

# Highlands' Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 13

Internet PDF Version at [www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com](http://www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com)

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Thursday, March 29

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

Saturday, March 31

• Oliver Rice and the Dixie Blue Ridge Mountain Boys will play two sets, one at 5 p.m., the second at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Satolah firehouse on NC 28. Food served beginning at 4. All proceeds to benefit fellow firefighter Joe Munger and family.

• At The Bascom. Chicks, It's All Gone to the Birds Exhibition Opening Reception. 5 - 7 pm.

• Barn Dance at The Bascom celebrating police, fire & rescue and EMS. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 but free to police, fire & rescue and EMS.

• At The Bascom. The Artist Talks, Gallery Talk, Susan Taylor Glasgow, artist. 6 pm.

• At The Bascom. Friends Around the Globe. 1 - 3pm. Explore world cultures through these fun, creative and entertaining activities. No pre-registration required. Ages 8-12. Tuition: \$5 per class.

• At The Bascom. Discovering the Image. 10am - 4pm. Instructor: Diane McPhail. Levels: I, II & III. Tuition: \$75 member/\$110 non-member per class.

• At The Bascom. Art Cinema. Sit back and enjoy our weekly feature presentation "The Silver Pharaoh" 2 pm.

Sunday, April 1

• The movie "Courageous" at Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th St., at 6:30 p.m.

• Clear Creek Baptist Church new fellowship hall dedication at 11 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. over a fellowship dinner. All are invited.

Tuesday, April 3

• Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. "Why Religion Must Be Confronted" by Victor K. Stenger. Free Inquiry July 2011, pp. 23-25. (Handout). Coordinator: Creighton Peden. For more info, contact John Gaston [johngaston@aol.com](mailto:johngaston@aol.com) or Karen Hawk [hwkncrw@earthlink.net](mailto:hwkncrw@earthlink.net).

• Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building by the ballfield.

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## Employees speak out at TB meeting

If the Town Board didn't have a heart before, it probably grew one after Thursday night's meeting with town employees.

At its March 8 retreat where a course was set to cut costs and raise revenue for the town, commissioners discussed the likelihood of

doing away with 100% family insurance coverage for employees in 25% increments over a four-year period.

Currently, the town pays 100% employee and family coverage and the family coverage costs the town more than employ-

ee coverage. At current rates, doing away with family coverage would save the town \$281,022.61 per year. It pays \$241,067.52 for employee coverage.

Given the state of the economy, those figures on paper speak

• See EMPLOYEES page 19



Biddy League Eagles: Destin Gearhart, Colby Harris, Sage Potts, Jordan Powell, Jimmy Passmore, Pablo Jimenez, Taj Roman and Noah Carver with coaches Justin Watson and Ryan Gearhart.

## Highlands youth teams make history with undefeated seasons

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Biddy League Eagles and the Highlands Junior League Eagles made history last Tuesday by becoming the first two Highlands teams to win Macon County League Championships in the same season. In addition to both teams earning championships, they both finished the season unblemished, which is also noteworthy in that Highlands has also never had two undefeated county league teams in the same season.

The Biddy League Eagles, coached by Ryan Gearhart and Justin Watson, finished their season at 14-0 with a win in the championship against the Franklin Yellow Jackets. The Eagles won their championship in a thrilling game that finished with a 27-25 score. Representing the Eagles are Destin Gearhart, Colby Harris, Sage Potts, Jordan Powell, Jimmy Passmore, Pablo Jimenez, Taj Roman and

Noah Carver.

The Junior League Eagles, coached by Carla Gates and Brent Harris, also finished their season with a record of 14-0. They defeated the Franklin Yellow Jackets by 18 in their championship game in an outstanding performance. On the Eagles team are Mattson Gates, Joey Harris, Harrison Shomaker, Cole Wilkes, Drew Chalker, Ben Avery, Caden Smolarsky, Logan Houston and Luke Nix.

## NO BOATING allowed on Upper Chattooga

The U.S. Forest Service granted a stay, halting the Forest Service's plans to permit boating on 17 miles of the Wild and Scenic Upper Chattooga River

• See BOATING page 8

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## 2012-'13 school calendar adopted

By Ryan Potts

The Macon County Board of Education met on Monday night for their monthly meeting, this time in Highlands. The first item on the BOE agenda was to honor longtime Highlands Coach and Athletic Director Butch Smart, who retired effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. While Coach Smart was unable to attend due to health complications, Highlands Principal Brian Jetter accepted the award certificate on his behalf.

The Board then heard an update from the Lindamood-Bell representatives about the progress of the Lindamood-Bell reading process within Macon County Schools. Drew McMahan provided the BOE with a report via teleconference, and then two representatives from Lindamood-Bell were on site to answer questions from the Board. Board members

• See CALENDAR page 21

FRI	SAT	SUN
72 \ 50F	66 \ 48F	70 \ 49F



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

On 'Lack of Respect'

Dear Editor,  
Mayor Wilkes is wrong.  
Neither the Mayor nor any of his cronies on the town board are entitled to "respect" just because they hold an office. And no non-living entity (such as the office of Mayor or Town Manager) is entitled to something that is only reserved for living things.  
I was taught that in order to deserve respect you must first give respect. This has not happened. When the town board voted to cut their employee's pay (yes to remove a benefit IS, in effect, a pay cut) without discussing with their employees the town's problems or trying to understand their needs; they were simply telling them how little their service is worth. Therefore, when they complain of not being respected, they might realize that they have only themselves to blame (they should expect no respect because they've given none).

I am surprised that at least one of the affected employees didn't say to the Mayor and Town Board—in the words Johnny Paycheck's great country music classic—to (respectfully) "take this job and shove it."  
The Mayor and his cronies have forgotten that they were elected to serve, not rule. They have forgotten that Highlands IS the people who live here, the people who work here, and the people who visit here; and IS NOT the non-living, non-thinking businesses and other institutions that have been the focus of so much of their attention.  
The Mayor and some of the Town Board are hurting our community. It is time they resign from office.

John Gaston  
Highlands, NC

How FreedomWorks

Abraham Lincoln said "It is true that you may fool all of the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." In the 2010 election voters were fooled into electing a candidate whose campaign was largely financed with corporate money coming

from outside this district. This money financed an attack campaign to smear his opponent, misrepresenting his record. Are local voters going to be fooled again in 2012? Will they vote for candidates whose campaigns outspend their opponents with money coming from outsiders? Will experienced candidates devoted to serving our community be defeated by big money again in this election cycle?  
FreedomWorks, a national organization, funds local candidates for election who will promote its agenda. It evolved in 2004 from a merger of an organization funded by David Koch and a group founded by members of the first Bush administration. The chairman of FreedomWorks is Dick Armey. Armey presents himself as a political "outsider," but he is not. A Texas Republican, he served in the House of Representatives and later as a Washington lobbyist. Armey wrote a book, "Give Us Liberty-A Tea Party Manifesto," and inserted himself into the Tea Party movement as its de facto leader. He is the main author of The Contract with America, which numerous Tea Partiers have signed. Dick Armey visited Franklin in August 2010, to speak and sign his book, at a gathering dominated by Tea Party supporters.  
Armey's FreedomWorks participates in

ALEC, a group of corporate leaders, lobbyists and Republican legislators. ALEC's goal is to influence lawmakers to enact legislation reflecting corporate interests. Legislation supported by ALEC includes tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, privatizing Social Security, eliminating federally funded health care and elimination of regulations to protect our environment. One example of ALEC initiated legislation, already adopted in some states and currently being pushed by Republicans in the N.C. state legislature, is the Voter ID Bill. This bill has the potential to disenfranchise minorities, students and the elderly.  
The Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, allows corporations to contribute unlimited campaign funds to candidates running for public offices. Candidates winning elections with corporate financing represent corporate interests and not "We the people..." Traditionally, candidates running for local offices relied on funding from donations generated by supporters in their home communities. FreedomWorks dollars are used in elections to purchase billboard space, bumper stickers, yard signs, and advertising for local candidates who will represent FreedomWorks interests. Most candidates for local offices don't have the resources to fund expensive election

campaigns.  
Supporting evidence points to individuals locally connected to FreedomWorks contacting area Democrats to recruit a candidate for the upcoming primary election. Local candidates with financial backing from a national organization have a tremendous advantage. In election campaigns where one candidate has an overwhelming financial advantage the candidate with limited funding usually loses. Financial disclosure laws clearly illustrate an example of this. In 2010 Jim Davis, backed by corporate funding, defeated John Snow funded mainly by local donations. Do we care about the future of this community? Are we going to vote for the candidates with the most billboards and advertising backed by outsiders with national agendas? Or do we want elected officials with proven records of love for and service to our local community? The choice is ours to make.  
"Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."  
Margery Abel  
Franklin, N.C.

What's really behind the war on women?

Dear Editor,  
We've all heard the remark "Follow The Money." It's more important than ever to look behind all those proposals made by the current crop of Presidential candidates. Who is paying how much? Why? Whose pocket will those PAC dollars ultimately benefit?  
Current positions taken by these men about Women's Health Care are an abomination. We women need to look at the reasons for these remarks. Who is pulling the strings behind all the false, implausible and detrimental information.  
President Obama's health care law requires that New Health Insurance Plans cover preventive services with no co-pay or deductible. In the last 18 months, a new provision of the Affordable Care Act has done exactly that for approximately 20.4 million women with private health insurance.  
The requirement is that women's insurance carriers include this protection, and importantly, do not

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.

