

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 44

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

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012

#### NOTE:

• If you are closing up your second home and heading out of Highlands, please take all unopened foods to the Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church.

**Thurs., Nov. 1**

• At Fressers Eatery, Wellstrung performing 6:30p until

**Saturday, Nov. 3**

• Daylight Savings Time ends tonight. Turn your clocks back one hour.

• CLE Presents: W.E. the story about Wallis and Edward, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor at 6:30p at the Highlands Playhouse. Tickets are \$15. For reservations contact The Center for Life Enrichment at 526-8811 or [clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com).

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway first fall hike of the recently completed trail system. The hike will include: lunch, guided hike, shuttle and one year individual greenway membership all for \$25. To sign up email to Hillrie Quin at [hmquin@frontier.com](mailto:hmquin@frontier.com) or call 526-2385.

• Members of Highlands United Methodist Church will be going into the community doing good deeds to show the love of Christ. They will be in red shirts.

**Monday, Nov. 5**

• Shortoff Baptist church will be having its monthly non-denomination Men's Meeting on Monday at 7p. Butch Smart will be the inspiration speaker for this meeting. All men are invited for this time of Worship and Fellowship.

**Tues., Nov 6**

• Election Day! Polls open at 6:30a and close at 7:30a. Get out and VOTE! See the Sample Ballot at <http://www.maconnc.org/images/pdf/MACON-20121106-Style001.pdf>

• Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m TBA. Coordinator: Martha Porter.

## Parking issues, grinder pumps & more

**By Stuart Ferguson**

During its regularly scheduled meeting on October 18, the majority of discussion revolved around downtown parking; a new policy for grinder pumps; and a surveillance camera policy.

After approving the agenda and the September 20 meeting's minutes, during the public comment section of the meeting, Joe Luke from Reeves Hardware Company spoke.

Luke complained that not only

was Main Street parking difficult, but that now employers were abusing parking on 3rd Street between Main and Spring streets. He said there were 25 parking spaces on that block, and that he had photographs

• See PARKING page 3

## Authorities seek help locating rape suspect

Law Enforcement agencies continue to seek information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the suspect. Federal, state and local law enforcement officials are using a variety of investigative tools, including forensic evidence, to find the suspect and bring him to justice. In recent months, law enforcement officers have followed up on leads and conducted interviews. No arrests have been made in the case.

The Forest Service, the Macon County Sheriff's Office, and the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) are seeking information on the rape that occurred Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, at approximately 4 p.m. in Macon County within the Nantahala National Forest.

The incident occurred at the intersection of Forest Service Road (FSR) 711 and the Wayah Road,

• See RAPE page 14



The Bascom's sappling sculpture, "Do Tell" created by Patrick Dougherty June 2010, met an early demise Monday when snowy, gusting winds blew it down. Photo by Jim Lewicki

## 'Perfect Storm' brings winter blast to Highlands

Highlands was spared the brunt of weather caused by the three converging weather systems that blasted the northeast seaboard Monday and Tuesday, but still its effects were felt.

Winds of 25 mph-35 mph with gusts much higher, brought down trees and power lines causing numerous power outages scattered across the power grid.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said calls started coming in 9 a.m. Monday morning and continued until 6 a.m. Tuesday.

Crews braved the cold, wet, windy and snowy weather to remove

• See WINTER page 2

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## Kuppers and Higdon face off at League Q&A

### – Final Questions –

On Thursday, Oct. 11, the League of Women of held a question and answer forum with Macon County Commission candidates incumbent Democrat Bobby Kuppers and Republican Paul Higdon.

The questions revolved around the question "What is the role of county government?"

This is the third and final installment – See the Oct. 18 edition for part 1 and the Oct. 25 edition for part 2 at [www.highlandsnewspaperPDF.com](http://www.highlandsnewspaperPDF.com).

At this point in the forum, sitting commissioners who were in attendance asked the candidates questions.

**The first was Commission Chair Kevin Corbin who asked: How do you feel about**

• See LEAGUE Q&A page 10

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6:30a and close at 7:30a.  
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<http://www.maconnc.org/images/pdf/MACON-20121106-Style001.pdf>



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Now this is funny ...  
or maybe scary is the  
better word

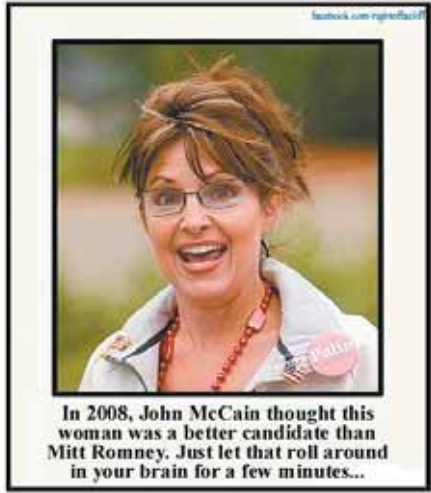
Dear Editor,

I read Fred Wooldridge's column entitled "Here's a funny not so funny piece of advice" in the Highlands Newspaper last week and figured he might be a Mormon, as is Gerald Molen, the director, producer, and writer of the movie he reviewed, "2016." And guess what? So is Mitt Romney. So, Fred's in good company if that's the case.

It would appear from his remarks that the movie served its purpose; it scared him to the point that he had to share his fear with readers. Or perhaps he was just trying to make a political statement, I can't be sure. But if he is genuinely worried about our economy he should take a look at the following website:  
[www.neweconomicperspectives.org](http://www.neweconomicperspectives.org)  
or Google: Dr. Stephanie Kelton. I think he will find some solace and sound reasoning in the explanations offered and then he won't be scared any more. It's up to him whether or not he decides to share his new knowledge with readers.

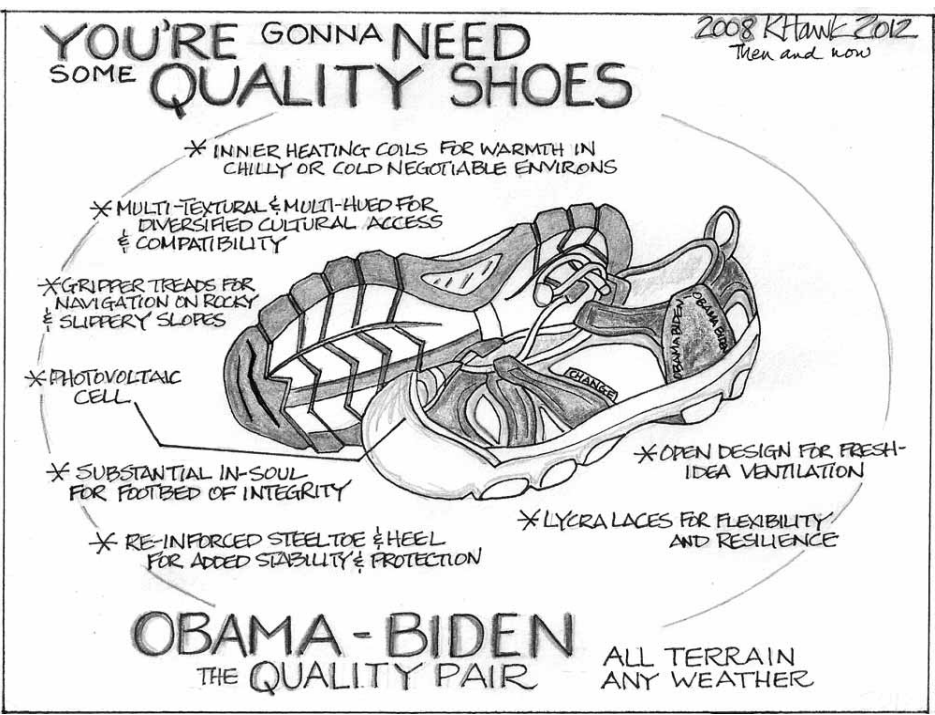
And remember, the movies and Fox News are for entertainment purposes only.

If he insists on being scared, I have included something seasonal but make sure you're sitting down before looking at the attached photo. And, you're welcome!



Rob Moorefield  
Highlands

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



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Run-on sentences are  
poor grammar

Dear Editor,

I have a problem with your columnist Don Swanson's use of eight commas in one very, very, long sentence; making it extremely difficult to digest.

He's hard enough to stomach as it is.

