

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 19

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Thursday, May 10, 2012

Thursday-Sunday, May 10-13

• Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Friday & Saturday, May 11-12

• The Highlands Biological Station's Wildflower Whimsey to celebrate the Highlands Botanical Garden's 50th anniversary. Friday's event 5-8pm is free. Saturday's event is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. For more information, call (828) 526-2221.

Saturday, May 12

• The Thomas Legion SCV Camp is hosting a Confederate Memorial Day Celebration at the Tolbert House in Cashiers at 11 a.m. A traditional Confederate soldier meal of grits and fatback will be served.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society Lonesome Valley bird walk in Cashiers. Car-pool from The Bascom parking lot in Highlands at 7:30 am. Cashiers and Sapphire Valley residents car-pool from behind Wendy's restaurant, or may go directly to Lonesome Valley. The walk will begin at 8 am sharp. Call 743-9670 or 526-1939 with questions.

• Curtis Smalling will be presenting a program at The Bascom on "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau: Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place," at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15

• Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Snow Flower & The Secret Fan.

• Some Cosmetic representative doing a FREE drug-free makeovers at Creative Concepts. A \$70 value. Call 526-3939

Wednesday, May 16

• Dr. Barry H. Bodie, Board Certified Urologist, will present "Prostate Health: Latest Information and Research" at 12 noon in suite 103 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the Hospital's campus. RSVP (828) 526-1313.

Thurs.-Sat., May 17-19

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival. To attend, please visit TheBascom.org/collectivespirits or call 828.787.2896.

Fencing & lighting in town now regulated

By Ryan Potts

The Town of Highlands approved over \$31,000 for repairs to the HVAC system of the Highlands Playhouse as part of a number of measures passed at the regular meeting last Thursday night.

The meeting was called to order and then kicked off with a public acknowledgement of the \$100,000 donation from Horace and Mary Winkler to the Highlands Playhouse. The money will be used to winterize the structure

so it can be used year-round. Mayor David Wilkes recognized and thanked the couple for their "generous donation" to the Highlands Community and the Playhouse.

The Board later moved to

• See FENCING page 12



Kevin Corbin (District 2)



Bobby Kupperts (District 3)



Jim Tate (District 1)

MC Commission incumbents take race

Meadows and Hayden to battle for Shuler's seat

This year's primary election was full of contenders, and at the county level the incumbents won out.

On the Republican ticket, Jim Tate (District 1) beat out Steve Higdon – by a slim margin. Tate got 52.95% of the vote (2,270 votes); Higdon got 47.05% with 2,017 votes.

Kevin Corbin (District 2) got 71.69% of the vote (3,302 votes) over contender Vic Drummond's 28.31% (1,304 votes).

On the Democrat ticket, Bobby Kupperts (District 3) beat

Ricky Snyder with 76.45% of the vote (2,260 votes). Synder got 23.55% and 696 votes.

Kupperts now faces Republican Paul Higdon for the seat in November.

So far, Tate and Corbin don't have any opposition in November, though Independent candidates can sign up later this summer.

Health Shuler's U.S. House of Representatives District 11 seat was full of contenders. There were eight Republicans vying for the seat and three Democrats.

Local Republican Mark Meadows won with 37.90% of the vote – 35,518 votes. Vance Patterson came in second with 23.62% -- 22,139 votes.

In the Democrat arena, Hayden Rogers got 55.71% of the vote – 35,071 votes. Cecil Bothwell came in second with 30.11% of the vote – 18,954 votes.

The Amendment against same sex marriage passed with an overwhelming margin with 1,303,952 votes -- 61.05%.

– Kim Lewicki

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Brigman leaving for Catawba County

The Macon County Board of Education received a resignation from Dr. Brigman, Superintendent of Schools effective June 30, 2012 and so the search is on to replace him.

"The Macon County Board of Education now faces with one of the biggest decisions it will make during its tenure – finding the next leader to serve Macon County School System," said Chairman Tommy Cabe. "Dr. Brigman has done an outstanding job and has successfully led our school system through some very challenging times."

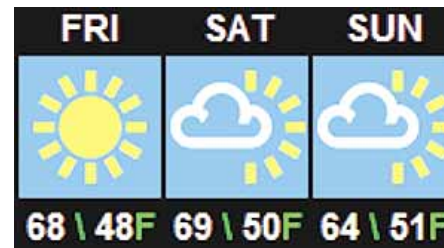
Cabe said he urge the board to expedite a timely transition plan to ensure the stability of the school system is maintained and to establish a process and timeline for filling this critical leadership position.

"We will have further information regarding our interim plan prior to or during our upcoming regular school board meeting in Nantahala on May 21," he said.

Brigman (43) was unanimously appointed the new su-

• See BRIGMAN page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Consider the larger issues

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed being in Highlands for the past 35 years. As a part-time resident, Highlands is my sanctuary after being in the Atlanta Metro area for so long. Highlands is a place which appears kind, innocent and welcoming.

I have read your Letters to the Editor for many years. In defense of Fred Wooldridge, I view him as a humorous voice of sanity. He sometimes helps people snap out of complacency to recognize the world in a more realistic light. As a moderate conservative, I realize that I am surrounded by a hot-bed of liberals; but that is not always a bad thing. The people of Highlands and Macon County offer a gentle and charitable spirit that you don't find in many places. There are many good people with good intentions in this area and that is why I love living in Highlands.

When people lash out at alternative views, it is often because of their core beliefs. People want to believe in what they think they know. Differences in opinion often arise when all facts are not known. It is easy to be charitable and kind to unknown others when you have never experienced the dark underbelly of society that infests so much of our country. Law enforcement officers see the side of society that most people don't.

Like Fred, I am a law enforcement officer. A few years back, I was a corporate drone whose annual bonuses were larger than my current annual salary. I was downsized and now I am a Sheriff's Deputy in a large county jail in a very affluent county. Our jail houses between 2,200 and 3,000 pretrial inmates at any given time. As the economy has worsened, the number of inmates has increased. Surprisingly, you find some decent people in jail who violated traffic laws, and some who simply lost their jobs and could not make the payments to Probation or Child Support Recovery. On the other hand, the majority of inmates in our facility are drug-abusers or predators who seek any opportunity to take what they want from others by any means. Many have been in and out of the facility so many times that it is like a frat house to

them. Some actually think of the jail as home. I am especially troubled by the younger inmates who have no conscience at all. The only remorse they experience is over being caught. There is no remorse over the crimes they commit.

In a protected part of the country, it's easy to be liberal and maintain a lofty view of political correctness while the ugly parts of the world remain distant and don't touch you personally. However, once you don't feel safe to go to a park, walk on a trail, or shop in the mall alone, your opinions begin to change. When you deal with 4th generation welfare recipients who have lived exclusively on entitlements and crime, and they maintain a "you owe me" mentality, your attitudes begin to change. When you gas up your car at 11pm and a hoodie wearing vagrant (or is it a junkie or someone who wants to rob you?) staggers across the parking lot towards you, you begin to feel that the world isn't such a wonderful place. You don't have those situations in Highlands and can't fully relate if you've never experienced them.

In our horribly divisive political environment nowadays, people need to take stock of how this country became a Godless, soulless, litigious, red-tape bound, class-warring society. "We The People" have al-

lowed this to happen. This country was founded on hard work and freedoms. The Constitution promises the opportunity to make something of yourself but there is no indication of a guarantee. The decisions made by each individual shape their lives and it is not the responsibility of our citizenry at large to take care of those who choose not to be productive members of society. What has become of personal responsibility and holding individuals accountable? As we have grown soft on punishing law-breakers and in the enforcement of core laws of this country, our society has begun to break down. We have systematically removed religion from our schools and government. Parents have abdicated the responsibility of teaching morals to their children as they let the almighty school system pour socialist drivel into the heads of our children. The concept of "winning" and "losing" is being phased out of curriculums. We've forgotten much of what this country was founded on. As our core principles and beliefs are fading, the media and our Government entertain with bread and circus to distract us.

Our debt and borrowing rates are unsustainable. There are so many people receiving government benefits who vote for the politicians who will give them more

government benefits that this country is about to implode. It is inevitable that both spending and entitlements must be cut back.

As we sit quietly in Western North Carolina, once there are not enough entitlements and jail cells to hold back that ugly underbelly of society, the blight will come to us in these quiet areas. The gentle people that live here are easy prey. I am ready for it, but I don't think many of the people in Macon County and Highlands are prepared. And no, I'm not some wacko survivalist either. I just know about the ugly parts of our society that most people don't want to acknowledge exist. I see a grizzly analogy between the TV series "The Walking Dead" and what this country will look like if entitlements are cut off. Change the zombies to the entitlement deprived law-breakers and voila!

As you prepare to vote in the upcoming elections, I encourage each person to take a hard look at the larger issues we face if we plan to survive as a country. Spending more money isn't going to fix the problem. Taking money from producers to give to non-producers won't fix the problem. A tax code that is incomprehensible to ordinary people will not fix the problem. Cow-towing to special interest groups won't fix the problem. Politicians influenced by lobbyists won't fix the problem. Socialism won't fix the problem.

Simplification and reduction of government, return to core values, and requiring that all capable bodies earn their fair share will help get us through this crisis. A tax code that leaves no room for politicians to coerce, reward, or exempt classes of taxpayers will help fix the problem. Repealing NAFTA and bringing jobs back to this country will help fix the problem. Preventing the unbridled flow of illegal immigrants who suck up our financial resources and flood our schools will help solve the problem. It's easy to be charitable when money is flowing freely, but now is the time to face reality. We're in deep trouble as a country.

Joe McConnaughey
Highlands

Homophobic or Suppressed Gay?

Dear Editor,

There is mounting sociological, empirical, and even some biological evidence,

• See LETTERS page 13

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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• MILESTONES •

Smith honored



Dorothy Dendy Smith, daughter of Lewis and Mary Lou Dendy of Highlands, was one of two alumni inducted into the Honor Roll of Peak Performers of Western Carolina University's College of Education and Allied Professions.

Paradise graduates



David Paradise, son of Lyle and Nadine Paradise of Highlands, graduated with a BS in Communications - Magna Cum Laude from Western Carolina University.

• OBITUARY •

Marquita Lance McCord

Marquita Lance McCord, 85, passed away Friday, April 27, 2012 in Dowling Park, FL. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, James E. McCord, also of Dowling Park, FL. She was the daughter of the late LT. Gen. Mark W. Lance and wife Madeline.

A native of Avon Park, FL, she moved to Tallahassee in 1935. She was a graduate of Leon High School and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority at Florida State College for Women (now FSU).

Other survivors include her two sons, Mark (Dawn), David (Michael Lisa) and one daughter Becky (Jim), four grandchildren, Lance McCord, Ian McCord, Beth Duncan and Josh Duncan and one great-granddaughter Sophia McCord.