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# • OBITUARY •

## Anne Edith Keener Wiley

Anne Edith Keener Wiley, 92, of the Bertrand Community, died Monday, March 19, 2012. She was born in the Goldmine Community of Western North Carolina on August 29, 1919 to the late George and Callie Keener. She was preceded in death by her husband, David E. Wiley; four brothers, Grover L. Keener, Ira L. Keener, George M. Keener, and Richard C. Keener; four sisters, Ella V. Peek, Margaret G. Houston, Martha G. Keener and Dorothy M. Bryson. She was a member of the Pine Grove Baptist Church, Gniess, NC.

Mrs. Wiley retired from Federal Service with the Department of Defense in 1985, to pursue her lifelong passion for gardening and the outdoors. She was especially adept at identifying, collecting, and cultivating many varied species of wild flowers. Equally skilled at the art of freshwater trout fishing, none were safe if she was in pursuit.

Unable to continue negotiating river and creek banks, she relocated from her home in Northern Virginia to Lancaster County in 1997, where she spent many hours tending her flowers and pursuing

other varieties of fish.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters; Richard E. Wiley of Heathsville, William H. Wiley of Ottoman, John A. Wiley of Millenbeck, Elizabeth J. Short of

•See OBITUARY page 9

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## The Adventures of Frisky • Part 4 of 4

### A boy and his dog

Parts one through three may be read on-line at [www.highlandsnewspaperpdf.com/](http://www.highlandsnewspaperpdf.com/) or at the Highlands Newspaper office at 265 Oak St. in Highlands.

It was incredible how fast Frisky's broken leg healed. A week had passed and it seemed he could run as fast as ever while wearing the cast on his front leg. Winter turned to spring and life was good for me and my dog. I worried about Frisky getting hit again and maybe dying the next time. I knew it would be impossible to restrain this dog after a lifetime of running the streets. Frisky was as carefree as any dog could be.

It was a hot summer day and I was returning from Wyandotte Park where I splashed in the fountain each afternoon. Frisky didn't like the water and always plopped in the nearby shade or chased squirrels he never caught.

As we walked home, I decided to jump up on top of the cemetery wall and finish my walk. I did it often. At one point the wall was over 10 feet above the ground on the street side and was pretty scary for a little guy like me. Frisky kept pace with me, stopping periodically to sniff the presence of another dog.

Then a squirrel appeared from nowhere and shot right in front of Frisky. He took chase and they headed for the street. I saw the milk truck barreling down on him and called out. It was too late. I held my hands over my head in horror as I watched my dog get hit and roll under the truck. The driver slammed on the brakes as Frisky rolled out from underneath the back of the truck. Frisky picked himself up, shook, and ran for home, not waiting for me. I couldn't get off the wall as it was too high a jump. When the driver saw my dog hightailing it home, he started his engine and left. We never spoke.

I had at least another block of high cemetery wall to negotiate before I could jump off. I ran home at lightning speed. There sat Frisky on our front stoop. When he saw me he came running. Except for several grease marks on his back, he was fine. He must have just been tumbled by the truck's undercarriage and nothing more.

Several days later I noticed a major change in Frisky's behavior. He would stop at the curb and look both ways before crossing the street. This smart little dog had learned his lesson the hard way. I was so relieved. From that day forward, Frisky would wait at the curb until all oncoming traffic cleared before crossing. It was amazing to watch.

Five years passed before my Dad gave me the bad news. My parents had bought another restaurant and we were moving. Pets were not permitted in our new rental home. My sister and her husband volunteered to take Frisky and I could visit as often as I wanted. Tears flowed the day I said goodbye to my little dog I loved so much.

I called my sister each day to check on how Frisky was doing. Within a week, Frisky was gone. As usual, she let him out in the morning before work but this time she never saw him again. I'm assuming Frisky was out looking for me, was hit by a car or fell in love. I'm hoping it was the latter.

My sister and I went out several times hunting for him, asking everyone we met on the street if they had seen him. Posters were stapled to poles on every block with phone numbers. Finally, after weeks of hunting and calling the dog pound numerous times, we gave up on him. The adrenaline that filled my body daily instantly evaporated. I grieved for weeks but in the end, I had to move on. But, to this day, the memories of my loving faithful little dog are still in my heart and memory. I still love you, Frisky.

**The End**

## • Highlands Dining •



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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Look where stereotypes have gotten us

Why did George Zimmerman shoot and Trayvon Martin? Will he stand trial, or will white America be tried as surrogate racists?

Mr. Zimmerman claims he acted in self defense and the "stand your ground" law under which he acted will surely be tried. It is certain that racism still flourishes in America. What is not so certain is that George Zimmerman's actions were racially motivated, or even if Mr. Martin is a racist. His previous actions would suggest the opposite.

Two facts seem pretty clear. George Zimmerman didn't leave home to patrol his neighborhood with the idea of killing an unarmed black teen. He didn't lovingly cradle his 9 mm semiautomatic and say, "Let's go find us a nigga." And young Trayvon didn't pull on his hoodie, trek to the local 7/11, buy an iced tea and a bag of Skittles, and say to himself, "I've got just enough time before the start of the second half to scare the shit out of some cracker."

We can also be reasonably certain that a white kid wearing khakis and a polo shirt would not have aroused Zimmerman's suspicion. My guess is the victim would be alive today if he'd been wearing kahkis and a polo.

President Obama's white grandmother admitted she was afraid when she saw a black man walking down the street. Juan Williams, a black news analyst and long time NPR contributor, was fired by public radio after he told Bill O'Reilly he was nervous and worried when he saw people in Muslim garb on an airplane. There aren't many people who'd think of Juan Williams as a racist; the bosses at NPR being the exception. White people, and a good many black citizens, are nervous and worried when they see a young black man in gangsta attire. I haven't heard if Trayvon wore his pants around his knees, or his baseball cap sideways. Only his hoodie has been mentioned. I love a hood, never buy a sweatshirt without one, but I'm a



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

70-year-old white guy, unlikely to evoke fear. America has done a great deal to atone for the sins of slavery. Some black activists, who think we've done too little, are still demanding that we make good on our promise of 40 acres and a team of mules, plus interest. I think we've leveled the field about as much as we can, although I'm not in the group that believes we've tilted it to favor minorities. If one wants to crash a wedding he should look as much as he

can like the invited guests. If he wants to join mainstream America, he might forego his right to dress, speak, and behave in a manner that frightens his neighbors.

Something about Trayvon Martin frightened George Zimmerman. That fact in no way justifies the shooting. President Obama's grandmother didn't shoot anyone, nor did Juan Williams fire on Muslims. Stereotyping is a reality and profiling is stereotyping in action. The hoodie has become the symbol of this tragic event, more so even than the slain boy. And that seems foolish and misguided to me. It's like serving banana splits at a diabetic's funeral, or toasting a dead alcoholic.

We've witnessed the Million Hoodie March and seen churches overflowing with hooded congregates. What a shame!

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**Palm Sunday, April 1**

**"Courageous"**

**The Movie**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, April 8**

**9 a.m. - Breakfast Fellowship**

**9:30 a.m. - Sunday School**

**10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship**



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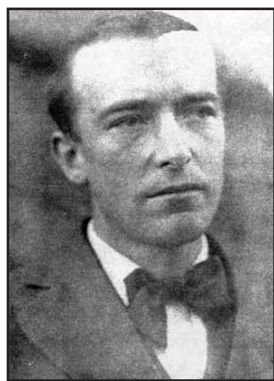
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# Those who came before and after them – Part 9



## The story of the John Edwin and Ellie Pierson Potts family, cont.

By Eva Potts Massey  
We have wonderful memories of our play-and-work ac-

John Edwin and Ellie Potts  
courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

tivities in the big, roomy yard at the house we lived in on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Mama and Daddy (John Edwin and Ellie Pierson Potts) had planted a circle of white pines with one pine in the center with enough sand around it for us to spend hours building sand castles.

As we got older, we used this same spot for work activities, such as peeling peaches and apples and stringing and shelling beans for canning.

We had to rake our yard in the spring and fall and pick up things in between but I don't remember our mowing it. We would stake the cow from one spot to another and let her mow the yard for us.

We had a cow named Chris that we all liked real well. She became dry and we sold her to Luther Rice for the meat market. He got the cow and tied her up behind the meat market that was below the old school. The cow bawled all day. We could hear her and knew what was going to happen. To make a long story short, we didn't eat beef for a long time for fear we'd eat some of Chris.

After selling Chris, we needed another cow. Bill (William Roderick) and Little Luke Rice heard of one for sale and they went to get her. They got side-tracked and didn't get home until after dark. When Mama and Bill went to milk the next morning, Bill asked, "Mama, what will we name her?" Mama looked and said, "Old Boney Parts, for she's nothing but skin and bones."

In the summer we'd take the cows to the pastures up near Kalanta and the Bowery. We'd imagine we were Heidi in the Alps. We also rode "Old Bones," a donkey, that belonged to Uncle Mack Pierson. Uncle Mack would go with us, because he worked up that way. We'd take the cows in the morning, return home, and then go back up to the Bowery Road to take Uncle Mack lunch, return home and then go up around 5 o'clock to bring the animals back.

We all had chores to do such as churning, cleaning, cooking, ironing and weeding the garden. We always had a good vegetable garden as well as raspberries and strawberries. We had help with our washing at times, but it was done on a scrub board and the white clothes were boiled in a big pot over a fire in the back yard or kitchen. The hot water was in a tank on the cook stove in the kitchen. When electricity was available in Highlands, we were among the first to have lights, a radio, a washing machine and a refrigerator. However, we didn't get an electric stove until later years. Daddy

always thought cooking was better on the wood stove.