Noel Atherton  
Whiteside Cove

• THANKS •

The family of Arnold Keener would like to thank everyone for their kindness of friendship, cards, food, kind words and prayer. We would especially like to say thank you to Dr. Patti Wheeler, the staff at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for their thoughtful care.

The Family of Arnold Keener

Thanks for  
supporting the Food  
Pantry

The second annual Empty Bowls, a benefit for the Food Pantry, was a wonderful success. Guests were asked to buy a hand-made bowl made at The Bascom, as a reminder of all the empty bowls around the world. They were then served a simple meal of soup and bread. Proceeds went to the Food Pantry. We would like to thank the many volunteers and donors who made this inspiring event possible and the many supporters who bought bowls.

Barbara Landwehr  
Co-Director, The Food Pantry of  
Highlands

... WINTER from pg 1

eight trees from power lines and then worked to restore power.

"We were extremely fortunate to not have any more damage than what we had," said Nix. He said tree trimming, which town crews do all year long, helps during weather events like this.

Unlike its counterparts further north, Highlands got about an inch of snow over the two-day period, but snow coupled with freezing temperatures brought winter early to the plateau.

- Kim Lewicki



## ... PARKING continued from page 1

of 18 cars parked there all day long.

"I'm not saying Reeves wants those spots — I'm saying Highlands needs those spots," he said.

Now customers for Main Street stores are forced to park beyond Spring Street, at the Christian Science Church and beyond.

"The biggest complaint we have at Reeves is 'I'd shop here more but I can't find the parking.' The board and most people in town know that tourism is the town's main industry. It needs to be addressed: It takes a long time and it's not popular but something needs to be done....like everything else, not everybody is going to be happy....before another season comes around we need to do something about this problem," he said.

The store has collected 380 signatures on a petition asking for dedicated parking for Reeves's customers — like a 15-minute spot.

"We have a lot of customers who come in for light bulbs or washers — simple things and they can't get a spot. I'm not pushing for that [dedicated parking]," he said. "But just want to show there's a perceived need among our customers."

He added that Reeve's has had a 45% downturn in business since 2006 and that while this past August his business had 550 transactions a day, in September that number was down to 415.

Mayor David Wilkes asked if they'd like to see 2nd and 3rd street dedicated parking for customers and Luke said he would. "There's 'no reason why people who work at stores can't park out there beyond Spring Street, it would just take them another two or three minutes to get to work."

Mayor Wilkes shares his experience at the other end of the Main Street business district: "I've seen many more people park along the edge of shoulders in front of Highland Hiker all the way to the corner. It's constant and it never used to happen. A lot of it is due to the lunch crowd at Mountain Fresh....over the years we've gotten more and more vehicles in town so it's probably a good idea to consider more designated customer parking," he said.

He also said the town needs to consider a really simple map: green where you can park and red where you cannot park. "We may need to look at map and make changes and extend it — which is what we're talking about. But we need to make that map available to everybody."

He spoke of contractors [carpooling] who leave vehicles on Main Street while they spend all day at a job somewhere else and urged store owners to write down the license tags of vehicles that were parked in front of their businesses for long periods.

"For the past 30 years it's been a problem," Wilkes said. "We've talked about parking meters, we talked about striping tires — nobody really wanted to do that; we wanted two-hour parking, and that didn't look good. We discussed just about every different way to resolve it; unless we put boots on car and start towing them. But that's another firestorm, because you're gonna boot some visitor's car."

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked Highlands Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Kiełtyka if most of the merchants were in favor of their employees parking off Main Street to which Kiełtyka answered yes, the vast majority, and that in fact there are just a few violators of the parking rules, other than a handful of well known, habitual "perpetrators."

"It's a never-ending problem," said Patterson. "You're right, there is no solution, we just keep chipping away at it, but it needs to be a joint effort [between merchants and town]." She then suggested employers require employees to put a parking sticker on their cars so it can be easily identified.

Mayor Wilkes weighed in: "We've discussed that from time to time. There are a lot of part-time employees; employees who drive one car today and another tomorrow; and there are employees who are, literally, customers. I mean I drive down the street to get a card at the Dry Sink then I'm a customer and I park in front — but I've got an employee sticker. When are they a customer, when are they not a customer? We've been through having every merchant sign a pledge that neither themselves nor their employees will park on Main Street. There's never been a resolution and their have been sometimes when someone will park in front of someone else's store on Main Street just to make them mad."

Wilkes said he would "bring this back with an enforcement suggestion and extended parking maps."

### Grinder Pumps

According to Wikipedia, "a grinder pump is a waste management device. Waste from water-using household appliances (toilets, bathtubs, washing machines, etc.) flows through the home's pipes into the grinder pump's holding tank. Once the waste inside the tank reaches a specific level, the pump will turn on, grind the waste into a fine slurry, and pump it to the central sewer system."

According to the Town of Highlands' new policy on grinder pumps, a draft of which was presented Thursday night:

State regulations require the town maintain service mains, discharge lines and grinder pump stations that are connected to low-pressure sewer lines in which the town holds the state permit, but these regulations do not

require the town to maintain or hold permits for grinder pump stations on gravity sewer lines or force main sewer lines.

Public Works Director Lamar Nix said this creates perceived inequalities between citizens who differ only in which type of line is connected to their grinder pump station.

"The new ordinance will give all people

• See PARKING page 18

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## • LOOKING AT LIFE •

### A personal letter to my Democrat friends, neighbors and relatives

**W**ell, folks, it has finally arrived. This Tuesday is Election Day so I'm dedicating this column to my many Democratic friends, neighbors and relatives who often pay little attention to politics but usually find the time to read my column. This week's offering is neither sarcastic nor funny. And yes, I do have Democratic friends, neighbors and relatives whom I dearly cherish. I know, I know, it's hard to believe.

Over the years, we have remained friends and in the case of relatives, remained loving family members because we have respectfully agreed to disagree on politics. We have come



**with Fred Wooldridge**  
**Feedback is encouraged!**  
**askfredanything@aol.com**

to realize that friendships and love are much more important. We haven't become polarized and I believe that's a good thing. In reality, our differences are what help America remain strong and we are at our best when there is balance.

Unfortunately, America is out-of-balance and completely polarized. Regardless of who is to blame for this, in your heart-of-hearts, you know America is in big trouble.

Right after President Obama was elected, I wrote a column in the High-

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 14



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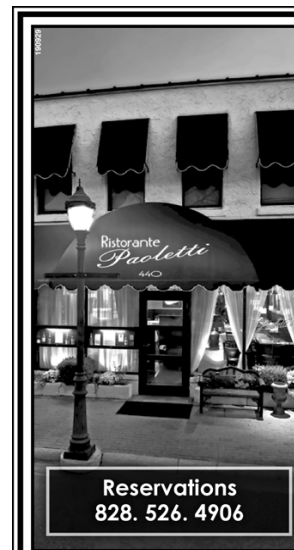


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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Full Moon



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

**T**his week's full moon is expected to add to the torment suffered by East Coast residents this week. Frankenstorm, or the Perfect Storm II, as it might be called is the collision of an early winter storm and a late season hurricane which promises to interrupt the lives of 50 to 60 million Americans and Canadians. Strong winds, torrential rains, and heavy snows will produce misery, as will power outages, expected to be widespread and lengthy.

So where does the moon fit into all the turmoil? Monday is a full moon and the moon influences tides, which are highest at the full and new moons. High tides magnified the storm surge throughout the great New York City area. It's easy to imagine a 10- or 15-foot surge wash-

ing over a Caribbean island, or even a southern coastal city, but New York! This is an event.

In addition to the scientifically documented, and explained, effect on tides, the moon is thought to exert an influence on human behavior. It is a belief rooted in antiquity, and popular today. The Roman goddess of the moon was Luna. Lunatic is a pejorative term for the mentally ill. Lunacy is their affliction. It was once thought werewolves were transformed by a full moon. Today's emergency room doctors and nurses, and police officers are as convinced as their medieval counterparts that the full moon brings on the crazies, or the lunatics.

Proponents, attempting to explain the phe-

• See SALZARULO page 21



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# • THE ‘CONSERVATIVE’ POV

## Frankenstorm



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

No, I'm not talking about Al Franken, junior senator from Minnesota. As scary as he is, hopefully his colleagues have learned that he can be relatively neutered and won't do too much damage to the country before he loses his seat. You remember Franken, former Saturday Night Live foul mouthed joke writer, who beat Norm Coleman in 2008 by 312 votes. A perfect example of how every vote counts, and the consequences of good people failing to go to the polls.