Gifted with a servant's heart, she was relentless in the love and care of her family and friends. Because of God's command for the church to love one another she tenaciously committed her life to that calling.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., EDT, Thursday, May 3, 2012 at Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 814 N. Gadsden Street, Tallahassee, FL with Rev. William

Hobbs officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be made to a memorial fund in her name at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, P.O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

with Fred Wooldridge
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Am I a racist of the worst kind?

You must know, as a satire writer, I get hate mail. No problemo; it comes with the turf. I especially love being called a racist and prejudiced against black people by Highlanders living in a town with zero, yes, I said zero, black people; that's fun, fun, fun for me because of the hypocrisy. I thrive on it. "Sticks and stones" bla, bla, bla.

So that Highlanders could feel more comfortable in calling me a racist, I have suggested our town fathers start a campaign to bring blacks to Highlands so my hate fans won't be so hypocritical when they trash me. It's embarrassing for me that not one black person lives here. I get blank stares from town fathers who assume I'm joking while some Highlanders gasp at the thought of a black full time resident. Years ago we actually had a black lady who was a member of our



church....a well educated Christian lady. Ha, too bad she was black. She finally moved because she felt "uncomfortable" living here, reporting the prejudice is subtle but definitely present.

Why is it that folks who live the furthest from black Americans are those who are the quickest to throw the "r" word around? It seems as if you disagree with a person's political position, you simply call them a racist.

I'm sure everyone reading this newspaper could agree we are products of our environment, education and upbringing. Just for a minute, think about how you got to where you are right now with your feelings, attitude and thinking, especially on the hot-button items

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 9



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Who is in control ... you or your depression?

It sucks to be depressed. I know. I've been. Ten per cent of the American population is taking an antidepressant medicine. Either there is one hell of an epidemic, or antidepressants are being prescribed for sore throats.

In the old days, when I was frequently depressed, the advice was to get over it, or pull oneself up by one's own boot straps. That was before the introduction of effective medicines. Now they say depression is the result of a chemical imbalance. I don't doubt it one bit.

Chemicals control everything. It is all about transmitters and receptors, agonists and antagonists, excitement and inhibition. The feelings of love and hate are no doubt chemically mediated. We learn by developing networks of neurons and communication between the networks is chemically mediated. Courage and cowardice must be the consequence of some chemical balance or imbalance. When I fell in love with my wife, it was probably because a huge load of dopamine attacked some love center deep in the brain. So far, so good.

The thing about depression and chemical imbalance is that people seem to try to escape responsibility by blaming chemicals, much the way fat people



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

blamed their obesity on a "glandular disorder" when I was a kid. If some gland was the culprit, I couldn't be held responsible. Reduced caloric intake and increased exercise were useless against the dreaded gland.

I don't for one minute doubt a chemical basis for depression. The thing is; if we accept the inevitability of the chemical origin of depression and our inability to set the chemicals straight, we abdicate control over it. We can't hide behind these chemical gremlins. We must confront them, master them, make them submit to our will.

Severe clinical depression is no laughing matter and counseling and antidepressants can literally be life saving. I just think we short change ourselves and the marvelous capacity of human beings if we surrender to Prozac every time we feel blue.

We have aerobics, yoga, and Dr. Phil to help us reach our potential. We have alcoholics anonymous and weight watchers to help one another do so. When I hear John Lennon sing "Imagine" or watch Shaun White high above a half pipe, flamboyantly mocking gravity, I start to appreciate the human potential.

You might enjoy a similar reaction when you hear a Beethoven symphony one watch Baryshnikov soar above the stage. We

can do such marvelous things. Surely we can force ourselves to smile, get out of bed, go to work.

These chemicals are such volatile things. They can rise to dizzying levels and make us soar if the head cheer leader accepts our invitation to a movie. They can bring us crashing down when a beloved pet dies. Chemical imbalance causes depression, but it is our responsibility to bring the chemicals back in balance. There are strategies to accomplish this. They include, but are not limited to, counseling and antidepressants. Getting over it and pulling oneself up by his own boot straps still works. Alcohol, extra thick shakes, and self pity don't. I know. Years ago I sat at my kitchen table with a gun in my hand.



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... BRIGMAN continued from page 1

perintendent of Catawba County Schools May board of education's meeting. His four-year contract begins July 1. Brigman said he plans to visit the county frequently prior to that so he can work with current superintendent Glenn Barger to familiarize himself with the system.

Brigman will receive a yearly salary of \$160,000 and is eligible for annual salary increases on the state scale.

Board Chairwoman Joyce Spencer said Brigman was selected over the other 26 applicants because his top qualities were what the board, the community and the faculty and staff wanted.

She said he excels as a communicator, in creating a budget, and shines as a collaborator with parents and the com-

munity.

Brigman has served as Macon County Schools Superintendent since October 2006. Prior to that, he was superintendent of a school system in Manchester, Tenn. He has also worked as a director of middle grades curriculum and K-12 gifted education at Rowan-Salisbury Schools and as a high school principal and assistant principal in Transylvania and Alexander counties. Brigman started in education as a teacher and principal at a middle school and alternative high school in Tennessee.

Brigman said he was honored to be selected as superintendent of Catawba County Schools. "I am very excited to have this leadership opportunity," he said.

- **Kim Lewicki**

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• BACK DAYS •

The story of the Frank and Belle McKinney Potts family

By Nancy Potts Coward

When he came home in the afternoon, he would always bring a treat for the children – hard candy, orange slices, Hershey kisses, or rolls of Necco wafers. Mama fixed a big Sunday dinner,

to which the Methodist preacher and relatives were often invited. She was a superb cook and from a wood stove in which the temperature could be controlled only by the amount of fuel fed it, she turned out culinary wonders. Any

one of us children could name our particular favorites. Among mine were her split pea soup, creamed chicken, homemade bread and big buns (she scorned bakery bread), mashed potatoes, big lima beans, mince pie (she canned her own mince meat at hog-killing time), crumb pie, coconut cake (always with freshly grated coconut). All her children, men and women, are good cooks – she would come to haunt us if we weren't.

What a woman she was! If Daddy were a general, she was top sergeant. Frank ran the business, but she ran the house. Through her kitchen came enormous amounts of garden produce to be cooked, canned or dried. At hog-killing time there were hams to be salted down and sausage made, fried or canned. Once a week, the old washing machine was dragged out, two rinse tubs were set up, and the wash for a family of seven was done. Anything the slightest bit dingy or stained was put in a pan of hot Clorox water on the stove. Bluing added to the last rinse assured white things would be sparkling white.

Mama believed in starch and she made her own. Once Jack and Steve joined Daddy in working at the store during summer months, there were 21 white shirts a week, starched so still they could stand alone. Poor Betsy bore the brunt of the hardest ironing. Jessie and I were started on handkerchiefs, aprons, and pillow cases – but once Betsy married, we got promoted.

The house was heated by stoves and a fireplace downstairs and by nothing upstairs. The quilts on our beds were quilted by her. It was in my memory that a bathroom was put upstairs; until then the only one was in the basement. All the bedrooms were on the second floor and there as an attic as well, so there were three flights of stairs to deal with.

The floors were hardwood and had to be waxed and polished. Mama, or her three assistants, her

daughters, cleaned it all with a broom and a mop. She never owned a vacuum cleaner, an electric stove, or a refrigerator. An ice-box substituted for the latter.

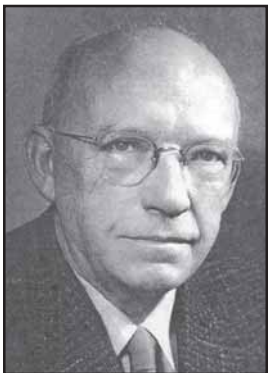
In addition to home responsibilities, she did a pretty good job of running almost every civic organization or charitable drive in town. PTA, the Satulah Club, the American Red Cross, the March of Dines. Today, given the opportunities her children have had, she would be chairman of the board. Once she told me – in a rare moment of letting me glimpse her deepest thoughts – “Frank thinks you kids got all your brains from him, but you didn't.”

Daddy did his share of community service, too. Steve had a paper showing that at one time he was paid an annual salary of \$20 for serving as Town Clerk. In his more mature years, he served on the school board, the welfare board, the Board of County Commissioners. He was a quiet man – with five children around, perhaps he didn't get much opportunity to talk. I never saw him angry, but those who did felt one time was enough. He read the Saturday Evening Post, Collier's Magazine, Grit and the Atlanta Constitution. He always wore a suit and necktie. He had a good male smell of Camel cigarettes.

At the store, he and Uncle Roy, probably unconsciously, had hit on a division of labor. Frank

(Daddy) did the managing while Uncle Roy took care of the clerks and the customers. My memory of him is of his sitting at his desk in the back right-hand corner where the coal stove, jutting out into the room, made a kind of division. He would be talking to a drummer, working on the ledgers, or taking an order by phone. The store had charge accounts and made home deliveries. When school was in session, we kids nearly always stopped by the store before walking home. On report card day, we always did. He would study the card very seriously, joke with someone about “how terrible these grades are” and then sign “F.H.Potts.” His pride in us was far more effective in making us want to excel than any bribe he could have offered.

Highlands was no different from other parts of the United States in that the 1920s was the time of the big land boom. Uncle Arthur says that Granddaddy, Daddy and Nic (Roy) went land crazy. When the boom went bust, the Depression years were hard. Though he never mortgaged our home, Leggon Ledbetter held a deed of trust on the store. People bought groceries, but they couldn't afford to pay their grocery bills. Daddy, knowing that children would be hungry, could not refuse them food.



Frank and Belle Potts
– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society



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• COACH'S CORNER •

On the subject of Homers

In life, there are two types of fans. There are the rational fans who try and look at things from a logical perspective, and then there are homers. Homers are the people who unabashedly love their chosen team/side. There are political homers, religious homers, sports homers...they come in all shapes and sizes. Today, I have to admit that I am one of the biggest homers around for Highlands School.

Admittedly, the fact me, my father, my grandfather, etc. attended Highlands School certainly accounts for a portion of my homerdom. Add the fact that I am currently employed by Highlands School, as is my wife, and my kids go to Highlands School and you could certainly make the argument that I am emotionally and financially invested in the school. However, at this point in my life, I feel that there is no compelling argument that can be made to convince me that Highlands is not the most excellent opportunity for any child who attends.

While private schools offer small class sizes and individualized attention for a substantial cost, Highlands School provides those comforts at a public school price. The small size of our school also provides excellent opportunities to sample various disciplines such as arts and music. Additionally, the community support for our school is outstanding, and provides many unique opportunities for our students. From firing pottery at the Bascom to touring the Old Edwards Inn as part of a High School business class, there are many different outlets for creativity and growth.

Highlander athletic teams have been Conference Champions in three separate sports this past season, and four Highlander athletes in the past three years have gone on to participate in sports at the college level.