Daddy was transferred to Pisgah Forest by the Forest Service. We were the only one of the Potts families to move away from Highlands. Travel in the 1920s was not as pleasant as it is today. The road from Highlands to Pisgah Forest wasn't paved. Daddy went ahead of us and bought new furniture for the house there. Raleigh Hopper, who ran a taxi service, took Mama and the children. Uncle Mack Pierson drove his truck, taking our clothes, toys and a few articles of furniture. Uncle Wendell McKinney rode Peggy, the horse and led Donnie, the cow. We didn't have a car, because Daddy didn't drive. He said the vibration tickled his feet.

The house we moved into was interesting. It was a lovely home built around a large dining room that was over a hundred years old, put together with wood pegs. In the woods back of the house there were many large grapevines and all of us learned how to be Tarzan on the swinging vines. One day when I swung down and started to drop, I looked down and saw a big black snake. I called to the others to help me, but they thought I was teasing. Finally after I was about to drop, Bill came and killed the snake.

At Pisgah Forest, Bill, Mary and I first attended a two-teacher school just in sight of our house. The building was called English Chapel because of church services held there on Sundays. The next year the school was consolidated and we rode the school bus to Pisgah Forest.

Once on the first day of fishing season, Daddy had all his Rangers appointed to their posts. He didn't tell us he was going to patrol, too. Mama told us children we could go down to the Big Hole in front of the house to fish. She was setting bread and would join us in a few minutes. When she got there, none of us had caught a fish. She had brought along a little dough just in case and she baited our hooks with it.

The fish loved the bait and before we knew it we were hauling those fish in. Mama had on a big apron which she used as a net. She helped us land and remove the fish from our hooks and then baited our hooks again. I'm sure we had more than the limit in a few minutes.

Just in the middle of our fun, Daddy came walking up and Mama felt caught between a rock and a hard place...

• to be continued ...



## First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2012

Thursday, April 5, 2012

5:00 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae*

A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ's life.

The service will include  
Holy Communion.

Friday, April 6, 2012

12:00 noon

*Stations of the Cross*

Sponsored by the  
churches of Highlands.  
Meet at Our Lady of the  
Mountain Catholic Church  
*Rain—Episcopal Church*

Sunday, April 8, 2012

6:45 a.m.

*Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service*

Sponsored by the  
churches of Highlands.

Service held at the Highlands'  
Biological Center Amphitheater.  
*Rain—First Presbyterian Church*

11:00 a.m.

*Easter Sunday  
Communion Service*

Sermon by  
Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School - All Ages Welcome

Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit [www.fpchighlands.org](http://www.fpchighlands.org)



471 Main Street  
PO Box 548  
Highlands, NC 28741



Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate

## • COACH'S CORNER •

### Final Four: Things to watch for

• For the first time in many years, Rick Pitino is the plucky underdog facing the juggernaut that is the Kentucky Wildcats. Kentucky has been running on all cylinders in the tournament-blowing the competition away by double digits in each victory. Meanwhile, Louisville had a stretch where they fell off the map during the regular season, but used a Big East title run to propel themselves to the Final Four. (sound familiar? UConn did the same thing last year) One thing is for certain-Pitino certainly will embrace the role of Robin Hood to John Calipari's King John.

• There is power on the blocks in New Orleans-every team in the Final Four features stud post players. Kansas's Thomas Robinson and Kentucky's Anthony Davis were competing for Player of the Year all season. Ohio State's Jared Sullinger is certainly a part of the conversation when talking about the best post players in America. And while Louisville doesn't have one player the caliber of the aforementioned bigs, they have a dynamic duo in Gorgui Dieng and Chane Behanan that can rival that of any left in the tournament. While college basketball is often referred to as a guard's game these days, these teams have proven that it helps to have some muscle on the blocks.

• Defense is the name of the game in the Final Four this year. Each of the four teams remaining were the best in their region defensively according to Ken Pomeroy, and all of these teams have a commitment on the defensive end. For three of the four teams, the paint is patrolled by extraordinary shot blockers. Gorgui Dieng was a one man eraser for Louisville in both the Big East tournament and in the NCAA tournament thus far. Anthony Davis is the national Defensive Player of the Year, and Kansas's seven footer Jeff Withey saved the game for the Jayhawks against North Carolina with a couple of key rejections. While Ohio State doesn't have a true shotblocker, they have the best defensive guard in the country in Aaron Craft, who will look to pester Tyshawn Taylor into numerous turnovers.

• The picks. I have a hard time seeing a scenario in which Louisville beats Kentucky. The Cardinals are an average offen-



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

sive team but a great defensive team. Kentucky is an otherworldly defensive team when they want to be, and they are dynamic offensively as well. I think the Wildcats win by double digits. In the other matchup, I think that Ohio State will be prepared for Kansas's assortment of defenses, and the outside shooting of the Buckeyes will negate Thomas Robinson's strong inside play. Buckeyes by 4 in that matchup. In the finals-I think that Kentucky is just too strong on both ends of the court, but Ohio State will keep it close with their three point shooting. In the end, Kentucky is going to be your national champion, not just because of their talent, but because of their balance on both ends of the court.

### Wayfinding Deadline extended

If citizens have not already filled out this second questionnaire on paper at the Library, Town Hall, or the Chamber of Commerce, they will also have until Sunday, April 15, to complete it online.

Questions or comments can also be directed to Ran Shaffner at [highlandshistory@nctv.com](mailto:highlandshistory@nctv.com).

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

March Madness marches on

If you thought that March Madness relates only to basketball, you just haven't been paying attention. For example, I have been a political observer for approaching 60 years, and I can't remember such a scurrilous, inane, self-serving, ill-advised remark in a political campaign by any candidate in an election at any level. Frankly, I wasn't on board with Rick Santorum from the start.

Didn't know why then, but I do now. Quoting from CBSDC: "Presidential candidate Rick Santorum said recently that Republicans should give President Barack Obama another term if Santorum isn't the GOP nominee. You might as well have Obama over Romney. Santorum reiterated an argument he has made before: The former Massachusetts governor is not conservative enough to offer voters a clear choice in the fall election and that only he can provide that contrast. 'You win by giving people a choice,' Santorum said during a campaign stop in Texas."

Well Rick – if you are the choice, I'll pass. It occurred to me that your bio reads quite similarly to that of your choice,

Barack. You went to law school, played at being a lawyer for four years, ran for office and became a career politician until Bob Casey beat the snot out of you in the 2006 election. You lost your Senate seat, allowing Casey to be the first Pennsylvania Democrat since 1962 to be elected to a full term.

Enough of him. Well, almost. While Santorum was committing political

hari-kari, Jeb Bush joined a long list of respected conservatives publicly backing Mitt Romney. You, Rick, were quoted in the PRNewswire just prior to the 2008 Presidential campaign season: "In a few short days, Republicans from across this country will decide more than their party's nominee. They will decide the very future of our party and the conservative coalition that Ronald Reagan built.

Conservatives can no longer afford to



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

stand on the sidelines in this election, and Governor Romney is the candidate who will stand up for the conservative principles that we hold dear. Governor Romney has a deep understanding of the important issues confronting our country today, and he is the clear conservative candidate that can go into the general election with a united Republican party."

My, talk about the ultimate flip-flopper. I used to love you before I hated you. Madness. Speaking of flip-floppers, how about our

cherished president, who recently put the kibosh on the Keystone XL Pipeline project, frosting everybody but a handful of far left environmental whackadoodles. He did this in the middle of spiking gasoline prices in an election year. Mmm – smooth.

So, the other day, Obama jumped into his fossil fuel powered 747 and went down to Cushing, OK, to try and demonstrate to the country that he is, in fact, in an election year.

Just to refresh, the XL project would bring Canadian oil and production from the vast fields in North Dakota to the refineries on the Gulf Coast, passing through Cushing. So Obama tells the world (and American voters) that he is going to give approval of the construction of the southern leg of the pipeline, from Cushing south. Barack, it's already approved to go ahead. You don't have a thing to do with it.

The absurdity of it all is that, without bringing the oil south from where it is produced to Cushing, what have you done? Make a transparent campaign speech, that's what. You have got yourself so tangled up in your alternative source of energy schemes; reality is bearing its fangs and biting you in the behind.

Madness.

I don't know if this is Madness or not, but it was an item that I thought was interesting. Maybe I'm going crazy since it's nearing the end of the Month of Mad. From the Weekly Standard: "Danish TV Host Mocks Obama for His Rhetoric: Thomas Buch-Anderson, host of the Danish TV show *Detektor*, mocked President Obama's political rhetoric in a recent episode.

'Obama used a metaphor from boxing to explain Denmark's role in the world,' says Buch-Anderson, introducing the segment. He then rolls the tape. That's fairly typical of the way that Danes have punched above their weight in international affairs,' President Obama says at a press availability in the Oval Office with Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt of Denmark.

"It's nice to be praised,' Buch-Anderson remarks. "We punched harder than our weight class would suggest. But how much should we read into his words? According to Obama, are we doing any better than, say the Norwegians?' The TV host again turns to the tape, this time showing President Obama and Norwegian prime minister Jens Stoltenberg. 'I've said this before, but I want to repeat: Norway punches above its weight,' Obama says.

Back to Buch-Anderson. 'Hmm. So Norway packs a punch, too. But what about the Netherlands? Here, their head of government, Mark Rutte, visits Obama.' The tape rolls yet again. 'We have no stronger ally than the Netherlands,' says Obama. 'They consistently punch above their weight.' The TV host continues, pointing to the similar rhetoric Obama used when Ireland's head of state came to town, and the Philippines.

Buch-Anderson wonders aloud, 'Maybe the copy key got stuck on the presidential speechwriter's keyboard.'

Maybe Obama has taken one too many in the head. Something has to account for his normal semi-conscious state. Maybe Hillary punched above her weight in 2008.