Nor am I talking about the calamity that is being touted about the weather. From Bloomberg: "Hurricane Sandy will probably grow into a 'Frankenstorm' that may become the worst to hit the U.S. Northeast in 100 years if forecasts are correct." By the time you read this, you will know whether or not the forecasts were correct. Since I'm writing this several days before publication, I don't.

What has my attention is what happens after the election, no matter how it turns out. If Romney wins, in my opinion, the country wins in the long run. If Obama wins, I believe the downward trajectory of our economy and our society will continue on its present course. It is estimated, by experts, if Obama presides, the

country will be \$20,000,000,000 in debt by the end of his second term.

The weak dollar philosophy, essentially participating in a race to the bottom, with no end in sight, might eventually lead to high exports and low imports if we live long enough. The price to be paid for cheapening the dollar (against other currencies) is that the dollar will be in danger of ceasing to be the world's reserve currency.

Without being overly technical, let me quote from Wikipedia: "A reserve currency, or anchor currency, is a currency that is held in significant quantities by many governments and institutions as a part of their foreign exchange reserves. It also tends to be the international pricing currency for

products traded on a global market, and commodities such as oil, gold, etc. This permits the issuing country (US for now) to purchase the commodities at a marginally lower rate than other nations, which must exchange their currencies with each purchase and pay a transaction cost." It's bad news.

The administration will not have learned how to create jobs. If they knew how, they would have – unless, of course, you believe in the theory that, in his effort to create an ever increasing dependent society, he is happy to see employment lag and food stamps and unemployment insurance and disability payments prosper.

Much is being made of "the pamphlet," a measure used to have us believe that, mystically, after being clueless for four years, two weeks before the election, eureka, we have the answers and they are here in this pamphlet, called 'New Economic Patriotism'. I have not read it, nor I doubt have you, but I know enough to know that it does not contain the answers to our problems.

The real Frankenstorm is the period between the election and inauguration day.

We have all heard of the im-

• See SWANSON page 17

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# • COACH'S CORNER •

## My top 10 scariest sights of this Halloween season

It's that time again, where we dress up, get candy, and celebrate Halloween (and in my household, we wish my mother a Happy Birthday -- Happy Birthday Mom!). Here is my semi-annual catalog of frightening visions for this year's version of All Hallows Eve.

10. The New York Jets offense: yikes. Talk about people who have no clue... Tony Sparano and Rex Ryan line up Tim Tebow on first and 10 and run it up the gut for two yards, but on third and goal from the 1 yard line they have Mark Sanchez throw a slant pass into the front row. I think the real fear in this situation is that if Tebow did anything of note, then Sanchez and his \$50 million contract would be relegated to the bench.

9. 441 South on a Sunday in October...a trifecta of poor drivers, heavy traffic, and the 16 police officers lined up along the highway running radar make for a horrifying Sunday drive.

8 and 7. Jarvis Jones and Matt Elam, respectively. Jones single handedly destroyed the Florida Gator offense last Saturday, and was in the backfield only slightly less than Florida QB Jeff Driskel. Conversely, Elam is the best safety in the nation and will hit anyone on the field with reckless abandon...even his own teammates.

6. Will Muschamp: winning or losing...still terrifying.



**Ryan Potts**

[ryanpotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanpotts@hotmail.com)

5. Kyrie Irving in the open court (if you are a defender). Simply unguardable.

4. Kansas State's Collin Klein on 3rd and 1. The Klein-apple Express (or Optimus Klein, if you prefer) is like a giant redwood falling in the forest-crushing everything in his path and always gaining extra yards after contact.

3. Shaquille O' Neal on Inside the NBA on TNT. Half of the battle is simply trying to understand what he is saying, but the second half of the battle is dealing with the internal disappointment that you wasted all of that energy to hear something useless.

2. The Cheesehead Discount Double Check guy-simply bone chilling.

1. My Facebook feed the day after the election. No matter who wins, it is going to be extremely ugly. There has already been months of political cheerleading...and it will all come to a head on November 7th. If Mitt Romney wins, then Chris Matthews will be reduced to tears and the chill in his leg will be no more. If Barack Obama wins, then Fox News will...well, Fox News will probably be thrilled by four more years of record profits.

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### Offers to purchase or contracts?

**W**e've had a great deal more activity this year with prospective buyers and Offers to Purchase. However, buyers and sellers are not coming together in many cases...thus not ending in sales contracts.

What are the issues creating this scenario?

Most real estate professionals agree that we are at the bottom of our market. I had a local man recently tell me that he had to buy some local real estate because they are giving it away! However, buyers and sellers often do not agree with the "bottom price."

Buyers in this economy are expecting to make an exceptional deal. Sellers in many cases have drastically reduced their prices downward over a period of time from previous market conditions. They may be already at the bottom of the market.

Here are examples of what we are experiencing:

A seller may have started listing their property at a price of \$600,000 and by now have reduced the price to \$395,000. The buyer makes an offer at \$300,000. The sell-



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er feels like they are already at their bottom BEFORE they received the Offer when in fact \$395,000 could be an excellent value.

The other side of the coin is that a seller may have an elevated opinion of their property based on previous years. In this

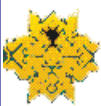
case it is difficult to get agents and/or clients to even look at the property. A buyer decides it is probably a nice property, although pricey, but feels the seller will come down to today's market value. These cases rarely come together and conclude in a sale.

I believe this is a phase. Activity is an improvement, but bringing together buyers and sellers is much better. In time, I believe it will even out. The best news is we are experiencing an upswing in real estate sales, which is the backbone of our economy in Highlands.

I highly recommend finding a professional Realtor whom you can trust to guide you in the best direction.

If you want a good overall introduction of our area and to search available properties, you are invited to visit my user friendly website at [www.signatureproperties-nc.com](http://www.signatureproperties-nc.com). Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, one is downtown at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex and the other is at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at [Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com](mailto:Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com)

For RE Snapshot advertising information, call 526-3228 or email [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)  
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# • JUST HERS •

## The shoes I didn't need

**M**y old Go to Church Shoes bit the dust the other day, and I looked in my closet to find a replacement. I smiled when my eyes fell on The Shoes I Didn't Need. In the shoe department, I am not my mother's daughter. My mother is the Imelda Marcos of Paris. I go for rather plain, comfortable shoes – the kind of shoes my friend Molly McKim wouldn't be caught dead in. I bought The Shoes I Didn't Need shortly after John died in 2010. A friend and I had driven to Franklin, and popped into People's. Quite honestly, I didn't feel much like shopping. Retail therapy doesn't usually work for me for two main reasons. I have a hard time finding clothes that fit, and I don't enjoy spending money.

I wandered aimlessly around the aisles of People's, trying to match the enthusiasm of my friend, who was trying so hard to cheer me. Giving up on the clothing section, I found myself among the shoes. Possessed of fairly small feet for a woman my size, surely I could find something here! And there they were, a pair of brown flats, size 8M – serviceable, practical, and totally unexciting. Slipping them on, they felt like bedroom slippers. They would be wonderful to walk in. But I didn't need another pair of shoes. I caught my kind friend looking hopefully in my direction. "I'll take them," I said to the sales lady. My friend heaved a sigh of relief. I walked out of People's with a carrier bag containing The Shoes I Didn't Need.

Perhaps it was destiny! After all, on the day I was born, my father did not race to my mother's bedside with chocolate and jewels. Instead, he purchased an indoor electric grill, the kind they made in the olden days. Folded over, this machine made grilled cheese sandwiches. Opened up, it was perfect for pancakes. If you switched plates on it, it became a waffle iron. Unimpressed by its versatility, my mother stared at the grill, and intoned "Albert, we need this like a hole in the head." And thus we acquired a beloved object which would serve us faithfully. Maman's comment had stuck, and we henceforth referred to the grill by its family nickname, The Hole in the Head. Over the years, it provided us with toasty sandwiches to eat with my mother's delicious homemade soups. On weekends, we often had Sunday breakfast/brunch for sup-

per instead, eating stacks of piping hot pancakes and waffles with fresh Amish butter and maple syrup purchased every March at the Highland Maple Festival in Monterey, Virginia. What happy memories! And how much pleasure we derived from that oddly named "Hole in the Head."