When you consider that less than 8% of all high school athletes go on to play at the NCAA or NAIA level (this includes D1-D3 schools) it is apparent that despite our small size, Highlands is competitive in terms of allowing athletes to have the opportunity to continue their career after High School. The



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

old saying goes "if you can play, then they will find you," and that is certainly true.

I experienced this firsthand when I received my first recruiting letter after my junior year of high school. (We went 4-20 and this was before the internet explosion and maxpreps statkeeping.)

Highlands is also one of the safest schools in the state of North Carolina. Having taught at larger schools where metal detectors and school violence was a legitimate threat, it is a welcome feeling to arrive at the school each morning and have the knowledge that the school is a safe environment.

Lately, I have been reflecting upon how fortunate I have been to have grown up in this community and attend/work at this school. The people here are truly remarkable and caring people, and even when I lived in other places, I would look forward to coming home and speaking to people by name in the local businesses and at local events. It is also a wonderful opportunity to see the kids of my old classmates grow up and see their faces around the school.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to live and grow on the mountain are truly blessed...even if it does turn some of us into homers.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

BUMMER!

I know this sounds cynical, but I was holding off on starting this column until news of the May Day activities was in. Well, I'm still waiting. As one observer put it – "it was a dud." What happened to the Communists, the Socialists, the Marxists, the union thugs? I understood they were going to close New York down, and unless the news reporters decided to take the day off, as was recommended by the organizers, nuttin happened.

No bridges closed of which I'm aware. No significant street jamming, subways ran as usual. Where were the unemployed, unwashed, unaware 99% on their day of solidarity? What is this world coming to?

Now, the West Coast seemed to get the picture with puny attempts at riots being squashed in Seattle, Oakland, LA. So now that I have no major events to write about, it's going to be potluck.

The New York Times reports that "CNN Ratings Decline Stirs Worries." CNN (Clinton News Network) long ago ceded the No. 1 position among cable news channels to Fox News. But now

CNN seems to be ceding the no. 2 position to MSNBC." How the mighty have fallen. But then, what would you expect from an outfit whose ideology comes before their objectivity (not that MSNBC IS ANY BARGAIN). Fox beats them both combined.

Meanwhile, from the Guardian: "Soros-Funded Group Calls On FCC To Remove Fox Licences." Apparently the British spell licenses differently than we do. "A Washington-based ethics watchdog is calling on federal regulators to revoke News Corporation's 27 Fox broadcast licences in the wake of the highly critical report on phone hacking from the UK parliament.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (Soros funded) has written to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission calling on the regulator to pull the plug on Rupert Mur-



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

doch's lucrative television licences on grounds of character." What would Soros know about character? Sounds like an attempt to silence the opposition to me.

Now, this one won't mean much to you, but Elizabeth Warren is my female counterpart of Al Gore. Liz, a preppy ex-law professor, served as Assistant to the President (Obama) and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Try putting that title on a business card.

She was canned when she was pilloried by the financial community for her work in connection with Dodd-Frank. Both Obama and Geithner lost faith in her.

So, since she couldn't cut it playing with the big boys, she is challenging Scott Brown for his Massachusetts Senate seat. Since she is ultra-liberal and Mass. is an ultra-liberal state, and, as the epitome of PC, she may have a chance. Rasmussen has them tied at the moment.

So here is this blond middle-aged woman with close cropped hair and Ben Franklin glasses claiming she's Native American. WHAT?? Now, in no way should this be taken as a commentary on our Native American friends. It's about Liz.

According to the Associated Press: "Mass. Senate Candidate Elizabeth Warren Explains Past Listing Of Native American Heritage. Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren said she listed herself as having Native American Heritage in law school directories because she hoped to meet people with similar roots.

Warren, a Harvard Law School professor, said she never tried to use minority status to get teaching jobs and criticized the campaign of Republican Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown for suggesting that may have been the case.

I listed myself in the directory in the hopes that might mean that I would be invited to a luncheon, a group, something that might happen with people who are like I am."

"Being Native American has been part of my story I guess since the day I was born." From the Boston Herald: "Warren's statements come as genealogists at the New England Historic Genealogical Society were unable to back up earlier accounts that her great great great grandmother is Cherokee." Warren is what is wrong with government at any level.

Also, from Associated Press: "Republicans on the House Oversight Committee were to take the first formal step toward contempt proceedings against Attorney General Eric Holder over the Fast and Furious 'gunwalking' operation, CBS News has learned.

The case for a citation declaring Holder in contempt will be laid out in a briefing paper and 48-page draft citation distributed to Democrats and Republicans on the committee. CBS News has obtained copies of both documents. In them, Republican members use strong language to accuse Holder of obstructing the committee's investigation, which is now in its second year."

It's an ugly world out there. Isn't it wonderful to live here?

• THANKS •

Friends help those in need

A sincere thank you from our hearts to everyone who turned out Saturday to reshingle our roof. We couldn't believe all the wonderful folks who gave their precious time and energy to help us out. We even had men volunteering to split wood. This is the real Highlands spirit!

Special thanks to Joe Luke of Reeves Hardware that made this possible by donating the shingles and the material; Terry Watson and Bryson's Food Store for donating a great fried chicken lunch for all and Donnie and Judy Billingsley and David Wyatt for their thoughtfulness that started the whole chain of events. We love you all.

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• THANKS •

School friends come through for family

On behalf of the entire Sanchez family, thank you so very much for the donation the Highlands School Faculty made towards the funeral fund of Dominick Sanchez. We can't tell you what a blessing it is to have such kind and loving support through this difficult time. This support was made evident not only in the monetary contribution but in the hugs, prayers, and time spent with the family. Your level of commitment to the community was made very apparent through such a loving contribution and we will forever be grateful. I think we can now fully comprehend the decision as to why our parents decided to raise a family in such a great town. It is without a shadow of a doubt because of the wonderful people. Again, we cannot thank you all enough for what you've done. It is moments like these when it makes us extremely proud to say we're from Highlands, NC.

With all the love we posses,
The Sanchez Family

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

like racism, politics, war, birth control, Islam....stuff like that.

I always thought it was okay to be raised a racist as long as you didn't stay a racist when you grew up. Born in Kentucky in the thirties, my parents were more than just racists. They treated black people as chattel....like furniture.

Twenty-eight years of police work taught me to dislike but not hate any of the races, although I still have problems with the white race....yes, I said the white race. It was a white person who shoved a loaded gun in my stomach and pulled the trigger. I'm still thanking God it misfired. It was a white guy who resisted arrest and, during the violent struggle that ensued, gave me hepatitis B. I've never been so sick in my life. I could give many more examples of why I'm prejudiced against white folks but it won't convince some readers who think I have deep prejudices against black folk. Does using the term "black folk" make me a racist?

I once made fun of our president (God forbid!) in a column and I was called a racist. Kidding, I wrote back, reminding the reader our president is half white and it was his white half I didn't care for. I didn't get a response. Come on, have we lost our sense of humor?

So there you have it, folks, I'm a racist of the worse kind. I'm prejudiced against white people. I respect the yellow race, especially the Japanese for never looting their towns after the big quake. Can you believe goods are still sitting untouched on shelves of wide open stores? Do you think that could happen in Chicago? And last, kudos to the black Americans who have come so far from their

days of slavery and, long, long ago, taught me they're not just a piece of furniture.

You see, I also have come far.

PS - Please, could just one black American move to Highlands? Maybe we could offer zero taxes on real estate. Or how 'bout black Americans eat free?

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Further, prospective Buyers have the advantage of working with a firm which would be working solely for that Buyer's interests. In other words, as

- Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Botox® Turns Ten

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the approval of Botox® by the FDA as a treatment for wrinkles. Since that time, its use has become the most popular cosmetic procedure in the world. Last year alone there were over 5.6 million people treated with Botox®.

Botox® is a form of one of the most potent toxins in the world that blocks nerve transmission to prevent muscle function. However, over 50 years ago it was purified and refined to be safe by Allergan, then a small company that made ophthalmic products. The first approved use of Botox® was to treat muscle spasm around the eye, specifically strabismus, in children. This was then expanded to other eye muscles but was really never considered for any other problem. In the years since its first introduction, this form of the drug has proven exceptionally safe.

In 1987, Dr. Jean Carruthers, an ophthalmologist in Vancouver, British Columbia, was treating an adult patient for eye muscle spasm. The lady pointed out that, when treated, she got "this beautiful untroubled expression." Dr. Carruthers described her reaction as if "a bell went off!" She got together with her husband, a dermatologist, and their secretary, who vol-



Dr. Robert Buchanan

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unteered to have some facial wrinkles injected. When the secretary got a youthful result, they proposed a clinical trial to determine if Botox® could be used for treating facial wrinkles.

The clinical trial consisted of very specific injection points in the glabella (the area between the eyebrows) with grading of the responses. In this initial study, 75% of those injected got rid of the wrinkles between the eyebrows. This, together with a record of minimal adverse problems allowed the FDA to approve Botox® in 2002 for cosmetic use to treat glabella wrinkles.

The biggest problem reported then and subsequently is blockage of a muscle other than the intended ones, resulting in droop of the eyebrow or lid. Occasionally these symptoms can be treated with a drug which partially reverses the effect. Even if it does not do so, the effects are relatively short lived, averaging about five months.

Over the last ten years almost all of the significant reactions attributed to Botox® have been, not from the Allergan product, but from a different botulinum toxin passed off as Botox®. These reactions have included several deaths and paralyses. The most blatant was a company in Arizona selling

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 25

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Bolivia ... the story continues

By Alex Osteen

“Ñuqanchij purinchij ninaráurajta.” That means, “We walk towards the llama.” I think. In my spare time over the past six weeks I’ve been trying to learn Quechua, one of Bolivia’s Indian languages still spoken today. Will that be something useful in life? Probably not. However, getting to work in Montero, Bolivia alongside the Baumrucker “Highlands-Bolivia Mission” team and the Presbyterian Church’s “Living Waters for the World” project was a relevant and worthwhile endeavor, of which I am glad I was able to participate.

The Baumruckers and their clan of volunteers have been supporting a grab-bag of health, social and education projects in Montero now for fourteen years. You’ve probably read about it in John’s yearly journal or attended one of their riotous fundraisers. I had the privilege of going down twice in high school to lay brick, bend rebar and play guitar at church services. This year, however, I primarily did something I was perhaps more qualified for: non-manual labor.

First, after a few days in country, the Baumruckers dropped me off, suitcase in hand, on the doorstep of their boys’ Home and said “buena suerte.” I moved a bed into the spare classroom, promptly installed my mosquito net and just like that became the new older brother to 21 at-risk boys. Right away my freckles, Adam’s apple, and facial hair were all mysterious wonders. Then they had trouble pronouncing “Alex” and mostly just called me “Alice” instead. Nonetheless they soon invited me to play sports, board games, and arm wrestling. I also participated in their daily regimen of chores, homework, meals and 6 a.m. wakeup calls. They are all good kids, bright and full of energy, yet all dealing with deep traumas of their own. Despite the difficulties of their current situation, they’re getting something unique from the Home: a real chance at life.

