believes whole-heartedly in public schools and what they can accomplish. I know your job is hard, as it is for all the folks who report to you. I believe, in general, everyone does a good job. I, along with other parents, am concerned about making the best choices we can as a county for our children. I believe that the only way that can happen is to be fully informed on a timely basis. We shouldn't have to read

about decisions that have been made that affect our children after it is too late to have meaningful input. That kind of cold shoulder keeps parents too distant from their kids' education.

Don't just give us pre-selected choices to chew on. Please let us help design the choices — not just the calendar choices, but also the programs we purchase and let us compare those programs to what an extra teacher or assistant could do. I think your teachers and staff can bring great insight to the table if they have the opportunity to share their input.

Please share more information with us and let all of us who are dedicated to seeing our children get the best possible education be involved. Let us work together to make the tough choices we have to make as we work our way through this downturn in the economy and the sometimes negative attitude toward public education from those in the legislature.

At a time when teachers, principals and superintendents complain about the lack of parent involvement, the best thing to do is to invite any interested parent to policy-making, calendar-making and budget meetings, not just a select few. I don't think you have to worry about the room not having enough chairs, but wouldn't that be an awesome problem to have?

Sabrina Hawkins
Highlands

... FLAMES continued from page 1

bedroom window exploded; the fire was out of control. Soon after, bullets from two guns in the house began exploding and her father dragged her away from the house.

Once the flames were extinguished, firefighters found the deceased Dozer in his bed — the place he retreated to when he was scared.

Inspectors believe the fire began in an old chest freezer under the house, which was used by the landlord. They say the fire traveled up through the walls and once it hit the air vents in the attic it took on a life of its own.

Now James and Caprita have to start from scratch. They need everything, including a place to live and they are open to any scenario. People have donated clothes but now they need everything else from money to household goods. To make monetary donations, or if you think you can help in some other way, contact them at PO Box 1801, Highlands, NC, 28741.

— Kim Lewicki

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust applies for National Accreditation

Since its founding more than 100 years ago, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT), originally known as the Highlands Improvement Society, has pursued the highest degree of professionalism as it conserves and cares for vital lands, water, and wildlife of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. However, resting on tradition is not the approach taken by this historic conservation organization.

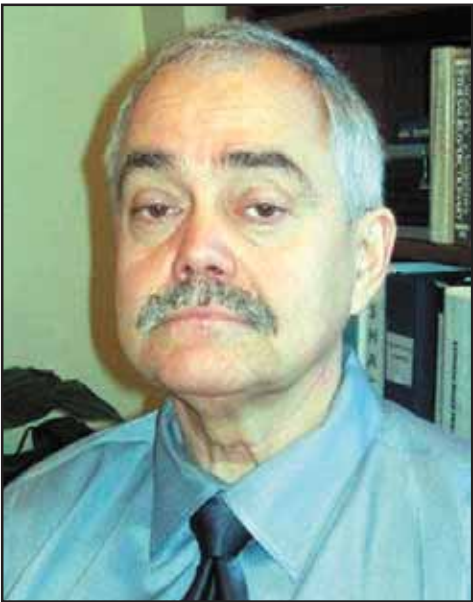
The Land Trust Alliance has designed a program that officially recognizes a land trust as a national leader in land protection. The land trust accreditation program identifies land trusts that meet national quality standards for protecting and caring for important lands. The accreditation process includes an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

The program has been developed to foster public confidence in land conservation and help ensure the long-term protection of land.

HCLT is pleased to announce that it is applying for national accreditation through this program. Through the rigorous accreditation process, HCLT is advancing its commitment to excellence. Becoming an accredited land trust will be an objective affirmation that HCLT meets national standards, upholds the public trust, and ensures that its conservations are permanent.

A public comment period is now open. The Commission requests public input and accepts signed written comments on pending applications. HCLT invites you to participate in the accreditation process by submitting a comment to the Commission. Comments must relate to how HCLT complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operations of the land trust. For a full list of standards see www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust application will be most useful by May 18th.



Dr. Bruno Kaldre

MC Adult Dental Clinic now open

Earlier this month Macon County Public Health welcomed a new dentist, Dr. Bruno Kaldre, to its staff. Dr. Kaldre received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Dentistry. Before moving to Macon County, Dr. Kaldre practiced general dentistry for over 13 years in the Charlotte, NC area. Dr. Kaldre is now accepting new patients at Macon County Public Health's Adult Dental Clinic. The clinic provides routine dental care for adult patients. Fees are based on income and Medicaid patients are welcome. To make an appointment with Dr. Kaldre, please call 349-2588.

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Fri.-Sun., March 2-4
• HCP's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at PAC. 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.
Sunday, Mar 4
• Shortoff Baptist church will have the Cogdill Family Singers on Sunday at 6 pm. Come and join us for an evening of Gospel Music and great fellowship. Everyone welcome.

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