John and I married in the summer of 2008, and took off with Maman for Scotland and Ireland. It wasn't my mother's first trip to Ireland – she'd been there several years before with another group – and hoped we'd stop off at Triona Design, a wonderful tweed shop in Ardara, County Donegal. Sure enough, our bus found its way there. We watched a tweed making demonstration, and armed with the knowl-



**Michelle Mead-Armor**  
michiemead@aol.com

edge of what to look for, we took off around the shop. Maman tried on, and purchased, several outfits. My petite French mother would look good in a gunny sack. I, on the other hand, have the gift of making even decent, attractive clothing LOOK like a gunny sack. Determined that I would not leave the shop without something in tweed, my mother searched until she found me a lovely green jacket.

Less enthusiastic, however, was my husband. "Look at all the lovely things they have for men," I gushed, eager for him to get something nice, but also hoping his purchase would assuage my own guilty pleasure. Obviously in one of his grumpier moods, he stated that he'd just find some-

where to sit, and wait while we began our two woman campaign to bolster the economy of Ireland. Time flew by, and eventually, we made our way to the front of the shop, waiting to discover John, unhappy at having to wait by himself all that time. Instead, we found a glowing John, resplendent in a beautiful Donegal tweed jacket. "I thought you said you didn't need anything," I teased. My husband grinned sheepishly. It seems that the one of the owners of Triona Design, a tall, handsome woman, had found John wandering around the shop, and said that one thing that was guaranteed to melt the heart of my sartorially challenged husband. "She said it made me look Irish," he mumbled, looking at his feet. And thus my darling John acquired, The Tweed Jacket He Didn't Need, which became one of his favorite articles of clothing.

There are things we want; things we

• See JUST HERS page 22

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## ...LEAGUE Q&A continued from page 1

**improvements to recreation and where we should go with it?**

### Kuppers

My stance on Recreation is pretty clear. I have been going to the Recreation Committee meetings. They work hard for the youth of Macon County and the seniors of Macon County. They want to make sure there is something in recreation for all our cit-

izens. The pool was new when I was young and for 40 years all we did was drain it, paint it, fill it up, drain it and paint it. It was time. We have a facility that's not ADA compliant and now it will be. But were' not done. We have to look for other ways to expand recreation facilities. We have a huge need for more ballfields. No one is looking harder than the five commissioners sitting on that

board and the recreation committee out there trying to find a way if we can to build some ballfields. My vision, if I were king of the world is to someday have a complex where Franklin, instead of traveling to travel ball, instead of traveling to softball tournaments instead of spending our money in Gatlingburg and Greenville and Hickory, maybe we can invite those folks to the mountains for a

weekend. Let them eat in our restaurants, let them buy stuff in our stores. It's not just about the recreation, it's also economic development. And if you don't think it is you never played in a 50-league softball tournament.

### Higdon

As far as the swimming pool goes and I wasn't involved in the planning of that, I haven't seen any of the drawings on it. I used to be with the Health Department 16 years ago and we did inspections on pools. The county did some work on it 15-20 years ago. But in a recession, and we're in a recession here and across the country - there is hope with the upcoming election that the mood of this country and the economic outlook of this country will improve dramatically -- but spending \$500,000 is a lot in a recession. I was not privy to planning for that. I do agree with Bobby and I would like to see a cloverleaf baseball field, softball fields in this county. As he said our kids traveling to Clayton and Gatlinburg, are spending money. I don't necessarily think it should be funded exclusively by government. We ought to be looking at private citizens who are interested in investing in this with us and make it a private-public joint effort. And as far as just general recreation goes, I went to the Iotla School open house the other night - a beautiful facility - but I saw a jar sitting there at the PTA table and the ladies said they are trying to buy playground equipment. We spent \$12 million out there, wiped out two playgrounds and now there's no

playground there and we have these ladies with the PTA trying to come up with \$30,000 to buy the playground equipment? Could that not have been figured in to the whole cost of this project? It floored me. We build this school and there's no playground equipment.

**Next Commissioner Ronnie Beale asked candidates to speak to the supplement for the teachers in Macon County.**

### Higdon

The supplement is part of the money we give to the school system. But we have to start looking at these test scores. Do they mean anything? To me, parents should be concerned about that. We are concerned about new schools, but what about the product? Does that mean anything to anybody? As far as charter schools go they've lifted the cap and right now in North Carolina 87% of students go to public schools. 600 voters were surveyed and 73% thought the NC public school system was going the wrong way; 27% thought it was going the right way. If we instated a voucher program, what percentage would be in public school? 34%. Private schools, homeschools and charter schools have grown drastically. The majority of those surveyed said they would send their children to private schools. If we don't start putting importance on performance at the local level, the taxpayers and parents are going to demand better and like you said the money now follows these charter

• See LEAGUE Q&A page 11

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## ... LEAGUE Q&A continued from page 10

schools. I think Macon County sent a check to Summit Charter in Cashiers for \$72,000 last year. Now it's sending some to Swain county and there's even one child going to Swannanoa we have to fund. It's already happening. This isn't an indictment on teachers, it's the system We do have some of the best teachers, but we have to correct this system to produce a better product. Education is a cash cow and the corporations that run some of these charter schools, they are going to want some of that money and they are going to get it. So it's up to us to save public education. We have to do it as a team and we have to demand better performance.

### Kuppers

I'm a teacher and I've not drawn a county supplement for the four years. Yes, it's important; I wish it was bigger but I know we can't afford it to be bigger. To tell you how much I think about it, a couple years ago, when it looked like we were going to have to cut it, knowing that if we cut it, it was never ever, ever coming back, I recommended to the Board of Education that we split the cost of the supplement for one year. That was the way to ensure it would stay alive. And it needs to stay alive.

I've got to ask this, has someone teleported us to Kentucky? I think there is a debate in Kentucky about all these national issues and I just wondered if we are there. When I walked into the room I thought we were having a debate on county commissioner issues and since we're just about to wrap this up, I would like to bring us back to that just for a second.

Whatever means of student assessment you are going to use, it needs to be fair; needs to be fair across the board and I couldn't agree more. As a former submarine officer I'll tell you the measure I used. You send me a high school graduate who can't do a simple math problem in their heads; your school's failing. You send me a candidate for nuclear power school and he can't be taught a little bit of physics, a little bit of chemistry and a little bit of calculus, then your school has failed you. One of my former students told me she was going into the Navy for nuclear power school. She went in for the interview and she blew them away. She wasn't even an honor student. No we're not perfect, we're not where we want to be and we can always get better, but we're not going to get better by pounding the drum on how bad we are. We are going to get better by pounding the drum about how good we can be.

**Finally, Commissioner Ron Haven said: I think the number one thing we have to do in the next four years is economic development, bringing jobs here.**

### Comment on that.

#### Kuppers

You are right. We have to bring jobs in. I don't think you're ever going to see a gigantic manufacturing plant into Franklin again, I don't see that happening. I think we are going to build this one small business at a time and I think our job is to set the climate that encourages that and I think we have done that over the last four years. Our EDC has worked nonstop. Are we as good as we can be? You're never as good as you can be. You've got to work at it everyday. Because guess what? The county next door is working on it everyday. You've got to take care of your infrastructure, keep your water, sewer and transportation infrastructure up to date and current because if you don't somebody's going to blow by and the next thing you know that little business that hires 10 or 15 people isn't coming here it's going to Sylva or Cherokee County. So EDC is important but it's also important to get off this tsunami roller coaster ride we've been on with the state and federal government funding coalescing and then disappearing and then coming back. I want to get us flat and level again and I think we're approaching that if you look at our budget. We've honed her down now and can absorb pretty much anything that comes our way. A large portion of that is the financial stewardship before I ever came on the board so its disingenuous of me to stand up here and take credit for that and I won't do it. But we are in good financial shape thanks to our board and several boards prior to this one.

#### Higdon

I do support EDC in Macon County. I don't know much about the budget. But I was a bit frustrated when we handpicked an EDC coordinator without an application process. If it's that important of an issue we need to try to recruit the best people possible to run and administer the program. As a commissioner I would make sure we don't have any ordinances or any new rules or regulations that hamper economic growth. The construction industry has been the backbone of this county for years. Forty years ago the past boards touted tourism, tourism. We couldn't wait for the tourists to get here. I guess we thought they would come leave the money and go home and that would be it but they came, they wanted to build houses, they wanted to open businesses, and now we are a construction industry. Like it or not it effects everything from the offerings at the churches to the restaurants in Macon County. We need to do everything we can to foster a positive environment for the construction industry or any other industry in economic devel-

opment.