My stay with the kids gave me an up-close look into the realities of their lives. But hopefully they were able to take something away from me too.

For one thing I taught English and computer classes five times a day, two topics which will hopefully give them a leg up in today’s world. I also designed a plan to start up the home’s carpentry shop again, a venture that will cover one person’s salary and contribute profits to the general budget, a positive step towards sustainability. If you’re in the market for a beautiful, hand-made wooden door for only \$100, call down to Bolivia. Perhaps biggest of all, John and I negotiated the change in administration, a new budget and staff consolidations for the Home despite the cultural and language barriers between locals and us gringos. I am fully convinced that the future of the Baumrucker’s Home will be bright and that their vision for these kids will never fade.

Secondly, I got roped into collaborating with a spin-off mission in Bolivia—and happily so. Hillrie Quin of the First Presbyterian was in need of a translator and fellow gringo on his escapades out to the poorest villages in the middle of pure jungle on the outskirts of Montero. He and members of his church have been installing water filters to provide clean drinking water for these people, indeed a fundamental basic need. If I ever had any doubt as to that need, I saw firsthand the black water samples that came out of their current water systems. Hillrie and I worked on logistics for when his full team comes down in September, as well as dealt with contracts, distribution issues and construction delays. Did I perhaps curse his name a couple times as I forded the same river three times in a pick-up truck to get to one of the villages? Perhaps. But is that village one of the places most in need of a project like this? No doubt.

In many ways this past month and a half reminded me of the Peace Corps: dealing with local culture, following a vision to design and help implement projects, using a variety of people’s different talents on a common task, mosquitos, heat, stomach problems and interesting characters all around. South America and Central America have many differences, but share a similar Latin culture that tends to value time in a different, sometimes refreshing, way

than we do in the United States. Bolivia is a beautiful country full of rich history and wonderful people. I recommend hands-down that you support the

Baumrucker mission or the Presbyterian water project. Maybe even consider going down with a group next year!



A local indigenous woman sells ice cream right outside the Children's Home as we watch the soccer match.
Photo by Alex Osteen

... FENCING continued from page 1

unanimously pass amendments to the ordinance that regulates both the lighting and the fencing within the town of Highlands. All fences erected are subject to town approval, and the amendments regulate the size and placement of these fences, and also places restrictions on the size and scale of outdoor lighting within the town limits. These amendments are designed to “protect the natural environment of the Highlands Plateau and enhance the town’s village character,” and “promote a small-town environment atmosphere that blends with the natural environment.”

The Board also approved the use of the Town of Highlands Scholarship program as an in-kind requirement for QZAB bond that will provide an interest-free loan to Macon County for repairs to Highlands School.

The program is called the Qualified Zone Academy Bond, which requires an in-town match from the local community to receive the loan. Macon County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman requested that the Town Board designate the scholarship fund because it was funds that were already being used to support Highlands School and would not require any addition-

al funding to be appropriated by the town.

Funds will be used to provide electrical upgrades, heating and air upgrades and floor and ceiling replacement within Highlands School.

As part of measures used to upgrade the Highlands Playhouse, \$ 31, 237 was appropriated to install a new heating and air system within the Playhouse. The amount appropriated includes the cost of the HVAC system, roof repair and electrical wiring throughout the building. Two 5-ton units and duct work will be installed. Removal of the old 5-ton unit currently on the roof will necessitate minor roof repairs.

Finally, the Town Board moved to appropriate \$34,900 from the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund for the annual end-of-year scholarships to graduates and college students made by the Town Scholarship Committee.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board will be Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m. in the Community Building..

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS •

Highlanders sweep senior day vs. Rabun Gap

By Ryan Potts

The Lady Highlanders softball team ended their home schedule with a bang on Saturday, dominating Rabun Gap for a 30-2 victory.

Seniors Emily Murphy, Julianne Buras, Meagan O'Brien, Savannah Taylor and Gabrielle Tilson were honored after the game for their hard work and participation for Highlands Softball these last four years. Four years ago, this group of Lady Highlanders were freshmen as Highlands restarted their fast-pitch softball program after a long hiatus. This year, they have been fortunate to win the most games of any team since the program restarted, and it

has been a very successful season and a stepping stone for a program on the rise.

The Highlanders baseball team finished out their season with a 5-1 victory over Rabun Gap and the departing Highlander seniors were honored after the game.

Isaac Beavers pitched a complete game, and Kenan Lewis drove in two runs to provide the offense for the Highlanders. Seniors Beavers, Cody St. Germain, Andrew Renfro and Bryon Neumann were recognized by Coach Jerry Moore after the game for their contributions to the program and helping to restore Highlands baseball. The Highlanders finished the season with a record of 6-12.



Class of 2012 Valedictorian: Emily Christine Murphy and Salutatorian: Nicholai Coyote Roman.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

The Junior Marshals are Chief Marshal Rebecca Lee Johnson and Assistant Chief Marshal Dax Griffin Lloyd. They will preside over the Class of 2012 graduation Saturday, May 26 at 7 in the new gym.



Photo by Carol Bowen

... LETTERS continued from page 2

that suggests aggression and hostility shown towards the gay and lesbian communities, may be attributed to the suppression of inner same-sex attraction by the perpetrators. There seems to be a common thread that runs through the characters and like behaviors of the perpetrators, that would support this hypothesis.

Informed observation shows that being a school yard bully, for example, is likely emblematic of adolescent males trying perversely to assert their masculinity, and may be the manifestation of their questioning of their own sexuality and identity. Hence, they try to prove their own masculinity by bullying others, always males that they perceive as being weaker, but often other minority groups or females, as well. It may be telling that you never hear of bullies taking on peers that they perceive as equal, or greater in stature or station, but only as lesser or weaker in stature or station; hence, the definition of a bully.

The data and evidence suggests that this behavior may be an exclusively human trait, and that this behavior is not typical anywhere in the animal kingdom. In the animal kingdom, dominant or alpha males rarely, if ever, attack subordinate males to establish sexual dominance, because they don't need to. Rather, they are forced to defend their dominance and positions from the attack of the lesser or beta males. Respectfully, there may be an elementary lesson for humans in the observation of that contest behavior in the animal kingdom.

Adding to the universal public and social costs, studies have also shown that this early dysfunctional behavior by these same school yard bullies, usually develops in adulthood as individuals being more inclined to be alcoholics or addicts, bullies on steroids as racists and bigots, homophobes, control freaks, subversives that can only operate under the cover of darkness, abusers of the rights of others, manipulative, manic depressives, compulsive and reflexive adherents to strict religious doctrine and dogma, generally unhappy individuals that project that dissatisfaction onto others in a variety of ways, along with many other forms of anti-social, hostile, aggressive or deviate behavior.

Could these behavioral manifestations of the bully be mechanisms to suppress their own sexual identities and impulses, and more importantly, to mask and disguise their own in-evolved, cowardly, but true characters?

Leading psychologists have long suggested that hostility and aggression are linked to low self-esteem and insecurity of

one's own identity. Sigmund Freud famously called the process a, "reaction formation," defined as the angry battle against the outward symbol of feelings that are inwardly being stifled.

There have been several recent specific examples of people in power that have relentlessly attacked the basic rights, as human beings, of the gay and lesbian communities. Republican, Larry Craig, the big man with a, "wide stance," in the men's room at the airport, was once an avid crusader against gay and lesbian rights while in Congress. Ted Haggard, the pastor of one of the largest Christian Conservative congregations in the United States, regularly railed against gay and lesbian lifestyles and preached that homosexuality was a sin, before being caught snorting crystal meth while with a male prostitute, and then being forced to resign from the church. The evidence revealed that the former Pastor Haggard had developed a continuing propensity for his secretive and deviate behavior and lifestyle, even while continuing to preach otherwise to his congregation. Glenn Murphey, Jr, was the leader of the Young Republican National Convention, and an avid opponent of same sex marriage, that plead guilty to sexually assaulting a male.

Hastening to add, this dual identity, and dysfunctional behavior, isn't exclusive for Christian Conservative Evangelical Republicans alone, and there are probably as many examples of Democrats of various stripes, and other religious persuasions doing some of the same sorts of things. But make no mistake, it is the so-called, "Christian Conservative Evangelical Republicans," whose documented agenda includes the repression of gay citizens' basic rights, and who are also comfortable bashing gay citizens' dignity as human beings, from the pulpits and from their congressional chambers, that are the kinetic energy behind this antiquated movement.

Ironically and sadly, the same, "Christian Conservative Evangelical Republicans," also believe that they hold some sort of exclusive monopoly on the virtues of "family values." Both politically and humanely speaking, they would be far better advised to get their pious heads out of the sand, and realize and embrace the fact that these gay and lesbian citizens, are there own families, and their own sons and daughters, and yes, they themselves as well in some cases, as the data and evidence consistently shows.

• See LETTERS page 20

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

• Registration is now open for the 2012 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder"

(ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "Nature-Works" (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.

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 class. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

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

library.

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

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

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

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

Wonderful Workshops Highlight May at The Bascom

Stylistic Analysis, Ceramic Sculpture, and Aviary Adobe Architecture Among the Many Offerings

On Saturday, March 12th, join Rosemary Stiefel for Stylistic Analysis from 10 am - 4 pm.

Gain a fresh way of seeing whether you are an art appreciator or hands-on artist. Learn how to look at and examine works of art by well known artists from various time periods and movements. Students will gain a better understanding of art, for intellectual enjoyment and/or the making of art, by creating simple diagrams showing how the paintings were created stylistically. Take a closer look at the art you love!

Want a great class to learn how to construct sculptures in clay? Join Colette Clark on Mondays and Wednesdays, May 14th, 16th, 21st and 23rd for Ceramic Sculpture. Colette's approach will include hands-on demonstrations in hand building, coil, slab and extrusion construction, as well as lessons in firing processes, and glazing techniques. A focus on themes in ceramics such as human forms, objects from nature and imaginary works support student exploration into sculptural space.

On Friday and Saturday, May 25th and 26th, Greg Newington will teach Photoshop®. Would you like to enhance or correct your photos? It's easy. Take this workshop to learn how to use Adobe Photoshop's® tools to retouch, color correct and be introduced to professional imaging workflows.

Barry Gregg returns to The Bascom on May 29th through June 1st from 10 am to 4 pm for Aviary Adobe Architecture. This intermediate level hand building clay workshop will expand on previously taught workshops (bird, birdhouse, shrine, and totem construction). Participants will learn the expressive potential of pinch, coil, slab construction, principles and elements, surface design and techniques for increasing work in size



Barry Gregg, whose work is pictured, will teach Aviary Adobe Architecture on May 29th through June 1st from 10 am to 4 pm at The Bascom. For more infor

and scale and adding expression. Also, the use of found objects and objects found in nature will add a mixed media component.