... BOATING from 1 this season.

"The request to stay the permitting of boating between the confluence of Green Creek in North Carolina and Lick Log Creek in South Carolina between Dec. 1 and April 30 at flow levels of 350 cfs or higher is granted," said Reviewing Officer Ken S. Arney. The stay request states that boating without officially designated put-ins, take-outs, and approach trails will cause erosion and sedimentation and will mar the beauty of the Upper Chattooga.

Arney said a review of all appeal issues will be conducted based on their merits, and independent of this stay decision.

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## Our season begins

Spring has definitely arrived early after an almost non-existent winter in Highlands. Flowers (and weeds) are taking a peek to see if it's safe to come out. All locals know, as I was told eighteen years ago when I moved here: "never plant before Mother's Day – a frost will surely come again." And as nature ruled I threw out many geraniums and pansies that froze and died prematurely. This year I am questioning once more.

What a glorious time spring is in our area! Nothing is nicer than a chilly morning for hiking warmed by the mid day sun and then graced once again by crisp evenings just right for nestling by the fireplace with a favorite glass of wine or libation...sweet!

If you've been visiting our area for years or if you just discovered us, what an opportune time to invest and buy property here! Prices are lower than I've seen in many years and banks are finally lending again. And when have we seen such low interest rates? Even buyers who can afford to pay cash are getting loans because of the historically low rates. The options are wide open to fit your specific needs.

Now that Highlands has been rated by Barrons as one of the top places in the country to invest and buy a second home, and with the Spa at Old Edwards Inn being rated number one in the country by the readers of Conde Nast Magazine, we



Pat Allen, Broker-in-charge  
pat.f.allen@gmail.com

have "bragging rights!" To know us is to love us. Dine in our fabulous restaurants, shop in an array of boutiques and art galleries, attend a performance at The Playhouse or PAC Center, create a masterpiece at The Bascom Fine Arts Center or simply grab a basket and picnic next to a waterfall or perched high on a mountaintop.

Is it time to buy in Highlands? Absolutely! Highlands is no longer a hidden gem. Invest in a diamond and stop kicking around stones. Diamonds hold their value and last forever!

• Pat Allen, SRE, CLHMS, is the owner and broker in charge of Pat Allen Realty Group. She is the only Certified Home Marketing Specialist in the area and was voted Best Realtor in Highlands. Her expertise in negotiations and service during and after sales has made her a top agent in Highlands. Pat may be reached at 828 526-8784 or 828 200 9179. Her email is pat.f.allen@gmail.com and website is PatAllenRealtyGroup.com.

## ... OBITUARY from page 3

Lottsburg and Martha A. Palmer of Chesapeake; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Bethel United Methodist Church, Lively on Saturday, March 24, 2012.

Another funeral service was held at Wednesday, March 28, at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC. Memorials may be made to the Highlands Memorial Park, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Join us this Easter at  
**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus  
(315 Main Street with Pastors Paul Christy & Beth Bowser)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 5 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service.

We will share together in Holy Communion

### FRIDAY, APRIL 6 – GOOD FRIDAY

Please join us at 7 p.m. for our Good Friday service

### SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – EASTER SUNDAY

6:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Join us and other churches at the amphitheatre behind the Biological Research Center for our sunrise service.

### **Worship Services / The Living Cross**

Join us as we celebrate at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Bring a flower from your garden or one purchased to place on the cross before each service.

### **9:30 a.m. – Easter Coffee Break**

Bring a coffee cake, muffins, bagels & cream cheese, croissants, or danish to share as we have fellowship time together.

### **10 a.m. – Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Storytime**

The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

(For more info...please call 828.526.3376)



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• JUST HERS •

Waiting ‘on’ Godot

If you want to spark a lively debate, try asking people how they feel about the existence or non-existence of angels. Of course, people have argued for years over whether or not there are ghosts, fairies, or UFOs. One thing I know for sure, though. I believe in dragons. I know it, because two of them taught me English.

The kind of English I learned in school was not the casual Emeril Lagasse-type where you threw around metaphors, added a pinch of hyperbole, and – bam! - casually ignored the agreement of subjects and verbs. No, I was taught never to end a sentence with a preposition, split an infinitive, or to begin a sentence with “And” or “But.” This

doesn’t mean I don’t break the occasional grammatical rule, but at least when I do, I have the decency to feel guilty.

In the 1950s and early 1960s in Waynesboro, we learned by memorizing poetry and rules of grammar. There were pop quizzes, and regular exams. These days, such methods may be considered outdated, and blamed for reducing children to mindless zombies. I never thought I’d defend this old-fashioned method of teaching, but I still remember much of what was taught me 50 years ago. Learning might have been fun at times, but we didn’t expect it. Prepositions, in particular, were drummed into our heads on a regular basis. Both Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Forbes were relentless about getting the right preposition in a sentence. For example, you brag “to” someone, or you brag “about” someone. You never brag “on” anything. The same goes for “waiting on someone.” You wait “for” someone; you don’t wait “on” them, unless you’re a server or a sales person. Yet people in Highlands are always telling me how they’re “waitin’ on my husband/children/girlfriends.” You think we depend on foreign oil? How about depending on the preposition “on”? Were our ancestors so heavily laden when they braved the mountains to come here that



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they only had room to bring one preposition?

What surprises me is that all sorts of people butcher the English language. They are not always the people you’d suspect of bad grammar. News presenters – all networks and channels combined – don’t make their subjects and their verbs agree, even though we assume they are reading Teleprompters. They also use words

incorrectly, especially words which sound alike. On the regional news the other day, a female news reader solemnly presented a story about a local sheriff who was resigning, as his bi-polar disease caused him to exhibit “erotic” (she meant “erratic”) behavior.

I guess it says a lot about me that I am more offended by bad or incorrect grammar than I am by profanity. After a certain age, there isn’t much you haven’t heard. My own use of profanity was greatly curbed by an off-handed compliment by a colleague on my first job after college graduation. I had used the f-word (alas, picked up from others in my university days) at the office, and he had frowned in disapproval. “You’re a bright person,” he said. “You are clever enough to say something much more appropriate, without resorting to that kind of language.” It’s a comment I took to heart. Sure, I still swear every once in a while, but try to avoid falling in to the trap of using the f-word as a synonym for “very,” unlike my colleagues on the Trading Floor of the bank in New York. By the way, I don’t use the term “f-bomb.” Bombs kill, not the f-word. I don’t believe in giving bad language that much power.

It would be nice if people didn’t judge us by all the superficial clues we drop – language, dress, grooming – but the fact is, they do. People assume that a sloppy appearance is proof of a careless, irresponsible person. As the original jeans and t-shirt girl, this used to bother me. Why, I was just as bright as the girl in the prim blouse and skirt, whose well-polished loafers fairly sparkled in the sunlight. Why

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2012



Exhibitions

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Support provided by the Koski Family Foundation.

*Chicks: It's All Gone to the Birds*

March 31 - June 17

Opening Reception, March 31, 6-8 pm

Support provided by Nancy and Larry Fuller and Audobon North Carolina



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# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**PULL OUT**

## Local Audubon Society partners with The Bascom on upcoming exhibit



**By Michelle Styring**

From March 31 through June 17 The Bascom in Highlands will be presenting the exhibit "Chicks: It's All Gone to the Birds" in partnership with Highlands Plateau Audubon Society (HPAS) and the Highlands Biological Station. Audubon NC, the state office of National Audubon, is a sponsor of the exhibit.

In early May, as HPAS begins its new and ambitious schedule of weekly walks this season, a unique opportunity awaits those who participate. The upcoming bird-themed exhibit at The Bascom will be augmented by walks and programs offered by Highlands Plateau Audubon Society and Audubon NC. All HPAS happenings are open to the public, and there is no cost to participate!

The Highlands meeting place for all May walks will be in The Bascom parking lot, so that participants may return from seeing the birds in nature to the joy of the birds in The Bascom's excellent exhibit. The first walk of the year will be on Saturday, May 5th, meeting at 7:30 am, and will be especially directed at beginners. Following the walk, Bascom staff will offer a guided gallery tour at 11:00 am, enabling participants to learn more about the birds, art and artists. Lunch will be available for purchase at the cafe following the gallery walk.

If you have been wondering about our wonderful Spring birds and would like to know more, this is a great opportunity to enhance your enjoyment of one of Highlands Plateau's greatest natural assets.

Curtis Smalling, Audubon NC's Coordinator NC Important Bird Area Programs & Mountain Program Manager will talk on "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau: Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place." And Mark Hopey, of The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Project (MAPS), and director of the mist-netting and bird-banding program at Tessentee Farms, a Land Trust for the Little Tennessee Reserve in Otto, will be presenting for Audubon. Both men are captivating and instructive speakers.

Watch the local newspapers and check the HPAS web-site at [www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org) for specific times and for other exciting outings and programs during the course of the exhibit.

• 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](http://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

• 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.

• NAMI offers Peer-to-Peer Recovery Education Course. NAMI Appalachian South, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is offering a 10 week education class in Franklin on Tuesdays, starting March 13, 6:30-8:30. This is a nationally recognized course designed for individuals living

with the challenge of mental illness. The course covers the major mental illnesses, treatments, coping strategies, relapse prevention, recovery and wellness in a confidential setting. There is no charge. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register contact: Paul 524-9133 or Hank 342-34789.

### 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 - Mondays

• At Paoletti's, 15%-25% off promotions. Call 526-4906 for reservations.

### Every Saturday through March

• 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.