Closing statements followed:

#### Higdon

I consider myself a fiscal and social conservative. If elected I will be a good steward of tax dollars. I think we need to look at every dollar we spend. It's coming out of someone's hip pocket. The government doesn't produce anything so it relies on revenue from individuals. I believe in the Constitution, individual freedom, personal property rights. I am pro God. Everything I have, every right that I have came from God -- granted me from a just and loving heavenly father. The government has given me no rights and I will make sure that the government doesn't restrict those rights as a county commissioner. I'm also pro life, pro traditional marriage, I'm pro gun and pro voter ID. Those are things I believe in. I believe in individual freedoms. I realize that we need certain levels of government but I don't want this nation to become a nation dependent on government -- an entitlement nation.

#### Kuppers

I'm pro Macon County because I'm running to be a commissioner of Macon County. I'm not running for anything else. Just Macon County. I'm pro Macon County. Every vote we take in that commissioners' board room matters because every vote we take affects you. -- the citizens of Macon County.

It should be incumbent upon us to en-

ter into those votes with an open mind, yes, with our principles, but with an open mind and a clear heart and a willingness to hear what the other guy says. Open ears. Don't just listen to it and vote against it, but really hear it. I'm a coach. There is a sign in our locker room I'm very proud of. It reads, "It's amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit." We should put that in our board room because the board of commissioners live and breathe that every single day. We don't care whose idea it was, we don't care if it came from a Republican or Democrat. I view them as fellow commissioners and I'll walk across the aisle, I'll walk across the room, I'll walk across the street, I'll walk across the four-lane if the idea on the other side is better than mine. If you don't want cooperation, if what you want is dissension on the board; if you want us to give them something to write about and put on the front page everyday, if you want political theater, I'm not your guy. But if you want someone who will work together across party lines, then I'm your boy. The second thing is we do our best work when we listen to you and boy, have I ever done that. I've answered the phone at 11 o'clock at night to a person who didn't understand why the reval got put off. I've been in your homes. I've met you at grocery stores, Bi-Lo and Walmart I've listened to what you had to say and to the best of

• See LEAGUE Q&A page 14

# Cabin Couture

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PULL OUT

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

## Ongoing

• Eastern Star will also be selling pecan pieces and pecan halves from the 2012 crop. The pecans are in 16 oz bags and will be on sale for \$9/bag. Please call Naomi Chastain, Worthy Matron, at 526-3487 and leave a message with your name and phone number. We will call back once the pecans have been received in mid-November.

## 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

• 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 Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

## Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the H-C 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.

• Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers- Community Library at 1 p.m.

## Wednesdays & Fridays

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

## Thursdays, Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road. Call 526-2121.

## 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. 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!

## Second Thursdays

• The regular meeting of Highlands Chapter #284, Order of The Eastern Star is held at 7:30 p.m.

## Saturdays

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, free wine tastings from 2-4 p.m.

• Simply Homegrown is a local farmers market in Rabun County, GA. Celebrating its 11th season as the area's original sustainable farm market. Open 9 am to 2 pm at the new location 0.7 mile west of Clayton on Highway 76 West. Look for directional signs on Routes 441 and 76 in Clayton. Our website has detailed directions [www.simplyhomegrown.org](http://www.simplyhomegrown.org).

• 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! Call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

• Bascom Community Knitters welcome all knitters, crocheters, smockers and needlepointers to join us on the Terrace at the Bascom. 10 until noon. From now until Thanksgiving! Come and knit or come and watch. [mscarolray@yahoo.com](mailto:mscarolray@yahoo.com)

## 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.

## Friday, Nov. 2

• The High Mountain Squares will dance Friday Night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South, from 6:30 to 9p. Hoyle Grose from Asheville will be the caller. It's Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7p. For information call 828-340-0905.

## Saturday, Nov. 3

• CLE Presents: W.E. the story about Wallis and Edward, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor at 6:30p at the Highlands Playhouse. Tickets are \$15. For reservations contact The Center for Life Enrichment at 526-8811 or [clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com).

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway is sponsoring the first fall hike of the recently completed trail system. The hike will include: lunch, guided hike, shuttle and one year individual greenway membership all for \$25. The basic hike will be from Mirror Lake, through the Rec Park, up the Kelsey Trail, over Big Bear Pen, through the Highlands Biological Station, ending on Sunset Rock. To sign up email to Hillrie Quin at [hmquin@frontier.com](mailto:hmquin@frontier.com) or call 526-2385.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 9-mile

moderate-to-strenuous hike with an elevation change of 800 ft. along Palmer Creek in the Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 a.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895, for reservations. Hike is limited to 15. The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike with elevation change of 100 ft. and a stream crossing to Amethyst Mines that used to produce semi-precious stones for Tiffany's Jewelers. Please note: This is the last time Jim will do this hike. Meet at the Highlands Bank of America at 9:30 a.m. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

## Chef Louis Osteen to be at Mountain Fresh Grocery Nov. 10 & 11



Mountain Fresh is excited to announce that during the upcoming Culinary Festival, its good friend Chef Louis Osteen, James Beard Award winner, will be again be in the kitchen on Saturday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 11 during breakfast and lunch.

Louis has been a great help in defining the flavor at Mountain Fresh Grocery and is considered a good friend.

Louis has been the key note speaker at the Culinary Institute of America, been named a Great American Chef by Gourmet Magazine and won the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast, but most of all, he loves to cook!



2012

## Giving Trees

November 17-January 1, 2013

## In These Mountains

November 17-January 4, 2013

## Nog Off Competition

Saturday, November 17, 5 - 7 pm

Exhibitions Opening Reception

Preview *Giving Trees* and *In These Mountains* and participate in a little friendly competition and the sharing of family recipes during our annual Nog Off. A toast to friends, family and community!



Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

[www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org)

Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm

Highlands, NC

828.526.4949



# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

**PULL OUT**

• Members of Highlands United Methodist Church will be going into the community to show the love of Christ by doing good deeds.

## Sun. Nov. 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile easy hike with elevation change of 200 ft. on Pickens Nose Trail to a view point over Clayton and surrounding hills and a stop at Mooney Falls. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza opposite Burger King at 2 p.m. Drive 40 miles round trip. Change clocks to Daylight Standard Time. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

## Monday, Nov. 5

• Shortoff Baptist church will be having our monthly non-denomination Men's Meeting on Monday at 7p. Butch Smart will be the inspiration speaker for this meeting. All men are invited for this time of Worship and Fellowship.

## Tues., Nov 6

• Election Day! Polls open at 6:30a and close

at 7:30a. Get out and VOTE! See the Sample Ballot at <http://www.maconnc.org/images/pdf/MACON-20121106-Style001.pdf>

• Highlands Dialogue at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30 a.m. TBA. Coordinator: Martha Porter.

## Thurs., Nov. 8

• On Thursday, the League of Women Voters of Macon County will host a program on the Macon County Heritage Center at Cowee School. Stacy Guffey, county coordinator of the project, will speak about plans to convert the historic Cowee School into a community and heritage center. The program will be held at Tartan Hall in Franklin, beginning at noon. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch and drink.

• The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6p at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets

every second Thursday at 6p., March through November.

## Fri., Nov. 9

• The Macon County Public Libraries will be closed Friday for Employee Training.

• Free driver 4-hour safety course for veterans and their families regardless of age. Any military personnel, active, retired, guard, reserve is eligible to participate in the class free. This includes spouses (widows and Winwowers) and their children. The course is being offered at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 201, 204 Hospital Drive from 1-5 p.m. Call Earlene or Sheraldine at 526-1345 to register.

## Sat. & Sun, Nov 10-11

• Mountain Fresh is excited to announce that during the upcoming Culinary Festival its good friend Chef Louis Osteen, James Beard Award winner, will be in the kitchen on Saturday and Sunday during breakfast and lunch. Louis has been a great help in defining the flavor at Mountain Fresh Grocery and is considered a good friend. Louis has been the key note speaker at the Culinary Institute of America, been named a Great American Chef by Gourmet

Magazine and won the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast, but most of all, he loves to cook!