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

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

Get ready for a great season with The Center for Life Enrichment

By Sandra Carlton

As the summer season begins and people return to Highlands for the summer, it is time to include activities to exercise your brain by taking part in The Center for Life Enrichment's (CLE) extensive list of courses and lectures during the 2012 season. From May through October, CLE is offering over 80 opportunities for learning. If you are interested in the continuing changes in world events, CLE has a whole series of lectures presented by professors and experts in the field. This year they include: Japan, China, Turkey, the Middle East, the European Union, and Pakistan. Looking for something a little lighter? How about "The History of Happiness", or "How we Dine, Dress, Drink and Drawl Down South," or "Some we Love, Some we Hate, Some we Eat"? There are also art classes and lectures, computer classes, music experiences, food demonstrations, and more. The list goes on and on.

Some great things about CLE: most lectures are only two hours (easy to fit into your day); there are no tests; you meet new people; you can pick from a smorgasbord of ideas. So if you always wanted to know a little more about Duke Ellington or the Civil War, or the Federal Reserve, or the works of Ron Rash, or American Poetry, then you will definitely enjoy the Center for Life Enrichment.

It's not too late to register for these classes which begin next week:

BEGINNING DRAWING, Tuesdays

and Thursdays, May 15-31, from 10 to noon at the Highlands Civic Center (Recreation Park), Cost: Members \$85 and non-members \$95. Instructor Freddie Flynt will show you all about the basics of line, shading, contour, form and perspective, none of which are as mysterious or daunting as they sound.

PAINTING SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN WATERCOLOR, Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 15-31, from 1-3 PM at The Highlands Civic Center (Recreation Park), Cost: Members \$120; non members \$135. If you've ever dabbled with watercolors, you will want to take advantage of the opportunity to learn with Fayne Ansley. With Spring ushering in the wild flower season on the Highlands plateau, what better time to bring out paint and brushes to capture these lovely blooms on paper.

Perhaps the main event of the year is CLE's 20th Anniversary, which will be celebrated by a "Back to the Mountains Party" open to the public on Thursday, June 14, from 5-7:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Rainwater Estate, located above Highlands Country Club. Please reply if you plan to attend.

To take advantage of the member rates plan to join CLE. Individual membership is \$35, Family is \$50. For a complete schedule of courses go to www.clehighlands.com or call the office at 828 526-8811.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

Wednesdays & Fridays

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

Thursdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• Free Dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Saturdays

• The Highlands Farmers Market 9am-12 every Saturday Starting June 2- mid October at the Highlands School.

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! For More

Information call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Thursday-Sunday, May 10-13

• Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Thursday, May 10

• The May meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

• Keller Williams Realty Blood Drive, 1573 Highlands Road, Franklin, 8:30 am to 1 pm. Please call 524-0100 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Walk-Ins Welcome, Appointments preferred! For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Franklin. In recognition of May as Brain Cancer Awareness Month, the special guest speaker will be Leigh Tabor of the Macon County Public Health Department and wife of Charles Tabor, 7 1/2 year Brain Cancer Survivor. Light refreshments will be served. A \$50 gift certificate to Fatz Cafe will be given away. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, call 828-369-9221.

• The Macon County League of Women Voters will host a program by Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Program Director for the Wilderness Society, and a long-time Macon County resident. Martin will present a brief history of western North Carolina's National Forests and Wilderness areas, and provide an overview of the Wilder-

ness Act and what the possibilities are for future designations. Lunch is \$5. To reserve call Kristina at 371-0527. The program starts at 12:15 in Tartan Hall in the Presbyterian Church.

Friday & Saturday, May 11-12

• The Highlands Biological Station's Wildflower Whimsy to celebrate the Highlands Botanical Garden's 50th anniversary. The event will feature Patrick McMillan, the host, co-creator, and writer of the popular and award-winning ETV nature program Expeditions with Patrick McMillan. Friday's event 5-8pm and it's free. Saturday's event is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. For more information, call (828) 526-2221 or visit highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsy. Hosted by The Highlands Biological Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Friday, May 11

• See EVENTS age 18

HCP's Dixie Swim Club opens Thursday



The long awaited and much anticipated return of Sheree, Lexie, Dinah, Verna-dette, and Jeri Neal, the ladies of "The Dixie Swim Club" is here and opening Thursday even, May 10 at The Performing Arts Center.

Early ticket sales have been brisk, and when it was last here, the ladies played to full houses and standing ovations.

If you missed it the first time around, you have a second chance! Evening performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 of May at 7:30, with matinee shows Sunday at 2:30 on the 13 and 20 of May. For ticket information, call the HCP Box office at 526-8084.

Collective Spirits Friday night Fun Fest at The Bascom

Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival, a celebration of wine, food and the arts, from May 17th – 19th, will feature some amazing auction lots including fabulous rare and large-bottle format wines, spectacular wine themed trips and specialty dinners during Saturday night's Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction. A wonderful assortment of wine

Wine lots include a 5L bottle of 1998 Joseph Phelps Insignia; a wooden case of 1989 Chateau Lagrange; a horizontal of five Bordeaux First Growth vintage 2000; a "Highlands Starter Wine Cellar"; a 6L bottle of Beychevelle; and wines from Ramey Wine Cellars.

Other featured lots include trips to Napa/Sonoma wine country; San Miguel de Allende; France; the Bahamas; or a wine/ski excursion to your choice of Beaver Creek or Lake Tahoe. Plus, you could host a party on The Bascom Bridge; get your own custom tuxedo; "Name The Bascom" wine; or be a part of a 100 point wine dinner at Sagee Manor.

Other Collective Spirits 2012 events include Private Home Wine Dinners dinner on Thursday evening and Friday's Wine Tasting and Market and Collective Spirits and Soul Dance Party.



Collective Spirits raises essential operating funds to maintain quality exhibitions, enrichment activities and studio art instruction for learners of all ages. For additional

information about receiving an invitation to become a Benefactor or to attend Collective Spirits, please visit TheBascom.org/collectivespirits or call 828.787.2896.

Wilmington Trust is the Platinum Sponsor of the 2012 Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival. Support is provided by Delta Air Lines; Old Edwards Inn and Spa; The Laurel Magazine; Franklin Ford and Moss Robertson Cadillac; J.T. Turner Construction; and Sysco.

An art center, destination and 501(c)3 charity, The Bascom serves audiences in Western North Carolina and beyond; providing a dynamic experience that inspires and attracts residents and visitors through interaction with all forms of visual arts. The Bascom is located at 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, NC 28741. Phone (828) 526-4949. The Bascom® and The Bascom® logo are registered trademarks of The Bascom Corporation

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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

• A sports physical clinic for school athletic programs is being held at the Macon County Public Health Center in Franklin. The clinics are open to rising 7th grade -12th grade students who plan to participate in school athletics anytime during the 2012 -2013 school year. The clinic will be offered on Friday from 4:30 to 7 pm. Appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling 371-8933. There will be a charge of \$15. Cash or checks are acceptable and no insurance will be filed. A parent or guardian must attend with the student and sports physical packets may be picked up from the front office of Franklin High or Macon Middle.

Saturday, May 12

• The Thomas Legion SCV Camp is hosting a

Confederate Memorial Day Celebration at the Tolbert House in Cashiers at 11 a.m. A special presentation will be made to the family of Mr. Walter Taylor in his memory. Mr. Taylor was a founding member of the Camp. A traditional Confederate soldier meal of grits and fatback will be served.

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Lonesome Valley in Cashiers will host a bird walk co-led by Curtis Smalling of NC Audubon, and Romney Bathurst, an International birding enthusiast who resides in Highlands. The approximately 3.5 hour walk will involve some hiking up moderately steep logging trails, so ankle-support is advised. Walkers are asked to bring camera, binoculars and water. Some extra binoculars will be available to borrow. In case of moderate to

heavy rain, the walk will be cancelled. car-pool from The Bascom parking lot in Highlands at 7:30 am. Cashiers and Sapphire Valley residents are encouraged to car-pool from the area just behind Wendy's restaurant, or may go directly to Lonesome Valley. The walk will begin at 8 am sharp. Call 743-9670 or 526-1939 with questions,

• Curtis Smalling will be presenting a program at The Bascom on "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau: Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place," at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15

• Macon County Democratic Women will meet on Tuesday at 1PM at the Sunset Restaurant in Franklin. Several Democratic officials and candidates will be in attendance. Men are invited.

• Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Snow Flower & The Secret Fan.

• Some Cosmetic representative doing a FREE drug-free makeovers at Creative Concepts. A \$70 value. Call 526-3939

Wednesday, May 16

• Dr. Barry H. Bodie, Board Certified Urologist, will present "Prostate Health: Latest Information and Research" at 12 noon in suite 103 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the Hospital's campus. Participants will receive a complementary PSA screening prior to the start of the lecture. This is the first of the Hospital's 2012 Physician Forum Lunch & Learn Series. The hour long lecture includes a light boxed lunch and ends with a

Biological Foundation brings television host to garden celebration

Wildflower Whimsy will be held this Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 at the Highlands Biological Station to celebrate the Highlands Botanical Garden's 50th anniversary. The event will feature Patrick McMillan, the host, co-creator, and writer of the popular and award-winning ETV nature program Expeditions with Patrick McMillan.

Patrick's qualifications make him a great keynote speaker for this celebration. As a professional naturalist, biologist, and educator, he has extensive experience in botany. He is the director of the Campbell Museum of Natural History at Clemson University as well as the interim director of the South Carolina Botanical Gardens. His intense interest in natural history, which he attributes to his grandmother, has taken him all over the world.

On Saturday, May 12, participants of Wildflower Whimsy will have the opportunity to hear Patrick McMillan talk about one of the world's great centers of temperature biodiversity: our own backyards here on the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment. Join Patrick as he takes an in-depth look at this often overlooked region of the Appalachians that harbors species that have long-since disappeared from the rest of the continent. This is the heart of the most diverse temperate broad-leaved forest on the continent! Patrick's



talk, titled "The Southern Blue Ridge: Crucible of Life" will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. Registration for Saturday includes a wildflower walk, lunch, the chance to bid on silent auction items while listening to live music and enjoying a reception and cash

bar, and, of course, the opportunity to hear Patrick McMillan's talk. Cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members.

If you can't make it on Saturday, join us on Friday, May 11 from 5pm to 8pm, free of charge. Friday's events are certain to be a lot of fun, with illuminated trails and photographic installations in the Garden. Sip on a drink or grab a plate of hors d'oeuvres and join a guided tour of the Highlands Botanical Garden and see it as you've never seen it before. And if you're interested in spring ephemerals and the history of the garden, Clay Bolt, co-founder of Meet Your Neighbours, and Dr. James T. Costa, Director of the Highlands Biological Station, are sure to grab your attention with their talks that night. Finally, the silent auction will open and all bids are welcome.