### By March 30

• April is Public Health Month in NC and to raise awareness about the important role public health plays in our lives, Macon County Public Health will recognize a "Public Health Hero" in the month of April. Citizens may nominate community volunteers for this award by completing the short nomination form found at <http://maconnc.org/public-notice.html>. We'd like to hear your stories about people who've made a difference in the health of our community, so nominate a deserving volunteer by March 30th.

### Sat. - Fri., through March 30

• At The Bascom. From Mud to Art Highlands High School Ceramics, Landing Gallery. Explore with the students as they not only demonstrate their proficiency in pottery but their understanding of the science and chemistry that makes it happen. Student work and an explanation of clay bodies, firing and glazing will be on view. Now in its third year, the High School Ceramics Class is an ongoing partnership between Highlands School and The Bascom.

### Thursday, March 29

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

### Friday, March 30

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, March 30th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30 to 9 PM. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the square dance caller. Mike McDonald from Clayton, GA will be calling the round dancing. We dance

• See EVENTS page 14

## Baby Kindermusik class begins this week at Cashiers Library



New Kindermusik Baby Class to start this week! The 8 week class, "Cock-a-Doodle Moo," is for children newborn to 18 months and will meet weekly in Cashiers at the library. Enrollment is open for ongoing music classes for children 1 ½ to 5 years. Activities are based on the latest brain development research to help children become better learners, and include singing, dancing, playing instruments, and fun! Call Lori Richards at The Music Village 828-293-5600 to try a free class or visit the website at [www.themusicvillage-nc.com](http://www.themusicvillage-nc.com) for more information.





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# Spring Home Improvement

## Boosting Your Home's Curb Appeal

(StatePoint) You can't judge a book by its cover, but you can judge a home by its exterior. And with warmer weather comes thoughts of outdoor home improvement projects.

If you're looking to boost your house's curb appeal this season, think about adding color from top to bottom.

"Home owners shouldn't be afraid of color. Contrasting colors, complementary colors and color accents on a home, when done right, can all add tremendously to the curb appeal of a house," says national color expert Kate Smith, CMG and owner of Sensational Color.

This season Smith is offering some top-to-bottom tips to homeowners ready for bold change:

### The Roof

If your roof appears old and dingy, is leaking or wearing thin, it's time to research replacement options. Consider durable synthetic slate or shake tiles in a variety of hues. For example, DaVinci Roofscapes offers 49 roof colors along



Low maintenance products can create a stunning home exterior.

with 28 standard color blends.

"Selecting roofing colors that complement the rest of the home helps your eye move from the top down," says Smith. If you're overwhelmed by the choices, a free "FRESH Exteriors Color" guide is available for download at [www.sensationalcolor.com](http://www.sensationalcolor.com).

### The Windows

Whether you're looking for low-maintenance vinyl replacement or new construction windows, add a splash of color to complement your home's exterior and interior as well. A bold color contrast, like red window frames against crisp white trim pieces is a classic eye-catching look.

"A window is like a two-sided canvas," says

Smith. "The colors on the frame exteriors enhance the home's overall appearance from the street. And, when you get inside and select stylish woodgrain frame interiors, you're adding beauty to the room settings. That's a 'win-win' experience for any homeowner."

The Decorum collection by Simonton Windows for example, provides a variety of custom color options like brick, chocolate, bronze and pine green.

### The Door

The door to your house should make a statement. A door with a smooth paintable surface, made with low-maintenance fiberglass, allows you to make a new statement as often as you'd like. For example,

Therma-Tru's Classic Craft Canvas Collection has these features, as well as wide center panels and rich embossment details that rival high-end custom wood doors.

To further enhance the entryway to your home, consider installing decorative glass inserts in the door. Then, flank the door with a set of easy-to-install Fypon urethane pilasters, a stylish crosshead and pediment. Resistant to moisture, insects, rot and humidity, both the urethane trim and fiberglass entry door are great low-maintenance solutions to adding curb appeal for the home.

From top to bottom, color and detail can give your home a bold, stylish makeover.

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# Spring Home Improvement

## Make Your Home Energy Efficient

(StatePoint) Whether you're an environmental steward or a smart consumer, you may be dreaming up ways to increase the energy efficiency of your home during the warmer months.

Here is a check-list of items that can help you bring down your energy costs, and lower your home's carbon footprint all season long:

- Draw blinds: Avoid the greenhouse effect in your house by drawing blinds during the sunniest hours of the day.

- Plant trees: Strategically plant trees and shrubs in your yard. You'll provide much needed shade inside your home. Also, an air conditioning unit that is shaded will use less energy.

- Dress properly: In the office, you may need to go for a buttoned down look no matter the season, but at home, dressing for the weather will help you stay cool, so you won't need



### Cooking outdoors keeps the inside of your home cool.

to rely as much on air conditioning.

- Cook smart: The warmer months are a great time to avoid cooking. Gazpacho, salad and other dishes served cold can help you keep your energy costs down. But of course you'll sometimes still want to prepare your favorite hot meals. When cooking, use a natural gas stove and oven for optimum energy efficiency.

Better yet, grill outside to eliminate any heat you would generate from using your stove or oven. A natural gas grill is clean-burning, and has no particulate emissions.

- Open windows: Take

advantage of those days with a nice breeze to turn off the air conditioner completely and circulate some fresh air in your home.

- Give your AC an agenda: Don't keep an empty house cool all day for no one to enjoy. A programmable thermostat can help you create an air conditioning schedule that matches your schedule.

- Do low carbon laundry: This time of year inevitably means more heavy duty laundry. To handle the extra loads, consider using a natural gas water heater, which emits up to half the carbon emissions of an electric water heater. And, on

average, you can do two loads of clothes in a natural gas dryer for the same amount it would cost you to dry one load in an electric dryer.

- Seal drafts: You may think of drafts as a winter problem, but leaks in your walls, doors and windows can send all that cool air right out of the house. Sealing these drafts will allow you to turn up your thermostat for immediate cost-savings.

You don't need to eat the expense of an inefficient home this season. A few simple tweaks to your lifestyle will keep your bills down, and be great for the planet too.

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**PULL OUT**

# Highlands Area Events

... LETTERS from page 2

discriminate against women. Women collectively already pay 1 billion dollars more than men do for health care, reported in a recent study by the Women's Law Center.

Furthermore, this is not a "War on Religion!" Women's access to health care has nothing to do with religion - yours or theirs. It is only about women's complete access to necessary and available health care. "Access" and "availability" are key! This contrived "War on Religion" is actually a "War on Women," solely motivated by political and financial gain.

No government entity is forcing unneeded benefits on you, and tax dollars are not paying for coverage within these insurances. Despicably, these candidates would not only impose their religious beliefs on all of us, but would actually have your tax dollars pay for unnecessary, and often invasive medical procedures on women.

No candidate calls for similar medical processes for men nor speaks to the hypocrisy of covering costs for men's endlessly advertised (ahem) problems.

Women's reproduction and health issues are not the business of men running for office, nor the business of men of "the church!" The issues of our coming election are many and important. This is not one of them!

Who "wins" if women are denied health insurance coverage for contraception, prenatal care, pregnancy related situations, cervical cancer tests, mammograms, ovarian cysts - the list is long. Denying insurance coverage certainly won't be a "win" for you, me, our daughters, or granddaughters.

Look closely at claims made by every office seeker for town hall, state house, or the halls of Congress in D.C. Are they speaking to benefit you and me, or the corporatocracy? Will they advocate for our future, or the bottom line of company profits?

And you! Will you vote against your own best interest? Will you wake after the elections and realize you've ruined your own and your children's future? You surely want needed benefits for your family. You're told budget cuts will reduce the deficit? How will that work when taxpayers must cover the cost of those whose only option will be to crowd emergency rooms, the welfare offices, and state institutions?

Who is in charge in the U.S.A. these days? Us or the beneficiaries of the Citizens United v. FEC decision? Follow the Money!

Shirley Ches, Franklin, NC

Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280, or [www.highmountainsquares.org](http://www.highmountainsquares.org).

## March 31 - June 17

• At The Bascom. Chicks It's All Gone to the Birds, Bunzl Gallery. The gallery will be filled with a plethora of art works that portray an avian theme. Despite the focus on a single theme, the exhibition offers rich variety. Artists pursue the topic through a range of approaches and media. This exhibition, devoted to our feathered friends, provides a broad look into the world of contemporary and traditional art, letting divergent approaches take wing. From the traditional to the way out and wacky, visitors will experience a flight of fancy. Presented in partnership with the Highlands Biological Station and the Highlands Audubon Society.

## Saturday, March 31

• Oliver Rice and the Dixie Blue Ridge Mountain Boys will play two sets, one at 5 p.m., the second at 7 pm. when the Satolah, Georgia, volunteer fire department

holds its annual benefit, Saturday at the firehouse on Route 28. Food served beginning at 4, with bluegrass and gospel tunes over supper. All proceeds this year to benefit fellow firefighter Joe Munger and family. The public is invited to this annual, family-friendly outing.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6.5-mile loop trail from Betty Creek Gap to Timber Ridge Trail with a side trip to Big Laurel Falls. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin opposite Burger King at 9 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• The Macon County Republican Party will hold its 2012 Convention on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Macon County Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin. Registration is \$2 and is from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.. Precinct Meetings are from 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.. Light morning foods will be available and complimentary. The Keynote speaker will be Representative Dale R. Folwell, Speaker Pro Tempore, NC House of Representatives. For questions call Chairman Chris Murray at 421-2191.

• At The Bascom. Chicks, It's All Gone to the Birds

Exhibition Opening Reception. 5 - 7 pm.

• Barn Dance at The Bascom celebrating police, fire & rescue and EMS. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 but free to police, fire & rescue and EMS.