## Saturday, Nov. 10

• At Highlands Playhouse, Island Fever wine tasting featuring the Caribbean Cowboys.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2-mile strenuous hike to the South Face of Whiteside Mtn. with an elevation change of 1,000 ft. descending and returning on a narrow, steep rocky path used by rock climbers. Hikers walking along below the cliff face will see awesome rock structures and views of Whiteside Cove. Wear lugged boots and gloves; bring weather protection, lunch, water, and camera. Meet at Whiteside Parking Lot at 10 a.m. Call leader Jim Whitehurst, 526-8134, for reservations. This is the last time Jim will offer this hike.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile, moderate-to-strenuous hike with elevation change of 1200 ft. on Coweeta Lab Ridge Trail to Dyke Gap, returning on the Gage Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza opposite Burger King at 9 a.m. Call Gail Lehman, 524-5298 for reservations.

## 'Tis the Season for 'Giving Trees' at The Bascom



For the second year, The Bascom is hosting its fellow non-profit organizations in the Giving Trees event. It's a wonderful and convenient way to give back to the community by supporting these multiple groups in one place. There will be donation boxes and information about the non-profit by each tree.

Each participating non-profit will display a decorated holiday tree from Saturday, November 17, 2012, through Sunday, January 6, 2013. Live potted trees will be located outside the center; artificial trees will be assembled inside The Bascom. The groups may partner with florists, decorators, architects or other creative types to embellish their trees. You may see a tree boasting cheery decorations made by children from a class at The Bascom, or an all-natural tree that celebrates the beauty of the mountains with woody ornaments. Endless possibilities will offer fabulous ideas for your own holiday decorating.

Non-profit groups who are participating include REACH of Macon, Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Performing Arts Center, Gilliam's Promise, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands, Cashiers Valley Preschool, Community Care Clinic of Highlands and the Literacy Council of Highlands.

Join The Bascom at its third annual Egg Nog-Off on Saturday, November 17 from 9 am to 5 pm to kick off this festive event. The reception and Giving Trees are free and open to all. It's the perfect way to begin the holiday season!



## The Center for Life Enrichment

*The Curious Mind Knows No Bounds*

### SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES W.E.

Watch the movie, about Wallis and Edward, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, on the main screen, while pictures of actual people, places, objects and events will be projected on a parallel screen.

Presented by: Rene Silvin, long time friend and business associate of the Duchess of Windsor



Saturday, November 3  
6:30 p.m.

Highlands Playhouse, \$15  
popcorn and beverages available  
walk-ins welcome

### Home Grown vs. Store Bought: Nutrition and Dietetics

A panel discussion with WCU Professor Dr. Brenda Marques and WCU students. This event is in conjunction with Highlands Culinary Weekend.

Saturday, Nov 10  
10:30-12:30  
Performing Arts Center  
**FREE**  
Open to the PUBLIC

For more information and to register:

call 828 526-8811

[clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com)



... RAPE continued from page 1

State Road 1310. A female driving through the area stopped to render aid to a person she believed was incapacitated who was lying beside the road. At that time, a fire-arm was used to subdue the victim, and she was allegedly forcibly raped.

Law enforcement authorities seek information and assistance in identifying a possible suspect. Authorities are looking for a white male, 6', 200 pounds, between the ages of 30 and 40, having brown wavy short hair, green to blue eyes, having a deep voice and a fair complexion. The suspect was last seen wearing dark blue jeans and a medium blue shirt. The subject is armed and considered dangerous and may be carrying a backpack. No vehicle information is available at this time.

On the same date and approximate location, a motor grader was vandalized and diesel was stolen. Earlier the same day, three individuals were observed around the motor grader that may have information relevant to the case. These individuals or persons knowing these individuals' identities are asked to call law enforcement.

Persons having information to pass on to law enforcement may call the USDA Forest Service special agent at 828-231-0288, the Macon County Sheriff's Office

at 828-524-2811 or the SBI at 1-800-334-3000.



A professional law enforcement artist created the new sketch of the suspect with help from the victim. The original sketch, issued in September 2011, was computer-generated with guidance from the victim.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

lands Newspaper titled "Standby America, here comes change." If you're curious, you can look it up on-line in archives for November 13th, 2008. For certain, I was fed up with George Bush and his corrupt Republican Congress. I chose a war hero over a little known community organizer with zero experience, especially at directing and commanding the strongest military in the world. My choices weren't great because John McCain represents the old guard Republicans I despise.

The purpose of this column is not to prove how clever I was in my predictions, but to ask you, as my friend, neighbor or family member, to help me. ...and yourself. After six years of outrageous spending by a corrupt Republican congress championed by President George Bush, a man who didn't veto one single bill crossing his desk in all eight years of his term, our country was more than ready for change. Spending was out of control and America was out of balance. Democrats came to our rescue.

But rescue didn't happen. There was no balance or rescue. Spending became worse and America continued to plunge itself further and further into debt. Our country became even more polarized. Our government is now broken. It has spent more of your taxpayer dollars and borrowed more money in the past four years than all of our United States presidents combined, from

George Washington to George Bush. Please, read that last sentence again and do some homework on this. Don't be dismissive, put your head in the sand and pretend America is getting better. It's not. This is no longer about politics, it's about survival.

Even though I didn't vote for President Obama, I wanted our very first black president to succeed, mostly for America's sake. It hasn't happened. Now, President Obama, by his own admittance, is asking for another four years of spending. I believe America cannot sustain this kind of spending without financial collapse.

As Democrats, I realize you still feel that giving the reins back to the Republicans is something you cannot do. ...it's repulsive and I understand. You can't fathom yourself voting for a Republican and I understand that also. So I'm asking you to do the next best thing. Stay home and allow American Independents to do what is necessary to survive.

This will prove to be the most important election of our 200-year history. The stakes couldn't be higher. Do we stay a capitalist nation or do we continue to march toward becoming a socialist empire? Do the right thing.

But if that's asking too much of you, then go to polls on November 6th and close the voting booth curtain behind you. Tell no one you just stood there for several minutes without voting. Take the blank voter's card to the box and drop it in. You have just helped America and you can tell your friends you voted Democratic if you need to do that.

But no matter what your decision on Nov. 6th, please know you're still a loving relative or a good friend and neighbor. We'll continue to agree to disagree with respect for one another. One thing for certain will happen this Tuesday and I'll quote something a friend recently said to me, "America will get the president it deserves."

... LEAGUE Q&A continued from 11

my ability for four years I've tried to translate what you had to say into what I had to do. Last, we do our best work when we listen to each other on the board; when we really talk to each other; when we really hear each other. When we work together when we check our Ds and our Rs at the door and say, 'No.' What's important here is M, the Maconians, the citizens of this county.

I want to thank you for the four years I've had. I'd love to have another four if you can see it in your heart to send me there.



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- Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes
- House-Made Yeast Rolls and Turkey Herb Gravy
- Choice of Pies: Granny Smith Apple, Pumpkin or Pecan



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Love is the final word



By Martha Porter

Newspaper columnists, radio talk show hosts, and political pundits on every side are offering their advice to the candidates for president – attack on this point, show the contradiction in that policy, call into question not only the actions and decisions but the motives as well. The major political parties have grown skilled at undermining each other, and in the process dividing the American people into hostile camps who cannot talk across the barriers that reinforce their positions.

Both presidential candidates are people of faith. Most, if not all, of the candidates in other races express an allegiance to a faith tradition, and though it is a statistic that is changing, that faith tradition is most likely Christian. How is it then that we divide our public life and our private life, our Sunday self and our Monday through Saturday self, ignoring the principles of the faith that we claim?

On Sunday mornings, probably a majority of Highland's citizens and those in surrounding communities gather under a common symbol – one that in its time was a symbol of violence, discrimination and repression – but one that has become a symbol of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of acceptance, even of love.

This transforming symbol was given its power by the one who defined the greatest commandment with these words: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law." (Matt 22: 37-40) Every major faith tradition, including secular humanism, has a similar injunction.

We will not all agree with each other on the solutions to the problems which face our nation, our community – but we are called to wrestle with those differences in ways that do not demean, do not create hostility, do not foster divisions and barriers. When we engage in conflict rather than compromise, in shouting rather than listening, in the pursuit of power rather than the commitment to care, then no matter who wins, we have all lost.