For more information, call (828) 526-2221 or visit highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsy. Hosted by the Highlands Biological Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Garden Tour to benefit R.E.A.C.H.



Swiftwater Farm will be location of the second annual Farms and Flowers for Families Garden Tour benefitting REACH of Macon County on Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9 from 10 am until 4pm. Swiftwater Farms in south Franklin is a 150 acre estate with something for everyone. The farm is home to meandering paths through woodland trails passing a stocked trout pond, fabulous outdoor pool and ancient rock formations. White Rock Branch meanders through the property providing lovely waterfalls and tranquil ponds. Enjoy colorful chickens and peacocks, an outdoor miniature train, and beautiful wildflower, blueberry and vegetable gardens. Visit the conservatory for some music entertainment, watch artists in action and browse our garden shop. Purchase a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, \$10 for children. Tickets can be purchased at Treasures for REACH or by visiting the website ReachofMaconCounty.org

Interested in helping? As we did last year, we are asking for the support of successful female business owners or managers to partner with us by helping to underwrite this event. For \$100, you will be listed as a "Woman Helping Women" sponsor. Contact Cindy Trevathan at 526-2336.

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

question and answer session. Those interested in attending must RSVP (828) 526-1313 or email info@hchospital.org.

Thurs.-Sat., May 17-19

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Wine and Food Festival, a celebration of wine, food and the arts will feature some amazing auction lots including fabulous rare and large-bottle format wines, spectacular wine themed trips and specialty dinners during Saturday night's Gala Benefit Dinner and Auction. A wonderful assortment of wine. Collective Spirits raises essential operating funds to maintain quality exhibitions, enrichment ac-

tivities and studio art instruction for learners of all ages. For additional information about receiving an invitation to become a Benefactor or to attend Collective Spirits, please visit TheBascom.org/collectivespirits or call 828.787.2896.

Thursday-Sunday, May 17-20

• Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Friday, May 18

• Franklin Relay for Life Blood Drive at the Franklin High School Field House, 100 Panther Drive, Franklin,

3:30 pm to 8 pm. Please call 369-9221 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Appointments honored first. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

• Relay For Life of Highlands will hold a casual gathering at Sports Page Restaurant from 4:30pm -6:00pm

to honor and support our cancer caregivers.

May 21-May 25

• The Town of Highlands has set a White Good Pick-Up Week annually since February 1987. This year the Annual White Goods Pickup will be the week of May 21st through May 25th. Please, contract Town Hall at (828) 526-2118 to be placed on the pickup list.

Local Birding Group Announces Walk and Program for May 12



The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Lonesome Valley in Cashiers will host a bird walk co- led by Curtis Smalling of NC Audubon, and Romney Bathurst, an International birding enthusiast who resides in Highlands. Participants will look

especially for migratory warblers and other special birds which travel all the way from Central and South America just to breed and raise their chicks in our beautiful mountains. In years past, some of the warblers seen have included Black-throated Blue, Hooded, Black and White, Blackburnian and other wood warblers, plus Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher and many others. Highlands Plateau Audubon Society members and any other interested birders are to car-pool from The Bascom parking lot in Highlands at 7:30 am. Cashiers and Sapphire Valley residents are encouraged to car-pool from the area just behind Wendy's restaurant, or may go directly to Lonesome Valley. The walk will begin at 8:00 am sharp.

The approximately 3.5 hour walk will involve some hiking up moderately steep logging trails, so ankle-support is advised. Walkers are asked to bring camera, binoculars and water. Some extra binoculars will be available to borrow. In case of moderate to heavy rain, the walk will be cancelled. Call 743-9670 or 526-1939 with questions.

Later in the day, Smalling will be presenting a program at The Bascom on "The Birds of the Highlands Plateau: Amazing Stories from a Remarkable Place". From many who have heard Smalling speak in the past, it is thought that this will prove to be a fun and enlightening talk about the amazing lives of many of the birds who summer here of which often we are not aware. His talk will be given at 4 pm on Saturday, May 12. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend either event.

Atlanta Boy Choir to Sing in Highlands Sunday May 20th



The internationally acclaimed Atlanta Boy Choir under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will give a concert here on Sunday afternoon, May 20 at 5 p.m. in the acoustically perfect Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

This concert which is free and open to the public will feature a work in which the choir sings around the world. This piece, entitled "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" was composed by Charles Davidson to poems written by young Jewish children who were part of the Holocaust. They were imprisoned in the concentration camp in Teresianstadt Czechoslovakia during World War II.

The Atlanta Boy Choir has performed this work on two occasions in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda with the President and Both Houses of Congress in attendance.

Featured in this performance will be Atlanta's famous Jewish actress, Mira Hirsch. Ms. Hirsch, well known for her many roles in theater as well as being the artistic director of The Jewish Theater of the South will narrate this moving piece.

Maestro Wolfe recently celebrated his

80th birthday and Highland's Eckerd family of Drug Store fame, well known for their philanthropic gifts, made a matching grant of \$25,000 in his name toward the choir's scholarship program. Those wishing to help the choir meet this grant match can have reserved seating for this concert by contributing to this effort.

Other pieces to be heard on this program are selections of Spirituals and Broadway melodies which will be sung by the 50 men of the choir.

At the end of May, Maestro Wolfe and his men and boys travel to St. Petersburg, Russia where they will sing this same program at the Great Hall of the Philharmonic, one of the worlds' most famous performing venues.

While in Russia, they also have been invited to sing at the Czar's magnificent Winter Palace concert hall.

Do not miss this much anticipated annual presentation of the choir. Be sure to come early. To become a patron and reserve a seat please call, 404-378-0064 or email, info@atlantaboychoir.org.



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Come Visit!

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.



... LETTERS continued from page 13

Lastly, it would be remiss not to recall the systemic, if not endemic and sadistic abuses, by Catholic priests of young boys and children under their trust and purview, and the consistent cover-ups of this odious behavior by the Catholic hierarchy. Unfortunately, we're all too familiar with those, and regrettably, we are reminded of the seemingly high concentration of these sorts of criminal abuses among some religious advocates, that are too frequently masked by the religious fervor of these perpetrators. There have been five new cases cited in Philadelphia this week. Could dogmatic and doctrinaire religious fervor be a red flag for sexually deviate behavior? It seems that it could be in certain instances, especially in the various male misogynist religious doctrines that marginalize women and their societal roles in general.

It is important to stress the obvious: that not all those who campaign against gays and lesbians, secretly feel same-sex attractions that may be cloistered in, or shrouded by religious roles. At least some who oppose homosexuality are likely to be individuals struggling against parts of themselves, or have themselves been victims of oppression or lack of acceptance. Also, regrettably, some are merely hateful bigots, and there are other manifestations of their bullying that are merely motivated by greed, or lust for power.

Whichever combination of root causes, the costs are great, not only for the targets of the anti-gay efforts and others in society, as has been shown in many recent cases regarding tragic teen-aged suicide victims that were tormented by bullying, along with an array of other hate crimes, but also often for the perpetrators themselves, as is apparent by their own sense of self-loathing, manifest in their hatred and intolerance of others. Sadly, their generally dissatisfied and unfulfilled lives are usually vividly and transparently obvious to everyone, but them.

Is there a connection between, or common thread running through, bullies, homophobes, control freaks, fervent religious

zealots, attitudes of bigotry and repression towards others, and the inner suppression of one's own sexual impulses, identity or orientation? A connecting of the dots, and an unvarnished evaluation of the data and evidence, makes it difficult to argue otherwise in some cases.

We would all do well to remember that all the participants on both sides of this issue or equation, regarding the rights of gay and lesbian citizens, deserve a full measure of compassion and understanding. We should all be respectful and civil while debating and charting an egalitarian course forward, hopefully; while reaffirming all our inalienable rights, as are bestowed in the Declaration of Independence, and that were self-evidently endowed by our Creator. *(see footnote)

*Excerpts and portions of the above letter are paraphrases or direct quotes from the New York Times article; April 29th edition, entitled, "Homophobic? Maybe You're Gay," by Richard M. Ryan, a professor of psychology, psychiatry, and education at The University of Rochester. Mr. Ryan is also pursuing a doctoral degree in Psychology at The University of California, in Santa Barbara.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands, NC

• THANKS •

It takes a village ...

Relay For Life of Highlands celebrated its annual kickoff on April 14. This year the American Cancer Society is "Turning Up The Heat On Cancer." Because of you - our sponsors, volunteers and our community - we hosted a grand and festive celebration.

A special thanks goes to the Highlands Fire Department for providing the perfect location for our fiery celebration. Thank you also to the local businesses that contributed food and other items for the event.

Kickoff is just the beginning of this year's fundraising efforts, and thanks to our media sponsors - The Highlander, Highlands Newspaper, WHLC, Northland Communications and The Laurel Magazine - all of Highlands will be kept informed of our survivor functions, team events and other fundraising efforts between now and Aug. 17.

The American Cancer Society and Relay For Life of Highlands want everyone to remember why we are so passionate in our commitment: We want to celebrate more birthdays with those we love; we want to remember those we have lost to cancer; and we want to fight this terrible disease by raising money for research. We know that research finds cures for all cancers and for all people!

Please mark your calendars and join us for a HOT night to remember, celebrate and fight back at 6 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Highlands Rec Park.

One more thank you goes to our amazing committee. Without each and every one of you, Relay For Life of Highlands would not happen. See you at the Relay,

Mike Murphy and Debbie Grossman
2012 Co-Chairs

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....Betty Wong

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• JUST HERS •

Know Laughing Matter

It's said that we are what we eat. That may be true, but I also think you can tell a lot about people by what makes them laugh. Laughter may seem a light-hearted subject, but you can be very serious about humor.

What makes one person laugh may leave another person cold. Of course, there are fads and fashions in humor, as in everything else. I wince to recall the time when "dead baby" jokes were popular. It wasn't humor's finest hour. I wasn't outraged by them, because I found them more silly than offensive. On the other hand, most of the elephant jokes made me giggle. "What's large and grey and sings calypso? The answer, of course, is Harry Elephante." Nowadays, I chuckle at many of Jeff Foxworthy's redneck jokes, especially "If you think that 401 (k) is your mother-in-law's bra size, you just might be a redneck!"

Knock-knock jokes are a staple of humor not only in this country, but in places as far flung as Africa, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, the Philippines, South Africa, and the UK. In French, they begin with "toc-toc" instead of knock-knock, and with "klop-klop" (no kidding!) in Dutch and Afrikaans. While these jokes were very popular in the English-speaking world during the 1950s and 1960s, there is evidence that the format is much, much older. There is even a knock-knock joke in Shakespeare's Macbeth, excuse me, The Scottish Play. Who can forget the resurgence of this memorable joke form as a regular part of Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In?

Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In coincided with my college years, and was vital to the way I would see humor from then on. The show was a sketch comedy program that ran for 140 episodes from the early 1968s to mid 1973. Broadcast on NBC, it was hosted by comedians Dan Rowan (the straight man) and Dick Martin (the dumb guy). It's hard to believe that it was originally intended to be a one-time special only



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

(airing on September 9, 1967), but it was such a huge success that it was brought back as a series. The show featured a number of quick sketches and one-liners, and brought into popular usage phrases like: "Here come de judge!", "Sock it to me!" and "Verrrry interesting....but shtupid!" Like its predecessor, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour,

Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In also pushed the envelope on topics like the sexual revolution, current affairs, politics, and of course, the Vietnam War. People had to decide if humor could go too far, and were there some things too serious to joke about?

Many think that the recent wave of political correctness has done much to kill off some of the jokes that made us laugh over the years - sometimes at ourselves, sometimes at the expense of others. Still, there are a few hardy souls - often emboldened by a few drinks of an alcoholic nature - who lean over conspiratorially, and whisper a joke or two which begin with:

- An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman (or a minister, a priest and a rabbi)....
- A man walks into a bar.....
- A blonde.....
- A lawyer....
- Who many Xs does it take to change a light bulb?
- My mother-in-law is so
- A man is walking on the beach, and finds a magic lantern. He rubs it, and out pops a genie. The genie says, "Thank you for letting me out! In return, I'll give you three wishes....."
- Why did the chicken cross the road?

Comedy has been the subject of film and television since the beginning of both. Who didn't chuckle at the antics of the Keystone Kops, those bumbling policemen (based on early French films featuring inept gendarmes) who characters were developed by Mack Sennett between 1912 and 1917 (check out

• See JUST HERS page 22

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The Macon Panther Basketball Travel Team, which represents Franklin, Highlands and Otto, fared very well in their first YBOA tournament posting a record of 4 and 1. They won the Championship (45-21) Sunday in convincing fashion against the Falcon Flight from Hendersonville! The boys went 2 and 1 on Saturday and 2 and 0 on Sunday! Special Thanks to team sponsor Gilliam's Promise Foundation. Front Row from left: John Tastinger, Tyler Harrell, Lee Langstaff Jr., Jay Bueck. Back Row from left: Coach Lee Langstaff, Jake Billingsley, Bailey Watts, Zach DeLaCruz, Cole Doolittle, Asst. Coach Adam Smith. Not Pictured: Tyler Harrison.

... JUST HERS continued from page 21

some of their marvelous clips on YouTube).

My father was a huge fan of The Honeymooners, a series I loathed. Looking back, how could anyone laugh at a large man threatening his wife with a clenched fist, uttering comments like "One of these days...POW! Right in the kisser!" and "BANG, ZOOM, Straight to the moon!" Domestic violence as a subject of comedy? And yet the show was hugely popular, as was I Love Lucy, another classic series which I also found immensely irritating. The entire family was in agreement, however, over Red Skelton, who could walk on stage and make you laugh before he even opened his mouth. Red Skelton's gentle, self-deprecating humor was never cruel, never vicious, and his collection of characters, from Freddie the Freeloader to Clem Kadiddlehopper, was among our family favorites.

Years ago, my father had to go to France on business. Of course, my mother wanted to join him, but the trip was right in the middle of the school year. Bill and Frances Wright - such dear family friends that we called them "Uncle Bill" and "Aunt Frances" - stepped in, and offered to let us stay with them. They were being enormously kind, but perhaps they also missed having young people around, as their daughters, Phyllis and Nancy, were both away at college. It was an adjustment for everyone, and we soon learned the rules of the house. Unfortunately, the Wrights ate their dinner much earlier than we did in the Mead household, which meant

that Eric and I were going to miss our favorite show at the time, The Three Stooges. There was a strict rule in the Wright household that the TV was not to be turned on during meals, since it might stop the flow of normal dinner-time conversation. My brother and I sat down to dinner, sad and silent. A tear slid down my cheek. Uncle Bill, a gentle soul, wanted to know what was wrong. "Do you miss your Mommy and Daddy?" he asked. I nodded, miserably. "But I miss The Three Stooges, too!" He laughed, walked over, and turned on the television. "Just this once!" he said, shaking his finger at us. But it wasn't just once, of course, it was every night for two weeks until my parents got back from France, and collected us. Years later, after Uncle Bill died of cancer, Aunt Frances confessed, "You know, after you and your brother went back home, Uncle Bill missed you terribly. Why, he even insisted on watching those darned Three Stooges during dinner!"

Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. While she and her late husband, John, did not see eye to eye on The Blues Brothers and Animal House (which she hates!), they were in complete agreement over Monty Python. At the close of John's memorial service, we sang, "Always look on the bright side of life." Wherever he was, I know John was grinning.


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The power of words

**By Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church**

I ran a race this past weekend down at Hartwell Dam, GA. I have been running for the last 10 years of my life and part of the reason I have been running is simply because as many of you know preachers just sit around and work on sermons and visit folks.

So the life of a preacher is very often sedentary, therefore, I made the conscious decision that I needed to get my heart pumping by running a few times a week. I run anywhere from 5 to 25 miles a week depending on my schedule. My running buddy here in Highlands thought it would be a good idea if we ran down in Georgia to let folks know us mountain runners could really run fast in the flat lands.

Well it looked good on paper and I was primed and ready except for the fact that I hadn't had the time to run as much as I should have, and I did not feel in shape. But I went expecting great things and I was disappointed in the end result.

I ran the race and much to my surprise, there were a lot of runners who were in better shape than me. I will not let you know my time, but just know I finished the race. So why I am telling you this story about my inability to run fast. Let me tell you what happen at the race.

I ran the first few miles and wasn't feeling good about my shape or my time and as I was running feeling sorry for myself and making excuses like it was hot or I had a lot on my mind...and it started. What started? There were those words that made the difference in my finishing the race. There were people along the route that were clapping and saying, "You are doing well, you can do it, and you are almost done." Those words got this out of shape preacher to the finish line. There were people I didn't even know cheering me on. Those words of encouragement got me thinking about how the words we use can make or break another person. We can build people up with our words or we can break them down.

So this week, I encourage us all to use words that encourage others. As we enter the "season" here in Highlands, please use words that show love and support and see what a difference your words can make. Tell those who are serving you at a local restaurant, thank you; tell your clerk at the grocery store or shop thank you and tell your Post Office workers and your Public Servants, thank you. You will be amazed at the power in your words of encouragement.

Words have power and words have purpose, may our words show love and care for others.

There was a man, thousands of years ago, who I tend to read a lot about who said and showed words of forgiveness and love and his words changed the world. Jesus Christ came to remind the world to love one another and I was reminded in Hartwell GA, what power there are in words.

What kind of words will you use this week?

Hospital announces schedule for upcoming free health screenings

Area residents will have the opportunity to find out if they are in good health, as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital again hosts complimentary community health screenings in the area.

This will be the 19th season that the Hospital has offered free health screenings. Nearly 400 people took advantage of last year's series of screenings. HCH has planned two screenings this summer, one in Highlands and one in Cashiers. The Cashiers screening will be held at Blue Ridge School on Saturday, June 23rd. The Highlands screening will take place on the first floor of the Jane Woo-

druff Clinic Saturday, July 21st.

The hours of each screening, which begin at 7:15 a.m., have been extended expanding the number of participants that can be accommodated. Each screening will be limited to the first 150 registrants; however, priority will be given to those with addresses in the hospital's service area. For the Cashiers screening, residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, Mill Creek and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain areas will be given priority. For the Highlands screening,

• See HOSPITAL page 27

... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 11

to unscrupulous physicians who bought botulinum toxin advertised for animal research but with uncontrolled purity and unverified strength. The product turned out to be exceptionally more potent than calibrated. Fake Botox® continues to be a problem as the strengths are not consistent and can cause significant harm. There are even fake products that you can buy on the Internet to inject yourself. Needless to say, when someone does this, they are risking significant harm. Unfortunately, not only is there fake Botox® on the market, there are many people performing Botox® injections with little or no training.

Those that do have adequate knowledge and training have markedly improved the results. From the initial reduction of only 75% of the lines between the eyebrows, today we get about 95% or greater amelioration by varying the injection technique. There are three different muscles that cause the wrinkles between the eyes and around the upper nose and the one that is most responsible for the individual lines varies from person to person. An experienced injector understands this and can inject the muscles causing the problem.

This also proves true for injecting muscles in other areas. The muscles around the eyes laterally and inferiorly can be injected to reduce or eliminate crows' feet. The same muscles can be injected differently to allow the lateral brow to elevate naturally. Injecting the muscles in the forehead can smooth the forehead. The muscle bands of the neck can be injected to relax them. The muscles causing the lip to

turn down can also be relaxed.

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Dr. Buchanan has been using Botox® since before its FDA approval prior to coming to Highlands, and at his office on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital campus. For further information or to make an appointment with Dr. Buchanan, visit PlasticSurgeryToday.com.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Kettle Rock – Historic Estate of John Armor -Highlands, NC to be Auctioned
Auction Date: Saturday – May 19th – 11 AM

On Saturday – May 19th at 11 AM The Kimsey Auction Team will auction an important historic estate in Highlands, NC. The John Armor estate house known as Kettle Rock was built circa 1916 and is situated among 3 tracts totaling 28.71 acres. The three tracts are approximately 4.60 acres, 13.61 acres and 10.5 acres. The property boasts 50-mile+ views and elevations from 4,000

to 4,200 feet. The name Kettle Rock is supposed to come from a large rock which overlooked several mountain streams in the area. As a path ran nearby, this was a perfect stopping place for travelers who could avail themselves of the water – it's said that a kettle had been left for this purpose – and the sheltered area to rest and enjoy a meal before continuing on their journey.

Kettle Rock's massive central three-story fireplace was built by Porter Pierson about a year before he built the house around it. The granite in the fireplaces came from the construction of the first Dillard Road, carved into the face of the mountains to reach south into Georgia. The story of Kettle Rock is also the story of a great romance. Porter Pierson fell in love with Marjorie Mardon, a minster's daughter from England, who was working as a governess for a wealthy Highlands family. The legend goes that Marjorie made Pierson wait until her charges were old enough that she felt confident leaving them. His patience was rewarded, and the couple married in late November 1916. It is said that Pierson purchased the land at Kettle Rock so that his new bride could look across to where she had been employed, but now from her vantage point as lady of the house.

The original house had three bedrooms, one bathroom, a front hall, living room, dining room, and kitchen. Besides the granite fireplaces laid by an English mason, who may also have done work on the Biltmore Estate, the house boasted a wide oak staircase and a second-floor porch off the Master Bedroom. Unfortunately, Kettle Rock also had its disadvantages. The house was built on open piles of native rock, and had been built without wall insulation. The house was im-

possible to keep warm in the high winds and cold of winter. In 1923, the Piersons moved into town, and put the house up for sale.