• At The Bascom. The Artist Talks, Gallery Talk, Susan Taylor Glasgow, artist. 6 pm. A native of Duluth, Minnesota, Susan Taylor Glasgow migrated south with the geese one fall and studied Design at the University of Iowa. Now a resident of Columbia, Missouri, her studio is a wonderful old 1930's house in downtown Columbia that she and her husband rescued from demolition.

• At The Bascom. Friends Around the Globe. 1 - 3pm. What in the world is going on? Explore world cultures through these fun, creative and entertaining activities. No pre-registration required. Ages 8-12. Tuition: \$5 per class.

• At The Bascom. Discovering the Image. 10am - 4pm. 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. Instructor: Diane McPhail. Levels: I, II & III. Tuition: \$75 member/\$110 non-member per class.

• At The Bascom. Art Cinema. Sit back and enjoy our weekly feature presentation "The Silver Pharaoh" 2 pm.

• The 25th Academic Foundation Academic Auction in the Cartoogechaye School cafeteria. Preview and meal 5-6 pm. Adults, \$5; children \$3. Drawings 6-8:30 p.m. Admission fee of \$5 buys 20 chances for valuable prizes. Tickets are available at the MC Schools Administrative office or from any foundation member. Call 524-4414 for more information.

## Sunday, April 1

• The movie "Courageous" at Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th St., at 6:30 p.m.

• Clear Creek Baptist Church will be dedicating its new fellowship and the glory of God at 11 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. over a fellowship dinner. All are invited.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Mud Creek Falls trail near Sky Valley GA, a gentle climb to a beautiful waterfall. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto, NC, at 2 pm. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or alternate meeting place.

## Tuesday, April 3

• Wolfpack Club's 2012 Coaches Caravan Stop in Dillsboro with Coach Tom O'Brien, 6:30 p.m. at the Jarrett Building, 100 Haywood Road, Dillsboro, NC. \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children ages 6-12 and free for children ages 6 and under. Contact Nikki Young at (828) 293-1514 or (828)-293-0456 or emailing [nyoung\\_sm@yahoo.com](mailto:nyoung_sm@yahoo.com).

• Highlands Dialogue, 10-11:30 a.m. at The Hudson Library. "Why Religion Must Be Confronted" by Victor K. Stenger. Free Inquiry July 2011, pp. 23-25. (Handout). Coordinator: Creighton Peden. For more info, contact John Gaston [johnngaston@aol.com](mailto:johnngaston@aol.com) or Karen Hawk [hwnkncrw@earthlink.net](mailto:hwnkncrw@earthlink.net).

## Thursday, April 5

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

• Maundy Thursday foot washing, Incarnation Chapel. 7 PM

## Barn dancing at The Bascom this Sat.



The March Winter Barn Dance at The Bascom. Honoring police, firefighters and EMS on Saturday, March 31st; the fun begins at 7 pm. The Bascom's Winter Barn Dances are sponsored by The Bascom, The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, Mountain Fresh Grocery, the Ugly Dog Pub and the Highlands Historical Society. Special thanks to caller Donnie Calloway.

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



# • HEALTH MATTERS •

## New technology near ideal



**Dr. Robert Buchanan**  
[www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com](http://www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com)

able story. Initially the only method to remove fat was surgery with large incisions with a very slow recovery. Approximately 25 years ago a French surgeon developed liposuction, basically vacuuming of excess fat from the body using small cannulae through almost imperceptible incisions. This also markedly reduced the down time to just a couple of days. We have since modified this by injecting a solution into

the fat before aspiration to allow us to use smaller and smaller cannulae to achieve the same results. With new technology came different suction methods. However, none of these, including laser and ultrasound, really provided any advantage.

Recently there has been a flurry of other new technologies to fat reduction. Of these, two have markedly advanced our ability to reduce fat and one has come close to reaching the absolute ideal of no down time, no pain, no surgery, no bruising, normal-

appearing results and essentially no complications.

The first of these essentially froze the

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 19

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John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**

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Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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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**

(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)

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Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

Choir - 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. - 7 p.m.

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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**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 •

**We all  
need 'Good  
Tension'**



**Pastor Gary Hewins  
Community Bible Church**

Ideally, voters only cast their ballots for political candidates that have been properly "vetted." Right? By "vetting" we mean that a voter has come to an understanding of the candidate's past, their personal and political views, experience level, endorsements etc. In other words, a candidate is deemed worthy of votes based on an established and earned level of authenticity.

Once in office, our elected officials function in a political system that thrives on tension. Isn't it great that we have political parties that keep one another in check. This is good tension.

Wouldn't that be cool if every voter really "vetted" the candidates? Seemingly, if that actually happened, our political system would only improve, right? That is to say we often end up with less than what we want or need if we draw important conclusions based on a less than thorough investigation. As is often said, "You shouldn't judge a book by its cover." Right?

What book has the most boring cover ever? That's right, the Bible. I think many people vote for or against the Bible apart from a thorough "vetting" process. I don't think many Christians have properly "vetted" the Bible. That's not cool. It doesn't mean their "vote" is wrong it just means they need to further investigate. For instance, I am pretty sure that the Bible is not properly understood in its relationship to science. Science is simply the pursuit of truth through empirical, measurable and repeatable means. How then can true science be an enemy of the Bible? We all need to do some quality "vetting".

We live in the "Bible-belt," but typically Christ isn't properly "vetted." His claims, death, burial and resurrection often remain "unvetted" in many people's minds and hearts. Many immature Christians need to further "vet" the authenticity of Christ. There is nothing to be afraid of-He can take it. I used to be a skeptic. But then again, in all honesty, I never really tested Scripture. It just felt better doubting so I could justify myself. It felt good and I like feeling good so that worked at least for a little while. Eventually, you have to deal with it-one way or another.

Unfortunately, I don't think many skeptics have been presented with a properly communicated defense of the Bible. I have spent a lot of time as of late listening to atheists and Christians debate cosmology, the authority of Scripture, the resurrection and historicity of Christ, the authenticity of the Bible etc. It's an important endeavor but it does get boring and redundant after awhile. It is like watching professional ping-pong --a lot of back and

• See SPIRITUALLY page 22



didn't people give me a chance to show who I was? Later in life, I wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of Casual Friday at the office. It bothered me to conclude – as did the hierarchy – that sloppy dress often leads to sloppy thinking. By the time I resigned from my job to move to Highlands, management was rethinking Casual Friday. Not usually one for New Year's Resolutions, I made one this year. I would never leave the house without wearing make-up, and I would make an effort to always dress a little better. It does cheer me up to present a better more polished image to the world, and I've noticed that people react to me in a more positive way. After all, giving folks someone nice to look at is surely a courtesy to the people you are going to interact with that day. The same goes for the language you use.

Several months ago, I was cornered by a woman who boomed in a loud voice, "Can I bore you with photos of my new grandbaby?" Before I could answer, she grabbed my arm, and propelled me into a chair. She opened up a huge purse – the sort of thing that looked like Louis Vuitton was now making garbage bags - and hauled out a photo album the size of a small accordion. For the next 20 minutes, she proceeded to explain details of people I would probably never meet in person, and didn't particularly care to know. Happy as a clam to have a captive audience, she was

blissfully unaware of my eyes glazing over, and the stifled yawn I barely could suppress. With a final grand gesture, she showed me the last photo, snapped the album shut, and declared "Oh, I just can't help braggin' on my grandbaby!" It was the last straw.

I'm not saying that I don't make grammatical mistakes in what I write. Rumor has it that a local retired English teacher reads both of the Highlands' papers, circling our mistakes in red pencil. This fills me with terror, because I know I must give her plenty of ammunition. Still, I dedicate this column to my fellow curmudgeons who still battle to keep the English language from deteriorating into total chaos. And me? Well, I'm going back and reading *En Attendant Godot* by Samuel Beckett. There's a nasty rumor that a new modern translation is calling it *Waiting on Godot*.

• 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. Michelle discovered a fun website, and took their test on prepositions (<http://www.better-english.com/grammar/prepositions.htm>). Her score was 95%. For those wanting to know more about obscure words, check out the Olive Forbes Word of the Day on Facebook.

### Clear Creek Baptist Church

P.O. Box 1417  
Highlands, NC 28741  
"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink."  
Jesus Christ  
John 7:37b



March 10, 2012

Dear Friends,

We will be dedicating our *completed and fully funded* fellowship hall on Sunday, April 1, 2012. We want to thank you for the part you played in bringing this vision into reality. We will be celebrating both Sunday morning at 11:00 am when we will dedicate the building to the service and glory of God, and Sunday evening at 6:00 pm as we fellowship over dinner with all those who made this possible. It would be our honor if you could attend either or both occasions.

To God be the glory, and thank you for your obedience and sacrifice to our Savior as you gave of your finances, time and talent!

Yours in Christ,

*Jim Kinard*

Jim Kinard  
Pastor

EASTER WEEKEND @ COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

# life points

real life.  
real answers.

Pastor Gary  
Hewins answers  
questions skeptics  
have formed  
about the validity  
of the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ

good friday,  
april 6 @ 7 pm  
new family auditorium

## eggfest



Egg hunt for  
kids through 5th  
grade! Food, fun,  
games, inflatable slides,  
bounce houses & more!

SAT, APR 7  
12 - 2 PM  
HIGHLANDS REC  
PARK SOFTBALL  
FIELD

## Easter Sunday

Pastor Gary preaches on  
"Raising Questions  
About the  
Resurrection" in the  
newly renovated sanctuary,  
containing a new 120-seat balcony.  
Grade school children  
will love the exciting and  
worshipful children's service!