John 3:16

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
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Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee  
Cafe, Cashiers  
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church;  
Healing Service at noon

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship  
Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS  
Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968 • Reverend Bruce Walker  
Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal beginning at 9am. Holy Eucharist Rite I-8a; Holy Eucharist Rite II-10:30am in the Main Nave of the Church.  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend Howard L'Enfant  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bo • Biz News wman, Pastor • 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day;  
School – 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast  
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am  
Bible Study – 6 pm

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor  
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship – 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening  
Worship, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult  
choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs: 12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;  
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704  
Independent Bible Church  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road  
(4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418  
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
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Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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## • HEALTH MATTERS •

### Is the flu or just a cold?

By Danielle R. Koman, FNP

**H**ack, hack, sniff sniff – it's that time of year again. With the change of seasons come all the coughing, runny noses and sore throats. So how do you tell if it's just a cold that will go away, the flu or something more severe that needs treatment?

Colds are caused by many different types of viruses and have a gradual onset. Cold symptoms usually begin with a sore throat, which typically go away after a day or two. Upper respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose and nasal congestion follow, along with a cough by the fourth and fifth days. Fever is uncommon in adults, but a slight fever is possible. Children are more likely to have a fever with a cold.

With cold symptoms, nasal discharge starts as clear, thin secretions for the first few days. Later, these secretions become thicker and darker. Discolored mucus is natural and does not usually mean you have developed a bacterial infection, such as a sinus infection.

How long will your cold last? Cold symptoms usually last for about a week. During the first three days that you have cold symptoms, you are contagious. This

means you can pass the cold to others, so stay home and get some much-needed rest.

Flu symptoms are usually more severe than cold symptoms and come on quickly. I often hear from patients with the flu "I felt fine this morning but now I can barely crawl into bed I feel so awful". Symptoms of flu include sore throat, fever, headache, muscle aches and soreness, congestion, and cough. Most flu symptoms gradually improve over two to five days, but it's not uncommon to feel run down for a week or more. A common complication of the flu is pneumonia, particularly in the young, elderly, or people with lung or heart problems. If you notice shortness of breath, let your provider know. Another common sign of pneumonia is fever that comes back after having been gone for a day or two.

When do you need to come see your provider? If symptoms last longer than two weeks with no improvement, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever that doesn't go away, severe headache or you are just worried make an appointment. You may not get an antibiotic depending on your symptoms. Although you may feel

awful and want an antibiotic it may not be what you need. Antibiotics target bacterial infections not viral infections which are the cause of the common cold and flu.

What can you do for the symptoms? Rest and drink plenty of fluids! Use over the counter cough and cold medicine as needed and Tylenol or ibuprofen for fever and discomfort.

Be cautious of cold medicines if you have heart disease or high blood pressure. You can always check with your pharmacist if you are not sure what to take with your current medications.

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## ... SWANSON continued from page 6

pending "fiscal cliff." Again, from Wikipedia: "The United States fiscal cliff refers to a large predicted reduction in the budget deficit, and corresponding projected slowdown of the economy if specific laws are allowed to automatically expire or go into effect at the beginning of 2013.

It is projected to cause a double-dip recession in the first half of 2013.

These laws include tax increases due to the expiration of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 and the

spending reductions ('sequestrations') under the Budget Control Act Of 2011.

Spending for federal agencies and cabinet departments, including defense, would be reduced significantly through 2022 due to the budget sequestration. Some major domestic programs, like Social Security, federal pensions and veterans' benefits, are exempted.

The projected effects of these changes have led to calls from both inside and outside of Congress to extend some or all of the tax cuts, and to replace the across-the-board reductions with more targeted cutbacks. It has been spec-

ulated that any change is unlikely to come until the period roughly between the 2012 federal elections and the end of the year. Nearly all proposals to avoid the fiscal cliff involve extending certain parts of the 2010 Tax Relief Act or changing the Budget Control Act or both, thus making the deficit larger by reducing taxes and/or increasing spending."

Obama stated the other day "there will be no fiscal cliff." That would be reassuring if he had any direct effect on whether or not there is or not. With Congress in its state of helplessness, it is going to be fascinating to see how this

very critical period of time in our history plays out.

To me, this will be the real "Frankenstorm."

**DON'T FORGET TO  
TURN YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK SATURDAY,  
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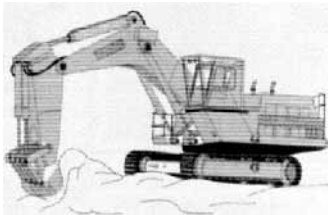
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## • POLICE/FIRE DEPT. REPORTS •

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

Oct. 1

• At 9:30 a.m., a worthless check in the amount of \$489.70 was reported at the Farmers Market at Main and 1st Street.

Oct. 6

• At 7:45 p.m., Stephan S. Hart, 61 of Miami, FL, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for driving without headlights on N. 4th Street.

Oct. 11

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about \$116 in cash embezzled from The Brick Oven/Movie Stop Video.

Oct. 14

• At 7:44 p.m., officers were called to an apartment on Helen's Barn Ave. about someone screaming and cursing and disturbing the peace.

Oct. 15

• At 2:48 p.m., officers investigated a call about a simple assault that took place at Regions Bank on Spring Street.

• At 5:05 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Wilson Road and Pierson Drive.

• At 10:15 p.m., officers investigated a report about a simple assault on Spring Street.

• At 11:15 p.m., Suzanne M. Tripp, 50, of Highlands, was arrested for assault and battery that took place on Spring Street.

Oct. 16

• At 4:40 p.m., the owner of a dog in the vicinity of

Satulah Ridge Road was issued a citation when his dog threatened a neighbor.

Oct. 20

• At 8:12 p.m., Isaias Cruz Ramerirez, 44, of Clayton, GA, was arrested for DWI when pulled over on NC 28 south for driving left of center.

Oct. 21

• At 2:55 p.m., Tyler Garrett Converse, 19, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI at the Highlands Rec Park.

• During this timeframe, officers issued 17 citations (warnings, ordinance violations, and citations)

**Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Oct. 23**

Oct. 23

• 8:02 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD for a structure fire at the Cashiers Exxon.

• At 11:44 a.m., the dept. assisted EMS carry a woman off the Wildcat Cliffs trail. She had broken her ankle.

• At 4:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a complaint about a controlled burn on Rolling Acres.

• At 8:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a two vehicle accident with injuries at Buck Creek Road and Western Rhodes Drive.

Oct. 24

• At 10:95 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about the smell of propane in the area of S. 4th Street.

• At 12:04 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm on Church Street. It was false.

• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD with a structure fire at North Roberson Circle Road.

## ... PARKING continued from page 3

opportunity to call Town Hall and say if there is something is wrong with their pump and they don't know what to do – regardless if it's low pressure or gravity," he said..

The Town would fix it for home owner and then that homeowner would reimburse the town. Now when homeowners hear the alarm go off, they often don't know what to do or who to call. Usually the contact the town.

Mayor Wilkes said that he doesn't want to be in the business of recommending plumbers. If they need to call us, we'll go do it. If they already have a plumber then he can do it.

Nix said there are between 150 and 200 grinder pumps in Highlands and said "three-four-five years ago the town discussed trying to absorb maintenance of grinder pumps, by raising fees to cover the cost. "This is way of easing into that," he said. I don't know how much of our time we'll be doing that, but there's going to be a lot of work required of us that we can't do. We'll need to hire a pump truck and someone to pump it, and someone knowledgeable to do the work inside the panel — that's cost I will have to pass on to the customer. In time we'll design and build our

own control panels that are specific to us."

There was unanimous approval of the new grinder-pump policy which Attorney Bill Coward will bring back to the Nov. 15 Town Board meeting after the draft is finalized.

### Surveillance Camera Policy

The final item on the October 18 board agenda was approval of a surveillance-camera policy for the town. Gilliam's Promise donated surveillance equipment to the Town of Highlands, which is now in use. The cameras are located at Highlands School and on the Town of Highlands Recreation Property; they record 24 hours a day and many of them can pan, tilt and zoom which means they can be used to view nearby property that does not belong to the town.

The proposed policy for installation guidelines requires that "any camera [whose] possible field of view is off of Town of Highlands property shall have 'masking' or restrictive features to prevent possible viewing where of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy." Further, "Cameras will remain locked in position unless permission has been granted by the town man-

• See **PARKING** page 21



# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

At the conference game with Murphy, Taylor Osteen, makes the first and only goal. Murphy won 2-1.