John C. Henley, Sr. and his wife, Lamira, descended from Charles Linn, the founder of Birmingham, Alabama, and Robert Henley, its first mayor, endured a two day trip over bad roads in a Model T Ford to reach Highlands. The Henleys purchased Kettle Rock as their summer home, and Mrs. Henley remodeled the home in 1932. Later, the house would pass to her daughter, Annie Linn Henley Armor, who in turn remodeled the place in 1956. In 1994, Kettle Rock passed to her son, John Charles Armor, the last owner and resident. His goal was to modernize the home and update it for year-round use, while preserving its gracious style. During all of the renovations, the original house has been preserved. The outside appearance remains much as it did when it was first built.

For more information about the April auction event, please contact Marty Kimsey, a leader in Western North Carolina Homes for Sale. Contact The Kimsey Auction Team: Telephone - 828.524.3500 or visit www.KimseyAuctionTeam.com to request an auction package and pre-register.



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FIRST FRIDAY FESTS May-October 6PM – 8 PM Downtown Clayton Shop Clayton/Concert at Rock House Park	SAT. OCT 6, 10AM -5PM Foxfire Mountaineer Festival WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG
SAT. MAY 5 Annual Awakening of the Vines Tiger Mountain Vineyard WWW.TIGERWINE.COM	SAT. OCT 27, 10AM – 1PM Halloween Hay Day
SAT. MAY 12 & SUN. MAY 13, 11:30AM – 4PM Red Barn Cafe Opening Tiger Mountain Vineyard WWW.TIGERWINE.COM	SAT. OCT 27, 1PM Halloween Trick or Treat Main Street, Clayton
SAT. MAY 19 – SUN, MAY 20 Warrior Dash Blue Ridge Camp Mountain City, GA WWW.WARRIORDASH.COM	SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM Festival of Trees Preview Party Rabun County Civic Center WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM
FRI. JUN 22 – SUN. JUN 24 Chattooga River Festival WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM	THURS. NOV 22, 8AM Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot
SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM 4th Annual Clayton Crawl Main Street, Clayton WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG	FRI. NOV 23, 5PM – 8PM Christmas in Clayton
	FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM & SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and Festival of Trees Rabun County Civic Center WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM
	SAT. DEC 1, 5PM Christmas Parade Main Street, Clayton WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM



The estate circa 1996

... HOSPITAL continued from page 25

priority will be given to residents in Highlands, Scaly Mountain and Sky Valley areas. Those from other areas or residents who cannot attend their local screening will be placed on a waiting list and accommodated if a slot should open up or go unfilled.

Community residents can begin registering for one of the two screenings now. The Hospital's Foundation office schedules participants by time slots to help reduce waiting times.

Participants will be checked for height and weight, BMI (body mass index), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 50 will also receive a blood test to help detect prostate cancer (PSA).

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to

discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations will also be conducted at the screenings, and several other health professionals are in attendance. Everyone will enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast.

A wealth of health information is also available. There is no age limit, but minors require parental consent.

Due to the nature of the tests being offered, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before. Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant's own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

Those wishing to take advantage of either screening can register by calling the Hospital at (828) 526-1435.

Hospital presents prostate Health on May 16

Dr. Barry H. Bodie, Board Certified Urologist, will present "Prostate Health: Latest Information and Research" on May 16th at 12 noon in suite 103 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic on the Hospital's campus. Participants will receive a complementary PSA screening prior to the start of the lecture. This is the first of the Hospital's 2012 Physician Forum Lunch & Learn Series. The hour long lecture includes a light boxed lunch and ends with a question and answer session.

Barry H. Bodie, MD, specializes in all aspects of urological care including enlarged prostate; incontinence; cancer of the kidney, bladder and prostate; voiding dysfunction; kidney stones; sexual dysfunction in men and women; male infertility; and urinary system trauma. Dr. Bodie is a 25-year experienced surgeon practicing the most advanced techniques in urological treatments and procedures.

He is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina and completed residencies in both general surgery and urology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio. Barry H. Bodie, MD, is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and has 25 years of active medical practice. He is board certified



in Urology. Dr. Bodie is a member of the International Continence Society and the American Urological Association. He is the past president of the North Carolina Urological Society and has been an active urologist in Western North Carolina for the past decade. Those interested in attending must RSVP (828) 526-1313 or email info@hchospital.org.

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 25

• At 3 p.m., a burglary/larceny was reported at a home on Sassy Lane where about \$1,300 in various items was reported missing.

May 1

• At 5:30 p.m., a cell phone was reported stolen from a home on Mirror Lake Road.

May 5

• At 11:48 a.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 31, of Highlands, was arrested for an assault on a female.

• Juan Pablo Perez, 40, was arrested for DWI.

May 8

• At 6:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-

vehicle accident at Main and 4th streets.

• At 10:30 p.m., officers helped chase a bear of the Chandler Inn property.

• During the week, police officers responded to 5 alarms and issued 18 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from May 3.

May 3

• At 3:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods Drive. It was set off by workers.

May 4

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street that was set off by a child.

May 5

• At 11:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on US 64 west.

May 8

• At 6:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail. The alarm was broken.

May 9

• At 4:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a home on Owl Gap Road.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Join HHS Kelsey Kids

Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming Kelsey Kids program sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. Some of last year's participants are seen here at all that remains of the home of Highlands founder, Samuel Kelsey. The program is open to children aged 8, 9, and 10 years old, wherever they are schooled. This free one-week program will occur the week of June 11 with each day's events starting at the Historical Museum on Fourth Street at 9 a.m. Activities include field trips to such places as Foxfire, Highlands Country Club and a chicken farm; a hike on the Ranger Trail; and dem-



onstrations of crafts, milking, clogging, mountain music, and more. Lunch is served daily. For an application form, contact Linda David at 526-3374 or lindawd@hcgexpress.net.

Rotary students of the month



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the April Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its May 1 meeting. Shown with Rotary Past President, Jodie Cook and Highlands School Counselor, Thomas Jessup, are: the Middle School winner, Danielle Mathis, Elementary School winner, Allie Buck and High School winner, Tim Fogle.

The Bascom's Artistic Director, Kaye Gorecki McHan accepts new position in CT

Jane Jerry, Executive Director of The Bascom, Center for Visual Arts in Highlands, NC, announced today that Artistic Director Kaye Gorecki McHan will be leaving The Bascom by June 1 to assume the role of Executive Director for I-Park Foundation. I-Park, headquartered in East Haddam, CT, is a catalyst for creative pursuits through its international artists-in-residence programs, interdisciplinary projects, and the aesthetic engagement of its natural environment.
Kaye began in 2002 as Executive Director of the Bascom-Louise Gallery in Highlands and helped develop the organization into a sustainable institution with solid financial growth and vibrant programming. She was among the regional leaders who helped the organization, now known as The Bascom, move to its new campus in 2009. Since 2009, as Artistic Director, she expanded the art center's exhibitions and educational programming, especially by bringing nationally known artists to Western North Carolina to participate in exhibitions and to teach workshops and classes.

Acknowledging Kaye's decade-long contribution to The Bascom, Jane Jerry noted, "Kaye was a significant leader in the region's arts community. Because of her exceptional work, The Bascom is now well-positioned to fulfill its mission to enhance the quality of life on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau by providing through transformational experiences with all forms of visual arts."
Kaye stated, "It has been a difficult decision to leave my community and The Bascom. I take great comfort in knowing that our Executive Director, Jane Jerry, and all the staff and volunteers of The Bascom will be here to bring our community's art center to an even higher and more engaging level."
Sallie Taylor, The Bascom's Registrar has been appointed Interim Curator, effective immediately.
The public is invited to wish Kaye well on her new venture at a reception to be held at The Bascom on June 1 from 3- 6 p.m.

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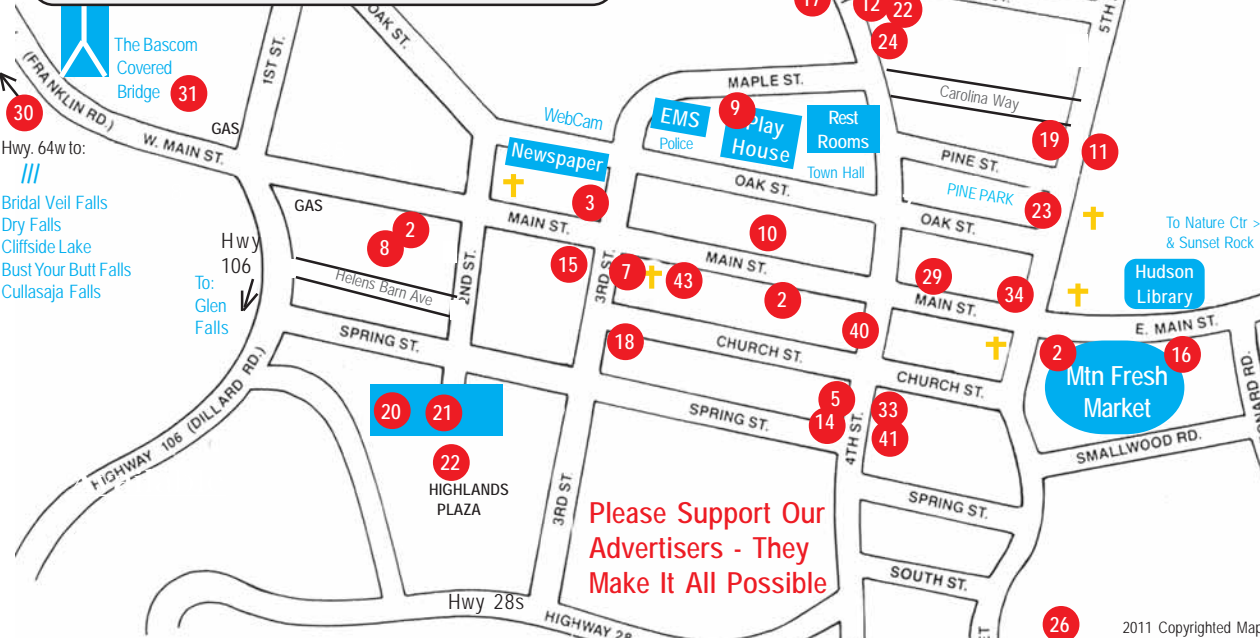
Thursday-Sunday, May 10-13
• Highlands-Cashiers Players, The Dixie Swim Club at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:30 matinee. For tickets call 526-8084.

Friday & Saturday, May 11-12

• The Highlands Biological Station's Wildflower Whimsey to celebrate the Highlands Botanical Garden's 50th anniversary. Friday's event 5-8pm is free. Saturday's event is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. For more information, call (828) 526-2221.

Tuesday, May 15

• Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Snow Flower & The Secret Fan.



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