Sun, April 8 @ 10:45 am



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# Out of San Luis Planes, Honduras – Part 2

By Alex Osteen

**W**hat would you do if you chopped off your little finger with your machete while on the job in Highlands? Sounds like a totally ridiculous question, doesn't it? First of all, and luckily, we don't typically use machetes in Highlands.

Secondly, if someone did have an accident while working, there is a wonderfully-run hospital that offers state-of-the art services just down the road. In San Luis Planes, Honduras, the mountain town where I lived and worked for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer, that's simply not the case. But at this moment, a group of people is working hard to change this reality.

Like in many rural villages across the Third World, the overall health conditions in San Luis Planes are not the best because of the general poverty and lack of education there. The most common health problems are things that we treat and prevent quite successfully in the First World, like water-borne parasites, malnutrition, and diseases carried by mosquitoes. Shouldn't we, as humans inhabiting this same tiny planet, breathing the same air, be able to eliminate this stuff everywhere in the world?

That's exactly what this a project I'm involved with is all about.

My friends and neighbors in San Luis Planes have become tired of waiting for the Honduran government to do something to help them solve their health problems and decided to take matters into their own hands.

The Town Council declared expanding the Health Clinic its top priority. As it stands now, the Health Clinic barely covers 700 square feet. That's about the size of a master bathroom in some of the homes in Highlands. The one nurse who works there is over-worked and underpaid and

doesn't have the adequate equipment or supplies to meet all the area's health demands. In other words, there is a lot of work to be done.

An architect has drawn up the blueprints of an expansion that will triple the square footage of the building, adding or converting ten new rooms including a maternity ward, a doctor's office, and a larger waiting room. It will also meet the minimum requirements that the Honduran Ministry of Health has in order to be sent a full-time doctor.

Thus, the Health Clinic will be able to offer new health services and they will be able to begin doing health education and preventative health, which are really the sustainable solutions to their health problems.

The entire project, materials and labor – everything — costs almost 800,000 lempiras, which is approximately \$40,000. I went with this Health Clinic committee to talk to the mayor of their municipality about the project and she agreed to provide 65% of the total costs. That's a notable difference from a lot of projects in the Third World, in which the beneficiaries expect most funds to come from outside sources.

My town members will also be putting up all the manual labor which, by the estimates of our architect, comes out to be about 900 person-days of work. The fact that locals are contributing most of the funding and work and will directly benefit from the project means that they are totally invested in its continuing success.

My town is only short about \$15,000 to buy the rest of the construction materials. Originally, we had been expecting to get this money from the Peace Corps, but since all Peace Corps volunteers had to be evacuated from the country, our grant proposal was ultimately rejected. I decided that instead of letting this project fall by the wayside because of things totally out of these people's hands, I would take on the fundraising myself.

Currently, I am raising awareness about this project, hence this article and various talks I have given around town. But this summer I will be holding my central fundraising event in Highlands.

In the meantime, if you would like to contribute to this project, you can make a tax-deductible donation through the Methodist or Presbyterian churches in town or you can do it online at [hondurashealthcenter.weebly.com](http://hondurashealthcenter.weebly.com). Every penny counts! I am also very happy to answer questions and always love the chance to talk about my town and Honduras and the exciting development work that's going on there. My email is [alex.osteen.pchn@gmail.com](mailto:alex.osteen.pchn@gmail.com).

Having grown up here in Highlands, then leaving and coming back, I now realize how unique a place Highlands really is. People in this little town have done so much to support a great deal of worthy causes around the world and continue to do so now. I am grateful for that positive influence in my life and hope that good work never stops.



Alex Osteen in Honduras



The Health Clinic from the front, with patients waiting outside because of the lack of space in the waiting room inside—luckily, that day it wasn't raining.

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## ... EMPLOYEES continued from page 1

volumes, but once the human element is factored in, another story emerges.

There are 53 permanent full-time employees and two retirees covered by the town's insurance plan and the majority of them showed up Thursday, March 22 for the special called Town Board meeting.

Mayor David Wilkes opened the meeting saying there wouldn't be a vote on the matter, but the board was there to give employees an opportunity to speak and the board would take their comments under advisement.

But before the insurance issue was discussed, employees made no bones about being insulted by Mayor Wilkes' comment made at the March 20 Town Board meeting where is said "I won't accept or tolerate the disrespecting of elected officials over decisions this board makes."

Employees took offense to being "painted with a broad brush" when the actions Wilkes referred to were due to only one employee.

According to Commissioner Brian Stiehler, a town employee vandalized his property on three occasions and it was assumed it was due to the board's decision concerning family insurance coverage. Though Stiehler reported the incident to the town, he chose not to press charges or bring it up publicly.

However Wilkes did, and he directed his scolding to "all" employees and that's what they took offense to.

The insurance issue soon took over and to the person, the message was the same. Taking away family coverage would economically affect town employees and their families.

"Please reconsider so we don't have to be the working poor," said Dawn James, who works at the water plant.

Each month the employee portion of the dependent premium costs \$161.43 for family coverage, \$92.06 for employee/spouse coverage and \$59.25 for employee/child coverage.

Broken into 26 pay periods, it would cost an employee \$74.51 for family coverage, \$42.49 for employee/spouse coverage and \$27.35 for employee/child coverage per paycheck.

Some employees said they could make more money if they lived elsewhere; and if they had to buy family coverage some said they could purchase cheaper insurance than what the town offers, but it was the principal of the thing and they would just rather have the current package.

"Look elsewhere for money," said

James. "Cut somewhere else."

As the town's "invisible" people, she suggested commissioners and citizens don't really know what goes on behind the scenes and how much work town employees do not only daily but on holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To a person, the employees said they are happy working for the town; that they appreciate the town and they love their jobs.

Tommy Carpenter who works in the Sanitation Department said paying 100% family coverage isn't unique to Highlands and suggested commissioners do some research on the matter but if they have to cut, at least consider a 50% cap in two years.

But Clay Talley, who works in the Electric Department said frankly, he doesn't care what other towns do. "Highlands stands on its own. Be different than other towns. Highlands ain't broke."

Yogi McCall, who is in charge of the Electric Department, said cutting family coverage will make a liar out of him. "I hired these people who came with the intent that insurance was totally paid for. Please reconsider," he said.

Joe Allen said he quit a job he had for 25 years and took a job for Highlands with a pay cut because he got 100% insurance. "We need insurance for our families. If we didn't like it here, we would hit the road. Taking away the insurance is disrespecting us," he said.

David Leffler said it was nice that the board was holding this meeting, but it would have been nice to hear about the town's plans first-hand rather than in the papers and through hearsay. "That should have been the first meeting," he said.

Wade Shope said it was a slap in their faces when Town Manager Frye discussed the board's plans with them after it was disclosed and said if the employees didn't like it they could "hit the road" and that there are plenty of people who would want their jobs.

Matt Shuler, GIS/IT, said according to the MAPS study done a few years ago, the salaries Highlands pays employees is a little below the norm but the insurance package is the drawing card.

He also said the town's employees are top-notch and not just "warm bodies." He suggested the town look elsewhere for insurance saying that Kevin Corbin in Franklin might be able to offer a better package. The town currently buys insurance from Wayah. He, too, suggested a cap for family coverage.

Mike Hampton said his wife suffers from Lupus and her medical bills are \$8,000 a month. "I really need this coverage. I pay \$1,000 out of my pocket every month for

that lady to draw another breath. Losing insurance will kick slats out from under me big time. Please do your best to keep as good of insurance as you can," he said.

Magistrate/citizen Pat Taylor told the board that Highlands offers wonderful services to citizens, visitors and second-home owners. "It's this body of employees who are responsible for delivering those services. You should provide the best for our em-

ployees." At the previous Town Board meeting, he suggested the town look elsewhere to cut costs and other ways to raise revenues, even a milage increase.

Visibly moved by the testimonies, commissioners said how much they appreciate the town employees.

The issue will be discussed at the April 3 Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building.

- **Kim Lewicki**

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## ... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 15

fat causing it to break up and be absorbed by the body. There is no down time and excellent results; however, the procedure is significantly painful. The other method is Zerona. This has a laser on each of five arms that can be placed in various positions over the body. One simply lies under the machine three times a week for two weeks and the fat actually melts away. Unlike the other method, there is no pain whatsoever. The laser penetrates the skin into the fat causing the fat to simply leak out of the cells where it is absorbed by the body and excreted. Although skeptical that this was too good to be true, the data supported the machine's efficacy. Since we have had it available we have had remarkable success in reducing fat. A recent patient lost several inches each from the abdomen, hips and thighs and nine pounds in two weeks.

Like liposuction, this does not shrink skin but simply removes fat. One might, therefore, ask if it has replaced liposuction. The answer is "not yet." Thus far, this method reduces fat more generally than liposuction. However, we are working with positioning the Laser arms and have been able to eliminate fat in very specific areas as well as in the generalized areas for which the machine was originally designed.

If we are able to further develop localized fat reduction, then Zerona may replace liposuction except for very small areas, such as under the chin and the neck and in areas of irregularity around scars, etc. There, however, the liposuction can be done easily under local anesthesia with essentially no down time and no pain.

What, then, are its present uses? Probably the best is where the fat is more generalized in multiple larger areas such as the abdomen and thighs. Here liposuction is

not a good alternative because the more areas one suctions the higher the risks and the slower the recovery.

Since Zerona is an excellent, non-invasive way of losing inches, one of its better uses has proven to be jump-starting a more generalized weight-loss program.

Weight loss is, theoretically, simply taking in fewer calories than you need each day. However, in reality, it is much more complex. The calories have to be available at the right time and of the proper composition so they are not stored as fat. Additionally, the brain partially determines whether you are successful or not.