Photo by  
Lisa Osteen



## Highlanders drop heartbreaker to Murphy, eye playoffs

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander soccer team hosted the Murphy Bulldogs last Wednesday in a game that would decide the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship. The Bulldogs, who featured eight senior starters, were looking to win the first soccer conference championship in school history, while the Highlanders were looking to win their 12th straight SMC Championship.

As they did in their defeat of Murphy earlier in the season, the Highlanders started strong, getting a goal early from Taylor Osteen. Murphy answered back midway into the first half on a seemingly impossible goal from Murphy's right midfielder, as the Bulldog player skimmed a cross pass that bounced with backspin and hit the far post before banging into the goal.

In the second half, one short stretch of play would lead to an unfortunate series of events that would prove fatal for the Highlanders. First, Highlander midfielder Ryan Vinson was taken down from behind on an odd man break that could have resulted in a scoring chance for the Highlanders. Then, immediately following the takedown, Murphy was awarded a free kick off of a foul call on Highlands. The ensuing free kick was won in the box by Kenan Lewis, but the ball was up for grabs and a Murphy player managed to get a foot on it, and the ball ended up in the top corner of the Highlands goal to put Murphy up 2-1.

The Highlanders continued to battle, generating multiple scoring opportunities within the final ten minutes. Osteen broke through and fired a shot high and over the crossbar. Tyler Munger also put a shot on frame from outside the arc, but the Murphy keeper made a terrific save. A cross into the box by Vinson led to an empty net as the keeper came off his line, but the Highlanders put the shot again high. Perhaps the best Highlanders oppor-

tunity came in the final two minutes, as they won a corner and brought everyone up for the set piece. Lewis managed to win the ball in the box, but his header was right at the Murphy keeper, who again preserved the final margin for the Bulldogs.

The loss resulted in the Highlanders finishing the regular season with a record of 15-9 and a first round bye in the NCHSAA playoffs. The Highlanders will host either Swain or Cherokee on Saturday at a time TBD. Please check the Highlands School website for playoff times, and come out and support your Highlanders.



At senior night, Mom and Dad, Sam and Lisa with sister Ann Marie with Taylor, this year's only senior. Photo by Susan Renfro.

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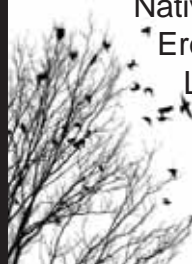


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## ... PARKING from page 18

ager or for police use after a proper warrant has been obtained. The Town's IT staff will be the sole administrator.

The proposed policy for use declares that the "general purpose of the Town of Highlands' camera is to record town properties in case of accident, theft or similar event to aid in stolen property recovery, identification of possible suspects in such matters or determination of the cause of an accident...Live monitoring...shall be conducted in a dignified and tasteful manner...No employee shall just 'sit and watch' any camera unless it relates to their job duty and given task at hand." Employees found violating these policies will be "subject to verbal or written reprimand, demotion or termination."

Attorney Coward suggested amending policy so that appropriate signage be installed at camera locations, warning people on town property that they were under surveillance. With that addition the board approved the new policy by unanimous vote. The board then went into closed session under attorney-client privilege before adjourning.

The next Town Board meeting is Thursday, Nov. 15.

## ... SALZARULO from page 5

nomenon invoke the gravitational pull on the earth's oceans, remind us that our bodies are roughly 60% water, and presto, conclude that the moon is tugging on us and affecting our behavior, in most cases bringing out the worst in us, or a baby.

A study in 2001 in the British Medical Journal found that in England, twice as many patients visited emergency rooms for dog bites on the full moon. However, a similar study in Australia failed to confirm the finding. Colorado State Veterinary Medical Center found Increased emergency room visits in both dogs, in which visits were 28% higher, and cats, which experienced a 23% increase, on days surrounding a full moon.

Then there were reports of animals seeking higher ground, and safety, before the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Animals have senses keener than ours. The ability of a dog to track game, or a man; the uncanny way in which salmon and turtles return to their place of birth; the talent bees and homing pigeons display in finding their way home; and the occasional heart warming story of a domestic pet finding his way over hundreds of miles to reunite with his family all suggest a special sensitivity.

Maybe a few people, too few to be spastically significant, respond to some force of the full moon. Or maybe all the docs, and all the nurses, and all the cops are just wrong. One thing is certain. The full moon was a factor in the tragedy befalling the East Coast.

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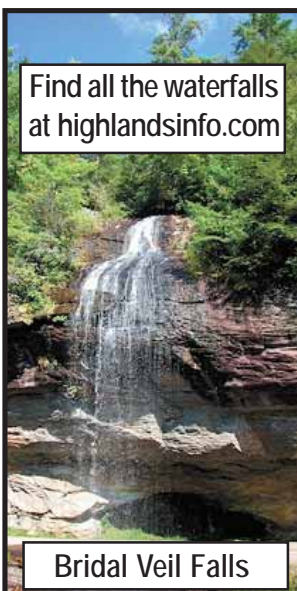
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... JUST HERS from page 9

need; things we can't have; things we regret not getting. I'm not talking about the extra piece of piece of pecan pie, or another slice of pizza. I'm talking about things that last you a lifetime, if is only as memories. Sometimes the things we don't need bring us the most pleasure, perhaps because we don't expect as much from them. And in an unexpected life, that can be knowledge worth having.

• Michelle lives in downtown Highlands. She and her cat Orion are sad to report that their beloved Weasel was diagnosed with lung cancer last week. Weasel is on the last of her nine lives, and is spending it eating tuna, enjoying catnip, and purring.





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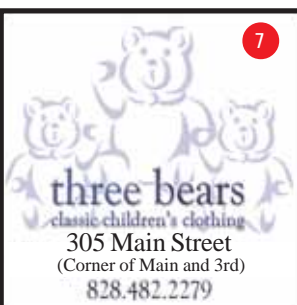
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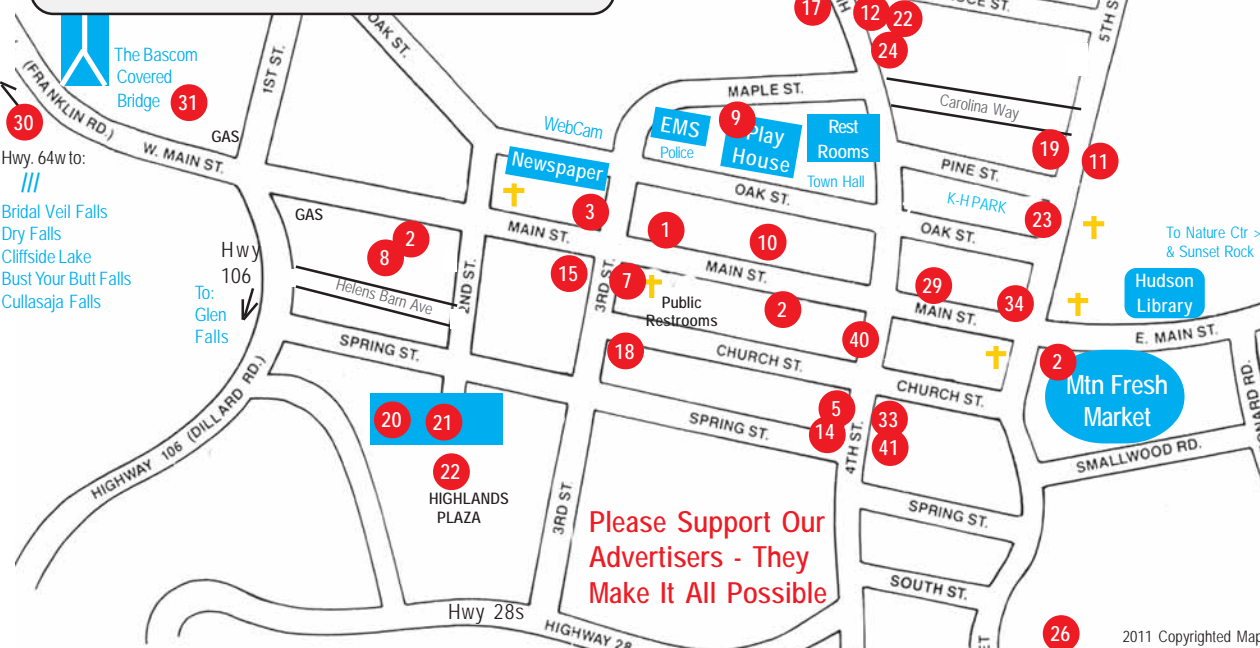
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