We have known for years that people who undergo liposuction or have an abdominoplasty after losing as much weight as they could, frequently lose significantly more weight after the procedure. We believe that the brain resets its body image to one of a skinnier person and, therefore, simply does not allow you to eat as much as you previously did.

After Zerona, you should regain what you lost since Zerona does not modify the cell; it simply pulls the stored fat from it. However, we have been seeing the inches remain off. We believe that the brain resets itself after Zerona also and you simply eat as your skinnier self should.

Though there are still many areas where further development can significantly reduce down time, risks and discomfort, we do now have one methodology that meets all these criteria.

Dr. Buchanan practices full time at The Center for Plastic Surgery on the campus of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and has the Zerona technology available. For more information, visit him at PlasticSurgeryToday.com.

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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](http://www.highlandscnc.org) or at Town Hall. For more information, feel free to contact the Town of Highlands at 828.526.2118. (4/26)

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## ... CALENDAR continued from page 1

Jim Breedlove and Stephanie McCall had several questions for the representatives, particularly in regards to how progress is to be measured at the end of the school year.

During the public comment section of the BOE meeting, Mrs. Sabrina Hawkins, who is aligned with and has been the local spokesperson for the Raleigh-based organization Save Our Summers, presented her case against the proposed school calendar, noting that she did not agree with the proposed start date because it did not mesh well with the Southwestern Community College Calendar and that a Fall Break provided “no educational value” and was simply in place because the teachers wanted a Fall Break. The BOE thanked Mrs. Hawkins for her time and her comments and moved into the consent portion of the agenda.

At the start of the consent portion, a motion was made to move the consent agenda into executive session, and

that motion was seconded. The BOE then moved to approve fundraisers from Highlands, Franklin and East Franklin Elementary. After a short recess to reconfigure the setup of the tables within the Highlands Gymnasium, the BOE then moved to discuss the two items up for approval in regards to curriculum and instruction.

The first item of approval was the 2012-14 Technology Plan for Macon County, which was approved by the Board. The second item was the 2012-13 School Calendar, which contains a start date of August 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 and an ending date of May 24, 2013. The calendar contains 180 school days, a shortened fall break, a full spring break and built-in days in case of inclement weather. Highlands Principal Brian Jetter was excited about the calendar saying “it is a great calendar because it works well for both the students and the teachers.”



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

... SPIRITUALLY  
from page 16

# Operation Medicine Drop nets thousands of pills

The Macon County Sheriff's Office, Franklin Police Department and Highlands Police Department collected a total of 32,310 dosage units of medication during Operation Medicine Drop on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The Sheriff's Office Narcotics unit will transport the medication to the NCSBI office in Asheville so that the drugs can be destroyed safely and properly.



## H-C Hospital nursing staff continues to excel

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's nursing team member, Dixie Stewart, RN has recently received her Medical-Surgical Nurse certification through the American Nurses Association. Medical-Surgical certification is an advanced study of nursing that focuses on episodic patient events and chronic conditions. The academic curriculum ranges from trauma and acute to respiratory and post surgery care. "I believe it is important to keep up with the continually changing and improving medical procedures and treatments in the nursing profession. Our HCH nursing team strives every day and with every patient to exceed the typical standards of care," said Stewart, who has 30 years experience. "This certification gives me added knowledge and confidence to provide my patients the best possible care."

"Our hospital has more than 75 nurses working alongside experienced and committed Medical Staff with one goal in mind, to provide the highest levels of quality health care available," said Eileen Lipham, Chief Nursing Officer. "Achieving advanced nursing certifications, says that our nurses are committed to an ongoing process of education, and staying up to date in their skills and abilities to treat our patients."

Thanks to the Hospital's Auxiliary, Dixie Stewart received a



**Dawn Stewart, Med/Surg Certified**

scholarship to fund the cost of the course and materials. The Auxiliary Scholarship Program provides up to four awards per semester for HCH staff members who pursue additional training in the health-care field.

"We are very proud of the dedicated members of our nursing staff. They are committed to providing outstanding, compassionate care to all of our patients. There are so many times our well-being is put into their hands; it's time to express our gratitude for the exceptional care they continue to give," said President and CEO, Craig James.

forth but never really going anywhere. There is definitely something missing.

I have spent a lot of time recently thinking and preparing for a new format to communicate and lovingly deal with these issues this spring. So, since I was asked to write this article, here are some of my conclusions. First, many Christians need to beef up on their defense of the gospel. Christ needs some more "vetting." In this respect, we need to grow up a bit. Logic and faith are not so far apart. Jesus said he wants all of our hearts and minds. Let's think more. Not everything has to be taken at face value. Secondly, some who truly oppose the Bible are typically agitated on some level about it. I'm just saying. Relax. It will be OK. I also observe that most of the time, the agitation is towards the Bible not other "holy books." Why do you think that is? Tension is good and expected when confronted with truth. By nature, that's what truth should do. Agitation, in that respect, is a form of confirmation that truth is being encountered. In the spirit of learning, growing and developing, it wouldn't hurt to expose yourself to a unique presentation of Scripture that has more in common with your current views than you may realize.

I don't like lifeless dead religion either. I get it. You actually can properly search out the Bible and really enjoy it! Before you cast your final vote as a skeptic, make sure you have properly vetted Christ. Before you exercise your God-given volition make sure you have a "whole," balanced perspective. In the end, if the Christian is actually dead wrong, well OK. Yet, in the end if your disbelief is dead wrong, well? Not so ok.

In the meantime consider inviting this type of tension into your life. The tension between what you currently are betting your life on and He who already put his life on the line so you wouldn't have to risk anything. I welcome your comments, challenges to Scripture and questions dealing with all aspects of the Bible.   
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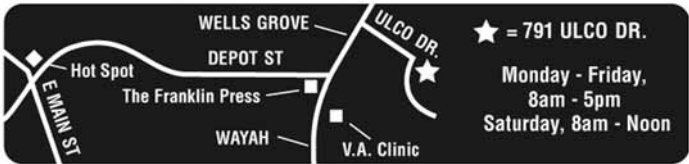
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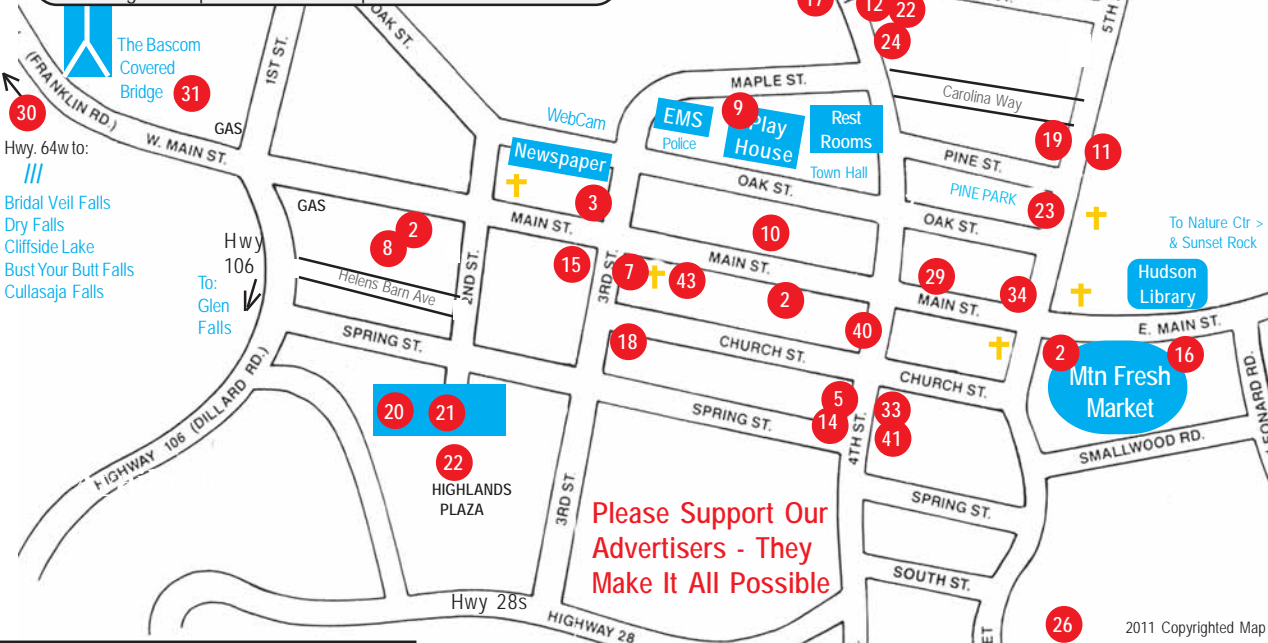
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**Saturday, March 31**  
• Oliver Rice and the Dixie Blue Ridge Mountain Boys will play two sets, one at 5 p.m., the second at 7 pm. Saturday at the Satolah firehouse on NC 28. Food begins at 4. All proceeds to benefit fellow firefighter Joe Munger and family.  
• Barn Dance at The Bascom celebrating police, fire & rescue and EMS. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 but free to police, fire & rescue and EMS.  
**Sunday, April 1**  
• The movie "Courageous" at Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th St., at 6:30 p.m.  
• Clear Creek Baptist Church new fellowship hall dedication at 11 a.m. and again at 6 p.m over a fellowship dinner. All are invited.

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Map labels include: Dog Park, Civic Center Rec Park, H-C Players, H-C Chamber Music, Historic Village, Mtn. Findings, The Bascom Covered Bridge, Newspaper, EMS, Police, Play House, Rest Rooms, Town Hall, Hudson Library, Mtn Fresh Market, Highlands Plaza, and various streets like Main St, 4th St, 5th St, etc.

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